



HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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BEYOND THE RESOLUTIONS THE UNFINISHED STORY OF INDIA BLOC UNITY

HOME LAND 07

International Bus Terminal in 100 acres

- Government is envisaging plans to build houses for poor and middle classes in Greater Hyderabad limits
- Government will focus only on development in Hyderabad and the State in the next 24 months
- CM lambasts union minister Kishan Reddy and BJP MPs for obstructing centre from releasing funds to Telangana
- Ready for a debate on KCR's 10 year rule, PM Modi's 12 years and Congress government's two and half year rule
- Kishan Reddy is meeting PM and union minister soon after he submitted memoranda on state projects and stalled them
- CM warns that BJP will bite the dust in the next elections in Telangana.. Appeals KCR and Kishan Reddy to suggest the government on development
- Revanth addressed a public meeting after laying foundation stone for Cyberabad Municipal Corporation building and other development works Rs 1674.74 crores today .



HYDERABAD, JUNE 8

Chief Minister Sri A Revanth Reddy has announced the works of the international bus terminal in 100 acres at Gajularamaram would start in 3 months. The Chief minister affirmed that the state government would focus only on development in Hyderabad and the State in the next 24 months rising above politics.

Addressing a public meeting after laying foundation stones for Cyberabad Municipal Corporation and other development works today, the CM said that Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad cities were driving the nation's economy. Delhi was facing a pollution problem, Mumbai was struggling from floods and Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kol-

kata are experiencing traffic woes. Since the Hyderabad city was expanding rapidly, the Chief Minister said that the city was divided into three corporations to ensure a systematic development. We created 3 corporations to cater to the future needs of the expanding city and defined boundaries to ensure coordination between the police and municipal departments. "Let us develop our city rising above political agendas".

The CM emphasized that boasting about a 'Global City' is not enough and the development must actually align with that vision. Under the master plan, we are taking up the second phase of the Metro rail and constructing one lakh houses for LIG and MIG sections in the city limits. On the lines of 'Rajiv Gruhakalpa' scheme, we will provide housing for people in their present

residing places. Government was formulating plans to reclaim government lands from encroachers and build homes for the poor.

In a scathing attack on BJP, CM Revanth Reddy accused union minister G Kishan Reddy and BJP MPs from Telangana of stalling the releasing of central funds for development of the state . Why were the BJP MPs representing Chevella, Medak, and Malkajgiri and Kishan Reddy, who won as the MP from Secunderabad, not asking PM Modi for funds? Was not Kishan Reddy obstructing the flow of funds for Telangana's development? When Modi developed the Sabarmati River in Gujarat, everyone heaped praise and now creating trouble to Musi project.

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8 Workers Killed At Vizag Steel Plant

VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 9

recovery to the injured.

At least eight workers lost their lives and six others sustained injuries after molten iron spilled on them at the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) - Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on Monday, officials said.

According to district authorities, the accident occurred around 4:15 p.m. while molten iron was being transported in a bucket attached to a crane within the plant premises. During the operation, the bucket reportedly malfunctioned, causing the highly heated molten iron, estimated to be at a temperature of nearly 1,600 degrees Celsius, to spill onto the workers.

"Eight workers were killed and six others were injured, some of them seriously," an official said. The injured were immediately shifted to two private hospitals in Visakhapatnam for treatment.

Expressing grief over the tragedy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his condolences to the families of the deceased and wished a speedy

"Saddened by the mishap at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying that the injured recover at the earliest," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

He also announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to the next of kin of each deceased worker and ₹50,000 to those injured in the incident.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu described the accident as deeply shocking and expressed sorrow over the loss of lives.

"I am distressed to learn that several workers have lost their lives in this accident. I have spoken to the concerned officials and directed them to undertake relief measures in coordination with all government departments," Naidu said.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the accident, while rescue and relief operations were carried out at the site. Further details are awaited.

Creating a Welfare State is the Goal of the People's Government

- The 'Knowledge' Revolution in Telangana
- 110 Crore for the Ambedkar Knowledge Center
- 25 Crore for the SC Hostel!
- Free digital coaching alongside job notifications
- An innovative resolution by the People's Government
- Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka

HYDERABAD, JUNE 8

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has once again clearly declared that the People's Government is working with a firm resolve toward building a welfare state in Telangana. He was speaking after inspecting the sites for the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Knowledge Center (to be built near Lower Tank Bund at an estimated cost of ₹110 crore) and the SC Hostel (to be built at Nimboli Adda at an estimated cost of ₹25 crore).

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that financial and administrative approvals for both buildings have already been sanctioned. He emphasized that these buildings are not merely physical struc-



tures but modern temples that will help thousands of students enhance their knowledge. He clarified that the strong resolve of the People's Government is to permanently eliminate the coaching struggles faced by the unemployed youth in the state.

Accompanied by Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar and other public representatives, the Deputy Chief Minister conducted field inspections of the 'Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Knowledge

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MEENAKSHI'S RAJYA SABHA TEST: WHEN NUMBERS FAVOUR CONGRESS BUT POLITICS REFUSES TO FOLLOW THE SCRIPT

WILL MEENAKSHI NATARAJAN'S RAJYA SABHA DREAM COLLAPSE IN A CROSS VOTING SHOCK?

MADHYA PRADESH RAJYA SABHA ELECTION		
230	58	3
TOTAL MLAs	WINNING QUOTA (APPROX.)	SEATS IN FRAY
CONGRESS STRENGTH		BJP STRENGTH
64-66	VS	~165
MLAs		MLAs
THIN MARGIN, BIG RISK		EYES THIRD SEAT

CROSS VOTING, DISSENT, ABSENCE OR INVALID VOTES COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING
ALL EYES ON JUNE 18 - A HANDFUL OF VOTES, A MASSIVE POLITICAL QUAKE?

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh has suddenly become more than a routine legislative exercise. On paper, Congress has the numbers to send Meenakshi Natarajan to the Upper House. On the ground, however, whispers of cross voting, factional unease and BJP's aggressive pursuit of a third seat have injected uncertainty into what should have been a straightforward contest. The battle is no longer merely about arithmetic. It is about political management, internal cohesion and the ability of parties to keep their flock togeth-

er until the last ballot is cast.

THE NUMBERS ARE CLEAR. THE POLITICS IS NOT.

For all the noise surrounding the June 18 Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh, the arithmetic appears remarkably simple. The 230 member Assembly is electing three Rajya Sabha members. The winning quota stands at approximately 58 votes. The BJP, with around 165 MLAs, has enough strength to comfortably secure two seats. After electing two candidates, the party is left with a surplus of nearly 49 votes.

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Telangana actively integrating 2020 central labour codes: Vivek

HYDERABAD, JUNE 8

Minister for Labour, Employment and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkateswamy participated in the virtual meeting of Labour Ministers from all States and Union Territories from his chamber at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday.

The video conference meeting was conducted by the Union Ministry of Labour. The meeting focused on reviewing the status of implementation of the four Central Labour Codes, 2020, and discussing related issues concerning labour reforms across the country. On the occasion, the Minister stated that the Telangana government is actively working towards the implementation of the Labour Codes, 2020. He said the process of integrating the provisions of the new labour codes is underway and that the reforms will be implemented in the state at the earliest.

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DGP Holds Staff Officers Meeting at DGP Office

HYDERABAD, JUNE 8

Director General of Police (DGP) Sri C.V. Anand revived the "Staff Officers Meeting" a fortnightly forum for senior officers of the DGP office and HODs to discuss policies, programmes, and inter-departmental issues. The practice had fallen into disuse, resulting in a visible coordination gap across wings of the department. During the meeting DGP covered a wide agenda maintenance of a structured database of foreign domestic workers for better monitoring and security, CCTNS 2.0, technology-driven policing, and the adoption of AI, drones, and data intelligence system etc.,

DGP extensive discussed and conducted a detailed review with senior officers and Commissioners on reorganization of Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Malkajgiri, future city



Commissioners jurisdictions, Police Station limits, border village divisions, and other jurisdiction-related matters. He directed officials to formulate comprehensive plans for reorganization of circles, zones, and villages in a manner that en-

sure administrative efficiency and operational effectiveness.

He expressed concern over recent incidents involving individuals from other states, particularly Nepalese employed as domestic workers allegedly involved in criminal

activities. He instructed officials to collect comprehensive data on domestic servants from Nepal and other countries across the state. Also emphasized maintaining a structured database containing details regarding their residence and

employment.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of CCTNS 2.0, strengthening of Police system, modernization of existing manual processes, and future policing initiatives. It was decided tentatively to organize Police Retreat in November and Women Police Conference in October, 2026. To improve gender parity and working conditions for women police personnel he has advised to effective implementation of 33 percent reservation for women police personnel and directed officers to create greater opportunities for women officers in Law & Order duties and field-level policing responsibilities.

Emphasis on Technology-Driven Policing
The DGP emphasized and highlighting the importance of tech-

nology in modern policing is need for greater adoption of technology-based policing systems. Senior officers discussed implementation of core applications, expansion of CCTNS 2.0, and wider utilization of TG Cops platforms etc. He observed that technology can significantly enhance policing efficiency by enabling faster access to information relating to Dial-100 responses, rowdy sheeters, anti-social elements, vehicle searches, and history of offenders in databases.

He further instructed officials to focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based policing, drone technologies, HRMS, data intelligence systems, and smart applications. He urged officers to move forward with the vision of "Telangana Smart Policing - Using Technology." Discussions were also held on manpower management, vehicle audits, personnel

utilization, and traffic management systems. The meeting further deliberated on the future requirement for establishing systems for Traffic Management and Road Safety Bureau functions, along with specialized mechanisms for Food Adulteration Control etc.

The meeting graced by Home Secretary Shikha Goel, Intelligence DG Vijay Kumar, Telangana Police Academy Director Abhilasha Bisht, DG Law & Order Mahesh Bhagwat, TG Technical Services DG V.V. Srinivasa Rao, Hyderabad police Commissioner sajanar, OCTOPUS DG Anil Kumar, Home Guards DG Swati Lakra, IG Multi Zone-I Chandrashekhar Reddy, IG Road Safety Wing Ramesh Naidu Cyberabad CP Ramesh Reddy, Malkajgiri CP sumathi and other senior police officers were participated in the meeting.

Creating a Welfare State is the Goal of the People's Govt

FROM PAGE 1

Center' site near Tank Bund and the 'Nimboli Adda Hostel' premises in Kachiguda.

Structure and Interlinking of the Knowledge Centers

The Deputy Chief Minister revealed that the Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Knowledge Center near Tank Bund will be constructed with a cellar, a ground floor, and 10 additional floors. Furthermore, he mentioned that building a three-story hostel at Nimboli Adda has been a long-cherished dream of the Dalit and underprivileged communities. He added that the construction of these buildings would greatly benefit everyone in the state seeking knowledge. The state government cleared and approved the finances immediately after the proposals were submitted.

Key Features of the Knowledge Center:

Study circles, digital libraries, and conference halls will serve as premier platforms for spreading knowledge.

A robust technological ecosystem will be provided to stream these activities digitally to remote areas.

"After the People's Government was formed, we stated very clearly that we would construct Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Knowledge Centers in every assembly constituency of the state," the Deputy Chief Minister said. These centers will enable students from poor, backward, marginalized, and middle-class families to prepare locally without having to move to Hyderabad for coaching.

In the future, a system will be established within their respective assembly constituencies. While the best of the best lecturers deliver lessons from the main center, students can receive coaching online from their own locations through an interconnected network.

Relief for Rural and Middle-Class Students

He described the Knowledge Center not just as a building, but as a continuous educational platform to uplift the knowledge of millions. Children of daily wage laborers, farming families, and middle-class small traders often face massive financial burdens for accommodation when they come to Hyderabad for competitive exam coaching. Keeping their family financial situations in mind, the government made this decision with foresight.

Apart from issuing job notifications, the government will use this Knowledge Center to provide free coaching facilities across the state to ensure unemployed youths success-

fully secure jobs. He explained that lessons delivered by top lecturers from this main center in Hyderabad will be directly accessible via an online digital system, interlinking all the Ambedkar Knowledge Centers to be built in every constituency.

Allocation of 50 Crore

The building complex near Tank Bund will house study circles, a digital library, and state-of-the-art conference halls. Seminars featuring global intellectuals will also be organized here.

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that ₹5 crore has already been released to completely demolish the old existing structure. He noted that although the previous government laid the foundation stone for this in 2016, they failed to construct it due to various reasons. He asserted that the current People's Government is sincerely committed to completing this building swiftly.

The total cost of the project is 110 crore.

₹50 crore has been allocated in this year's budget itself to accelerate the work.

The Welfare Department has been instructed to construct the building using top-tier architecture and the best designs without any compromises.

Modernization of Nimboli Adda Hostel

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that the 'Nimboli Adda Hostel' in Kachiguda—which has sheltered countless poor students since the days of the undivided state and shaped them into high-ranking officials—will be completely modernized. He mentioned that this proposal was introduced during the budget sessions.

This hostel will be renamed the "Babu Jagjivan Ram Knowledge Center." The Deputy Chief Minister clarified that the government is moving forward to establish another magnificent knowledge center here to spread education. An action plan is being prepared to execute all these works efficiently. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that intellectuals, community leaders, and students are welcome to submit their valuable advice and suggestions directly to the Welfare Minister.

Dignitaries Present:

The visit was attended by Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs Muta Gopal and Kaleru Venkatesh, MLC Addanki Dayakar, Telangana Christian Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Deepak John, and other senior officials from the Social Welfare Department.

Telangana actively integrating 2020 central labour codes: Vivek

FROM PAGE 1

Secretary LETF Dasari Harichandana and officials of Labour department accompanied the minister in the meeting.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya emphasised the need for all States and Union territories to expedite the implementation of the Labour Codes, 2020, stating that the reforms are aimed at improving the welfare of workers while simplifying labour regulations.

Addressing a virtual meeting of Labour Ministers from States and Union Territories, the Union Minister said that the Central government had already prepared the model rules for the Labour Codes and several states have adopted these rules with suitable modifications and have republished them in accordance with their local requirements.

He noted that labour is a subject on the Concurrent List, requiring coordinated efforts between the Centre and the States for effective implementation. The Labour Codes, 2020, have consolidated and integrated various existing labour laws into a simplified framework that provides greater protection and benefits to workers while ensuring ease of compliance.

Mandaviya observed that despite political differences, many states have come forward and expressed their willingness to implement the Labour Codes in the larger interest of workers and economic development.

The Union Minister further assured that the Central Government is ready to extend financial assistance, wherever required, for capacity building and training programmes for labour department officials to facilitate smooth implementation of the new labour framework. The meeting also reviewed the status of implementation of the four Labour Codes across the country and discussed various issues related to labour reforms and worker welfare.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

International Bus Terminal in 100 acres



FROM PAGE 1

Do BJP MPs not have the responsibility to bring funds to the state?, the CM said he is ready for a debate comparing KCR's ten-year rule, Modi's twelve-year rule, and our 30-month administration. "Let us discuss who secured funds for Telangana".

The CM also mentioned that Kishan Reddy was meeting the Prime Minister and union ministers soon after he sub-

mitted memoranda on state issues in New Delhi. The Chief minister sought to know the reason behind Kishan Reddy's instant meetings. CM Revanth Reddy warned that people will give a mandate against BJP if the union minister continues to obstruct the state's development. The Chief minister suggested KCR and Kishan Reddy to suggest the government and stop harming the people of Telangana with corruption and arrogance.

The CM also highlighted the breakfast scheme for students from the school level up to Intermediate, free bus travel for women on RTC buses, setting up of 150 stalls to women across three-and-a-half acres through the 'Indira Mahila Shakti' and empowerment of women by owning petrol bunks. Young India Residential Schools' and 'Telangana Public Schools' were also established to provide quality education to the poor students.

Technology, Real-Time Data Critical for Efficient Policing: DGP

HYDERABAD, JUNE 8

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Sri C.V. Anand has emphasized the urgent need to strengthen technology adoption and data-driven policing across the State, stating that while Telangana Police was once among the leading police organizations in the country in technological innovation, gaps in implementation and underutilization of available systems have caused it to fall behind in certain areas.

Addressing Station House Officers (SHOs) and officers from various police units through a video conference held at the DGP Office on Saturday, the DGP stressed the importance of effectively utilizing existing technological resources and ensuring real-time data management to improve policing standards.

Speaking during the review meeting attended by senior police officials from across Telangana, Sri Anand noted that technology in policing is not limited to the development of software applications. Its success, he said, depends on proper usage, regular updates, accurate data entry, and continuous monitoring of systems.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of digital policing applications

currently being used across the State, including TG Cop applications and other technological platforms. Discussions focused on existing bottlenecks, operational challenges, and issues related to field-level implementation. The DGP observed that developing systems alone would not achieve desired outcomes unless they are effectively used at the grassroots level.

To address these concerns, he announced that a dedicated technical team has been constituted within the Police Department. The team will oversee technological development, implementation, monitoring, and troubleshooting while identifying gaps and ensuring faster resolution of technical issues.

Highlighting the importance of data accuracy, the DGP directed officers to ensure that all field-level information is updated in real time. He pointed out that although several digital initiatives have already been introduced, overall implementation has reached only around 60 percent of the intended target, indicating significant room for improvement.

Sri Anand also instructed officers to make greater use of digital forensics, digital evidence management systems, and technology-based investigative tools. He said such measures would significantly im-

prove both the speed and quality of criminal investigations.

The DGP further directed officials to regularly update records in systems such as the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) databases, NTR photo databases, and other digital platforms. He noted that several applications, including fitness examination modules and CD Part Hours systems, were not being fully utilized.

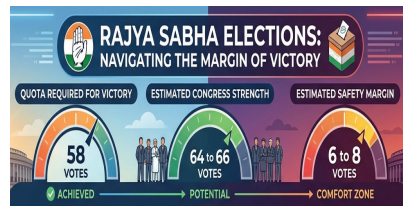
Particularly addressing SHOs, he emphasized the need for timely updating of all case-related information, including FIR details, crime data, arrest records, scientific evidence, charge sheets, Form-54 information, and procedures related to Section 41 CrPC. Proper data entry, he said, would strengthen evidence-based policing and improve crime analysis.

The DGP expressed confidence that by effectively implementing and updating existing systems, Telangana Police can once again emerge as a national leader in technology-driven policing. Senior officers, including DGP (Law & Order) Mahesh Bhagwat, DG Technical Services V.V. Srinivasa Rao, DG Organisation Swati Lakra, district police officials, and technical wing representatives participated in the conference.

WILL MEENAKSHI NATARAJAN'S RAJYA SABHA DREAM...

FROM PAGE 1

Congress, with an effective strength hovering around 64 to 66 MLAs, should be able to win one seat. The problem is that "should" is one of the most dangerous words in politics. Congress possesses only a thin cushion above the quota. Depending on the final voting strength, the margin may be as little as six to eight votes. That slender buffer has transformed an otherwise predictable election into a political thriller.



In Rajya Sabha elections, six votes can look comfortable in the morning and disappear by evening.

WHY MEENAKSHI NATARAJAN IS FACING EXTRA SCRUTINY

Meenakshi Natarajan is not a newcomer to politics. A former Lok Sabha member from Mandausar, a long-time Congress organizer and a trusted member of Rahul Gandhi's political circle, she has spent

years working within the party structure. Her elevation reflects the Congress leadership's preference for loyalty, organisational experience and ideological alignment. Yet this very strength has become the source of political speculation.

Within Madhya Pradesh Congress, there were expectations in some quarters that the Rajya Sabha nomination could go to a leader with deeper roots in the state's factional landscape. While the party officially closed ranks after the announcement, politics is rarely measured by official statements. The question being asked in Bhopal's political corridors is not whether Congress supports Natarajan. The question is whether every Congress MLA is prepared to demonstrate that support through a disciplined vote.

BJP SMELLS AN OPPORTUNITY

The BJP's confidence is rooted in cold mathematics. After securing two seats, the party's surplus votes place it within striking distance of a third victory if additional support emerges from outside its official numbers. This explains why BJP leaders have openly spoken about the possibility of winning all three seats.

From the BJP's perspective, the objective is straightforward: Create pressure. Create uncertainty. Force Congress into

a defensive posture. Encourage speculation about internal divisions. In politics, perception often becomes a weapon long before votes are counted. The BJP understands that even if a third seat remains difficult, making Congress nervous is itself a political victory.

"The arithmetic favours Congress. The psychology of the contest currently favours the BJP."

THE SHADOW OF CROSS VOTING

Cross voting is one of the most feared phrases in Indian legislative politics. It represents the point where party strength on paper collides with individual political calculations. A Rajya Sabha election is not fought before millions of voters. It is fought before a few hundred legislators. Every single vote carries enormous weight. A handful of MLAs changing sides, abstaining or submitting invalid ballots can alter outcomes dramatically.

That is why parties often move legislators to secure locations, conduct repeated meetings and maintain constant communication during such elections. The real battle is not on polling day. The real battle occurs during the days preceding polling.

CONGRESS HAS GOOD REASON TO BE CAUTIOUS

Congress leaders insist they have the numbers. They may well be correct. However, recent political history across India offers many examples where confidence collapsed under the weight of internal dissent. The Congress leadership in Madhya Pradesh understands that victory requires more than possessing 64 or 65 MLAs. Victory requires ensuring that every one of those votes arrives intact. There can be no absences. There can be no surprises. There can be no last minute drama. In an era where governments have risen and fallen through defections, caution is not paranoia. It is political survival.

BJP surplus after two victories: Around 49 votes

Votes needed to reach quota: Around 9 to 11 more
That gap is not impossible. That is precisely why Congress cannot afford complacency.

A TEST OF ORGANISATIONAL AUTHORITY

Beyond the immediate election result lies a larger political question. Can Congress demonstrate organisational discipline in a state where it has struggled to

regain power? The Rajya Sabha contest is becoming a referendum on the party's internal cohesion. If Meenakshi Natarajan wins comfortably, Congress will claim that speculation about divisions was exaggerated. If the margin narrows significantly, even in victory, questions about party discipline will intensify. If an upset occurs, the repercussions will extend far beyond a single Rajya Sabha seat. The narrative of organisational weakness would gain fresh momentum.

WHY RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS OFTEN PRODUCE BIG SURPRISES

Unlike direct elections, Rajya Sabha contests are determined by legislators. The electorate is small. Political pressure is intense. Factional loyalties become highly visible. A shift involving just a handful of MLAs can produce consequences disproportionate to the numbers involved. This is why Rajya Sabha elections routinely generate suspense even when the basic arithmetic appears settled. The smaller the margin, the bigger the uncertainty.

THE REAL BATTLE IS FOR POLITICAL MOMENTUM

Both parties understand that only one Rajya Sabha seat is formally at stake for Congress. Yet the symbolism is much larg-

er. For Congress, electing Meenakshi Natarajan would reaffirm internal discipline and demonstrate that the organisation can protect its own candidates. For BJP, even forcing Congress into a defensive crouch serves a strategic purpose. It reinforces the perception that the ruling party remains politically dominant and capable of influencing contests beyond straightforward numerical strength.

JUNE 18 WILL REVEAL WHETHER NUMBERS OR NERVES PREVAIL

As things stand today, the numbers continue to favour Congress and Meenakshi Natarajan's election remains the most probable outcome. But politics has never been governed by arithmetic alone. The BJP sees an opening. Congress sees a risk. The difference between those two perceptions is what will make June 18 worth watching.

The official figures suggest a routine 2-1 result. The political atmosphere suggests nobody is willing to bet on routine. That is why this Rajya Sabha election has become one of the most closely watched legislative contests in the country. Not because the numbers are dramatic, but because the consequences of even a small political tremor could be enormous.

Osmania University Receives Landmark USD 110,000 Alumnus Donation

Revolutionize Mining and Electrical Engineering

HYDERABAD

Osmania University (OU) today announced a major leap forward in its engineering research and infrastructure capabilities, following a generous combined contribution of USD 110,000 from distinguished alumnus Shri Tella Gopal Rao, representing the Tella Sakamoto Foundation, USA.

Shri Tella Gopal Rao, a proud alumnus of the Class of 1960 from the Department of Mining Engineering at the University College of Engineering (A), has directed USD 100,000 toward transforming mining education and USD 10,000 to the Department of Electrical Engineering to support state-of-the-art infrastructural advancements.

Bridging Academia and Industry for the Future of Mining

Expressing deep gratitude for this milestone contribution, Sr. Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, highlighted the



donation's transformative potential:

"This landmark contribution is a testament to Shri Tella Gopal Rao's enduring commitment to his alma mater. It arrives at a critical juncture as the mining sector undergoes rapid global evolution. This funding will act as a vital catalyst, bridging the gap between academia and industry to solve real-world, research-oriented challenges."

The USD 100,000 endowment allocated to the Department of Mining Engineering will fund a new, modern facility dedicated to:

Digital Mining Technologies: Up-

grading laboratory infrastructure to accommodate cutting-edge automation.

Advanced Research: Driving innovation in sustainable mining practices, mine safety, and eco-friendly extraction.

Next-Gen AI Integration: Implementing Artificial Intelligence and machine learning applications for real-world mining operations.

Prof. Kumar further emphasized that as India and the state of Telangana aggressively pursue the extraction of critical minerals vital for national growth, upgrading educational frameworks to

match industrial shifts is more urgent than ever.

Strengthening the Engineering Ecosystem

The Tella Sakamoto Foundation's vision extends across disciplines, with an additional USD 10,000 donation dedicated to the construction of a new building for the Department of Electrical Engineering, fostering a holistic environment for interdisciplinary technological research.

In a formal ceremony, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor handed over the financial allocation to the Telangana State Education & Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGEWIDC) to initiate construction immediately. The funds were seamlessly routed through the Alumni Association of UCEOU.

A Celebration of Generosity and Academic Excellence

Prof. P. Chandra Sekhar, Principal of UCE(A), extended a special vote of thanks to Shri Tella Gopal Rao, the Vice-Chancellor, Shri TK Gopal Krishna, and the Alumni Association for orchestrating this momentous collaboration.

INCOIS Celebrates World Oceans Day 2026 with the Launch of New Oceans

Cleanup Initiative and INCOIS Research Scholars Collective (IRSC)

HYDERABAD

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, celebrated World Ocean Day 2026 with enthusiasm and commitment, reaffirming the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. World Ocean Day, observed annually on 8 June under the aegis of the United Nations, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about the critical role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth and the collective responsibility to protect them for future generations.

The theme for World Ocean Day 2026, "REIMAGINE: Beyond the World We Know, A New Relationship with Our Ocean", highlights the need to foster a deeper and more sustainable connection with the ocean while encouraging innovative approaches to address emerging ocean challenges.

The formal function was in-



augured by Dr. Balakrishnan Nair T.M., Director, INCOIS, who emphasised the pivotal role of ocean science and services in supporting sustainable development and disaster resilience. Special remarks were delivered by Dr. Jagvir Singh, Scientist-G, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Cdr. P. K. Srivastava, Scientist -G /Advisor, MoES, Dr. Udaya Bhaskar., DCC-Indian Ocean Region Coordinator, and Ms. Arpita Goswami, who underscored the importance of strengthening India's ocean observing capabilities and promoting ocean literacy.

The event was graced by distinguished Guests of Honour, including Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Shri Vivekananda Pai, Vijnana

Bharati (VIBHA), and Dr. S. S. C. Sheno, Former Director, INCOIS. The Chief Guest, Dr. Ravindra D. Kulkarni, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, delivered the keynote address, stressing the significance of scientific research, innovation, and academic partnerships in addressing contemporary ocean challenges.

During the event INCOIS launched clean-ocean initiative to establish the first integrated marine litter-tracking the NIRMAL sāgar programme, a clean ocean initiative to establish the first integrated marine litter tracking framework for the Indian Ocean Region. By combining ocean modelling, satellite remote sensing, and AI/ML-based tools, the programme will identify marine litter hotspots, monitor, and forecast to support targeted cleanup and mitigation efforts. Aligned with the Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar mission and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, NIRMAL sāgar aims to provide scientific inputs for a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient ocean, promote community participation, and policy support.

INAUGURATION OF BACHUPALLY FLYOVER

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government, through Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority and Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited, is undertaking key infrastructure projects aimed at improving urban mobility, reducing traffic congestion, enhancing road safety, and strengthening connectivity in Hyderabad's western growth corridor.

1. Bachupally Flyover

HMDA has completed the construction of the Bachupally Flyover at Bachupally Crossroads to ensure smooth traffic flow from Miyapur Crossroads to Gandimaisamma.

The project is designed to reduce traffic congestion, save travel time, improve road safety, and provide efficient connectivity to this rapidly developing area. The flyover is 1.30 km long, consists of four lanes (17.5 meters wide),



and has been constructed with 19 piers/abutments. Additionally, two-lane slip roads totaling 1.30 km have been provided. The project has been completed at a cost of ₹65.53 crore.

2. Construction of Major Bridges over the Musi River near ORR Exit No. 18A

HGCL is proposing the construction

of major bridges for service roads on both sides of the ORR, along with a new service road from ORR Exit No. 18A Interchange to Narsingi Ring Road, at an estimated cost of ₹229 crore.

The project aims to address issues caused by existing low-level causeways that become submerged during floods, traffic congestion near Nandi Circle,

and transportation challenges at ORR Exit No. 18A. The works include construction of major bridges, raising the level of approach roads, drainage and protection works, and implementation of traffic safety measures.

The project will ensure all-weather connectivity, improve traffic flow, enhance road safety, and strengthen connectivity to areas such as Narsingi, Kokapet, and the Financial District. Administrative approval has been granted, and tenders will be invited shortly.

3. Widening of the ORR Left Main Carriageway (MCW) from Nanakramguda to Gachibowli

To reduce growing traffic congestion and bottlenecks near Gachibowli, HGCL is undertaking widening works on the ORR Left Main Carriageway (MCW) from Nanakramguda to Gachibowli over a length of 1.75 km, at an estimated cost of ₹26.50 crore.

Lotus Lap Student E. Nandan Shines at National Level Abacus Competition

HYDERABAD

Master E. Nandan, a Grade 5 student of Lotus Lap Public School, Dilsukhnagar Branch, brought laurels to the school by securing an outstanding position in a national-level abacus competition.

The National Gala Abacus 2026, organized by Masterminds - The Brain Booster, was held on June 7, 2026, at Classical Convention-3, Shamshabad, Hyderabad. More than 800 students from across India, including participants from Assam, Karnataka, Delhi, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, took part in the prestigious event.

Competing in Level-1, Master E. Nandan showcased exceptional concentration, mathematical ability, and analytical thinking skills, securing the Third Runner-Up Position and bringing pride to his school and family.

On this occasion, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Chairman of Lotus Lap Public School, congratulated the student and said, "Our goal is to identify and nurture the unique talents of every child and prepare them to excel at national and inter-



national levels. At Lotus Lap Public School, we emphasize life skills, conceptual learning, and personality development to ensure the holistic growth of our students. Nandan's achievement is truly inspiring and reflects the dedication of both the student and the school."

The achievement was celebrated by Mr. Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy, Director, Mrs. Madhavi Sanghi, Vice Principal, Mrs. Anjana Devi, Teacher, along with other staff members, parents, students, and family members, who extended their heartfelt congratulations to Master E. Nandan. The school management expressed confidence that he would continue to achieve greater milestones in the future and serve as an inspiration to fellow students.

Tight Security Arrangements for SIR Process

HYDERABAD

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana has directed concerned police officials to provide adequate security and support to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and BLO Supervisors who will be working in the field as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. He also instructed police authorities to identify sensitive areas in advance and conduct regular patrolling in those locations. He stated that the primary objective of the meeting was to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the SIR exercise.

In this regard, a video conference was conducted on Tuesday at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana, under the chairmanship of Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy, IAS. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. V. Venkateshwar Reddy, IAS, and Hyderabad South Range Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) Tafseer Iqbal, IPS, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Telangana will commence on June 25, 2026. He instructed Booth Level Officers to visit households, distribute enumeration forms, and subsequently collect the completed forms. He also directed election officials to share the names and contact numbers of BLOs and BLO Supervisors with the concerned police station authorities. Similarly, election officials were advised to obtain the contact details of police officers to facilitate coordination.

CCTV Surveillance System Networking is Essential in Today's Society

ESCI Director Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao

HYDERABAD

Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, Director of the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), stated that among the Sustainable Development Goals being pursued by countries across the world, Goals 7 and 9 focuses on Clean Energy, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. He emphasized that advanced technologies such as solar energy systems, modern CCTV networking, uninterrupted quality power supply,

advanced Solar Photovoltaic (PV) plants, 5G networks, and high-speed data transmission have become crucial for modern society. He further observed



that development is possible only when societies adopt rapidly evolving technologies and that not only youth but also government officials must remain lifelong learners, continuously updating their knowledge of emerging technologies.

Dr. Rameshwar Rao inaugurated a five-day training

programme on "CCTV Surveillance System Networking, Standby Power and Advanced Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Plants" for Electrical and Mechanical Engineers working in the Public Works Department (PWD) of Madhya Pradesh at ESCI, Hyderabad, on Monday, 8 June 2026. Speaking on the occa-

sion, he recalled that, as per the agreement signed two months ago in the presence of senior officials and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, ESCI has been entrusted with providing training to Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineers of the Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department over a period of five months in Hyderabad.

As part of this phased training programme, the current five-day course will cover topics such as Standby Power Systems, Earthing, Lightning Protection and Safety, Solar PV Systems, Design and Engineering, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance, SCADA and Remote Monitoring Systems, Government Policies, Regulatory Frameworks, Solar Power Installations, and related subjects.

GITAM Invites Applications for .NET Developer Positions through Walk-in Drive

HYDERABAD

The Centre for Advanced Technology Solutions (CATS) at GITAM Deemed to be University has announced a recruitment drive for experienced .NET Developers. Interested candidates are invited to participate in a direct walk-in interview scheduled on 13 and 14 June 2026.

According to a press release issued on Monday, the university is seeking talented professionals with 3 to 20 years of experience in designing, developing, and implement-

ing robust software solutions. Candidates should possess strong technical expertise in ASP.NET, MVC, .NET Core, Web API, and SQL Server database technologies.

Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or a related discipline. Experience in Education Technology (EdTech) and/or Healthcare IT systems will be considered an added advantage. The annual compensation package ranges from ₹3.5 lakh to ₹25 lakh and above, depending on the candidate's

experience, skills, and overall suitability for the role. Exceptional talent may be offered higher compensation based on merit and expertise. Interested candidates can register for the recruitment process by scanning the QR code provided in the notification or by visiting the official website www.gitam.edu. The recruitment initiative reflects GITAM's continued commitment to building a highly skilled technology workforce and strengthening its digital innovation ecosystem through the Centre for Advanced Technology Solutions.

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Uttam orders time-bound action plan for Palamuru projects

- Major decisions taken during CM's irrigation tour reviewed
- Key Irrigation Projects Move into Fast-Track Execution Mode
- Land acquisition, power connectivity works to be accelerated

HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy today directed senior irrigation officials to prepare and implement a comprehensive, project-wise action plan for the speedy completion of all major irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district visited by the Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, and himself on June 4 and 5. He wanted them to ensure that key decisions taken during the two-day irrigation tour of Palamuru are put into implementation. Chairing a high-level

review meeting with top officials of the Irrigation Department, Uttam Kumar Reddy reviewed the decisions and deadlines fixed during the Chief Minister's inspection of major irrigation projects. He emphasized that the timelines were non-negotiable and asked them to ensure that all bottlenecks relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, power supply and contractor performance are resolved in a mission mode.

The Minister said the Palamuru review had marked a transition to accelerated execution and that the State Government was determined to complete long-pending irrigation projects that would transform the agricultural landscape of the region and benefit lakhs of farmers. He instructed Chief Engineers to submit completion schedules for every major component of the projects. District Collectors were asked to expedite land acquisition through consensus and consent awards wherever possible and ensure that rehabilitation packages reach displaced families without delay.

Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme

Reviewing the progress of the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to complete repair and rehabilitation works of pumping stations and ensure that all motors become fully operational by March 2027. The Minister instructed officials to undertake canal works under the Narlapur Reservoir. He directed that the entire project, including the canal distribution network, be completed by June 2027.

Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to commence acquisition proceedings for nearly 2,200 acres required for the Makthal-Narayan-

pet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme by July 2026. He instructed the district administration to complete land acquisition and rehabilitation processes for nearly 4,200 acres already under requisition and accelerate execution of Phase-I packages.

Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme

The Minister reviewed the progress of the flagship Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and directed officials to complete rehabilitation measures for families displaced by the Narlapur, Yedula and Uddandapur reservoirs at the earliest. He instructed engineers to complete the main trunk infrastructure works up to Karivena Reservoir by December 2026 and ensure immediate power connectivity to the Narlapur, Yedula and Vattem pump houses. The Minister also directed the officials to pursue studies on solar power generation at reservoirs to reduce future energy costs.

Rajiv Bhima, Koilsagar Lift Irrigation Schemes

Reviewing the Rajiv Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, the Minister directed officials to resolve the acquisition of the remaining 80 acres required for Stage-I works by July 2026. The Minister instructed officials to complete the process for acquisition of the remaining 167 acres required for the Koilsagar Lift Irrigation Scheme and ensure completion of all pending works by March 2027.

Jawahar Nettampadu Lift Irrigation Scheme

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to expedite acquisition of 534 acres required to create irrigation potential for an additional 58,000 acres under the Jawahar Nettampadu Lift Irrigation Scheme. He reviewed proposals to increase the storage capacity of Gudemoddi Reservoir to 15 TMC and directed officials to examine the feasibility of establishing solar power generation.



Will Agitate for the Rights of SC Sub-Castes

■ Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha stated that she would launch a movement to secure the rights of Scheduled Caste (SC) sub-castes. Speaking at a meeting with leaders of 57 SC sub-castes held at the TRS office in Banjara Hills on Monday, she expressed concern that while there are 57 SC sub-castes, caste certificates for 47 of them are being issued only by Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs). She described this as highly unfortunate and said pressure would be exerted on the government to ensure that Tahsildars issue caste certificates for all sub-castes.

identity cards and pensions to be provided to artists belonging to SC sub-castes. Alleging that the Congress government is attempting to hand over LIDCAP lands in Gachibowli to influential individuals, she said those lands would be protected. She further stated that a movement would be launched to safeguard LIDCAP lands across the districts.

Kavitha also demanded that Dalit priests be given opportunities to serve in village deity temples and that financial assistance be provided to such temples for conducting rituals and offerings.

She noted that the names of several sub-castes had been incorrectly recorded in official gazette notifications and said that pressure would continue on the government until those errors were corrected. She announced that a protest would be organized at Indira Park Dharna Chowk to demand the rights of SC sub-castes. The meeting was attended by Chintala Rajalingam, President of the SC 57 Sub-Castes Joint Forum, TRS leaders Roop Singh and Anandam, along with leaders representing the 57 SC sub-castes.

CM frustrated with growing support for BJP in Telangana

HYDERABAD

Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao today alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is lying on every issue targeting BJP as he is frustrated following growing popularity and support to BJP in rural areas in the state.



Addressing a press conference at state party office here, he said Revanth Reddy who is holding the office of Chief Minister must present facts to the public. Politics should not be played with lies, personal abuse, and false propaganda.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is making false allegations and lying on every issue right from procurement of paddy, financial assistance from the central government, appointment with Maharashtra chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on water issue and tarring BJP union ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, he accused.

BJP state chief asked CM Revanth Reddy to at least now stop making baseless allegations against Union Ministers Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay and other BJP leaders and fulfill the promises made to the public. Focus on the implementation of Rythu Bharosa, fee reimbursement, youth assurances, and election guarantee, he suggested.

All allegations being made against Union Minister Kishan Reddy are entirely baseless. The people of Telangana are observing the facts. The BJP would continue its fight on behalf of the people of Telangana with even greater resolve, he roared.

Rao said "Jitna keechad uchhaloge, utna kamal khilega" (The more mud you fling, the more the lotus will bloom). No matter how much mud they try

to sling at the BJP, the party would only grow stronger among the masses. Political fear and anxiety are clearly visible behind the Congress party's attacks on the BJP, he said.

BJP state chief accused the state government is completely misleading the public regarding grain procurement. According to the data available on the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Food Grains Procurement Portal, out of the 104.41 lakh metric tonnes of grain procured nationwide, 55.31 lakh metric tonnes were procured from Telangana alone. This means more than half of the grain procured by the central government across the country comes from Telangana.

Giving further details he said while the total amount paid to farmers under MSP across the country stands at approximately Rs 21,243 crores, over Rs 13,171 crores was paid to the farmers of Telangana alone. The number of farmers who benefited from MSP nationwide is 11.66 lakhs, out of which 7.79,358 are farmers from Telangana. On the issue of getting appointment with neighboring Maharashtra CM, Rao alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also leveling baseless allegations against Union Minister Kishan Reddy regarding an appointment with Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Providing Welfare Schemes to All Eligible Beneficiaries

■ Municipal Chairperson Morishetty Nivedita Lakshadili

SURYAPET

Municipal Chairperson Morishetty Nivedita Lakshadili stated that the Congress government is striving to ensure that welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. She was speaking at the concluding programme of the Praja Palana Pragathi Plan organized at the Church Compound in the 35th Ward of Suryapet town on Monday by Ward Councillor Jyothi Srividya.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that the municipality is taking special measures to make Suryapet the number



one town in the state in terms of cleanliness. She noted that every eligible family receives the benefits of government welfare programmes. Nivedita also stated that the Police Department is taking stringent measures to develop Suryapet into a ganja-free town. Continuous monitoring is being carried out to pre-

vent any untoward incidents in the town, and she appealed to the public to cooperate with the police.

DSP Prasanna Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Hanumantha Reddy, Town CI Venkataiah, Municipal Vice-Chairman Shafi Ulla, Councillors Dr. Oora Ramamurthy, Jyothi Karunakar, Bairaboyina Srinivas, leaders Nimmala Venkana and TMC Swetha, Ward Officer Uma Rani, Health Officer of Ambedkar Nagar Urban Hospital, Municipality Manager M. Buchibabu, ASHA Worker SK Shabina Sultana, Dhanamma, RP Jasmine, Ward Jawan Mallesh, and several ward residents participated in the programme.

Coal imports have dropped in our rule: Kishan Reddy

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Coal and Mines Kishan Reddy, during a press briefing on the development and reforms undertaken in his ministry over the past 12 years, said that it had been 12 years since the commencement of the mission for good governance, development and the building of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that Reforms had been implemented across all sectors. "We have achieved numerous milestones in every field ranging from the progress of village-level self-help groups to the space sector. As we reach a significant milestone in India's journey of comprehensive development and reform, I am sharing with you the substantial changes, reforms and achievements witnessed in the coal and mining sectors—which fall under my purview—over the past 12 years. The coal and mining sectors stand as symbols of highly revolutionary reforms.



The coal sector provides direct employment to 5 lakh people and indirect employment to 25 lakh people. The coal and mining sectors play a pivotal role in national revenue generation, employment creation and the circular economy. Railways provide subsidized services to 51% of passengers. The majority of the railway profits come from freight transportation with 51% of that revenue generated specifically through coal transport. The Coal transportation generates approximately ₹90,000 crore in annual

revenue. The Coal plays a crucial role in power generation. We all remember the protests held at Indira Park due to power shortages during the UPA regime.

However, today we are providing uninterrupted power supply across the country," he said.

Reddy claimed that During the Congress party's era, the coal sector was synonymous with corruption and incompetence and added that Under Congress rule, the corruption led to even the Coal Minister being sent to jail. "The Coal mines used to

be allocated simply based on a note written on a blank sheet of paper by Sitaram Kesri and handed to former pM Manmohan Singh.

We have completely reformed the coal sector from that state of affairs. We revamped the sector by strictly adhering to Supreme Court directives and ensuring the elimination of errors, irregularities and corruption. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we have brought about changes over the last 12 years without a single instance of irregularity or corruption.

Today, we are the world's second-largest coal producer and the second-largest consumer. This stock is sufficient to last for 85 days. We monitor the situation daily with the aim of ensuring there is no disruption to power generation, regardless of the circumstances. Coal is essential not only for power generation but also for various other critical sectors. It serves as a primary raw material for major industries such as steel, cement, fertilizers, sponge iron and chemicals.

Transport Department Enforcement Must Be Strengthened Across the State: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has directed officials to further intensify enforcement activities across the state and take strict action against vehicles violating transport regulations.

Speaking at a review meeting with Transport Department officials at the Secretariat, the minister instructed authorities to conduct extensive inspections statewide, with special focus on overloaded vehicles, vehicles that have not paid quarterly taxes, and vehicles lacking valid fitness certificates. He stated that vehicles found violating regulations should be seized if necessary.

Recalling that the government had promised to strengthen enforcement after the abolition of check posts, the minister urged officials to make more efficient use of the available workforce and increase inspection drives. Accordingly, 10 special enforcement teams at the erstwhile district level and two state-level special squads will be deployed to intensify inspections.

World Brain Tumor Day: From Silent Symptoms to Scarless Treatment

■ Dr. Subodh Raju, Director & HOD, Neurosurgery, AIG Hospitals group

HYDERABAD

Every year, World Brain Tumor Day observed on 8th June reminds us that early recognition, timely diagnosis, and advanced treatment are paramount for management of brain tumors. In India, the burden of brain and central nervous system tumors is steadily becoming more visible. According to GLOBOCAN 2022 estimates, India recorded over 32,000 new brain and CNS cancer cases and nearly 28,000 related deaths, making this an important public health concern. The overall cancer burden in India is also projected to rise significantly in the coming years, which makes awareness and access to specialized care even more critical.

Brain tumors can affect people across all age groups. They may be benign or malignant, slow-growing or aggressive, but even a benign tumor can become dangerous if it presses on critical areas of the brain. The challenge is that early symptoms are often ignored or mistaken for stress, migraine, ageing, or lifestyle-related fatigue. There are



certain red flags that should never be ignored. A headache that is new, persistent, worsening over time, or more severe in the morning needs medical evaluation. A first-time seizure in an adult is always a warning sign. Repeated vomiting without a clear stomach-related cause, blurred or double vision, hearing loss, imbalance, weakness or numbness on one side of the body, difficulty speaking, memory problems, personality changes, or unexplained drowsiness should prompt urgent consultation.

The key is not to panic, but not to delay evaluation either. Modern MRI and CT imaging can identify brain lesions early and help specialists decide the right treatment. The encouraging news is that treatment of brain tumors has changed dramatically. Earlier, many patients feared brain surgery because it meant opening the skull, longer hospital stay, and prolonged recovery. Today, neurosurgery is increasingly precise, minimally invasive, and personalized. Depending on the type, size, and location of the tumor, patients may benefit from microsurgery, endoscopic surgery, image-guided navigation, focused radiation, or a combination of treatments.

Jagga Reddy Congratulates Cricketer Nevin Manith

■ Promises full support to help Manith excel further in cricket

SANGAREDDY

TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy specially congratulated emerging cricketer Nevin Manith, who hails from Sangareddy. Having learned about Manith's talent through his father, Madhu—a Congress leader and physiotherapist—Jagga Reddy assured him of complete support to help him grow into a successful cricketer in the future. Jagga Reddy stated that he would bear the full expenses required for Manith's advanced training and participation in various tournaments. He expressed hope that Manith would continue to perform well and bring recognition to Sangareddy district and the state of Telangana.

National-Level Achievements

Eighteen-year-old Nevin Manith, who has been performing impressively at the national level, recently completed his Intermediate education. Driven by his passion for cricket from a young age, he has worked hard and steadily progressed in the sport. Represented Telangana in the Under-17 National Championships organized by the School Games Federation of India in 2024 at Patna.

Also participated and performed well in the Under-19 National Championships held in Chandigarh in 2026. Scored a half-century against the Mahabubnagar team while representing Medak district in the Venkataswamy



Gold Cup Senior League. Scored an impressive century while playing for a prominent cricket club in Delhi. Currently represents Sporty Club in T20, One-Day, and Two-Day matches in the leagues conducted by the Hyderabad Cricket Association.

Trained Under Experienced Coaches

Manith began learning cricket from Class 6 at MS Cricket Academy under coaches Chandramouli and Inam. He further developed his skills with encouragement from Rajender Reddy, President of the HCA Unified Medak District. At present, he is training under coach Iqbal at Iqbal Cricket Academy in Hyderabad. The felicitation program was attended by TPCC General Secretary Topaji Ananth Kishan, former cricketer Raghu, and several others, who congratulated Manith on his achievements. Sports enthusiasts expressed confidence that, with Jagga Reddy's support, Manith will reach even greater heights in his cricketing career.

Public Grievance Applications Must Be Resolved Promptly

■ District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar

SURYAPET

District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar directed officials to accord the highest priority to the Prajavani grievance redressal program, which serves as a platform for resolving public issues. Speaking to district officials after the Prajavani program held at the Integrated Collector Office on Monday, the Collector emphasized that, as per government instructions, all district and division-level Prajavani applications must be mandatorily registered on the online portal. He instructed officials to complete, on a war footing, the disposal of applications that are still pending in the old Prajavani portal.

The Collector also directed that newly received applications be regularly uploaded to the portal. Officials were asked not to keep public petitions pending and to ensure that they are resolved within the stipulated time frame.

He further instructed district authorities to monitor and ensure the compulsory attendance of all divisional-level departmental officers at the Division-level Prajavani meet-



ings. He noted that resolving local issues at the local level would help avoid inconvenience to the public.

During Monday's Prajavani program, a total of 77 applications were received, including 43 related to land issues, 4 pertaining to the DWO, 3 to the DPO, and 24 applications related to various other departments. The Collector stated that these applications have been forwarded to the respective departments for necessary action and resolution.

The program was attended by Additional Collector B. Hari Singh, DRDO PD Sanyasayya, DMHO Venkataramana, PD Housing Siddharth, CPO Kishan Naik, DAO Sridhar Reddy, DEO Ashok, Women and Child Welfare Officer Narasimha Rao, and other district officials.

Every farmer will possess an error-free Pattadar Passbook by 2027:CM

ACHANTA :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that land records process ensuring error-free ownership records for every farmer across the state will be completed by 2027. He alleged that the previous government had created widespread confusion in land records and land ownership matters, even in agriculturally prosperous districts like West Godavari.

Addressing a meeting during distribution of Pattadar Passbooks under "Mee Bhoomi - Mee Hakku" programme at Siddhantam village in West Godavari district today the Chief Minister stated that the previous regime had attempted to hand over land records, which should remain under government control, to private entities and had introduced policies that threatened citizens' property rights. After coming to power, the coalition government repealed the Land Titling Act and safeguarded ownership rights, he said. The Chief Minister noted that the newly issued Rajamudra Pattadar Passbooks are equipped with robust security features, including QR codes, similar to those used in currency notes. He said that because of the irregularities committed by

Rajamudra Pattadar Passbooks equipped with robust security features, including QR codes:CM
Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to implement a blockchain-based land records management system:CM
Around 1.37 lakh acres of Village Service Inam lands have been exempted from restrictions under Section 22A
Chief Minister reaffirms government's commitment to support aqua farmers

the previous government, it would take three years to fully cleanse and update land records. He further announced that Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to implement a blockchain-based land records management system, under which every land parcel will receive a permanent blockchain ID, making tampering virtually impossible.

The Chief Minister said that resurvey work has already been completed in 6,688 villages. Pattadar Passbooks have been issued to 26.46 lakh beneficiaries. Surveys will be completed in another 10,357 villages within the next nine months. Around 67.32 lakh additional Pattadar Passbooks will be distributed. By 2027, every farmer in Andhra Pradesh will possess an error-free Pattadar Passbook.

Highlighting reforms in the Revenue Department, the Chief Minister said the government is implementing far-reaching changes under Resurvey 2.0. Key achievements include Final Record of Rights completed in 1,836 villages. 100 percent auto-mutation introduced for nearly



9 lakh transactions, including sales, gifts, and property divisions. Simplified inheritance transfers with a nominal fee of Rs 100 for properties valued below Rs 10 lakh. Digitization of legacy records such as 1B, Adangal, DKT, Inam, and Ceiling records. Villages are being migrated to Webland 2.0 only after achieving 80 percent e-KYC compliance. Mutation application and tracking services have been enabled through WhatsApp. Around 1.37 lakh acres of Village Service Inam lands have been exempted from restrictions under Section 22A. Long-pending land

disputes in Shettipalli village of Tirupati district have been resolved.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting aqua farmers and promoting food processing industries, particularly in the Godavari districts. He stated that electricity is being supplied to aqua ponds in designated aqua zones at Rs 1.50 per unit. The government has requested the Centre to reduce import duties on soybean meal to help control feed costs for aqua farmers. Food processing and value-addition industries are being actively promoted. Op-

portunities are being explored to convert aqua waste into nutraceutical products, thereby reducing environmental pollution while generating economic value.

The Chief Minister said the coalition government has successfully completed two years in office, delivering welfare, development and good governance simultaneously. He highlighted several welfare initiatives. He said that public meetings are being organized in Tirupati, Amaravati, and Visakhapatnam to communicate the government's achievements to citizens.

The Chief Minister accused the opposition of spreading misinformation despite the government's achievements in employment generation and welfare delivery. He pointed out that nearly 16,000 teaching jobs had been filled through DSC recruitment and that the coalition government had delivered on its promise of releasing a Job Calendar. He alleged that opposition leaders were attempting to mislead the public and demanded that they should apologize to unemployed youth

and the people of Andhra Pradesh. Referring to alleged land-related irregularities, he said investigations had revealed large-scale forgery and manipulation of records involving transactions worth approximately Rs 1,500 crore.

The Chief Minister also presented the district's Positive Public Perception Report and appreciated officials for improving citizen service delivery. He announced that the Sanjeevani Digital Health Records programme will be rolled out statewide before August 15. Electric APSRTC buses will soon be introduced across the state. The Yoganidra programme, involving one crore participants, will be held on June 21. He reiterated that the government's vision is to build a prosperous, healthy, and happy Andhra Pradesh by 2047.

Later the Chief Minister visited exhibition stalls showcasing cocoa-based chocolates, coconut and palm oil products, rice-husk products, vermicompost and value-added products derived from aqua waste. He appreciated entrepreneurs and innovators contributing to rural economic development.

Ministers Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Anagani Satya Prasad, Nimmala Rama Naidu participated.

Special Trains Between Prayagraj and Hubballi

HUBBALLI, JUNE 8:

North Central Railway has notified the operation of special train services between Prayagraj and SSS Hubballi to clear the extra rush of passengers.

Train No. 04113 Prayagraj-SSS Hubballi Special will depart from Prayagraj at 05:05 hrs on 13.06.2026, 20.06.2026, 27.06.2026, 04.07.2026 and 11.07.2026 (Saturday) and arrive at SSS Hubballi at 15:10 hrs on the following Monday. In the return direction, Train No. 04114 SSS Hubballi-Prayagraj Special will depart from SSS Hubballi at 09:00 hrs on 09.06.2026, 16.06.2026, 23.06.2026, 30.06.2026, 07.07.2026 and 14.07.2026

(Tuesday) and arrive at Prayagraj at 22:40 hrs on the following Thursday. En route, the special train will halt at Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Etawah, Bhind, Soni, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Bina, Bhopal, Nagpur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Mancheri, Kazi, Kacheguda, Mahabubnagar, Gadwal, Kurnool City, Dhone, Anantapur, Dharmavaram, Hindupur, Yelahanka, Tumakuru, Arsikere, Davangere and SMM Haveri stations in both directions.

The special train will consist of 22 coaches comprising 3 AC 3-Tier coaches, 9 Sleeper Class coaches, 8 General Second Class coaches and 2 Second Class Luggage-cum-Brake Vans/Divyangjan-Friendly Compartments.

Punjab proposes Rs 42.95 crore action plan to strengthen anti-drug efforts

Punjab Cabinet Minister Baljit Kaur on Monday said a state action plan worth Rs 42.95 crore has been proposed under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2026-27 to strengthen drug prevention and rehabilitation efforts across the state.



The proposed action plan includes drug prevention initiatives, awareness campaigns, life skills education, counselling services, de-addiction measures, and rehabilitation programmes.

Kaur, who holds the Social Security, Women and Child Development portfolio, chaired a meeting with senior officials from various departments in Chandigarh to finalise the state action plans for 2026-27 under the NAPDDR and the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens. According to an official statement, senior officials from the departments of Home Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, AYUSH, School Education, Higher Education, Youth Services and Sports, Information and Public Relations, Punjab Skill Development Mission, and Jails participated in the meeting. Kaur said the Punjab government is pursuing a comprehensive, result-oriented and multi-pronged strategy to eliminate the drug menace in the state.

She said the government's approach goes beyond strict action against drug traffickers and places equal emphasis on prevention, awareness, treatment, rehabilitation and the social reintegration of affected individuals. The minister said the government will strengthen aware-

ness campaigns at schools, colleges and community levels to prevent young people from falling prey to substance abuse. She added that the state will promote sports, cultural activities and youth engagement programmes to channelise the energy of young people towards positive and productive pursuits. Kaur said specialised capacity-building programmes will be organised for teachers, counsellors, healthcare professionals, police personnel and other frontline workers to enhance their ability to identify and effectively address drug-related challenges. On rehabilitation, she said the government will expand counselling, treatment, rehabilitation, skill development and employment-oriented training opportunities for drug-affected individuals to facilitate their dignified reintegration into society. She added that the government will give special attention to vulnerable groups, including women and children. During the meeting, Kaur also reviewed the proposed state action plan under the National Action Plan for Senior Citizens. She reiterated that the Punjab government remains fully committed to ensuring a dignified, secure and healthy life for senior citizens across the state.

Congress may herd MLAs out of MP fearing poaching after BJP fields 3rd RS candidate

BHOPAL: (JUN 8)

The Congress is considering moving its MLAs to a party-ruled state ahead of the June 18 Rajya Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh after the BJP fielded a surprise third candidate, sources said on Monday.

The proposal is aimed at keeping the party's flock together amid concerns of possible cross-voting in the election for three Rajya Sabha seats from the state, they said.

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) held a late-night meeting at the residence of Leader of Opposition Umang Singh.

'Rename AICC as All India Nazi Party': KTR Slams

HYDERABAD, JUNE 8:

KTR Demands to Rename AICC to "All India Nazi Party"

In a massive national and state-level political firestorm, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has launched a scorching attack on the Congress top brass. He has demanded that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) shed its ideological facade and officially rename itself the "All India Nazi Party" following controversial remarks by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Taking to social media platform X, KTR directly targeted Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, fiercely pointing out the hypocrisy between Gandhi's national slogan of "Mohabbat Ki Dukaan" (shop of love) and his handpicked Chief Minis-

ter's open embrace of a brutal dictator's legacy, calling it a transformation into "Hitler's Makaan" (Hitler's house).

The Spark: Revanth Reddy's Dictator Analogy

The political row erupted after Chief Minister Revanth Reddy openly cited German dictator Adolf Hitler and his "assassination squads" as a source of operational inspiration for his administration's functioning and local civic demolitions. The Chief Minister further provoked severe backlash by proudly comparing these localized demolitions to the violent flattening of international war zones.

KTR Corners Rahul Gandhi Over Fascist Blueprint

Seizing upon the development, KTR asserted that the Chief Minister's public admissions are a chilling confession of an inherently fascist governance mindset and an unforgivable assault on India's foundational values.

The BRS leader directly challenged Rahul Gandhi to break his tactical silence, warning that failing to reprimand the Chief Minister amounts to a direct endorsement of totalitarian methods.

"Dear @RahulGandhi Ji, Did your.. 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' officially become 'HITLER'S MAKAAAN..??' You cannot parade as the self-appointed guardian of the Constitution in Delhi while remaining silent as your nom-

inated Chief Minister of Telangana, Mr. Revanth Reddy, openly glorifies blood-thirsty Adolf Hitler and cites his 'assassination squads' as a source of operational inspiration," KTR fired back in his post.

KTR added that a democratic leader draws inspiration from actual statesmen, whereas only a "paranoid, power-drunk ruler" searches for administrative lessons in brutal dictators.

Demands to Rename AICC to "All India Nazi Party"

Escalating the rhetoric against the central Congress leadership, KTR suggested that if celebrating totalitarian methods and destroying local neighborhoods like a war zone

is the party's true blueprint for governance, they should drop their ideological facade entirely. "If celebrating totalitarian methods and proudly comparing local civic demolitions to the violent flattening of international war zones is your party's actual blueprint for governance, then the AICC should formally drop the ideological facade and rename itself as 'ALL INDIA NAZI PARTY'. Your silence is an endorsement. The nation is watching," KTR concluded. With opposition forces strongly uniting against the Chief Minister's remarks, the political spotlight remains fixed on the Congress high command to clarify whether they formally accept Nazi methods as their party's actual blueprint for governance.

ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON "MEDIA FOR COMMUNAL HARMONY RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM" HELD

IMPHAL, 8 JUNE 2026

A one-day seminar on "Media for Communal Harmony and Responsible Journalism", organised jointly by the Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM) and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), was held today at Sangai Hall, Hotel Imphal.

The seminar was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Manipur, Yumnam Khemchand Singh.

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Th. Charanjit Singh, Director, DIPR, expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for inaugurating the seminar. He stated that the deliberations, viewpoints of the resource persons and resolutions emerging from the seminar would provide a new direction for the media fraternity and contribute positively towards the development of the State.

Giving the keynote address, Rinku Khumukcham, Editor, Imphal Times, spoke on the relevance of the seminar and underscored the importance of organising such

programmes regularly. He emphasized that the media plays a vital role in society and carries significant responsibilities in shaping public discourse. He noted that seminars of this nature serve as important platforms for journalists and media professionals to periodically reflect on their duties, ethical obligations and commitment to responsible journalism.

Stressing the need to strengthen the State's media institutions, Oinam Sunil Singh, Media Advisor to the Chief Minister, underscored the importance of reinforcing the role of media and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations in promoting balanced and responsible journalism.

Highlighting the significance of local narratives, Sunil Singh stated that national media should not be allowed to solely shape perceptions regarding Manipur. He urged journalists and media organisations to collectively deliberate on these issues and work towards strengthening the credibility and effective-



ness of the State's media.

Speaking at the seminar, Peter Adani, President, MHJU (Manipur Hill Journalists' Union), highlighted the need for a comprehensive and stringent policy framework to address the issue of illegal immigration in Manipur. He observed that while various States such as West Bengal, Tripura and Assam have implemented measures under existing laws to address illegal immigration, Manipur requires stronger and more specific mechanisms considering its unique socio-political circumstances.

Peter Adani further expressed the view that effective

and well-defined government policies could help address concerns relating to law and order, drug trafficking and other social challenges. He noted that neighbouring States have also voiced concerns regarding the impact of illegal immigration and called upon policymakers and government officials to deliberate on the issue and provide constructive suggestions for framing appropriate policies in the interest of the State.

The seminar also featured a series of technical sessions. The pre-lunch session was moderated by Dr. R.K. Nimai, retired IAS Officer. During the session:

- Dr. Mayengbam Veto, Joint Secretary, Home Department, Government of Manipur, delivered a presentation on "Decoding Media Advisory by Manipur Government Home Department".

- Dr. S. Ibomcha, Commanding Officer, 6th IRB and SP (Special Commando), spoke on "Combating Misinformation, Rumours and Hate Speech in the Digital Era".

- Dr. Natasha Elangbam, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Manipur University, delivered a lecture on "Journalism for Peace: Lessons, Challenges and Best Practices from Conflict Regions".

She emphasized the following key points for peace-oriented reporting:

1. Go beyond "2 sides fighting" - Investigate underlying causes, history, and structural issues instead of framing conflict as only a battle between two opposing sides.
2. Ask "why" not just "what" - Move past the incident to explain roots, triggers, and relationships between facts.
3. Report peace process-

es and solutions- Give equal space to dialogue, nonviolent responses, and what's working to reduce tension, not only violence and casualties.

The post-lunch session was moderated by A. Mubi, Senior Journalist. During the session, Shri Yumnam Rupachandra, Secretary General, Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM) and Editor-In-Chief, Impact TV, presented a paper on "Responsible Reporting During Communal Tension and Conflict Situations".

Asem Bhakta, President, All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU), and Peter Adani, President, MHJU, attended the inaugural function as Guests of Honour, while Khogendra Khomdram, President, EGM, presided over the programme. Among those present at the seminar were Hungyo Worshang, Secretary, IPR, Additional Directors (IPR) W. Phajantombi Devi and T. Ramesh Singh, senior editors and journalists, officials of DIPR, representatives of various media organisations and platforms, and students of Manipur University.

EDITORIAL

The Fragile Path to a U.S.-Iran Deal Through Lebanon

The freshly brokered truce between Israel and Lebanon could potentially clear a critical roadblock in U.S. President Donald Trump's ongoing campaign to finalize an initial accord with Iran aimed at halting regional hostilities. Just last week, Tehran chose to freeze its diplomatic channels with Washington as a direct objection to Israel's intensifying military campaign inside Lebanon. Back in April, during his initial announcement of an Israel-Lebanon cessation of hostilities, Mr. Trump asserted that Tel Aviv was legally "prevented" from executing further operations within Lebanese borders. However, Israeli forces disregarded this, persisting with heavy aerial bombardments and broadening their ground incursions across southern Lebanon. Iran has consistently argued that under the terms of its April 8 understanding with the United States, Washington had guaranteed that the cessation of violence would apply universally across all operational fronts, explicitly including Lebanon. Following Iran's decision to halt bilateral discussions, Mr. Trump immediately escalated his diplomatic engagement. He publicly asserted that he had successfully dissuaded Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from executing proposed airstrikes on Beirut, while simultaneously engaging in dialogue with Hezbollah delegates, who reportedly consented to lay down their arms. The formal declaration of the Israel-Lebanon truce materialized shortly after Mr. Trump's public remarks. This aggressive diplomatic maneuvering by the U.S. President—which reportedly featured a highly confrontational, expletive-filled telephone conversation with Mr. Netanyahu—underlines the profound significance the administration places on this specific diplomatic track. Prior to the escalation of the Lebanese crisis, Washington and Tehran were actively hammering out a memorandum of understanding designed to reopen the strategic Strait of Hormuz and dismantle the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian maritime ports, a breakthrough intended to lay the groundwork for comprehensive future negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear program. While this latest truce represents a positive diplomatic development, it remains structurally weak and incomplete, failing to resolve the fundamental drivers of the core conflict. The primary combat on the ground in Lebanon persists between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants. Crucially, the official Lebanese government is not a formal combatant in this war, and Hezbollah operates entirely independently of the national Lebanese army's command structure. Despite this reality, Hezbollah was completely excluded from the direct negotiation process. The current framework demands that Hezbollah unilaterally halt all offensive operations, yet it fails to extract reciprocal concessions from Tel Aviv. For its part, Hezbollah maintains that it will only cease military actions if Israel executes a total withdrawal from the southern region of Lebanon.

Conversely, Israel—which has pushed its ground forces deeper into southern Lebanon than at any point since its historic pullout in the year 2000—has offered no indications of a planned military retreat. Furthermore, Tel Aviv holds a record of violating its armistice commitments over the last several years; despite nominal truce agreements, its military continues to launch airstrikes across the Gaza Strip. The reality that Mr. Trump had to announce a brand-new ceasefire framework while an existing one was technically in place emphasizes just how unstable these diplomatic arrangements truly are. Ultimately, the American President is attempting to implement a temporary, stop-gap measure in Lebanon for the explicit purpose of advancing his broader strategic agreement with Iran. However, if this overarching framework is to achieve any measure of success, he must secure ironclad, binding guarantees from Israel that it will respect and adhere to the stipulated terms. To achieve a genuinely enduring peace on the Lebanese front, Israel must ultimately terminate its unlawful occupation of southern territory and withdraw its military personnel.

NARENDRA MODI ON THE VERGE OF BREAKING A RECORD

(Narendra Modi sets rare record as "Longest-serving Elected Prime Minister" on 10 June 2026)



of PM continuously. Previously, Nehru served as a democratically elected "PM" for 4,398 days (from May 13, 1952 to May 27, 1964). It is a remarkable moment that on June 10, Narendra Modi broke the record set by Nehru and serving as the longest-serving Prime Minister unopposed.

Another Rare Record in Narendra Modi's account:

Narendra Modi has completely changed the traditional political hegemony with powerful strategies like welfare economic policies, strong national security, and clear cultural nationalism. Despite being in power for a long time, he has successfully continued the popular government model by repelling opposition to the government. It is important to know the difference between the "full term" as Prime Minister and the period served as "elected PM". Our first Prime Minister Nehru served as PM for almost 17 years. But from 15 August 1947 to 12 May 1952, he served as a constitutionally nominated (without elections) Prime Minister. Nehru took office as the elected PM on 13 May 1952, the first democratic general election in independent India. From then on, he served as the elected PM for 4,398 days until his last breath on 27 May 1964. Narendra Modi broke Nehru's record as the longest-serving Prime Minister on 10 June 2026, achieving the rare feat of serving for 4,399 days without interruption. Narendra served as an RSS Swayamsevak in his childhood and later became a BJP worker. He served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for a long time, from 07 October 2001 to 22 May 2014, after which he directly assumed the post of PM and continues to this day.

From foundations of independent India to today's digital era:

A golden chapter is about to be written in the history of Indian politics and democratic govern-

ance on 10 June 2026. Modi is advancing unopposed, surpassing Nehru's record. The journey of Indian governance continues from the "foundations of independent India" to today's "digital era". This historical milestone cannot be compared to the tenures of two polar opposites. This is a rare occasion to review the challenges, crises, and governance models faced by India over the past seven decades. After centuries of colonial rule, efforts were made to lay solid foundations for India, which had a fragmented economy, political instability, and no institutional structure. India, which had a population of 34 crores then, has reached a population of 140 crores today. Along with the population, problems, challenges, crises, disasters, and scientific and technological revolutions, India is moving forward and moving towards development today, supported by the digital AI revolution.

Narendra Modi's mark of comprehensive development:

With the bitter memories left by the Corona disaster, Narendra Modi's efforts in the growth of a digital revolutionary India, along with technology, public health umbrella, economic self-reliance, strategic foreign policies, the flood of UPI payments, CAA, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-mobile linkage, inclusive economic development, creation of basic resources, abrogation of Article 370, Digital India, Ayushman Bharat, development of the transport sector, Make in India, triple talaq, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, social media surges, and welfare schemes, are invaluable. Despite the two main power blocs of Russia and America at that time, Nehru's India followed the path of non-alignment. Today, in the midst of the Russia-Ukraine, Palestine-Israel, and US/Israel-Iran wars, NaMo's governance skills in

maintaining strategic autonomy and registering economic growth are to be commended. Modi has not only been instrumental in effectively expanding good relations with the US, Europe, Russia, West Asia, and the Global South, but he has also strengthened India's reputation in the world.

Prime Ministers in Independent Indian history:

India experienced a war with Pakistan in 1947 and a conflict with China in 1962. It is a good development that India, which was once an illiterate country, has emerged as a major IT power today. Under the leadership of NaMo, it is taking the lead with the slogan of "Reform, Achieve, Transform". Narendra Modi is taking steps with a thoughtful aggressiveness, having won 44 international prestigious awards as PM. As PMs of independent India, Nehru served for 16 years and 286 days, Modi for more than 12 years, Indira Gandhi for 15 years and 350 days, Manmohan Singh for 10 years and 4 days, Vajpayee for 6 years and 64 days, Rajiv Gandhi for 5 years and 32 days, PV Narasimha Rao for 4 years and 330 days (Morarji Desai, Lal Bahadur Shastri, VP Singh, IK Gujral, Deve Gowda, Chandrashekhar, Charan Singh) and the last 26 days Gurjarilal Nanda served as PM.

Modi is likely to achieve another rare and amazing record on 10 June 2026, serving as the PM for another three years in his third term. If that happens, it seems impossible for anyone else to break this record set by Modi in today's unstable political system. Although it is not clear who will become the PM in the general elections to be held in April 2029, the record set by Narendra Modi is rare and unique.

- PROF. BURRA MADHUSUDHAN REDDY 9949700037

World Oceans Day (June 8)

Oceans: India's Next Growth Frontier

PROTECTING THE OCEANS IS NOT JUST AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVE — IT IS AN ECONOMIC NECESSITY FOR INDIA

India is often described as a continental power, but it is equally a maritime nation. Bordered by the seas on three sides, the country's history, trade, food systems, and economic fortunes have long been intertwined with the oceans. Yet, despite this reality, the seas have rarely occupied a central place in national development debates. While discussions on agriculture, industry, infrastructure, and urban growth dominate public policy, the oceans remain an underappreciated pillar of India's future.

Consequently, the health of the oceans is inseparable from the health of the economy itself.

A Resource Under Growing Pressure

Across the world, marine ecosystems are facing unprecedented stress. Overfishing, plastic pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change are steadily eroding ocean health. Rising sea temperatures are bleaching coral reefs, altering fish migration patterns, and weakening ecological balance. What once appeared to be

Conservation and Livelihoods Are Not Opposites:

Marine conservation is often portrayed as a choice between protecting ecosystems and protecting people. In reality, the two objectives are deeply interconnected. When fish stocks decline and ecosystems deteriorate, fishing communities are among the first to suffer. Healthy oceans are not a barrier to livelihoods; they are the foundation upon which those livelihoods depend.

India's fisheries sector highlights this relationship. Millions of people depend directly and indirectly on fishing and allied activities, while marine exports contribute significantly to the national economy. Protecting marine ecosystems, therefore, is not simply an environmental responsibility. It is an economic necessity linked to employment, income generation, exports, and nutritional security.

This understanding is driving the global push for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). By safeguarding ecologically important regions, these protected zones allow marine ecosystems to recover and replenish themselves. The objective is not to halt development, but to ensure that future generations inherit oceans capable of sustaining both nature and human prosperity.

The Promise of the Blue Economy:

The broader vision behind ocean conservation is captured in the concept of the Blue Economy. Far from being limited to fisheries, it encompasses shipping, ports, coastal tourism, marine biotechnology, offshore renewable energy, deep-sea exploration, and the sustainable use of ocean resources.

India has already begun investing in this future through initiatives such as Sagarmala and the Deep Ocean Mission. The country possesses enormous untapped potential in fisheries,

marine minerals, coastal tourism, and ocean-based renewable energy. Yet these opportunities depend on healthy and resilient marine ecosystems. Without ecological sustainability, the promise of the Blue Economy will remain largely unrealised.

Securing Prosperity Through Protection:

The perceived conflict between conservation and development is ultimately a false one. Long-term economic growth depends on the sustainable management of natural resources. Exploiting marine wealth without restraint may generate immediate gains, but it undermines future opportunities and weakens economic resilience.

The message of World Oceans Day 2026 is therefore clear. Protecting the oceans is not merely about conserving marine species or preserving natural beauty. It is about safeguarding food security, sustaining livelihoods, strengthening trade, and protecting national interests. As the limits of land-based growth become increasingly evident, the oceans are emerging as one of the defining frontiers of the future.

For India, the challenge is not simply to utilise the oceans more effectively, but to recognise them as a strategic national asset. The prosperity of future generations will depend not only on what the country extracts from its seas, but also on how wisely it chooses to protect them.



As opportunities on land become increasingly constrained, the world is turning its attention toward the vast potential of the oceans. It is in this context that the theme of World Oceans Day 2026—"Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Ocean"—must be understood. It is not merely an environmental slogan; it is a vision for long-term economic resilience and sustainable development.

The oceans are far more than expansive bodies of water. They are global trade corridors, sources of food and livelihoods, repositories of biodiversity, and strategic assets of immense geopolitical significance.

an inexhaustible resource is now revealing its limits.

India is confronting many of these challenges. Rapid coastal urbanisation, industrial waste, plastic pollution, mangrove degradation, and unsustainable fishing practices are putting increasing pressure on marine ecosystems.

At the same time, rising sea levels and more intense cyclones are exposing coastal communities to greater risks. The consequences extend beyond environmental damage, affecting livelihoods, food security, and economic stability.

THE KINGDOM OF THOUGHT

Before the pulse of Time was heard,
Before the first unspoken word,
Before the sun embraced the sky,
A Thought was born that would not die.

It wandered through eternal night,
Clothed in neither form nor light;
Then whispered unto silent clay—
"Awake, and dream the world away."
From that command the mountains rose,

The rivers learned their endless prose,
The stars became celestial ink,
Where God Himself was seen to think.

Strong minds inherit that first fire,
The breath of every true desire.
They do not merely cross the sea—
They teach the shore what waves can be.

They forge horizons from the void,
Where timid footsteps are destroyed;
They climb beyond the reach of sight
And harvest dawn before its light.
They ask the questions none can name,

They turn impossibility to flame;
The future blooms beneath their tread,
Where lesser hearts have feared to tread.

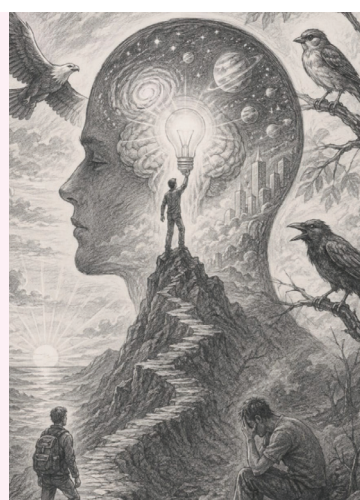
Average minds are autumn streams,
Reflecting borrowed skies and dreams;
They speak of kingdoms lost in sand,
Yet never seek the Builder's hand.

They number victories and scars,
They map the earth but miss the stars;
They chronicle the passing years,
Yet seldom hear eternity's spheres.

Weak minds are merchants of the dust,
Who trade in envy, pride, and lust.
They build with whispers, thrive on blame,
And warm themselves in borrowed shame.

They gather shadows into gold,
Repeat what wiser lips have told;
Like crows that quarrel over grain,
They never greet the mountain rain.

But eagles know another law—



They rise because they upward draw;
The higher still their silence grows,
The deeper yet their wisdom flows.
Speak not of faces doomed to fade;
Their beauty is a passing shade.
Speak of the spark no storm can drown,
The thought that lifts a nation's crown.
Ideas are seeds no fire can kill;
They bloom beyond the tyrant's will.
A single truth, though softly sown,
Can shake a thousand iron thrones.
The sword grows dull, the crown decays,
The marble yields to countless days;
Yet one great mind, through death set free,
Becomes the voice of history.
So guard your words as sacred flame,
For language shapes the soul of man;
Each syllable the spirit sows
Becomes the forest future knows.
Think not to conquer earth alone—
The highest kingdoms are unknown.
The greatest empire ever wrought
Is built within a single thought.
And when the final dusk shall fall,
When silence gathers over all,
No wealth, no monument, no breath—
Shall triumph over timeless death.
Only the mind that sought the Light,
That turned its wounds to wings in flight,
Shall leave upon eternity's scroll
The undying signature of the soul.

... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
National Poet
7810032847

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The INDIA bloc's latest gathering in New Delhi sought to project strength, coordination and common purpose against the BJP led government. Yet behind the carefully choreographed display of unity lies a coalition wrestling with distrust, regional rivalries, absentee allies and unresolved leadership questions. While the alliance adopted a five point agenda on electoral rolls, education, the economy and parliamentary strategy, the larger challenge remains unchanged: can the Opposition transform periodic meetings into a durable political alternative capable of sustaining itself until the next national electoral battle?

When leaders of twenty five Opposition parties assembled at the Constitution Club in New Delhi on June 8, the immediate objective was clear. The INDIA bloc needed to demonstrate that reports of its weakening relevance were premature. With assembly election setbacks, growing tensions among partners and persistent questions about its future, the alliance required a public show of solidarity. That objective was achieved, at least visually.

Senior leaders including Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav shared the same platform and emerged with a common political message. The alliance resolved to challenge the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, demand accountability over examination controversies affecting students, press the Union Government for consultations on economic distress and inflation, institutionalise regular bloc meetings and strengthen coordination during Parliament sessions. These are not insignificant issues. Concerns over electoral processes, the future of India's youth, rising costs of living and farmers' distress deserve serious political scrutiny. An Opposition that fails to raise such questions would be failing in its constitutional responsibility. Yet the real political story of the day lay beyond the resolutions themselves.

WHAT THE INDIA BLOC DECIDED

The alliance resolved to ap-

INDIA BLOC'S DELHI HUDDLE DELIVERS ROUTINE RESOLUTIONS BUT BARELY MASKS GROWING CRACKS IN OPPOSITION UNITY

Constitution Club of India | NEW DELHI
8 June, 2026



THE COMING MONTHS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THIS IS A COALITION OR MERELY A CONVERSATION

The Delhi meeting succeeded in sending one message. Despite repeated predictions of collapse, a significant section of the Opposition remains willing to work together and co-

ordinate politically. However, the deeper questions remain unanswered.

- Can the alliance navigate state level rivalries without triggering fresh ruptures?

- Can Congress and regional parties develop a sustainable balance of power?
- Can common positions on major national issues translate into coordinated action on the ground?

- Most importantly, can the bloc build public confidence beyond conference halls and press briefings? Those questions cannot be answered through resolutions alone.

proach the Chief Justice of India regarding concerns over electoral roll revisions. It demanded accountability over examination related controversies affecting students. It sought an all party consultation on inflation, economic challenges and farmers' distress. It agreed to hold meetings every two months and announced closer parliamentary coordination during the upcoming session.

THE EMPTY SEATS CARRIED THEIR OWN POLITICAL MESSAGE

Every alliance meeting is judged not merely by who attends but also by who stays away. The absence of key partners once again exposed the fragility that continues to define the Opposition experiment. The DMK's decision to keep its distance following disagreements with Congress over political developments in Tamil Nadu immediately raised questions about the alliance's internal health. AAP's absence further underlined the reality that consensus within the

REGIONAL AMBITIONS REMAIN THE BIGGEST TEST FOR THE OPPOSITION

The Delhi meeting also highlighted the structural dilemma facing the alliance. Congress continues to view itself as the principal national force around which Opposition politics should revolve. The decision to place parliamentary coordination under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi's office reflects that thinking. Congress believes stronger central coordination is necessary if the alliance is to challenge the BJP effectively. Regional parties, however, oper-

ate according to different compulsions. For leaders such as Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav and others, political calculations are shaped primarily by state level realities. Their immediate concerns involve protecting regional bases, managing local rivalries and preparing for state elections. National unity often becomes secondary when local political interests come under pressure. This contradiction has never truly been resolved within the INDIA bloc. It was merely managed. The Delhi meeting demonstrated that management continues. Whether resolution follows remains uncertain.

er than media management. It is fundamentally about political trust. Trust is the currency that sustains coalitions. Once that currency begins losing value, every negotiation becomes harder, every disagreement becomes larger and every election becomes a test of survival. "An alliance survives not because its leaders meet regularly, but because they continue trusting one another when electoral interests collide."

HYDERABAD MAY PROVE MORE IMPORTANT THAN DELHI

The alliance has announced Hyderabad as the venue for its next major meeting in August. That gathering could become the most significant test of Opposition cohesion since the bloc's formation. By then, Parliament will have offered an opportunity to demonstrate coordinated action. Partners will have had time to evaluate whether new communication mechanisms are working. More importantly, difficult conversations regard-

ing electoral cooperation, state level partnerships and leadership responsibilities may become unavoidable. If Hyderabad delivers clarity, Delhi will be remembered as a useful regrouping exercise. If Hyderabad produces fresh disagreements, today's declarations may quickly lose political value.

THE BJP'S POLITICAL NARRATIVE REMAINS LARGELY UNCHALLENGED

The ruling BJP will undoubtedly study the developments closely. For the BJP, every visible disagreement among Opposition parties reinforces its argument that the alliance lacks ideological coherence and exists primarily as an electoral arrangement. Every absentee ally strengthens the ruling party's claim that the Opposition has not yet discovered a common purpose beyond opposing the government. Whether that criticism is fair or not is ultimately less important than whether voters believe it. Politics is not merely about assembling alliances. It is about convincing the electorate that an alternative is stable, credible and capable of governing. That task remains unfinished.

DHR Creates History with Highest-Ever Monthly

Revenue of Rs 395.60 Lakh in May 2026
MALIGAON, 8 JUNE, 2026

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), the UNESCO World Heritage mountain railway under Northeast Frontier Railway, has created history by recording its highest-ever single-month revenue since its inception. During May 2026, DHR earned an unprecedented Rs 395.60 lakh, surpassing the previous record of Rs 358.60 lakh achieved in May 2025.



The achievement reflects the increasing popularity of the heritage railway among tourists and railway enthusiasts from across the country and abroad. The record-breaking revenue was driven by strong passenger patronage during the peak tourist season, particularly on the iconic heritage joy rides and regular passenger service operating through the scenic Darjeeling hills. The growing demand highlights the enduring attraction of the world-famous narrow-gauge railway and the success of Northeast Frontier Railway's efforts to enhance passenger amenities and promote heritage tourism. The revenue trend over the last five years demonstrates the remarkable growth of DHR. Revenue earned during May stood at Rs 319.64 lakh in 2022, Rs 358.18 lakh in 2023, Rs 288.58 lakh in 2024, Rs 358.60 lakh in 2025 and a record Rs 395.60 lakh in 2026. With passen-

ger demand continuing to remain exceptionally high, DHR is expected to maintain this momentum during the current month. Based on present booking trends and traffic patterns, revenue for June 2026 is projected to cross Rs 370.00 lakh, which would make it one of the highest revenue-earning June months in the railway's history. The historic achievement underscores the growing appeal of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway as one of India's most celebrated heritage attractions. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to preserving the unique legacy of this UNESCO World Heritage railway while continuously improving service quality, safety standards and visitor experience. The strong revenue performance also reflects the important role of DHR in promoting tourism and contributing to the economic development of the Darjeeling region.

Railways Sanctions Traction Upgrade on Key Telangana Route

Indian Railways has sanctioned a significant project to enhance rail operations on the Mahbubnagar-Secunderabad-Medchal section of South Central Railway. Under the project, the existing 1x25 kV electric traction system will be upgraded to a modern 2x25 kV electric traction system. The work will be undertaken over this approximately 141 route kilometre rail section at a cost of ₹285.01 crore. The project is part of Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to enhance capacity on busy rail corridors across the country. The introduction of the 2x25 kV system will provide a more stable and efficient power supply for train operations, making rail services smoother, safer and more reliable. The Mahbubnagar-Secunderabad-Medchal section is part of one of the country's impor-

tant High-Density Network (HDN) routes. It falls on the Dharmavaram-Dhone-Mahbubnagar-Secunderabad-Medchal-Mudkhed-Indore-Ajmer rail corridor, which carries substantial passenger and freight traffic. Upon completion, the project will further improve train operations on the route. Freight movement will become more efficient, enhancing both the speed and capacity of goods transportation. The project is also expected to support trade, industry and economic activity across the region.

The initiative will further strengthen Indian Railways' commitment to developing a modern, future-ready rail network and will benefit both passengers and industry through improved rail infrastructure and operational efficiency.

Sports Minister Inaugurates Modern 'Aspirational Toilet' built

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 8

Haryana Minister of State for Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship, and Sports, Sh. Gaurav Gautam, on Monday, inaugurated a modern 'Aspirational Toilet' constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.30 lakh in Tau Devi Lal Town Park, located in Ward No. 12 of Municipal Council, Palwal. Developed with joint financial support from the Government of India and the Haryana Government, the project has been im-

a cost of Rs.30 lakh in Tau Devi Lal Town Park, Palwal

plemented in accordance with the guidelines of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gaurav Gautam said that the State Government's objective is not merely to construct toilets, but to develop public sanitation facilities that meet the highest standards of cleanliness, safety, convenience and dignity. He said that the initiative represents an

important step towards creating a safer and more inclusive public environment, particularly for women, children, transgender persons and Persons with Disabilities (PwD). The Minister informed that the modern public sanitation complex has been designed with separate toilet facilities for men, women, transgender persons and Persons with Disabilities (PwD). Keeping in mind the needs of mothers and young children, a dedi-

cated baby care room has also been provided. In addition, a store room has been constructed for the safe storage of cleaning and maintenance materials. **Public Participation Vital for Building Cleaner Cities**

Sh. Gaurav Gautam said that facilities such as Aspirational Toilets play a crucial role in reducing unhygienic practices such as open urination, improving public health

and strengthening sanitation standards such as ODF Plus. He appealed to citizens to remember that this facility has been created for public use and should therefore be used responsibly. He urged people to maintain its cleanliness and protect it as a valuable public asset. He said that separate facilities for women, dedicated spaces for childcare, dignified provisions for the transgender community and barrier-free access for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) make this project an ideal public sanitation

model. He added that only through public participation and awareness can the benefits of such public welfare initiatives reach every section of society. The Sports Minister of State further stated that the project marks an important step towards strengthening citizen amenities, promoting sanitation and developing inclusive urban infrastructure. He expressed confidence that it will contribute significantly to the creation of a cleaner, healthier and more developed city.

Mahesh Kevat , Meenakshi Natarajan filed nomination for Rajya Sabha

BY DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, BJP state president and MLA Hemant Khandelwal, state in-charge DrIn the presence of Mahendra Singh and Regional Organization General Secretary Ajay Jamwal, Rajya Sabha candidate from Madhya Pradesh Mahesh Kevat paid obeisance to the statues of great men by garlanding them after visiting the temple located at the BJP state office. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Deora, former BJP state president and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, state administration ministers Kailash Vijayvargiya, Prahlad Patel, Rakesh Singh, Narayan Singh Panwar, Dilip Jaiswal, Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation President Sanjay Nagaich, state vice president of the party Shailendra Barua, Surendra Sharma, State General Secretary Rahul Kothari, Rajya Sabha candidate Rajneesh Aggarwal, MLA Mrs. Reeti Pathak, Harishankar Khatik, former minister Jalam Singh Patel, State Office Minister Shyam Mahajan, State Media Incharge Ashish Usha

Aggarwal, District President Ravindra Yeti and party officials and workers were present. After this, Rajya Sabha candidate from Madhya Pradesh Mahesh Kevat reached the Assembly on Monday and filed his nomination papers in the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, BJP State President and MLA Hemant Khandelwal and State In-charge Dr. Mahendra Singh along with the Core Committee and senior leadership of the party. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda, Rajendra Shukla, former BJP state president and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, state government ministers Kailash Vijayvargiya, Prahlad Patel, Rakesh Singh, Tulsi Silavat, Uday Pratap Singh, Vishwas Sarang, Chaitanya Kashyap, Inder Singh Parmar, Ms. Nirmala Bhuria, SmtSampatia Uike, Narayan Singh Panwar, Narendra Shivaji Patel, Lakhan Patel, Mrs. Krishna Gaur, Dilip Jaiswal, former Assembly Speaker and MLA Sitasaran Sharma, Madhya Pradesh Warehousing and Logistics Corporation President Sanjay Nagaich, State Vice President of the party Shailendra Barua,



Surendra Sharma, Pradesh General Secretary Rahul Kothari, Rajya Sabha candidate Rajneesh Aggarwal, MLA Shailendra Jain, Mrs. Reeti Pathak, Harishankar Khatik, Umakant Sharma, Rameshwar Sharma, Siddharth Tiwari, Narendra Prapajati, former minister Jalam Singh Patel, State Office Minister Shyam Mahajan, state media in-charge Ashish Usha Aggarwal, Party officials including District President Ravindra Yeti were present.* Congress Rajya Sabha candidate Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan filed nomination* Congress Party's Rajya Sabha candidate Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan filed her nomination papers for the Rajya

Sabha elections in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly complex. The dignified presence of senior leaders, MLAs and office bearers of the Congress Party on this occasion clearly demonstrated the unity of the party and its commitment to democratic values. During the nomination, Madhya Pradesh Congress in-charge Mr. Harish Chaudhary, State Congress President Mr. Jitu Patwari, Leader of Opposition Mr. Umang Singhar, former Chief Minister Mr. Digvijay Singh, former Leader of Opposition Mr. Ajay Singh 'Rahul Bhैया', former Union Minister Mr. Arun Yadav, Congress Working Committee member MrKamleshwar Patel, CEC member

Mr. Omkar Markam, former Assembly Deputy Speaker Mr. Rajendra Singh, former minister Mr. Sajjan Singh Verma, State Congress Media Department Chairman Mr. Mukesh Nayak, senior leader Mr. J.Repected MLAs, spokespersons, senior leaders and officials of various cells and departments of the Congress Party including P. Dhanopia were present. **State Congress President Jitu Patwari said**

The BJP does not have the required numbers to elect a third Rajya Sabha MP, yet it has tried to indulge democracy in politics of horse-trading and pressure by filing nomination of a third candidate. But BJP should know that all the Congress MLAs are completely united. We stand strongly to protect democracy and the Constitution and will give a befitting reply to this politics of BJP by sending Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan to Rajya Sabha. **Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar said**

Congress Party is a party following the ideology of Mahatma GandhiThis is not just a fight for sister Meenakshi Natarajan, but a fight for ide-

ology, democratic values and people's rights. We have full confidence that the Congress candidate will be victorious. **Rajya Sabha candidate Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan said**

The real character of BJP is being exposed. His belief in worshipping women is visible to everyone today. This is a fight for the Constitution, and the Constitution will win. All MLAs are together in solidarity On this occasion, Congress leaders expressed confidence that Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan's extensive political experience, organizational ability and her commitment towards issues of public interest will play an important role in effectively raising the voice of the people of the state and the country in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress Party is committed to send Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan to the Rajya Sabha with complete unity, determination and unwavering devotion to democratic values. The party believes that their representation in the Upper House of Parliament will strengthen the issues of social justice, constitutional values and public interest.

Gujarat teen dies after collapsing while playing, heart attack suspected

A 14-year-old girl from Jamnagar collapsed while playing at a Rajkot district resort and was declared dead on arrival at hospital. The cause of death is yet to be confirmed, even as a video of the moments before the incident circulates online. A 14-year-old girl died after suddenly collapsing while playing with other children at a resort in Gujarat's Rajkot district on Sunday night, leaving her family and fellow guests in shock. The deceased was identified as Anandi Rajeshbhai Modi, a resident of Jamnagar who had accompanied her family to the resort for a gathering. According to preliminary information, the incident occurred shortly after dinner while children were playing on the resort premises. Eyewitnesses said Anandi had finished her meal and joined other children for play when she suddenly collapsed. Fam-

ily members and bystanders rushed to her aid before taking her to a nearby hospital. However, doctors declared her dead on arrival, hospital sources said. **REPORTS SUSPECT CARDIAC ARREST**

A 36-second video that has surfaced online purportedly shows the moments before the incident. The shaky nighttime footage captures families and children moving around the brightly lit resort grounds. In some frames, a boy in a striped shirt and a smiling girl can be seen among the guests before the situation reportedly turned chaotic. Preliminary reports have suggested a suspected cardiac event, though officials have not confirmed the cause of death. Authorities said the exact reason behind the teenager's death would be determined only after medical examinations and official findings are completed.

Iran says targeted two Israeli airbases in retaliatory attack

TEHRAN

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said its aerospace forces on Monday morning targeted two "important and strategic" Israeli airbases in retaliation for Israel's attacks earlier in the day against the Gulf country.

In a statement on its official news outlet, Sepah News, the IRGC said that it struck Israel's Nevatim and Tel Nof airbases in response to Israel's missile strikes on a number of radar sites in three Iranian locations.

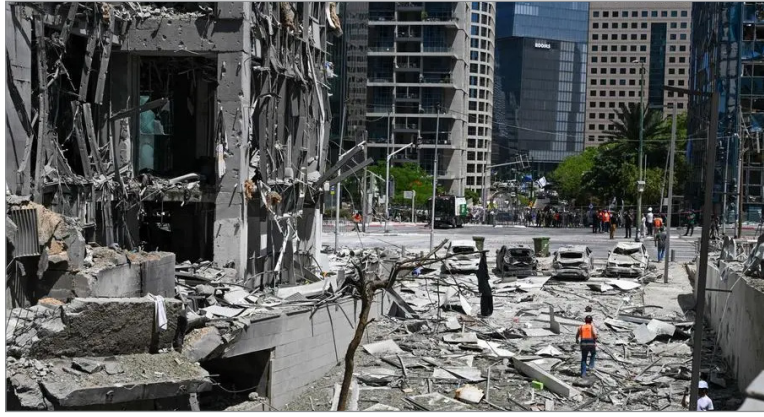
All its combat and operational units are fully ready to carry out operations on all fronts, the IRGC added.

Explosions were heard in Iran's capital, Tehran, and in two other provinces early Monday, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting the semi-official Fars news agency.

Citing local sources, the report said one explosion was heard west of Tehran, two in the central province of Isfahan, and one near Tabriz, the capital of the northwestern East Azarbaijan province.

The Israel Defense Forces said on Telegram that the Israeli Air Force struck military targets in western and central Iran on Monday morning.

On Sunday, the IRGC said in a statement that it had launched ballistic missiles against the Ramat David Air



Base in northern Israel in response to Israel's "widespread crimes" in southern Lebanon, including the killing and displacement of civilians.

The statement said the Israeli air base carried out the attacks in Lebanon. Also on Sunday, Ali Abdollahi, chief commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, warned that Israel would face more "crushing and regret-inducing blows" if it expanded attacks on southern Lebanon and the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh.

Meanwhile, an Iranian missile, or debris from an interception, struck a settlement in the occupied West Bank on Monday, damaging three homes, Israel's Channel 12 News reported. Video footage shared on social me-

dia showed a large plume of smoke rising from the area. There were no immediate reports of casualties, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service.

The attack triggered air-raid sirens in the Jerusalem area and parts of the West Bank, while explosions were heard as air defence systems attempted to intercept the incoming missiles, reports Xinhua news agency.

Iranian missile hits West Bank settlement: Israeli media

JERUSALEM: An Iranian missile, or debris from an interception, struck a settlement in the occupied West Bank on Monday, damaging three homes, Israel's Channel 12 News reported. Video footage shared on so-

cial media showed a large plume of smoke rising from the area. There were no immediate reports of casualties, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service.

The attack triggered air-raid sirens in the Jerusalem area and parts of the West Bank, while explosions were heard as air defence systems attempted to intercept the incoming missiles, reports Xinhua news agency.

Later, a second wave of missiles was launched from Iran, prompting the military to instruct residents in central Israel to seek shelter.

The escalation came amid US-Iran talks and followed Israeli airstrikes in Beirut, Lebanon, on Sunday that killed at least two people. Iran responded with a barrage of missiles, and Israel retaliated early Monday with strikes targeting sites in western and central Iran.

Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said early Monday that Israel attacked targets inside Iranian territory. The attacks were carried out with air-launched ballistic missiles, the IRGC was quoted by the official news agency IRNA as saying. The IRGC made the remarks after Iranian state media reported explosions in multiple cities across the country, including Tehran, Tabriz, Isfahan and Karaj, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting IRNA.

32 killed, buildings damaged, schools suspended after strong quake in Philippines

MANILA

At least 32 people were killed, numerous buildings damaged, and schools and flights were suspended after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Sarangani province in the southern Philippines on Monday morning, according to local authorities. Multiple countries had issued tsunami warnings, which were later lifted.

Junie Castillo, spokesperson for the Philippines' Office of Civil Defence, said 10 victims were reported in South Cotabato's General Santos, a port city with a population of over 700,000, and at least 12 people remain missing so far. The deaths were caused by falling debris, building collapse and landslides. The Philippine National Police earlier said that no fewer than 134 people were injured, Xinhua news agency reported.

A two-storey school building in General Santos collapsed with students trapped inside, and authorities said they are verifying details of the incident. Online videos show university and restaurant buildings collapsed in disaster-hit areas. Some commercial facilities sustained structural damage,



with signs falling and window panes shattered. Local residents rushed outdoors to seek safety.

The powerful earthquake hit shortly after schools across the Philippines started reopening following the summer break. Surveillance footage from several schools captured violent shaking during the quake. Teachers and students either evacuated urgently or took shelter under desks. The country's Department of Education said affected schools, with more than 5,800 students, have been ordered to suspend classes to guarantee student safety.

The General Santos International Airport suspended operations from 8:45 am to 3

pm local time for a full safety inspection. Three airlines cancelled a total of 17 domestic flights. According to civil aviation authorities, landing and takeoff operations at the airport are currently limited to government, military, and humanitarian flights from Monday at 3 pm until June 11 at 6 pm.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology confirmed that the magnitude 7.8 earthquake jolted waters near Mindanao at 7:37 am, with a focal depth of 33 kilometres. The institute said the highest wave recorded reached 1.4 meters. The Philippines, Indonesia and Japan once issued alerts on tsunamis, and all warnings have been cancelled.

Pakistan Field Marshal Asim Munir's multi-front gamble backfires as PoK unrest spreads globally

NEW DELHI

For Field Marshal Asim Munir, it is becoming a classic case of trying to bite off more than he can chew. Seeking to divert attention from the major setback and embarrassment inflicted by the Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor, Munir appears to have opened multiple fronts simultaneously, widening the scope of his challenges.

He simultaneously took on the Afghan Taliban, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), opening multiple fronts at once. As a result, a significant portion of Pakistan's security apparatus is now engaged in one conflict or another.

This has eventually led to significant security lapses in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The region, which is illegally occupied by Pakistan, is now showing signs of developing into

a larger international concern. Protests have already erupted across parts of PoK, and a recent clash in Rawalakot reportedly resulted in the deaths of five Pakistani security personnel.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that these developments that have taken place in the last 24 hours have led to major crack-downs and blocking of internet and mobile services. The official said while fighting a battle on multiple fronts, Pakistan realised that all its resources from PoK have been utilised in regions such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.

"They are clearly falling short of manpower, and this is the reason why the tight grip they had in PoK has collapsed," the official explained. Another official said that Pakistan's challenge now extends far beyond the unrest in PoK. The alleged human rights violations, developmental neglect, and lack of democratic



freedoms in the region are no longer being viewed merely as internal matters. According to the official, these issues have increasingly drawn international attention, placing Pakistan's human rights record under greater scrutiny.

The official said that following the atrocities and protests in PoK, scores of protesters gathered outside the Pakistan High Commission in London. They condemned the crackdown on

be to challenge and expose what protesters describe as the Pakistan establishment's misleading narrative on human rights," the official noted.

The protesters in the United Kingdom were heard openly speaking about the atrocities faced by their family members in PoK. They said that due to the mobile and internet shutdown, they are unable to contact their family members in PoK.

Officials say that the protests in PoK and other countries are unlikely to die down. The Pakistani security forces can put down the protests in PoK by using brute force. However, they will not be able to contain the voices that are getting louder in the rest of the world, the official added. Observers say the situation in PoK is increasingly becoming a major challenge for Pakistan, drawing attention on several fronts. While residents and activists have been raising

concerns about alleged human rights violations and the lack of development in the region, recent events have also placed Pakistan's security apparatus under heightened scrutiny.

"Many personnel within Pakistan's security forces have begun questioning their superiors over the need to commit atrocities against their own people," the officials said. This continued reliance on brute force has also eroded the effectiveness of intelligence agencies, as local communities have increasingly stopped cooperating with security forces and are reluctant to share inputs with them. The resulting information vacuum has led to multiple intelligence failures.

The ability of the TTP and the BLA to carry out precise and targeted attacks on Pakistani forces is a clear indication that the country's intelligence network has virtually collapsed, the official added.

Morocco eyes stronger economic partnership with India

NEW DELHI

Morocco is seeking to deepen its economic partnership with India by positioning itself as a strategic gateway for Indian industries to access European and African markets.

The North African nation, which has emerged as a major industrial hub and a key supplier of phosphates to India, is inviting greater collaboration in sectors such as defence, automotive, aerospace, green technologies and logistics, according to reports. The development come at a time when India and Morocco have intensified high-level engagements in recent months.

Last September, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh held discussions with visiting Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Omar Hejira in New Delhi, with both sides exploring ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

The growing partnership was also underscored by Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh's landmark visit to Morocco, the first-ever by an Indian Defence Minister.

During the visit, India and Morocco signed a Memorandum of Understanding on defence cooperation and held discussions on counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence and capacity building.

A major highlight of the visit was the joint inauguration of Tata Advanced Systems Limited's defence manufacturing facility in Berrechid by Rajnath Singh and Moroccan Defence Minister Abdelatif Loudy.

The state-of-the-art facility, spread across 20,000 square metres, will manufacture the ingeniously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, jointly designed by Tata Advanced Systems and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

India and Morocco have also been exploring greater cooperation in trade-oriented sectors such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals and advanced manufacturing.



Afghanistan: UN expresses concern over detention of women in Herat

KABUL

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has voiced concern over the detention of women by Taliban authorities in Herat for alleged non-compliance with dress requirements, stressing that the action raises serious human rights concerns.

In a post on X, the UNAMA stated that all people have the right to freedom of movement and are entitled to equality before the law. "UNAMA is concerned over multiple arrests

and detentions of women in Herat #Afghanistan for alleged non-compliance with dress requirements, which raises serious human rights concerns," it said. "We remind the de facto authorities that all people have the right to freedom of movement and that all persons, both women and men, are entitled to equality before the law," it added.

The UNAMA's statement comes after Taliban morality police detained at least 21 women and girls in Herat for alleged non-compliance with



the dress code, Amu TV reported, citing local sources.

The sources revealed that Afghan women and girls were detained in several parts of Herat, including the southern road, Almas Market and the Qasr area, as per the report.

The women who have been detained reportedly include a nurse who worked at Herat Regional Hospital.

The arrest of Afghan women and girls comes after the Taliban's Directorate for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Herat issued a directive, which ordered male family members to ensure that women follow the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic dress requirements. According to the directive, women seen in public without a prayer veil, with uncovered faces, wearing

tight clothes or makeup could face detention and transfer to a women's detention facility, Amu TV reported.

The latest incident comes amid reports of increased implementation of the Taliban's morality law in several parts of Afghanistan. Human rights groups said the law has increased restrictions on women and oversight of their dress, movement and participation in public life.

Since seizing power in Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban has imposed restrictions

on Afghan women and girls, including banning girls from attending secondary schools beyond the sixth class, prohibiting women from studying at universities, and imposing restrictions on employment and access to public spaces.

On June 4, the third round of university entrance exams started in Kabul without girls for the fourth consecutive year. Taliban-run National Examination Authority started holding the third round of Afghanistan's university entrance examinations.

Pakistan plunges into funds crisis as tax revenue falls short by Rs 684 billion

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has announced a massive revenue shortfall of close to Rs 684 billion during the first 10 months of the current financial year, raising concerns over the country's fragile economy, according to a report in Maldives Insight.

"As Pakistan struggles with inflation, debt obligations and repeated International Monetary Fund scrutiny, the revenue crisis has become far more than a bureaucratic failure. It now sits at the centre of the country's broader economic instability," the report states. The scale of the latest shortfall has once again drawn criticism towards the FBR, an institution long ac-

cused of inefficiency, corruption and administrative weaknesses.

According to recent reports and editorials published in Dawn, the FBR remained behind its collection targets from the very beginning of the financial year, despite aggressive taxation measures imposed on salaried individuals and formal businesses.

FBR claimed that part of the decline was due to disruptions in trade flows linked to the Middle East conflict, which affected import-related taxes and excise duties.

However, economic observers and Pakistani media reports noted that external factors alone cannot explain the failure to meet revenue targets year after year. Successive governments have re-

peatedly announced reforms within the FBR, ranging from digitisation campaigns and organisational restructuring to stricter enforcement drives.

Yet, the institution's reputation for inefficiency has remained largely unchanged. Business groups, tax experts and economists continue to accuse the agency of relying excessively on compliant taxpayers while failing to expand the tax base, the report points out. It highlights that the crisis has become especially visible among salaried workers and formal sector businesses, which now face some of the highest effective tax burdens in Pakistan's recent history. In contrast, large segments of the economy remain either lightly taxed or entirely outside the formal tax system.

S. Korea President Vows Election Reforms After Ballot Shortage

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung vowed to pursue sweeping reforms to election administration during a meeting with the country's top officials Monday after ballot paper shortages during local elections raised questions about election management.

Lee made the pledge in the meeting attended by Prime Minister Kim Min-seok, National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik, Supreme Court Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae and Constitutional Court President Kim Sang-hwan.

The meeting came after the National Election Commission came under fire over ballot paper shortages reported at more than a dozen polling stations in Seoul alone during the June 3 local elections and parliament



ary by-elections. More than 50 polling stations nationwide are said to have experienced at least a temporary shortage of ballot papers.

Some voters reportedly returned home without casting their ballots due to such shortages.

The participants of Monday's meeting agreed on the need to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and promptly establish measures to prevent a recurrence, according to Lee Kyu-youn, senior presidential secretary for communication, reports Yon-

hap news agency.

"They agreed that those involved should be held strictly accountable administratively and legally based on the results of the investigation," he told a press briefing.

They also "resolved to pursue sweeping reforms to elec-

tion management sufficient to restore public trust."

At the opening of the meeting, the president said, "It is necessary to get to the bottom of the incident, even if it does not produce a clear solution."

He reiterated the need for accountability in a manner that will match the public's expectations, while also calling for measures to address the issue, according to the presidential secretary.

"Regardless of the number (of votes affected) or whether they had any impact on the (election) results, this is a very serious problem that cannot be excused" under any circumstance, the president said.

He noted that the incident had undermined the people's rights and sovereignty, stressing that "this situation cannot be overlooked."



Gold slips below Rs 1.59 lakh/10g amid fresh West Asia tensions

NEW DELHI: (JUN 8)

Gold prices fell Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,58 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, as investors dumped precious metals amid rising crude oil rates following fresh escalating tensions in West Asia. According to local marketmen, the price of gold of 99.9 per cent purity declined by Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,58,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Friday's closing level of Rs 1,59,900 per 10 grams. Silver also remained under intense selling pressure, plunging Rs 5,000 to Rs 2,55,700 per kg, extending losses for the fourth consecutive session. The white metal has shed Rs 15,300, or nearly 6 per cent, from Rs 2.71 lakh per kg recorded on June 2.

Sensex, Nifty hit 2-month lows as Iran-Israel tensions push crude oil near \$100

Markets closed at nearly two-month lows after fresh Israeli strikes on Iran and Lebanon pushed crude prices sharply higher. The sell-off deepened across sectors as investors weighed inflation risks, global tech weakness and the path of interest rates.



Stock markets ended sharply lower on Monday as rising tensions in the Middle East sent crude oil prices soaring and triggered a broad selloff across global equities. The benchmark Sensex fell 719.08 points, or 0.97%, to close at 73,524.26, while the Nifty50 declined 242.10 points, or 1.04%, to settle at 23,123. Both indices ended at their lowest levels in nearly two months. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said domestic markets have shown resilience compared with global peers despite the ongoing correction. "Global sentiment has weakened amid a flare-up of tensions in the Middle East, pushing crude towards \$100 per barrel. Simultaneously, global technology stocks have witnessed a sell-off, as investors begin to question the sustainability of the AI-led rally," he said. The weakness was not limited to India. Markets

across Asia came under pressure after fresh Israeli strikes on Iran and Lebanon raised concerns that the conflict could widen further, threatening global oil supplies and adding to inflation worries. For Indian investors, the biggest concern remains crude oil. Brent crude surged 3.81% to \$96.64 per barrel, while WTI crude climbed 4.32% to \$94.45. With India importing the majority of its crude oil requirements, any sustained rise in oil prices can increase inflation, pressure the rupee and weigh on economic growth. **CRUDE OIL SURGE TAKES CENTRE STAGE** The latest escalation in the Middle East conflict overshadowed almost every other market trigger. Fresh military action involving Israel, Iran and Lebanon pushed oil prices sharply higher and reduced hopes of an early diplomatic

resolution. Higher crude oil prices are particularly important for India because they affect everything from fuel costs and transportation expenses to inflation and corporate profitability. Investors fear that if crude continues moving towards the \$100-per-barrel mark, it could complicate the Reserve Bank of India's efforts to keep inflation under control and support growth at the same time. **GLOBAL TECH SELLOFF ADDS TO MARKET PRESSURE** Another factor weighing on sentiment was weakness in global technology stocks. Investors have started questioning whether the massive rally driven by artificial intelligence over the past year can continue at the same pace. The selloff was visible across global semiconductor and technology-heavy mar-

kets and spilled over into Indian equities. The Nifty IT index fell 1.23%, extending the pressure on technology shares after concerns emerged over valuations and the sustainability of the AI-led rally. TCS fell 2.13%, Infosys declined 0.81%, HCL Technologies lost 0.34% and Tech Mahindra slipped 1.35%. **REALTY, METAL AND AUTO STOCKS SEE HEAVY SELLING** The weakness was broad-based across sectors. Nifty Realty emerged as the biggest loser, falling 2.56%. Nifty Metal dropped 2.33%, Nifty Auto declined 1.85%, Nifty Media slipped 1.71% and Nifty Oil & Gas fell 1.57%. Even broader markets were under pressure. The Nifty Midcap 100 fell 1.40%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 1.92%. India VIX, often referred to as the market's fear gauge, jumped 7.85%, indicating rising nervousness among traders. **ETERNAL, M&M, TRENT AMONG BIGGEST LOSERS** Among Sensex stocks, Eternal emerged as the biggest loser, falling 3.24%. Mahindra & Mahindra declined 2.51%, Trent dropped 2.21%, IndiGo fell 2.16%, Reliance Industries lost 2.13% and TCS slipped 2.13%. Bajaj Fi-

nance fell 2.05%, Larsen & Toubro lost 2.00%, Tata Steel declined 1.91% and Bajaj Finserv dropped 1.89%. On the positive side, Power Grid Corporation gained 1.79%, Tech Mahindra rose 1.35%, Bharat Electronics climbed 1.20%, Bharti Airtel added 1.13% and State Bank of India gained 0.42%. Nair noted that stronger US economic data and persistent inflation have increased the risk of further monetary tightening, resulting in higher bond yields and a stronger US dollar. According to him, India could continue to outperform several global markets if the correction in global technology stocks deepens. However, elevated crude oil prices and uncertainty around interest rates could limit market gains in the near term. The immediate focus for investors will remain on developments in the Middle East and movements in crude oil prices. Any further escalation between Israel and Iran could push oil prices closer to \$100 per barrel, increasing pressure on emerging markets such as India. At the same time, investors will also track US inflation data and comments from Federal Reserve officials for clues on future interest rates, which continue to influence global risk appetite.



Air India may introduce 'no meals' tickets on domestic flights to cut fares

Air India is considering a no-meals ticket category for domestic passengers. The plan could begin on select short routes and lower fares for flyers who skip onboard food.

fare categories, and the proposed option could become another choice for passengers looking to reduce travel costs.

LIKELY TO BEGIN ON SELECT SHORT ROUTES

Air India is considering introducing a new ticket category that would allow passengers to travel without paying for onboard meals. The proposal is currently under consideration and, if approved, will be available only for domestic flights. **PASSENGERS COULD PAY LESS BY SKIPPING MEALS** According to sources, the idea is being explored from a passenger's perspective. Travellers who do not wish to have food or meals during their journey could choose a "No Meals" ticket and pay less than those booking regular tickets. Air India already offers different

Sources said the airline may initially introduce the option on select short domestic routes if it receives approval. The response from passengers will play an important role in deciding its future. Depending on customer feedback, the airline could either expand the category to more domestic routes or limit its availability. Meanwhile, the proposed "No Meals" category is not being considered for international services. Even if the plan receives a green signal, it will be restricted to domestic flights. At present, Air India serves food and meals to all passengers travelling on both domestic and international flights.

Taiwan, Korea Stocks Retreat After AI Surge

Asian markets sank as investors dumped AI-linked chip stocks in Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. The sell-off has raised fresh questions over whether AI rally expectations had run ahead of earnings reality. Correction shows risks in AI stock optimism, India less affected. Just days ago, Taiwan and South Korea were being celebrated as the biggest winners of the global artificial intelligence boom. The correction was led by the very stocks that had fuelled the rally. Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, South Korea's two chip giants and major beneficiaries of AI spending, fell more than 10% each. In Taiwan, TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker and one of the biggest beneficiaries of the AI boom, dropped 5.7%. The sell-off came after US chipmaker Broadcom issued a disappointing outlook last week, raising concerns that investor expectations for AI-related earnings growth may have become too optimistic. At the same time, a stronger-than-expected US jobs report increased expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again this year instead of cutting them.

world's best-performing major market this year, fell as much as 9% during the session. The sell-off was severe enough to trigger circuit breakers that halted trading for 20 minutes. Taiwan's benchmark index fell as much as 6%, marking its worst day since March, while Japan's Nikkei dropped nearly 4%. **THE AI TRADE HITS A WALL** The correction was led by the very stocks that had fuelled the rally. Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, South Korea's two chip giants and major beneficiaries of AI spending, fell more than 10% each. In Taiwan, TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker and one of the biggest beneficiaries of the AI boom, dropped 5.7%. The sell-off came after US chipmaker Broadcom issued a disappointing outlook last week, raising concerns that investor expectations for AI-related earnings growth may have become too optimistic. At the same time, a stronger-than-expected US jobs report increased expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again this year instead of cutting them.

India, US could finalise trade deal by July, says Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

The Union Minister's remarks come at a time when India and the US are working to resolve outstanding issues in a proposed bilateral trade pact that is expected to improve market access and give Indian exporters an advantage over competitors in certain sectors.



India could sign the first tranche of its long-awaited trade agreement with the United States as early as July, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday, signalling that negotiations between the two countries are entering the final stretch despite recent tariff tensions. The minister's remarks come at a time when India and the US are working to resolve outstanding issues in a proposed bilateral trade pact that is expected to improve market access and give Indian exporters an advantage over competitors in certain sectors. Goyal's comments also suggest that talks have gathered momentum in recent weeks, raising expectations that the two sides may be able to announce a breakthrough sooner than previously anticipated.

TALKS MOVING TOWARDS A JULY DEADLINE The minister's latest comments build on statements he made on June 5, when he indicated that India and the United States were moving quickly towards finalising the first tranche of the agreement. At the time, Goyal said officials from both countries had held extensive discussions in New Delhi. "We had a full team of officials from different divisions of trade from the U.S. in Delhi," Goyal had said. According to him, both sides were "fast moving towards closing all the open ends" of the proposed agreement. He had also expressed confidence that the first phase of the deal could be ready by the middle of July. "By sometime in the middle of next month or so,

we should be in a position to execute a very vibrant first tranche," Goyal said. **WHY THE DEAL MATTERS** The proposed agreement is expected to be the first step towards a broader India-US trade partnership. Officials believe the initial tranche could provide India with preferential trade access in some sectors, helping domestic exporters compete more effectively in the American market. The United States remains one of India's largest trading partners, and a successful agreement could strengthen trade ties at a time when countries around the world are increasingly looking to secure supply chains and diversify trading relationships. **NEGOTIATIONS HAD SLOWED EARLIER** India and the US reached

an initial understanding on a trade deal in February. However, negotiations slowed after uncertainty emerged following legal challenges to US President Donald Trump's tariff measures. The pace of discussions picked up again after recent meetings between trade officials from both countries in New Delhi. Despite progress, some challenges remain. Last week, the United States proposed an additional 12.5% tariff on imports from India, arguing that India was among several economies that had not done enough to curb imports linked to forced labour. Even so, both sides have continued discussions, suggesting there is a strong desire to reach an agreement. **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** The coming weeks are likely to be crucial as negotiators attempt to resolve the remaining issues. If the timeline outlined by Goyal holds, India and the United States could announce the first tranche of the agreement by mid-July. Such a deal would mark one of the most significant trade developments between the two countries in recent years and could lay the foundation for a broader economic partnership in the future.



ViewSonic Launches AI-Powered IN05 Smart Classroom Displays

New 65", 75", and 86" AI-Powered 4K Interactive Displays Feature Android 16, Advanced Classroom AI Tools, and Octa-Core Performance to Empower Educators and Enhance Student Engagement.

HYDERABAD, JUNE 2026

ViewSonic Corp., a leading global provider of visual and EdTech solutions, has unveiled the new AI-powered IN05 Series ViewBoard - IN6505-N (65"), IN7505-N (75"), and IN8605-N (86") in India. Designed to transform modern classrooms, these premium 4K EDLA interactive displays combine advanced AI teaching and collaboration tools with powerful performance to deliver smarter, more intuitive, and highly engaging learning experiences.

AI-Powered Features Designed for the Classroom with IN05 Series The new AI-powered IN05 series ViewBoard stand out with a comprehensive suite of AI-powered tools purpose-built for the classroom. These intelligent features are designed to make teaching more efficient while creating richer, more engaging learning experiences for students. **Smarter Teaching Support** - Ask AI acts as a powerful voice assistant, enabling teachers to control the ViewBoard naturally through voice commands, smart pen voice capture, or keyboard input. Educators can instantly open files, draw shapes, adjust settings, or change pen colors. Video Pilot further enhances video-based learning by automatically generating structured summaries, timestamped subtitles, and clickable navigation points for quick access to key concepts. **Enhanced Classroom Engagement** - AI Painter delivers intelligent drawing assistance through voice, pen, or text input, while AI Mind Map instantly generates

structured mind maps from keywords, topics, or images. Together, these tools make brainstorming, concept mapping, and lesson planning far more interactive and efficient.

Instant Assisted Learning & Problem Solving - The new ViewBoard accelerates understanding through practical AI tools that support students directly. Circle Go allows users to draw a circle around any content or math problem to receive instant step-by-step solutions, related concepts, visuals, and resources. Calculator Pro offers natural handwritten equation solving and geometric calculations, and Live Subtitle provides real-time multilingual subtitles and translation for both local and online videos. These AI innovations work seamlessly alongside ViewSonic's proven myViewBoard ecosystem, including Note and myViewBoard Whiteboard software, to create a truly intelligent teaching platform. Engineered for education environments, the new IN Series models feature ultra-high-definition 4K resolution (3840 x 2160), an octa-core processor, 8GB RAM, 128GB storage, and Android 16 (EDLA). They also offer seamless USB-C connectivity for single-cable power, data, and display, along with advanced infrared touch technology supporting up to 50 points of touch and precise pen input. The AI-powered IN05 series ViewBoard delivers exceptional visual performance with bright 400-nit panels, 5000:1 contrast ratio, and anti-glare AG glass. Built for durability and collaboration, the displays support 20W x 2 speakers, comprehensive connectivity including multiple USB ports with smart features and HDMI 2.0, and robust network capabilities. Additional highlights include low blue light certification, energy-efficient operation, and VESA-compatible mounting.

Coromandel launches Gromor Gram agri-extension initiative in 12 states

NEW DELHI: (JUN 8)

Coromandel International Ltd said on Monday it has introduced 'Gromor Gram model initiative' in 101 villages across 12 states to strengthen agricultural extension. The 12 states include Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat. "These model villages will empower farmers to adopt balanced nutrition practices and achieve sustainable productivity gains," said Madhab Adhikari, Senior Vice President & Head - Sales and Marketing (Fertilizers and SSP), Coromandel International.

Oil prices cannot stay this high for long, says Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

While fuel prices remain elevated for now, Puri's comments suggest that policymakers expect the pressure to ease over time.

Indian consumers struggling with higher fuel costs may get some relief in the coming months. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said that oil prices are unlikely to remain at their current elevated levels for "a very long time" and are expected to ease in the months ahead. His comments come at a time when global energy markets are under pressure due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran, which has disrupted oil and gas supplies and pushed crude prices close to the \$100-a-barrel mark. **PURI EXPECTS PRICES TO EASE**

Speaking to CNN-News18, Puri said both oil and gas prices are likely to soften over the coming months despite the current geopolitical tensions, Reuters reported. Global crude prices have risen sharply since the conflict affected shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy routes. Before the conflict began, around one-fifth of global oil and gas supplies passed through the narrow waterway. However, the minister expressed confidence that current price levels are unlikely to be sustained for an extended period. **FUEL PRICES HAVE ALREADY INCREASED** Indian consumers have already felt the impact of higher global energy costs. State-run fuel retailers have raised petrol and diesel prices four times since mid-May. Petrol prices



es have increased by around 7.8%, while diesel prices are up by about 8.6%. The hikes were aimed at offsetting higher import costs and supply disruptions caused by the conflict in the Gulf region. **INDIA HAS ADEQUATE ENERGY STOCKS** Puri said India is well prepared to deal with the current situation and has sufficient oil and gas reserves. According

to the minister, the country's available stocks can meet demand for around 76 to 80 days. This provides a cushion against short-term supply disruptions and helps ensure energy security. At the same time, he cautioned that the situation could become more concerning if the conflict spreads further across the region. **ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIES COULD HELP** India relies heavily on imported crude oil, and a significant portion of its energy imports previously moved through the Strait of Hormuz. To address any shortages, Puri said suppliers from the Western Hemisphere, including the United States and Canada, could help fill supply gaps if required. This diversification of supply sources could reduce pressure on India's energy imports and support market

stability. Meanwhile, India has consistently urged all sides involved in the conflict to pursue dialogue and diplomacy. The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday expressed deep concern over the renewed hostilities and called for immediate de-escalation. The government also urged all parties to continue negotiations and work towards a diplomatic solution. **RELIEF MAY BE ON THE HORIZON** While fuel prices remain elevated for now, Puri's comments suggest that policymakers expect the pressure to ease over time. Much will depend on how the geopolitical situation develops in the coming weeks. For consumers, the hope is that if global crude prices cool as expected, the recent rise in petrol and diesel prices may not last indefinitely.



Why Kalpa Is a Nature Lover's Paradise

Nestled in the heart of Himachal Pradesh's picturesque Kinnaur district, Kalpa is a hidden gem that offers a perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and tranquil mountain life. Perched at an altitude of around 2,960

metres above sea level, this charming village is surrounded by dense pine forests, sprawling apple orchards, and the majestic snow-clad peaks of the Kinnaur Kailash range. Far removed from the hustle and bustle of crowded tourist

destinations, Kalpa provides visitors with an opportunity to experience the Himalayas in their purest form. For travellers seeking serenity, breathtaking landscapes, and authentic cultural experiences, Kalpa is one of the most

rewarding destinations in northern India. Every corner of the village reflects a sense of peace, making it an ideal retreat for nature enthusiasts, photographers, adventure seekers, and anyone looking to reconnect with the outdoors.

Stargazing Under Himalayan Skies

Kalpa's high altitude and minimal light pollution make it an exceptional destination for stargazing. On clear nights, the sky comes alive with thousands of stars, offering breathtaking views of constellations and the Milky Way. For many visitors, spending an evening under the Himalayan night sky becomes one of the most memorable parts of the trip.

Places You Should Not Miss Kinnaur Kailash Viewpoint

This viewpoint offers some of the most spectacular views of the Kinnaur Kailash range and is a favourite spot for sunrise and sunset photography.

Roghi Village

Located a short distance from Kalpa, Roghi is known for its scenic beauty, traditional houses, and breathtaking mountain views.

Suicide Point

Despite its dramatic name, this viewpoint is famous for its stunning vistas of deep valleys and towering cliffs.

Narayan Nagini Temple

An architectural marvel that reflects the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of the Kinnaur region.

Hu-Bu-Lan-Kar Monastery

A serene monastery where visitors can experience Buddhist culture and enjoy moments of quiet reflection.

Best Time to

Visit

Kalpa offers unique experiences throughout the year. Spring (March–May): Pleasant temperatures and blooming orchards create beautiful landscapes.

Summer (June–August): Cool weather makes it an excellent escape from the heat of the plains.

Autumn (September–November): Clear skies and apple harvest season provide ideal conditions for sightseeing.

Winter (December–February): Snowfall transforms the village into a winter wonderland, attracting snow lovers and photographers.

How to Reach Kalpa

Kalpa is accessible through a combination of air, rail, and road travel. The nearest airport is in Shimla, while the nearest

major railway connection is also through Shimla. Most visitors prefer travelling by road, as the journey itself offers stunning views of valleys, rivers, and mountains.

Final Thoughts

Kalpa is much more than just a hill station. It is a destination where nature, culture, spirituality, and adventure come together to create an unforgettable experience. From watching the first rays of sunlight touch the Kinnaur Kailash peaks to wandering through apple orchards and traditional villages, every moment spent in Kalpa feels special. For travellers seeking an authentic Himalayan escape away from crowded tourist hotspots, Kalpa remains one of Himachal Pradesh's most rewarding and enchanting destinations.

The Natural Beauty of Kalpa

The biggest attraction of Kalpa is undoubtedly its stunning scenery. The village offers uninterrupted views of the Kinnaur Kailash mountain range, whose snow-covered peaks dominate the horizon throughout the year. As the sun rises, the mountains glow with shades of pink and gold, creating a magical spectacle that draws visitors out of their rooms before dawn. Sunset is equally enchanting, with the peaks gradually changing colours as daylight fades.

The surrounding landscapes are equally captivating. Thick deodar forests, terraced fields, and fruit-laden orchards create a vibrant contrast against the rugged mountains. During spring, the apple trees burst into bloom, covering the village in delicate white and pink flowers. In autumn, the orchards are filled with ripe apples, adding splashes of red and green to the scenery.

A Paradise for

Photography Enthusiasts

Kalpa is a dream destination for photographers. The dramatic mountain backdrops, traditional wooden houses, ancient temples, colourful prayer flags, and changing weather patterns provide endless opportunities for capturing memorable images. Whether it is mist drifting through the valleys, villagers tending to orchards, or the star-filled night sky, every scene appears worthy of a postcard. Landscape photographers particularly appreciate the ever-changing light conditions that create unique visual experiences throughout the day.

Rich Cultural Heritage

Beyond its natural beauty, Kalpa is known for its rich cultural traditions. The village reflects the unique heritage of the Kinnaur region, where Hindu and Buddhist influences coexist harmoniously. Traditional Kinnauri homes, built with intricate woodwork and

stone masonry, showcase remarkable craftsmanship that has been preserved for generations.

Visitors can explore local temples and monasteries that provide insight into the area's spiritual life. The Narayan Nagini Temple, known for its beautiful architecture, stands as a testament to the region's cultural legacy. Nearby monasteries offer a peaceful atmosphere where visitors can observe Buddhist practices and learn about local traditions.

Adventure and Exploration

While Kalpa is often associated with relaxation and scenic beauty, it also offers opportunities for adventure. The surrounding mountains feature numerous trekking routes that take visitors through forests, villages, and high-altitude landscapes. These trails provide excellent opportunities to witness the region's diverse flora and fauna while enjoying panoramic Himalayan views.

The nearby village of Roghi is a popular excursion destination.

The road leading to Roghi passes through dramatic terrain and offers spectacular viewpoints overlooking deep valleys and rugged mountain slopes. Adventure lovers can also explore lesser-known trails and remote villages that reveal the authentic lifestyle of Kinnaur.

Experience the Charm of Village Life

One of Kalpa's greatest attractions is its simple and peaceful way of life. Unlike commercial hill stations, the village has retained its traditional character. Walking through its narrow lanes allows visitors to observe local customs, interact with friendly residents, and experience a slower pace of living.

The hospitality of the local people adds warmth to every visit. Many guesthouses and homestays offer traditional Kinnauri cuisine, allowing travellers to enjoy authentic regional flavours while learning about local culture.



Mashobra: A Quiet Escape Near Shimla

Mashobra is a peaceful hill town tucked away in the scenic landscapes of Himachal Pradesh. Located just a short drive from Shimla, it offers a refreshing break from busy tourist destinations. Known for its natural beauty, thick forests, and calm surroundings, Mashobra feels like a hidden retreat. Unlike its more commercial neighbour, this small town has managed to keep its old-world charm and relaxed vibe. The fresh mountain air, gentle pace of life, and wide-open views make it ideal for travellers who wish to slow down and reconnect with nature. Whether you enjoy quiet walks, photography, or simply relaxing in a serene setting, Mashobra promises a soothing and memorable hill experience.

Nature and Beauty of Mashobra

Mashobra is surrounded by dense oak and deodar forests that create a cool and refreshing environment throughout the year. The area is filled with scenic walking trails, apple orchards, and lovely

viewpoints that offer glimpses of the Himalayan ranges. With fewer crowds and limited commercial development, the town retains a raw and unspoiled charm. The peaceful atmosphere allows visitors to truly appreciate nature, making each moment here calm and refreshing. It is a wonderful place for those who enjoy quiet natural settings.

Best Time To Visit Mashobra

Summer (March to June)
The weather remains pleasant and comfortable, making it suitable for sightseeing, nature walks, and enjoying outdoor activities.

Monsoon (July to September)
During this season, the surroundings turn lush green and vibrant, though rainfall may sometimes affect travel plans.

Winter (October to February)
A great time for snow lovers, as Mashobra often experiences snowfall and transforms into a beautiful winter landscape.

How To Reach Mashobra

By Road
Mashobra is well connected by road and is located around 12 km from Shimla. Taxis and private vehicles make travel easy and convenient.

By Rail
The nearest railway station is in Shimla. From there, local taxis or buses can take you to Mashobra.

By Air
The closest airport is Jubbarhatti Airport, followed by a short road journey to reach Mashobra.

Who Should Visit Mashobra
Mashobra is ideal for travellers who prefer quiet destinations overcrowded tourist spots. It is well suited for nature lovers, couples looking for a peaceful escape, solo travellers, and families who want a calm and laid-back holiday.

Places To Visit In Mashobra
Craignano Nature Park

A scenic spot known for its Italian-style design and peaceful surroundings, perfect for relaxed outings.

Reserve Forest Sanctuary

A protected forest area rich in natural flora and fauna, ideal for nature walks and spotting wildlife.

Mahasu Peak
Offers stunning panoramic views and is a popular spot for trekking and photography.

Things To Do In Mashobra

Nature Walks
Walk through forest trails and enjoy the quiet surroundings and fresh mountain air.

Camping
Spend peaceful nights under the stars and experience nature up close.

Adventure Activities
Trekking and light adventure activities add excitement without disturbing the calm setting.

Mashobra offers the perfect mix of peace, natural beauty, and simplicity, making it an ideal destination for anyone looking to escape city life and reconnect with nature.



One-off Test: All-round India dominate Afghanistan to script biggest Test victory



NEW CHANDIGARH

India completed their most dominant Test victory by margin on Sunday, crushing Afghanistan by an innings and 300 runs inside three days after a commanding all-round performance spearheaded by centuries from Shubman Gill and KL Rahul and a match-winning bowling effort from debutant left-arm spinner Manav Suthar.

Having piled up a mammoth 564/8 before declaring their first innings, India bundled Afghanistan out for 152 and then 112 after enforcing the follow-on, surpassing their previous biggest Test victory and underlining their dominance.

The foundation for the victory was laid by India's top order after Afghanistan opted to bowl. Rahul produced a typically assured innings of 100 from 165 deliveries, weathering the early movement before taking complete control of the contest. Alongside him, captain Gill once again showcased his growing stature in Test cricket with a majestic 126 off 177 balls, striking 15 fours and a six in an innings that blended authority with elegance.

Their efforts ensured Afghanistan spent long hours in the field as India steadily tightened their grip on the match. Sai Sudharsan continued his impressive rise with a fluent 81, while Rishabh Pant entertained with an aggressive 81 that featured six boundar-

ies and three sixes. By the time Pant departed, Afghanistan's bowlers were already under immense pressure.

Washington Sundar then provided the finishing touches with an unbeaten 52, while Manav Suthar and Mohammed Siraj chipped in with useful lower-order contributions as India eventually declared on 564 for 8. The lone bright spot for Afghanistan was Mohammad Saleem Safi, who claimed 6 for 140 despite receiving little support from the rest of the attack. Facing a mountain of runs, Afghanistan's first innings never truly gathered momentum. Opener Abdul Malik and Sediqullah Atal showed brief resistance, but wickets fell regularly as India's bowlers tightened their hold. The only sub-

stantial challenge came from Rahmat Shah, who fought a lonely battle with a determined 60 from 135 deliveries.

The innings, however, belonged to Suthar. The debutant exploited the surface expertly, varying his pace and trajectory to consistently trouble the batters. He dismissed Abdul Malik, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rahmat Shah, Afsar Zazai, Sharafuddin Ashraf and Saleem Safi to finish with outstanding figures of 6 for 33 from 22 miserly overs. Prasidh Krishna provided excellent support with 3 for 37 as Afghanistan were bowled out for 152.

With a lead of 412 runs, Gill had little hesitation in enforcing the follow-on. To Afghanistan's credit, their response was significantly more positive. Sediqullah Atal took the attack to the spinners and struck an enterprising 42, while Rahmanullah Gurbaz contributed a brisk 24 as the visitors raced to 42 without loss and briefly forced India to work harder for breakthroughs. The opening stand represented Afghanistan's best passage of the match and momentarily delayed the inevitable. India eventually found the breakthrough through Mohammed Siraj, whose persistence was rewarded when Abdul Malik was trapped lbw. Once the first wicket fell, the innings unravelled rapidly.

Kuldeep Yadav removed the dangerous Gurbaz before Washington Sundar produced a decisive spell after tea. Sundar dismissed Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai while consistently extracting drift and turn. The off-spinner's control allowed India to tighten the screws as Afghanistan lost four wickets for just 24 runs during the middle session.

'Our bowling group can take 20 wickets anywhere,' says Gill after India's thumping win over AFG

NEW CHANDIGARH

India captain Shubman Gill hailed his side's all-round display against Afghanistan as a near-perfect performance, saying the team had 'ticked all the boxes' in a dominant victory that showcased both the depth of India's bowling attack and the direction of a young side in transition.

Leading India in a match that saw his team pile up 564 for 8 declared before dismissing Afghanistan twice, Gill was particularly pleased with how every department contributed to the result. "I think a complete win from us, ticked all the boxes. So very happy with that," Gill said during the post-match presentation.

The victory also offered a glimpse into India's future under a younger core of players. With several senior figures absent and a new generation taking on greater responsibility, Gill acknowledged that transitions often place added scrutiny on the batting unit.

However, he believes the team's path forward is straightforward: build a batting group capable of consistently posting big first-innings totals while relying on a bowling attack he believes can win matches anywhere in the world. "I'd



say pretty simple. When you're batting first innings, try to post 350 on the board every time you get into bat, no matter where we are playing, what kind of conditions it is," Gill mentioned. The confidence in India's bowling resources, he said, provides the foundation for that philosophy. "I think there's enough trust in our bowling group that we can take 20 wickets anywhere."

One of the key decisions during the match came after India bowled Afghanistan out for 152. With a massive first-innings lead in hand, Gill and the team management had to decide whether to enforce the follow-on in challenging conditions. The India captain revealed that the decision was influenced as much by his

bowlers' energy levels as by the state of the game. With temperatures soaring, the team had kept its options open before eventually asking Afghanistan to bat again.

"It was very hot. We decided that if we get them before lunch or just after the first drinks, we'll see if the bowlers are fresh we'll give them a follow-on. If not, we'll bat a couple of sessions and maybe at the end of the day, we'll give them the ball again," Gill said.

India's bowlers quickly convinced their captain they were ready for another spell. Mohammed Siraj struck early after the follow-on was enforced, while Prasidh Krishna provided crucial breakthroughs that ensured Afghanistan never recovered.

Don't Put Too Much Pressure on Sooryavanshi, says Kapil Dev

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Kapil Dev has described teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi as a "special talent," but cautioned against burdening the youngster with excessive pressure so early in his career.

At 15 years and 71 days, the left-handed opener earned his maiden call-up to the India T20i squad for the upcoming tours of Ireland and England and the Asian Games 2026. He became the youngest player to be picked, breaking Sachin Tendulkar's 36-year-old record. "I think he



too much pressure on him," Kapil Dev told IANS.

Tendulkar made his India debut in 1989 against Pakistan at the age of 16 years and 205 days, making him the youngest Indian player ever to feature in a senior international cricket match. If Sooryavanshi features during the tour, he will also become the youngest player to debut for India in men's international cricket. Sooryavanshi's call-up comes on the back of a sensational IPL 2026 campaign with Rajasthan Royals, where he established himself as one of the breakout stars of the tournament.

is a special talent, but he has to go a long way. There is no doubt that at such a young age, the way he has performed in club cricket shows his ability. He just needs to focus on himself because he has a long journey ahead. At the moment, I think we are putting

Mithali, Anjum in Women's T20 World Cup commentary panel

DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a top-tier, female-led commentary team for the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup, showcasing the range of expertise, experience, and impact fuelling the global expansion of women's cricket. The commentary team includes former captains and international stars Mithali Raj, Tash Farrant, Anjum Chopra, Simon Doull, Veda Krishnamurthy, Sana Mir, Isabel Joyce, and Katey Martin. The line-up also consists several ICC World Cup winners with direct experience of triumphs on cricket's biggest stages. Mel Jones and Julia Price were part of Australia's winning ICC Women's Cricket World Cup team, while Stacy-Ann King was a member of the West Indies squad that won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.



World Yogasana Championship: Pune's golden girl Niral Wadekar wins two titles

AMDAVAD

For most 13-year-olds, competing on the world stage would be an intimidating prospect. For India's Niral Wadekar, it was an opportunity to test herself against the best and pursue a dream that stretches far beyond the competition arena.

Niral has achieved her dream by winning two gold medals at the inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026. She clinched the top spot on the podium in both the Sub-Junior Individual Hand Stand and the Sub-Junior Individual Traditional Group categories.

Representing India at the inaugural World Yogasana Championship in Amdavad, Gujarat, from June 4 to 8, the young athlete entered the tournament with clear goals -- to deliver her best performance, avoid mistakes, and stand atop the podium with a gold medal around her neck, which she achieved by winning not just one, but 2 Gold Medals in the 1st World Yogasana Championship 2026. After bagging two gold medals, Niral expressed her feelings, "Every athlete participating wants to win, and

I am no different. I expected to give my best performance and fight for a gold medal, which I earned by winning not just one, but two gold medals. I am very happy that I have made myself, my family, and my country proud."

"When we practice, there is no pressure, and everything feels normal. But when we step onto the competition stage, especially at a world championship, the pressure is different. There are many people watching, and sometimes it can make you nervous, but that is also what makes competing exciting," she said. Away from Yogasana, Niral has another ambition that reaches even higher. "My dream is to become a fighter pilot one day. At the same time, I want to continue my journey in Yogasana and achieve more for India. Both are very important dreams for me," she said.

Despite her young age, Niral views the championship as an opportunity to learn and grow as an athlete. "This is a big experience for me. I want to learn from other athletes, improve myself, and enjoy every moment of representing India," she added.

Hosts India make flying start with five gold medals at World Yogasana Championships

- Abhay Burman and Ritu Mondal of Bengal start India's golden run
- Singapore's Nathaniel Tan prevents clean sweep as hosts dominate inaugural global showpiece

AMDAVAD

Hosts India delivered a commanding performance in the inaugural World Yogasana Championships 2026, clinching five of the first six gold medals on offer to underline their dominance in the sport's biggest-ever global showcase at the Eka Arena here.

West Bengal's Abhay Burman (Senior Male) and Ritu Mondal (Senior Female) set the tone for the hosts with gold medal-winning performances in the Traditional Yogasana category, sparking a remarkable run for the Indian contingent before an enthusiastic home crowd.

Burman secured India's first gold medal of the world yogasana championships with a score of 63.42 points. He was comfortably ahead of Indonesia's Arkan Riyanto (57.23), who claimed silver, while Uzbekistan's Alan took home the bronze medal with 53.21 points. Reflecting on his historic achievement, Burman said, "Winning the first gold medal of the inaugural World Yogasana Championships for India is a moment I will cherish forever. Competing at home in front of such passionate supporters gave me immense confidence, and I am proud to contribute to India's strong start in this historic event."

Ritu Mondal followed with another gold for India in the Senior Female category, scoring 64.33 points. Ka-



zakhstan's Aizhan Kuanyshbayeva (58.97) secured silver, while Hong Kong's Lam Nga Man (56.98) earned bronze. Describing the significance of the occasion, Mondal said, "This championship is a landmark moment for every Yogasana athlete. Winning a medal for India is a dream come true. I began training at the age of 12, and after eight years of hard work and dedication, achieving this at 20 makes the moment even more special. I would like to thank my coach, manager, and the entire team for guiding and supporting me throughout this journey."

The only event not won by India came in the Senior A Male category, where Singapore's Nathaniel Tan Leong An topped the podium with 55.37 points to prevent a complete Indian sweep. Tanzania's Karimu Swafi claimed silver with 54.99 points, while India's Sumir Gnawali secured bronze with 54.00 points.

India quickly returned to the top as Ritu Thakur captured gold in the Senior A Female category with 63.50 points, edging Argentina's Nabilia Sol Barraza (62.04), while Kenya's Awuor Sautinha took bronze. Roshan Thapa added another gold medal to India's

tally by winning the Senior B Male category with an impressive score of 65.67 points. Bangladesh's Md Mamun Khan Babu (58.57) and Kyrgyzstan's Danil Rykov (53.55) finished second and third respectively.

The hosts rounded off with Jyoti Deurkar claiming gold in the Twisting Body Individual Senior B Female category, scoring 46.14 points ahead of Oman's Olimuthu Navamani and Japan's Saori Kyuei. The inaugural World Yogasana Championships marks a historic milestone in the evolution of Yogasana, transforming an ancient Indian practice into a globally competitive sporting discipline while strengthening its pathway towards Olympic recognition.

The World Yogasana Championships 2026 is supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Ayush, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gujarat Tourism and Gujarat Yogasana Sports Association, reflecting a collective commitment towards establishing Yogasana as a global sporting discipline and advancing its Olympic aspirations.



SHORT NEWS

Norway Chess triumph TN CM Vijay plays chess with Praggnanandhaa, awards Rs 50 lakh



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday felicitated chess prodigy R. Praggnanandhaa for his historic triumph at the Norway Chess tournament and presented him with a cash award of Rs 50 lakh. The meeting took an engaging turn when CM Vijay and the 20-year-old Grandmaster sat down across a chessboard for a friendly game. Praggnanandhaa created history in Oslo by becoming the first-ever Indian to clinch the Norway Chess title. His campaign included a rare feat: defeating home favourite and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen twice in the classical format.

CRICKET Fernando hopes to cement national team berth through tri-series



NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka 'A' top-order batter Nuwanidu Fernando on Monday said he sees the upcoming 50-over tri-series against India 'A' and Afghanistan 'A' as a crucial opportunity to consolidate his position and work towards establishing himself as a regular in the national team. The tri-series begins at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, with Sri Lanka 'A' taking on Tilak Varma-led India 'A'.

Rahi Sarnobat claims top spot, Manu Bhaker second

NEW DELHI

Former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat delivered a strong performance to clinch the women's 25m pistol T4 finals at the National Selection Trials 4 for Group A Rifle and Pistol shooters, held at the Trishul Shooting Range in Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun, on Monday.

Olympian Rahi appeared in control during the final and ended with 37 hits, securing the top position comfortably. Manu Bhaker, a two-time Olympic medalist, earned silver with 35 hits, and Karnataka's Divya T.S. took bronze with 29 hits.

Tamil Nadu's Niveditha V. Nair finished fourth with 24 hits, followed by Olympian Rhythm Sangwan in fifth with 22 hits. Punjab's Arshdeep Kaur secured sixth place with 18 hits. Maharashtra's Abhidnya Ashok Patil claimed seventh with 13 hits, while



Madhya Pradesh's Chinki Yadav, who led qualifiers with a score of 586-22x, ended in eighth with nine hits.

During qualification, Manu Bhaker secured second place with a score of 584-16x. Arshdeep Kaur and Rahi Sarnobat finished third and fourth,

scoring 579-20x and 579-18x, respectively. Niveditha V. Nair qualified fifth with 579-12x. Rhythm Sangwan and Divya T.S. both scored 578-16x, with Sangwan ranked higher on countback. Abhidnya Patil achieved the last qualifying spot with 576-15x.

In the national rankings, world record holder and ISSF World Cup 2026 Munich gold medalist Esha Singh maintained her top spot despite not participating in the trials, with Manu remaining in second. Rahi advanced to third, exchanging positions with Divya, who fell to fourth. Rhythm stays fifth, while Chinki Yadav moved up from ninth to sixth following her qualification performance.

The T4 Rifle/Pistol trials are vital for the Asian Games, as 15 men and 15 women shooters will represent India in 28 shooting events in Aichi-Nagoya later this year. The 12-member shot-gun team has already been named, while the rifle and pistol squads will be finalised following the ongoing trials. Action will resume on Tuesday with four finals scheduled, including the men's and women's 10m air pistol events and the men's and women's 50m rifle 3-position competitions.

Lokesh Kanagaraj Meets Allu Arjun Twice? What's Up?



The announcement of a film in the combination of Allu Arjun & Lokesh Kanagaraj has already created a lot of excitement. Tentatively called #AA23, the film is generating fresh excitement among fans and trade circles alike after the director of movies like Vikram has met the Pushpa star almost twice in a week's time. Many are wondering why they are meeting so frequently when Allu Arjun is focusing on the shoot of Atlee's Raaka movie.

According to reports, Lokesh Kanagaraj has met Allu Arjun twice over the last two weeks, with discussions progressing steadily. The duo is said to be taking a final call on the key aspects of the film before taking the project into the next phase. After Pushpa 2, Allu Arjun is operating in a completely different league. Every project he signs now carries massive pan-India expectations. At the same

time, Lokesh Kanagaraj has built a brand of his own through films like Kaithi, Vikram, Leo, and Coolie. When two such brands come together, huge care should be taken to carve out the film.

Trade experts believe AA23 has the potential to become one of the biggest collaborations in South Indian cinema if the script lands perfectly. Already with Raaka, the icon star is likely to get massive attention again after Pushpa 2, and if that film works out big, naturally #AA23 works out bigger. As their combo is steadily moving towards becoming a reality, we have to see when the team will release the next big updates.

While Lokesh's acting debut #DC is also getting ready to release, and his production venture Benz with Raghava Lawrence is also getting ready, many are wondering what his next step naturally would be regarding the Allu Arjun movie. Let the updates roll out.

Dragon's Luger Is Just One Side!

On the eve of Jr NTR's Birthday last month, the makers of his latest movie, Prashanth Neel's Dragon, have come up with a massive glimpse video that has stunned everyone. More than the story revealed in the glimpse, it is Jr NTR's lean look as he plays Luger, a brutal assassin who kills people in the drug world being run by some biggies, that created a massive impact. However, some reports are doing rounds that this look is not all, as Jr NTR has shown just one side of himself as Luger in the movie. There will be another mass avatar, where NTR will be seen in a new hairdo and a bulked-up physique. That new look, which is more mass and massive, will be revealed in December 2026 if reports are to be believed. As the film is set for a June 2027 release, which is almost a year from now, the makers want to give some regular updates at regular intervals, such that the film's



craze will be lit and kept high.

On the other hand, Prashanth Neel is already carving Part 1 and Part 2 of the movie at the same time, such that the release gap between the two parts would be very little. Like how Dhurandhar 1 and 2 have been released in just 3 months gap, even Dragon will come out in such a short time if reports are to be believed. Already, various parts of Part 2 are said to have been completed, while Part 1 is currently being shot by the star director. With Dragon, NTR wants to prove his pan-India appeal.

SHRADDHA TO STAR IN A BIOPIC

After directing acclaimed films like "Mimi" and the recent blockbuster "Chhaava", filmmaker Laxman Utekar is set to collaborate with Shraddha Kapoor for his next ambitious project. Titled "Eetha", the film is a biographical drama based on the life of legendary folk artist Vithabai Narayangaonkar. The makers officially announced the project today, revealing that it will chronicle her remarkable

journey, struggles, and rise to fame from the 1940s through the 1990s.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan under the Maddock Films banner, Eetha reunites the successful creative team behind Chhaava. Shraddha Kapoor will play the titular role, while Randeep Hooda and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub have been cast in key roles. The film was shot over a 60-day schedule across multiple locations

in Maharashtra and promises to showcase an inspiring chapter from India's cultural history. For Shraddha Kapoor, Eetha marks a return to the big screen after a considerable gap and is expected to present her in one of the most challenging roles of her career.

The makers have announced August 28, 2026, as the release date, strategically coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan holiday weekend.



From Cocktail Glamour To MS. SUBBU LAKSHMI?

Rashmika Mandanna's is the national crush and she lives up to that. Guess what, her name is now being heard regarding one of the most prestigious biopics in Indian cinema. According to the latest buzz, the actress is in talks to play legendary Carnatic singer and Bharat Ratna awardee MS Subbulakshmi. Reports are popping out that a look test was recently conducted, though an official confirmation is still awaited.

What's interesting is the timing. At the moment, Rashmika is enjoying perhaps the most glamorous phase of her career. With films like Cocktail 2, where she slipped into bikinis and lip locks is grabbing attention, she is firmly positioned as one of the biggest mainstream heroines in the country. In Telugu she has movies like Ranabali, and in Tamil she has Dhanush's next and more.

Over the last few years, Rashmika has largely been associated with commercial entertainers, chartbuster songs, and glamorous screen presence. But every now and then, she has shown an interest in taking a different route. A good example is The Girlfriend. The film may not have worked at the box office the way many expected, but it certainly made audiences think. It proved that Rashmika can act too.

And now, before Rashmika's name emerged, actresses like Sai Pallavi and Rukmini Vasanth were supposed to play the role. Can Rashmika pull off that spiritual aura of Subbulakshmi better than Sai Pallavi? If she eventually signs the film, it could become one of the most important projects of her career. But then, she should overcome her glamour image to do justice to the role.



KANGANA RECLAIMS SOCIAL MEDIA CONTROL

BJP MP and actress Kangana Ranaut has opened up about why she "snatched" control of her social media accounts back from her team. In an exclusive interview with IANS, the 'Queen' actress said she prefers a more direct and personal way of communicating with her audience. When asked how much time she takes to reply on social media and whether it seems like she personally responds to messages, Kangana shared that she replies herself and is actively involved in her social media interactions. The actress shared, "I asked my social media team, 'What is this?' Are you writing a letter to the headmaster with so much respect? What kind of captions are these? It feels like you are apologizing to stay alive. So, I said, no, this is not going to go like that. Simple right things. I am eating this, so simply write this. It feels like you are apologetic for everything. That's not how it's going to work." "So obviously, I don't like to live like that. And I think it's not easy to be in public space. It's not like we don't say anything that we are not ashamed of. Or we don't feel bad. Or somehow, even if it's a small thing,

it becomes an angle of a photo. Or how we have ever styled something or said something. We feel, "Oh, that was a wrong decision; that was a wrong call." I could have done better. We feel like that. Now you don't have to tell anyone," Kangana added. The actress went on to state, "Reading the comments is a different thing. But you feel it yourself. So, you have days like that. Now it is published all over the place.

Neither its response nor its anything—that one line did this. Or I could have done better with my photo from that angle; the same photo is being put everywhere. So, such embarrassment happens to celebrities. That your mistakes are published all over the nation. But as far as comments are concerned, comments are irrelevant to me." Kangana Ranaut is known for her sharp and honest takes on social media. She expresses her opinions in a direct and unfiltered manner.

Work-wise, Kangana Ranaut will next be seen in the lead role in the drama "Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata," which aims to highlight the bravery and resilience of healthcare workers during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

