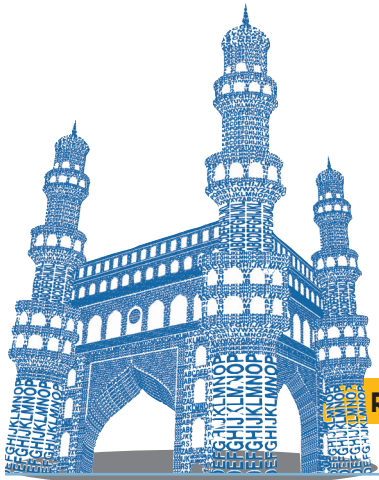




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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The Darkness of Drugs Snatching the Flight of Youth

NEW CHAPTER FOR KALKI



OPINION 06

BOX-OFFICE 12

CM appeals to employees to WORK EXTRA HOUR

FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASE REVENUES

Curbing illegal activities will boost government revenue.

Employees plays a crucial role in elevating the government's good reputation

Introduced insurance scheme for all government employees to protect their families in the difficult times

KCR group is obstructing Metro Rail and Musi Rejuvenation projects

Calling him as a "Gumpu Mestri" (group leader) is a welcome change.

As a group leader, he is leading a team of officials who are bridging a connection with people and poor

CM Revanth Reddy addressed a meeting after the state government entered MoUs with banks to provide insurance coverage to the state government employees today.



HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy appealed to all the state government employees to work extra for one hour every day for more productive outcome in the administration especially in the enhancement of the state revenues. The Chief minister stressed that illegal activities should be curbed and also plug leakages to generate more revenue. Addressing a meeting after signing MoUs with the banks to provide insurance coverage to all government employees here today, the CM said that the hard work of the employees will only help to the successful implementation of every welfare schemes. The employees'

trust is the government's strength. "All the employees should work extra for one hour each day and help increase the state government's revenue. We will use the increased revenue for the employees welfare. Earning a good reputation for the government also lies in the hands of the state employees", the CM remarked.

The Chief Minister highlighted the government's commitment to provide insurance coverage to all government employees and also outsourcing and contract workers. After handing over Rs one crore insurance payout to the families of 45 Singareni workers who died in accidents, the state government decided to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CM Revanth Seeks Quick Tungabhadra Solution

appeals to Union Minister CR Patil to find a solution for Tungabhadra water sharing expeditiously

The CM addressed a public meeting at Munirabad after inaugurating 33 spillway gates at the Tungabhadra Dam.

HOSPET, JUNE 25:

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy appealed to union minister for Jal Shakti CR Patil to find a permanent solution to the interstate water sharing issue of Tungabhadra river expeditiously.

Addressing a public meeting, the Chief Minister asserted that today is a 'Red Letter' day as the Chief Ministers of 3 states attended a meeting chaired by the union minister CR Patil on Tungabhadra water sharing issue. The CM emphasized that all the political forces should rise above politics to the cause of the farmers in the three states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Twin Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela; Death Toll Rises to 188



02

Major Changes in the Union Cabinet 38 Ministers Likely to Be Remove

NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

There is strong speculation in national political circles that a major reshuffle of the Union Cabinet may take place soon. Reports suggest that ministers whose performance has not met expectations may be dropped. Political analysts believe that, keeping upcoming elections in mind, the

Bharatiya Janata Party may adopt a strategy of giving ministerial positions to MPs from key states.

It is being reported that changes may be made in the responsibilities of around 38 ministers. Leaders such as Shrikant Shinde, Eatala Rajender, D. K. Aruna, and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar are reportedly likely to get opportunities.

1.25 CRORE INSURANCE FOR GOVT STAFF: BHATTI



HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the People's Government has taken a historic decision to provide security and assurance to the families of lakhs of government employees across the state. He stated that the Cabinet, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has approved an innovative free insurance scheme for employees, unprecedented in the country. The Deputy Chief Minister clarified that the government has negotiated with banks to provide this extensive insurance protection without imposing even a single rupee of additional burden on either the government or employees. Under this insurance scheme, the family of an employee who dies in a general accident will receive ₹1.25 crore, while compensation in the event of an air accident will range between ₹2 crore and ₹3 crore, he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

KTR BLAMES REVANTH FOR REAL ESTATE SLUMP, MOUNTING STATE DEBT

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25



BRS working president KT Rama Rao has criticised the current Congress administration for failing to uphold its electoral pledges. He asserted that the government has, through deceptive statements and actions, let down all segments of society.

KT Rama Rao specifically held Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy responsible for exacerbating Telangana's debt and causing a significant decline in the real estate market.

During an address to BRS leaders and activists in Chevella on Thursday, Rama Rao highlighted the government's repeated failure to honour its commitments to farmers, including the timely distribution of Rythu Bandhu financial aid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Mahesh Dixit Appointed New IB Chief



New Delhi: Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit has been appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), India's premier domestic intelligence agency. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment.

A 1993-batch IPS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, Dixit succeeds the outgoing IB chief upon completion of the latter's tenure.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

SIR EXERCISE BEGINS IN TELANGANA



HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

The voter list's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process commenced in Telangana on Thursday and will run until July 24.

To facilitate this, officials distributed enumeration forms to Booth Level Agents (BLAs) across the state. Subsequently, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will go door-to-door to provide these forms to residents.

According to officials, voters are instructed to complete the applications and submit them to their designated BLAs. The BLAs will then collect the filled-out forms from households two days after

distribution. For immediate assistance, the public is encouraged to call the toll-free number 1950. Additionally, if BLOs do not visit a household, a complaint can be registered through the same toll-free number.

The applications will be available in English within Hyderabad district and in Telugu in other districts. Each BLO is tasked with visiting a minimum of 50 households per booth daily to deliver these applications to voters. These forms are intended for all 3,38,26,448 voters in Telangana, who are required to complete and return them to the BLOs by the July 24 deadline.

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In the Name of Dignity: A Plea for Justice and Respect for Our Spiritual Guides

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI,
JUNE 25, 2026

A moment that touches the core of faith and the everyday dignity of those who lead with spiritual devotion has arrived, as a memorandum was submitted to the Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana, Shri C.V. Anand, voicing deep concern over alleged misbehavior by police officials in Gadwal and Maldakal toward revered Hindu religious leaders and saints, including Shankar Swamiji. The appeal carries the weight of countless hearts that hold sacred traditions with reverence, speaking not only of a specific incident but of a larger vow to protect the sanctity with which spiritual guides are revered. The representatives remind us that the dignity of Shankar Swamiji and other esteemed leaders—Shri Krishna Chandumeshwara Maharshi, Shri Vedagiri Maharaj, Shri Yogish Prabhu Ji, Shri Pagadakula Balaswamy, Shri Sub-



hash Chander, and members of Maha Janashakti—matters to the living hearts of their followers and communities across the region.

This request for accountability is born of a desire for healing, not vengeance. It seeks a transparent inquiry into the actions of the Gadwal SI and Maldakal SI and, where warranted, lawful consequences for those who have erred. The aim is to safeguard the sanctity of religious observance and the personal dignity of those who shepherd faith with compassion, discipline, and service. What this mo-

ment asks of all of us is simple yet profound: a recognition that religious leaders are entrusted with the spiritual welfare of communities, and any mistreatment harms the fabric of trust that binds people together; a call for due process and fairness, ensuring that inquiries are thorough, impartial, and grounded in the truth; and a commitment to actions that reinforce safety, respect, and harmony among diverse communities, so that faith remains a beacon of hope rather than a source of pain.

The families, followers, and communities who revere

Shankar Swamiji and the other honored leaders deserve to see accountability handled with care, respect, and justice. They deserve reassurance that efforts to uphold public order do not come at the expense of the sacred trust placed in those who devote their lives to spiritual guidance. In times of sorrow and hurt, the path forward is not vengeance but catharsis through truth, transparency, and reform. The memory of Shankar Swamiji and the esteemed figures connected to this movement should inspire stronger commitments to dignity, dialogue, and mutual respect. As this memorandum seeks a comprehensive inquiry, it also seeks to reaffirm a shared pledge: that every citizen, irrespective of faith, should be treated with dignity; that the guardians of law should protect all, including those who lead in faith; and that healing begins when truth is acknowledged and justice is administered with compassion.

Telangana to setup 53 new ACTs at ₹2,000 crore: Vivek

MAHABUBNAGAR, JUNE 25

Minister for Labour, Employment and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy has announced that the government has decided to establish 53 new ATCs across the Telangana state at a cost of ₹2,000 crore, significantly expanding access to advanced technical education and skill training.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the construction of a new Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) at Rangareddygudem in Rajapur mandal of Mahabubnagar district on Thursday.

The Minister stated that the Telangana government is according top priority to skill development and employment generation. He said the government has upgraded ITIs that were on the verge of closure into 65 Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) with an investment of approximately ₹2,200 crore. He said the newly established ATCs



are witnessing an impressive 90 percent admission rate, reflecting the growing demand for skill-based education.

Vivek Venkatswamy attributed this success to the introduction of new and industry-relevant courses and emphasized that students must acquire technical skills alongside academic qualifications to secure quality employment opportunities.

The Minister said the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) programme has received an overwhelming response from youth across the

State. He noted that the government has allocated ₹90 crore in the budget to provide internationally recognised skill training and enhance overseas employment opportunities.

The Minister said Telangana has emerged as a national role model in transforming conventional ITIs into Advanced Technology Centres. He said the Union government has appreciated the State's innovative approach to skill development.

He added that a special committee comprising representatives from various states has also been constituted to study Telangana's model, and he is leading the committee. Highlighting the demands of a competitive global economy, the Minister said that technical skills, combined with academic qualifications, are essential for enhancing employability and securing high-quality jobs. Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy and others were also present.

Former Corporator Madavaram Ranga Rao Joins Temple Anniversary Prayers in Venkateshwara Nagar

Medchal-Malkajgiri, June 25, 2026: In a heartening display of faith and community, the Sri Katamaisamma Temple in 35th Block, Venkateshwara Nagar, celebrated its 19th anniversary with a solemn ceremony. At the invitation of the temple committee, former corporator Madavaram Ranga Rao arrived to offer prayers and take part in the temple rituals marking the milestone. Local residents and temple volunteers gathered to share in the devotional moment, praising the temple's ongoing service to the community. The temple committee expressed gratitude to everyone who joined the celebrations and supported the temple's mission over the years.



GOVERNOR CALLS FOR PEACE, SACRIFICE ON MUHARRAM



Hyderabad, June 25: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla extended greetings to people on the occasion of Muharram, emphasizing the festival's message of sacrifice, peace and justice. In a message, the Governor said Muharram commemorates the martyrdom of Haz-

rat Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Holy Prophet, who sacrificed his life in pursuit of truth and faith. Describing sacrifice and humanism as the core values of Muharram, the Governor urged people to draw inspiration from its ideals and work towards peace and social harmony.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

1.25 CRORE INSURANCE FOR GOVT STAFF: BHATTI

FROM PAGE 1

Employees between 18 and 60 years of age will also be covered by a ₹10 lakh life insurance policy. The scheme further provides financial support in cases of permanent total disability or partial disability resulting from accidents. Importantly, the coverage extends not only to regular employees but also to contract, outsourcing, and other temporary staff whose salaries are paid through government records every month, Bhatti Vikramarka said.

He said that no family should be pushed into financial distress overnight due to an unfortunate incident involving its primary breadwinner. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that government employees are not merely salary earners; the government wants their families to feel that it stands firmly behind them in times of need.

Recalling the difficulties faced by employees during the previous government when salaries were often delayed until the 15th or even the 20th of the month, Bhatti Vikramarka noted that many employees have housing, vehicle, and education loans with monthly EMIs. Delayed salaries often affected their loan repayments and credit scores. Despite inheriting a difficult financial situation, the present government, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, implemented a strict financial management plan to ensure that salaries are credited on the first day of every month, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also announced that the government is providing a permanent solution to the long-pending issue of employee health cards. He further stated that the Cabinet has also decided to establish a dedicated Trust that will provide comprehensive cashless medical services to all employees, significantly strengthening their healthcare security.

KTR BLAMES REVANTH FOR REAL ESTATE SLUMP, MOUNTING STATE DEBT

FROM PAGE 1

He further alleged that the administration is deliberately delaying welfare initiatives while simultaneously attempting to mislead the public.

Addressing the state of the real estate sector, the BRS leader pointed out that property values, which had seen substantial growth under the BRS government, have plummeted under the current Congress leadership. He provided specific examples, noting that land in areas like Shahbad, Chandanvelly, and Seetharampur, which was valued at approximately Rs. 30 lakh per acre prior to industrial expansion, had appreciated to nearly Rs. 3 crore per acre following significant investments from major corporations such as Microsoft, Amazon, and Welspun.

KT Rama Rao lamented that the real estate market has suffered a severe setback since the Congress took office, with properties previously valued at around Rs. 1 crore per acre now struggling to attract buyers even at Rs. 50-60 lakh per acre.

In a direct challenge to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the BRS working president derided his frequent trips to New Delhi, stating that despite making 72 visits to the national capital, the Chief Minister has failed



to secure any substantial financial aid or major development projects for Telangana.

K.T. Rama Rao also revealed that the Congress government has accumulated a debt of nearly Rs. 4 lakh crore in the last two and a half years, plunging the state into a financial crisis without delivering any tangible benefits to its citizens. He accused the Chief Minister of prioritising public relations over effective governance and criticised the government's performance in key areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development.



Twin Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela; Death Toll Rises to 188

Caracas: Two powerful earthquakes struck northern Venezuela within a minute of each other on Wednesday evening, killing at least 188 people and injuring more than 1,500, while causing widespread destruction across the country.

The twin tremors, measuring between 7.1 and 7.5 magnitude, are among the strongest earthquakes to hit Venezuela in more than a century. The quakes triggered the collapse of several buildings, damaged key infrastructure and sent residents fleeing into the streets in panic.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez declared a state of emergency and warned that the death toll could rise as rescue

operations continue in the worst-affected regions. La Guaira, located about 30 kilometres north of Caracas, was described as a "disaster zone," with dozens of buildings reduced to rubble.

Rescue teams and local residents worked through the night to save people trapped beneath collapsed structures. Powerful aftershocks continued to shake the region on Thursday, complicating relief efforts.

The earthquakes also damaged Simón Bolívar International Airport near Caracas, forcing its closure. Schools across several regions have been shut for several days, with some educational institutions being converted

into temporary shelters and relief centres.

The tremors were felt far beyond Venezuela, with evacuations reported in parts of Brazil's Amazon region, nearly 1,700 kilometres from Caracas.

Several countries, including the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay, have offered humanitarian assistance and rescue support to Venezuela as emergency operations continue. Officials said the casualty figures are expected to increase as rescue teams gain access to severely affected areas and continue searching for survivors beneath the debris.

CM appeals to employees to WORK EXTRA HOUR

FROM PAGE 1

extend similar insurance coverage to all employees. It was the responsibility of the government to provide financial support to the families of the employees who died suddenly. Such a big insurance scheme will instill courage and a sense of reassurance in the employees' families in the difficult times. It was the reason the government signed an agreement with bankers today to provide accident insurance to state government employees.

CM Revanth Reddy appealed to the employees to bring their demands and grievances to his notice as the government is ready to address them. The Chief minister blasted the KCR government for landing the wealthy Telangana into bankruptcy amassing a debt of ₹8.11 lakh crore in just 10 years. The last government wreaked havoc on the state equivalent to 100 years of destruction. During the BRS rule, the employees were never paid salaries on the first day of every month. Despite facing

hurdles, the state government was ensuring employees get their salaries promptly. We are also fulfilling the promise of releasing retirement benefit funds in phases.

The Chief minister took strong exception to the opposition for calling him as "Gumpu Mestry" (group leader) in a negative way. In fact he is a group leader of the government employees who are active in bridging a connection with common people and poorer sections. This group is my strength and also my prestige. "I am not like the BRS leaders who boasted about themselves as 'Gadi' (feudal) leaders living in the forts". People have been calling him 'Revanth anna' even after his status and position changed. "I am delighted to maintain a bond of brother with all".

In a scathing attack on BRS for obstructing the Metro rail and Musi Rejuvenation project, CM Revanth Reddy said that KCR was spending time in his farm house like Kumbhakarna and the BRS leader was acting like Bakasura when he come out of his

farm house. The Chief minister criticized the opposition party for not showing any gratitude. While we are offering positions to those who sacrificed their lives during the Telangana movement, the opposition was obstructing from doing a good for the society.

Stating that he had not taken a single day leave in the last 30 months, the Chief minister said that he was visiting Delhi to protect the state interests only. Today, all the plans envisaged by the government are fruitifying. My only agenda is to resolve the people's issues and lead the state on the development path by achieving a target of 3 Trillion US dollar economy by 2047. The CM called upon all employees to let us all work together to make Telangana the number one state in the country. The government accorded top priority to maintaining law and order and attracting investments to the state, the Chief minister said assured that the government will stand by the employees.

CM Seeks Quick Tungabhadra..



FROM PAGE 1

The first meeting of the 3 CMs and Union Minister is the first step to resolve water sharing issue amicably, CM Revanth Reddy said that the inauguration of new 33 gates at Tungabhadra dam is a big initiative to resolve the water sharing dispute of the three generations. The installation of new gates would also solve the plight of lakhs of farmers. Even the Mysore Kings set aside the disputes and came forward to find a solution for the sake of farmers, the CM

remembered.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the farmers could use only 5 to 6 TMC of the allocated 17.9 TMC of water from Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) in Gadwal, Alampur, and Palamuru regions. Another 10 TMC of allocated water is not being used due to various reasons. The Telangana Government has already brought the issues of silt accumulation in the Tungabhadra river and water allocation disputes to the Union Minister's atten-

tion. We resolved to find a permanent solution to the water crisis in the meeting.

CM Revanth Reddy stressed that we should accord priority to finding solutions instead of indulging in water sharing disputes. It was a momentous occasion that the discussions on water sharing issue were held on the banks of the Tungabhadra river. The Chief Minister hoped that the meeting will pave the way for a permanent resolution to inter-state water disputes.

Mahesh Dixit Appointed New IB Chief

FROM PAGE 1

He brings with him over three decades of experience in intelligence operations, counter-terrorism and internal security. Dixit previously headed the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau in Srinagar, overseeing intelligence operations in Jammu, Kashmir and Leh. Officials credit him with playing a key role in maintaining internal security and monitoring regional threats following the abrogation of Article 370.

Known for his strong intelligence network and expertise in counter-terror operations, he has handled several sensitive assignments related to Left-Wing Extremism and cross-border infiltration within the Intelligence Bureau.

SEBI, NSE Conduct Investor Awareness Seminar at Telangana Police Academy

Hyderabad, June 25: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) jointly organized a Regional Investor Seminar at the Telangana Police Academy on Thursday to create awareness among trainee police officers, faculty members, and staff about financial investments, stock markets, and the prevention of investment frauds.

The seminar, held at the academy premises, witnessed the participation of trainee DSPs, faculty members, academy officials, and staff members in large numbers. The programme was organized under the guidance of Academy Director Abhilasha Bisht.

Academy Deputy Director (Administration) K.R.K. Prasad attended the event as the

chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, SEBI Executive Director Ram Mohan emphasized the importance of financial planning and informed investment decisions. He advised participants to invest with long-term goals, carefully assess risks, and use only authorized and regulated investment channels.

He cautioned that fraudulent investment schemes and misleading advertisements are increasingly being promoted through digital platforms and social media, leading to a rise in online financial frauds. He said public awareness remains one of the most effective tools in combating cyber-enabled investment scams.

NSE Regional Manager Ravi Uppe explained the importance of opening Demat

and trading accounts before investing in the stock market. He provided detailed information on investment procedures, account management, and safe investment practices.

Through a presentation, participants were educated about emerging investment frauds, including deepfake videos, pump-and-dump schemes, dabba trading, fake trading applications, and unauthorized investment advisory services. Officials also explained the preventive measures and investor awareness initiatives being undertaken by NSE.

The participants were introduced to the Saaathi investor services platform, which offers facilities related to investor education, grievance redressal, and investment-related assistance.

Liaison Officer and DSP Adoori Srinivasa Rao proposed a vote of thanks at the conclusion of the programme. He expressed gratitude to the representatives of SEBI and NSE, trainee DSPs, faculty members, and academy staff for making the seminar a success.

Among those present were Abhilash Darak, Rambabu, DSPs Satish Kumar and Tirupati, Reserve Inspectors Mahesh, Srinu, Praveen, and Naser, along with trainee DSPs, office superintendents, faculty members, and other staff.

Key Message: Officials stressed that financial planning, informed investing, and public awareness are essential to safeguard investors from cyber-enabled financial frauds and illegal investment schemes.



Grand felicitation for people who were unjustly jailed

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

On the occasion of the completion of 51 years since the Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975, the BJP State Office held a grand felicitation programme today for some people who were unjustly jailed during the Emergency period. The felicitation ceremony was conducted in the presence of former Governors Shri Vidyasagar Rao and Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, along with BJP State President Shri N. Ramchander Rao. BJP National Council member Geetha Murthy and spokesperson Kappar Prasad organised the programme smoothly. Speaking on the occasion, Vidyasagar Rao said that the younger generation today should be informed about the Emergency period. He explained in detail how the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi allegedly arrested and harassed the country's citizens and youth during that period.



N. Ramchander Rao said that when the then Congress Prime Minister committed such a grave act by "destroying the Constitution," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is now holding the same Constitution in his

hands in Parliament and making meaningless remarks, he said sarcastically. He further stated that Congress would disappear from Telangana and that a BJP government would come to power in the future.

SPIRITUAL FERVOUR AT VINOBA NAGAR TEMPLE

HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

The fourth annual Brahmotsavam celebrations held at the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple, located in Vinoba Nagar, Neredmet, along with Sri Bhodevi and Sri Sridevi, concluded on Thursday

with grand Maha Poornahuti and Chakra Snana Mahotsavam ceremonies. The three-day celebrations were conducted with devotion and spiritual fervour amid Vedic chants. The final day programmes attracted a large number of devotees. For this special event, the temple trust chair-

man Mahesh, vice-chairman Jagadishwar, and members made special arrangements, which received appreciation from devotees. They also participated in the celebrations. BJP National Council member Geetha Murthy, former State Executive Committee member of Mahila Morcha Anjali Devi, and thousands of devotees attended the event.

Moharram is a symbol of sacrifice — KCR

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) stated that Moharram stands as a symbol of righteousness, truth, and sacrifice. He said that Muslim brothers celebrate Moharram while remembering the sacrifices made. KCR said that the people of Telangana participate in the festival of Peerla Panduga with a spirit of brotherhood, beyond caste and religious differences. He stated that the Peerla celebrations, which spread from villages to towns, reflect the Ganga-Jamuni culture of harmony, where

emotions of enthusiasm and sorrow blend together, people perform rituals, and walk over fire pits while showcasing religious harmony.

KCR explained that the previous ten-year BRS government gave priority to secularism in the state and implemented several schemes for the welfare and progress of Muslim minorities.

KCR prayed for the prosperity and well-being of the state. On this occasion, KCR reiterated that the BRS party is committed to the welfare of minorities.

UPGRADATION OF NETWORK
E-Tender Notice No.: KIR-N-2026-K-11; dated: 23-06-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** Upgradation of Network for Modernisation of PRS Network in Katihar division. Tender Value: ₹3,79,23,723.23; Earnest Money: ₹7,58,500.00. **E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 15-07-2026 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 15-07-2026.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 15-07-2026 in website <http://www.iimps.gov.in>.
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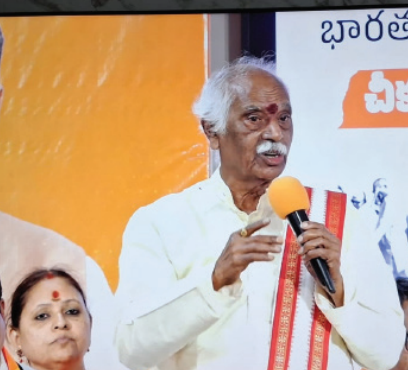
Hyderabad, June 25: Today, in the presence of the BJP's senior state leadership, the Managing Director & CEO of Square Business Services officially joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Along with him, 120 colleagues and associates also joined the party as members.

The joining programme was attended by BJP Telangana State President Shri N. Ramchander Rao and BJP Telangana Chief Spokesperson Shri N.V. Subhash.

In his welcome address, Shri Ramchan-

der Rao said, "It is a matter of happiness that such a dynamic business leader and his team have joined our party. Their experience and enthusiasm will further strengthen our efforts towards development and good governance across the state."

Shri N.V. Subhash said, "This is a clear indication that the BJP continues to remain the primary choice for professionals committed to public service. We look forward to utilising their ideas and support in our programmes."



After the programme, the MD & CEO of Square Business Services said, "I have taken this decision with faith in the BJP's vision for inclusive development and transparent governance. Along with my 120 colleagues, I will continuously work for the welfare of society and the development of the state."

The joining programme was attended by MLC Shri Malka Komaraiah, National Council member Geetha Murthy, Shri Abhishek, spokesperson Kappar Prasad, and other leaders.

GITAM Alumna Creates History with 30 Guinness World Records



Hyderabad, June 25: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly celebrates an extraordinary achievement by its School of Technology alumna, Shivali Srivastava (2016–2020 batch), who has reached a remarkable milestone by securing a total of 30 Guinness World Records. Recently, Shivali, along with her parents, Kavita Srivastava and Anil Srivastava, officially received seven new Guinness World Records, taking their family's tally to an unprecedented 30 titles. With this accomplishment, Shivali has emerged as the individual holding the highest number of Guinness World Records in India. Recognized for her exceptional talent in origami and paper art, Shivali has transformed creativity into a remarkable journey of dedication, preci-

sion, and perseverance. Together with her parents, she has meticulously handcrafted lakhs of paper creations, earning global recognition for their artistic excellence.

For the Srivastava family, these achievements represent far more than records. Their journey stands as a testament to patience, artistic passion, hard work, and the strength of family collaboration. The leadership, faculty, and student community of GITAM have extended their heartfelt congratulations to Shivali and her family on this historic accomplishment. The university takes immense pride in her achievements and wishes her continued success as she brings international recognition to India through the inspiring blend of art, innovation, and creativity.

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TGE JAC Welcomed the state Government’s Decision

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

The Telangana Employees, Gazetted Officers, Teachers, Workers and Pensioners Joint Action Committee (TGEJAC) welcomed the state government’s decision to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various banks to provide financial security to state government employees, teachers, workers, and pensioners.

TGEJAC Chairman Maram Jagadishwar and Secretary General Eluru Srinivasa Rao praised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, stating that this decision has infused new enthusiasm among employee groups. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister, saying that this initiative provides great assurance to the families of 1.4 million employees, teachers, and pensioners.

“The Responsibility to Solve Your Problems Is Mine”

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the government’s positive approach toward employees.

“The state government is like a trust. Like many of you, I too come from a middle-class family. The state government is responsible for addressing your problems, and it is my duty to resolve them. We are all public servants. Your role and my role may differ, but our common goal is to serve the people.”

The Chief Minister further remarked that



he would be happier if officials and employees called him “Revanth Anna” (Brother Revanth) rather than “Sir.”

Insurance Scheme Success

Revanth Reddy recalled that when this insurance scheme was first introduced in Singareni Collieries Company Limited, some people were skeptical. However, he noted that the government had provided compensation of ₹1 crore each to the families of 45 workers who unfortunately lost their lives.

“When governments change, only about 15 ministers change. The administrative machin-

ery and employees remain the same. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and TGEJAC leader Eluru Srinivasa Rao are both from Khammam district. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and Jagadishwar are friends from Karimnagar. I am merely a ‘group mason’ coordinating all of you.”

Salaries on the First Day of Every Month

The Chief Minister stated that during the previous government’s tenure, salaries were often delayed and paid in installments. However, under the current government, salaries are being

credited on the first day of every month.

He said that, keeping their promise, the government increased payments toward old pension arrears from ₹100 crore to ₹2,000 crore. He also assured that arrears worth ₹4,000 crore due to retired employees would be fully cleared within the next two months.

Revanth Reddy acknowledged that the state is currently facing some financial challenges but assured employees that additional benefits would be provided once the financial situation improves.

“Employees Are Our Brand Ambassadors”

The Chief Minister stressed that government employees are the brand ambassadors of the government and that no employee should go hungry. He urged employees to help prevent tax evasion and protect government revenue. Expressing satisfaction over the recent increase in GST collections, he called upon all employees to participate in the ambitious goal of transforming Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.

Participants in the Event

Those who attended the program included: Damodar Reddy, Mujeeb Hussain, B. Shyam, Sadanand Goud, Madhusudhan Reddy, Gajender, Krishna Murthy, Venkat Reddy, Mohan Narayana, Uma Devi

What exactly have you achieved to call it a golden chapter, Revanth?: Harish Rao

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

Instead of celebrating the replacement of gates at the Tungabhadra Dam in Karnataka, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should explain what he has achieved regarding Telangana’s rightful share of water from the Krishna River. Has Revanth Reddy secured any concrete assurance regarding the injustice being done to Telangana in the matter of water allocation from the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS)?

Has he convinced the Andhra Pradesh government to permanently close the RDS sluices located on the Andhra side and undertake repairs to the RDS dam? Has he obtained a commitment from Karnataka to immediately repair and regularly maintain the RDS canal located within its jurisdiction?

It is because these issues remain unresolved that Telangana repeatedly loses the water share it is entitled to under the RDS project. Revanth Reddy should explain how merely replacing the gates of the Tungabhadra Dam will ensure Telangana receives its allocated 15.90 TMC of water. The old gates had been functioning for the past 75 years. Even then, Telangana has never received more than 5 TMC of water through RDS.

There is no direct connection between replacing the Tungabhadra Dam gates and Telangana receiving its rightful 15.90 TMC share. So what specific assurance has Revanth Reddy actually secured on this crucial issue?

Why did Revanth Reddy accept the argument of “system losses”? The award of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I does not recognize any such concept of “system losses.”

Using an argument that falls outside the Tribunal’s award to reduce Telangana’s legitimate water share is unacceptable.

Why did Revanth Reddy not ques-

tion Andhra Pradesh’s use of Krishna waters beyond its allocated limits? The Andhra Pradesh government is reportedly utilizing as much as 39 TMC of water at Sunkesula for the KC Canal. In addition, it is allegedly diverting nearly 10 TMC of river water, which should flow to the KC Canal, to the RBHLC and RBLCL canals in coordination with Karnataka.

Despite this causing serious injustice to Telangana, why did Revanth Reddy fail to raise objections? Why did the Chief Minister not oppose new projects that could threaten Telangana’s water rights?

The Karnataka government is reportedly planning to construct the Navali Reservoir, which could utilize nearly 35 TMC of water between the Tungabhadra Dam and RDS. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh government is planning the Gundrevula Project, which could utilize around 20 TMC of water between RDS and Sunkesula.

Both these projects could seriously affect Telangana’s share of Krishna waters. Why did Revanth Reddy not raise objections to ensure justice for Telangana regarding these projects?

With all these issues unresolved, what exactly is Revanth Reddy celebrating?

Has he secured Telangana’s rightful share of 15.90 TMC?

Has he resolved the long-pending problems related to the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme?

Has he obtained any firm assurances from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on these critical issues that would benefit Telangana?

When none of these major problems have been resolved, how can this meeting be described as a “golden chapter”?

Abandoning the protection of Telangana’s water rights and engaging in publicity-oriented celebrations is of no benefit to Telangana, Harish Rao said.

Welfare Is the People’s Government’s Agenda: Dy. CM Bhatti

Hyderabad, June 25: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Indiramma People’s Government is working with welfare as its primary objective. A review meeting of the BC, SC, and ST Departments was held on Thursday at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat under his leadership. Ministers Adluri Laxman Kumar and Ponnam Prabhakar also attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to explore the possibility of shifting students currently staying in private buildings to Young India Integrated Residential Schools wherever feasible. He instructed officials to complete repair works in welfare department schools, hostels, and gurukul institutions within one month.

He also directed Finance Department officials to prioritize the clearance of approximately ₹7.5 crore in pending repair bills dating back to 2023. The Deputy Chief Minister instructed departmental secretaries to regularly submit bills related to welfare gurukuls and hostels, including rent charges, diet charges, and cosmetic charges, to the Finance Department for clearance. He warned officials that failure to submit student-related bills for any reason would lead to serious consequences.

He emphasized strengthening study circles to improve success rates in UPSC, Group Services, and other competitive examinations. He directed officials to submit all pending bills related to welfare departments, assuring that the Finance Department would clear them promptly to ensure students do not face any difficulties.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare a monthly action plan for the con-



struction of Ambedkar Tower and the Babu Jagjivan Ram Student Hostel Buildings. He said that the multi-storied Ambedkar Building should be targeted for inauguration on April 14, 2027.

He also directed officials to implement all self-employment programs under the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme. He asked for a comprehensive report on the proposed electric two-wheeler (scooter) scheme. To facilitate better financial planning, he instructed departments to submit annual and quarterly fund requirements.

Officials were directed to prepare proposals for establishing Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Knowledge Centers in all districts. The Deputy Chief Minister advised departmental secretaries to coordinate with the Finance Department and regularly submit bills for clearance.

He noted that after the formation of the present government, diet charges were increased by 40% and cosmetic charges by 200% in a single move. He added that not only were these charges increased,

but all related bills are also being paid on time. He affirmed that the government is committed to providing adequate infrastructure to students studying in all educational institutions run by welfare departments.

According to officials, since 2014, a total of 1,810 candidates from districts outside Hyderabad have been selected through study circles. Notably, nearly 1,000 of these selections occurred after the current government came to power. Officials informed the Deputy Chief Minister that ₹29 crore is required every month for the operation of residential schools. They also requested the release of pending payments related to various schemes and programs, including ₹27 crore in outstanding rent payments.

The review meeting was attended by Principal Finance Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Women and Child Development Secretary Anita Ramachandran, SC Development Secretary Vijayendra Boyi, Shailaja IAS, and other officials.

World Drug Problem : Persisting Issues, New Challenges, Innovative Responses

(On the occasion of “International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” on 26 June)

The global drug problem presents a multifaceted challenge that affects the lives of 300 million people worldwide aged 15 - 64. Cannabis use has increased by 25 percent in the last decade. One in eight people with substance use disorders receive treatment. The global drug trade generates over \$400 billion annually, fueling organized crime, corruption, and violence. The rise of synthetic drugs, including highly potent opioids, presents a new deadly challenge, driving overdose deaths and putting pressure on already fragile health systems. The illicit drug trade is deeply linked to other crimes including human trafficking, illegal mining, and environmental destruction. These interconnected crimes are a part of a vicious cycle that entrench poverty, exploitation, institutional weakness and addiction.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2026 Theme:

The “International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” or “World Drug Day”, is marked on 26 June annually since 1988 to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This day calls for investment in prevention, including justice, education, healthcare, and alternate livelihoods - the building blocks of sustainable resilience. This day serves as a reminder to action for governments, organisations, and individuals to strengthen efforts to combat drug abuse, prevent substance use disorders, and disrupt health networks involved in the illicit trafficking of drugs. It also address the health, social, and economic consequences of drug abuse. The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2026 is “World Drug Problem : Persisting Issues, New Challenges, Innovative Responses” to focus on innovative and collaborative efforts of communities, governments, civil societies to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs.

Issues of Drug Abuse in India:

Drug abuse in India is a growing crisis, driven by geographical vulnerability, increasing availability, and early-age initiation. The rising cases of drug abuse, geographic risk, substance use statistics, regional variations and their impacts are becoming threats to Indian youth. The government initiatives include Nashua Mukta Bharat Abhigyan, NAPDDR, drug de-addiction programs, NCB, legal framework, capacity building and regional cooperation.

Consequences of Drug Abuse:

The physical and mental health consequences of drug abuse leads to heart diseases, stroke, lung cancer, respiratory damage, risk of HIV & Hepatitis, nasal damage, liver-kidney diseases, oral cancer, gum problems, fatal overdose, weight loss, depression, memory issues, insomnia, sleep disorders, aggressive behaviour, delusion, disrupted brain, anxiety, confusion, tuberculosis, and addiction etc. The main goals of this day are to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, educate people on how to prevent drug use, support those who are addicted, encourage countries to cooperate and share solutions, an promote stronger laws and better treatment options.

- PROF : MADHUSUDHAN REDDY BURRA
9949700037.

Major Reforms Approved for BC Gurukul Institutions



Hyderabad, June 25:

The Board of Governors of the BC Gurukul Society approved several key reforms to improve student welfare, educational standards and infrastructure in BC residential institutions. The society will be renamed as the Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGWCW-MJPRES). Students securing admissions to IITs, IIITs and NITs will be provided with laptops. The Board also approved ₹2 lakh ex-gratia assistance to

the families of deceased students and reserved admissions in the society’s agriculture colleges for MJP Gurukul students. Approvals were given for the procurement of desktop computers and Interactive Flat Panels, while the existing principal recruitment policy of 70 per cent promotions and 30 per cent direct recruitment will continue.

The decisions were taken at the sixth Board of Governors meeting chaired by Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar at the Secretariat.

MSMEs: The Silent Engines Powering the World Economy

World economies depend not only on large industries but also on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These enterprises play a very important role in creating jobs, encouraging innovation, using local resources, supporting rural development, and reducing poverty. To recognize their contribution, the United Nations declared June 27 as International MSME Day. This day is not just a celebration but also a tribute to millions of small business owners who work hard to support economic growth. From a small shop to a family-run business, from a village artisan to a technology startup, every small enterprise contributes to the development of a nation. On April 6, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared June 27 as International MSME Day.

The main purpose of this observance is to recognize the important role played by small businesses in economic growth, employment generation, innovation, and the achievement of sustainable development goals. In many countries around the world, MSMEs form the backbone of

the economy. Therefore, this special day was introduced to highlight their importance. MSME stands for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. In India, these enterprises are classified based on their investment and annual turnover. They operate in various sectors such as manufacturing, services, agriculture-based industries, handicrafts, food processing, information technology, and textiles. MSMEs are one of the main driving forces of the global economy. More than 90 percent of businesses worldwide belong to the MSME sector. They provide more than half of the jobs across the world. In many developing countries, MSMEs contribute more than 40 percent of national income. Millions of women entrepreneurs around the world have achieved financial independence through small businesses. These facts clearly show the impact and importance of MSMEs.

In India, the MSME sector plays a vital role in the economy. After agriculture, it is one of the largest sources of employment. There are millions of MSME units across the country, providing direct and indirect employment to

millions of people. MSMEs contribute significantly to India’s exports and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). They are also a major source of industrial development in small towns and rural areas. MSMEs play an important role in reducing migration from villages to cities by creating local employment opportunities. As a result, many people can earn a livelihood in their own communities. Industries such as handlooms, handicrafts, food processing, dairy products, and spice processing help strengthen rural economies. MSMEs also provide a strong platform for women to become financially independent. Many women in India successfully run beauty parlours, boutiques, food production units, online businesses, and handicraft enterprises.

Self-help groups have also become an important support system for women entrepreneurs. MSMEs encourage young people not only to seek jobs but also to create jobs for others. With the growth of startup culture, many young entrepreneurs are establishing technology-based businesses, digital marketing firms, mobile application development companies,

e-commerce ventures, and agricultural technology startups. This transformation is helping India move from being a nation of job seekers to a nation of job creators. The internet and digital technology have opened new opportunities for MSMEs. Today, even small businesses operate websites, sell products online, use social media marketing, accept digital payments, and reach customers across the world. Businesses that were once limited to local markets are now entering international markets. However, the MSME sector also faces several challenges.

Many small enterprises struggle to obtain easy access to bank loans. A lack of modern technology and machinery affects productivity. Competing with large corporations is often difficult. In many areas, there is a shortage of skilled workers. Fluctuating prices of raw materials also affect profitability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSME sector faced serious difficulties.

Production stopped, markets were closed, supply chains were disrupted, and millions of jobs were at risk. Despite these challenges, many small businesses adapt-

ed by exploring new methods, adopting digital technologies, and increasing online sales. As a result, they gradually recovered and regained stability. To support the growth of MSMEs, the Government of India has introduced several initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, Startup India, Make in India, Credit Guarantee Schemes, and Digital MSME programmes.

These initiatives provide financial assistance, training, and marketing support to entrepreneurs. The “Vocal for Local” campaign promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also given new momentum to the MSME sector. By encouraging the use of locally made products, domestic manufacturing has increased, market opportunities for small enterprises have expanded, dependence on imports has reduced, and local employment has grown. MSMEs are no longer limited to traditional industries. Today they are actively involved in modern sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, drones, robotics, biotechnology, green energy, and electric vehicle components. In the future, the global

economy is expected to become more decentralized, with greater importance given to local production, regional markets, and digital businesses. In this environment, MSMEs will continue to create jobs, strengthen rural economies, empower women, encourage innovation among youth, and increase exports.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are truly the backbone of a nation’s economy. Whether it is a small shop, a village artisan, a family-owned business, or a startup founded by a young entrepreneur, all of them contribute to the larger goal of national development. International MSME Day on June 27 reminds us of an important truth: small businesses are the foundation of big changes. For a country to achieve real and inclusive development, it must support small enterprises along with large industries.

Every major corporation was once a small business. Therefore, strengthening MSMEs means strengthening employment, economic growth, social equality, and the future of the nation. June 27 serves as an inspiring reminder of this important reality.



IAS Officer
Srilakshmi
Appointed as
AP Special
Chief Secretary

AMARAVATI:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed senior IAS officer Y. Srilakshmi as the Special Chief Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD). Official orders have been issued by the Andhra Pradesh government appointing Srilakshmi to the key administrative position. Y. Srilakshmi is a 1988-batch IAS officer and is among the senior-most bureaucrats in the state administration. Her appointment as Special Chief Secretary to the General Administration Department places her in an important role overseeing key governance and administrative matters of the state government.

Key Points

- Y. Srilakshmi appointed as Special Chief Secretary, GAD.
- She belongs to the 1988 IAS batch.
- Appointment orders have been issued by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

Court Rejects
Minor Claim in
HDFC Murder
Case

MUMBAI: (Jun 25) A court here on Thursday dismissed a plea filed by the accused in the 2018 murder of a senior executive of HDFC Bank claiming that he was a minor at the time of the crime. Additional Sessions Judge Anil Salunkhe held that Sarfaraz Shaikh, the accused, had submitted a falsified school record. The court relied upon a bone-age (ossification) test conducted at J J Hospital which concluded that he was between 25 to 28 years old.

Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu calls for
interlinking Godavari, Cauvery rivers

AMARAVATI, JUNE 25

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday called for interlinking Godavari and Cauvery rivers. He said the interlinking of the two rivers will benefit Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. He added that the Centre should take up interlinking of Godavari and Cauvery rivers as a national project. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was addressing a public meeting following the inauguration of 33 new crest gates at the Tungabhadra dam at Hospete in Karnataka along with his Karnataka counterpart D.K. Shivakumar and Telangana counterpart A. Revanth Reddy. He claimed that India is achieving rap-



id development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India has achieved success through initiatives like 'One Nation, One Grid', as well as robust telecom and road networks. If the Ganga and Cauvery rivers are interlinked, India will become unstoppable."

He said that rivers in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

have already been interlinked through the Ken-Betwa project. He praised the Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil for playing a key role in bringing together the Chief Ministers of three states -- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

He said that the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana under the leadership

of Union Minister C.R. Paatil is a historic event.

"While we may be separate states, we are united as one nation. Today, under the leadership of Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil, the Chief Ministers of three states met to discuss the interests of farmers in this region. This meeting will go down in history for the Southern states; let us work together to safeguard the interests of our farmers."

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu noted that the Tungabhadra Dam is vital, as it supplies water to farmers across three states and provides drinking water to the local population.

"When the 19th gate was washed away in 2024, we installed a stop-log gate; now, we have successfully replaced

all 33 crest gates. The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka worked collaboratively on the gate replacement project, thereby restoring the Tungabhadra Dam and safeguarding the interests of the farmers," he said. He added that in 1983, the Prime Minister and four Chief Ministers had jointly decided to release 5 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister said that due to the El Nino phenomenon, there is no inflow of water from upstream areas into the Tungabhadra and Almati reservoirs. "Water must be used very judiciously this year; hence, river interlinking would be highly beneficial. Let us first interlink rivers internally; inter-state river interlinking can be pursued subsequently," he added.

Odisha: Vigilance cracks down on
Rs 3 cr LED streetlight scam, 3 arrested

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 25

Odisha Vigilance on Thursday arrested three contractors for allegedly misappropriating government funds worth around Rs 3 crore in the execution of LED street lighting works in gram panchayats across Kendujhar, Nayagarh and Jajpur districts between 2021 and 2023. The accused persons were identified as Girija Sankar Dash, of Baripada in Mayurbhanj district, Dharanidhar Sahoo of Jajpur town in Jajpur district and Bibhuti Ranjan Biswal of Bhubaneswar. According to Odisha Vigilance sources,

accused Girija Sankar is the proprietor of M/s Transpower, while the other accused, Dharanidhar and Bibhuti Ranjan, are the owners of M/s Biraja Electrical and Constructions and M/s Jogamaya Traders Pro, respectively. They were arrested and forwarded to the respective Vigilance Courts for their alleged involvement in the misappropriation of government funds to the tune of Rs 3 crore for the installation of LED street lighting works (2021-2023).

In this connection, Odisha Vigilance has registered three separate cases at the Vigilance Cell Police Station under vari-



ous sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the Indian Penal Code against the accused persons.

During a thorough investigation, the above three executives, who were found to have been awarded contracts

in the districts of Kendujhar, Nayagarh, and Jajpur, are the main accused in the misappropriation cases. According to Odisha Vigilance, a preliminary estimate indicates misappropriation of approximately Rs 3 crore in the three districts. There are approximately 1,000 clusters (each consisting of 10 LED lights) in these three districts, where LED street lighting installations were executed using funds from the 5th State Finance Commission devolution grants from 2021 to 2023.

It further added that all these clusters are being technically examined by experts to generate evidence of shortfalls

and misappropriation in each cluster. The cops also seized files related to the alleged scam to examine the mechanism for disbursing funds and the involvement of government servants in the scandal. On Wednesday, following the receipt of reliable information, the Odisha Vigilance launched an inquiry into the alleged irregularities and embezzlement of public funds in connection with the installation of LED street lighting works across several gram panchayats in the districts of Kendujhar, Nayagarh and Jajpur of the state during the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Chennai Egmore–
Velankanni Express Services
Restored to Chennai Egmore

Chennai, June 25: In a relief to rail passengers, Southern Railway has restored the origination and termination of the Chennai Egmore–Velankanni–Chennai Egmore Express services to Chennai Egmore station after the completion of key phases of redevelopment and infrastructure enhancement works. Train No. 16175 Chennai Egmore–Velankanni Express, which had been temporarily originating from Tambaram station, will once again commence its journey from Chennai Egmore with effect from July 1, 2026. Likewise, Train No. 16176 Velankanni–Chennai Egmore Express will terminate at Chennai Egmore instead of Tambaram from June 30, 2026. As

per the revised schedule, Train No. 16175 will depart Chennai Egmore at 9.00 pm and reach Tambaram at 9.28 pm before departing at 9.30 pm. Train No. 16176 will arrive at Tambaram at 4.08 am, depart at 4.10 am, and reach Chennai Egmore at 5.15 am. The train services had been temporarily shifted to Tambaram due to ongoing redevelopment works at Chennai Egmore Railway Station. With the restoration of operations, passengers can once again board and alight at Chennai Egmore, enhancing convenience and connectivity. Southern Railway has advised passengers to take note of the revised arrangements and plan their journeys accordingly.



Cybersecurity must become People's
Movement–Every Citizen must be
digitally aware: CM Dr. Yadav

DR.BHUPENDRA"VIKAL

Bhopal : Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has stated that cyber threats are invisible enemies that can reach our homes without warning. Understanding cyber threats is the most effective way to protect oneself from them. He said, "Caution is security, and awareness is protection". Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, addressing the inauguration ceremony of 'Safe Click 2.0' under the Statewide Cyber Awareness Campaign at Ravindra Bhavan on Wednesday, said that cybercrimes such as digital arrest scams, deepfakes, fake profiles, hacking, data breaches, online fraud, OTP scams, online shopping fraud, ransomware attacks and fake investment links are increasing rapidly. In such circumstances, every citizen must remain vigilant. The Chief Minister outlined the three pillars of cyber safety—awareness, caution and participation—and urged those who are knowledgeable about cyber security to spread awareness among others. The campaign, which commenced on June 24, will continue until July 8 across all 10 divisions, 55 districts and more than 50,000 villages of the State. It aims to educate citizens to protect themselves from cyber fraud and other cybercrimes. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav released cyber awareness posters, cyber safety booklets prepared for schoolchildren and the campaign's official video. He flagged off a Cyber Awareness Rath. The Chief Minister was welcomed with a Tulsi sapling and presented with a memento at the conclusion of the programme.

Madhya Pradesh Police Always Acts as a Protector in Times of Crisis
Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, appreciating the efforts of Madhya Pradesh Police in conducting the campaign, said that the State Police always plays the role of a protector in times of crisis, much like Lord Hanuman. He informed that more than 3.3 million citizens were sensitised through various cyber awareness activities conducted across the State in 2025. The campaign will now be expanded to Panchayats, schools, banks, marketplaces, religious places and government offices. The Chief Minister noted that nearly 1,700 services of 56 government departments are available through an integrated digital portal, and ensuring the security of these services is among the State Government's highest priorities. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, appealing to citizens to transform cybersecurity into a people's movement, said that cyber threats are increasingly entering daily life in invisible forms. Awareness and vigilance remain the most effective tools for preventing cy-

bercrimes committed through smartphones and computers. **'Safe Click 2.0' Will Play a Vital Role in Cyber Awareness**

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh Police's 'Safe Click 2.0' campaign will play a significant role in creating awareness about cybercrime across the State. He described cybercriminals as 'Digital-age Predators' who silently infiltrate lives through laptops, computers and mobile phones. "Today, cybercrimes such as digital arrest scams, deepfakes, data breaches, online fraud and ransomware attacks have become increasingly common. He said However, caution remains the strongest defence against such crimes. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also stated that Madhya Pradesh Police was the first in the country to expose a cyber robbery operation in real time, and congratulated the force for its achievement.

Awareness Is the Strongest Shield Against Cybercrime

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that through its cyber awareness initiatives last year, the State Police reached more than 3.3 million citizens. Under the 15-day 'Safe Click 2.0' campaign, each day will focus on a different theme, including banking security, women's safety and awareness in rural areas. The campaign will be conducted in banks, markets, schools, religious places and other public spaces. Special public outreach programmes have been designed to engage citizens effectively. The campaign will promote cyber safety through awareness, caution and public participation. Citizens are also being informed about the Cyber Crime Helpline 1930 and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. The helpline serves as the first line of support for victims of cyber fraud.

Greed and Haste Can Lead to Financial Loss

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav urged citizens to remain cautious and advised them to 'Stop, Think and Then Act' if they receive suspicious links or threatening calls. He warned that greed and haste often result in financial losses. He urged citizens to actively participate in spreading awareness and expanding the reach. The State Government has established a robust framework to combat cybercrime, while the Government of India has implemented the Digital Personal Data Protection Act to safeguard citizens' data. The State has also constituted a Computer Emergency Response Team, while more than 1,700 services of 56 departments have been integrated into a single digital platform. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav described this as a commendable initiative.

Development Works of Bhadrachalam
Temple to Begin on 27th of This Month

HYDERABAD , JUNE 25:

Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that the development works of the famous pilgrimage centre in Telangana, the Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple, Bhadrachalam, popularly known as Dakshina Ayodhya (Southern Ayodhya), will be formally launched on the 27th of this month.

On Thursday, the Minister held a review meeting at his office in the Secretariat with officials from the Endowments Department and Bhadrachalam temple authorities. During the meeting, he stated that temple development works must be undertaken strictly following Agama Shastra traditions and in accord-

Temple development works to be carried out as per Agama Shastra principles
Works to be completed on a war footing.. Minister Ponguleti directs officials



ance with the sentiments of devotees.

He instructed officials to ensure that the grandeur and spiritual significance of the Bhadrachalam temple are not affected and that priority should be given to stone structures reflecting traditional architectural styles. The Minister said that A. Revanth Reddy has envisioned developing the

temple while keeping in mind the requirements of the next 200 years, making it a model for future generations. Accordingly, it has been decided to officially commence the temple renovation works on June 27.

He directed officials to proceed with a special action plan to ensure that the works are completed within the government's

stipulated deadline. The Minister informed that the Chief Minister has sanctioned ₹351 crore for the temple renovation works. He further instructed officials to divide the works in advance and execute all activities simultaneously so that the targeted works are completed on a war footing before the upcoming Sri Rama Navami festival.



Sajjala Ramakrishna
Reddy Visits Mudragada
Padmanabham

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy visited and enquired about the health of Kapu movement leader, former minister, and YSRCP PAC member Mudragada Padmanabham in Hyderabad on Thursday. Acting on the instructions of YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy visited Sindhu Hospital, where Mudragada Padmanabham has been under-

going treatment for illness over the past few days. He met him personally, enquired about his health condition, and reviewed the details of the treatment being provided by the doctors. He expressed hope for his speedy recovery. On the occasion, Sajjala also met Mudragada Padmanabham's son, Mudragada Giribabu, and other family members, offering them encouragement and support. He assured them that the party would extend all necessary assistance and cooperation.

FIR lodged over
'embezzlement
of donations' at
Ram temple in
Ayodhya

AYODHYA (UP): (Jun 25) An FIR was lodged here on Thursday over allegations of embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple, officials said, with the Uttar Pradesh government reiterating Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remarks of an impartial probe and that the guilty will not be spared.

The government said Lucknow Division Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, the lead member of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing this case, submitted a preliminary report to it on Tuesday, along with two other team members, containing "strong recommendations".

TN power sector debt touches Rs 2.47 lakh crore,
no tariff hike this year: State Electricity Minister

CHENNAI, JUNE 25

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar on Thursday released a white paper detailing the financial status of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB), revealing that the state's power sector has accumulated an outstanding debt of Rs 2.47 lakh crore. Despite the mounting financial burden, the minister assured consumers that electricity tariffs would not be increased during the current year. The white paper, released at the TNEB headquarters in Chennai, presents a comprehensive review of the power sector's financial performance over the past 25 years. It comes shortly after the Tamil Nadu government published a broader white



paper on the state's finances, which estimated the state's overall debt at Rs 13.18 lakh crore and the power sector's liabilities at Rs 2,47,130 crore. Addressing reporters, Nirmal Kumar said the Electricity Board incurred a total expenditure of Rs 5.32 lakh crore between 2021 and 2026, while its revenue during the same period stood at Rs 4.97

lakh crore. The resulting deficit amounted to Rs 34,447 crore. The Minister said the power sector now accounts for 77.6 per cent of the total debt of all state public sector undertakings, underlining the urgent need for structural reforms to restore financial stability. According to the white paper, the Electricity Board has been recording significant

deficits over successive governments. The sector reported a loss of Rs 35,463 crore during the 2006-11 period, which rose to Rs 56,361 crore between 2011 and 2016 and further increased to Rs 58,534 crore during 2016-21. Nirmal Kumar alleged that despite substantial expenditure, repeated borrowing and sizeable revenue collections over the years, infrastructure development had failed to keep pace with the money spent. He said the government was committed to strengthening the power sector through improved financial management and operational efficiency.

He noted that Tamil Nadu's peak power demand has reached 21,307 MW. The state currently meets its electricity requirements through hy-

droelectric, thermal and gas-based generation, while also procuring power from Central generating stations, private producers and other states. He said the government is working to replace costly short-term power purchase agreements with long-term contracts, a move expected to reduce expenditure by nearly Rs 215 crore every month.

Reiterating that there would be no electricity tariff revision this year, Nirmal Kumar said the government's immediate focus would be on improving the financial health of the Electricity Board. He also disclosed that alleged irregularities in the procurement of electrical conductors at nine locations had come to light and would be thoroughly investigated.



EDITORIAL

The Fragile Shield—
Why the Impasse on the
Western Ghats Must End

The tragic rhythm of monsoon disasters in southern India has become entirely predictable, yet our policy response remains dangerously paralyzed. As heavy rains begin to lash the peninsula this June, the structural vulnerabilities of the Western Ghats are once again laid bare. The devastating Kerala floods of 2018 and the catastrophic landslides in Wayanad served as stark, uncompromising warnings from nature. They demonstrated that ignoring the geological frailties of this ancient mountain range carries a heavy price in human lives and economic ruin. Yet, more than a decade after the Kasturirangan Committee submitted its blueprint to safeguard this biodiversity hotspot, the states that share its custody remain locked in a stubborn geopolitical impasse. The core of the issue lies in a fundamental misinterpretation of conservation as an enemy of development. Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu collectively hold nearly two-thirds of the proposed Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA). However, local political leaderships have consistently pushed back against federal notification mandates, fearing that strict environmental regulations will freeze infrastructure growth, displace agricultural communities, and spark local unrest. This view is short-sighted. True ecological governance does not seek to uproot lives; it aims to prevent the landscape from collapsing beneath them. Unregulated stone quarrying, aggressive slope cutting for resort construction, and the systematic destruction of natural drainage networks have turned inherently fragile terrains into active disaster zones. Breaking this multi-state deadlock requires a shift from confrontation to cooperative environmental federalism. The Union Ministry of Environment must move past issuing repetitive, reactive draft notifications and instead spearhead a granular, participatory dialogue with individual state cabinets. Communities living on the fringes of these forests must be actively incentivized to protect their surroundings. This can be achieved through green credits, expedited crop insurance programs to counter climate-induced yield failures, and direct fiscal rewards for sustainable farming practices. Preserving the Western Ghats is not a luxury or an ideological choice; it is an absolute baseline requirement for the water security and climate resilience of southern India. The mountains act as the primary weather machine for the entire peninsula, feeding rivers that sustain millions of lives and industries downstream. If the southern states fail to build a unified consensus right now, they will continue to watch their fragile topsoil, infrastructure, and citizens get washed away by successive monsoons. True statecraft lies in recognizing that a nation cannot build a prosperous future on a crumbling geological foundation.



NOT ASHES,
BUT LIGHT

Do not become a captive pond
where yesterday's waters sleep,
where abandoned dreams gather moss
and forgotten hopes sink deep.
Become the river.
For the river never clings to yesterday.
It learns from every stone,
borrows songs from wind and rain,
and turns resistance into rhythm.
Water imprisoned grows stagnant;
water in motion remains pure.
So too the mind.
A thought confined becomes a cage.
A fear repeated becomes a chain.
A life unwilling to change
slowly surrenders its horizon.
Let your mind be a river—
flowing through questions,
expanding through learning,
discovering new skies
beyond familiar shores.
For stagnant minds inherit shadows,
but living minds inherit light.
A single tree may yield
a hundred thousand matches,
yet one careless match
can reduce a forest to ash.
Such is the power of thought.
One moment of bitterness
can darken years of joy.
One seed of doubt
can eclipse a thousand victories.
One negative thought,
welcomed and nourished,
can burn an entire garden
of possibilities.
Guard your inner world.
Protect the sanctuary of your mind.
Walk beside those
whose words awaken courage,
whose presence strengthens purpose,
whose faith becomes a lamp
when your own path grows dim.
For character is contagious,
and destiny often wears
the face of companionship.
Look at the lotus.
Born in mud,
yet untouched by mud.
Look at the honeybee.
Surrounded by thorns,
yet devoted to nectar.
Look at the stars.
Wrapped in endless darkness,
yet pouring light upon the earth.
Nature repeats the same lesson:
Greatness is not determined
by surroundings.
Purity is not determined
by circumstance.
A soul must be measured
by its fragrance,
not by the soil from which it rises.
Judge gently.
Diamonds sleep in ordinary rock.
Pearls are hidden within wounds.
Extraordinary hearts
often bloom in unexpected places.
What then is victory?
Not every gain is triumph.



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



OPINION

Special on International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking (26 June)

THE ECLIPSE OF ADDICTION ON YOUTHFUL MINDS, CLOUDS OF CRISIS OVER THE FUTURE

The Darkness of Drugs
Snatching the Flight of Youth

The future of any nation depends on the dreams, energy, and creativity of its youth. But when this very young generation starts falling into the grip of drug addiction, it no longer remains just a social issue but assumes the form of a national crisis. Today, India, along with many other countries of the world, is facing this very challenge. Such an eclipse of drug addiction is cast upon the talent, thinking, creativity, and future of the youth, which is hollowing out not just families but the entire society and nation from within. Aimed at generating global awareness against this serious challenge, 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' is observed every year on June 26. This day is not a mere formal event but an occasion to warn the entire humanity that if the rising vicious cycle of drug abuse is not checked in time, its consequences will have to be borne by the generations to come.

In India, the problem of drug addiction is no longer confined to metropolitan cities. It has reached villages, towns, small cities, and even schools and colleges. It was once believed that the consumption of narcotic substances was a problem only of the affluent class or urban culture, but today the reality is far more terrifying. Even in rural areas, the prevalence of narcotic substances taken through opium, charas, ganja, heroin, synthetic drugs, and injections is increasing rapidly. This situation indicates that the network of drug abuse has now reached every layer of society. Today's youth is surrounded by various kinds of pressures. Competition, unemployment, social expectations, family stress, mental depression, loneliness, and the desire for instant success are making them weak from within. In such a situation, drug traffickers exploit these very weaknesses of the youth to trap them in their net. Often, peer pressure, the desire to look modern, the quest for thrill, or the attraction of momentary pleasure pushes the youth towards addiction. The beginning often starts with curiosity, but gradually this very curiosity turns into an addiction and then becomes the cause of destruction.

While the internet and digital technology have opened new doors of knowledge, they have also provided new tools to the drug trade. Through social media, encrypted messaging apps, and the dark web,



the buying and selling of narcotics has become easier than ever before. Now, the drug deal is not confined to a deserted alley but has reached the smartphone screen. This is the reason why the reach of drugs in colleges and universities is increasing alarmingly. Today, serious questions have been raised from time to time regarding the availability of narcotic substances in many prestigious educational institutions of the country. It is indeed an irony that in the very campuses where the future of the nation should be built, some youths are moving on the path of destroying their own future. A flawed interpretation of modernity and freedom has also aggravated this problem. Many youths are under the illusion that addiction makes them more confident, creative, and modern, whereas the reality is completely contrary to this. Addiction gradually destroys a person's ability to think and understand. Their decision-making power weakens, memory is affected, concentration decreases, and mental balance begins to deteriorate. The youth who moves forward with big dreams in life, destroys his own talent and possibilities by falling into the grip of addiction. This is why drug addiction is considered not just a health problem but a problem of the destruction of human resources.

The most lethal impact of narcotic substances is that they make a person a slave both mentally and physically. Once addicted, a person starts consuming drugs in increasingly larger quantities to maintain the same effect. Consequently, their

body begins to weaken, appetite decreases, weight drops, eyes remain red, sleep is affected, irritability increases, and a state of depression arises. In many cases, the individual also becomes a victim of suicidal tendencies. The danger is even more severe for those who abuse drugs through injections. The repeated use of the same needle increases the risk of spreading HIV, Hepatitis, and other infections. This is why drug addiction becomes a serious challenge not only for the individual but also for the public health system.

The illicit trade of narcotics is among the most lucrative crimes in the world. This multi-billion rupee business is deeply linked with crimes such as international smuggling, terrorism, organized crime, and money laundering. India's geographical location makes it a crucial transit route between major narcotic production areas like the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle. Smuggling consignments coming from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other neighboring regions remain a constant challenge for India. The most worrisome aspect is that this illicit drug trade is now utilizing state-of-the-art technologies. Drones, encrypted communication mediums, fake identities, and digital payment systems are providing new strength to smugglers. In such a scenario, control over this problem is not possible through traditional policing alone. For this, a comprehensive strategy at technical, social, and legal levels is required. Although stringent laws exist in India

to prevent the trafficking and consumption of narcotics, the challenge of effective implementation of laws still remains. The fight against drugs cannot be the responsibility of the police, administration, or government alone; it is the collective responsibility of society. Families will have to increase communication with their children. Educational institutions must run anti-drug awareness campaigns. Religious and social organizations also need to play an active role in this direction. In fact, the most effective weapons against drug abuse are awareness, education, and a positive environment. If youth are connected with better education, employment, sports, art, culture, and creative activities, they can stay away from destructive paths like drugs. We must not limit ourselves to merely telling the youth about the ill-effects of drugs, but we must also give them a positive purpose in life.

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking gives us the message that the fight against drugs is not a single-day campaign but a continuous social movement. If India is to be made a developed nation, its youth power must first be freed from the darkness of drug addiction. This eclipse on the thinking of the country's youth will be removed only when the government, society, family, and the youth themselves face this challenge together. Today, the need is that instead of a packet of drugs, there should be a book of knowledge in the hands of the youth; instead of the blurriness of intoxication, there should be the sparkle of dreams in their eyes; and instead of the eclipse of addiction on their thinking, there should be the bright light of nation-building. This is the greatest requirement for a drug-free India, and this is also the strongest foundation for a developed India.



YOGESH KUMAR GOVAL
senior journalist

NOT A CRISIS OF LOVE, BUT A CRISIS OF RELATIONSHIPS

“ When intimate relationships begin to produce the very violence they are meant to protect against, the problem is no longer individual —it becomes a question about the moral direction of society itself. ”



Modern culture increasingly places the individual at the centre of social life. This has empowered people in important ways, but it has also encouraged a tendency to evaluate relationships primarily through the lens of personal fulfilment. When a relationship is valued only as long as it provides emotional satisfaction, it risks being viewed as disposable once difficulties arise. In such circumstances, spouses, partners, and even children may gradually cease to be seen as individuals with their own rights and dignity. Instead, they are perceived as obstacles to personal aspirations. The moment a human relationship is reduced to an impediment, its moral foundation begins to erode.

The broader context is worth noting. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's 2024 report, India recorded 27,049 murder cases during the year. While the overall number showed a slight decline, many murders continued to arise from personal enmities, family conflicts, and interpersonal disputes. These figures suggest that some of the most serious forms of violence do not emerge from organised crime alone but from conflicts embedded within intimate and everyday relationships. Although such incidents represent only a tiny fraction of the millions of marriages and families across the country, the fact that violence increasingly emerges from institutions traditionally associated with trust and protection is cause for concern.

The debate around live-in relationships often obscures this larger reality. The question is not whether a relation-

ship is formalised through marriage or exists outside it. What ultimately matters is the maturity, honesty, and responsibility with which people conduct their relationships. No social arrangement—whether traditional or modern—can remain stable without mutual respect and accountability. To blame a particular form of relationship is to oversimplify a far more complex social phenomenon.

Digital technology has also transformed the landscape of personal relationships. Social media and online platforms have made it easier than ever to form new connections. The abundance of choices has expanded personal freedom, but it has also altered perceptions of commitment. Relationships can sometimes appear less enduring when alternatives seem constantly available. Attraction often acquires greater importance than attachment, and novelty can overshadow stability. In such an environment, the impulse to escape difficulties may become stronger than the willingness to resolve them.

Family structures, too, are undergoing change. While families continue to exist as social institutions, they do not always function as spaces where emotional conflicts can be openly discussed. Conversations about marital dissatisfaction, loneliness, emotional distress, or separation remain difficult in many households. As a result, individuals often navigate deeply personal crises in isolation. Problems that might otherwise be addressed through dialogue can gradually intensify into resentment, desperation, or destructive behaviour.

These incidents also expose a gap in contemporary education. Modern education equips individuals with professional skills and technical competence, but it often pays insufficient attention to emotional literacy. Societies teach people how to succeed in careers, yet devote far less attention to teaching them how to cope with rejection, manage conflict, sustain relationships, or process emotional disappointment. A society that advances technologically without a corresponding growth in emotional maturity may find itself confronting precisely these kinds of crises.

None of this, however, diminishes individual responsibility. No social change, cultural trend, or personal circumstance can justify murder. Relationships may fail. Marriages may become unhappy. New emotional attachments may emerge. Yet every civilised society provides lawful and non-violent means of ending relationships and beginning new ones. Choosing violence instead reflects a profound moral failure.

The question, therefore, is not whether these crimes are the result of modernity or tradition, freedom or family breakdown. They are the product of a deeper crisis in the way relationships are understood and valued. The individuals who commit such acts bear direct responsibility. Yet the social environment that weakens commitment, prioritises desire over responsibility, and treats human relationships as disposable cannot be ignored.



D. JAIRAM
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SIR Process Underway in Telangana

Press statement by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

The SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process of the electoral rolls is a constitutional and legal exercise being undertaken by the Election Commission of India across the country. The Election Commission is carrying out this process to ensure transparency, clarity, and credibility in the voter lists, which are a key part of the electoral process. The SIR process is being conducted across the country in phases. This process is also being carried out without any obstacles in BJP-ruled states. Under the supervision of the State Election Commission, the electoral rolls are being revised and completely updated. The SIR process has also been successfully completed in states where Assembly elections were recently held. As SIR is starting in Telangana from today, it should be viewed as a voter list reform process and not from a political perspective. Some parties and some political leaders are making provocative statements suggesting that something unusual is happening. This is not correct. The Bharatiya Janata Party has always supported processes aimed at updating electoral rolls in a transparent manner. Every eligible Indian citizen should have the right to vote, and at the same time, it is the responsibility of all of us to protect democracy by removing illegal, fake, and duplicate voter cards. Under the guidance of BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, and under the leadership of Telangana BJP President Shri Ramachander Rao, all BJP MPs, MLAs, and party workers should actively participate in this SIR process. I urge everyone to remain vigilant and ensure that not even a single duplicate vote or fake vote is included in the new voter list.



Govt-Media Cooperation Boosts Governance

IMPHAL, JUNE 25, 2026

Effective coordination between the government and the media is essential for good governance, said Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, Director of Information and Public Relations (IPR), Manipur, at the 'Vartalap' workshop on "12 Years of Governance" organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Imphal. He highlighted the media's crucial role in communicating government policies and welfare schemes to the public, describing it as an important pillar of democracy. He stressed that better government-media cooperation helps citizens access information and benefits more effectively. Dr. Engam Pame, Director of PIB Imphal, spoke about major welfare initiatives and reforms implemented over the past 12 years, including improvements in education, healthcare, financial inclusion, and infrastructure. Speakers also emphasized the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP) and responsible journalism.

International Leaders Praise Santosh Kumar's Vision

LONDON:

The Green India Challenge model has become a major topic of discussion at the prestigious London Climate Action Week 2026 being held in London. International representatives praised the large-scale environmental movement initiated by former Rajya Sabha Member (2018–2024) and Igniting Minds Chairman J. Santosh Kumar during a session held at the Redbridge Town Hall, London. They appreciated the Telangana model as a practical example of how citizen participation can help address climate change.

Inspired by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

With the message, "When minds are ignited, society transforms," Santosh Kumar delivered a keynote address at the event. He explained how an initiative that began in a village in Telangana, inspired by A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, has grown into an international environmental movement.

He stated that so far, 4.4 crore citizens have participated in the initiative and planted 19.6 crore saplings. Since 2024, satellite monitoring and geo-tagging technologies have been used to track and protect each planted sapling transparently. Santosh Kumar explained that the initiative

*** Green India Challenge Resonates at London Climate Action Week 2026**
Special discussion held on the Green India Challenge model at London Climate Action Week 2026
Green India Challenge created with 19 crore saplings and participation of 4 crore people
International representatives praise the initiative's achievements and environmental impact
Movement launched by former MP J. Santosh Kumar hailed as a global example
Use of satellite monitoring and geo-tagging technology for tracking and protecting 19.6 crore saplings highlighted
Santosh Kumar calls for stronger community participation to tackle climate change



goes beyond plantation drives by promoting water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and empowering youth as change-makers for environmental protection. He emphasized that lasting change is possible only when governments, organizations, and citizens work together.

Global Leaders Support Green India Challenge

Several global leaders expressed support for Santosh Kumar's vision. Suresh Yadav said that people-led movements like this are essential

for global partnerships in addressing climate change.

Jas Athwal and Rajesh Jeetah stated that meaningful results can be achieved when public policy and citizen participation work together at local and national levels. They noted that the model could be particularly beneficial for island nations.

Appreciation from Local Council Leaders

Redbridge Mayor Councillor Bert Jones welcomed the event and praised the Green India Challenge as an inspir-

ing model for Redbridge communities as well.

Deputy Leader Vanisha Solanki, Councillor Joe Blackman, ICSR Head Ornicha Dauruang, and Treehouse Nurseries CEO Nazia also appreciated the initiative, stating that it demonstrates the power of communities working together.

Future Vision: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Calling for greater international cooperation under the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The world is one

Apara Dana Karna of Our Times
The Extraordinary Philanthropy of Kasi Viswanadha Raju

BHIMAVARAM, JUNE 25, 2026:

In an age when wealth is often measured by accumulation, Uddaraju Kasi Viswanadha Raju has come to be admired for measuring its worth through service, compassion, and social impact. Known among admirers as an "Apara Dana Karna" — a reference to the legendary giver Karna from the Mahabharata — Raju's decades-long philanthropic journey stands as a powerful example of selfless charity. From rural infrastructure and education to healthcare, disaster relief, environmental protection, spiritual service, and national causes, Kasi Viswanadha Raju's contributions have touched thousands of lives across Andhra Pradesh and beyond. His supporters say his generosity has never been driven by publicity or recognition, but by a deep belief that wealth gains its highest value only when shared for the welfare of society. Raju's charitable work began making a visible impact as early as 1995, when he contributed ₹2 lakh toward the construction of a veterinary hospital building in the Kovvada-Annaram region. Around the same period, he extended support for school infrastructure, including furniture, flooring,

dining halls, and free notebook distribution for students. He also contributed ₹4 lakh for a dining facility capable of serving around 200 people. His commitment to rural development has been equally significant. He provided nearly ₹10 lakh for drinking water facilities in Losari and for the construction of the Thundurru Church. He also contributed ₹6 lakh for fencing the Pusamaru pond, ₹1.5 lakh for the Gutlapadu watershed, and ₹2.5 lakh for school benches in Dongapindi. Environmental protection and public infrastructure have also remained important areas of his service. Raju initiated the planting of 10,000 saplings along the canal bank from Gollavanitippa to Dongapindi through Losari. He further contributed ₹15 lakh for road development and ₹8 lakh for link roads and temple-related construction works in the region.

In the field of sanitation, he donated ₹21 lakh for establishing dumping yards and procuring tractors for wet and dry waste collection in Palacoderu and Kumudavalli villages. He also supported the Palacoderu school with ₹5 lakh from CSR funds and contributed another ₹5 lakh for its dining hall.

Raju's philanthropy has also reflected a strong sense of pat-



riotism. During the 1999 Kargil War, he personally handed over a donation of ₹2 lakh to then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In another major act of public service, during the devastating Vijayawada floods, he mobilized ₹50 lakh from the public and matched it with ₹50 lakh from his own funds, contributing a total of ₹1 crore toward relief operations.

His contributions to healthcare have been substantial. He donated ₹2.5 crore for the construction of the BIRRD Hospital — Balaji Institute of Surgery, Research and Rehabilitation for the Disabled — in Tirupati. Earlier, in 1990, he contributed ₹10 lakh for the construction of a cottage in Tirumala. He also supported spiritual service initiatives, including the Nitya Annadanam programme at Dwaraka Tirumala, for which he presented

₹5 lakh to then Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Education and public welfare have remained central to his vision. Raju donated ₹25 lakh each to Vivekananda Yoga University, the Bhimavaram VRO Office Association, the Naimisharanya temple construction and Annadanam scheme, and Mummidivaram Government School. In February 2021, he contributed ₹10 lakh toward the construction of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir.

His support for local cultural and religious institutions includes ₹35 lakh to the Ramalayam at Bhimavaram Police Quarters, ₹5 lakh to the Sivaraupeta Ramalayam, and ₹3 lakh to the Alluri Sitarama Raju Cultural Centre.

Among his most notable contributions is the donation of 1 acre of joint family land to the Bhimavaram Cosmopolitan Club in the name of his elder brother, Sri Dharmaraju Garu. The land is currently estimated by locals to be worth around ₹50 crore. Raju also provided ₹25 lakh for the club's indoor stadium and contributed ₹50,000 toward the building construction of KGRL College in Bhimavaram. Under the Uddaraju Anandaraju Educational Trust, he allocated 25 acres of land for a Bharatiya

Vidya Bhavan school at Peddapuram near Kakina in East Godavari district. The current value of this land is estimated by locals to be around ₹50 crore, making it one of his most significant educational contributions. His recent philanthropy continued into 2024. He donated ₹10 lakh to Vivekananda Health Mission's Sri Kedarnath Dham Hospital. On July 13, 2024, he contributed ₹5 lakh to the Andhra Pradesh Tiger Conservation Foundation, and on April 24, 2024, he provided ₹1 lakh for the construction of Ankala Art Academy School.

Over the years, Kasi Viswanadha Raju's name has become associated not merely with donations, but with timely and meaningful service. His supporters say he has consistently identified social needs before being asked and responded with generosity, whether the cause was education, healthcare, hunger relief, conservation, disaster response, or spiritual service.

For many, Uddaraju Kasi Viswanadha Raju represents the rare ideal of wealth used as an instrument of compassion. His life of giving continues to inspire communities and stands as a reminder that true greatness lies not in what one possesses, but in what one gives back to society.



NFR Supports Devotees with Food and Assistance

Maligaon, 25 June, 2026: In a continued effort to support the large number of devotees visiting Kamakhya Temple during the annual Ambubachi Mela, the Northeast Frontier Railway Women's Welfare Organization (NFRWWO), under the leadership of its President, Smt. Shalini Shrivastava, organized a food distribution programme at Kamakhya Railway Station. The initiative was undertaken to provide comfort and assistance to pilgrims arriving from different parts of the country for the sacred festival. Through this humanitarian effort, NFRWWO reaffirmed its commitment towards the welfare and well-being of passengers and devotees, serving them with dedication during one of the region's most significant religious gatherings. In addition, as part of the dedicated passenger assistance arrangements during the Ambubachi Mela, members of the N. F. Railway Bharat Scouts & Guides have been deployed at major railway stations across the Northeast Frontier Railway zone. The volunteers are actively assisting passengers through crowd management, guidance and

information support, thereby helping ensure a safer, smoother and more comfortable travel experience for thousands of pilgrims and passengers. Further strengthening the support measures, the Commercial Department of Northeast Frontier Railway also organized a food distribution programme at Guwahati Railway Station for devotees travelling to Kamakhya Temple. The initiative was aimed at providing refreshments and assistance to pilgrims during their journey. To cater to the anticipated rush of pilgrims, N. F. Railway is also operating several special unreserved train services, connecting Kamakhya with important destinations across Assam and North Bengal. In addition, various regular passenger trains have also been temporarily augmented to enhance carrying capacity and facilitate smooth travel for devotees during the Ambubachi Mela period. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to ensuring safe, convenient and passenger-friendly services during the Ambubachi Mela through coordinated efforts involving various departments, organizations and volunteers.



In the 51st year of Emergency, BJP honored Loktantra fighters

DR. BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Shivpuri. On this very day, June 25, emergency was imposed by the then Congress government on the grounds that it was a threat to the internal security of the country, in which the leaders of Jan Sangh and other parties were imprisoned without any reason and tortured in various ways. These fighters were kept in jail for one to two years. If we had compromised at that time, perhaps BJP would have. This would not have happened in this situation. On the strength of these democracy fighters, the party is fully engaged in serving the country today. Senior BJP leader and democracy fighter Omprakash Sharma Omi Guru said the above while considering the Emergency as a black day in the BJP office today, 25th June.

Earlier, floral tributes were paid to the portraits of the patriarchs of BJP at the BJP office and BJP's district president Jaswant Jatav, democracy fighters Prabhakar Lavangikar, Omprakash Sharma, Gopal Singhal and Vimlesh Goyal, former minister Suresh Rathkheda, former MLA Prahlad Bharti and SC Morcha state president were present on the stage. Mandal President welcomed the office bearer Gagan Khatik with a party gamchha. District President of Bharatiya Janata Party Jaswant Jatav said in his address that the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi imposed emergency in the country by suppressing the public sentiments, which is

still a stain on the country's face. Today, due to the sacrifice and penance of these democracy fighters, BJP is successful in the entire country with full honesty. The dream of a developed India is being fulfilled under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi. Today, even the last mile people are getting benefits from many public welfare schemes in the country. Emergency is being celebrated as Black Day in the entire country.

Bharatiya Janata Party's district media in-charge Mukesh Jain journalist told that today in the BJP office, democracy fighters Omprakash Sharma, Gopal Singhal, Prabhakar Lavangikar and Vimlesh Goyal were honored by the BJP district president and other officials by wearing shawl, quince and garland.

The program was conducted by District General Secretary KP Parmar and the vote of thanks was given by District Minister Neeraj Tomar. On this occasion, District President Jaswant Jatav, Vice President Nawab Singh Kushwaha, District Media Incharge Mukesh Jain, Divisional President Vipul Jaimini, Krishna Kushwaha, Girraj Sharma, Lakshmi Jatav, District Office Minister Sonu Rajawat, Brajendra Paderia, Vipin Sharma Vijay Yadav, Raman Bhari Gurjar, Avtar Singh Gurjar, Nri-dosh Goyal, HrithikGarg, Vicky Mangal, former NAP President Munna Lal Kushwaha, Sonu Kushwaha, Prashant Rathore, Akash Rathore and all the godlike workers and officials of BJP were present.

Indian Army participates in joint UN peacekeeping drills during Exercise

ULAANBAATAR

The Indian Army contingent participating in Exercise Khaan Quest undertook joint UN peacekeeping drills, including patrolling, cordon and search operations and humanitarian assistance activities, enhancing interoperability, communication and coordinated responses in complex operational environments.

The Indian Army is committed to strengthening multinational partnerships and fostering mission-ready contingents capable of responding to evolving global security challenges, according to the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) statement on Thursday.

While sharing a video from the ongoing exercise on X, Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) stated, "Leveraging its extensive experience in UN Peacekeeping Operations, the Indian Army remains committed to strengthening multinational partnerships and fostering mission-ready contingents capable of responding effectively to evolving global security



challenges." The Exercise is being conducted in Mongolia's Ulaanbaatar from June 20-July 3. The exercise involves military forces from across the world to collaborate and enhance interoperability in peace support op-

erations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter, according to the Ministry of Defence statement issued on June 18.

The Indian Army contingent comprising 40 personnel is being repre-

sented by troops from a Battalion of the Jat Regiment along with personnel from other Arms and Services, according to the statement.

The exercise first started as a bilateral event between the US and

Mongolian Defence Forces in 2003. From 2003, the exercise graduated to a Multilateral Peacekeeping Exercise with the current one being the 23rd iteration. The participation by an Indian contingent demonstrates India's steadfast commitment to global peace and strategic partnership with Mongolia. "The aim of Exercise Khaan Quest is to prepare contingents of participating Defence Forces for peacekeeping missions while operating in a multilateral environment. The exercise will focus on conduct of joint planning and tactical drills such as establishment of static and mobile check points, cordon and search operations, patrolling, evacuation of civilians from hostile areas, counter improvised explosive device drills, combat first aid and casualty evacuation," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

Exercise Khaan Quest will allow the participating countries to share their best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures for conduct of joint operations. The exercise will facilitate operational readiness, bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of the participating countries.



Grandfather of 9-year-old Australian girl killed in police firing in Pakistan demands justice

CANBERRA

The grandfather of a nine-year-old Australian girl Hania Ahmed who was killed in police firing in Pakistan has demanded justice, local media reported. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has previously demanded a transparent probe into the incident.

"Whether we get justice because of him [Anthony Albanese], or police, we just want justice," Australia-based ABC News quoted Mazhar Hussain Chohan as saying. Chohan spoke about the hours that followed the police shooting in Pakistan after the family was robbed at gunpoint. Hania along with her family had travelled from Australia to Pakistan to visit her family.

The family had gone to a relative's house for dinner in Chakwal district of Pakistan's Punjab province. Chohan said he left while Hania stayed at the relatives house with her family. Chohan said that three hours later, he received a call where he was informed that his son had met with an accident. Chohan said, "I had no idea about the bullets." After he went to hospital, he saw the dead body of his granddaughter. "I saw the dead body of my granddaughter on a stretcher, and my son and grandson were injured, police and doctors were working," ABC News quoted him as saying.

The incident which started as a robbery escalated into a shootout. Two robbers held Hania's family at gunpoint outside their relative's home and demanded their jewellery. Pakistan's Crime

Control Department (CCD) has claimed that the robbers started firing at an officer who responded at the site of the incident, however, Hania's father Ahmed said the police were the first to fire.

As the family tried to drive away from the chaos, an officer continued firing at their car, thinking that robbers were inside, claiming the life of Hania while her brother and father were injured. Medical notes from a post-mortem examination indicate Hania was hit by at least five bullets and died immediately.

The CCD was set up in 2025 to crack down on crime in Pakistan's Punjab. However, rights groups, including Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), even before Hania's death, have voiced concerns about the department's use of force.

Earlier in February, the HRCP condemned Pakistan's CCD in Punjab province for pursuing a deliberate policy of staged encounters resulting in extrajudicial killings that fundamentally undermines the rule of law and constitutional protections in the province.

Citing various media reports, the HRCP documented at least 670 CCD-led encounters over the course of eight months in 2025, resulting in the deaths of 924 suspects, with two police officers killed during the same period. "The extreme casualty imbalance — averaging more than two fatal encounters daily — combined with the uniformity of operational patterns across districts, indicates an institutionalised practice rather than isolated incidents of misconduct.



World leaders express solidarity with Venezuela after deadly earthquakes

WASHINGTON

Several world leaders on Thursday expressed solidarity with the people of Venezuela and offered aid following the devastating earthquakes that have claimed the lives of 32 people and injured over 700 people. US President Donald Trump has expressed Washington's support for Venezuela and said that he has directed US government agencies to get ready to move quickly.

"The two major earthquakes that just hit the great people of Venezuela are both massive in scale and have left a devastating number of deaths. The U.S.A. stands ready, willing, and able to help! I have instructed all agencies of our government to get ready to move quickly. We will be there for our new and great friends. Early reports are not good!," Trump posted on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum expressed solidarity with the people of Venezuela and said that she has instructed the preparation of the necessary aid for the South American country.

"Our solidarity with the people of Venezuela. The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs has been in contact with the government of the brother

country, and I have already instructed the preparation of the necessary aid. For now, they have requested support with specialised personnel in rescue and health. Mexico is always and will be in solidarity", she said in a post on X.

El Salvador President Nayib Bukele stated that 300 rescuers and paramedics with 50 tons of equipment, medicines, and essential supplies are ready to depart for Caracas.

"At this moment, we have offered assistance to the Government of Venezuela through our Foreign Ministry. 300 rescuers and paramedics, along with 50 tons of equipment, medicines, and essential supplies, are ready to depart for Caracas," he posted on X.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez offered support to the people of Venezuela following the earthquakes.

"All my support, and that of Spain, to the Venezuelan people following the devastating earthquakes of this evening. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families," he wrote on X.

Ecuador President Daniel Noboa expressed solidarity with the people of Venezuela and said that he has arranged for the immediate sending of humanitarian aid to Venezuela to address this emergency.

Russia eyes gasoline imports from India amid refinery disruptions: Report

NEW DELHI

Russia is working to launch large-scale seaborne gasoline imports from India to address a widening domestic fuel shortfall caused by a wave of Ukrainian drone strikes on refinery infrastructure, a new report has said.

The report from Ukraine-based Kyiv Post said draft amendments to Russia's Tax Code would extend an existing subsidy mechanism for companies undertaking gasoline imports from India.

"Under the proposed rules, the subsidy would be calculated based on an indicative gasoline price on the Indian market and the cost of shipping fuel from Indian ports to Russia," the report said. The State Duma's budget and tax committee has backed



the bill, the media house said, citing an RBC report.

Russia's subsidy support for Indian refined crude follows a sharp deterioration in Russian refining capacity as attacks intensified in 2026.

India became Russia's largest buyer of crude, purchasing 1.5 to

2 million barrels following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

It reached a record of 2.66 million barrels per day in June 2026, a part of which is processed in Indian refineries and re-exported as petroleum products, including gasoline. India's total gasoline exports

reached a record high of 4 lakh barrels per day in 2025, majority imported by Asian countries.

Strikes on refineries have pushed Russia's crude processing to its lowest level in two decades, cutting gasoline output by roughly 25 per cent.

Operating refineries are producing about 85,000 tonnes of gasoline per day against summer demand of around 1.11 lakh tonnes, leaving a structural daily shortfall of roughly 25,000 tonnes. The shortfall now amounts to about 20 per cent of domestic consumption and has pushed wholesale gasoline prices above 100 rubles, the report said. Russian light aircraft operators have begun substituting automobile gasoline for aviation fuel due to shortage and aviation fuel price surge, it noted.

PM Modi to visit Seychelles to attend Golden Jubilee Celebrations of National Day

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Seychelles on a State visit from June 27-29 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the country's National Day as the Guest of Honour. PM Modi will be travelling to Seychelles at the invitation of Seychelles President Patrick Herminie.

During the visit, PM Modi will hold talks with President Herminie to review the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). PM Modi is scheduled to address the Seychelles National Assembly



and interact with members of the Indian diaspora. "India and Seychelles share a long-standing partnership rooted in shared historical, cultural and people-to-people ties. As a key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean region, Seychelles holds a special place in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for

Security and Growth Across Regions) and our commitment to the Global South," the MEA statement said. PM Modi's visit to Seychelles will reaffirm the strong and enduring friendship between two nations and reinforce the shared commitment of both countries to enhance the bilateral relationship across all sectors, it added.

In April, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Seychelles counterpart Barry Faure on the sidelines of the 9th Indian Ocean Conference in Mauritius and expressed New Delhi's commitment to supporting Victoria in meeting current economic challenges.

"Great meeting FM Barry Faure of Seychelles on the sidelines of 9th Indian Ocean Conference. India is committed to

supporting Seychelles in meeting current economic challenges. Welcomed the steps in implementing the Special Economic Package," Jaishankar posted on X.

In February, the Seychelles President was on a six-day State visit to India. During the visit, President Herminie and PM Modi held discussions covering the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and agreed to also work closely in digital transformation.

Noting the need for Seychelles to digitise governance for the benefit of its people, India agreed to make efforts on the buildup of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including digital payments, as per the needs and requirements of Seychelles.

Pakistan accused of targeting women, children; using starvation tactics

NEW DELHI

The crackdown by the Pakistani security agencies on those protesting in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) continues unabated and is getting more aggressive by the day, with the protesters refusing to back down.

Indian officials closely following the developments say that the atrocities have reached new heights now, and the security forces have begun selectively targeting women and children, irrespective of their age.

The situation is worrisome, an official said while adding that the Pakistani security forces have rewritten all rules and are targeting women and children. While women have been targeted in the past, the security forces have only imposed blockades on them from joining the protests. Today, they are firing at children and women. In the Dhamol village, the Pakistani forces even resorted to shelling to stop women and children.

An Intelligence Bureau official said



that apart from shooting at the protesters, the Pakistan establishment has blocked all routes that get food into PoK. This is the extent of brutality that one is getting to witness in the region, the official said.

People have been complaining about starvation and allege that the establishment is looking for ways to kill them. An official said that at a time when the protesters are asking for basic amenities, the establishment is instead trying

to starve them. While there have been many protests at PoK in the past, these are the worst atrocities that the Pakistani forces have committed till date.

Another official said that the directives are coming from Field Marshal Asim Munir, and during a recent meeting, he pulled up officials and army personnel for failing to act in PoK. Munir has instructed his personnel to go to any extent to put down the protesters, even if that meant using brute force against

women and children. Some of his personnel had warned him about a massive humanitarian crisis that such action may create. However, Munir was in no mood to listen and ordered them to use as much force as possible.

Many in PoK have been complaining that the security forces are even targeting unarmed people and those who are not even part of the protest. Officials say what is worse is that the forces are not just killing these persons, but are not even allowing their family members to take the bodies. It is the forces that take away the bodies and dispose of them, not even giving the family members a chance to perform their last rites, officials say.

Officials say that on one hand, Pakistan has been projecting to the world that it is a messiah of peace, while on the other hand, it is committing unthinkable atrocities against the people of PoK. The PoK protesters have been making fervent appeals to Amnesty International, the United Nations and also

those in the international media to save them.

An official said that the issue is not being reported internationally. This issue needs global attention and world needs to know the kind of crimes that are being committed in the region, the official also added.

The protesters have, however, been relentless and say that the agitation will be called off only when all their demands are met. They want the 1,500 persons whom the Pakistani forces arrested released immediately, while also seeking the restoration of basic human rights in the region. They also want employment opportunities, better healthcare, education facilities and reforms in the judiciary and bureaucracy. Saad Ansari, an advocate, said they are demanding that the AJK Bank, which operates in PoK, should be made a scheduled bank. Ansari also urged human rights organisations to take up their issue and said that the international media should report on their plight.

Four injured after 7.2-magnitude earthquake hits Japan's Iwate



TOKYO

At least four people were injured after a 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck northeastern Japan on Thursday morning, local media reported.

The temblor, revised up from a preliminary magnitude of 6.9, occurred at around 7:30 a.m. local time off the eastern coast of Iwate Prefecture at a depth of about 40 km. It measured upper 6, the second-highest level on Japan's seismic scale of 7, in Hashikami Town and lower 6 in Hachinohe City, both in Aomori Prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

An intensity of upper 6 means it is impossible to remain standing or move without crawling, and most unfixed furniture will move, and objects will topple over, Kyodo News reported, quoting the weather agency.

The earthquake also affected Hokkaido and Akita, Fukushima, Miyagi, and Yamagata prefectures, as well as Tokyo and its neighbouring prefectures, ac-

cording to JMA. No tsunami advisory was issued. People in strongly affected areas were urged to remain alert for earthquakes of a similar magnitude, reports Xinhua news agency.

There were no reports of abnormalities at the Higashidori or Onagawa nuclear power plants, located respectively in Aomori and Miyagi prefectures, or at the Fukushima Daiichi or Daini nuclear power plants in Fukushima Prefecture, according to their operators. The quake's epicentre was located at 40.2 degrees north latitude and 142.3 degrees east longitude. In a separate development, two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela in quick succession, both causing strong tremors in the capital of Caracas.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported a magnitude 7.1 quake at 2204 GMT on Wednesday evening, followed just one minute later by an even stronger magnitude 7.5 tremor. Both struck near the coastal town of Moron, about 160 km west of Caracas.



Aastha Spintex IPO to open on June 29; aims to raise Rs 170 cr

NEW DELHI: Textile manufacturer Aastha Spintex Ltd on Thursday said it will launch its initial public offering (IPO) on June 29 to raise Rs 170 crore. The public issue, with a price band of Rs 125-136 per equity share, will remain open for subscription until July 1, according to a company statement. Proceeds from the public issue will be used towards part payment for the acquisition of Falcon Yarns Pvt Ltd, funding the working capital requirements of the acquired company through inter-corporate deposits, and for general corporate purposes.

Bain Capital sells 1.02 pc stake in Emcure for Rs 352 cr

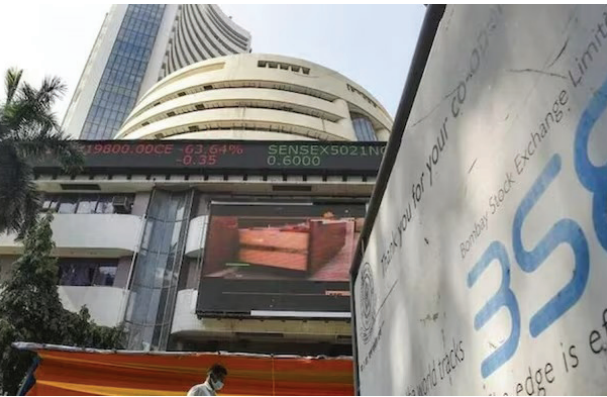
NEW DELHI: Global investment firm Bain Capital on Thursday divested a 1.02 per cent stake in Emcure Pharmaceuticals for Rs 352 crore through open market transactions. BC Investments IV Ltd, a Mauritius-based investment vehicle and an affiliate of Bain Capital, offloaded more than 19.39 lakh shares in two tranches, representing a 1.02 per cent stake in Pune-based Emcure, according to block deal data on the NSE. The shares were disposed of at an average price of Rs 1,817 apiece, taking the combined transaction value to Rs 352.40 crore.

Risk-Based Compliance Mechanism Introduced

NEW DELHI: June 25 The government on Thursday said it has introduced an alternative risk-based compliance mechanism to facilitate a smooth transition for industries while maintaining quality assurance, a move aimed at easing compliance with quality control orders (QCOs). The decision is important as certain industries have raised concerns over difficulties in meeting the requirements to get BIS certificates under these orders. The mechanism was introduced through the Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026.

Dalal Street pares gains: Sensex ends flat after climbing over 600 points

Early optimism driven by lower crude oil prices and a stronger rupee faded as investors booked profits, though benchmark indices still managed to end in positive territory. Benchmark indices surrendered most of their intraday gains on Thursday, with the Sensex erasing a rally of over 600 points before ending marginally higher, as investors booked profits after a strong recent run-up.



WHY DID MARKETS GIVE UP THEIR GAINS?

The day's trade reflected two contrasting themes. Markets opened sharply higher after Brent crude fell below \$73 per barrel, raising hopes of lower inflation, stronger corporate earnings and an improvement in India's current account deficit. However, as the session progressed, traders locked in profits following the recent rally that has seen benchmark indices gain around 4% over the past several sessions. The recovery in the rupee also supported sentiment. The Indian currency appreciated 0.3% to 94.3775 against the US dollar, reflecting easing pressure on external balances as oil prices remained subdued.

AUTO STOCKS REMAIN THE STAR PERFORMERS

Even as the headline indices cooled off, automobile stocks continued to attract strong buying. The Nifty Auto index surged 2.25%, making it the top-performing sector of the day. Maruti Suzuki jumped 3.69%, Mahindra & Mahindra gained 3.82% and IndiGo rallied 4.73%, emerging among the biggest gainers on the Sensex. Financial stocks also remained resilient. Nifty Financial Services edged up 0.10%, while Nifty Private Bank gained 0.16%.

ICICI Bank rose 1.01%, State Bank of India gained 1.01%, HDFC Bank advanced 0.37% and Kotak Mahindra Bank climbed 0.74%.

IT, METAL STOCKS WEIGH ON SENTIMENT

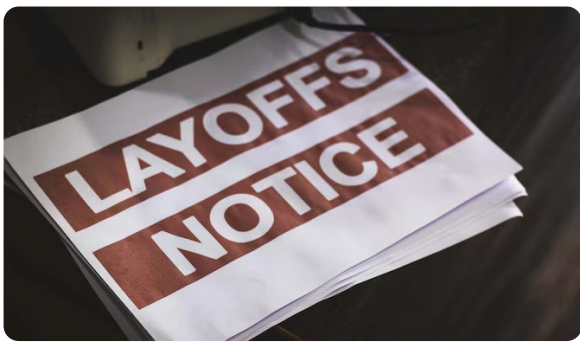
Technology and metal stocks capped the market's upside. The Nifty IT index slipped 0.86%, with Tech Mahindra falling 1.68%, Infosys losing 1.42%, HCLTech declining 1.07% and TCS shedding 0.62%. Metal stocks also remained under pressure, dragging the Nifty Metal index down 1.37%. Among the top Sensex losers were Power Grid (-2.36%), Tech Mahindra (-1.68%), BEL (-1.68%), Infosys (-1.42%) and Bharti Airtel (-1.40%).

BROADER MARKETS UNDERPERFORM

Unlike the benchmark indices, broader markets closed in the red. The Nifty Midcap 50 fell 0.58%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 declined 0.55%. The Nifty Smallcap 100 also slipped 0.47%, suggesting that selling pressure was more pronounced outside the large-cap space. India VIX declined 2.50%, indicating that market volatility remained contained despite the intraday reversal.

WHAT ARE EXPERTS SAYING?

Riyank Arora, Associate Vice President – HNI & Derivatives at Hedged.in, said the market continued to consolidate with a positive bias despite remaining range-bound through most of the session. He said the Nifty managed to hold above the crucial 24,000 mark, indicating that the short-term trend remains constructive. Immediate support lies in the 24,000-23,950 zone, followed by a stronger support area near 23,850. On the upside, resistance is seen between 24,100 and 24,150, with a sustained breakout potentially opening the door towards 24,250. For the Sensex, he said support is placed between 76,900 and 76,700, while resistance is seen around 77,300-77,500. A decisive move above this range could strengthen bullish momentum further. He added that the broader market structure remains positive and advised traders to continue adopting a buy-on-dips strategy while maintaining disciplined risk management.



United Spirits may cut 100 jobs as Diageo looks to trim costs

United Spirits is set to lay off around 100 employees as Diageo pursues a global cost-cutting programme. The move comes amid a wider restructuring drive in India despite strong growth and continued investment in premium brands.

United Spirits, India's largest spirits company, is set to lay off around 100 employees as part of parent company Diageo's global cost-cutting programme, reported Economic Times citing people familiar with the matter. The proposed job cuts are aimed at streamlining operations and improving productivity, even as India remains one of Diageo's fastest-growing and most important markets. The report said the layoffs are expected to affect employees across functions, particularly those in mid- and senior-level roles. These would be among the biggest workforce reductions at United Spirits since Diageo acquired the company over a decade ago.

MORE JOB CUTS MAY FOLLOW

While around 100 jobs are currently expected to be affected, the final number could be higher. According to the report, the ongoing review may eventually impact another 200 roles, although the final decision is yet to be taken. Despite the layoffs, the company is expected to continue investing in its priority brands and growth markets in India. A spokesperson for United Spirits declined to comment on the report.

SMALL PART OF THE WORKFORCE

The proposed layoffs represent only a small portion of United Spirits' workforce, which stands at around 2,400 employees. India is Diageo's largest market by

volume and one of its key growth markets globally. The company continues to dominate the country's premium spirits segment, with brands such as Johnnie Walker, Black Dog and Antiquity driving its premiumisation strategy. According to the report, products in the prestige-and-above category contributed more than 90% of the company's net sales in the latest quarter.

LAYOFFS DESPITE STRONG PERFORMANCE

The restructuring comes even though United Spirits posted a strong performance in FY26. The company reported a 7.6% increase in net sales value and an 11.6% rise in EBITDA during the financial year. Management has also been implementing a multi-year supply chain transformation programme aimed at optimising its manufacturing footprint and improving productivity. During the company's latest investor call, it said around 90% of the planned cost-saving benefits are expected to be realised by FY27.

RESTRUCTURING ALREADY UNDERWAY

The latest job cuts are part of a broader restructuring exercise. Earlier this month, United Spirits announced the closure of its manufacturing facility in Hyderabad under its supply chain agility programme. The plant contributed around 2% of the company's FY26 revenue. The Hyderabad shutdown follows the closure of another facility in the city last year and a plant in Uttar Pradesh in 2023 as part of the same programme. The proposed layoffs indicate that Diageo is continuing its efforts to simplify operations and improve efficiency, even as it remains focused on expanding its premium liquor business in India.

India-US trade deal very close, but here's why it isn't signed yet

Piyush Goyal said India and the US are close to finalising their trade deal. India wants tariff terms that give its exporters a clear edge over rivals.

India and the United States are "very close" to finalising a bilateral trade agreement, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, reported news agency Reuters. However, he made it clear that India will sign the deal only after it secures a competitive advantage over its trading rivals. Speaking in London, Goyal said negotiations have largely been completed and both sides have been working on the finer details since February 6. The remaining discussions are centred on ensuring India receives favourable

tariff treatment compared to competing countries.

INDIA WANTS A COMPETITIVE EDGE

"The day the US finds appropriate tools to give us a competitive advantage, the deal is on," Goyal said.

He added that discussions are underway on how the United States can provide India with the necessary legal framework and mechanisms to ensure Indian exports remain more competitive than those from rival nations.

"We cannot enter a deal with the US until the framework of having a comparative advantage is finalised," the minister said. According to Goyal, India wants to ensure it continues to enjoy an advantage over its peers under the proposed trade agreement.

WHY THE DEAL HASN'T



BEEN SIGNED YET

The minister indicated that the broad contours of the agreement were finalised months ago. "India-US deal was done on February 6 and teams have been working since then on finer details," he said. The delay, he explained, is linked to ensuring that Indian exporters do not lose their edge if similar tariff con-

cessions are extended to competing countries. Earlier, India had agreed to an 18% tariff rate in discussions with the US, but that understanding was based on India receiving a comparative advantage over its competitors. "When India agreed to an 18% tariff rate with the US, it was centred around having a comparative advantage," Goyal said.

WHAT DOES 'COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE' MEAN?

In simple terms, India wants its exports to face lower or more favourable tariffs than goods coming from competing countries. For example, if Indian textiles, engineering goods or pharmaceuticals attract lower import duties in the US than similar products from Vietnam, Bangladesh or other countries, In-

dian exporters become more competitive in the American market. This advantage could help Indian companies increase exports, gain market share and create more jobs. The proposed India-US trade agreement is expected to cover tariffs, rules of origin, investment provisions and greater cooperation across sectors. It is also expected to deepen economic ties between the world's largest and fifth-largest economies while opening new opportunities for Indian exporters and businesses. With Goyal saying the two countries are "very close" to concluding the agreement, attention will now shift to whether both sides can resolve the remaining issues around tariff preferences and competitive access before the deal is formally signed.

Gold loses over Rs 51,000 from all-time high. Why is the yellow metal crashing?

Gold has fallen sharply from its peak as silver also comes under selling pressure. The correction is being driven by rate-hike bets, a stronger dollar and shifting investor appetite.



MCX gold prices have fallen more than 26% from their all-time intraday high of Rs 1,92,991 per 10 grams to around Rs 1,41,977, marking one of the sharpest corrections in recent years. Silver, too, has come under heavy selling pressure as investors move away from precious metals. Globally, gold is hovering near a seven-month low, weighed down by expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again this year, a stronger US dollar and investors shifting money into equities amid the artificial intelligence (AI) boom. So, why are gold and silver falling, and could prices slide even further?

WHY ARE GOLD PRICES FALLING?

The biggest reason is the changing outlook for US interest rates. Markets now see a 66% chance that the US Federal Reserve could raise rates in September, according to CME FedWatch data.

Higher interest rates make non-yielding assets such as gold less attractive because investors can earn better returns from interest-bearing investments.

The US dollar has also strengthened sharply, with the Dollar Index trading above 101, its highest level since May 2025. Since gold is priced in dollars, a stronger greenback usually puts pressure on bullion prices.

Gold has now fallen more than 6% since last week's Federal Reserve meeting and briefly slipped below the psychologically important \$4,000-an-ounce mark for the first time since November 2025.

SILVER ALSO UNDER PRESSURE

The weakness has not

been limited to gold. Spot silver also slipped sharply to around \$56 an ounce earlier this week before recovering slightly. Unlike gold, silver is influenced not only by investment demand but also by industrial consumption. However, the current selloff has largely been driven by the same factors hurting gold—a stronger dollar and rising expectations of higher US interest rates.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS KNOW?

Kaynat Chainwala, AVP – Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said the shift in Federal Reserve expectations remains the biggest reason behind the decline. "Spot gold extended its decline to \$3,959 per ounce, a fresh seven-month low,

while spot silver slipped to \$56 per ounce earlier today, with both metals weighed down by a resurgent US dollar and rapidly repricing Federal Reserve rate expectations," she said. According to Chainwala, markets have turned more hawkish after Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh's first policy meeting, where nine of the nineteen policymakers projected at least one interest rate hike before the end of the year. "Markets are now pricing in up to two quarter-point increases through December, lifting short-dated Treasury yields and reinforcing dollar strength. Adding to the pressure, the ECB warned that inflation could remain above target for an extended period, broadening the global tightening narrative," she added.

THE AI BOOM IS ALSO HURTING GOLD

Another factor weighing on bullion is the growing shift in investor preference towards equities.

According to analysts, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) backed by gold have witnessed outflows as investors rotate into stock markets, particularly technology and AI-related companies.

The AI boom has prompt-

ed many investors to move money away from traditional safe-haven assets like gold in search of higher returns.

SHOULD YOU BUY THE DIP?

Despite the recent correction, analysts believe the long-term investment case for gold remains intact.

Gold continues to act as a hedge against inflation, geopolitical uncertainty and currency volatility.

However, in the near term, prices could remain under pressure if the US Federal Reserve continues signalling tighter monetary policy or if the dollar strengthens further. Investors are now closely watching the US Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation data—the Fed's preferred inflation gauge—for clues on the future path of interest rates. For Indian investors, the correction could offer an opportunity to gradually accumulate gold, but experts advise against making large lump-sum purchases until there is greater clarity on the US interest rate outlook.

With the Fed, the dollar and global bond yields dictating the direction of precious metals, gold and silver may remain volatile in the weeks ahead.]

Kia Seltos Leads Mid-SUV Segment with 79% Value Retention

NEW DELHI, INDIA, 25TH JUNE 2026:

Kia India, one of the country's leading mass-premium automaker, today announced that the Kia Seltos has emerged as the best-performing model in the Mid-SUV segment in the latest Autocar India Used Car Study (4th Edition), conducted in association with Spinny.

According to the study, Kia Seltos Petrol-Automatic retains 79% of its value, the highest in its segment, reaffirming its strong ownership proposition, sustained customer demand and long-term value retention. The study further highlighted the Seltos Petrol-Automatic's consistent residual value performance over a five-year ownership period – retaining 79% of its value after one year, 67% after three years, and 57% after five years of ownership. Across the Seltos range, the model retains an average of 66% of its value after three years and 55% after five years of ownership, highest in its segment, based on the study data. Commenting on the recognition, Mr. Atul Sood, Senior Vice-President, Marketing & Sales, Kia India, said, "Highest resale value is among the clearest indicators of customer trust, product desirability and long-term ownership confidence. The findings reaffirm the enduring appeal of the Kia Seltos and reflect the confidence customers continue to place in its quality,

performance, technology and overall ownership experience. At Kia, we remain committed to delivering products that create value for customers throughout their ownership journey."

Since its introduction in India, the Kia Seltos has been widely recognised for its bold design, advanced technology, comprehensive safety features and strong performance. The model has sold over 6.5 lakh units in India to date, reflecting sustained customer demand and reaffirming its position as one of Kia's most successful global products. Continuous product enhancements and strong brand equity have further cemented the Seltos as one of the most sought-after SUVs in the country. Strong residual value contributes significantly to a superior ownership experience by reducing depreciation-related costs, improving exchange and upgrade opportunities, and lowering the overall cost of ownership. The latest study reinforces the Seltos' position as a compelling choice for customers seeking a combination of innovation, quality and long-term value. Kia India remains committed to delivering mobility solutions that offer not only an exceptional ownership experience but also enduring value over time.

About the Study: The findings are based on the Autocar India Used Car Study (4th Edition), conducted in association with Spinny, India's leading pre-

owned car platform, analysing real-world resale values across the Indian market.

About Kia India

In April 2017, Kia India signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, India, to build a new manufacturing facility at Anantapur District. Kia commenced mass production in August 2019 and has an installed annual production capacity of 350,000 units. In April 2021, Kia India reimagined itself in line with its new brand identity, "Movement that Inspires," aimed at offering customers meaningful experiences backed by innovative products and services. Under the new brand identity, Kia has set out to find ways to achieve new benchmarks and inspire consumers to be more and do more. Till date, Kia India has launched nine vehicles for the Indian market – the Seltos, the Syros, the Sonet, the Carens, the Carnival, the EV6, the EV9, the Carens Clavis, and the all-new Carens Clavis EV. Kia India has completed almost 1.9 million vehicle dispatches from its Anantapur plant, including over 1.5 million domestic sales and over 3.67 lakh exports. With more than 5 lakh connected cars on Indian roads, it is among the connected Car leaders in the country. The brand has a wide-spread network of 891 touchpoints across 402 cities and is focused on strengthening its footprint across the country.





Redefining the Future of Interior Design

For three dynamic days from June 19 to 21, Hyderabad's HITEX Exhibition Centre became the epicenter of India's evolving design ecosystem as it hosted the 6th edition of IIID Showcase Insider X 2026. Organized by the Indian Institute of Interior Designers – Hyderabad Regional Chapter (IIID-HRC), the biennial exhibition showcased how interior design is rapidly transforming from a discipline focused merely on aesthetics into one that shapes human experiences, sustainability, and technological innovation.

Spread across an impressive 80,000 square feet, the exhibition brought together more than 150 exhibitors and over 300 leading brands from across the country. Thousands of architects, interior designers, builders, students, manufacturers, and design enthusiasts attended the event, making it one of the most significant design gatherings in India. The expo was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the presence of IIID National President Ar. Jignesh Modi and other industry leaders. Together, they highlighted the growing importance of design as a driver of economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development. More importantly, Insider X 2026 reflected a clear shift in India's design narrative. The exhibition moved beyond simply replicating global trends and instead presented a bold vision that combined advanced technology, local craftsmanship, and environmentally responsible practices.

Artificial Intelligence Reshaping Design Practices

One of the most talked-about themes at the exhibition was the growing integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into interior and architectural design processes. What was once considered futuristic technology has now become an everyday tool for many design professionals. Industry experts, including regional leaders Ar. N. Praveen Kumar and Ar. Rakesh Vasu C.S., emphasized how AI is revolutionizing design workflows by increasing efficiency, reducing errors, and accelerating project delivery. Interactive technology zones throughout the exhibition demonstrated the remarkable capabilities of AI-powered design platforms. These systems could analyze a client's requirements, evaluate site conditions, study sunlight movement throughout the year, and assess airflow patterns before generating multiple optimized design solutions within minutes. This technological advancement allows designers to test various spatial layouts and configurations in real time. As a result, teams can identify potential challenges early in the design stage, minimizing costly modifications during construction and ensuring better project outcomes. The impact of AI extended beyond design software. Visitors experienced sophisticated smart-home technologies that showcased how intelligent systems are enhancing modern living environments. Several exhibitors presented advanced home automation solutions where lighting systems automatically adjusted color temperatures based on natural circadian rhythms. Acoustic panels responded dynamically to ambient noise levels, creating more comfortable indoor environments. Intelligent water management systems monitored and optimized resource usage, demonstrating how technology can support both convenience and sustainability. The exhibition clearly illustrated that AI is no longer a supplementary tool but a core component of contemporary design practice.

Sustainability Takes Center Stage

Another defining feature of Insider X 2026 was its strong commitment to sustainable de-

The Design Confluence

Inside the Groundbreaking Innovations of IIID Showcase Insider X 2026



sign and climate-responsive solutions. As cities across India face challenges such as rising temperatures, urban heat islands, and changing weather patterns, designers are increasingly seeking materials and construction methods that minimize environmental impact while improving building performance. The exhibition featured dedicated zones showcasing innovative sustainable materials and technologies designed to address these challenges. Among the most impressive innovations were bio-composite wall panels manufactured from agricultural waste and bound together using mushroom mycelium. These eco-friendly materials offered excellent thermal insulation and acoustic performance while reducing dependence on traditional resource-intensive products. Equally noteworthy were advanced smart surfaces, including porcelain slabs and engineered stone products treated with photocatalytic coatings. These surfaces use sunlight to break down pollutants and airborne contaminants, contributing to cleaner indoor and outdoor environments. The furnishings sector also demonstrated significant advancements in sustainability. Manufacturers showcased high-performance upholstery fabrics and drapery systems incorporating nanotechnology-based treatments. These materials offered fire resistance, UV protection, and stain repellence while reducing the need for harsh cleaning chemicals. Collectively, these innovations reflected a broader industry movement toward circular economies, resource efficiency, and environmentally conscious manufacturing

practices.

Celebrating India's Craft Heritage

While technology and sustainability dominated many conversations, Insider X 2026 also highlighted the enduring value of India's rich craft traditions. The exhibition successfully demonstrated that innovation and heritage are not opposing forces but complementary elements of contemporary design. Specially curated artisan pavilions brought together traditional craftsmen and modern designers in collaborative settings. Wood carvers, metal artisans, handloom weavers, and craft specialists worked alongside contemporary furniture and product designers to create unique pieces that blended modern aesthetics with traditional craftsmanship. The resulting products showcased clean lines and minimalist forms while preserving intricate detailing, textures, and cultural narratives rooted in India's diverse artistic traditions. This fusion of heritage and innovation resonated strongly with visitors and underscored the growing appreciation for locally sourced materials, handcrafted products, and culturally meaningful design solutions. By celebrating regional craftsmanship within a modern design framework, the exhibition highlighted how India's creative industries can preserve traditional knowledge while remaining globally competitive.

Design Street: A Gallery of Ideas

One of the exhibition's most engaging attractions was Design Street, an immersive architectural corridor located at the heart of the venue. Designed as a runway-style gallery, Design Street served as a platform for experimental installations, conceptual design projects, and ar-

tistic explorations of contemporary urban challenges. Curated by leading architects and design mentors, the installations addressed a variety of themes, including public infrastructure, mental well-being, sustainable urban living, and resource-efficient construction. Visitors were invited to interact with the exhibits and experience how thoughtful design can influence emotions, behaviors, and social interactions. Rather than presenting finished commercial products, Design Street encouraged dialogue around emerging ideas and future possibilities. It demonstrated how design can be used as a tool for solving complex societal challenges while creating meaningful and engaging experiences. For many attendees, this section represented the intellectual heart of the exhibition, where creativity, research, and innovation converged.

Empowering the Next Generation Through Sthapatya Utsav

A major highlight of Insider X 2026 was its emphasis on nurturing young talent through Sthapatya Utsav, a large-scale educational initiative designed specifically for students and emerging professionals. The platform attracted hundreds of participants from architecture and design institutions across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and neighboring states. Throughout the event, students engaged in intensive workshops, collaborative design exercises, and hands-on construction activities under the mentorship of experienced architects, designers, and product innovators. Working with a variety of materials and fabrication techniques, participants developed furniture prototypes, lighting concepts, urban utility solutions, and experimental design interventions. The initiative provided students with invaluable exposure



to industry practices while encouraging creative problem-solving and interdisciplinary collaboration. Beyond technical skills, Sthapatya Utsav fostered critical thinking, teamwork, and innovation—qualities increasingly essential in today's rapidly evolving design landscape. By investing in education and mentorship, IIID-HRC demonstrated its commitment to building a strong pipeline of future design leaders capable of shaping India's built environment.

Strengthening India's Global Design Position

As India's real estate, hospitality, retail, and commercial sectors continue to expand, the demand for sophisticated and globally competitive interior environments is growing rapidly. Industry leaders at the exhibition emphasized that platforms like Insider X play a crucial role in elevating professional standards and fostering international collaboration. According to event treasurer Ar. Naveen Chalasani, the showcase serves as an important bridge connecting global manufacturers, domestic suppliers, designers, architects, and developers. Such collaborations help Indian professionals gain access to cutting-edge technologies, innovative materials, and international best practices. At the same time, the platform enables Indian brands and creative professionals to showcase their capabilities on a larger stage, strengthening the country's position within the global design economy. The exhibition highlighted the growing confidence of Indian designers, who are increasingly creating solutions tailored to local conditions while meeting global benchmarks for quality, sustainability, and innovation.

A Vision for the Future

IIID Showcase Insider X 2026 was far more than a trade exhibition. It was a reflection of an industry undergoing profound transformation. Across its expansive halls, visitors witnessed how artificial intelligence is redefining design workflows, how sustainable materials are reshaping construction practices, and how traditional craftsmanship continues to inspire contemporary creativity. The event demonstrated that the future of interior design lies not in choosing between technology and tradition, but in integrating both to create smarter, healthier, and more meaningful environments. As the exhibition concluded, one message emerged clearly: design is becoming an increasingly powerful force for improving quality of life, conserving resources, and strengthening human connections. The innovations unveiled at HITEX provide a roadmap for the future—a future where spaces are intelligent, sustainable, culturally relevant, and deeply responsive to human needs. Through initiatives such as Insider X 2026, India's design community is not merely adapting to change; it is actively shaping the next chapter of global design innovation.





Asian Games 2026

'Never look at what your peers are doing': Bopanna



NEW DELHI: Ahead of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships, Indian tennis veteran Rohan Bopanna reflected on the guidance that shaped his long career and the perseverance that eventually led to his maiden men's doubles Grand Slam title at the 2024 Australian Open. Speaking about his journey, Bopanna credited a piece of advice from his childhood idol, Stefan Edberg, and his ability to stay committed through more than a decade of waiting for a major breakthrough. Looking back further, Bopanna revealed that one of the most influential moments of his career came through a conversation with two-time Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg, a player he admired while growing up. "We are fortunate enough to have this kind of community where we can reach out to athletes and legends of the sport.

BWF US Open

Tanvi, Devika, Rounak, Srikanth register wins to advance



FULLERTON (US): World Junior Championship silver medalist Tanvi Sharma and Thailand Masters champion Devika Sihag registered comfortable wins to kick off their US Open campaign in style here on Thursday (IST). Tanvi defeated Yvonne Li of Germany 23-21, 21-16, while Devika beat Ines Lucia Castillo of Peru 21-14, 21-12 in the women's singles first round. In the first of the two all-Indian clashes, up-and-coming Rounak Chouhan defeated former world junior silver medalist S Sankar Muthusamy 23-21, 21-16. Fifth seed Kidambi Srikanth then dominated the match against compatriot D. Saneeth to win 21-14, 21-12 in just 30 minutes. Also advancing to the next round were Rakshitha Sree in women's singles and the mixed doubles combination of Dhruv Rawat and K Maneesha.

'We are operating on another level now,' says Morocco coach Ouahbi on reaching last 32

ATLANTA

Morocco head coach Mohamed Ouahbi said his side are 'operating on another level' after the Atlas Lions secured a place in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 32 with a 4-2 victory over Haiti. The win ensured Morocco's progression from Group C and marked the first time the North African nation has scored four goals in a World Cup match. The result also continued Morocco's impressive recent World Cup record, with the team registering five wins across the last two editions of the tournament. "We are operating on another level," Ouahbi said after his side confirmed qualification for the knockout stage, highlighting the progress Morocco have made in recent years. Goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, one of the key figures from Morocco's historic run to the semifinals of the 2022 World Cup, believes the team has continued to evolve

1st T20I: When and where to watch IRE vs IND, know all

BELFAST

India's white-ball tour of Ireland gets underway in Belfast on Friday, with the two T20Is against Ireland offering a glimpse into a new chapter under captain Shreyas Iyer. While the world champions enter the series as clear favourites, much of the attention will be on teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who is pushing for an international debut after a breakthrough IPL 2026 campaign and a match-winning run for India A. The 17-year-old's emergence presents an intriguing selection puzzle. India's established top order of Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, and Ishan Kishan has delivered consistently in recent months, leaving the team management with a difficult call on how to accommodate one of the country's brightest young talents. The series also marks Iyer's return to the T20I setup after more than two years, with the skipper set to lead a batting unit featuring Kishan, vice-captain Tilak Varma, and several aggressive stroke-makers suited to India's attacking approach. India have been forced into late squad adjustments after injuries ruled out Varun Chakaravarthi and Nitish Reddy, paving the way for Prince Yadav and Suryansh Shedge. The bowling combination will be another area of interest, with Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, and Prince competing for opportunities alongside spearhead Arshdeep Singh. Ireland, meanwhile, face a daunting task after being hit by a string of injuries. New captain Lorcan Tucker will lead a depleted squad missing key players, including Paul Stirling, Mark Adair, Joshua Little, and Curtis Campher, while newcomers Matthew Holland and Jai Moondra have earned call-ups. History is firmly in India's favour. The visitors have never lost a completed T20I against Ireland,



having won all eight previous meetings, and will be eager to maintain that record as a new era begins at Stormont. When: Friday, June 26, 6:00 PM IST Where: Civil Service Cricket Ground in Stormont Where to watch: Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD and Sony Sports Ten 5 SD & HD on TV. SonyLiv will live-stream the match on its website and app. Squads: India: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Tilak Varma (vice-captain), Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Sharma, Suryansh Shedge, Prasidh Krishna, Sanju Samson, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Ishan Kishan, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Dube, Prince Yadav, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Ireland: Lorcan Tucker (c), Ross Adair, Ben Calitz, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doheny, Matthew Humphreys, Gavin Hoey, Matthew Holland, Liam McCarthy, Jai Moondra, Harry Tector, Tim Tector, and Reuben Wilson



Henry, Phillips ruled out of New Zealand's series decider against England due to injuries

NOTTINGHAM

In a major blow to New Zealand, senior pacer Matt Henry and batting all-rounder Glenn Phillips have been ruled out of their crucial series-deciding Test match against England at Trent Bridge due to various injuries. Henry, who grabbed the top spot in the ICC Men's Test rankings and claimed 11 wickets in a 253-run win in the second Test at The Oval, will miss out due to a calf injury, while Phillips has been sidelined with a side strain injury. "Matt Henry will miss the third test against England at Trent Bridge due to a calf injury. Henry felt pain during the second Test at the Oval, and subsequent scans on his left calf revealed a low-grade muscle strain. Initial assessment suggests a recovery time of two to four weeks. "Glenn Phillips will miss the third Test against England at Trent Bridge due to a side strain injury. Phillips felt side pain during the second Test at The Oval. Further

assessment will determine Phillips' return-to-play timeline," said a statement from New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Thursday, 15 minutes ahead of toss time. With the duo out and Kyle Jamieson rested due to workload management after successive back stress fractures, New Zealand have included Mitchell Santner, Blair Tuckner, and Ben Sears, who was the travelling reserve, in their playing eleven for the clash against England, where they have elected to bat first. England, meanwhile, have got back skipper Ben Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson after they missed the second Test due to an ECB investigation into a nightclub breach post the 115-run win at Lord's. Stokes and Atkinson have since been cleared of any wrongdoing by the Cricket Regulator. Wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith returns to the England lineup after paternity leave, while specialist off-spinner Shoaib Bashir has also been picked.

FIFA WC: 'Punished for winning the group', says Nagelsmann as he questions knockouts schedule

BOSTON

Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann has criticised the FIFA World Cup scheduling format, arguing that teams finishing at the top of their groups are placed at a disadvantage due to limited preparation time ahead of the knockout rounds. Germany secured first place in Group E after collecting enough points to guarantee qualification before the end of the group stage. However, the four-time world champions will not know the identity of their Round of 32 opponents until the conclusion of several other group matches later this week. The delayed confirmation leaves Germany's coaching and analysis staff with a narrow window to finalise preparations before their knockout fixture in Boston on June 29. "I don't think it's ideal that you're somewhat punished for winning the group. I'm not a big fan of it. Anyone can imagine that there are better setups than scrubbing through footage all Saturday night, only to present the opponent to the team on Sunday," Nagelsmann told reporters. With several possible opponents still in contention, Germany's support staff have already begun extensive scouting work to avoid being caught unprepared once the final standings are confirmed. According to Nagelsmann, the coaching group has split responsibilities and started analysing likely opponents well in advance of the knockout stage. "We have divided up the opponents that



are most likely. I've watched a bit, and our analysis team has watched some. We have all already watched three or four games of the potential opponents. We can work through the night once in a while; it's not that bad," he added. Germany will now await the completion of the remaining group-stage fixtures before learning the team standing between them and a place in the Round of 16. Germany is one of the most successful teams in World Cup history, winning four titles; however, they suffered back-to-back group-stage exits in the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. This time, the champion side has crossed the barrier.

Indian junior men's hockey team to tour Belgium ahead of Asia Cup

NEW DELHI

The Indian junior (U-21) men's hockey team is set for an exposure tour of Belgium, where it will play six matches against Austria, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands from July 7 to 17. The tour will serve as a key preparation phase for the squad under newly appointed coach Frederic Soyeux ahead of the Men's Junior Asia Cup later this year. India will play two matches each against Austria and Belgium, and one match apiece against Germany and the Netherlands. Five of the six fixtures will be held at the Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre, Belgium, while the final match against the Netherlands will be played at the Hockey Center of Excellence in Antwerp. The Indian team will begin its campaign against Austria on July 7 before facing the same opponents again on July 8. The side will then take on hosts Belgium on July 10, followed by Germany on July 13 and Belgium once more on July 14. The tour will conclude with a clash against the Netherlands on July 17. The exposure tour will provide the young Indian squad with an opportunity to compete against some of Europe's



strongest hockey nations and gain valuable international experience ahead of important assignments later this year. Ahead of the tour, Soyeux said, "I am very excited about experiencing this first tour with the group. It is a great opportunity to get to know the players better in a different environment, while also laying the foundations of our playing

project. Tours like this are always important because they help create shared references, strengthen team cohesion, and begin to build a real team identity." Highlighting the importance of the matches, the coach added, "These matches are very important because they immediately put us in conditions that are close to what we will face in major competitions.

They will allow us to assess our current level of performance, our ability to apply our playing principles under pressure, and also how we respond against quality opponents." The Belgium tour is expected to offer the Indian junior side crucial exposure to different playing styles and competitive conditions as it builds towards the Junior Asia Cup.

Women's T20 WC: Sri Lanka aim to keep semis hopes alive in must-win clash with Scotland

MANCHESTER

An energised Sri Lanka will aim to keep their semifinal hopes alive when they clash with Scotland in their final Group B match of the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup at Old Trafford in Manchester on Friday. While Sri Lanka are in a strict must-win situation, Scotland will aim to sign off on a high from a campaign where they have shown flashes of brilliance despite already being eliminated quickly from the race to knockouts. The qualification scenario in Group B has intensified after hosts and 2009 champions England became the first team to secure a semifinal berth with eight points. The battle for the solitary remaining spot in the last four stage from this group has boiled down to a three-way tussle between the West Indies, defending champions New Zealand, and Sri Lanka. The 2016 champions, West In-



dies, currently control their own destiny, as a victory over Ireland in their final game will seal their progression. It means both New Zealand and Sri Lanka must win their respective final fixtures while hoping for a Caribbean defeat to advance to the knockouts. Sri Lanka enter the contest

buoyed by a clinical nine-wicket demolition of Ireland. Their disciplined bowling unit effectively restricted Ireland to 130 before skipper Chamari Athapaththu led from the front with a blistering unbeaten century to anchor the chase in the 16th over. Scotland, though out of the running for the semifinals, re-

main a dangerous unit, with Darcey Carter, skipper Kathryn Bryce, and Kirstie Gordon being key figures. Sri Lanka can ill afford any complacency against a gritty Scottish outfit eager to finish their campaign with a memorable victory. Squads Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (c), Hasini Perera, Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Imesha Dulani, Nilakshika Silva, Kaveesha Dillhari, Hansima Karunaratne, Kaushini Nuthyangana, Sugandika Dassanayaka, Nimasha Madushani, Kavya Kavindi, Malki Madara, Mithali Ayodhya, and Chethana Vimukthi. Scotland: Kathryn Bryce (c), Chloe Abel, Olivia Bell, Sarah Bryce, Darcey Carter, Priyanaz Chatterji, Gabriella Fontenla, Katherine Fraser, Kirstie Gordon, Ailsa Lister, Maisie Macleira, Hannah Rainey, Megan McCol, Rachel Slater, and Pippa Sproul.

Santosh Menon removed as KSCA Secretary after completing maximum permissible limit

BENGALURU

In a major administrative shake-up, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) Secretary Santosh Menon has been disqualified from his post after the BCCI Ombudsman ruled that he had completed the maximum permissible limit as a cricket administrator can serve. The significant directive was passed by BCCI Ombudsman Justice Arun Mishra (Retd.), who upheld a grievance lodged by Dolphin Cricketers, an institutional member of the state cricket body. "Rules under the provision of cooling off. The Respondent No. 3 has completed a cumulative term of 9 years as a member of the Managing Committee and as an office-bearer; he is disqualified u/s 6B(3) (g). "The provisions of 6A and 6B(2)(e) do not come to the rescue in case a person is holding different posts, then the period for all the posts has to be cumulated under Rule 6B(2) (g) of KSCA Rules. Same is provided in Rule 3(b)(i) of the BCCI constitution, that no 'post' can be held for more than 9 years. "The Respondent No. 3, Shri Santosh Menon, has held the post defined under KSCA's Constitution in Rule 1A(hh) for 9 years; as such, he is clearly disqualified w.e.f. 16.12.2025 to hold the office of Honorary Secretary of KSCA.

PAWAN FUELS
EXCITEMENT
AROUND
OG 2

The OG Universe is officially expanding. In a development that has thrilled fans, actor and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has given his nod to director Sujeeth for the second instalment of They Call Him OG.

The announcement came through a special video released by Pawan Kalyan Creative Works, featuring an animated discussion between Pawan Kalyan and Sujeeth about the future of the franchise. The highlight of the video was Pawan Kalyan's assurance to the director: "Whatever you require from my side will be ready."

The conversation offered a glimpse into



Sujeeth's ambitious plans for the OG Universe, which is being envisioned as a multi-film saga with interconnected characters, hidden layers and symbolic storytelling.

Sujeeth explained several intriguing elements, including a sequence where snow gradually turns into blood, the significance of the OG pet and the presence of a mysterious outsider. The director hinted that several characters introduced in the first film would continue to evolve as the cinematic universe expands.

Pawan Kalyan appeared deeply involved in the discussion, even describing one of the proposed sequences as "an iconic visual," a remark that has already become a major talking point among fans on social media. The original They Call Him OG re-established Pawan Kalyan in a larger-than-life avatar, blending action, emotion and style. The film's success not only resonated with audiences but also rekindled the actor's passion for cinema. With Sujeeth and Pawan Kalyan reuniting once again, expectations for OG 2 have soared, and fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter in the expanding OG Universe.

Tamannaah Targets
South Again?

Tamannaah Bhatia has shared her candid views on the differences between Bollywood and the South Indian film industry, shedding light on the challenges women often face in cinema. Having worked extensively in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu films, Tamannaah said her experiences across industries have given her a unique perspective on how women are perceived and represented. According to the her, Bollywood offers space for different kinds of female performers. She noted that some actresses focus on performance-driven roles, while others successfully balance commercial glamour with strong acting careers. In contrast, Tamannaah observed that the South film industry often carries a more patriarchal atmosphere, where women may encounter an uncomfortable gaze that is not always respectful. The actress also addressed the language used to describe dance numbers. Tamannaah said she dislikes the term item song, arguing that it reduces performers to objects rather than acknowledging their contribution as artists. She emphasized that she has always chosen such songs on her own terms and prefers to view them as entertainment-driven performances rather than labels that diminish women. Her comments come amid broader discussions about the portrayal of women in Indian cinema. By speaking openly about gender dynamics and representation, Tamannaah has reignited an important conversation about creating more inclusive and respectful work environments across film industries.

SIMRAN'S RETURN TO THE
SPOTLIGHT
EXCITES FANS



Veteran actor and producer Kamal Haasan on Wednesday announced his new production venture, Dharman, featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead role. The makers also confirmed that Simran will play the female lead, while Raashi Khanna has been cast in a key role.

Simran's inclusion in the film has generated considerable discussion among fans and the Tamil film industry, as she will be sharing screen space in a Kamal Haasan production after many years.

During the early 2000s, rumours linking Kamal Haasan and Simran had attracted significant attention in film circles. Although neither actor publicly commented on the speculation, the reports remained a topic of discussion at the time. Following her marriage, Simran stepped away from such speculation, and the pair did not collaborate again.

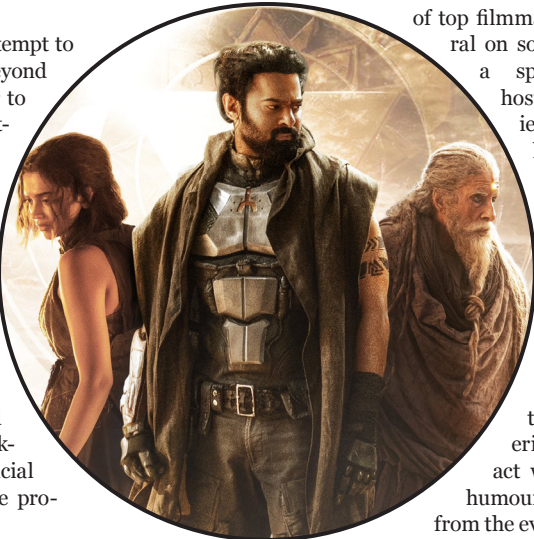
With Dharman, industry observers view Simran's casting as a reflection of changing times and a renewed focus on professional collaborations. The announcement has also heightened expectations, as the film brings together Rajinikanth, Simran and Raashi Khanna under Kamal Haasan's production banner.

The film has already generated considerable buzz among cinema fans and is expected to be one of the most anticipated Tamil releases in the coming years.

NEW CHAPTER FOR
KALKI

Director Nag Ashwin is reportedly expanding the Kalki 2898 AD universe with a series of web-based spin-offs even as work on Kalki 2 progresses. According to industry sources, the filmmaker is developing a special web series centered on the character played by Dulquer Salmaan in Kalki 2898 AD. The character, who appears as the commander of a ship and the father of Prabhas' character, is expected to receive a standalone story. Sources indicate that Nag Ashwin has developed a 90-minute narrative around the character, although it remains unclear whether Dulquer Salmaan will reprise the role. Reports also suggest that another standalone story is being planned around Sumathi, the character portrayed by Deepika Padukone in the first film. The proposed projects are said to be in development for the OTT platform SonyLiv. However, the makers have not yet confirmed whether these spin-offs will be produced as live-action projects or animated features.

The move is seen as an attempt to expand the Kalki universe beyond the main film series, similar to other large-scale cinematic franchises. Meanwhile, expectations continue to rise for Kalki 2, which is currently under production. Fans are particularly looking forward to the much-anticipated confrontation involving Prabhas, Kamal Haasan and Amitabh Bachchan in the sequel, which is expected to release next year. The makers are yet to make an official announcement regarding the proposed web series projects.



5,500 CRORE FRAME



Actor Naveen Polishetty once again proved why he is regarded as one of the most entertaining personalities in Telugu cinema. The young actor's witty comments at a recent gathering of top filmmakers have gone viral on social media. During a special get-together hosted by Mythri Movie Makers, several leading directors of Indian cinema, including Sukumar, Prashanth Neel, Lokesh Kanagaraj and Rishab Shetty, came together under one roof. Seizing the moment, Naveen turned the gathering into a comedy act with his trademark humour. Sharing a video from the event, Naveen jokingly described it as the "costliest frame" of his life, calling it a "₹5,500 crore frame."

He playfully calculated the box-office collections of the directors' films, attributing ₹500 crore to Lokesh Kanagaraj, ₹800 crore to Rishab Shetty, and ₹2,000 crore each to Prashanth Neel and Sukumar.

Adding his own films' collections to the total, Naveen humorously declared that he had become part of a ₹5,500 crore frame, drawing laughter from everyone present. Director Harish Shankar and Mythri Movie Makers producer Naveen Yerneni were also seen in the video. Despite being surrounded by some of the country's biggest filmmakers, Naveen displayed his trademark confidence and comic timing.

STYLE MEETS
STARDOM FOR KRITHI

Actress Krithi Shetty has once again captured the attention of fans with her latest social media pictures, even as she awaits a major box-office success.

The actress has faced a challenging year at the box office, with her recent releases LIK and Vaa Vaathiyar failing to meet expectations. Despite the setbacks, Krithi continues to remain in the spotlight with her fashion choices and social media presence.

In her latest photographs, Krithi appeared in a stylish blue corset top paired with a designer mini skirt, completing the look with elegant accessories and confident poses. The pictures quickly went viral, drawing praise from fans for her glamorous appearance and fashion sense.

On the professional front, Krithi is now banking on her upcoming film Genie, which is considered an important project in her career. Industry observers believe the fantasy entertainer could play a crucial role in helping the actress make a strong comeback at the box office. With fans eagerly awaiting her next release, Krithi Shetty will be hoping Genie delivers the success she has been looking for.

