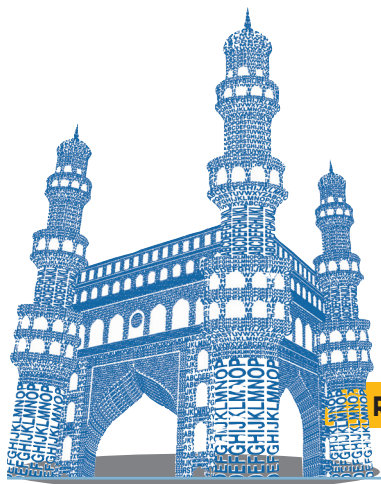




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ARCHITECTS OF THE NATION HOMELESS IN SAFETY

OPINION

06

MISS KERALA ARRESTED IN SMUGGLING CASE



BOX -OFFICE

12

REVANTH SLAMS BJP, BRS OVER FALSE PROPAGANDA AGAINST Meenakshi Natarajan



Hyderabad, June 12: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has accused both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of disseminating falsehoods concerning Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan.

In an informal chat with media persons in New Delhi on Friday, Revanth Reddy likened the BJP's conduct to that of Kim Jong-un. He asserted that the BJP is or-

chestrating elections reminiscent of North Korea's single-party system, characterising their actions as undemocratic and claiming that they "stole the seat" when unable to win votes.

Addressing the rejection of AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination from Madhya Pradesh, which was based on her alleged

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

MEENAKSHI DID NOT GET RELIEF FROM SUPREME COURT



DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal :The petition filed against the cancellation of nomination of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan for the Rajya Sabha elections from Madhya Pradesh was heard in the Supreme Court. After hearing the arguments of both the parties, the double bench rejected the petition. The petition filed against the cancellation of Rajya Sabha nomination papers of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan was being heard in the Supreme Court today.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued before the court that

till now no competent court has taken cognizance of the private complaint on the basis of which the nomination was rejected.

Singhvi said that under Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act (RP Act), a candidate has to disclose only those criminal cases in which charges have been framed (charge frame) by a competent court for an offense punishable with two years or more. He argued that in the present case neither charges have been framed nor any court has taken cognizance, hence the ground for cancellation of nomination is not

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

Sammakka Sagar Nears Final Clearance

UTTAM PERSONALLY TAKES UP NOC WITH CHHATTISGARH CM

Positive Response From Chhattisgarh CM Boosts Clearance Prospects

Telangana Intensifies Efforts to Unlock Long-Pending Godavari Project

Telangana funds survey, addresses all submergence concerns.

Project to stabilize irrigation across 4.40 lakh acres.

Ramappa-Pakhal canal to irrigate additional 30,000 acres.

Devadula ayacut stabilization and village drinking water.

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

The long-pending Sammakka Sagar Project on the Godavari River appears to be moving closer to a decisive breakthrough, with Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy personally taking up the issue of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai during his visit to Hyderabad on Thursday night.

In a significant development that could pave the way for the final appraisal of the project's Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the Central Water Commission (CWC), Uttam Kumar Reddy met the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and briefed him on Telangana's sustained efforts to fast-track several long-pending irrigation projects aimed at harnessing the waters of the Godavari River for irrigation, drinking water supply and

regional development.

During the meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy specifically urged the Chhattisgarh Government to extend its cooperation by issuing the pending NOC for the Sammakka Sagar Project, formerly known as the Tupakulagudem Barrage. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister has responded positively and assured that the matter would be examined sympathetically.

The Minister also handed over a formal communication seeking immediate issuance of the NOC required for appraisal of the DPR by the Inter-State Directorate of the Central Water Commission. In the letter dated June 11, 2026, Uttam Kumar Reddy recalled his earlier request made at Raipur on September 22, 2025, and highlighted the importance of the project for Telangana's irrigation sector.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)



INDIA STRONG AND SECURE UNDER MODI's LEADERSHIP: RAMCHANDER RAO

Hyderabad, June 12:

Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Friday asserted that India has emerged stronger, safer and more confident under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the Prabuddha Varg Sammelan in Secunderabad, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as chief guest, Rao said the Modi government has strengthened national security through decisive actions, including surgical strikes and Operation Sindoor.

He praised the growing role of women in the armed forces, describing Operation Sindoor as a symbol of women-led courage and empowerment. Highlighting the achievements of the NDA government over the past 12 years, Rao said India has become the world's fourth-largest economy and is progressing steadily towards the vision of "Viksit Bharat".

Stating that people have complete faith in Modi's leadership, Rao said the Prime Minister has successfully guided the country through security challenges, global crises and developmental initiatives. He expressed confidence that Modi would continue to lead India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. "Under Prime Minister Modi ji's leadership, India is safe, confident and moving ahead with a clear vision of development, welfare and national pride", he added.



Heavy Rain Disrupts Hyderabad; CM Revanth's Flight Diverted

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

Hyderabad witnessed heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and strong gusty winds on Friday evening, disrupting normal life and affecting flight operations at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA). The rain swept across large parts of the city, from Patancheru in the west to Ameerpet and Begumpet in central Hyderabad, catching commuters and motorists off guard. While traffic movement slowed in areas such as Kukatpally, Lakdi-ka-pul, and Begumpet, delays were

largely limited to 5-10 minutes, making the impact less severe than the widespread disruptions witnessed during Tuesday's downpour.

Many commuters sought shelter in Metro stations and public transport facilities. "Bale dorkamu (we got caught)," remarked Vishnu Prabhas Varma, a software company intern who boarded a Metro train at Begumpet while trying to escape the rain. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, issued a nowcast alert at 9.30 p.m., warning of moderate thunderstorms and

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)



CONGRESS CONSPIRACY LED TO MEENAKSHI'S DEFEAT: KTR

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K.T. Rama Rao alleged that internal infighting within the Congress party was the reason for AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan's defeat in the Rajya Sabha elections.

In a chat with media persons on Friday, KT Rama Rao alleged that the Congress party's internal conspiracies, leadership failures, and governance collapse have exposed the true nature of the ruling

party before the people of Telangana.

He asserted that the Congress party itself is solely responsible for the defeat of Meenakshi Natarajan in the Rajya Sabha elections.

He questioned why Congress leaders are attempting to drag political opponents into an issue that is entirely the result of their own internal betrayals and factional politics.

The BRS working president demanded that the Congress leadership investigate who within the party leaked de-



tails related to cases against Meenakshi Natarajan and provided information to BJP leaders. KTR remarked that if Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is so fond of constituting Special Investigation Teams (SITs), he should order an SIT probe into this matter as well.

"Congress leaders themselves know who betrayed the party and who worked against Meenakshi Natarajan. Rahul Gandhi should identify the 'black sheep' within the Congress who are

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >](#)

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

3 TIMES BETTER

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING





Representatives of Journalists’ Housing Societies JAC Meet Dy.CM Bhatti

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

Leaders of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Journalists’ Housing Societies in Hyderabad met Deputy Chief Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, Mr. Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, at Praja Bhavan on Thursday regarding the allocation of housing plots to journalists.

The JAC representatives informed the Deputy Chief Minister that journalists have been

waiting for housing plots for several years. They explained the need for housing plots for journalists, the current situation, and also briefed him on the recent comments and directions issued by the Chief Minister on the matter.

They further apprised Bhatti Vikramarka about the recent meetings held between JAC representatives and Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Media Academy Chairman K. Srinivas Reddy, and I&PR Commissioner Mukunda

Reddy. Responding to their representation, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka indicated that the issue of housing plots for journalists would be taken up for discussion at the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for Friday. Those who met the Deputy Chief Minister included JAC representatives Brahmandabheri Goparaju, Mikkilineni Ravindra Babu, Virahat Ali, UGV Muralikrishna, Suraj Bharadwaj, and Srinivas, along with senior journalist Margam Srinivas.

Bangkok to Mumbai Model arrives in style with a suitcase....!!

Model, Miss Kerala Harsha Sunny arrested in illegal cannabis smuggling case



MUMBAI, JUNE 12

Miss Kerala has been arrested. She was caught by authorities after arriving in Mumbai from Bangkok. In an illegal cannabis trafficking case, model and Miss Kerala Harsha Sunny was arrested by officials at Mumbai Airport. About cannabis worth nearly ₹12 crore was seized from her luggage. Airport officials found her carrying cannabis after inspecting the baggage of Harsha Sunny, who had arrived from Bangkok. Police have taken the 28-year-old into custody and begun an investigation, including probing who else may be involved behind her.

On June 10, late at night, Harsha

Sunny arrived at Mumbai Airport from Bangkok. Suspicious officials checked her luggage and found 12 vacuum-sealed packets hidden inside a trolley bag. When tested using an NDPS field testing kit, it was confirmed to be cannabis. She was then arrested under the NDPS Act by customs officials for smuggling banned drugs. Later, she was produced before the Fort Court, which remanded her to judicial custody.

However, Harsha Sunny has a different version. She claims she was taken to Bangkok for an event, where a man met her and asked her to carry a bag to India. She says she was unaware that the bag contained illegal items or narcotics.

Gurukul tenders transparent, no Gujarat contractor favoured: Adluri

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

Minister for Social Welfare and Scheduled Castes Development Adluri Laxman Kumar has strongly refuted the allegations levelled by BRS Legislature Party leader T.Harish Rao regarding the procurement of student amenities for Gurukuls, welfare hostels, KGBVs and residential educational institutions.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat on Friday, Adluri Laxman Kumar, along with Minority Welfare Minister Mohd Azaruddin, termed the allegations as entirely false, politically motivated and intended to tarnish Telangana’s welfare education system.

He stated that the total tender value is only ₹687.78 crore and Harish Rao must explain to the people how this figure suddenly became a so-called



₹2,000 crore scam.

"If there is evidence, place it before investigating agencies. Making sensational claims in press conferences without documentary proof amounts to misleading the public," he said.

The Minister further stated that the entire procurement process was conducted transparently through the

Telangana Government e-Procurement Portal. He said the tenders were floated through a national competitive bidding process ensuring maximum transparency and competition and 27 bids were received from across the country.

"Technical scrutiny and financial evaluation were undertaken strictly

in accordance with prescribed norms before finalising the lowest eligible bidders (L1). No work was awarded on nomination basis. The narrative about a "Gujarat contractor" is entirely fabricated. Companies from Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and various parts of the country participated in the competitive bidding process. No Gujarat-based company was awarded any contract," he said.

"During ten years of BRS rule, works worth merely ₹40.21 lakh were entrusted to LIDCAP. In contrast, the Congress government has awarded ₹51 crore worth of work to TGLIPC (formerly LIDCAP) within just two years. This clearly demonstrates which government genuinely believes in strengthening public sector institutions and supporting traditional livelihoods, the Minister said.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

MEENAKSHI DID NOT GET RELIEF FROM SUPREME COURT

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legally sustainableDuring the hearing, Singhvi cited Section 223 of the Indian Civil Security Code (BNSS) and said that before taking cognizance of any private complaint, it is mandatory to give an opportunity of hearing to the proposed accused. He said that only a notice has been issued in the concerned case, whereas the process of taking cognizance and framing of charges has not been completed yet.

During this, Justice PK Mishra remarked that summons is issued against a person only when the magistrate is prima facie satisfied. On this, Singhvi said that mere issuance of summons or notice cannot be considered equivalent to taking cognizance and different procedures for both are prescribed in the law.

Narrating the events to the court, Singhvi said that on June 9, the order for cancellation of nomination was passed, on June 10 the Election Commission was approached and on June 11 the matter was mentioned in the Supreme Court. He said that he feared that the election results would be declared and that is what happened later Congress also alleged that the Returning Officer took arbitrary action in the case. Singhvi said that unless there is a legally pending criminal case against a person and charges have been framed therein, a candidate cannot be excluded from the electoral process on the basis of a personal complaint alone.

Justice Mishra said that the whole difficulty is that if we accept your

nomination, there will be division of jurisdiction under Article 329. One type of case will be tried by the High Court and the other, where there is a clear case, will come under Article 32. How will these two powers be differentiated? We have consistently maintained that even if the nomination has been wrongly rejected, its remedy is through an election petition. Show us any decision in which we have interfered during the election process?

Opposing the petition of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the BJP candidate, said in the Supreme Court that the matter of rejection of nomination papers is not related to the violation of any fundamental right. Therefore the petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution is not maintainable. Rohatgi argued that Article 329 of the Constitution places a complete bar on judicial interference during the electoral process. He said that there cannot be interference in the election process under Article 32 and Article 226. According to him, the entire process of elections from the beginning till the result has been kept outside the scope of these constitutional provisions. He said that even if the nomination of a candidate is wrongly rejected, his appropriate legal remedy is an election petition, which can be filed before the Election Tribunal. Rohatgi, citing Mohitar Singh Gill case and Kullu Swamy case, said that due to Article 329, the court cannot interfere in the election process, whether the cancellation.

CONGRESS CONSPIRACY LED TO MEENAKSHI’S DEFEAT: KTR

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undermining the party from within," he said.

The BRS working president said, "What happened with Meenakshi Natarajan is wrong. Election Commission wronged her. One thing is accepted in Jharkhand and on the other side Meenakshi Natarajan's plea is rejected - this is absolutely wrong. Congress too has wronged her, given the reports of conspiracy against her by Telangana Congress leaders are coming to the front."

KTR further stated that the Congress party has a long history of internal conspiracies and betrayals and questioned

why the party is trying to blame others for its own failures. He also referred to senior Congress leader Shabbir Ali's remarks about positions allegedly being secured through money, saying that Shabbir Ali had merely spoken the truth that everyone already knows.

He alleged that Congress has a history of selling important positions for money and claimed that even the present Chief Minister secured his position through financial and political arrangements. KTR described Revanth Reddy as a "renewal Chief Minister," alleging that his continuation in office depends on satisfying the Congress high command.

Heavy Rain Disrupts Hyderabad

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gusty winds reaching speeds of up to 60 kmph in Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Nizamabad, and Warangal districts.

The adverse weather also severely affected air traffic at Hyderabad airport. Between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., nine flights were diverted due to poor weather conditions. Among them was IndiGo flight 6E 717 from Delhi carrying Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, which was diverted to Bengaluru and landed there at 10.28 p.m.

According to flight tracking data, Bengaluru received the highest number of di-

verted flights, including services from Delhi, Singapore, Mumbai, Pune, and Nanded. Two IndiGo flights from Navi Mumbai and Varanasi were rerouted to Chennai, while another flight from Bengaluru was diverted to Nagpur.

As rain and strong winds continued to impact operations, IndiGo issued a travel advisory, informing passengers that flight schedules to and from Hyderabad had been affected and urging them to check the latest updates before travel. While the downpour caused inconvenience to commuters and air travelers, the city largely avoided the extensive traffic chaos experienced earlier in the week.

BoB HOSTS CYBER CRIME AWARENESS PROG IN HYD

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

Bank of Baroda organised the Cyber Crime Awareness Programme 2026 at Ravindra Bharathi auditorium here on Friday, bringing together senior officials from the banking sector, the Reserve Bank of India, and law enforcement agencies to strengthen coordination against cyber fraud and to deliberate on strategies for preventing cybercrimes and reinforcing the ecosystem of institutional response in Telangana.

V C Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City and V Aravind Babu, DCP (Cyber Crimes), Hyderabad City were the distinguished guests at the program. Beena Vaheed, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda; Chinmoy Kumar, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Telangana; and Satish Kumar, General Manager, SLBC Convenor, State Bank of India graced the event with their presence.

Addressing the gathering, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar stressed the need for banks to treat cyber fraud complaints with the same urgency as physical

crimes, while RBI Regional Director Chinmoy Kumar highlighted the importance of real-time coordination between banks and enforcement agencies.

Bank of Baroda Executive Director Beena Vaheed underscored the significance of the "golden hour" in cyber fraud recovery and called for swift action by banking staff to prevent fund diversion. "When a customer reports a fraud, the bank's role does not end at logging the complaint. We are obligated to act swiftly by freezing the beneficiary account at the earliest, initiating coordination with the receiving bank, and ensuring the complaint reaches the Cyber Crime portal and the concerned police authority without delay. The golden hour in cyber fraud recovery is real, and our staff must be equipped to act within it. Today's programme is a step towards building that operational readiness across the institutions", she noted. The programme focused on fraud response protocols, information sharing between banks and police, and enhancing frontline staff preparedness to tackle cybercrime effectively.

Telangana police gets smart upgrade

➤FROM PAGE 1

The SHE Cyber Lab will enhance the capacity of officers dealing with cyber offences, especially crimes against women and children. Speaking at the event, the DGP stressed the need for continuous skill upgradation to tackle the growing

threat of cybercrime and technology-enabled offences. Charu Sinha said the facilities would serve as a state-of-the-art platform for training, knowledge sharing and professional development, further boosting Telangana's smart policing initiatives.

Sammakka Sagar Nears Final Clearance

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He informed the Chhattisgarh Government that all directorates of the Central Water Commission, except the Inter-State Directorate, had already accorded clearances to the project and that the absence of the NOC alone was preventing further appraisal of the DPR.

Telangana Addresses Chhattisgarh Concerns

The Minister noted that engineers from both States had earlier conducted a joint survey of the submergence area. Subsequently, the Chhattisgarh Government sought a more detailed survey involving demarcation of Full Reservoir Level (FRL) and backwater levels to accurately assess the extent of land and villages likely to be affected.

Demonstrating its commitment to resolving all outstanding concerns, the Telangana Government agreed to bear the entire cost of the survey and released Rs 9.883 crore to the Chhattisgarh Water Resources Department in April 2026. The survey is presently underway in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

Telangana has also assured the neighbouring State that compensation for any lands identified as affected due to submer-

gence or backwater impact would be paid in accordance with applicable laws and procedures. The State Government has repeatedly conveyed its willingness to deposit compensation amounts in advance if required for issuance of the NOC.

Project Accorded Administrative Approval in 2009

The Sammakka Sagar Project traces its origins to the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Government's P.V. Narasimha Rao Kanthanapally Sujala Sravanthi Scheme, which envisaged construction of a barrage across the Godavari River near Kanthanapally in present-day Mulugu region for diversion of Godavari waters to stabilise the ayacut under SRSP Stage-II. Administrative approval for the project was accorded through G.O. Ms. No. 27 dated February 10, 2009. The Central Water Commission granted in-principle consent for preparation of the DPR on March 2, 2012. Following the formation of Telangana State in 2014, the project underwent a major redesign under the Government's irrigation re-engineering programme.

Detailed technical studies concluded that shifting the barrage downstream to Tupakulagudem in Mulugu district would be technically superior, economically more

viable and would substantially reduce submergence concerns in neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Massive Irrigation and Drinking Water Benefits

The project is designed to divert 46.96 TMC of Godavari waters for stabilisation of 4.40 lakh acres under SRSP Stage-II and creation of a new ayacut of 30,000 acres under the Ramappa-Pakhal Link Canal.

The SRSP Stage-II stabilisation benefits are proposed across:

- **Suryapet District – 2,34,199 acres**
- **Mahabubabad District – 96,494 acres**
- **Khammam District – 85,774 acres**
- **Warangal District – 22,422 acres**
- **Jangaon District – 1,111 acres**

The Ramappa-Pakhal Link Canal component would provide irrigation to:

- **Mulugu District – 8,000 acres**
- **Warangal (Narsampet region) – 22,000 acres**

Beyond irrigation, the project will also support stabilisation of portions of the J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme and provide drinking water to hundreds of villages located along the ca-

nal network in the erstwhile Warangal and Khammam districts.

Clearance Status and DPR Appraisal

The project has already secured most of the major statutory and technical clearances required for DPR appraisal. Environmental clearance has been obtained and the DPR was submitted to the Central Water Commission on August 31, 2021.

Approvals secured So far

- Hydrology Directorate clearance –
- Cost Estimates Directorate clearance
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs clearance
- Central Ground Water Board clearance
- Other technical observations raised by various CWC directorates have been complied Between July 2024 and January 2026, the CWC's Project Appraisal Directorate sought multiple clarifications relating to irrigation planning and project parameters. Telangana Irrigation

Department officials submitted detailed responses and revised technical submissions on all occasions.

Officials said virtually all technical scrutiny has been completed and only appraisal by the Inter-State Matters Directorate remains pending.

GITAM Launches Session Series on Upskilling and Global Career Readiness

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University is set to launch the TMCG–GCCG June 2026 Session Series, a comprehensive initiative focused on upskilling, career development, industry readiness, and global higher education awareness, said Dr. Rojeena Mathew, Director – Training, Mentoring & Career Guidance (TMCG), GITAM Career Guidance Centre (GCCG). The TMCG platform has been instrumental in connecting students with accomplished alumni, industry experts, researchers, and professionals from diverse domains. Through these interactions, students gain practical insights that complement classroom learning and prepare them for successful careers in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The June 2026 session series will feature distinguished alumni and industry professionals sharing their experiences and expertise on emerging career opportunities, higher education abroad, artificial intelligence, product management, and data analytics.

THE SESSIONS INCLUDE

JUNE 11: Beyond Borders: Journey to Studying AI in the US by Srijia Nallamothu, Master's Student, University of Cincinnati.

JUNE 12: Beyond Borders: Your Journey to Higher Studies Abroad by Harthik Mallichetty, Graduate, University of Texas at Dallas.



JUNE 14: Introduction to Product Roles: Product Owner and Product Manager by Vanshika Sai Bothsa, Product Analyst, GlobalData Plc.

JUNE 15: Journey to University of Houston by Aakansha Govindaraju, Research Assistant, University of Houston.

JUNE 21: Navigating the Future of Data Analytics: AI, Skills & Career by Sameeksha Nimje, Data Science Manager, MSD.

JUNE 23: Decoding the Ideal Time for Joining Higher Studies Abroad by Sreya Reddy N, Master's Student, North Carolina State University.

JUNE 26: How to Study Abroad with Clarity and Purpose by Sairam Nagesh, Master's Student, Kozminski University, Poland.

The sessions aim to help students understand emerging industry trends, explore global education opportunities,

gain insights from alumni working and studying abroad, and develop the skills needed for successful careers in high-growth sectors.

Dr. Rojeena Mathew encouraged students to actively participate in the sessions, interact with the speakers, and make informed decisions about their academic and professional journeys.

“Every session offers an opportunity to learn from individuals who have successfully navigated the path students aspire to follow. The choices made today shape the opportunities of tomorrow,” she added.

So far, TMCG has successfully conducted 149 upskilling sessions across various domains, engaging hundreds of students through mentorship, career guidance, industry exposure, and higher education awareness programs.

Hyd Division of SCR Zone Gears Up with New Freight Traffic

- **First Container Rake with Pig Iron & TMT Steel Bars from Veldurti**
- **First Rake of 21 Wagons loaded with Maize from Jankampet**

HYDERABAD

SCR is striving relentlessly in capturing new commodities in its freight basket. Continuing its efforts towards further enhancing the freight loading and adding new streams of traffic, Hyderabad Division of the zone has started freight loading from Veldurti and Jankampet stations. This initiative is expected to strengthen the Division's



freight business while creating new avenues for transportation of industrial and agricultural products through the rail network.

At Veldurti station, a first-of-its-kind Exclusive Container Terminal has been set up wherein the first rake is under

loading with Pig Iron and TMT Steel Bars produced by a nearby steel plant. The loaded rakes are planned to be transported to major destinations including Delhi, Punjab, Mumbai and Gujarat. The Exclusive Container Terminal at Veldurti will provide industries with an efficient,

reliable and cost-effective mode of transportation for iron and steel products to major markets across the country.

Further, Jankampet station has been opened for goods traffic and the first mini rake comprising of 21 covered wagons has been loaded with Maize. The rake is being transported to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra.

This initiative will ensure smooth movement of Maize from Telangana to Marathwada region of Maharashtra and will be especially beneficial for farmers who can transport their produce economically and reliably through Rail and will cater to the food grain needs in Marathwada region.

MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy Pays a Courtesy Visit to Former CM Chandrashekar Rao and Extends an Invitation

HYDERABAD

Today, Malkajigiri MLA Mr. Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, along with Mrs. Marri Mamatha Reddy, paid a courtesy visit to Mr. K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party and former Chief Minister of Telangana, and Mrs. Shobhamma at Erravalli. On this occasion, MLA Mr. Marri Rajasekhara Reddy invited Mr. KCR and Mrs. Shobhamma to attend the 60th wedding anniversary celebrations of his parents, Mr. Marri Laxman Reddy and Mrs.



Arundhati Reddy. Later, Mr. KCR and Mrs. Shobhamma conveyed their heartfelt wishes to the Marri family and expressed their hope that Mr. Marri Laxman Reddy and Mrs. Arundhati Reddy would enjoy a long life blessed with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Minister Uttam Promises Full Support for Journalists' Housing Sites

HYDERABAD

Representatives of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Journalists' Housing Societies met State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Mr. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, at the Secretariat on Friday and submitted a memorandum regarding the allocation of housing plots to journalists. During the

meeting, the JAC representatives brought to the minister's attention that the issue of allocating housing plots to journalists in Telangana has been pending for a long time. They stated that thousands of journalists have been waiting for a resolution, as the matter has seen little progress since the formation of the state. The representatives explained the necessity of housing



plots for journalists, the discussions that had taken place at the government level in the past, and the current situation. Responding to their concerns, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the demand for housing plots for journalists is entirely fair and justified.

“The issue of housing plots for journalists is a genuine and legitimate demand. I will certainly

extend my support in this matter. I will do my part to help achieve a positive resolution at the government level,” the minister assured.

Among those who met the minister were JAC representatives of the Journalists' Housing Societies: UGV Muralikrishna, Brahmmandabheri Goparaju, M. Ravindra Babu, Suraj Bhadraraj, and Srinivas.

TGPSC Fee Hike – Financial Burden on the Unemployed

- **The exploitation through TGPSC fee hikes must be withdrawn immediately**
- **A 400% increase in fees is unfair to unemployed youth**
- **AIYF delegation submits memorandum to TGPSC Additional Secretary Saritha**

- **Demand by the AIYF Telangana State Committee**

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC), in several recent job notifications, has increased the application processing fee from ₹200 to ₹1,000, representing a 400% hike. The fee has been fixed at ₹500 for SC/ST candidates and ₹1,000 for OC and BC candidates, and the same fee structure is being implemented in several recent notifications. Demanding the immediate withdrawal of the increased fees, a delegation of the All India Youth Federation (AIYF) Telangana State Committee submitted a



memorandum to Additional Secretary Saritha at the TGPSC office in Nampally.

On this occasion, AIYF State General Secretary Kalluru Dharmendra and State Working President Nerlakanti Srikanth stated that lakhs of youth in the state have been waiting for government jobs for years. While government recruitment is moving at a slow pace, imposing thousands of rupees in application costs on unemployed candidates is highly unjust. They pointed out that even posts within the same department are now being released through separate notifications, forcing candidates to pay application fees for each notification individually. As a result, unemployed applicants are

compelled to spend thousands of rupees merely on submitting applications. They cited recent examples, including separate notifications for: 222 Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Civil posts in the Roads and Buildings Department, 49 AEE Electrical posts, 19 Assistant Environmental Engineer posts in the Pollution Control Board, and 24 Deputy Education Officer posts.

Because these vacancies were notified separately, candidates are required to pay fees for each notification. An unemployed engineering graduate applying for three notifications may have to spend up to ₹3,000 solely on processing fees. This has become an additional burden on youth who are already struggling with unemployment,

coaching fees, hostel expenses, and travel costs.

The leaders reiterated that lakhs of young people have been waiting for jobs for years. At a time when government recruitment is progressing slowly, imposing heavy application fees on unemployed candidates is unfair. Releasing vacancies in separate notifications and collecting separate fees for each application places a significant financial burden on job seekers. They argued that the fee hike appears to restrict the right to apply for government jobs only to those who can afford it. A government that should be providing employment opportunities should not be emptying the pockets of unemployed youth.

They further stated that if the government cannot provide jobs, it should at least not put a price tag on the right to apply for them.

They warned that if the government does not immediately withdraw what they described as an economic attack on unemployed youth, AIYF will launch statewide protests. The program was attended by AIYF State Executive Member R. Balakrishna and State Committee Member Sheikh Mahmood.

Intellectuals meeting was held at Gayatri Gardens



Captions are auto-generated.

HYDERABAD

On a “Mediavula Sabha” (intellectuals’ meeting) was held today at Gayatri Gardens, Boinapally, Secunderabad. As the chief guest, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated and spoke about the

governance under Narendra Modi over the past 12 years, explaining in detail the progress India has achieved during this period. He stated that India has made significant development across all sectors, starting from agriculture to every other field. Many intel-

lectuals from the city participated in this meeting.

The event was also attended by

State President Shri N. Ramachandra Rao, Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Members of Parliament,

Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members of the Legislative Council, State Vice President Smt. Jayashree, BJP National Council member Smt. Geeta Murthy, VHP leader Naini Raji Reddy, Neredmet BJP leader Shri Akella Sharma, and others.

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Extensive Awareness on SC/ST Cases Must Be Created Among the Public

■ Minister Dr. Vakiti Srihari
NARAYANPET

State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Sports, and Youth Services, Dr. Vakiti Srihari, directed officials to create widespread awareness among the public regarding SC/ST cases in Narayanpet district.

The minister attended the District-Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting organized by the Department of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development under the chairmanship of District Collector Priyanka at the Narayanpet District Collectorate on Friday.

Addressing the meeting, the minister said that caste-based discrimination and hatred must be eradicated from society. He emphasized the need to educate people about SC/ST-related laws and ensure that awareness prevents such cases from occurring.

He stated that providing security and confidence to families while peo-



ple are alive is far more meaningful than compensation paid after a tragedy. Therefore, he urged officials to ensure that citizens receive comprehensive awareness about the law.

Sharing his personal experience of having faced humiliation due to caste discrimination, the minister said he strongly opposes caste prejudice. He also assured that he would discuss with the Minister for Scheduled Castes Development, Adluri Laxman, and facilitate the release of pending

compensation funds for victims in SC/ST cases. The minister stressed that further reforms are needed in the education system. He directed the Collector to ensure that open defecation is completely eliminated in the district and that toilets are sanctioned for all eligible households.

He further announced that BT roads would be sanctioned for all villages and tribal hamlets in the district. The minister also said he would make efforts to secure Primary Health Cen-

tres and 25 housing units for tribal settlements. Dr. Vakiti Srihari praised the Civil Rights Day program being conducted by the Police Department and the ULLAS literacy initiative being implemented by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). He stated that efforts would be made to fill vacant departmental head positions and ensure the availability of district-level officials. The minister emphasized that sectors such as irrigation, education, healthcare, and transportation would be given top priority for the district's development.

Among those present at the meeting were DRDO Venkata Ramulu, DSP Lingayya, RDO Ramesh, Scheduled Castes Development Department Officer Abdul Khaleel, Market Committee Chairman Sadashiva Reddy, District Fisheries Cooperative Society President Kanth Kumar, Tribal Welfare Officer Janardhan, PREE Ashok, Municipal Commissioner Shankar, committee members Kishta Naik and Bottu Ravi, along with other officials and representatives.



MLA Medipalli Satyam Meets Burjeel Representatives in Dubai, Thanks Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil for Aid to Accident Victims

KARIMNAGAR

karimnagar district Choppa-dandi MLA Dr. Medipalli Satyam met representatives of Burjeel Holdings in Dubai on Friday and conveyed gratitude to Chairman Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil for announcing a humanitarian relief package of AED 1 million (approximately ₹2.6 crore) for victims of a recent road accident in the UAE.

The assistance package covers seven deceased workers and nine injured persons. Families of the deceased will receive AED 100,000 (around ₹26 lakh)

each, while support will also be extended for medical treatment, rehabilitation of the injured, and education of children from affected families.

As Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil was unavailable, the MLA met Burjeel representatives A. Vijay Kumar, Ahmed Bin Sulaiman, M. Unnikrishnan and Dr. Pan-kaj Kumar Bhatt and expressed gratitude on behalf of the victims' families.

Dr. Satyam invited Dr. Vayalil and Burjeel representatives to Hyderabad and proposed that the relief cheques be handed over to the beneficiaries in the

presence of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He noted that three of the seven deceased workers belonged to Jagtial district. Earlier, the MLA visited the Indian Consulate in Dubai and requested officials to expedite the repatriation process of the deceased workers.

He also visited Rashid Hospital and interacted with the injured workers undergoing treatment. The visit was coordinated by Telangana NRI Advisory Committee member Kottala Satyam Goud and several Telangana community leaders based in Dubai.



Telangana aims to emerge as global logistics hub, says Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is working to position the State as a global logistics hub through the development of a future-ready ecosystem capable of meeting emerging challenges and opportunities in the sector, Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Friday.

Addressing the International Conference on Shipping and Logistics 2026, organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) at HICC Novotel in Hyderabad, the Minister said logistics would play a key role in achieving the goals outlined in the State's long-term vision document, Telangana Rising-2047.

Highlighting Telangana's export performance, Mr. Sridhar Babu said the State ranks eighth in the country in the Export Preparedness Index and second among landlocked States. Telangana is



also ranked seventh nationally in merchandise exports, reflecting its industrial growth, he said.

The Minister said the government was transforming Telangana's landlocked geography into a strategic advantage through infrastructure-led growth. Under the proposed Logistics Policy 2.0, it plans to promote the development of mega multimodal logistics parks, dry ports, bonded ware-

housing facilities and integrated logistics hubs. Emphasising the need for a skilled workforce to meet the sector's growing requirements, Mr. Sridhar Babu said the government was preparing an action plan to encourage the adoption of technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics and machine learning to improve efficiency and competitiveness in logistics operations.

Inviting investments in multimodal logistics, rail-linked infrastructure, air cargo, cold-chain networks, Grade-A warehousing, automation, digital logistics platforms and green mobility solutions, he assured industry stakeholders of the government's support in creating a conducive business environment.

FTCCI President R. Ravi Kumar, Senior Vice-President K.K. Maheshwari, Vice-President Srinivas Garimella and Shipping and Logistics Committee Chairman Kamal Jain were among those present.

G.O. 190 should be implemented immediately

■ Why has it not been implemented even after 9 months of issuing the G.O.?

■ Teachers and employees affected by G.O. 317 must be given justice immediately

■ Otherwise, a large-scale agitation is inevitable

■ Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha

HYDERABAD

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Chief of Telangana Rakshana Sena, has demanded immediate justice for teachers and employees affected by G.O. 317. She stated that the interim G.O. 190 issued by the Cabinet Sub-Committee formed by the Congress government should be implemented without delay. She released a video message on Friday in this regard and warned the government that a massive agitation will be launched if G.O. 190 is not implemented immediately.



Why is G.O. 190 not being implemented?

Kavitha expressed anger, saying that the Congress Party, which promised before the elections to resolve the issues of those affected by G.O. 317, is now betraying them after coming to power. She said the government appears to lack the courage to take firm decisions.

She criticized the government for delaying matters related to activists and employees under the pretext of forming committees. She questioned why the Congress government, which promised justice to G.O. 317 affected individuals, is

not taking any forward steps. She reminded that a Cabinet Sub-Committee comprising Damodar Raja Narasimha, Sridhar Babu, and Ponnamm Prabhakar was formed to address transfers of teachers affected by G.O. 317 based on local preference.

She questioned why G.O. 190, issued based on that committee's report, is not being implemented. She said it was promised that transfers would be done based on local status and, if necessary, supernumerary posts would also be created for affected teachers. However, even after nine months since issuing G.O.

190, it has not been implemented, which she called unjust. She demanded clarity on who is benefiting from the delay or what lobbying is preventing its implementation. She pointed out that although the validity of G.O. 190 is three years, nine months have already passed, and questioned when it will actually be implemented.

We will fight for employees

Kavitha said that due to the Congress government's attitude, teachers and employees are facing severe difficulties. She stated that because of G.O. 317, they have lost their local status. She urged that G.O. 190 should be implemented immediately, irrespective of G.O. 25 rationalisation. She also suggested that supernumerary posts should be created if necessary for teachers.

She called upon employee unions to launch a large-scale movement against the government's delay. She assured that Telangana Rakshana Sena will fight on behalf of teachers and employees for their rights. She warned the government that if immediate action is not taken on implementing G.O. 190, a major agitation is unavoidable.

Private Hospital Registration Process Must Be Completed Within Three Months



Karimnagar Collector Chitra Mishra
KARIMNAGAR

karimnagar District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials to ensure that the registration process for private hospitals is completed in a transparent and time-bound manner, without any delays.

Chairing the District Registration Authority Committee meeting held at the Collector's Chamber on Friday evening, the Collector reviewed the implementation of the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010, and the progress of registrations and approvals for private healthcare institutions. During the meeting, officials discussed issues

faced by private hospitals during the registration process and measures required to simplify procedures and expedite approvals. The Collector instructed all concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure that hospital managements do not face unnecessary difficulties.

She directed officials to conduct joint inspections of hospitals seeking registration and verify the availability of essential infrastructure, safety standards, and statutory clearances, including those from the Fire Services Department and Pollution Control Board, before issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

Emphasizing the need for timely disposal of applications, the Collector

instructed officials to ensure that no delays occur at any stage of the process and that all registrations are completed within three months.

To address grievances and provide guidance to hospital managements, she also directed the District Medical and Health Department to establish a dedicated helpline. The helpline will assist applicants with registration-related queries, technical issues, approvals, and other procedural matters.

Collector Chitra Mishra stated that private healthcare institutions must comply with all government norms to ensure quality medical services for the public. She noted that registration under the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010, would enhance transparency, accountability, and service standards in the healthcare sector.

The meeting was attended by Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Sriram, District Fire Officer Muppidi Srinivas Reddy, police department representatives, IMA District President Dr. Akula Shailaja, General Secretary Dr. Mahesh, Treasurer Dr. Neelima, and officials from various departments.

Telangana asked to tap global markets as India's exports cross \$860 billion

HYDERABAD

The Department of Commerce, Government of India, on Friday highlighted the country's remarkable export growth over the past 12 years, with total exports nearly doubling from \$468 billion in 2013-14 to over \$860 billion in 2025-26.

Speaking at an interaction programme on "12 Years achievements of the Department of Commerce and Awareness Programme on Boosting Exports from Telangana" in Hyderabad on Friday, Economic Adviser Priya P. Nair said policy reforms, market diversification, digital trade facilitation and export promotion initiatives have strengthened India's position in global trade. Sectors such as engineering goods, electronics, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, textiles and services have driven export growth despite global economic uncertainties, she noted.

Trade and Commerce Secretary N. Bhavanisri said India exports only 13% of its spice production, indicating significant growth potential. She highlighted the role of nearly 40 operational SEZs across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh, which have collectively recorded exports of around Rs.15 lakh crore.

Industry representatives from Pharmexcil, APEDA, ECGC and DGFT outlined opportunities for exporters, particularly MSMEs, through FTAs, digital platforms, export incentives and risk protection mechanisms. The speakers urged the Telangana businesses to leverage government schemes, improve quality standards, generate employment and contribute to India's journey towards becoming a global trade powerhouse.

SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SUBURBAN AREAS

■ AICC Member Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy

SURYAPET RURAL

AICC member Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy stated that special initiatives will be taken for the development of suburban areas within the municipality limits.

On Friday, after laying the foundation stone for a ₹28 lakh double-line road bridge in Pillalamarri town, he inaugurated a newly installed bore motor to provide drinking water to the public. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the problems in Pillalamarri have been identified and efforts will be made to resolve them one by one based on priority. He mentioned that double-line road works are being carried out with an expenditure of ₹28 lakh under O&M funds for the benefit of the people of Pillalamarri.

He further stated that a new bore motor has been installed to provide drinking water facilities to the public, and that steps will be taken to ensure timely supply



of municipal water as well. He emphasized that continuous efforts are being made to provide basic infrastructure with the goal of developing Pillalamarri.

The program was attended by 11th ward councillor Kodi Nagaraju Yadav, District Congress Working President Abdul Raheem, district Congress leader Morishetty Lakshadi, municipal councillors Kondapalli Dileep Reddy and Vekkanti Shekhar Reddy, former councillor and district Congress secretary Edla Gangabhavani, District Youth Congress President

Eliminetti Abhinay Naidu, District Congress Seva Dal President Ale-ti Manikyam, district Congress leaders Gunaganti Satish,

Gugulothu Nagu Naik, Padidala Ravi, Shivalayam Chairman Konda Venkanna, Mukunda Reddy, Kotla Saidulu, Venkat Lal, Madagoni Keshavulu, Madagoni Lingayya, Sanda Saidulu, Chit-talur Satish, Lanjapelli Suresh, Mogili Ellayya, Cherkupalli Chandrasekhar, Kamshetty Vamshi, Kotla Sampath, Pasham Shekhar, contractor Kodidala Srinivas Reddy, and others.

The One School A new dawn in Pre-Primary Education

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12:

Marking a significant milestone in the landscape of foundational learning, the Narayana Group of Educational Institutions has opened The One School in Kondapur, Hyderabad. This premier institution represents the group's highly anticipated debut into Pre-Primary education, blending global academic standards with a nurturing, child-centric philosophy. The grand opening was formally solemnized on Friday, 12th June, through traditional rituals led by the core leadership team: Sindhura Narayana, Puneet Kothapa, Ravichandra Chakka, and Anusha Chakka. The ceremony was graced by an array of distinguished leaders and intellectuals who gathered to celebrate this venture. Among the prominent dignitaries in attendance were:

- **Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Bheemili MLA**
- **P.V. Krishna Reddy, Managing Director, MEIL**
- **K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, Former Member of Parliament**
- **V.V. Lakshminarayana, Former Joint Director, CBI**
- **P.V. Ramesh, Former IAS**
- **M.V.G.K. Bhanu, Former IAS**
- **N.R.K. Reddy, Former IPS**

Attendees lauded the management for curating an educational sanctuary that departs from conventional schooling methods, offering instead a refreshing paradigm which is suited for the modern era. With a rich 47-year legacy of academic excellence across 22 states—currently shaping the future of over 700,000 students—the Narayana Group's



foray in this education has been meticulously crafted. For two years, a select elite committee of educationists analysed the world's most revered pedagogical frameworks, combining the finest elements from:

- **The International Baccalaureate (IB)**
- **UK's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**
- **The Finnish National Curriculum**
- **The Singapore National Curriculum**
- **India's National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**
- **The United States' Common Core Standards**

The result is a bespoke, proprietary curriculum designed exclusively for The One School, engineering an environment where intellectual curiosity flourishes seamlessly. "Modern parents seek an educational haven where children can learn without apprehension, ignite their innate creativity, and evolve through self-discovery from their most formative years. The One School is our definitive answer to that aspiration." > — Sindhura Narayana, Puneet Kothapa, Ravichandra Chakka and Anusha Chakka At its inception, The One School will welcome young learners from Pre-Primary through Grade 2, with a vision for progressive, annual expansion into higher grades. Under the stewardship of the Director Nuwaira Pasha and Principal Bandhavi Chandrasekhar, the institution boasts a faculty of seasoned educators with an international pedigree.

We gave oxygen to Andhra Pradesh which was on ventilator: Chandrababu

TIRUPATI, JUNE 12



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government during the last two years gave oxygen to Andhra Pradesh that was on a ventilator. Declaring that the government remains committed to upholding the public trust through continued good governance, he called for a collective effort to make Andhra Pradesh a model state for the nation. He stated that the NDA government started administration after treating the public mandate given in the 2024 elections as a responsibility entrusted to rebuild the state. He was addressing a public meeting at Daminedu in Tirupati district to mark two years of the TDP-led coalition government. Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, state BJP president PVN Madhav and other NDA leaders addressed the public meeting titled "Two years of trust, development and welfare" The Chief Minister highlighted the welfare and development initiatives undertaken by the coalition government. He outlined the government's achievements in governance, welfare delivery, infrastructure, investments and economic development. The Chief Minister also acknowledged the consistent support extended by the Union Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasising that Andhra Pradesh's progress has been strengthened through the Centre-State partnership. Explaining the achievements of the 'Double engine government' over the past two years, he cautioned people against political conspiracies aimed at hindering the state's development.

He reminded public representatives that they are servants of the people, not rulers and must remain accountable to citizens. "Responding to our appeal to protect democracy and rebuild Andhra Pradesh, people delivered a historic verdict with 57 per cent vote share and 164 seats. We viewed the 2024 result not as a victory but as a responsibility entrusted to us for rebuilding the state. We chose to work as servants of the people rather than rulers," he said. Chandrababu Naidu stated that when the coalition government assumed office, every sector was in crisis, and institutions had been weakened. He alleged that the destruction under YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) rule began with the demolition of 'Praja Vedika' and ended with a debt burden of nearly Rs 10 lakh crore. Central schemes and irrigation projects were neglected, investors were driven away, the future of youth was compromised, and those who questioned the government were harassed, he said. He claimed that the coalition government restored law and order, stabilised governance and rebuilt damaged systems. The Chief Minister said that Andhra Pradesh lost valuable opportunities between 2019 and 2024 and that the present government is systematically

correcting the damage. "We promised welfare, development and good governance, and we are delivering on those promises. Along with the Super Six commitments, we are implementing our manifesto in a time-bound manner." He mentioned that under NTR Bharosa, pensions worth over Rs 65,000 crore have been distributed. Through Talliki Vandanam, the government is supporting children's education. Under the Shakti scheme, women have benefited from 710 million free bus journeys. Through Annadata Sukhibhava, in partnership with the Union Government, farmers are receiving Rs 20,000 annually. Paddy procurement payments are being credited within 24 hours. "Welfare is reaching all sections of society, including toddy tappers, stone workers, priests, imams and muzzins. We are enabling SCs, STs, BCs and other communities to generate electricity through subsidised rooftop solar systems. Through P4, we are working to improve living standards. Through the Sanjeevani initiative, we are strengthening education and healthcare. We have filled 15,941 teacher posts through Mega DSC and recruited 5,757 police constables," he said. The Chief Minister claimed that the government has restored Andhra Pradesh's cred-

ibility among investors. "We are establishing 175 MSME parks across the state. Investors who left during the previous administration are returning. Through the Speed of Doing Business reforms, approvals are being granted quickly and efficiently. Within just 36 days, approvals were granted for a fifth-generation fighter aircraft project at Puttaparthi. Rayalaseema is emerging as a horticulture hub and is attracting investments in space, drone and defence sectors. A Royal Enfield manufacturing unit is coming to the Tirupati district. Gold mining operations are set to begin at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district." The Chief Minister also announced that the government would work toward implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies. He congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 12 years in office and praised his leadership. "The Union Government has consistently supported Andhra Pradesh in key areas such as Polavaram, Amaravati, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the Railway Zone. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office have laid a strong foundation for India's future and accelerated development across sectors. Because of the people's continued support for him, India is moving forward confidently. Twenty-five crore people have been lifted out of poverty. The country has built 1.46 lakh kilometres of national highways and expanded airport infrastructure significantly. Despite global challenges and conflicts in West Asia, India remains among the countries with the lowest inflation rates due to the Prime Minister's policies," CM Naidu added.

No power tariff hike in two years

None planned for next three, says Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

AMARAVATI, JUNE 12:



Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Friday said that the Andhra Pradesh government had not increased electricity tariffs during the two years since the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu assumed office and assured consumers that there would be no tariff hikes or additional burden during the remaining three years of its tenure. In a statement issued on the completion of two years of the coalition government, Mr. Ravi Kumar said the government had focused on strengthening the power sector financially while ensuring that consumers were not subjected to additional charges. He said the State had implemented a 13-paise "true-down" adjustment without imposing any extra burden on consumers. The Minister alleged that the previous YSR Congress Party government had weakened the power sector both operationally and financially. He said the present government had restored stability in the sector within two years through administrative and financial reforms. Mr. Ravi Kumar said the government had reduced dependence on power purchases from other States by enhancing electricity

generation capacity within Andhra Pradesh. He added that the State was pursuing a long-term strategy to develop 160 GW of renewable energy capacity to meet future demand. Referring to the PM Surya Ghar scheme, he said the government aimed to provide six lakh rooftop solar connections free of cost to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households in the State. Subsidy support was also being extended to eligible beneficiaries under the programme. The Minister said infrastructure works were being undertaken under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to strengthen the power distribution network in rural areas. New substations and transmission lines were being constructed to reduce transmission losses and improve the quality and reliability of power supply. These measures would help minimise power interruptions and address low-voltage issues in several regions, he added.

Diversion Route Revised for Guruvayur–Chennai Egmore Express

CHENNAI, JUNE 12

Southern Railway has announced a revision in the diversion route of the Guruvayur–Chennai Egmore Express and Chennai Egmore–Guruvayur Express due to operational reasons. The change supersedes an earlier notification issued on June 11. **Train No. 16128 Guruvayur–Chennai Egmore Express**, scheduled to depart from Guruvayur at 11.15 pm on June 13, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, will be diverted to run via Thrissur, Palakkad, Pollachi and Dindigul. Consequently, the train will skip its scheduled halt at Shoranur on these

dates. The previously announced stoppage cancellation at Shoranur will remain in force. **Similarly, Train No. 16127 Chennai Egmore–Guruvayur Express**, scheduled to leave Chennai Egmore at 10.40 am on June 27, 28 and 29, will be diverted via Dindigul, Pollachi, Palakkad and Thrissur. The train will also bypass Shoranur station during the diversion period, and the halt at the station will remain cancelled. Southern Railway has advised passengers travelling on these services to take note of the revised routing and make necessary travel arrangements accordingly.

Those who are 'timid, ungrateful' abandoning ship: Aadiya Thackeray on TMC rebellion

MUMBAI: (JUN 12)

Slamming TMC lawmakers for rebelling against the party, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aadiya Thackeray on Friday said the "timid and ungrateful", who are indifferent to what the party and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee did, are abandoning the ship. Thackeray, whose own party in Maharashtra suffered a split in 2022 following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde, called the Trinamool Congress (TMC) rebels timid and not acknowledging what the party has done for them. The West Bengal assembly poll setback has triggered an open rebellion by a section of MLAs and MPs, many of whom have questioned party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's leadership and his growing influence over organisational affairs of the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Took 3 years to be CM, will spend next two to hold power: Vijayendra on DKS's term

BJP state president BY Vijayendra accused Chief Minister DK Shivakumar of spending the past three years chasing power and the next two trying to retain the chief minister's post.



Karnataka BJP president KBY Vijayendra on Friday took a swipe at newly appointed Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, claiming that the Congress government had squandered the past three years on internal power struggles and that the next two years would be spent safeguarding the chief minister's chair rather than governing the state. Speaking to India Today, Vijayendra said the leadership change in Karnataka would bring little relief to the people. According to him, the Siddaramaiah-led government failed to deliver on development due to constant infighting within the Congress. He alleged that

Shivakumar, who served as deputy chief minister, spent the last three years focused on becoming chief minister and would now spend the remainder of the government's term trying to retain the position. "The Congress government achieved nothing in the last three years. There was no development because of the infighting. DK Shivakumar spent the last three years trying to grab the CM's chair, and I am sure he will spend the next two years trying to retain it," Vijayendra said. On the cabinet formation, Vijayendra claimed that dozens of Congress MLAs were camping in Delhi amid intense lobbying for ministerial berths. The Karnataka BJP chief also alleged that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had taken it as a challenge to ensure that leaders from the Siddaramaiah camp, including BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan and HC Mahadevappa, were not included in the cabinet. The Karnataka BJP chief further alleged that corruption would increase under the

new leadership and accused the Congress government of failing to inspire confidence on governance issues. Referring to the alleged garbage tender controversy, Vijayendra challenged the government to hand the matter over to the CBI if it was serious about tackling corruption. "If the Chief Minister is serious about tackling corruption, let him hand over the garbage scandal for a CBI investigation," Vijayendra said. He alleged that the Congress government was comfortable with a Lokayukta probe and maintained that the BJP would continue to press for a deeper investigation into the issue. The Karnataka BJP chief further alleged that corruption would worsen under the new dispensation. Referring to the BJP's longstanding criticism of the Congress government, he said the party would continue its fight against what it views as a corrupt administration. "Corruption will go to its peak. That is the only change you can see under the new chief minister," Vijayendra said, adding that the BJP would fight the Congress "tooth and nail."

Questioning Shivakumar's claims of providing a corruption-free administration, Vijayendra said the people of Karnataka were well aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the state's new chief minister. While declining to elaborate further, he maintained that the Congress government's record over the last three years had failed to inspire confidence and reiterated that the BJP would continue to hold the government accountable on issues of governance and corruption. He also reiterated that the BJP would continue to aggressively oppose the Congress government and hold it accountable on issues of governance, corruption and public spending.

Hitendra Malhotra, DG (Safety), Railway Board Visits Rail Coach Factory

KAPURTHALA, 12 JUNE 2026

Shri Hitendra Malhotra, Director General (Safety), Railway Board, visited Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala today. Upon his arrival at RCF, Shri Malhotra held a comprehensive meeting with Shri Ajay Nandan, General Manager, along with Principal Heads of Departments and other senior officers. The discussions covered key issues relating to coach safety, production performance, and the manufacturing of new-generation coaches during the current financial year. On this occasion, the Design Department



of RCF made a detailed presentation highlighting various initiatives undertaken by the factory to enhance safety in coaches and strengthen other critical safety features. During his visit to the workshop, Shri Malhotra closely inspected the coach manufacturing processes and

reviewed the production of a rake incorporating newly introduced safety features. He also examined the electrical equipments and systems installed in the coaches and held detailed discussions with RCF officials on various safety-related aspects. He shared valuable insights

and suggestions for further strengthening safety measures in coach manufacturing. Appreciating the state-of-the-art infrastructure and efficient manufacturing processes at RCF, he offered constructive recommendations aimed at enhancing safety standards and operational

efficiency. Shri Malhotra also visited the Technical Training Centre (TTC) at RCF, where he reviewed the various training programmes being conducted for employees. He interacted with officials associated with training activities and examined the course content, training methodology, and facilities available for skill development and capacity building. Appreciating RCF's efforts towards enhancing the technical competencies of its workforce, he underscored the importance of continuous learning and upskilling to meet the evolving technological requirements of modern coach manufacturing. Ap-

preciating the technological advancements achieved by RCF, Shri Malhotra advised the organisation to adopt and promote best practices for further enhancing safety features, productivity, and operational excellence. He also assured that the Railway Board remains committed to extending all possible support to RCF in its pursuit of higher growth, innovation, and technological advancement. Later, representatives of the recognised union submitted a memorandum to Shri Malhotra highlighting various staff-related issues concerning employees' welfare, working conditions, and organisational development.

Woman arrested for sexually assaulting friend's teen daughter, 4th case against her

25-year-old woman in Kannur has been booked for allegedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl. The case surfaced after the teenager disclosed the incident in counselling, and police are also examining her alleged links to other cases.

A 25-year-old woman has been booked for allegedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl, said Kerala police on Friday. The accused, Sneha Merlin, 25, is a resident of Kannur in Kerala. Police said the alleged incident took place a few months ago in Kasaragod at the survivor's house, but she did not initially tell anyone about it. The matter came to light during a counselling session, after which the girl's parents learnt of the incident and lodged a complaint against Merlin, who is a friend of the survivor's mother. According to the police, Merlin used to visit the family's house regularly because of her friendship with the girl's mother. On one such visit, she allegedly sexually assaulted the girl, police said. A case has been registered against Merlin under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Officials said her arrest would

be recorded soon. **NOT THE FIRST TIME** Police also said Merlin was already involved in three other POCSO cases registered at the Taliparamba police station, including the alleged sexual assault of a girl in March 2025. The other two survivors in those cases were minor boys, including the brother of the girl involved in the Taliparamba case. For the offences registered under the Taliparamba police jurisdiction, Merlin has been charged under Sections 75 (sexual harassment) and 332 (house trespass) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Additionally, investigators have invoked Sections 5(l) (penetrative sexual assault) and 9(l) (aggravated sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Apart from these offences, Merlin was also allegedly involved in other criminal cases, police said. They added that further investigation into her background is under way. The latest case was registered after the teenager disclosed the alleged assault during counselling, leading her parents to file a complaint. Police said they are continuing their investigation while also examining Merlin's alleged involvement in other cases.



EDITORIAL.

The Anatomies of Avoidable Disasters: Unmasking India’s Industrial Safety Failures

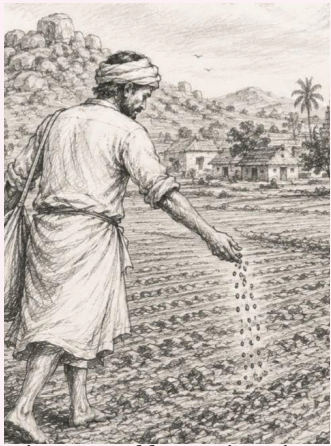
Even though there is a relentless streak of recent industrial accidents across India, a dangerous narrative persists: the notion that these tragedies are merely isolated, incidental mishaps. Within a matter of days, two starkly different catastrophes illustrated this grim reality: four workers perished inside a toxic septic tank in Surat, while nine others were killed by a violent explosion at a steel plant in Visakhapatnam. On the surface, the circumstances appear entirely distinct. One involved laborers entering a confined space and succumbing to lethal gases; the other involved 150 tonnes of molten steel and a massive blast. Yet, the underlying truth is that the industrial sector has recognized these specific risks—and possessed the engineering solutions to prevent them—for decades. In the Surat tragedy, the four workers who entered the tank were immediately overcome by toxic fumes. The mechanics of this incident follow a notoriously predictable pattern of confined-space fatalities, where the initial victims are swiftly followed by desperate, would-be rescuers who rush into the hazard without any personal protective equipment. This is not a novel hazard; Surat’s industrial sector has witnessed multiple deaths under identical circumstances in recent years. Standard protocol dictates that such working areas must be mechanically ventilated, rescue personnel must be stationed on standby, and the workers themselves must be equipped with breathing apparatuses, safety harnesses, retrieval lines, and clear lines of communication. Unprotected entry should be strictly prohibited by law. Ultimately, septic tank fatalities and manual scavenging deaths are rarely “accidents” in the sense of being unforeseeable events; they are systemic failures of basic safety management, and their regular recurrence speaks to the stubborn persistence of that failure. Likewise, while steelmaking is intrinsically more hazardous because it fuses extreme temperatures, pressurized gases, heavy machinery, and massive stores of thermal energy, the industry is well aware of these hazards. It is equally aware that even relatively minor process failures can quickly escalate into multiple casualties. “Occupational safety research consistently demonstrates that contract workers face significantly higher risks because they receive deficient training and operate within fragmented systems of accountability.”

Both of these recent incidents, alongside the broader historical patterns they extend, serve as stark reminders of the deep-seated safety failures plaguing many segments of Indian industry. In the wake of the Visakhapatnam blast, trade unions and former employees alleged that the steel plant had been operating with reduced staffing, heavier individual workloads, aging equipment, deferred maintenance schedules, and an ever-increasing reliance on contractual labor. Some observers explicitly linked these deteriorating operational trends to the financial and structural difficulties the plant faced following the Central Government’s divestment plans, which severely constrained new capital investments. Regardless of the precise weight of each individual factor, they collectively confirm an established rule of risk management: a major industrial disaster is almost always the result of an accumulation of organizational weaknesses rather than a single, random failure.

In fact, the reliance on contract labor is central to understanding the systemic rot behind both the Surat and Visakhapatnam incidents. Occupational safety research has consistently found that contracted workers face disproportionately higher workplace risks because they routinely receive less comprehensive training and operate within corporate structures characterized by fragmented accountability. Furthermore, these tragedies have unfolded during the gradual, highly uneven implementation of India’s new occupational safety framework. They vividly highlight an uncomfortable, often invisible truth: the country’s industrial sectors remain anchored by archaic, systemic problems. These include severe manpower shortages, caste- and class-based exposure to the most hazardous forms of labor, and a pervasive “cost over safety” mindset that dominates financially stressed and cutting-edge units alike.

BEFORE BREAD,
EVERY EMPIRE IS DUST

The hand that sows the dawn in silence
Returns at dusk with empty palms
The hand that bargains death for profit
Sleeps beneath cathedral psalms.
Vice builds vineyards crowned with gold,
Their towers bruise the painted sky
Yet fields that nourish nations still
Hear hungry children softly cry.
The earth remembers every tear
Entrusted to its patient clay;
Each drop returns as bread for life,
Though few recall the price to pay.
A seed is never grain alone—
It is tomorrow’s hidden breath,
The quiet syllable God whispers
Against the grammar taught by death.
The plough is older than the throne,
Older than empire, crown, or creed
For kingdoms rise by sharpened swords,
But life itself begins with seed.
The wind may praise the cedar’s height,
The sea exalt the mountain’s name
Yet every palace ever raised
Must bow before a stalk of grain.
Gold has never ripened wheat.
Marble has never conquered thirst.
The proudest vaults of human wealth
Lie helpless when the fields are cursed.
What age is this that crowns the cup
Where poison sparkles into wine,
Yet leaves the bowl of harvest bare
Where calloused hands seek bread divine?
If one lone farmer folds his hands,
The stars will keep their ancient fire;
Yet cities dressed in mirrored light
Will perish beneath silent hunger.
Libraries cannot season bread.



Coins cannot blossom into rice.
Markets may measure every cost,
Yet never learn life’s sacred price.
The merchant’s silk shall fade to dust,
His ledgers vanish into flame;
History will remember instead
The nameless shoulders without fame.
For every empire writes in stone,
And every kingdom writes in steel
But Earth and Heaven write their truth
In furrows carved by humble zeal.
When monuments become but sand,
When banners fade and thrones are past,
One timeless truth shall still remain
The farmer was the first and last.
He buried hope in lifeless soil,
Entrusted darkness with the dawn;
While mighty hands pursued their pride,
He kept creation moving on.
Before bread, every empire is dust.
Before the harvest, every crown must fall.
The world endures not by the wealth of kings,
But by one faithful hand
Placing a single seed into the darkness,
And believing the light will return for all.

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



OPINION
HONORED AS ARCHITECTS OF THE NATION,
DENIED SAFETY AT HOME

For decades, Indian society has proclaimed its commitment to women’s empowerment. Women are described as the “other half of society” and equal partners in the nation’s development. Numerous policies and programs have been launched to enhance their participation in education, employment, politics, and leadership. Governments have repeatedly pledged to ensure greater representation of women, including reserving 33 percent of seats in legislative bodies. Society proudly celebrates women’s achievements across diverse fields. Yet, beneath these encouraging narratives lies a troubling reality that compels us to re-examine the true state of women’s empowerment in India.

Recently, the Supreme Court of India made a landmark observation by recognizing homemakers as “nation builders.” The Court acknowledged that the unpaid labor performed by women in managing households



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

and caring for families possesses immense economic and social value and can no longer be ignored. At the same time, data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) reveal a disturbing truth: one in four women in rural India and one in six women in urban India experience some form of violence. This stark contrast exposes a profound contradiction. The woman who is hailed as a nation builder is often the same woman who lives under the shadow of insecurity, discrimination,

and violence within her own home and society.

The Supreme Court’s recognition of homemakers marks a historic step toward acknowledging women’s unpaid labor. For generations, household work has been viewed merely as an extension of duty, affection, or sacrifice. Cleaning the home, preparing meals, raising children, caring for the elderly, maintaining family health and values, managing household affairs, and nurturing social relationships have all been considered a woman’s natural responsibility. As a result, this labor has rarely been measured in economic terms. In reality, if a family were to hire separate individuals to perform all the tasks undertaken by a homemaker, the financial burden would be substantial. Despite this, homemakers receive neither wages nor adequate social recognition. They work around the clock, every day of the year, without holidays, promotions, or retirement benefits.

Therefore, the Supreme Court’s assertion that homemakers contribute not only to their families but also to nation-building is far more than a legal observation—it is a transformative social message. In a motor accident compensation case, the Court suggested that the value of a homemaker’s services should be assessed at a minimum of ₹30,000 per month. This is not merely a judicial determination; it is a challenge to the longstanding mindset that undervalues domestic work. Indeed, the

invisible labor of women forms the foundation of the economy. If unpaid domestic work were formally measured and incorporated into the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), India’s economic landscape would look remarkably different.

While the judiciary has acknowledged the immense contribution of homemakers, an equally important question remains unanswered: Are women receiving the dignity, security, and respect they deserve? Unfortunately, the answer remains far from satisfactory. According to NFHS data, violence against women continues to be a serious social challenge. Nearly 22 percent of married women between the ages of 18 and 49 have reported experiencing domestic violence during their married lives. This reality highlights a painful paradox. The woman whose labor sustains families and strengthens society often finds herself vulnerable to abuse within the very institutions she helps nurture. This situation persists despite the existence of numerous laws designed



to protect women and widespread awareness campaigns promoting gender equality. A natural question arises: If legal protections exist, government schemes are in place, and women’s empowerment has become a national priority, why does violence against women continue unabated? Why do many women still struggle to feel completely safe—whether at home, in public spaces, or in the workplace?

The answer lies not merely in legislation but in social attitudes. A significant section of Indian society continues to be influenced by patriarchal thinking. Women are often celebrated as the backbone of the family, yet many are denied equal decision-making power and genuine autonomy. Families depend heavily on women’s labor, but frequently fail to accord it the respect it deserves. This mindset often manifests itself in domestic violence, economic exploitation, and social discrimination.

The dowry system remains one of the most glaring examples of this contradiction. Despite educational progress and economic advancement, dowry demands and related crimes continue to surface across the country. Cases of dowry harassment and dowry deaths repeatedly make national headlines. It is deeply ironic that parents who invest years in raising and educating their daughters are often compelled to bear an additional financial burden at the time of marriage. Such practices are not

merely social evils; they represent a direct assault on women’s dignity and equality. Beyond dowry, women continue to face numerous other forms of violence and discrimination, including sexual assault, child marriage, human trafficking, witch-branding, and gender-based prejudice. These challenges are particularly acute in some rural and tribal regions, where superstition and social backwardness continue to fuel abuse. Such realities demonstrate that economic development alone cannot guarantee social progress. While India has advanced significantly in infrastructure, technology, and economic growth, the transformation of social consciousness has not kept pace.

Women’s empowerment cannot be confined to political representation or economic participation alone. True empowerment means dignity, safety, equal opportunity, and the freedom to make independent decisions. A woman who earns an income but suffers violence at home cannot be considered fully empowered. Likewise, political representation without social respect leaves empowerment incomplete. The time has come to adopt a multidimensional approach to women’s empowerment. Recognizing the economic value of domestic labor is important, but ensuring women’s safety and dignity is equally essential. Schools and families must cultivate values of gender equality from an early age. Men and boys must become active participants in this transformation. Lasting change cannot be achieved by educating women alone; society itself must change.

Particular attention must be given to rural areas by expanding educational opportunities, creating employment avenues, increasing legal awareness, and ensuring access to justice. Law enforcement agencies and administrative institutions must become more responsive and sensitive to women’s concerns. Effective implementation of laws is crucial to creating deterrence against offenders and ensuring justice for victims. At the same time, unpaid domestic labor must become an integral part of national economic discourse. Household work should no longer be viewed merely as a private responsibility but as a vital social and economic contribution. Such recognition would not only strengthen women’s self-esteem but also foster greater respect for their role within society.

The Supreme Court’s recognition of homemakers carries a powerful message: nation-building is not limited to Parliament, industry, the military, or public administration. The nurturing of families and the preservation of social values are equally fundamental to the strength of a nation—and women remain the principal architects of this process. However, if the very women who build families and shape future generations continue to face violence, discrimination, and insecurity, the dream of genuine nation-building will remain incomplete. The challenge before India today is not merely to calculate the economic value of women’s labor but to recognize the intrinsic value of women’s lives. A society that truly honors its homemakers as nation builders must ensure that they live not in fear, but in dignity; not in silence, but with a voice; not as victims, but as equal partners in shaping the future of the nation.

Sustainable Development
through ‘Blue Economy’

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Earth Sciences of the Government of India has set the goal of contributing to the ‘Blue Economy’ as the 6th important aspect of India’s future by 2030. In 2010, ‘Günter Pauli’ wrote a book titled ‘The Blue Economy: 10 Years, 100 Innovations, 100 Million Jobs’, which for the first time introduced the term “Blue Economy”. It is estimated that the global marine trade is worth 5 trillion US dollars annually, and this is expected to reach 10 trillion by 2032. 350 million people worldwide earn their livelihood from the fishing industry. It is estimated that by 2025, 34 percent of crude oil will be obtained from coastal areas. It is estimated that 50 percent of seafood is obtained through the aquaculture industry. Efforts to increase fisheries production are known as the “Blue Revolution.”

Blue Economy means....
The sustainable use of marine resources to achieve goals such as economic growth, improved living standards, job creation, and healthy marine ecosystems is defined as the ‘Blue Economy’. The “Blue Economy” contributes to the sustainable development of humanity worldwide and the production of products from the resources of the oceans while protecting the health of the oceans. The use of sustainable ocean energy for social development, increasing fisheries products, efficient use of sea surface transport, using seashores as tourism industries, absorbing carbon emissions by sea water, and managing waste water fall under the ambit of the blue economy. It should be understood that the blue economy is the efficient and environmentally friendly use of seas and coastal areas with innovative innovations for the benefit of all sections of society.

Blue economy is needed....
The UN Sustainable Development Goals have taken the topic of ‘Marine Resources in Sustainable Development’ as the 14th item. We know that 75 percent of the earth’s surface is covered by water, and 97 percent of it is in the form of oceans. The oceans absorb up to 30 percent of the

carbon dioxide emitted worldwide, protecting the ecosystem and reducing global warming. 3-5 percent of the world’s GDP is coming from marine resources. The oceans are contributing to the increase in the standard of living of humanity by providing income and employment opportunities. Marine resources are helpful in food security, inexhaustible energy products, in the manufacture of new medicines, in providing protein food, in obtaining



mineral salts from the seabed, and in national security. It is hoped that the oceans will also be considered a ‘sunrise sector’ in the coming days.

Factors influencing the blue economy:

Oil smuggling, dangerous Issues like arms trafficking, seas becoming centers of terrorism, human trafficking, and smuggling are all linked to sea waters. Every year, millions of people lose their jobs due to natural disasters like tsunamis, typhoons, hurricanes, and typhoons. Marine health is being affected by human-induced oil leakage and climate change. It should not be forgotten that sea temperatures, acidity, and problems with the survival of aquatic life are constantly increasing due to adverse climate change. Dirty water, agricultural waste, and plastic waste are causing severe pollution in sea waters. We are observing that the natural health of the oceans is becoming questionable due to the misuse of marine resources for selfish purposes.

Blue Revolution in India:

The Indian government has launched a concept called ‘Blue Revolution’. The ‘Blue Light Mission’ was introduced in the 7th Five Year Plan (1985-90) to boost the seafood and aquaculture industries. The effort to promote the fisheries industry and protect the fishing community was taken under the name of ‘Blue Revolution’. The aquaculture industry in India is growing significantly every year. It is heartening

to see the steps taken by the Blue Revolution towards environmental conservation, bio-system security and sustainable development. As a result of the Blue Revolution, the fisheries and aquaculture industries are expanding and paths are being paved for poverty eradication. Today, 4.7 million tonnes of fish are produced in India, recording a growth of 14.8 percent every year. India ranks 2nd in the world in the fisheries industry, registering exports of Rs 47,000 crore.

Importance of Blue Revolution in India:

Marine resources account for 4 percent of India’s GDP. The Indian subcontinent has a coastline of 7,516 km in 9 states, 12 major ports and more than 200 minor ports. It is noteworthy that 80 percent of India’s oil is transported by sea. Research results show that there are 5 times more profits from investments in marine resource utilization. The 14th theme, ‘Life Below Water’, has been adopted as the 1st UN Sustainable Development Goal. The

oceans are naturally available to humanity as renewable energy sources such as wind power generation and wave power generation on the coasts. Millions of families in India are earning their livelihood from marine water resources and improving their living standards. Marine resources play a major role in poverty alleviation.

Ways to grow the blue economy:

Through ‘Deep Sea Mission’ new technologies are being developed for the easy use of marine resources. India, which has joined hands with Norway since 2020, is paving the way for a sustainable blue economy. Modern changes are being made in port technology as a platform for the ‘Sagarmala Project-2015’. A scheme called ‘O-Smart’ has been introduced for the use of marine resources. ‘Integrated Coastal Zone Management’ has been established for coastal areas as well as seas to increase the living standards of the coastal population. We know that the ‘National Fisheries Policy’ has been brought as part of the ‘Blue Growth Initiative’. It is estimated that 10 million jobs will be created in India by 2025-26. The use of seas and coastal areas for the welfare of humanity, subject to environmental protection, the use of cutting-edge technologies in the use of marine resources, the use of seas for national security, the inclusion of marine resources in the economic development of the country, the effective use of the surface transport sector, and the control of marine water pollution should be carried out rapidly in the future. Strengthening coastal economic zones and designing new zones should be carried out continuously.

Let us hope that global humanity will take a step forward with sustainable benefits such as nutritional security, job creation, poverty eradication, combating adverse climate change, and raising living standards by making good use of marine resources within the scope of environmental protection with international coordination.

PROF. BURRA
MADHUSUDHAN REDDY
9949700037.



Department of Commerce Highlights 12 Years of Export-Led Growth

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12, 2026

The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in association with APEDA, organized an Interaction Programme on "12 Years Achievements of the Department of Commerce and Awareness Programme on Boosting Exports from Telangana" in Hyderabad today, bringing together exporters, industry representatives, trade promotion organizations and government stakeholders. Addressing the gathering, Ms. Priya P. Nair, Economic Adviser, EP (Agri) Division, Department of Commerce, Government of India, said that over the last 12 years, the Department of Commerce has played a pivotal role in strengthening India's position in global trade through sustained policy reforms, export promotion initiatives, market diversification and digital transformation.

She highlighted that India's total exports have nearly doubled from around USD 468 billion in 2013-14 to over USD 860 billion in 2025-26, driven by robust growth in both merchandise and services exports despite significant global economic uncertainties. She noted that sectors such as engineering goods, electron-

ics, pharmaceuticals, marine products, textiles, agricultural products, spices, and gems & jewellery have registered substantial growth during this period, while services exports have emerged as a major engine of India's export expansion. Ms. Nair further stated that the Department has significantly enhanced trade facilitation through initiatives such as Trade Connect, digital trade intelligence platforms and targeted support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Simultaneously, India has pursued an ambitious agenda of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), creating new market opportunities for exporters across sectors. Emphasizing the Department's long-term vision, she said that a strong focus on quality standards, traceability, infrastructure development and stakeholder engagement has laid a solid foundation for realizing the vision of making India a leading global trade and export hub. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. N. Bhavanisri, IAS, Secretary, Trade & Commerce Department and National Turmeric Board, stated

Telangana Urged to Harness Emerging Global Opportunities
India's Exports Nearly Double to Over USD 860 Billion in 2025-26 Through Policy Reforms, Market Diversification and Digital Trade Facilitation



that India produces nearly 12 million metric tonnes of spices annually, but exports only about 13 per cent of its production, indicating significant scope for growth in international markets. She noted that spices contribute more than 8 per cent of India's agricultural exports and that India continues to be the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices. Highlighting the contribution of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), she said that nearly 40 operational SEZs are functioning across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh, with exports touching almost ₹15 lakh crore. Telangana's SEZs have emerged as major hubs for pharmaceuticals, infor-

healthcare supplier. Sri R. P. Naidu, Assistant General Manager, APEDA, highlighted Telangana's growing contribution to India's agri-export sector. He said the state contributes ₹8,000-10,000 crore to India's non-basmati rice exports and is emerging as a major confectionery export hub through companies such as Ravi Foods and Karachi Bakery. He also highlighted APEDA's support for exports of GI-tagged Banganapalli mangoes, promotion of organic trade through Tracenet, and financial assistance for export infrastructure and quality testing facilities.

Sri Suresh Babu, ECGC, explained the corporation's role in protecting exporters against payment risks in international trade through credit insurance solutions covering commercial and political risks. He said ECGC assists exporters in assessing overseas buyers, obtaining credit limits and securing protection against non-payment. He also highlighted specialized products designed for MSMEs, single-buyer exposures, pre-shipment risks and domestic trade credit, while emphasizing the importance of documentation, compliance and timely declarations for effective risk management and claim settlement.

Dr. Sampath Kumar, ITS, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), outlined key export promotion measures being implemented under the Foreign Trade Policy, including digital services for exporters, benefits available under FTAs, support for MSMEs through e-commerce platforms, financial assistance schemes and trade facilitation initiatives aimed at helping Indian businesses expand their global footprint.

The speakers collectively urged exporters, particularly MSMEs, to proactively engage with the Department of Commerce, APEDA, DGFT, ECGC and other trade promotion agencies, participate in awareness and capacity-building programmes, leverage available government schemes and prioritize quality standards and certifications to scale up exports, generate employment and contribute to India's journey towards becoming a global trade powerhouse.



Viral Fever Outbreak Hits Pindki, Madesh Villages; Over 50 Residents Affected

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot/Uttarkashi: A viral fever outbreak has gripped Pindki, Madesh and several nearby villages under Geeth Patti in the Yamunotri region, leaving more than 50 people ill. Children, elderly persons and women are among those suffering from fever-like symptoms. Concerned over the rising number of patients, villagers have urged the Health Department to immediately dispatch a medical team and provide treatment to the affected residents. According to local residents, the outbreak has persisted for nearly three weeks, disrupting daily life in the remote villages. The illness has particularly affected school-going children, many of whom are finding it difficult to at-

tend classes regularly. Villagers say the lack of timely medical attention and health check-ups has worsened the situation. Residents including Ramesh Rawat, Soban, Sobat, Dinesh, Shravan, Pankaj, Parvati and Anganwadi worker Mrs. Dulari Devi said that a large number of people in Pindki, Madesh and adjoining villages are suffering from fever. Due to the remoteness of the area, patients are also facing difficulties in accessing medical facilities.

The villagers have appealed to the Health Department and district administration to organize a medical camp in the affected villages and ensure proper examination and treatment of all patients so that the spread of the disease can be controlled at the earliest.



Northeast Frontier Railway Registers Strong Freight

Performance in May 2026

MALIGAON, 12 JUNE, 2026:

In its continued commitment towards efficient freight operations and timely transportation of essential commodities, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved a significant milestone in freight loading during May 2026. NFR recorded a total freight loading of 1.033 million tonnes (MT) during the month. Several key commodities registered remarkable growth during May 2026, cement loading witnessed an exceptional rise of 231.3%, while dolomite loading increased by 31.1% over the same period last year. Petroleum Oil Lubricant loading also showed healthy growth of 12.5%. Additionally, loading under the

"Others" category, bamboo loading recorded a substantial increase of 142.9%, reflecting enhanced movement of construction-related and allied materials across the region. The steady increase in freight loading highlights the growing economic and industrial activities across the Northeast and adjoining areas. This sustained growth has not only strengthened the regional supply chain network but has also contributed significantly to the revenue earnings of Northeast Frontier Railway. NFR continues to focus on technological advancements, operational efficiency and customer-centric freight services to ensure reliable transportation and sustained growth in freight movement in the coming months.

Uddhav Thackeray calls urgent meeting of Shiv Sena-UBT MPs amid defection buzz

MUMBAI, JUNE 12

Following the dramatic political developments in West Bengal, intense political speculation has shifted to Maharashtra. In a swift move, former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray has called an urgent meeting of all his party's Members of Parliament (MPs) on June 14. The sudden decision has sparked widespread discussion in political circles, with questions being raised over the possibility of unrest within the party ranks. Thackeray has directed all party MPs to gather at his residence, 'Matoshree', on

June 14 amid political speculation over 'Operation Tiger'. Political observers view the meeting as a crucial exercise by Thackeray to ensure cohesion within the party's parliamentary ranks. All eyes will be on Parbhani MP Sanjay alias Bandu Jadhav, whose absence from recent party meetings has fuelled speculation about his political future. Speculation is rife that Sanjay alias Bandu Jadhav is in touch with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. For several days, rumours have circulated that a few MPs from the Thackeray faction are in communication with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Delhi High Court's Quashing of NewsClick Case Welcomed

VIJAYAWADA / CHANDIGARH / HYDERABAD, JUNE 12:

IJU Calls It a Moral Victory for Journalists

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU), in a media statement released on Friday, welcomed the Delhi High Court's judgment quashing the FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police against the NewsClick portal and its editor, Prabir Purkayastha, as well as the subsequent case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). In the statement, IJU President Balwinder Singh Jammu, Secretary General D. Somasundaram, and Vice President Y. Narendra

Reddy said that the judgment is a moral victory for all those who support media freedom in the country. They described it as a strong rebuke to government attempts to suppress independent voices and critical journalism. The IJU recalled that at a time when many mainstream media organizations were serving corporate interests and political propaganda, NewsClick had worked to amplify the voices of ordinary people. It continuously reported on the farmers' movement in New Delhi and questioned those in power. As

a result, the ruling establishment allegedly sought to silence NewsClick by filing cases based on false allegations. The union expressed concern that the government had invoked the stringent UAPA law against NewsClick Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha, leading to his arrest and imprisonment. It also stated that several journalists were unfairly arrested and harassed, and that nearly one hundred journalists associated with NewsClick lost their livelihoods as a consequence. The IJU noted that it had strongly

condemned these arrests and cases and had extended its support to NewsClick. It also stated that the union had played its part in mobilizing public opinion against what it described as unlawful actions. According to the IJU, the Delhi High Court not only quashed the FIR but also observed that there had been a misuse of legal provisions in the matter, sending a strong warning to those in power. The union demanded that government agencies immediately stop harassing independent journalists and withdraw all other cases filed against NewsClick without delay.

Red carpet rolled out for investment in Chhattisgarh

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12, 2026

Proposals worth Rs 9,580 crore received.. Chief Minister Sai invites Hyderabad-based investors at 'Investor Connect' Path cleared for 7,800 jobs across IT, textile, data center, and pharma sector's

Chhattisgarh today attracted investment proposals worth Rs 9,580 crore across high-growth sectors including data centers, semiconductors and GPU architecture, solar energy equipment, textiles, and pharmaceuticals at the state Investors Connect in Hyderabad. Seven major organizations submitted proposals that are expected to generate around 7,800 direct jobs, underscoring growing investor confidence in the state's industrial ecosystem and policy framework. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai handed over "Invitation to invest letter" to the prospective investors, marking a significant step in the state's efforts to position itself as a preferred destination for technology-led and manufacturing investments. Chhattisgarh Commerce and Industries Minister Lakhan Lal Dewangan and prominent industrialists, investors, and business representatives from southern India were present on the occasion.

Key Investment Proposals
The largest investment proposal has come from Hypernext Data Center Limited. The

company has expressed its intent to invest Rs 4,200 crore to establish a modern data center in Chhattisgarh, which is expected to generate approximately 250 jobs. In this era of the digital economy, data centers are considered a crucial foundation for a state's technological capabilities and future digital requirements.

Feegrave and Company Private Limited has proposed an investment of Rs 2,912 crore in the cement sector. This investment has the potential to provide employment to around 4,000 people. The cement industry is a key pillar of infrastructure development and will also boost local economic activities. Nivai Labs Private Limited has shown interest in investing Rs 1,000 crore in the semiconductor and GPU infrastructure sector. This investment, involving cutting-edge technology, will help integrate the state into the emerging digital and electronics economy and create approximately 200 jobs.

SG Mart Limited, operating in the solar energy equipment manufacturing sector, has proposed an investment of Rs 700 crore. The company



is engaged in manufacturing solar structure components, and this project is expected to provide employment to about 450 people. This investment is also viewed as a significant step towards promoting green energy. Shri Saravana Mills Private Limited has expressed its intent to invest Rs 528 crore in the textile industry. This project could provide employment to approximately 2,500 people. As the textile industry is a labor-intensive sector, it will create new job opportunities for the youth and women. Kabra Drugs, a company in the pharmaceutical sector, has proposed an investment of Rs 200 crore. The company is engaged in pharmaceutical manufactur-

ing and healthcare-related activities. This investment is expected to generate around 250 jobs. Dinshaw's Dairy Foods Private Limited, a renowned company in the dairy sector, has proposed an investment of Rs 40 crore. This project, involving milk processing and value addition, will provide employment to approximately 150 people and benefit milk producers as well.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said Chhattisgarh is emerging as a preferred investment destination, supported by streamlined approvals, a robust single-window system, strong infrastructure and industry-friendly policies. Inviting Hyderabad-based companies,

particularly in the IT, pharmaceutical and logistics sectors, to invest in the state, he assured them of policy support and a business-friendly environment, adding that Chhattisgarh has "rolled out the red carpet" for investors.

"Hyderabad's journey from an emerging IT destination to a global technology and innovation hub is inspiring. Chhattisgarh is working on a similar roadmap, and we are already witnessing encouraging results in sectors such as IT, manufacturing and services," Sai said while addressing the gathering at hotel Park Hyatt. Inviting investors to explore opportunities in the state, he noted that Chhattisgarh has organized investor outreach programmes across major Indian cities as well as in countries such as Japan and South Korea. These efforts have so far resulted in investment proposals worth more than Rs 8 lakh crore, he said.

Highlighting the state's industrial strengths, Sai said Chhattisgarh is emerging as a leader in green steel production and is rapidly strengthening its position as a national power hub. The state has re-

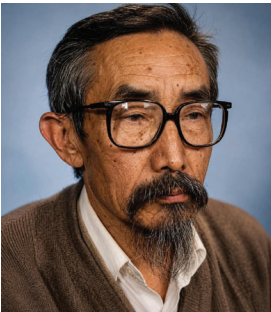
ceived investment proposals worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore in the energy sector, he added. During a visit to Hyderabad, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and the state delegation held meetings with senior executives from several of the country's leading companies. These included major firms such as Google India, IBM, Polycab India, Page Industries, and Delta Electronics. The discussions focused extensively on investment prospects in Chhattisgarh, available industrial infrastructure, and the state government's industry-friendly policies.

Chhattisgarh Principal Secretary to HCM Subodh Singh, Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary Vikas Sheel (IAS), Chhattisgarh Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industries Shri Rajat Kumar (IAS), Chhattisgarh Investment Commissioner Ritu Sain (IAS), Managing Director, CSIDC Vishwesh Kumar (IFS), CSIDC Chairman Rajeev Agrawal, Charman CII Chhattisgarh Bajrang Goel, Director of the Industries Department Prabhat Malik, and other officials were also present at the occasion.

Arambam Somorendra: A Visionary Revolutionary of Manipur

BY SH.AJIT

Imphal 12 June, 2026: Arambam Somorendra is the symbol of an alternative idea in Manipur. Two streams of idea emerged when the British left Manipur in 1947. One streams of thought was that Manipur would be bright under the Indian Republic: a democratic country opposite to monarchical, oppressive and repressive rules of the then nexus of colonialism and feudalism. At that time in the entire South Asia, the liberal democracy was the political fashion; this was considered by the antidote to the evils under the feudal society. Feudalism was the chain that kept all the men chained though all were born free. Indian freedom movement was also around the idea of liberal democracy in 'free India'. The dominant Indian political thought of that time was brought back by the Manipuri students who came back from Indian cities and towns; these students also witnessed the massive freedom movements in India. Another stream of idea was expressed in the social



and political actions defying the feudal and colonial authorities. The seed of such agitating idea was sown when the heroes of 1891 War feel. Their bloods and bodies became part of the soil of the country with which a brighter, greater and stronger Manipur would grow up. History does not create itself, history is created by the peoples who like to change the existing social and political system. Creation itself is a struggle: fight and fight back; no surrender. The idea was cultivated and re-located by Arambam Somorendra in the post-merger Manipur. A brighter Manipur is not guaranteed in Indian frame; it is within the political idea and appropriate actions of the people of Manipur.



No European country attacked with Indian weapons: Minister Jaishankar

Helsinki

European countries sell weapons that are used against India, but New Delhi has never done anything to endanger Europe's security, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

His sharp remarks came in response to a question on India allegedly adopting a "morally ambiguous" position on the Russia-Ukraine war during an interactive session held in Finland on Thursday.

Speaking at the Kultaranta Talks, the minister also said the US had "specifically" asked India to buy Russian oil to stabilise the global energy market after the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict in 2022.

"No European country has been attacked with Indian weapons. I wish I could say that for European weapons vis-a-vis India. So keep that in mind," Jaishankar said.

"Europeans sell weapons which are used to attack India. Not now. For many, many years," he said in an apparent reference to the long-standing supply of military equipment by several European countries to Pakistan. "We Indians have never done anything to endanger Europe," Jaishankar added.

Defending India's energy ties with Moscow, Jaishankar said New Delhi did not buy a significant amount of Russian oil before 2022 and turned to the Russian market only after the Ukraine conflict disrupted global energy supplies.

"When we started, we didn't buy a significant amount of Russian oil until 2022. Circumstances compelled us to get into that market," he said.

The Minister said Russia had been a reliable supplier at a time when energy markets were under severe strain and India, like other countries,



purchased oil based on price and availability. Recalling the situation following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, Jaishankar said the US had encouraged India to purchase Russian crude to help prevent turmoil in global energy markets. "At that time, the US specifically asked India to buy Russian oil to stabilise the world markets," he said.

The external affairs minister also criticised the US' double

standards and its "on-and-off" sanctions on Russian oil.

"After having first put tariffs on us last year for buying Russian oil, the US then again lifted its sanctions on Russian oil. So let's not pretend that there is some great principle involved here. "If it is on, off, on, off, and do it when it suits us and don't do it when it doesn't suit us... We are all adults in the room. We know what the game is. So I don't think making this about

sanctimony is really warranted," he said. The India-US ties came under strain last year after the Donald Trump administration imposed tariffs of up to 50 per cent on Indian exports, including an additional 25 per cent levy linked to New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil.

The duties were subsequently reduced to 18 per cent in February after the two sides agreed on the framework for an interim trade arrangement. Following a US Supreme Court ruling, the tariff rate was further lowered to 10 per cent.

After the outbreak of the Iran conflict, Washington eased restrictions on Russian oil exports. The move was aimed at preventing a spike in global crude prices amid concerns over supply instability in West Asia.

India, however, has maintained that its purchases of

Russian oil are guided solely by commercial considerations and energy security requirements.

New Delhi has consistently asserted that its energy policy remains independent of changes in US sanctions policy and that it will continue sourcing crude from wherever it is available at competitive prices.

Addressing the forum, Jaishankar reiterated that India's energy purchases were guided by economic considerations and the realities of the global market. India buys oil based on cost and availability, he asserted. When the Russia-Ukraine war broke out in 2022, "at that point of time, much of the oil available in the market was Russian because Europeans were essentially buying up the Middle East oil, which was our traditional supply. So circumstances pushed us in a certain direction," Jaishankar said.



Iran-US memorandum 'has never been closer': Iranian FM

TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday said that Tehran is very close to finalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) amid the ongoing negotiations with the US.

"The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding has never been closer. Pending its finalisation, the media should refrain from entering speculation about its content," Araghchi wrote on X.

"In line with our responsible and transparent approach, all details will be shared with the public in due course," he added. Earlier in the day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed not to let Iran have nuclear weapons until he serves as Israel's PM, adding that he and US President Donald Trump "are in complete agreement on this issue."

In a statement posted on X, Netanyahu stated, "As long as I am Prime Minister of Israel — Iran will not have nuclear weapons. There is full agreement between me and President Trump on this issue. For over 30 years, I have been at the forefront of the international campaign against Iran's nuclear programme."

"Had it not been for this campaign, Iran would long ago have had atomic bombs to destroy Israel. Iran is working to destroy the Jewish state, and I dedicate my life to preventing them from doing so. As long as I am Prime Minister of Israel, this will not happen," he added.

Netanyahu's statement comes a day after US President Donald Trump said that Iran has approved a framework agreement with the United States that would permanently bar Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, raising expectations that a formal signing could take place within days.

Speaking at the White House, Trump said negotiations had reached the final stage and that documents were being prepared for what he described as a major diplomatic breakthrough following weeks of conflict.

"We just made a great settlement of the war with Iran, and we're going to be subject to finalisation of documents, which should get done over the next few days," Trump said. "We have a deal that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon, which was the whole purpose of what we had to go through to get this."

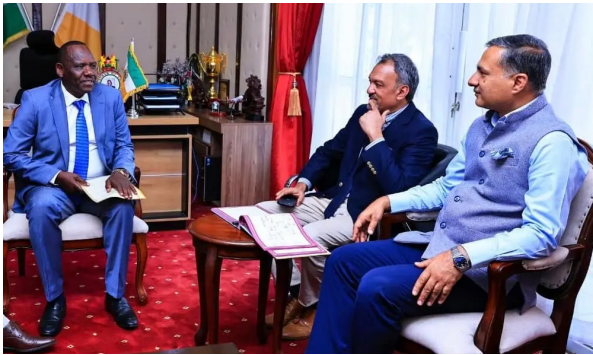
India and Kenya discuss partnerships, investments in various sectors

Nairobi

Indian High Commissioner to Kenya and Governor of Uasin Gishu County on Friday discussed opportunities for cooperation during the former's visit to Eldoret.

"High Commissioner called on the Hon'ble Governor of Uasin Gishu County, Jonathan Bi Chellim, during his visit to Eldoret," the High Commission of India in Nairobi wrote on X.

"Discussions pertained to opportunities for cooperation between India and Uasin Gishu county within the larger framework of India-Kenya partnership, particularly in attracting Indian investments in agriculture and agro-processing, health-care, sports, education and capacity-building," it added.



According to the High Commission, "the meeting underscored the growing engagement between India and Kenya in different domains and the potential for greater cooperation with the county." In April, the 10th meeting of the Joint Trade Committee of India and Kenya was held in Nairobi. The meeting was co-

chaired by Commerce Secretary of India, Rajesh Agrawal and Principal Secretary for Trade of Kenya, Regina Akoth Ombam, the High Commission of India in Kenya stated.

"Both sides held comprehensive discussions on enhancing bilateral trade, improving market access, addressing tariff

and non-tariff barriers, and strengthening cooperation in key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital public infrastructure, fintech, energy, including Renewable Energy and manufacturing," the High Commission posted on X. It highlighted that progress on development partnership and collaboration in areas such as logistics, infrastructure planning and capacity building was also reviewed.

"The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a more diversified, balanced and future-oriented economic partnership, and agreed to take forward institutional mechanisms to facilitate trade, resolve pending issues, and promote greater business-to-business engagement," it added.

From Kuwait to Kyrgyzstan, Indian missions hold yoga events ahead of IDY 2026

KUWAIT

Indian missions in Kuwait, Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Fiji and Niger organised curtain-raiser events on Friday, ahead of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Embassy of India in Kuwait organised a curtain-raiser yoga session at the Gulf SPIC Labour Camp on Friday in the lead-up to International Day of Yoga 2026.

"The event holds special significance as Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the camp during his historic visit to Kuwait in December 2024," the Embassy wrote on X. A large number of Indian nationals enthusiastically participated in the session, practising the Common Yoga Protocol and reflecting the spirit of this year's theme, 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', highlighting yoga's role

in promoting physical vitality, mental well-being, and a healthier quality of life across all age groups.

"Ambassador Paramita Trpathi also handed over sports kits, including carrom boards, chess sets, and cricket and football equipment, and underscored the importance of health, fitness, and active lifestyles as integral elements of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Khelo India and Fit India," the Embassy noted.

In Algeria, yoga lovers and Indian Embassy officials came together for a rejuvenating session led by Algerian yoga teacher Wasila Hamouni.

"Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni invited attendees to celebrate with their families and friends on 21 June, and encouraged them to join the upcoming mass online Yoga session on 14 June.

Trump cites Indian ships in Iran warning



WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday accused Iran of acting in bad faith during ongoing negotiations and claimed that a drone attack targeting Indian ships near the Strait of Hormuz had been thwarted, injecting fresh uncertainty into diplomatic efforts that he had earlier said averted planned US military strikes.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump rejected Iran's public description of the negotiations and said Tehran had misrepresented the terms of an agreement reached in writing.

"The terms that Iran leaked out to the Fake News have NOTHING to do with the terms that were agreed to, in writing," Trump wrote.

"What they said, including their weak and pathetic statement on having a deal, bears no relation to the truth. Very dishonorable people to deal with. With them, there is no such thing as dealing in good faith. AMAZING!"

Trump also alleged that Iran was behind an attempted drone attack on Indian vessels transiting one of the world's most important shipping corridors.

"Also, their totally rebuffed Drone attack last night against Indian Ships leaving the Hormuz Strait is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," he

said. "They better get their act together, and FAST!"

The President did not provide evidence for the claim, identify the vessels involved or explain how the alleged attack had been repelled. There was no immediate response from Iranian authorities.

The remarks came hours after Trump announced that he had cancelled planned strikes and bombings against Iran, saying discussions with the Islamic Republic had reached "the highest level of Iranian leadership" and received approval.

At the time, Trump said negotiations had been endorsed by several countries, including the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Egypt.

He had also said a naval blockade would remain in force until a final agreement is completed and signed.

The latest comments suggested that despite progress in negotiations, significant disagreements remain between Washington and Tehran. Trump's reference to Indian ships is likely to attract attention in New Delhi. India has major economic and strategic interests in the Gulf region, which supplies a large share of its energy imports and is home to millions of Indian nationals.

Pakistani forces kill two more civilians, forcibly disappear six others in Balochistan

QUETTA

As violence against civilians continues unabated across Balochistan, leading human rights organisations on Friday brought to light the extrajudicial killing of two more civilians and the enforced disappearance of six others allegedly at the hands of Pakistani forces.

Human rights body Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) revealed that the bullet-riddled body of 19-year-old farmer Shabeer Ahmed was dumped on June 8 in the Basima area of the Washuk district, after remaining missing for more than a month.

According to the BYC, he was forcibly disappeared on April 27, and his family received no information regarding his condition or whereabouts during the period of his disappearance. Condemning the extrajudicial killing of Shabeer, the



BYC said, "This incident reflects the continuing pattern of enforced disappearances and killings in Balochistan, where families are often left searching for their loved ones for months, only to later receive their dead bodies."

In a separate incident, 26-year-old police constable Shah Hussain was extrajudicially killed by a Pakistan-backed death squad last month in the Tasp area of the

Panjgur district. According to the BYC, Shah was forcibly disappeared on October 29, 2025, and later released on November 3 in the same year after a month of "illegal detention and torture".

"When the life of a state official such as Shah Hussain can be endangered through an arbitrary killing, it raises serious concerns about the security of ordinary citizens, who are even more vulnerable," the

rights body noted. Highlighting the atrocities against civilians in Balochistan, human rights body Baloch Voice for Justice (BVJ) alleged that six civilians were forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces in Balochistan.

The victims were identified as Sardarzada Mir Zehri Khan Mosiyani, Mir Dost Muhammad Mosiyani, Mir Irshad Ahmed Mosiyani, Mir Umeed Ali Mosiyani, Mir Shakar Khan Mosiyani, and Mir Sanaullah Mosiyani.

"The continued use of enforced disappearances in Balochistan has inflicted immense suffering on families who are left searching for answers while their loved ones remain missing. The authorities must be held accountable for these violations and must respect their obligations under national and international human rights standards," the BVJ stated.

Nepal: Construction begins at India-funded health and education

KATHMANDU

Construction of two separate hospitals and school buildings in Nepal's western Humla and Kailali district began in the last two days with Indian financial assistance, the Indian Embassy in Nepal said on Friday.

They are parts of the continued Indian assistance to develop essential social infrastructure in the country under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) programme, a development initiative of the Indian government for Nepal. On Friday, the foundation stone for the construction of the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Hospital Building at Chankheli Rural Municipality in Humla district was laid, according to a statement issued by the Embassy.

The project marks the third HICDP implemented in the remote mountain district of Humla,

reflecting continued development cooperation between Nepal and India at the grassroots level.

Earlier, the Indian government had extended grant assistance for the construction of a library building within the premises of Shree Saraswati Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Sarkegad area and a laboratory-cum-library building at Shree Mahadev Higher Secondary School in Chankheli-Darma area of the district.

Officials said the new hospital building is expected to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve access to medical services for local residents in the district.

In addition to infrastructure support, the Government of India had organised a study tour to India in July 2024 for a 10-member delegation comprising elected representatives from the rural municipalities of Chankheli, Sarkegad and Simikot in Humla



district. On Thursday, the foundation stone for the construction of a new building for Shree Janajyoti Secondary School was laid at the Sannitriwani Rural Municipality of Kalikot district.

The school building will be

constructed with financial assistance from the Indian government amounting to approximately NPR 93 million under HICDP programme. This is the first HICDP in Kalikot district of Nepal, the embassy said.

The HICDP programme is one of the key components of Nepal-India development cooperation, supporting projects in sectors such as education, health, community infrastructure and capacity building across Nepal.

Launched in 2003, HICDPs were previously known as Small Development Projects. The initiative supports small-scale infrastructure and community-based projects across Nepal through local authorities, focusing on priority sectors identified by the Government of Nepal, including health, education, drinking water, sanitation and drainage, rural electrification, hydropower, and river training works.

According to the embassy, nearly 600 HICDP projects have been undertaken by India across Nepal's seven provinces and 74 districts since the programme's inception.

The Government of India has also provided 56 ambulances and 14 school buses to institutions in comparatively backward Karnali Province, including four ambulances and two school buses in Kalikot district.



MEAI Mining 4.0 Conference Begins in Hyderabad

Amitava Mukherjee Calls for 'Smart, Safe, Sustainable' Mining

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12, 2026:

The two-day MEAI National Conference on “Mining 4.0: Advanced Technologies for Safe and Sustainable Mining Operations” commenced in Hyderabad on June 12. Inaugurating the event, NMDC CMD Amitava Mukherjee emphasized the need for “smart, safe, and sustainable” mining, highlighting the role of digitalisation, automation, AI, and advanced monitoring technologies in improving safety, efficiency, and environmental performance. The conference also stressed translating research and innovation into practical mining solutions. NMDC showcased its adoption of automated drills, remote sensing, digital monitoring, and real-time analytics to drive responsible and technology-led mining operations.

Markets rally on easing West Asia tensions, oil falling below \$88

Stock markets witnessed their strongest rally in nearly two months on Friday, with the Sensex soaring over 1,600 points and the Nifty gaining nearly 2%, as a sharp fall in crude oil prices after hopes of a peace agreement between the United States and Iran lifted investor sentiment.

The S&P BSE Sensex surged 1,695.40 points, or 2.30%, to close at 75,527.95, while the NSE Nifty50 jumped 461.30 points, or 1.99%, to settle at 23,622.90. The rally came after US President Donald Trump said that a peace deal with Iran could be signed as early as this weekend, raising hopes that the Strait of Hormuz could reopen and easing fears of disruptions to global oil supplies. Brent crude fell sharply by 3.84% to \$86.91 per barrel, slipping below the key \$90 mark, while WTI crude dropped 3.97% to \$84.23 per barrel. The decline in crude



prices was a major relief for India, which imports over 80% of its oil requirements. Lower oil prices reduce inflationary pressure, support the rupee and improve the country's overall macroeconomic outlook. **BROAD-BASED BUYING LIFTS DALAL STREET** The rally was broad-based, with all major sectors ending in the green. Nifty Realty emerged as the biggest sectoral gainer, climbing 3.53%. Nifty Financial Services rose 3.01%, Nifty Private Bank gained 2.84%, while Nifty PSU Bank advanced 2.71%. Nifty Consumer Durables jumped 2.38%, Nifty Midcap 100 gained 2.43% and Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 2.80%, indicating strong buying across broader markets. Among Sensex stocks, Bajaj Finance was the biggest gainer, surging 5.56%, followed by Larsen & Toubro, which climbed 4.94%. IndiGo rose 4.59%, Titan gained 4.03% and HDFC Bank advanced 3.73%. Eternal jumped 3.63%, Axis Bank gained 2.92%, Bajaj Finserv rose 2.69% and Kotak Mahindra Bank climbed 2.61%.

Only Tech Mahindra closed in the red, declining 2.24%, while most other heavyweight stocks ended with gains.

FALLING CRUDE IMPROVES INDIA'S OUT-LOOK

Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said the rally was driven by easing geopolitical concerns, falling oil prices and positive global cues.

He said signs of progress in US-Iran negotiations reduced geopolitical risks and improved global risk appetite, prompting investors to return to equities. "The resulting decline in crude oil prices is especially beneficial for India, as it helps ease inflationary pressures and improves the country's macroeconomic outlook," Gour said. He added that a stable rupee, comfortable liquidity conditions and broad-based buying in banking, auto, real estate and midcap stocks further strengthened investor sentiment. However, he cautioned

that investors should continue to track crude oil prices, geopolitical developments, global interest rates and foreign investor flows, as some consolidation after the sharp rally cannot be ruled out.

KEY LEVELS TO WATCH FOR NIFTY

According to Gour, Nifty has formed a strong base around the 23,070 level and has managed to close above its 20-day moving average, indicating improving short-term momentum. On the upside, 23,725 and 23,800 will act as immediate resistance levels. A decisive move above 23,800 could open the doors for a rally towards 24,000 and 24,200. On the downside, 23,250 and 23,150 remain important support levels. Bank Nifty continues to outperform the broader market and is expected to challenge the 57,000 mark in the near term. The resistance zone is placed between 57,000 and 57,450, while 56,000 and 55,555 will be key support levels.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. to increase prices of its cars & SUVs from 1st July 2026

MUMBAI, JUNE 12, 2026

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (TMPV), India's leading manufacturer of cars and SUVs, today announced that it will increase prices of its passenger vehicle portfolio, including both internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EV), by up to 1.5%, effective 1 July 2026. This price revision is being undertaken to partially offset the impact of rising input costs and sustained inflationary pressures. While TMPV continues to absorb a significant portion of these increases, a part of the impact is being passed on to customers through this adjustment.

The extent of the price increase will vary across models and variants, ensuring that the overall value proposition of each offering is maintained.

About Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (Formerly Tata Motors Ltd): Part of the USD 180 billion Tata Group, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (the

Company)*, BSE: Scrip code 500570; NSE: Scrip code TMPV) is one of India's leading automobile manufacturers, offering a diverse portfolio of cars and SUVs renowned for their design, safety, and performance. The Company delivers multi-powertrain options, advanced connected technologies, and intelligent personal mobility solutions. Known for its innovation, reliability, and engineering prowess, the Company is at the forefront of India's electric vehicle revolution, accelerating the nation's shift toward sustainable mobility. It continues to drive progress across zero emission, connected, and future ready mobility solutions, supported by robust design and R&D capabilities.

In terms of a Composite Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench, the name of the Company was changed from Tata Motors Limited to Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited w.e.f. October 13, 2025.

Inflation Climbs to 3.93% in May on Fuel, Food Price Surge

Food inflation continued to move higher in May. It stood at 4.78%, up from 4.20% in April, showing that prices of food items are rising faster than they were a month earlier.

India's retail inflation edged up to 3.93% in May, against 3.48% in April, mainly due to rising food and fuel costs, according to government data released on Friday. The figure remained within the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term inflation target range.

The May inflation rate is the highest recorded under the revised consumer price index series introduced in January this year. The new series uses an updated basket of goods and a new base year to measure price changes.

FOOD PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE

Food inflation continued to move higher in May. It stood at 4.78%, up from 4.20% in April, showing that prices of food items are rising faster than they were



a month earlier. The increase comes after food inflation had remained relatively low during the previous year.

FUEL PRICE HIKES PUSH UP TRANSPORT COSTS

Fuel prices also contributed to the rise in inflation. State-owned fuel retailers increased fuel prices four times during May, leading to higher transportation costs. As a result, transport inflation

climbed to 1.75% in May, compared with a decline of 0.01% in April. The rise reflects the impact of higher fuel prices being passed on to consumers. Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank said, "The sub-4% headline and core inflation points towards comfortable trends in the near term. While the softening crude oil prices and cap on the weakening rupee remain a tailwind, we continue to monitor the impact of adverse monsoons on food inflation. For now, we continue to expect a 50 bps rate hike

beginning in October."

RBI RAISES INFLATION FORECAST

Higher crude oil prices and concerns over a weak monsoon have added to inflation worries. In response, the Reserve Bank of India has raised its inflation forecast for the current financial year to 5.1%, up from its earlier estimate of 4.6%. The central bank has also flagged risks to the rupee and the country's current account deficit as higher oil prices continue to put pressure on the economy.

Jaipur Dairy Completes ₹133-Crore Modernisation Project

JAIPUR: (Jun 12): The Jaipur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union (Jaipur Dairy) has undergone complete modernisation and renovation at a cost of Rs 133 crore, officials said on Friday. According to an official statement, the upgraded plant equipped with advanced technology is expected to significantly strengthen the supply of milk and ghee in Jaipur and nearby districts. The inauguration of the facility is likely to take place soon. Dairy Minister Joraram Kumawat recently inspected the renovated plant and said the project is in its final stage, and that Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma will inaugurate it shortly.

MIA BY TANISHQ CELEBRATES HYDERABAD'S STYLE ICONS AT RUNWAY STAR EVENT

HYDERABAD, JUNE 6:

Mia by Tanishq, one of India's leading fine jewellery brands, hosted the Mia Runway Star event at Illuzion Club & Kitchen, Hyderabad, reaffirming its commitment to the city's vibrant customer base. The event, attended by valued customers and Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharjee, Head of Retail, Mia by Tanishq, celebrated the brand's strong connection with its customers. Hyderabad represents a strategic market for Mia by Tanishq, with its discerning Gen Z and millennial audience and a cosmopolitan culture that aligns seamlessly with the brand's ethos. With 17 stores in Hyderabad, the city's



youthful energy, contemporary fashion sensibilities, and appreciation for innovative jewellery design mark it as a crucial market for Mia by Tanishq's growth in South India. As the festivities and wedding season approach, Mia by Tanishq is poised to cater to the evolving tastes of Hyderabad consumers. The city's preference for chic, lightweight jew-

ellery that combines elegance with everyday practicality is reflected in the brand's versatile offerings, crafted with an international design approach. The event showcased Mia's readiness to meet these demands with collections that transition effortlessly from festive celebrations to daily wear, reinforcing its role as the preferred jeweller for

modern urban lifestyles.

The event served as an all-in-one destination for the loyal customers of Hyderabad to experience Mia's latest collections alongside other members of the Mia community. Customers adorned themselves in Mia jewellery and walked the ramp, embodying the true spirit of Mia women – confident, fashionable, and proud of their individuality. Over the years, the brand's design language has evolved for young women who are independent and self-expressive. With consumers at the heart of its design philosophy, the brand exhibited a wide range of jewellery – from minimal to glamorous and geometric to fluid designs

– underscoring its commitment to meet every style and occasion. Speaking at the event, Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharjee, Head of Retail, Mia by Tanishq, said "We are delighted to bring the Mia Runway Star event to Hyderabad, one of our key markets. At Mia by Tanishq, our customers are at the heart of everything we do, and this event celebrates our strong bond with them. Seeing them walk the runway with confidence in Mia's signature designs reflects the spirit of the brand. As we strengthen our presence in the city, we aim to be Hyderabad's preferred fine jewellery brand, offering jewellery that blends heritage with contemporary style."



Mexico Makes Dream Start at Home, Defeat South Africa in World Cup Opening Fixture

HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

The FIFA World Cup 2026 began with Mexico's dominant 2-0 victory over South Africa in the opening fixture of the tournament at the Mexico City Stadium. Displaying control, attacking quality, and defensive discipline, Mexico secured all three points as Julián Quiñones and Raúl Jiménez found the back of the net to guide their side to a winning start. Mexico took an early lead in the 9th minute when Julián Quiñones capitalised on a defensive error to put his team ahead, scoring the opening goal of the World Cup. South Africa came close to conceding again before half-time, but a Mexico effort struck the post in the 42nd minute. The contest shifted further in Mexico's favour in the 49th minute when South Africa's Sphephelo Sithole received a straight red card, leaving his side with ten players. Mexico continued to press and doubled their advantage in the 67th minute through Raúl Jiménez, who scored a header from a precise cross from Roberto Alvarado sealing the game for Mexico.

South Africa were reduced to nine players in the 84th minute after Themba Zwane was sent off, while Mexico captain César Montes also received a red card in stoppage time as both teams ended the match with dismissals. Julián Quiñones was named Player of the Match after scoring the opener and delivering a standout performance. Mexico's strong start and clinical finishing ensured a memorable opening-day victory, while South Africa's challenge was made more difficult by their second-half disciplinary setbacks. Watch the FIFA World Cup 2026 LIVE and exclusively on ZEE5 in Hindi, English, Malayalam, and Bangla

About ZEE5

ZEE5 is India's leading homegrown video streaming platform and a global destination for South Asian content, available across 190+ countries. With a strong focus on regional storytelling under the philosophy of Apni Bhasha, Apni Kahaniyan, ZEE5 offers content across multiple Indian languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, and Marathi.

Groceries, fuel, school fees

Is your monthly budget about to get tighter?

School fees, petrol, vegetables, utility bills—the list of monthly expenses never seems to end. As inflation rises, many families are asking the same question: is their budget about to get even tighter?

For many middle-class families, managing the monthly budget has become a constant exercise in prioritising expenses. Groceries, fuel, school fees, EMIs and utility bills already consume a large share of household income, leaving little room for unexpected costs.

Now, the latest inflation data is giving families another reason to pay closer attention to their spending. India's retail inflation rose to 3.93% in May from 3.48% in April, driven mainly by higher food and fuel

prices.

The increase may appear modest on paper, and inflation remains within the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone. But for salaried households and ordinary consumers, the latest reading revives a familiar concern: are everyday essentials set to become more expensive in the months ahead?

If your grocery basket seems costlier than before or filling up your vehicle is taking a bigger bite out of your monthly budget, the numbers suggest you're not alone. With food prices continuing to rise and fuel costs feeding into transportation expenses, household budgets are once again under the spotlight. For many middle-class families, the monthly budget is already a balancing act. Groceries, fuel, school fees, EMIs and



utility bills leave little room for surprises. Now, with India's retail inflation rising to 3.93% in May, many households are wondering whether everyday expenses are set to increase further in the coming months?

FOOD AND FUEL BACK IN FOCUS

For most households, inflation is not about percentages and economic forecasts. It is about how much they spend on vegetables, cooking oil,

transport and other daily essentials. The latest data shows food inflation rose to 4.78% in May from 4.20% in April. At the same time, state-owned fuel retailers raised fuel prices four times during the month, pushing up transportation costs across the economy. Transport inflation climbed to 1.75% in May from a 0.01% decline in April, reflecting the impact of higher fuel prices on consumers. The concern is

that when transport costs rise, businesses often pass on those expenses to customers, making a wide range of products costlier over time.

IS THE SITUATION BECOMING MORE SERIOUS?

Economists say the latest inflation reading was broadly in line with expectations, but there are signs that price pressures are building. Garima Kapoor, Deputy Head of Research and Economist at Elara Capital, noted that inflation remained below the 4% mark despite rising fuel and food costs. "CPI inflation for May came a tad below the expectation of 4% despite the pass-through of high fuel prices and elevated food prices. With recent measures announced by the RBI and the government amid the likely expected resolution of the West Asian crisis,

the macroeconomic backdrop has turned less adverse." Kapoor, however, expects inflation to remain elevated over the course of the financial year. "We see inflation averaging 5.2-5.3% in FY27 and see RBI hiking rates by 50 bps in H2FY27."

WHY THE MIDDLE EAST MATTERS TO YOUR MONTHLY BUDGET

One of the biggest concerns for policymakers is the impact of tensions in West Asia on global crude oil prices. India imports a large portion of its crude oil requirements. When international oil prices rise, the effects are eventually felt across the economy through higher fuel, transport and logistics costs. Adding to the uncertainty are concerns about a potentially weak monsoon, which could affect agricultural output and food

supplies. These developments have prompted the Reserve Bank of India to raise its inflation forecast for the current financial year to 5.1% from 4.6%.

EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS COULD FEEL THE IMPACT

According to economists, inflation is not yet broad-based across the economy, but some categories are already showing signs of pressure. Dr Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomeries Ratings, said India's inflation picture remains far more stable than it was in the years immediately following the pandemic. "Despite renewed inflationary pressures, there is no broad-based inflation. CPI inflation dipped significantly from the post-pandemic peaks, supported by easing food prices and prudent mon-

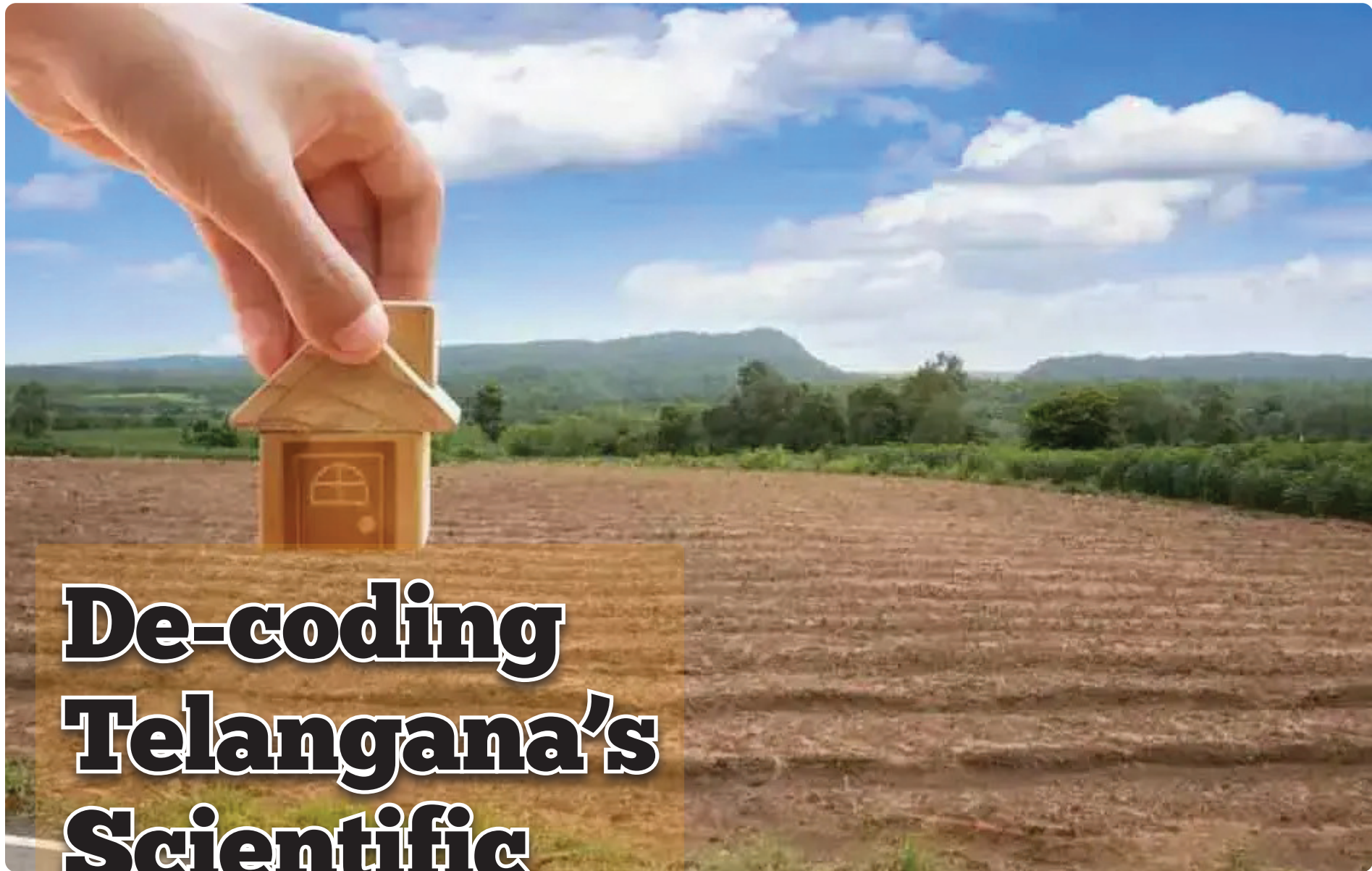
etary policy." However, he cautioned that higher input costs could gradually filter through to consumers. "Higher prices of edible oils, packaging materials, transportation and global energy could gradually spread across the economy," Sharma also highlighted several risks that could push prices higher in the months ahead. "The biggest risks are elevated crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in West Asia, weather-related disruptions affecting food production, and global supply-chain disturbances."

He added that a weaker rupee could further increase the cost of imported fuel, fertilisers and industrial inputs.

WHAT SHOULD HOUSEHOLD EXPECT?

For now, inflation remains below the levels seen during the post-pandemic surge, offering some relief to consumers.





De-coding Telangana's Scientific Land Value Appraisal

The Telangana real estate sector is witnessing a massive regulatory overhaul. On June 5, 2026, the Congress-led Telangana government officially implemented a highly anticipated, comprehensive revision of government market values (commonly known as circle rates or basic registration values)

for both agricultural and non-agricultural properties across all 144 Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs) in the state. This marks the first major structural overhaul of land rates in nearly a year, moving away from temporary adjustments toward a more permanent, data-driven framework.

What Changed on June 5, 2026?

According to Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, the primary objective of this massive exercise is to bridge the vast, archaic gap between artificially low official registration values and the actual open-market prices that buyers pay. In some premium pockets of Hyderabad, market rates were found to be up to 500% to 600% higher than the government record values. To rectify this discrepancy while avoiding a sudden shock to the system, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed the revenue department to implement a rationalized, multi-tiered slab system rather than an across-the-board percentage hike. The government has structured the market value increases into four distinct categories. They are:

- **25% and 50% Hikes:** Applied to mature, stabilized residential areas and established colonies in core city areas (e.g., portions of Secunderabad, Hyderabad city center).
- **75% Hikes:** Applied to rapidly developing semi-urban zones and growing commercial corridors.
- **100% Hikes (Doubling of Rates):** Strictly capped for high-growth, hyper-demand prime zones. This includes Hyderabad's Western Corridor, properties abutting the Outer Ring Road (ORR), radial roads, and major national highways.
- **0% Change (Unchanged):** Roughly 10% of the state's localities, where previous rates were already deemed to be accurately matching real-world market valuation (e.g., Banjara Hills, Film Nagar, Hyderguda), received no hike. Setting the Floor: New Minimum Rates To eliminate under-the-table cash transactions and prevent the intentional under-registering of cheap lands, the state has legally mandated hard price floors.

Rural Farmlands: Minimum basic value set at Rs. 2.75 lakh per acre. Municipal Corporation Agriculture Areas: Minimum floor of Rs. 5 lakh per acre.HMDA Limits: Farmlands must be registered at a minimum of Rs. 10 lakh per acre. ORR Region: A strict baseline floor of Rs. 15 lakh per acre.

Structural Modifications for Apartments and Buildings

The 2026 revision also fixes structural anomalies in the registration system. Previously, the government assigned varying values to flats within the same building based on which floor they were on. The new rules institute uniform registration values across all floors of an apartment project. Additionally, the state revised official construction cost rates for Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) and non-RCC structures for the first time since 2021 to account for skyrocketing labor wages and raw material costs (cement, steel). The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) and various Telangana Builders' Associations have actively engaged with the government throughout this transition. Builders and industry representatives have argued that while updating the basic card value to reflect real-world prices is standard practice, keeping the stamp duty and registration fee pinned at the current 7.5% rate creates an enormous financial barrier. Former CREDAI representatives and local builders highlighted that a 7.5% levy on a property value that has suddenly doubled means upfront registration outflows for the homebuyer will spike heavily. The builders' association requested the state government to proportionally lower the stamp duty percentage (e.g., lowering it back to 5.5% or 6%) now that the tax base (the land value) has shifted drastically upward. They argued this balance would protect velocity in property sales and keep housing affordable.

Transparent Banking and White-Money Transactions

Conversely, the move offers a massive sigh of relief for salaried, middle-class professionals who rely entirely on transparent bank financing. Historically, because official government values were so low, banks would only sanction loan amounts based on that depressed paper value, forcing common citizens to arrange large portions of the transaction in cash ("black money") to bridge the gap to the builder's actual market price.

With the government values now matching reality, banks can legally sanction higher loan-to-value ratios covering almost the entirety of the actual purchase price, significantly reducing the pressure on regular citizens to source unauthorized cash. The Government's Reaction and JustificationThe state government, led by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, has stood firm on the implementation while offering clear counter-arguments to the builders' concerns.No Stamp Duty Hike: The government directly clarified that it has no plans to increase the registra-

tion charge percentage beyond 7.5%. They heavily criticized the previous BRS government for unscientifically raising the base rates twice in six months (2021-2022) while simultaneously bumping the duty up to 7.5%. The "Capped" Buffer: The government revealed that internal revenue committees initially recommended a far steeper, unrestricted hike to match peak market value. However, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy deliberately stepped in and capped the maximum possible increase at 100% precisely to shield the common citizen and corporate developers from market shockwaves. A "Scientific" Framework: The state has emphasized that this revision is not an arbitrary cash grab but a scientific layout mapped by expert economic consultations. The values are pinned against massive state infrastructure pipeline metrics—specifically looking at future growth catalysts like the upcoming Regional Ring Road (RRR), expanding industrial multi-use zones, and radial connectivity.

The Common Citizen's Point of View

The latest hike has sparked intense debate among the middle class and everyday homebuyers, presenting both significant pain points and unique benefits. For a common citizen looking to buy a flat or an independent plot, the immediate impact is a steep increase in cash outflow during registration. For example, if a homebuyer purchases a property in a growth zone like Kokapet or Narsingi where the basic residential registration value has jumped significantly (e.g., to Rs. 27,000 per sq. yard), they can no longer register the property at a lower threshold to save on taxes. The extra 7.5% tax levied on the newly inflated government value must be paid directly out-of-pocket, as banks do not typically cover stamp duty in standard home loans.

Current Scenario of Telangana Real Estate Growth

Despite initial anxieties

surrounding the June 2026 rate revision, Telangana's real estate engine—particularly in the Hyderabad Metropolitan region—remains highly resilient, characterized by a transition from speculative buying to high-value end-user demand.

Micro-Market Analysis:

The West vs. The Rest

The Western Corridor (Financial District, Gachibowli, Nanakramguda, and Kokapet) continues to act as the primary economic driver, capturing over 65% of all new residential launches in the state. High-profile pockets have seen capital values surge. For instance, in Raidurg Panmaktha, the official baseline registration value moved from Rs. 13.84 crore to a staggering Rs. 24.22 crore per acre, mirroring its status as an elite IT-BPM hub. Pockets like Neopolis and the Narsingi-Kokapet cluster are experiencing massive double-digit growth. The North and East Industrial Conversion:

Pockets like Balanagar in the North Zone are experiencing a unique real estate boom driven by industrial-to-residential land conversions, capturing roughly 19% of recent market supply.

Shift Toward Luxury and TransparencyThe overarching trend in 2026 is digital transparency and sustainability. Buyers are moving away from unapproved layouts and unauthorized plots toward premium, RERA-approved gated communities. The market is also experiencing strong structural absorption in commercial office spaces, heavily backed by expanding Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sectors alongside IT corporations. While the new circle rates may cause a brief cooling-off period for small-scale local developers dealing in unorganized segments, the long-term outlook remains strong as the state repositions itself as a transparent, formal, and highly regulated real estate destination.

The Legal Reality

How Much Can a Landlord Legally Charge?

Historically, India lacked a uniform, nationwide law explicitly capping security deposits, meaning the amount fell entirely under the purview of mutual negotiation or outdated state-specific Rent Control Acts. This changed with the introduction of the Model Tenancy Act (MTA).

Under the framework of the Model Tenancy Act, clear statutory boundaries have been established: Residential Properties: The security deposit is strictly capped at a maximum of two months' rent. Commercial/Non-Residential Properties: The security deposit is capped at a maximum of six months' rent.

The Structural Catch: Because "Housing" is a State subject under the Constitution of India, the central Model Tenancy Act acts as a guiding framework rather than a blanket federal mandate. States must individually adopt, pass, or amend their local tenancy laws to reflect these caps.

Major states like Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh have actively revised their rental regulations to align with these tenant-friendly caps. Under these updated state rules, demanding a security deposit beyond the

Landlords demand high deposits primarily as insurance against sudden lease breaks, missed utility bills, or extensive property damage. If you have strong financial liquidity but do not want your capital locked up interest-free for years, offer a compromise.

Negotiate to slightly increase the monthly rent by 5% to 7% in exchange for slashing the security deposit down to 2 or 3 months. For many landlords, a higher monthly cash flow is more attractive than a stagnant lump sum they eventually have to return.

Utilize Professional Rental Bond Services

The fintech and proptech ecosystem in India has evolved to address this exact bottleneck. Look into institutional Rental Bonds or deposit-financing services. Companies operating in this space act as institutional guarantors. Instead of paying lakhs of rupees directly to a landlord, you pay a small, non-refundable premium to a financial entity that guarantees to cover damages or unpaid rent to the landlord up to a specified amount.

Crucial Clauses for Your Rent Agreement

If you do agree on a deposit amount, the battle is only halfway won. The ultimate protection against arbitrary deductions when you move out is a legal-



2-month threshold is considered a compliance violation, frequently attracting penalties and fines for unregistered or non-compliant tenancies. However, in pockets where older state laws still apply or where local markets function strictly via the Indian Contract Act, 1872, landlords still try to enforce high "market-rate" deposits out of habit.

The Art of the Counter: What to Do if Landlords Demand Hefty Deposits

If you encounter a landlord demanding a 6 to 10-month chunk of your savings upfront, you do not have to simply accept it or walk away immediately. Try these tactical, legal, and financial approaches to navigate the situation: Strategy A: Cite the Law and Present the Counter-Offer Many individual landlords are either unaware of the updated rental regulations or rely on the assumption that tenants won't question local "norms." Bring a copy or reference to the state's updated tenancy guidelines to the negotiation table. Point out that modern real estate standards favor a 2 to 3-month cap. Express your serious interest in the property but firmly state that an upfront 10-month lock-in deviates drastically from legal recommendations.

Leverage the "Higher Rent, Lower Deposit"

ly watertight, registered Leave and License or Tenancy Agreement. Ensure the following clauses are meticulously drafted:

The Explicit Refund Timeline: The agreement must state that the security deposit will be refunded on the exact date of handing over vacant possession of the premises, or within a strict 15-to-30-day window. The "Wear and Tear" Clause: The contract must explicitly state that deductions cannot be made for "normal wear and tear" (such as naturally fading wall paint, minor scuff marks, or aging plumbing pipes). Landlords can only deduct for structural damage explicitly caused by tenant negligence. Mandatory Photo/Video Documentation: Ensure a clause dictates that any deduction for repairs must be backed by receipts and photographic proof of the damage. The Era of landlords holding tens of thousands of your hard-earned rupees hostage under arbitrary, multi-month deposit rules is systematically drawing to a close. By arming yourself with the knowledge of your state's current legal caps, using tactical negotiation techniques, and ensuring your rental agreement treats "normal wear and tear" as an owner's cost, you can protect your financial liquidity and enjoy a transparent, stress-free tenancy.





CRICKET

India will play around No.3 slot in Virat Kohli's absence, says Morkel



DHARAMSHALA: India's fast bowling coach Morne Morkel has indicated that the team will experiment with the number three batting position in Virat Kohli's absence during the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, starting at the HPCA Stadium on Saturday. Kohli was ruled out of the three ODIs against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury picked up while hitting a match-winning 75 not out in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 final against the Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad. In his absence, Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul, and Yashasvi Jaiswal are in contention to bat at number three. "I think that's something that in this series we'll play around with, (whether) it's Ishan (Kishan) or KL (Rahul) or Yashasvi (Jaiswal). We have got a couple of one-day games coming up, and we'll give guys an opportunity in different slots.

FIFA WC 2026

I'd swap not scoring a goal for winning World Cup: Mbappe



NEW YORK: France star Kylian Mbappe has underlined the importance of collective success over personal achievements, saying he would gladly go through an entire FIFA World Cup without scoring if it meant lifting the trophy with his country. Speaking to French television channel M6, the 27-year-old reflected on his previous World Cup experiences, winning the title in Russia in 2018 and finishing runner-up after France's penalty shootout defeat to Argentina in the 2022 final. "I know how difficult it is to win a World Cup. As the years pass, you have to maintain the same hunger, motivation and excitement. Those are essential qualities if you want to go deep into the tournament," Mbappe said as quoted by Xinhua.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah extends his best wishes to participating teams

DUBAI

International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah has extended his best wishes to all 12 nations that will be participating in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which started with a clash between co-hosts England and Sri Lanka at Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Friday. Jay Shah praised the players for their commitment, talent, and determination, which he said will inspire fans for generations. "As the ICC Women's #T20WorldCup begins, I extend my best wishes to all 12 participating teams. Your commitment, talent, and determination continue to inspire fans and pave the way for future generations. May this tournament showcase the very best of women's cricket and take the sport to even greater heights," Jay Shah wrote in a post on X, formerly Twitter. New Zealand are the defending champion in the 10th edition of the ICC Women's T20 World



Cup, which is being hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board, with the final scheduled for July 6. England had previously hosted the inaugural competition in 2009. A total of twelve teams are competing in 33 matches across seven venues in England. Defending champions New Zealand will begin their campaign against West Indies in the fourth match of the tournament at the Rose Bowl on Saturday. Having lifted their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title in the UAE in 2024, the White Ferns enter the competition with confidence and will be eager to make a strong start to the defence of their crown.

Visionary Planning Needed for Injury-Prone All-Rounders: Chopra

NEW DELHI

With India leaning on a five-bowler combination for the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup due to injuries to key seam-bowling all-rounders Amanjot Kaur and Kashvee Gautam, former captain Anjum Chopra has said that 'visionary thinking' is needed to manage their loads more effectively.

The absence of Amanjot due to a back injury has already hurt the team's balance, with their bowling combination still having an unsettled look. Meanwhile, Kashvee and fellow seam-bowling all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar, who has spent most of the last two years at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) and is currently in action in the MP Women's T20 League, have also battled extended injury layoffs.

"See, injuries basically, it can happen to anyone. It doesn't come calling. But obviously, for a player who is coming out of an injury, CoE gives a ready-to-play certificate once they feel that the player is ready after doing the rehab and completing all the formalities - once they give it and once you walk into a team, then as a player, normally you don't hold yourself back.

"You try to start from where you actually finished before you picked up the injury. So there are no half measures in it. But the body does not know that. It takes time to acclimatise, get back into that fluency, and gain that strength. Now, in this middle phase or period, there will be some times when a player obviously requires assistance, rest, and a lower workload.

"People are obviously well qualified who are there with the teams. They come in from the Centre of Excellence. So they know exactly what's happening. I'm hoping there is good communication between the CoE and the ones who are handling the players in the present team, that is, the physios and trainers. So if that fluency is there, then it just needs to be managed very well," Anjum told IANS in an exclusive conversation ahead of India starting its T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan at Edgbaston on Sunday. Amanjot had missed out on a lot



of cricketing action in 2024 due to a stress fracture in her back and a hand ligament tear. She returned strongly in the 2025 WPL and played a key role in India's triumphant ODI World Cup campaign, despite needing treatment for minor flare-ups at the CoE. But a back injury and its ongoing recovery meant Amanjot was unavailable for the T20 World Cup, to be played in England from Friday till July 5.

Kashvee, meanwhile, was ruled out of the entire WPL 2024 season due to a severe foot injury. In 2025, she suffered a leg injury while playing in the ODI tri-series in Sri Lanka, with scans later revealing that it was a severe right knee injury. During the T20 World Cup squad announcement press conference, it was announced that Kashvee was ruled out due to a right knee issue needing surgery.

This situation has raised wider concerns over the fitness and longevity of India's premium seam-bowling all-rounders. "With the kind of workload that Amanjot Kaur or even Kashvee Gautam has, they are running around the park for 40 overs - either they are bowling, they are batting, or they are fielding, and that is what you expect from players like them.

"But somebody who is coming out of an injury back-to-back, playing matches or lesser time to recover, or maybe playing with a niggle, which can happen to anybody - I guess it's

just about understanding how better managed these injuries can be.

"If somebody requires rest, should they be given or should they be pushed to go and do a drill which can be avoided? So, I mean, to be fair, I wouldn't know the exact part. But all I know is that if a player is valuable, then she or he needs to be nurtured, protected, and preserved as well," added Anjum.

The buzz within the cricketing circles has been that when a player is declared fully fit, it takes time to regain full intensity at the international level, and it must be factored in while managing their return to playing or even the loads they are put through on match and non-match days.

According to those aware of the developments, instead of managing for the long term, the pacers and all-rounders are pushed to bowl much more overs than planned in practice, with recovery periods cut short, resulting in overload.

The buzz within the circuit has also pointed to a lack of consistency in load management, with decisions around the number of overs bowled in practice sessions decided on whims and fancies rather than a sorted structure. Many experts have claimed that this has led to recurring injuries, which have depleted the pool of seam-bowling all-rounders and, in turn, have hurt the side in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup.



Nora Fatehi stars in the second Opening ceremony at Toronto

TORONTO

The maiden FIFA World Cup in Canada started on Friday with a star-studded second opening ceremony ahead of the Group B match between co-hosts Canada and Bosnia and Herzegovina in Toronto.

Bollywood actor and dancer Nora Fatehi was the headline attraction, performing the official World Cup song 'Siir Siir'. Canada is hosting the FIFA World Cup for the first time in history, and begin their highly-anticipated campaign against Bosnia and Herzegovina, who made it to the tournament by beating European giants Italy.

The other performers who featured in the opening ceremony included Vegedream and Sanjoy, who took centre stage at the beautiful and majestic Toronto Stadium. The festivities in Toronto also featured performances from Jessie Reyez and Alessia Cara before the kick-off. Palestinian artist Elyanna also performed at the Opening Ceremony at BMO Field, Toronto.

While some fans took to social media to criticise FIFA for another opening ceremony, which many fans found not exciting enough, a fair



number of empty seats in the stadium in Toronto were also noted. Though the Aztecs Stadium in Mexico City was filled to the brim, the tournament's second fixture, South Korea versus Czechia at Estadio Akron in Guadalajara, witnessed noticeable swaths of unoccupied seats.

According to reports, a day before the tournament began, roughly 180,000 tickets remained posted across FIFA's official resale platforms. Approximately 15,000 group-stage tickets were still obtainable directly through FIFA's website. However, FIFA denied that the stadium in Guadalajara was empty. "Official

attendance figures reflect the number of tickets scanned, and spectators present within the stadium footprint, rather than visual assessments of seating occupancy at any given moment during the match. FIFA works closely with stadium authorities and ticketing teams to ensure all published figures are based on verified operational data," FIFA informed in a post by FIFA Media on X, formerly Twitter. "Please note that, during last night's match in Guadalajara, several ticketed fans could be seen standing in concourses rather than staying in their assigned seats throughout the match," the post said.

'The shooting range will never feel the same again': Manu Bhaker pays emotional tribute to coach Jaspal Rana

NEW DELHI

The passing of coach Jaspal Rana has left double-Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker devastated, with the pistol shooter saying, "the shooting range will never feel the same again". Rana passed away in New Delhi early on Friday morning at a hospital to which he was admitted, apparently due to complications arising from a recent stent procedure after suffering chest discomfort late in May. He was 49.

Manu paid emotional tribute to the coach who played a key role in her making a grand comeback from the disappointments at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and helped her win two medals in the Paris Olympics in 2024.

"I still can't believe it," Manu was quoted as saying by Olympics.com on Friday. "It is un-



believable news. I am struggling to process it. He was not just my coach, mentor, or guide, but also a friend who understood me better than most people," said Manu, who has reached Dehradun, where Rana's mortal remains have been taken to for final rites. One of India's greatest pistol shooters, Rana took to coaching after retiring as a competitive shooter. He initial-

ly trained junior shooters at his academy in Dehradun before joining the national setup and eventually becoming Manu Bhaker's coach. Rana played a pivotal role in Manu's development as a shooter, helping her navigate both success and adversity during their partnership. On Friday, Manu said that the bond they shared went beyond the shooting range. "There

were times when he was strict, and there were times when he simply listened," Manu recalled. "He always wanted the best from me, even when I did not understand it at the time. Looking back now, every lesson he taught me had a purpose."

"When we started working together again, it felt like coming home," Manu said. "He knew when I was confident, when I was nervous, and when I needed support. He always found a way to bring out the best in me," she told Olympics.com.

Manu said her achievements bear her coach's imprint. "Every medal, every success, every moment on the podium will always remind me of him," Manu said. "A part of those victories belongs to him because he never stopped believing in me, even during the most difficult phases of my career," she said.

Rohit would want to score those big hundreds that everyone expects from him, says Piyush Chawla

NEW DELHI

Former India leg-spinner Piyush Chawla has said veteran opener Rohit Sharma will be keen to hit the big hundreds that fans and the team have come to expect from him when the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan begins in Dharamshala on Saturday.

"When you are playing just one format for India, you want to spend as much time at the crease as possible because, no matter how much net practice or match simulation you do, an international match, regardless of the opposition, is a different challenge.

"So, as a batter, you want to score big runs and, if he is completely fit, he would want to score those big hundreds that everyone has come to expect from him. Because more than those quick 40s and 50s, the team would want those



innings of 120-130 runs off 100 deliveries from Rohit," said Chawla on JioHotstar.

On potential debutants during the series, Chawla felt Delhi-based rookie pacer Prince Yadav could get a chance. "All three of Gurmoor, Harsh Dubey, and Prince Yadav might get an opportunity during the series as an audi-

tion, especially if India win the first two games.

"But I see Prince Yadav as the strongest contender to get a chance among them. Not just in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, even in the IPL, under pressure, he executed his plans, bowled those yorkers consistently, and took wickets. So, my eyes will definitely

be on him." Quizzed on who fills the number three slot in Virat Kohli's absence and the bowling combination with no Hardik Pandya around, Chawla said the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Washington Sundar, and Kuldeep Yadav should be backed to fill those vacancies in the playing eleven. "Yashasvi Jaiswal hasn't done anything wrong. In the last ODI he played, he scored a century against South Africa. But given the current form, I feel Ishan Kishan would get the nod. And when you travel for a World Cup, you need a backup wicket-keeper, so he fits both those roles, a backup opener, and a backup keeper.

"Among the spinners, I would go with Washington Sundar and Kuldeep Yadav. Washington helps extend the batting until No. 8, and Kuldeep will take care of the middle overs. "If you look at his ODI

numbers, not many bowlers are even close to him. Among the pacers, I would like Arshdeep to get some game time, a bowler who can pick up early wickets, along with Prasidh Krishna."

Chawla signed off by saying Afghanistan's spinners would be central to deciding the contest's outcome. "Whenever you talk about Afghanistan, the focus is on their spinners, especially in white-ball cricket. Yes, the ones playing Test cricket may lack international experience, but that's not the case in limited-overs cricket.

"You will have Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi operating in the middle overs. And we know that Indian batters in the middle order like to show their intent against spin, so it will be a fascinating battle. That phase of the game will play an important role in determining the outcome."

MCA to honour Ravi Shastri and Mumbai legends at Wankhede

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) will unveil the Ravi Shastri Stand and dedicate stadium gates in the memory of former India stars Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar, and Diana Edulji at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday, honouring four of Mumbai and India's most distinguished cricketing figures. The unveiling ceremony will be graced by the Honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnis.

MCA President Ajinkya Naik will also be present, alongside Apex Council members, office bearers, and members of the cricketing fraternity. The decision to honour these legends was approved by the MCA Apex Council at its meeting held in February. As part of the initiative, the Level 1 Stand below the Press Box at the Wankhede Stadium will be named after former India captain and renowned commentator Ravi Shastri.



Arjun Das expresses delight over 'OG 2' getting confirmed!



Actor Arjun Das, who had played an important role in director Sujeeth's action entertainer "They call him OG", featuring Pawan Kalyan in the lead, has now expressed delight over the production house Pawan Kalyan Creative Works confirming a second part of the film. Quoting the tweet put out by the production house confirming the making of a second part, Arjun Das tweeted a series of images including those of a fire symbol and two blasts.

For the unaware, the production house had, while responding to requests for a second part, in its tweet, said, "As promised, he will. The timing, he will let us know. Once @Sujeethsign returns from abroad, we will dis-

cuss. #OG2

The success of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Telugu star Pawan Kalyan's 'OG' has become one of the most defining moments in his cinematic journey. The stylish gangster drama, directed by Sujeeth, showcased Pawan Kalyan in a role that perfectly blended intensity, charisma, and emotion. The film reignited a renewed passion for cinema in Pawan Kalyan, who openly expressed admiration for the world and characters created by Sujeeth.

The excitement surrounding an OG sequel has now reached new heights following the latest statement from Pawan Kalyan Creative Works. The excitement is not limited to fans but also to stars like actor Arjun Das, who were a part of the first film.

Singa Glimpse: Gopichand's Wild Beast Looks

The makers of T Gopichand's on-going film #Gopichand34 have unveiled the film's title, on the special occasion of the actor's birthday. The introductory title glimpse delivers exactly what mass audiences expect from a powerful action entertainer.

Rather than revealing everything instantly, the promo builds anticipation through sound. The visuals remain concealed in darkness as forest sounds dominate the screen. What initially appears to be a wild beast stalking its prey turns into the biggest surprise- Gopichand himself. Gopichand who underwent an unbelievable makeover appears in an intimidating new look, carrying an axe and staring with intense aggression. Every frame is de-

signed to highlight the character's ferocity, making the title reveal both impactful and memorable.

Venkat, stepping behind the camera for the first time after years of crafting action sequences, seems to have retained his understanding of hero elevation. The glimpse is packed with mass moments while maintaining an intriguing sense of mystery. Shamdat captures the mood brilliantly, while Sam CS's thumping score adds weight to every visual. Together, they create an experience that leaves a lasting impression.

Anarkali Nazar plays the leading lady opposite Gopichand in the movie, being made prestigiously.



Peddi Row: Janhvi Reveals The Scene That Terrified Her

Janhvi Kapoor's portrayal of Achiyyamma in Peddi may have sparked a storm online, but the actress says she had complete faith in director Buchi Babu Sana's vision. The film faced heavy criticism over Janhvi's hyper-sexualised presentation and certain controversial romantic scenes. The backlash eventually forced the director to apologise and announce changes. Amid the row, Janhvi has now opened up about the one scene she was genuinely scared of performing. Speaking to Beyond the Brief by District Movies, Janhvi said the director always has the final word on a film set. "The director obviously gets the final word because he is the one who says cut," she said, praising Buchi Babu for his rooted storytelling in Uppena. When asked which scene made her feel proud, Janhvi immediately picked her entry sequence in Peddi. She admitted that she was extremely nervous because the character was unlike anything she had played before. "I wondered whether I would be able to pull it off. But when I see the scene now, I think it is pretty cool," she said. Janhvi also recalled the challenge of delivering long Telugu dialogues before a huge crowd. As Telugu is not her native language, she memorised the lines and performed the entire monologue.

The actress said the crowd began clapping immediately after the scene, giving her instant confidence. "I think even they were surprised that I had memorised the lines and performed them," she said, calling the applause a clear and visible form of validation. Janhvi also spoke about living up to the legendary work ethic of her mother, late actress Sridevi. She said she grew up hearing stories about Sridevi shooting rain songs with a high fever and continuing to dance despite bleeding feet. Those stories deeply influenced Janhvi's approach towards cinema. The actress added that she has now collected a few such stories from her own career and hopes to share them with her children in the future. In Peddi, Ram Charan plays the title role, while Janhvi appears as his love interest, Achiyyamma. The film came under fire for scenes showing Peddi forcibly kissing Achiyyamma and later presenting the moment as romance. Following the criticism, Buchi Babu apologised and said the objectionable portions would be removed. Despite the controversy, Peddi continues to enjoy a strong run at the box office.

Anil Ravipudi Mark Fun, Buries GV

Anil Ravipudi stands out as one of the rarest filmmakers in the country, boasting a flawless 100% success rate. Remarkably, all nine films directed by him so far have gone on to become blockbusters- each one surpassing the previous in terms of scale, impact, and box office numbers. Continuing this remarkable streak, the director recently announced his next project featuring Victory Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram who previously collaborated with the director for different projects.

Sahu Garapati will produce the movie on Shine Screens banner. Suresh Productions and Smt Archana present the movie and Zee Studios partner it as co-producer. The latest update from the team is that GV Prakash Kumar has been signed to score the music. Rather than making a routine announcement, the makers unveiled his entry through an amusing promotional clip. Drawing inspiration from the iconic comedy world of Jandhyala, the video recreates a memorable Aha Naa Pellanta moment and transforms it into a hilarious conversation between Anil Ravipudi and GV Prakash. As Anil Ravipudi places a series of demands, GV has little choice but to agree, as he is shown buried up to his neck in the sand.

The promo generates plenty of laughs while introducing another important addition to the crew- renowned lyricist Anantha Sreeram. The playful video indicates the nature of the movie.

Continuing the festive sentiment, Anil Ravipudi is once again planning to bring this movie for Sankranthi.



Kriti Sanon has been turning heads with back-to-back stylish appearances as she promotes her upcoming film Cocktail 2. The film, directed by Homi Adajania, also stars Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna, and follows three people navigating the blurred line between friendship and desire. Kriti Sanon dazzled in a coral pink fitted bodycon dress with a square neckline and starfish-shaped sequin embellishments scattered across the silhouette. She accessorised with chunky gold bracelets, layered rings, and statement drop earrings, letting her long wavy hair fall loose.

Kriti Turns Up The Heat In Coral

