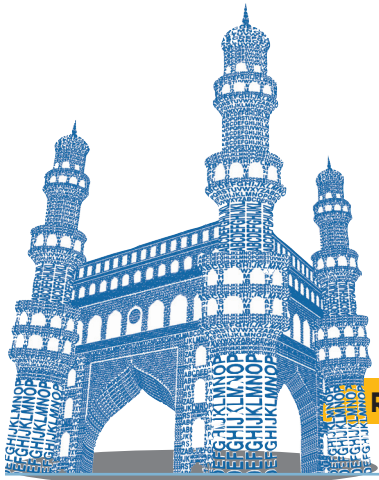




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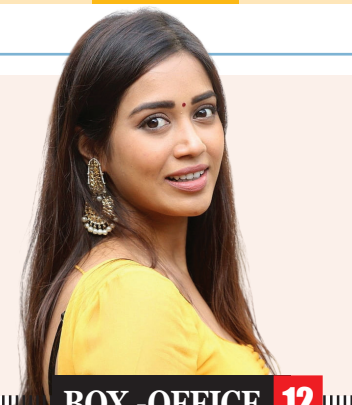
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HORMUZ REOPENS NUCLEAR TALKS BEGIN

BEYOND BORDERS 08

I HAD DECIDED TO QUIT CINEMA IN 2023



BOX -OFFICE 12

GOOGLE GLASS DIED. META LEARNT THE LESSON. NOW THE REAL BATTLE IS OVER WHO GETS TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH YOUR EYES

Google GLASS
2013-2015
REJECTED. MISUNDERSTOOD.
AHEAD OF ITS TIME.

Meta
2023-2026
USEFUL. ACCESSIBLE. ADOPTED.
THE FUTURE IS HERE.

LIVE TRANSLATION
Hello → Hola

OBJECT IDENTIFIED
Empire State Building
New York, USA

TURN RIGHT
50 m

BY SHAH MEDURI
AI & EMERGING
TECHNOLOGY ANALYST

A decade ago, Google Glass arrived carrying the promise of the future and left carrying the burden of public distrust. Today, Meta's AI powered smart glasses are winning customers, attracting investors and shaping the next phase of consumer technology. The technology may look familiar, but the world around it has changed dramatically. What was once a debate about hidden cameras has become a far bigger confrontation over artificial intelligence, personal data and the power of Big Tech to interpret human life in real time. The smart glasses revolution is no longer about hardware. It is about trust.

THEN:
Google Glass asked people to wear a computer on their face.

NOW:
Meta asks people to wear an AI assistant on their face.

THE DIFFERENCE:
Society has become comfortable with constant connectivity but remains uncertain about constant observation.

THE FUTURE ARRIVED TOO EARLY AND GOT REJECTED

In 2012, Google unveiled Google Glass as a glimpse into tomorrow. It looked futuristic. It sounded revolutionary. It promised to free people from constantly staring at smartphones. Directions would appear before your eyes. Messages would arrive without reaching into a pocket. Information would become part of everyday vision.

For Silicon Valley, it was a technological breakthrough. For the public, it quickly became something else.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Govt. is ready to take up Metro Rail PHASE- 2



HYDERABAD, JUNE 15:

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy has announced that the State Government is ready to take up the Metro Rail phase 2 project with 100 per cent equity without the centre's share . The Chief Minister demanded the Union Government to issue NOC (No Objection Certificate) for Metro Rail expansion to expedite the project works.

Addressing a press conference today, the CM said that he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union ministers - Manohar Lal Khattar and Ashwini Vaishnav for several times (on May 20 and 21 also) and urged them to sanction the metro rail expansion project which was already delayed for years.

CM Revanth Reddy mentioned that the Centre agreed to sanction the Metro Rail phase 2 project with a 50 per cent share of each state and Union Governments after the contract agency L and T company took a back seat . On the advice of the centre, the state government took full control of the Metro Rail " L&T did not agree to the proposal of Metro Rail expansion in view of mounting losses in the first phase project. The agency created Rs 30,000 crore worth assets and incurring an annual loss of ₹400 crore. The L and T management also refused to future operations and maintenance of the metro rail", the CM said after consulting the centre, the State Government took over Metro Rail assets worth ₹30,000 crore for just ₹15,000 crore.

To clear the L&T Metro 's loan amount of ₹13,600 crore from banks at an interest rate of 8.25 per cent, CM Revanth Reddy said that the government convinced IRFC for funding and secured loan of ₹13,600 crore from a Japanese entity at an interest rate of 4 per cent. The Chief Minister Minister questioned the centre for not permitting the transfer of loan from IRFC to state government. " We have already paid ₹1,400 crore dues

- Project with 100 per cent equity
- CM Revanth Reddy demands the union government to issue NOC for taking up the Metro Rail expansion
- CM slams centre for obstructing transfer of loans from IRFC to state government
- Japanese agency already released a loan to the IRFC
- CM says IRFC loan is supposed to be released to the state government today
- Demands Kishan Reddy to take the responsibility of transfer of loan.. Centre discriminate against Telangana
- The Union Government sanctions Metro Rail to Ahmedabad, UP and Vizag
- Despite making pleas, union ministers did not approve Metro Rail phase 2
- Delay of Metro Rail phase one during KCR put huge financial burden on agency and government
- CM Revanth Reddy addressed a press conference at the State Secretariat today.

from us. We also submitted a letter confirming the Reserve Bank's approval, yet the loan transfer was blocked".

The Chief Minister said that the funds are due for release today and demanded the union minister G Kishan Reddy to take the responsibility of release of funds to the state government from the IRFC (Indian Railways Finance Corporation) immediately. " The State Government is ready to bear the entire cost of the execution of the metro rail expansion project. The centre should issue NOC "

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Heavy Rains Expected Across the State from June 19

**Continuous Monitoring of Weather
Department Warnings Necessary
Disaster Management Machinery Must
Remain Fully Prepared**

**State Revenue and Disaster Management
Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy**
HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

In view of the monsoon season, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy directed officials to take all necessary precautionary measures in advance to ensure that people across the state do not face any difficulties or disruptions. The Minister emphasized that it is far more important to anticipate the impact of natural disasters and implement preventive measures beforehand rather than responding only after such events occur.

Following the instructions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Minister advised that the Revenue and Disaster Management machinery, from the state level down to the village level, should remain fully alert and prepared.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



8 Rice Varieties, Higher Profits

On Export-Oriented Rice Varieties: Key Recommendations to Cabinet Sub-Committee

HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

Agricultural scientists and experts have urged the Telangana government to launch extensive awareness campaigns among farmers on cultivating eight premium paddy varieties that enjoy strong demand in both domestic and international markets and have the potential to fetch prices higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

The recommendations were made during a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on agriculture, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Mahabubuddin Hussain.



lu Bhatti Vikramarka at Praja Bhavan on Monday. Ministers Tummala Nagaswara Rao, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and D. Sridhar Babu participated in the review, along with agricultural university scientists, senior officials

and experts. The committee held detailed discussions on agricultural production, paddy procurement, storage infrastructure and preparations for the upcoming kharif season.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"OPPOSITION FEARS LOSS OF BOGUS VOTES"

Hyderabad, June 15 : BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday alleged that Congress, BRS and MIM were opposing the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls because they feared bogus votes would be deleted. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, Rao said the voter list revision was a constitutional exercise aimed at including eligible voters while removing deceased, duplicate and ineligible entries. He asserted that no genuine voter would lose voting rights

during the process.

Rao alleged that illegal infiltrators, including Rohingyas, Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, were obtaining fake Aadhaar and ration cards and getting registered as voters with political support. He claimed that in some areas of Hyderabad's Old City, there were reports of as many as 200 bogus votes linked to a single house.

Questioning the opposition parties, Rao asked whether voting rights should be extended to thousands of Pakistanis allegedly overstaying illegally

in Hyderabad. He stressed that only Indian citizens are entitled to vote under the Constitution and said the SIR exercise was intended solely to identify and remove fake voters.

The BJP leader maintained that the revision would help ensure clean and transparent electoral rolls. He urged citizens to cooperate with Booth Level Officers and verify their voter details. State BJP vice-president Jayasree, chief spokesperson N.V. Subhash, advocate Antony and other leaders attended the press conference.

CJP FOUNDER ABHIJEET SLAPPED DURING PROTEST IN JAIPUR

JAIPUR, JUNE 15

Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was allegedly manhandled and slapped by a group of individuals during a protest in Jaipur on Monday, leading to brief chaos at the venue. Police detained two youths in connection with the incident.

The protest, held at Shaheed Smarak, was organised to highlight issues such as the alleged NEET paper leak, unemployment and corruption. A large



number of youths participated in the demonstration, carrying banners and placards and demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged irregularities in examinations including NEET, CBSE, CUET

and SSC. According to eyewitnesses, Dipke was being carried on the shoulders of supporters when some individuals in the crowd allegedly assaulted him, slapped him multiple times and attempted to pull him down. His supporters immediately intervened and caught hold of the accused, leading to a scuffle before police personnel stepped in and restored order.

Addressing the gathering after the incident, Dipke appealed to his supporters to remain calm

and refrain from retaliatory violence. Describing the attack as a sign of "fear and cowardice", he said he would continue his struggle through peaceful means inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

In a video message posted on social media, Dipke alleged that the attack was intended to intimidate the party and divert attention from key public issues. The protest was held with conditional police permission and under restrictions on participation and public procession.

BAN THE BJP?

GEHLOT'S REMARK IGNITES STORM

EMERGENCY GHOST WALKS BACK IN

**ASHOK GEHLOT'S BAN REMARK DRAGS
CONGRESS INTO AN UNCOMFORTABLE MIRROR**

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

A single sentence from senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot has unleashed a political storm that stretches far beyond Rajasthan. His remark that Indira Gandhi would have banned the BJP if she were alive has handed the ruling party an unexpected political gift and reopened old national debates about democracy, dissent, secularism and the Emergency. At a time when Congress wants the country to focus on questions of governance and constitutional values, the spotlight has suddenly turned on its own political instincts and historical baggage.

**A POLITICAL ATTACK
THAT BACKFIRED**

Politics is full of speeches. Most are forgotten before the next news cycle arrives. Some create a ripple. A few explode like a thunderclap. Ashok Gehlot's statement in Jaipur belongs firmly in the third category.

The veteran Congress leader intended to launch a fierce attack on the BJP and its ideological politics. Instead, he ended up creating a controversy that shifted the national conversation away from the BJP

and straight back to the Congress Party itself.

Speaking at an award ceremony organised by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Welfare Society in Jaipur on Sunday, Gehlot launched a sharp attack on the BJP, accusing it of practising religion-based politics and using social polarisation for electoral advantage. Among his most controversial remarks was the assertion that, "Had a leader like Indira Gandhi been in power today, she would have banned a party like the BJP".

Gehlot argued that the BJP and the RSS promote an ideological framework that, in his view, runs contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. He claimed that the use of Hindutva as a political mobilisation tool undermines the constitutional principle of equal respect and equal rights for all religions. Stressing the separation of faith and electoral politics, he stated, "Religion should not be used as a political tool."

The former Rajasthan Chief Minister further alleged that the BJP deliberately encourages religious polarisation to consolidate political power.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

KTR commends young entrepreneur's ambitious plan for student bank

HYDERABAD, JUNE 15

BRS working president KT Rama Rao commended the accomplishments of a young entrepreneur who has garnered significant attention in the startup world, having already achieved international acclaim. This young innovator, Gaddam Shivaganesh, met KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad on Monday to outline his ambitious plan to establish a Hyderabad-based bank, envisioned as a comprehensive financial hub for students and their families.

The BRS working president shared Shivaganesh's inspiring journey on social media, noting that the entrepreneur,



whose father was a former welder from Parsigutta in Hyderabad, is receiving vital backing from T-Hub to realise his aspirations. He extended his best

wishes for the entrepreneur's future success.

Shivaganesh's innovative concept has already garnered international recogni-

tion, including a \$100,000 grant from Emergent Ventures and a spot on the prestigious "Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026" list within the Finance & Venture Capital sector. His startup has successfully raised Rs 10 crore and is currently preparing to apply for an RBI payments license, all while laying the groundwork for a financial institution tailored to students.

Furthermore, in a distinctive effort to enhance financial literacy among young individuals, Shivaganesh has created a comic book persona and is developing a free animated film designed to make financial education accessible, straightforward, and engaging for students.

8 Rice Varieties, Higher Profits

>FROM PAGE 1

During the meeting, scientists highlighted the need to encourage cultivation of eight high-demand rice varieties—BPT 5204, Telangana Sona (RNR 15048), KNM-1638, Jai Sriram, HMT, WGL 962, WGL 44 and JGL 1798.

According to agricultural experts, these varieties have established market acceptance and offer farmers better income opportunities. They noted that Telangana-grown rice is witnessing strong demand in international markets, including the United States, Australia and several European countries, creating significant export potential.

The scientists informed the committee that adequate seed availability exists for all eight varieties, enabling rapid expansion of cultivation. They stressed that promoting these varieties would help increase farmers' incomes, reduce risks arising from market fluctuations and strengthen Telangana's position as a producer of premium-quality rice.

The experts also recommended village-level awareness programmes to educate farmers about the economic benefits of cultivating export-oriented rice varieties.

During the meeting, officials from the Civil Supplies Department pointed

out that several fine rice varieties currently grown in the state do not enjoy strong consumer demand. Some varieties yield a higher proportion of broken rice during milling, while others are less preferred by consumers, making millers and traders reluctant to procure them.

Officials suggested that the state gradually reduce cultivation of low-demand varieties and instead encourage paddy varieties that are preferred by consumers, accepted by millers and traders, and suitable for export markets.

They observed that such a market-oriented cultivation strategy could encourage millers to purchase paddy directly from farmers at better prices, enhance farmers' earnings and ensure consumers have access to quality rice at affordable rates.

The committee was also informed that paddy procurement operations would continue in accordance with Government of India guidelines. Agricultural officials emphasized that future crop planning should be increasingly aligned with market demand to safeguard farmers from potential losses. The meeting was attended by Kodandaram Reddy, Anvesh Reddy, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Surender Mohan, Gopi, Rahul Raj, Stephen Ravindra and other senior officials.

..Metro Rail PHASE- 2

>FROM PAGE 1

The Metro Rail expansion project was covering the jurisdiction of four BJP MPs including Kishan Reddy's Lok Sabha segments, the CM said pointed out that the Centre had approved ₹3,15,000 crore loans through PFC and RFC without any guarantee during KCR rule. The loans were provided at the huge interest rate of 9 per cent to 15 percent.

The CM slammed the union government for not approving the Metro Rail expansion project. The Chief Minister alleged that the centre discriminated against Telangana and approved only the metro rail projects Ahmedabad, UP and Vizag recently. " We are not politicising the metro rail issue . Our goal is to take over the first phase of the Metro and complete Phase 2"

CM Revanth Reddy took a broadside at the previous BRS government for the delay of the Metro Rail first phase project soon after the formation of Telangana state. KCR's actions caused a three-year delay in the completion of the first phase and the project's original estimation of Rs ₹15,000 crore escalated to ₹22,000 crore. As a result, the L&T company incurred losses.

The Chief Minister also took a strong dig at the KCR government for neglecting the metro rail expansion during the 10 year rule. The BRS leaders focused more on amassing wealth rather than taking care of people's welfare, the CM charged.

The Chief Minister expressed serious concern over dropping Hyderabad met-

ro rail ranking to 9th place recently. The CM castigated KCR and Kishan Reddy for indulging in collusion politics on Metro rail expansion. The union minister was silent when KCR made harsh comments. CM Revanth Reddy wondered why the BRS and Kishan Reddy were hurling challenges at us. " We respect Kishan Reddy but we are frustrated with him now. KTR is behind Kishan Reddy who is abetting conspiracies".

CM Revanth highlighted that the Congress government in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh had formulated plans to provide transport facilities of international standards for this global city. During YSR's tenure, the then Union Minister for Urban Development, Jaipal Reddy sanctioned the Metro Rail project to Hyderabad.

After YSR's untimely demise, agreements for the first phase of the Metro were finalized during Rosaiah's tenure. The project was commenced with the target of completing the first phase by 2017. After the formation of Telangana, the first phase of the Metro was obstructed under the pretext of protecting historical monuments. Upon assuming power, the people's government decided to take up the Metro Rail expansion. We met the Prime Minister and Union Ministers requesting for approval several times.

The Chief Minister also questioned the centre for the slowdown in the Warangal Airport project works. He met Civil Aviation minister Rammohan Naidu requesting to expedite the airport works, the CM said.

GOOGLE GLASS DIED

>FROM PAGE 1

Google Glass entered a world that was simply not prepared to accept it. The device carried a camera that could record photos and videos with extraordinary ease. The technology itself was impressive. The social reaction was brutal.

Restaurants frowned upon it. Bars banned it. Movie theatres prohibited it. Ordinary citizens questioned whether they were being recorded without consent. The term "Glasshole" entered public vocabulary. That single word reflected a wider discomfort that Google never successfully addressed.

The lesson was simple and devastating. Technology can be advanced. Society must still be willing to accept it.

"Google Glass did not fail because people hated innovation. It failed because people feared losing control over their privacy."

META DID NOT INVENT THE IDEA. META INVENTED BETTER TIMING
Fast forward more than a decade and the landscape looks remarkably different.

Today, people carry multiple cameras in their pockets. They livestream their lives. They share personal moments across social media platforms. Dashcams record roads. Security cameras monitor neighbourhoods. Smartphones document almost everything. Into this transformed environment stepped Meta. Unlike Google Glass, Meta avoided presenting its product as a science fiction experiment. Instead, it partnered with familiar eyewear brands and produced glasses that looked like ordinary fashion accessories rather than futuristic gadgets. That decision was not cosmetic. It was strategic.

People do not want to look like test subjects. They want technology that blends into daily life. Meta understood that reality far better than Google did.

The result is visible in the market. Millions of smart glasses have already been sold, making Meta's devices the most successful smart glasses platform yet. Yet, the success story is not merely about design. It is about utility.

**GOOGLE GLASS QUESTION:
Who is recording me?**

**META GLASSES QUESTION:
What does the AI know about me?**

**THE CAMERA IS NO LONGER
THE MAIN ISSUE**

Many observers continue to frame the smart glasses debate through the lens of privacy concerns that surrounded Google Glass.

That analysis is increasingly outdated. The camera is no longer the central issue. Artificial intelligence is. Modern smart glasses can identify objects, translate languages, recognise landmarks, provide contextual information and respond to spoken questions about the wearer's surroundings. The device is not simply capturing images. It is interpreting reality.

This changes the nature of the debate entirely. The concern is no longer whether a device can see what you see. The concern is whether a technology company can understand what you see. That distinction may define the next decade of digital regulation.

Every technological revolution creates new questions. Smart glasses are creating some of the most profound questions of all. Who owns visual information? Who controls contextual intelligence? Who decides how real world observations are stored, processed and monetised? These questions remain largely unanswered.

"The privacy debate has evolved from recording people to understanding people."

**THE NEW RACE IS
BIGGER THAN GLASSES**

Meta's ambitions extend far beyond taking photographs or answering voice commands. The company is pursuing a future where digital information seamlessly overlays the physical world. Its Orion prototype points toward a future in which virtual screens, navigation systems, communication tools and AI assistants become part of everyday vision. At the same time, Google is returning aggressively to the field through Android XR initiatives

and AI driven wearable platforms. Apple has already entered spatial computing through its Vision Pro ecosystem. Samsung, Qualcomm and several other technology giants are investing heavily in the same direction.

This is no longer a niche product category. It is an industry wide race to define the successor to the smartphone. The winner may control the next major computing platform.

That reality explains the extraordinary levels of investment now flowing into augmented reality, wearable computing and artificial intelligence integration.

**ACCESSIBILITY IS CHANGING
THE ARGUMENT**

One of the most significant developments in the smart glasses story receives far less attention than it deserves. Accessibility.

For visually impaired users, AI powered smart glasses can identify objects, read signs, describe environments and assist navigation. Technologies that were once viewed primarily as consumer gadgets are increasingly demonstrating genuine social value. This shift matters. When technology improves lives in tangible ways, public acceptance tends to rise. The same innovation that once triggered privacy fears can also become a tool for independence and empowerment.

The challenge for technology companies is ensuring that these benefits are not overshadowed by irresponsible data practices. Trust remains the decisive factor.

**THE REAL QUESTION HAS NOT
CHANGED**

The technology industry often presents innovation as an unstoppable force. History suggests otherwise. Google Glass serves as a reminder that technological capability alone does not guarantee public acceptance. Consumers ultimately decide which innovations deserve a place in daily life. Meta's current success demonstrates that timing, design and practical value can dramatically alter outcomes. Yet, beneath the commercial success, the fundamental question remains exactly where it was more than a decade ago.

How much visibility into our lives are we willing to grant technology companies?

The devices are becoming smarter. The artificial intelligence is becoming more capable. The hardware is becoming less noticeable. That combination makes the debate more important, not less.

**FROM "GLASSHOLE" TO EARLY
ADOPTER: HOW PUBLIC
ATTITUDES CHANGED**

In 2013, wearing Google Glass often attracted suspicion and ridicule. In 2026, wearing smart glasses increasingly attracts curiosity. What changed? Part of the answer lies in technological maturity. Another part lies in cultural adaptation.

A generation raised on smartphones, social media and voice assistants views wearable technology differently from those who first encountered Google Glass. Recording, sharing and interacting with digital platforms have become normal features of modern life.

The public did not suddenly abandon privacy concerns. Instead, people gradually accepted greater technological visibility in exchange for convenience, connectivity and functionality. Whether that trade off proves wise remains one of the defining questions of the digital age.

THE REAL BATTLE BEGINS

Google Glass was not a failed idea. It was an idea that arrived before society was ready to embrace it. Meta's smart glasses are proving that the same vision can succeed when supported by better technology, stronger design and a world that has become more comfortable with digital integration.

But this is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of a far larger contest.

The first generation of smart glasses asked whether technology could sit on our faces. The next generation will determine whether artificial intelligence can sit inside our field of vision and become a permanent interpreter of reality itself. That is where the real battle begins. And unlike the Google Glass era, the stakes now extend far beyond gadgets. They reach into privacy, freedom, trust and the future relationship between human beings and intelligent machines.

Heavy Rains Expected Across the State from June 19

>FROM PAGE 1

According to weather forecasts, the southwest monsoon is advancing rapidly and is likely to cover the entire state of Telangana within the next three to four days. The Meteorological Department has predicted that rainfall activity will intensify across the state from June 19 and may continue for about a week. Officials have been instructed to remain vigilant in view of these forecasts. On Monday, the Minister reviewed the preparedness of officials across all districts and issued directions to ensure readiness in response to weather department warnings.

The southwest monsoon

entered southern Telangana on June 8, covering Jogulamba Gadwal district. At present, the monsoon boundary extends through Hyderabad and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts toward the northern border. By June 14, the monsoon had covered all districts of southern Telangana and most districts in central Telangana. The Minister stated that from June 1 to date, the state has received 49.2 mm of rainfall compared with the normal average of 54.9 mm, reflecting a rainfall deficit of approximately 10 percent.

He instructed district collectors, revenue officials, and disaster management personnel to continuously monitor weather

warnings issued by the Meteorological Department and maintain close coordination. Areas likely to experience intense rainfall should be identified in advance, and necessary protective measures should be implemented.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the government's top priority. He added that the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy places the highest importance on public safety. Officials in all districts have been directed to remain alert throughout the monsoon season and ensure that citizens do not face any inconvenience.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

BAN THE BJP?...

>FROM PAGE 1

As evidence, he pointed to the party's decision not to field Muslim candidates in recent Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections and referred to the diminished visibility of prominent Muslim leaders such as Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Shah Nawaz Hussain within the party structure. According to Gehlot, these developments raise questions about the BJP's commitment to inclusive political representation.

The moment Gehlot declared that Indira Gandhi would have banned the BJP had she been alive today, the political battlefield changed. The discussion was no longer about polarisation, electoral strategy, institutional independence or governance. The debate instantly became about bans, political intolerance and the memories of a period that still provokes strong emotions across India. For Congress, that is not a comfortable battlefield.

**ONE REMARK. ONE
HEADLINE. ONE POLITICAL
PROBLEM.**

Congress wanted the country to discuss the BJP. The country started discussing Congress. That is the political damage hidden inside Gehlot's words.

**THE EMERGENCY GHOST
RETURNS TO THE STAGE**

There are some chapters in Indian politics that never fully close. The Emergency remains one such chapter. Every generation may interpret it differently. Every political party may tell the story from its own angle. Yet the word carries enormous political weight. It immediately raises questions about freedom, dissent, state power and democratic accountability. That is why Gehlot's remark struck such a sensitive nerve.

Whether he intended it or not, the statement appeared to many as an endorsement of the idea that political opponents can be dealt with through prohibition rather than persuasion. In a democracy, that is always a dangerous

perception.

The BJP wasted no time in seizing the opportunity. Its leaders quickly reminded voters about the Emergency years and accused Congress of exposing what they described as an old authoritarian streak. Suddenly, Congress found itself defending a controversy it never intended to create.

**THE BIGGER QUESTION
FACING CONGRESS**

The deeper issue is not Ashok Gehlot. The deeper issue is Congress itself. For years the party has struggled to define a clear political identity for a changing India. The Congress of the past was a giant national umbrella. It accommodated diverse views, different social groups and competing regional interests under one political roof. That formula delivered decades of dominance.

Today's India is a different country. The political language has changed. Voter expectations have changed. National conversations have changed.

The BJP has successfully built a narrative around leadership, nationalism, welfare programmes and cultural confidence. Congress, meanwhile, continues searching for a message that can inspire voters beyond opposition to the BJP. That search becomes harder when senior leaders make statements that revive old controversies instead of projecting a future roadmap.

"A party seeking power through the ballot must be careful when its language appears to question the right of rivals to exist."

**THE TRAP OF POLITICAL
FRUSTRATION**

There is another reality that cannot be ignored. The Congress Party has suffered a series of electoral setbacks over the past decade. Many of its leaders believe the political playing field is tilted against them. They frequently raise concerns about institutions, investigative agencies, media narratives and electoral processes.

That frustration is genuine. But frustration can also produce political overreach. When leaders speak in anger, they sometimes create larger problems for

themselves than for their opponents. Gehlot's remark appears to be one such case. Instead of strengthening the Congress argument against the BJP, it has given the BJP a fresh argument against Congress. In politics, that is a costly own goal.

**RAHUL GANDHI'S MOMENT
OF DECISION**

The controversy also arrives at a crucial moment for Rahul Gandhi. Over the past few years, he has attempted to reposition himself as a defender of constitutional values, democratic institutions and social harmony. His public campaigns have been built around the language of inclusion and accountability.

That political project requires discipline from the entire party. Every statement from senior leaders either strengthens that effort or weakens it. Congress cannot simultaneously present itself as the guardian of democratic freedoms while allowing remarks that appear to celebrate the possibility of banning political opponents. Even if the intention is symbolic, the political damage can be very real.

The challenge before Rahul Gandhi is not merely to oppose the BJP. It is to convince voters that Congress has fully moved beyond the habits, assumptions and reflexes that continue to haunt it decades later.

**THE REMARK THAT GAVE
BJP A READY-MADE
CAMPAIGN WEAPON**

Political parties spend enormous amounts of time searching for issues that can energise their supporters. Sometimes, however, an opponent delivers the issue directly into their hands.

That is precisely what has happened here.

The BJP now has a simple and powerful line of attack. It can argue that while Congress speaks about democracy, some of its leaders still instinctively reach for the language of prohibition when confronting ideological rivals. Whether that argument is entirely

CM Revanth Reddy instructs Planning Dept

- to submit report on implementation of promises
- CM instructs Chief Secretary to submit the list of official who skips field visits and seek explanation for their ' indiscipline ' in discharging duties
- Organise District level review of Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika
- Prepare people's feedback on the performance of the government at village level
- CM Revanth Reddy conduct a review of the success of Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika today



HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy instructed the state Planning Department to submit a report on the implementation of the promises made at every Assembly constituency level. During a review of the successful Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika ‘ conducted between March 16 and June 12 across the state , the Chief Minister inquired about the status of promises made to the public during his district tours and government events since assuming office.

Stating that the specialized programme has brought the people-centric government closer to the public, the CM also inquired about the department-wise initiatives and the outcomes achieved till the day.

Rajya Sabha MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, DGP CV Anand, Principal Secre-

tary to the CMO Seshadri, and senior officials from various departments participated in the meeting. During the session, all departments submitted reports detailing the activities they had undertaken from the district level down to the village level.

CM Revanth Reddy commended the departments which actively participated in the 99-day action plan and recalled his earlier directive to senior officials, ranging from Principal Secretaries to District Collectors, to conduct field visits every month. The Chief Secretary was ordered to submit a report identifying the officials and District Collectors who failed to undertake the field visits. The Chief Minister also directed to seek an explanation immediately as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against them for not embarking on field visits. The CM warned that officials failing to comply with government directives would not be tolerated.

CM Revanth Reddy noted that some departments had not adequately highlighted the initiatives launched under the 'Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika'

programme. The Chief minister emphasized that all departments should ensure sufficient publicity for their activities and directed the concerned senior officials to take responsibility for this task. Officials were advised to regularly communicate the good work they have done to the public through media and digital media channels.

The CM stressed that the officials should record feedback received from public representatives and the general public during various programmes and instructed the respective departments to resolve issues raised in villages. The documentation of all development works undertaken, foundation stones laid and assets created over the past three months were also must.

CM Revanth Reddy instructed Panchayat Raj officials to immediately prepare a list of villages which do not have Gram Panchayat buildings and to formulate an action plan for constructing new buildings. The installation of solar power plants on all school buildings, implementation of facial recognition system across all levels of

the education and healthcare sectors, the attendance system followed by all employees, ranging from schools and colleges to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and major hospitals like Osmania and Gandhi hospital was also reviewed in the meeting.

Further, the CM ordered immediate district-wise reviews of the 'Praja Palana' progress plan and directed that a senior IAS officer be appointed as a Special Officer for each district and sent there from the state level. These Special Officers, in coordination with the respective District Collectors, will review the special programs conducted over the 99-day period, government-led development works, and public feedback on various schemes. The officials were instructed to release district-wise progress reports, compile details regarding government-implemented schemes, the beneficiaries list and development works undertaken by the people's government at the district, constituency, mandal, and village level. All the information should be made available on a dashboard.

CM Revanth trying to divert attention from his govt failures

HYDERABAD

Launching a scathing attack at the state Congress government, BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash today alleged that chief minister Revnath Reddy is targeting BJP union ministers of Telangana and state party president to cover his government failures.



Subhash, in a statement here, strongly criticized CM Revanth Reddy for spreading lies on the central funds for the development of Hyderabad city. He is making cheap allegations against Union Minister Kishan Reddy and the Modi government only to divert public attention from his own government's failures, senior BJP leader accused.

He said Revanth Reddy is indulged in making false and baseless allegations out of fear of a crushing defeat for the Congress party in the upcoming GHMC elections. Subhash further stated that Revanth Reddy has already started shedding crocodile tears and running campaigns based on lies.

Subhash clarified that it was the Modi government that provided Rs. 1,200 crores Central funds during the first phase of the Hyderabad Metro and made the 69 km line operational under the PPP model and it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He added that the Center has already given approval in-principle for Phase-two and is ready to bear 50 per cent of the cost. He pointed out that if the Center is to release funds, the state government must at least complete land acquisition. But Revnath Reddy government failed to acquire land for the project which shows its incompetence.

Subhash reminded that the Modi government sanctioned Rs.38,297 crores under the Bharatmala Project and the Regional Ring Road (RRR), which is set to become a jewel around Telangana's neck. He stated that

while the Center is ready to lay roads, it is the state Congress government that is delaying the process without acquiring land and letting down the farmers.

He advised Revanth Reddy, who questions the Center regarding employment, to stop reading from that old script of lies. He stated that Prime Minister Modi is distributing job appointment letters to lakhs of youth every month across the country through the 'Rozgar Mela', and the Center has supported Telangana's youth by providing Rs.86.8 thousand crores under the PM Mudra Yojana. Subhash questioned the Congress government what happened to about the 2 lakh jobs and unemployment allowances they promised to deliver by December.

Subhash credited Union Minister Kishan Reddy for bringing Rs. 1,350 crores for Bibinagar AIIMS, Rs. 500 crores for Kazipet Coach Factory, Rs. 889 crores for Sammakka Sarakka Tribal University, Rs.5,336 crores for the Railways, and Rs 31,000 crores for National Highways. He challenged Revanth Reddy to come for an open debate on these funds if he has the courage and capability.

Subhash alleged that CM Revanth Reddy has completely lost his grip on the administration and officials as he himself admitted that no one listens to him. He accused the Congress of ignoring promises made to all sections of society, including

the farmers' loan waiver and the Mahalakshmi scheme for women.

He criticized Revanth Reddy for closing down government schools and failing to provide basic amenities to students. Subhash remarked that the CM is suffering from a 'split personality' mental state where he does not even know what he is talking about.

Subhash fired back at the CM for forgetting his responsibilities and targeting Union Minister Kishan Reddy and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay with false allegations. It was unfortunate that CM Revanth Reddy calling BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao an "outsider/stranger" which shows his arrogance attitude. He made it clear that it is not Kishan Reddy , CM Revanth Reddy should resign for failing in all fronts and not fulfilling promises made to people.

Subhash stated that as soon as the SIR process began in Hyderabad, Congress, BRS, and MIM parties have worried who had risked national security for votes.

He criticized that the people of Hyderabad are bound to expose the Congress party's politics of fake votes in the GHMC elections. He alleged that the Congress and BRS parties, which survived on illegal immigrants' votes, are now gripped by fear. He asserted that the public is ready to hoist the saffron flag over Hyderabad.

Wanted to share an inspirational story



HYDERABAD

Glad to meet Gaddam Shivaganesh, the son of a former welder from Parsigutta, who is making waves with his startup His ambitious goal is to build a bank in Hyderabad that serves as a one-stop financial solution for students and their parents It is delightful to see @THubHyd playing a key role in turning his vision into reality by providing a platform for innovation Shivaganesh's idea has earned a \$100,000 grant from Emergent Ventures and a place on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2026 list in the Finance & Venture Capital category He has also transformed himself into a comic character and is developing a free animated film to make financial literacy simple and engaging for students Shivaganesh's startup has now raised ₹10 crore to apply for an RBI payments licence and build the foundation for a student-focused financial institution Wishing you great success, Shivaganesh!



Action Should Be Taken Against the District Education Officer

SURYAPET

BC Student JAC Telangana State Chairman Veeraboyina Lingayya Yadav, PDSU State Vice President Erra Akhil, Telangana Student Parishad State President Bari Ashok, and BC Students' Association District President Nidra Sampath Naidu demanded action against the District Education Officer for allegedly neglecting government schools.

Speaking to the media at the district headquarters on Monday, they alleged that the District Education Officer has completely failed to provide even basic facilities in government schools. They also criticized the government, stating that despite nearly three years having passed since it came to power, the state still does not have a Minister for Education.

They demanded that the government immediately ensure adequate infrastructure and basic amenities for students in schools. Otherwise, they warned that they would lay siege to the Collector's office.

They further urged the government to construct permanent

buildings for welfare hostels and Gurukul schools, pointing out that students are facing difficulties due to inadequate facilities in rented buildings.

The leaders alleged that the state government is not interested in supporting the education of poor SC, ST, and BC students and is therefore failing to provide proper facilities.

Among those present at the meeting were BC Youth Association District President Bhuvanagiri Satish, BC Students' Association District Convener Bayya Rajesh, Sai, Pawan, and others.

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MGU CSO Dr Mirza to present a paper in International Conference in Turkey

NALGONDA

Dr. Mirza Raza, Chief Security Officer (CSO) at Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), will be presenting a paper titled



"Play within Safe Boundaries: Empowering University Sports through Strategic Campus Security" at the upcoming 3rd International Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Dance and Sport (IAHPEDS) conference on the 25th June in Istanbul, Turkey. The Conference will take place from June 24 to June 28, 2026, and Dr. Mirza has confirmed that he has received the acceptance letter from IAHPEDS for his presentation.

Master foreign languages with discipline to seize global jobs: Vivek

HYDERABAD

Minister for Labour, Employment and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy advised students learning foreign languages, particularly German, to pursue their studies with discipline and consistent practice, enabling them to take advantage of international employment opportunities. The Minister interacted with students and trainers undergoing German language training at the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) office in Hyderabad on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Venkatswamy said TOMCOM is conducting German language training programmes for youth aspiring to secure employment opportunities in Germany. While employment opportunities are available in India in sectors such as nursing, engineering and other professional fields, he noted that salaries offered in Germany are significantly higher when compared to Indian currency values. "Learning a new language and securing employment in countries such as Germany presents a tremendous opportunity for our youth," the Minister said. He expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic response to the German language classes recently launched in Mandammarri, Mancherla district.

Failure to secure Metro phase-II approval reflects Revanth's inept governance: KTR



HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K. T. Rama Rao strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over the Centre's failure to approve the Hyderabad Metro rail phase-II project, stating that it is a glaring example of the Congress government's administrative incompetence and inability to safeguard Telangana's interests.

In a statement here on Monday, KT Rama Rao alleged that despite making 71 visits to New Delhi, the Chief

Minister has failed to secure the Centre's approval for Metro phase-II, exposing his lack of influence and ineffective leadership.

"While the Central government has approved Metro projects for cities such as Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad and other states, the Telangana government has failed to obtain clearance for Hyderabad Metro phase-II. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy must explain to the people of Hyderabad why he could not secure this crucial project," KTR said.

The BRS leader alleged that the

Chief Minister lacks the courage to question Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union government due to political compulsions arising from the alleged 'cash-for-vote' case pending against him.

"Unable to question the Centre over its discrimination against Telangana, Revanth Reddy is resorting to the cheap tactic of blaming the opposition BRS to divert public attention from his own failures," KTR said. He further alleged that Revanth Reddy has entered into a covert understanding with the BJP, which, according to him, explains why repeated visits to Delhi have yielded no results for Telangana.

Demanding accountability, KTR called upon the Chief Minister to apologise to the people of Hyderabad for what he described as a complete failure in securing Metro phase-II and for allegedly jeopardising the future expansion of the existing metro network.

"The people of Hyderabad deserve answers as to why approvals and financial support that were secured swiftly during the previous BRS government are now being delayed under the Congress administration," he said.

Hyderabad wins National Culinary Destination Award at India Today Tourism Awards 2026

■ Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao receives award from Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Goa

GOA

Hyderabad won the National Culinary Destination Award at the prestigious India Today Tourism Awards 2026 presented during the India Today Tourism Summit held in Goa on Monday, further reinforcing Telangana's growing stature as a leading tourism destination.

The award was received by Telangana Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao from Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the presence of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Aroon Purie, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of the India Today Group, Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director (Publishing), India Today Group, tourism ministers, policymakers, industry leaders and tourism stakeholders from across the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Krishna Rao said the award reflects Hyderabad's rich culinary heritage and Telangana's growing prominence



on India's tourism map. He said Hyderabad's globally acclaimed culinary traditions, led by the iconic Hyderabad Biryani, Irani Chai and authentic Telangana cuisine, have earned international recognition and continue to attract visitors from across India and abroad.

The Minister said the recognition reaffirms Telangana's position as a preferred tourism destination known for its heritage, culture, hospitality and culinary traditions. He noted that the State Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is implementing several initiatives to promote

tourism by showcasing Telangana's heritage destinations, eco-tourism circuits, spiritual tourism centres, adventure tourism destinations and cultural attractions. Krishna Rao said Telangana is witnessing increased tourist footfalls and growing interest in segments such as heritage, eco, medical, spiritual and culinary tourism. He added that the State Government is committed to strengthening tourism infrastructure, improving connectivity and enhancing visitor experiences across destinations.

The recognition comes close on the heels of Hyderabad being featured among the world's leading food

destinations, further strengthening its reputation as one of India's premier culinary capitals. Dedicating the award to the people of Telangana and stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sectors, the Minister said the recognition would further strengthen efforts to position Telangana as one of the country's leading tourism destinations. The India Today Tourism Awards recognise excellence in tourism promotion, destination development and visitor experience across India. Telangana Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Gauthami was present on the occasion.



Paper Leaks
Crush Dreams of
Millions: Rahul
NEW DELHI: (JUN 15)

Ahead of his first student convention in Kota, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said every paper leak and cancelled exam is not just a failure of the system but a blow to the dreams of millions of youth of the country. In a post on X in Hindi, Gandhi said it is not the fruit of hard work that students get but the punishment for daring to dream. He urged the youth to fight for their future and said he stands with them.

Sage Agatthiyar
symbol of
India's cultural,
spiritual unity:
V-P
NEW DELHI: (JUN 15)

Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan on Monday credited sages and rishis as the "true architects" of India's unity and said kings or political institutions were not the only ones who worked for it. He made the remarks at the release of the book "Agatthiyar -- The Unifier" at an event here. Describing Sage Agatthiyar as a symbol of India's cultural and spiritual unity, the vice-president said the revered sage connected the traditions of North and South India and embodied the civilisational bond stretching from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean.

SP MP Alleges
Development
Failure by
Maurya
KAUSHAMBI (UP): (JUN 15)

Samajwadi Party MP Pushpendra Saroj on Monday alleged that Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has failed to ensure the development of his home district Kaushambi and demanded his resignation. Talking to reporters after a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee at the Collectorate premises here, Saroj said Maurya was unable to address key issues related to education, healthcare and employment in the area despite holding the office of deputy chief minister for nearly a decade. "If the deputy chief minister cannot ensure development in his own home district, he should resign from his post," Saroj said.

Palnadu set for industrial and horticulture growth

says Gottipati Ravi Kumar
NARASARAOPET:

Energy Minister and Palnadu district in-charge Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Monday said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was implementing the promises made to the people and pursuing welfare and development simultaneously. Participating in the coalition government's second anniversary celebrations at Narasaraopet, Mr. Ravi Kumar distributed subsidised tractors, drip irrigation systems and agricultural equipment to farmers. He also handed over subsidised autorickshaws to beneficiaries under programmes implemented by the DRDA and

AP emerge as growth engine of India's economic growth: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

SINGAPORE :

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said India is rapidly transforming into a global economic powerhouse and Andhra Pradesh playing a crucial role in driving the nation's growth.

Addressing a meeting with leading venture capitalists during the first day of his Singapore visit, the Chief Minister noted that while countries such as China took decades to achieve high economic growth, India is advancing at a much faster pace under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.The Chief Minister highlighted India's emergence as a global manufacturing hub, particularly in medical technology, advanced electronics and high-value industrial products. He pointed out that India possesses the world's largest youth workforce, creating a strong demographic advantage for sustained economic growth.Emphasizing Andhra Pradesh's role in India's manufacturing expansion, Chandrababu Naidu said the state is attracting major investments



in defence and aerospace sectors, including projects related to fifth-generation fighter aircraft manufacturing. He also outlined the government's "One Family – One Entrepreneur" policy aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and industrial development across the state.The Chief Minister informed investors that Andhra Pradesh has already facilitated fast-track approvals and land allotments for major projects, including the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program and investments by global companies such as Google and ArcelorMittal. He urged investors to capitalize on the state's investment-friendly environment and expanding

industrial ecosystem.

Highlighting the success of industrial hubs such as Sri City, Chandrababu Naidu said Andhra Pradesh has integrated technology into governance and public service delivery, creating a transparent and efficient business environment. He also showcased the opportunities available through the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH), inviting venture capital firms to invest in startups nurtured through the hub and support cutting-edge innovations emerging from Andhra Pradesh.

Representatives from leading venture capital firms, including Origin Ventures, Autonomics, Elev8 Ventures, Optimum Solutions, Quona

Capital and Jungle Ventures, participated in the interaction.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met Mr. Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore. During the meeting, discussions focused on strengthening economic and commercial cooperation between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh.The Chief Minister emphasized that Singapore has been a valuable partner in Andhra Pradesh's development journey and invited Singaporean companies to explore investment opportunities in the state. He highlighted the potential for investments in food processing, electronics, semiconductors,

quantum technologies, robotics, medical devices, hardware and advanced manufacturing sectors. Chandrababu Naidu noted that the development of new ports in Andhra Pradesh has created significant opportunities for shipbuilding, civil aviation and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities. He also informed the High Commissioner about the state's initiatives to establish traceability and certification systems for horticulture products to enhance export competitiveness.The Chief Minister sought Singapore's collaboration in emerging technology sectors and proposed stronger partnerships between educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh and Singapore to promote knowledge exchange, research and skill development.

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana, Industries Department Secretary Yuvaraj, AP Economic Development Board CEO S. Shanmohan, Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar and other senior officials were present during the meetings.

Congress alleges Amit Shah engineered TMC-NCPI merger to boost NDA

Congress accused Amit Shah of engineering 20 rebel TMC MPs' merger with the NCPI. The charge has intensified a wider battle over anti-defection norms and NDA numbers in the Lok Sabha.

The Congress on Monday accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of masterminding what it called an "illegal breakaway" of 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs after they announced their merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI). The party said the move was part of Shah's strategy to engineer a two-thirds majority

for the NDA in the Lok Sabha. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the development had taken Indian democracy to "new lows" and alleged that "decency, decorum and devotion to constitutional values and principles remain vulnerable and threatened every day he continues in office". He said the NCPI, a registered but unrecognised party formed three years ago, could become the second-largest constituent in the NDA through the merger. In a post on X, Ramesh said, "A desperate Union home minister – who is an absolute disgrace to the position once held by Sardar Patel – has taken Indian democracy to new lows in a shameless



manner." He also said Shah had "masterminded the illegal breakaway of 20 TMC MPs and their wholly questionable fusion with an unheard of and reportedly registered but unrecognised political outfit formed just three years back". Ramesh further said the NCPI could end up becoming

the second-largest constituent in the NDA, ahead of the TDP and JD(U), and said those parties should be protesting their "downgrade" through such "underhand tactics" and in such a "disgusting" manner. "This bizarre move is part of the Union home minister's strategy to engineer a two-thirds majority for the NDA in the Lok Sabha," he said.

On Sunday, the 20 rebel TMC MPs met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and announced that they were merging with the NCPI, a Tripura-based registered unrecognised political party. On Monday, rebel TMC MP Arup Chakraborty said the breakaway faction was trying to

"rectify" the party and would fight for control of its election symbol, even as the Mamata Banerjee-led party termed the move illegal under the anti-defection law.

The NCPI is a Tripura-based registered unrecognised party with no significant political presence. It contested three seats in the 2023 Tripura Assembly polls, with its candidates either finishing behind NOTA or getting only a few votes more. The latest political clash centres on the Congress charge that the merger was engineered to strengthen the NDA in the Lok Sabha, while the rebel TMC faction says it is seeking to "rectify" the party.

Trinamool MLA Kunal Ghosh targeted with egg outside Mamata's home

KOLKATA, JUNE 15

An egg was thrown at Trinamool Congress MLA Kunal Ghosh outside former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kolkata's Kalighat area on Monday. The Belehata Trinamool MLA was leaving Mamata Banerjee's residence in south Kolkata after attending a meeting when the incident took place. According to Kunal Ghosh, he noticed a person waiting on the street

holding an egg. He exchanged a few words with the individual, following which an egg was thrown at him. The alleged attacker identified himself as Chandan and claimed he had been waiting for Kunal Ghosh. The youth said there were several allegations against the Trinamool leader and that he threw the egg as a mark of protest. He claimed to be a resident of the Kalighat area in south Kolkata. "Did Kunal Ghosh commit fewer atrocities? He,



along with others, deserves to be hit with rotten eggs," the youth said. Later, Kunal Ghosh said he had attended a meeting at Mamata Banerjee's residence with some senior leaders and

that the incident occurred after he left the premises. "When I was leaving, media representatives were standing in front of Mamata Banerjee's house to ask questions. They requested me to stop, and I did. Just then, two boys came forward. There were some others behind them. One of the two took out an egg and attacked me," he said. He further said: "My eyes were on the camera lens. At that moment, one of them threw an egg at me." However, he refused to

describe the incident as an expression of public anger. "This is vandalism. There is no anger. The vandalism is being planned. There is security in front of the former Chief Minister's house. The boys threw eggs and were allowed to leave," he said. A short while later, as Kunal Ghosh was leaving the area in a car, some of the alleged attackers were still standing nearby. Kunal said to them: "Make omelettes with the remaining eggs and eat them."

Revision in route diversion for Nagercoil – Lokmanya Tilak Terminus

CHENNAI, JUNE 15:

Due to operational reasons, revisions have been made to the diversion routes of the following train service which was previously notified vide Press Release No. 154 dated 11th June 2026. The revised details are as follows:

Train No. 16340 Nagercoil – Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express scheduled to leave Nagercoil at 06.45 hrs on 30th June, 2026 will be diverted to run

via Thiruvananthapuram Central, Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam Town, Palakkad, Podanur, Erode and Salem. Consequently the train will skip the stoppage at Ernakulam Jn with additional stoppages at Kottayam and Ernakulam Town on the above mentioned date and the previously notified stoppage at Ernakulam Jn Station will remain cancelled.

Passengers are requested to take note of the revised routing and plan their journey accordingly

NCC to create independent state directorates in Andhra, Jharkhand

NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

The National Cadet Corps (NCC), Headquarters Directorate General, has approved the creation of independent state directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, increasing the total number of state units in the country from 17 to 19, said an official on Monday.

Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowering the youth, the decision will help more young people develop into confident, capable and socially committed citizens prepared to contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress, said the official from the Ministry of Defence. The establishment of independent state directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand will bring the NCC closer to the cadets and educational institutions it serves, the official said in a statement. The new administrative structure will enable more focused coordination, improved supervision and enhanced support for training and developmental activities, it said. It will also provide greater opportunities for the youth of these states through improved training infrastructure and support mechanisms. Established in 1948 with an initial strength



of 20,000 cadets, NCC has grown into the world's largest uniformed youth organisation with over 20 lakh cadets. The organisation has witnessed an increase of 6 lakh cadets between 2014 and 2025 and is currently present in more than 750 districts across the country. With renewed administrative strength, the organisation continues to shape responsible citizens and contribute towards building a stronger, more capable and Viksit Bharat, said the statement. Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described NCC cadets as the nation's second line of defence, calling upon youth to draw inspiration from their vital role in raising public awareness when mock drills were conducted across the country during Operation Sindoor. "As the world is going through a period of uncertainty, our youth must remain physically, mentally and emotionally strong and be prepared to take on every challenge," said Rajnath Singh while addressing the cadets at the NCC Republic Day Camp in Delhi.



Odisha man murders friend for having affair with his wife, arrested in Mumbai

The deceased and the accused were reportedly close friends. However, their relationship soured after Behera allegedly began an illicit relationship with Madhei's wife.

cused, Madhei. The two were reportedly close friends, but their relationship soured after Behera allegedly began an illicit relationship with Madhei's wife.

The matter had earlier been taken up by a village committee, where local elders and the sarpanch intervened to resolve the dispute. A penalty of Rs 50,000 was also reportedly imposed as part of the settlement.

After committing the crime on May 25, the accused allegedly buried the body in a forested area and later fled, said Pramod Kumar Mallick, Additional Superintendent of Police, adding that he was arrested from Mumbai.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to the crime and revealed the location where the body had been buried. Acting on his disclosure, police recovered the remains from a site near the accused's in-laws' house.

Police said efforts are underway to establish the exact sequence of events leading to the murder and to collect additional evidence to strengthen the case. Further investigation is in progress.

EDITORIAL

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: The Dilemma of U.S. Policy in the Gulf

The strategic quagmire confronting President Donald Trump regarding Tehran was starkly illustrated by his abrupt reversal on launching strikes against Iran, coming mere hours after he threatened a full seizure of the nation's vital Kharg Island. Having initiated this military confrontation alongside his close ally, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on February 28, Mr. Trump is now actively seeking a diplomatic exit strategy through negotiated terms. However, having successfully weathered a grueling forty days of sustained American and Israeli aerial bombardments, and now exercising firm operational control over the critical Strait of Hormuz shipping lanes, Iran seems entirely indisposed to grant the American president an easy diplomatic triumph. Washington finds itself severely squeezed between two uncompromising forces: an unpredictable Israel, whose parallel military campaigns in Lebanon continuously jeopardize the tenuous U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement, and a deeply emboldened Iranian leadership that has grown progressively defiant and unyielding. In response, Mr. Trump resorted to his standard geopolitical methodology, attempting to leverage sudden military coercion to forcefully shift Tehran's posture at the bargaining table. The latest flashpoint occurred on Wednesday when he authorized direct retaliatory strikes against Iranian targets following verified reports that an American Apache helicopter was downed over the hotly contested Strait of Hormuz. Tehran responded immediately, launching retaliatory strikes against U.S. military installations stationed in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan. Following forty-eight hours of intense, tit-for-tat military exchanges, Mr. Trump unexpectedly ordered a halt to the operations on Thursday, publicly asserting that diplomatic discussions were showing positive momentum. This aligns with his behavior over the preceding eight weeks, during which he has repeatedly proclaimed that a grand bargain with Iran was on the precipice of completion. Yet, within this dangerous escalatory spiral, the administration's approach consistently mirrors a pattern of taking one step forward followed by two steps back.

When the American president originally deployed his massive naval armada toward the Persian Gulf in late February, his primary objective was to compel unconditional Iranian compliance through overwhelming kinetic pressure. The joint U.S.-Israeli coalition advanced a highly ambitious agenda, demanding the complete dismantlement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure, the systematic degradation of its ballistic missile arsenals, and an absolute termination of its regional proxy network funding. At its inception, the ultimate, unstated objective of the joint U.S.-Israeli offensive was total regime change within Tehran. Now, more than ninety days into a conflict that has conspicuously failed to realize a single one of its explicitly stated benchmarks, the warfare has instead served to solidify and radicalize Iran's geopolitical resolve. Whereas the Iranian government may have been amenable to negotiating concessions regarding its nuclear development capabilities on February 27, its contemporary position is unshakable: any future dialogue regarding the nuclear dossier remains strictly contingent upon the immediate cessation of all U.S.-Israeli military hostilities and the comprehensive lifting of the ongoing economic and maritime blockade. Ultimately, this conflict has radically transformed the foundational strategic equilibrium of the Middle East. While it is undeniable that Iran has suffered immense domestic economic devastation and severe structural military damage, it has simultaneously emerged in a far more potent geopolitical position by securing the choke point of the Hormuz Strait, thereby trapping the United States in an incredibly expensive, protracted military deadlock. Rather than continuing to pursue the illusory fantasy of a total Iranian capitulation, the leadership in Washington must pivot toward a realistic, multi-phased diplomatic framework. The immediate imperative must focus on robustly enforcing the current ceasefire, expanding its parameters in genuine good faith, and dismantling the blockade in direct exchange for Iran restoring free maritime transit through the Strait of Hormuz. Only after regional stabilization is successfully achieved can both adversaries realistically re-engage in meaningful negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions and construct a permanent resolution to the war.

DEFIANCE OF DUST



Old age, they say, is a curse
A slow erosion, a silent hearse.
But listen, youth of fleeting years:
The fire within still burns past fears.

Shall we lie down like beasts in pain,
As time pours down like ruthless rain?
No! Our will is not yet torn
In shattered wheels, new paths are born.

Our limbs may creak, our steps may slow,
But in our minds, the tempests blow.
The world may hush, pretend we're done
But age is not eclipse of sun.

If we must sit, let it be thrones,
Of dreams carved deep in aging bones.
Let hearts still burst, but not in vain
In thunderous love, not silent pain.

Oh youth who scroll and swipe and stray,
Learn from the soul that won't decay.
Rise not with haste, but with resolve
Let character, not clicks, evolve.

The end is not the end, you see
But wisdom passed eternally.

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



OPINION 06
ALIGNING EDUCATION AND RECRUITMENT:
RETHINKING AN UNEVEN DIVIDE

When formal education becomes a mere qualifying filter rather than the foundation of merit, the purpose of learning itself is redefined. There is an urgent need to align our classrooms with competitive selection. "

For millions of Indian students, years of academic effort often culminate not in recognition of sustained learning, but in a single high-stakes examination. While the education system seeks to cultivate knowledge and intellectual development over several years, public recruitment often rests on performance in a time-bound test. This growing divergence has raised important questions about how merit is defined and rewarded in India.

The Reality of Competitive Examinations:

Competitive examinations are founded on the principles of standardisation and uniformity, both of which are essential in a country as vast and diverse as India. Their emphasis on objectivity and comparability has helped preserve transparency and institutional credibility in public recruitment. In a system that must evaluate millions of applicants, a common assessment framework remains indispensable.

However, the very structure that ensures procedural fairness also tends to compress the evaluation of a candidate's abilities into a limited set of parameters. Merit, which is developed over years of learning and academic engagement, is often judged through performance in a single examination conducted over a few hours.

Consequently, students with consistently strong academic records do not always enjoy a corresponding advantage in recruitment outcomes. Conversely, candidates who undergo intensive examination-specific preparation over relatively short periods may perform better within the constraints of the test. This has contributed to a growing perception that academic learning and competitive success often operate in parallel rather than in convergence.

A Growing Disconnect Between Education and Selection:

A deeper concern lies in the widening gap between what educational institutions teach and what recruitment examinations eventually assess. Students spend years pursuing prescribed curricula, completing degrees and acquiring academic qualifications. Yet many competitive examinations demand a distinct mode of preparation that often bears limited resemblance to classroom learning.

As a result, formal education increasingly serves as a qualifying requirement rather than as the primary foundation upon which recruitment is based. The mismatch between academic learning and examination patterns has contributed to the emergence of two separate systems — one centred on education and the other on specialised test preparation.

Such a situation inevitably raises broader questions regarding the purpose of higher education itself. If years of academic achievement carry limited weight in shaping future opportunities, the incentive for sustained and meaningful learning may gradually weaken.

The Rise of Coaching Ecosystems:

The rapid expansion of coaching institutions has further reinforced this separation. These institutions undoubtedly play an important role in helping candidates navigate complex syllabi and examination procedures. Their success, however, also reflects the extent to which competitive examinations have evolved into specialised exercises requiring strategies that extend beyond formal education.

The growing influence of coaching ecosystems has raised concerns that access to specialised preparation and familiarity with examination patterns may increasingly shape outcomes. While coaching itself cannot be viewed as the source of the problem, its growing prominence highlights the limitations of the existing

relationship between education and recruitment.

At the same time, the practical constraints confronting recruitment agencies cannot be ignored. Ensuring transparency, equality of opportunity and administrative efficiency in a country of India's scale necessitates standardised mechanisms of assessment. The challenge, therefore, is not to question the legitimacy of competitive examinations, but to examine whether their design adequately captures the broader range of competencies developed through formal education.

Towards Greater Alignment:

One possible area for reform lies in exploring ways through which sustained academic performance can complement existing assessment frameworks. Without compromising the principles of standardised testing, long-term academic achievement could serve as a contextual indicator of consistency, discipline and learning ability. Such an approach would not replace competitive examinations, but rather seek to supplement them in a manner that better reflects educational continuity.

Equally important is the need to reconsider the nature of assessment itself. A greater emphasis on conceptual understanding, analytical reasoning and problem-solving abilities, instead of narrowly defined memorisation-based preparation, could help bridge the gap between classrooms and competitive examinations. Such an approach would also resonate with the broader objectives of the National Education Policy 2020, which advocates competency-based and holistic learning.

International experience offers useful lessons. Many advanced education systems employ a combination of standardised assessments and indicators of sustained academic performance. While such models cannot be transplanted mechanically into the Indian context, they

demonstrate that standardisation and educational continuity need not be mutually exclusive.

Beyond Examinations:

Ultimately, the debate extends beyond recruitment procedures and touches upon the broader philosophy underlying public selection systems. Competitive examinations have undoubtedly contributed to fairness and equal opportunity, and their relevance remains unquestionable.

However, fairness in public recruitment must balance the need for equal opportunity with the need to recognise sustained learning and intellectual development. The objective is not to weaken the principles of transparency and merit that competitive examinations embody, but to ensure that they remain better aligned with the broader goals of education.

If education is expected to nurture knowledge, discipline and intellectual growth over many years, recruitment systems must ensure that these qualities are not rendered secondary to short-term test performance. A closer relationship between learning and selection would strengthen not only the credibility of public recruitment, but also the very purpose of higher education itself.

The challenge before India is not one of disruption, but of thoughtful reform — ensuring that the institutions of education and employment evolve not in isolation, but in harmony with one another.



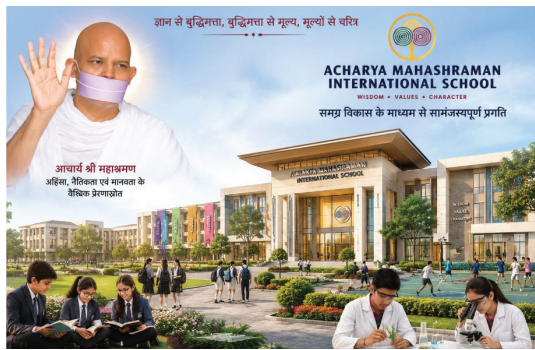
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Pioneering a New Era of Holistic Learning and Educational Revolution

Today, the world stands at a crucial crossroads in education. While the expansion of knowledge has reached unprecedented heights, the erosion of human values has accelerated at an equally alarming pace. Science and technology have undoubtedly made life more comfortable and convenient, yet they have also been accompanied by growing challenges such as mental stress, violence, excessive competition, ethical crises, and the gradual decline of human sensitivity and compassion. A fundamental question echoes throughout the educational landscape: Is the current education system truly shaping human beings, or is it merely producing professionals and consumers? At such a critical juncture, the initiative of establishing Acharya Mahashraman International Schools by the Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Mahasabha emerges as a beacon of hope, a fresh vision, and a transformative educational philosophy. This is not merely a project to establish schools; it is a grand movement to reconnect education with its original purpose.

The Mahasabha has set an ambitious goal of establishing nearly one hundred schools across India. At present, construction and academic activities are progressing rapidly in schools located in Sridungargarh, Gangashahar, and Nokha in Rajasthan, as well as Bhuj in Gujarat. The objective behind these institutions is not simply to create modern educational campuses but to cultivate an educational culture that harmoniously integrates knowledge with values, science with wisdom, and success with sensitivity. The educational vision of the Terapanth order has always been broad, humane, and farsighted. Within this tradition, education has never been viewed merely as a means of employment; rather, it has been regarded as the foundation for the holistic development of an individual. The Acharyas of Terapanth consistently emphasized that the true purpose of education is to enrich the human being from within. An education that develops the intellect while neglecting the heart remains incomplete. Likewise, an education that imparts knowledge without building character can ultimately become a threat to society.

India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 similarly emphasizes the importance of holistic education. The policy places special importance on multidimensional development, life skills, Indian knowledge systems, value-based learning, and overall personality development. However, the success of any policy ultimately depends on the institutions that implement it. In this regard, Acharya Mahashraman International Schools have the potential to emerge as living and effective models of the NEP. Alongside modern curricula, scientific temper, technological competence, and preparation for global competitiveness, these schools will place equal emphasis on ethics, self-discipline, coexistence, and spiritual awareness. According to Mahendra Nahata, President of the Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Mahasabha and a distinguished industrialist, this project has been developed as one of the Mahasabha's flagship educational initiatives. Its objectives and long-term vision make it far more comprehensive than an ordinary school project. Nahata believes that in the future, technical knowledge alone will not be sufficient. In the age of artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technologies, machines may perform countless tasks, but qualities such as compassion, sensitivity, ethical judgment, meaningful relationships, and inner balance can only be nurtured by human beings. Therefore, education must educate not only the mind but also the heart and soul.



Acharya Mahashraman has elevated this entire tradition to new heights. His personality embodies a remarkable synthesis of knowledge, spirituality, discipline, nonviolence, and human compassion. In his vision, education cannot remain confined to intellectual development alone; it must also awaken the moral, spiritual, and human potential hidden within every individual. This is precisely why the institutions established in his name possess the potential to become not only centers of modern education but also centers that impart a meaningful philosophy of life. The guiding motto of Acharya Mahashraman International Schools—"Knowledge, Values, and Character"—perfectly reflects one of the greatest needs of our time. While most educational institutions today focus extensively on knowledge and skills, the dimensions of values and character often receive inadequate attention. As a result, intellectual advancement continues, but moral and human crises also deepen. These schools aim to address this imbalance through a meaningful and effective educational approach. Their objective is not merely to provide information but to transform knowledge into wisdom and wisdom into character.

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His belief that these schools can enrich India's National Education Policy with a spiritual dimension is particularly

significant. Here, spirituality does not imply religious narrowness or sectarianism. Rather, it refers to self-awareness, ethical living, tolerance, human unity, and inner harmony. This perspective is increasingly relevant to the global community, where discussions on educational reform are increasingly centered around mental well-being, social responsibility, and value-based living. One of the greatest challenges facing modern education is that it is producing successful individuals who are often not fulfilled, intelligent minds that are not always sensitive, and capable professionals who may not necessarily possess strong character. Consequently, societies across the world are grappling with rising levels of stress, depression, violence, intolerance, and social fragmentation. What is urgently needed is an educational model that prepares students not merely for competition but for life itself—one that helps them discover not only a career but also a purpose; one that teaches them not only how to earn a living but also how to live meaningfully.

Acharya Mahashraman International Schools represent a significant step in this direction. They aspire to create a harmonious balance between science and spirituality, modernity and culture, technology and ethics, competition and cooperation, achievement and compassion. Such a vision may well become the foundation of future education. Across the world, there is a growing search for educational systems that can nurture not only knowledgeable individuals but also wise and responsible citizens. Indian educational philosophy has championed this ideal for centuries. From the ancient Gurukul tradition to contemporary spiritual thought, India has consistently viewed education as a means of holistic human development.

If the Acharya Mahashraman International Schools evolve according to their envisioned framework, they could emerge as an inspiring model not only for India but for the entire global educational community. Just as certain nations have become renowned for their distinctive educational systems, India too can present to the world a unique model of value-based holistic education. Such a model would demonstrate that education is not merely the accumulation of knowledge but the formation of life; not merely the expansion of information but the development of consciousness; not merely preparation for a career but cultivation of character. In essence, the establishment of Acharya Mahashraman International Schools should not be viewed merely as an educational project. It is a creative extension of Acharya Tulsi's Anuvrat Movement, Acharya Mahapragya's Science of Living, and Acharya Mahashraman's vision of nonviolence and human welfare. It is an effort to reconnect education with its true purpose. It is a vision of a future in which schools are not merely institutions that confer degrees, but centers that shape the finest possibilities of humanity. If this vision becomes a reality, it will not only provide a new direction to India's educational system but also offer the world a humane, ethical, and spiritual model of education—one capable of nurturing generations that are more intelligent, more compassionate, and more deeply human. That, ultimately, is the true significance, purpose, and promise of this remarkable initiative.

LALIT GARGG
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Hormuz Reopens, Nuclear Talks Begin

US-Iran Talks
Enter New Phase

TEHRAN

The US and Iran have reached a preliminary peace framework to halt months of conflict, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and begin a 60-day negotiation process on Tehran's nuclear program, sanctions relief and the future of its enriched uranium stockpile.

The agreement, expected to be formally signed in Switzerland on 19 June, marks the most serious diplomatic breakthrough since the war began on 28 February. But it is not yet a final nuclear deal. Instead, the ceasefire and de-escalation framework is designed to stop the fighting first and move the hardest issues into a short negotiation window.

US President Donald Trump declared the deal complete in a post on Truth Social, writing: "Ships of the World, start your engines." Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose government helped mediate the talks along with Qatar, said on X that a US-Iran peace deal "has been REACHED."

He said both sides had agreed to the "immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

The statement was significant because Lebanon had become one of the biggest risks to the deal. Israeli strikes on Hezbollah targets in Beirut and southern Lebanon had threatened to derail the agreement hours before the announcement. Iran had insisted that any ceasefire must cover military action across the wider regional front, not only direct US-Iran hostilities.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council said "the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, will end immediately and perma-



nently beginning tonight," according to Axios.

The council also said negotiations on a final agreement would begin only after the other side implemented its commitments under the memorandum of understanding. That sequencing points to the central fragility of the deal: Washington wants nuclear concessions and monitoring; Tehran wants sanctions relief, access to frozen funds and proof that the blockade and military pressure have ended.

The framework is expected to include three immediate elements. First, a halt to US-Iran hostilities. Second, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow Gulf waterway through which about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas moved before the war. Third, talks over Iran's nuclear programme during a 60-day window. The US is expected to lift its naval blockade of Iran once the deal is signed, while Iran is expected to reopen the strait under arrangements still being worked out. Trump said the strait would reopen only "upon the signing of the Deal on Friday, for purposes of mine removal."

The market reaction was immediate. Oil prices fell sharply

on expectations that the agreement could ease one of the biggest energy supply shocks in recent years. Brent crude dropped about 4% to 5%, while equity markets in Europe and Asia rallied as investors priced in lower geopolitical risk.

The shipping industry, however, remains cautious. Reuters reported that only limited traffic had resumed through the Strait of Hormuz, with India-bound LNG tanker Disha among the first visible vessels to move through the waterway after the announcement.

Tankers stuck in limbo

More than 100 tankers remain stuck in the Gulf area, according to ship-tracking data cited by Reuters. Shippers are waiting for details on mine clearance, navigation guarantees and the practical conditions under which commercial vessels can safely resume transit.

"The market is clearly pricing in a return to business as usual," analysts at Sentosa Ship Brokers said in a note cited by Reuters. But they warned that shipowners and charterers would remain cautious until vessels were "consistently moving freely through Hormuz once again." That caution matters because the strait is the

economic centre of the deal. Even if the ceasefire holds politically, oil and gas flows will not return to normal unless insurers, shipowners, charterers and energy buyers believe the waterway is safe.

For India, the deal reduces an immediate external risk. India depends heavily on imported crude and liquefied natural gas, and any prolonged disruption in the Gulf would have hit the current account, inflation, the rupee and fuel-sensitive sectors. A durable reopening of Hormuz would ease pressure on import costs, though the effect will depend on how quickly shipping normalizes.

The agreement also reshapes the nuclear track. The 60-day window is expected to cover Iran's enrichment activities, the future of its highly enriched uranium stockpile, sanctions relief and the possible release of frozen Iranian assets. These are the same issues that have repeatedly stalled earlier efforts to revive or replace the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the memorandum text had been finalized after last-minute changes sought by Tehran. He said Iranian pressure helped move the talks forward.

"Our armed forces were ready to deliver a decisive response," Gharibabadi said, according to Mehr News Agency. He also said "military power and the threats we made helped finalize the text."

Different strokes

That framing shows Tehran is presenting the deal not as a concession but as a product of deterrence. Trump, by contrast, is presenting it as a diplomatic victory and a reopening of global trade routes. Sharif is presenting it as a mediation success for Pakistan.

The social media battle began almost immediately. Trump's Truth Social post cast the agreement in triumphalist terms, saying the deal was complete and authorizing the "toll free opening" of Hormuz. Sharif's X post emphasized the regional scope of the halt in fighting, especially Lebanon. Iranian state-linked and official accounts stressed that implementation would depend on the US side fulfilling its obligations. That difference in tone is important. Washington is selling the deal as a peace breakthrough. Tehran is selling it as a ceasefire won under pressure. Pakistan is selling it as mediation. Israel, which was

not the central party to the US-Iran framework, remains the chief source of uncertainty.

Israeli officials have resisted any demand to withdraw from positions in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza. Israeli strikes in Lebanon just before the deal announcement showed how quickly events outside the direct US-Iran channel could threaten the framework. The agreement therefore has two tests, analysts said. The first is operational: whether the ceasefire holds and the Strait of Hormuz reopens safely. The second is political: whether the US and Iran can use the 60-day pause to reach a more durable settlement on the nuclear issue.

'Coercive' diplomacy

Neither side has released the full memorandum text. That leaves room for competing claims over what has actually been agreed, when each commitment begins and what happens if one side accuses the other of breaching the framework. The deal also faces domestic risks. Trump's allies are likely to describe the agreement as proof of coercive diplomacy, while critics will demand clarity on whether Iran has made binding nuclear commitments. In Tehran, officials will need to show that sanctions relief and access to frozen funds are real, not deferred promises.

The unresolved questions are large. It remains unclear how Iran's uranium stockpile would be reduced or monitored, whether enrichment would be frozen or limited, how quickly sanctions relief would begin, and what role the International Atomic Energy Agency would play. It is also unclear whether Israel will observe the wider regional calm the deal requires.

For now, the agreement has changed the direction of the crisis. It has lowered oil prices, given shippers a possible route back through Hormuz and opened a short diplomatic window after months of war.



Hormuz to fully reopen by Friday: Trump

EVIAN

U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday hailed a newly signed agreement with Iran as a major step towards easing tensions in the Middle East, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in the French resort town of Evian, the two leaders said the agreement could help stabilise global energy markets and build momentum to address other regional conflicts.

"I think yesterday was a very important agreement, a peace deal with Iran," Macron said at the start of the bilateral meeting. "It will fix the nuclear issue first, it will fix the nuclear issue, and it's a very important matter for peace, for the whole world." Macron described the agreement as an important development for regional stability and said it could also contribute to peace efforts in Lebanon.

"It will provide peace in Lebanon, and so we are ready to take our fair share of the burden and be part of the commitment of the international community in order to support this deal," he said. Trump said the agreement was already producing results, with commercial shipping beginning to move again through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes.

"The deal is all signed, and the Strait is already partially opened," Trump said. "Ships are starting to go out now. On Friday, it'll be completely opened." The President said the agreement had been reached with what he described as a new leadership group in Iran. "We found the third set to be very smart, strong, but we ended up making a deal," Trump said.

He reiterated that the central objective of the agreement was to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. "The main thing is that Iran will not have a nuclear weapon. They fully agreed to that with strong policing powers, and they won't have a nuclear weapon," Trump said.

Trump also argued that easing tensions in the Gulf was already affecting global markets. "I think a lot of great things are going to happen in the Middle East right now, and very importantly, the oil is plummeting down and the stock market is shooting up like a rocket today," he said. Asked when details of the agreement would be released, Trump said the memorandum of understanding would become public soon. "I want it to be released because it's a very powerful document," he said. "Probably pretty soon, I would say, sometime after Friday." Trump indicated that Vice President JD Vance would represent the administration at the formal signing ceremony.

Slovakia conferred its highest honour on PM Modi

BRATISLAVA

Slovakia on Monday conferred its highest honour, the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to the Central European nation. This is the 33rd global honour bestowed by a country upon PM Modi.

"Honoured to receive the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) in Bratislava this evening. My gratitude to the people and Government of Slovakia for this honour, which belongs to the 140 crore people of India. I dedicate this award to the enduring friendship between India and Slovakia," PM Modi wrote on X.

PM Modi and Slovak President Peter Pellegrini appreciated the creative interpretation of Varanasi, PM Modi's parliamentary constituency, by Slovak artists at a painting exhibition held in the Presidential Palace of Slovakia.



"At the Presidential Palace, PM Narendra Modi and President Peter Pellegrini walked through a painting exhibition by Slovak artists in the Presidential Palace," the Ministry of External Af-

fairs (MEA) wrote on X, sharing a few glimpses of the exhibition.

The MEA noted that the exhibition was dedicated to the theme "Varanasi City" and featured artworks that beautifully

captured the spiritual, cultural, and everyday life of one of India's oldest living cities.

The artworks also included paintings by Slovak artists who visited Varanasi recently and

were inspired by its unique ambience and traditions.

Both leaders appreciated Varanasi's creative interpretation and cultural vibrancy, noting that art continues to serve as a powerful bridge between India and Slovakia. Ahead of the International Day of Yoga on June 21, a Yoga camp was organised at the Presidential Palace of Slovakia on Monday. Slovakian youth practised Yoga in the presence of PM Modi and President Pellegrini, as both leaders met at the palace.

"PM Narendra Modi, along with President Peter Pellegrini, observed a special Yoga demonstration performed by Slovak schoolchildren. Both leaders noted the expanding cultural engagement between India and Slovakia as well as the universal appeal of Yoga as a means of promoting physical well-being, mental harmony and healthy living," the MEA stated.

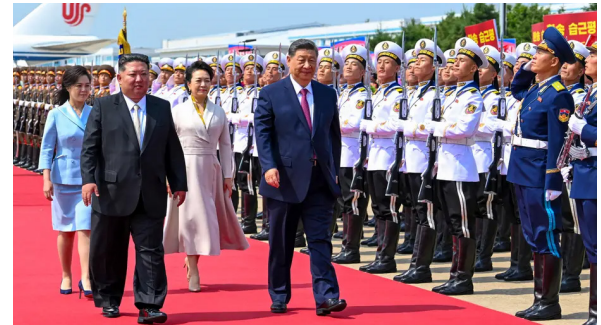
China attempting to reassert relationship with North Korea: Report

TAIPEI

Chinese President Xi Jinping's latest trip to North Korea is an attempt to reassert Beijing as Pyongyang's "most consequential partner", a report has detailed. According to a report in the Taipei Times, North Korea's increasing alignment with Russia helped sustain Pyongyang's economy through sanctions pressure, and it steadily reduced Beijing's leverage over North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

"The summit is not simply a bilateral meeting between two neighbours; it is a signal to a wider audience about who is organising political alignment in Asia," the report noted.

The position of China as North Korea's indispensable patron is being contested as Kim leveraged his partnership with Russia to secure economic relief and political recognition



without needing the Chinese approval.

Xi arrived in North Korea, saying "We must oppose hegemony, authoritarianism and all attempts and conspiracies to revive militarism that endanger regional security and stability," an editorial published in the Rodong Sinmun ahead of the Chinese leader's arrival earlier this month, mentioned. According to the report, the statement targets Japan's expanding de-

fence posture on the surface, but the framing also encompasses US alliance architecture in East Asia, which is increasingly presented as a unified threat by Beijing, linking Tokyo, Seoul, Washington and Taipei in a single strategic picture. A new uranium enrichment facility was revealed by North Korea days before the summit, with Kim announcing plans to increase the country's nuclear forces "at an exponential rate."

South Korea's President says ember of hope for dialogue, cooperation with North Korea still exists

ROME

South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung said on Sunday that he believes the "ember of hope" for reviving dialogue and cooperation with North Korea still exists, reaffirming his commitment to making the utmost efforts to establish peace with Pyongyang.

President Lee made the remarks in his speech during a special Mass at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome, celebrated by South Korea-born Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung-sik under the theme of peace and solidarity, Yonhap news agency reported.

Lee is visiting Italy as part of his broader European trip, his first since taking office in June last year.

Lee referred to the inter-Korean joint statement adopted June 15, 2000, calling it a "historic turning point" that, he said, signalled the possibility of overcoming inter-Korean tensions and opening up dialogue and cooperation. The President noted



the first inter-Korean joint statement had led to reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, as well as humanitarian cooperation and other exchanges, opening the door to new hopes for building peace on the Korean Peninsula. "I firmly believe the ember of that hope is still alive," Lee said.

The President reiterated his administration's efforts to ease tensions, including the suspension of propaganda loudspeaker campaigns toward Pyongyang. "Additionally, we have also made it clear that we will not seek unification by absorption or unilateral (ideological) competition," Lee said.

"(We) will continue efforts to prevent accidental conflicts be-

tween the South and the North and to restore military trust," he added. "(We) plan to do everything we can to overcome the ceasefire and build a peace system."

Lee cited escalating international crises, including the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war and the conflict in the Middle East, while noting the Korean Peninsula, too, has slid back to an era of rupture and severed dialogue. "Distrust and tensions remain as ever," he said. "However, South Korea has a track record of keeping its faith in peace and democracy through vicissitudes and hardship," he added, underscoring the country's capacity to overcome inter-Korean tensions.

Since taking office in June, the Lee administration has made consistent overtures to seek peace and dialogue with North Korea, although Pyongyang has remained unresponsive.

North Korea apparently remains firm in its pledge not to give up its nuclear weapons and missile programmes.

Trump shifts focus to Ukraine after Iran deal

EVIAN

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that his administration would turn its attention to the Russia-Ukraine war following what he described as a breakthrough agreement with Iran, expressing optimism that Moscow and Kyiv may be open to negotiations.

Speaking alongside French President Emmanuel Macron at a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, Trump said he had held separate conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and saw a potential opening for diplomacy. "I had two very good conversations yesterday," Trump said. "Now that this is finished, we're going to be focusing on that, see if we can get that one done."

Referring to the war in Ukraine, Trump added: "I think they're both open to it."

The U.S. President said the human cost of the conflict re-



mained a major concern.

"25,000 people a month are dying, mostly soldiers, and that shouldn't happen," he said. Macron, who hosted the meeting, said Ukraine would be a key topic at the G7 gathering and confirmed that Zelenskyy would join discussions with world leaders.

"We will have the occasion

to discuss the war in Ukraine in order to engage together and negotiate a good and solid peace and sustainable peace, and President Zelenskyy will be with us as well tomorrow," Macron said.

The comments came as leaders from the Group of Seven industrialised nations gathered in Evian for talks

focused on security, trade, energy and geopolitical stability.

While much of the discussion between Trump and Macron centred on a newly signed agreement with Iran, both leaders indicated that attention would increasingly shift to Europe's largest conflict since World War II. Macron praised the Iran agreement as

"a very important agreement, a peace deal with Iran" and said it was an important step for global stability.

Trump argued that the agreement had already begun easing tensions in the Middle East and reopening maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. "The deal is all signed, and the Strait is already partially opened," Trump said. "Ships are starting to go out now. On Friday, it'll be completely opened."

The President said the Iran agreement would allow his administration to devote greater diplomatic energy to other international crises.

"We had a very good conversation yesterday with President Zelenskyy and President Putin, and I see maybe we can do something there, I really do," Trump said.

Macron also said G7 leaders would discuss critical minerals, trade and other strategic issues during the summit, seeking greater coordination among member nations.



ATGC Unveils Agri-Biotech Innovations

HYDERABAD | JUNE 15, 2026

ATGC Biotech Pvt. Ltd., an Indian deep-tech agricultural biotechnology company headquartered in Hyderabad, participated in Bharat Innovates 2026, the largest global showcase of Indian deep-tech innovation held outside India. Selected among 120 high-potential startups from across India, ATGC Biotech represented the country's growing capabilities in agricultural biotechnology, sustainable crop protection, and precision agriculture technologies on the global stage. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring the strategic importance of innovation-led collaboration between India and France. Organized to spotlight India's most promising deep-tech ventures, Bharat Innovates 2026 brought together innovators, policymakers, investors and industry leaders from around the world across sectors including biotechnology, artificial intelligence, healthcare, semiconductors, space technology, sustaina-

Bharat Innovates 2026, Advances Global Partnerships
Selected among 120 high-potential deep-tech startups representing India at Bharat Innovates 2026 in Nice, France
Exchanges strategic international agreements to accelerate global market access for sustainable crop protection technologies
Among a select group of Agri-FoodTech innovators chosen to showcase India's agricultural innovation capabilities globally
Reinforces India's emergence as a global hub for deep-tech, biotechnology, and science-led innovation



bility and agri-food technologies. As part of Bharat Innovates 2026, ATGC Biotech exchanged strategic international agreements that will support the global commercialization of its sustainable agricultural technologies. The company exchanged a Licensing Agreement with a Swiss partner covering six products and further strengthened its international expansion plans through its Semiophore Joint Venture with Luxembourg Industries Ltd. (LIL), advancing a portfolio of 18 products targeting global agricultural markets.

The exchange of agreements took place in the presence of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, and Dr. Manish Diwan, Head – RFID, BIRAC. ATGC was also honored to have Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal interact with the company's international partners, reflecting India's commitment to supporting indigenous innovation and fostering glob-

al technology collaborations built on Indian science.

He further added, "The partnerships announced at Bharat Innovates strengthen our ability to take Indian-developed agricultural technologies to global markets while contributing to more sustainable farming practices worldwide. We are proud to demonstrate that globally relevant innovations can emerge from Indian laboratories and create meaningful impact for farmers across continents. ATGC Biotech credits its growth to the support of India's research and innovation ecosystem, including key government

agencies, scientific institutions, industry collaborators, international partners, and farming communities that have helped advance and validate its technologies over the years." Speaking on the Semiophore JV with ATGC Biotech Pvt.Ltd., Mr. David Luxembourg, Executive Chairman, Luxembourg Industries Ltd. said, "Our partnership with ATGC demonstrates how Indian innovation and global market expertise can come together to accelerate the adoption of sustainable crop protection technologies worldwide." Also sharing his thoughts, Dr. Manish Diwan, Head – RFID, BIRAC said: "ATGC Biotech's journey from indigenous innovation to global commercialization underlines the impact of India's deep-tech ecosystem in creating science-driven solutions with international relevance and societal value." ATGC Biotech has pioneered a fundamentally different approach to pest management based on pheromones and semiochemicals. The company's philosophy is captured in its mission statement: "Taming the insect world to feed the human world." Unlike conventional crop protection solutions that focus on killing insects, ATGC's technologies use species-specific pheromone signals to manipulate insect behaviour, disrupt mating cycles, and prevent the emergence of future pest generations. The company's participation at Bharat Innovates 2026 reflects the increasing global recognition of Indian agri-biotech innovation and highlights the role of home-grown scientific research in addressing challenges related to food security, agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. With expanding international collaborations and commercialization initiatives, ATGC Biotech continues to strengthen its mission of delivering globally relevant agricultural technologies developed in India for farmers around the world.



ACT Fibernet Brings AI-Powered Learning into Indian Homes Through Partnership with Turito

HYDERABAD, JUNE 15, 2026:

ACT Fibernet, one of India's leading broadband service providers, today announced a strategic partnership with Turito, a pioneering EdTech platform powered by generative AI for students. Through this collaboration, ACT Fibernet is extending its role beyond connectivity after the launch of its AI-powered Wi-Fi in January 2025, aiming to enable access to personalized, AI-driven education within Indian households. From AI powered Smart Wi-fi to AI-integrated learning, ACT Fibernet is striving to put AI to the best possible use.

As the gap between traditional classroom learning and real-world skills continues to widen, especially in the age of artificial intelligence, access to personalized and future-ready education remains limited for a large segment of students. This partnership aims to address that gap by integrating learning into the connected home, making advanced academic support more accessible and continuous.

Under this initiative, ACT Fibernet customers will gain access to Turito AI Academy, a unified learning platform that combines school academics with preparation for 6-12th grade learning, as well as competitive and international exams such as IIT-JEE, NEET, SAT, ACT, PSAT, SSAT, and AP. The platform integrates 24x7 AI-powered tutoring with personalized learning pathways, enabling students to receive real-time support and adaptive study plans based on their individual progress. As a part of this strategic launch, all ACT Fibernet customers will be eligible for an exclusive 3-month free trial of the Turito AI Academy, a benefit valued at Rs. 1500/- Ravi Karthik, Chief Growth Officer, ACT Fibernet, commented, "ACT Fibernet's high speed and reliable connectivity is a gateway to digital possibilities within the home. Our partnership with Turito shows our promise to enable families and teenagers with AI-powered, personalized learning that enables them to achieve their potential. With Turito, you can have your own personalised AI tutor to help you through 6-12 and entrance exams - helping with concepts, answering queries, solving question papers and much much more." Uday Reddy, Founder & CEO, Turito, said, "Edtech is evolving from static content to continuous

interaction. At Turito, we are building the operating system for AI-led education—integrating academics, test prep, doubt resolution, and college guidance into one platform. Our partnership with ACT Fibernet scales this into millions of homes, making personalized education equitable and future-ready." Through this collaboration, ACT Fibernet and Turito aim to enable a new model of learning within households, where screen time evolves into productive learning time and students are better equipped to navigate an increasingly AI-driven world.

About ACT Fibernet

ACT Fibernet is one of India's largest wired ISPs, headquartered in Bengaluru, with operations in 30+ cities and serving 2.4 million customers, and is an award-winning broadband provider recognised for its network quality and customer experience. Known for its reliable and high-speed internet connections, ACT Fibernet caters to a diverse range of customer needs. With a strong focus on customer satisfaction, ACT Fibernet provides excellent customer support and a seamless user experience. The company offers a wide range of plans to suit various budgets and usage requirements. For more information, please visit www.actcorp.in

About Turito

Founded in 2021, Turito is an AI-powered online learning platform transforming global K-12 education through personalized, high-quality academic solutions. Serving students across India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Middle East, Turito offers curriculum-aligned learning and competitive exam preparation. Through Turito AI Academy, students gain access to advanced features including an instant AI tutor, Personalized Adaptive Learning (PAL), and a wide range of video lessons and study resources. The platform also provides structured, affordable guidance for college applications and study abroad planning, starting as early as Grade 6. By integrating Generative AI and machine learning, Turito delivers personalized learning pathways, real-time performance insights, and 24x7 academic support—combining expert instruction with data-driven technology to help students excel globally. For more information, visit www.turito.com.



Sebi Brings New Price Bands for Commodity ETFs

NEW DELHI: (JUN 15)

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday introduced a revised framework for exchange traded funds (ETFs), including new norms for determining base prices, dynamic price bands and a pre-open call auction mechanism for ETFs, aimed at improving price discovery and investor protection. The regulator said the changes are aimed at addressing "the issues involved due to a lag of 1 trading day in the base price of ETFs and the fixed price band of ETFs not being commensurate with the price range of the underlying". Under the new framework, the base price for ETFs will be the previous day's closing price, calculated as the last 30 minutes' volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of the ETF, Sebi said in its circular.

From IIT Dreams to a Global Yoga Movement: The Story of Saurabh Bothra

Growing up, Saurabh Bothra was surrounded by stories of service

In Dhanaj, a small village in Maharashtra's Washim district, his grandfather, Dr. Lakshimchand Bothra, was known not just as a doctor but as someone who dedicated his life to the well-being of the community. After completing his medical studies from Nagpur Medical College in 1955, he chose to stay back in rural India rather than pursue opportunities in bigger cities. Over the years, he helped improve healthcare access, supported local development, and served as the village sarpanch. For young Saurabh, these examples quietly shaped his understanding of success. It was never only about personal achievement. It was about creating value for others. Like many students from middle-class Indian families, Saurabh worked hard academically and eventually secured admission to IIT-BHU, Varanasi. For most, an IIT degree is seen as a gateway to a stable and successful career. But during his college years, Saurabh found himself increasingly drawn towards something very different.

What began as a personal interest in yoga gradually became a deeper pursuit. He

started practising regularly and soon began conducting informal sessions for friends and fellow students. Around the same time, a book gifted by his grandfather left a lasting impression on him, strengthening his belief that physical and mental well-being are closely connected. Even then, he had no plans of building such a large community. The turning point came years later during the COVID-19 lockdown. As uncertainty and anxiety gripped households across the country, Saurabh began conducting online yoga sessions from home. The first few classes were modest, attended by only a handful of participants, the first class had just 3 participants. Yet the conversations that followed revealed a larger challenge. Many people wanted to adopt healthier lifestyles but struggled with consistency. Others found fitness intimidating. Among them were women in their forties and fifties dealing with knee pain, stiffness, stress, and lifestyle-related health concerns. One of those voices belonged to his own mother. She often shared how difficult it was for



many women her age to follow complicated fitness routines or intensive workout programmes. What they needed, she felt, was something simple, practical, and sustainable. Instead of designing programmes focused on quick transformations, he started simplifying yoga practices and making them easier to follow for beginners. The emphasis shifted from intensity to consistency. The idea was simple: if people could show up every day, even for a short period, they could build habits that would improve their health over time. That philosophy eventually became the foundation of Habuild.

What started as a few online

sessions grew steadily through word of mouth. People invited family members, friends, and neighbours. Participants returned not because they were chasing dramatic results but because the sessions felt approachable and achievable. Over time, Habuild evolved into a habit-building platform centred around daily wellness. Today, people from across age groups join its guided yoga sessions, with women and senior citizens forming a significant part of the community. The platform's programmes focus on helping individuals incorporate movement, mindfulness, and healthy routines into their everyday lives.

The scale of the movement has expanded far beyond what Saurabh could have imagined when he first started teaching online. Participants now join from across India and around the world, creating a global community connected by a shared commitment to daily wellness. Along the way, Habuild has earned recognition through several milestones and world records, including largest virtual yoga sessions. Yet for Saurabh, the

most meaningful achievement lies elsewhere. It is reflected in the stories of people who have made yoga a daily habit after years of inactivity. It is seen in older adults who have regained mobility and confidence, and in families who now practice together from different parts of the world.

Over the years, Saurabh Bothra and Habuild have also achieved several world records, including:

- Largest live-streamed yoga session on YouTube
- Largest virtual yoga class
- More than 2000 consecutive days of personal yoga practice

At a time when wellness is often associated with expensive memberships, complex routines, and constant performance, Saurabh continues to advocate a different approach. His belief is that lasting health does not come from dramatic changes but from small actions repeated consistently over time. From a village in Maharashtra to a community that now spans continents, his journey reflects the enduring relevance of a simple idea: meaningful change often begins with one habit, practised every day.

Drogo Aerospace Delivers First Batch of 41 JK 250e Drones to Indian Army

HYDERABAD, JUNE 15:

Drogo Aerospace Pvt. Ltd., formerly known as Drogo Drones Pvt. Ltd., has delivered the first batch of 41 JK 250e drones to the Indian Army under a ₹72-crore contract, marking a significant milestone for the Hyderabad-based defence technology company and India's indigenous defence manufacturing sector. The first batch was received by officials of the Army's Southern Command in Nasik, Maharashtra, while the company aims to complete the balance deliveries under the order by August 2026. The JK 250e drones, developed and built by Drogo Aerospace, can fly for up to three hours on a single charge and are intended for surveillance, reconnaissance, and other critical military missions. The project also supports the Government of India's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives to strengthen self-reliance in defence production.

As part of its strategic

Advances ₹72-Crore Defence Order



transformation, the company has rebranded from Drogo Drones to Drogo Aerospace, reflecting its evolution from a drone manufacturer into a broader aerospace technology ecosystem focused on defence, aviation, unmanned systems, satellites and future aerospace solutions. Headquartered in Madhapur, Hyderabad, the company is expanding its focus on next-generation unmanned aerial systems, defence tech-

nologies and advanced surveillance platforms.

Founder and CEO Yeshwanth Bonthu said the successful delivery to the Indian Army validates the company's technological expertise, manufacturing capabilities and commitment to national security. He added that Drogo Aerospace is actively developing indigenous loitering munitions, long-endurance UAVs, AI-powered aerial intelligence platforms, advanced surveil-

lance and reconnaissance systems, and other future-ready aerospace products.

The company recently showcased its defence technologies at a defence industry exhibition held in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the products and appreciated the company's contribution to strengthening India's defence

capabilities through indigenous innovation.

Looking ahead, Drogo Aerospace is establishing a state-of-the-art drone manufacturing facility at Maheshwaram in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district. The Telangana government has allotted approximately 4.5 acres of land to the company in the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster for the project. The upcoming facility, spread across 100,000 sq. ft., is expected to create around 500 additional jobs. The company currently employs about 300 people and plans further expansion as it strengthens its position in India's rapidly growing defence and aerospace sector.

Drogo Aerospace specializes in the design and manufacture of advanced unmanned aerial systems, defence technologies, AI-enabled aerial intelligence solutions and next-generation aerospace platforms, serving strategic and national security requirements through indigenous innovation and manufacturing.

Sensex ends 736 points higher, Nifty above 23,800; IndiGo up 4%

The S&P BSE Sensex surged 736.38 points, or 0.97%, to settle at 76,264.33, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 231 points, or 0.98%, to close at 23,853.90. The rally was broad-based, with strong buying seen in auto, real estate, industrial and consumption-related stocks. Rupee strengthened to 94.71 against US dollar. Stock markets ended sharply higher on Monday, extending their rally as easing tensions in West Asia and a sharp fall in crude oil prices boosted investor confidence. The interim US-Iran peace agreement eased concerns over a prolonged conflict and helped crude prices fall below the crucial \$85 per barrel mark, providing significant relief to the Indian economy. The S&P BSE Sensex surged 736.38 points, or 0.97%, to settle at 76,264.33, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 231 points, or 0.98%, to close at 23,853.90. The rally was broad-based, with strong buying seen in auto, real estate, industrial and consumption-related stocks. Brent crude dropped 5.14% to \$82.84 per barrel, while US WTI crude fell 5.51% to \$80.20 a barrel after the United States and Iran said they had reached an ini-



tial agreement to end the war and resume shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The two countries are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding in Switzerland on Friday, according to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country mediated the negotiations.

FALLING CRUDE OIL BRINGS RELIEF TO INDIA

Lower crude prices are a major positive for India, which imports more than 85% of its oil requirements. A sustained decline in oil prices could reduce inflationary pressure, improve the current account balance and support the rupee. The Indian rupee strengthened for a second consecutive session and ended 0.4% higher at 94.71 against the US dollar, compared with its previous close of 95.11. During the day, the rupee touched

94.4625, its strongest level in five weeks. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said the interim US-Iran peace agreement has significantly improved market sentiment. "The interim US-Iran peace agreement has significantly improved investor sentiment, triggering a broad-based recovery across equity markets. With crude oil prices easing to below USD 85 per barrel, concerns around inflation have moderated, supporting a more stable interest rate outlook and improving earnings visibility for FY27," he said. Nair added that as the risk-reward equation becomes more favourable, investors have moved towards growth-oriented sectors such as automobiles, industrials, capital goods and real estate, which are likely to benefit from an improving economic environment.



Beyond Shimla & Manali

Discover Seven Hidden Hill Stations for a Peaceful Mountain Escape

Chaukori, Uttarakhand: A Window to the Himalayas

Nestled in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, Chaukori remains one of the state's best-kept secrets. Perched at an altitude of around 2,000 metres, this tranquil hill station is famous for its breathtaking panoramic views of the Himalayan range.

The destination offers uninterrupted views of iconic snow-clad peaks including Nanda Devi, Nanda Kot, and the Panchachuli range. During sunrise and sunset, the mountains glow in shades of gold and pink, creating a magical spectacle for visitors.

Surrounded by tea gardens, rhododendron forests, and

pine-covered slopes, Chaukori is ideal for travellers seeking peace and solitude. Visitors can explore the Chaukori Tea Estate, visit the Mahakali Temple, or take a short trip to nearby Berinag. Nature walks through the forests and leisurely strolls amid tea plantations are among the most popular activities here.

Mashobra, Himachal Pradesh: Shimla's Quiet Neighbour

Located just a short drive from Shimla, Mashobra offers everything travellers love about Himachal Pradesh without the crowds associated with its famous neighbour. Surrounded by cedar forests, apple orchards, and rolling hills, this picturesque desti-

nation provides a refreshing escape from busy urban life.

Mashobra enjoys pleasant weather throughout the year, making it a favourite destination for nature enthusiasts and adventure lovers. The region is home to beautiful trekking trails, scenic viewpoints, and abundant birdlife.

Among the must-visit attractions are Craignano Nature Park, Mahasu Peak, and the Reserve Forest Sanctuary. Visitors can enjoy camping, hiking, birdwatching, and photography while soaking in the peaceful atmosphere. The simple village lifestyle and natural beauty make Mashobra an ideal destination for travellers seeking relaxation and rejuvenation.

For decades, hill stations such as Shimla and Manali have dominated the travel wish lists of Indian tourists seeking relief from the summer heat. While these destinations continue to attract millions of visitors every year, overcrowding, traffic congestion,

and rising commercialization have diminished some of their original charm. Fortunately, India's diverse landscape is home to several lesser-known hill destinations that offer equally stunning scenery, pleasant weather, and authentic

local experiences without the overwhelming crowds. These hidden gems provide the perfect setting for travellers who prefer slow travel, peaceful surroundings, and meaningful connections with nature. From the majestic Himalayan

foothills of Uttarakhand to the lush green hills of Northeast India and the scenic valleys of Gujarat, these seven offbeat hill stations promise unforgettable experiences for families, couples, solo travellers, and adventure seekers alike.

Morni Hills, Haryana: A Surprising Weekend Getaway

Few travellers realise that Haryana has its own hill station. Located near Chandigarh, Morni Hills offers a pleasant retreat surrounded by forests, hills, and lakes. Named after Queen Morni, the area is known for its natural beauty and peaceful environment. The region's lush greenery and clean air provide a welcome contrast to the fast-paced life of nearby cities. One of the major attractions is Tikkar Taal, a pair of interconnected lakes that offer boating opportunities and scenic views. Visitors can also explore Morni Fort and participate in adventure activities such as ziplining and hiking. Its accessibility and serene surroundings make Morni Hills an excellent destination for weekend travellers looking to reconnect with nature without undertaking a long journey.

Rajgir, Bihar: Where History Meets Nature

Rajgir is widely recognised for its historical and religious significance, but it is equally deserving of attention as a scenic hill destination. Surrounded by rocky hills and lush green valleys, Rajgir offers a unique blend of natural beauty, spirituality, and heritage. The town has strong connections with both Buddhism and Jainism and attracts pilgrims from across the world. Yet beyond its religious importance lies a landscape filled with peaceful hills, forests, and panoramic viewpoints. One of the most popular attractions is the Vishwa Shanti Stupa, located atop a hill and accessible via a ropeway ride that offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Visitors can also explore Griddhakuta Hill, where Lord Buddha is believed to have delivered several sermons.

Nature photography, sightseeing, and ropeway rides are among the highlights of a visit to Rajgir, making it a rewarding destination for history

Haflong, Assam: The Jewel of Northeast India

Known as the "White Ant Hillcock," Haflong is Assam's only hill station and one of Northeast India's most beautiful yet underrated destinations. Surrounded by rolling hills, forests, and lakes, Haflong offers visitors an opportunity to experience nature in its purest form. The town is also a cultural treasure, home to diverse tribal communities that have preserved their traditions and customs for generations. Visitors can gain insights into local lifestyles while enjoying the region's spectacular landscapes. Haflong Lake serves as the town's centerpiece, attracting tourists with its serene waters and picturesque setting. Nearby attractions include Jatinga, famous for its mysterious bird phenomenon, and Maibong, a historical site rich in heritage. Birdwatching, boating, cultural exploration, and photography are among the activities that make Haflong a memorable destination for travellers seeking something different.

Jampui Hills, Tripura: The Land of Orange Orchards

Tucked away in northern Tripura, Jampui Hills is one of India's most charming hidden destinations. The

region is famous for its orange orchards, cool climate, and breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys.

The hills offer spectacular sunrise and sunset views, drawing nature lovers and photographers from across the region. During the orange season, the landscape transforms into a vibrant display of colour, enhancing the area's natural appeal. Betlingchhip, the highest peak in Tripura, offers stunning panoramic views and is a favourite among trekkers. Visitors can also explore Vangmun Village and interact with local communities to learn about their traditions and way of life. The annual Orange Festival further enhances the appeal of Jampui Hills, showcasing local culture, cuisine, and agricultural heritage.

Saputara, Gujarat: A Scenic Escape in the Sahyadris

Situated in the Sahyadri mountain range, Saputara is Gujarat's only hill station and a delightful destination for travellers seeking cool weather and natural beauty. Unlike many crowded tourist hubs, Saputara retains a relaxed atmosphere that allows visitors to fully appreciate its scenic landscapes. The destination features lush green hills, waterfalls, forests, and a beautiful lake that serves as a focal point for recreational

activities. Popular attractions include Saputara Lake, Sunset Point, and the Artist Village, where visitors can explore tribal art and handicrafts. Cable car rides offer spectacular aerial views of the surrounding valleys, while boating provides a peaceful way to enjoy the area's natural beauty. Saputara's blend of culture, adventure, and scenic charm makes it one of western India's most rewarding hill destinations.

A Refreshing Alternative to Crowded Hill Stations

As travellers increasingly seek meaningful and less crowded experiences, these hidden hill stations offer an appealing alternative to mainstream tourist destinations. Whether it is the Himalayan panoramas of Chaukori, the tranquil forests of Mashobra, the cultural richness of Haflong, or the scenic beauty of Saputara, each destination provides a unique opportunity to slow down and reconnect with nature. For those planning their next mountain getaway, these lesser-known gems promise fresh experiences, authentic local culture, and the peace that is often missing from India's more popular hill stations. Sometimes, the most memorable journeys begin by taking the road less travelled.



7 Hill Stations Within A 6-Hour Drive From Delhi

Several beautiful destinations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh can be reached within six hours of driving from Delhi.

For Delhiites craving a break from busy roads, noise, and rising temperatures, nearby hill stations offer the perfect escape. You do not need to plan a long holiday or take extended leave to enjoy cool weather and scenic views. Several beautiful destinations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh can be reached within six hours of driving from Delhi. These hill stations are known for fresh air, green landscapes, and a relaxed pace of life. From adventure activities and peaceful walks to spiritual experiences and cosy cafés, each destination offers something unique. Whether

you are travelling with family, friends, or as a couple, these places are ideal for quick weekend trips.

Here are some of the best hill stations near Delhi that are easy to reach and perfect for short holidays.

Hill Stations Near Delhi Within A 6-Hour Drive

Rishikesh sits on the banks of the Ganges and is one of the most popular short getaways from Delhi. It is widely known as a centre for yoga, meditation, and spirituality. Adventure seekers can enjoy river rafting, bungee jumping, and trekking. The Ganga Aarti at Triveni Ghat creates a calm and uplifting atmosphere in the evenings. With its riverside cafés and scenic views, Rishikesh offers a fine balance of excitement and peace.

Nainital

Nainital is famous for its iconic lake surrounded by green hills. Boating in Naini Lake is one of the main attractions. The town has a pleasant climate and a charming, old-world feel. Popular spots include Snow Viewpoint, Mall Road, and the Naina Devi Temple. It suits families, couples, and solo travellers equally. The surrounding viewpoints make it a favourite for photography lovers.

Kasauli

Kasauli is a small and quiet hill town in Himachal Pradesh, ideal for travellers who prefer calm surroundings. It is known for colonial-era buildings, pine forests, and scenic trails. Monkey Point and Sunset Point offer beautiful views of the surrounding valleys. The town remains less crowded than many other hill

stations. It is perfect for slow walks and peaceful evenings.

Lansdowne

Lansdowne is a serene hill station with minimal commercial activity. Surrounded by dense forests, it is known for its clean environment and quiet roads. Bhulla Lake is a popular spot for relaxing walks and boating. The Garhwal Rifles War Memorial adds historical value to the town. It is a great choice for a restful weekend away from crowds.

Bhimtal

Bhimtal is a quieter alternative to Nainital and is centred around a large, picturesque lake. The lake has a small island that adds to its charm. Visitors can enjoy boating and nature walks. The area remains peaceful even during peak seasons. It is well suited for travellers seeking calm and

natural beauty.

Mussoorie

Mussoorie, often called the Queen of Hills, remains a favourite for many travellers. It offers stunning views of the Doon Valley and surrounding mountains. Kempty Falls, Mall Road, and Gun Hill are popular attractions. Cable car rides provide panoramic views. The weather is pleasant for most of the year, making it suitable for all kinds of travellers.

Kanatal

Kanatal is an offbeat destination near Mussoorie, known for its untouched natural beauty. It is less crowded and ideal for travellers who enjoy quiet settings. Camping, trekking, and nature walks are popular activities. On clear days, you can see snow-covered Himalayan peaks. It is perfect for a peaceful and refreshing break.

Nottingham Open: Zheng Qinwen rallies past Sakkari for first grass-court win of season

LONDON

China's Zheng Qinwen battled back from a set down to defeat sixth-seeded Maria Sakkari of Greece 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4 at the WTA 250 Nottingham Open in London on Monday, claiming her first grass-court win of the season. The victory marked a positive start to Zheng's grass-court campaign after a first-round exit at the French Open earlier this month.

"It was a really difficult match," Zheng said after the contest. "We both played at a high level, and the score was close throughout. I'm happy to win those important points because I wasn't able to do that in the last tournament, and I managed to do it today." The past two seasons have been challenging for Zheng, who has struggled with injuries and undergone surgery. Zheng said she was sidelined for nearly eight months last year and initially put too much pressure on herself after returning to competition, reports Xinhua.

"I missed almost eight months last year," she said. "I had a lot of pressure at the beginning when I started trying



to come back. I wanted to do more and do better, but somehow I wasn't able to deal with that pressure.

Right now, I tell myself, 'OK, I'm around No. 160 in the world. How could it get any worse?' Let's just keep fighting as I did at the beginning, when I had nothing."

Zheng, the 23-year-old Chinese who resides in Barcelona, Spain, added that she plans to focus on one match at a time

during the grass-court season.

"On grass, anything can happen, and it's not an easy surface for me," she said. "I just hope I can enjoy tennis more and enjoy every competition because I really love playing here. Let's see how I do in the next match," added the right-handed player with a two-handed backhand. Zheng will next face the winner of the match between Australia's Talia Gibson and Britain's Francesca Jones.

We will start from zero, says England's Lauren Bell ahead of Ireland clash

SOUTHAMPTON

As they get ready for their second match in Group B against Ireland in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at the Hampshire Bowl on Tuesday, England top pacer Lauren Bell said they will be starting from zero despite making a winning start in their campaign. England Women opened their campaign with a comprehensive 87-run victory over Sri Lanka in the tournament opener in Birmingham on Friday, with Danni Wyatt-Hodge slamming an unbeaten 105 and Amy Jones stroking 53 off 38 balls.

In contrast, Ireland went down to Scotland by 49 runs at Old Trafford in Manchester. Bell said it was good to start with a win, but they will try to start at zero and bring the same energy as in their opener. "Yeah, defi-



nately. I think we couldn't have been happier with how Friday night went, especially with it being the opening game. And yeah, it sets us in a good place. But yeah, you've got to go again, start from zero, and yeah, bring the same energy as we had on Friday," said Lauren Bell in the pre-match press conference.

Lauren Bell said England want to continue doing well, but are not thinking about maintaining momentum and a high

net run rate (NRR), and avoid losing out on that aspect as they did in 2024. "No, no, that's not a conversation. The main thing is just to play a really good brand of cricket and win matches. I think tomorrow night is a reset, and we go again. We're really happy with how Friday night went. But yeah, it's a new game of cricket, and we'll just try and do everything we can to play a really good game of cricket and try and get another win," she said.



Technology Transforming the Future of Sports, Says Yuzvendra Chahal

■ **SprintX Playmaker Accelerator launched to support SportsTech, Gaming and eSports startups**

HYDERABAD

Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal on Monday launched the SprintX Playmaker Accelerator, a first-of-its-kind full-stack accelerator programme dedicated to SportsTech, Gaming, eSports and New Age Media startups in India.

The programme was unveiled at SAS iTowers in Khajaguda, Hyderabad, where Chahal attended as the chief guest. He said technology has become an integral part of modern sports and has transformed every aspect of an athlete's journey. "Over the last seven to eight years, the integration of technology with sports has grown exponentially. From strategy development and performance analysis to fitness, recovery and wellness, technology has become indispensable," Chahal said.

Citing cricket as an example, he said data-driven insights help players assess opponents, understand pitch conditions and formulate match-specific plans, while technology also aids injury management and post-match recovery.

Karthik Yanamandra, Founding Partner of 360D Sports and SprintX, said the initiative aims to bridge the gap between innovation and opportunity by providing startups with mentorship, industry access, pilot programmes, market connections and investment readiness. He said SprintX,



jointly launched by 360D Sports and LegaXy, is India's first dedicated full-stack accelerator focused on SportsTech, Gaming, eSports and New Age Media ventures.

The accelerator will support startups working in areas such as athlete training and performance technologies, AI-based coaching solutions, sports data analytics, smart stadium technologies, gaming and eSports, fan engagement platforms, content and media technologies, and digital streaming solutions.

SprintX will also facilitate collaborations with multinational corporations and government stakeholders. Eligible startups may receive funding support of up to ₹25 lakh. Yanamandra acknowledged the support of Telangana Special Chief Secretary (Sports) Jayesh

Ranjan in promoting sports innovation and startup growth in the state.

Applications for the 24-week programme are now open through www.sprintxcel.com. The programme consists of 12 weeks of intensive acceleration followed by 12 weeks of structured mentorship. Each cohort will select 10 startups and provide them with market access, expert mentoring, pilot opportunities, business expansion support, investor readiness training and funding connections. Former cricketer Jayant Yadav, SprintX mentor G.R. Reddy, Hyderabad Angels CEO Ratnakar, Vikrant of Succeed Ventures, LegaXy co-founders Mohammed Sirajuddin and Amitesh, besides startup founders, investors and industry leaders attended the launch event.

Deepak, Poonam progress as India begin Boxing World Cup campaign in China

NEW DELHI

Deepak and Poonam emerged as the lone Indian winners on the opening day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) in China, advancing to the next round of their respective categories, while seven other Indian boxers suffered defeats.

Competing in the women's 54kg category, Poonam registered a convincing 5-0 victory over Uzbekistan's Aziza Yokubova in the preliminary round of 32 to move ahead in the competition. Deepak joined her in the next round after producing an equally dominant display in the men's 70kg division, defeating Turkmenistan's Bayram-



durdy Nurmammedov by a unanimous 5-0 verdict in the preliminary round of 32. The remaining Indian boxers, however, could not progress further.

In the preliminary Round of 16, Rishi Singh (50kg) lost

to Azerbaijan's Subhan Mamedov, while Sanamacha Chanu Thokchom (75kg) went down against Canada's Tammara Thibeault. Sawan Gill also bowed out after suffering a defeat to Norway's Omar Shiha in the men's 90kg category.

Sri Lanka 'A' clinch Super Over thriller against India 'A' despite fifties from Nigam, Shedge



DAMBULLA

Kugathas Mathulan held his nerve to defend 16 runs as Sri Lanka A edged India A in a nail-biting Super Over thriller in the 50-over tri-series at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Despite fighting half-centuries from Vipraj Nigam and Suryansh Shedge taking India A to 265 in 49.2 overs, the visitors fell short as the hosts equalled the total in their 50 overs and then sealed a victory in dramatic fashion in the Super Over. While Sri Lanka A made 16 runs in their Super Over, Mathulan kept his cool to keep India A to nine runs and get a win by seven runs.

But the contest was marred by heated exchanges and disputes with on-field umpires in deteriorating light. The drama began in the closing stages when In-

dia 'A' protested a decision on the final delivery, with skipper Tilak Varma relentlessly pleading his case to the umpires, who were also looking at the light meter.

Questions were raised over whether Chamika Gunasekara had offered a shot, but the officials stood firm, thus forcing the game into a Super Over. India A grew further agitated over subsequent wide and no-ball calls, with teenaged batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi briefly returning to prepare for his batting stint before being summoned back to field.

In the Super Over, Arshad Khan immediately struck with a dipping full toss that appeared to have dismissed Avishka Fernando. The on-field umpires adjudged Fernando out, but the third umpire overturned the decision after reviewing the replay. Varma was visibly upset

and engaged in a prolonged discussion with the officials, expressing his displeasure at the reversal.

Tempers flared again at the end of the match, with Sooryavanshi visibly upset after missing the shot on the last ball and engaged in a brief exchange with Vishen Halambage before being pulled away by his batting partner Suryansh Shedge. That was not all - after they were separated, Sooryavanshi continued to talk in the direction of the Sri Lanka A huddle while walking back to the pavilion.

The teams eventually shook hands, but the contest ended on a sour note. Earlier, India 'A' had staged a remarkable recovery from 143/7, thanks to a 104-run eighth-wicket stand between Shedge and Vipraj Nigam. Nigam made 51 off 49 balls and Shedge struck 72 off 66 deliveries to lift the total to

265, though the former's two warnings for running on the pitch proved costly as India were docked 10 penalty runs.

Sri Lanka 'A' were kept in the chase by Sadeera Samarawickrama's 93 off 113 balls, while Arshad Khan bowled a brilliant final over that nearly turned the match in India A's favour, though the hosts prevailed at the end to give the visitors their second straight defeat in the competition. India A now must beat Afghanistan A on Wednesday if they are to enter the final of the tri-series.

Brief Scores: India A 265/10 in 49.2 overs (Suryansh Shedge 72, Vipraj Nigam 51; Vijaykanth Vivasanth 3-26, Mohamed Shiraz 3-33) tied with Sri Lanka A 265/9 in 50 overs (Sadeera Samarawickrama 93, Niroshan Dickwella 37; Ayush Badoni 2-45, Suryansh Shedge 1-13) - Sri Lanka A won the Super Over



Bengal T20 League

Sourav Halder's hat-trick helps Royal Tigers earn first victory of Season 3



KOLKATA: Riding on Sourav Halder's hat-trick, Kolkata Royal Tigers bagged their first victory of the Bengal T20 League Season 3 after a hard-fought one-run win over Servotech Siliguri Strikers at Eden Gardens on Monday. Put in to bat, Royal Tigers posted 147/9 in 20 overs. Abishek Porel (76 off 53) and Ritwik Roy Chowdhury (33 off 27) were the pick of the batters. For Siliguri Strikers, Ishan Porel (3-24), Geet Puri (2-28), and Kaushik Maity (2-17) were the star bowlers. Chasing the target, Karan (46 off 35) and Sudip Chatterjee (35 off 31) gave Siliguri Strikers a fine start. Vishal Bhatti (18 off 15) also chipped in with a handy knock. Against the run of play, Sourav brought Royal Tigers back into the game in the 13th over, dismissing Vishal off the fourth ball, followed by Snehasish Saha (0) and Badal Singh Balyan.

SPORTS

Union Govt constitutes search-cum-selection committee



NEW DELHI: The Union Government on Monday constituted the Search-cum-Selection Committee for the National Sports Board under the National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026, as per the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The Search-cum-Selection Committee will be headed by Dr. T.V. Somanathan, Cabinet Secretary, as Chairperson and will consist of Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports), Lt General (Retd) Harpal Singh (Indian Olympic Association), Sports Administrator, and two National Sports Awardees, namely Gagan Narang and N. Kunjurani Devi. The aforementioned committee is tasked to recommend a panel of names for the positions of Chairperson.

Tiafoe overcomes in-form Cobolli for first-round win

HALLE (GERMANY)

American star Frances Tiafoe made a winning debut at the Terra Wortmann Open, overcoming the in-form Flavio Cobolli in style in an absorbing first-round clash in Halle, Germany, on Monday.

Ranked No. 26 in the ATP Rankings, Tiafoe prevailed 6-2, 7-6(4) against Cobolli, the Roland Garros finalist and World No. 10, to improve to 13-0 in opening rounds this season. With his 85-minute triumph against Cobolli, Tiafoe also registered his first Top-10 victory since 2024.

"Obviously, he's a hell of a player and had a hell of a season," Tiafoe told ATPTour.com in Halle on Monday. "But I knew he was coming out for his first match [this year] on grass, and you have to find your feet under you, and obviously he's got to come down to reality after the final. That's never easy, especially on a whole different surface."

"I tried to just come out there



flying and make it super tough for him. Play really fast and make him feel uncomfortable. It was a good day. He's going to be ready to go for Wimbledon. He's a Wimbledon quarter-finalist, so he knows how to play on grass."

Tiafoe broke in Cobolli's opening two service games and later recovered from an early mini-break deficit to clinch the second-set tie-break and the match. The 28-year-old won 81 per cent (34/42) of points behind his first

serve and did not face a break point, according to Infosys ATP Stats. Tiafoe now leads Cobolli 4-1 in the pair's ATP head-to-head series, having also won their most recent meeting before Halle in Indian Wells in March. Awaiting the American in the second round in Halle will be Tallon Griekspoor or Sho Shimabukuro.

Felix Auger-Aliassime also advanced on the German grass on Monday, although the second seed was taken the distance by Nuno

Borges in his first-round match. The 2021 Halle semi-finalist Auger-Aliassime pulled away for a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win to become the fifth man to earn 25 tour-level wins this season. The Canadian will play Learner Tien next, after the American lefty opened the day's play with a 6-2, 6-4 victory against wild card Max Schoenhaus. Daniel Altmaier enjoyed a long-sought-after taste of victory in his opening match.

The 27-year-old earned his first grass-court win at an ATP Tour event on home soil by downing Nikoloz Basilashvili 7-5, 6-4. Altmaier, who was 0-6 in his career across Halle and Stuttgart before Monday, will next try to book a quarter-final spot by downing eighth seed Andrey Rublev or former champion Hubert Hurkacz. In the other first-round match played Monday, Terence Atmane edged Martin Landaluce 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(2). Frenchman Atmane will play fourth seed Daniil Medvedev or Tomas Martin Etcheverry next.

No CLUE ABOUT 7.5% DEAL, SAYS PEDDI PRODUCER

The Percentage Issue between the Producers and the Exhibitors took a new turn today in the Sub-committee meeting. It is already know to our readers that the Chamber promised 7.5% of the Hiked Prices and Additional Rents for Premieres for Peddi. But then, Peddi Producer Satish Kilaru, now, claims he is not aware of the decision and the decision has been taken unilaterally without his permission. So he says he can not honour the commitment. Two Meetings happened on the issue. In the first meeting, Satish Kilaru attended and requested all the stakeholders to exempt Peddi but no decision has been taken in that meeting. It is true he did not attend the second meeting. But Producer Naga Vamsi on the behalf of the Producer announced 5% of the Hiked Prices but the Exhibitors asked for 7.5%. Naga Vamsi agreed for the same on the behalf of the Peddi Producer. On 27th of this month, the Chamber released a Press Note and also emailed and couriered a letter with the same commitment to Vriddhi Cinemas. Producer Satish Kilaru replied to that letter on June 15th saying he can not commit. Satish Kilaru claims he is not aware of the decision as he is busy in the Promotions of the film. And in today's meeting, all the exhibitors objected producers response and chamber is expected to take a decision soon. On the other hand, Telangana Film Chamber General Secretary VL Sridhar announced that they would implement Percentage System in Nizam from July 2nd and will screen only those films agreeing to it. At this juncture, Producer Naga Vamsi fired and questioned who is Sridhar to Announce. He announced that they would boycott Sridhar's Theaters and would screen films in the remaining Theaters.

THENEXTMEETING WILL HAPPEN FIFTEEN DAYS LATER ANDWEWILLHAVE TO SEE WHERE THISISSUEGOES!



I had decided to quit cinema in 2023

Well known Tamil actress Nivetha Pethuraj, whose performance in legendary filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's recent Telugu film 'Sing Geetham' has come in for praise, has now disclosed that she had contemplated quitting films in 2023.

Participating in a Thanksgiving meet organised by the film's makers, Nivetha Pethuraj began her speech by saying, "In 2023, I decided to quit cinema. And I realised life takes you in all the wrong decisions and wrong paths just so you can land in a Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's golden blockbuster."

Thanking producer Nag Ashwin for bringing her "back to life, basically", the actress said, "If it wasn't for Nag, I wouldn't be here. I would have just been in some Himalayas or something, just meditating. I wanted to choose a different life, but I'm back at it again. With a great bang, I believe. So, thank you so much."

Stating that she was moved to tears while watching the film, the actress said, "I watched the film day before yesterday, and I had tears in my eyes because this is something that is actually happening in the world right now. So, I hope there's a small takeaway from this film that when a newborn comes to this earth, we try to plant a sapling for every newborn. That will make a huge difference because of whatever is happening in this world right now. That's my only wish."

Stating that she often went to a lot of musicals in London, Nivetha Pethuraj said, "I was just hoping at least there is one musical concert that happens, you know, somewhere in India. And I couldn't believe that I was part of a musical film, which is history. So, I'm glad."

The actress, who was full of gratitude for the opportunity, called the film's director, a director's director. She said, "There's only one thing I can say about Sangeetham Srinivasa Rao Garu. He's a director's director. That's it. There's nothing more about him. I'm so glad. Thank you so much for having me. Thank you so much for trusting in me."

For the unaware, director Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's dream project 'Sing Geetham', envisioned as India's first musical fantasy, released on June 12. The film, which has been produced by Nag Ashwin under the prestigious banners of Vyjayanthi Movies and Swapna Cinema, features actors Ayaan, Ahilya Bamroo, and Shalini Kondepudi in the lead.

SAMANTHA TURNS PRODUCER TO BREAK THE CYCLE

Samantha is back in the game and is making some strong statements. "Female filmmakers have always been sidelined. Even though we question this, we still cannot break the cycle. Tralala is my way of breaking the cycle," says filmmaker Samantha, speaking about her banner Tralala moving pictures and passion project Maa Inti Bangaaram, directed by Nandini Reddy.

The film marks another significant step in promoting women-led storytelling in Telugu cinema. Produced under Samantha's Tralala banner, Maa Inti Bangaaram reflects a conscious effort to create more opportunities for women both in front of and behind the camera.

Samantha's statement highlights the challenges female filmmakers continue to face despite growing conversations around equality and representation in the industry. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the action-family drama features Samantha in a powerful lead role and has already generated considerable buzz through its teaser and trailer. The film showcases a woman who fights to protect her family while navigating a hidden past, blending action, emotion, and family drama. For Samantha, Tralala is more than just a production house, it is a platform to encourage fresh voices and challenge long-standing industry norms. By backing projects helmed by women and driven by strong narratives, she hopes to inspire meaningful change in the filmmaking landscape. With anticipation building among audiences, Maa Inti Bangaaram is poised to be one of the most talked-about releases of the season.



Shreya Flaunts Effortless Glamour Again

Shreya Dhanwanthary is once again grabbing attention on social media with her latest stunning pictures. The actress looked effortlessly glamorous in a black bralette paired with blue denim jeans. Her wavy, voluminous hair added a carefree charm to the look, while her bright smile became the biggest highlight of the photoshoot. Keeping the styling minimal and natural, Shreya proved that simplicity can be just as striking as a red-carpet appearance. The pictures have quickly gone viral, with fans praising her confidence, elegance and natural beauty. Shreya became a popular face after her memorable performances in web series like Scam 1992 and The Family Man. Over the years, she has built a strong fan base with her acting skills and screen presence. Apart from acting, she is also known for her fashion sense and active social media presence, where she regularly shares glimpses of her personal and professional life. On the work front, Shreya Dhanwanthary will soon be seen in the upcoming Hindi film Nausikhiye. The comedy-drama also stars Amol Parashar and Abhimanyu Dassani in key roles and is directed by Santosh Singh. The film revolves around two wedding crashers who accidentally steal a bride, leading to a hilarious adventure across the countryside.