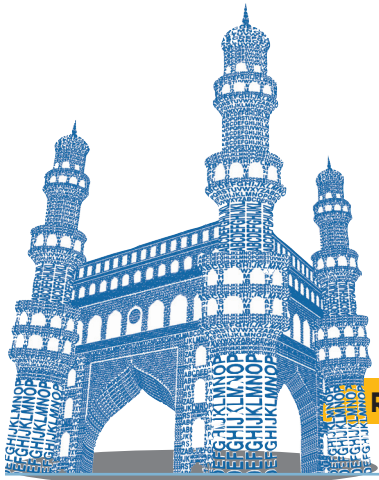




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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**DIABETES
PROBLEMS IN
CHILDHOOD**

OPINION 06

**CHHATRON KI
GOONJ
RAHUL RAISES
EXAM CRISIS**



BEYOND BORDERS 08

TELANGANA'S MIDTERM MOMENT

**WILL A CABINET RESHUFFLE
STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE OR
DEEPEN POLITICAL FAULT LINES?**



**GADDAM PRASAD KUMAR,
KOMATIREDDY RAJAGOPAL
REDDY, AADI SRINIVAS, BALU
NAIK, RAM CHANDER NAIK
APPEARS IN THE FRAME**

**BHATTI VIKRAMARKA,
D. SRIDHAR BABU AND
PONGULETI SRINIVAS
REDDY AT THE CENTRE OF
PORTFOLIO SPECULATION**

SPECIAL 02

Telangana Public School in EVERY ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

CM Revanth Reddy inaugurated Telangana Public School

**Arutla Public school is a
befitting answer to those
who criticize the
Government**

**Students of the
government schools
excelled in administration
and politics**

**Sports are being given
importance in TPS**

HYDERABAD , JUNE 17:

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy affirmed that the State Government will establish Telangana Public schools (TPS) in every Assembly Constituency to provide quality education and also train the students in sports to produce India's talented sports persons in the future.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating Telangana Public School at



Arutla today , the Chief minister asserted that " The Telangana's future does not lie in glass embellished palaces or colorful walls. We firmly believe it lies within the classrooms."

The Arutla public was dedicated to all students of government schools across Telangana, the CM said that the same spirit will be carried to benefit 27 lakh students studying in the government schools in the state. " We are strengthening government schools based on the recommendations of the Education Commission. 1,814 students have already enrolled in the Arutla Telangana Public School. It is proud that the 'No Admission' board has to be put up at a government school in view of huge competition for admission.

CM Revanth Reddy commended the the Arutla school teachers for competing with corporate educational institutions. In a move to bring out the talented students with great potential, the government also initiated steps to strengthen the government schools .

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PAWAN FULFILS AILING FAN's WISH WITH PERSONAL VISIT

WARANGAL, JUNE 17

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday visited the residence of 17-year-old Niranjan in Hanamkonda, fulfilling the young fan's long-cherished wish to meet him.

Niranjan, who is battling a rare genetic disorder that has left him bedridden, was personally comforted by the Deputy Chief Minister during the emotional

visit. Pawan Kalyan enquired about his health, interacted with his parents, and offered spiritual support by presenting Tirupati temple Teertha Prasadam. He also extended financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh towards medical expenses.

Moved by the family's circumstances, Pawan Kalyan directed Jana Sena leaders to help improve the family's livelihood by facilitating a canteen business. He further promised to arrange special prayers at the revered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

The Poor Must Eat Fine Rice

Farmers Must Prosper Economically

Farmers' Welfare Is the Commitment of the People's Government

Telangana Marches Towards Profitable Agriculture

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka



HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the people's government is always committed to supporting and protecting the farming community. Speaking at a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, he emphasized that farmers should be encouraged to cultivate premium paddy varieties that enjoy strong demand both nationally and internationally. He said the government is moving forward with the

twin objectives of ensuring that even poor families have access to fine-quality rice and that farmers are economically empowered. A Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka was held at the Secretariat, attended by Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao. The committee reviewed agricultural production in the state, paddy procurement operations, storage facilities, and preparations for the upcoming Kharif season.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Telangana Targets Hut- Free Future

Minister Ponguleti

HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

The Telangana government has launched an intensified drive to make the state free of huts by providing permanent housing to poor families, with hut dwellers set to receive top priority under the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme.

State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to ensuring that no poor family is forced to live in unsafe and temporary shelters.

Reviewing housing programmes during a teleconference with Housing Department officials on Wednesday, the Minister directed authorities to accelerate preparations for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

KTR inaugurates Ozrit's New facility in Gachibowli



HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

Former Minister and BRS working president K T Rama Rao inaugurated Ozrit's new facility in Gachibowli, Hyderabad on Wednesday. During the inauguration, KT Rama Rao formally opened the new facility, unveiled the company logo, interacted with the Ozrit team, and held discussions with the company's

leadership, including Founder & CEO Bharath Gupta and Co-Founder & COO Vivekanand Reddy. Expressing their gratitude, the founders thanked KTR for his unwavering vision and efforts in transforming Telangana into one of India's leading technology and innovation hubs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

MODI's LEGACY GOES BEYOND NUMBERS

BJP LEADER SRINIVAS

Hyderabad, June 17 : Telangana BJP spokesperson P.L. Srinivas has termed the ongoing debate over India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister as misplaced, arguing that the real issue is the contrast between dynastic politics and electoral validation.

In an article titled "An Absurd Debate Over Modi's Legacy", Srinivas said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rise was built on successive electoral victories, unlike the Congress' culture of dynastic leadership. He highlighted Modi's three consecutive Lok Sabha wins and growing global stature, asserting that the Prime Minister has reshaped India's political landscape through sustained public endorsement and international engagement. Narendra Modi has created a political phenomenon unprecedented in post-Independence Bharat.

Whether one admires him or opposes him, his longevity, electoral success and global visibility have reshaped Bharat's political landscape in ways few leaders have managed, he added.

Further, he stated that no Indian Prime Minister has received as many foreign civilian honours from various countries as Narendra Modi. His diplomatic outreach has significantly expanded Bharat's global profile. Nations that were once cautious or even strained in their engagement with Bharat have sought renewed partnerships. Canada's leadership has recently shown interest in rebuilding ties. European nations are strengthening strategic engagements.

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**GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING**

3 TIMES BETTER



GOVT LANDS MUST BE PROTECTED

MP EATALA RAJENDER

HYDERABAD, JUNE 17

BJP MP Eatala Rajender on Wednesday expressed concern over the growing difficulties faced by poor families in Hyderabad in securing land for housing and called for stringent measures to protect government lands under Survey Nos. 57/1 and 157/1 in the Cantonment area along with local residents, Rajender said that decades ago, migrants from rural areas could settle in the city by building huts on low-value lands. However, he noted that the situation has changed drastically, witheven small plots becoming inaccessible to the poor.



He alleged that large-scale encroachment of government lands has reduced the availability of land required for public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and other civic amenities. He said that the land grabbers, middlemen and corrupt officials were working together to convert government lands worth thousands of crores into private property. Rajender claimed that hundreds of acres of government land in areas such as Shamshiguda and Yellammabanda were under threat of encroachment. He further alleged that land originally earmarked for housing the poor was being occupied by private individuals and that attempts were being made to portray nearly eight acres of land between Balanagar and Tirumalagiri as private property. The MP also opposed efforts to evict families residing for generations on Survey Nos. 57/1 and 157/1, describing such actions as unjust. He alleged that over the last 25 to 30 years, attempts had been made to manipulate records and falsely classify government lands as private holdings. Calling on the state government to act decisively, Rajender urged the authorities to protect government lands and utilize them for housing schemes, schools, hospitals, playgrounds and other public purposes. He demanded strong action against the “land mafia” and called for immediate intervention to safeguard public assets. He cautioned the government officials to remain accountable to the people, emphasizing that public servants draw salaries from taxpayers; money and must address citizens grievances responsibly. Rajender stressed that both elected representatives and officials must work in the public interest and uphold their accountability to the people.

TELANGANA'S MIDTERM MOMENT

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

As the Telangana government approaches the halfway stage of its tenure, speculation over a cabinet reshuffle has become the dominant conversation in political circles. Discussions around new inductions, possible exits, portfolio changes and social representation have gathered momentum, even though no official decisions have been announced. At the heart of the debate lies a larger question: can the Congress government use this moment to sharpen governance and strengthen political cohesion, or will the exercise create fresh challenges within the ruling party?

There is an old saying in politics that governments are at their most vulnerable not in their first few months, but when they reach the midpoint of their tenure. The honeymoon is over. Expectations are higher. Delivery comes under closer scrutiny. Ambitions within the ruling party begin to surface more openly. That is precisely the phase the Telangana government now finds itself navigating.

In Hyderabad's political corridors, conversations about a possible cabinet reshuffle have moved from whispered speculation to serious discussion. While the Congress leadership has made no formal announcement, the growing buzz suggests that an exercise aimed at recalibrating both governance and political representation is under active consideration. For Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the challenge is clear. Winning an election is one thing. Sustaining momentum in government is quite another.

MORE THAN A ROUTINE CABINET EXERCISE

Every reshuffle is ultimately about sending a message. Sometimes the message is about rewarding performance. Sometimes it is about correcting social and regional imbalances. At other times, it is intended to signal that the government remains responsive to changing political realities.

The Telangana discussions appear to involve all three factors.

The Congress leadership is understood to be examining representation across various social groups while also assessing whether the current ministerial team is best positioned to carry the

government through the second half of its term.

That has naturally triggered intense lobbying from aspiring ministers and considerable anxiety among those already occupying cabinet positions.

“A cabinet reshuffle is never just about ministers. It is often a reflection of the government's assessment of itself.”

THE ASPIRANTS WAITING IN THE WINGS

Among the names frequently mentioned in political discussions is Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. If he were to be inducted into the cabinet, it would not merely strengthen Scheduled Caste representation within the government. It would also trigger another important political decision regarding the Speaker's position.

Other names that continue to feature in political conversations include Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, Aadi Srinivas, Balu Naik and Ram Chander Naik. The significance of these names lies not only in their individual political standing but also in the social constituencies they represent.

In a state where political arithmetic and social representation remain closely intertwined, cabinet composition inevitably becomes a matter of broader political strategy.

PERFORMANCE AND PERCEPTION

No government can entirely escape questions about ministerial performance. As Telangana approaches the midpoint of the government's tenure, there is increasing discussion within political circles about whether some departments require fresh leadership or a renewed administrative focus.

Several ministers have found themselves at the centre of speculation, though it would be premature to draw conclusions before any official decision emerges. What is clear, however, is that the Congress leadership understands the importance of public perception.

Governments are judged not by internal explanations but by outcomes visible to ordinary citizens—roads built, investments attracted, welfare schemes delivered and administrative responsiveness improved. These are the benchmarks that ultimately mat-

ter. The cabinet debate must, therefore, be viewed through the larger lens of governance rather than personality alone. The key question before the Congress leadership is straightforward: Does the existing team remain the best vehicle for delivering on the government's promises over the next two years?

THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO DEBATE

One of the most closely watched aspects of the ongoing speculation concerns the Finance Department.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka currently handles Finance along with other major responsibilities. Political observers have debated whether the portfolio structure could be revisited as part of a broader administrative reorganisation.

The name of D. Sridhar Babu frequently surfaces in these conversations, reflecting the positive attention his work in industry and technology-related sectors has received.

At this stage, there is no official indication of any change. Nevertheless, the persistence of these discussions underlines how important portfolio allocation has become in the larger reshuffle narrative.

Similar conversations are also taking place around other significant departments, including Revenue, handled by Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Whether these discussions translate into actual changes remains to be seen.

THE BACKWARD CLASS EQUATION

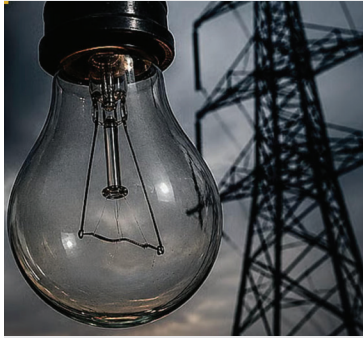
If there is one political reality that no major party in Telangana can ignore, it is the growing importance of Backward Class representation.

The Congress leadership is acutely aware that political support from BC communities played a significant role in the party's rise to power.

As a result, any cabinet expansion or reshuffle is likely to be assessed through the prism of whether these communities feel adequately represented within the government.

The possible inclusion of leaders associated with BC constituencies is, therefore, being viewed as part of a wider effort to address this expectation. Politics, after all, is often about perception as much as power.

Midday and Afternoon Power Interruptions for Critical Upgrades



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, JUNE 17

Power maintenance is set to cause planned outages in several key localities tomorrow, as utility teams carry out essential maintenance on the city's electrical infrastructure. The outages, scheduled for June 18, 2026, are part of routine work to ensure safer and more reliable power supply for residents and businesses.

The first interruption will take place from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM on the 11 KV R.P Colony feeder, emanating from the 33/11 KV Somasheela Substation. Areas affected include R.P Colony, Ramakrishna Nagar, Deenabandu Colony, Hanuman Nagar, and Pragathi Nagar. A second outage is planned from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM on the 11 KV Papireddy feeder, also emanating from the Somasheela Substation, with Papireddy Colony (Road Nos. 1 to 12) and Ramakrishna Nagar listed as impacted zones.

Residents are urged to make necessary preparations, secure any sensitive equipment, and have emergency lighting available during these periods. The utility notes that the outages are essential for carrying out maintenance activities and apologizes for the inconvenience caused. For further information, contact AE/OP/Allwyn Colony at 8712472696.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

KTR inaugurates Ozrit's New facility in Gachibowli

>FROM PAGE 1

Speaking on the occasion, the founders said that Ozrit was inspired by Telangana's technology-driven growth championed by KT Rama Rao. "KTR's focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and employment generation has motivated companies like ours to build and grow in Telangana. We are committed to contributing to this ecosystem by creating opportunities, expanding into Tier-2 cities, and growing our team to over 1,000 profession-

als in the coming years," the founders said.

Ozrit is a technology solutions and digital transformation company providing services in web and mobile application development, artificial intelligence, enterprise software, cloud solutions, UI/UX design, automation, and digital innovation.

The company serves clients across India and international markets, helping organizations accelerate growth through technology-driven innovation.



PAWAN FULFILS AILING FAN's WISH WITH...

>FROM PAGE 1

Bhadrakali Ammavari Temple and present a consecrated silver idol of Goddess Bhadrakali to the family.

The Deputy Chief Minister also fulfilled another wish of Niranjan by promising to arrange a pet dog after learning of the teenager's fondness for animals. During the interaction, Niranjan shared old photographs and videos of himself performing dance routines imitating Pawan Kalyan from the time when he was healthy, earning him the nickname "Chota Gabbar Singh".

Following the visit, Pawan Kalyan proceeded to the Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal to offer prayers.

Telangana Public School in EVERY ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

>FROM PAGE 1

The establishment of Telangana Public Schools was a sincere effort to revive the abandoned education system.

The Chief Minister noted that many great leaders and officials studied in the government schools. Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and himself also studied in a government school. The CM suggested the students excel in education so that the parents can live with self-respect. The Chief Minister emphasized that every student should perform in their studies aiming to become IAS, IPS officers and also future political leaders.

CM Revanth Reddy warned the political rivals of losing their opposition status in the next Assembly elections if the leaders do not stop brewing false allegations against the state government. The Chief Minister suggested all the political opponents to visit Arutla Telangana Public School and study the government's efforts to strengthen the public educa-

tion system.

The CM highlighted that the students were provided breakfast, midday meal, quality Uniforms and kits.

The establishment of 'Young India' Integrated Residential Schools and 'Young India' Skills University were part of providing quality education and skill development for youth. CM Revanth Reddy stressed that sports should be given importance to bring out talent in the schools. The Young India' Sports University was established with an aim to win medals in the Olympic games. A sports training programme was already launched in the schools. The Chief Minister remembered a football tournament conducted with the legendary Messi in Hyderabad. Despite facing criticism from the opposition, We succeeded in hosting a football game with Messi. The CM appealed to people to support the government as he is committed to transform Telangana into a role model for the country.

The Poor Must Eat Fine Rice

>FROM PAGE 1

During the meeting, the Telangana State Farmers' Commission recommended that the government take special measures to promote large-scale cultivation of profitable paddy varieties such as BPT 5204, Telangana Sona (RNR 15048), KNM-1638, Jai Sriram, and HMT. The Commission noted that these varieties enjoy strong demand in domestic and international markets, thereby offering better returns to farmers.

The Commission further informed the Sub-Committee that there is ample availability of quality seed for these premium varieties and that their cultivation could significantly enhance farmers' incomes. It recommended that the government accord top priority to these varieties and organize extensive awareness programs across villages to educate farmers about their benefits.

According to the Commission, promoting these varieties on a large scale in the coming seasons would not only generate additional income for farmers but also strengthen market opportunities. Such initiatives would help Telangana move further toward a more profitable and sustainable agricultural economy.

The Farmers' Commission also pointed out that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been reducing procurement, creating difficulties for the state. It noted that FCI is not procuring boiled rice at all, which has adversely affected farmers and the rice industry. The Commission observed that the policies of the BJP-led Central Government are creating challenges for Telangana's farming community.

The meeting was attended by Farmers' Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy, Seed Corporation Chairman Anvesh Reddy, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, National Millers Association President Devender Reddy, and other officials.

Telangana Targets Hut-Free Future

>FROM PAGE 1

the second phase of Indiramma Housing, the Roof Replacement Scheme, and the identification of incomplete houses across the state.

Priority for Hut Dwellers

The Minister instructed officials to allot houses first to eligible families currently residing in huts. Other housing applications will be considered only after all genuine hut-dwelling families are covered under the programme. A state-wide survey will be conducted on a war footing to identify huts in villages, wards and municipalities. Existing records will be verified through field inspections to prepare accurate beneficiary lists.

Officials have been directed to physically verify nearly 75,000 applications submitted during the Praja Palana programme by people who declared they were living in huts. Verified lists will be prepared at the MPDO level and submitted for approval by the respective in-charge ministers.

The Minister emphasized transparency in beneficiary selection and instructed officials to ensure that no discrimination takes place on the basis of caste, religion or political affiliation.

Fresh Applications Allowed

Poor families living in huts who failed to apply during Praja Palana or earlier government programmes will be allowed to submit applications through local MPDO offices. Eligible applicants will also be considered for housing benefits after verifica-



tion.

2.5 Lakh Houses in Phase-II

The government has decided to construct 2.5 lakh houses across Telangana under the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme.

With 2,000 houses allocated to each Assembly constituency, officials have been directed to ensure a transparent and fair beneficiary selection process.

Roof Replacement Scheme to Benefit 50,000 Families

As part of efforts to improve housing safety, the government will implement the Roof Replacement Scheme in the second phase.

Under the programme, 500 houses in each Assembly constituency will be selected, benefiting nearly 50,000 families state-

wide.

Families whose houses have strong walls and foundations but unsafe roofs made of tarpaulin sheets, tin sheets, stone slabs or similar materials will receive financial assistance of up to ₹2 lakh for the construction of RCC roof slabs.

Focus on Incomplete Houses

The government has also decided to revisit houses sanctioned under previous housing schemes that remain incomplete.

Unfinished houses sanctioned under earlier Indiramma Housing programmes, including those stalled at basement or roof level, may be brought under the current initiative. Similarly, houses left incomplete under the Gruhalakshmi Scheme will be identified and completed through roof upgradation support.

Beneficiary-Led Construction

The Minister said houses will be built under the Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) model, enabling beneficiaries to construct their own homes. In urban areas where land availability is limited, beneficiaries owning smaller plots may be permitted to construct Ground Plus One (G+1) houses.

Stating that the government is working to fulfill the dream of home ownership for poor families, Mr. Srinivasa Reddy said the successful implementation of the first phase of Indiramma Housing has laid the foundation for an expanded second phase that will improve living conditions for lakhs of families across Telangana.



Historic Milestone: OU Records a Historic First in India, Securing Four Prestigious ISO Certifications



■ **Simultaneously from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Government of India**
HYDERABAD

Osmania University, which has completed a glorious journey of 109 years in academic excellence and institutional development, has crossed another historic milestone. Osmania University has created a new record as the first university in India to simultaneously receive four prestigious, internationally recognized ISO certifications from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Government of India.

These international standard certificates were officially presented at a grand certification ceremony held on Wednesday at the Senate Hall in the Administrative Building of Osmania University. Shri Sandeep Kumar Kanojia, Deputy Director General (Southern Region) & Scientist 'F', Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Chennai, attended as the Chief Guest and presented the certificates in the presence of senior officials from BIS and the University.

The Four Prestigious ISO Certifications
Osmania University has been award-

ed the following certifications in crucial areas such as governance, sustainability, and quality management:
ISO 21001:2018 – Educational Organizations Management System (EOMS)
ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental Management System (EMS)
ISO 50001:2018 – Energy Management System (EnMS)
ISO 22000:2018 – Food Safety Management System (FSMS)

These certifications reflect Osmania University's dedication to implementing world-class education, environmental conservation, energy efficiency, food safety, and internationally accepted management practices.

"This is only the beginning of the journey... not the destination"

The prestigious event was presided over by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Senior Professor Kumar Molugaram.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Shri Sandeep Kumar Kanojia, lauded the pioneering spirit of the university. At the same time, he extended an inspiring challenge to the University: "Achieving these rigorous international certifications is a magnificent achievement. However, this is only the beginning of the quality journey, not the destination. The real success lies in

continuously maintaining and further developing these quality standards."

Shri G. Venkatanarayanan (Scientist 'E' & Director, BIS) and Shri Rajpal (Scientist 'E' & Management System Certification Officer) also spoke on the occasion. They praised the university administration for fostering accountability, sustainability, and a culture of institutional excellence across all academic and administrative departments of the university.

Leadership Response
Senior Professor Kumar Molugaram, Vice-Chancellor, expressed his happiness over achieving this rare feat in the history of Indian universities. He stated that this is a proud moment for the entire Osmania family.

"Osmania University has a rich history spanning over a century. However, we do not rest on past laurels. By adopting contemporary global standards, we are preparing Osmania to face future challenges. We are shaping the university to compete internationally and to meet the needs of students and society," the Vice-Chancellor emphasized.

Earlier, Professor B. Sirisha, Director of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), delivered the welcome address

and explained the strategic and comprehensive efforts behind achieving this international recognition. Registrar Professor G. Naresh Reddy stated that this milestone will serve as a new benchmark for higher education administration and good governance in India.

Historic Celebration
Following the presentation of the certificates, the BIS officials were felicitated on behalf of Osmania University with shawls and mementos.

The historic ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from the principals of university constituent and affiliated colleges, deans of various faculties, heads of departments, directors of centers and institutes, faculty members, administrative staff, research scholars, and a large number of students.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. A. S. Chakravarthy. He extended special thanks to the officials of the Bureau of Indian Standards for their constant co-operation, the University leadership, Vice-Chancellor's OSD Senior Professor S. Jitender Kumar Naik, the IQAC team, teaching and non-teaching staff, and everyone who contributed to this prestigious victory. The historic program concluded successfully with the singing of the National Anthem.

GITAM Hyderabad Announces Admissions for 2026-27

■ **Launches GITAM School of Education**

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has announced admissions for its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for the academic year 2026-27. Marking a significant academic milestone, the University has also launched GITAM School of Education, further expanding its multidisciplinary learning ecosystem.

The Hyderabad campus has introduced several new programmes this year, including 4 years integrated B.A. B.Ed. and B.Sc. B.Ed. under the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), BBA (Entrepreneurship) in association with the Bower School of Entrepreneurship, B.Sc. Microbiology, M.Sc. Biotechnology, M.Tech. Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, and M.Pharm. in Industrial Pharmacy (under approval from PCI). These additions reflect GITAM's commitment to aligning education with emerging industry trends and societal needs.

A distinctive feature of GITAM is its Liberal Education framework, which enables

students to combine majors and minors across disciplines, creating personalized academic pathways. This approach allows learners to gain both depth and breadth of knowledge while developing future-ready skills.

Admissions are open through GAT 2026, as well as through recognized national and state-level entrance examinations, including TG & AP EAPCET, NCET, NATA, JEE, CUET, CAT, and others. Highly meritorious Students can avail scholarships of up to 100% covering tuition fees, food, and accommodation based on merit and performance in qualifying examinations.

The GITAM Admission Test (GAT 2026), a national-level entrance examination conducted by the University, is scheduled for June 28, 2026, in online mode across India. The last date to apply is June 26, 2026.

The Hyderabad campus offers programmes through its Schools of Technology, Science, Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Architecture, Pharmacy, Public Policy and the newly established School of Education. Academic offerings span emerging fields such as Artificial Intel-

ligence, Data Science, Cyber Security, Biotechnology, Entrepreneurship, Pharmacy, Architecture, Psychology, Economics, Media Studies, and Teacher Education. GITAM Hyderabad continues to maintain strong industry connections, with over 350 leading recruiters, providing career opportunities across diverse disciplines.

Prof. D. Sambasiva Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, GITAM Hyderabad, said: "At GITAM Hyderabad, we believe that transformative education empowers individuals to build meaningful careers and contribute to society. The launch of our School of Education and the introduction of new programmes in Robotics and AI, Entrepreneurship, Life Sciences, and other emerging fields reflect our commitment to preparing students for a rapidly evolving world. Through our Liberal Education framework and multidisciplinary learning environment, we are creating opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop critical skills, and emerge as future-ready professionals, innovators, and leaders." For admissions and further information, visit www.gitam.edu.

Telangana launches first-ever Basketball League, targets future champions

HYDERABAD

Telangana is set to witness a major boost in grassroots basketball with the launch of Telangana Junior Basketball League (TJBL), the state's first professional league exclusively for young players. The tournament will begin on June 19 at the Kotla Vijayabhaskar Reddy Indoor Stadium, You-

sufguda, and continue until June 28.

Organised by the Telangana Basketball Association (TBA), the league will feature Under-15 and Under-18 categories for boys and girls, providing a professional platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and gain competitive exposure.

Speaking about the initia-

tive, TBA Secretary A. Prudhviswar Reddy said the league aims to identify and nurture talent at the grassroots level while creating a clear pathway for players to progress to state, national and international competitions. Association's long-term vision is to transform Telangana into the "Basketball Capital of India", he added.

Cabinet sub-committee reviews kharif readiness; focuses on profitable paddy varieties

HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the people's government is always committed to supporting and protecting the farming community. Speaking at a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting at the Secretariat on Wednesday, he emphasised that farmers should be encouraged to cultivate premium paddy varieties that enjoy strong demand both nationally and internationally.

He said the government is moving forward with the twin objectives of ensuring that even poor families have access to fine-quality rice and that farmers are economically empowered. A Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting was chaired by Bhatti Vikramarka and it was

attended by Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao. The committee reviewed agricultural production, paddy procurement operations, storage facilities, and preparations for the upcoming Kharif season in the Telangana state.

During the meeting, the Telangana State Farmers' Commission recommended that the government take special measures to promote large-scale cultivation of profitable paddy varieties such as BPT 5204, Telangana Sona (RNR 15048), KNM-1638, Jai Sriram, and HMT.

The Commission noted that these varieties enjoy strong demand in domestic and international markets, thereby offering better returns to farmers.

The Commission further informed the Sub-Committee that there is ample availability of quality seed for these premium varieties and that their cultivation could significantly enhance farmers' incomes. It recommended that the government accord top priority to these varieties and organize extensive awareness programs across villages to educate farmers about their benefits.

According to the Commission, promoting these varieties on a large scale in the coming seasons would not only generate additional income for farmers but also strengthen market opportunities. Such initiatives would help Telangana move further toward a more profitable and sustainable agricultural economy.

The Farmers' Commission also pointed out that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been reducing procurement, creating difficulties for the state.

It noted that FCI is not procuring boiled rice at all, which has adversely affected farmers and the rice industry. The Commission observed that the policies of the BJP-led Central government are creating challenges for Telangana's farming community.

The meeting was attended by Farmers' Commission chairman M. Kodanda Reddy, Seed Corporation Chairman Anvesh Reddy, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, National Millers Association President Devender Reddy, and other officials.

Omics International Gets Relief from Supreme Court



■ **Interim Protection Granted by Telangana High Court on SEZ De-notification Continues**

HYDERABAD

Omics International Private Limited has secured significant relief from the Supreme Court in a dispute concerning the de-notification of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located in Ameenpur, Sangareddy district.

The Supreme Court has continued the interim protection previously granted by the Telangana High Court and has issued notices to the Central Government and other respondents.

A Bench comprising Justice J.K. Maheshwari and Justice Atul S. Chandurkar heard the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by Omics International Private Limited and directed that the interim protection granted by the Telangana High Court shall remain in force until

further orders. Earlier, the Telangana High Court had stayed the implementation of Agenda Item No. 130.13 contained in the minutes of the 130th meeting of the Board of Approval for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), held on July 18, 2025. The agenda item pertained to the de-notification of the SEZ located in Ameenpur village, Patancheru Mandal, Sangareddy district.

Challenging the de-notification decision, Omics International argued that the action

was contrary to the approvals already granted in its favour and adversely affected the SEZ project. The company maintains that it is entitled to be recognized as the SEZ developer based on the approvals issued by the Government of Telangana.

By continuing the interim protection granted by the High Court, the Supreme Court has ensured that the status quo concerning the SEZ will remain in place until a final decision is rendered in the matter.

Welcoming the Supreme Court's order, representatives of Omics International stated that the company remains committed to advancing development activities in line with the objectives of the SEZ policy framework. They expressed confidence that they will have an opportunity to comprehensively present their case before the Supreme Court. The matter will be taken up for further hearing after the respondents file their counter-affidavits. If you'd like, I can also rewrite this in a more formal media-release style suitable for newspapers and business publications.

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Seethakka inaugurates Mulugu's first private IT firm

MULUGU: Minister Dana-sari Anasuya Seethakka, accompanied by District Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadevrao, officially opened Shriya Infotech Private Limited, the inaugural private IT firm in the Mulugu district headquarters on Wednesday. During the inauguration, Minister Seethakka conveyed her delight at the establishment of the district's first private sector IT company, anticipating that this venture will usher in a new era for the technology sector and generate local employment for the region's young people. She emphasised that the IT industry has historically been concentrated in urban centres and that opportunities in this field must extend to rural and tribal areas. The Minister further elaborated that equitable opportunities for young individuals.

BRAOU Launches Foreign Languages Centre

HYDERABAD: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IGNITUS Edutech Private Limited to establish a Foreign Languages Training Centre on its campus, aimed at boosting employability and global career opportunities for the students. The agreement was signed by University Registrar Dr. L. Vijaya Krishna Reddy and IGNITUS Director Meeta Singh Kanvar in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Chakrapani said proficiency in foreign languages has become increasingly important in the era of globalization and can help students secure jobs in multinational companies and overseas markets. The centre will initially offer training in English, Korean, Japanese and German, along with skill-based courses.

TGMSIDC MUST DELIVER SERVICES TRANSPARENTLY

- Permanent buildings for CMS centers
- Five committees to ensure transparency in tenders
- Government support for hemophilia patients
- Free medicines for hemophilia patients
- Standard equipment list for hospitals at all levels
- Four additional CMS centers in the CURE area to strengthen the medicine supply system
- Directions issued by Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha during a review meeting

HYDERABAD

The State Minister for Medical and Health, Damodar Rajanarasimha, conducted a high-level review meeting at the conference hall of the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust in Hyderabad to assess the functioning of the Telangana Government Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMSIDC) and its Central Medicine Stores (CMS) centers.

During the review, the Minister directed TGMSIDC officials to prepare proposals for the construction of 15 permanent buildings for CMS



centers. He instructed officials to formulate procedures to ensure transparency in tenders related to the procurement of medicines, surgical supplies, reagents, and equipment. To further strengthen transparency, he ordered the formation of three additional committees, increasing the total number of tender oversight committees from two to five.

The Minister also directed the Managing Director of TGMSIDC, Gaurav Uppal, to immediately transfer officials who have been working in the organization for a long period. He instructed the appointment of nodal officers to regularly monitor medicines, equipment, and civil works procured through TGMSIDC in hospitals under the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) and Telangana

Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP). Officials were further directed to conduct mandatory monthly reviews of all medicines, equipment, surgical supplies, and reagents purchased through tenders. The Minister instructed officials to prepare and maintain a Standard Equipment List for all levels of healthcare institutions, including Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), Area Hospitals, and District Hospitals. He stated that this would ensure uniformity in healthcare facilities across the state.

To further strengthen the medicine distribution system, the Minister directed the establishment of four additional CMS centers in the CURE region, in addition to the existing two centers. During the review, the

Minister reiterated that the government stands firmly with hemophilia patients. He instructed officials to provide the medicines required by hemophilia patients free of cost on a monthly basis and to make them available through Government General Hospitals (GGHs). Corporation officials informed the Minister that Emicizumab, a medicine used for treating Hemophilia A, is currently available at Osmania Hospital, Gandhi Hospital, and Niloufer Hospital. The Minister further directed officials to ensure its availability at the Government General Hospitals in Khammam and Warangal as well. The meeting was attended by TGM-SIDC Managing Director Gaurav Uppal, ED In-charge Venkateswarlu, and other corporation officials.

Dr. Reddy's Launches Advanced Cath Lab at Ramdevrao Hospital

HYDERABAD

As part of its CSR initiative, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, in collaboration with Ramdevrao Hospital, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, has strengthened cardiac care services through the establishment of a state-of-the-art Cath Lab. This advanced facility is equipped with cutting-edge imaging technology that enables minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for heart diseases.

The Cath Lab was inaugurated and formally handed over on Monday in the presence of Gunupati Anuradha, Founder Trustee, Dr. Reddy's Foundation; Vikramdev Rao, President, Ramdevrao Hospital; J. Meera Rao,



Secretary, Ramdevrao Hospital; and K. Randhir Singh, Company Secretary, Compliance Officer and Head CSR, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, a unit of Sivananda Rehabilitation Home established in 2002, has been committed to providing quality healthcare

services to all sections of society at affordable costs. The addition of the Cath Lab significantly enhances the hospital's capabilities, as timely and accessible cardiac intervention can be life-saving. The facility is expected to serve underserved communities by improving access to critical cardiac care and ensuring that these services are affordable. This initiative reflects Dr. Reddy's ongoing commitment to expanding access to equitable and life-saving healthcare. By enabling early diagnosis and timely intervention, the project advances the principles of dignity, equity, and well-being, ensuring that more individuals have the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives.

Picnic Binds Community, Family, and Friends Together

(On the occasion of "International Picnic Day" on 18 June)

The word 'picnic' is originated from French term "pique-nique", which means to a meal where everyone contributed at least a dish each. Over the time, picnicking evolved into a popular, delightful, enjoyable, leisure, outdoor activity and share a meal with others. The Sun is shining, and a gentle breeze whispers through the trees - it's the perfect setting for a picnic. And it is a better way to celebrate "International Picnic Day" annually on 18 June, embracing the slower pace of life, savouring good food, and making memories with close friends and relatives. It's a time to pack a basket full of favourite foods, find a scenic spot, and enjoy the experience of dining out side.

Significance of Picnic

Picnic May be a small or large gathering, it is a beloved tradi-

tion that brings people together. This day is a fun and informal observance that encourages people to enjoy a meal outdoors in the company of friends, family, or community. It is the simple pleasure of eating together, in park, by the beach, or in your own backyard. Picnic is a wonderful way of relax, connect with nature, and spend quality time with loved ones. The significance and benefits of picnic are community bonding, appreciation of nature, exchange of culture, spending family time, and help mindfulness and relaxation.

Let's all get outside and enjoy the nice weather by dining under sky with good food and drinks. Let's celebrate the World Picnic Day by organising a picnic in the nearby scenic outdoor, enjoy to the fullest extent, treasure the memories in your digital reels.

- Prof : Madhusudan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

PPA assures full protection for Telangana villages affected by Polavaram backwaters

HYDERABAD

The Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) has assured complete protection for Telangana villages likely to be impacted by backwater and submergence effects from the Polavaram Project, responding to concerns raised by former Irrigation Minister and Siddipet BRS MLA T. Harish Rao.

In an official communication, the PPA stated that all habitations in Telangana affected up to the project's Full Reservoir Level (FRL) would either be safeguarded through engineering measures or acquired under Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) provisions. The PPA assured that the issues pertaining to backwater impacts are receiving top priority and due administrative attention.

The assurance reiterates commitments made during an inter-state meeting held

on April 8, 2025, involving officials from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The Authority said scientific assessments, flood-mitigation plans, and protective interventions would be implemented to prevent adverse impacts on villages, farmlands, and livelihoods in the Godavari basin.

Welcoming the response, Harish Rao said the communication validates Telangana's long-standing concerns over upstream village safety and backwater impacts. Formal assurance given by the Government of India's statutory authority is a significant step towards safeguarding the interests of the affected people, he noted and urged the PPA, the Centre, and the Andhra Pradesh government to ensure timely implementation of all protection, rehabilitation and resettlement measures so that no affected family or village suffers due to the project.

Osmania dental college principal vows strict action against ragging; 12 students suspended

HYDERABAD

Osmania Dental College Principal Dr. Sarjeev Singh Yadav asserted that there is no place for ragging in the institution and warned that strict action would be taken against anyone endangering the future and well-being of students.

Following allegations that first-year BDS students were subjected to ragging by final-year students residing at the Osmania Medical College hostel in Koti, the Sultan Bazaar Police registered a case against 12 final-year BDS students under the Telangana Prohibition of Ragging Act. The case was filed based on a complaint lodged by Dr. Yadav.

According to the college administration, the accused students had allegedly been harassing first-year students for nearly six months. The acts reportedly included forcing juniors to fetch cigarettes, collect food delivery orders, fill water coolers and perform "wall-chair" punishments. Some of the accused were also alleged to have assaulted house surgeons who attempted to intervene and stop the ragging. Dr. Yadav said the col-



lege had previously warned the students, but their behavior did not improve. As a result, all 12 students were suspended for six months, and their parents were summoned and informed about the incidents.

Expressing concern over the severe psychological impact of ragging, Dr. Yadav noted that such practices have led to mental trauma and even loss of life among students across the country. He said further action would be considered after the police investigation report is received. The college also plans to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and conduct awareness programs to prevent future incidents.

RAGGING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE: DCP SHILPAVALLI

Khairatabad Zone DCP Shilpavalli emphasized that ragging is a criminal offence punishable by law and can attract up to six months of imprisonment. If ragging leads to a victim's suicide, the punishment could extend to life imprisonment, she noted.

The DCP stated that the complaint was lodged by the dental college principal after allegations emerged that final-year students had been ragging first-year BDS students at the hostel. The victims reportedly endured various forms of harassment and punishments for six months but did not initially report the incidents. The matter came to light when a postgraduate student confronted the seniors during an alleged ragging incident and was subsequently assaulted. Following an internal inquiry, the college suspended the 12 students.

Police are continuing their investigation and verification process. DCP Shilpavalli urged students to immediately report any instances of ragging to college authorities or the police.

TRAFFIC WOES



The ongoing and incomplete road works near Inorbit Mall in Madhapur have led to severe inconvenience for commuters, with narrowed carriageways and traffic diversions causing slow vehicle movement and frequent congestion during peak hours. Motorists are forced to navigate through barricaded stretches and uneven surfaces

Uttam calls for scientific desiltation model for irrigation projects

HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy called for the development of practical and sustainable desiltation models that would address both immediate desiltation requirements and long-term flood protection needs across Telangana's major irrigation projects.

Reviewing the government's initiative for desiltation of reservoirs and irrigation projects with officials at his chambers in the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Minister stressed that every effort should be made to restore the original storage capacities of key reservoirs in the Godavari

and Krishna river basins.

He said improving storage capacity was essential for enhancing water security, increasing irrigation potential and reducing flood risks.

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to undertake a detailed study of desiltation models being implemented in other states and examine best practices that could be adapted to Telangana's conditions. He also instructed officials to study the national framework and guidelines issued by the Central government on reservoir desiltation and sediment management.

Drawing on experiences from other states, the Minister noted

that the cost of delayed action could be enormous. He pointed out that severe flooding in Punjab last year inundated 16 of the state's 22 districts, forcing the government to spend nearly Rs 2,000 crore on flood-related damages and compensation. Uttam Kumar Reddy observed that a substantial portion of such expenditure could potentially have been avoided through timely preventive measures, including systematic desiltation and restoration of drainage and storage capacities. The Minister also cited the desiltation of the Mangalam Dam in Palakkad district of Kerala as a successful example. The project, undertak-

en in 2017, demonstrated how scientifically planned desiltation could simultaneously address reservoir sedimentation and generate economic benefits through the utilisation of excavated material. He said Telangana should study such successful models and adapt suitable practices to local conditions. The Minister reviewed issues being faced by agencies engaged in the desiltation of the Kaddam Project and assessed the progress of works at the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) and Mid Manair Reservoir (MMR). He directed officials to identify practical solutions to overcome operational bottlenecks.

30 candidates from Telangana SC Study Circle clear UPSC, IFoS prelims

HYDERABAD

The Telangana SC Study Circle has once again demonstrated its academic excellence and commitment to social empowerment, with 30 candidates successfully clearing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) preliminary examinations.

Announcing the results on Wednesday, Minister for Scheduled Castes Development and Tribal Welfare Adhuri Lakshman Kumar said the achievement is a testament to the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who has consistently prioritised social justice, equal opportunity and quality education as instruments of empowerment. The Minister stated that

among the results declared by the UPSC on June 15, a total of 26 candidates from the Telangana SC Study Circle qualified in the Civil Services Preliminary Examination-2026, while four candidates cleared the Indian Forest Service (IFoS) preliminary examination, taking the total number of successful candidates to 30.

Adhuri Lakshman Kumar further noted that in the final results of the UPSC Civil Services Examination-2025, two candidates from the Telangana SC Study Circle secured distinguished ranks. A. Ashish Kumar (AIR 676) and D. Praveen Kumar (AIR 793) were selected in the final list and are likely to be allotted to the Indian Police Service (IPS), he said.

Similarly, in the Indian Forest Service Examination, D. Shashank secured All

India Rank 78, while G. Srikanth secured All India Rank 115, bringing laurels to Telangana and serving as an inspiration to aspirants from disadvantaged backgrounds, the Minister said. Highlighting the government's commitment to educational advancement, Adhuri Lakshman Kumar said Telangana has been implementing comprehensive coaching programmes that provide specialised training, study material, residential facilities, financial support and expert mentorship to talented youth belonging to SCs, STs and other socially and economically disadvantaged sections. The Minister also expressed his sincere gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for ensuring timely financial support.



YSRCP alleges voter deletions during SIR in Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI, JUNE 17

The YSR Congress Party has alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh is being misused to carry out large-scale voter deletion. Party leader and former Minister Sake Sai-lajanath said the ongoing SIR has turned into a flawed exercise, claiming that the ruling coalition is once again using the MyTDP app to facilitate voter deletions. Speaking at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli, he said the party had repeatedly demanded transparency in the SIR process and had submitted a representation to the Chief Electoral Officer expressing concerns over voter data collection and misuse through the app. He recalled that during the earlier Seva Mitra exercise, nearly 30 lakh YSRCP votes were targeted for deletion, but were later protected through legal intervention. Referring to developments in Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, he alleged similar attempts are now unfolding in Andhra Pradesh. Sailajanath claimed that field verification in parts

of Anantapur district is being carried out under the direct influence of TDP leaders, and that the MyTDP app has been included in official groups used by government functionaries. He demanded that the Election Commission ensure a transparent and impartial SIR exercise, prevent leakage of voter data, and protect constitutional voting rights. He warned that if the Commission fails to respond, YSRCP is prepared to launch a democratic movement to safeguard the people's right to vote. Earlier, former Deputy Chief Minister Amjad Basha and former MLA S. Raghurami Reddy alleged that the SIR exercise is riddled with mistakes and aimed at deleting the names of Opposition sympathisers. They claimed there is a conspiracy to remove YSRCP supporters from the rolls. "The 2002 voters' list is a blunder-ridden document, as it does not even have the name of the MLA. How can its authenticity be vouched for?" they asked. They alleged that villages and mandals with strong YSRCP presence are being targeted, with names deleted indiscriminately.



Odisha clears 20 projects worth Rs 76,612 crore, eyes over 50,000 job opportunities

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 17

The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) on Wednesday approved 20 major industrial projects with a cumulative investment of Rs 76,611.86 crore, with the potential to generate 50,517 employment opportunities across nine districts of Odisha. The investment proposals were approved during the 45th meeting of the HLCA held in Bhubaneswar under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. According to an official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, the approvals reaffirm the state government's commitment to industrial growth, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, value addition and balanced regional development. The projects span key sectors, including gemstone manufacturing, green energy equipment, aerospace and defence, rare earth minerals-based value-added products, pharmaceuticals, mechanical and electrical capital goods, chemicals, steel, iron and ferro alloys, and power and renewable energy. A major highlight of the approvals is the emergence of Odisha as a significant destination for gemstone manufacturing. A firm will establish lab-grown diamond manufacturing units in Khordha with a combined investment of Rs 9,817.50 crore, generating 8,100 employment opportunities. The meeting also witnessed substantial investments in the green energy equipment sector. A company will establish an ingot and wafer manufacturing facility along with a solar photovoltaic (PV) cell manufacturing unit in Ganjam with an investment of

Rs 10,000 crore, generating 5,000 employment opportunities. Further strengthening the sector, a solar firm will invest Rs 1,709.81 crore in a solar PV cell manufacturing facility in Ganjam, creating 519 employment opportunities. Odisha's focus on value addition in critical minerals received a significant boost with approvals for multiple projects in the rare earth minerals-based value-added products sector. Another firm will invest Rs 1,250 crore to establish a high-performance electric vehicle (EV)-grade neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnet manufacturing unit in Khordha/Cuttack, generating 2,000 employment opportunities. Besides, another company will invest Rs 2,400 crore in a sintered NdFeB permanent magnet manufacturing facility in Ganjam, creating 2,000 jobs. Additionally, another firm will establish a titanium dioxide slag and titanium dioxide pigment manufacturing unit in Ganjam with an investment of Rs 2,800 crore, generating 1,500 employment opportunities. The HLCA, at its 45th meeting, also approved several other major industrial proposals in the aerospace and defence, steel, iron and ferro alloys, power and renewable energy, and chemical sectors. "As our government completes two years, Odisha has emerged as one of the leading investment destinations in the country. Through progressive policies, improved ease of doing business, strong infrastructure and proactive investor facilitation, we have been able to attract investments across both traditional and emerging sectors.

Nara Lokesh slams YSRCP's leader's 'kilos of makeup' remark against TDP minister

Slamming Amarnath's "disgraceful and misogynist" comments, Lokesh said the former Industries minister's remarks reflect the YSRCP's "true character." He further questioned YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's silence on the issue.



Andhra Pradesh minister Nara Lokesh has reacted to YSRCP leader Gudivada Amarnath's comments on Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha's appearance, calling them "unfortunate and disrespectful towards women."

Lokesh was reacting to a viral video of Amarnath, in which he is seen mocking the Home Minister at a public gathering, referring to her as a "makeup minister" and making remarks about her wearing "kilos of makeup" at public events.

Slamming Amarnath's "disgraceful and misogynist" comments, Lokesh said the former Industries minister's remarks reflect the YSRCP's "true character." He further questioned YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's silence on the issue.

He also alleged that Jagan Mohan Reddy had earlier appreciated Amarnath's remarks, and asked whether he would respond similarly if such comments were made against his wife Bharathi Reddy or his daughters. "TARGETING A DALIT

WOMAN' #WeStandWithAnitha#YCPinsultsWomen The disgraceful misogynist remarks made against Home Minister Smt. Vangalapudi Anitha Garu expose the true character of YSRCP. "Targeting a woman and a Dalit leader holding a constitutional office is not an isolated incident; it reflects the toxic political culture nurtured under YSRCP," he wrote on X. He added that Anitha's journey is one of hard work, courage, and public service, and that no amount of abuse from YSRCP leaders can diminish her achievements or silence her voice. "YSRCP must apologise to Anitha Garu and to every woman and every Dalit who has been insulted by such shameful conduct," he added.

LOKESH CONTRASTS REACTIONS The TDP leader recalled that YSRCP leaders had targeted his mother and wife while in power, while drawing a contrast between the current coalition government's approach and that of the previous regime. He claimed that after the

NDA government assumed office, a TDP worker who posted objectionable content against the former CM's wife was sent to judicial remand, citing it as an example of the party's commitment to respecting women.

HOME MINISTER REACTS Earlier today, the Home Minister strongly condemned the YSRCP leader for what she described as a "vile, casteist" attack made against her during a public meeting, alleging that the comments were intended to humiliate her as a woman and a member of the Dalit community holding a constitutional position.

What a YSRCP leader said about me on camera, at a public meeting was not merely an insult. It was a vile, casteist attack aimed at humiliating a woman and a Dalit holding a constitutional office. The language he used is so disgraceful that it cannot even be repeated in public. pic.twitter.com/dm7znnCeS3— Anitha Vangalapudi (@Anitha_TDP) June 16, 2026

Reposting the viral video featuring Amarnath's comments, Vangalapudi said the remarks were so "disgraceful" that they could not be repeated publicly, and accused the YSRCP of fostering a culture that normalises such behaviour. "I have faced such attacks throughout my life, and every one of them has only strengthened my resolve," she wrote on X. She added that the attack reflected an attempt to intimidate her after failing to challenge her politically, asserting that she would not be silenced or deterred in her public service.

LOKESH SLAMS AMARNATH'S PERFORMANCE

Lokesh, the son of Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu, also criticised Amarnath's performance as industries minister under the YSRCP government.

He claimed that Amarnath lacked understanding of industrial development and failed to bring even a single major industry to Andhra Pradesh during the YSRCP regime.

"The previous government drove away investments such as Foxconn, Franklin Templeton, and Amara Raja Batteries," he alleged.

Highlighting the NDA government's performance, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh is now attracting Rs 25 out of every Rs 100 being invested in India within just two years of the coalition government.

Annamalai's 'We the Leaders' on course to become political party next month

Former BJP Tamil Nadu president K Annamalai said his 'We the Leaders' movement is preparing for its next phase as a political party from July. He said the outfit would seek to bring professionals into politics and promote leadership renewal through term limits.



His "We the Leaders" movement launched recently was on the "right track" to transition into a political party by July and the goal is to achieve 50 lakh membership, former BJP Tamil Nadu president K Annamalai said on Wednesday. Pointing out that at present 18 lakh members have joined the organisation "without any expectations," Annamalai, in a video interaction on a social media platform, said that membership was taking place not only online but also by meeting the people directly. Stating that the members have joined with the belief that the movement would bring in a big change, he said "after we start this movement as a political outfit, its activities will take on a different nature from this July and people are going to see it." Claiming that his movement "will not fail, will not lie, and will not lead the people to the wrong path",

Annamalai said "for us, we are equal to all religions and there is no second thought about that". "Our aim in the coming months is that this membership drive will keep going", he said. "As we move forward, our objective is to transform our organisation into a people's movement to talk about the various issues in the state". Raising various issues, especially drug menace among the youth in the state, Annamalai said this will be taken up as a mass public movement at the grassroot level. He also said that technocrats are bewildered not knowing how to enter politics. "Between 40 and 50 years of age, Tamil people, who have achieved a lot, across the globe including in US and London do not know how to enter politics here". Annamalai also said that his outfit, after turning into a political party, will also bring "term limit" for the politicians. "Discarding the very old and bringing in new, it must keep happening", he said.

Satya Kumar Yadav urges CM Chandrababu Naidu to institute State-level Handloom Awards

AMARAVATI:

Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav has urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to institute State-level Handloom Awards in Andhra Pradesh to recognise and encourage the contribution of weavers and artisans who have been preserving the State's rich handloom heritage.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Mr. Yadav highlighted the enduring legacy of Andhra Pradesh's handloom tradition, describing it as a symbol of the State's cultural identity, artistic excellence and generations-old craftsmanship. He noted that renowned weaving clusters such as Dharmavaram, Uppada, Mangalagiri, Chirala, Pedana, Ponduru, Srikalahasti, Bobbili, Bhattiprolu and Madanapalle continue to sustain this legacy through the dedication and skill of thousands of artisans. The Minister pointed out that while the Government of India recognises outstanding contributions to the handloom sector through National Handloom Awards, several States have instituted State-level awards

to honour local talent and promote excellence in traditional weaving. Such initiatives, he said, have helped foster innovation, enhance the dignity of artisans and inspire younger generations to take up the profession.

Mr. Yadav suggested that Andhra Pradesh institute annual State-level Handloom Awards and present them on National Handloom Day, observed on August 7. The awards, he said, would provide meaningful recognition to deserving weavers, designers and artisans across the State and strengthen their prospects for national-level honours and other welfare initiatives.

Observing that the handloom sector contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and rural economy of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Yadav requested the Chief Minister to examine the proposal favourably and take appropriate action.

He enclosed a representation submitted by Padma Shri awardee Gajam Anjaiah and Jinka Ramanjaneyulu, proprietor of J.R. Silk Sarees, Dharmavaram, seeking the institution of State-level Handloom Awards in Andhra Pradesh.

Absurd step: Kerjriwal slams Modi government's temporary ban on Telegram

Reacting to the move to temporarily ban Telegram, Kejrriwal alleged that the government was resorting to symbolic measures instead of addressing the root cause of paper leaks. AAP national convener Arvind Kejrriwal on Wednesday criticised the Centre's decision to temporarily restrict access to Telegram ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination, calling the move "absurd" and alleging that the government was not serious about tackling paper leaks. The Centre on Tuesday ordered a temporary restriction on Telegram until June 22 ahead of the June 21 NEET-UG retest. The National Testing Agency (NTA) said the measure was aimed at curbing cheating networks and the spread of misinformation related to the examination. Defending the decision, NTA



Director General Abhishek Singh said the restriction was part of efforts to ensure a fair and malpractice-free conduct of the re-examination. Reacting to the move, Kejrriwal alleged that the government was resorting to symbolic measures instead of addressing the root cause of paper leaks. "The Modi government has no intention of stopping paper leaks. That is why such absurd steps are being taken — transporting question papers in Army aircraft and shutting down Telegram.

DA Hike for Power Sector Employees

HYDERABAD, JUNE 17:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has taken a key decision to increase the Dearness Allowance (DA) for electricity sector employees. The decision was made on Wednesday during a meeting with Energy Department officials at the GENCO headquarters in Vidut Soudha. The Deputy Chief Minister approved a proposal to increase DA for employees, artisans, and pensioners of power utilities, with effect from January 1 of this year. The government has decided to raise DA by 1.621%, increasing it from 17.651% to 19.272%.

As a result of this hike, the government will bear an additional financial burden of approximately ₹9.35 crore per month. A total of 70,804 employees and pensioners working in power sector organizations will benefit from the increase. During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed the performance of the power sector. He instructed officials to be fully prepared for the upcoming

Government approves a 1.621% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA). 70,804 employees and pensioners to benefit. Uninterrupted power supply maintained despite record-high demand. Electricity demand expected to double by 2035. Power department staff instructed to remain alert during the monsoon season. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka



monsoon season to ensure that the public does not face any electricity-related difficulties. He also suggested preparing a robust infrastructure development plan for the next ten years. He specifically congratulated officials and staff for maintaining uninterrupted power supply during the summer despite record-high electricity demand. He noted that peak demand reached 18,548 MW on March 27, yet

power supply remained uninterrupted due to effective advance planning by officials and employees. He further expressed satisfaction that uninterrupted electricity supply was maintained even when power consumption reached a record 341 million units (MU) on March 13, 2026. Looking ahead, the Deputy Chief Minister directed power sector officials to prepare a comprehensive long-term power plan for the coming decade. He emphasized the need to expand infrastructure in line with the state's rapidly growing electricity requirements. According to estimates, the state's peak power demand is expected to reach 34,137 MW by 2035-36, nearly double the current peak demand of 18,548 MW. Annual electricity consumption is also projected to increase to 152,626

million units (MU) by 2035-36. With the monsoon season approaching, he instructed officials of SPDCL, NPDCL, and TRANSCO to remain fully prepared. Field-level officers, engineers, and staff were directed to stay highly vigilant. In the event of power disruptions caused by heavy rains or strong winds, officials were told to respond immediately and restore services without delay. He also ordered strict implementation of all preventive measures at the field level to avoid electrical accidents during adverse weather conditions. The review meeting was attended by senior officials including Energy Department Special Chief Secretary Naveen Mittal, Finance Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultanania, and representatives from various power sector organizations.

Integrate yoga with Sanjeevani for better public health:CM

Yoga programmes to be organised at 1.33 lakh centres across state on June 21 International Yoga Day. Yoga guru Baba Ramdev to participate along with Chief Minister in a yoga programme in Vijayawada

AMARAVATI:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to take yoga to every household by integrating it with Sanjeevani public health initiative. Stressing the importance of preventive healthcare and wellness, the Chief Minister called for making Yogandhra a people's movement and ensuring the successful conduct of International Yoga Day celebrations across the state. Reviewing the arrangements for Yoga Day at the Secretariat today, the Chief Minister sought details from officials on the preparations being made for the statewide programme scheduled on June 21. He instructed officials to provide all necessary facilities for participants and

ensure seamless execution of the events. The Chief Minister suggested that outstanding Yoga master trainers be recognised with special awards on International Yoga Day next year. He also called for the preparation of a year-long action plan with "Yoga for Every Household" as the central theme. To address various health issues and chronic ailments, the Chief Minister directed officials to design and implement a dedicated "Therapeutic Yoga" programme for individuals requiring specialised wellness support. As part of the Yoga Day celebrations, renowned yoga guru Baba Ramdev will participate along with the Chief Minister in a yoga programme near the Undavalli Caves on June 20. On June 21, the state-level Yoga

Day event will be held at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada. Officials informed the Chief Minister that arrangements are being made for participation of 5,000 to 6,000 people at the stadium event. Both the Chief Minister and Baba Ramdev will attend the programme. In case of adverse weather conditions, contingency plans have been prepared to conduct the state-level event with around 1,000 participants at Ambedkar Kala Vedika in Vijayawada. As part of Yoga Day outreach activities, Baba Ramdev will arrive in the state on June 19 and is scheduled to meet the Chief Minister. Officials informed the Chief Minister that 2.6 lakh trainers have already been trained under Yogandhra. Registrations

for participation in Yoga Day events on June 21 have crossed one crore. State-level yoga competitions will be conducted in Vijayawada from June 18 to 20. The Chief Minister was also informed that yoga programmes will be organized at 1.33 lakh centres across the state on June 21. On the same day, he will release the "Yoga @ Destination" calendar, outlining yoga-related activities and destinations for the period leading up to International Yoga Day next year.

Government Advisor Manthana Satyanarayana Raju, Commissioner of Health, Medical and Family Welfare Chakradhar Babu, NTR District Collector Lakshmi Sha, Ayush Director Ronanki Gopalakrishna and other officials attended the review meeting.



EDITORIAL.

The Automated Horizon:
Balancing Innovation with
Human Agency

As we mark the midpoint of June 2026, the rapid integration of autonomous systems into the daily rhythm of our cities is no longer a futuristic novelty; it is our lived reality. From the silent glide of logistics drones overhead to the algorithmic precision managing our energy grids, the “Smart City” has transitioned from a municipal buzzword to a functioning nervous system. However, as the initial awe of these technical milestones fades, a more pressing question emerges: in our quest for frictionless efficiency, have we begun to sideline the value of human agency?

The efficiency gains of the past year are undeniable. Productivity in the service and manufacturing sectors has reached record highs as generative AI and robotics settle into their roles as primary engines of labor. Yet, this seamlessness comes with a psychological tax. When every interaction—from a medical diagnosis to a loan application—is mediated by a black-box calculation, the citizen is transformed from an active participant into a passive data point.

The challenge for the remainder of 2026 is one of intentional design. We must move beyond the binary of “pro-tech” or “anti-tech” and enter a more sophisticated era of “human-centric” oversight. This requires more than just transparency in algorithms; it demands the preservation of “meaningful human friction.” There are certain junctures in life—judicial rulings, end-of-life care, and the education of our children—where the inefficiency of human empathy is not a bug to be fixed, but a feature to be protected.

Legislators and tech leaders often speak of “guard-rails,” but guardrails only keep a car on the road; they do not determine the destination. As a society, we must remain the drivers. Progress should not be measured solely by how much we can automate, but by how much space that automation clears for us to engage in the creative and communal pursuits that define our species. The machines are running smoothly. Now, let us ensure they are running in a direction we have consciously chosen.



SHARE HAPPINESS

In a world that boasts of rising towers,
Can a man still bloom like flowers?
Born as human, yet bound by chain
Is this the fruit of progress we gain?

We speak of steps, of paths so wide,
But leave our truths somewhere to hide.
A thorny bush can't roses bear
Yet in each soul, there's good to share.

Speak not to boast, but light the way;
Let ten find hope in what you say.
Live not just for your fleeting breath
But for Bharati, who walks near death.

She treads through fear, through pain's cold hands,
Among the lost in no-man's lands.
For those with neither voice nor grace
Be the lamp in that shadowed place.

Forget the noise, remove the mask,
Stand with the soldier in his task.
Like the rifle—silent, true
Guard the nation as skies turn blue.

Rise not, unless you bow your head
To farmers tilling fields of dread.
They sow through debt, through sun and storm—
Yet none reach out to keep them warm.

Let not your heart in greed be whole,
That steals from many to feed one soul.
Let your heart beat not to take
But to heal, for humanity's sake.

Serve your mother—womb of grace,
Who shaped herself to give you place.
Through every ache she bore your name
So serve her now, without shame.

Be like the tree, that asks for none,
Yet shelters all beneath the sun.
Offer shade and fruit so true
Let joy and peace flow out through you.

So share the joy, become the light,
Turn this wronged world into right.
If not for name, if not for fame
Then live, at least, to bless the flame.



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



OPINION

INDIAN AGRICULTURE UNDER STRAIN:
THE NEED FOR STRUCTURAL REFORMS

India's agriculture is no longer just battling poor monsoons; it is fighting a systemic survival crisis where rising input costs and shrinking landholdings threaten the very hands that feed 1.4 billion people."

Despite achieving record levels of foodgrain production, Indian agriculture is confronting a set of deepening structural challenges. Climate change, mounting pressure on water resources, fragmented landholdings, rising cultivation costs, and persistent market inefficiencies are raising serious concerns about the long-term sustainability of the sector. As the backbone of food security, rural livelihoods, and broad-based economic development, agriculture stands today at a critical crossroads.

India remains one of the world's largest agrarian economies. Nearly 46 per cent of the country's workforce continues to depend directly or indi-

try's cropped area is supported by irrigation, leaving a substantial portion of agriculture dependent on rainfall. At the same time, India remains the world's largest user of groundwater. In the face of increasing climate uncertainty, growing pressure on water resources poses a significant challenge to the future of agricultural production.

Land fragmentation represents another major constraint. More than 86 per cent of India's farmers belong to the small and marginal categories, with an average operational holding of only 1.08 hectares. Fragmented landholdings limit investment capacity and restrict the adoption of mechanisation and modern technologies. As a result, improvements in productivity remain

farmers, whereas returns often remain uncertain. Crop failures or sudden price declines frequently push cultivators into financial distress.

Market inefficiencies further aggravate these challenges. Inadequate storage facilities, insufficient cold-chain infrastructure, and weak logistics compel many farmers to sell their produce immediately after harvest. Various studies indicate substantial post-harvest losses, particularly in fruits and vegetables. Dependence on intermediaries in many regions weakens farmers' bargaining power and creates a significant gap between consumer prices and farm-gate prices. Consequently, rising production does not necessarily translate into higher

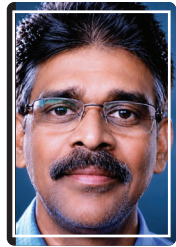
such as drip and sprinkler systems has become imperative. Promoting crop diversification and encouraging allied activities such as horticulture, livestock rearing, pulses, and oilseeds can help broaden income sources while reducing ecological pressures.

Technological advancements are opening new possibilities for the sector. Weather forecasting systems, artificial intelligence-based advisory services, drones, and digital market platforms have the potential to improve efficiency and reduce risks. However, technological progress alone will not suffice. Policies must ensure that these innovations remain accessible and affordable for small and marginal farmers.

Investments in rural warehousing, cold storage networks, and food processing industries can enhance value addition and reduce post-harvest losses. India's agricultural exports, which exceed 50 billion dollars annually, reflect the sector's immense potential. However, moving beyond raw commodity exports towards value-added products could significantly improve farm incomes and strengthen India's position in global agricultural markets.

The future of Indian agriculture is not merely a question of farmers' livelihoods. It is intrinsically linked to food security, rural economic stability, environmental sustainability, and the country's broader development trajectory. Safeguarding agriculture, therefore, is not simply an economic necessity; it is a strategic national imperative.

Agricultural progress cannot be measured by output growth alone. Sustainable farm incomes, efficient markets, responsible resource management, and climate-resilient policies must become central to the next phase of agricultural transformation. The future of Indian agriculture will ultimately depend not only on what is produced in the fields, but also on the stability provided to farmers, the efficiency of markets, and the preservation of the natural resources upon which the sector depends.



J M R DUNGA

M.sc(Maths),
M.sc(Physics)
Senior Teaching
Faculty in Maths



rectly on agriculture. Although the sector contributes around 17–18 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product, its significance extends far beyond output figures, encompassing food security, rural incomes, and the supply of raw materials to several industries. India produced an estimated 357.7 million tonnes of foodgrains in 2024–25, reflecting the sector's productive capacity. Yet, rising output alone has not translated into greater economic security for farmers.

Growing Structural Pressures:

Climate variability has emerged as one of the most serious threats confronting Indian agriculture. Irregular monsoons, prolonged dry spells, sudden episodes of heavy rainfall, rising temperatures, and cyclonic disturbances are increasingly disrupting agricultural activity. These are no longer isolated events but manifestations of broader climatic changes that are undermining the stability of the sector. Only about 55 per cent of the coun-

uneven. Lower productivity, in turn, contributes to unstable incomes and increasing indebtedness, creating a cycle of vulnerability that continues to affect millions of farming households.

Policies that played a crucial role in ensuring food security in earlier decades are now generating fresh concerns. In several regions, repeated monocropping, excessive dependence on groundwater, and imbalanced use of chemical fertilisers have adversely affected soil health. While policies historically focused on increasing output, relatively less attention was devoted to water-use efficiency, ecological sustainability, and long-term resource conservation. Consequently, concerns regarding environmental degradation and declining soil fertility have become more pronounced.

Rising input costs have added another layer of stress. Expenditure on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, fuel, and labour has increased steadily, while output prices have remained volatile. In effect, risks are largely borne by

incomes for cultivators.

Limited crop diversification has also heightened vulnerability. Excessive dependence on a few crops exposes farmers to climatic shocks, pest attacks, and market fluctuations. Although digital technologies, precision agriculture, and data-driven advisory systems are gradually expanding, access to such innovations remains uneven, especially among smallholders. Likewise, while organic farming is receiving increasing attention, certification procedures continue to pose difficulties for many farmers.

The Imperative of Reform:

The challenges confronting Indian agriculture cannot be addressed through short-term relief measures alone. Structural reforms are essential. Strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) can provide smallholders with collective bargaining power and facilitate access to markets, technology, and inputs.

Given increasing water stress, wider adoption of micro-irrigation techniques

Diabetes Problems in Childhood

Everyone considers an innocent and beautiful childhood to be a priceless and unprecedented gift from God. If a baby was born in a house, the entire street would celebrate along with the family. If a baby was born in a house, that baby would be carried in everyone's arms. Childhood was spent beautifully in the midst of nature in joint families with grandparents. Today, childhood is mired in hardships due to loneliness at home, harassment in schools, and girls are forced to be hunted by human beasts. Among those who have less financial means, children are made to work in mines, brick kilns, chemical industries, and well drilling, causing accidents. Childhood is a burden amidst many hardships.

The United Nations has decided to celebrate Children's Day worldwide on November 20. Children's Day has been celebrated since 1954 as per the decision of the United Nations. The United Nations established this Children's Day to enable children to share their feelings, information and increase mutual understanding. Although Children's Day was initially started to promote the welfare of children, now many new types of problems can be included in it. Children who are physically and mentally weak are bullied by everyone. Parents who beat them in anger, teachers who beat them like they are beating a drum in schools, school managements who make time tables without breathing and torture them by saying, "Study, study". Hostels that only care about their profits without caring about fevers and illnesses, school staff with mischievous behaviors that do not leave even a month old baby, pollution, health problems caused by adulterated food, and birth defects and problems caused by parental tension make childhood a crown of thorns.

We see incidents where the moments of waiting for a baby with pale cheeks and pink color are gone, and as soon as it is born, it is thrown into garbage cans or thorny trees. The whole family is eager to hear the news that a newly married woman is pregnant. A couple who are working somewhere without parents are making plans and are afraid for the arrival of a new baby. They are searching on YouTube how to raise it, but they are not following the advice of the elders in the house. Maybe that is why children do not want to come into their mother's womb. Children who should have been born naturally are reaching their mothers' laps through test tubes and surrogacy. Even if the children who come like that grow up somehow, par-

ents who want to die are increasingly seen. The focus on career and money is not seen on raising children. They are writing a list of losses that will come if they stop working for three years but do not value the moments of joy they experience. Children's difficulties start from the mother's womb itself.



Children's Day celebrations were organized to eliminate the problems that arise after the birth of children. In the era without vaccines, the problem was that children survived beyond childhood and were clothed. Problems like anemia and nutritional deficiencies were like fuel to the fire along with life-threatening diseases that were not vaccinated. Child marriages were a big problem for girls, but today, even when society has changed and achieved a lot of scientific progress, eradicated terrible diseases and put science in our hands, we are still suffering from many problems. We have come from the time when we campaigned against having too many children to the time when infertility centers were established in every street. We have overcome old problems and entered the Lotus strategy of new problems. Today, the issue that needs to be discussed is that children should be provided with suitable conditions to step into the outside world. For this, parents, family members, We need to talk about the emergency situation where society needs to be ready to welcome them. It is also a Children's Day issue to make parents aware of what kind of pleasant environment should be created for

children to be born.

Due to many problems like lack of physical activity, high mental stress, resorting to hotels for food, everyone is suffering from 'diabetes'. This problem does not spare children either. The percentage of children who are born with diabetes and suffer from hellish pain throughout their lives is not small. It is time to think about the future of children who take insulin injections at an age when they should be playing and singing. Diabetes eats away at the organs inside without causing any pain on the outside.

Since 1991, the "World Health Organization" and the "International Diabetes Federation" have jointly decided to celebrate November 14 as "World Diabetes Day". WHO decided this because the percentage of people with diabetes is increasing rapidly worldwide. To celebrate this 'Diabetes Day', 160 countries and 230 diabetes federations have signed up. There are two types of diseases in this, type-1 diabetes and type-2 diabetes. Type-2 disease is preventable. Type-1 disease is not preventable, it can only be controlled.

The causes, factors, risk factors, and the damage this disease causes to other organs need to be discussed by everyone. For this, WHO comes up with a slogan every year. The slogan "Access to Diabetes Care" set last year will be used this year and next year. Diabetes awareness is being created among the people with slogans like "Our Future Diabetes Education and Prevention, Women and Diabetes, Eyes on Diabetes, Go Blue for Breakfast, Healthy Eating".

The problem of diabetes is arising due to the increase in obesity in children. Risky diseases like diabetes are also haunting them in childhood when they do not have games and exercises. The percentage of people suffering from diseases is increasing due to consumption of junk food and unhealthy foods. Juvenile diabetes is being affected by sitting still with TV, computers and videos. Type-1 diabetes is now a problem called 'diabetes in children'. The disease occurs due to the pancreas not producing insulin. Now the problem of 'diabetes in children' is an urgent matter that needs to be discussed. If the social and physical causes are not found and prevented, the future of childhood will fall into the clutches of diabetes.

• DR. KANDEPI RANI PRASAD



K'taka council polls: Cross-voting fears mark Shivakumar's first test

BENGALURU, JUNE 17

The election to seven Karnataka Legislative Council seats on Thursday (June 18) has turned into a high-stakes political battle, with the contest emerging as a matter of prestige for both the ruling Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Janata Dal (Secular) (JD-S) alliance. What was initially expected to be a straightforward numbers game has evolved into a closely watched showdown between Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, also State JD-S President, who are determined to secure victory for their respective candidates. Eight candidates are in the fray for seven seats. While four Congress candidates and two BJP candidates are expected to win comfortably, the contest for the seventh and final seat has become intensely competitive. The battle is primarily between Congress's fifth candidate, Vinay Karthik, and the NDA's K. Govindaraju, backed by the JD (S)- BJP alliance. The outcome is expected to hinge on surplus votes and cross-voting. With fears of cross-voting looming large, both camps have taken extraordinary measures to keep their legislators together. The Congress has shifted all its MLAs to a resort in Bidadi, where training ses-



sions and mock voting exercises are being conducted to ensure that every vote is cast correctly. Sources said CM Shivakumar expressed confidence that the party would secure all five seats, while cautioning MLAs against attempts by JD-S to contact them. The JD-S has directed its MLAs to report to the party office in Bengaluru before being shifted to a resort in Devanahalli. The party has issued a whip and plans to escort legislators directly to the Vidhana Soudha on polling day. The BJP has also tightened its ranks. A meeting of the BJP Legislature Party was held at a private hotel in Bengaluru under the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, R. Ashoka, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chhalavadi Narayanaswamy, and the BJP state president, B.Y. Vijayendra. The presence of expelled BJP legislators S.T. Somashekar and Shivar-am Hebbar in the Congress camp has added a fresh dimension to the contest, raising speculation over possible cross-voting.

74 Rajasthan Villages Locked in Panchana Dam Water Dispute

The Panchana Dam water dispute is increasingly being viewed as more than a fight over irrigation. Many observers see it as reflecting broader social and political tensions, particularly between sections of the Gujar and Meena communities.

Panchana Dam standoff: In May 2026, the High Court directed the Rajasthan government to release water from the Panchana Dam into the command-area canals without delay. The waters of the Panchana Dam, eastern Rajasthan's largest earthen dam, have once again become the centre of a major dispute. What began as an irrigation issue has now evolved into a complex social, political and legal conflict.

The situation has reached a point where the dam's water is neither reaching farms as intended nor resolving the long-standing grievances of farmers who have been fighting for what they consider their rightful share. On one side, residents of 39 villages are being guarding the dam for the past month to prevent the release of water. On the other, farmers from 35 villages are staging protests, demanding that water be released into irrigation canals in accordance with a High Court order. Both sides claim legitimacy, deepening the standoff.

39 VILLAGES GUARDING DAM, 35 VILLAGES WANT WATER RELEASE

Farmers from villages located in the submergence zone have



been camping near the Panchana Dam since May 16. Under the banner of the Panchana-Gudla Sangharsh Samiti, residents of 39 villages have maintained round-the-clock vigil at the site. Their argument is that large tracts of their land were submerged during the construction of the dam, giving them the first right over its water. They allege that while they lost their land for the project, they never received the irrigation benefits that were promised at the time. Meanwhile, farmers from the command area have been protesting for the past 10 days in Khandip village, located on the border of Karauli and Gangapur City. These farmers argue that they regularly received canal water between 1992 and 2005 and therefore cannot be deprived of their share now. They are demanding the immediate release of water into the canal network, citing a May 2026 High Court directive and warning that continued delays could severely affect agriculture.

HIGH COURT INTERVENTION YET AGAIN

In May 2026, the High Court

directed the Rajasthan government to release water from the Panchana Dam into the command-area canals without delay. However, this is not the first time the judiciary has stepped in. Over the past two decades, courts have intervened in the dispute on three separate occasions. Despite repeated orders, little has changed on the ground, with successive governments struggling to implement a lasting solution. The agitation in Khandip is being led by Congress MLA Ramkesh Meena. He has accused the government of failing to implement the court's directions despite clear orders. He has warned that if the government fails to present a concrete roadmap by June 27, protesters will launch a rail blockade agitation on June 28.

TRACKING THE CONFLICT

The origins of the dispute are linked to the Gujar agitation of 2006. Villages whose lands were submerged by the dam began demanding priority rights over the water, arguing that they had made the greatest sacrifice for the project. Since then, water has

not been released regularly into the irrigation canals. At present, dam water is largely released only once a year during the Shri Mahavirji fair for religious purposes through the Gambhir River. Notably, the Panchana Dam was originally conceived as a flood-control project. The irrigation command area was linked to it later. In 2010, the then government sanctioned Rs 13 crore for a lift irrigation scheme aimed at supplying water to affected villages. However, more than a decade later, the project remains unimplemented, adding to the frustration of displaced communities.

TALKS UNDERWAY: RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT

Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena has described the issue as serious and said he has discussed it with the Chief Minister. According to the minister, nearly 9,985 hectares of agricultural land remain deprived of irrigation, affecting more than 1.25 lakh people. He argued that failure to release water despite court orders is causing significant economic losses to farmers. Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham said the government is in continuous dialogue with all stakeholders and is working towards a fair resolution. He maintained that no farmer would be treated unfairly and said discussions are being held with local representatives, village elders and community leaders to arrive at a consensus-based solution. The Panchana conflict is increasingly being viewed as more than a fight over irrigation.



39.395 Kg Seized Narcotics Destroyed in Manipur

IMPHAL, 17 JUNE 2026 :

Imphal West – Lamdeng, Manipur Police disposed of approximately 39.395 kilograms of seized narcotics and psychotropic substances at the Shija Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility in Lamdeng, Imphal West, through an incineration process under the Pre- and Post-Trial Drug Disposal Programme.

The destroyed contraband included 4.444 kg of heroin powder, 5.353 kg of brown sugar, 0.422 kg of WY tablets, 2.668 kg of SP capsules, and 26.508 kg of ganja. The narcotics were recovered during the War on Drugs campaign conducted by the Manipur Government, through the vigilance and coordinated operations of district police, the Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB), and other security agencies. Speaking on the side-

lines, IGP Manipur Police Ningshen Worngam, IPS (Intelligence/NAB), said the disposal exercise marked a significant step in the collective effort to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. He noted that the programme reflected the commitment of Manipur Police towards eliminating illegal drugs from society and strengthening the broader vision of a drug-free state.

"Such efforts are not only a legal obligation but also a moral responsibility to protect future generations from the devastating effects of drugs," IGP Ningshen Worngam stated, calling on the public to cooperate and reaffirm their commitment towards ensuring a drug-free Manipur. Senior police officials present at the occasion included DIG N. Herojit, DIG M. Pradeep, Imphal West SP Shivakanta, and SP NAB W. Basu.



NE Railway GM Conducted a window Trailing inspection

GORAKHPUR, JUNE 17, 2026

General Manager of North Eastern Railway, Mr. Uday Borwankar, conducted a window trailing inspection of the Gorakhpur-Chhapra rail section on June 17, 2026, along with Principal Heads of Departments and senior officers from the headquarters and divisions. Subsequently, he inspected the Chhapra Junction-Chhapra Gramin rail section with Divisional Railway Manager, Varanasi, Mr. Ashish Jain. The General Manager carried out a detailed inspection of passenger amenities and cleanliness at Chhapra Kachahari and Chhapra Gramin stations, the goods shed platform work at Chhapra Gramin station, and the station and coaching depot at Chhapra Junction. During the visit, Mr. Borwankar discussed various proposed construction and development works at Chhapra station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and instructed the concerned officials to complete the projects within the stipulated timeline while maintaining high quality standards. During the inspection, Mr. Uday Borwankar reviewed the station premises, platforms, circulating areas, passenger movement arrangements, foot overbridges (FOBs), second entry gate, parking facilities, cleanliness, "One

Station One Product" stalls, passenger amenities, operational arrangements and crowd management for summer and examination special trains, holding areas, and security and surveillance systems. He directed officials to make necessary improvements wherever required. He also inspected food vending stalls at the station and instructed them to ensure clean and quality services for passengers. The General Manager also reviewed all preparations, including security arrangements, for the inauguration ceremony scheduled on June 19, 2026, during which Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will flag off the new Chhapra-Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi) train from Chhapra Junction and the new Mau Junction-Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi) train from Mau Junction. He issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event. On this occasion, various aspects related to passenger safety, convenience, and cleanliness at the station were reviewed, and necessary directions were issued to officials of the concerned departments. Senior officers from the Railway Protection Force (RPF), commercial, engineering, operations, and other related departments were present during the inspection.

Three teenagers killed in road accident in Bihar's Nalanda district

PATNA, JUNE 17

A devastating road accident claimed the lives of three teenage boys in Bihar's Nalanda district on Wednesday. The incident occurred near the Ganga Bigha bridge under the jurisdiction of Telhara Police Station, leaving the local community in shock and grief. The deceased were identified as Ankush Kumar (15), son of Satish Chaud-

hary; Sunny Kumar (15), son of Raja Chaudhary; and Tannu Kumar (15), son of Manoj Chaudhary. All three were residents of Kothari village in the Telhara police station area and belonged to the same extended family. According to family members, the teenagers had left home on a motorcycle to visit Telhara market. Initial reports suggested that the motorcycle collided with an e-rickshaw near the bridge.

NCB executes detention order against drug trafficker Navin Chichkar

MUMBAI: (JUN 17)

The Narcotics Control Bureau's Mumbai zonal unit has executed a preventive detention order against an alleged international drug trafficker, Navin Chichkar, under the stringent PIT-NDPS Act, an official said on Wednesday. Chichkar, a resident of Navi Mumbai, was transferred from the Yerwada Central Jail in Pune to the Puzhal Central Jail in Chennai, following the execution of the order, the official said. The detention order, issued on May 15 by the joint secretary of the PIT-NDPS Division under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, was formally executed on Tuesday, he said.

'BJP leaders ready to jump ship': Akhilesh on Rajbhar's claims of rebellion in Samajwadi Party

LUCKNOW, JUNE 17

Samajwadi Party (SP) Chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday dismissed claims of rebellion within his party ranks as "wild hearsay" and said that it was, instead, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Uttar Pradesh unit which was staring at likely defection by its legislators. Akhilesh Yadav's retort came on the back of Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister OP Rajbhar's claims that the SP was hurtling towards a Trinamool Congress-Shiv Sena-UBT style split, and it was a matter of time before the party watches its MLAs and MPs abandon it and start crossing over to the BJP. The SP chief voiced confidence in his party's bravery and said that courageous workers are required to challenge the BJP's "wicked plans". "Jo dar jaayega, who apna dal chor kar chala jaayega (Those who get frightened will leave their party and move away)," he said when asked about Rajbhar's 'prophecy' about revolt in the Samajwadi Party, close on the heels of oth-

Madhya Pradesh: FIR against over 90 police personnel in drugs case triggers political row

BHOPAL/UJJAIN, JUNE 17

The registration of an FIR against more than 90 Madhya Pradesh police personnel, including two former station house officers (SHOs), in connection with a controversial drug seizure case has sparked a political row in the state, with the opposition Congress targeting the BJP government over its handling of narcotics-related crimes.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday said the development raised serious concerns about law and order and the functioning of the police force in Madhya Pradesh. "Law and order has completely collapsed in Madhya Pradesh. The state is increasingly becoming a hub for narcotics manufacturing and trafficking. The very police force responsible for curbing this menace is itself impli-



cated in fraudulent activities," Nath said. Kamal Nath, one of the senior-most MLAs from Chhindwara in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, alleged that the BJP government had failed to dismantle drug networks operating in the state and was instead allowing innocent people to be implicated. "This highlights the fact that the BJP government is failing to dismantle drug rackets or rein in corrupt officials. Innocent people are

being framed in narcotics trafficking cases, while the actual smugglers continue to operate their illicit trade," he said in a statement. The controversy stems from an operation carried out on January 28 this year by Agar Malwa police in Ghatkhedhi village of Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, which borders Madhya Pradesh. At the time, police had claimed to have busted an MD drug manufacturing unit and seized narcotics, chemicals and ma-

chinery worth around Rs 5 crore. The operation was projected as a major success in the state's anti-drug campaign, and two persons were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. However, family members of the accused and a local resident, Hamid Khan, later approached the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Chauhahla, alleging that the raid was fabricated and that legal procedures had not been followed. They also claimed that a large police team had taken several family members away from the village during the operation. The court subsequently ordered an inquiry by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jhalawar. After examining the inquiry report and evidence, the court found prima facie grounds for the registration of a criminal case and directed Rajasthan

Police to act. Following the order, Dag police station in Jhalawar district registered an FIR against former Agar Kotwali SHOs Shashi Upadhyay and Roop Singh Rajput, police personnel Rakhi Gurjar, three other named persons and nearly 90 unidentified police personnel. The FIR has been registered under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including sections related to intimidation, abuse of official position, misconduct and tampering with evidence. The development is significant, as it is rare for such a large number of police personnel from one state to face criminal proceedings in another state following a court-directed inquiry.

The issue is expected to further intensify the political confrontation between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress in Madhya Pradesh.

NFR Hosts IIT Expert Talk on Smart Railway Technologies

MALIGAON, 17 JUNE, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) hosted an interactive session on the application of emerging technologies for railway infrastructure management, featuring an insightful presentation by internationally acclaimed scientist, technology expert and IIT Guwahati Professor, Prof. Ashwini K. Nanda, who joined the programme virtually from New Delhi. The session focused on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence, advanced sensing technologies and digital platforms in enhancing railway safety, reliability and long-term infrastructure sustainability. The programme was attended by General Manager of NFR Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, Additional General Manager, Principal Heads of Departments, Heads of Departments and senior officers from Headquarters and its divisions through video conferencing. During the presentation,



Prof. Nanda elaborated on an advanced concept titled "Autonomous, Unitary System for Inspection and Monitoring of Permanent Way using Multiple Sensors, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Twins." The proposed system envisages continuous assessment of track health through intelligent sensor networks, AI-enabled predictive analysis, enabling proactive maintenance and data-driven decision making. Such technology has the potential to significantly improve asset management, optimise maintenance resources, enhance operational reliability and further strengthen railway

safety standards. Addressing the gathering, the GM of NFR emphasized the importance of embracing emerging technologies to build a safer, smarter and more sustainable railway system. He noted that technological innovation and environmental responsibility must go hand in hand to meet the future requirements of railway transportation. The event highlighted NFR's commitment towards leveraging innovation and technologies to enhance railway safety, efficiency and environmental sustainability. During the conference, NFR also commemorated the World Envi-

ronment Day 2026 by screening a short film showcasing the various environmental initiatives undertaken across the zone, including extensive railway electrification, promotion of solar energy, energy conservation measures, water management, waste reduction initiatives, plantation drives and adoption of eco-friendly practices across divisions, workshops and offices. These initiatives reflect NFR's sustained efforts towards reducing carbon emissions and promoting green transportation system in the NE region. NFR remains committed towards adopting innovative technologies and environmentally responsible practices that contribute to sustainable growth. By combining advanced digital solutions with its ongoing green initiatives, NFR continues to strengthen its role as a modern, environmentally conscious railway system dedicated to providing safe, efficient and sustainable railway transportation services to the people of NE region and beyond.



Trump unveils Iran deal, eyes wider Middle East pact

EVIAN

President Donald Trump on Wednesday unveiled the details of a new agreement with Iran that he said would prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and create an opportunity for a broader diplomatic reset across the Middle East.

Speaking at the conclusion of the G7 summit in France, Trump said the agreement ends the current conflict and launches negotiations toward a comprehensive settlement while preserving the option of renewed military action if Iran fails to comply.

“On Sunday, we reached an agreement with Iran that achieves everything we set out to accomplish,” Trump said. “Ending the current conflict, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.”

Senior US officials later released the text of a 14-paragraph memorandum of under-



standing that commits Iran not to “procure or develop nuclear weapons”, restores commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and establishes a 60-day period for negotiating a final agreement. The memorandum also links sanctions relief to Iranian compliance and provides for international oversight of Tehran’s enriched nuclear material. Trump said the

agreement had received strong backing from leaders attending the summit, including PM Modi and several Gulf leaders. “Prime Minister Modi was here, we had a long talk,” Trump said. “They are thrilled that we made a deal.” The President said he also consulted with leaders from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt during the summit.

Beyond the nuclear issue, Trump said the agreement could serve as the foundation for wider regional diplomacy. “As I expressed to the world leaders here this week, it’s my hope that the peace agreement will be the beginning of a much larger deal all across the Middle East,” he said.

Trump specifically pointed to expanding the Abraham Accords, stabilising Lebanon and addressing Iran-backed proxy groups as future priorities.

“So the expansion of the Abraham Accords is the other thing that we hope we’re going to get,” he said.

At the same time, Trump publicly urged Israel to show greater restraint in Lebanon.

“You can do a little softer touch, Bibi,” he said, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “You don’t have to knock down a building every time somebody walks into it that’s from Hezbollah.”

Trump also credited Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir

Putin with remaining neutral during the conflict. “I want to thank China, President Xi,” Trump said. “He stayed neutral.” “And I want to thank Vladimir Putin; he was very neutral.”

The President argued that the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would help lower global energy prices and reduce pressure on consumers and businesses. “Oil prices are plummeting,” Trump said.

For India and other major energy importers, stability in the Strait of Hormuz is a critical concern, as a significant share of global crude oil exports passes through the narrow waterway linking the Persian Gulf to international markets.

Trump nevertheless made clear that the agreement would be enforced through a combination of diplomacy, economic pressure and the threat of military force. “If they don’t adhere to the agreement,” he said, “we’re going to bomb the hell out of them.”

US links Iran nuclear deal to wider regional peace EVIAN

The Trump administration is seeking to use its new agreement with Iran as a platform for broader negotiations on regional security, including Tehran’s support for proxy groups, stability in Lebanon and improved relations between Israel and its neighbours, senior US officials said on Wednesday.

Following President Donald Trump’s announcement of the Iran accord, senior US officials said Washington views the agreement as the first step towards a wider diplomatic effort across the Middle East.

“After nuclear is gonna be regional stability and funding of proxies,” a senior US official said, outlining what the administration sees as the next phase of discussions with Tehran.

The official said the United States had made clear to Iran that any reduction in regional tensions would require action on Hezbollah.

“We were very clear with Iran that this will not be a one-sided peace fire,” the official said. “They have to get a collar on their dog and Hezbollah, and they’ve gotta hold them back.”



PM Modi stresses restoration of trade ties during his meeting with Prez Zelenskyy EVIAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, with both leaders agreeing on the need to restore bilateral trade ties to pre-war levels and reaffirming their commitment to peace.

PM Modi said India and Ukraine had been engaging extensively in recent times, with cooperation spanning various areas.

“Our talks today were about reviewing different aspects of our cooperation. We both agree that trade ties need to be restored to what they were in the pre-war period. India will always be on the side of peace, placing the values of humanity over everything else,” he stated in a message shared on X.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which

has disrupted global supply chains and significantly impacted India-Ukraine trade, particularly in agricultural commodities and defence-related cooperation.

Before the war, India imported large quantities of sunflower oil and fertilisers from Ukraine, while exporting pharmaceuticals, machinery and other goods.

India has consistently called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis, maintaining that peace and stability are essential for global economic recovery.

PM Modi has previously emphasised that India’s position is guided by humanitarian concerns and the need to protect the interests of developing nations affected by the conflict.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has sought greater international support to rebuild Ukraine’s economy and infrastructure, while also strengthening ties with partners such as India.

Trump urges softer Israeli approach in Lebanon EVIAN

President Donald Trump on Wednesday publicly urged Israel to show greater restraint in Lebanon, saying he supports Israel’s security needs but believes it should adopt a “softer touch” in responding to threats from Hezbollah.

At a press conference at the conclusion of the G7 summit in France, Trump said the newly announced Iran agreement could create an opportunity to address lingering tensions in Lebanon, which he described as one of the remaining challenges in the region. “We have

a little dispute over Lebanon,” Trump said while discussing his relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. “I say, you can do a little softer touch, Bibi. You don’t have to knock down a building every time somebody walks into it that’s from Hezbollah.” The remarks represented one of Trump’s most direct public criticisms of Israeli military tactics since returning to office. While praising Netanyahu and describing the US-Israel partnership as strong, Trump suggested that Israel’s response to Hezbollah attacks has at times been disproportionate.

Iran deal will push oil prices lower: Trump EVIAN

President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the agreement reached with Iran would help drive oil prices lower and strengthen the global economy by ensuring the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most important energy shipping routes.

At a press conference after the G7 summit in France, Trump said energy markets had reacted positively to the agreement and the easing of tensions in the Gulf. “Oil prices are plummeting,” Trump said.

The President argued that fears of a prolonged conflict had faded after the agreement was announced, reducing concerns about disruptions to global oil supplies. “The oil never went to \$350 a barrel,” Trump said. “It went to \$115, \$120.”

Trump thanks Xi, Putin for staying neutral on Iran EVIAN

President Donald Trump on Wednesday publicly thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin for remaining neutral during the recent conflict with Iran, saying both leaders could have made the situation significantly more difficult for the United States.

At a press conference after the G7 summit in France, Trump said he personally urged Xi not to provide military assistance to Tehran during the conflict and expressed appreciation for Beijing’s response.

“I want to thank China, President Xi,” Trump said. “I was with him, and he stayed neutral, totally neutral, and I appreciate it.” Trump said he had spoken directly with the Chinese leader about military equipment that could have strengthened Iran’s defences.

“I had a long talk with him,” Trump said. “I said, I would

really appreciate your not giving or selling any of that stuff to Iran.” According to Trump, Beijing largely complied with the request. “For the most part, he didn’t,” Trump said.

The President also singled out Russian President Vladimir Putin. “And I want to thank Vladimir Putin; he was very neutral,” Trump said.

“They could have made it much more difficult for us.”

Trump’s remarks offered a rare public acknowledgement of cooperation, or at least non-interference, by Washington’s two principal strategic rivals during a major international crisis.

The comments came as Trump defended the agreement reached with Iran and argued that the military campaign had achieved its objectives without triggering a wider regional conflict.

The President said Iran had suffered extensive damage and would require years to rebuild. “They’ve had much more than



\$1 trillion worth of damage done,” Trump said.

“They’ll be 15 to 20 years to rebuild what they have right now,” Trump argued that any future economic benefits for Tehran would depend on its compliance with the agreement. “They have to behave themselves,” he said. “If they’re not behaving, they get hit again.”

The President also defended

provisions allowing the eventual release of frozen Iranian assets, saying the funds belonged to Iran and that permanently confiscating them would undermine confidence in the US financial system.

“We have their money,” Trump said. “It’s not our money, it’s their money.” “At a certain point in time, I guess we’re going to have to give it back.”

Trump said that retaining

foreign assets indefinitely would discourage international confidence in the US dollar. “If you do that, you really don’t have a system,” he said.

The President rejected criticism that the agreement represented a concession to Tehran, arguing instead that Iran had entered negotiations from a position of weakness following military losses and economic pressure. “Well, look, here they lost militarily,” Trump said.

He maintained that continued military operations would have risked disruption to global energy markets and commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

“If we keep bombing, those ships won’t be going,” Trump said. The comments highlighted the broader international dimension of the Iran conflict, which raised concerns about possible involvement by major powers, including China and Russia, because of their longstanding political and economic ties with Tehran.



CHHATRON KI GOONJ: RAHUL GANDHI TAKES INDIA’S EXAM CRISIS TO THE POLITICAL CENTRE STAGE

“This is not a political meeting. This is not about Congress or BJP. This is about students, their struggles, their dreams, their future.”

The political significance of Rahul Gandhi’s Kota convention lies not merely in the crowd it attracted but in the issue it chose to confront. It was from this city that Rahul Gandhi launched “Chhatron Ki Goonj”, a campaign designed to engage directly with students and bring their concerns into the national conversation.

This Is Not a Political Meeting, Says Rahul Gandhi

Addressing the gathering, Rahul Gandhi sought to frame the event not as a partisan exercise but as a platform for students to express their concerns. “This is not a political meeting. This is not about Congress or BJP. This is about students, their struggles, their dreams, their future,” he said. The statement was carefully crafted. It reflected an effort to position the campaign above conventional party rivalries and focus attention on the concerns that dominate student life. Throughout the interaction, Rahul Gandhi listened to students describe the challenges they face and repeatedly

returned to the themes of pressure, uncertainty and fairness.

The Education System is a Rejection System, Not a Selection System

At the heart of his argument was a sharp critique of the present educational structure. “This is stressful, this is unfair and this is brutal. The Indian education system is a rejection system, it is not a selection system,” Rahul Gandhi told students. He argued that the system places excessive pressure on young people and often measures success through exclusion rather than opportunity. His criticism extended beyond examination processes to the broader culture that surrounds education in India. “We are causing too much pain, too much stress, too much unhappiness to our future generation. This is not good for the country,” he said, warning that the cumulative effect of relentless competition, uncertainty and repeated controversies is taking a toll on the emotional wellbeing of students. The remarks resonated

In Kota, the Opposition Leader Turns Student Anxiety, Paper Leaks and Educational Insecurity Into a National Political Question

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

For years, India’s students have carried a burden that rarely finds sustained political expression. They prepare for examinations that determine careers, spend enormous sums on coaching, compete for limited seats and place their futures in systems that are expected to be fair and transparent. When those systems come under question, the impact is felt far beyond classrooms. Launching his “CHHATRON KI GOONJ” campaign from Kota, Rahul Gandhi has attempted to place the concerns of students at the centre of the national political debate. The campaign is as much about education as it is about trust, accountability and the future of India’s youth.

because they touched upon concerns that have become increasingly visible across India. Repeated allegations of paper leaks, controversies surrounding entrance examinations and continuing debates about institutional accountability have generated widespread public discussion.

An Extortion Machine or a Pathway to Opportunity?

Rahul Gandhi sought to connect these concerns with the economics of education itself. Describing the system as “an extortion machine”, he argued that families are spending enormous amounts of money in pursuit of educational success. “We want a system that allows you to dream big,” he said, contrasting the present environment with what he described as the need for a more supportive and accessible educational framework. His intervention also carried a direct political demand. He renewed calls for accountability over examination controversies and reiterated his demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The Congress leader argued that repeated irregularities require more than administrative explanations and that public confidence can only be restored through visible corrective measures.

The BJP Counters With Its Own Charges

The BJP responded swiftly and forcefully. Party leaders accused Rahul Gandhi of attempting to politicise a sensitive issue at a time when students were preparing for an important re-examination. They argued that such interventions risk increasing anxiety among candidates and transforming a serious educational matter into a political contest. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra accused Rahul Gandhi of “playing politics with students’ future” and urged him to act responsibly in view of the pressure already faced by students. The exchange highlights a larger political reality. Education has traditionally occupied an important place in public policy discussions, but it has rarely emerged as a sustained mass political issue capable of shaping national narratives. That may now be changing. The scale of competitive examinations, the financial commitment demanded of families and the recurring controversies surrounding recruitment and entrance tests have transformed education into an issue with direct political implications.

The Real Battle Is Over Trust

The deeper significance of “Chhatron Ki Goonj” lies in the question it raises about public trust. Students are willing to accept

competition. They are willing to work hard and make sacrifices. What they expect in return is confidence that the rules are fair, the process is transparent and merit will ultimately prevail. Whenever those assumptions come under doubt, frustration grows rapidly. Rahul Gandhi’s campaign seeks to channel that frustration into a broader political conversation. Whether it succeeds will

depend on its ability to sustain momentum beyond a single rally and beyond the immediate controversy surrounding examinations. Yet, the importance of the issue itself is

beyond dispute. India’s demographic strength rests upon its young population. The aspirations of that generation are inseparable from the quality and credibility of the systems through which educational opportunities are distributed. Any debate about India’s future must, therefore, include a debate about the confidence students place in those systems. Political parties will continue to disagree over motives, timing and strategy. Those debates are inevitable in a democracy. The larger issue, however, cannot be dismissed as routine political sparring. When students begin questioning the fairness of examinations, when families begin worrying about the credibility of recruitment systems and

when educational opportunity becomes entangled with uncertainty, the issue ceases to be merely administrative. It becomes national.

Rahul Gandhi has chosen to make that concern a political campaign. The BJP has chosen to challenge both his intentions and his methods. The final verdict will not be delivered by politicians. It will be delivered by the millions of students whose futures depend on whether India’s educational institutions can inspire confidence, ensure fairness and justify the trust placed in them by an entire generation.

Why Kota Has Become the Symbol of India’s Education Debate

Few cities carry the emotional weight that Kota does. Every year, thousands of students arrive with the hope of securing admission to prestigious institutions. Families invest their savings, students commit years of preparation and entire futures are linked to examination outcomes. As a result, Kota has become more than a coaching centre. It has become a mirror reflecting India’s educational ambitions, pressures and anxieties. Any political campaign launched from Kota is therefore speaking not merely to one city but to millions of students and parents across the country.



SEBI warns investors against trading unlisted securities on unauthorised online platforms

MUMBAI, JUNE 17

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday issued a fresh caution to investors against buying, selling or transacting in unlisted securities of public limited companies through unauthorised electronic platforms and websites. In a statement, the market regulator warned that several such platforms continue to facilitate trading in unlisted stocks despite previous advisories issued by SEBI. The regulator urged investors to exercise caution and avoid sharing sensitive personal information on these platforms, which are neither authorised nor recognised by SEBI. "Investors are once again cautioned about the risks in conducting any transactions/trading on such electronic platforms or sharing any sensitive personal details on the same as these platforms are neither authorised nor recognised by SEBI," the regulator said. The market regulator noted that it had earlier issued similar warnings in December 2024 and August 2016. It has similarly warned against unregistered on-line platforms facilitating transactions in unlisted debt securities. The market regulator advised investors to verify the regulatory status of any platform before carrying out securities-related transactions and to use only authorised and regulated market infrastructure institutions for trading and investment activities.



India records 33 pc of Asia's transactional risk insurance claim notifications

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

India accounted for one-third of all transactional risk insurance claims notifications in Asia during 2025, underscoring the growing adoption of such insurance solutions amid rising deal activity and increasing sophistication in the country's mergers and acquisitions (M&A) market, according to a report released on Wednesday. The report by Marsh -- a global insurance broker and risk advisor -- showed that India contributed 33 per cent of all transactional risk insurance claims notifications in Asia during the year. Claims activity across Asia-Pacific witnessed a sharp rise, with notifications increasing 76 per cent year-on-year in 2025, it said. Marsh clients in the region received more than \$80 million in claims payments during the year, the highest annual payout recorded for Asia. Growing deal sizes, rising cross-border transactions, increased regulatory scrutiny and more sophisticated deal structures are driving the adoption of transactional risk insurance among private equity firms and corporate acquirers in India. Sanjay Kedia, CEO and President of Marsh India, said transactional risk insurance is increasingly being viewed as a strategic tool to manage complexity, mitigate downside risks and enhance deal certainty as India's deal landscape expands.



Medicover Hospitals Successfully Performs Highly Complex Living Donor Liver Transplant

HYDERABAD, 17 JUNE, 2026

Medicover Hospitals has successfully performed a highly complex Living Donor Liver Transplant on a 50-year-old patient, Mr. Golla Shankar from BHEL, Hyderabad, giving him a renewed chance at life after battling end-stage liver disease amid extraordinary physical challenges. For most of his life, Mr. Shankar lived with a severe neuromuscular condition that caused significant deformities in all four limbs and severely restricted his mobility. Simple daily activities such as standing, walking, changing positions, and performing routine tasks required tremendous effort and assistance. Despite these challenges, he faced life with remarkable resilience and determination. When he developed end-stage liver disease, his condition became critical. He presented with severe jaundice, massive ascites, portal hypertension, esophageal varices, and recur-



rent hepatic hydrothorax. Without a liver transplant, his chances of survival were extremely limited. From the outset, the case presented unique medical and surgical challenges. Mr. Shankar's longstanding physical deformities made routine procedures, including venous access and surgical positioning, exceptionally difficult. Every aspect of his care required meticulous planning and seamless coordination among transplant surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensivists, nursing staff, physiotherapists, rehabilitation specialists, and support teams. Adding to the complexity, both the donor and recipient had variations in their vascular and biliary anatomy. After extensive evaluation and detailed planning, the transplant team proceeded with a technically demanding left-lobe Living Donor Liver Transplant, carefully balancing donor safety with the recipient's need for an adequate liver graft. The surgery was successfully completed; however, the postoperative course remained challenging. Mr. Shankar experienced persistent jaundice, episodes of bleeding, concerns of infection, and temporary vascular complications. Through continuous monitoring, advanced imaging, intensive care support, and

timely interventions, the multidisciplinary team successfully managed these complications. What truly set this case apart was the patient's extraordinary determination. Despite years of physical disability and the demanding recovery process, he remained optimistic, cooperative, and committed throughout his treatment journey. His courage and positive attitude became a source of inspiration for everyone involved in his care. Today, three years after the transplant, Mr. Shankar continues to lead a fulfilling and productive life. His transplanted liver is functioning well, he remains under regular follow-up care, and he has returned to the routines and relationships that matter most to him. "This case exemplifies the power of advanced transplant medicine, multidisciplinary teamwork, and the resilience of the human spirit," said Dr. Kishore Reddy, Liver Transplant Surgeon, Medicover Hospitals. "Successfully managing such a complex

transplant and witnessing the patient's remarkable recovery has been immensely rewarding for our entire team." Dr. Srikanth, Transplant Anesthesiologist, added, "The unique physical and anatomical challenges required extensive planning and coordination at every stage. The successful outcome reflects the expertise and dedication of the entire transplant team." This remarkable success underscores the expertise of Medicover Hospitals' Liver Transplant Program in handling some of the most complex transplant cases. More importantly, it demonstrates how cutting-edge medical care, collaborative teamwork, and an indomitable spirit can come together to achieve extraordinary outcomes. For the transplant team, Mr. Shankar's journey remains one of the most memorable examples of perseverance overcoming adversity—a powerful reminder that even in the most challenging circumstances, hope and healing are possible.

IT, PSU bank stocks lead gains as markets extend rally on falling oil prices

Benchmark indices extended their winning streak to a fourth consecutive session on Wednesday, supported by lower crude oil prices, a stronger rupee and improving investor sentiment following the US-Iran peace agreement.



The S&P BSE Sensex rose 347.14 points, or 0.45%, to settle at 77,155.62, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 96.55 points, or 0.40%, to close at 24,085.70. With Wednesday's advance, the Sensex has gained 4.5% and the Nifty about 4% over the last four trading sessions, marking their longest winning streak in two months. The market rally continued as crude oil prices remained near multi-month lows after the preliminary peace agreement between the United States and Iran reduced fears of supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz. Brent

crude traded near \$79 a barrel, while oil prices remained close to their lowest levels in nearly three months. Lower oil prices are a significant positive for India as they ease inflationary pressures, improve the current account balance and support the rupee. The positive global backdrop also helped sentiment, with broader Asian markets ending about 0.3% higher. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Consumer Durables emerged as the top performer, rising 2.11%, fol-

lowed by Nifty PSU Bank, which gained 1.75%, Nifty IT, up 0.85%, and Nifty Financial Services ex-Bank, which advanced 0.90%. Metal stocks also rebounded, with the Nifty Metal index rising 1.01%, while Nifty FMCG gained 0.68%. However, some sectors witnessed profit booking. Nifty Auto declined 0.62%, Nifty Realty slipped 0.43%, while Nifty Pharma ended 0.05% lower. Among Sensex stocks, Trent was the biggest gainer, surging 7.06%. BEL climbed

3.06%, Eternal gained 1.95%, Tata Steel rose 1.53%, Infosys added 1.29%, while Titan gained 1.09%. Other major gainers included Bharti Airtel, TCS, Sun Pharma, SBI and Tech Mahindra. On the losing side, Bajaj Finserv fell 1.16%, Axis Bank declined 1.09%, Kotak Mahindra Bank slipped 0.88%, M&M lost 0.51%, Maruti dropped 0.45%, while Asian Paints declined 0.43%. The broader market continued to outperform frontline indices. The Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 0.79%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 gained 0.52% and Nifty Midcap 50 added 0.30%. Meanwhile, India VIX, the market's fear gauge, declined 1.30% to 13.19, indicating easing volatility and improving risk appetite. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said the rally was supported by softer bond

yields, a firmer rupee and easing geopolitical concerns. "Continued weakness in crude oil prices, driven by easing geopolitical tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, has kept investor sentiment buoyant. Gains were led by IT and metals on expectations of a stable US rate cycle and improving global demand, while PSU banks gained on mark-to-market gains and capital relief," he said. However, Nair noted that concerns over delayed monsoon progress and low reservoir levels triggered some intraday profit booking, although late-session short covering helped markets close with gains. Investors will now closely watch the US Federal Reserve's policy decision and commentary for cues on future interest rates, along with the progress of the monsoon and foreign investor activity.

CtrlS Secures ₹7,000 Crore Commitment from CPP Investments

- Scale Datacenter Infrastructure in India
- At a Pre-Money Valuation of ₹44,914 Crore (C\$6.6 Billion)
- INR 3,000 Crore (C\$441 Million) of the Proceeds to Be Used to Form a Joint Venture

HYDERABAD, JUNE 17:

CtrlS Datacenters Ltd. today announced a strategic partnership with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments). CPP Investments will invest up to INR 7,000 crore (C\$1 billion) to help fund CtrlS' upcoming growth in India's fast-growing digital infrastructure sector. As part of the partnership, CPP Investments will invest INR 4,000 crore (C\$588 million) to acquire an 8.2% stake in CtrlS, signalling confidence in the company's market leadership, operational excellence, and long-term growth plans. In addition, CPP Investments and CtrlS will form a joint venture to develop hyperscale datacenter campuses across India. CPP Investments has committed up to INR 3,000



crore (C\$441million) to the joint venture and will hold 48% equityownership, with CtrlS owning 52%. The partnership aims to speed up the development of next-generation datacenter infrastructure to meet rising demand from hyperscalers, cloud services, AI applications, and India's rapidly expanding digital economy. Commenting on the partnership, Sridhar Pinnappureddy, Founder & CEO, CtrlS Datacenters, said, "India's AI moment is not on the horizon, it is already here. The demand signals from hyperscalers, cloud service providers, and enterprises are clear and unmistakable. Over the years, CtrlS has focused on reliability, sustainability, and long-term growth. Our partnership with CPP Investments reinforces these val-

ues. Together, we are not merely expanding capacity but also establishing the benchmark for AI-ready infrastructure in one of the world's most significant digital markets." Sridhar added, "This investment reflects the confidence global investors have in CtrlS' leadership position, execution capabilities, and the significant opportunity ahead." "As one of the world's fastest growing digital markets, India represents an important pillar of our global datacenter strategy," said Max Biagosch, Senior Managing Director and Global Head of Real Assets at CPP Investments. "Demand for datacenter infrastructure in India continues to accelerate, driven by hyperscale expansion, strong domestic cloud growth and emerging AI-led demand. This partnership with CtrlS positions us to



scale high-quality infrastructure and deliver long-term value for CPP contributors and beneficiaries." Biagosch added, "This investment builds on more than a decade of investing in India and the strength of our local platform. With an established presence on the ground, we continue to focus on investing alongside high-quality partners such as CtrlS and executing with discipline over the long term." Since making its first direct investment in 2017, CPP Investments has actively invested in the global datacenter sector, building a diversified portfolio of datacenter assets and joint ventures across major international hubs, including Asia Pacific. CPP Investments made its first investment in India in 2009 and opened its Mumbai office in 2015. As of

March 31, 2026, CPP Investments held over INR 1,850 billion (C\$27 billion) in net assets in India, making it one of the country's largest international institutional investors. The partnership reinforces CtrlS' leadership in India's digital infrastructure sector and supports its near-term strategy of building sustainable, world-class datacenter campuses across India. As AI and cloud adoption grow, CtrlS is committed to providing scalable, resilient, and future-ready infrastructure for India's next phase of growth. Boilerplate: About CtrlS Datacenters: CtrlS Datacenters Ltd., founded in 2007, operates 19 datacenters across nine key markets in India with over 370 MW of capacity and a 4.4 GW of projects at various stages of execution. The company is developing the next generation of AI-ready and hyperscale infrastructure to support India's rapidly growing digital economy while continuing to lead the adoption of renewable energy and sustainable datacenter practices. CtrlS has also announced plans to expand into international markets across the Middle East and Southeast Asia, with Thailand as its first overseas market.



IDBI Bank surges 19%: What's driving the sudden buying frenzy?

IDBI Bank shares surged nearly 19% as renewed privatisation hopes and heavy trading lifted the stock. The rally reflects investor focus on the stalled stake sale, block deals and improving fundamentals.

IDBI Bank shares surged nearly 19% on Wednesday, extending their gains to about 27% over the last four trading sessions, as investors rushed into the stock amid renewed hopes around the lender's long-pending privatisation and heavy trading activity. The stock climbed as high as Rs 91.88 on the NSE during the session, even though it remains down around 13% so far in 2026. So what exactly is driving the sudden rally?

PRIVATISATION HOPES FUELS RALLY

The biggest trigger appears to be fresh reports that the Centre is exploring ways to revive the stalled privatisation of IDBI Bank. Last month, The Economic Times reported that the government is examining options to move forward with the sale process, including whether bids submitted by Prem Watsa-led Fairfax Financial Holdings and Emirates NBD could still be considered despite reportedly falling short of the reserve price. According to the report, the bids remain "alive" and the government is studying legal provisions that could allow offers below the reserve price to be accepted. A senior government official quoted in the report said the IDBI Bank stake sale was never "scrapped", even after financial bids came in below

expectations. For investors, any sign that the privatisation process is moving forward is seen as a positive development.

BLOCK DEALS TRIGGERED BUYING INTEREST

The rally was accompanied by unusually high trading activity. Nearly 20.81 crore shares worth more than Rs 1,825 crore changed hands during the session. ET Now also reported that around 82 lakh shares were traded through six block deals. While the identities of the buyers and sellers could not be independently verified, such large transactions often attract market attention and can trigger additional buying interest.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO COMPLETE THE SALE

Another factor supporting sentiment is the perception that the government remains committed to completing the transaction. According to the report, a decision on the next steps could be taken soon as the Centre looks for ways to boost non-tax revenues. Investors appear to be betting that the government will find a way to move the process ahead rather than abandon one of India's most closely watched banking privatisation plans.

FUNDAMENTALS HAVE ALSO IMPROVED

Apart from the stake-sale story, IDBI Bank's recent financial performance has shown some positive signs. For the March quarter, the bank reported a net profit of Rs 1,943.2 crore, down 5.3% year-on-year. However, net interest income rose 17% to Rs 3,851.5 crore from Rs 3,290 crore a year earlier.



RBI Infuses Rs 72,300 Crore Through VRR Auctions

MUMBAI, JUNE 17

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday infused Rs 72,300 crore of transient liquidity into the banking system through two Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions after surplus liquidity in the system declined sharply following advance tax-related outflows. The central bank injected Rs 50,016 crore through a two-day VRR auction at a cut-off rate of 5.26 per cent. It further infused Rs 22,284 crore through another two-day VRR auction conducted on the same day. Variable Rate Repo auctions are one of the RBI's key liquidity management tools and are used to address temporary mismatches in liquidity conditions within the banking system. The move comes as surplus liquidity in the banking system narrowed significantly. According to RBI data, liquidity surplus stood at around Rs 23,881.21 crore as of June 16, down sharply from approximately Rs 1.51 lakh crore recorded on June

15. Market experts attributed the decline in liquidity largely to advance tax payments, which typically lead to a temporary withdrawal of funds from the banking system. They believe the RBI may continue to conduct similar operations in the coming days as additional outflows are expected due to Goods and Services Tax (GST) payments. The RBI's intervention also comes amid signs of stress in short-term money markets. In recent days, overnight borrowing rates have been trading above the policy repo rate as liquidity conditions tightened. On Wednesday, the weighted average call money rate was trading at 5.37 per cent, about 12 basis points higher than the RBI's repo rate. Meanwhile, the Tri-Party Repo (TREPS) rate stood at 5.21 per cent. The liquidity infusion is expected to help ease short-term funding pressures and ensure smoother transmission of monetary policy by keeping overnight rates aligned with the central bank's policy corridor.



Asteroid 152637 Set for Closest Earth Flyby in 400 Years

Asteroid 152637 (1997 NC1) will make a rare and safe close approach to Earth on June 27, passing within 2.56 million kilometers and giving scientists a unique chance to study the space rock in detail.

A Rare Visitor in Earth's Neighborhood

Near-Earth asteroids regularly pass through the inner solar system, but only a small number come close enough to provide valuable scientific opportunities. Asteroid 152637 (1997 NC1) belongs to this select category. Discovered in 1997 through NASA's Near-Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) program, the asteroid has been closely monitored for nearly three decades. Continuous observations have enabled astronomers to calculate its orbit with high precision and confirm that it does not pose any threat to Earth for the foreseeable future. The asteroid is classified as a "potentially hazardous asteroid" because of its size and its orbit, which brings it relatively close to Earth. However, the term can often sound more alarming than it actually is. In astronomical terminology, an asteroid receives this designation simply because it passes within a specified distance of Earth and is large enough that an impact could cause significant damage if one were ever to occur. Fortunately, current calculations show no possibility of a collision during this flyby or in any future encounter.

A massive asteroid classified as potentially hazardous is preparing for an exceptionally close encounter with Earth later this month, creating one of the most significant asteroid flybys of the decade. Known as Asteroid 152637 (1997 NC1), the space rock will pass safely by our planet on June 27, 2026, at a distance that astronomers consider remarkably close in cosmic terms. Although the asteroid poses absolutely no danger to Earth, the event has attracted considerable attention from scientists worldwide because it represents the closest approach of this object in more than four centuries. The flyby will offer researchers a rare opportunity to study the asteroid in unprecedented detail and may even allow amateur skywatchers to observe it through small telescopes or binoculars.

Understanding the Asteroid's Orbit
Asteroid 152637 belongs to a group known as Aten asteroids. These objects spend most of their time orbiting the Sun inside Earth's orbit but periodically cross our planet's path around the solar system. The asteroid's orbit also extends beyond Earth's path and occasionally reaches closer to Venus. This orbital pattern naturally creates repeated opportunities for close approaches to Earth over long periods of time. On June 27, 2026, the asteroid will pass at a distance of approximately 0.01715 astronomical units (AU). An astronomical unit is the average distance between Earth and the Sun, about 150 million kilometers (93 million miles). While 0.01715 AU may sound like a comfortable distance, it is remarkably close by astronomical standards.

How Close Will It Really Be?
At its nearest point, Asteroid 152637 will pass roughly 2.56 million kilometers (1.59 million miles) from Earth. To put this into perspective, the Moon orbits Earth at an average distance of about 384,400 kilometers. This means the asteroid will come within approximately 6.5 times the Earth-Moon distance. Although that might sound uncomfortably close, astronomers emphasize that the asteroid will remain at a completely safe distance throughout the encounter. Scientists describe the event as a "near miss" rather than a "close call." There is no possibility of impact, and Earth will experience no effects from the flyby.

What makes the event remarkable is its rarity. According to orbital reconstructions extending back to around the year 1600, this will be the asteroid's closest known approach to Earth in more than 400 years. The asteroid is predicted to come slightly closer on June 28, 2133, when it will pass at approximately 0.01699 AU. However, that future encounter remains more than a century away.

Why Scientists Are Excited
For astronomers, close flybys like this represent invaluable research opportunities. Normally, asteroids are observed

from tens or hundreds of millions of kilometers away, making detailed measurements difficult. When an object approaches Earth relatively closely, scientists can collect much higher-quality data regarding its size, shape, rotation, composition, and surface characteristics. NASA researchers consider the 2026 encounter particularly important because many of the asteroid's physical properties remain uncertain despite years of observation. One of the biggest unanswered questions concerns its true size.

The Challenge of Measuring Asteroid Size
Determining the size of an asteroid is not as straightforward as it may seem. Most asteroids are too small and distant to appear as anything more than bright points of light in telescopes. Scientists must therefore estimate their dimensions indirectly by measuring their brightness. However, brightness alone can be misleading because it depends heavily on an object's albedo, or reflectivity. A highly reflective asteroid can appear very bright despite being relatively small, while a much larger asteroid with a dark surface may appear faint. As a result, two asteroids of vastly different sizes can look nearly identical when viewed from Earth. This uncertainty has complicated efforts to determine the true dimensions of Asteroid 152637.

How Large Is Asteroid 152637?
Current estimates suggest that the asteroid is substantial in size. NASA lists its absolute magnitude at 17.9, a measurement used to estimate an asteroid's brightness. Based on this value, scientists calculate a likely diameter of approximately 900 meters (2,953 feet). However, the actual size could vary significantly depending on the asteroid's reflectivity.

Some previous studies suggest the asteroid may belong to the relatively dark B-type class of asteroids. If that classification proves correct, its diameter could be closer to 1.5 kilometers (0.93 miles).

NASA's Radar Investigation
To resolve these uncertainties, NASA plans to observe the asteroid using the Goldstone Solar System Radar (GSSR), one of the world's most powerful planetary radar systems. Unlike traditional telescopes, radar astronomy actively illuminates an object by transmitting radio signals toward it and analyzing the reflected echoes.

This approach allows scientists to gather remarkably detailed information about an asteroid's characteristics. Radar observations can reveal an object's exact position, rotational speed, shape, surface features, and even clues about its composition. The technique often produces measurements that are far more accurate than those obtained through conventional optical observations. Radar astronomer Marina Brozovic of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory explains that radar effectively allows scientists to study an asteroid using a signal they create themselves rather than relying solely on reflected sunlight. The upcoming observations are expected to dramatically improve understanding of Asteroid 152637 and help refine future orbital predictions.

A Rare Scientific Opportunity
Large asteroids rarely pass this close to Earth. NASA notes that encounters involving objects of this size and brightness occur only about once every ten years. That rarity makes the 2026 flyby especially valuable from a scientific standpoint. The last asteroid with an even

brighter absolute magnitude—indicating it was likely larger—that passed closer to Earth was Asteroid 1994 PC1. That object approached within approximately 5.2 lunar distances in January 2022. Because opportunities like these are so uncommon, astronomers around the world are preparing extensive observation campaigns to collect as much information as possible during the brief encounter.

Even though another relatively close pass by Asteroid 152637 is expected in 2088, the 2026 flyby remains one of the best opportunities this century to study the object.

Can the Public See It?
The answer is yes—under the right conditions.

As the asteroid approaches Earth, it is expected to brighten to approximately magnitude 10. While this is far too dim to see with the naked eye, it places the object within reach of many amateur telescopes. Observers equipped with modest backyard telescopes should be able to track the asteroid across the night sky. Under exceptionally favorable

conditions, experienced skywatchers using quality binoculars may also be able to spot it. Visibility may be somewhat affected by moonlight, which can wash out faint celestial objects. Observers in the Northern Hemisphere are expected to enjoy the best views during the asteroid's approach, while those in the Southern Hemisphere

may have better viewing opportunities after it passes Earth and begins moving away.

Watching the Event Online
For people without telescopes, the event will still be accessible. The Virtual Telescope Project plans to livestream the asteroid's close approach on June 26 and June 27. Both broadcasts are scheduled to begin at 23:00 UTC, allowing viewers around the world to follow the flyby in real time. These livestreams will provide an opportunity to witness one of the most notable asteroid encounters of the decade from the comfort of home.

A Spectacular but Safe Encounter
Asteroid 152637 (1997 NC1) may carry the label "potentially hazardous," but scientists stress that it poses no threat to Earth. Instead, its upcoming flyby represents a rare scientific opportunity and a fascinating reminder of Earth's place within a dynamic solar system filled with countless wandering objects. As the asteroid makes its closest known approach in more than 400 years, astronomers will gather valuable data that could answer longstanding questions about its size, composition, and physical structure. At the same time, amateur observers will have a chance to witness a celestial visitor that will not come this close again for generations. For scientists and skywatchers alike, the 2026 flyby promises to be an extraordinary event—one that combines cutting-edge research, public engagement, and the enduring wonder of space exploration.





SPORTS

CAB stresses legal framework in complaint handling



KOLKATA: The office-bearers of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) have written a letter to Indranil Khan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Department of Youth Services & Sports, reaffirming the association's systemic integrity, robust grievance redressal mechanism, and judicial checks and balances. In the "formal communication" put forth in response to an open letter posted on his Facebook page by former CAB president Avishek Dalmiya, raising 'generalised apprehensions' over alleged corruption, systemic rot, and selection integrity in the organisation. The incumbent managing committee led by former India captain Sourav Ganguly, made its position clear on these allegations by asserting that there are processes in place in The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) to ensure complianc

Bengal T20 League

Bowlers help Purulia overcome Malda, seal semis spot



KOLKATA: Novus Royals Purulia held their nerve in yet another last-over thriller in the Bengal T20 League Season 3 men's competition, edging Sobisco Smashers Malda by eight runs at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday to seal a place in the semifinals. With the victory, Purulia became the third team after Sobisco Smashers Malda, and Shrachi Rarh Tigers to qualify for the last four. Batting first, Purulia posted 139/8 in 20 overs, with Yuvraj Deepak Keshwani top-scoring with 40 off 28 balls. Ankur Paul and Priyam Sarkar also chipped in with useful contributions to help Purulia post a competitive total. For Malda, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Ramesh Prasad, and Prayas Ray Barman bagged two wickets each.

Smriti, Shafali, Charani help India thrash Netherlands by 95 runs

LEEDS

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma struck commanding half-centuries before Sree Charani claimed a four-wicket haul to power India to a comprehensive 95-run victory over the Netherlands in their 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup clash at Headingley in Leeds on Wednesday.

Pushed into batting first under overcast skies, Smriti and Shafali cashed in on wayward new-ball bowling to share a 115-run stand before Shafali departed for 55 off 38 balls, studded with ten boundaries. Smriti, in imperious touch, top-scored with 74 off 47 balls, her consecutive fifty laced with 11 fours and a six.

The finishing burst came from Richa Ghosh (20 not out) and Deepti Sharma (10 not out), who combined clean hitting with sharp placement to take India to their highest score in the competition's history. As India hit their first-ever 200-plus total in ICC Women's T20 World Cup history, the Netherlands had their moments but squandered the chances with dropped catches and nervy bowling.

The bowlers, led by Charani's four-for and Shafali Verma's 3-20, ensured it was never threatened as they bowled out the Netherlands for 114 in 17.3 overs. With the win, India are now on top of the Group A table, with a net run rate of 3.98, which is 0.10 more than that of Australia.

India will also hope that nothing is too serious with off-spin all-rounder Shreyanka Patil, who was stretched after off twisting her right ankle while fielding off her own bowling. The sight of her being taken off the field on a stretcher was a dampener amid India's dominant win.

India's innings began with Shafali opening her bat face late to steer Iris Zwilling for four, before rocking back to cut Heather Siegers through extra cover for another boundary. With the Netherlands struggling with lines, Smriti joined the boundary-hitting act with crisp drives, before Shafali pulled and lofted Isabel van der Woning for three boundaries.



Smriti then lofted Iris over extra cover and punched through the same region to bring up India's joint-fastest team fifty in Women's T20 World Cup history - achieved inside 5.1 overs. Myrthe van den Raad's nervy debut overcompounded the Netherlands' woes, as she conceded six wides and India surged to 59/0 by the end of the powerplay.

The momentum only grew from there as a measured Shafali lofted and sliced Isabel for boundaries, before hoicking and sweeping Caroline de Lange to her maiden T20 World Cup fifty off 34 balls in the 11th over. Smriti followed it up with back-to-back fifties of her own - this one coming in 36 balls by carving Heather for a six over long-off after dancing down the ground to hit a boundary.

Even after Shafali's dismissal for 55, after holing out to long-on off Heather, Jemimah Rodrigues arrived with crisp timing - driving through extra cover and pulling confidently for her boundaries. Smriti showcased her impeccable timing and proper placement of shots while hitting Silver Siegers for four boundaries in the 15th over.

She first advanced down the pitch to carve one over extra cover, then again came out to loft straight back over the bowler's head. Staying deep in the crease, Smriti then powered a pull

square of the wicket before finishing the 18-run over with an emphatic slog-sweep through deep mid-wicket.

After Smriti brought out a fantastic lofted straight drive off Caroline, Netherlands clawed back - Smriti toe-ended a loft to mid-off, while Jemimah gave an edge behind while trying to play a pre-mediated scoop off Myrthe, and Yastika Bhatia was stumped after being foxed by a googly from the leg-spinner.

Richa lit up the 18th over with a flat six over the bowler's head and a boundary slapped past sweeper cover, while Harmanpreet Kaur sliced and smashed to get two fours. After Harmanpreet hit to mid-off against Iris, Deepti flicked a full ball over fine leg for six to bring up India's 200 and pulled the last ball for four, as 19 runs came off the final over.

Defending a massive 209, India had to bide their time for a breakthrough as Heather and Phebe Moleknboer hit six boundaries between themselves. They finally got a breakthrough via Nandni Sharma, who had Heather chipping to extra cover for 21.

Deepti followed up by taking out Phebe, who sliced to mid-off, while Shafali castled Sterre Kalis to leave the Netherlands reeling at 77/3. Skipper Babette de Leede offered resistance with 28, but her stumping off Nandni triggered a collapse.

India crush Afghanistan by 170 runs to take unassailable 2-0 lead

LUCKNOW

India clinched the three-match ODI series with an unassailable 2-0 lead after defeating Afghanistan by 170 runs in the second match at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Wednesday. The hosts combined a batting masterclass led by captain Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan with a disciplined bowling display to overpower Afghanistan despite a spirited fight from Rahmat Shah.

Chasing 403, Afghanistan needed a flying start but never truly threatened the target. India's pace attack struck regularly, preventing the visitors from building meaningful partnerships. Arshdeep Singh led the charge with three wickets, while debutant Prince Yadav claimed his maiden ODI wicket and Gurnoor Brar impressed with three wickets of his own.

Amid the collapse around him, Rahmat Shah stood tall with a determined innings of 79 from 89 deliveries. Displaying excellent technique and resilience, he battled through



cramps and found regular boundaries to keep Afghanistan's hopes alive, albeit faintly. Rashid Khan provided some entertainment with a quickfire cameo, but the required rate continued to climb beyond reach.

The end came in the 45th over when Brar and Prince Yadav cleaned up the tail. Rahmat's valiant resistance was finally ended when he pulled Prince Yadav to fine leg, where Brar completed an excellent catch. Afghanistan were bowled out for 232 in 44.3 overs, handing India a compre-

hensive 170-run victory. The result underlined India's dominance throughout the contest. Gill's captain's knock and Kishan's explosive century laid the platform for a massive total, while the bowlers completed the job clinically to secure the series with a game to spare. Earlier in the day, India made a steady start but were briefly checked by Afghanistan's disciplined new-ball bowling. The visitors even opened with off-spinner AM Ghazanfar in a surprise move, and Yashasvi Jaiswal struggled to find fluency before falling early.

Boxing World Cup: Nikhil, Deepak, Saneh Progress as India continue campaign in China

NEW DELHI

Indian boxers Nikhil, Deepak, and Saneh emerged victorious on the third day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) being played at the Guiyang Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium in the city of Guiyang in China, advancing to the next round of their respective weight categories.

Competing in the men's 55kg category, Nikhil registered a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Brazil's Kely Trindade to move ahead in the competition. Deepak joined him in the next round after producing

an equally dominant display in the men's 70kg division, defeating Japan's Sewon Okazawa, a 2025 World Championships silver medallist, via a 5-0 verdict. In the women's section, Saneh (65kg) also progressed further after securing a hard-fought 4-1 victory over South Korea's Seon Sujin.

Looking ahead to Day 4, two Indian boxers are scheduled to take the ring. Minakshi (51kg) will square off against Poland's Natalia Kuczweska in the women's section, while Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) clashes with Kyrgyzstan's Mirzokhid Imamnazarov. In other preliminary contests on Day

Three, Malsawmtluanga (80kg) went down 1-4 against Jordan's Ashaish Hussein, while Mahi Lama (60kg) bowed out after suffering a 0-5 defeat to Mongolia's Monkhor Namun.

Earlier, Indian boxers Jyoti, Prachi, and Nikhil emerged victorious on the second day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) in China, advancing to the next round of their respective weight categories. Competing in the women's 57kg category, Prachi registered a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over the USA's Deborah Grant to move ahead in the competition.

Manpreet Singh rewrites Indian hockey history, becomes nation's most-capped player

NEW DELHI

As Indian hockey celebrates 100 years of its rich legacy, midfield general Manpreet Singh has achieved a grand feat, etching his name into the record books by becoming the country's most-capped hockey player, appearing in his 413th match.

Manpreet surpassed Dilip Tirkey, who is also presently the Hockey India President, and held the record until now with 412 international appearances in his decorated career. Manpreet surpassed that mark during India's FIH Hockey Pro League 2025/26 clash against Germany in Rotterdam on Wednesday.

In recognition of the monumental achievement, Hockey India congratulated Manpreet and also announced a cash reward of ₹10 lakh



for the star playmaker. For more than a decade and a half, Manpreet has been the heartbeat of Indian hockey -- the relentless engine in midfield, the leader in moments of pressure, and the embodiment of consistency at the highest level. Since making his senior debut as a fearless 19-year-old in 2011, he has been at the centre of India's resurgence on the world stage, helping shape one of the most successful

eras in the country's modern hockey history. Now, with a record that once seemed untouchable, Manpreet has cemented his legacy among the greatest players ever to wear the Indian jersey.

The achievement also elevates Manpreet into one of the most exclusive clubs in world hockey. With 413 international appearances, he now sits fifth on the all-time list of men's international caps, behind Belgium's John John Dohmen (481), the Netherlands' Teun de Nooijer (453), Australia's Eddie Ockenden (451), and Great Britain's Barry Middleton (432). While he surpassed Tirkey's mark, Manpreet is also ahead of fellow legends in the 400-caps club -- Pakistan's Waseem Ahmed (410) and the Netherlands' Jeroen Delmee (401).

Sunit Chowrasia shoots course record 64

■ lead by two shots after second round of DP World PGTI NexGen Varanasi

■ Local lad Hemant Yadav too fires 64 to move into second place

VARANASI

Thirty-one-year-old Sunit Chowrasia of Kolkata carded a course record score of six-under 64 to move into a two-shot lead at nine-under 131 after round two of the inaugural INR 25 lakh DP World PGTI NexGen - Varanasi being played at the BLW Greens Golf Course.

Chowrasia (67-64), the current DP World PGTI NexGen Order of Merit leader, arrived in Varanasi riding a wave of momentum after consecutive victories at the Alpha Sports Academy Golf Championship hosted by Patna Golf Club in March and last week's Vijay Kumar Memorial in Lucknow. The Kolkata golfer is now just one round away from completing a hat-trick of victories on the DP World PGTI NexGen.

Twenty-eight-year-old Hemant Yadav (69-64), an employee of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) and playing on his home course, matched Chowrasia's newly established course record with a brilliant six-under 64. The Varanasi golfer climbed from tied sixth overnight to sole second at seven-under 133, narrowing the gap to just two shots heading into the final round.

Starting from the par-5 ninth in the shotgun format, Sunit Chowrasia made an early birdie before catching fire with four birdies in a five-hole stretch from the 14th through the 18th. Another gain on the par-4 fourth helped him sign for a new course record of six-under 64, also the joint-lowest round of the tournament, as he moved clear of overnight co-leaders Mukem Ali of Mathura and Dipankar Kaushal of Noida.

"It feels great. Shooting six-under is always satisfying, and I'm pleased with the way I played today. To be back at the top of the leaderboard heading into the final round is a good position to be in," said Chowrasia.

"A lot of the work I've been putting in, both on and off the course, is starting to pay off. The key now is not to change anything. I'll stick to the same process and approach that has worked well for me over the last few weeks."

Asked about the prospect of a third straight title, he said, "Of course, it would be special, but the focus is on tomorrow's round. I'll try to play my game, stay patient and think about celebrating only



after the job is done."

Chowrasia credited his driving and putting for his strong showing. "My driving has been the biggest strength this week. I've been putting the ball in the right positions off the tee, which has made the course much easier to play. My putting has also been solid, especially from the 10 to 15-foot range, and that's helped me convert chances at important moments."

Varanasi-based professional Hemant Yadav, who started from the par-5 18th in the shotgun format, carded seven birdies against a lone bogey to surge into contention.

Playing in his maiden season on the DP World PGTI after earning his card through Qualifying School in January, Hemant currently stands 12th on the NexGen Order of Merit, having already recorded four cuts and two top-10 finishes this season.

Reflecting on his round, Hemant said, "I felt I could have gone even lower because I missed a few makeable putts, but that's part of the game. A six-under round is always satisfying and gives me confidence going into the final day."

Looking ahead, he added, "The goal tomorrow is simple - continue doing the same things well, stay patient and stick to the game plan."

Overnight co-leader Mukem Ali of Mathura (67-68) stayed in the hunt after a two-under 68 moved him to five-under 135 and third place. Starting from the par-4 first, Mukem raced out of the blocks with an eagle on his opening hole



and added five birdies, but three bogeys and a double bogey prevented him from keeping pace with the leaders.

Delhi's Pawan Verma (68-68) continued his consistent run with a second successive two-under 68 to occupy fourth place at four-under 136.

Kolkata's Souvik Nayak (69-69) was fifth at two-under 138 after a second straight round of one-under 69.

Dipankar Kaushal (67-75), one of the three overnight leaders, slipped to tied ninth at two-over 142 after a difficult second-round 75.

The cut fell at six-over 146, with 36 of the 72 players advancing to the final round. The winner of this year's NexGen Order of Merit will earn an exemption on the main tour (DP World PGTI) for the 2027 season.

The NexGen Tour was launched by the DP World PGTI in 2025 as its development tour with the objective of providing equal playing opportunities to all professional golfers of India and to increase the bench strength in Indian golf which in turn increases competition and the level of golf. The NexGen also aims to take professional golf to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities in India, thus expanding the reach of the sport within the country.

DP World PGTI thanks its Umbrella Partner DP World, a global logistics leader, as well as its Tour Partners Axis Bank, Amul, Campa, Kalyani, Amrutanjana Enerlyte, Golf Plus Monthly and Golf Design India, for contributing to the growth and promotion of professional golf in India.

Kung Fu and Tai Chi Medalists Felicitated During Educational Visit to U.P. Legislative Assembly

LUCKNOW

National and international Kung Fu and Tai Chi players from the Dragon Academy of Martial Arts were felicitated during an educational tour of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, where they interacted with Assembly officials and shared their sporting achievements.

The athletes, including medal winners from the Ninth World Tai Chi Championship held in Taiwan and the 16th National Kung Fu Championship, were honored by the Principal Secretary of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Dubey. He congratulated the players for their outstanding performances at national and international levels and extended his best wishes for their future competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Dubey said that Kung Fu and Tai Chi are not only competitive sports but also powerful disciplines that promote fitness,



self-control, confidence, and mental balance. He added that these martial arts are especially beneficial for women and senior citizens, as they help improve physical health, discipline, and overall well-being.

He further assured the players that every possible support would be extended for the promotion and development of Kung Fu and Tai Chi in the state. Among the international

medalists honored were Nirbhay Raj, who won a gold medal; Khushi Tripathi and Sanskriti Tripathi, who secured silver medals; and Shruti Singh, who won a bronze medal at the World Tai Chi Championship in Taiwan. International players Mrs. Manju Krishna Kumar and Aditi Singh were also present during the felicitation.

The Principal Secretary specially congratulated Khushi

Tripathi for earning her 5th Degree Black Belt Diploma in Tai Chi Martial Arts, calling it a remarkable achievement and wishing her a bright sporting future. Winners of the 16th National Kung Fu Championship were also felicitated with certificates. The honored players included Anandita Mishra, Mansi Thapa, Prithvi Rawat, Shriyanshi, Damini Singh, Tasmin Khan, Nishtha Singh, and Abhinav Verma.

During the visit, the athletes spoke about their journey in martial arts, medals won in various competitions, and their preparations for upcoming tournaments. Mr. Dubey praised their dedication and said that sports play a vital role in shaping the personality of youth, building discipline, and contributing to nation-building.

He encouraged the players to continue striving for excellence and to bring greater glory to Uttar Pradesh and India through their future performances.

Pragya Raises Temperatures In Unbuttoned Shorts

Pragya Jaiswal may not have a movie release this year, but the actress continues to keep her fans engaged with her glamorous social media updates. Known for her stunning fashion choices, Pragya once again grabbed attention with a fresh photoshoot that quickly went viral online. In the latest pictures, the actress is seen sporting a stylish lace bralette paired with a light blue oversized shirt. However, it is her white denim shorts that have become the talking point among fans. The casually unbuttoned look adds a bold edge to the outfit while maintaining a trendy and effortless vibe.

Posing by a sunlit window, Pragya exudes confidence and charm with every frame. Her natural makeup, soft hairstyle, and relaxed styling perfectly complement the look. While film announcements may be awaited, the actress is proving that she doesn't need the big screen to stay in the spotlight.

Shruti Haasan on life lessons: Even tough days are good days for lessons

Actress-singer Shruti Haasan has spoken about the challenges that accompany passion and purpose and added that difficult moments often become valuable lessons, while the good ones serve as reminders to stay the course. Speaking to IANS at the Rugby Premier League Season 2, Shruti, who is the daughter of Kamal Haasan and Sarika, said: "Whether it's rugby or anything you love to do, there will be a lot of challenges. You know, it's always like that. They can be internal, a lot of them external to the world." She added: "But I think when you know you love something, and you really passionately believe that that is what you want to do in your life, and that's your calling, then even the tough days are good days for lessons, and the good days are reminders to keep going." Shruti also shared a string of videos of herself performing at the RPL Season 2, which kicked off on June 16 with a spectacular opening ceremony at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad. The actress was last seen in the action thriller film Coolie and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The film stars Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna Akkineni, Soubin Shahir, Upenendra, Shruti Haasan, Sathyaraj, Rachita Ram with Aamir Khan and Pooja Hegde in special appearances.

In the film, a former coolie union leader investigates the death of his friend, which leads him to a dangerous crime syndicate. She was recently seen in a dance number in the Ram Charan-starrer "Peddi", a sports action drama directed by Buchi Babu Sana. It also stars Janhvi Kapoor, Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyenndu and Boman Irani. Shruti made her acting debut as an adult with the Hindi film Luck in 2009. In 2011, she made her Telugu debut with Anaganaga O Dheerudu and Tamil debut with 7 Aum Arivu. Following a career breakthrough with the Tamil film 3, she established herself with her work in films such as Gabbar Singh, Balupu, Yevadu, Race Gurram, Krack and Waltair Veerayya.

Once Again Sharwa Joins Sankranthi Race

Charming star Sharwa has struck gold with Sankranthi, with all his festival releases turning into massive hits. Following the grand successes of Express Raja and Shatamanam Bhavati, he completed a hat-trick of blockbusters with Nari Nari Naduma Murari. Sharwa will be teaming up with director Sreenu Vaitla for a movie to be mounted by Anil Sunkara of AK Entertainments. The Puja ceremony for the film's office has been held today. The pre-production works are happening at good pace, as the team is planning to begin the regular shoot soon, and release it for Sankranthi, 2027. This isn't a typical entertainer. Sreenu Vaitla has reportedly prepared a unique script tailored for Sharwa, complete with a striking makeover for the character.

Rakul Preet Singh wishes to explore new shades on screen

Having been a part of the industry for so many years, actress Rakul Preet Singh continues to explore new shades of herself as an actor on screen. Rakul believes that every film of hers should teach her something new. Stressing on her desire to constantly challenge herself by taking on different roles, the 'De De Pyaar De' actress shared, "I don't want to be put in a box. Every film should teach me something new and help me discover different shades of myself as an actor." Reflecting on her cinematic journey, Rakul shared that her film choices are now driven by the stories that she thinks would resonate deeply with audiences while also giving her the space to evolve as a performer. Sharing her approach towards movies, Rakul added, "I have realised that the audience connects with honesty. I want to be part of stories that stay with people and make me grow as an actor." The 'Runway 34' actor further revealed what fame means to her. Rakul stated that, for her, work is the top priority. She said, "Stardom is beautiful, but for me, the work matters the most. If people love my films and appreciate my performances, that is the biggest reward." In another update, Rakul shared her views on the impact of social media on actors during an exclusive interaction with IANS. She told IANS, "I think when you are newer and when you just start, you get affected. Luckily, when I started, social media wasn't so prominent. This is only the last five years, and I think people have started having an opinion only through the pandemic. I think the last five, six years, when there was a lot of time and social media was around," she added. "So, I feel that ultimately as an actor, you have to shut that noise and you have to distance yourself from the chatter. And just put your blinders on and work, and then disconnect. Because if you start getting affected by what everyone is saying on social media, then you will be a disaster," the 'Doctor G' actress concluded.