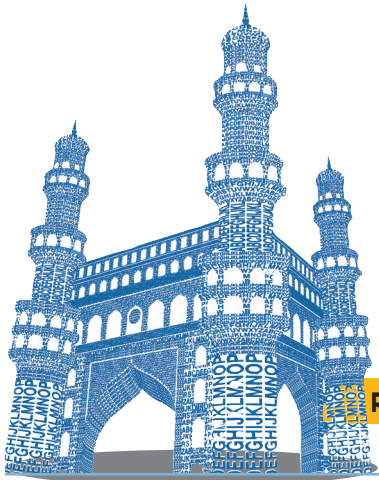




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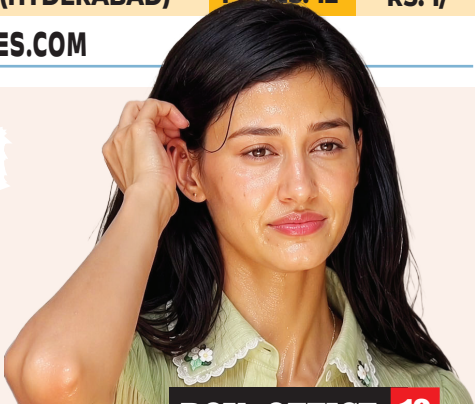
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ANTHROPIC SUSPENDS FABLE 5 & MYTHOS 5

SPECIAL 02

DISHA PATANI RULES THE GLAM GAME



BOX-OFFICE 12

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth to be next Army Chief

NEW DELHI, JUN 13

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth will be the next Chief of the Army Staff, the defence ministry announced on Saturday. Lt Gen Seth, currently serving as the Vice Chief of Army, will take charge of the top position on June 30 when the incumbent Gen Upendra Dwivedi retires.

The senior military officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. Over a distinguished military career spanning nearly four decades, he has extensive experience across operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains.

Lt Gen Seth has commanded at every level in diverse operational environments. His command assignments include an Armoured Regiment in the desert sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre, and a counter-insurgency force in Jammu & Kashmir.



EMERGING TECH HAS ALTERED DEFINITION OF WARFARE: RAJNATH SINGH

HYDERABAD, JUN 13

Asserting that new recruits to the armed forces must be mentally prepared for the evolving nature of modern conflict, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said major powers no longer hold an edge on the battlefield as even smaller forces can inflict significant damage using specialised tactics.

Addressing the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal near here, Singh also said emerg-

ing technologies have altered the very definition of warfare.

"Earlier, it seemed that the big powers had a decisive edge on the battlefield. But now, comparatively, even small powers can cause heavy losses with their small but dangerous weapons and new tactics. My purpose in telling you all this is that you should be mentally ready for any form of warfare," he said.

"In contrast to the visibility of soldiers and equipment earlier, many systems such as radars, satellites, drones, sensors and

robotics are deployed in modern warfare. Such scenarios are being witnessed now in which traffic systems and CCTVs of adversaries are being controlled," he said.

According to him, the definition of warfare has changed to a great extent. The newly commissioned officers should understand modern warfare and strategies and adapt, adopt, and if necessary, amend them.

Underscoring the importance of smart work along with hard work, he said smart nations are carving out a place for themselves

in the modern technology landscape.

Noting that IAF serves as a source of inspiration for crores of Indians, he cited the example of astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and exhorted the officers to uphold the rich legacy of the Force.

Congratulating the female pilots commissioned by the Indian Air Force, he said their growing numbers is making the IAF even more powerful, balanced and robust, which demonstrates the strength of the inclusive force.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

INDIA JOINS ELITE MISSILE CLUB

DRDO Demonstrates
Advanced Missile Capabilities
With BMD, NASM-MR Trials

02

June 17 Talks for Modi and Trump

NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Donald Trump are expected to hold a bilateral meeting on June 17 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, marking their first face-to-face interaction since February 2025.

The meeting assumes significance amid ongoing negotiations on a proposed India-US trade agreement and recent strains in bilateral ties over tariffs, regional security issues and maritime incidents involving Indian sailors.

Prime Minister Modi will attend the G7 Summit on June 16-17 at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. During the summit, he is expected to engage with leaders of G7 nations,

partner countries and international organisations on issues relating to global partnerships, sustainable economic growth and responsible deployment of artificial intelligence.

Trade Deal High on Agenda

According to White House officials, progress in negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement is likely to be a major focus of the Modi-Trump meeting.

The two countries have been engaged in intensive discussions following the signing of a joint framework agreement earlier this year. US officials have expressed optimism about expanding bilateral trade, particularly in sectors such as energy, industrial goods and agriculture.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CISF PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN NATIONAL SECURITY: GOVERNOR



02

Revanth Directs Swift Action Amid Rains in HYD

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

In response to the significant rainfall impacting Hyderabad, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed all senior officials responsible for departments and agencies within the Core Urban Region (CURE) to maintain a state of heightened readiness.

He directed the police, traffic police, municipal authorities, HYDRAA, electricity department, Water Board, and other related departments to work in coordination.

In a statement on Satur-

day, the Chief Minister has called for an urgent war-room review meeting with senior officials, including Chief Secretary, DGP, and Special Chief Secretary (CURE), to monitor the situation in real time and ensure the uninterrupted functioning of essential services and normal civic life across the city. Revanth Reddy ordered immediate action to ensure city residents do not face any inconvenience. He directed that teams be deployed in advance to areas prone to waterlogging and other problem spots, based on rainfall forecasts.

KISHAN REDDY SEEKS PROBE INTO Rs.1,600-CR SINGARENI COAL LOSS



HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to order a comprehensive inquiry into alleged irregularities in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), following media reports claiming that 40 lakh tonnes of coal worth nearly Rs.1,600 crore have gone missing.

In an open letter to the Chief Minister, Kishan Reddy said SCCL is a key pillar of Telangana's economy, supporting over 40,000 employees and contributing significantly to the country's coal production and energy security.

Expressing concern over the reported loss, he warned that any failure to verify the allegations could further weaken the company's finances, already strained by dues exceeding Rs.51,500 crore allegedly owed by the state government.

The Union Minister called for a fact-based investigation, a review of internal control systems, and the adoption of technology-driven monitoring mechanisms to improve transparency and prevent future lapses. He also stressed the need to safeguard the interests of workers and ensure the smooth functioning of the public-sector coal giant.

Bhatti announces sanitation of ₹1,000 crore for UPCOMING GODAVARI PUSHKARALU

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Congress-led People's government is giving top priority to the development of education, healthcare, and spirituality.

He laid the foundation stone for the development works of the renowned Guddemgutta Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Temple in the Mancherial Assembly constituency on Saturday.

Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponnampaluri Lakshmi Kumar, MLAs Prem Sagar Rao, Raj Thakur, Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, and several public representatives



participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister recalled that the issue of developing Guddemgutta Temple was raised during a public meeting held at Pippiri to mark the third anniversary of the completion of the People's March Padayatra.

He said that sanctioning funds within just 37 days of that meeting and performing the groundbreaking ceremony today reflects the efficiency and commitment of the people's government.

Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the Guddemgutta Sri Satyanarayana Swamy Temple would be transformed into a magnificent spiritual destination with an investment of nearly ₹70 crore.

He stated that within this short period, the government has sanctioned ₹2,216 crore for the development and rejuvenation of temples across Telangana. Referring to the successful conduct of the Saraswati Pushkaralu under the leadership of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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CISF PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN NATIONAL SECURITY: GOVERNOR

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) plays a crucial role in the country's security architecture. Addressing the Passing Out Parade of the 39th Batch of Assistant Commandant Probationers and the 9th Batch of Sub-Inspector trainees at the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hakimpet on Saturday, the Governor congratulated the officers on successfully completing their rigorous training. He extended his felicitations to the 76 Assistant Commandant Probationers and 124 Sub-Inspector trainees, and said that the discipline, confidence and professional excellence displayed during the parade reflected their dedication and commitment.

The Governor noted that the CISF has been rendering invaluable service



es in safeguarding airports, seaports, nuclear installations, space establishments, energy projects, metro networks and other critical industrial infrastructure across the country. Beyond protecting strategic assets,

the force also contributes significantly to safeguarding public confidence and supporting the nation's economic growth, he said. Referring to the evolving security landscape, Shukla observed that challenges such as terrorism, cybercrime and drone-based threats demand greater vigilance and preparedness. He expressed confidence that the young officers, equipped with professional competence, technological knowledge and sound leadership abilities, would effectively address these emerging challenges.

The Governor remarked that the stars adorning the shoulders of the officers symbolised not merely rank, but also the trust, responsibility and duty entrusted to them by the nation. He emphasised that true leadership is founded on character, integrity, courage and a spirit of service rather than authority alone.

Commending the ex-servicemen trainees who chose to serve the nation once again in uniform after rendering distinguished service in the Armed forces, he described their commitment and patriotism as exemplary.

MACHERLA KUMARASWAMY
SENIOR JOURNALIST

As India accelerates its journey toward becoming a global technology powerhouse, the next wave of innovation will likely emerge not from traditional software services but from deep-tech platforms that combine artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud operations, automation, and infrastructure intelligence. Hyderabad has rapidly positioned itself at the center of this transformation, producing companies that are moving beyond implementation and into the creation of globally relevant intellectual property. Among them is TCPWave, a Hyderabad-engineered company with leadership and customer engagement across the United States, focused on reimagining how modern digital infrastructure should operate in the age of AI.

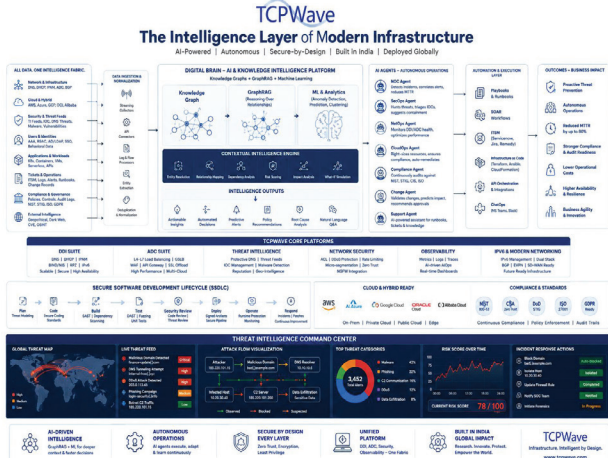
Unlike traditional networking vendors that view DNS, DHCP, IP Address Management, and load balancing as operational utilities, TCPWave sees infrastructure as a strategic intelligence platform. Its vision combines DDI, Application Delivery Control, cybersecurity, cloud integration, observability, and automation into a unified operational framework. What makes this approach particularly relevant is the company's investment in emerging technologies such as Knowledge Graphs, GraphRAG architectures, AI-assisted operations, predictive analytics, and threat intelligence. These technologies enable enterprises to connect operational data, cloud assets, network topology,

compliance information, support history, and cybersecurity events into a contextual knowledge fabric capable of delivering faster decisions and greater operational awareness.

The significance of GraphRAG and Knowledge Graph technology cannot be overstated. Enterprises today possess enormous amounts of valuable information trapped across tickets, runbooks, ar-

governments, financial institutions, telecommunications providers, and critical infrastructure organizations seek resilient and sovereign technology solutions, platforms capable of combining security, intelligence, governance, and automation will become increasingly strategic.

India's technology future will be defined by companies that create rather than con-



INDIA JOINS ELITE MISSILE CLUB

NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated a series of advanced defence technologies aimed at significantly enhancing India's capability to counter emerging aerial and maritime threats.

In a major achievement, DRDO conducted three consecutive flight tests on June 10 and 11, validating key components of India's multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system. During the trials, interceptor missiles successfully engaged designated targets, confirming the effectiveness of the layered defence architecture developed to tackle evolving missile threats.

The successful tests place India among a select group of nations possessing operational-level Ballistic Missile Defence capability, including the ability to intercept and neutralise



long-range ballistic missile threats, extending up to Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)-class targets.

Adding to the achievement, DRDO also successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR), marking a significant advancement in India's maritime warfare and coastal

defence capabilities. The missile is expected to enhance the Navy's ability to engage hostile warships and maritime targets with greater precision and effectiveness.

Senior officials from DRDO and the Armed Forces closely monitored the tests. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Rajesh Kumar Singh, lauded the coordinated efforts of DRDO scientists, industry partners and the Armed Forces in achieving the milestone.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and all stakeholders involved, stating that the successful demonstrations represent a major step forward in strengthening India's national security and technological self-reliance in critical defence sectors.

According to DRDO, the systems have been designed and developed using cutting-edge indigenous tech-

nologies to address current and future threat scenarios across multiple domains. The successful trials reflect India's growing capability in advanced missile defence systems and maritime strike technologies under the government's push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

The latest achievement follows the successful flight test of Phase-II of India's Ballistic Missile Defence programme, during which a target missile launched from Launch Complex-IV at Dhamra simulated an adversary ballistic missile. The target was tracked by land- and sea-based radars before being successfully intercepted by the Air Defence (AD) interceptor system.

The successful demonstrations reinforce India's position as an emerging global defence technology power and highlight the rapid progress being made in indigenous missile and strategic defence capabilities.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

June 17 Talks for Modi and Trump

FROM PAGE 1

While both sides are keen to advance negotiations, officials indicated that a final agreement is unlikely to be concluded during the G7 Summit. Instead, the leaders are expected to review progress and provide strategic direction for further discussions.

The proposed trade pact comes against the backdrop of tensions triggered by Washington's tariffs on Indian exports, differing positions on regional security issues and India's continued energy engagement with Russia.

Maritime Security Concerns

The talks are also expected to address growing concerns arising from the conflict in the Gulf region and its impact on international shipping.

India recently lodged a strong protest with the United States following attacks on commercial oil tankers carrying Indian seafarers near the Strait of Hormuz. While one vessel's crew was rescued safely, another attack resulted in the deaths of three Indian sailors, prompting New Delhi to seek accountability and call for restraint.

The Ministry of External Affairs stressed that attacks on civilian shipping threaten the stability and security of global maritime trade and underscored the need for dialogue and diplomacy to restore peace in the region.

France and Slovakia Visit

Prime Minister Modi's participation in the G7 Summit forms part of a broader two-nation visit to France and Slovakia.



In France, Modi will hold bilateral talks with President Emmanuel Macron and jointly inaugurate the "Bharat Innovates" event, aimed at strengthening cooperation in technology, startups and investment between India and France. The Prime Minister will also participate in the VivaTech Summit, Europe's largest technology and innovation event, and interact with members of the Indian diaspora.

In the second leg of the tour, Modi will undertake a historic visit to Slovakia at the invitation of Prime Minister Robert Fico. It will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country's independence in 1993.

The two leaders are expected to discuss cooperation in trade, investment, manufacturing and emerging technologies.

The government said the visit reflects India's expanding engagement with Europe and highlights the country's growing role in global economic and strategic affairs, as well as its position as a leading voice of the Global South.

US-IRAN PEACE DEAL TO BE SIGNED ON SUNDAY: TRUMP

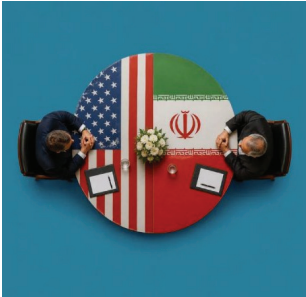
WASHINGTON, JUN 13

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that a deal to end the war with Iran will be signed on Sunday and the Strait of Hormuz will be "open to all" immediately after that.

"The Deal is scheduled to get signed tomorrow, and immediately after it is signed, the Hormuz Strait is OPEN TO ALL," the president said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump also contrasted the proposed agreement with the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated under former president Barack Obama. "Barack Hussein Obama's Deal with Iran, the JCPOA, was an easy, beautiful, smooth road to a Nuclear Weapon, which Iran would have had six years ago, and would have used long before now.

"My Agreement with Iran is the exact opposite, A WALL TO NO NUCLEAR WEAPON! In fact, they no longer want a Nuclear Weapon, nor will they have one, either through purchase, development, or any other form of procurement," he said.



Trump further claimed that Iran's nuclear programme had been effectively neutralised and said the remaining nuclear material would be disposed of at a later stage.

"At the appropriate time, when all is calm, we will go in and get the Nuclear Dust, buried deep under the powerful sunken granite mountains, thanks to our beautiful B-2 Bombers and their brilliant pilots, and downblend and destroy it, whether in Iran, or the United States," he said.

Pakistan's Foreign Office earlier said the United States and Iran were in the final stage of negotiations and that an electronic signing ceremony for the agreement was scheduled for Sunday.

Bhatti announces sanitation of ₹1,000 crore for UPCOMING GODAVARI PUSHKARALU

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Sridhar Babu, he said the government has now allocated ₹1,000 crore for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu, aimed at creating essential facilities and constructing bathing ghats for devotees.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government is paying special attention to the development of temples located along the Godavari river basin. As part of this initiative, ₹802 crore has been allocated for the development and beautification of pilgrimage centres stretching from Basara to Bhadrachalam.

He emphasised that the government is responding to the aspirations and faith of the people by making substantial invest-

ments in spiritual infrastructure.

Bhatti Vikramarka noted that along with promoting spirituality, the government is equally focused on strengthening agriculture, which is the primary livelihood of people in the region. In this regard, he announced that ₹74 crore has been sanctioned for the lift irrigation project in the Guddemgutta area, and the foundation stone for the works was laid on the same day.

The Deputy Chief Minister congratulated local MLA Prem Sagar Rao for working with a clear vision for the development of education, healthcare, spirituality, and irrigation sectors in the Mancherial constituency.

EMERGING TECH HAS ALTERED DEFINITION OF WARFARE...

FROM PAGE 1

He highlighted the Indian Air Force's success in high-stakes rescue missions and its role in ensuring the safety of foreign citizens during crises. "That way, during the humanitarian missions, the Indian Air Force has enhanced the Indian culture and ethos," he added. The event marked the successful completion of the pre-commissioning training of Flight Cadets across various branches of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

During the ceremony, Singh,

Reviewing Officer for the Parade, conferred the 'President's Commission' on the graduating trainees.

The ceremony also featured presentation of 'Wings' and 'Breves' upon successful completion of training to the Flight Cadets of the IAF, officers and trainees of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Singh presented the 'President's Plaque' to the Flight Cadets standing first in the overall order of merit in Flying, Navigation stream and Ground Duty branches.

Anthropic Suspends Fable 5, Mythos 5

NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

Artificial intelligence major Anthropic has abruptly suspended access to its advanced AI models, Fable 5 and Mythos 5, for all customers globally following an export control directive from the US government citing national security

concerns. The company argued that this level of capability is widely available from other models, including OpenAI's GPT-5.5, and is routinely used by cybersecurity defenders.

The US directive follows earlier alarms raised within the Indian government regarding advanced AI models. In April,

The company argued that this level of capability is widely available from other models, including OpenAI's GPT-5.5, and is routinely used by cybersecurity defenders.

"We disagree that the finding of a narrow potential jailbreak should be cause for recalling a commercial model deployed to



concerns.

According to the company's statement, the US government issued the directive to suspend all access to Fable 5 and Mythos 5 by any foreign national, whether inside or outside the United States, including foreign national Anthropic employees.

"The net effect of this order is that we must abruptly disable Fable 5 and Mythos 5 for all our customers to ensure compliance. Access to all other Anthropic models will not be affected," the company said.

The suspension is expected to impact Indian users and enterprises, as India is Anthropic's second-largest market.

The development follows major partnerships between the AI firm and Indian IT giants, including a recent deal with TCS to equip 50,000 employees with Anthropic's models, and a collaboration announced by Infosys in February to deploy advanced enterprise AI solutions using the Claude family of models.

Furthermore, select Indian government agencies and pri-

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman directed banks and financial institutions to bolster their cybersecurity frameworks and coordinate with CERT-In to counter emerging AI-linked threats.

The high-level meeting was convened amid global concerns surrounding Anthropic's Claude Mythos system, which the company had withheld from public release due to its advanced ability to exploit software bugs.

Anthropic stated it received the directive from the US government at 5.21 pm (ET) on June 12. While the letter did not provide specific details regarding the national security concern, the company understands that the government believes it has become aware of a method to bypass Fable 5.

Defending its models, Anthropic said it reviewed a demonstration of the specific technique and found it to be a "narrow, non-universal jailbreak" that essentially consists of asking the model to read a specific codebase and fix software flaws.

hundreds of millions of people. If this standard was applied across the industry, we believe it would essentially halt all new model deployments for all frontier model providers," Anthropic said.

The AI firm noted that perfect jailbreak resistance does not appear to be possible today and that it relies on a "defence in depth" strategy.

"This is also why Anthropic has required 30-day retention of customer data with Fable - a policy change that carries real costs for us with customers, but that allows us to research and mitigate jailbreaks."

Apologising to its customers for the disruption, Anthropic termed the government's action a "misunderstanding" and stated it is working to restore access as soon as possible.

"We believe the government should have the ability to block unsafe deployments, as part of a statutory process that is transparent, fair, clear, and grounded in technical facts. This action does not adhere to those principles," the statement added.

Education must Couple with Required Skills - Lion District Governor Kodandaram Simharaju



HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Lion District Governor Lion Simharaju Kodandaram said that only if the adolescents are educated along with the right modern life skills, they will become knowledgeable and intelligent and will provide effective leadership to the India of tomorrow. Speaking as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the prestigious two-day Lions Quest Teacher Training Workshop organized by the Satavahana Lions Club at the premises of the local St. George International School today, he said that Lions Quest training is useful in controlling social emotions among teenagers and guiding

their mental level accordingly in the right way. Lion M Bhadrasham, who was present as the special guest, said that Lions Quest training helps in achieving personal physical, mental and emotional balance among adolescents by keeping in mind the need for personality development training along with education. On this occasion, another distinguished guest, Lion A Siva Prasad, PDG, said that in today's education system that revolves around marks and ranks, Lions Quest will help in building a perfect personality, and efforts should be made to ensure that its benefits reach the students. St. George International School

Chairman Lion P Fatima Reddy said that they will make good use of the training opportunity with content prepared by international experts, and it will help a lot in instilling a positive attitude in the students. Chairman Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy said that today's students have a circle of peers, parents, teachers and civil society, and it is a good development to make children aware of its importance. Lion P Praveen, who presided over the meeting, said that it is gratifying that this school has come forward and is actively working for the training of Lions Quest teachers, which is being done free of cost by spending lakhs of rupees. Lion

Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Satavahana Lions Club Vice President M Mahender, GLT Coordinator E Ramesh, Region Chairman Lion V Jagadeeswara Chari, Treasurer Lion P Surender and others participated in the program. On this occasion, Master Trainer K Renuka and the guests were felicitated by Lion P Fatima Reddy and Principal Priyadarshini on behalf of the school management. In this program, 24 teachers from St. Johnson School and five teachers from Vision High School completed the training and received certificates. The guests expressed their happiness over the experiences of the teachers who were trained on this occasion.

DGP C.V. Anand Reviews Rain-Affected Areas

■ Directs Police to Remain on High Alert

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

In view of the heavy rains that lashed Hyderabad and several other parts of Telangana, Director General of Police (DGP) C. V. Anand inspected rain-affected areas, including malkampeta cheruvu tolichowki area and vicinity, to assess the ground situation and review measures being taken to address waterlogging and traffic disruptions. During the visit, the DGP held



discussions with Cyberabad CP ramesh regarding the prevailing conditions and the steps being taken to ensure public safety and smooth traffic movement in the affected areas. The DGP directed police officials to take immediate measures to

prevent water stagnation on roads, clear traffic bottlenecks, and coordinate closely with civic authorities for swift restoration of normalcy. He emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring of vulnerable locations and deploying adequate personnel at critical junctions to regulate traffic and assist commuters. DGP C.V. Anand also instructed all police officers across Hyderabad and other rain-affected districts of the state to remain on high alert and be fully prepared to respond to any emergency situation arising due to heavy rainfall. He directed

field officers to maintain close coordination with district administrations, disaster response agencies, and municipal authorities to ensure timely assistance to the public. The DGP advised citizens to exercise caution during travel, avoid waterlogged areas, and follow official advisories issued by the police and other authorities. He reiterated that the Telangana Police are closely monitoring the situation and are committed to ensuring public safety, effective traffic management, and prompt emergency response during the ongoing monsoon conditions.

Dr. Peruka Raju Conferred with the “Kaloji Sahitya Puraskaram-2026”



HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Renowned national poet, multilingual scholar, writer, lyricist, and translator Dr. Peruka Raju has been conferred with the prestigious “Kaloji Sahitya Puraskaram – 2026” in recognition of his outstanding contributions to literature. The award was presented today during a special programme organized in Warangal as part of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations. The event, organized by the

Telugu Velugu Sahiti Vedika, was held with great grandeur. The award recognizes Dr. Raju's significant contribution to Telugu literature through his powerful writings that reflect social consciousness and inspire positive change. Hailing from a humble labourer and farming family, Dr. Peruka Raju is currently serving as a Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army. As a national poet, lyricist, author, and translator, he has earned widespread recogni-

tion for building bridges between Indian languages, cultures, and literary traditions through his works. Apart from his literary achievements, Dr. Raju is actively involved in social service. He founded the voluntary organization “My Gift”, dedicated to the welfare of the poor and marginalized sections of society, guided by the motto “Encouragement is My Gift.” During this year alone, Dr. Peruka Raju has received twelve

prestigious literary awards and several other honours for his exceptional contributions. He also writes regular columns in English newspapers, further enriching contemporary literary discourse. His songs and literary compositions have won the admiration of readers and audiences alike. Literary scholars observed that this honour is not only a recognition of Dr. Raju's literary excellence but also a testament to his commitment to national values, social responsibility, and cultural harmony. The programme was attended by Brahma Sri Raju Kumar, Dr. Vishnu Vardhan, Kiran, Telangana representatives, literary personalities, artists, academicians, professors, youth, and other distinguished guests. On receiving the award, Dr. Peruka Raju dedicated the honour to the farmers who feed the nation, expressing his gratitude and respect for their invaluable contribution to society. Prominent personalities from various fields extended their heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Peruka Raju on this remarkable achievement.

Hyderabad being developed as global hub for healthcare innovation: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Minister for Information Technology and Industries D. Sridhar Babu said the State government is committed to positioning Hyderabad as a global hub for healthcare innovation by creating an internationally competitive ecosystem that fosters research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Inaugurating the two-day International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare at Yashoda Hospitals in Hitec City on Saturday, Sridhar Babu said AI had evolved beyond a sector-specific technology and was transforming every aspect of human life, particularly healthcare. He said AI was no longer lim-



ited to disease diagnosis and had advanced to a stage where it could predict potential health risks and facilitate personalised treatment tailored to individual patients. However, he asserted that AI could never replace doctors and that technology would benefit society only when guided by

human values and compassion. Referring to the growing elderly population and the increasing burden of complex diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular ailments, the Minister emphasised the need for innovative solutions. He said the State government was working to make Hyderabad a launch pad for next-generation healthcare technologies. Sridhar Babu underlined the importance of collaboration between academia and industry to ensure that AI-driven healthcare innovations reached ordinary citizens. The government, he said, was pursuing innovation-led strategies to prepare for future challenges and encourage new ideas. Stating that innovations should not remain confined to

laboratories, he said the government was actively supporting innovators and startups to translate research into practical solutions with tangible societal benefits. The Minister said Telangana had launched the country's first AI-based Data Exchange platform to accelerate research and introduced the ‘One Bio’ initiative to promote innovation in the life sciences sector. The State had also established a ‘Fund of Funds’ to support startups and strengthen the innovation ecosystem, he said. Inviting experts, innovators, companies and startups to partner with Hyderabad in shaping the global health-tech revolution, Sridhar Babu assured them of the State government's full support.

Divyanshi Singh becomes first Ex-Nda woman officer in IAF ground duty branch

Hyderabad, June 13: Flying Officer Divyanshi Singh has scripted history by becoming the first former woman cadet from the National Defence Academy (NDA) to be commissioned into the Ground Duty branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Inspired by her father, an air warrior who filled their home with tales of discipline, honour and selfless service, Divyanshi grew up admiring the values of discipline and service. After the NDA opened its doors to women, she cleared the entrance examination and successfully completed the rigorous military training.

SCR introduces access control system at Charlapally railway terminal from June 15

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13: To improve passenger convenience and streamline traffic movement, the South Central Railway (SCR) will implement an Access Control System at the newly developed Charlapalli Railway Terminal from midnight on June 15. The modern terminal, developed to ease congestion at Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Kacheguda and Lingampally railway stations, features spacious waiting halls, escalators, lifts, modular toilets and a dedicated parking area spread across more than 6,600 square metres. Under the new system, passengers will receive free vehicle exit within 20 minutes for pick-up and drop-off purposes.

CORRIGENDUM AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. N. 02 HQ. 2026-27
Corrigendum against Tender No.: N. 02 HQ. 2026-27, Date: 08-05-2026, for the work:- Provision of 4 x 48 fiber OFC for communication backbone in section New Tinsukia- Dibrugarh & Simalguri - Dibrugarh (143 RKM) of Tinsukia Division under HUNG sections covered within sanctioned KAVACH territory. Cost of work: ₹ 13,86,39,633.52/-;
The above tender closing date now to be read as 19-06-2026 at 12:00 hrs. instead of 09-06-2026 at 12:00 hours.
For details corrigendum kindly visit www.ireps.gov.in.
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Advt. No.: R/03/2026 dated June 01, 2026
The Institute invites **Online Applications** from Indian Nationals for the post of **Registrar in Level-14** of Pay Matrix:-144200-218200/- on Deputation terms or on Contract basis.
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY					
Palakkad Division					
E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/14/2026 dated 12/06/2026					
For and behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.					
SL No	Name of work	Approximate Cash value in (₹) Lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs.	Completion Period in months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Shoranur: Improvements to ballast depot for augmentation of depot capacity	436.26	8,72,500/-	14/07/2026	Fifteen
2.	Removal of vegetation, bushes in midsection along side track in between the tracks, side drain, catch water drain, cleaning in Senior Section Engineer/Permanent, Way/West/Podanur section for a period of 1 year.	150.72	3,01,500/-	14/07/2026	Twelve
3.	Removal of vegetation, bushes in midsection along side track in between the tracks, side drain, catch water drain cleaning, in Senior Section Engineer/Permanent, Way/East/Palakkad Section for a period of 1 year.	35.50	71,000/-	03/07/2026	Twelve
4.	Removal of vegetation, bushes in midsection along side track in between the tracks, side drain, catch water drain cleaning, in Senior Section Engineer/Permanent, Way/West/Palakkad Section for a period of 1 year.	120.31	2,40,600/-	14/07/2026	Twelve
5.	Removal of vegetation, bushes in midsection along side track in between the tracks, side drain, catch water drain cleaning in Senior Section Engineer Permanent, Way/Shoranur section for a period of 1 year.	119.23	2,38,500/-	14/07/2026	Twelve
6.	Mangaluru Central Proposed Standardization of cutting area on both ends of the tunnel no.4 Aat Kulasekhara (from Km 8/400-8/500 and km 9/100-9/600)	1063.55	21,27,100/-	14/07/2026	Twelve
7.	Palakkad Division Divisional Engineer/East Jurisdiction Proposed renewal of SEJ to TWSEJ and Glue Joints.	263.96	5,27,900/-	14/07/2026	Twelve
8.	Palakkad Division Sr Divisional Engineer/West/Palakkad jurisdiction - Supply, Installation and maintenance of auto chlorination plants at various stations of Senior Section Engineer/Works/Calicut, Senior Section Engineer/Works/Kannur and Senior Section Engineer/Works/Mangalore sections for a period of 2 Years.	22.59	45,200/-	03/07/2026	Six
1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time. 2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards. 3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site "http://www.ireps.gov.in." Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender. Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ord Southern Railway/Palakkad (For and on behalf of the President of India)					

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Pocso convict gets 20-year jail term

HYDERABAD: A special court for POCSO cases in Hyderabad has sentenced a 19-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for repeatedly sexually assaulting a minor girl and subjecting her to threats and abuse. The XII Additional Sessions Judge, Nampally, convicted Gummula Nagaraju in a case registered by Gandhi Nagar Police Station in 2019 under various IPC provisions and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The court also imposed a fine of Rs.16,000. According to police, the accused exploited the victim on the false promise of marriage, repeatedly assaulted her and allegedly used objectionable photographs and videos to intimidate and control her. Following a complaint lodged by the victim's family, police launched an investigation and filed a charge sheet. Officials said sustained counselling and legal support provided by the Bharosa Centre helped the survivor and her family throughout the trial. The concerted efforts of Police Officers and Officers at Bharosa Centre were closely monitored by Dr. Lavanya NJP, DCP, Women Safety, Smt. Prasanna Lakshmi, ACP, Women Safety, Hyderabad apart from P. Padma, Inspector Bharosa.

CPI's Narayana Draws Nehru-Modi comparison, says legacy matters more than tenure

HYDERABAD: Senior CPI leader K. Narayana on Saturday said that the true measure of a leader lies not in the number of years spent in office but in the impact made on society and the nation. Human life is not judged by the number of years lived, but by the values upheld and the contributions made, he observed. Drawing a comparison between former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Narayana noted that both had served the country for roughly 12 years, but argued that leadership should be judged by vision, policies, achievements and contributions to nation-building rather than tenure alone. Using the analogy of a crow and a cuckoo, Narayana said that while both belong to the same species, they differ significantly in their nature and influence. Similarly, leaders should be evaluated on their ideas, actions and service.

Telangana police wins national award for passport verification services

HYDERABAD The Telangana Police has earned prestigious national recognition from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, for its outstanding performance in passport verification services. The state police has been selected for the "Institutional Performance Award for State Police" based on its exemplary passport verification performance during the financial year 2025-26. The award recognises the Telangana police for its efficiency, transparency, and timely verification of passport applications, which play a crucial role in the passport issuance process. In this regard, B.S. Mubarak, Joint Secretary (PSP) & Chief Passport Officer, Ministry of External Affairs, has formally communicated the selection of Telangana Police for the prestigious award through an official letter addressed to Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand. The award will be



TSDP Conference in Hanamkonda Today

■ Let Us Build an Alternative Politics Based on Values

■ Make the Telangana Sarvajana Democratic Forum Deliberation Conference a Success

WARANGAL

The Telangana Sarvajana Democratic Forum (TSDF) has called upon intellectuals, social activists, leaders of people's organizations, women, students, workers, farmers, and other public representatives to participate in the deliberation conference to be held tomorrow (Sunday) at the Press Club in Hanamkonda district headquarters. The conference aims to discuss the current anti-people political situation prevailing in Telangana and across India and explore ways to build an alternative political framework rooted in constitutional values.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Hanamkonda Press Club on Saturday, TSDF Coordinator Dharavath Prem Chand, Democratic Mass Movement state leader Dudala Sambaiah, All India OBC JAC Chairman Saini Narendra, and democrat Dr. Raj Mohammed emphasized the need to create value-based alternative politics by raising public awareness on key issues such as privatization of national resources, growing

poverty and unemployment, corruption, protection of civil rights, preservation of democracy, and implementation of constitutional values.

They stated that public awareness movements in the past have often only succeeded in replacing one exploitative political party with another. Future movements and political efforts, they argued, should be fundamentally different and aimed at genuine social transformation. The speakers stressed the need for governance that ensures women's participation and empowerment in social, economic, and political spheres. They said a political platform based on ideological values is necessary to achieve comprehensive development and transparent governance that reflects the aspirations of all sections of society.

According to them, despite the continuation of a democratic system in India and Telangana, the hopes and aspirations of various communities remain largely unfulfilled. Promises made during elections often disappear after parties come to power. They criticized political leaders for exploiting public emotions—from India's independence movement to the Telangana statehood movement—to gain power, while neglecting democratic governance and increasing social inequalities through exploitative policies. They noted that persistent inequalities in social, economic, educational, em-

ployment, and livelihood sectors have left youth, farmers, workers, women, unemployed people, and other marginalized groups facing numerous challenges. While welfare schemes are important, people are seeking lasting development, equal opportunities, transparent governance, and a political system that encourages public participation.

In this context, they emphasized the need to transform politics from a tool for acquiring power into a platform for public service. They called for broad discussions among intellectuals, social reformers, youth, people's organizations, and community representatives on alternative political ideas centered on ethical values, social justice, transparency, accountability, and inclusive development.

They stated that true democracy can be strengthened only when politics places people at the center, makes public needs its agenda, and focuses on the development of every section of society. TSDF expressed hope that all social forces would come together to discuss and formulate a future course of action.

The press conference was also attended by Kedala Prasad, State President of the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Social Justice Forum; Mugusala Devender Reddy, leader of the Telangana Activists' Aspirations Forum; Mirza Ahmed Beg; K. Ram Kumar; Murali Naik of Sevalal Sena; and several others.

“Komatireddy Venkat Reddy is putting on a show only to protect his ministerial post”



■ Former Minister Jagadish Reddy

■ Grandstanding by 'Kothala Venkat Reddy' only to save his position... Nalgonda witnessed tremendous development during KCR's tenure!

NALGONDA

A large-scale constituency-level meeting of BRS party workers was held on Friday in Nalgonda district headquarters in a highly enthusiastic atmosphere. Former Minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy, who attended as the chief guest, launched sharp criticism against the Congress government, particularly Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the district ministers.

The event was attended by district membership in-charge R.S. Praveen Kumar, MLC

Mankena Koti Reddy, former Nalgonda MLA Kancharla Bhupal Reddy, former MLA Gadari Kishore Kumar, former ZP Chairman Banda Narendra Reddy, and others.

Addressing the gathering, Jagadish Reddy urged BRS cadres to take the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of the electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission very seriously.

He said:

“Our BRS booth agents in the villages should accompany the BLOs (Booth Level Officers) every day, visiting households and carefully verifying the details of every voter. We must work diligently to ensure that the ruling party does not illegally delete votes and that the people's voting rights are protected.”

No confrontations — written complaints are important

Jagadish Reddy advised party workers not to get into disputes if they suspect irregularities in the deletion or addition of voters' names. Instead, they should gather evidence and immediately submit written complaints to the concerned RDO (Revenue Divisional Officer).

“HAM roads” are a major scam!

Referring to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's scheduled visit to Nalgonda district on June 17, Jagadish Reddy strongly criticized the government.

“All this drama is for commissions”

He said: “Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is coming to Nalgonda on the 17th of this month to launch a major scam under the pretext of constructing roads across the state through the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) system. This entire exercise is aimed at earning commissions.”

SCR GM undertakes inspection of carriage work shop, Lallaguda

HYDERABAD

South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager , Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, undertook the inspection of the Carriage Work Shop (CWS), Lallaguda on Saturday.

The General Manager visited the Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda and inspected all the maintenance and repair shops at the Workshop. SmtSumana G, Chief Workshop Manager (CWM) accompanied and briefed him about the working of the Workshop. Other senior railway officials also present in the inspection.

The General Manager carried out comprehensive inspection of Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda. The General Manager commenced the inspection from Wheel Shop,

further he inspected D V Overhaul section, Air Brake shop, paint shop and spring shop.

During the course of inspection Sumana, CWM, Lallaguda explained the General Manager about safety procedures and safety aspects being followed by the staff during their working on the site, she also detailed the working procedures of different equipment being available at the workshop.

The General Manager also inspected the modern and advanced work stations/equipment/machinery such as LHB Work station/Manipulator, Dynamic wheel balancing machine, Shock absorber testing machine, Airbrake Sub-Stores, New Trimming shop, Optical Emission Spectrometer and Universal Testing Machine.

Act as warriors to protect voting rights, Komatireddy tells Congress workers

NALGONDA

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy called upon Congress workers to act as warriors in safeguarding the voting rights of citizens and ensure that not a single eligible voter's name is removed from the electoral rolls.

Addressing a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) awareness programme organised for Congress Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at MNR Gardens in Nalgonda town on Saturday, the Minister said protecting the right to vote is the foremost responsibility of every Congress worker. He stated that Telangana is progressing rapidly on the path of development under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and said Congress cadres should work with dedication and commitment with the goal of making Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister of the country.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said "Rahul Gandhi has been fighting relentlessly across the nation to protect the voting rights of every citizen and Congress workers should carry forward the same spirit and remain vigilant at the booth level." The Minister expressed

concern that irregularities and omissions in electoral rolls could have a decisive impact on election results.

He requested BLAs to actively participate in the door-to-door enumeration scheduled from June 25 to July 24 and thoroughly scrutinise the draft electoral rolls to be published on July 31. Any discrepancies, should be identified immediately and objections filed without delay, he said.

He strongly condemned the rejection of the nomination of Congress Rajya Sabha candidate and Telangana Congress In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, terming it a violation of democratic values.

"Meenakshi Natarajan is a committed Congress leader who has dedicated her life to public service and has always stood by the poor. Rejecting her nomination and fielding a third candidate where the BJP has little strength is nothing but an assault on democratic traditions," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said. Referring to the SIR process in various states, the Minister alleged that voter names had been deleted on a massive scale, leading to serious concerns over the integrity of electoral rolls.

Heavy Rains Expected in the District for the Next Five Days

■ People Should Remain Alert: District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar

SURYAPET

District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar stated in an official announcement that there is a possibility of rains and lightning in the district for the next five days, and advised all people to remain alert. He specifically warned that heavy rains accompanied by strong



winds, thunder, and lightning are likely to occur in the district, and urged the public to be extremely cautious. He also mentioned that strong gusty

winds with speeds of 40 to 50 kmph, along with thunder and lightning, may occur. Farmers and laborers working in the fields are advised not to take

shelter under trees or electric poles during thunderstorms. People living in dilapidated houses are advised to stay alert and, if possible, take shelter in safer, permanent buildings. He further advised avoiding travel during rainfall unless absolutely necessary. All officials have been instructed to remain available at the field level, continuously monitor the situation, and take necessary measures to ensure that the public does not face any difficulties.

CP Conducts Surprise Inspection of AR Police Headquarters

KARIMNAGAR

Karimnagar Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam conducted a surprise inspection of the Armed Reserve (AR) Police Headquarters and Reserve Inspector (RI) offices on Saturday. During the visit, he inspected various sections of the offices and reviewed the maintenance of official records.

The Commissioner examined the nominal rolls of police personnel and enquired about the availability and deployment

ment of staff. He also conducted a detailed review of staff audits and the process of duty allocation across various wings. Officials were instructed to ensure fairness, transparency, and uniformity in the assignment of duties.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner emphasized that internal administration and record management are crucial for the effective functioning of the police department. He directed officials to maintain updated records



and ensure there are no discrepancies in attendance or duty allocation. "Accountabil-

ity and transparency must be maintained at every level. All records should be updated reg-

ularly and managed systematically. Any negligence in the discharge of duties will invite

Collector Reviews New Collectorate Works Ahead of CM Visit



KARIMNAGAR

District Collector Chitra Mishra directed officials to ensure that the new Karimnagar Collectorate is fully prepared for inauguration with all necessary facilities and infrastructure in place. Accompanied by Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam, she inspected the ongoing construction works at the new Collectorate building on Saturday.

The Collector reviewed the progress of works related to the main entrance gate, compound wall, and other infrastructure facilities. She instructed Roads and Buildings Department officials and the contractor to complete all pending works on a war footing and ensure that no deficiencies remain before the inauguration. She emphasized that all development and infrastructure works must be completed ahead of the Chief Minister's proposed visit.

Later, the Collector inspected the helipad site being developed in connection with the Chief Minister's visit and reviewed security arrangements with officials. She also examined the route from the helipad to Ambedkar Stadium and directed officials to ensure smooth movement of vehicles and visitors.

The Collector and Police Commissioner reviewed security measures, traffic management, protocol arrangements, and steps to prevent inconvenience to the public during the Chief Minister's visit. They urged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the successful conduct of the programme. Additional Collector (Revenue) D. Srinivas Reddy, R&B Executive Engineer Narasimhachari, Karimnagar Town ACP Venkataswamy, and officials from various departments were present during the inspection.

strict action," he warned.

The Commissioner further stressed the importance of staff welfare and directed AR personnel to remain vigilant in maintaining law and order. He also instructed officials to clear all pending administrative files without delay.

AR ACP Pratap, RIs Rajinikanth, Janimiya and Kiran Kumar, RSIs, and office staff were present during the inspection. This version is suitable for publication in English newspapers.

CM Chandrababu to visit Singapore on June 15 and 16

CM to participate in CII Partnership Summit 2026 Investment Roadshow
CM's two day Singapore tour aimed at attracting global investments, accelerating development of Amaravati

AMARAVATI:
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will visit Singapore from June 15 to 16 to attract investments and review collaborations related to the development of Amaravati and other key infrastructure projects.
As per schedule the Chief Minister will depart from Bengaluru for Singapore at 11:35 AM on June 14. On June 15, the Chief Minister will meet High Commissioner of India, Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, at 10:30 AM Singapore time. He will subsequently participate in a roundtable conference with startup venture capitalists and attend a luncheon meeting with Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The Chief Minister will also hold discussions with Singapore Senior Minister of State Low Yen Ling. Later, he will meet Karan Bajwa, President, Google Cloud Asia-Pacific; Lim Siang Guan, Advisor to the Executive Committee of GIC; Robert Yap, Executive Chairman of YCH Group; and Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of the National University of Singapore. During the visit, CM Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to meet Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and discuss various areas of cooperation. He will also meet Singapore Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and interact with members of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Andhra Pradesh delegation. Meetings are also scheduled with Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam and Minister

for Manpower Dr. Tan See Leng. On June 16, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the CBN@361 programme organized by the Kakatiya Cultural Association. He will participate in the APAC Semiconductor Roundtable and attend the Surbana Jurong-Amaravati Planning Meeting. Later, he will hold discussions with a team led by Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong. The Chief Minister will also address the Leadership Plenary at the World Cities Summit and subsequently visit the World Cities Summit Exhibition, where he will tour the Singapore Pavilion, Innovators Alley, and Google Technologies exhibits. He is also scheduled to participate in a meeting with Seatrium and later attend the CII Partnership Summit 2026 Business Roadshow, which forms a key component of Andhra Pradesh's investment outreach efforts. Minister for Municipal Administration P. Narayana, Industries Department Secretary N. Yuvaraj, Municipal Administration Special Chief Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, AP Economic Development Board (EDB) CEO M. Shanmohan and a team of CRDA officials will accompany the Chief Minister during the two day tour. The visit is aimed at strengthening Andhra Pradesh's engagement with Singapore, attracting global investments and accelerating the development of Amaravati and other strategic projects in the state. The Chief Minister is scheduled to return to India at 10:00 PM on June 16.

BMC slaps Rs 9.25 crore penalties on contractors as AI exposes irregularities in desilting work

MUMBAI: (JUN 13)

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has imposed fines of over Rs 9.25 crore on contractors engaged in drain desilting works after an AI-based system detected irregularities, including reuse of images and mismatches in records, officials said on Saturday. The BMC said in a release that the penalties are being recovered from the contractors' pending bills. Of the to-



tal penalty amount, Rs 8.99 crore was imposed based on AI-detected irregularities, including Rs 6.11 crore concerning minor drains, Rs 1.39 crore for major drains and Rs 1.48 crore for the Mithi river, the BMC said.

TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay Joins Rebel Faction, Meets BJP's Bhupender Yadav

KOLKATA, JUNE 13

The rebellion in the Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party in the Lok Sabha is becoming more evident as veteran party leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay has joined the rebel faction MPs. Bandyopadhyay, the Kolkata Uttar MP of Trinamool Congress, was seen in a car with rebel party MP Satabdi Roy in Delhi on Saturday. He left with Satabdi Roy in the same car from Delhi airport to meet the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav at the latter's residence. From the airport, the two Trinamool leaders reached Bhupender Yadav's residence where a meeting had already started there. During the last few days, several rounds of meetings have been held by the rebel Trinamool MPs at the residence of Union Minister Bhupender Yadav.



The rebel Trinamool faction is led by MPs Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Satabdi Roy. In such a situation, it is quite significant that Sudip Bandyopadhyay has also joined the rebel Trinamool leaders.
Sudip Bandyopadhyay left for Delhi from Kolkata on Saturday morning. Satabdi Roy also left for Delhi via the same flight. After reaching Delhi, Sudip Bandyopadhyay left the airport in the same car with Birbhumi rebel MP Satabdi Roy. Since the West Bengal Assembly elections results

were declared, internal conflicts have erupted in the Trinamool Congress. The previous ruling party in West Bengal has already lost the control of its Parliamentary Party in the state Assembly. On June 1, the split in the Parliamentary Party was also evident in the Lok Sabha. The majority of the Trinamool Congress MPs rebelled against party supremo Mamata Banerjee's control.

The chain of events is that when this 'MP rebellion' in the Trinamool Congress came to light on June

1, Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee were in Delhi. On the one hand, when Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee were holding a meeting of the Opposition INDIA bloc, the split within Trinamool Congress was underway in the Lok Sabha. On the same day, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, one of the leaders leading the rebel Trinamool MPs, claimed that they have the support of about 20 party MPs and will join the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Meanwhile, a document with signatures by 19 Trinamool MPs came to light on Friday. However, Sudip Bandyopadhyay's signature was not on it.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool MP from Kolkata Uttar visited Bhupender Yadav's residence with Satabdi Roy on Saturday, signalling the support of another MP within the rebel Trinamool faction.

Vaishnaw Announces Quantum, AI Labs at MNIT Jaipur

Students to get access to Lam Research's Semiverse Semiconductor Training Platform

Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Railways and Information & Broadcasting, Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw today announced the establishment of an Advanced Quantum Computing and Quantum Communications Lab at the Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur. The lab will be established under the Electronics and ICT Academic Project of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It will focus on building indigenous capabilities in Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), Quantum Computing simulation, and Quantum Sensing hardware components.

Addressing students and faculty members, the Union Minister said that while the current technological wave is being driven by AI, the next major technological wave will be led by Quantum Technology. The Minister stated that the work to be undertaken under this project will be of significant importance for the country. The lab will also undertake research in Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), which is important from the national security perspective. Shri Vaishnaw urged MNIT Jaipur to take a leadership role in the area of post-quantum cryptography.



Lam Research's "Semiverse" platform The Union Minister also announced that students of MNIT Jaipur will get access to Lam Research's "Semiverse" platform. It is a digital twin-based semiconductor fabrication and training ecosystem.

Through Semiverse, students can now study semiconductor chip structures in 3D, understand chip manufacturing processes, and simulate fabrication steps in a virtual environment. Union Minister mentioned that there is a demand of more than million semiconductor design workforce, as per industry's estimate. India can easily bridge this gap. Already, companies like NVIDIA, Qualcomm, ARM, & AMD are already designing the advanced semiconductor chips of 2 and 3

nm in India. This is possible because of design workforce. Shri Vaishnaw said that Government of India as part of Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme, is providing Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools to more than 323 universities across the country. These are state of the art semiconductor design tools of leading companies such as Synopsys, Cadence and Renesas. Using these tools, more than 100 student-designed chips from institutions across India have been fabricated at Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali. The Minister encouraged students to make full use of these advanced EDA tools.

Artificial Intelligence Lab
Union Minister announced that AI Lab will also be estab-

lished at MNIT Jaipur. The lab will provide the facilities including advanced compute and tools for research and innovation.

The focus will be on connecting it with the network of IndiaAI mission. In this regard, he highlighted the work being carried out by Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur related to deepfake detection technology.

Makers Lab inauguration

Later, Union Minister along with Sh. Heeralal Nagar, Minister of State (IC) for Energy Department in the Government of Rajasthan and Sh. Gopal Sharma Member, Rajasthan Member of Legislative Assembly (Civil Lines Jaipur) inaugurated the Makers Lab at MNIT Jaipur.

Makers lab will provide students with experiential and hands-on training opportunities in both software and hardware technologies. This will include sensors, embedded systems, compute devices and electronics systems.

Earlier during the visit, Shri Vaishnaw interacted with students and faculty members. Students demonstrated several projects and applications in the fields of AI, robotics, drone, structural engineering and post-quantum cryptography.

Special Trains Announced Between Kanpur and Tiruchchirappalli

CHENNAI, JUNE 13:

To clear the extra rush of passengers, North Central Railway has announced special train services between Kanpur Central and Tiruchchirappalli later this month.

Train No. 01927 Kanpur Central-Tiruchchirappalli Express Special will depart from Kanpur Central at 8.10 a.m. on June 17 and June 24 and reach Tiruchchirappalli at 8.40 a.m. on the third day.

In the return direction, Train No. 01928 Tiruchchirappalli-Kanpur Central

Express Special will leave Tiruchchirappalli at 11.45 p.m. on June 19 and June 26 and arrive at Kanpur Central at 4.30 a.m. on the fourth day. The special train will comprise one AC Two-Tier coach, seven AC Three-Tier coaches, eight Sleeper Class coaches, four General Second Class coaches, one Divyangjan-friendly Second Class coach, and one Lugage-cum-Brake Van.

Railway authorities said the services are being operated as trains-on-demand to accommodate increased passenger traffic on the route.



ATS arrested Faraz Khan involved in anti-national activities

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal: Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested a youth on suspicion of being involved in anti-national activities. The ATS team raided near Nanhe B's Mosque in Qazi Camp area of the city and detained the accused Mohammad Faraz. The action was kept completely confidential.

After getting this information, ATS is now thoroughly investigating the foreign contacts, online activities and social media networks of the accused at the local police station. The investigation is also said to have revealed information about some suspicious contacts related to the Madrassa located in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh, whose role is being investigated.

Case registered under UAPA and other sections
According to officials, a case has been registered against the accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other relevant sections. The court has sent the accused on ATS remand till June 16. During this time the agency will interrogate him regarding his network, activities

and possible associates.

Investigation has revealed suspicious documents and indications of foreign contacts from the mobile phone of the accused. At present, ATS is investigating the network, digital activities and possible foreign connections of the accused. The agencies are trying to find out for how long the accused was involved in suspicious activities and with whom he had contacts at the local level. At present, the investigation of the case is going on and the agencies are examining digital records, chat history and online connections.

Dark apps and social media activities also under scrutiny

According to sources, the accused was in touch with suspicious groups through some dark apps. His social media accounts are also being investigated. Preliminary investigation has also revealed that he had posted some objectionable comments in support of Gaza. However, the investigation into all these allegations is still ongoing and the agencies are thoroughly investigating every aspect of the accused's digital network and possible foreign contacts.

Viral Fever Outbreak Hits 50+ in Two Villages

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL
UTTARKASHI,
UTTARAKHAND

Uttarkashi: Following reports of a viral fever outbreak affecting more than 50 people in Pindki, Madesh and nearby villages in the Yamunotri region, the Health Department has swung into action and deployed a medical team to provide treatment to the affected residents.

For the past three weeks, a large number of children, elderly people and women in the villages under Geeth Patti have been suffering from fever-like symptoms. Villagers had appealed to the administration and the Health Department to send a medical team to the remote area. Responding promptly to the situation, a team led by Dr. Akhil Rana was dispatched to the affected villages with essential medicines. The team included Pharmacist Ali Ahmed, FMR Chatar Singh, Nursing Officer Ekta, and driver Sanjay Rawat. The team reached the Hanumanchatti-Pindki-Madesh area and started examining patients and distributing medicines through a special medical camp.



The timely intervention by the Health Department has brought relief to the villagers. Residents expressed their gratitude to the district administration and the Health Department for responding quickly and ensuring medical assistance in the remote villages.

Villagers said that the prompt action has helped control the spread of the illness and provided much-needed healthcare support to those affected. They also hoped that regular health camps would continue to be organized in the area to ensure better medical facilities for people living in remote regions.

Science is the source of progress

BY DR. KANDEPI
RANIPRASAD.

After the scientific revolution in the 16th century, the world's perspective changed. With the invention of the wheel, human life underwent many changes. After the invention of the microscope, it was known that organisms invisible to the eye were the cause of many diseases. Many deaths were prevented only after the discovery of penicillin. The entire human evolution was also due to science. The journey of searching for the reasons for the questions that arose in the human mind led to science. No matter how many times an experiment is done, we consider that experiment successful only when the same answer is given. Science can be called knowing about the developments and products that occur between nature such as the sun, moon, sky, earth, water, fire, etc. Science is developing because the fruits of progress learned through science are used for the happy life of man. The man who once thought things were superstitions later turned out to be superstitions and started to think

wisely, and he started to move towards the path of progress.

There are many branches in the field of science or scientific knowledge. Generally, these are divided into three parts: social sciences, biological sciences, and humanities. The physical, geographical, and chemical sciences of the universe are called the study of natural phenomena. These are called natural sciences. Similarly, formal sciences, mathematics, etc. are studied related to methodology. These are called formal sciences. The study of human behavior with social and cultural aspects is called humanities. Natural sciences are divided into two sections: biology and physics. We usually consider plant, chemical physics, animal, and biological sciences as science. We treat those related to mathematics as technology.

I mostly write about plant, animal, and biological sciences, and also in the children's section of medical science. I write less about chemical and physical sciences. In this book, I wrote about the elements and minerals of chemistry like coal and gold. I also wrote some stories. They will be presented as science sto-

ries later in the book. This is the fourth book I have written under the title Science. For the first time, I have written a book called Science Point. In it, I have given a brief introduction to the biographies of scientists. All these biographies were published in the children's monthly magazine 'Balatejam'. "I wrote a column titled 'Science Point' for three or four years. I have taken some of what I wrote and brought it as a book with the intention of introducing the biographies of scientists to children. Children should know the services that scientists have done for the benefit of humanity despite facing many difficulties. That is why I have named my book after the title of the magazine. I have put a photo of the famous missile scientist Dr.|| A.P.J. Abdul Kalam as the cover of this book. I have put a picture of Abdul Kalam's line as the inner cover page. Also, ten years after writing this book, it was launched by Dr.|| Abdul Kalam. A missile scientist. It gave me great pleasure to meet Dr.|| APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India. In 2015, I brought out another science book called 'Science

World'. In this, I wrote articles about birds, reptiles, mammals, and aquatic animals. All these were published in science magazines. Along with animal articles, I also wrote about some diseases. I told about how to protect wildlife and about creatures that are invisible to the eye. I distribute these books to students during science days and science fairs. I also give them to children who come to our hospital. In this way, we promote science. Every year, we make mothers aware about the special properties of breast milk. I wrote articles about the functioning of the thyroid gland and the myths and facts about the spread of cancer. In 2018, I wrote children's science articles called 'Science Corner'. I wrote these as columns in science magazines. In this, I wrote mostly about birds. When I visited other countries, I wrote articles about the famous and rare birds there. I took videos. I have also included articles on trees written in another magazine. I have also included children's plays written for Warangal Akashavani. Medical plays on women's health in old age and medicines in nat-

ural products were written by Akashavani writers for children to perform. This book contains bird essays, science essays and tree essays.

Through the book Doctor's Stories', I have told stories about how to overcome the medical difficulties that come in the way of raising children. Parents do not understand how children can get into accidents with the small things they do. They do not even imagine. But when I saw the patients who come to our hospital with various problems, I understood. I wrote this book with the idea that if it is brought as a book, it can create awareness among many people. It has attracted many parents of children. In 2023 itself, I wrote a science book called 'Bedaltho Chelimi'. I wrote articles about trees like asafoetida, camphor, saffron, and sindhuri in the science magazine 'Vignana Vani'. I also told many things about the national flowers of countries like Switzerland and Nepal. I told children many things about rare trees like gurivinda seeds and rudrakshas. This is a book of science essays. During the Corona period, I made many pic-

tures about the Corona virus, the damage it is doing, and the precautions to be taken. The Corona time passed by writing stories, poems, and articles based on the Corona background, and also informing patients in many details. At that time, I also wrote a column for three years about the art pieces that could be done in the Corona space. All these were combined with Corona matters, precautions, and virus life histories. Therefore, these can be called science artworks. The book 'Botanical Zoo' can also be called a book of science artwork. Because the articles in it talk about scientific topics. I cut vegetables and made them into animals. You know this process is called 'vegetable carving'. But I tried to teach science to children with pictures by telling them about the vitamins in vegetables. Not only that, I also told many zoological facts about the animals made from those vegetables. These are vegetable carving books to look at, but they are also science books inside.

EDITORIAL.

Democracy Compromised:
The Arbitrary Disqualification
of Meenakshi Natarajan

The sudden rejection of senior Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh goes far beyond the political fortunes of a single individual; it strikes at the very heart of institutional integrity and procedural fairness within our electoral system. The gravity of the situation has prompted the Supreme Court to intervene, with the apex court agreeing to hear the matter this Friday. Meanwhile, the broader implications of this decision are already unfolding, as all three BJP candidates have officially been declared elected completely unopposed—a swift outcome that casts a heavy shadow of doubt over the neutrality and fairness of the entire election process.

The controversy stems from a decision by the Returning Officer (RO), who threw out Ms. Natarajan's nomination papers following objections that she had intentionally concealed a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her official election affidavit. However, a closer examination of the facts reveals an astonishingly flimsy basis for this claim. As the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of Telangana, her name was merely listed among the respondents in a private complaint filed by a former Telugu Desam Party corporator. This petition was placed before the court of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate in Hyderabad back in 2025. Crucially, the core of the complaint was not even directed at Ms. Natarajan; it targeted an entirely different Congress leader for alleged inappropriate behavior and criminal intimidation. Ms. Natarajan's inclusion in the petition was secondary, based solely on the allegation that she had failed to take appropriate disciplinary action against the accused leader. Furthermore, there is absolutely no criminal FIR registered by the Telangana police against her. Unlike a conventional police case, a private complaint originates directly before a court, which had simply issued standard notices to the individuals named in the petition, including Ms. Natarajan.

By using this minor, non-police matter as legitimate grounds to disqualify a candidate, the RO's decision reeks of extreme arbitrariness, and strongly hints at a targeted political conspiracy. The statutory framework governing the disclosure of pending legal cases is completely unambiguous. Under Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act, a candidate is legally required to disclose only those criminal cases that carry a potential punishment of two years or more, and—above all else—only those specific cases in which formal charges have actually been framed by a court. The framing of charges is a distinct judicial step that can only occur after a thorough investigation and the official filing of a charge sheet. Therefore, the RO's aggressive stance that material facts were deliberately concealed and that the nomination papers were incomplete is not just a gross misinterpretation of electoral law, but an outright insult to common sense. If election officials begin to apply such an absurd standard universally, a candidate could theoretically face disqualification for simply failing to list routine notices for minor traffic violations.

The entire disclosure regime was originally designed by law to ensure genuine transparency regarding a candidate's actual criminal antecedents and serious pending prosecutions. What makes the treatment of Ms. Natarajan's nomination so starkly unjust and arbitrary is the glaring double standard displayed during this exact same election cycle; another candidate facing documentation issues was actively permitted by the RO to amend their affidavits to meet the mandatory requirements. The Election Commission of India bears a sacred constitutional mandate to safeguard and ensure free and fair elections across the country. By allowing such flawed interpretations to stand, it is fundamentally failing in that democratic duty, severely damaging public trust in the process. The engineered capture of a Rajya Sabha seat by the ruling BJP, achieved in complete disregard for established legal statutes, marks a deeply troubling and severe setback for Indian election integrity.



THE RAIN THAT NEVER
REACHES THE ROOTS

The clouds above wear silver smiles,
Yet lock their waters beyond the miles;
They wander robed in borrowed light,
While thirsty furrows court the night.
Each season comes with merchant
eyes,
Bartering hope and peddling lies;
Justice hangs in the dust-veiled air,
A caged-winged hymn of mute despair.
For a fistful of ancestral earth,
The poor must bargain for their birth;
At every gate dark shadows stand,
Weighing dreams with a hidden hand.
In marble halls where echoes brood,
Need lies buried beneath polished
wood;
Signatures bloom like emerald leeches,
Feasting where silent anguish reaches.
Golden greed with iron claws
Devours duty and mocks the laws;
Service, once a sacred river,
Now survives as a fading shiver.
Where gardens should perfume the
land,
They sow the waste of a barren hand
Where rivers should cradle field and
grain,
They scatter deserts harvested from
gain.
O jeweled throne, O gilded height,
Do you behold this vanishing light?
The rainbow crowning your proud
fame Burns with the colours of labour's
flame.
Each hue adorning heaven's dome
Rose from hands denied a home
Every arch of celestial grace
Carries a worker's weathered face.
The kingdom rolls on sightless wheels,
Deaf to the wound the nation feels
Corruption's tides may crash and roar,
Yet power sleeps upon the shore.
But sweat is never merely rain—
It is memory distilled from pain
A seed the centuries have sown,
Breathing beneath the grinding stone.
Beneath the dust, beneath the scar,
Sleep unborn dawns of who we are;
Each silenced cry, each swallowed tear
Stores a storm the skies shall hear.



The day shall come when buried grief
Shatters the rock of disbelief;
When pain returns as unconquered
rain, Washing the rust from the chains
of gain.
No fortress wall shall stem its tide,
No sceptred hand shall turn its stride;
For truth, long shackled underground,
Will rise with an earthquake's sacred
sound.
Then justice, freed from fear and
fraud,
Will walk again where hope has trod;
And every field that thirsted long
Will bloom at last in a people's song.
The clouds that never carried trust
Shall fade and fall to nameless dust;
Yet one pure drop from an honest heart
Can rend a thousand storms apart.
And History, raising its deathless pen,
Beyond the verdicts of mighty men,
Shall write upon Time's eternal scroll:
Empires gathered gold and power,
Yet withered like leaves in a single
hour;
But the sweat of the humble—the
unseen seed—
Became the rain that answered need.
For crowns are echoes, thrones are
clay; Only truth and toil outlive the
day.



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



OPINION
YOUNG INDIA WON'T STAY YOUNG FOREVER

"The real danger is not ageing, but ageing before becoming prosperous"

India's demographic advantage has long been projected as one of its greatest strengths. With the world's largest youth population, the country is widely expected to emerge as one of the defining economic powers of the 21st century. This optimism has given rise to a popular belief that India's rise is almost inevitable. Yet, amid this confidence, an important question remains insufficiently addressed. Is a large young population, by itself, enough to guarantee prosperity?

History offers a sobering answer. Demography creates opportunities, but opportunities do not automatically translate into development. A youthful population can become a source of growth only when it is supported by quality education, productive employment, healthcare, infrastructure and rising incomes. Without these foundations, the same demographic advantage can turn into a source of economic and social stress.

India currently enjoys one of the most favourable demographic profiles in the world. Nearly 68% of its population belongs to the working-age group. This demographic window has often been described as India's "demographic dividend" — a once-in-a-generation opportunity capable of accelerating economic growth and transforming the country's development trajectory. However, this window will not remain open indefinitely.

According to United Nations projections, the number of Indians aged 60 and above could rise to nearly 340 million by 2050. At the same time, India's total fertility rate has already fallen below the replacement level of 2.1 and now stands at around 2.0. Several southern states have experienced an even sharper decline. These trends suggest that the country celebrated today for its youthful population is itself moving steadily towards an ageing society.

Growing Old Before Growing Rich:

Ageing, by itself, is not the problem. Every society eventually experiences demographic transition. Japan, South Korea, Germany and several European countries have gone through similar phases. The real danger for India lies elsewhere. Unlike many advanced economies, India risks becoming an ageing society before becoming a prosperous one.

Countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China first industrialised, expanded their manufacturing bases, improved productivity and

built robust healthcare and social security systems. Only then did they begin to confront the challenges associated with ageing populations. India, by contrast, still faces multiple structural weaknesses. Per capita incomes remain modest. Youth unemployment continues to be a major concern. Skill shortages persist. Female labour-force participation remains significantly below potential, and a large proportion of employment is concentrated in the informal sector. In other words, demographic change may arrive before the country has fully completed its journey towards prosperity.

This phenomenon — growing old before grow-



ing rich — represents one of the most difficult development challenges confronting emerging economies. An ageing population without adequate wealth, productivity and social protection can place enormous pressure on healthcare systems, pensions, public finances and family structures.

The Untapped Promise of the Silver Economy:

Yet, an equally important dimension of this debate receives far less attention. Ageing populations are often viewed only through the lens of burden and dependency. But demographic transition can also create entirely new economic opportunities.

In the coming decades, hundreds of millions of elderly Indians will generate demand for healthcare services, long-term care facilities, insurance products, assisted living, specialised housing, medical technologies and home-based support systems. Countries such as Japan and several European nations have already begun developing what economists describe as the "silver economy" — an ecosystem built around the needs and aspirations of ageing populations. In many of

these countries, elderly care itself has emerged as a major source of employment, innovation and investment.

India, however, has barely begun this conversation. Rather than viewing ageing solely as a social burden, the country must recognise it as the foundation of a new economic sector that will inevitably expand in the coming decades.

Preparing for this future will require far more than conventional policy prescriptions. Improving education and skill development will remain essential. Expanding healthcare infrastructure and increasing female labour-force participation will be equally important. Artificial intelligence, robotics and automation are no longer merely technological issues; they are becoming demographic necessities. Higher productivity, rather than larger populations, will determine national competitiveness in the decades ahead.

Similarly, India will have to strengthen pension systems, develop elderly care infrastructure and create mechanisms that allow older citizens to remain economically active for longer. Lifelong learning and reskilling may become as important for ageing societies as primary education was for younger ones.

A Window That Will Not Stay Open Forever:

For decades, India has viewed its youthful population as a blessing. But demographic advantages are not permanent. Opportunities have an expiry date.

China used its demographic dividend to transform itself into the world's manufacturing powerhouse. Today, it is struggling with the consequences of rapid ageing and declining birth rates. India now stands at a similar historical crossroads. History has offered the country a rare opportunity. But history does not wait forever.

The question before India, therefore, is not how large its population is. The more important question is whether the country can convert this demographic window into lasting prosperity before it begins to close.

Because being home to the world's largest youth population is undoubtedly an advantage. But if that advantage is not transformed into wealth, productivity and institutional strength, what appears to be India's greatest asset today could eventually be remembered as one of its greatest missed opportunities.



D. CHANDRABHANU
Senior Teaching Faculty

The New Contest for Power in the 21st Century:

"How critical minerals shape the global economy"

The balance of global power is once again being redrawn—not by oil fields this time, but by a set of minerals most people rarely think about.

Lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite and rare elements such as neodymium and dysprosium are collectively known as critical minerals. Often invisible to consumers, these resources form the backbone of the modern technological economy. From smartphones and semiconductors to artificial intelligence systems, electric vehicles, batteries, wind turbines, solar panels, satellites and missile systems, few sectors of strategic importance can function without them. It is therefore not surprising that nations increasingly view these resources not merely as raw materials, but as strategic assets.

Oil shaped the geopolitics of the 20th century:

The location of reserves, control over supply routes and dependence on energy imports influenced wars, alliances and the global economic order. The world, however, is entering a new phase. As clean energy, artificial intelligence, digitalisation, electrification and advanced defence technologies expand, critical minerals are emerging as the strategic resource of the future. Seen in that light, the race for critical minerals is not simply a scramble for natural resources. It is fundamentally about who will control future industries, influence global supply chains and shape the technological architecture of the 21st-century economy. In other words, this is not merely a contest for minerals; it is a contest for the capacity to shape the future.

Rising Demand

As the world moves away from carbon-intensive energy systems towards cleaner alternatives, the importance of critical minerals is rising sharply. Almost every strategic sector of the modern economy — from electric vehicles and wind turbines to semiconductors and advanced weapons systems — depends on them.

According to the International Ener-

gy Agency (IEA), global lithium demand could rise by as much as forty times by 2040 if the transition towards net-zero emissions accelerates. Electric vehicles, for instance, require significantly larger quantities of critical minerals than conventional automobiles. As dependence on oil gradually declines, reliance on critical minerals is set to increase.

This presents an interesting paradox. Even as countries attempt to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, the transition itself is creating an unprecedented dependence on critical minerals. The shift towards clean energy does not eliminate strategic vulnerabilities; it merely changes their nature.

The Real Competition:

Critical mineral deposits are spread across several countries. But history suggests that natural resources alone do not confer power. The ability to process minerals, manufacture value-added products and control supply chains ultimately determines strategic influence.

China understood this reality long before others. Over the past two decades, Beijing has systematically built dominance across several segments of the critical mineral ecosystem, particularly in processing and battery manufacturing.

The Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and intensifying US-China strategic rivalry have exposed the limitations of a globalisation model built solely around efficiency. Countries are increasingly recognising that economic efficiency cannot substitute for security. Consequently, the United States, the European Union, Ja-

pan, Australia and India are all seeking to diversify supply chains. Initiatives such as the Quad and the Mineral Security Partnership reflect this changing strategic mindset. Critical minerals, therefore, are no longer merely an industrial issue. They have become central to national security, energy security, economic resilience and technological leadership.

India's Opportunity:

The ongoing restructuring of global supply chains presents India with a rare strategic opening. Mineral deposits along the coasts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the discovery of lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir, a large domestic market, expanding manufacturing capabilities and a young workforce together provide favourable conditions.

Yet resource endowments alone are no guarantee of success. India's ambition to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, expand electric mobility and build a semiconductor ecosystem will all depend, to a considerable extent, on securing reliable supplies of critical minerals. For India, therefore, this is more than an economic opportunity. It is a chance to redefine its place in the global industrial landscape.

The Bigger Question:

History offers an important lesson. Countries endowed with natural resources have not always become prosperous. The Democratic Republic of Congo possesses vast cobalt reserves, yet it does not dominate the global battery industry. Bolivia has substantial lithium deposits, but it is

not leading the electric vehicle revolution. By contrast, countries such as Japan and South Korea rose to become industrial powers despite limited natural resources. Time and again, history has shown that prosperity depends less on what lies beneath the ground and more on the institutions, technologies and industries built above it.

The question before India, therefore, is not how much lithium it possesses. The more important question is whether the country can build

the capabilities required to transform critical minerals into technological and industrial advantage in an era defined by a new industrial revolution.

During the oil age, India largely remained a consumer. If the same pattern continues in the age of critical minerals, the country risks missing a strategic opportunity. But if India succeeds in securing a meaningful place within reconfigured global supply chains, the gains will extend far beyond reducing import dependence. It would allow the country to participate in shaping the architecture of the 21st-century global economy.

The age of oil is approaching its twilight. The age of critical minerals is only beginning. Whether India remains merely a vast market or emerges as one of the countries helping shape the rules of the new global economy will depend not on the resources hidden underground, but on the political, industrial, technological and strategic choices made today.



KINJARAPU
AMARAVATHI

Member-PLUS NGO



AAP Government's Days in Punjab Are Numbered, BJP Set to Form Next Government- Haryana CM

AAP is a Gang of Looters, Even Kejriwal's Mask of Honesty Has Fallen, says CM

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 13

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, asserting that its days in power are numbered and that the countdown to its exit has already begun. Citing the BJP's emphatic victory in the Abohar Municipal Corporation elections, he said the result was a clear indication of the political change taking shape in Punjab and expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would form the next government in the state. Stating that Punjab has suffered immensely due to the drug menace, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini assured that once the BJP government assumes office in the state, not a single person involved in the drug trade would be spared and allowed to operate. The Chief Minister was addressing the OBC Mahasammelan in Abohar, Punjab.

Haryana Public Works Minister, Sh. Ranbir Gangwa, Punjab BJP President, S. Kewal Singh Dhillon, former Punjab BJP President, Sh. Sunil Jakhar and several senior BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

Paying homage to Punjab's

brave and patriotic legacy, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini lauded the immense contribution of the state's farmers, traders, youth and mothers towards nation-building. He, however, launched a strong critique of the Punjab Government's much-publicised 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign, describing it as a complete failure and alleging that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government was more interested in slogans and publicity than in delivering results on the ground.

Attacking the Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann led the Punjab state government on multiple fronts, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the promise of providing Rs.1,000 per month to women had turned out to be nothing more than a political gimmick, pointing out that even the registration process for the scheme had yet to begin. He also accused the Punjab Government of subjecting Abohar to blatant political neglect, saying that allocating merely Rs.5 crore to the Municipal Corporation amounted to an insult to the people of the city. He remarked that the Haryana Government had provided more funds than this even to some of its smallest villages.

The Chief Minister said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had al-

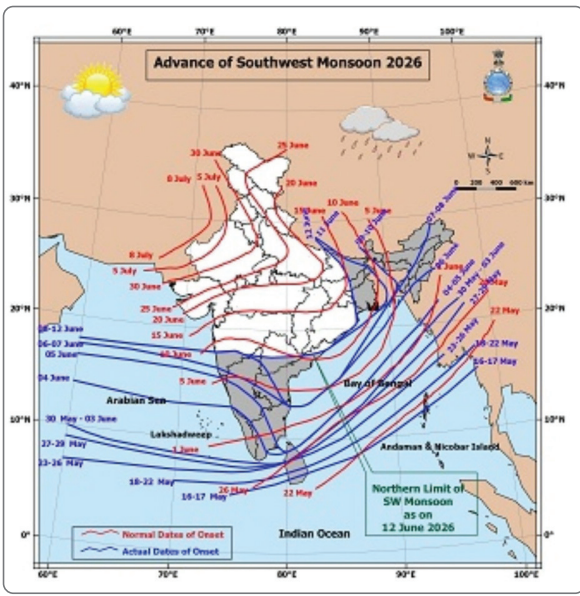


Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering during the OBC Mahasammelan at Abohar, Punjab on June 13, 2026. Haryana Public Works Minister, Sh. Ranbir Gangwa, is also seen in the picture.

ready realised that it would not return to power after the next Assembly elections and that some people were therefore busy "looting Punjab with both hands". Describing AAP as a "gang of looters", he said even party supremo Arvind Kejriwal's much-touted image of honesty had completely unravelled. Referring to the Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann's claim that 65,000 jobs had been provided in Punjab over five years, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Haryana Government had provided 55,000 jobs to the youth of Haryana in just one year. Highlighting various welfare and development initiatives undertaken by the Haryana Government, he said that if the people of Punjab place their trust in the pol-

itics and vision of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi in the next Assembly elections, similar benefits could be extended to Punjab as well. He said that the BJP government would ensure procurement of farmers' crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP), provide adequate compensation for crop losses, create an industry-friendly ecosystem and work towards making Punjab the number one state in the country. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further said that since Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi assumed leadership of the country, social justice has not remained merely a slogan but has been implemented through both policy and intent. He noted that the Prime Minister himself belongs to the OBC community and

has consistently worked to bring the deprived, backward and economically weaker sections into the mainstream of development. Calling upon members of the OBC Samaj to unite and strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he urged them to play an active role in building a strong BJP in Punjab and paving the way for the formation of the next government. Addressing the gathering, Haryana Public Works Minister Sh. Ranbir Gangwa said that while travelling through various villages during preparations for the Sammelen, he had witnessed the devastating impact of drug addiction on Punjab's youth. He said the pain and anguish expressed by mothers and sisters affected by the crisis was deeply distressing and reflected the seriousness of the challenge facing the state. He added that people across Punjab were waiting for political change and asserted that only the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could pull the state out of the quagmire of drug abuse. Punjab BJP President, S. Kewal Singh Dhillon, former state president, Sh. Sunil Jakhar, MLA, Sh. Sandeep Jakhar, Sh. Gurveer Singh Brar, District President, S. Sukhwinder Singh Kamboj and several other leaders also addressed the gathering.



There will be storms and strong winds in the state for the next five days

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal: South-West Monsoon has advanced rapidly in the eastern parts of the country and has hit many areas of North-West Bay of Bengal, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. At the same time, in view of the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, strong winds and hailstorm in some districts for the next five days in Madhya Pradesh, the Meteorological Department has issued a comprehensive warning. Farmers and common citizens have been advised to exercise special caution.

According to the Meteorological Department, on June 12, 2026, the Southwest Monsoon has advanced into the entire part of North-West Bay of Bengal and some more parts of West-Central Bay of Bengal, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. The northern limit of monsoon is passing through Harnai, Solapur, Hyderabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Kalin-gapatnam, Paradip, Baripada, Purulia, Dhanbad and Muzaffarpur. The Meteorological Department estimates that in the next two to three days, the monsoon may advance further into Central Arabian Sea, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, remaining parts of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and some

parts of Chhattisgarh. Here in Madhya Pradesh, the weather patterns have changed due to the influence of active weather systems and western disturbances. Rain was recorded in many districts of the state during the last 24 hours. Maximum rainfall was 56 mm in Gaurihar, 48.3 mm in Devdaranagar, 35 mm in Sohawal and 30.6 mm in Rewa city. Strong winds blew at a speed of 59 kilometers per hour in Gwalior, 50 kilometers per hour in Satna and 48 kilometers per hour in Sidhi.

The Meteorological Department has issued a warning of strong winds at a speed of 50 to 60 kilometers per hour, thunderstorms and hail at some places in many districts including Datia, Bhind, Morena, Seoni, Balaghat, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Niwari. There is a possibility of strong winds with a speed of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour and thunderstorms in Bhopal, Vidisha, Raissen, Sehore, Narmadapuram, Betul, Gwalior, Rewa, Satna, Jabalpur, Mandla, Chhind-wara, Sagar and many other districts. The Meteorological Department believes that with the increasing activity of monsoon, the weather pattern in different parts of the state can change rapidly and there is a possibility of further increase in rainfall activities in the coming days.

Indian Pharmacists' Association Manipur Holds Peaceful Sit-in Protest



IMPHAL, 13 JUNE 2026

The Indian Pharmacists' Association (IPA), Manipur State Branch, organized a peaceful sit-in protest today at Keishampat Leimajam Leikai Community Hall, Imphal. The protest commenced at 10:30 AM and concluded at 1:30 PM with the participation of pharmacists, pharmacy students, and stakeholders from across the state.

The protest was organized to highlight two major concerns affecting the pharmacy profession in India and Manipur. The first issue was the proposed amendment to Rule 64 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, which seeks to include Science Graduates as "Competent Persons" in place of qualified Registered Pharmacists. The pharmacy community strongly opposed the proposal, stating that the responsibilities of Competent Persons require specialized pharmaceutical knowledge, professional training, and practical expertise acquired through formal pharmacy education and registration. Protesters expressed concern that such an amendment would undermine the professional identity, statutory role, and specialized qualifications of pharmacy professionals. The second issue raised was the delay in conducting the Manipur State Pharmacy Coun-

cil Election, originally scheduled for September 2025. The participants stated that the prolonged delay has adversely affected the functioning and representation of the pharmacy profession in Manipur and has deprived registered pharmacists of their democratic rights and participation in professional governance. The protest received strong support from various pharmacist organizations, including the Meitei-Pangal Registered Pharmacist Association of Manipur (MRPAM), the Manipur Pharmacist Association (MPA), and the Senapati District Registered Pharmacist Association. Several pharmacy institutions, registered pharmacists, pharmacy students, and other stakeholders also participated actively in the demonstration. The participants collectively appealed to the concerned authorities and the Government of India to safeguard the integrity, dignity, and future of the pharmacy profession by protecting the role of qualified pharmacists and ensuring the timely conduct of the Manipur State Pharmacy Council Election. The event concluded peacefully with a united pledge from the pharmacy fraternity to continue advocating for professional standards, democratic representation, and quality healthcare services for the people of Manipur and the nation.

Below is the English news report

Ayurvedic Doctors of Yamuna Valley Boycott Work, Hold Protest Over Seven-Point Demands
BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL FROM UTTARKASHI



Uttarkashi: Under the banner of the Government Ayurvedic and Unani Medical Service Association, Uttarkashi district, all Ayurvedic Medical Officers of the Yamuna Valley on Saturday boycotted OPD and routine services and staged a protest to press for their long-pending demands. The doctors urged the government and the department to address their is-

Progression (DACP) benefits, restructuring of the departmental framework, grant of pending ACP benefits, permanent adjustment of medical officers recruited in the 2024 batch, and provision of study leave with full salary for three

years for doctors participating in training programmes. The doctors also demanded a solution to problems arising from the mobile app-based attendance system and Aadhaar-linked biometric attendance mechanism.

Office bearers of the district branch and several medical officers participated in the protest. Among those present were District Branch Secretary Dr. Vinod Dhau, Senior Vice-President Dr. Pramod Singh, Dr. Bhagwan Singh, Dr. Virendra Chand, Dr. Subhash Chauhan, Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Pradeep, Dr. Jai Prakash, and Dr. Vandana Chauhan, along with other doctors.

RPF of NFR Registers 19 Successful Operations

Recovers Contraband Worth Over Rs. 62.45 Lakh and Rescues 08 Minors

MALIGAON, 13 JUNE, 2026

In a series of successful operations conducted between 9th & 10th June 2026, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) registered significant achievements in ensuring railway security and passenger safety. Through a series of coordinated operations across railway stations and trains in Assam, Bihar, Tripura, Nagaland and West Bengal, RPF personnel achieved notable success in anti-narcotics enforcement, crime prevention, rescue of vulnerable persons and passenger welfare initiatives.

Collectively, these operations resulted in 19 successful cases being detected by RPF personnel, leading to the recovery of 12.666 kg of ganja worth approximate-



ly more than Rs. 6.33 lakh, 279.21 grams of Brown Sugar worth approximately more than Rs. 55.84 lakh and 155 bottles of illicit liquor worth approximately more than Rs. 28 thousand. The operations also led to the recovery of 03 stolen mobile phones worth approximately more than Rs. 45 thousand, apprehension of 07 offenders, rescue of 08 minors (05 boys and 03 girls) and provision of timely medical assistance to 03 passen-

gers in distress. Among the notable achievements during the period, RPF personnel, in coordination with GRP and SIB, achieved a major breakthrough against drug trafficking by apprehending one person at Badarpur Railway Station and recovering 279.21 grams of Brown Sugar worth approximately more than Rs. 55.84 lakh. The accused was subsequently handed over to GRP for further legal action under the provisions of the

NDPS Act, 1985.

Apart from its enforcement duties, RPF personnel also demonstrated exemplary dedication towards passenger welfare by providing prompt medical assistance to three passengers at New Jalpaiguri, Araria and Tinsukia Railway Stations. Through swift coordination with railway medical staff and local healthcare facilities, the injured passengers received immediate first aid and necessary medical treatment, reflecting RPF's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of passengers during emergencies.

The successful operations highlight RPF's operational excellence and steadfast commitment to creating a safer, more secure and passenger-centric railway ecosystem across the Northeast Frontier Railway.



BLW Emerges on the National Golf Map

Varanasi: Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), the premier production unit of Indian Railways, has achieved yet another significant milestone in the field of sports. For the first time, the prestigious DP World PGTI NexGen Golf Tournament 2026 will be held at the BLW Golf Course from 16 to 18 June 2026. Hosting this national-level championship will provide BLW with a distinct identity on the professional golf map of India and establish Varanasi among the country's prominent sporting destinations. Owing to its excellent natural surroundings and sporting environment, the BLW Golf Course has been selected to host this prestigious tournament. Organized by DP World PGTI, the event aims to provide emerging golfers of the country with a competitive platform to progress to national and international levels. As part of the tournament preparations, course setup and final arrangements will be completed on 13 June 2026. A Pro-Am Event will be organized on 14 June 2026, featuring a 9-hole competition at 4:00 PM between combined teams of BLW golfers and professional golfers. The prize distribution ceremony for the event will also be held on the same occasion. A practice round for participating players is scheduled on 15 June 2026, while the main tournament will take place from 16 to 18 June 2026. The championship prize distribution ceremony will be conducted on the fi-

nial day of the tournament. This event is not merely a golf tournament but also a significant initiative towards promoting the sport of golf in India. Hosting such a prestigious championship in the spiritual and cultural city of Varanasi will provide fresh momentum to the development of golf in Eastern India and inspire young aspiring golfers. Through this event, the BLW Golf Course will gain extensive recognition at the national level. The tournament has been accorded a prominent place in the official DP World PGTI calendar, and its wide visibility will be ensured through various promotional channels, digital platforms, and media coverage. The event will also showcase BLW's excellent sports infrastructure, efficient management capabilities, and Indian Railways' rich tradition of promoting sports at both national and international levels. Furthermore, it will offer a memorable and inspiring experience for players, sports enthusiasts, and local citizens from across the country. The hosting of the DP World PGTI NexGen Golf Tournament 2026 in Varanasi is not only a matter of pride for BLW but also a reflection of the city's growing prominence in the Indian sporting landscape. The event is expected to become a significant milestone in the development of golf in India and in providing opportunities to the next generation of talented golfers.

India's Anti-infiltration Strategy : 3D Policy

India has the highest number of illegal immigrants or infiltrators in the world. The problem of illegal immigrants is a hindrance to the development of the any country. It has been observed that the Hindu population of India has decreased from 84 percent to 79 percent between 1951 and 2011. It is noteworthy that the Muslim population in India has increased from 9.8 percent to 14.2 percent during the same period. The Hindu civil society is following the slogan of one or two children by observing family planning and is causing the Hindu population to decline remarkably. In the Muslim society, the fertility rate is increasing without following family planning, polygamy and each couple/

wife has 5 to 10 children, and also their population in India has increased drastically due to illegal infiltration from neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Burma. It is estimated that there are at least 2 crore illegal immigrants in India today. Due to illegal infiltration from neighboring countries, the population of Muslims is increasing significantly in the border states/districts of the country. It has been confirmed that the main reason for the increase in the Muslim population in Assam to 29.6 percent and in West Bengal to 70 percent is illegal infiltration. Undesirable incidents such as exploitation of the country's resources, increasing the economic bur-

den, creating national security problems, and influencing national decisions are taking place due to illegal infiltration.

Difference between Refugees and Infiltrators:

There is a big difference between refugees and infiltrators. Refugees come to India in a helpless state to save their religion and lives. Infiltrators enter India for economic or other anti-national reasons. It is known that the number of Bangladeshis who have illegally entered India from Bangladesh over the last two decades is in crores. Today it is clear that during Didi's immoral and anti-national regime in West Bengal, Bangladeshi Muslim citizens were welcomed with a red carpet

at the borders and huge industries were opened to give them Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards freely. These infiltrators have become leeches and have been committing evil deeds that have weakened Mother India by sucking its blood and becoming the reason for the victory of the TMC party. We are seeing the BJP winning West Bengal with a huge majority in the May 4, 2026 elections, exposing the TMC's rowdy rule. The public anger is so high that TMC leaders are not even able to walk in the open market today.

3D Policy of the Government of India:

The "3D Policy" is being implemented to identify the infiltrators, delete their

names in electoral files and deport them to their native country. The "3D policy" has been introduced under the CAA to prevent illegal immigration from neighboring countries and to deport illegal immigrants. The central government is implementing the 3D policy "Detect, Delete, Deport" for infiltrators into India from neighbouring countries. The 3D principles are being implemented to identify illegal immigrants, remove them from the Indian voter list or other official documents, and send them to their own countries. Today, there is tense atmosphere on the Bangladesh border. Along with clashes between our BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh Forces, Bangladeshi

citizens are also backing the infiltrators and getting into fight with our BSF. The construction of a barbed wire fence is being carried out at a rapid pace along the 4,092 km border between India and Bangladesh to prevent illegal infiltration, smuggling and trafficking. It is noteworthy that the Border Guard Bangladesh fForces, as well as the people of the border area, are trying to create serious obstacles for our BSF forces during this fence construction work.

It is important to understand that infiltration is not a political issue, it is a national issue. It is important to know that illegal immigration has negative impacts on religious, social and demographic patterns.

UK grooming gang scandal exposes longstanding institutional failures: Report BRUSSELS

The grooming gang scandal in the United Kingdom (UK) exposes a deeper institutional failure rather than criminal brutality. Victims' complaints, police reports, court cases, and local investigations repeatedly revealed patterns that were present across multiple towns but not adequately addressed, a report has stated.

The issue of a significant number of offenders coming from British communities of Pakistani heritage was long treated as politically sensitive, despite the pattern repeatedly emerging in police investigations, court decisions, and public inquiries, Dimitra Staikou, a Greek lawyer, writer, and journalist, wrote for 'Europa Wire.'

"On June 3, 2026, Westminster Hall hosted a debate that brought one of the darkest and most controversial chapters of modern British history back into public view. MP Rupert Lowe presented testimonies from survivors of grooming gangs that had operated for years in towns such as Rotherham, Rochdale, and Telford, exploiting and abusing underage girls, while MPs including Sarah Champion, Joy Morrissey, and Esther McVey returned to questions that had long remained politically uncomfortable," Staikou detailed.

Japan PM heads to Europe for G7 Summit TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Saturday departed for her first trip to Europe since taking office in October. She is going to visit the UK, Italy and attend the G7 Summit in France.

In the UK and Italy, Takaichi will meet the respective Prime Ministers Kier Starmer and Georgia Meloni and discuss issues such as the situation in East Asia, the Middle East, and Ukraine, while also engaging in discussions with the leaders of both countries to strengthen bilateral cooperation in security, AI, quantum technology, space, semiconductors, and offshore wind power, with a view toward advancing cutting-edge technology development and enhancing the resilience of supply chains. Takaichi will then attend her first-ever G7 summit in Evian, France.

"This will be my first G7 Summit, but at the Evian Summit, in addition to addressing geopolitical crises in the Middle East, Ukraine, and the Indo-Pacific, I intend to engage in frank discussions among leaders .

'India-G7 ties driven by engagement, not endorsement'

NEW DELHI

The India-G7 relationship has remained resilient because it is founded on engagement rather than endorsement. India's value to the G7 does not stem from consistently aligning with Western policies, instead it lies in its ability to engage across competing blocs and forums, a report has stated.

"When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at the G7 Summit in Evian, France, next week, he will be there, once again, as a guest and not a member. India, having been a 'special invitee' for over a dozen summits since the 2003 G8 summit in the same French city, is striking. India is not a US treaty ally, remains active in BRICS, engages closely with Russia and China, has declined to join Western sanctions on Russia, and champions all of this in the name of 'strategic autonomy,'" a report in 'The Diplomat' detailed.

The report noted that amid strains in India-US relations, the distinctive nature of India-G7 ties is likely to be a



defining factor in next week's much-anticipated meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump.

It added that the rationale behind India's repeated invitations to the G7 lies in its growing global stature, which has coincided with the group's broader outreach. As the world's most populous nation, a major economic force, and a leading voice of the Global South, India has emerged as an indispensable stakeholder in

global decision-making.

According to the report, since the G20 Leaders' Summits began in 2008, global governance has been defined by "overlapping coalitions, flexible alignments, and issue-based alignments". In this evolving order, it said, influence is derived not merely from membership but from converging interests and shared priorities. This is what makes India's position at the crossroads of multiple diplomatic networks — the G20, BRICS, the Quad,

the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Commonwealth, and various Indo-Pacific initiatives — particularly noteworthy, while few countries enjoy such diverse institutional access.

"This breadth of engagement strengthens India's leverage while underscoring why it is unlikely to bandwagon any hardwired alliances. India relies on preserving flexibility across competing centers of power, a reality both India and the G7 continue to navigate

rather carefully," The Diplomat mentioned. The report stressed that sustained engagement between India and the G7 is no longer merely a diplomatic courtesy; it has become a practical necessity for effective global governance.

"Whether it is securing supply chains, accelerating energy transition, shaping emerging technologies, or maintaining stability in the Indo-Pacific, neither side can achieve sustainable outcomes without the other joining in. This relationship is likely to sustain, featuring disagreements and competing priorities, for its significance lies precisely in its ability to bridge different centers of gravity," The Diplomat mentioned.

"In a world defined less by fixed blocs than by interconnected coalitions, the strength of the India-G7 partnership will be measured by how successfully leading powers adapt to a more plural global order and whether they can keep building consensus on their emerging global challenges," it added.



North Korea blasts South Korea-EU statement on 'illegal' military cooperation with Russia

SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday blasted a recent joint statement adopted by South Korea and the European Union (EU) that condemned Pyongyang's military cooperation with Russia, saying it will continue to treat Seoul as "a hostile state."

In a press statement issued on the state-run Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean foreign ministry said South Korea is "an invariable enemy state obsessed with hostility and confrontation."

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and EU leaders adopted their joint statement on Wednesday during Lee's summit talks with Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, and Antonio Costa, president of the European Council, held at the EU headquarters in Brussels, Yonhap news agency reported.

The South Korea-EU statement described the North-Russia military cooperation during the war in Ukraine as "illegal" and urged the two countries "to immediately cease all such activities and abide by the United Nations Charter and all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions." Lee and EU leaders also expressed "grave concerns" over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

In response, the North Korean foreign ministry claimed the joint statement

was "a clear infringement on the sovereignty of our state and a grave hostile act."

It also accused Lee of taking off "the bothersome mask of 'peace'" and called South Korea "the first enemy state."

"Whatever the Seoul rulers say and do, the DPRK will deem it a challenge and remain unchanged in its principle of confronting the enemy aimed to definitely treat the ROK as a hostile state," the North's ministry said. "It has already been highlighted at home and abroad that the ROK regards hostility and confrontation as its foundation and it cannot exist even a moment without them."

The DPRK is short for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name, while the ROK stands for the Republic of Korea, the South's official name. "Through the above-said confrontational declaration, the chief executive of the ROK voluntarily proved before the world that there can never be 'peaceful coexistence' between the DPRK and the ROK, and the hostile relations will be maintained between them forever and that the ROK is an accomplice with same ulterior motives as the Ukrainian puppet forces," the statement also said. "That the chief executive of the ROK displayed his unusual 'frankness' shows that he lost his face to resort the deceptive farce about 'peace declaration' and 'theory on two peaceful states' any more."

Trump, PM Modi set to hold bilateral discussions on June 17: White House

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders during next week's G7 Summit in France, with discussions expected to focus on economic growth, supply chains, Artificial Intelligence (AI), investment partnerships and a range of global security challenges, the White House said Saturday.

"President Trump will meet with G7 leaders to address key issues of shared importance, including economic growth and development, supply chain resilience, illegal immigration, and Artificial Intelligence," a senior administration official said ahead of the presidential visit to France next week.

On Wednesday, June 17, Trump is scheduled to hold a



bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi before joining a working lunch attended by G7 leaders, outreach partners and technology executives, the senior administration official said. This would be the first bilateral meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi after last year's successful 'Operation Sindoor'

against Pakistan. The senior administration official did not provide any other details about the nature of the meeting between the two leaders.

Trump is scheduled to depart Washington on Monday and arrive in France later that day for the summit. His programme includes bilateral meetings with French President Emmanuel

Macron, the Emir of Qatar, the President of the United Arab Emirates, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and PM Modi. According to the White House, Trump intends to push an economic agenda centred on investment and development partnerships.

"The President will reframe the conversation around development to focus on investment partnerships that are mutually beneficial for both investor and recipient nation," a senior administration official said.

According to the official, the administration plans to focus on critical minerals and supply chain security, issues that have gained prominence amid growing geopolitical competition and concerns over dependence on a limited number of suppliers. Trump will work with G7 partners "to boost critical min-

eral supply chain resilience, driving economic security, and strengthen responses to illegal immigration and drug smuggling," the official said.

Artificial intelligence is expected to be one of the summit's key themes.

The summit schedule includes several working sessions involving G7 leaders, invited outreach partners and business leaders. Trump is expected to participate in discussions with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, meetings involving Middle Eastern leaders and a working lunch with global technology chief executives focused on innovation and AI.

The White House said the summit would provide an opportunity to advance US economic and strategic priorities while strengthening cooperation with allies and partners.

Khalistan movement fragmented ecosystem cannibalising itself: Report

OTTAWA

The broader Khalistan landscape — ranging from terror outfits such as Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) to various Akali factions and the network linked to imprisoned leader Amritpal Singh — does not reflect a unified political movement.

Instead, it remains fragmented into competing entities, each claiming legitimacy while discrediting the others as compromised or "cowardly". These factions are operating under the influence of handlers based in

Islamabad pursuing interests unrelated to Sikh welfare, a report has highlighted.

According to a 'Khalsa Vox' report, the Operation Blue Star anniversary statement from BKI chief Wadhawa Singh Babbar does not function as a rallying cry; instead, it comes across as an inadvertent confession of failure.

"Every June, the anniversaries around Operation Blue Star are used by a handful of overseas-based extremists to reignite a separatist cause that the vast majority of India's Sikh community has long since moved past. This year was no



different. Wadhawa Singh Babbar, chief of the Pakistan-based Babbar Khalsa International — a designated terrorist organisation — issued his customary

statement. But read carefully; his words reveal not the strength of the Khalistan movement but its profound and irreversible disarray," the report de-

tailed. "The most striking feature of Wadhawa Singh's letter is not its anti-India rhetoric — that is boilerplate. What stands out is the contempt it reserves for other pro-Khalistan groups. He dismisses the referendum campaigns of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) as toothless theatre. He ridicules Shiromani Akali Dal factions for seeking electoral relevance within India's constitutional framework. He sneers at parties that 'deliver speeches about Khalistan' without a concrete roadmap," it added.

The report noted that this does not reflect the voice of a confident liberation movement

but rather a fragmented ecosystem "cannibalising" itself.

Khalsa Vox quoted the translation of Wadhawa Singh's letter, saying, "Without a solid, modern plan and arms struggle, Khalistan can't be achieved." He called on Sikhs to "contribute to the Khalistan movement with body, mind, and money."

"Let that sink in. A man sitting comfortably in Pakistan — a country with a documented, decades-long record of weaponising Sikh grievances as a destabilization tool against India — is asking young Sikhs living in Punjab, Canada, the UK, and Australia to sacrifice their bod-

ies and money for a cause whose principal beneficiary would be the Pakistani deep state. This is not liberation theology. This is recruitment literature for proxy warfare," the report mentioned.

Highlighting the contributions of the Sikh community, it noted that Sikhs have served India as distinguished soldiers, administrators, entrepreneurs, athletes, and artists. It also underlined that Punjab's farmers have played a key role in feeding the nation. "Sikh institutions — the langar, the seva, the Gurdwara — represent some of the most inclusive civic traditions in the world.

Massive PoK protests reveal governance failures, rising public discontent

ISLAMABAD

WIslamabad has long projected itself as the custodian of Kashmiri interests, yet developments in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) sit uneasily with that narrative. A region promoted internationally as part of a national mission should not repeatedly witness coercive measures aimed at securing public obedience, a report has stated.

According to a report in 'One World Outlook', the unrest in PoK is more than a periodic flare-up; it exposes a political order built on "managed representation, coercive policing, and a long habit of treating local grievances as a security problem rather than a governance failure."

What began as a dispute surrounding reserved assembly seats has transformed into a larger question about whether the region's inhabitants are treated as people with legitimate rights or as subjects



expected to comply without dissent. The report noted that the current crisis is not an isolated episode but the culmination of longstanding failures of authorities in PoK to ensure affordable essential services, responsive governance, and meaningful political representation.

The move against the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), it said, is particularly revealing, as it reflects an effort to suppress a protest movement rather than address the grievances underpinning it. "Banning a protest movement does not solve its

grievances; it only narrows the space for peaceful bargaining and raises the political cost of compromise," the report added.

It further argued that when demands around "price relief, governance reform, and opposition to reserved-seat manip-

ulation" are framed as a "security threat", the authorities signal that they have "no better answer than force".

The report highlighted that local activists maintain that the seats are used by Pakistan's mainstream parties to shape the political landscape, thereby diminishing the influence of local inhabitants over their own affairs.

"That complaint should not be dismissed as narrow factionalism. A legislature that is partly shaped by political actors outside the territory is not fully accountable to the people who bear the consequences of its decisions.

If the region's residents believe that their assembly is an instrument for external influence, then every policy failure, every subsidy shortfall, and every policing excess will be interpreted through the lens of captured institutions," it mentioned.

The report stated that the "recurring flashpoints" in PoK

are not abstract constitutional disputes but the everyday economics of survival.

It highlighted that "flour and electricity" — the essentials of daily life — have repeatedly become sources of public anger as authorities struggle to provide them at prices ordinary residents can afford.

When authorities are forced to extend emergency relief after deadly protests, it is effectively admitting that their earlier approach was "unsustainable".

"This is the classic authoritarian bargain in miniature: cheap legitimacy through selective patronage, followed by coercion when the bill comes due. Protesters may be imperfect, sometimes unruly and at times violent, but the underlying grievance is legitimate when an impoverished population sees elite privilege protected while its own cost of living rises. That is why these episodes recur," the report stressed.

Pakistan's pressure tactics teaching Kabul to live without Islamabad: Report

ISLAMABAD/KABUL

Pakistan spent decades pursuing a doctrine of strategic depth, using proxy fighters to maintain influence in Afghanistan and ease pressure along its Western frontier.

The situation has since shifted dramatically, with relations with the Afghan Taliban deteriorating into open hostilities marked by frequent border clashes, including cross-border air strikes earlier this year and some of the most serious confrontations in recent years, a report has said. According to a report in an online magazine, 'The Diplomat', Pakistani military action against Afghanistan has worsened the country's economic crisis while enabling Moscow to cement its influence. "In late May, in a hall outside Moscow, Taliban



Defence Minister Mohammad Yaqoob signed a military agreement with Russia.

Two days later, back in Kabul, he promised that no neighbour would again strike Afghan territory with the same confidence. The neighbour he had in mind went unnamed but was obvious: Pakistan," the report detailed. It noted that during a May 26 meeting of the security chiefs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

India Has Adequate Energy, Fuel Supplies: Puri

CHANDIGARH/ LUDHIANA: (JUN 13)

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said there is no shortage of energy in the country and the supply situation of crude oil, LPG and natural gas is quite comfortable. Speaking with reporters in Ludhiana, Puri further asserted that, while fuel prices rose considerably in many countries, rates in India dropped by 3.1 per cent from May 2022 to May 2026. The petroleum and natural gas minister said oil prices rose across the world in the wake of the Iran conflict.

Violations of US blockade in Hormuz will not be tolerated: Rubio

BY SAGAR KULKARNI

WASHINGTON: (Jun 13) US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that any violation of the American blockade and illicit transport of Iranian oil through the Straits of Hormuz will not be tolerated, an official statement said Saturday.

Rubio conveyed this to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who spoke with him on Friday to lodge a strong protest against the death of Indian nationals in US attacks on ships off the coast of Oman.

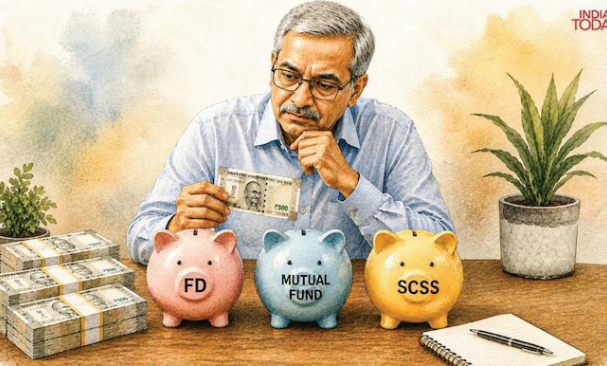
FDs, SCSS or mutual funds? The best way to invest Rs 50 lakh after retirement

Retiring with Rs 50 lakh may sound reassuring, but the real challenge begins after retirement: how do you turn that lump sum into a steady monthly income without running out of money?

“Mogambo khush hua...” was my uncle’s favourite line whenever his pension arrived on time and covered all his bills and post-retirement expenses. A small moment of relief. A big emotional milestone. But in today’s India, that “khushi” (happiness), rarely lasts without a follow-up thought. Will this monthly income still be enough 20–25 years later, when groceries, medicines, and hospital bills refuse to stay still? This is exactly where many retirees with a Rs 50 lakh corpus quietly find themselves. Cash-rich on paper, but unsure how to turn it into a stable, inflation-proof monthly income. The challenge is no longer earning after retirement. It is about protecting income from slowly losing meaning.

THE RETIREMENT PUZZLE: SAFETY FEELS GOOD, BUT IS IT ENOUGH?

For most Indian households, retirement planning still begins and often ends with fixed deposits. Familiar. Safe. Predictable. But safety can be misleading. In an inflation-heavy economy, FDs alone can feel like running on a treadmill. Movement is there. Progress is not. That is why financial planners now push a blended approach—SCSS (Senior Citizen Savings



Scheme), FDs, and mutual funds working together, not competing. As Ramneek Ghotra, Chief Growth Officer at Finvasia, puts it, “A retiree’s portfolio should be designed around three objectives: regular income, capital preservation, and inflation protection. Relying entirely on one asset class can expose retirees to reinvestment risk, inflation risk, or liquidity constraints. Therefore, diversification is critical.” Simple idea. Powerful impact. SCSS for stability. FDs for steady cash flow. Mutual funds for inflation protection. Liquid funds for emergencies. A system, not a list. But

WHY SCSS AND FDs STILL MATTER

There is a reason these instruments still dominate retirement conversations. They are predictable. They are tangible. They feel safe. SCSS offers government-backed assurance with regular payouts. Fixed deposits provide structured income and liquidity when laddered properly across tenures.

Comforting? Yes. Complete? Not quite.

Because over time, even “safe” income can lose its strength against rising prices. THE SILENT PRESSURE: INFLATION DOESN’T ANNOUNCE ITSELF

It doesn’t shock you in one day. It creeps in. A medical bill that once felt manageable. A grocery basket that keeps expanding. A utility bill that never really comes down. This is the real retirement risk. Not volatility. But erosion. Which is why retirement planning is no longer just about “protecting money.” It is about protecting lifestyle.

WHERE MUTUAL FUNDS CHANGE THE EQUATION

Mutual funds enter here; not as aggressive tools, but as quiet inflation buffers. Conservative hybrid and equity savings funds combine debt stability with limited equity exposure. Less drama than pure equity. More growth than pure deposits. They don’t replace SCSS or FDs. They complete them. They help the portfolio breathe over time.

A PRACTICAL Rs 50 LAKH STRUCTURE

Most modern retirement

strategies now follow a layered approach. Not one bucket. Multiple layers.

Around 30% is often placed in SCSS for guaranteed income, about 25% in fixed deposits for predictable cash flow, and nearly 30% in conservative hybrid mutual funds for inflation protection. The remaining portion is kept in liquid funds and cash for emergencies, says Ghotra. As he suggests, the logic is not complexity. It is balance.

HOW MUCH MONTHLY INCOME CAN Rs 50 LAKH REALLY GENERATE?

This is the question that ultimately matters. Malhotra says, “Depending on structure and market conditions, a retiree with a corpus of Rs 50 lakh can generate an annual income of around Rs 2.5 lakh at a 5% withdrawal rate, which works out to roughly Rs 20,800 per month.” “However, if the corpus is invested across a diversified mix of instruments such as the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS), fixed deposits, debt funds and hybrid funds, generating an average portfolio return of 7–8%, the monthly income could increase to around Rs 25,000–35,000. This approach may also help preserve a significant portion of the original capital over time. A Rs 50 lakh corpus can typically generate around Rs 20,000 to Rs 35,000 per month in retirement,” he added.

A BLENDED MARKET REALITY

As Siddharth Maurya, Founder & Managing Director, Vibhavanag Anukulakara

Pvt. Ltd., points out, retirement income works best when multiple instruments work together rather than in isolation. He suggests combining SCSS, FD ladders, post office schemes, debt mutual funds, and systematic withdrawal plans from hybrid funds to generate around Rs 30,000–Rs 35,000 monthly income. The key, he says, is balancing capital protection with a small growth component, so income does not lose relevance over time.

WHY DIVERSIFICATION IS NO LONGER OPTIONAL

Earlier, retirement planning was simple. Save. Park in deposits. Live off interest. Today, that formula is under pressure. Interest rates move. Inflation stays sticky. Lifespans stretch. Medical costs rise unpredictably. Retirement portfolios now behave differently. They are systems. Not silos. SCSS anchors. FDs steady the flow. Mutual funds add long-term resilience. Liquid funds absorb shocks. No single instrument carries the weight alone any more.

THE REAL OBJECTIVE: INCOME THAT EVOLVES WITH TIME

Retirement investing is not about chasing the highest returns or finding the “perfect” scheme. It is about ensuring that money continues to support daily life without stress.

FDs and SCSS offer comfort and predictability. Mutual funds add resilience against inflation. Liquid funds provide flexibility when life becomes unpredictable.



RECPDCL Hands Over Jalna Power Transmission Limited

a SPV of Intra State Transmission Project of Maharashtra, to M/s Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited

GURUGRAM, JUNE 13

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, handed over Jalna Power Transmission Limited, the project-specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), to the successful bidder, M/s Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited, the project-specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), to the successful bidder, M/s Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited, on 12 June 2026.

M/s Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited emerged as the successful bidder through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator, for development of Maharashtra’s intra-state transmission project on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer

(BOOT) basis. The SPV was handed over by Shri Ratnesh Kumar, General Manager (Engg.), RECPDCL, to Ms. Vineeta Shrivani, Company Secretary, and Shri Amit Naik, Chief Engineer (TBCB), Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited, in the presence of senior officials from Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited, Maharashtra STU, and RECPDCL. The project broadly envisages establishment of a 400/132 kV substation at Jalna and about 135 km of 132 kV double-circuit transmission lines from Jalna (New) to Jalna MIDC, Jalna (New) to Partur, and Jalna to Ghansawangi & Utwad, along with associated works. The project is scheduled for implementation over 24 months at an estimated cost of Rs. 912 crore.

RIL Activates WhatsApp Chatbot for AGM

MUMBAI, 13 JUNE 2026

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has launched its AGM Digital Assistant on WhatsApp at +91 79771 11111 for the Company’s 49th Annual General Meeting (Post-IPO), continuing a shareholder engagement initiative it pioneered in 2020. The 2026 edition marks the sixth consecutive year of the AGM chatbot, underscoring Reliance’s focus on using technology to enhance the shareholder experience.

RIL is the first company in India to offer a chatbot service to answer shareholder and investor queries pertaining to its AGM, making this one of the earliest large-scale deployments of a dedicated AGM chatbot in corporate India. The 49th AGM will be held on Friday, 19 June 2026 at 2:00 PM through video conferencing via Jio-Events. The Digital Assistant is a one-stop platform for AGM-related information and support, offering instant access to AGM details, voting guidance, dividend and taxation information, key documents and links, FAQs and other shareholder

services. Through an intuitive, menu-driven interface, shareholders can quickly access information on remote e-voting, Insta Poll procedures, virtual AGM participation, query submission, AGM documents and other meeting-related processes. The chatbot also provides direct access to support channels, including the dedicated AGM support email and registrar helpdesk details. Available 24x7, it remains operational throughout the AGM period until the conclusion of the meeting, enabling shareholders to obtain timely information and assistance at their convenience and reducing reliance on manual support. Developed by Jio Haptik, an RIL subsidiary and a leader in intelligent virtual assistants for businesses, the AGM Digital Assistant is part of Reliance’s broader digital engagement strategy to make shareholder participation simpler, more transparent and more accessible – reinforcing RIL’s commitment to digitally empower businesses and individuals through simple, smart and secure technology-enabled solutions.

India’s startup ecosystem generates about 25 lakh jobs in last decade: Dr Jitendra Singh

BENGALURU, JUNE 13

India’s startup movement has emerged as a major driver of employment generation, creating nearly 24–25 lakh jobs over the last decade, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Saturday. He noted that the country’s startup ecosystem, which comprised only around 350–400 startups about 10 years ago, has today expanded to nearly 2.3 lakh ventures, making India the world’s third largest startup ecosystem and reflecting its transition into a full-fledged innovation economy. Addressing the ‘RISE Conclave 2026’ here, he said that many of the transformative changes witnessed in the country’s science and technology ecosystem can be traced back to the policy direction provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that Prime Minister’s call for “Startup In-

dia” in 2015 laid the foundation for a vibrant entrepreneurial culture, while supportive reforms opened new avenues for private participation in strategic sectors and encouraged young Indians to pursue innovation-driven careers. He further added that these initiatives have helped build a supportive ecosystem that is enabling the country to harness its demographic dividend and emerge as a global innovation hub. The Minister highlighted that the ‘RISE Conclave’ was conceived with the objective of bringing together the four pillars of Research, Industry, Start-ups and Entrepreneurship under one platform. He said the initiative reflects the Government’s commitment to fostering collaborations among scientists, industries, investors, academia and policymakers to build a self-reliant and innovation-driven India.

Inside Elon Musk's Tech Empire

NEW YORK:

Elon Musk, the world’s richest man and now first-ever trillionaire, controls a lot of different businesses.

Electric vehicles. Brain implants. Underground tunnels. A social media platform once called Twitter. And a rocket maker that blasted off its trading from Wall Street this week. Over time, more and more of these ventures have found themselves under the same roof. Musk merged SpaceX - which went public on Friday - with his artificial intelligence company xAI just earlier this year. But he still holds the CEO role at several corporations today, in addition to other various executive titles or ownership stakes.

Here’s a look at Musk’s vast business empire. Musk is CEO

of SpaceX, which he founded in 2002. The company has grown far beyond rockets. It owns satellite communications service Starlink, a big source of cash for the company that generated \$4.4 billion in operating income last year. SpaceX also houses social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, which Musk bought for \$44 billion in 2022 and parked it under xAI, the maker of the Grok chatbot.

Both xAI and X are money losers (the AI business lost \$6.4 billion in operations last year). Nonetheless, SpaceX - which lost \$2.6 billion overall from operations last year - was able to whip up enough market hype to debut with the biggest initial public offering in history on Friday, closing at just below \$161 per share, or a total market value of \$2.1 trillion.



Some think that price tag significantly overvalues the company. SpaceX has promised it will become a leader in AI and one day help make human life multiplanetary - with lofty, and at times sci-fi sounding, goals that range from putting data centers in space to colonizing Mars. But the bulk of that hinges on unproven technology and massive capi-

tal needs. Musk is also CEO of Tesla, a role he has held at the electric car maker since 2008. Tesla has struggled with rising competition in the EV space. Last year, the company lost its crown as the world’s largest EV maker to China’s BYD. Sales were also bruised during boycotts over Musk’s politics. Those numbers have since rebounded some, but Musk has repeatedly shrugged off troubles - emphasizing that Tesla’s future lies less in car sales than getting people to take rides in them as self-driving taxis. Beyond the road, Tesla has been upping production of robots for homes and businesses. And it’s also been in the solar energy business for about a decade with its purchase of SolarCity, which was founded by Musk and two of his cousins. Tesla went public in 2010,

and went on to join the trillion dollar club on the S&P 500. Its market cap currently stands around \$1.5 trillion. Musk has also the CEO title at Neuralink, a brain-computer interface company he co-founded in 2016. Neuralink is one of many groups working to connect the human nervous system to machines. It’s launched clinical trials for people who have spinal cord injuries, ALS and other conditions. The company (and sometimes Musk himself) has announced a handful of brain implants over recent years. In January, Neuralink said it had 21 trial participants worldwide. Musk also founded The Boring Company, a decade-old tunnel digging and underground transportation business. The Boring Company is behind projects like the “Vegas Loop”

- a network of underground, Tesla-hailing tunnels that first opened around around the Las Vegas Convention Center in 2021. It’s promised to deliver a network of high speed transit - with plans to also make tunnels in Dubai and Nashville. Still, pushback has piled up along the way. The company has been accused of breaking multiple safety and environmental requirements in Las Vegas, where its full route is still unfinished, and other criticism from some local officials in Nashville. Musk made his initial fortune by creating two companies, Zip2 and PayPal (once X.com). Those then-startups were sold to new owners decades ago - but netted him about \$200 million at sale, which Musk used to later start SpaceX and invest in Tesla.

A DEFINING MOMENT FOR NLCIL

GHATAMPUR, (KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH) – JUNE 13, 2026 :

Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL), a Joint Venture of NLC India Limited (51%) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (49%), has achieved a landmark milestone with the successful declaration of Commercial Operation Date (COD) of Unit-3 (660 MW) of the Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPP) effective from 00:00 hours on June 13, 2026.

Unit-3 was successfully synchronized with the grid on April 03, 2026, marking a major milestone towards commissioning of the final unit of the project. Thereafter, first coal firing was successfully achieved on April 22, 2026. Subsequently, Unit-3 achieved Full Load Operation on May 06, 2026. The unit thereafter successfully completed the mandatory 72-hour continuous full-load trial operation in a smooth and uninterrupted manner, leading to the declaration of Commercial Operation (COD) effective from 00:00 hours on June 13, 2026 and marking the successful completion of NLCIL’s first supercritical thermal power project. With the declaration of COD of Unit-3, the entire 1980



MW (3x660 MW) Ghatampur Thermal Power Project is now under commercial operation, significantly strengthening reliable and sustainable power supply to the State of Uttar Pradesh and contributing substantially to the nation’s growing energy requirements.

Honourable Union Minister for Coal, Shri. Kishan Reddy Ji, while appreciating this milestone achievement of NLCIL in his X platform, congratulated NUPPL and all stakeholders on the successful declaration of the COD for Unit-3 of Ghatampur Thermal Power Project, bringing the total installed capacity of the 1,980 MW project to full operational status. This landmark achievement reflects the vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to enhance energy security, expand infrastructure, and build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The

project will play a vital role in meeting the nation’s growing energy needs and powering India’s development journey.

Shri Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, CMD, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) and Chairman, NUPPL, conveyed his greetings and appreciation to all stakeholders associated with the project. In his message, he noted that the successful commissioning of all three units of the GTPP marks a significant milestone and exemplifies the collective commitment, perseverance, and teamwork of all stakeholders in advancing the nation’s energy security through the creation of reliable power generation infrastructure.

During the event, Shri Samir Swarup, Director (HR), NLCIL, Shri. Rajesh Pratap Singh Sisodia, Director (Power) (Additional Charge), NLCIL, Shri. Durai

Kumar S, Chief Executive Officer–NUPPL, Shri. Prasun Ray, Chief Finance Officer– NUPPL, were also present. The Unit-1 and Unit-2 of the Ghatampur Thermal Power Plant (GTPP) were successfully commissioned and commenced their commercial operation on December 12, 2024 and December 09, 2025 respectively. Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had dedicated the Unit-1 (660 MW) of the GTPP to the Nation by virtual mode on May 30, 2025 in a grand function held at Kanpur Nagar. Till 31st May 2026, Units-1 & 2 of this project have generated 6107 MUs of electricity, resulting in revenue of INR 4756 Cr.

With Unit-3 commercially operational, GTPP is now delivering its full 1980 MW capacity to the state & national grid. This major capacity addition will significantly support the grow-

ing electricity demand of the nation and boost the economy, particularly of the State of Uttar Pradesh. Further, with commissioning of all three units, the thermal station is expected to generate 14,743 MUs annually, which will be meeting the energy requirements of approximately 12 million average Indian households annually. Consequently, the project will also witness a significant increase in annual revenue to 8,453 Cr in a year. Presently, as per the power allocation by Ministry of Power, Government of India, 93.11% of Power generated from this project is allocated to the State of Uttar Pradesh. Further, balance power from this project is being allocated to various states, promoting inter-state energy equity.

The project underscores NUPPL’s commitment to environmental sustainability, incorporating supercritical boiler and turbine-generator sets, Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD), Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technologies, and Zero Liquid Discharge systems to meet stringent environmental standards.

Beyond power generation, the project has emerged as a major catalyst for socio-economic development. During peak construction phase, the project

provided direct employment to nearly 8,500 workers, while presently more than 4,000 contract workers are engaged at the site. With all three units under operation, the project is expected to generate around 25,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, creating significant economic benefits for the region and the State of Uttar Pradesh. NUPPL is also progressing steadily with the development of the captive Pachwara South Open Cast Project (PSOCP) in Dumka District, Jharkhand, which will provide a sustainable fuel source for the power plant. The Mining operations already commenced on 19.12.2025, with coal exposure achieved on 29.03.2026. Commercial coal production from the mine is expected to commence in a phased manner from FY 2026–27, ensuring long-term fuel security for the project. With the successful declaration of COD of Unit-3, NUPPL has transformed the vision of the 1980 MW Ghatampur Thermal Power Project into reality, reaffirming its commitment towards powering India’s growth journey with reliable, efficient and sustainable energy while contributing meaningfully to the nation’s vision of energy self-reliance and inclusive development.





India Battles Undernutrition and Obesity Together

Confronting India's Double Burden of Malnutrition

India is confronting a complex public health challenge that has two contrasting yet interconnected dimensions—undernutrition and obesity. While undernutrition has long been associated with poverty and food insecurity, obesity is emerging as a growing concern driven by changing lifestyles and dietary habits. Today, both conditions coexist within the same population, communities, households, and in some cases, even within the same individual at different stages of life.

Over the past few decades, India has transitioned from a nation struggling with food scarcity to one where calorie availability has improved significantly. Agricultural production has increased, food supply chains have expanded, and processed foods have become widely accessible. However, improvements in calorie availability have not necessarily translated into better nutrition. As a result, the country is now facing what experts describe as the "double burden of malnutrition."

Undernutrition Remains a Major Concern

Despite economic growth and increased food production, undernutrition continues to affect millions of Indians. Large sections of the population still suffer from inadequate dietary diversity, poor protein intake, and deficiencies of essential vitamins and minerals.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 report, nearly 55 percent of India's population cannot afford a healthy diet. Additionally, around 40 percent of people do not receive adequate nutrition. These figures highlight a significant gap between food availability and access to nutritious food. Many households continue to rely heavily on carbohydrate-rich staples such as rice and wheat while consuming insufficient amounts of protein, fruits, vegetables,

and micronutrient-rich foods. As a result, deficiencies of iron, vitamin A, vitamin D, and other essential nutrients remain widespread. Iron-deficiency anaemia continues to be one of the most common nutritional disorders in India, affecting women, children, and adolescents. Micronutrient deficiencies often remain hidden but can have serious consequences for health, immunity, and productivity.

The Long-Term Impact of Childhood Undernutrition

The effects of undernutrition extend far beyond childhood. Poor nutrition during critical stages of growth can permanently affect physical and cognitive development. Children who do not receive adequate nutrients are more vulnerable to infections and illnesses. They may experience stunted growth, delayed development, and learning difficulties. Undernourished children often perform poorly in school and face reduced economic opportunities later in life.

Research has also shown that poor nutrition during early life can alter metabolic programming, increasing the risk of chronic diseases in adulthood. Thus, the consequences of childhood undernutrition can persist for decades and influence overall population health.

Obesity Is Rising Across India

While undernutrition remains a challenge, obesity has emerged as another major public health concern. Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted between 2019 and 2021 indicates that nearly one in four Indian adults is overweight or obese. Research published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology and supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) found that approximately one-third of adults have abdominal obesity, while one-fourth suffer from generalized obesity. Several factors have contributed to this trend. Rapid urbanisation, sedentary work environments, increased screen time, and reduced

physical activity have significantly altered lifestyles. At the same time, highly processed foods rich in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats have become widely available and affordable. These foods are often energy-dense but nutrient-poor, allowing people to consume excess calories without meeting their nutritional requirements.

Physical Inactivity Adds to the Problem

The rise in obesity is closely linked to declining levels of physical activity. According to the World Health Organization, nearly half of India's population does not meet recommended physical activity guidelines. Urban lifestyles often involve long hours of sitting, whether at work, in transport, or while using digital devices. Children and adolescents are also spending more time indoors and on screens, reducing opportunities for outdoor play and exercise. This combination of excessive calorie intake and insufficient physical activity creates conditions that promote weight gain and metabolic disorders.

Childhood Nutrition Shows Both Extremes

The double burden is especially

The Double Burden of Malnutrition

One of the most concerning aspects of India's nutrition crisis is that undernutrition and obesity are not separate problems affecting different groups. Increasingly, they coexist within the same communities and even within the same individuals over the course of their lives. A child who experiences undernutrition during early development may later become overweight or obese as dietary patterns change. This phenomenon is becoming increasingly common in developing countries undergoing nutritional transition. Early-life nutrient deficiencies can impair muscle development and alter the body's metabolism. Later exposure to calorie-dense diets often results in excessive fat accumulation, particularly around the abdomen. This creates a metabolic mismatch that significantly increases the risk of chronic diseases. As a result, populations can simultaneously experience nutrient deficiencies and obesity-related disorders.

visible among children.

India is home to more than 14 million children living with obesity, one of the highest numbers globally. At the same time, millions continue to suffer from undernutrition, stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies. Modern dietary patterns have contributed to this paradox. Children increasingly consume packaged snacks, sugar-sweetened beverages, fast foods, and processed products. While these foods provide large amounts of calories, they often lack essential nutrients required for healthy growth and development.

Consequently, children may gain weight while remaining deficient in vitamins, minerals, and protein. This phenomenon is sometimes referred to as "hidden hunger."

Health Risks Associated with Obesity

The health consequences of obesity extend far beyond appearance or body weight. Children and adults with obesity face a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, fatty liver disease, and respiratory disorders. Abdominal obesity, in particular,

is associated with insulin resistance and chronic inflammation. Mental health impacts are also increasingly recognised. Obese children and adolescents may experience low self-esteem, social stigma, anxiety, and depression, affecting their overall well-being and quality of life. Without timely intervention, obesity can lead to lifelong health complications and place a significant burden on healthcare systems.

Why Undernutrition and Obesity Coexist

Several factors explain why these seemingly opposite conditions can exist together.

One major reason is the ongoing dietary transition occurring across India. Traditional diets rich in whole grains, pulses, fruits, and vegetables are gradually being replaced by processed foods that are high in calories but low in nutritional value. Food insecurity also plays a role. When nutritious foods are expensive or inaccessible, families often choose cheaper calorie-dense alternatives that provide energy but lack essential nutrients. As a result, people may consume enough or even excess calories while remaining nutritionally deficient. Urbanisation and changing work patterns have further reduced physical activity levels, amplifying the effects of poor dietary choices. These shared environmental, economic, and social factors contribute to both undernutrition and obesity, making them two sides of the same problem.

Shared Metabolic Consequences

Although undernutrition and obesity appear very different, they share several metabolic consequences. Both conditions increase the risk of chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension. Undernutrition weakens immunity and reduces metabolic resilience, while obesity promotes inflammation and insulin resistance. Together, these conditions create a population that is more vulner-

able to illness and long-term health complications.

The Need for a Comprehensive Nutrition Strategy

Historically, India's public health efforts have focused largely on reducing undernutrition through maternal health programmes, child feeding initiatives, and nutritional supplementation schemes. These interventions have delivered important gains in many regions. However, obesity prevention has received comparatively less attention. Routine metabolic screening, nutrition counselling, and early lifestyle interventions are still not consistently available across healthcare systems. Experts argue that addressing India's nutrition challenge requires a unified approach that tackles both undernutrition and obesity simultaneously. Improving diet quality should remain a central priority. Greater consumption of protein-rich foods, fruits, vegetables, fibre, and essential micronutrients can benefit both undernourished and overweight populations. Reducing the intake of ultra-processed foods is equally important. Promoting regular physical activity across all age groups is another key component. Exercise helps maintain muscle mass, improves insulin sensitivity, and reduces excess fat accumulation. Healthcare systems must also strengthen screening and early detection efforts for both nutritional deficiencies and obesity-related risks.

Looking Ahead

India's nutrition challenge is no longer defined solely by hunger or food scarcity. The country now faces a complex reality where deficiency and excess coexist, often driven by the same economic, environmental, and lifestyle factors.

Addressing only one side of the problem will not be enough. Policymakers, healthcare professionals, educators, and communities must work together to improve diet quality, encourage active lifestyles, and ensure access to nutritious food for all.





Women's T20 WC
'Pheehs was awesome today'.
Wareham praises Litchfield
after Australia's win



MANCHESTER: Player of the Match Georgia Wareham praised Australia's fearless batting approach and strong bowling unit after the six-time champions opened their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign with a commanding 65-run victory over South Africa at Old Trafford in Manchester on Saturday. Wareham played a key role in the win, scoring a valuable 32 runs before returning figures of 3-13 as Australia defended 172 and bowled South Africa out for 107 in 16.4 overs. Wareham played a key role in the win, scoring a valuable 32 runs before returning figures of 3-13 as Australia defended 172.

Women's T20 WC 2026
Fatima Sana shrugs
off injury scare
ahead of India clash



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan captain Fatima Sana said she expects to be fit for her team's ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 opener against arch-rivals India after suffering a minor knock during a training session on Saturday. The 24-year-old all-rounder was struck on the knee during Pakistan's net session, briefly raising concerns about her participation in Sunday's marquee Group-stage clash. However, Sana indicated that the injury was not serious. "Ayesha (Zafar) baaji played the shot, and it hit my knee. I think it is good now," Sana said during the pre-match press conference.

England sweat on Robinson's fitness as
uncapped Crocombe drafted into Test squad

LONDON

England's preparations for the second Test against New Zealand have been complicated by a fitness concern over Ollie Robinson, with the fast bowler set to undergo a precautionary knee scan and uncapped seamer Henry Crocombe drafted into the squad as cover. Robinson, who made an impressive return to Test cricket after more than two years away by claiming seven wickets in England's victory at Lord's, reported soreness in his knee following a training session and is now facing a race against time to be available for the match at The Oval. Confirming the development, England Cricket said in a statement on X on Saturday, "The Sussex fast bowler has been selected as cover for Ollie Robinson, who is expected to



undergo a precautionary knee scan this afternoon. Robinson experienced soreness after a training session on Friday. Wishing you all the best, Ollie." The uncertainty has opened the door for Crocombe, who receives his first senior England call-up. The 24-year-old Sussex quick has been steadily building a reputation on the domestic circuit and has emerged as

PV Sindhu, lead India's Asian Games 2026



- 22 Gold Medalists
Satwik-Chirag to Headline India's Asian Games 2026 Squad
- Lakshya Sen, Treasa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand, also named in the squad for the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

NEW DELHI

Two-time Asian Games medalist PV Sindhu, 2022 Asia men's doubles gold medalists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will headline a stacked Indian squad for the badminton championships at the 20th Asian Games, set to take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, 2026. The Asian Games remain one of the most prestigious multi-sport competitions in the world and among the highest honors in Asian sport, bringing together the continent's finest athletes in pursuit of national glory. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) selection committee finalized the squad after reviewing recent performances across nation-

al and international tournaments, alongside BWF rankings as of May 26, 2026. Led by India's top-ranked men's singles player Lakshya Sen, the squad also features experienced H. S. Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth—all part of India's historic men's team silver-medal campaign at the previous edition. The men's contingent retains much of the core that secured a bronze medal at the BWF Thomas Cup earlier this year. Reflecting the emergence of a new generation, Badminton Asia Championships silver medalist Ayush Shetty, alongside BWF World Junior Championships Individual Championship Silver medalist Tanvi Sharma and Team Championship medalist Unnati Hooda, have also earned selection following a string of impressive performances on the international circuit. "Indian badminton today is in a position where success is being shaped not just by individual excellence, but by the growing depth of talent across categories. Over the last few months, we have seen encouraging signs across the board, Satwik-Chirag back to their best,

Lakshya returning to the world's top 10, the men's team reaching another Thomas Cup podium, Sindhu and our senior players delivering consistently, and younger athletes stepping up with strong performances and important results internationally. This squad reflects that journey, a blend of experience, depth and emerging talent, and we believe it has the quality and character to compete strongly at the Asian Games and make the country proud," said Sanjay Mishra, General Secretary, BAI. India heads into Aichi-Nagoya carrying strong momentum in the event. Indian badminton has won 13 medals in Asian Games history, including a breakthrough gold medal at the previous edition. The 2022 Games marked India's most successful badminton campaign, yielding one gold, one silver, and an individual bronze through Prannoy. India's highest medal tally overall came at the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games, where the country secured five bronze medals. The Indian squad will also feature established combinations across categories. Men's doubles pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and M. R. Arjun arrive in strong form, with Arjun

also carrying experience from India's silver-winning men's team campaign in 2022. Women's doubles pair Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continue to anchor India's doubles challenge, alongside the steadily rising Simran Singh and Kavipriya Selvam. Thailand Masters Super 300 champion Devika Sihag and talents Isharani Baruah and Tharun Manneppalli further strengthen India's singles depth. Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto add quality and experience to the double's setup. For the Individual Championships, India will field representation across all five disciplines, with Sen and Shetty featuring in men's singles, while Sindhu and Hooda lead the women's singles. Satwiksairaj-Chirag and Hariharan-Arjun will compete in men's doubles, with Treasa-Gayatri and Kavipriya-Simran representing India in women's doubles. India's top mixed doubles pairing Dhruv and Tanisha will contest the XD event.

*Asian Games 2026, Team India in Full
*Team Championship
Men's Team: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, H. S. Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth, Tharun Manneppalli, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Hariharan Amsakarunan, M. R. Arjun, Dhruv Kapila
Women's Team: PV Sindhu, Unnati Hooda, Devika Sihag, Tanvi Sharma, Isharani Baruah, Treasa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand Pulella, Kavipriya Selvam, Simran Singh, Tanisha Crasto
Individual Championship
Men's Singles (MS): Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty
Women's Singles (WS): PV Sindhu, Unnati Hooda
Men's Doubles (MD): Satwiksairaj Rankireddy / Chirag Shetty; Hariharan Amsakarunan / M. R. Arjun
Women's Doubles (WD): Treasa Jolly / Gayatri Gopichand Pulella; Kavipriya Selvam / Simran Singh

MATCHES PLAYED	TOTAL GOALS	DRAW	WINS	GOALS PER MATCH
4	12	1	3	3.0
RESULTS SO FAR				
MEXICO	2 - 0	SOUTH AFRICA		
SOUTH KOREA	2 - 1	CZECHIA		
CANADA	1 - 1	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA		
USA	4 - 1	PARAGUAY		
TOURNAMENT LEADERS		TOP GOAL SCORERS		WINNERS SO FAR
HIGHEST SCORING TEAM	USA 4 GOALS	Folarin Balogun (USA) 2	2	MEXICO
		Julian Quiroles (Mexico) 1	1	

Balogun Brace Powers
United States to Emphatic
Victory Over Paraguay

MUMBAI

The United States kicked off their FIFA World Cup campaign in style with a commanding 4-1 victory over Paraguay at the Los Angeles Stadium, producing an impressive attacking performance led by Folarin Balogun's first-half brace. The Americans controlled much of the contest and converted their chances efficiently to secure a convincing opening win. The United States made a dream start in the 7th minute when Weston McKennie's effort forced an own goal from Paraguay's Damián Bobadilla, handing the hosts an early lead. Balogun thought he had doubled the advantage midway through the first half, but his effort was ruled out for off-side in the 28th minute. The forward responded almost immediately, finding the net in the 31st minute with a composed pinpoint finish from near the penalty spot

after an excellent assist from Christian Pulisic. Balogun struck again just before half-time, beating two defenders and clinically hitting the ball in the top of the net in the 44th minute with a well timed assist from Malik Tillman to give the United States a commanding three-goal cushion. Paraguay pulled one back in the 73rd minute through Mauricio, who finished off a move created by Julio Enciso with a low finish on the far post, but any hopes of a comeback were extinguished deep into stoppage time. Giovanni Reyna added a fourth goal in the 90+8th minute, calmly finishing at the far post after being set up by Alex Freeman. With Balogun leading the attack and several key players contributing across the pitch, the United States delivered one of the standout performances of the opening round, laying down an early marker with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Paraguay.

Brar, Dubey, Gill star as India beat
Afg by seven wickets, take 1-0 lead

DHARAMSHALA

The crowd at the HPCA Stadium may have come expecting a full 50-over contest, but they were treated to an entertaining 25-over chase in a match truncated due to rain as skipper Shubman Gill hit 84 not out to help India beat Afghanistan by seven wickets in the ODI series opener on Saturday. After debutants Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey claimed three wickets apiece to help India bowl out Afghanistan for 194, despite a blistering 102 coming from Rahmanullah Gurbaz's willow, Gill produced a knock of absolute authority and was at his sublime best to hit 11 fours and two sixes in his 66-ball knock, taking India home with 13 balls to spare. India needed a solid start, and skipper Rohit Sharma provided it before a mix-up cut short his innings. Shubman Gill carried on fluently, striking boundaries to keep the tempo high. He was joined by Ishan Kishan, who sparkled on his return to ODIs with a 22-ball 34, while peppering the field with aggressive strokes. KL Rahul then took charge in the middle overs, ensuring there was no let-up. The right-hander remained unbeaten on a 19-ball 39, laced with four boundaries and three sixes to guide India home with ease, as they never looked under pressure in the chase. Afghanistan's bowlers struggled to find rhythm. Rashid Khan was expensive but managed to pick up a wicket, while the pacers leaked runs throughout. The visitors failed to build momentum with the ball, allowing India's batters to dominate from start to finish, as the hosts maintained their unbeaten record against them. The innings began dramatically when Azmatullah Omarzai conceded five wides and a no-ball, before Rohit was



struck on the wrist by his short delivery, and required treatment from the physio. Rohit soon found his rhythm, punching through covers and pulling Omarzai for a six to reach 16,000 international runs. Gill joined in with crisp drives, and the pair had a 46-run opening stand. The opening stand was broken when a mix-up led to Rohit's run-out for 16. Gill carried on, unfazed, and was joined by Ishan Kishan, whose aggressive knock included three fours and a six, but Rashid Khan's googly castled him in the 13th over. Shreyas Iyer added a few boundaries, but pulled to mid-on for 12 off Zia. At 137/3, India still held control thanks to Gill's composure. The skipper reached his fifty off 37 balls with a pull off Nabi and crossed 3,000 ODI runs during the chase. He struck sixes and fours with absolute authority, while Rahul ensured there were no late hiccups. He began cautiously but soon accelerated with his lofted cover drives and pulls, before completing the chase in the 23rd over and helping India

take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Previously, Gurbaz had luck on his side - India didn't review an lbw appeal when he was on 14, and he made them pay. After taking time to get going and understanding the pitch, he launched into the Indian back-up bowlers with some outrageous clean hitting in a 25-overs-a-side contest. In an outstanding knock studded with eight fours and as many sixes, Gurbaz brought up his ninth hundred off 48 balls, the fastest by an Afghan batter in the 50-over format and the second fastest by any batter against India in ODIs. At one point, Afghanistan looked set to get beyond 220, but Gurbaz's dismissal helped India claw back. Barring Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai making 20s, none of the other batters got past single digits. For India, Gurnoor and Harsh maintained their composure and bowling smarts to pick three-fors while Arshdeep Singh and Nitish Kumar Reddy chipped in with two scalps each.

Litchfield, Wareham shine as Australia crush South Africa by 65 Runs

MANCHESTER

Phoebe Litchfield's explosive half-century laid the foundation before Georgia Wareham led a clinical bowling display with three wickets as six-time champions Australia began their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign with a commanding 65-run victory over South Africa at Emirates Old Trafford on Saturday. After posting a competitive 172/8 on the back of Litchfield's 51 off 24 balls, Australia's bowlers struck regularly to bowl South Africa out for 107 in 16.4 overs, with only captain Laura Wolvaardt of-

fering significant resistance during the chase. Chasing 173 for victory in conditions that continued to assist the bowlers, South Africa suffered an early collapse. Captain Sophie Molineux struck in the opening over to trap Sune Luus lbw before Kim Garth produced a superb delivery to bowl Annerie Dercksen in the next over, leaving the Proteas reeling at 7/2. South Africa responded through a steady partnership between captain Laura Wolvaardt and promoted all-rounder Nadine de Klerk. The pair handled the early movement well and helped their side recover to



43/2 at the end of the powerplay. De Klerk made 25 runs and added 41 runs with Wolvaardt before Ware-

ham broke the stand by bowling her soon after the fielding restrictions ended. With the required rate

climbing, Marizanne Kapp tried to lift the scoring, striking two boundaries off Annabel Sutherland. However, a mix-up between the wickets ended her brief innings of 12, giving Australia another breakthrough at a crucial stage. Wolvaardt continued to fight and kept South Africa in the contest with a patient knock. She struck a six off Molineux but was dismissed for 44 off 39 balls in the following over after edging a delivery to Wareham at extra cover. That wicket effectively ended South Africa's hopes. Alana King removed Sinalo Jaftha and Kayla Reyneke in quick succession,

while Ashleigh Gardner dismissed Shabnim Ismail. Wareham then wrapped up the lower order by removing Chloe Tryon and Nonkuloko Mlaba in the same over. South Africa were eventually bowled out for 107 in 16.4 overs. Wareham finished as Australia's most successful bowler with figures of 3/13, while Molineux and King claimed two wickets each. The comprehensive victory gave the six-time champions a perfect start to their Women's T20 World Cup campaign. Earlier, after winning the toss and choosing to bat, Australia got off to the worst possible start when

opener Georgia Voll was dismissed for a duck in the first over by Marizanne Kapp. Beth Mooney also struggled in the helpful seam conditions and fell for seven, leaving Australia under pressure early. Phoebe Litchfield then changed the momentum with a fearless counterattack. The left-hander struck a boundary off the first ball she faced and continued to take on the South African bowlers, helping Australia race to 52/2 at the end of the powerplay. She brought up a rapid half-century in just 23 balls before falling for 51 off 24 deliveries, an innings that included nine fours and a six.



Wants
Another
'Mahanati'

Actress Keerthy Suresh has expressed her desire to take on more performance-driven roles similar to her National Award-winning portrayal in Mahanati. While balancing commercial entertainers, she hopes filmmakers continue offering strong, content-rich characters that challenge her as an actress and leave a lasting impact on audiences.



Aishwarya Rajesh-starrer
'Oh Sukumari'

Teaser Delivers an
Electrifying Ride

The makers of director Bharat Dharshan's eagerly awaited Telugu film, 'Oh Sukumari!', featuring actors Aishwarya Rajesh and Thiruveer in the lead, have now released a fun-filled teaser of the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Taking to its X timeline, Gangaa Entertainments, the production house producing the film, wrote, "You're just hit by the Electrifying Entertainment. #OhSukumari TEASER OUT NOW. Feel the thrilling fun on big screens soon."

The teaser released begins with a happy-go-lucky youngster (Thiruveer) expressing a desire to get married. He asks his family to look for a girl, who he says should be soft and sensitive. "She must give me goosebumps the moment I see her," he says and stresses on the fact that she must be a delicate damsel.

His family finds a girl (Aishwarya Rajesh) who

meets all his expectations and their wedding happens. However, there is a small problem with the bride, which her family chooses to keep mum about. On their wedding day, the bridegroom's arm inadvertently brushes against the bride's shoulder and immediately, he suffers a mild electric shock... Only recently, the makers of the film had announced that dubbing for the project had begun. For the unaware, actor Thiruveer, who is best known for his performance in the superhit film 'The Great Pre Wedding Show', plays the lead in this film along with well known actress Aishwarya Rajesh, who played one of the female leads in the blockbuster 'Sankranthiki Vasthunnam' which released last year.

The film, which was initially being referred to as Production Number 2, marks the directorial debut of Bharat Dharshan and is being produced by Maheswara Reddy Mooli under the banner of Gangaa Entertainments. After impressing audiences with its first production 'Shivam Bhaje', which garnered critical acclaim, Gangaa Entertainments is now backing another compelling and entertaining sto-

ry penned by director Bharat Dharshan himself. The film's grand launch ceremony was held in Hyderabad last year, in the presence of the cast and crew.

Known for his strong content-driven choices, Thiruveer continues to explore diverse genres, from the critically acclaimed 'Masooda' to the recent 'Pre Wedding Show'. This new film is billed to be a hilarious entertainer that promises a refreshing experience. The movie boasts a talented team of technicians. CH Kushendar, known for his work in 'Razakar' and 'Polimera', is the cinematographer of this film, which has now caught the attention of film buffs. Bharath Manchiraju, an associate of MM Keeravani, is scoring the music for this film. Thirumala M. Thirupathi of 'Balagam' fame is heading the art department, and Sree Varaprasad of 'Ka' fame is the editor. Aanu Reddy Akkati, who is also working on director Bharat Krishnamachari's much-awaited historical magnum opus 'Swayambhu', has designed the costumes for this film. Popular lyricist Purnachary has penned the lyrics for this film.. Sources had told IANS that the regular shoot of the film had commenced from November 19 last year. The film, its makers say, will release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada languages.

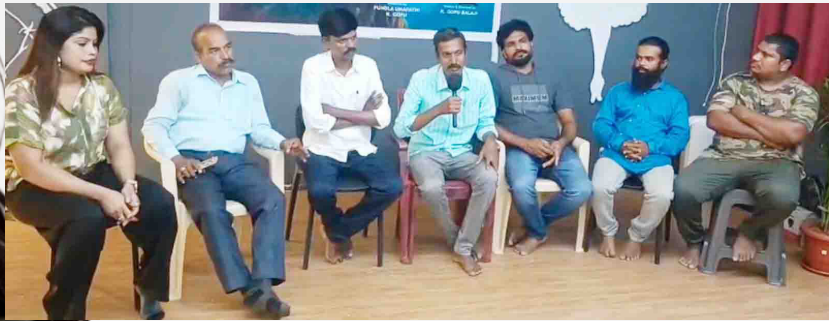


Disha Patani
Rules the
Glam Game

From dazzling photoshoots to action-packed performances, actress Disha Patani has carved a unique space for herself in Indian cinema. As the glamorous star celebrates her 34th birthday today, fans across the country are showering her with wishes and eagerly looking forward to her upcoming projects. Born on June 13, 1992, in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, Disha has become one of the most popular faces in the entertainment industry, admired for her fitness, style quotient, and charismatic screen presence. Disha made her acting debut in the Telugu film Loafer opposite Varun Tej in 2015. However, it was her Bollywood breakthrough in M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story that brought her nationwide recognition. Playing Priyanka Jha opposite Sushant Singh Rajput, Disha won hearts with her performance and earned the IIFA Star Debut Award. Over the years, she has impressed audiences with memorable roles in films such as Baaghi 2, Malang, and the sci-fi blockbuster Kalki 2898 AD. She also gained international attention with her appearance in Kung Fu Yoga alongside global action star Jackie Chan. The actress has an exciting slate of films lined up. She is set to entertain audiences in the much-awaited comedy entertainer Welcome to the Jungle, scheduled for release on June 26, 2026, alongside Akshay Kumar. She will also be seen in O' Romeo and Awarapan 2, while preparations are underway for her Hollywood debut in Holiguards Saga — The Portal of Force. Known for setting social media trends with her stunning photographs and fitness videos, Disha remains one of the most-followed actresses of her generation. With a growing global fan base and an impressive lineup of projects, the actress continues to scale new heights in her career. As Disha Patani celebrates another milestone, fans are eagerly waiting to see what the star has in store next on the silver screen.



June 26th Dishtibomma



Dishtibomma, a horror thriller film directed by R.Gopu Balaji, is set to hit the theatres on the 26th of this month. Fight master Sake Ashok Raj and director Palamuru Siva were the chief guests at a press conference organized by director, writer, music director, lyricist and singer Akshaya Krishna. Director R.Gopu Balaji revealed the details of the film in this meeting. Dishtibomma is a film produced by Pundla Umapathi and R.Gopu under the production banner of Sri Alimelu Mangamma and presented by K.S. Cinema. Director R.Gopu Balaji said that the film will be very interesting and that every person has to experience karma for every action he does, and this film has been made based on a true incident related to it. Director R.Gopu Balaji requested everyone to watch this film and make it a success. The film stars Umesh Royal as the hero, Gayatri as the heroine, Malavika as the heroine, Ashok Raj, Jabili, Amitabh, Murali Devara, Bhanu Reddy, Tulasi and others in supporting roles... Aldrin has provided the music. Cameraman Prem Gian, Lyrics Bhuvana Chandra, Choreographer Rama Rao Bantla, Editor Martin Paul C.S., Background Score Shyam Mohan M.M., PRO Dr. Suneel Kumar Yandra (Sky Writings).

Allu Arjun's Re-Release
Beats Pan-India Openings

Sometimes it is quite crazy that movies that are made now don't perform as expected, and movies that came out long, long ago actually outshine the current releases during the re-releases. Sometimes it is quite crazy that movies that are made now don't perform as expected, and movies that came out long, long ago actually outshine the current releases during the re-releases. Now, one such thing has happened in the state of Kerala, where lots of Telugu films are getting dubbed and released every month. Here's what happened. Allu Arjun's two-decade-old movie, Happy, a film directed by Karunakaran, has turned out to be an average grosser at the time of release. Produced by Geetha Arts back in 2006, the film turned out to be average then, but the re-release 4K version, which is dubbed in Malayalam as well, has done the unthinkable. Beating a big re-release like Baahubali The Epic, which collected 26+ lakhs on its release day, now Happy has collected nearly 32 lakhs. This is purely based on the craze M-Allu Arjun has in the state of Kerala and the love showered by his fans over there. Guess what, even the recent big releases that were dubbed in Kerala's Malayalam haven't seen such good openings at the Mallu box office.

