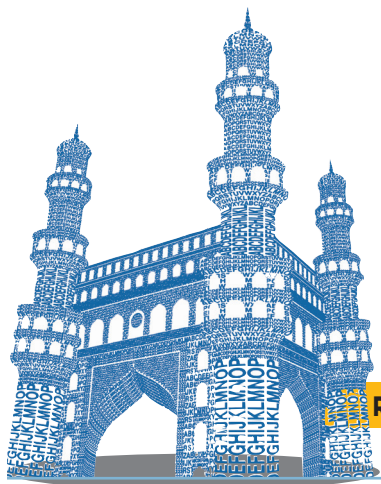




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Positive Signals for Metro Rail

'Productive' discussions held between the State and Union Governments on Metro Rail

Appointed SBICAPS as a Consultant for the valuation of Metro Rail Phase -I and to prepare a report for Metro Phase II

Future course of action plan based on the Consultant's report.

Central government official and State MA&UD Special Chief Secretary appointed as coordinating members to the Consultant

The wdecision taken during a joint meeting between CM Revanth Reddy and Union Ministers

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Discussions held between Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy and Union Ministers on the takeover of Metro Rail phase one and the proposed Metro Rail phase 2 project have become productive.

CM Revanth Reddy met with Union Minister for Urban Affairs Manoharlal Khattar and Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw for two consecutive days in Delhi. The Chief Minister apprised the Union Ministers of the hurdles facing the takeover of Metro Rail phase one and the launch of the Metro Phase 2 project. On Monday night, the CM held extensive discussions with Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister for Coal and Mines Kishan Reddy.

CM Revanth Reddy met again with Manohar Lal Khattar, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Kishan Reddy



at Khattar's residence on Tuesday morning. During the meeting, the Chief Minister and Union Ministers arrived at consensus and decided to appoint a Consultant. The consultant will study the valuation of Hyderabad Metro Phase-I, raise loans required for takeover, and a selection of lending agencies. Further, a study will be taken on Metro Rail expansion, construction cost, and

financing for Metro Phase-II.

The SBICAPS, which has been selected as the consultant, will conduct a comprehensive study on the valuation of Metro Rail Phase-I, expansion of Phase-II, and other related matters. The state government and the Centre will decide the future course of the action plan based on the report submitted by the consultant. The CM and Union Ministers



agreed to appoint a senior official from the Union government and the Special Chief Secretary of the State Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Department as representatives for coordination during the study by the Consultant. The two officials will work in co-ordination to facilitate the speedy completion of the study and official process.



President Conferred 65 Padma Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Padma Awards 2026 during the second Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi this evening. A total of 65 eminent personalities received the country's prestigious civilian honours. The awards presented included two Padma Vibhushan, seven Padma Bhushan and 56 Padma Shri awards.

Among the prominent recipients were tennis legend Vijay Amritraj, veteran actor Mammooty, playback singer Alka Yagnik and Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma.

The Padma Awards, one of India's highest civilian honours, are presented in three categories – Padma

Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The awards recognized outstanding contributions in fields such as art, literature, education, sports, medicine, science, social service, public affairs, trade and industry.

The Union Government had announced a total of 131 Padma Awards on the eve of Republic Day this year, including five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards. Among the awardees, 19 were women, while 16 personalities were honoured posthumously.

Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards have been announced annually on Republic Day to recognize distinguished and exceptional achievements across various fields of national importance.

Revanth Reddy, Kishan Reddy Staging Dramas Over Hyderabad Metro Rail: KTR Revanth Eyeing ₹30,000 Crore Metro Assets

Hyderabad, June 23: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy are jointly staging political dramas over the Hyderabad Metro Rail issue while concealing what he described as a massive scam involving Metro Rail assets worth nearly ₹30,000 crore.

Addressing an extensive meeting of BRS cadres in Serilingampally on Monday, KTR said Revanth Reddy was attempting to hand over nearly 250 acres of valuable Metro Rail-linked land and assets worth ₹30,000 crore to his family members, relatives and close associates. He alleged that the Chief Minister had blackmailed L&T Metro Rail officials and forced them out of the State to facilitate the takeover of these assets.



KTR further alleged that Revanth Reddy was trying to burden Telangana's people with L&T Metro Rail's debt of nearly ₹14,000 crore solely to gain control over the Metro Rail assets. He claimed that the State government was willing to assume liabilities that should have remained with the private company, thereby pushing the Metro Rail project towards financial distress.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

SANJAY JAJU SET TO BECOME NEXT CS

Hyderabad, June 24: Senior IAS officer Sanjay Jaju is set to take over as the next Chief Secretary of Telangana on June 30, succeeding K. Ramakrishna Rao, who retires after completing his extended tenure. A 1992-batch IAS officer of the Telangana cadre, Jaju was relieved from Central deputation on Tuesday and repatriated to his parent cadre. His return comes just a week before



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Telangana Seeks Major Revision in Rice Procurement Target

Uttam Leads Delegation to Centre Amid Record Paddy Production

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Seeking recognition for its record-breaking agricultural output, the Telangana Government has approached the Centre for a major upward revision of its Rabi 2025-26 rice procurement target, arguing that the existing allocation fails to reflect the State's actual paddy production and pro-

urement, forcing it to shoulder thousands of crores in additional expenditure to protect farmers' interests. Leading a high-level delegation to New Delhi, the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, accompanied by Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao, met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi and

pressed for immediate approval of several key demands concerning procurement and Custom Milled Rice (CMR) delivery.

Permission sought to deliver entire quantity as boiled rice

The state has requested enhancement in the Rabi 2025-26 rice procurement target from the present 35 lakh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

AP CM to inaugurate Gold mining project

Amaravati : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate Gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Tugali Mandal of Kurnool district tomorrow (Wednesday). He will also lay the foundation stone for the project's second unit as part of its expansion plans. The gold mining and processing project has been established with an investment of Rs 405 crore by Geo Mysore Services India Private Limited and Deccan Gold Mines Limited. Trial runs at the mine and processing facilities have already been completed and commercial production of gold will formally commence with the inauguration by Chief Minister.

It may be noted India's gold mining story was synonymous with Karnataka's Kolar Gold Fields (KGF). Now, Andhra Pradesh's Jonnagiri in Kurnool district is poised to carve out its own place on the country's gold map with the country's largest private-sector gold mining project established at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district. The government has allotted 1,500 acres for the Jonnagiri Gold Fields project, with mining activities initially commencing on 600 acres in the first phase. Necessary processing plants have already been set up and the project will be expanded to the remaining area in the second phase. The plant is expected to produce 400 kilograms of gold in its first year of operations, increasing to 900 kilograms from the following year and gradually scaling up to 2 tonnes of gold annually as processing capacity is expanded. The project is expected to generate employment for around 700 people.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

At a time when India's traditional connection with agriculture, nature and dharmic values faces growing neglect, Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS, Chairman of the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust, has launched a significant initiative centred on Eruvaka Pournami, one of Bharat's most revered agricultural observances. Through a comprehensive presentation and awareness programme, he seeks to revive a civilisational tradition that honours Bhudevi, respects cattle, celebrates farmers and promotes harmony between humanity and nature.

The initiative spearheaded by Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS, Chairman of the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust (HDPT), arrives at a moment when India is increasingly searching for ways to reconnect with its civilisational roots. His Eruvaka Pournami awareness programme is not merely about preserving a traditional festival. It is an effort to revive an entire philosophy that places gratitude, responsibility and harmony at the centre of social life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

DR DASARI SRINIVASULU'S ERUVAKA POURNAMI MISSION

HINDU DHARMA PARIRAKSHANA TRUST CHAIRMAN LEADS A TIMELY CALL TO HONOUR SOIL, CATTLE, FARMERS AND DHARMA BEFORE AN ANCIENT LEGACY FADES

A POWERFUL INITIATIVE TO REVIVE INDIA'S SACRED AGRICULTURAL TRADITION AND RECONNECT WITH NATURE, GRATITUDE AND CIVILISATIONAL VALUES

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

ULTRAFAST
FAST SETTING CEMENT

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

3 TIMES BETTER

“If You Give Hyd Development Centers, We Will Give You Global CEOs”

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka at the US “Freedom 250” celebrations

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said, “If you give Hyderabad development centers, we will give you global CEOs who lead the world.”

He was speaking as the chief guest at the “Freedom 250” celebrations organized by the US Consulate in Hyderabad to mark the 250th anniversary of American independence. Recalling the journey from Microsoft’s entry into Hyderabad in the 1990s to Satya Nadella becoming the company’s CEO, he praised the talent and capabilities of Telugu people.

“The relationship between Hyderabad and the United States is not merely a diplomatic connection between two governments. It is a bond that has developed between people and families. Today, America is no longer just a country we see on a map. Through our children studying there, relatives working there, and young entrepreneurs launching start-ups there, America has become a part of every Telugu household. It is no longer that we are going to America—Telugu itself has reached America. The fact that Telugu is one of the fastest-growing languages there is a matter of pride for all of us.”

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Telangana–US partnership is not longer confined to the software industry.



“Our relationship has moved into the stage of co-creation. In life sciences, vaccine manufacturing, aerospace, and defense sectors, our partnership has grown stronger. In the coming years, cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, electric mobility, higher education, and research will reach new heights.”

The Deputy Chief Minister also recalled an announcement made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Telangana Rising Summit 2025: “As a symbol of our special relationship with the United States, we have decided to name the main road near the US Consulate after US President Donald Trump.”

On the occasion, he invited US Ambassador Sergio Gor and Consul General Laura Williams, who were present on stage, to unveil the road name plaque.

Bhatti Vikramarka further said that the new US Consulate building, designed to reflect the spirit of Deccan culture, stands as a symbol of cultural diplomacy. He also appreciated the support extended by the United States in preserving Hyderabad’s rich heritage.

Several dignitaries attended the event, including members of the Telangana Legislative Assembly and officials from the US Consulate.

EAMWORK KEY TO BUILDING MODEL VILLAGES: SEETHAKKA



HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka on Tuesday stressed that villages can be transformed into model settlements only through coordinated efforts of all government departments.

Chairing a seven-hour review meeting with district-level officials at Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan, the Minister said rural development is not limited to roads and buildings but must focus on improving the living standards of every family. She directed the officials to prepare village-wise comprehensive development plans within two months and work as a single team to achieve tangible results.

Noting that the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj departments together spend over Rs.34,000 crore annually and engage around 1.35 lakh personnel, Seethakka said outcomes must match the scale of investment. She warned against misuse of public funds and directed strict monitoring of local body expenditures.

The Minister also emphasized water conservation, calling for the restoration of wells, protection of water bodies and creation of recharge structures in every village. She unveiled the ‘Jalasiri’ awareness poster aimed at improving groundwater levels.

Directing Mission Bhagiratha officials to ensure uninterrupted safe drinking water supply during the monsoon, she also urged greater public awareness about water quality. Expressing concern over delays in forest clearances for

PMGSY road projects in tribal areas, Seethakka said the issue would be taken up with Union Rural Development Minister Shrivaj Singh Chouhan during meetings scheduled later this month.

“Protecting a tank is like protecting an entire village”, she said, underlining the need for sustainable rural development and better coordination between the State and Centre. The meeting was attended by Additional Collectors, Zilla Parishad (ZP) CEOs, DRDOs, DPOs, Panchayat Raj engineering officials and representatives from Mission Bhagiratha, SERP and the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Senior officials, including Special Chief Secretary Dana Kishore and Panchayat Raj Commissioner Divya Devarajan also participated in the meeting.

Hyderabad, June 23 (NSS): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday registered a disproportionate assets case against Kommuri Mallareddy, District Prohibition and Excise Officer (Excise Superintendent), Nizamabad, for allegedly amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income through corrupt practices. Simultaneous searches were conducted at 11 locations linked to the officer, his relatives, benamis and associates. During the raids, the ACB officials detected four residential houses, one commercial building, eight open plots and 10.23 acres of agricultural land. Officials also seized cash of about Rs.3.31 lakh, identified bank balances amounting to Rs.50 lakh, and found three bank lockers held in the names of the officer’s wife and family members. The lockers will be opened as part of the ongoing investigation. A Grand Vitara car and a scooter were also found during the searches.

ACB RAIDS EXCISE OFFICER, UNEARTHS ASSETS WORTH Rs.3 CR

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CM Metro Love Hides a Bigger Scam

The BRS leader said the Chief Minister’s sudden concern for the Metro Rail project was merely a cover for a larger financial scandal. He asserted that BRS had consistently exposed alleged scams of the Congress government in advance and was now warning the public about another major scam in the making.

KTR said the people of Telangana would eventually know who purchases and sells the Metro-linked lands worth ₹90,000 crore and how these assets ultimately reach members of Revanth Reddy’s family.

Why Did BJP Not Approve Metro Expansion Earlier?

Questioning the sincerity of both the BJP and the Congress governments, KTR asked why the Centre had failed to approve the Metro Rail expansion proposed by the previous BRS government from Lakdikapal to Patancheru if it was genuinely committed to Telangana’s development.

He noted that the Union government had sanctioned Metro projects for several smaller cities in Uttar Pradesh but failed to extend similar support to Telangana. He accused Revanth Reddy and Kishan Reddy of pretending to differ in Hyderabad while acting in concert in New Delhi to attract public attention.

People Will Remember Who Blocked Metro Expansion

KTR said people would remember that Revanth Reddy cancelled the Airport Metro project while Kishan Reddy failed to secure approval for Metro expansion from the Centre. He recalled that the previous BRS government had launched the Hyderabad Airport Metro Express project from the Financial District to the Airport without requiring major land acquisition. Had the project continued, it would have been completed by now, significantly reducing traffic congestion for lakhs of commuters, he said.

Revanth Reddy, Kishan Reddy Staging Dramas Over...

According to KTR, the Airport Metro project was shelved after Revanth Reddy assumed office due to a lack of vision and understanding of developmental priorities. KTR reminded the gathering that while the Congress government had initiated the Hyderabad Metro Rail project and later abandoned it, former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao ensured that more than 70 per cent of the project was completed and made operational for public benefit. He said that regardless of how many dramas Revanth Reddy and Kishan Reddy staged together, the Metro Rail project would regain momentum only when KCR returned to power.

Revanth Inspired by Tughlaq and Hitler

In a sharp attack on the Chief Minister, KTR alleged that Revanth Reddy drew inspiration from both Tughlaq and Hitler. He said that while Hitler was responsible for the deaths of millions, Tughlaq repeatedly shifted his capital due to poor judgment, causing immense hardship to his kingdom. According to KTR, Revanth Reddy’s governance reflected a similar tendency to dismantle existing public welfare programmes and developmental projects initiated by the previous government without offering viable alternatives.

He accused the Congress government of demolishing thousands of houses in Hyderabad and using the Musi River project as a pretext for irregularities. KTR questioned how the government could find funds for a project worth over ₹1.5 lakh crore while claiming a lack of resources to implement the guarantees and promises made to the people.

KTR also criticized Serilingampally MLA Arikepudi Gandhi for defecting to the Congress party, alleging that he had done so for personal and political gains. Recalling that he had earlier released a development report detailing works worth ₹9,500 crore undertaken in Serilingampally during the ten-year BRS government, KTR challenged the MLA to disclose how much funding he had secured for the constituency during the past two years. Calling upon party workers to work collectively to ensure the return of the BRS in Serilingampally, KTR urged cadres to intensify membership enrolment and participate actively in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme.

He concluded by saying that people across Telangana were eagerly waiting for the day when KCR would once again assume office as Chief Minister and restore governance focused on development and welfare.

Telangana Seeks Major Revision in...

➤FROM PAGE 1

metric tonnes (LMT) to 54.50 LMT of rice, equivalent to 80.09 LMT of paddy already procured by the State. Telangana has also sought permission to deliver the entire quantity in the form of boiled rice, arguing that Rabi paddy grown in the State is predominantly suitable for parboiled rice milling.

The request comes against the backdrop of Telangana recording the highest-ever paddy procurement in its history. During Rabi 2025-26 alone, the procurement has already touched 80.09 LMT and is expected to rise further as arrivals continue from late-harvesting districts. Combined procurement during Kharif and Rabi of KMS 2025-26 has reached a historic 152 LMT, the highest ever recorded in Telangana and the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh.

Uttam Kumar Reddy informed the Union Minister that Telangana had originally projected procurement of around 90 LMT of paddy during the Rabi season based on production estimates. However, the Centre fixed the procurement target at only 35 LMT of rice, equivalent to 51.47 LMT of paddy. The State has now procured nearly 29 LMT more paddy than the quantity covered under the approved target, resulting in a mismatch between ground realities and official allocations.

The delegation argued that farmers should not suffer because of lower procurement targets fixed by the Centre. Despite severe operational challenges, including heatwave conditions,

shortage of hamalies, storage constraints, transportation bottlenecks, overlapping maize arrivals and unseasonal rains, the State ensured uninterrupted procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and according to Fair Average Quality norms.

CMR delivery deadline extension sought from Centre

The Ministers’ elegation also sought extension of the CMR delivery schedule. They requested an additional 60 days for completion of pending Rabi 2024-25 deliveries and a further 120-day extension for Kharif 2025-26 deliveries to facilitate seamless milling and supply to the Central Pool. The State explained that storage shortages, overlapping procurement seasons and heavy arrivals had slowed the movement of rice to the Food Corporation system. Another important demand raised before the Union Minister was that future procurement targets, particularly for Kharif 2026-27, should be aligned with production and procurement estimates submitted by the State Government. Telangana maintained that unrealistic targets adversely affect procurement operations and create avoidable hardships for farmers and the State administration.

State bears Rs 16,446 crore additional MSP

The delegation highlighted the enormous financial burden Telangana has been carrying due to procurement beyond the targets approved by the Centre. Official figures presented to the Union Minister show that during the

last three major procurement seasons, Telangana procured 69.50 LMT of paddy over and above the quantities covered under Government of India targets. This resulted in an additional MSP-related financial burden of nearly Rs 16,446 crore on the State exchequer.

The burden was heavy during Rabi 2025-26, when Telangana procured 80.09 LMT of paddy against the Centre’s target equivalent of 51.47 LMT, resulting in surplus procurement of 28.62 LMT and an estimated additional financial liability of Rs 6,837 crore. Similar burdens of Rs 5,278 crore and Rs 4,331 crore were incurred during Rabi 2024-25 and Kharif 2025-26 respectively. Telangana’s remarkable growth in paddy production has been driven by expanded irrigation infrastructure, improved agricultural practices, assured power supply and sustained support to farmers. However, procurement targets have not kept pace with the State’s agricultural transformation.

The Ministers’ delegation urged the Union Government to recognise the changed agricultural realities in the State and support its farmers by approving the enhanced procurement target, permitting boiled rice deliveries and rationalising future procurement norms. They stressed that Telangana’s procurement operations are aimed at ensuring every grain produced by farmers is purchased at MSP and that the State should not be penalised for achieving record production.

Pradhan Targets CJP Over NEET

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The re-examination was conducted under extensive security arrangements involving armed forces personnel, state police units, and senior monitoring officials deployed across the country. According to the National Testing Agency (NTA), measures were put in place to ensure a fair and transparent examination process. Pradhan described the conduct of the re-exam as successful.

Addressing the paper leak controversy, the minister criticised those involved in the malpractice, particularly educators accused in the case. He referred to them as “protectors who turned predators,” expressing concern over the breach of trust. During the interview, Pradhan also highlighted developments in the education sector, including the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), increased participation of women in education, and the expansion of educational institutions across the country.

He further pointed to the launch of Bharat Innovates, a government initiative aimed at promoting innovation and supporting youth-driven development. “Our priority is to accelerate education by relying on the youth of India, the needs of the world and India, and the aspirations of young people,” he said.

The minister also criticised the Congress party, alleging that previous governments failed to address the aspirations of the country’s youth. Without naming specific leaders initially, he accused political opponents of attempting to hinder the nation’s progress.

Pradhan additionally targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of politicising the NEET issue and attempting to create unrest. He described the opposition’s criticism of the government over the paper leak controversy as “low-level politics.” The NEET paper leak issue has become a major political flashpoint, with opposition parties demanding greater accountability and reforms to ensure the integrity of competitive examinations.

SANJAY JAJU SET TO BECOME NEXT CS

➤FROM PAGE 1

Ramakrishna Rao’s retirement, virtually confirming his appointment to the state’s top bureaucratic post. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued orders stating that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had approved Jaju’s repatriation at the request of the Telangana government.

Jaju has served nearly 13 years on Central deputation, one of the longest stints among Telangana cadre officers. He held several key positions, including Secretary in the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and, most recently, Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

Before his Central assignments, Jaju served in several important positions in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, including Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad and Collector of East Godavari district. Sources said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy favoured Jaju for the Chief Secretary’s post due to his extensive experience at the Centre and strong connections with Union ministries.

The state government is actively pursuing Central approvals and financial assistance for major projects such as the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion, Musi rejuvenation project, Regional Ring Road, Regional Ring Rail, new airports, proposed bullet train corridors and Bharat Future City. Officials believe Jaju’s experience in New Delhi would help Telangana secure faster clearances and funding.

Though senior IAS officers Jayesh Ranjan and Vikas Raj were also considered for the post, the Chief Minister reportedly chose Jaju, taking into account his long administrative experience and strong network within the Central government. Jaju is due to retire in March 2028. The appointment marks the end of K. Ramakrishna Rao’s tenure as Chief Secretary. Originally scheduled to retire in August 2025, he received an unprecedented 10-month extension in two phases — first for seven months till March 2026 and later for an additional three months until June 2026.

DASARI SRINIVASULU’S ERUVAKA POURNAMI MISSION

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The eighteen-slide presentation prepared under this initiative serves as both an educational resource and a call for cultural action. It highlights the sacred relationship between Bhudevi, cattle, farmers and society while urging temples, cultural institutions and communities to actively participate in preserving this ancient heritage. The significance of the initiative lies in its timing. As environmental concerns intensify and traditional practices steadily retreat from public life, Dr. Srinivasulu’s effort seeks to bring back values that once formed the foundation of India’s agrarian civilisation.

ERUVAKA POURNAMI IS MORE THAN A FESTIVAL

The presentation makes one point with remarkable clarity. Eruvaka Pournami is not merely an annual celebration. It is a living expression of gratitude towards Mother Earth and recognition of the farmer’s role in sustaining society.

The term Eruvaka signifies the beginning of cultivation while Pournami marks the auspicious full moon. Together they represent the ideal moment to commence agricultural activity with devotion, humility and hope.

Under the initiative of HDPT, this message is being presented not as a matter of ritual alone but as a practical philosophy rooted in sustainability, responsibility and collective well-being.

A CIVILISATIONAL MESSAGE FOR MODERN INDIA

One of the strongest aspects of the programme is its emphasis on the civilisational vision that shaped Indian agriculture for centuries. The earth was revered as Bhudevi. Rain was viewed as divine grace. Cattle were respected as indispensable partners in rural life. Farmers were honoured as Annadatas whose labour nourished society.

This worldview created a balance between material progress and spiritual

responsibility. The presentation argues that many contemporary challenges stem from society’s growing distance from these foundational principles.

By bringing Eruvaka Pournami back into public consciousness, Dr. Srinivasulu’s initiative seeks to restore that balance.

TEMPLES AS CENTRES OF CULTURAL REVIVAL

The programme places particular emphasis on the role of temples. Historically, temples served not only as places of worship but also as centres of education, community organisation and cultural preservation. Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust encourages temple institutions to take a leading role in reviving Eruvaka Pournami through farmer blessing ceremonies, Bhudevi worship programmes, agricultural awareness campaigns and youth engagement activities. The vision outlined by Dr. Srinivasulu recognises temples as powerful platforms capable of reconnecting communities with traditions that have

sustained Indian society for generations.

INITIATIVE LEADER:
Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS

ORGANISATION:
Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust

MISSION:
Revival of Eruvaka Pournami traditions

FOCUS AREAS:
Bhudevi, Farmers, Cattle, Agriculture and Dharma

OBJECTIVE:
Strengthening cultural identity and environmental responsibility

PRESERVING THE SACRED BOND WITH NATURE

The symbolism highlighted throughout the presentation remains profoundly relevant. The Earth symbolises fertility. *The Moon represents auspicious timing.*

Rain signifies divine blessing. Cattle embody service and strength. The farmer stands as the nation’s provider.

Together these elements create a holistic framework that emphasises gratitude, discipline and harmony between humanity and nature. The programme demonstrates how these values can continue to shape contemporary society while preserving India’s unique cultural identity.

WHY DR. DASARI SRINIVASULU’S INITIATIVE MATTERS NOW

Across India, rapid urbanisation and changing lifestyles have weakened awareness of many agricultural traditions. The initiative undertaken by Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu addresses this concern directly by linking cultural revival with environmental responsibility.

Rather than presenting Eruvaka Pournami as a historical memory, the programme positions it as a living tradition



PRSIHyderabad entered into MOU with St. Ann’s College for Women and CBIT



HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Public Relations Society of India, Hyderabad Chapter signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with St. Ann's College for Women, Mehdiptanam, Hyderabad and another MoU with Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, (CBIT) Kokapet, Hyderabad on 22nd June, 2026.

The collaboration aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry. *The MoU was signed under the initiative of “Nalanda Student's Forum” launched by the National Council of PRSI to benefit college students* to train

them in the field of PR & Communications, develop various skills, organise seminars, field visits and workshops apart from generating internship opportunities. So far the PRSI has in total 13 MoUs are signed with various colleges in the twin cities. Dr. Vijaya Rani, Principal of St. Ann's College, who signed the MoU expressed her enthusiasm about the partnership saying PRSI can connect academics with industry and can play an important role for providing internship”. Dr. K. Y. Giri, Chapter chairman of PRSI along with Sri Krishna Baji, Convener of Nalanda Student's Forum , Ln. Sri K. Govindraj, Past Chairman,

Dr. Fatima Raheem, Co-Convener, Sri Hamed Bin Sayeed Committee Member, Dr. Bharati, HOD, Journalism and Mass Communication, Smt. K. Nandini, Faculty were present. Sri Krishna Baji, Convener listed the achievements of the Chapter and the benefits the student community who will gain under the Nalanda initiative. Lion Sri K.Govindraj, gave a presentation on the various aspects of PR and Communication and how the Students can shape their career. The MoU at the CBIT was signed by the Principal of the College Dr. CV Narasimhulu, who expressed happiness about the partnership saying ‘Our Motto

is Connecting academics with Industry” and PRSI can make it possible in enhancing that vision.

Dr. K.Y.Giri, Chapter Chairman of PRSI along with Sri Krishna Baji, Convener of Nalanda Student's Forum, Lion Sri K. Govindraj, Past Chairman, Dr. Fatima Raheem, Co-convener, Sri Hamed Bin Sayeed Committee Member were present from the PRSI forum. Also present were Dr. P. Prabhakar Reddy, Director Academics, Dr. V. Barla, Prof. & Advisor, Dr. UK Choudhary, Director, I & I and Dr. GNR Prasad , Professor and PRO of CBIT were at the MOU signing ceremony.

Suggest a Name for the One Lakh Flats Scheme, Win a Prize of Rs. 1 Lakh

- Construction of 100,000 flats in the CURA area
- Naming competition for the LIG Housing Scheme
- Entries accepted through social media until June 28
- 1 lakh prize for the best selected name
- Innovative initiative by the Housing Board

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

For the first time since the formation of Telangana, the Housing Board has launched an innovative initiative to finalize the name of the proposed scheme for constructing 100,000 flats for the Low-Income Group (LIG) in the CURA area. The Board has decided to invite name suggestions directly from the public for this prestigious project.

According to a statement issued by Housing Board Vice Chairman V.P. Gautham, a

cash prize of ₹1 lakh will be awarded to the person whose suggested name is selected as the best. A public competition is being conducted through social media for this purpose.

The Telangana Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has already decided to construct 100,000 houses exclusively for low-income families within the CURA limits. The Housing Board has earned a strong reputation for fulfilling the dream of home ownership for various sections of society by providing housing at affordable prices and free from disputes. The Vice Chairman also noted that projects undertaken by the Board have consistently received strong public support and demand.

With the intention of making citizens active participants in this major project after a long gap, the Board

has decided to finalize the scheme's name based on suggestions received from the public. The competition will remain open on social media until June 28. The best name selected from among the public submissions will receive a cash reward of ₹1 lakh. Interested participants can submit their suggestions through the Housing Department's official Instagram account, tghd.official:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DZ6mCF_E1PY/

The Vice Chairman further stated that proposals are being prepared for the construction of LIG flats in all Assembly constituencies within the CURA area, and the required land has already been identified. Applications from the public will be invited, and houses will be allotted through a lottery system. Detailed guidelines and procedures will be announced soon.

Tourism Dept. is Implementing Yuva Tourism Clubs

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Department of Tourism is implementing Yuva Tourism Clubs and Telangana Darshini Programmewith an objective to create awareness among students about the rich tourism, cultural, heritage and ecological assets of Telangana and to promote responsible tourism among the youth.

An Orientation Meeting is being organized on 23rd June, 2026 from 10:30 A.M. onwards at The Plaza Hotel, Begumpet, Hyderabad to discuss the implementation strategy and operational framework of the above programmes. Representatives from various Education Departments, Universities, Educational Institu-

tions and other stakeholders associated with youth engagement and tourism promotion are attending the meeting.”

The Yuva Tourism Clubs programme aims to encourage students to actively participate in tourism-related activities, heritage awareness campaigns, environmental conservation initiatives and promotion of local culture and traditions. The Telangana Darshini Programme seeks to provide students with educational exposure visits to important tourist destinations, heritage sites, cultural centres and eco-tourism attractions across the State. The Orientation Meeting will focus on the formation and functioning of Yuva Tourism Clubs, institu-

tional coordination, student participation, awareness generation activities and effective implementation of the Telangana Darshini Programme. Valuable suggestions from stakeholders will be elicited to ensure successful execution of the programmes across Telangana. The Department of Tourism is committed to fostering a sense of pride among the youth in Telangana's rich heritage and tourism potential through these initiatives.

"Telangana has secured the No. 1 position in India in the registration of Yuva Tourism Clubs, with around 5,000 registrations out of 9000 registrations, reflecting the enthusiastic participation of educational institutions and students.

We Will Not Tolerate Any Move Against Poor People’s Homes

■ Telangana Rakshana Sena State Leader Syed Ismail

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Telangana Rakshana Sena State Leader Syed Ismail warned that they will not remain silent if the Telangana government takes action against the homes of poor residents.

Speaking to the media on

Tuesday at the TRS office in Banjara Hills, along with residents of Mud Fort Ambedkar Huts Colony, he alleged that the government is plotting to demolish the houses of poor families in the settlement and urged it to immediately abandon such plans.

Ismail stated that around 650 poor families have been living in Mud Fort Ambedkar Colony for the past 40 years. He described any attempt to

evict them and leave them homeless as unjust and inhumane. He criticized the government and Cantonment authorities for allegedly creating fear among residents by bringing bulldozers into the area and threatening to demolish their homes.

He assured the residents that Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) would stand firmly with them. He said that, with the support of Kavitha,

TRS leaders would continue to fight on behalf of the colony residents. Ismail also expressed concern over complaints from residents that the local MLA Ganesh, who had promised permanent land ownership rights (pattas) if elected, has now distanced himself from the issue.

He pointed out that the residents possess various forms of identification and proof of residence, including Aadhaar

cards, electricity connections, gas bills, and other official documents. He reiterated that they would strongly oppose any action against the poor residents of the colony.

The press conference was attended by affected residents and leaders including Jangamma, Lakshmi, Saraswathi, Mallamma, Shiva-kumar, Srinivas, Yadaiah, Saritha, Santosh Kumar, and others.

Dr Peruka Raju Selected for NTR Memorial Poetry Award–2026

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

With the noble objective of preserving and promoting the Telugu language, and bringing together poetic voices from across the globe under one literary platform, the National Literary, Cultural, and Social Service Organization Vishwa Sahiti Kala Vedika successfully conducted the prestigious “Sahiti Tarakam” Poetry Competition on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the legendary actor, statesman, and people's leader Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR).

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from poets residing in India and abroad, who paid rich tributes through their poetry to the enduring legacy of NTR. Celebrat-



ed as a revolutionary force in cinema, a champion of the poor in governance, and an eternal symbol of Telugu self-respect, NTR's remarkable personality inspired numerous outstanding poetic creations.

Among the many distinguished entries, the poem submitted by renowned national poet, writer, and multilingual scholar Dr. Peruka Raju re-

ceived special appreciation for its depth of thought, literary excellence, linguistic beauty, and powerful poetic expression. Recognizing these merits, the selection committee unanimously chose Dr Peruka Raju for the prestigious “NTR Memorial Poetry Award–2026.” The announcement was made by K. Ramavathi, President of Vishwa Sahiti Kala Vedika, along with members of the executive committee.

Dr Peruka Raju has earned admiration from literary enthusiasts not only across India but also internationally as a poet, author, and multilingual intellectual. He is currently serving as a Junior Officer in Indian Army , balancing his professional responsibilities with an unwavering commit-

ment to literary pursuits. He is also the founder and architect of the My Gift Youth Organization, actively involved in social service initiatives and inspiring young people through his dedication to community development.

The award will be presented during a grand literary and cultural celebration to be held in Nellore, where Dr. Peruka Raju will be honored with a shawl, citation, memento, the NTR Memorial Poetry Award–2026, and a cash prize.

On this occasion, literary scholars, poets, artists, social activists, literature lovers, and military colleagues have extended their heartfelt congratulations to Dr Peruka Raju for receiving this prestigious recognition.

Department of English at GITAM Shapes Future-Ready Language and Literature Professionals



HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Department of English and Other Languages at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, continues to nurture future-ready professionals through its undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes (BA, MA & Ph. D) in English. Housed within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), the department offers a vibrant ac-

ademic environment that combines intellectual rigor, creativity, and research excellence.

The department is supported by a distinguished team of faculty members with extensive teaching and research experience from reputed national and international institutions. Their areas of expertise include Indian Writing in English, Print Culture, Translation Studies, Literature of Migration, Digital Humanities, Gender and Sexu-

ality Studies, Marginality and Literature, Sociolinguistics, English Language Education, Stylistics, and Phonetics.

Students gain a strong foundation in American Literature, British Literature, and Indian Writing in English, while also exploring emerging disciplines such as Digital Humanities, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Applied Linguistics, and English Language Education. To enrich the academic

experience, the department regularly organizes workshops, conferences, expert lectures, and knowledge-sharing sessions featuring renowned scholars and practitioners.

Graduates of the department are well-equipped to pursue diverse career opportunities in academia and research, creative writing, translation, media and journalism, content and technical writing, publishing and copyediting, corporate communication, and policy research organizations.

The department functions under the leadership of Prof. Rathin Roy, Dean, GSHS; Dr. Shamuel Tharu, Director, GSHS; and Dr. Sayantan Mondal, Head, Department of English and Other Languages.

Merit-based scholarships are available for outstanding students based on their performance in the entrance examination. For admissions through GITAM Admission Test (GAT) 2026 and further details, visit GITAM website www.gitam.edu, or contact 87120 18815 / 88849 84000.

STRONG EPOXY FOR ANY SEASON • ANY REASON

SHORT
TAKES

Urea App Sparks
Farmers' Protest;
BRS Demands
Immediate Rollback



HYDERABAD: BRS MLA Venula Prfashanth Reddy on Tuesday demanded the immediate scrapping of the government's Urea App, alleging that it has caused severe hardship to farmers in Tadiwai mandal of the Yellareddy assembly constituency. Addressing the media here, Prashanth Reddy said the farmers had launched protests over delays in obtaining urea and accused the government of placing him under house arrest to prevent a planned visit to the affected area. He claimed that nearly 300 BRS workers in Yellareddy constituency were detained ahead of the proposed protest. The MLA criticized Chief Minister A Revanah Reddy, alleging that the Congress government had failed to ensure timely fertilizer supply. He contrasted the current situation with the tenure of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, stating that adequate urea stocks were maintained and made readily available to farmers. Prashanth Reddy accused the government of neglecting farmers' concerns.

Journalists Played a Key Role in the Telangana Movement

■ **Journalists should be given due recognition as movement participants.**

■ **TUWJ submitted a memorandum to Chairman K. Keshava Rao.**

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ) has urged the government to recognize journalists who played an active role in the historic Telangana statehood movement as movement activists and to honor their services and sacrifices appropriately.

On Tuesday, a TUWJ delegation led by State President K. Virahat Ali met K. Keshava Rao, Chairman of the Telangana Movement Activists Recognition Committee, at his residence in Banjara Hills and submitted a memorandum.

Speaking on the occasion, Virahat Ali said that during the Telangana movement, journalists did much more than merely gather and report news. They communicated the aspirations, anguish, and self-respect of the people of Telangana to the world while also educating the public about the necessity and realities of a separate state, thereby providing moral strength to the movement.

He stated that journalists highlighted the discrimination, socio-economic inequalities, and regional injustices faced by the people of Telangana, bringing these issues into national discussion. In many places, journalists actively participated in rallies, protests, and demonstrations alongside movement activists and even led Joint Action Committees (JACs) related to the movement.

Virahat Ali recalled that journalists faced numerous hardships



during the movement, including police baton charges, especially in places such as Osmania University, which was a focal point of the agitation. He noted that police damaged cameras, obstructed news gathering, filed false cases against journalists, issued threats, and caused physical injuries. Despite these challenges, journalists never stepped back from their duties and continued to highlight the Telangana movement to the world with the goal of achieving statehood.

He further said that several journalists lost their jobs due to their direct participation in the movement, while others faced pressure from media managements. Some were even forced to resign because of their support for the Telangana cause. Nevertheless, they set aside personal interests and dedicated their lives to the Telangana community.

In this context, he appealed to the Telangana Movement Activists Selection

Committee to consider the matter sympathetically and take steps to grant activist status to journalists who directly participated in and contributed to the movement.

He requested the committee to make a fair decision so that the services and sacrifices of journalists in the history of the Telangana movement would be remembered permanently.

Those who accompanied Virahat Ali in meeting Chairman Keshava Rao included TUWJ Deputy General Secretary Kalkuri Ramulu, State Vice President V. Yadagiri, State Secretary Kompalli Srikanth Reddy, State Executive Member A. Rajesh, and Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ) President Shiga Shankar Goud, among others.

"We Will Conduct a Comprehensive Study and Ensure Justice"

– K. Keshava Rao
K. Keshava Rao informed the



Brochure Unveiled for National Conference on India's Foreign Policy and Global Challenges

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Department of Political Science, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad, organized the brochure release ceremony for its upcoming National Conference on "India's Foreign Policy: Recent Trends and Challenges" at the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Hyderabad.

The brochure was formally released by Prof. P. Bala Bhaskar, Joint Director, Collegiate Education, Telangana, and Prof. Rajendra Prasad, AGO, in the presence of faculty members and academic coordinators.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Mohammed Ghous, Vice Principal and Convenor, Dr. K. Sreedevi, IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Pranitha, Academic Coordinator, and Prof. Prasanna Khadkikar, Incharge, PG Commerce.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Ch. Appiia Chinnamma, Principal of the college, appreciated the efforts of the Department of Political Science in organizing the national-level academic event. She stated that such conferences play a significant role in encouraging schol-

arly dialogue, research orientation, and intellectual development among faculty members, researchers, and students.

The one-day national conference is scheduled to be held on 29th July 2026. It aims to create awareness and promote academic discussion on the emerging trends, evolving priorities, and contemporary challenges in India's foreign policy. The conference will bring together faculty members, researchers, young academicians, and subject experts to exchange ideas and perspectives on India's role in the changing global order.

The event will feature keynote addresses, technical sessions, and paper presentations by eminent scholars and experts in the field of international relations and political science. Dr. Farhana Sultana will serve as the Organising Secretary of the conference.

The proposed conference is expected to serve as an important academic platform for meaningful deliberations on India's diplomatic engagements, strategic partnerships, regional relations, and global challenges.

FGG Urges Governor to End Taxpayer-Funded Income Tax Perks for Ministers

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Forum for Good Governance (FGG) president M. Padmanabha Reddy has urged Telangana Governor to intervene and stop the practice of paying Income Tax of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers, Advisors and Corporation Chairpersons holding Cabinet rank from public funds. Many states have dispensed with the unconstitutional practice of payment of Income Tax by Government, he noted.

In a representation submitted to the Governor, the FGG president contended that Section 3(4) of the Payment of Salaries Act, 1953, which allows the State Government to bear the Income Tax liability of Ministers, violates the constitutional principle of equality before law under Article 14.

The forum, a not for profit civil society organization working for governance reforms in the state of Telangana, alleged that the taxpayers' money is being used to pay the personal tax liabilities of public functionaries and sought disclosure of the names of beneficiaries and the amounts paid during 2024-25 and 2025-26. It also expressed concern that the benefit is being extended to several Advisors and Corporation Chairpersons enjoying Cabinet rank. In



fact, most of these advisors and Chairpersons of Corporation are worn-out politicians and their contribution to governance is not visible, it added.

The forum requested the Governor to initiate steps to delete the relevant provision of the Act, prevent payment of taxes beyond what is legally permissible, and direct the Government to place all related expenditure details in the public domain. People have a right to know who are the persons whose Income Tax is paid from public money and the amount paid. It is therefore requested to direct the Chief Secretary to make public the names of persons and amount of Income Tax paid during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

FGG maintained that public funds should be used for welfare and development rather than for meeting the personal tax obligations of elected representatives and political appointees.

Ground-Level Push: KTR Leads BRS Rally in Serilingampally on Voter Reforms and Membership

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, JUNE 23

BRS rally in Serilingampally unfolded at Narayan Garden in Miyapur, where a large gathering of local leaders and activists from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (BRS) filled the venue as veteran leadership steered the event. The meeting, held under the leadership of KTR as the chief guest, underscored the party's focus on grounding its electoral momentum through a robust membership drive and intensified voter outreach.

Attendees included former corporator Madavaram Raja Devi, along with district and division-level workers from Vivekananda Nagar, signaling a broad-based mobilization across the local organizational structure.

KTR delivered a pointed set of messages aimed at energizing volunteers and expanding the party's reach at the booth level. He announced that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) for voter reforms would commence on June 24, urging workers to remain vigilant so that every



eligible voter is registered and empowered to cast a vote. The emphasis on early party membership enrollment reflected a strategic push to strengthen the party's grassroots capacity ahead of the elections.

In his remarks, he also criticized the Congress government, accusing it of deception and unkept promises, and urged the public to recognize BRS programs and cast their ballots accordingly in the upcoming polls.

The gathering reflected a deliberate effort to reinforce organizational depth at the lo-

cal level, with senior leaders Madavaram Ranga Rao, Gottumukkal Pedda Bhaskar Rao, Maacharla Bhadrachari, and Vemula Anjaneyulu among those present, along with a large cadre of activists and workers from various sectors.

The event served as a platform to consolidate support ahead of the electoral season, highlighting the party's intent to mobilize voters and broaden its membership network. By foregrounding the SIR rollout and a proactive membership drive, the BRS signaled its readiness to translate organizational

energy into tangible electoral action. As the campaign cadence takes shape, the leadership framed the Serilingampally gathering as a cornerstone of their broader strategy to intensify ground-level engagement, secure maximum voter participation, and reinforce the party's appeal through visible, tangible programs. The event's messages aim to resonate with voters seeking accountability and dependable governance, while positioning the BRS as the driving force behind a proactive reform agenda in the lead-up to the elections.

BRAOU Opens UG & PG Admissions for 2026-27; Apply by August 7

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) has commenced admissions for Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Diploma and Certificate programmes for the 2026-27 academic year, with the last date for registration and fee payment set as August 7, 2026.

Students who have completed Intermediate, National Open School, TS Open School Society courses, 10+2, or a two-year ITI/Polytechnic programme are eligible for direct admission into UG courses including BA, BCom and BSc.

Admissions are also open for a wide range of PG programmes, including MA, MCom, MSc and MLISc courses across various disciplines.

Candidates can apply online through learner centres across Telangana and pay fees via debit card, credit card, net banking or TS Online centres. Admission prospectuses are available on the university portals.

The university has also provided an opportunity for students from earlier UG and PG batches who missed fee payments to clear their dues and continue their studies before the August 7 deadline. For details, students may contact BRAOU's toll-free helpline 1800-599-0101 or visit the university websites - www.braouonline.in or www.braou.ac.in.

BJP leaders invoke Syama Prasad Mukherjee's legacy, set Sights on Telangana

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Tuesday paid tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee on his Balidan Diwas (Martyrdom Day), describing him as a symbol of sacrifice, nationalism and unwavering commitment to India's unity. Dr. Mukherjee was the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Addressing party leaders and workers here, Ramchander Rao said Dr. Mukherjee's contribution to the integration of Jammu & Kashmir and his role in safeguarding national interests continue to inspire BJP karyakartas. He noted that the Telangana BJP State Office is named after Dr. Mukherjee, reflecting his enduring legacy. "During those times, Hyderabad was under the Nizam's rule, while Jammu and Kashmir too faced the challenge of complete integration with Bharat. Just



as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a decisive role in integrating Hyderabad and other princely states, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee gave his life for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India", he noted.

Highlighting the upcoming 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Mukherjee, Rao urged party workers to draw inspiration from BJP's rise in West Bengal and work towards establishing a BJP government in Telanga-

na. Former Governors Bandaru Dattatreya and Vidyasagar Rao, along with senior BJP leaders and workers, attended the programme.

Separately, Bandaru Dattatreya paid rich tributes to Dr. Mukherjee, calling him a champion of national unity and democratic values. He said Dr. Mukherjee's vision of complete national integration was realized through the abrogation of Article 370 and remains a guiding force for

the nation. On this occasion, Dattatreya recalled that Dr. Mookerjee earned a permanent place in history as the great leader who fought for national integration under the principle that "One nation cannot have two Constitutions, two flags, and two Prime Ministers." He said that Dr. Mookerjee's life continues to inspire the nation with its ideals of patriotism, selfless service, and unwavering national consciousness.

Baba Budha Amarnath Yatra Will Go Ahead Despite Terror Threats: VHP

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal have called upon Hindu youth across Telangana to prepare for the "Baba Budha Amarnath Yatra", scheduled to commence on August 19, asserting that the pilgrimage will proceed despite terrorist threats.

Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, VHP Telangana state president Narasimha Murthy and Bajrang Dal Telangana state convener Konda Srikanth said anti-national elements were attempting to disrupt the pilgrimage near the India-Pakistan border but would not succeed.

They urged the devotees interested in participating in the yatra to contact the VHP Telangana office in Koti for registration and further details. Several Bajrang Dal leaders, including Rudravaram Vishal, Akhil, Rajender Reddy and others were present at the press conference.

NIMS Invites Applications for Contract Nursing Officer Posts

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has invited online applications from eligible Telangana candidates for the post of Nursing Officer (contract). Selected candidates will be appointed for a period of one year with a monthly remuneration of Rs.32,682.

Candidates must possess a B.Sc. Nursing degree or equivalent qualification recognized by the Indian Nursing Council or State Nursing Council. Applicants should be aged between 18 and 34 years, with a relaxation of five years for SC, ST and BC candidates.

Reservations for SC, ST, BC and EWS categories will be implemented as per the Telangana government's roster system. A four percent reservation has also been



earmarked for eligible persons with disabilities having loco-motor disability of 40% to 50% in the lower extremities.

The online application process commenced on June 20, 2026, and will remain open until 5 pm on June 25. The application fee is Rs.1,000 for general candidates and Rs.500 for SC/ST candidates. Selection will be through a

written examination on June 28, consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) from the B.Sc. Nursing syllabus. The duration of the examination will be one hour, and exam timings will be announced on June 26 on the institute's website. Interested candidates can submit their applications through the official NIMS website: www.nis.edu.in



Non-Bailable
Warrant Issued
Against Actor
Prakash Raj
Alleged Multiple
Voter ID Case
BENGALURU, JUNE 23

Actor and political commentator Prakash Raj has reportedly been issued a Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) by a Bengaluru court in connection with a case alleging multiple voter registrations across Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, after he allegedly failed to appear before the court despite repeated summons; however, the allegations remain under judicial consideration and are yet to be proven in court.

Suvendu's
assurance of
justice leaves
RG Kar victim's
mother in tears

KOLKATA: (JUN 23)

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday said in the assembly that justice would be delivered in the RG Kar hospital rape and murder case, leaving the victim's mother, a BJP MLA who was present in the House, in tears. The chief minister also said that the government has a "zero tolerance" stance on crimes against women in the state. "RG Kar case will see justice... People of Bengal have voted so that Abhaya gets justice," Adhikari said while speaking on the discussion on the Governor's Speech.

Thunderstorm,
heavy rain lash
parts of Bengal;
4 killed in
lightning strike

KOLKATA: (JUN 23)

Four people were killed in a lightning strike as thunderstorms and heavy rain battered large parts of West Bengal on Tuesday, uprooting trees and causing waterlogging that disrupted normal life. The deaths occurred around 7:30 pm in Murshidabad district's Dhulian when lightning struck a boat ferrying passengers across the Ganga to Parlahpur in Malda district, officials said. Four people died while at least 15 others were injured, they said, adding that the boatman returned to Dhulian immediately after the tragedy.

Vijay accuses DMK regime of diverting public funds, sparks Assembly walkout

The confrontation escalated as Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin strongly objected to the allegations and sought proof on the floor of the House.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the opposition DMK in the Assembly, calling the alleged corruption during its previous regime "party funds" and accusing it of siphoning money from government departments. His remarks sparked noisy protests from DMK members during his reply to the Governor's address. The confrontation escalated as Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin strongly objected to the allegations and sought proof on the floor of the House. The Speaker did not permit interventions during the chief minister's speech, and the protests ended in a



DMK walkout. Vijay also used his speech to defend his government's mandate and reject the opposition's claim that his administration depended on the DMK's mercy. Udhayanidhi rose to protest after Vijay alleged that the previous DMK regime had "siphoned" funds from various government departments towards "party funds". He urged Speaker JCD Prabhakar to direct the chief minister to submit proof instead of making what he called baseless allegations against the DMK. The Speaker ruled out interventions during Vijay's speech and said the chief minister should be allowed to complete his reply, but DMK members continued their protest. Resuming his speech, Vijay said that, unlike the previous DMK government, the TVK would never indulge in corrupt practices and would not allow anyone to "loot" the government coffers. Amid repeated interruptions, he said his government would recover public funds allegedly misappropriated under the guise of "party fund collec-

tions" and would ensure that those responsible for corruption, "even if it be the DMK regime", were brought to book. His remarks drew immediate objections from the opposition benches, with Udhayanidhi demanding that he be allowed to respond in the House. Vijay also dismissed the DMK's claim that the ruling TVK was surviving because of its mercy. He said the Left parties had independently decided to support the TVK, while the Congress, VCK and IUML, which extended support, had been accommodated in the new Cabinet. "We are not dependent on the DMK's mercy. We are running the government due to the mercy of the people who elected us," Vijay said. Soon after, DMK members led by Udhayanidhi walked out of the House before the chief minister could complete his speech. Continuing after the walkout, Vijay defended the stability of his government and rejected suggestions that it was running solely on external political support. He then turned to social justice and said his government had appointed eight members from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as ministers, describing it as the fulfilment of BR Ambedkar's vision of equitable representation. Later, speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, Udhayanidhi criticised the proceedings and said, "If the chief minister possesses actual evidence of malpractice, he should table it formally in the House instead of making baseless allegations." The Assembly exchanges saw Vijay level corruption charges against the previous DMK regime, the opposition protest and walk out, and both sides restate their positions on the government's mandate and the conduct of proceedings in the House.

INCOIS mission to provide the best possible ocean Information

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is an autonomous Centre of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India. It has the mission to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government and scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvement through systematic and focused research. The INCOIS has developed a state-of-art system to provide ocean state forecasts, potential

fishing advisories, early warnings on tsunami and storm surges, etc. They are being used by the stakeholders in India as well as in other countries of the region. INCOIS has commenced the release of Specialized El Niño Bulletins to highlight the possible impacts of the ongoing El Niño phenomenon on various maritime sectors. The first Specialized El Niño Bulletin was formally released by Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Chevella Constituency, on 22 June 2026 during an event held at Indian National Centre.

Arakkonam Yard Works Cause Train Diversions; Special Chennai-Podanur Services Announced

CHENNAI, JUNE 23:

Southern Railway has announced the diversion of two express trains owing to ongoing yard re-modelling works at Arakkonam Yard. **Train No. 16352 Nagercoil-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express**, scheduled to depart Nagercoil at 6.15 a.m. on June 28, will be diverted via Tirumalpur, Melpakkam and Tiruttani, skipping its scheduled halt at Arakkonam. **Similarly, Train No. 16351 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Nagercoil Express**, leaving Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 8.55 p.m. on June 29, will run via Tiruttani, Melpakkam and Tirumalpur, bypassing Arakkonam station. Railway authorities have advised passengers to verify the latest train status through the National Train Enquiry System (NTES), Railway Helpline 139, or official Indian Railways websites before commencing their journey. Meanwhile, to clear

the extra rush of passengers during the summer season and Muharram festival, Southern Railway will operate special trains between Chennai Egmore and Podanur. **Train No. 06063 Chennai Egmore-Podanur Express Special** will leave Chennai Egmore at 11.50 p.m. on June 25 and reach Podanur at 10.55 a.m. the following day. In the return direction, Train No. 06064 Podanur-Chennai Egmore Express Special will depart Podanur at 11.55 p.m. on June 28 and arrive at Chennai Egmore at 11 a.m. the next day. The special trains will comprise one AC two-tier coach, two AC three-tier coaches, 12 sleeper class coaches, two general second-class coaches and two luggage-cum-brake vans. The services will halt at Tambaram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Vriddhachalam, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli, Dindigul, Oddanchatram, Palani, Udumalaipettai, Pollachi and Kinattukkadavu en route.

Oxford and Shiv Nadar Foundation Join Hands to Honour Educators

Chennai, June 23: India's Best Teachers' Awards is a national initiative launched by the Shiv Nadar Foundation and Oxford's Said Business School. It aims to recognise outstanding high-school teachers (Grades 9-12) and strengthen classroom practices. The awards spotlight teaching with measurable impact, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. With over 9.8 million teachers in India's schools, the programme creates a credible national platform to identify and amplify effective teaching practices across diverse classroom settings. **Who can apply:** Be a currently practising

high-school teacher (Grades 9-12) in India. Be employed at a recognised private (National or International board) or government school (Central or State board). Demonstrate innovative pedagogical practices, professionalism, respect, inclusion and embedding a strong behaviour for learning in the students. Head of school or Principal of a school can nominate only 1 teacher per subject category. **Award categories and selection criteria:** **Award Categories:** Sixteen awards (one for public sector school teachers and one for private sector school teachers) across eight subject categories: **Note:** Class 9-10 Science



teachers can apply under Physics category. **Selection criteria:** **There will be two rounds of judging:** **Round one:** All eligible entries will be judged by a panel of international jury comprising leading educators, academics and experts. **Shortlisting:** In each subject category, the top 5 entries from public sector teachers

and the top 5 entries from private sector teachers will be shortlisted as finalists. **Round two:** All 80 finalists across the eight subject categories will be invited to Delhi in September to present their submissions in-person to an international jury, which will decide the winners. **Key dates:** 1 May 2026 Applications open **Applications close:** 31 July 2026 **Finalist presentations:** 4-5 Sept 2026 **Winners announced:** 5 Sept 2026 **Prize:** Oxford immersion: Each winner receives a full scholarship for a one-week, in-person

programme at Said Business School University of Oxford. The bespoke programme will focus on leadership in education and global pedagogy Online programme: Winners will also get access to a five-week online learning programme to deepen their **teaching skills.** **How to apply:** **Application portal:** Apply via the official awards website <https://indiateacher-awards.evalato.com/> **For more information, visit:** <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/about/indias-best-teachers-awards> **For queries on nominations, eligibility or timelines, please email us at** ita@sbs.ox.ac.uk

Liquor, Poison, Infinite Patience: How Chhattisgarh Man Killed 8 Villagers

Bhopal:In Kharve village of Chhattisgarh's Balodabazar district, death did not arrive with gunshots, screams or bloodshed. It arrived quietly, in a glass of liquor allegedly served by a village shopkeeper who later stood beside grieving families and attended the funerals of the very men he had poisoned. Police say 46-year-old Ram Sahay Jaiswal, now described by investigators as a "psycho killer", allegedly used lethal doses of 'suhaga' or borax powder (sodium tetraborate decahydrate) to murder eight men over four months. Inves-

tigations revealed that he had taken the substance from a villager, claiming he needed it to kill rats. Instead, police say, he turned it into a silent murder weapon. For months, men in Kharve kept dying one after another. A death in February, another weeks later, then more through March, April and May. Families mourned, funerals were held, graves were dug, and life moved on. But beneath the silence, fear was growing. By the time villagers approached authorities on June 6, eight men were dead and suspicion had begun to circle around one man



Ramsahay Jaiswal. What followed turned a quiet village mystery into a chilling crime thriller. Police realised this was no ordinary complaint. Seven buried bodies were exhumed and sent to Raipur's

testing. As doctors searched for poison in the dead, police teams moved through the village, questioning residents, tracing the last movements of the victims and quietly building a pattern. That pattern, investigators say, led again and again to Ramsahay. According to police, the accused first tested poison on a dog after procuring 'suhaga' under the pretext of rat poison. When the animal died, he allegedly realised the method worked. Soon after, Badri became the first human victim on February 6. Police say he was given liquor

laced with poison because he frequently abused the accused and demanded alcohol. When Badri died without raising suspicion, Ramsahay allegedly grew bolder. Over the next few months, police say, the same method was repeated with terrifying patience. Buthalu, Chhattu Ram, Budhram, Vinod Kumar, Gajanand, Chaituram and Mahetaru Ram allegedly died after being served liquor mixed with borax powder. The motives, investigators say, were shockingly petty and personal, old election disputes, public taunts, verbal

abuse, suspicions involving his wife, superstition about sorcery, a land dispute and even a Rs 50,000 debt that the accused allegedly wanted to escape by eliminating the lender. For months, the deaths appeared scattered and unexplained. What made the case even more chilling, police say, was that the accused did not disappear after the deaths. He allegedly helped the grieving families, blended into the mourning crowd and attended the funerals, quietly watching the village bury his victims one by one.

Tamil Nadu ammonia gas leak toll rises to nine, all victims women

An ammonia leak at a seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur has killed nine women and hospitalised dozens. The tragedy has raised urgent questions over industrial safety and worker protection.

The death toll in the ammonia gas leak at a private seafood processing and export facility in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district rose to nine on Tuesday, the government said. The toxic leak took place during routine industrial operations on June 21, and all those who died were women. The Health Department said 69 people were admitted to hospitals and their condition was being closely monitored. It said monitoring and assessment of the affected



area were also being carried out to ensure public safety, while district authorities and healthcare institutions were coordinating treatment, surveillance and response activities. According to the department, seven of the women who died were from Odisha and two were from Assam.

Eight of the deceased were identified as Shibani, Jumani Juang, Geetha Juanga, Purnama Juanga, Champabati Juanga, Parbavathi Juanga, Sita Hasda and Anjita Soren, while one person was yet to be identified. The leak happened at the facility in the Kannigaipair/Manjungaranai area

near Periyapalayam. The affected persons were admitted to hospitals with severe symptoms of ammonia inhalation, including acute breathlessness, coughing, chest discomfort, and irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract. Of those admitted, 27 were under treatment at Vels Hospital, 18 at Venkateswara Hospital, 11 at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, and 13 at Stanley Medical College Hospital. Two others had already been discharged. The exact cause of the accident is under investigation. The Health Department said it would continue to closely monitor the situation and ensure appropriate medical care for all those affected, as the toll stood at nine and those in hospital remained under observation.

Manipur Marks Olympic Day with Run, Tree Plantation

CM Stresses Discipline and Sports Legacy
IMPHAL, JUNE 23, 2026

The Manipur Olympic Association (MOA) hosted the International Olympic Day Run with Tree Plantation programme on Tuesday morning at the courtyard of Olympic Bhavan, Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal. Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh attended as Chief Guest and flagged off the run. He also took part in the tree plantation drive along with other dignitaries. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said Manipur is a land where 36 communities have lived together in harmony, and no Indian contingent at major international sporting events is complete without Manipuri players. He noted



that the state has consistently brought laurels to the nation through the achievements of its sportspersons. Khemchand highlighted that in recognition of the state's contribution to Indian sports, the country's first National Sports University was established in Manipur. He said the university's infrastructure is nearing completion and that he had recently inspected the

campus. Drawing on his own experience as a Taekwondo player, the Chief Minister said that while winning medals and representing India at events like the Asian Games and Olympics matter, the greatest lesson from sports is discipline. He urged young athletes to respect their teachers and coaches, maintain harmony across communities, and cultivate determination

and perseverance in sports, education, and life. Minister for Home, Youth Affairs and Sports, Govindas Konthoujam, who attended as Special Guest of Honour, said India is preparing to host the 2036 Olympic Games and is identifying and nurturing talent across states. He pointed out that despite its small population, Manipur has produced 19 Olympians - a remarkable achievement compared to many larger states. Konthoujam added that much of the existing sports equipment dates back to the 5th National Games in 1999 and is no longer up to current standards. He informed that CM Khemchand has assured Rs 5 crore in the current financial year for procuring modern sports equipment. He also urged players to stay disciplined, avoid drugs, and strive to be healthy and responsible citizens.

EDITORIAL ○

Evident Distress:
On the Index of Eight Core Industries

The latest economic data serves as a stark reminder that structural vulnerabilities within the Indian economy cannot be entirely obscured by global shocks. As the resolution process of the volatile West Asia crisis drags on into its fourth month, its ripple effects are exposing deep, underlying pain points in domestic production. While it is tempting to attribute the cooling of industrial momentum purely to external geopolitical friction, the latest metrics reveal a deeper, chronic fatigue that predates the current conflict. The Index of Eight Core Industries—which measures output in key infrastructure sectors from steel to electricity—grew by a highly anemic 0.5% in May 2026. This represents the second-lowest growth rate in 21 months. To pass this off as a temporary casualty of war would be an oversimplification; the index managed just a 1.1% expansion over the entirety of the previous financial year (FY 2025-26). This prolonged flatness suggests that India’s industrial engine was running low on fuel long before the first disruptions occurred in the Suez Canal or the Gulf.

Particularly concerning is the continued, multi-year streak of contractions in domestic crude oil and natural gas production. Despite global oil prices settling slightly below their chaotic April peaks, India’s oil marketing companies have been forced to increase imports to satisfy immediate domestic consumption. Herein lies a critical failure of long-term statecraft: Rather than relying on foreign imports to meet base demand during a crisis, a robust policy framework should have successfully incentivized domestic extraction to fill our strategic petroleum reserves. These reserves, even if filled with inferior-grade heavy crude, act as vital economic shock absorbers that can be released to stabilize prices when global supply chains choke. The downstream consequences of lagging natural gas production are already visible. The fertilizer sector contracted by 0.9% in May. While this is a modest improvement compared to the steeper drops seen two months ago, the timing could not be worse. As a punishing summer drives up temperatures across the subcontinent, electricity generation is being pushed to its absolute limits, while coal production has simultaneously dipped to its lowest point in a year. With the shadow of a prolonged “Super El Niño” looming large over the upcoming agricultural cycle, fertilizer availability and stable power supply will dictate food security and inflation levels in the months ahead. The government cannot afford a passive, wait-and-watch approach. True strategic autonomy requires more than just insulating the economy from external wars; it demands aggressive domestic policy interventions, an overhaul of mining and extraction bottlenecks, and a massive capital push into core infrastructure. Without these, India’s industrial backbone will remain highly vulnerable to every shift in global geopolitical winds.



JOURNEY OF
LIFE

Don’t be proud, friend..
Just blossomed flower doesn’t know..
Will it enter the temple
Or thrown over the corpse..
It is same as the human life is !

Birds are perched on a branch..
The branch never felt heavy..
No branch broke for the weight of a bird...
A bird sitting on a branch..
Never slip and fall to death..
Similarly children are life of parents..
Parents are God’s gift to their children !

If you are not valued..
Never follow anyone..
Your absence must be noticed ..
How much is your worth ?
Never ask for value..
That’s not what others give..
Create it from a given situation !

Life is a train journey...
Train stops and moves.
It goes fast.. it stands still.
Those who come will come..
Those who go, go..
When the final destination arrived..
Mercilessly left you alone..
Everyone is on their own path..
They will leave you in silence
Life is a journey, not a destination !



...: Prof Madhusudhan Reddy Burra ...
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OPINION 06
| The Fractured Horizon:
WAR’S PAUSE, HUMANITY’S OPPORTUNITY:
TOWARDS A NEW CULTURE OF PEACE

The recent ceasefire among the United States, Israel, and Iran has emerged at a time when West Asia had become engulfed in the flames of conflict, posing one of the gravest threats to global stability. Weeks of hostilities had transformed the region into a volatile volcano, with every eruption sending shockwaves through the world economy. Oil markets witnessed severe turbulence, investor anxiety intensified, and fears of a global recession began to deepen. In such circumstances, the ceasefire has undoubtedly provided immediate relief to the international community. Yet the fundamental question remains: Will this agreement lay the foundation for lasting peace, or will it prove to be merely a temporary pause before the next conflict?

History bears testimony to the fact that ceasefires and peace accords endure only when they are backed not merely by strategic compulsions, but also by genuine political will, mutual trust, and a profound commitment to humanity. Otherwise, they become nothing more than intervals between successive conflicts. The history of West Asia is replete with agreements that looked promising on paper but failed to survive in practice. An analysis of the conflict suggests that Iran appears to have emerged as the principal beneficiary. Despite intense military pressure from the United States and Israel, crippling economic sanctions, and international isolation, Tehran has succeeded not only in preserving its political structure but also in compelling its adversaries to return to the negotiating table. Iran can now claim before its people that it did not capitulate to the world’s most powerful military forces. The Iranian leadership is likely to portray the outcome as a victory of resistance.

On the other hand, the conflict has also challenged the image of American invincibility. Following Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, this episode once again demonstrates that military might alone cannot guarantee political outcomes. Washington exerted pressure and showcased its formidable military capabilities, yet ultimately it had to embrace negotiation and compromise. This sends a significant message: the twenty-first century world can no longer be governed solely by power equations; it must increasingly be shaped by dialogue, diplomacy, and multilateral cooperation. For Israel, the situation is politically uncomfortable. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long regarded Iran’s nucle-



ar and missile capabilities as an existential threat to Israel. There was an expectation that military action would decisively weaken Iran’s strategic capabilities. However, in the aftermath of the ceasefire, Iran is presenting itself as the victor. This may intensify domestic debates within Israel regarding whether major powers prioritized their own strategic interests over Israel’s regional security concerns.

For India, this agreement carries special significance. India remains heavily dependent on West Asia for its energy requirements. The prospect of disrupted oil supplies, threats to maritime trade routes, and soaring energy prices during the conflict had heightened New Delhi’s concerns. The ceasefire is expected to ease pressure on oil prices, help contain inflation, and reduce security anxieties for millions of Indians working in the Gulf region. However, India’s importance extends beyond that of an energy consumer; it is increasingly emerging as a moral voice for global peace. Indeed, this conflict raises a larger and more profound question: Can human civilization build its future on the foundations of war? Today, major powers possess such destructive military capabilities that even a minor miscalculation could push humanity towards catastrophe. In the age of nuclear weapons, biological warfare, and artificial intelligence-driven military systems, war is no longer merely an issue of territorial boundaries; it has become a question of the very survival of human civ-

ilization. This is why the world today needs not the politics of power, but the politics of peace.

Violence, war, terrorism, and the relentless arms race have plunged humanity into an abyss of fear, mistrust, and insecurity. If the world is to be preserved, it must move decisively towards disarmament, non-violence, coexistence, and dialogue. In this context, India’s role assumes exceptional significance. India has consistently offered the world a message of peace, compassion, and non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi famously observed, “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.” Today, this statement is more relevant than ever. India’s civilizational ethos has long been anchored in the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the belief that the entire world is one family. Consequently, India has consistently advocated dialogue over war and consensus over confrontation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly asserted on various international platforms that “This is not an era of war.” At the United Nations, the G-20, BRICS, and other global forums, India has consistently emphasized that disputes cannot be resolved through warfare, but through dialogue. If nations ultimately have to return to the negotiating table, what then is the justification for paying the horrific price of war? India’s foreign policy today is acquiring a new dimension. Whether in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Isra-

el-Palestine dispute, or the present crisis in West Asia, India has refrained from blindly supporting any particular side. Instead, it has pursued a policy of balance, dialogue, and peaceful resolution. This balanced approach may well enable India to play the role of a credible global mediator in the future.

However, governments alone cannot establish peace. The foundations of peace are built within societies, cultures, and human consciousness. As long as nationalism assumes an aggressive form, as long as the arms industry continues to profit from war, and as long as political leaders exploit conflicts as instruments for gaining popularity, the dream of lasting peace will remain elusive. The international community must now undertake some concrete measures: the nuclear and strategic arms race must be effectively controlled; the role of the United Nations should be strengthened; permanent mechanisms for dialogue and conflict resolution must be established; and educational systems should incorporate the values of peace and non-violence. Equally important is the need to replace war-driven economies with development models centered on human welfare and sustainable progress.

The ceasefire between the United States, Israel, and Iran is undoubtedly a moment of relief. Yet transforming this respite into enduring peace remains an unfinished task. If it serves merely as a phase of strategic regrouping, it may pave the way for even more destructive conflicts in the future. But if the global community treats this moment as an opportunity for introspection and develops a new international culture founded upon non-violence, dialogue, and coexistence, this ceasefire could mark the beginning of a new chapter in human history. Today, the world needs not the darkness of war, but the light of peace. This is humanity’s greatest challenge—and its greatest opportunity.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

The India-EU FTA: Navigating the
Core Dynamics of the ‘Mother of All Deals

The shifting tectonic plates of global trade have found a new anchor as India and the European Union (EU) edge closer to finalizing their historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Politically initialed following decisive breakthroughs, the comprehensive pact—aptly dubbed the “Mother of All Deals”—is on track for an official signing. With implementation

India’s export value. Labor-intensive sectors like textiles, apparel, leather, and footwear stand as immediate beneficiaries; Indian apparel exports alone are projected to surge by over 20%, leveling the playing field against traditional regional competitors. Concurrently, the elimination of historical tariffs on engineering goods, chemicals, and medical instruments unlocks a highly lucrative pipeline into

tancies. By codifying smoother professional mobility protocols, the FTA secures predictable talent pipelines for Indian tech firms operating within the Eurozone, thereby mitigating long-standing non-tariff barriers related to visa quotas and local economic interest tests.

Structural Catalysts and Tactical Compromises: Structurally, the pact acts as a



slated for the subsequent months, this agreement marks a defining chapter for two economic giants that collectively command 25% of global GDP and oversee a combined economic architecture of roughly \$11 trillion. For India, the treaty represents a calculated leap toward its \$5 trillion economic ambition, institutionalizing structural market access across a trading bloc of 200 million consumers.

Market Liberalization and Sectoral Impact
At the heart of this bilateral matrix is an unprecedented level of market liberalization, granting Indian merchandise preferential tariff treatment across nearly 97% of EU tariff lines, effectively translating to zero-duty access for 99.5% of

Europe’s massive industrial ecosystem. Conversely, European exporters gain calibrated access to India’s swelling middle class, with substantial tariff rationalization on high-end automobiles, wines, and agri-commodities, yielding projected annual tariff savings of approximately four billion euros for EU businesses.

Beyond tangible merchandise, the agreement injects fresh momentum into the services sector, which has already demonstrated remarkable resilience by doubling its bilateral trade volume to nearly sixty billion euros over the last few years. The new framework slashes regulatory red tape for India’s IT powerhouse, cross-border digital services, and professional consul-

massive catalyst for foreign direct investment (FDI) and the domestic manufacturing ecosystem under the ‘Make in India’ banner. Over 5,800 European enterprises already anchor operations in India, generating an aggregate turnover of 186 billion euros and sustaining close to six million jobs. The treaty is designed to supercharge this investment corridor, encouraging European multinational corporations to establish secondary manufacturing clusters in India. Furthermore, by dismantling duties on sophisticated European capital goods, industrial inputs, and aerospace components, Indian manufacturing units can accelerate tech-upgradation at significantly reduced capital expenditure.

A critical triumph of the negotiations lies in the strategic compromise achieved over sensitive domestic sectors. To safeguard India’s automotive and nascent electric vehicle (EV) ecosystems, New Delhi successfully resisted immediate tariff elimination, opting instead for a phased tariff reduction down to 10% over a multi-year horizon, coupled with a strict annual import quota of 2.5 lakh vehicles. This tactical runway allows domestic original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) sufficient time to achieve global economies of scale while gradually integrating into European automotive supply chains. Similarly, complex deadlocks surrounding agricultural protections, stringent EU labor mandates, and environmental criteria were systematically resolved through cooperative governance clauses rather than punitive trade instruments.

Geopolitical Synergies and the New Global Order:

Ultimately, the India-EU FTA is as much a geopolitical masterpiece as it is a commercial triumph. As Brussels aggressively pursues a policy of ‘de-risking’ its supply chains to reduce systemic dependence on China, India emerges as the premier, rule-of-law-backed alternative for supply chain diversification. By aligning democratic values with economic synergies, this agreement transcends conventional transactional trade, establishing a robust, resilient economic corridor capable of weathering global fractured geopolitics while securing India’s trajectory as an indispensable global trade hub.

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Regional Cooperation Must Respect State Sovereignty: NHRC Chief
NEW DELHI: (JUN 23)

NHRC chairperson Justice V Ramasubramanian (ret'd) on Tuesday said regional cooperation should be guided by the principles of respect for state sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual consideration of national interests. He made the remarks while virtually participating in the first consultative meeting of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), state bodies and other organisations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states responsible for the protection of human rights and freedoms held in Bishkek in Kyrgyz Republic, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said in a statement. The NHRC chief welcomed the objectives contained in the draft protocol relating to the exchange of information, dissemination of best practices, expert cooperation and development of coordinated approaches to human rights issues.

Court denies bail to accused in elephant tusk smuggling case

MUMBAI: (Jun 23) A court here has refused bail to a 36-year-old man, arrested in connection with an elephant tusk trading racket, noting that trafficking in wild animals is rising and such offenses need to be looked at seriously. In the order passed on Monday, Additional Sessions Judge Nitin Jiwane said bail can not be granted only on the ground that a charge-sheet has been filed in the case.

State Cabinet Approves Development Initiatives

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal :The state Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was held at the Mantralaya on Tuesday. Approved several public welfare initiatives and development projects worth Rs 5,960 crore aimed at promoting state's overall development, public welfare, and cultural heritage. To strengthen women's empowerment and social upliftment, the Cabinet approved Rs 1,740.57 crore for continuation of Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana and Kalyani Vivah Sahayata Yojana for the next five years from April 1, 2026. The Cabinet also gave in-principle approval to a major education initiative involving upgradation of government middle schools and high schools. Moreover, important decisions were taken regarding revised conditions for short-term crop loans at zero percent interest, establishment of a new Government Law College in Shujalpur, continuation of expenditure exceeding Rs 3,580 crore under the Targeted Public Distribution System, and electrification works in tribal areas.

Rs 1,740.57 Crore for Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah and Kalyani Vivah Sahayata Yojana
The Cabinet approved Rs 1,740.57 crore for implementation of Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Sahayata Yojana and Kalyani Vivah Sahayata Yojana for five years from April 1, 2026. The Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Sahayata Yojana has been operational in the state since April 1, 2006. The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs 55,000 per beneficiary for the marriage

Worth Rs 5,960 Crore to Promote Inclusive Growth



of eligible girls, widows, and deserted women from poor, needy, and destitute families through mass marriage ceremonies. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, financial assistance exceeding Rs 989.80 crore was provided to 1,72,905 beneficiaries under the scheme.

The scheme facilitates the marriage of daughters from economically weaker families and helps ensure compliance with the legal age of marriage while contributing to women's social advancement.

In-Principle Approval for Upgradation of 225 Middle Schools and 300 High Schools

The Cabinet granted in-principle approval for upgrading government middle schools into high schools and high schools into higher secondary schools to improve educational access and quality.

Under the plan, during 2026-27, 75 middle schools will be upgraded to high schools and 100 high schools will be upgraded to higher secondary schools. Similar upgradation of 75 middle schools and 100 high schools will be undertaken annually during 2027-28 and 2028-29. Approval was also given for an estimated expenditure of Rs 635.24 crore for the initiative.

Under the Viksit Madhya Pradesh @2047 vision, the state aims to achieve a 100 percent Gross Enrolment Ratio by 2029. Based on district-level mapping, there is a requirement for 315 high schools and 214 higher secondary schools.

Schools located within the catchment areas of Sandipani Schools will not be upgraded. Students from such areas will be admitted to Sandipani Schools, and existing institutions may be rationalised accordingly. Upgraded schools will function from existing buildings or other government premises. Additional classrooms will be sanctioned based on need and budget availability. The actual requirement for schools will be assessed using Gati Shakti Portal data, population figures, and U-DISE statistics.

Currently, the state's Gross Enrolment Ratio stands at 75 percent at the high school level and 55 percent at the higher secondary level. The transition rate from Class 8 to Class 9 is 77 percent, while it is 68 percent from Class 10 to Class 11. The initiative seeks to address accessibility issues that often lead to lower enrolment and higher dropout rates.

Approval of Revised Conditions for Zero-Interest Short-Term Crop Loans
The Cabinet approved revised conditions for providing short-term crop loans to farmers at zero percent interest during 2026-27. Instead of maintaining separate due dates for Kharif and Rabi crop loans, a single annual credit limit will be introduced, with separate sub-limits for cash and commodity loans. The due date will be fixed at 12 months from the date of first withdrawal under the approved annual limit. Farmers availing short-term crop loans will receive a 1.25 percent interest subsidy, while those repaying loans by the due date will be eligible for an additional 4 percent incentive subsidy from the state government. The scheme, operational since 2012-13 through Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies affiliated with District Central Cooperative Banks, ensures that farmers borrowing up to Rs 3 lakh for short-term crop loans pay no interest if they repay within the stipulated period.

ditions for Zero-Interest Short-Term Crop Loans

Every year, the state government determines the base interest rate and due dates. After deducting the interest assistance received from Government of India, the remaining amount is provided by the state government as an interest subsidy, enabling farmers to receive crop loans at zero percent interest.

Approval for New Govt Law College in Shujalpur

The Cabinet approved establishment of a new Government Law College in Shujalpur (Shajapur) from the academic

session 2026-27, in accordance with a declaration made by Chief Minister. Approval was granted for creation of 17 posts, including nine teaching and eight non-teaching positions, along with an expenditure of Rs 2.39 crore. The Higher Education Department has been authorised to undertake necessary formalities. At present, three-year LL.B. programme is being conducted as a faculty within Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Government Postgraduate College, Shujalpur. According to Bar Council of India's Legal Education Rules, 2008, law courses must be conducted through a separate law college to obtain recognition, which has led to establishment of the new institution.

Rs 3,580.07 Crore Approved for Public Distribution System

The Cabinet approved Rs 3,580.07 crore for continued operation of transportation and commission reimbursement under the Targeted Public Distribution System from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031, covering period of the 16th Central Finance Commission.

Other Decisions

The Cabinet also decided that the State Government would provide, as equity support to power distribution companies, the SGST amount payable on central assistance received under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan for electrification works.



BJP paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

BHOPAL :

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and Bharatiya Janata Party State President and MLA Hemant Khandelwal on Tuesday met DrOn the death anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, he paid floral tributes to his statue near the BJP state office and at the BJP state office. On this occasion, Cabinet Minister of State Government Vishwas Sarang, senior leader Suresh Pachauri, State Vice President DrNandita Pathak, State General Secretary Rahul Kothari, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, Bhagwan Das Sabani, Mayor Mrs. Malti Rai, State Minister

and MP Rajneesh Agarwal, State Minister Mrs. Sangeeta Soni, Rajendra Singh Rajput, State Office Minister Shyam Mahajan, State Media Incharge Ashish Usha Agarwal, DrTej Bahadur Singh, MLA Hari Singh Sapre, Scheduled Caste Morcha state president Bhagwan Singh Parmar, Yuva Morcha state president Shyam Taylor, Medical Cell coordinator DrVishal Singh Baghel, district in-charge Jaswant Singh Hada, district president Ravindra Yeti and former district president Sumit Pachauri along with state and district officials, public representatives and workers were present.



CRS Inspection of Katihar – Kuretha Katihar – Sonaili Double Line Sections Completed

MALIGAON, 23 JUNE, 2026

The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northeast Frontier Circle, Kolkata, Shri Sumeet Singhal, has successfully completed the statutory inspection of the newly constructed Broad Gauge (BG) double-line sections between Katihar –Kuretha (11.06 Km) and Katihar –Sonaili (16.215 km) in Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). The inspection was conducted from 17th June to 19th June, 2026. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has authorized the operation of both passenger and goods trains on the newly constructed double-line sections at a maximum permissible speed of 110 kmph on the main line, following the successful completion of the statutory inspection. The commissioning of these sections is expected to improve train movement, enhance line capacity and provide greater operational flexibility across

the network. These sections are as part of the Katihar – Kumedpurand Katihar – Mukuria New Double Line Projects, which are aimed at enhancing line capacity and improving operational efficiency in the region. The commissioning of these double-line sections marks another significant milestone in Northeast Frontier Railway's ongoing efforts to strengthen railway infrastructure and provide more efficient, safe, and reliable transportation services to passengers and freight customers. Northeast Frontier Railway has appealed to the public to remain vigilant near railway tracks and strictly avoid trespassing or crossing tracks at unauthorized locations. Passengers and local residents are advised to use only designated crossing points, as unauthorized track crossing is not only punishable under the Railways Act but also poses serious risks to personal safety and train operations.



Review Meeting on Judicial Cases Held at NWR

JAIPUR, JUNE 23:

A monthly review meeting of pending judicial cases was held on Tuesday, 23 June 2026, at the North Western Railway Headquarters in Jaipur. According to North Western Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer, Mr. Amit Sudarshan, a review meeting of judicial cases was organized at the headquarters. During the meeting, Additional General Manager Mr. Ashok Maheshwari instructed officials to comply with Railway Board guidelines by updating court cases on the LIMBS portal in real time, promptly uploading documents related to pending court cases, and submitting monthly compliance reports to the Head Office on the last day of every month. He also expressed concern over pending contempt cases and directed that they be resolved at the earliest. Mr. Maheshwari further instructed the Chief Law Assistants present to ensure that replies in judicial matters are filed within the prescribed timelines and that civil court orders are complied with within the stipulated period so as to minimize instances of contempt of court. He also directed that, before filing replies or claims in high-value cases before the courts, approval from the concerned Head of Department should be obtained to ensure that accurate facts are presented before the court and the interests of the Railways are effectively protected. At the begin-

ning of the meeting, Deputy General Manager (Legal) Mr. Pratul Sarolia emphasized the importance of updating court cases on the LIMBS portal in real time. He instructed officials to upload all case-related documents to the portal, clear exception reports immediately, maintain accurate and updated case statuses, and ensure that replies and claims are filed in courts on time. He also directed that regular internal meetings be held with railway advocates to facilitate the speedy disposal of judicial matters. The Deputy General Manager (Legal) reviewed all pending contempt cases and stressed the need for continuous coordination with the designated advocates to avoid adverse court orders. During the meeting, Secretary to the Additional General Manager, Mr. Deepak Agrawal, emphasized the importance of maintaining an accurate and updated database of arbitration-related judicial cases and closely monitoring ongoing arbitration proceedings. This would enable timely decisions on whether to implement an award after its issuance or challenge it before the appropriate court within the prescribed time limit. At the conclusion of the review meeting, Additional General Manager Mr. Ashok Maheshwari honored Mr. Vijay Kumar of the Bikaner Division for being selected as the Best Chief Law Assistant. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a cash award of ₹2,000.

Maharashtra govt '100% positive' on Uniform Civil Code, panel drafts bill

The Maharashtra government told the Assembly it is moving ahead with a Uniform Civil Code draft bill. The debate linked triple talaq complaints, polygamy and a broader contest over women's rights.



my. Farande said three Muslim women had approached her for help over the past one and a half months. "Police registered cases against the accused, but the women haven't received full justice. One woman was threatened with the circulation of obscene videos, while another woman's husband had tried to attack her," she said.

Replying to her, Kadam said such complaints were not limited to Nashik and had emerged from across Maharashtra. He said, "A total of 42 such complaints received in 2024 were found to be genu-

ine. (Legal) Action had been taken against 137 accused. 95 people had been arrested in 2025." On the proposed law, he said, "A committee, headed by a retired High Court judge, has already been constituted for preparing the draft of the Uniform Civil Code bill. The committee is working on it." Referring to Uttarakhand's law, he said it had completely prohibited polygamy and provided for imprisonment of up to seven years. NCP MLA Sana Malik said atrocities against women should not be seen only through the prism of religion and asked whether

such incidents happened only to Muslim women.

The Uniform Civil Code seeks to frame personal laws that apply equally to all citizens, regardless of religion. At present, matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption are governed by separate religious scriptures and personal laws.

Uttarakhand became the first state to implement a common legal framework for marriage, divorce and property inheritance, and made the registration of live-in relationships mandatory. The assemblies in Gujarat and Assam have passed UCC bills, while Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said a UCC bill will be introduced in the assembly's monsoon session next month. In the House on Tuesday, the Maharashtra government said it was moving ahead with its own draft while members debated triple talaq, polygamy and the wider question of women's rights.

Registry and Mutation Processes becomes Fully Digital, Transparent and Time-Bound in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday launched the Auto Mutation System and Paperless Registration 2.0, marking another historic step towards good governance, transparency and digital administration in the state. Citizens will no longer be required to submit separate applications for mutation of land records. Moreover, mutation documents can now be downloaded from home. The Chief Minister launched the initiatives during a programme held at Haryana Niwas. Revenue and Disaster

Management Minister, Sh. Vipul Goel, Public Health Engineering and Public Works Minister, Sh. Ranbir Gangwa, Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner, Revenue & Disaster Management and Consolidation Department, Dr. Sumita Misra were also present. Officers, mediapersons also attended the programme, while Deputy Commissioners joined the programme through video conferencing. The Chief Minister said that the state government's commitment to making the lives of citizens simpler, smoother and more convenient has received a new impetus with the launch



of the Auto Mutation System and Paperless Registration 2.0. He termed the initiative as a significant step towards realizing Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" and a "Viksit Haryana." The initiative reflects the government's commitment to providing better citizen services through

transparency, ease of access and maximum use of technology, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. The Chief Minister said that earlier, people often had to wait one to two years for mutation and other land-related services. Citizens were forced to make repeated visits to government offices, causing unnecessary inconven-

ience. Under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, the state's double-engine government is working with complete transparency, accountability and commitment to ensure that government services and facilities are delivered in a simple, convenient and time-bound manner. Initiatives such as Auto Mutation and Paperless Registration 2.0 are a result of this approach and represent an important step towards providing hassle-free services to citizens, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. The Chief Minister further said that the paperless registration system was first introduced on Sep-

tember 29, 2025, in Ladwa Tehsil of Kurukshetra district and was subsequently implemented across Haryana from November 1, 2025. Based on feedback and suggestions received from various stakeholders over the past eight months, the second phase, Paperless Registration 2.0, has now been introduced, integrating the mutation process with property registration. He said that the new system features a simplified and more user-friendly registration application form. Aadhaar-based e-KYC has been made mandatory for both parties, ensuring 100 per cent verification of identity.

India backs the UNSC move for probes into attacks on peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 23

In a resolution co-sponsored by India, the Security Council on Tuesday called for action against those attacking peacekeepers and supported the involvement of troop-contributing countries in investigations where their nationals are victims.

The resolution reiterated that attacks on peacekeepers or their facilities could amount to war crimes and asked all parties to conflicts to comply fully with their obligations to UN personnel. It was co-sponsored by over 150 countries, including India, reflecting the international concern about the safety of peacekeepers.

Since peacekeeping operations began in 1948, 1,150 peacekeepers have been killed in attacks, 69 of them Indian, according to UN data.

In the most recent series of attacks, seven peacekeepers have been killed so far this year in Lebanon, where UN personnel are engaged in hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

The resolution paid tributes to peacekeepers "who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty for the cause of peace". It encouraged troop-



and police-contributing countries to deploy, "on a voluntary basis, as appropriate, trained investigative personnel" to assist host countries in probing cases of killings and violent acts against UN personnel.

Christina Markus Lassen, the permanent representative of Denmark, which, along with Pakistan, was the main sponsor of the resolution as a Council member, said it sent a strong message to perpetrators of crimes

that the international community was watching and that "crimes will not go unpunished". She added that the unanimous support for the resolution was an important reassurance to peacekeepers

that "the Council is behind them" and to contributing countries that "this Council is ready, willing and able to step in".

The resolution asked Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to ensure that clear factual records of attacks on peacekeepers are maintained and demanded that countries involved and "other relevant actors" cooperate with investigations.

Guterres was asked to submit to the Council within 120 days a report on the status of investigations into attacks on peacekeepers.

Protecting peacekeepers from India – 4,264 are now deployed – is a major concern for New Delhi, which launched the Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers in 2022 to promote their safety and demand action against attackers. While an elected member of the Council in 2021, India sponsored a resolution that was unanimously adopted, calling on countries hosting peacekeeping missions to promote accountability for violence against peacekeepers by investigating incidents and prosecuting perpetrators.

DR Congo president to visit Ebola-hit Ituri as cases top 1,000

KINSHASA, JUNE 23



President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Félix Tshisekedi announced Tuesday that he would soon visit Ituri Province, the epicentre of the country's latest Ebola outbreak, to follow up on response efforts.

"I will very soon go to Ituri Province, to the very sites of the outbreak, to personally follow up," Tshisekedi said at a joint press conference with visiting Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye, who currently chairs the African Union, Xinhua news agency reported. The announcement came after the two leaders attended a meeting of the national Ebola response task force in Kinshasa. Tshisekedi said the meeting had provided "a full update" on the epidemiological situation and the response measures being carried out by the DRC.

The latest outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, has continued to spread in the country's conflict-affected east. According to the latest figures released by Congolese authorities, the DRC has reported 1,048 confirmed cases, including 267 deaths.

Tshisekedi said the DRC had mobilised health authorities, local communities, and

national, African, and international partners to contain the outbreak, noting that health threats "ignore borders" and require stronger regional cooperation based on prevention, epidemiological surveillance, and rapid information-sharing.

Ndayishimiye expressed solidarity with the DRC and urged African countries and the wider international community not to close borders.

"We must show solidarity and manage this epidemic together," he said, adding that Burundi had not closed its border with the DRC, but had instead taken preparedness and prevention measures in coordination with Congolese authorities. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said the outbreak remains concentrated in Ituri, while cases have also been reported in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. The agency has also warned that insecurity, population displacement, and constraints on surveillance.

Stable Iran-US relationship may strengthen India's multi-aligned approach: Report

TEHRAN/NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

The emerging regional order increasingly favours countries capable of maintaining productive ties across geopolitical fault lines, and few major powers are as well-positioned as India.

New Delhi enjoys robust relations with the United States, Israel and the Gulf nations while also preserving channels of engagement with Iran. Rather than forcing India to choose sides, a more stable Tehran-Washington relationship could widen the diplomatic space for New Delhi's multi-aligned strategy, a report has highlighted.

"The most consequential outcome of the 2026 Hormuz War may ultimately be found not on the battlefield but at the negotiating table. Iran

has not emerged as an undisputed military victor. Yet it may have secured something more durable:

a transformation in its diplomatic status. After four decades of sanctions, isolation and containment, Tehran is once again being treated as an indispensable participant in discussions on regional security, energy stability and the future order of West Asia," former Indian diplomat Sanjay Kumar Verma wrote in 'India Narrative'.

"Diplomats learn early in their careers that countries are rarely as isolated as political rhetoric suggests. Governments may be sanctioned, condemned or excluded from particular forums. Yet when geography, resources and security interests converge, yesterday's outcast often reappears at today's negotiating table.

IMO announces evacuation plan for seafarers in Strait of Hormuz

LONDON, JUNE 23

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on Tuesday announced an evacuation plan for more than 11,000 seafarers still stranded in the Strait of Hormuz.

The IMO has secured the necessary safety guarantees and verified safe navigation conditions to support the evacuation operation, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said in a statement.

The operation follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States (U.S.) and will be carried out in close cooperation with Iran, Oman, other countries in the region, and the maritime industry, Dominguez said, Xinhua news agency reported.

Dominguez welcomed the peace agreement between Iran and the US, saying it marks a



decisive step toward restoring maritime security and ending attacks against civilian shipping, after months of conflict that have caused hardship for thousands of seafarers and disrupted global trade.

He also paid tribute to the 14 seafarers who lost their lives during the conflict, saying their service to global trade will not

be forgotten. Moreover, Dominguez reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to ensuring the safety of seafarers and the continuity of global trade.

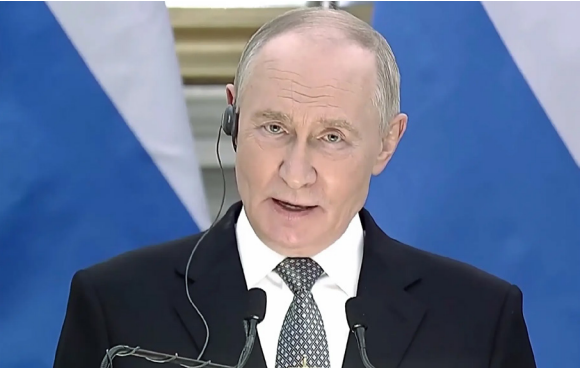
On June 15, Dominguez said that the implementation of the evacuation plan would require time to ensure that all necessary safety and security guarantees are in place.

The IMO, he said, remains committed to maritime safety, the protection of seafarers, freedom of navigation and the continued free flow of global trade.

According to IMO figures, 46 incidents involving ships were confirmed in and around the Strait of Hormuz and the wider region between late February and June 11, resulting in 14 seafarer fatalities.

"Their courage and resilience in the face of prolonged uncertainty deserve the highest recognition," Dominguez said while expressing his sympathies for the victims. Ali Bahraini, Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Office at Geneva, announced on Tuesday that the Strait of Hormuz is fully open to commercial vessels without tolls. Bahraini said that the situation will be reviewed after 60 days, depending on negotiations between Iran and the US.

Putin says Russia upgrading nuclear triad amid mounting global security risks



MOSCOW, JUNE 23

Russia's nuclear triad is consistently being modernised, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday. "Under the State Armament Programme, the nuclear triad and the Ground Forces are being consistently modernised, and the combat potential of the Aerospace Forces and Navy is growing," Putin said at a meeting with graduates of higher military schools, Xinhua news agency reported.

He further said the current international environment is far from stable. "Armed confrontation in the Middle East shows no sign of abating, and conflict risks have surged across numerous regions globally, including the Eurasian space," he said.

Putin stresses that Russia consistently advocates equal and indivisible security for all. "We are convinced that this goal can only be achieved by establishing a multipolar system of international relations and reliably safeguarding the military se-

curity of every state. At the same time, we stand ready to deliver prompt and adequate responses to any external and internal threats."

He noted that more than 1,000 models of weapons and military hardware underwent field trials in combat conditions last year. "These include unmanned aerial vehicles fitted with upgraded guidance systems, loitering munitions, multipurpose robotic systems, and a wide array of other equipment," he said.

He also said that Western countries are openly talking about preparing for war with Russia and continue to increase their military budgets, Russia's state-owned Tass media reported.

"We see that while NATO countries previously limited themselves to supporting the Kyiv regime, which came to power through illegal armed means and a coup d'état, now the West is openly saying that they are preparing for war with us and are increasing their military offensive budgets," noted the Russian President.

India and Kenya discuss strengthening climate action cooperation

NAIROBI, JUNE 23

The High Commissioner of India to Kenya, Adarsh Swaika, on Tuesday held a meeting with the country's Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry discussing strengthening of cooperation in the field of climate action.

"High Commissioner Adarsh Swaika called on the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Deborah Mlongo Barasa," the High Commissioner of India in Nairobi wrote on X.

"The discussions focused on strengthening India-Kenya cooperation in climate action, forestry and environmental conservation, including synergies between Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (Plant in the Name of your Mother) initiative and H.E. President Williams Ruto's 15 Billion Trees Campaign," the Embassy said.

The two sides also explored joint environmental activities and partnerships between forestry and environmental institutions of both countries.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India and Kenya will continue to strengthen their longstanding partnership, anchored in the aspirations of the Global South, following his meeting with Kenyan President William Ruto.

The two leaders interacted on the sidelines of the Group of Seven (G7) Summit, where India was invited as a partner country.

Trump administration backs USD 17.5 billion plan for nuclear revival

WASHINGTON, JUNE 23



The Donald Trump administration on Tuesday unveiled a USD 17.5 billion financing programme aimed at rebuilding the US nuclear supply chain and accelerating construction of 10 new large-scale nuclear reactors, marking one of the most ambitious efforts in decades to revive America's commercial nuclear industry.

The US Department of Energy (DOE) announced a conditional loan commitment to support the procurement of long-lead components needed for 10 new reactors based on Westinghouse's AP1000 design.

"Just over one year ago, President Trump directed the Energy Department and its agency partners to unleash the

next American nuclear renaissance," US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said.

"To accomplish that mission, these conditional loans will play an important role in reviving the supply chain needed for America to once again build large-scale commercial reactors. They will also help accelerate the timeline of building those large-scale reactors by up to three years, lowering

construction costs and ensuring the United States is able to deliver on President Trump's bold and ambitious energy addition agenda," he said.

The DOE said the financing would support up to five projects, with each project involving two reactors. Together, the 10 reactors would generate more than 11 gigawatts of electricity, enough to power nearly 10 million American homes.

Wright said the administration was pursuing a broad strategy to expand nuclear power. "We are doing everything we can at the Department of Energy for policies to add dispatchable, reliable, secure energy to the United States to lower electricity price and power reindustrialisation of our country," he told reporters.

The loans are not intended to fund reactor construction directly. Instead, they will finance the purchase of critical long-lead items such as reactor pressure vessels, steam generators and structural modules that often take years to manufacture. Greg Beard, who heads the Energy Dominance Financing office, said the programme was designed to reduce costs through standardisation and repeat construction.

"Why 10 reactors? The way

to drive down cost in nuclear is to standardise and repeat build the same design," Beard said.

He said EDF was "obligating USD 17.5 billion dollars in financing for the American nuclear supply chain loans" to help achieve the administration's goal of having 10 large reactors under construction by 2030. According to Beard, more than 100 companies across over 40 states are expected to benefit from the supply-chain build-out.

The programme requires substantial private-sector participation. Westinghouse and each utility or energy-company partner must commit about USD 500 million each in equity before DOE financing becomes available, creating roughly USD 1 billion in private investment per project.

Dhaka-China Pact Tests US Ties, Shifts South Asia Balance

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is visiting China to cement economic and defence ties, with a fighter jet deal as the centrepiece, signalling Dhaka's apparent strategic tilt toward Beijing, which may risk undermining – if not contradicting – commitments made under the US trade pact.

Reports in the Bangladeshi media suggest that during his visit, Rahman may finalise the acquisition of 24 J-10CE fighter jets and a separate UAV technology, apart from other possible military cooperation.

Among issues included are discussions on Beijing's support for the Teesta River restoration project, and a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum's "Summer Davos" in Dalian. Bangladesh's defence deals with

China may undermine Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy and raise concerns in New Delhi, especially with advanced aircraft positioned near India's strategic Siliguri Corridor.

Dhaka's pursuit of Chinese fighter jets and UAV technology is not explicitly forbidden in the trade pact, which was signed by an interim government on February 9, just three days before the general election was held this year, igniting wide criticism.

While its wording stops short of an outright ban, analysts note that the clause creates a binding expectation that Dhaka will align its defence acquisitions with Washington's strategic interests. In practice, this means that large-scale purchases from Beijing could trigger diplomatic friction and even economic consequences.

Media reports, including in Bangladesh's "The Daily Star" newspaper,

had pointed out certain contents in the agreement that could upset Beijing, where the latter is trying to extend its footprints in the country since the fall of the Awami League government.

'Article 4.3: Other Measures' in the treaty mentions as its first clause that "The United States shall work with Bangladesh to streamline and enhance defense trade". Article 4.3 also stipulates in the fourth para that "If Bangladesh enters into a new bilateral free trade agreement or preferential economic agreement with a non-market country that undermines this Agreement, the United States may, if consultations with Bangladesh fail to resolve its concerns, terminate this Agreement and reimpose the applicable reciprocal tariff rate set forth in Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025".

Elsewhere in the document, the fourth paragraph in 'Section 6.



Commercial Considerations' of the document says "Bangladesh shall endeavor to increase purchases of U.S. military equipment and limit military equipment purchases from certain countries".

The mention of "non-market country" and "certain countries" was interpreted in media reports as a US regulatory term used for China and Russia. As per the agreement, Bangladesh is also barred from purchasing nuclear

reactors, fuel rods, or enriched uranium from countries deemed hostile to US interests. This effectively blocks nuclear cooperation with Russia or China.

Overall, the clauses can be seen as designed to anchor Dhaka in Washington's orbit, but Bangladesh now appears to be signalling strategic autonomy by leaning toward Beijing.

The contradiction lies in Dhaka's attempt to enjoy US trade concessions while deepening defence ties with China. For New Delhi, this is not about Bangladesh's military upgrades but about China's systematic attempt to tighten its arc of influence around India, with varying degrees of success across South Asia.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs told a parliamentary committee in December that New Delhi is closely monitoring Beijing's expanding pres-

ence in Bangladesh, particularly in strategic infrastructure.

Bangladesh is negotiating to acquire up to 20 J-10CE multirole fighter jets from China, worth \$2.2 billion, with deliveries expected in 2026–2027. This would modernise Dhaka's air force and place advanced aircraft close to India's sensitive Siliguri Corridor, also called "Chicken's Neck" – the narrow strip in North Bengal that connects northeastern India to the mainland.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is setting up a joint UAV manufacturing facility with China Electronics Technology Group Corporation near New Bogra Airbase, close to India's northern border. This includes technology transfer for medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) and Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) drones, raising surveillance concerns for India.





Tata Power's
Mundra plant
mandated to run
at full capacity
till September

NEW DELHI: (JUN 23)

The power ministry has mandated that the 4,150 MW Mundra plant of Tata Power be run at full capacity for three more months till September to avoid any electricity shortage amid the estimated peak demand of 270 GW during summer, as per a company statement. In March this year, the plant in Kutch, Gujarat was mandated to run at 100 per cent capacity from April to June. "The company has received a letter from Ministry of Power regarding the extension of validity of the directions issued under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for its Mundra Thermal Plant. The validity of aforesaid directions, which was earlier applicable up to June 30, 2026, has been extended and shall now remain in force until September 30, 2026," a regulatory filing said.

Sensex ends 893 points lower,
Nifty below 24,000; Infosys falls 3%

Benchmark indices witnessed heavy selling on Tuesday, with the Sensex plunging nearly 900 points and the Nifty slipping below the 23,850 mark as investors booked profits after a recent rally and reacted to weak economic data, global uncertainty and continued pressure on technology stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex dropped 893.39 points, or 1.16%, to close at 76,200.68, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 278.80 points, or 1.16%, to settle at 23,824.10. The selloff came after a strong seven-session rally that had been driven by easing tensions in West Asia, lower crude oil prices and moderating foreign investor outflows.

WEAK ECONOMIC DATA HURTS SENTIMENT Markets turned sharply lower in afternoon trade after fresh data showed India's private sector activity slowed in June. Services activity fell to a 17-month low, while manufacturing growth eased to a three-month low, raising concerns about the pace of economic momentum. The weaker-than-expected data



prompted investors to lock in profits after the recent rally and adopt a more cautious stance.

IT STOCKS REMAIN UNDER PRESSURE

Technology stocks continued to be one of the biggest drags on the market. The Nifty IT index ended down 2.23%, making it one of the worst-performing sectoral indices of the day. Among Sensex constituents, Infosys fell 3.36%, TCS declined 3.16%, HCLTech dropped 1.79% and Tech Mahindra lost 1.31%. The sector continues to face pressure from the global technology selloff and concerns that artificial intelligence-led disruption could impact growth prospects for Indian IT services companies. Rising US bond yields and uncertainty around the Federal Reserve's rate trajectory have also weighed on

investor sentiment towards technology stocks.

METAL STOCKS TAKE A HIT

Metal stocks witnessed the sharpest sectoral decline. The Nifty Metal index plunged 3.22% as investors worried about weakening global demand and softer commodity prices. Tata Steel emerged among the biggest losers on the Sensex, falling 2.66%. The decline reflects broader concerns about the global economic outlook and slowing industrial demand.

BROAD-BASED SELLING ACROSS SECTORS

The weakness was widespread across Dalal Street. The Nifty Financial Services index fell 1.12%, while PSU Bank stocks declined 1.97%. Nifty Media dropped 1.47%, Nifty Consumer Durables fell 1.50% and Nifty Realty

slipped 1.12%. Broader markets also ended lower, although they outperformed benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 fell 1.05%, the Nifty Midcap 50 lost 0.90%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 declined 0.48%. India VIX rose 8.56%, signalling heightened market volatility and investor nervousness.

PHARMA EMERGES AS A SAFE HAVEN

Defensive sectors attracted buying interest amid the broader selloff. The Nifty Pharma index rose 0.92%, while the Nifty Healthcare Index gained 0.54%. Among Sensex constituents, Power Grid rose 0.83%, Axis Bank gained 0.28% and Sun Pharma added 0.23%.

TOP LOSERS ON SENSEX

Infosys led the losses, falling 3.36%, followed by TCS (-3.16%), BEL (-2.67%), Tata Steel (-2.66%), Adani Ports (-2.42%), Eternal (-1.84%), HCLTech (-1.79%) and SBI (-1.63%). The sharp fall in technology and metal stocks accounted for a significant portion of the benchmark's decline. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said market sentiment weakened as early gains failed to hold amid

negative global cues and profit booking after the recent rally. "Most sectoral indices ended in red, with metals recording the sharpest decline due to falling global prices and demand concerns amid an uncertain global outlook. The domestic IT sector also remained under pressure, reflecting the global tech rout and persistent concerns over AI-led disruptions in the Indian IT space," he said. According to Nair, stable crude oil prices and easing geopolitical tensions offered some support, but investors remained focused on the progress of the monsoon and ongoing US-India trade discussions. With Brent crude remaining below \$80 per barrel and geopolitical tensions easing, market attention is now shifting towards domestic growth indicators, monsoon progress and global monetary policy signals. Investors will also closely track US Federal Reserve commentary, foreign investor flows and corporate earnings for further cues on market direction. For now, Tuesday's sharp decline suggests that after a strong rally, markets may enter a consolidation phase as investors reassess valuations and macroeconomic risks.



Compliance Experts Discuss
Future of Intelligent Compliance
at Hyderabad Roundtable

HYDERABAD, 23RD JUNE 2026:

TeamLease RegTech hosted a roundtable discussion titled "Building the Future of Compliance: From Accidental Compliance to Intelligent Compliance" at Novotel Convention Centre, Hitec City, Hyderabad. The event brought together over 25 compliance professionals, HR leaders, legal counsels, company secretaries, and business leaders to explore how Artificial Intelligence is transforming compliance management and enabling organisations to move from reactive compliance practices to intelligent, data-driven decision-making.

The discussion focused on the increasing complexity of India's regulatory ecosystem. Participants examined how businesses today navigate compliance obligations arising from three levels of government, seven broad categories of law, 21 different types of regulatory instruments, 41 distinct types of compliance requirements and 3,756 websites. Together, these create a compliance environment that remains highly fragmented, manually intensive, and difficult to manage at scale.

Participants noted that despite significant investments in compliance functions, many organisations continue to rely on manual processes, siloed information repositories, and reactive approaches to compliance management. In such environments, there is often limited visibility into compliance risks, minimal automated error detection and prevention, and significant dependence on individual expertise. The result is that the cost of poor compliance, including penalties, litigation, operational disruptions, reputational damage, and management distraction, is often far greater than the cost of maintaining compliance itself. Against this backdrop, the roundtable explored the growing role of Artificial Intelligence as the next transformative technology for compliance management. Discussions highlighted how AI can help organisations move beyond merely collecting data to generating actionable insights, enabling compliance teams to identify risks earlier, interpret regulatory changes faster, and make better-informed decisions. Participants discussed prac-

tical AI applications across the compliance lifecycle, including regulatory monitoring, information extraction from complex documents, intelligent search and discovery, compliance obligation mapping, risk assessment, workflow automation, and predictive analytics. The consensus was that AI has the potential to make compliance management significantly faster, more accurate, more cost-effective, and more efficient while strengthening governance and organisational preparedness.

The session also highlighted TeamLease RegTech's AI vision, built around seven intelligence pillars that collectively span the compliance lifecycle:

- Regulatory Intelligence – understanding and navigating the law
 - Document Intelligence – reading, extracting, and validating evidence
 - Predictive Intelligence – anticipating issues before they arise
 - Risk Intelligence – quantifying and prioritising exposure
 - Performance Intelligence – converting compliance activity into management insight
 - Engagement Intelligence – making compliance a continuous organisational habit
 - Workflow Intelligence – reducing friction across compliance processes
- Participants explored how these intelligence layers can help organisations embed compliance into their operational core rather than treating it as a periodic audit exercise. The discussions also examined how AI-powered compliance systems can improve visibility, accountability, responsiveness, and decision-making across business functions. The roundtable generated significant interest among attendees, sparking conversations around the future of AI-enabled compliance, emerging use cases, implementation challenges, and the opportunities for organisations to build more resilient and proactive compliance programmes. Commenting on the discussion, Rishi Agrawal, Co-founder and CEO, TeamLease RegTech, said: "India's compliance ecosystem is becoming increasingly complex, making traditional compliance management approaches difficult to sustain.

PFC – First CPSU to
tap USD Bonds under
RBI Swap Window

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23:

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) becomes the first Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) and the first in NBFC space to successfully tap the international bond market following the announcement of Swap facility by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest Monetary Policy Statement. PFC, a Maharatna CPSU and India's leading NBFC in the power sector, has successfully raised USD 300 million Senior Unsecured USD-denominated Bond issuance under the Reg S route with a tenor of 5 years, priced at 105 basis points over the benchmark five-year U.S. Treasury for a fixed coupon of 5.32% p.a. The issue saw a strong investor demand, attracting active and wider participation from investors across European and Asian markets. The issue is rated Baa3 by Moody's; BBB- by Fitch and BBB+ by CareEdge. The proceeds from bonds will be used for on-lending to power and infrastructure sec-



tor and general corporate purposes. Commenting on the success of the bond issuance, Smt. Parminder Chopra, Chairman and Managing Director of PFC, states that I am happy that PFC is the first CPSU to tap the international bond market following the introduction of the swap facility by RBI. This issuance supports the Government of India's broader objective to attract foreign capital into the country. The deal reflects confidence of investors in PFC's business as well as its credit profile and the growth story of Indian Power sector.

Yousta Brings Global Football Fever
to Fashion with New FIFA Collection

MUMBAI, 23RD JUNE 2026

Yousta, the youth fashion destination from Reliance Retail, has launched its FIFA collection, bringing together fashion, sport and pop culture through a vibrant range of apparel for men, women and kids. Inspired by the excitement of global football and the growing influence of sports-inspired fashion, the collection offers a fresh take on licensed merchandise, blending fandom with everyday style.

Available across Yousta stores the collection brings together men's, women's and kids' FIFA licensed products in one space. The range features country jerseys inspired by iconic football nations, alongside trend-forward casualwear, co-ords, graphic tees, sports-inspired denim and character-led collaborations designed for today's youth consumer. Licensing continues to be a key pillar of Yousta's portfolio, enabling the brand to create culturally relevant collections that connect with the passions and interests of its customers. Yousta



actively participates in key cultural moments that resonate with its audience, and global sporting events provide a unique opportunity to bring together fashion, sport and entertainment through accessible, trend-led collections.

The collection also includes the playful "Fun with FIFA" range, a fashion-led interpretation of sportswear featuring co-ord T-shirt and shorts sets, ribbed tanks and sports-inspired denim in vibrant seasonal shades such as tomato red and bright green. Bringing together some of the world's most loved characters, including Mickey & Minnie, Peanuts and Garfield, the range adds a youthful and expressive di-

mension to football-inspired fashion. Kids' co-ord sets have been among the strongest-performing products within the collection. The positive response to the FIFA collection reflects the growing popularity of sport-inspired streetwear and athleisure-influenced dressing among Gen Z consumers. More importantly, it underscores a shift in how young shoppers engage with licensed collections—not merely as fan merchandise, but as fashion-first apparel that can be seamlessly incorporated into their everyday wardrobes. By combining global cultural moments with accessible fashion, Yousta continues to create relevant

and engaging experiences for young consumers, making international sporting events more meaningful and relatable through style.

ABOUT YOSTA:

yousta is Reliance Retail's youth-focused fashion brand that offers trend-forward, top-to-bottom ensembles and unisex merchandise at accessible price points. With its signature weekly fashion drops every Thursday, yousta brings fresh, relevant styles to young consumers across India. The brand delivers a tech-enabled, modern shopping experience through features like self-checkout counters, mobile charging stations, and interactive elements that enhance convenience and engagement in-store. yousta is available nationwide across physical stores and online via AJIO and JioMart. Rooted in community and conscious living, the brand also drives sustainability efforts through local partnerships and initiatives such as garment donation drives. With a rapidly growing footprint, yousta is redefining value fashion for the next generation.

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AI to Boost,
Not Replace
Infosys, Says
Nilekani

NEW DELHI: (JUN 23)

Artificial Intelligence will not replace companies like Infosys but amplify those moving with purpose and speed, Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani said on Tuesday, asserting that the Bengaluru-headquartered company "is more relevant than ever" and eagerly eyeing around USD 300-400 billion in AI opportunities by 2030. Speaking at the company's 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM), Nilekani said every major technology transition evokes questions on relevance and ability to protect growth and margins. AI's larger and disruptive technology transition only means that such questions are louder and doubts more insistent, he said.

Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals Launches a Dedicated
Atrial Fibrillation Center of Excellence

Global Expertise, Advanced PFA Technology and Patient-Centric AF Care Under One Roof

HYDERABAD, JUNE 23, 2026:

Building on its recent milestones in cardiac electrophysiology, Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals (SSHH) today announced the launch of its Dedicated Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Center of Excellence, bringing together advanced technology, global expertise, and comprehensive patient care for the management of complex heart rhythm disorders. The launch follows the successful introduction of Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA) technology for the first time in India at Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals and the subsequent successful treatment of patients using advanced 3D mapping-guided electrophysiology procedures, marking significant advancements in the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) in the country. The AF Center of Excellence aims



to provide a comprehensive platform for the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of heart rhythm disorders through advanced electrophysiology services, precision-guided interventions, standalone minimally invasive AF surgeries & a dedicated life style Center to Reverse Contributing & associated diseases multidisciplinary expertise, and patient-focused

care. The announcement was made in the presence of Dr. Dhanunjaya Lakkireddy, President, Kansas City Heart Rhythm Institute (USA), Prof. Dr. V. S. Ramchandra, Chairman, Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals, Chief Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist, and the hospital's Cardiac Sciences team, including Prof. Dr. Biju Govind, Dr. Shiva Kumar Reddy, Senior Consultant In-

terventional Cardiologist; Dr. Bharani Velam, Consultant Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist; and Dr. Prakash Nanjaiah, Chief Cardiothoracic & Arrhythmia Surgeon.

A special highlight of the event was the interaction with patients who successfully underwent the first CARTO-guided PFA AF Treatment in the Country on the 12th of this month, these breakthrough AF treatment procedures. Sharing their experiences with the media, the patients spoke about their diagnosis, treatment journey, recovery, and the significant improvement in their quality of life following the procedures. Their testimonials underscored the transformative impact of advanced electrophysiology technologies in restoring normal heart rhythm and enabling patients to return to active, healthy lives.



POWERGRID Celebrates 12th
International Day of Yoga

Gurugram: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Power, Government of India, celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga across its offices and establishments nationwide. At Corporate Centre, Gurugram, Sh. Vamsi Rama Mohan Bura, Chairman & Managing Director, POWERGRID, Sh. G. Ravisankar, Director (Finance), and Dr. Yatindra Diwedi, Director (Personnel) led the yoga session and encouraged people to embrace yoga as an integral part of their daily lives. The event

witnessed active participation from employees and their families, reflecting POWERGRID's commitment towards fostering a culture of employee well-being, inclusivity and sustainable workplace practices. The celebration also underscored the organization's continued efforts to promote a healthy, positive and productive work environment. The programme was organized in accordance with the theme of International Day of Yoga 2026, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," emphasizing the role of yoga in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and holistic health

across all age groups. Participants performed various yoga asanas, pranayama, and meditation exercises under the guidance of Yoga experts. As of 31st May 2026, POWERGRID has commissioned and is operating 291 Sub-Stations and more than 1,85,750 ckm transmission lines and 6,30,516 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of the latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain an average transmission system availability of more than 99.84%.



Asian Games 2026

Mansukh Mandaviya flags off Asian Games Fun Run



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala's sporting legacy and growing fitness culture will play a key role in India's journey towards becoming a global sporting power, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya said here on Tuesday. Addressing participants after flagging off the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 Fun Run in Thiruvananthapuram on International Olympic Day, Mandaviya said Kerala has a special place in India's sporting landscape and can contribute significantly to the country's success at the upcoming Asian Games. The event marked the first programme in India under the Olympic Council of Asia's Asian Games for All initiative.

TG20 Season 1

Anvith, Ganesh power Hyderabad e-Champions to first win



HYDERABAD: Hyderabad e-Champions kicked off their campaign with a comprehensive 7-wicket victory against Palamuru Strikers in Match 4 of the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 Season 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Ajay Dev Goud spearheaded the bowling attack for the e-Champions with figures of 4/21 to bundle out Strikers for 141 in 19.4 overs. In the run chase, half-centuries from Anvith Reddy (53 off 42) and Ganesh Gadugu (50 off 30) guided their team home to help them register their first win of the season. The strikers got off the blocks quickly with Vignesh Reddy at his attacking best, taking down Kappaganti Sriniketh for 21 runs.

Ronaldo becomes first player to score in six editions

HOUSTON, JUNE 23

Cristiano Ronaldo etched his name in the history books by becoming the first footballer to score in six different FIFA World Cup editions after finding the net in Portugal's Group K clash against Uzbekistan at the Houston Stadium in Houston on Tuesday.

The 41-year-old Portugal captain reached the landmark just six minutes into the contest, putting his side ahead with a trademark close-range finish. The goal came after Joao Cancelo surged down the right wing and delivered a low pass into the box, which Ronaldo converted first time from inside the six-yard area. The strike marked another remarkable chapter in Ronaldo's extraordinary international career. Having made his World Cup debut in Germany in 2006 as a 21-year-old, he has now scored in every tournament he has featured in - 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2026.

Ronaldo scored once during Portugal's run to the semi-finals in 2006 and added a goal each in the 2010 and 2014 editions. His most productive World Cup campaign came in Russia in 2018, where he netted four times, before adding another goal in Qatar four years later as Portugal reached the quarter-finals.

The veteran forward had faced criticism following a subdued display in Portugal's opening match against DR Congo, but he responded emphatically by delivering a record-breaking goal on the biggest stage in world football.

Ronaldo's latest achievement came just a day after Argentina captain Lionel Messi became the highest goal scorer in the history of the FIFA World Cup as he scored his 18th goal against Austria.

Despite holding numerous international records, Ronaldo is still searching for his first goal in a World Cup knockout



match and has never played in a World Cup final. However, with Portugal aiming for a deep run in the expanded 48-team tournament, the legendary forward could add further milestones to his already glittering resume. Ronaldo now has nine World Cup goals to his name and remains one of the central figures of the 2026 tournament as Portugal pursue their quest for global glory.

Too old? Too slow? Ronaldo answers with 'two goals and a record'
Just days ago, Cristiano Ronaldo was the target of relentless criticism as he failed to score in Portugal's opening match of

the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The Portugal captain endured a frustrating, goalless opener against DR Congo, prompting social media to erupt with jokes, memes, and questions about whether the 41-year-old still had what it takes to perform on football's biggest stage. For many, age had finally caught up with the legendary forward. However, Ronaldo had other ideas.

Against Uzbekistan at Houston Stadium on Tuesday, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner delivered the perfect response, scoring twice in the first half and rewriting the history books in the process. It also propelled Portugal to a thumping

5-0 win against Uzbekistan. The message was clear early in the match.

Just six minutes into the contest, Joao Cancelo surged down the right flank and drilled a low cross into the penalty area. Ronaldo was exactly where great goal scorers are expected to be. The Portuguese icon calmly swept home from close range to give his side the lead and send a warning to his critics. But he wasn't finished. In the 39th minute, Ronaldo struck again, doubling both Portugal's advantage and his personal tally for the night. The celebrations carried an extra edge, as if the veteran striker was determined to remind the football world that class does not fade with age. The first goal was far more than just another World Cup strike.

It made Ronaldo the first footballer in history to score in six different FIFA World Cups — Germany 2006, South Africa 2010, Brazil 2014, Russia 2018, Qatar 2022, and now USA-Mexico-Canada 2026. It also made Ronaldo, at 41 years & 138 days, the second-oldest goalscorer in the history of the World Cup behind Roger Milla of Cameroon, who scored a goal in 1994 at the age of 42 years & 39 days.

Twenty years after making his World Cup debut as a 21-year-old, Ronaldo continues to achieve feats no player before him has managed.

His latest milestone came barely 24 hours after Lionel Messi became the highest goalscorer in FIFA World Cup history, ensuring that football's two greatest stars of the modern era continue to raise the bar even in the twilight of their careers.

The contrast with Portugal's opening match could not have been sharper. The player who was mocked, doubted, and written off after one quiet performance suddenly looked unstoppable. Every sprint, every touch, and every finish seemed fuelled by the criticism that followed him into Houston.



'23rd June bringing all kinds of magic', says Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Former India captain Rohit Sharma celebrated the significance of June 23 in his life a few hours after being conferred with the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian honours, during the Padma Awards ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday.

Rohit, considered one of the greatest while-ball cricketers in the history of the game with three double-hundreds in ODIs and two World Cup titles in T20 format, was alluding to the fact that he got the highest civilian award of his life on the day on which he earned his first India cap.

"23rd June bringing all kinds of magic," said Rohit in a post on X. "19 years ago, it began with an India cap. "Today, another proud chapter is added to the story," said Rohit in his post.

The honour marks another significant achievement in a career that has spanned nearly two decades at the highest level. Since making his international debut in 2007, Rohit has established himself as one of India's most successful batters and captains, producing memorable performances across all formats of the game.

The Indian cricket team posted the video of Rohit receiving the award and wrote, "A highly prestigious honour for a great of the game. President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmuji @presidentofindia confers former #TeamIndia captain Rohit Sharma @rohitsharma45 with the Padma Shri award."

Men's FIH Pro League: India beat Pakistan 4-3 in thrilling London-leg opener

LONDON, JUNE 23

The Indian men's hockey team started the London leg of their FIH Pro League European tour with a thrilling 4-3 victory over archrivals Pakistan at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre near London on Tuesday. After a slow start in the opening quarter, India found their rhythm and went on to secure their third outright win of this Pro League season, thwarting a late scare by Pakistan. The victory moved India up to the seventh position in the points table.

Goals from Abhishek (22'), Nilakanta Sharma (24'), Sukhjeet Singh (40'), and Rajinder Singh (52') guided India home in the high-voltage encounter.

The match began with both teams playing cautiously and trading early circle entries. Pakistan earned the first breakthrough in the 8th minute when Ahmad Nadeem capitalised on a penalty corner routine to make



it 1-0. India immediately responded with aggressive attacks but struggled to find the goal-scoring touch.

In the final minute of the first quarter, India won three consecutive penalty corners. Still, Pakistan goalkeeper Ali Raza made a fine save against skipper Harmanpreet Singh's dragkick, which was the nearest India came to scoring off those back-to-back short corners.

India turned up the heat with quick passing in the second quarter to find

an equaliser. In the 22nd minute, Dilpreet Singh's powerful shot was padded away by Raza, but Abhishek quickly pounced on the rebound to make it 1-1. Three minutes later, India won another penalty corner, where Nilakanta reacted the sharpest to the rebound and smashed the ball through the goalkeeper's legs to put India ahead 2-1. Goalkeeper Raza then stood tall for Pakistan later in the quarter, saving scoring attempts from penalty corners off the stick of Jugraj Singh in the 28th minute and Harmanpreet a minute later to keep the score 2-1 at halftime.

Pakistan increased their tempo in the third quarter, producing multiple circle entries, but the Indian backline held firm. Defender Amit Rohidas showed great composure to break up a dangerous two-on-one counter-attack led by Pakistan's Nadeem. India then extended their lead in the 40th minute when Abhishek set up Sukhjeet inside the circle.

McCullum dismisses rift talk, says 'Stokes and I are good friends'

NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 23

Brendon McCullum has dismissed speculation of a rift with England captain Ben Stokes, insisting the pair remain close friends as England prepare for a decisive third Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge.

Stokes returned to the England squad on Tuesday after missing the second Test at The Oval due to a breach of the team's midnight curfew. McCullum expressed confusion over claims that their relationship had soured.

"I asked him, 'Do you know where this talk about our relationship has come from over the last six months?'" McCullum told reporters before the series decider. "He replied, 'No, I have no idea.' I told him, 'As far as I'm concerned, I consider you a good friend.'"

This reunion is crucial for England, who lost their series lead after a heavy defeat in the second Test. They are now tied at 1-1 with New Zealand heading into the final match. Concerns about the McCullum-Stokes partnership grew during Stokes' absence, especially after the England coach expressed worry for the skipper before the second Test. Durham head coach Ryan Campbell later mentioned that Stokes was in "good spirits," while chief executive Tim Bostock said he was puzzled by Mc-



Cullum's comments. Clarifying his remarks, McCullum stated the situation had improved considerably. "Initially, I was slightly worried, but now I see that he looks great and is ready to go. He looks fantastic, he seems eager about the week, and it's nice to have the team back together."

McCullum emphasised the strength of their partnership, built over four years during England's red-ball resurgence. "It has been a real privilege for me to work closely alongside Ben. I look back fondly on how tight we were as a group and as a pair. Anything outside of that is beyond our control. Ben and I are close."

England's training session in Nottingham seemed to confirm this bond, with Stokes and McCullum embracing before

discussing plans with selector Marcus North ahead of the team announcement. Stokes also came into this match in good form, scoring 95 for Durham against Northamptonshire during his break from international cricket.

"I thought he batted brilliantly," McCullum said. "He even texted me, asking, 'Have you seen the highlights?' I said I had, and he responded, 'I'm back.'" The third Test is important for England. A loss would give New Zealand a rare series win in England and worsen concerns about England's red-ball performance, having won only two of their last nine Tests. However, McCullum believes that tough times reveal the true qualities of a leadership team.

Yousta Brings Global Football Fever to Fashion with New FIFA Collection

MUMBAI, JUNE 23

Yousta, the youth fashion destination from Reliance Retail, has launched its FIFA collection, bringing together fashion, sport and pop culture through a vibrant range of apparel for men, women and kids. Inspired by the excitement of global football and the growing influence of sports-inspired fashion, the collection offers a fresh take on licensed merchandise, blending fandom with everyday style.

Available across Yousta stores the collection brings together men's, women's and kids' FIFA licensed products in one space. The range features country jerseys inspired by iconic football nations, alongside trend-forward casualwear, co-ords, graphic tees, sports-inspired denim and character-led collaborations designed for today's youth consumer. Licensing continues to be a key pillar of Yousta's portfolio, enabling the brand to create culturally relevant collections that connect with the passions and interests of its customers. Yousta actively participates in key cultural moments that resonate with its audience, and global sporting events provide a unique opportunity to bring together fashion, sport and entertainment through accessible, trend-led collections.

The collection also includes the



playful "Fun with FIFA" range, a fashion-led interpretation of sportswear featuring co-ord T-shirt and shorts sets, ribbed tanks and sports-inspired denim in vibrant seasonal shades such as tomato red and bright green. Bringing together some of the world's most loved characters, including Mickey & Minnie, Peanuts and Garfield, the range adds a youthful and expressive dimension



to football-inspired fashion. Kids' co-ord sets have been among the strongest-performing products within the collection.

The positive response to the FIFA collection reflects the growing popularity of sport-inspired streetwear and athleisure-influenced dressing among Gen Z consumers. More importantly, it underscores a shift in how young shoppers engage with li-

censed collections—not merely as fan merchandise, but as fashion-first apparel that can be seamlessly incorporated into their everyday wardrobes.

By combining global cultural moments with accessible fashion, Yousta continues to create relevant and engaging experiences for young consumers, making international sporting events more meaningful and relatable through style.

BRISTOL, JUNE 23

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu said leading from the front remains her biggest responsibility after producing a magnificent unbeaten century to guide her side to a dominant nine-wicket victory over Ireland in the Women's T20 World Cup at the County Ground on Tuesday.

Athapaththu smashed 106 not out from just 61 deliveries, hitting 17 fours and two sixes, as Sri Lanka chased down Ireland's total of 130/5 in only 15.3 overs. The century was the fourth T20I hundred of her career and another memorable innings at a venue where she has enjoyed considerable success over the years.

Speaking after receiving the Player of the Match award, Athapaththu admitted Bristol



has become one of her favourite grounds. "Yeah, I love Bristol. I score most of the runs here, especially in England. I played my natural game and scored a hundred, but the most important thing is that we won," Athapaththu said.

Sri Lanka entered the match needing a victory to keep their semi-final hopes alive, and the captain was pleased to deliver when her team needed her most. "We were waiting for a win. As a

captain and as a leader, I always try to lead from the front. That's what I want to do," she added.

Athapaththu dominated the chase from the beginning, helping Sri Lanka race to 55 without loss in the powerplay before bringing up a 30-ball half-century. She later converted it into a century off just 59 deliveries as Ireland struggled to contain her aggressive strokeplay.

While her batting grabbed the headlines, the skipper was equally pleased with Sri Lanka's performance with the ball, which restricted Ireland to 130/5 despite a fighting 59 from captain Gaby Lewis. Sri Lanka's bowlers struck regularly after Ireland's top-order collapse and prevented the opposition from building significant momentum through the middle and death overs.

Nidhhi Proves Glamour Never Goes Out Of Style

Nidhhi Agerwal may not have a packed film lineup at the moment, and the underwhelming response to The Raja Saab has only added to the uncertainty surrounding her next big-screen move. However, if there's one place where the actress continues to dominate, it's social media. Her latest photoshoot is a perfect example. Draped in a vibrant coral saree paired with a heavily embroidered blouse, Nidhhi effortlessly blends traditional elegance with modern glamour. The striking red backdrop further enhances her look, making every frame visually captivating and hard to ignore. While film offers may currently be limited, Nidhhi's fashion game remains stronger than ever.



Truth Behind Trisha-Vijay Instagram Speculation

Popular Tamil actor Vijay and actress Trisha are once again making headlines. This time, the discussion is about social media. Reports recently claimed that Trisha had unfollowed Vijay on Instagram leading to fresh rumors about their relationship. For the past few years, there have been many rumors linking Vijay and Trisha. The two stars have worked together in several successful films and share a good friendship. Because of their close bond, social media users often speculate about their personal lives.



Samantha Pregnancy Buzz: Nandini Reddy Breaks Silence



Director Nandini Reddy is enjoying a special moment in her career and personal life. Her latest film Maa Inti Bangaaram, starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu, has received a positive response from audiences and has performed well at the box office. Along with the film's success, discussions about Samantha's pregnancy have also attracted attention. Nandini and Samantha have worked together on several projects over the years and share a close friendship. Maa Inti Bangaaram marks another successful collaboration between the two. The movie has reportedly earned around ₹43 crore, making it one of the notable successes in Samantha's recent career.

Suriya's Film Sparks Debate Over Its VFX

More than ₹350 crores was grossed already from the box office, but then, Suriya's latest movie Veer-abbadrudu (Karuppu in Tamil) started to stream on the OTT platform as per the initial agreement of a 4-week gap from the release date. However, ever since the movie got out on the OTT platform, many are complaining that the visual effects in the movie are poor. Finally, director RJ Balaji has jumped into the scene to talk about the same.



Baahubali Didn't Create The Trend, Says Rajamouli

Whenever we look at fan wars, many times a comment pops up that "Baahubali" is the first film that started the pan-India trend, and fans say that Prabhas is the one who did it. Movie lovers, however, attribute the whole success of Baahubali to SS Rajamouli only. However, the legendary director proved why he is legendary, and says that Baahubali hasn't started the trend in the first place. "It was not Baahubali that started the trend of pan-India films or a film that will be watched by the whole of the nation. There were movies like Maine Pyar Kiya and Hum Aapke Hain Koun, which were dubbed into Telugu and Tamil, and became great hits. Their music was a bigger hit than many original Telugu songs. However, while they are superior blockbusters, we haven't followed them up," said Rajamouli. "We thought it was a one-off phenomenon and we didn't follow it up", says Rajamouli, as to how filmmakers at that time haven't pursued that pan-India success later on. Many film lovers are hailing Rajamouli for his comment, as he's not even in the mood to take credit for the success of Baahubali, and the way Baahubali led to an influx of South films like KGF, Pushpa and Kantara, which have done exceptionally well at the Bollywood box office. On the flip side, many films work everywhere now and then, like how some English films like Jurassic Park also ran across India, but it's the follow-up that's key. Currently, South is doing more pan-India films than ever.



Keerthy Suresh Praises Vijay's Leadership Journey

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and popular actor Vijay celebrated his 52nd birthday on June 22. This birthday is very special because it is his first birthday after becoming the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Many celebrities, politicians, and fans wished him on social media. Actress Keerthy Suresh also shared a heartfelt birthday message for Vijay. She posted a photo with him and spoke about his journey from cinema to politics. Keerthy said that for many years, Vijay's birthday was always connected with exciting movie updates. Fans would eagerly wait for a first-look poster, teaser, trailer, or a new film announcement on his special day. However, this year feels different. Keerthy said that instead of introducing a new movie character, Vijay is now starting a new chapter as a leader. She praised him for taking up the responsibility of serving the people and wished him success in his political journey. Vijay entered politics by launching his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). In 2024, he announced that he would contest the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. He later traveled across the state, met people, and shared his vision for Tamil Nadu. In the 2026 Assembly elections, TVK performed strongly and won enough seats to form the government with support from its allies. Vijay also contested from two constituencies and won both of them with impressive margins. After becoming Chief Minister, he chose to continue as the MLA from the Perambur constituency. Vijay is often compared to legendary actor-politicians such as N. T. Rama Rao, M. G. Ramachandran, and J. Jayalalithaa, who successfully balanced cinema and public service. Meanwhile, Vijay's final film, Jana Nayagan, is yet to be released. The movie faced delays due to certification issues. Authorities are also investigating the online leak of footage related to the film.



Crucial Test Ahead For Sreeleela

Other than the Kissik song in recent times, young starlet Sreeleela hasn't made any big achievements in terms of scoring a blockbuster or proving her mettle as an actress. While everyone praises her for those amazing dancing skills, she's not even showcasing them, unlike Sai Pallavi, who enchants her audience with some amazing dance moves. In recent times, with most of her films ending up as flops, surely she never got the chance to woo the audience. However, the other day, OM, featuring Dhanush in the lead, finally got Sreeleela signed as the leading lady. No doubt, Dhanush's films will have some strong women characters; at the same time, the actor loves to come up with at least one 'kuthu' mass song that would enthrall the front-benchers. Many are wondering if Sreeleela could do something like Rowdy Baby alongside Dhanush. In the first place, Sreeleela should prove herself not only as a dancer but also as an actress, as most of her recent acting has been labelled routine by film critics. At a time when the likes of Bhagyashree Bhorse and other new actresses are being hailed for their performances, surely it's high time Sreeleela proves that she also belongs to the same category. Meanwhile, Sreeleela is now getting trolled for attending a Yoga Day celebration in Maharashtra by a politician's wife, as the actress was completely ignored there and insulted as well during the photo-op session. Somewhere, the youngster is not getting Bollywood PR right, while she did a lot in the Telugu industry.

