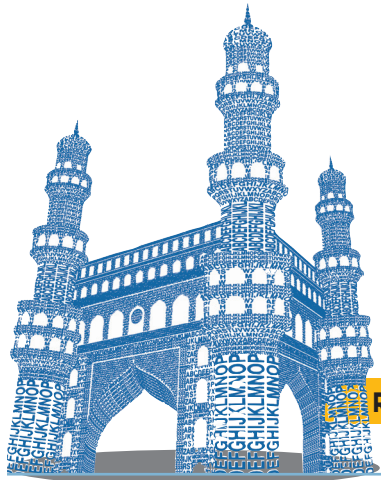




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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Telangana Eyes Global Rice Markets: Uttam

Hyderabad, June 29: Telangana government is considering incentives for promoting rice exports in a big way. The initiative is aimed at opening global and inter-state markets for the benefit state's farmers and millers, said Minister for Ir-

rigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy. The Minister stated that the move is designed to reduce over-reliance on central procurement agencies and enable the state to capitalise on its massive production scale through value addition

and direct exports. Speaking at the launch of KCP Nutri's Multi-Vitamin Rice range in Hyderabad on Monday, he described the innovative fortified product as a welcome step that makes nutritious food and everyday nutrition easily accessible.

The Minister stated that such value addition would be a boon for the state and the paddy farmers. "Telangana has to explore new markets both outside the state and outside the country. Food Corporation of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



SHORT TAKES



Telangana Crosses 42.33% Enumeration

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of the electoral rolls is progressing steadily across Telangana. As of Sunday, June 28, 2026, a total of 14,31,635 Enumeration Forms (1,43,17,635) have been distributed across the state. The distribution covers 42.33% of the total targeted households and eligible electors. Election officials are continuing the door-to-door enumeration exercise to ensure every eligible voter is covered under the revision process. The SIR exercise aims to update and verify the electoral rolls by collecting accurate information from eligible voters, thereby ensuring a comprehensive, transparent, and error-free voter database ahead of future elections. Officials have appealed to citizens to cooperate with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during the enumeration process and submit the required information promptly to facilitate timely completion of the revision exercise.

CENTRE REVIEWS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN JULY 9

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

In a major move to strengthen action against illegal immigration, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has convened a meeting of all State Directors General of Police (DGPs) on July 9 to review ongoing efforts and formulate a coordinated nationwide strategy to identify, detain, and deport illegal immigrants. The high-level meeting will focus on intensifying measures to identify illegal immigrants, shift them to designated detention centres, and facilitate their deportation in accordance with the provisions of law. Officials said the deliberations will also cover efforts to curb illegal cross-border infiltration and dismantle networks involved in the preparation and circulation of forged identity documents used by illegal immigrants. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to initiate

attachment of illegally acquired assets wherever applicable. Another key agenda item will be strengthening coordination between state police forces and central agencies, including the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), National Investigation Agency (NIA), and Enforcement Directorate (ED), to ensure effective intelligence sharing and enforcement. The Centre is also likely to introduce a structured monitoring mechanism under which State DGPs will submit monthly reports to the Union Home Ministry detailing action taken against illegal immigrants. Similar reporting systems are already operational in some states. To oversee the implementation of the proposed measures, the Union Home Ministry has constituted a dedicated team to monitor the identification, detention, and deportation process.

Approval of Merger scheme by Board of Directors of PFC and REC



NEW DELHI

The Board of Directors of Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) and REC Limited (REC) approved the Scheme of Merger (Scheme) for merger of REC (Transferor Company) into PFC (Transferee Company) and their respective shareholders and creditors, under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. The merger of REC into PFC shall create a financing entity with an aggregate loan book of over INR 11 lakh crore.

The Scheme is conditional upon and subject to, inter-alia receipt of all requisite approvals and consents required under applicable law including, approvals from the respective shareholders and creditors of both the companies, and all relevant regulatory and governmental authorities; and the Merged Entity continuing to qualify as a 'Government Company' under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Government of India continuing to retain majority voting rights and control in the merged entity (directly or indirectly).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BJP sets sights on telangana 2028, Nitin Nabin calls for "DOUBLE-ENGINE GOVT"



WARANGAL, JUNE 29

BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Monday declared that the party's primary objective is to establish a "double-engine government" in Telangana in 2028, asserting that the BJP has emerged as the only viable alternative to the Congress and BRS in the state. Addressing a Booth Presidents' Conference in Warangal, Nabin credited BJP's grassroots workers for the party's growth and urged them to strengthen every booth, enroll new voters, and take Central government welfare schemes to every household. Telangana shares

a historic bond with the BJP, recalling the party's support for statehood and the role played by late leader Sushma Swaraj in Parliament, he noted. The BJP president further said, "We must connect every section of society with the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP must become a platform for the hopes and aspirations of every segment of society. A Bharatiya Janata Party worker is a servant who works for the people round the clock. Some leaders appear among the people only during elections. I call such individuals "part-time politicians." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a part-time

politician. However, a Bharatiya Janata Party worker is always a full-time public servant." On this occasion, he claimed that over the last 12 years under the leadership of PM Modi, no one has dared to cast an evil eye on India. "Today, India believes in responding firmly through measures such as surgical strikes and air strikes", he noted. Launching a scathing attack on the Congress and BRS, Nabin alleged that both parties promoted dynastic politics and failed to fulfill the aspirations behind Telangana's formation. He accused the Congress government of neglecting public welfare.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BJP Prioritised Tribal Welfare: T-BJP Chief

HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao on Monday alleged that the tribal community in Telangana was denied its rightful 10% reservation due to the previous BRS government's decision to link it with the 12% Muslim reservation proposal, resulting in prolonged legal hurdles and hardship for thousands of tribal youth and students. Addressing a tribal gathering here, Ramchander Rao said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had promised 10% reservation for tribals but failed to implement it independently. "The tribal community knows how its rightful share was delayed and turned into a political experiment," he remarked. Highlighting the BJP's contribution to tribal welfare, he said the Tribal Affairs Ministry and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes were established under the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He added that the BJP today has the highest representation of tribal MPs and MLAs in the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

LIFE IS A Stamina Test, NOT A Speed Test

BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Gen Z, Modi's leadership, Viksit Bharat and why India's youth are nation-builders, not protesters.

From entering politics after his father's death to becoming the BJP's National President at a relatively young age, Nitin Nabin says his political journey has been guided by perseverance rather than ambition. In an exclusive interaction, the BJP chief spoke about youth aspirations, the Modi government's impact since 2014, India's growing global stature, startup opportunities, sports, drug abuse and the role of young Indians in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Q How do you feel about becoming the National President at such a young age?
A After two years, the Congress Government has failed to deliver what it promised to the youth. How do you see this?
O ur generation has largely seen only the Modi Government. What was the situation before 2014, and what has changed since then?

SPECIAL 02

'Developed India Ji Ram Ji' Goes Nationwide from July 1

BY S. N. VERMA



New Delhi : On the second day of the two-day National Rural Development Conference 'Gramodaya Se Rashtrodaya' held at the Pusa campus in New Delhi, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a wide-ranging brainstorming with the rural development ministers of 29 states and union territories from across the country. The conference not only reviewed the plans but also concrete strategies to ground the vision of "Developed Village-Developed India" under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. On this occasion, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the village is not just the name of dust or chopal, the village is the power of India, the consciousness of India and the soul of India.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Telangana, Korea Deepen Tourism, Cultural Ties

HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Excise Juppally Krishna Rao on Monday held talks with a delegation from the Republic of Korea on enhancing cooperation in tourism and culture, including a proposal to organise a Telangana-Korea Cultural Festival in Hyderabad on October 25, 2026. The delegation, led by Hwang Ilyong, Director of the Korean Cultural Centre India (KCCI) and Counsellor (Culture & Press) at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, met the Minister to explore avenues for expanding bilateral engagement in tourism, culture and heritage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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LIFE IS A Stamina Test, NOT A Speed Test

Q.How do you feel about becoming the National President at such a young age?

A. I came into politics by accident after my father's death. In my early days in politics, I too had doubts about how to move forward

But over time, I learnt one important lesson: in life, there are no shortcuts. Life is not a speed test; it is a stamina test.

I did not do anything different or extraordinary. I simply did my work with commitment, sincerity and consistency. From being a sadasya to becoming adhyaksh, my journey has taught me that if you perform your responsibility with dedication, the Party will take care of the rest.

My message to the youth is: be confident about your USP. Many times, we take decisions under pressure from society, but it is important to have faith in yourself and your own path.

These words are not only for politicians. They will help you in whichever field you choose in life.

After two years, the Congress Government has failed to deliver what it promised to the youth. How do you see this?

“
From being a sadasya to becoming adhyaksh, my journey taught me that if you perform your responsibility with dedication, the Party takes care of the rest.
”

There was a time when youth were not fully aware of their rights. But with the rise of technology, especially after computers and the internet came in, awareness among the youth has completely changed.

Earlier, politicians used to make promises and people would forget them after elections. But today's youth are alert, informed and aware. They remember every promise made to them.

In the past, some politicians used to treat elections like a one-time play. They would make big promises only to win votes. But the BJP is not like that. We promise only what we can achieve, and we work with commitment to deliver.

That is why Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji speaks about Viksit Bharat — because his politics is based on responsibility, delivery and long-term vision, not empty promises.

Our generation has largely

seen only the Modi Government. What was the situation before 2014, and what has changed since then?

Before 2014, there was a sense of depression and uncertainty among the youth. Everywhere they looked, they saw negativity — terror attacks, corruption, policy paralysis and a lack of direction. The youth were unsure about their future because the country itself looked directionless.

When the head of a family appears directionless, even the children lose confidence. In the same way, when the leadership of the country lacked clarity, the youth also felt uncertain.

But today, that depression has turned into hope. Uncertainty has turned into confidence. India now has a leadership that takes strong and solid decisions.

We have seen examples of this even in states. In Bihar, after 2005, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar ji, law and order improved because there was strong and decisive leadership. This shows that when leadership is strong, change is possible.

Across the world also, countries have progressed when people were united towards one common national goal. America developed with a strong national vision. China too moved forward with a clear direction and collective focus.

Even in India's history, only those kingdoms and leaders succeeded who took the entire nation and society together. Today, for the first time after Independence, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the entire country is being united towards one goal — Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The change after 2014 is not only because of Modi ji as a leader, but because of his work in uniting India, giving people hope, and taking the nation towards a developed Bharat.

India's global standing has increased. What is your perception of India's global role today?

Modi ji has celebrated India's ancient civilisation and taken it to the world. Yoga is the best example. Under Modi ji's leadership, Yoga reached every corner of the world, and the world came to know more about India's culture, values and civilisational strength.

Today, the world has also understood that India can give direction. India is no longer just a participant in global affairs; India is now a country that the world listens to.

Many years ago, I had gone to America as part of an exchange programme, where I met several stakeholders. In those days, they would ask, “What is India?” and honestly, I could not face those questions with the same confidence. I had seen America closely, and I also observed their respect for family values. Sometimes, we ourselves do not give enough importance to Indian family values, but today the world is recognising the strength of Indian culture.

We saw the power of New India



when our Prime Minister spoke to both Ukraine and Russia to ensure the safe evacuation of Indians from the war zone. This is the power and respect of New India.

I also remember that in 2011, when I was in Yuva Morcha, we went to hoist the tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. At that time, the government said that flying the tricolour there would disturb peace.

But after 2014, the entire country has seen the tricolour flying proudly at Lal Chowk in Kashmir. This is the change. This is the transformation that has happened under the leadership of Modi ji.

The Congress Government has not cleared fee reimbursement for the last two years. What is the BJP thinking on this issue?

I am very clear on this issue. The

ical statement, I want to say that the BJP will strongly corner the Congress Government on this issue. We will raise our voice, protest and fight until students get justice.

There must be clear thinking in governance. When Modi ji makes a promise, he fulfils it. Look at Jan Dhan accounts. It was a game changer for the poor. Earlier, no one imagined that a poor person would confidently climb the steps of a bank and open an account.

Today, crores of bank accounts have been opened, including a large number in the names of women. Earlier, it was said that when ₹1 was sent from Delhi, only 15 paise reached the ground. But today, because of Jan Dhan accounts and Direct Benefit Transfer, the full benefit reaches the poor directly.

That is the difference between empty promises and clear, commit-

“
“Today, the youth of India are dreaming bigger — of innovation, entrepreneurship and creating opportunities for others.”
”

government should not have left students in the middle like this. Education is not something to be played with. For many families, college is the foundation of their child's future, and delaying fee reimbursement directly affects students, parents and institutions.

Without making this only a polit-

was that even a Prime Minister as a Karyakarta works within the guidance of the Party organisation and its President. This is the strength of our system.

It is like cricket. Sachin Tendulkar was a great player, but he still played under different captains with full discipline and team spirit. In the same way, in the BJP, every person, no matter how senior, works with commitment, discipline and respect for the organisation.

What kind of opportunities will there be for startups if a BJP Government comes to power?

In our country, there are certain regions which have a natural ecosystem for the growth of startups, and Hyderabad is one of them. In the last 12 years, India has seen a remarkable startup revolution. Today, we have around 2.5 lakh startups and more than 100 unicorns. This did not happen by accident. It happened because Modi ji changed the thinking of the youth.

Earlier, most young people only thought about getting a job. But today, the youth of India are dreaming bigger. They are thinking of innovation, entrepreneurship and creating opportunities for others.

The mindset has changed from job seeker to job creator.

What is the BJP's vision for sports infrastructure?

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, sports has received strong encouragement through initiatives like Khelo India and the TOPS scheme.

These schemes support sportspersons not just in one area, but

“
“For the first time after Independence, the entire country is moving towards one goal — Viksit Bharat by 2047.”
”

across the entire journey — from training and coaching to exposure, infrastructure, equipment and international-level preparation. They have created a proper training module and support system for athletes across different sports.

Earlier, whether it was the Commonwealth Games or the Olympics, India's medal tally was limited. But today, that situation is changing. With better sports infrastructure, better training, and focused support to athletes, India is moving towards becoming a strong sporting nation.

The BJP's vision is to identify talent from the grassroots, provide them the right infrastructure and training, and ensure that every young athlete gets the opportunity to represent India with pride.

What is your message to the youth on drug culture?

Life is a one-time opportunity. Do not spoil it, do not destroy your future with drugs. There is no doubt

they are not just beneficiaries of India's growth, but active builders of Bharat's future.

Under Modi ji's leadership, India is moving from manpower to manufacturing power. The youth of India today have the confidence to say, “We will build Bharat.”

Concluding Remarks

No one is asking what Gen Z truly wants.

Today, some opposition forces want to incite the youth by copying so-called Gen Z movements from other countries. But Indian youth are not anti-establishment. Indian youth do not believe in anarchy. They believe in nation-building.

Gen Z is not the tukde-tukde mindset. Real Gen Z is the youth sitting here — young Indians who are contributing to the growth, innovation and future of Bharat.

Governments may come and go, but the bigger question is: in which direction should the country move?

“
Life is a one-time opportunity. Do not destroy your future with drugs.
”

about the potential of India's youth. Our youth have the talent, energy and strength to build the nation. But if there is one thing that can destroy this potential, it is drugs.

Under the leadership of Modi ji, this fight against drugs is being taken up at a war level. On this issue, there can be no compromise. My message to the youth is simple: do not let down your mother and father. Do not let down your family, your society and your nation. Say no to drugs, and together, let us destroy the drug menace from society.

What is the role of youth in Viksit Bharat?

India's demographic dividend is our biggest strength. That is why Modi ji has set the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and is working with a clear vision to achieve it.

Through initiatives like Start-up India and many other schemes, Modi ji has created opportunities to integrate the youth into the journey of building a developed India.

Life is not a one-time experiment. We must take up one idea, one mission, and work towards it with dedication and commitment.

Today's youth must have faith in themselves. They must work hard, remain focused, and believe that

Those who are trying to mislead and incite the youth must understand that Indian youth will never allow foreign forces or negative agendas to dictate India's future.

Earlier, the image of Kashmir's youth was linked to stone pelting. But in the Modi era, the youth of Kashmir are moving forward in education, sports and national service. Today, Kashmir's youth are winning on the cricket field, competing in Ranji, and making the nation proud.

This is the real Gen Z — not the stone pelter, but the nation-builder.

Indian youth are about innovation, technology, confidence and contribution. Modi ji has given the greatest gift to the youth of this country — atma vishwas, self-confidence.

My final message to the youth is simple: there are no shortcuts in life. Success belongs to those who stay committed for the long run, work with dedication, and contribute to the nation with a clear mission.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Approval of Merger scheme...

FROM PAGE 1

Pursuant to the Scheme and valuation report, the Share Exchange Ratio for the Proposed Merger of REC into PFC shall be 88 equity shares of PFC of INR 10/- each fully paid up for every 100 equity shares of REC of INR 10/- each fully paid up to be issued to the shareholders of REC as existing on a record date to be determined by the Boards of PFC and REC (as may be applicable) at a future date.

Advisors

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP is acting as Trans- action and Tax Advisor and Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas as the Legal Advisor, to both PFC and REC. Further, RBSA Valuation Advisors LLP was appointed by PFC and Ernst & Young Merchant Banking Services LLP was appointed by REC, for providing joint valuation reports. SBI Capital Markets was appointed by PFC and Nuvama Wealth Management was appointed by REC, for providing their respective fairness opinions on the joint valuation reports.

Telangana Eyes..

FROM PAGE 1

India is buying just for the farmers but not for exports. So now, we are going to come up with a new initiative to go forward with exports,” Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

The Minister assured the industry that the government would fully support millers and businesses that follow basic norms and quality standards. The Telangana government will be with you and necessary permissions will be facilitated smoothly for genuine players looking to expand beyond domestic markets,” he said.

The Minister highlighted the export policy push in the context of Telangana's extraordinary procurement performance. In the just-concluded Yasangi (Rabi) season alone, the state procured 81 lakh metric tonnes of paddy — a figure he contrasted sharply with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, which procured 25 lakh metric tonnes despite being a larger state geographically, he reminded.

“Andhra Pradesh is a much bigger state. It has procured 25 lakh metric tonnes. We procured 81 lakh metric tonnes. That is the scale on

which Telangana paddy and rice production is,” he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the rice industry to adopt a future-oriented approach and called for innovative ideas and competition in the sector, noting that products like multi-vitamin rice would help address health and nutrition concerns that increasingly influence consumer choices — both domestically and internationally.

The Minister advised entrepreneurs to plan sales not only within Telangana, but also aggressively target markets outside the state. If anything the government of Telangana can do to encourage you to sell your products outside the state, we will do it,” he said, reiterating the government's commitment to supporting the people of the state through progressive agricultural and food-processing policies Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

He expressed happiness that a product giving value addition to rice was being launched in Hyderabad, particularly under the purview of his ministry, and thanked the organisers for the initiative.

Telangana, Korea Deepen...

FROM PAGE 1

The Minister welcomed the proposal for the festival, saying it would serve as a platform to showcase the cultural heritage, performing arts, music, dance and cuisine of both regions, while strengthening people-to-people ties and boosting tourism.

He noted the growing popularity of Korean culture in India, particularly among the youth, with Korean dramas and entertainment content gaining wide viewership on OTT platforms. This trend, he said, presents opportunities for tourism promotion, cultural exchange

and creative collaboration.

The Minister reiterated the State government's commitment to strengthening ties with Korea in tourism, culture, heritage conservation and creative industries. Discussions also covered cultural exchange programmes, artist exchanges and other initiatives to deepen bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Kim Kanghun, Head of Administration, KCCI; Im Hwijee, Head of Public Relations, KCCI; and Suresh Chukkappalli, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Korea for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

"DOUBLE-ENGINE GOVT"

FROM PAGE 1

“BJP is driven by a spirit of service and nationalist ideology. Public service is our mission, and national development is our resolve. Our primary objective is to establish a ‘double-engine government’ in Telangana in 2028”, he added.

The BJP chief said the party believes in “development politics” rather than vote-bank politics and reaffirmed its commitment to nationalism, public service and inclusive growth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He called upon party cadres to work towards building a “Viksit Telangana” and “Viksit Warangal”, expressing confidence that BJP would form a government in the state by 2028.

BJP Prioritised Tribal...

FROM PAGE 1

Launching a sharp attack on the Congress, Ramchander Rao said the party had failed to deliver meaningful welfare for tribal communities despite claiming otherwise. “If tribals have received opportunities in education, employment and development, it is because of the efforts of BJP governments,” he asserted.

Recalling his first visit as BJP State President, he said he toured the remote Chenchu habitations in the Nallamala Forest, where basic infrastructure remained scarce. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for extending housing and welfare schemes to tribal families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, bringing pucca houses and essential facilities to remote Chenchu villages.

Ramchander Rao reiterated the BJP's commitment to tribal empowerment and inclusive development across Telangana.

‘Developed India Ji Ram Ji’..

FROM PAGE 1

He said that if we have to make a prosperous and developed India, then the progress of the country is not possible without making the village prosperous and developed.

For the first time, rural development ministers, senior officials and policy-makers from 29 states and union territories of the country gathered together on one platform. Union Minister of State for Rural Development Dr. Chandrashekhara Pemmasani and Kamlesh Paswan and Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya and Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Vijay Sharma along with rural development ministers and other senior representatives of the states attended the meeting. It was a living example of cooperative federalism, where it rose beyond political differences and focussed on development. Union Minister Chouhan announced that from July 1, the “Developed India-G Ram Ji” scheme will be implemented across the country, which will replace MGN-REGA. Interim approval of Rs 95,682 crore has been given for this. He appealed to the states to complete their formalities on time to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme.

In the conference, “Lakhpati Didi Dashboard” was launched and launching the “SHE LEAPS” digital platform for women of self-help groups, Shivraj Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has set a target of making 6 crore women from 3 lakhpati Didi, for which a bank linking road map of ₹10 lakh crore has been prepared in the next 5 years.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan issued a warning for 14 states regarding possible low rainfall. He directed to strengthen water conservation structures and prepare for additional employment in rural areas so that any situation can be dealt with effectively.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that this is not the time of competition, but of participation. The Centre should make a policy, the state should implement it, the panchayat should lead it and the people should participate - with this model, the picture and fortune of rural India can be changed.

In the conference, the winners of logo design, quiz and digital content competitions related to VB-G RAM G were honoured by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



BRS Silent on Attacks Against Telangana Identity Due to Internal Interests

■ **Alleges Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha alleged that the people and corporate forces who had opposed the Telangana statehood movement in the past are now being encouraged by what she described as “vested interests within the BRS.” She claimed this was the reason the BRS has remained silent on what she termed attacks against Telangana’s identity.

Speaking after unveiling the party flag at Pista House Junction in Uppal on Sunday, Kavitha alleged that those who had earlier made derogatory remarks about the Telangana movement were once again attempting to undermine the state’s identity. She urged Telangana residents to remain vigilant against such attempts.

Allegations Against Corporate Interests

Kavitha alleged that corporate educational institutions which, according to her, had opposed the Telangana movement are now being supported by influential interests within the BRS. She claimed that because of these associations, the party



has failed to respond to remarks targeting Telangana. She also criticized the Congress government, alleging that it had remained silent on issues concerning Telangana’s identity. She said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy lacked a direct association with the Telangana movement and also alleged that the BJP was not giving adequate importance to Telangana-related concerns. Kavitha asserted that only the Telangana Rakshana Sena was consistently fighting to protect the state’s rights and identity.

She demanded that the Telangana government issue orders to ensure government dairy institutions supply

milk to major corporate hospitals and educational institutions in the state. She also called for policies mandating preference for local people in jobs such as teachers, support staff, laundry workers, barbers, furniture suppliers, and other service providers in such institutions.

Remarks on ‘Idupu Kagitham’

Responding to the controversy surrounding the film title “Idupu Kagitham,” Kavitha alleged that the Telangana dialect and language were being mocked. In a political jibe, she remarked that Pawan Kalyan would

be the appropriate person to explain the meaning of the phrase “Idupu Kagitham.” She warned against what she described as repeated attempts to insult Telangana’s language, dialect, and cultural identity.

Kavitha said people should respect each other’s languages and dialects and coexist with mutual respect, while cautioning that any attempt to ridicule Telangana’s linguistic identity would be opposed.

Call for Land Agitation on July 2

Kavitha announced that the Telangana Rakshana Sena would launch a land agitation on July 2 to demand the allotment of 250 square yards of land promised by the government to Telangana movement activists.

She said the organisation plans to occupy government land at Bhagayath, Uppal, as part of the protest and appealed to Telangana activists and citizens from across the state to participate in large numbers.

Kavitha stated that the Telangana Rakshana Sena would continue to fight for the rights of Telangana activists, students, and women. She also declared that if force were to be used against protesters, it should first be directed at her, reaffirming the party’s commitment to protecting Telangana’s rights and identity.

GITAM Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Mathematics

HYDERABAD



GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulated Dr. Narender Satwai on successfully earning his Ph.D. in Mathematics and Statistics under the guidance of Prof. K. Maruti Prasad, Professor, School of Science.

Dr. Narender’s doctoral research, titled “Mathematical Investigation of Non-Newtonian Fluid Flows in Permeable Stenosed Tubes,” focuses on developing mathematical models to understand blood flow dynamics in narrowed arteries and their implications for cardiovascular diseases.

The research investigates various non-Newtonian fluid models and examines the influence of factors such as arterial permeability, magnetic fields, thermal radiation, and vessel elasticity on blood flow characteristics. The findings contribute to a better understanding of cardiovascular disorders and offer valuable insights for diagnostic analysis, treatment planning, and biomedical device development. Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science; and Dr. Jadav Ganesha, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, congratulated Dr. Narender Satwai and appreciated his significant contribution to research in biomedical fluid mechanics.

36 Officers Promoted from Circle Inspectors to DSPs Posted Across Telangana

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Police Department has issued postings to 36 officers who were recently promoted from the rank of Circle Inspector (CI) to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). The officers have been assigned to various districts and police units across the state.

The posting orders were handed over during a programme attended by Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand, Director General (Law & Order) Mahesh Bhagwat, and other senior police officials. Congrat-

ulating the newly promoted officers, DGP C.V. Anand said that a promotion is not merely a rise in rank but also an opportunity to shoulder greater responsibilities. He urged the officers to uphold the trust reposed in them by the Telangana Police by discharging their duties with integrity, discipline, and commitment.

The DGP advised the officers to respond promptly to public grievances and resolve issues in a lawful, transparent, and people-centric manner. He encouraged them to build a reputation as accessible and approachable officers while paying special attention



to maintaining law and order, preventing crime, strengthening community policing, and ensuring timely

justice for victims. He further emphasized that every decision taken in the rank of DSP should reinforce pub-

Telangana Transfers 12 Senior IPS Officers, Assigns Additional Charges

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Monday effected a major reshuffle in the State police administration, transferring 12 senior IPS officers and assigning additional responsibilities across various police units, including Commissionerates, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) offices and district police.

According to orders issued by the State government, Amber Kishor Jha, Commissioner of Police, Ramagundam, has been entrusted with the full additional charge of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Zone-I, Kaleshwaram. D Joel Davis, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Hyderabad City, has been given additional charge as DIG, Zone-V, Yadadri, while Sunpreet Singh has been posted as Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Cyberabad, with additional charge as DIG, Zone-III, Rajanna.

N Swetha has been appointed Commissioner of Police, Warangal, and will also hold the additional charge of DIG, Zone-IV, Bhadradi.

R Bhaskaran, DIG, CI Cell, Intelligence, has been assigned additional charge as DIG, Zone-II, Basara. SM Vijay Kumar, Joint Commissioner of Police, Special Branch, Hyderabad City, has been given additional responsibility as Joint Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), North Range.

Among the other transfers, Ch Sindu Sarma has been posted as Superintendent of Police, CI Cell, Intelligence, Hyderabad, and will also hold additional charge as SP, SIB. Y Sai Sekhar has been posted as Superintendent of Railway Police, Secunderabad.

Chennuri Rupesh and Ch Praveen Kumar have been posted as Superintendents of Police in the CID. R Venkateshwarlu has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Police, CAR Headquarters, Hyderabad City, while Rajesh Meena has been posted as Superintendent of Police, Vikarabad. The reshuffle is aimed at strengthening policing and streamlining administrative responsibilities across key units in the State.

Katanguri honoured with International Lions’ President’s Award

HANUMAKONDA: “This International President’s Award is an expression of our appreciation for your excellence in service to those in need. Your hard work and compassion serve as an example to your fellow Lions, your community and our world. You have demonstrated that ‘Changing the World’ starts with us and your bold steps forward are leading the way,” said International President of Lions International AP Singh.

Presenting the International President’s Award Letter and Pin ceremoniously to Katanguri Ramgopal Reddy on Monday, District Governor Dr K Chandrasekhar Arya, Vice District Governors Narahari Sudhakar Reddy and Putta Harikishan Reddy along with Revuri Ramana Reddy at Golden Gardens in Hanamkonda, Dr Arya wished that Katanguri Ramgopal Reddy would continue to enrich the lives of fellow club members and others as his ongoing service would provide even greater humanitarian impact.

Veldurthi Goods Shed Loads First-Ever Container Rake of Pig Iron



HYDERABAD

Indian Railways with a view to promote domestic container traffic has introduced the concept of an Exclusive Container Rail Terminal (ECRT). In this direction, South Central Railway is also promoting various customer centric initiatives by developing the infrastructure facilities to enhance the freight loading basket of the Zone.

In line with the Indian Railways initiative, South Central Railway has notified the Veldurthi Goods Shed of Hyderabad division as an Exclu-

sive Container Rail Terminal (ECRT) on 10.6.2026 in order to create efficient logistics solutions closer to industrial clusters and production centers. The initiative is aimed at attracting new streams of container traffic and providing customers with cost-effective and sustainable freight solutions. It is the first goods shed in Hyderabad Division to be notified as an Exclusive Container Rail Terminal, marking a major step towards expanding multimodal logistics contributing towards economic growth and regional development. Veldurthi Goods

Shed of South Central Railway achieved a significant milestone by successfully loading its first container rake on 25th June 2026. The rake was dispatched to the Inland Container Depot, Phillaur in Punjab under Firozpur division of Northern Railway demonstrating the growing integration of India’s logistics network and the ability of Railways to connect industries across regions seamlessly.

The inaugural rake carried 2,760 tonnes of Pig Iron, introducing a new commodity to the freight basket of Veldurthi Goods Shed. Significantly,

Veldurthi has become the first and only goods shed in the reorganized South Central Railway Zone to load Pig Iron in containers, opening new opportunities for the steel sector and showcasing the flexibility of containerized rail transportation.

The movement generated estimated freight revenue of Rs. 59 lakh, reflecting the growing potential of the new ECRT established at Veldurthi railway station and its capability in attracting high-value freight traffic. To continue this momentum, CONCOR has committed to load three container rakes every month from the terminal, paving the way for sustained freight growth and increased economic activity in the region.

On this occasion, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR appreciated the efforts of the Hyderabad Division in capturing a new traffic on South Central Railway’s loading basket and advised all the officers and staff to continue the same momentum in future to make the South Central Railway’s flag high.

TECHNICIANS POSTS IN RAILWAY

HYDERABAD: The Railway Recruitment Boards of the Ministry of Railways have invited applications from eligible candidates for various posts of Technician Grade-1 Signal (323 vacancies) and Technician Grade-3 (6234 vacancies). The last date for submission of applications is 29.07.2026. Applications complete in all respects must be submitted through Online mode only. (<https://www.rrbapply.gov.in>)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
ERNAKULAM JUNCTION

TENDER NOTICE No. 14-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT, DATED: 26.06.2026
Name of Work: Proposed construction of New Railway Health Unit (G+1) at Ernakulam Jn, Proposed finishing and balance works of SSE/P.way, S&T Building and yard, Pway Depot Building, Stores sheds and yard etc. at Ernakulam Junction Station in connection with Re-development of Ernakulam Jn.; Tender Value : ₹ 893.86 Lakhs; Bid Security : ₹ 17,87,700/- ; Completion Period : 12 Months. Date and time of tender closing: 20.07.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.

Complete details and tender document will be available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Chief Engineer / Construction, Ernakulam Jn

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

Tender Notice No.: SA-M-DSL-ED-OT-26-27-2A
Dated: 25.06.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode - 638002 E-Tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl No.	Description	Details
1	Tender Notice Number and Date	SA-M-DSL-ED-OT-26-27-2A Dated: 25.06.2026
2	Name of the Work: Repairing & overhauling of IRAB 9/10 Trn plate panel of Electric locomotives at Southern Railway, Salem Division, Loco Shed, Erode. Qty - 15 Nos.	
3	Estimate Value	₹ 6475174/-
4	Tender Closing Date and Time	17.07.2026 at 15:00 hrs
5	Web address	https://www.ireps.gov.in

Complete details of the above tenders are given on the e-portal “www.ireps.gov.in” For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal “www.ireps.gov.in” For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal “www.ireps.gov.in” The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock) / Loco Shed / Erode

NARSIMHA REDDY ENGINEERING COLLEGE
UGC-AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION
PRIVATE UNAIDED NON-MINORITY INSTITUTION

Maisammaguda (V), Dhulipally (P), Near Kompally, Medchal (M), Secunderabad - 500100

Notification for admission into B. Tech 1st Year Under Category “B” Seats including NRI/NRI Sponsored: 2026-2027

Candidates seeking admission into B. Tech 1st Year in the following courses under Category “B” seats for the academic year 2026-27 should apply in the prescribed application form which is available on the college website www.nrcmec.org.

Course	CSE	CSM	CSC	INF	ECE	EEE	CTV	MEC
Intake	420	210	120	60	180	60	60	30
Category – B	126	63	36	18	54	18	18	9

The application can be submitted online or in person. The last date for Online/in person submission of filled-in application along with xerox copies of relevant certificates and documents is 5:00 PM of 07.07.2026 (Tuesday). The application registration fee of Rs. 2,000/- (non-refundable) should be paid online/offline. The admissions will be made as per the norms of the Govt. of Telangana and Guidelines of the Competent Authority.

Tuition Fee: Rs. 87,800/- (Rupees Eighty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred only) per annum.
Dated: 30-06-2026 Sd/-
Chairman

STRONG EPOXY FOR ANY SEASON • ANY REASON

TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 040 45474612

ENQUIRE NOW

SHORT
TAKES

Madhira Rythu
Aashirvada Sabha
Cancelled Due to Rain

HYDERABAD: The Rythu Aashirvada Sabha that was scheduled to be held tomorrow in the Madhira Assembly constituency has been cancelled due to heavy rains. Instead, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed ministers to organize the event as a Rythu Bharosa financial assistance distribution programme at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad. He also instructed officials to make the necessary arrangements immediately. The programme will be held tomorrow at 4:00 PM.

POCSO Convict
Sentenced to
20 Years in Prison

HYDERABAD: A Fast Track Special Court at L.B. Nagar sentenced a 25-year-old labourer to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in a POCSO case registered by Pahadishareef Police in 2020. The convict, Saadangi Venkatesh alias Sadula Venkatesh, was found guilty of kidnapping and repeatedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old minor girl from Raviryala village in Ranga Reddy district. The court also imposed a fine of Rs.20,000 and directed payment of Rs.1 lakh as victim compensation. The case was initially registered as a missing complaint on February 10, 2020, after the minor girl disappeared from her residence.

Key Points from BJP National President Nitin Nabin's
Speech at BJP Booth Presidents' Conference in Warangal

WARANGAL

Today, seeing the enthusiastic BJP workers who have come from all corners of the erstwhile Warangal district gives me immense happiness. My heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all of you — from booth presidents to booth committee members, from mandal presidents to every party worker. My young friends, members of the women's wing, and elders — I extend my respectful greetings to all of you. It is because of the hard work of our booth presidents that the lotus symbol of the Bharatiya Janata Party is flourishing across the country today. The BJP is raising its flag of victory because of your dedication, effort, and commitment. I feel proud to be among such committed workers today.

With the strength of booth presidents and grassroots workers, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we will definitely achieve the goal of building a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047.

On this occasion, I remember Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Because of his determination, Hyderabad and Telangana became an integral part of united India. I extend my heartfelt respects to every leader and worker



who fought for the formation of Telangana state. The relationship between Telangana and the Bharatiya Janata Party is not merely political. It is a relationship built through struggles and the trust of the people.

Some people say that the BJP is a new party in Telangana. I want to make one thing clear to them. The Bharatiya Janata Party was founded in 1980. In the first elections held after its formation, one of the two Lok Sabha seats won by the BJP across the country was given by the people of Telangana. This is proof of the historic connection between Telangana and the BJP. I am speaking from the

land of Warangal, a place that has produced many brave warriors. This soil represents struggles, self-respect, and sacrifices. The people of Telangana have shown faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, and we must move forward with the resolve to establish a double-engine government in Telangana in 2028.

The BJP's vision is to give Telangana a new direction of development based on nationalist values and Indian cultural traditions. When Telangana was formed, the BJP never looked at political gains or losses. It respected the aspirations of the people of Telangana. In Parliament, late Sush-

ma Swaraj strongly raised her voice in support of Telangana statehood. Through her efforts, the BJP played an important role in the creation of Telangana.

However, the dreams and aspirations people had when Telangana was formed have still not been completely fulfilled. Family-based politics and corruption have damaged those dreams. The BJP is fully committed to making those dreams a reality again. For us, gaining power is not the goal. Public service is the goal. We believe in winning people's trust through service. When we are in opposition, we stand as the voice of the people. When we are in power, we serve people more effectively. Today, I request every BJP worker: the lotus must bloom in every booth. The BJP must win in every booth. Only then will our mission be fulfilled. We must reach every household. We must ensure every new voter is added to the electoral rolls. We must take the benefits of Central Government schemes to every family. Every section of society must be connected with the BJP. The party must become a platform for the hopes and aspirations of every community. A BJP worker is a servant of the people who works for society 24 hours a day.



Musi Rejuvenation Project Will Lay a
Strong Foundation for Telangana's Future:
Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

HYDERABAD

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the Musi Rejuvenation Project, being undertaken as a flagship initiative by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, will become a historic project that transforms Hyderabad's landscape while laying a strong foundation for the state's future development.

The Minister said the project aims to breathe new life into the Musi River by combining environmental restoration with measures to improve the quality of life for the city's residents.

On Monday, the Minister held a comprehensive review meeting at his chamber in the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat to assess the progress of land acquisition, rehabilitation, and other key components of the project.

The meeting was attended by Revenue Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Inspector General of Stamps and Registration Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthou, Musi Riverfront Development Project Managing Director E.V. Narasimha Reddy, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, and the District Collectors of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajiri districts.

Addressing the officials, the Minister said the Chief Minis-

ter's vision is to transform Hyderabad into a world-class city by rejuvenating the Musi River and developing it as a hub for tourism, employment, and economic growth.

He emphasized that the Musi Rejuvenation Project is not merely an infrastructure initiative but a long-term commitment to providing future generations with a cleaner, safer, and environmentally sustainable living environment.

The Minister noted that pollution in the Musi River has affected residents for decades and that people living along the river have repeatedly faced hardships during floods. He said the project aims to address these challenges through flood management, water purification, increased green cover, and the development of roads, parks, walkways, and recreational facilities, transforming the riverfront into a vibrant public space. Reiterating the Chief Minister's earlier assurance, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the project is not intended to harm or target anyone and that the government is committed to ensuring that no individual is treated unfairly. He stressed that every decision related to the project would be guided by humanitarian considerations and that development should not come at the cost of the livelihoods of the poor.

Telangana Aims for \$1 Trillion Economy
by 2034: Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced an ambitious economic roadmap for the state, stating that Telangana aims to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, the year marking 100 years of India's independence.

Speaking in a recent video interview with a national English publication, the Minister said Telangana currently contributes nearly 5% of India's GDP and the target is to double this contribution to 10% by 2047. He said achieving these goals would require the adoption of advanced technologies in governance, industries, and grassroots economic activities. He highlighted the role of women from the state's 65 lakh self-help groups, noting that loans worth ₹21,000 crore were provided to them this year and that non-performing assets (NPAs) were almost at zero levels.

Policy Stability and
Ease of Doing Business

Sridhar Babu said investor confidence in Telangana is driven by two major factors — policy continuity despite changes in political parties and ease of doing business.

He explained that through the

TS-IPASS single-window system, approvals are being granted within 21 days, and that the new "Ease of Doing Business 2.0" initiative uses technology to improve transparency and provide real-time tracking of pending approvals.

Defence, Aerospace and
Infrastructure Growth

The Minister highlighted that Telangana's defence and aerospace sector, which developed around institutions established during the 1950s–1970s, has now grown significantly and surpassed IT and pharmaceutical exports in importance.

He said infrastructure projects such as the Outer Ring Road, the upcoming Regional Ring Road, and new airports planned in districts including Warangal and Adilabad would help extend Hyderabad-level connectivity to district centres.

Future City Development

The government plans to develop Bharat Future City across 30,000 acres as a net-zero and pollution-free city.

The project will include:

- A 200-acre AI City
- Green pharmaceutical units



Residential zones for all sections of society. The country's first government-led Young India Skills University Support for MSMEs. On Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the Minister announced that the government has allocated ₹600 crore for the next five years and will establish industrial parks in every district.

He said Telangana has introduced a new model where entrepreneurs can lease land instead of purchasing it, reducing investment burdens, especially for MSMEs affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that one-fourth of new industrial park space will be reserved for women entrepreneurs.

The government has also launched Industry Health Clinics to support MSMEs facing difficulties in accessing financial assistance and adopting new technologies, including artificial intelligence. Reiterating the government's approach, Sridhar Babu said the state would function as a facilitator rather than a regulator. He said world-class infrastructure, digital readiness, and policy stability would make Telangana a preferred destination for global investors.

Innovation drives Arya
Vysya entrepreneurship:
AP Minister Bharat

HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Industries, Commerce and Food Processing Minister T.G. Bharat Gupta said innovation is deeply rooted in the ethical values of the Arya Vysya community and continues to inspire young entrepreneurs to create and lead successful businesses. Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected National Executive Committee of the All India Arya Vysya Entrepreneurs Forum at Novotel, Hiltex in Hyderabad, he said incubation centres, innovation hubs and modern industries are helping to transform ideas into enterprises.

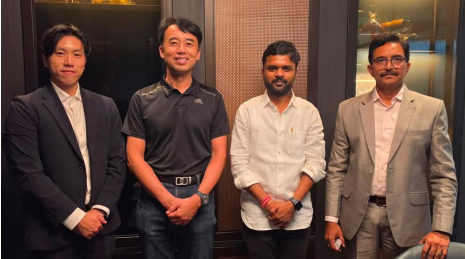
Bhavani Suresh Charugundla assumed charge as National President of the forum, while Balakrishna Erram, Anil Kumar Padakanti, Vamshi Nelanti and Shiva Kumar Boggari took oath as office-bearers along with 47 executive members. Inaugurating the event, T.G. Bharat unveiled the logo and brochure of the forum's proposed industrial exhibition.

ICIE Invites Global Innovators to Explore
Taiwan's Semiconductor and AI Ecosystem

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

In a significant step towards strengthening global collaboration in innovation, entrepreneurship, technology, and academia, the International Council for Innovators and Entrepreneurs (ICIE) has announced Explore2Expand Taiwan, a global delegation initiative designed to connect businesses, startups, innovators, investors, students, researchers, and academic institutions from across the world with Taiwan's globally renowned technology and innovation ecosystem.

The announcement follows strategic discussions held by Mr. Sundeeep Kumar Makthala, Founding Convener of ICIE, with Ms. Vivian Huang, International Cooperation Strategy Officer at Institute for Information Industry (III), Government of Taiwan, and Dr. Michael Lin, CEO of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU). The discussions focused on fostering global collaboration in innovation, digital transformation, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, startup ecosystem development, talent exchange, research partnerships, and industry-academia engagement.



Recognized globally as the epicenter of semiconductor manufacturing and one of Asia's most advanced innovation ecosystems, Taiwan offers unparalleled opportunities in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, electronics, deep technology, advanced manufacturing, and startup acceleration. The initiative is also aligned with major technology and innovation platforms in Taiwan, providing participants with exposure to emerging technologies, global markets, and international collaboration opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sundeeep Kumar Makthala stated that Explore2Expand Taiwan will provide global delegates with direct access to Taiwan's innovation ecosystem through interactions with leading universities, accelerators, technology companies, research institutions, startup communities, and industry leaders. He noted that the initiative would create new pathways for cross-border partnerships,

market access, technology collaborations, startup acceleration, academic exchanges, investment engagement, and international expansion.

The Explore2Expand Taiwan delegation, scheduled from July 29 to August 2, 2026, will focus on key sectors including semiconductors, artificial intelligence, electronics, digital transformation, deep technology, advanced manufacturing, startups, innovation, and research collaboration. Delegates are expected to engage with leading innovation institutions, universities, accelerators, technology organizations, and ecosystem leaders while gaining firsthand exposure to Taiwan's globally recognized innovation landscape.

The initiative has been specially curated for entrepreneurs, business leaders, startups, innovators, investors, exporters, students, faculty members, research scholars, industry associations, and institutions seeking global partnerships and international expansion opportunities. Registrations are now open for Explore2Expand Taiwan. Interested participants from around the world may register through bit.ly/explore2expand or contact +91 8019977575.

Kavitha alleges duplicate votes
aided Revanth's win in Kodangal

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President K. Kavitha has voiced concerns regarding the election win of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy from the Kodangal constituency, suggesting that his success in the previous Assembly elections was achieved through the use of duplicate votes, with a margin of 32,000 votes. During a media briefing at the party office in Hyderabad on Monday, Kavitha noted that 30,000 new votes had been added to the Kodangal constituency between the 2018 and 2023 elections.

She revealed that their party's verification process uncovered more than 22,000 duplicate votes in the area and that 11,000 votes belonging to the Sedam constituency in Karnataka were improperly registered in Kodangal. Despite identifying about 33,000 irregular votes, only 800 were canceled. Kavitha empha-

sized that Revanth Reddy's win, with a margin of 32,000 votes, clearly suggests that duplicate votes and those from neighbouring Karnataka played a significant role in his victory.

This situation, according to Kavitha, raises questions about whether the Election Commission may have shown bias in favour of Revanth Reddy. She highlighted that while 7,000 votes were removed in Bodhan, only 800 were addressed in Kodangal.

She also expressed concern about the potential modification of as many as one lakh votes in Kodangal, questioning if not only money but also votes were transferred from Karnataka for the Telangana elections. While she acknowledged the principle that individuals from other countries should not have voting rights in India, she raised a question about the legitimacy of people from different states voting in multiple states.

Telangana seeks stronger tourism, cultural ties with France: Jupally

HYDERABAD

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday called for strengthening tourism and cultural cooperation between Telangana and France, stating that deeper people-to-people exchanges and heritage partnerships would create new opportunities for tourism, investment and economic growth. The Minister made these remarks during a courtesy call by French Consul General Marc Lamy and Deputy Consul Pascal Loreau, who called on him at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat.

Highlighting Telangana's rich historical, cultural and architectural heritage, Krishna Rao said Hyderabad has emerged as a vibrant global city while preserving its unique legacy. He invited the French government, the French Embassy and tourism stakeholders to partner with Telangana in promoting Hyderabad and the State's diverse tourism destinations among French travellers.

The Minister also proposed ex-



panding cultural exchange programmes and encouraging reciprocal visits by artists, scholars, tourism professionals and cultural delegations. He suggested constituting a joint working group to identify areas of collaboration in heritage conservation, cultural exchanges and tourism promotion, paving the way for long-term institutional partnerships

between Telangana and France. The French delegation underscored the pivotal role of tourism as a catalyst for economic growth, employment generation and international engagement. They noted that France welcomes over 100 million international visitors annually and highlighted the significant contribution of tourism and culture in attracting

global investment while strengthening people-to-people ties.

Referring to the robust India-France strategic partnership, the delegation highlighted the growing cooperation in sectors such as defence, pharmaceuticals, technology and innovation. They informed the Minister that nearly 200 French nationals are currently residing in Telangana and expressed keen interest in expanding collaboration in tourism, culture and heritage conservation.

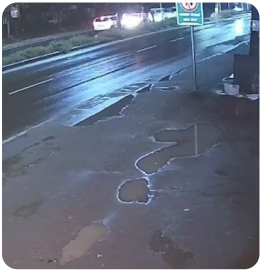
Welcoming the Minister's proposals, the delegation assured their support in promoting Telangana, particularly Hyderabad, as a preferred destination for French travellers and in facilitating greater cultural exchanges between the two regions.

Both sides expressed confidence that enhanced cooperation in tourism, culture and heritage would further strengthen the longstanding friendship between India and France while creating new opportunities for mutual growth and collaboration. (NSS)

Free Mouth and Throat
Cancer Screening Camp at
Keshava ENT Hospital

KARIMNAGAR

Satavahana Lions Club Senior Leaders Lion Dr: CH Ramanachary will conduct free mouth and throat cancer screening tests on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, under the leadership of the club's President Secretary Treasurer Lion Marripalli Mahender, Lion Narla Venugopal, and Lion Mukul Praveen Kumar, said in a statement. Dr. Ramanachary said that people are not only suffering from serious illnesses due to the abuse of paan, gutka, alcohol, smoking, and drugs, but are also losing their lives due to mouth, throat, and larynx cancer. Those who want to undergo free cancer screening tests can report to Keshava ENT Hospital, Savaran Street, Karimnagar between 8 am and 10 am on July 1, 2026. For complete details, you can call 8074093923.



Gang intercepts Kerala trader's car, robs 180g of gold jewellery near Mangaluru

A seven-member gang allegedly intercepted a gold trader's car near Mangaluru and fled with 180 grams of jewellery.

A seven-member gang intercepted the car of a Kerala-bound gold trader, forced him out of the vehicle and fled with 180 grams of gold jewellery in a daring highway robbery near Baikampady on the outskirts of Mangaluru in the early hours of Monday.

The man driving the car, identified as Vikas, a gold trader based in Sangli, Maharashtra, was travelling with his wife and child from Sangli to Payyanur in Kerala when the gang, travelling in an Innova, blocked his car by suddenly braking in front of it at around 2:15 am. The accused forced Vikas out of the vehicle before driving away with his car, which was carrying a bag containing 180 grams of gold jewellery. The gang later abandoned Vikas's wife and child near Kuloor before escaping from the spot. The entire incident was captured on CCTV. Police suspect the gang fled towards either Kerala or Bengaluru and have launched a manhunt to trace the accused.

Chandrababu Naidu urges farmers to overcome challenges posed by El Nino

AMARAVATI, JUNE 29

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday called upon farmers to overcome the challenges posed by El Nino, a phenomenon which disrupts normal rainfall. The Chief Minister greeted farmers on the occasion of Eruvaka Pournami, which marks the beginning of the new farming season. Agriculture minister K. Atchannaidu also urged the farmers to face the El Nino phenomenon with courage.

In a message, the Chief Minister noted that on Jyeshtha Shuddha Pournami, farmers perform the Eruvaka ritual, worshipping the land and livestock, and attuning themselves with nature.

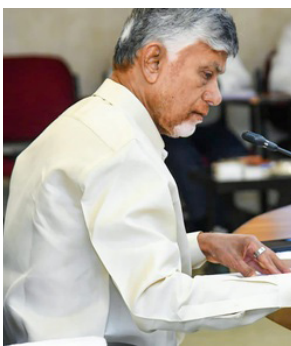
"I pray that the homes of farmers be filled with the light

of bountiful harvests. We, born on the soil that reveres nature, uphold those traditions. Let us nurture crops through natural farming, safeguarding our land and our health from toxicity," he said.

The Chief Minister stated that the coalition government will always take proactive steps to strengthen the agricultural sector. As part of this, under Annadatha Sukhibhava, the government credited PM Kisan funds and stood by them as support.

"I hope that farmers overcome the challenges arising due to El Nino and international conditions. I aspire that farmers, by following government guidelines and advice, cultivate and reap success through farming," Chandrababu Naidu added.

Agriculture minister K.



Atchannaidu visited Kanaka Durga temple in Vijayawada to pray for the prosperity of the state's farming community. Special prayers were offered for an abundant crop and for farmers to achieve high yields and profits.

The Minister stated that fertilizers and seeds required for the Kharif season are available in ample quantities. He clarified that farmers need

not worry about their availability. Minister Atchannaidu affirmed that the government would provide all necessary support and assistance to farmers. The Minister revealed that the government has completed all arrangements for Kharif cultivation.

Minister Atchannaidu emphasized that farmer welfare is the government's primary objective and called for facing the El Nino phenomenon with courage. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also greeted farmers on Eruvaka Purnami. He noted that Eruvaka Purnami is an agricultural festival that celebrates the bond between humanity and nature, while honoring Mother Earth and livestock.

It is customary for farmers to pay obeisance to Mother Earth and inaugurate the new

farming season with great enthusiasm on the full moon day of the Jyeshtha month. On this occasion, I extend my best wishes to the entire farming community and pray to the Almighty for timely and abundant rains, so that farmers' households may overflow with bountiful harvests and prosperity," he said.

Pawan Kalyan stated that the coalition government is committed to the welfare of farmers and the development of the agricultural sector. "We have already demonstrated our commitment by depositing the first installment of 'PM Kisan-Annadatha Sukhibhava' funds directly into farmers' accounts. We are also formulating plans to ensure that the upcoming 'VB G-Ram G' works benefit the farming community," he said.



CEO Reviews Progress of SIR-2026 with District Collectors

HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana, Sudarshan Reddy, IAS, on Monday conducted a video conference with District Collectors from BRK Bhavan to review the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of the electoral rolls being carried out across the state. During the meeting, the CEO appreciated the performance of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and election officials for distributing nearly 17.3 million enumeration forms through door-to-door visits within just four days of the launch of the SIR exercise.

He instructed district-level officials to encourage BLOs to ensure 100 percent distribution of the enumeration forms within the stipulated timeframe.

The CEO emphasized that BLOs must strictly perform their duties in accordance with the prescribed rules and warned that any violation of the guidelines would invite stringent legal action.

He also urged political parties and their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 process and discharge their

responsibilities effectively.

Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) were directed to undertake extensive field visits, provide necessary guidance to BLOs, strengthen public outreach, and ensure wide publicity for the Voter Helpline 1950 and other election helpdesk numbers. The CEO instructed District Election Officers (DEOs), EROs, and AEROs to regularly review voter awareness programmes being conducted every day, publish updates on social media platforms, and maintain detailed records of field inspections carried out by election officials. To facilitate accurate completion of enumeration forms by voters, he directed District Election Officers to organize another round of training programmes for BLOs, enabling them to assist voters more effectively and achieve the targets within the prescribed schedule.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Vasam Venkateswara Reddy, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer (FAC) G.S. Chari, nodal officers, the Project Manager (IT), and other technical officials.

AP CM Calls for Easier Public Services

AMARAVATI, JUNE 29

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to make government services more accessible and citizen-friendly. Reviewing the performance of various departments from the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Centre at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister directed the officials to simplify and streamline the service delivery mechanisms. According to an official release, officials informed the Chief Minister that the government has already initiated measures to simplify

procedures, beginning with 11 categories of services. The Chief Minister directed officials to further strengthen the public grievance redressal system and make it more accessible to citizens. He suggested enabling people to lodge complaints online and through the Mana Mitra WhatsApp platform.

He also instructed officials to ensure that even voice messages sent through the platform are accepted. When the officials informed that nearly 3,000 locations currently face mobile connectivity challenges, the Chief Minister directed officials to resolve these issues

within three months. The officials gave a presentation on the "Navachethana" early childhood development screening programme being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Welfare. They explained that the programme assesses children's physical and mental development. So far, 33,949 children have been screened across the state. Officials said that, in addition to screening children attending Anganwadi centres, teams are also conducting household visits. A pilot project will also be implemented to ensure appropriate follow-up actions after screening. Officials said a

circular has been issued mandating field visits by senior officers. Accordingly, Secretaries will spend three days, Heads of departments six days, and district collectors eight days every month on field visits. The Chief Minister instructed officials to identify areas facing major issues and provide immediate solutions.

The officials said Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been issued to further improve the functioning of the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS).

The Chief Minister visited the RTGS Centre along with the Director General of Con-

federation of Indian Industry (CII), Chandrajit Banerjee and other CII representatives. IT Secretary Katamneni Bhaskar explained the functioning of RTGS to the delegation and highlighted the use of Artificial Intelligence and other technologies in governance.

He also presented case studies on RTGS' response during natural disasters. The Chief Minister urged CII representatives to expedite the establishment of the CII Global Leadership Centre in Andhra Pradesh. Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad and DGP Harish Kumar Gupta participated in the meeting.

Every Farmer Should Be a Scientist: Umar Alisha

DR SUNEELKUMAR YANDRA,

Pitapuram, June 29: "Farmers are the backbone of the country", "Every farmer should become an agricultural scientist and an industrialist", "The farmer should live as a king", said Sadguru Dr. Umar Alisha, the ninth Peethadhipathi of Sri Vishwa Vigyan Vidya Aadhyathmika Peetham. On the occasion of Eruvaka Pournami on Monday, Peethadhipathi Dr. Umar Alisha Swami personally took a plough and ploughed the field in the premises of the main ashram of the local Sri Vishwa Vigyan Vidya Aadhyathmika Peetham in Pithapuram. Later, the head of the Peetham, Dr. Umar Alisha, who presided over

the Sasya Vriddhi Bijaropana Mahotsav organized, addressed the farmers' conference and said that the Peetham has been conducting spiritual farming for the last seven years, following the Indian culture, on the full moon day of Eruvaka, following the tradition of worshipping the cow and starting agriculture by the farmer. He said that if every farmer uses modern tools and equipment in a healthy way to protect nature and practices organic farming, good products can be achieved. He said that the use of chemical fertilizers damages the soil and diseases like cancer are spreading. He called for making organic fertilizer and farming with a spiritual concept, one can live a long life and live happily



through healthy products. Even in times of crisis like El Nino, Sadhguru said that by practicing spiritual farming with divine seeds, the grace of God can be spread and non-material energy can be obtained as protection without any losses. On this occasion, Swami participat-



ed in the Eruvaka program organized in the agricultural field in the ashram premises along with the chief guests. In the assembly organized later, distinguished farmers practicing natural farming, Reddy Rambabu (Mummidivaram), Shettipalli Babji (Sitaramapuram), Gali Baby (Chimala-

varigudem), Malireddy Venkateswara Rao (Somavaram), and Paila Satyanarayana (Polavaram), were felicitated. Next, the Parabrahma Mohiyaddin Badshah Spiritual Farming Award 2026 was presented to Jakki Srinivasa Rao of Nagulapalli Upparagudem and a cash award

of ten thousand rupees and a memento. Later, the special guest of the program, Rajahmundry Entomology Coordinator and Chief Scientist Dr. C.H.Narasimha Rao, spoke and made appropriate suggestions for achieving economic development of farmers. Another special guest, Pithapuram Horticulture Officer Y.Somasekhara Rao, spoke and urged farmers to take advantage of the incentives provided by the government. Another guest, Innovative Organic Farmer and CEO of L.P.R.Organics Lokasani Padma Reddy from Polepalli, Nalgonda district, spoke and told how to achieve economic development with organic products. Venkateshwarlu from Patanjali Foods Private Limited spoke and

explained about alternative crops. Another guest, Rajahmundry Agronomy DAATTC Chief Scientist Dr. Manukonda Srinivas spoke about integrated farming system. Another guest, Sanjeevi Environment Protection Society Secretary, Pachhari Devullu from Visakhapatnam spoke and spoke about the conservation of indigenous seeds. Later, Adilabad Krishi Vigyan Kendra Chief Scientist Dr. Nadimpally Ramagopala Varma explained to the farmers about farming with drones, its multifaceted benefits, and drone pilot training. Next, the brothers of the Peethadhips, the special guest Ahmed Alisha, said that this program organized by the Peethadhip should be the responsibility of every farmer and that this

program will give very good results. Next, the Peethadhip Dr. Umar Alisha honored the guests and presented mementos. Next, the distinguished farmers, awardees, and chief guests honored the Peethadhip Dr. Umar Alisha and praised the efforts being made by the Peethadhip for environmental protection. The program organizers A.V.V.Satyanarayana gave the speech, and the meeting ended with the presentation of the vote of thanks by N.T.V.Prasad Varma. Peetham Convener Peruri Suribabu, natural farming entrepreneur Captain Mallikarjuna participated in the program and hundreds of farmers participated, received Sadhguru's divine seeds and pledged to practice spiritual farming.

No Political Shield for Offenders: Vijay

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday directed district collectors and police superintendents to act fearlessly against criminals without any political interference, asserting that even the most powerful offenders must be punished impartially under the law. Addressing the first joint conference of district collectors, SPs and senior officials since the TVK government assumed office in May, Vijay stressed that innocent people should never be harassed while ensuring swift action against lawbreakers.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to focus on eliminating the root causes of crime instead of merely responding to incidents. He called for a strict crackdown on drug trafficking, illegal sand mining and organised crime, warning that such activities pose a serious threat to society. Vijay also directed authorities to intensify surveillance around schools, conduct regular inspections and ensure the immediate arrest of those involved in drug-related offences to protect students and youth.

Emphasising public safety, Vijay said the security of women



and children must remain a top priority and urged officials to strengthen preventive policing measures. He also called for a transparent, corruption-free administration committed to delivering social justice and improving access to essential services such as drinking water, healthcare, education, electricity and public transport. To address disputes that often trigger violence in rural areas, Vijay announced the formation of district-level land dispute resolution committees. These bodies will work to resolve conflicts quickly and reduce law-and-order issues arising from land disputes.

Reaffirming his government's commitment to good governance, Vijay urged officials to perform their duties with honesty, professionalism and fairness, ensuring justice for every citizen without fear or favour.

AIADMK exodus continues, 6th MLA exits in two months, likely to join TVK

With his exit, MR Vijayabaskar becomes the sixth AIADMK legislator to quit or break ranks since the 2026 Assembly elections. His move comes just days after former Tamil Nadu Health Minister and Viralimalai MLA C Vijayabaskar resigned from the Tamil Nadu Assembly, becoming the fifth AIADMK MLA to step down within a month.

Trouble continues to mount for AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, with party MLA M R Vijayabaskar emerging as the latest leader to express dissatisfaction with the leadership and resign from the party. Sources said he is unhappy with Palaniswami's leadership and is likely to join the ruling TVK. With his exit, MR Vijayabaskar becomes the sixth AIADMK legislator to quit or break ranks since the 2026 Assembly elections. His move comes just days after former Tamil Nadu Health



Minister and Viralimalai MLA C Vijayabaskar resigned from the Tamil Nadu Assembly, becoming the fifth AIADMK MLA to step down within a month. C Vijayabaskar submitted his resignation to Assembly Speaker JCD Prabhakar at the Secretariat, and it was later accepted. Sources said he is also expected to join the ruling TVK. Earlier, four AIADMK MLAs resigned from the Assembly and joined the ruling party, reducing the opposition's strength in the House and adding to the pressure on the AIADMK leadership. The AIADMK has accused the ruling TVK of poaching its legislators and trying to weaken the party

founded by MG Ramachandran. TVK has rejected the charge, saying the MLAs changed sides voluntarily because of dissatisfaction with the AIADMK leadership under Palaniswami. A prominent AIADMK leader from Pudukottai district, C Vijayabaskar first entered the Assembly in 2001 and later won from Viralimalai in 2011, 2016, 2021 and 2026. He served as Tamil Nadu Health Minister and oversaw the state's response during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the 2026 Assembly election, he retained the Viralimalai seat by a margin of 62,073 votes despite a strong TVK wave. After the 2026 elections, C

Vijayabaskar aligned himself with the AIADMK rebel camp and voted in favour of the TVK government during the floor test. The party leadership later removed him as the AIADMK's Pudukottai district secretary. His resignation came despite recent efforts by Palaniswami to reunite the party. Last week, former ministers SP Velumani, Natham R Viswanathan and P Thangamani were reinstated to key organisational posts after reconciling with the leadership and reaffirming their support for Palaniswami. The AIADMK also informed the Assembly Speaker that it wanted to withdraw disciplinary and disqualification proceedings against the rebel faction after the rapprochement. Under the reshuffle, Velumani and Viswanathan were appointed deputy general secretaries, while Thangamani was named organising secretary. Even so, the emergence of MR Vijayabaskar as the latest dissatisfied MLA has added to the party's continuing internal troubles.

Chandrababu Naidu to lay foundation for Hero Motors

GPC at Madanapalem of Satyavedu mandal on July 1
Chief Minister to launch "Heroes of Tomorrow" scholarship programme under P-4 initiative
Chief Minister to distribute NTR Bharosa pensions at Chillakur mandal

AMARAVATI :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will lay foundation for Global Parts Centre (GPC) of Hero Motors at Madanapalem in Satyavedu Mandal of Tirupati district on July 1. The facility, to be built with an investment of Rs 750 crore by Hero Motor Corporation, is expected to generate employment for nearly 4,000 people. It may be noted that Hero Motors already operating a two-wheeler manufacturing plant near Sri City, with an annual production capacity of 1.5 million vehicles. The new GPC will manufacture components for motorcycles, scooters and electric vehicles used in both domestic and international markets.

As part of its participation in P4 initiative Hero Motors decided to provide

scholarships to deserving students. The Chief Minister will launch the "Heroes of Tomorrow" scholarship programme, instituted in the name of Brij Mohan Lall Munjal through the Swarna Andhra Foundation. The Chief Minister will also hand over specially designed electric mobility vehicles manufactured by Hero Motors for use by the Andhra Pradesh Police.

Later the Chief Minister will also participate in the "Pedala Sevala" programme at Punnapuvaripalem village in Chillakur Mandal of Nellore district, where he will distribute NTR Bharosa pensions. The Chief Minister will personally visit the residence of a beneficiary in Punnapuvaripalem village and hand over the pension. Later, he will address a public meeting organised at the venue.

EDITORIAL.

It's Time to Kill the Five-Day Workweek

The five-day, 40-hour workweek is an industrial relic. Invented over a century ago to match the rhythm of manufacturing assembly lines, this rigid structure is actively harming the modern workforce. If we want to solve the twin crises of professional burnout and stagnant productivity, we must transition to a standardized four-day workweek. The math behind our current habits simply no longer adds up. We live in an era of unprecedented technological leverage, where AI, automation, and instant communication compress tasks that used to take days into mere hours. Yet, instead of using this efficiency to reclaim our lives, we have simply crammed more frantic multitasking into the same punishing calendar. The result is an epidemic of chronic stress. We are not working smarter; we are just staying tired longer.

Data from global trials proves that less time at a desk yields sharper results. Consider the landmark pilot programs run by 4 Day Week Global across countries like the US, UK, and Ireland. In the UK trial, which featured 61 companies, a staggering 92% chose to make the policy permanent. Revenues increased by an average of 35% compared to similar historical periods, while employee burnout dropped by 71%. When people have a dedicated third day to rest, manage domestic life, and disconnect, they return to work with intense, undivided focus. Skeptics frequently argue that cutting an entire day of operations will inevitably cause output to collapse or force companies to slash salaries. This objection, however, relies on the flawed assumption that every hour spent at a desk is inherently productive. In reality, the traditional 40-hour week is bloated with filler. It is stretched thin by redundant meetings, administrative friction, and the inevitable “Friday fade”—that collective afternoon slide into low effort and endless scrolling. A four-day model forces organizations to audit their time, eliminate corporate fluff, and focus strictly on high-impact objectives, all while maintaining 100% of workers’ compensation. Furthermore, a shorter workweek offers a massive competitive edge in the modern talent market. The organizations earliest to adopt a 32-hour week report drastic drops in employee turnover and a surge in high-quality job applicants. In a world where workers are deeply re-evaluating the role employment plays in their overall well-being, flexibility is no longer a luxury perk—it is a core requirement. We can no longer afford to mistake presence for productivity. Clinging to an outdated 1920s labor model out of pure tradition is a failure of imagination. It is time for corporate leaders and policymakers to officially restructure the calendar, shorten the week, and unlock a healthier, more sustainable, and ultimately more profitable future of work. Beyond the corporate balance sheet, the four-day workweek also represents a massive, untapped victory for environmental sustainability and public health. Cutting a full day of commuting nationwide instantly shrinks carbon emissions and reduces gridlock on our highways. Simultaneously, giving families a reliable three-day weekend lowers the systemic healthcare costs associated with anxiety and sleep deprivation, while injecting vital consumer spending into local tourism and leisure economies. It is a rare structural shift where human well-being, ecological health, and economic vitality align perfectly.



SO IT IS.....



Man to man a fragile thread,
Woven fine, yet easily shed.
From ancient lore to present day,
We've lost our hearts along the way.

On selfish ground we built our fate,
Claimed the skies, adorned the gate.
A nation proud, a glittering show,
But what's beneath? We barely know.

With medals bright and flags held high,
We chased a dream but why, oh why?
A hollow crown, a golden lie,
That fades like clouds across the sky.

Each morning breaks with silent dread,
A plate half-filled, the children unfed.
While towers gleam in neon light,
A mother weeps alone at night.

In halls where laughter used to ring,
Now silence reigns a bitter sting.
Love, once planted, now denied,
By ego's fire, it's scorched and dried.

We trade our time for fleeting fame,
Our lives reduced to username.
We scroll through lives we'll never live,
Yet miss the touch we long to give.

The home's become a haunted place,
No warmth, no grace, no close embrace.
Just rooms with screens and empty eyes,
While truth and tenderness slowly die.

So what remains of all we dreamed?
Not legacy, nor love esteemed...
Just reels and filters, likes and streams,
A phantom world of pixel dreams.

Instagram...
And nothing more
But life, A meme.



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



OPINION (On the occasion of "World Social Media Day" on 30 June)

Social Media : Is it a Boon or Bane !

Social media is order of the day. It is connecting and informing billions of people all over the globe. Thanks to digital revolution for transforming this world as a global village. The just born alpha generation baby to silent and baby boomers, all are enjoying the taste of social media pics and videos. Re-connecting with classmates, peer groups, past associates, friends, relatives, physically unknown online friends and others is a valuable part of social media. The family members spread over the globe has become a social media platform as a meeting place to sharing their thoughts and news. From connecting friends and family across distances to transforming marketing and commerce, social media has reshaped how we interact. No longer just for sending messages and connecting to people, social media is now a primary marketplace where consumers can search for their existing needs, discover new products.

From sharing family moments and reconnecting with old friends to influencing businesses, politics, education and public opinion, social media has transformed the way the world communicates. In an age where billions of people spend hours every day on digital platforms, social media has become both a powerful tool for connection and a source of serious challenges. As the world observes World Social Media Day on June 30, it is time to reflect on how these platforms have reshaped human interaction, created new opportunities and raised important questions about responsible digital citizenship.

World Social Media Day-2026:
World Social Media Day is observed annually on 30 June to bring awareness about the impact of social media on society in positive as well as negative manner. Social media has been redefining how people interact, communicate, share with friends and family members and overall global population. Established in 2010 by Mashable, this annual event celebrates the impact of digital platforms on global communication, community building and cultural changes. Approximately around 5.79 billion people are actively using social media platforms globally, spending an average of 2 hours and 27 minutes daily on these networks. Gen Z youth spend over 54 percent more time than the average consumer per day on social media platforms and watching user-generated content, and 26 percent less time than watching TV and movies. Social media users now make up a “supermajority” online connecting over five billion out of over 8 billion world population. 2026 World Social Media Day marks the 17th global celebration of the day that recognises how social media has influenced the society, both poor and rich.

Theme of World Social Media Day-2026:
The theme of World Social Media Day-2026 is “Uniting the Digital World”, focuses on highlighting how digital platforms connect people, cultures, and communities across the globe. This day matters because it gives professionals, creators, and ordinary users a moment to celebrate what social media has made possible while encouraging better, healthier, and more honest use of platforms. Social Media Day is celebrated in many ways like thanking the creators,



reconnecting with old friends, trying for a new platform, sharing your own story or positive messages, engaging in online discussions, promoting a small business or charity, taking a partial break, talk to young people, spreading the benefits and adverse affects of these platforms, educate yourself and others, and audit your feedback.

Important Social Media Platforms:
The most important partners and brands for social media day are Meta, Hootsuite, Sprout Social, TikTok, LinkedIn, X/Twitter, Madhable etc. SixDegrees is considered as the first social media site launched in 1997. Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder of Facebook on 2004 is considered as the hero of Social Media Day. The first modern social media platform was Friendster in 2002. LinkedIn was launched in 2003 and MySpace launched in 2004, the same year as Facebook. YouTube launched its website dedicated to videos in 2005, Twitter followed with in 2006. Instagram was launched in 2010. Social media has become a huge source of news, shopping, finding influencers for businesses and general entertainment. The 17th Social Media Day celebration, in an era defined by AI, creators and social commerce. Monthly Facebook users are over 3 billion, Instagram users are over 2 billion, WhatsApp users are 2 billion, TikTok users are 1.5 billion, and WeChat users are 1.3 billion. China alone accounts for more than one billion social media users,

Indian users are 870 million, US users are 313 million and Europe users are 731 million.

Social Media Etiquettes:
There are few etiquettes to be followed as a responsible netizen at any stage of our life. Be yourself when you interact online. We must like, comment, share content to build connections but not destructive news. We should always use a polite and personal or professional tone when we communicate online. Give enough credit to the original source when sharing content online. Use hashtags to expand your reach or the reach of the content source. Let's create valuable content to originally grow your audience. Refrain from engaging in negative, online arguments or cyber bullying. To ensure social media acts as a positive tool rather than a curse, take control of your digital habits like setting boundaries of time restrictions, curate your feed, check for the authenticity of information, and take enough breaks by scheduling digital detoxes to reconnect with the physical world.

Social Media : Is it a Boon or Bane !
Social media is a double edged blade. It can be a boon, if used for the purposes of connection, education, and business. It can be a bane when it leads to addiction, cyber bullying, viewing objectionable content or spreading of misinformation. Social media advantages include connectivity, collaborations, branding, job opportunities, reform education, and erase the distances. Ultimately, it's impact depends entirely on an individual's usage, self discipline, and digital literacy. It is a boon by empowering global connectivity, sharing knowledge and information, scope for economic opportunities, and freedom of expression. It is bane, if use in negative ways. The social media addiction may lead to fear of missing out, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Fake news spreads faster to manipulate public opinion and create polarising 'echo chambers'. The dopamine loop of 'likes' and algorithmic scrolling is highly addictive, directly reducing productivity and focus. It may also lead to cyber bullying and intrude into our privacy. Unmask the dark side of social media such as impact on physical and mental health, privacy concerns, spread of fake news, addiction, lower cognitive skills etc. No matter what a person thinks of social media or nits influence on human society, it's still a fact that social media has had one of the biggest influences on society of any technology released over the past century.

PROF :
MADHUSUDHAN
REDDY BURRA
9949700037

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

" India's foreign exchange reserves may appear comfortable today, but in an increasingly uncertain global economy, every additional dollar matters. That is why Indian banks are once again turning to foreign currency deposits—not merely to attract savings, but to strengthen the country's external financial stability. "

Indian banks have recently intensified their efforts to attract foreign currency deposits, particularly from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). While these campaigns appear to be ordinary banking initiatives, they are closely linked to India's external sector management. At a time when global financial markets remain volatile, capital flows are becoming increasingly unpredictable, and geopolitical tensions continue to disrupt trade and investment, every additional dollar deposited in the Indian banking system strengthens the country's financial resilience. Unlike domestic rupee deposits, foreign currency deposits bring actual foreign exchange into the banking system. These deposits are generally mobilized through schemes such as Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) accounts, Resident Foreign Currency (RFC) accounts and Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) accounts. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permits banks to accept these deposits under carefully regulated conditions.

India's Foreign Exchange Requirement Is Massive:
India is among the world's largest import-dependent economies. During FY2024-25, the country's merchandise imports exceeded US\$720 billion, while exports were around US\$440 billion, resulting in a merchandise trade deficit of nearly US\$280 billion. Although services exports partially offset this imbalance, India still depends heavily on continuous

inflows of foreign exchange. The country imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements, making energy imports one of the largest consumers of foreign exchange. In addition, India imports electronics, semiconductors, machinery, defence equipment, fertilizers and precious metals. Consequently, maintaining an adequate supply of foreign currency has become a strategic necessity rather than merely a financial objective.

How Foreign Currency Deposits Benefit the Economy
The most immediate benefit is the strengthening of India's foreign exchange reserves. As of mid-2026, India's foreign exchange reserves remain close to US\$700 billion, making them among the largest in the world. Every additional dollar deposited in Indian banks contributes directly or indirectly to this reserve ecosystem, enhancing the country's ability to withstand external shocks. These deposits also improve the banking system's foreign currency liquidity. Indian banks require foreign currency to finance international trade, extend export credit, facilitate import payments and meet overseas borrowing requirements. When banks mobilize dollar deposits domestically, they become less dependent on borrowing from international financial markets, where borrowing costs can fluctuate sharply. A larger pool of foreign currency also enhances investor confidence. International credit rating agencies closely monitor a country's external liquidity position. Strong foreign exchange buffers reduce sovereign risk, improve macroeconomic stability and reassure foreign investors that India possesses sufficient resources to meet its external obligations.

Support for the Rupee
Foreign currency inflows increase the supply of dollars in the domestic market. This reduces pressure on the rupee during periods of heavy capital outflows or rising import bills. Although the RBI does not target any specific exchange rate, a comfortable supply of foreign exchange allows it to intervene when excessive volatility threatens financial stability. For an economy that imports large quantities of crude oil, even a modest depreciation of the rupee significantly

increases the domestic cost of imports. Therefore, stronger foreign currency deposits indirectly help moderate imported inflation.

Lower External Borrowing Costs:
Foreign currency deposits often prove cheaper than raising funds through international bond markets. During periods of elevated global interest rates, borrowing abroad becomes increasingly expensive. Domestic mobilization of dollar deposits provides banks with a relatively stable funding source without exposing them to excessive refinancing risks. This becomes especially valuable when advanced economies tighten monetary policy, making global capital more expensive and less accessible.

The Hidden Risks:
Despite their advantages, foreign currency deposits are not risk-free. The biggest concern is exchange rate risk. If the rupee depreciates sharply, banks may face higher costs while servicing these deposits unless they have adequately hedged their currency exposure. Effective risk management therefore becomes essential. Another challenge is concentration risk. A significant share of these deposits comes from NRIs, particularly those working in Gulf countries. Economic downturns, geopolitical conflicts or labour market disruptions in these regions could lead to sudden withdrawals, creating liquidity pressures. Interest rate competition also poses challenges. To attract foreign currency deposits, banks may offer higher interest rates. While this attracts depositors, it increases banks' funding costs and may compress profitability if lending opportunities do not generate sufficient returns.

Lessons from 2013
India has previously relied on foreign currency deposits during periods of financial stress. During the 2013 Taper Tantrum, when global investors rapidly withdrew capital from emerging markets, the RBI introduced a special FCNR(B) deposit scheme. Banks mobilized nearly US\$34 billion, helping stabilize the rupee and rebuild investor confidence. The episode demonstrated how foreign currency deposits can serve as an effective policy tool during external crises. However, it also highlighted an impor-

tant vulnerability. These deposits eventually mature. If large volumes mature simultaneously, banks must either repay them or roll them over, potentially creating refinancing pressures.

Can Foreign Currency Deposits Solve India's External Challenges?
The answer is no. Foreign currency deposits provide liquidity but do not eliminate structural external imbalances. Sustainable external stability ultimately depends on expanding exports, improving manufacturing competitiveness, reducing energy import dependence, attracting long-term foreign direct investment (FDI) and maintaining prudent macroeconomic policies. Foreign currency deposits should therefore be viewed as a supplementary instrument rather than a permanent solution. They strengthen financial resilience but cannot substitute for structural economic reforms. **The Road Ahead:** As global uncertainty continues to rise, India's strategy is increasingly focused on building multiple layers of external protection. Alongside foreign exchange reserves, bilateral currency swap arrangements, diversified export markets and stronger domestic production, foreign currency deposits have become another important pillar of external sector management. Their success, however, will depend on prudent regulation, careful currency risk management and sustained confidence among overseas Indians and international investors. When managed responsibly, foreign currency deposits can provide India with valuable financial flexibility. But if relied upon excessively, they may themselves become a source of vulnerability.



D. JAIRAM
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No Plan to Shift
Ambedkar's
Ashes:
Mahasabha
LUCKNOW: (JUN 29)

Amidst speculations about the relocation of the urn containing the ashes of Baba Saheb kept at the Ambedkar Mahasabha in Lucknow, the organisation on Monday said there is no such proposal. In a statement issued here, Ambedkar Mahasabha general secretary Amarnath Prajapati said, "There is no proposal to relocate the urn containing the ashes of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, which was installed at the Mahasabha by Mai Saheb Dr Savita Ambedkar. The urn will remain in its current location at the Dr Ambedkar Mahasabha."

65-Year-Old
Awarded Death
for Child Rape-
Murder
PUNE/MUMBAI

A special court on Monday sentenced a 65-year-old man to death for the kidnapping, rape, and murder of a three-year-old girl in a village in Pune district, saying the crime was "cruel, gruesome and brutal" and even the death penalty may not be adequate in the case. The verdict came within 60 days of the horrific crime that sparked widespread outrage and protests across Maharashtra. Terming the case "rarest of the rare", Additional Judge S R Salunkhe rejected the defence's plea for leniency based on age of the accused, Bhimrao Kamble, highlighting his history of violence and stated his depravity shocked the conscience of the judiciary and society.

MoU Signed Between Haryana and Rajasthan for Yamuna Water Project

MoU signed under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini expresses gratitude to Union Home Minister and Union Jal Shakti Minister
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29:

An agreement was signed between Haryana and Rajasthan on Monday regarding the Yamuna Water Project under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah. Union Jal Shakti Minister Sh. C.R. Patil, Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, and Rajasthan Chief Minister Sh. Bhajanlal Sharma were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that a series of meetings had been held between Haryana and Rajasthan under the chairmanship of Union



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, and Rajasthan Chief Minister, Sh. Bhajan Lal Sharma, exchanging the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Haryana and Rajasthan Government during a meeting presided by Union Home Minister, Sh. Amit Shah, at New Delhi on June 29, 2026. Union Jal Shakti Minister, Sh. C.R. Patil is also seen in the picture.

han will utilize the surplus rainwater available in Haryana between July and October through a dedicated pipeline for drinking water purposes. The agreement marks a significant step forward in the implementation of the project. He said that under the project, a pipeline will be laid from the Hathnikund Barrage to Rajasthan to facilitate the use of surplus water. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said it is a matter of great satisfaction, as ensuring the supply of water to those in need is a shared responsibility. He assured full cooperation from Haryana and stated that no obstacle would be allowed to hinder

the implementation of the project. The Chief Minister further said that prior to the signing of the MoU, various aspects of the project had been discussed in detail under the leadership of Union Jal Shakti Minister. The agreement was finalized after extensive deliberations on all related issues. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini expressed his gratitude to Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah, Union Jal Shakti Minister Sh. C.R. Patil, and Rajasthan Chief Minister Sh. Bhajanlal Sharma for facilitating the agreement. Haryana Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi and other dignitaries were also present in the meeting.

IJU Condemns Denial of Passport Renewal to Former Telegraph Editor R. Rajagopal

HYDERABAD / CHANDIGARH / VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 29:

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) has strongly condemned the deletion of the voter registration of former The Telegraph Editor R. Rajagopal and the subsequent refusal to renew his passport on the grounds that he no longer has voting rights, calling the actions a form of harassment. In a media statement issued on Monday, IJU National President Balwinder Singh Jammu, Secretary General D. Somasundaram, and National Vice-President Y. Narendra Reddy said they believe such actions are aimed at intimidating and silencing independent journalists who question those in power.

The IJU demanded the immediate renewal of Rajagopal's passport and the restoration of his voting rights. The union also extended its full support to the veteran journalist. R. Rajagopal has worked for more than three decades as a journalist with several leading national newspapers and later served as Editor of The Telegraph, published from Kolkata. During the recent Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, his name was deleted from the voters' list. Although Rajagopal submitted his matriculation certificate and other supporting documents, election authorities reportedly removed his name citing "discrepancies in the records," stating that his father's name did not appear in the



2003 electoral roll. As a result, Rajagopal was unable to exercise his franchise in the recent West Bengal elections. Later, when he applied for the renewal of his passport, the city police reportedly declined to issue the required police clearance certificate because his name was no longer on the electoral roll. Consequently,

his passport renewal was withheld, preventing him from attending his daughter's wedding in the United States in April. Rajagopal has appealed against the deletion of his name from the electoral roll, and the matter is currently pending before an Election Tribunal. The IJU noted that nearly 2.7 million similar appeals are pending before tribunals in West Bengal, with no certainty about when they will be resolved. The union described it as deeply disturbing that the citizenship credentials of a senior journalist of Rajagopal's stature have effectively come under question due to procedural issues. According to the IJU, the fact that a well-known journalist with a distinguished

career spanning over 35 years in mainstream national media has lost his voting rights highlights serious shortcomings in the SIR process. With his passport renewal also stalled, the consequences have extended beyond electoral rights to his civil status and freedom of movement. The union expressed concern that if such difficulties could be faced by a senior journalist, the plight of the nearly 2.7 million citizens awaiting justice before election tribunals would be even more severe. The Indian Journalists Union appealed to the Government of India and the Election Commission of India to immediately restore R. Rajagopal's voting rights and facilitate the renewal of his passport.

NFR Boosts Energy Savings with IoT Lighting

MALIGAON, 29 JUNE, 2026:



In a significant step towards enhancing energy efficiency and adopting smart technologies, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has implemented an advanced IoT-based tunnel lighting automation and energy monitoring system for Tunnel No. 9 at New Hafflong in the Lumding – Badarpur Hill Section. The initiative enables centralized supervision, remote operation and real-time energy monitoring through the IR Niyantrac platform, marking another milestone in NFR's efforts to modernize railway infrastructure and optimize energy consumption. As part of the project, smart metering infrastructure has been installed for tunnel lighting feeders and field devices have been successfully integrated with the IR Niyantrac platform. The system facilitates remote operation and monitoring of Tunnel No. 9 lighting installations, while providing live data on energy consumption and operational status. The automation ensures efficient utilization

of energy by enabling timely control and continuous monitoring of lighting systems. By enabling real-time monitoring of power consumption and system performance, the initiative will help optimize energy usage, reduce waste and promote sustainable practices. The implementation of the IoT-based tunnel lighting automation system is part of NFR's ongoing efforts to modernize its infrastructure and strengthen energy management across the network. Through such initiatives, Northeast Frontier Railway continues to reinforce its commitment to operational excellence, environmental sustainability and the creation of modern railway infrastructure, in line with Indian Railways vision of a smarter and greener future.

Mumbai Police Foil Alleged Mass Poisoning Bid During Muharram Procession

MUMBAI:

Mumbai Police have arrested 39-year-old Pune resident Fayyaz Premji for allegedly distributing capsules containing zinc phosphide, a highly toxic chemical commonly used in rat poison, during a Muharram (Ashura) procession in Byculla while claiming they were pain-relief or immunity capsules. According to police, around 11 people fell ill after consuming the capsules. They were admitted to hospital and are reported to be out of danger. Investigators recovered approximately 14,900 capsules and are probing evidence that the accused had ordered 30,000 empty capsules and nearly 50 kg of zinc phosphide. Police further allege that the accused confessed to planning to target 15,000 people. However, this claim remains under investigation and has not been established in court. Authorities are also examining whether the accused acted alone or as part of a larger conspiracy. No terror links have been officially confirmed at this stage. The investigation is ongoing.

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Canal Water to Reach Every Farm: Mann

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said on Monday that his government will lay 7,000 kilometres of pipelines by the end of this year to take canal water to every farm in the state. He said 14,000 kilometres of pipelines and watercourses have already been laid over the past four years to improve irrigation. Mann said around 80 per cent of Punjab's farms are already receiving 21,000 cusecs of canal water through these pipelines. He also said the government is creating water recharge points along canals and rivers, and claimed this has helped raise the groundwater level by two to four metres in several areas.

Addressing a Lok Milni programme in Moga district, Mann alleged that under previous regimes, canal water was meant only for influential people. He said his government was committed to ensuring that every farmer gets access to it. Amid the row surrounding him in recent days, the Chief Minister attacked opposition parties, saying they had joined hands against him after their defeat in the 2022



Assembly elections because they could not match his government's performance. He also alleged that previous governments had encouraged corruption, mafia activity and the drug trade. Mann said that under his

government, more than 90 per cent of households are getting free electricity and over 68,000 people have secured government jobs without paying a bribe or using influence. He said 3,100 sports stadiums have been built

to encourage young people to stay away from drugs. He said the government's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna offers cashless medical treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh to every resident family in Punjab, and added that people have already availed treatment worth over Rs 650 crore under the scheme. The Chief Minister also announced financial assistance for all adult women from July 1 under the Maavan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna, under which eligible women will receive Rs 1,000 a month and Scheduled Caste

women will get Rs 1,500 directly in their bank accounts. On the anti-drug campaign, Mann said his government's Yuth Nashean Viruddh initiative had helped break the drug supply network and led to many arrests. He also claimed that Punjab had secured the top position in primary and middle-school education, ahead of Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi, due to reforms such as smart classrooms and teacher training. During the programme, Mann announced a grant of Rs 51 lakh for the development of Bhallur village.

Cong's Venugopal asks Bengal leaders to strengthen party at grassroots level

KOLKATA: (Jun 29) Senior Congress leader K C Venugopal on Monday reviewed the party's organisational preparedness in West Bengal and asked state leaders to strengthen the party at the grassroots ahead of the forthcoming assembly by-elections and civic polls. Venugopal, the party general secretary (organisation), held separate meetings with district Congress committee presidents and members of the party's Political Affairs Committee during his

two-day visit to the state to assess its performance after the recent elections and discuss the prevailing political situation in West Bengal, a senior party leader said. The meetings were attended by AICC general secretary in-charge of West Bengal, Ghulam Ahmed Mir, AICC general secretary Deepa Dasmunshi, West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhankar Sarkar, AICC secretary Amba Prasad and other senior party functionaries.

Assam's artificial insemination drive gives major fillip to dairy sector: CM Sarma

GUWAHATI, JUNE 29

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the state government's large-scale artificial insemination programme is transforming the dairy sector by improving cattle breeds, boosting milk production and strengthening the rural economy. Highlighting the initiative in a social media post, the Chief Minister said the government has connected livestock farmers with modern dairy practices to ensure sustainable growth in animal husbandry. "Our government has launched a new initiative for rural prosperity by connecting local livestock farmers to modern dairy systems," Sarma said. He added that the state is steadily moving ahead in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat by modernising the livestock and dairy sectors. According to figures shared by the Chief Minister, the state carried out 6,71,826



artificial inseminations during 2025-26. The programme has resulted in the birth of 2,12,200 healthy calves, marking a significant milestone in Assam's efforts to improve cattle productivity and enhance farmers' incomes. The government said artificial insemination has emerged as a key intervention to strengthen the dairy value chain by enabling farmers to access superior cattle breeds with higher milk-yield potential. The initiative is also expected to reduce breeding costs, improve livestock health and create better livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Officials said the programme forms part of the

state's broader strategy to modernise the animal husbandry sector through scientific breeding, veterinary support and improved access to dairy infrastructure. The Chief Minister said the government's objective is to build a prosperous dairy sector capable of generating higher incomes for livestock rearers while meeting the growing demand for milk and dairy products in the state. Animal husbandry and dairy development have remained priority sectors for the Assam government, with several schemes being implemented to improve cattle productivity, encourage scientific farming practices and strengthen the rural economy. The state government believes that sustained investment in modern livestock management and scientific breeding techniques will play a crucial role in achieving self-reliance in milk production while contributing to rural prosperity and inclusive economic growth.

‘Farmers and soldiers are the lifeblood of nation; making agriculture profitable our resolve’

KOTA, JUNE 29

A farmers' workshop on natural farming was organised in Kota on Monday under the guidance of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Around 1,000 farmers participated in the workshop, gaining insights into modern techniques for increasing income through natural farming, low-cost and high-quality cultivation, improved productivity, agricultural marketing, animal husbandry and horticulture. On the occasion, a book on natural farming was released, and progressive farmers who had made outstanding contributions to the agricultural sector were felicitated. Addressing the workshop, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla began by saluting the farming community and raising the slogan, "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." He said, "Farmers within the country and soldiers guarding our borders are the lifeblood of the nation." He reaffirmed his commitment to improving the standard of living of farmers in the Had-

oti region and making agriculture a profitable enterprise. He emphasised that natural farming is an integral part of India's ancient agricultural heritage and stressed that reducing the excessive use of chemical fertilisers is essential for preserving soil fertility, protecting human health, conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. The Lok Sabha Speaker said that Hadoti's favourable climate, fertile soil and abundant water resources make it one of the country's most suitable regions for natural farming. He encouraged farmers to move beyond traditional cultivation by adopting multi-cropping, horticulture, fruit cultivation, beekeeping and animal husbandry to diversify their income and transform farming into a sustainable business enterprise. Highlighting Prime Minister Modi's farmer-centric vision, Birla said the Prime Minister had developed an exemplary irrigation model in Gujarat and expedited the completion of nearly 99 long-pend-



ing irrigation projects across the country to ensure water reached farmers' fields. He expressed confidence that key irrigation projects, including the ERCP and Parvan projects, would also be completed soon, providing long-term benefits to farmers across the region. Birla said the Hadoti region has immense potential for animal husbandry, which complements natural farming practices. He announced that efforts would be made to establish cold-storage facilities at the tehsil and panchayat levels to preserve green fodder for livestock. He further stated that coordination with Mother Dairy and Saras Dairy would be established to

facilitate the procurement of milk, fruits and vegetables from farmers and livestock owners at remunerative prices, enabling them to secure better returns and ensuring a steady increase in their income. The Lok Sabha Speaker said that modern marketing linkages are being developed to enable farmers in Hadoti to access real-time price information from major markets such as Delhi and Mumbai and sell their produce at competitive rates. He assured farmers that the government is committed to ensuring fair prices for agricultural produce so that no farmer incurs financial losses. He noted that Hadoti's climate is highly conducive to cultivating a wide variety of fruit crops, including mango, lemon, jamun and papaya. He encouraged farmers to develop orchards, use quality seeds and adopt diversified farming systems integrating crops, fruit trees, forestry and animal husbandry. He added that efforts would also be made

to establish food-processing units to generate additional income opportunities and promote economic self-reliance among farmers and women. Birla said the government is committed to ensuring that every eligible farmer receives the benefits of all welfare schemes. Farmers, he added, should not have to make repeated visits to government offices. Instead, the administration and concerned departments would proactively reach out to them to facilitate access to these schemes. Ladpura MLA Kalpana Devi said that if farmers implement the knowledge shared during the workshop, it would usher in a new era of agricultural transformation. She highlighted that Prime Minister Modi has launched numerous initiatives to empower farmers, women, youth and workers and make them self-reliant. Emphasising the vital contribution of women in agriculture, she referred to flagship initiatives such as Drone Didi and Lakhpati Didi.



Bangladesh: Report alleges political vendetta, weak accountability during Yunus tenure

DHAKA

The 18-month tenure of the former interim government in Bangladesh led by Muhammad Yunus remains deeply contentious, with critics accusing the then administration of pursuing a politics of vengeance marked by widespread arrests and prolonged detention of lawyers, politicians, journalists, academics, and political activists.

They have also questioned the absence of publicly available records detailing how many individuals were arrested, formally charged, or ultimately prosecuted during the period, a report has stated.

"One of the key promises of the interim government was to carry out comprehensive reforms of state institutions. Instead, critics contend that governance became increasingly dominated by unelected civil society figures – many of whom reportedly held foreign citizenships, an influential 'kitchen cabinet,' and other vested interests that exercised considerable influence without democratic accountability," according to a report in Bangladesh's newspaper 'Daily Sun'.

The report said that another major criticism of the interim administration was the alleged politicisation of state institutions. Citing critics, it noted that



the political instability during the interim period enabled the Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) to expand their influence within sections of the bureaucracy and other state institutions. Rather than improving governance, critics argue, the period was characterised by growing "patronage, self-aggrandisement, and corruption".

"These concerns have been reinforced by recent findings from Transparency International Bangladesh, which reported deterioration in corruption indicators during the interim

administration. Critics argue that, despite its promises of clean governance, the interim government itself operated with virtually no effective mechanisms of accountability. Unlike elected governments, its advisors were not subject to meaningful parliamentary oversight or public scrutiny," the report mentioned. According to the report, the signing of the US-Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade during the interim regime has sparked debate. While supporters view the pact as a significant step toward deepening bilateral economic ties, critics contend that it

primarily advances American strategic and commercial interests at the potential expense of Bangladesh's long-term economic sovereignty.

The report stressed that the deterioration in law and order emerged as perhaps the most visible source of public disappointment during the period.

"Mob violence became increasingly frequent, while groups identifying themselves as 'Tawhidi Janata' appeared to operate with growing confidence. Critics allege that the interim government failed to confront such groups decisively, creating an atmosphere where extra-legal actions became increasingly normalised and public confidence in law enforcement steadily declined," the Daily Sun report highlighted.

Many observers, it said, were equally concerned over the shrinking space for intellectual and cultural expression in Bangladesh during the tenure of the interim government. "Artists, academics, writers, and cultural organisations reportedly found themselves increasingly marginalised or reluctant to voice dissent. Rather than fostering pluralism, critics argue that the administration frequently used labels such as 'fascist' to discredit political opponents and silence legitimate criticism," the report added.

Iran-US technical talks not scheduled for this week, says Iran's deputy FM

TEHRAN

A senior Iranian diplomat said on Monday that technical talks between the working groups of Iran and the United States were not scheduled for this week, according to Iran's semi-official Fars news agency.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, made the remarks in an address to reporters, rejecting media reports that technical talks would be held in the Qatari capital Doha on Tuesday.

However, Gharibabadi, who heads Iran's delegation in the technical negotiations, said consultations were continuing with Qatar on relevant issues, including pursuing the U.S. fulfilment of obligations under the recently signed peace memorandum of understanding (MoU), Xinhua news agency reported. On June 22, the technical negotiations between Iran and the United States began in Switzerland. In an interview with state-run IRIB TV on Sunday, Mehdi Fazaeli, a member of the Office of Preservation and Publication of the Works of Iran's Supreme Leader, said the technical negotiations .



India-Bosnia and Herzegovina discuss advancing key bilateral initiatives

SARAJEVO

India's Ambassador Anshuman Gaur on Monday called on Bosnia and Herzegovina's Foreign Minister Elmedin Dino Konakovic and discussed advancing key bilateral initiatives.

"Ambassador Anshuman Gaur called on the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Dino Konakovic, today. Conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from EAM S Jaishankar," the Embassy of India, Budapest, representing India in Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina, wrote on X.

They held discussions on advancing key bilateral initiatives, with a particular focus on expanding trade and investment ties, movement of people and student exchange between India and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"We had highly productive discussions on advancing key bilateral initiatives, with a particular focus on expanding trade and investment ties, movement of people and student exchange between our two nations," the Embassy wrote on X. "Deeply appreciate the Minister's strong reiteration of the condemnation of

terrorism and extremism in all its forms. Grateful for the Minister's valuable guidance as we continue to further strengthen the warm and friendly relations between India and Bosnia and Herzegovina," it added.

In March, Additional Secretary (North Europe), Pooja Kapur, called on Foreign Minister Konakovic to advance bilateral discussions. "Strengthening the India-Bosnia and Herzegovina bond in Sarajevo! AS (North Europe) Ms. Pooja Kapur called on the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Elmedin Konakovic, to take forward bilateral discussions. She conveyed the warm wishes of EAM S Jaishankar," the embassy wrote on X. "The meeting underscored a shared commitment to elevating our partnership to new heights. From digital transformation to economic synergy, India and Bosnia and Herzegovina are ready to move forward together. The future of our cooperation looks brighter than ever!" it added. The Additional Secretary also met with the Foreign Ministry Secretary and the Head of the Asia and Africa Department. "A roadmap for growth across: Defence, Agriculture, Renewable Energy.



AI, digital platforms super-charging terrorist capabilities, says UN Chief

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sounded the alarm on Monday against emerging technologies "super-charging" terrorism and said better cooperation among countries can "close critical gaps". He said that in South Asia, "affiliates of Al-Qaida and Da'esh [Islamic State terror outfit] and other terrorist groups persist", as also in Africa and the Middle East, in threatening nations and people.

"Violent extremist narratives, including those based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, pose deadly domestic threats in many nations," he said. Issuing his warning about the growing threat, he said terrorists have grown adept at exploiting emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.



Pakistan sees rise in online sale of narcotics: Report

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has been witnessing a rise in online sale of narcotics in recent years with the digital transactions making it easier to access drugs. Youngsters in Pakistan are not only consuming drugs but are also being manipulated into becoming drug couriers, a report has detailed. Drugs traffickers are using technologies and global instability to introduce novel drugs and aggressively sell them in new markets, an editorial in leading Pakistani daily 'The News International' mentioned citing the World Drug Report 2026.

There has been a rise in new types of drugs in the market and some are reportedly more potent than before. Pakistan has also witnessed several cases of how drug networks are using these ways in recent years. The most prominent case among them is of drug dealer Anmol alias Pinky .

I am not anti-US, not kneeling: Giorgia Meloni

ROME

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Monday said that she is not anti-American but also not "kneeling", amid the recent controversy over US President Donald Trump's comments about the Italian PM.

"I am not anti-American today; I was not kneeling yesterday. I am a person who believes that the West is stronger united, who believes that Italy is stronger in a united West, and has worked and continues to work for this. After that, however, solid relationships are also based on frankness, and I am a frank person," Meloni said, speaking about Italy-US relations on '10 minuti' on Rete 4, Italian news agency



Adnkronos reported. Earlier this month, Italian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani announced the cancellation of

his planned visit to Miami for a business forum, after the controversy over Trump's comments on Meloni.

"The serious and offensive

words of President Trump towards Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni offend all of Italy. For this reason, I have decided to cancel my visit to the United States scheduled for the next 21 and 22 June," Tajani wrote on X.

Trump reportedly said in an exclusive phone interview with 'L'Aria che tira' on La7, David Parenzo's programme, that Giorgia Meloni "begged me to take a photo with her. She wanted a photo with me so badly. I might not have done it, but I felt sorry for her."

"How is your Prime Minister? How is she?", Trump asked the La7 correspondent, who in turn asked the American President for a comment on the conversation he had

with Meloni on the sidelines of the Evian summit. "She's probably happy I spoke to her. I wasn't obliged to speak to her," he replied.

Trump then stated that Europeans got everything wrong on energy and everything wrong on immigration, adding that if they do not solve these problems, Europe will never be the same. He further said that they probably will not be able to solve them, describing immigration as a disaster and energy, with all those wind turbines, as a disaster, according to the Adnkronos news agency.

As for Ukraine, Trump said that they only want peace, and as the United States, they are not involved in the European Union accession process.

China broadens transnational repression, targets global digital rights movement: Report

BERLIN

Despite being less reliant on Chinese investment and technology than many countries in the Global South, Europe remains vulnerable to Beijing's political pressure and influence campaigns.

Several incidents have underscored these concerns, including reports that in late 2025 Sheffield Hallam University in the UK sought to shut down its renowned forced-labour research programme after months of pressure from the Chinese authorities.

In Italy, the alleged harassment of a prominent Chinese dissident and social media activist, both online and offline, also prompted authorities to deport eight Chinese nationals, a report has stated. "Signs are mounting that the Chinese government is

expanding its transnational repression both in terms of tools and targets. The first half of 2026 has seen evidence of online and offline attempts to silence overseas critics that cross its political red lines. Only in May, an AI-generated harassment campaign against Europe-based human rights researcher Laura Harth, known for her work exposing China's overseas police stations, was made public," German think tank Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) mentioned.

"The campaign, which relied on misogynistic and sexualised images, shows how Beijing is incorporating generative AI into its transnational repression efforts, allowing new forms of scalable, personalised attacks aimed at damaging the reputation of critics abroad," it stated.

India emerges as Africa's arena for economic future: Report

NEW DELHI

The six-day working visit of South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile signalled that India is emerging as one of the key arenas where Africa will negotiate its economic future, strategic autonomy, and voice in a fragmenting world order, a report stated on Monday. "In New Delhi, Mashatile and his counterparts explicitly framed their talks as part of a project to 'advance the priorities of the Global South', from reforming multilateral lending rules to giving developing countries a greater say in global governance.

South Africa has already backed India's efforts to secure full membership for the African Union in the G20, a symbolic but important step that was lauded by President Cyril Ramaphosa when he hosted India's prime



minister last year," noted Abebe Bikila, Senior Research Fellow at the Global Trade and Economic Council (GTEC), while writing for the India Narrative.

Bilateral trade between India and South Africa reached 15-18 billion dollars in recent financial years, making South Africa India's single-largest trading partner on the African continent, and India-Africa trade overall crossed the 100-billion-dollar mark in 2024-25, up from 56 billion dollars just five years earlier. India is also one of the top five

investors on the continent.

"In this context, Mashatile's meetings with Indian business associations and corporations, delivering a keynote at the Global Trade and Technology Council of India and engaging with technology and pharma firms in Hyderabad, were about more than bilateral deal-making.

They were a pitch to position South Africa as India's 'gateway into Africa' under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a role Pretoria has begun to highlight more assertively," highlighted the report.

The India-South Africa Critical Minerals Symposium, held in March 2026 at the Future Africa campus of the University of Pretoria, brought together policymakers, geologists, and industry to explore cooperation on minerals such as manganese, chromium, rare earths.

India gains as US firms de-risk China: USISPF

WASHINGTON

India is emerging as a key beneficiary of American companies' efforts to reduce their dependence on China, with the shift gathering pace "in a very, very quiet manner", US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) President Mukesh Agni said on Monday.

"A classic example is Apple, which is now making most of the iPhone 17 and planning for the 18 in India," Agni said while opening the ninth USISPF Leadership Summit in Washington.

Agni said the broader India-US economic relationship continued to strengthen despite public attention on trade negotiations, expressing confidence that a bilateral trade agreement would further accelerate commercial ties.

"If you recall, the Prime Minister and the president agreed to take the trade to \$500 billion by 2030. And what we are seeing is

the trade between the two countries is going up and regardless of whether there is a trade deal or not. But I think with the trade deal, you'll see much more acceleration," he said.

He pointed to growing collaboration in critical and emerging technologies, saying both countries were deepening cooperation in sectors ranging from critical minerals to advanced technology.

"We also see tremendous partnership taking place on the technology side between the two countries. We just had a back-to-silicon meeting. We talk about critical minerals between the two countries as to how we collaborate and move forward," Agni said. He said India had also become an increasingly important hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), reflecting the confidence American companies had in the country's skilled workforce. "We are also seeing effort



put in by the US companies opening up more and more GCCs or Global Capability Centres in India. India now has around 2,800 Global Capability Centres and roughly 60 per cent are US companies leveraging the intellectual talent in India," Agni said.

Despite concerns surrounding tariffs and trade negotiations, Agni said the underlying trajectory of the relationship remained firmly positive. "We can hear about all the noise, but undercurrents are very strong moving in the positive direction," he said.

Agni also highlighted the growing influence of the Indian-American community in strengthening bilateral ties.

"When you look at the 5 million Indian Americans in the US, they're making roughly one and a half per cent of the population by generating almost 6 per cent of GDP in every aspect. They are taking the lead from technology... and other aspects of the US corporate environment," he said.

USISPF Chairman John T. Chambers said the India-US partnership had reached a point where both countries should think beyond incremental gains and pursue transformational cooperation. "It can't be trade over here, defence over here, semi-conductors over here. It's gotta be how do we think out of box," Chambers said, arguing that closer collaboration could generate significant economic growth for both countries. Chambers said

artificial intelligence would be central to the next phase of the partnership.

"AI will be at the heart of that. AI is the technology. It allows you to change everything," he said, urging participants to identify ways to deepen cooperation between the two democracies.

The summit brought together senior policymakers, diplomats and business leaders from both countries, including India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, US Ambassador to India, Sergio Goro, members of the US Congress, and executives from leading American and Indian companies.

Founded in 2017, the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum has become one of the leading platforms advancing commercial and strategic engagement between India and the United States. It regularly convenes government officials, industry leaders.

India strongly condemns Pakistan air strikes on Afghan territory

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday stated that India strongly condemns Pakistan's air strikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in several civilian casualties, including women and children.

"India strongly condemns Pakistan's air strikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in several civilian casualties, including women and children. This blatant act of aggression by Pakistan is an assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional peace and stability," stated the MEA.

"It reflects Pakistan's persistent pattern of reckless behaviour and its futile attempt to externalise internal failures through desperate acts of violence beyond its borders. India conveys its condolences to Afghan families that have lost loved ones, prays for early recovery of those injured and reiterates its unwavering support for Afghanistan's sovereignty

and territorial integrity," it added. At least 36 civilians, including women and children, were killed, while 163 others were injured in Pakistani military airstrikes in Afghanistan's Paktia, Paktika and Kunar provinces, Taliban Deputy Spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat confirmed on Monday.

Citing reports, Fitrat said the attacks carried out on Sunday night in the Gajan district of Paktika, Tsamkani district of Paktia and Manogai district of Kunar by Pakistani forces resulted in the death of 36 civilians and injuries to 163 others, as well as complete destruction of three residential houses. According to Fitrat, Pakistani forces' jets bombed a civilian residence in Mandokhail village of Tsamkani district, killing one elderly man and a child and injuring several members of the family.

He alleged that when local residents gathered to conduct rescue operations, the area was bombed for a second time, killing 28 villagers and injuring 158 others.

India, Saudi Arabia sign MoU on Cooperation in Water Resources

RIYADH

India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Suhel Khan and Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, signed an MoU on Cooperation in Water Resources at Saudi Water Week in Jeddah," the Embassy of India in Riyadh wrote on X.

According to the Embassy, the MoU aims to foster collaboration, strengthen capacity building, and facilitate the exchange of best practices in water resources planning, sustainable water management, irrigation systems, and other related areas. Consul General Fahad Suri was also present on the occasion.

Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, signed an MoU on Cooperation in Water Resources at Saudi Water Week in Jeddah," the Embassy of India in Riyadh wrote on X.

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India's external debt rises to USD 762.8 bn at end-March 2026: RBI

MUMBAI: (JUN 29)

India's total external debt stood at USD 762.8 billion at the end of March 2026, registering an increase of USD 26.3 billion over the year-ago period, according to the RBI data released on Monday. Valuation effect due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-à-vis the Indian rupee and other major currencies amounted to USD 24.6 billion, according to the data on 'India's External Debt as at the end of March 2026'. "Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by USD 51 billion instead of USD 26.3 billion at end-March 2026 over end-March 2025," the Reserve Bank of India said.

Industrial output grows 5.1 pc in May on manufacturing sector boost

NEW DELHI: (JUN 29)

India's industrial output growth accelerated to 5.1 per cent in May, mainly boosted by better performance of the manufacturing sector, according to government data released on Monday. The reading stood at 4.9 per cent in April. The latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP) figures for May under the new series are based on the output Producer Price Index (PPI) that provides a more granular price structure than the earlier used Wholesale Price Index (WPI) system, the National Statistics Office (NSO), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said in a release.

Central Bank of India opens its IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

NEW DELHI: (JUN 29)

Central Bank of India on Monday said it has opened its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The IBU was inaugurated by the bank's MD & CEO Kalyan Kumar marking a significant milestone in the bank's journey towards building a global banking presence, Central Bank of India said in a statement. Speaking on the occasion, Kumar said, the bank is committed to supporting India's growing integration with global financial markets and to serving the international aspirations of bank's existing and prospective customers, thereby aligning with the national vision of developing GIFT City as a leading global financial hub.

Markets snap winning streak as weak monsoon worries trigger profit booking

Benchmark indices ended lower on Monday, snapping their recent winning momentum as investors booked profits amid concerns over a weak monsoon, subdued first-quarter earnings expectations and uncertainty over the sustainability of the US-Iran peace agreement.

The BSE Sensex fell 372.10 points, or 0.48%, to close at 76,728.37, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 109.75 points, or 0.46%, to settle at 23,946.25.

The benchmarks had entered the session after registering their longest weekly winning streak of 2026, but gains made over the past few weeks prompted investors to lock in profits.

PROFIT BOOKING HALTS MARKET RALLY
Market sentiment remained



cautious despite easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and crude oil prices holding near multi-month lows.

According to market participants, much of the optimism surrounding lower oil prices, moderation in foreign investor selling and policy measures to support the rupee has already been factored into stock prices, leading to a pause in the recent rally.

The US and Iran agreed to halt attacks on each other and resume talks over the Strait of Hormuz dispute, offering some relief to global markets. However, investors chose to remain cautious amid uncertainty over the durability of the interim peace agreement.

PHARMA OUTER-FORMS AS DEFENSIVE BUYING EMERGES
Selling was broad-based across sectors. Auto stocks were among the biggest laggards, with the Nifty Auto index falling 2.08%. Nifty Mid-Small IT & Telecom dropped 2.20%, while the Nifty IT

index lost 1.07%. Media, oil & gas, PSU Bank and private bank indices also ended lower.

Defensive sectors bucked the trend. Nifty Pharma gained 1.03%, while the Nifty Healthcare index rose 0.94% as investors sought safety in sectors with stable earnings visibility. Among Sensex stocks, Kotak Mahindra Bank fell 3.24%, Mahindra & Mahindra declined 2.79%, Maruti Suzuki slipped 2.12% and IndiGo lost 2.05%. On the gaining side, Eternal rose 1.39%, while Trent and Bharat Electronics gained 1.34% each. Broader markets also ended in the red, with the Nifty Smallcap 100 declining 0.62% and the Nifty Midcap 100 falling 0.37%.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said profit booking continued near key psychological levels as investors remained cautious about the sustainability of the interim US-Iran peace agreement.

He said the market currently lacks a clear near-term direction, with expectations for the June-quarter earnings season remaining subdued due to supply constraints, persistent inflationary pressures and a weak monsoon outlook, factors that could weigh on corporate margins.

Nair added that defensive sectors such as pharma and healthcare outperformed because of their resilient demand profile and stronger earnings visibility.

He also noted that investors are awaiting the upcoming US non-farm payrolls data, which could influence the Federal Reserve's policy path. A moderation in FII outflows and a normalisation of the recent AI-driven rally in global markets could provide fresh support to Indian equities going forward.

India's nuclear industry offers \$210 billion investment opportunity: Report

MUMBAI, JUNE 29

India's nuclear industry is transitioning from a staled model to a more open, market-oriented ecosystem, driven by recent policy reform and rising demand for reliable, low-carbon power, according to a new report.

A white paper, titled "Unlocking India's Nuclear Sector: Commercial Opportunities Created by the SHANTI Act" released by consultancy firm YCP, points out that India has set a target of 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, more than 10 times its current base of 9 GW, requiring an estimated \$210 billion in capital. Achieving this level of growth will require a broader pool of capital and execution capacity than the public sector alone can provide. The nuclear sector offers an over multi-layered opportunity across the value chain, from large-scale grid-connected plants and captive industrial reactors to engineering and construction, component manufacturing, and advanced reactor development, the report states. It also underscores opportunities across generation, industrial applications, supply chains, and financing, positioning nuclear as a critical backbone of the energy transition, supporting grid stability and industrial decarbonization. The report examines the growing significance of nuclear energy investment in India in supporting long-term sector expansion. For decades, nuclear development was intentionally centralised, supported by public funding and domestic capabilities. While this approach established a strong foundation, it was not built to support rapid expansion at scale.



Drawing on global case studies, the white paper outlines key conditions for successful private participation, including revenue stability, clear liability frameworks, and regulatory strength. It also examines global lessons, such as the US' nuclear private ownership model and Canada's nuclear concession model. The report identifies remaining gaps in financing, execution, and policy clarity that will shape how quickly the sector can scale. "India's nuclear sector is moving from a strategic programme to a commercial platform," says Ankit Hoshing, Partner at YCP India. "The opportunity is clear, but its pace will depend on how quickly a viable investment ecosystem takes shape." The SHANTI Act (2025) represents a turning point. The legislation opens the door for private participation in nuclear power generation, allowing companies to own and operate assets while maintaining government control over strategically sensitive areas such as fuel cycles, enrichment, and waste management. The reform marks a major step in India's nuclear sector privatization efforts, the report states.

Gold price has crashed nearly Rs 50,000 from its peak. Will prices fall further?

Gold has slipped sharply from its MCX record high as investors reassess the US rate outlook. The fall has given buyers some relief, but volatility remains tied to inflation, oil and Federal Reserve signals.

Gold's spectacular rally has gone into reverse. After touching an all-time intraday high of Rs 1,92,991 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) earlier this year, the precious metal is now trading at around Rs 1,43,610, erasing nearly Rs 49,400 in value, a correction of about 26%.

The sharp fall has left investors and jewellery buyers wondering whether the worst is over or if gold prices could decline even further.

WHY DID GOLD RISE TO RECORD HIGHS?

Gold surged to record levels earlier this year as investors rushed to safe-haven assets amid rising geopolitical tensions, concerns over global economic growth and expectations that major central banks would begin cutting interest rates. Escalating tensions in West Asia, central bank purchases and a weaker US dollar also helped fuel the rally, taking gold to an unprecedented high on the MCX.

However, those factors have now taken a back seat.

WHY ARE GOLD PRICES FALLING?



The biggest reason behind the correction is the changing outlook for US interest rates.

Markets now expect the US Federal Reserve to keep borrowing costs higher for longer, with traders pricing in three rate hikes this year and nearly an 80% chance of another increase in December.

Higher interest rates reduce the appeal of gold because the precious metal does not generate any income. As bond yields rise, investors tend to shift money away from gold and towards interest-bearing assets. The US dollar has also strengthened, making gold more expensive for overseas buyers and adding further pressure on prices.

Gold is now headed for its fourth consecutive monthly decline, with international prices expected to end the month more than 10% lower.

GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS AREN'T HELPING THIS TIME

Normally, geopolitical tensions boost demand for gold as investors seek safer

assets.

But this time, the market has been more focused on the inflationary impact of the conflict than on the conflict itself.

Fresh military strikes between the US and Iran over the weekend briefly pushed crude oil prices higher. However, hopes that Washington and Tehran will continue diplomatic talks over the Strait of Hormuz have limited safe-haven buying.

Instead, higher oil prices have reinforced concerns that inflation could remain elevated, increasing the likelihood that the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates high.

WILL GOLD PRICES FALL FURTHER?

According to Axis Securities, gold managed to recover modestly after the latest US PCE inflation data broadly matched market expectations. However, the brokerage said the precious metal remains under pressure as the Federal Reserve continues to maintain a hawkish stance, supporting the US dollar.

Dr. Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont, said gold has now declined for four consecutive weeks and is down nearly 30% from its January 2026 all-time high internationally.

"The hawkish stance of the US Federal Reserve, inflation remaining above target and expectations of three rate hikes this year continue to be the biggest headwinds for non-yielding assets like gold," she said.

She added that while the recent US-Iran conflict briefly revived safe-haven demand, the rebound was short-lived as investors shifted their focus back to inflation and monetary policy.

Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, also attributed the weakness to easing geopolitical tensions.

"The recent easing of US-Iran tensions contributed to the sell-off, as investors shifted their focus to economic indicators that could influence the Federal Reserve's policy in the coming weeks," he said.

Analysts believe the next move in gold will largely depend on US economic data and the Federal Reserve's policy trajectory.

Dr. Chainani said investors should closely watch this week's US non-farm payrolls report and ISM Manufacturing PMI data.

"A meaningful cooling in labour market conditions or softer-than-expected inflation could provide relief to gold and potentially push prices towards the \$4,100-\$4,150 range. However, a strong jobs report could see gold retest the key \$4,000 support level," she said.

According to her, COMEX gold has immediate support between \$3,950 and \$4,000. If prices fall below that range, gold could decline further towards \$3,600. On the upside, resistance is expected around \$4,250.

Tim Waterer, Chief Market Analyst at KCM Trade, believes gold could revisit the \$5,000-an-ounce mark later this year, but only if oil prices retreat to pre-conflict levels, inflation concerns ease and the US dollar weakens.

WHAT SHOULD BUYERS DO?
For jewellery buyers, the nearly Rs 50,000 correction from the peak has brought some relief after months of record-high prices.

However, analysts caution that gold is likely to remain volatile in the near term as markets react to developments in the Middle East, upcoming US economic data and the Federal Reserve's interest-rate decisions.

For long-term investors, gold continues to serve as a hedge against uncertainty. But in the short term, its direction will largely depend on whether inflation cools enough for the Federal Reserve to soften its stance or whether interest rates stay higher for longer.

VGRC Meet Enhances Gujarat-Ukraine Cooperation

VADODARA, JUNE 29

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday held a one-to-one meeting with Ukraine's Ambassador to India, Dr Oleksandr Polishchuk, during the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) for Central Gujarat, with discussions focusing on expanding cooperation in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, renewable energy and green hydrogen.

The meeting took place on the opening day of the two-day conference in Vadodara, which has brought together diplomats, investors, policymakers and industry leaders from partner countries to strengthen international partnerships and promote investment opportunities across the region.

According to the state government, Patel and the Ukrainian envoy discussed the potential for a strategic partnership in sectors where Gujarat has developed significant industrial capabilities. Referring to the state's progress in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, renewable energy and green hydrogen, the Chief Minister invited Ukrainian industries to collaborate with Gujarat, describing the state as a "reliable Indian partner" for investment and industrial cooperation. During the meeting, Patel also expressed appreciation for Ukraine's continued participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference initiative. The Chief Minister thanked Ukraine for being a partner country in all four editions of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conferences held so far and said: "he was

confident that the growing relationship between Gujarat and Ukraine would contribute to long-term prosperity for both sides". The discussions formed part of a series of bilateral engagements held alongside the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, designed to deepen international cooperation while showcasing investment opportunities across Central Gujarat's manufacturing and industrial sectors. The conference is attended by representatives from partner countries, including Ukraine, Japan, Rwanda, and Ireland, alongside business delegations, industry associations, and government officials. It also features sector-specific discussions and a trade exhibition highlighting Gujarat's strengths in manufacturing, technology, MSMEs, startups, women-led enterprises and traditional industries. The Central Gujarat edition of the conference focuses on sectors including pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and electronics, information technology and IT-enabled services, biotechnology, chemicals and petrochemicals, aerospace and defence, renewable energy, food processing, fintech, skill development and tourism. Senior state government officials also attended the bilateral meeting with the Ukrainian delegation, including Chief Secretary M. K. Das; Chief Adviser to the Chief Minister, Dr Hasumukh Adhia; Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries Department, Mamta Verma; Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Sanjeev Kumar; and Additional Principal Secretary Dr Vikrant Pandey.

Trainer aircraft crash-lands in Uttar Pradesh; lady trainee pilot safe: DGCA

NEW DELHI: (Jun 29) A trainer aircraft crash-landed in a field in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, and the 28-year-old lady trainee pilot who operated the plane is safe, according to aviation watchdog DGCA. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) is investigating the incident. "Chetak Aviation Cessna 152 aircraft VT-AFB engaged in solo flying at Ali-garh has crash landed in a field in Kasganj. She (trainee pilot) is reported to be safe," the regulator said in a statement.

MEDICOVER HOSPITALS FELICITATES PADMA BHUSHAN DR. NORI DATTATREYUDU

HYDERABAD, 29 JUNE 2026:

Medicover Hospitals, Financial District, Hyderabad, hosted a felicitation ceremony this evening to honour eminent Indian-American radiation oncologist Dr. Nori Dattatreyyudu, who was conferred the Padma Bhushan — India's third-highest civilian award — by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 24 June 2026.

The event brought together senior clinicians and the Medicover Oncology Consultants team for a felicitation followed by an interactive session on advancements in oncology and the evolving landscape of cancer care in India.

Dr. Nori Dattatreyyudu, born in Mantada village, Krishna district, Andhra

Hyderabad honours Telugu oncology legend days after investiture at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Pradesh, completed his medical education at Kurnool Medical College and postgraduate studies at Osmania Medical College. He went on to build a distinguished career at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York before serving as Professor and Chairman of Radiation Oncology at the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital / Weill Cornell Medical College. Widely regarded as a pioneer in brachytherapy, he is credited with developing techniques that have significantly improved survival outcomes for cancer patients globally. He received the Ellis Island Medal of Honour in 2014, the Padma Shri in 2015, and played a founding role in establishing the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute in Hyderabad.



bad. He currently serves as Advisor to the Government of Telangana on Preventive, Curative and Affordable Cancer Care. Speaking at the felicitation, Dr. A. Sharath Reddy said: "Dr. Nori Dattatreyyudu is not just an institution in oncology — he is a bridge between what Indian medicine can aspire to and what it can actually

achieve. His journey from Krishna district to Weill Cornell, and his deliberate choice to give back to Hyderabad's cancer care ecosystem, is a message every young oncologist needs to hear. The Padma Bhushan is well deserved, and this recognition belongs equally to the patients and the discipline he has devoted his

life to." Speaking on behalf of the Medicover Oncology Consultants team, Dr. Rigved Nittala said: "For those of us working in oncology today, Dr. Nori's career is a reference point — not just for clinical excellence but for what sustained commitment to a discipline looks like over decades. The interactive session this evening was a reminder that the field has transformed enormously, but the fundamentals he championed — precision, patience, and putting the patient first — remain unchanged. We are privileged to have had this opportunity to learn from him and to celebrate a son of Telugu soil who has made a global impact."

Reflecting on the occasion, Dr. Nori Dattatreyyudu said: "Hyderabad has always held a special place for me. The work we did at

Basavatarakam, and the conversations I continue to have with the Telangana government on making cancer care accessible and affordable, remind me that the most meaningful part of medicine is not what happens in world-class centres abroad — it is what reaches the patient who would otherwise have had no access. I am grateful for this recognition and for the warmth of the city that has always felt like home." The evening concluded with a vote of thanks and dinner.

About Medicover Hospitals

Medicover Hospitals is one of India's leading multi-speciality hospital chains, with a presence across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. The Financial District, Hyderabad unit is a centre of excellence for oncology, among other specialities



Palace Stays Open Amid £369M Revamp

Planning a trip to London often conjures up images of red double-decker buses, historic stone alleyways, and, at the very top of most travel itineraries, the grand facade of Buckingham Palace. For centuries, this iconic building has served as the ultimate symbol of the British monarchy, drawing millions of global travelers eager to glimpse the lifestyle of royalty. If you are mapping out a journey to London for the summer of 2026, you might have heard whispers about a massive, decade-long refurbishment project taking place behind those famous gilded gates. It is natural to wonder if a £369 million construction zone will put a damper on your vacation plans. Fortunately, the short answer is a resounding no. Buckingham Palace is officially opening its doors to the public this summer. Palace officials have carefully structured the ongoing renovations to ensure that your experience inside the historic State Rooms remains completely seamless, uninterrupted, and spectacular.

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The £369 Million Overhaul: Why a Decade-Long Renovation Was Vital

To understand why such a massive project is underway, it helps to look beneath the ornate plasterwork and historic tapestries. Buckingham Palace is essentially a massive historic machine, and by the mid-2010s, its internal systems were dangerously outdated.

The current 10-year re-servicing programme first kicked off in April 2017 and is steadily marching toward its final completion date in 2027. This isn't a cosmetic facelift to make the palace look shinier; instead, it is a critical, deep-infrastructure rescue mission.

Before this project began, much of the building's essential backbone—including miles of electrical cabling, delicate plumbing networks, and heavy-duty heating systems—had not been comprehensively updated since the 1950s. Decades of patchwork repairs meant that the risk of catastrophic electrical fires or devastating water pipe bursts was growing every year.

By investing £369 million into replacing these aging utilities, the project is actively safeguarding the historic structure itself and protecting the priceless Royal Collection artwork, furniture, and textiles housed within its walls for generations to come.

A New Era: King Charles and the Future of the Palace
The ongoing construction work isn't just changing the physical pipes of the building—it is also reshaping royal tradition. Historically, Buckingham Palace has served as the official primary residence of the British monarch for nearly two centuries, a tradition stretching back to Queen Victoria's accession.

However, reports indicate a significant shift in how the palace will be utilized moving forward. Once the final scaffolding comes down and the refurbishment project officially wraps up next year, King Charles does not plan to move into Buckingham Palace full-time. Instead, the landmark will transition into more of a grand working headquarters and an administrative hub, bringing a fascinating end to a long-standing era of royal domestic life in central London.

Will the Scaffolding Ruin Your Tour?

The scale of a ten-year construction project sounds intimidating, but the Royal Household handles tourist season with meticulous precision. To keep the visitor experience magical, all disruptive refurbishment work is completely paused between July and September.

Because the heavy machinery falls silent during these peak travel months, you won't have to worry about the din of jackhammers drowning out your audio guide. The annual summer exhibition continues exactly as planned, allowing you to walk the exact same pathways as world leaders and royalty without feeling like you are navigating a construction site.



Navigating the 2026 Summer Schedule

Because Buckingham Palace remains a fully functioning workplace, the general public is traditionally invited inside only during the weeks when senior members of the Royal Family travel away for their annual summer holidays.

Key Dates for Your Calendar

For the 2026 season, the majestic State Rooms will officially welcome visitors from **9 July through 27 September**. This roughly eleven-week window represents the only time during the year when you can wander through the heart of the palace independently. Outside of this summer window, access is limited to highly exclusive, pre-booked guided tours on select dates throughout the winter and spring.

Operating Hours & Timing

During the peak months of July and August, the palace operates on an extended daily schedule:

- Opening Time: 9:30 AM
- Closing Time: 7:30 PM
- Last Admission Slot: 5:15 PM

A Note on Pacing: A thorough visit to the palace typically requires two to two-and-a-half hours. You will want to budget plenty of time, especially for the final portion of the tour, which leads you out through the private royal gardens.

Inside the State Rooms:

What to Expect

The summer tour centers on the 19 public-facing State Rooms. These spaces form the public heart of the palace, designed specifically to shock and awe visiting dignitaries during official state visits, investitures, and ceremonial receptions.

As you move from room to room, you will walk beneath glittering crystal chandeliers, marvel at masterfully carved marble fireplaces, and find yourself surrounded by historic treasures from the Royal Collection. The walls are lined with

priceless paintings by legendary artists like Rembrandt, Rubens, and Canaletto, while the rooms are styled with some of the finest English and French antique furniture in existence.

Essential Ticket Prices and Booking Strategies

Due to the immense popularity of the summer opening, entry to Buckingham Palace is managed through a strict, timed-ticketing system. Admission slots open up every 15 minutes throughout the day to keep the foot traffic moving smoothly and prevent the grand galleries from becoming overly congested.

Standard Advance Ticket Pricing

Securing your tickets online ahead of time is the best way to guarantee entry and save money. The advanced ticket prices for the 2026 State Rooms tour are structured as follows:

Pro Booking Tips

While same-day tickets are sometimes available at the palace ticket office on the morning of your visit, relying on them is a gamble. Not only do they sell out incredibly fast during the peak summer months, but they also carry a **£2.00 to £4.00 price premium** per ticket compared to booking online.

When your travel date arrives, aim to show up precisely at your allocated timeslot. Arriving too early can cause crowding at the gates, while arriving late may result in you missing your entry window entirely.

Dressing for the Occasion and Navigating the Grounds

When visiting a royal residence, travelers often worry about what to pack. You will be glad to know that there is **no formal dress code** required to step inside the palace. The environment is accessible, welcoming, and relaxed, though visitors are naturally expected to dress with basic decorum. Neat, casual clothing is perfectly acceptable. The most

important wardrobe decision you will make involves your footwear. While you will be walking across plush carpets inside the State Rooms, the final leg of the tour guides you out through the palace gardens along a **half-kilometer gravel pathway**. To avoid sore feet or tripped steps on the gravel, leave the high heels or brand-new leather shoes back at the hotel and opt for broken-in, comfortable walking shoes.

Security Screening and Bag Restrictions

To protect the Royal Family, the public, and the historic artifacts inside, entering Buckingham Palace involves undergoing an airport-style security screening. You will pass through a metal detector, and any bags you bring will be scanned via an X-ray machine.

To make this process as fast and stress-free as possible, try to travel light and carry only the bare essentials for the day.

Strictly Prohibited Items

- Certain large or hazardous items are completely banned from the palace grounds entirely. You will not be permitted past security if you are carrying:
- Oversized luggage or large backpacks
- Drones or professional recording gear
- Bicycles, e-scooters, or skateboards

Mandatory Cloakroom Check-Ins

There are several items that you are allowed to bring to the gate but must hand over to the security team for complimentary safekeeping during your tour. These items can be reclaimed as you exit into the gardens:

- Standard strollers, prams, and pushchairs (the indoor route features steps and historic flooring, making them impractical inside)
- Long, pointed umbrellas
- Small scissors, pocket knives, or multi-tools
- Sealed alcoholic beverages

Backpack Etiquette: If

you are carrying a small, permissible daypack, you will be required to carry it in your hand or wear it on your front rather than on your back while inside the State Rooms to prevent accidentally bumping into historic wall coverings or delicate statues.

Strict Rules on Photography and Mobile Devices

In our modern social media age, it is incredibly tempting to want to document every square inch of your travels. However, you must keep your camera tucked away for the first half of your journey. Photography, video recording, and filming are strictly prohibited inside the interior rooms of Buckingham Palace. This rule is strictly enforced by palace wardens to protect the security of the building and the copyright of the Royal Collection. Mobile phones must be switched to silent mode, and making phone calls while walking through the galleries is discouraged to keep the atmosphere peaceful for everyone. The good news is that once your indoor tour concludes and you step out onto the West Terrace facing the expansive back lawns, you are completely free to take as many personal, non-commercial photographs and videos as your heart desires. The palace exterior and the manicured gardens provide a stunning backdrop for travel photos.

Restrooms, Accessibility, and Family Care Facilities

Because the State Rooms are historical architectural spaces, installing modern plumbing inside the galleries without damaging the structural integrity is impossible. Consequently, there are no restroom facilities available at the start or during the middle of the tour route.

All public restrooms, accessible toilets, and dedicated baby-care changing facilities are located grouped together out in the garden area at the very end of the visitor path. It is highly

recommended that you plan around this layout, particularly if you are traveling with young children or elderly relatives.

For visitors managing physical disabilities or mobility limitations, the Royal Collection Trust provides tailored assistance. Because the historic route involves navigating several staircases, it is best to get in touch with the palace's specialist access team well in advance of your booking date. They can arrange step-free access routes, wheelchair loans, or alternative entrance paths to ensure your visit is smooth and comfortable.

Dining at the Palace: The Garden Cafe and Treats

Outside of a personal bottle of water, eating and drinking are completely prohibited inside the historic State Rooms. However, the palace rewards your steps with an excellent dining experience at the very end of the tour.

The Garden Cafe on the West Terrace

Once you step outside onto the sweeping stone terrace, you can grab a table at the seasonal Garden Cafe. This pop-up eatery overlooks the vast palace lawns and the picturesque central lake, giving you the rare opportunity to relax in a space normally reserved for exclusive royal garden parties. The menu features a curated selection of:

- Light lunch options and fresh artisan sandwiches
- Traditional British scones, cakes, and pastries
- Premium coffees, specialty teas, and chilled soft drinks
- Elegant afternoon tea sets

The Garden Path Ice Cream Stand

If you are visiting on a particularly warm summer afternoon and prefer to keep moving, keep an eye out for the artisanal ice-cream stand positioned further down the garden path. It is the perfect sweet reward after a long afternoon of walking and soaking in British history.

Smoking, Vaping, and Pet

Policies

To ensure the safety of the historic building and the comfort of all patrons, Buckingham Palace enforces a zero-tolerance policy regarding smoking. This ban includes traditional cigarettes as well as all forms of e-cigarettes and vapes. The restriction covers the entirety of the indoor State Rooms, the West Terrace dining areas, and all outdoor garden pathways.

Additionally, everyday pets are not permitted inside the palace gates or within the surrounding private parklands. The only exceptions made to this rule are for fully certified guide dogs and official assistance animals helping visitors with disabilities.

A Living, Breathing Piece of History

It is easy to look at a historic building like Buckingham Palace and view it purely as a museum, but it remains a deeply active, working monument. During the 2023–2024 tourism window alone, the palace successfully welcomed over 530,000 visitors through its doors, balancing massive crowds alongside its daily administrative duties and state functions. The current £369 million reservicing project is a powerful testament to the delicate balance required to preserve centuries-old architecture while still welcoming the modern world inside. The fact that the palace can undergo a massive, multi-million-pound engineering overhaul without disrupting the timeless magic of the summer tourist opening is a feat of modern logistics. As you book your tickets, slip on your most comfortable walking shoes, and step past the security checkpoint this summer, you aren't just taking a standard sightseeing tour. You are stepping directly into a living piece of British history that is actively evolving, modernizing, and preparing itself to stand tall for centuries to come.



Thailand's New 'Pay Like A Local' Initiative Lets Tourists Scan QR And Pay

For travellers from various Asian countries planning a trip to Thailand, your holiday just got a lot more convenient. In a major boost for international tourism, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, has rolled out Cross-Border QR Payment under its new “Pay Like a Local” campaign. The initiative allows eligible foreign travellers to make payments across Thailand using the same mobile banking apps or e-wallets they already use back home.

What Is Cross-Border QR Payment?

Cross-Border QR Payment is a system that lets international travellers use their own country's supported banking apps or digital wallets to pay in Thailand by scanning a QR code. From grabbing a plate of pad thai at a street market to shopping for souvenirs, paying for a taxi, or dining at a beachside restaurant, tourists can simply scan a QR code and pay in seconds. Instead of carrying large amounts of cash, searching for ATMs, or constantly exchanging currency, visitors can simply open their banking app, scan the merchant's QR code, and confirm the payment, and they're done. It works much like paying for coffee or groceries back home, making the experience familiar and hassle-free.

How Does The System Work?

When shopping or dining at a participating business, travelers simply open their supported banking application or e-wallet on their phone. They scan the merchant's QR code, check the amount, approve the payment, and the transaction is completed digitally. The payment is securely processed through participating banks and payment partners. Travel habits have changed dramatically over the past few years. Many visitors, especially from East Asia, now rely almost entirely on digital payments in their daily lives. Recognising this shift, Thailand wants to make sure travellers enjoy the same convenience while on holiday. According to the Tourism

Authority of Thailand, the initiative also helps modernise the country's tourism industry and creates new business opportunities for local operators. Thailand is encouraging businesses across the tourism sector to adopt the system. Visitors will increasingly find QR payment options at tourist attractions, restaurants, malls, souvenir shops, hotels, and other participating merchants across the country. Currently, Cross-Border QR Payment is available for travellers using supported banking apps and e-wallets from: Thailand has also announced that the programme will continue expanding, meaning more countries are expected to be added in the future.

Good News For Local Businesses Too

The initiative also benefits thousands of Thai businesses. By accepting Cross-Border QR Payments, restaurants, shops, hotels, and tourist attractions can serve international visitors more easily. Small businesses could also see more customers as paying becomes easier for foreign tourists. The project is being led by the Bank of Thailand in partnership with eight major banks. The initiative is also supported by National ITMX, Alipay, WeChat Pay, and UnionPay, ensuring smooth and secure payment processing. Thailand has always been one of the world's favourite holiday destinations, known for its beaches, temples, food, nightlife, and warm hospitality. Now, it's becoming one of the easiest places to travel cash-free as well.

Mumbai Could Soon Get India's First Seven-Star Floating Hotel Near Nariman Point



Mumbai could soon be home to one of the most luxurious and unique hospitality projects the country has ever seen. The ambitious waterfront redevelopment project at Cuffe Parade has crossed an important milestone after the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) recommended it for Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance. The proposal submitted by Rashmi Developments Private Limited aims to completely reimagine a part of Mumbai's waterfront by creating a premium marina complex that serves both tourists and residents. The idea is to make better use of Mumbai's long coastline while also offering an alternative to the city's overcrowded roads and packed local trains. According to Hindustan Times, water transport is expected to play a major role in the project, making travel faster for some commuters while also creating a brand-new attraction for visitors. A Seven-Star Floating Hotel The highlight of the proposal

is undoubtedly the spectacular seven-star floating hotel. This luxury property is planned to be anchored nearly two nautical miles off Nariman Point, giving guests breathtaking views of Mumbai's skyline and the Arabian Sea. The floating hotel is expected to feature nearly 520 luxurious rooms, a massive 1,530-seat theatre, several fine-dining restaurants, luxury lounges, entertainment spaces, and premium hospitality services. Arriving at the hotel by speedboats, helicopters, or seaplanes could make checking-in feel like an adventure. The marina is planned as a vibrant lifestyle destination. Plans include a modern yacht club, executive lounges, conference facilities for business events, art galleries, exhibition spaces, cafés, restaurants, premium shopping outlets, and a pier with berthing facilities, Hindustan Times reported. The proposal also includes a helipad, along with dedicated areas for seaplanes and future Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft.



WORLD CUP SEMIS

'We haven't had our best match yet': Matthews backs WI to rise



LONDON: West Indies captain Hayley Matthews believes her side still has another level to reach as they prepare to face World No. 1 Australia in the semifinals of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, insisting the Caribbean side will need their biggest stars to deliver if they are to upset the tournament favourites. Australia head into Tuesday's match at The Oval in strong form, having won all four of their group-stage games. They finished the group with a record run chase in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup against India at Lord's. West Indies took a much more dramatic path to reach the semifinals. They started the tournament with three straight wins, but then lost to England and Ireland. This left their future uncertain until England's win over New Zealand secured their place in the semi-finals. Matthews has scored 115 runs in five innings so far. She acknowledged that she has not yet played her best cricket but believes the Windies still have a lot of potential.

New Zealand crush England by 160 runs to clinch Test series in Ben Stokes' farewell



NOTTINGHAM

New Zealand sealed a memorable Test series triumph over England with a commanding 160-run victory in the third and deciding Test at Trent Bridge on Monday, spoiling Ben Stokes' final appearance in international cricket and condemning the hosts to their first home defeat in a Test series of three matches or more since 2012.

Chasing a tough target of 373, England got bowled out well short after starting the final day at 103/4. They had already wasted much of their chance with a careless batting collapse late on day four. New Zealand had scored 438 in their first innings and then bowled out England for 354. Enjoying a lead of 85 runs, the Black Caps declared at 288/9 in their second innings, leaving England to chase a massive target.

This loss marked England's seventh defeat in their last nine Tests. It will likely increase the criticism of the bold 'Bazball' style that has characterised the team over the past four years.

Fans expected to see Stokes deliver one last classic performance after announcing his retirement on the fourth afternoon. Instead, the sparse crowd at Trent

Bridge, which received free tickets, only saw Jamie Smith's determined half-century as England's innings ended weakly.

England's struggles began the night before when Stokes was out after scoring a quick 30 off 20 balls. Jacob Bethell went out for a duck, Harry Brook made 21 off just nine balls, and Ben Duckett added 36 off 42. This left the hosts with a steep task overnight.

New Zealand's players could hardly believe England's approach. Stump microphones picked up the visitors asking, "What are they doing?" after Brook lost his wicket with an ill-advised shot to deep fine leg. England's slim hopes rested on Joe Root, but they quickly faded on the final morning. Nathan Smith, who ended the series as the top wicket-taker with 16 wickets, first dismissed Emilio Gay for 10 after finding the outside edge.

Just four balls later, Root's fight ended when Henry Nicholls made a brilliant direct-hit run out while losing his balance, sending the former England captain back for 18. Jamie Smith and Gus Atkinson briefly delayed the inevitable with a stubborn 75-run partnership for the seventh wicket. Smith played aggressively, hitting a great straight six off Mitchell Santner during his innings of 60 from

90 balls. Atkinson batted for 70 balls to score 19. Their partnership temporarily lowered the target below 200 before Santner trapped Atkinson lbw just before lunch.

New Zealand faced a brief challenge when paceman Will O'Rourke hurt his hamstring midway through the morning session, adding to an already weakened pace attack, but the visitors stayed in control. After lunch, England's lower order collapsed quickly. Jofra Archer edged behind, and Josh Tongue was brilliantly run out by Santner shortly after Smith reached his fifty from 87 balls with three consecutive boundaries. The wicket-keeper-batter eventually holed out in the deep off Santner, ending the match and the series.

The victory capped an impressive overall performance from New Zealand. Their disciplined bowling, sharp fielding, and steady batting proved too much for England throughout the three-Test series.

For England, the loss not only marked a disappointing end to Stokes' brilliant international career but also raised new questions about the team's approach following a dramatic decline, losing seven of their last nine Test matches.



2026 FIFA WC: Martinelli's late winner helps Brazil advance with 2-1 win over Japan

HOUSTON

Gabriel Martinelli scored the winner in the final minute of the stoppage time as five-time champions Brazil overcame a fighting Japan for a last-gasp 2-1 win and advance to the pre-quarterfinals with a thrilling comeback in the 2026 FIFA World Cup at the Houston Stadium in Houston on Monday.

The Round of 32 clash looked set for extra time as both teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time and the start of six minutes of added time. But Martinelli had other ideas as he came up with a superb conversion in the final minute of the match, and Brazil, the most successful team in the tournament, sailed through to the next round.

In their first knockout match in this edition of the World Cup, Carlo Ancelotti's Brazil fought back from a goal deficit to emerge victorious with a last-ditch goal and will now travel to New York for their next opponent.

Kaishu Sano put Japan ahead in the 29th minute, before Casemiro pulled Brazil level in the 56th minute. Martinelli then wove his magic, sealing victory and triggering wild celebrations among the fans of the team ranked sixth in the latest FIFA Rankings.

Brazil had 55 per cent possession and unleashed 19 shots on goal, compared to five by Japan. They had seven shots on target as compared to only two by their opponent. They put up a superb defence against a side that went all out and held the upper hand in the first half.

It took a fantastic second-half fightback for

Ancelotti's team to overcome an excellent Japan side who deservedly led at half-time.

The introduction of substitute Endrick helped to spark the five-time world champions Brazil, who scored through Casemiro's header, followed by Martinelli's clinical strike as the Samurai Blue finally wilted under the pressure in Houston.

After Rayan won the ball back for the Seleção in a dangerous position, his pass allowed Bruno Guimarães to thread the ball into Martinelli, who broke Japanese hearts with an unerring low right-footed finish into Suzuki's goal via the keeper's fingers and left-hand post.

Japan were dreaming at half-time thanks to an excellent strike from Kaishu Sano, who pounced on an under-hit pass, surged into the space left by the Brazilian defence and fired home a right-footed finish for his first Japan goal. A Houston Stadium, mostly awash in yellow, pleaded for an answer. After two close calls, a third thumping header pulled Brazil level, with Casemiro doing the honours off inch-perfect service from Gabriel Magalhães.

If not for the fingertips of Zion Suzuki, Vinicius Junior would have given Brazil a lead just minutes later instead of lamenting a ball off the post. The Seleção smelled blood, and Japan succumbed for good in the waning moments as Guimarães found Martinelli, who beat Suzuki to set off bedlam in the Space City. With this, Brazil's quest for a sixth star continues, while Japan's first knockout-round win will have to wait.

Czech Ladies Open: Diksha extends rich vein of form as Indian trio impresses

BEROUN (CZECH REPUBLIC)

India's Diksha Dagar continued to build momentum on the Ladies European Tour with another strong finish, carding a final-round four-under 68 to secure a tied-12th place at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open, while compatriots Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor also produced encouraging performances in Beroun, Czech Republic.

Diksha finished the week at 13-under 203, capping another impressive outing after her tied-third finish at last week's Dutch Ladies Open. The consistent run underlines the left-hander's growing confidence as she heads into the next stretch of the European season.

Diksha's closing round featured five birdies, including a spectacular eagle on the par-five 18th that lifted her into the top 12. Although she began the final day within touching distance of the leaders, a few missed opportunities in the middle of the round prevented a stronger challenge. Nevertheless, another high finish adds valuable points to her LET campaign.

India also drew plenty of positives from Pranavi Urs, who produced one of the finest rounds of the day. Starting on the 10th tee, Pranavi shot a five-under 67, highlighted by a stunning inward nine of



six-under 30 that included an eagle and four birdies. Her late surge saw her climb to tied-24th, reflecting the attacking golf that has marked her season. Vani Kapoor signed off with a one-under 71 to finish tied-49th. Her steady week, following rounds of 68 and 70, offered further encouragement as she continues to regain rhythm on the LET.

The other Indians in the field—Avani Prashanth, Ridhima Dilawari, and Hitaashree Bakshi—missed the cut in the low-scoring tournament.

The title, meanwhile, went to Finland's Noora Komulainen, who finally captured her maiden Ladies European Tour crown after nearly 14 years on the circuit and in her 199th LET start.

Komulainen began the final round one shot behind the lead but stormed home with four consecutive birdies to card a six-under 66 and finish at 18-under par, joining Australia's Justice Bosio and Sweden's Lisa Pettersson in a three-way playoff.

Wimbledon: Sabalenka silences Kostovic in first round

LONDON

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka defeated Grand Slam debutant Teodora Kostovic in straight sets in a first round clash in Ladies Singles at Wimbledon, making a strong start in the grass court major that she is yet to win title at.

The three-time Wimbledon semifinalist handled Serbian qualifier Teodora Kostovic 6-2, 6-3 on Centre Court in 64 minutes. On Wednesday, she will face McCartney Kessler, who defeated Aleksandra Olinynkova 6-0, 6-0. It was the first time that Kostovic, ranked No. 184, played a World No. 1 in her career, and the 19-year-old didn't hesitate as she tried to play her power game, having questioned whether Sabalenka could handle her power.

Sabalenka did handle Kostovic's power with 22 win-



ners, silencing her Serbian opponent to just 10 winners and 25 unforced errors. Sabalenka bolted out to a 4-0 lead in the first set, and while Kostovic won the fifth game to earn a large wave of ap-

plause from the SW19 crowd, the three-time Wimbledon semifinalist won the first set in just over half an hour. Similarly, Sabalenka did lose her first-ever match against a World No. 1. Simona Halep,

then top-ranked in the sport, handled Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2 in the Shenzhen Open quarterfinals to begin the 2018 season. Sabalenka was ranked No. 73 and was also 19 years old at the time. Kostovic, known for her fiery personality on court, tried to bring the crowd into the match, evident in her hand gesture for more noise after she broke Sabalenka while she was serving for the match at 5-2 in the second set.

"She brought a really good fight, stepped in a little bit more in the second set, pushed me a little bit more," Sabalenka said on court. "I'm happy that I was able to close this match in straight sets." Ultimately, it was Sabalenka who received the loudest and largest round of applause after thanking the crowd with her racquet with the match complete and a spot secured in the second round.

Abhirath, Ganesh fire unbeaten E-Champions to 56-run win

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad E-Champions produced a dominant all-round display to register a commanding 56-run victory over Anvita Khammam Aces in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 in the second match at the G.M.C. Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad on Monday.

A blistering half-century from Abhirath Reddy, valuable contributions from district player Ganesh Gadugu as well as Anvith Reddy, and disciplined bowling led by Sriniketh and Ajay Dev Goud helped the E-Champions defend 211 and extend their impressive unbeaten run at the top of the table.

Meanwhile, Abhirath's impressive 59 off 26 balls puts him on top of the Orange Cap standings with 252 runs to his name. Adding to the team's impressive run, Ajay Dev also took his place at the top

of the Purple Cap standings with 10 wickets to his name.

E-Champions recovered from a watchful start through an explosive opening partnership between Sai Vikas Reddy (22 off 20) and Abhirath. The skipper then took the attack to the bowlers with a flurry of boundaries and sixes, including a 24-run fifth over, as the E-Champions raced to 77/1 at the end of the powerplay before Ved Reddy dismissed him.

Sai Vikas continued to anchor the innings alongside Anvith Reddy (32 off 21) as the E-Champions crossed the 100-run mark in the 11th over. Ved then removed Sai Vikas, while Shanmukha Ashwin's quickfire career of 19 in 13 balls featuring two sixes kept the momentum going before GSK Reddy struck. Anvith and Ganesh Gadugu (44 off 21) followed up with a brisk partnership of 31 runs in 16 balls to take the score to 136/3 after 13 overs.

HCA Focuses on Strengthening Rural and District-Level Cricket in Telangana

HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has announced a series of ambitious initiatives aimed at strengthening grassroots and district-level cricket across Telangana. HCA Secretary Jeevan Reddy and former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu outlined plans to improve infrastructure, expand player opportunities, and increase district representation in competitive cricket.

District Cricket Academies Planned

As part of its long-term development strategy, the HCA is preparing to establish District Cricket Academies and dedicated cricket grounds in every erstwhile district headquarters across the state.

Selected districts will receive cricket complexes spread over 7-8 acres, featuring playing grounds, hostels, qualified coaching staff, mess and canteen facilities, washrooms, and

other amenities designed to support player development.

Four Centres of Excellence

In addition, the HCA will set up four state-of-the-art Centres of Excellence in Suryapet, Jagtial, Nagarkurnool, and Siddipet. Each academy will be developed on approximately 15 acres and equipped with BCCI-standard cricket infrastructure, air-conditioned residential accommodation, floodlights, temporary spectator

stands, and comprehensive training facilities.

League Restructuring to Benefit Young Cricketers

To create more opportunities for emerging talent, institutional teams will be reorganized into A, B, and C Divisions from the upcoming season. Clubs will have the freedom to field any eligible young player from Telangana. According to HCA officials, the restructuring is expected to open

doors for more than 600 new players to enter the league system and gain competitive exposure.

Boost for District Representation

In a move aimed at promoting district-level talent, eight district teams will participate in the newly created C Division. Eligibility norms require players to possess an Aadhaar card from their respective districts. Additionally, cricketers who have previously competed in the D Division.

Sinner survives scary fall, Kecmanovic in dramatic five-setter

LONDON

World No.1 and 2025 winner Jannik Sinner overcame a scary fall and a resilient opponent to launch his Wimbledon title defence with a hard-fought victory, getting past his opponent in five sets in the opening round of men's singles at the All-England Club in London on Monday.

Playing his first match since his shock second-round exit at the Roland Garros, Sinner returned to winning ways by battling past Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3, despite spraying 52

unforced errors and briefly raising hopes of a huge upset. The Italian, however, dug deep to outlast the resilient Kecmanovic in three hours, 30 minutes, starting the proceedings at the Centre Court on the opening day.

"It's such a huge honour to start the tournament," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "I was a little tight in the beginning. I didn't play my very best, but I tried to get into it. It was my first official match on grass. I'm happy that I turned it around. The third set was a very tough one to swallow." Kecmanovic produced an



inspired display in the third set that featured an early contender for point of the tournament. Trailing 5/6 in the tie-break, the Serbian stretched

Sinner from corner to corner before charging the net, forcing the Italian to dive to the turf and bringing the Centre Court crowd to its feet.

It was the second time in the set that Sinner had ended up on the grass. At 2-2, the 24-year-old suffered a worrying slip, landing awkwardly with his knees bent inwards. The fall drew gasps from the packed stands, but Sinner avoided the need for a medical timeout and quickly resumed play.

Having cut down on his unforced errors to force a deciding set, Sinner seized con-

trol of the match and raced to victory, bringing a convincing finish to a contest that had been anything but straightforward through the opening three sets.

After surviving a stern opening test, with David Beckham among those watching from the Royal Box, Sinner booked a second-round meeting with Portugal's Nuno Borges.

The No. 1 player in the PIF ATP Rankings, Sinner has now won 94 matches at major tournaments, equalling Nicola Pietrangeli's record for the most among Italians.

Women's T20 WC: Australia wary of West Indies' Matthews threat ahead of semis clash

LONDON

As they gear up for Tuesday's semifinal clash in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with the West Indies, World No. 1 Australia are wary of the threat posed by the West Indies, especially their captain Hayley Matthews and Deandra Dotin, said their top player, Ellyse Perry.

Australia qualified for the knockout stages by finishing at the top of Group A, enjoying an imperious time of it in the groups, completing a fourth

win from four with a record ICC Women's T20 World Cup chase to beat India at Lord's on Sunday. In contrast, the Windies' path to The Oval was rather more complicated. After winning their first three matches, the 2016 winner, the world's seventh-ranked side, fell to defeats to England and then Ireland in Bristol, the latter loss leaving them relying on New Zealand to lose their final game. Thankfully for Matthews and her team, hosts England pulled off a brilliant chase against the White

Ferns, allowing the Windies to progress. Matthews knows as well as anyone what it takes to thrive against Australia. Three years ago, she scored a sensational 132 from just 64 balls as the Windies completed the biggest chase in the history of WT20i, reaching a target of 213 with a ball to spare.

That came after she had scored an unbeaten 99 in the first game of a bilateral series Down Under, while Matthews' 45-ball 66 paved the way for the West Indies to win this title a decade ago.



RT's Irumudi Kattu Packs Devotional Punch

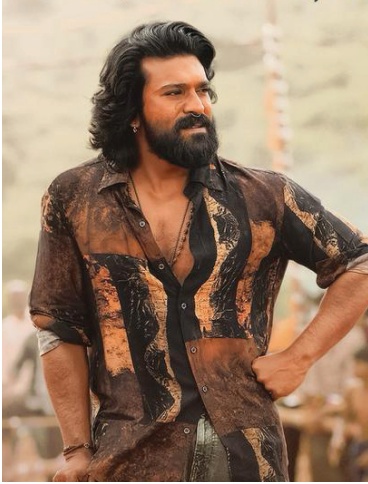
The musical campaign of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's Irumudi has begun on an extraordinary note with the release of Irumudi Kattu, a devotional anthem that perfectly reflects the film's spiritual core. Helmed by Shiva Nirvana and bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has been generating strong buzz ever since its first glimpse, and the first single has now taken the excitement several notches higher GV Prakash Kumar once again proves why he is enjoying one of the finest phases of his career. His composition blends traditional devotional elements with rich orchestration, creating a spiritually charged number that evokes reverence and delivers devotional poonakaalu throughout its runtime. The lyrics, jointly written by Shiva Nirvana and Kalyan Chakravarthy, beautifully portray the life-changing experience of an Ayyappa devotee. From embracing the sacred Mandala Deeksha to carrying the Irumudi and finally embarking



on the holy trek to Sabarimala, every emotion is expressed with remarkable genuineness. Ananthu's passionate rendition elevates the composition further, making the song spiritually fulfilling. Ravi Teja undergoes a striking transformation. Shedding his usual mass image, he convincingly steps into the role of a devoted Ayyappa follower, bringing remarkable sincerity and restraint to his performance. Baba Baskar complements this portrayal with graceful choreography inspired by traditional devotional practices. The song also offers glimpses into the protagonist's family life, introducing Priya Bhavani Shankar as his wife and Baby Nakshatra as his daughter. As the first single, Irumudi Kattu sets the perfect tone for the album and is sure to echo through Ayyappa Poojas everywhere.

Peddi's Smart OTT Strategy

Peddi is set to premiere on Netflix from July 16 after enjoying an extended theatrical run. If the date is confirmed, it would be a sensible decision by the makers, as maintaining a healthy gap between theatrical and OTT release benefits both exhibitors and the film industry. In recent years, many films have arrived on streaming platforms within just a few weeks of their theatrical release, reducing the incentive for audiences to visit cinemas. A longer theatrical window allows films to maximize their box office potential while preserving the excitement of the big-screen experience. Peddi is a good example of why this strategy works. Even though the film's collections have naturally slowed over time, it continues to attract audiences. On Sunday alone, the film reportedly collected around ₹1.5 crore from the Telugu states, which is a respectable figure at this stage of its theatrical run. These steady collections show that the film still has an audience willing to watch it in cinemas. Regardless of whether a film receives positive or mixed word of mouth, producers should consider maintaining a reasonable theatrical window before releasing it on OTT. A balanced release strategy benefits theatres, distributors, and producers while ensuring audiences continue to value the theatrical experience. Peddi could serve as a positive example for future releases.



Finally, 'God of War' Announced with NTR!

The official reveal of God Of WAR will be presented by Jr NTR at 5:04 PM. Reports suggest the announcement will be limited in scope, focusing only on basic details like genre, lead star, director, production house, and possibly the music director, without major story or teaser content.



Pooja's Mega Opportunity?

Actress Pooja Hegde, who has been facing a slowdown in offers over the past few years, is reportedly back in the spotlight with a major opportunity. According to the latest buzz in Film Nagar, the actress is likely to star opposite Power Star Pawan Kalyan. Reports suggest that Pooja has been roped in for OG 2, the sequel to the blockbuster OG, directed by Sujeeth. While there has been no official confirmation from the makers, the speculation has already generated excitement among fans. Interestingly, this isn't the first time Pawan Kalyan and Pooja Hegde were expected to share screen space. The actress was previously considered for Harish Shankar's Ustaad Bhagat Singh and an earlier project directed by Krish Jagarlamudi, but those collaborations did not materialize due to scheduling conflicts. If the latest reports turn out to be true, OG 2 could mark a significant comeback for Pooja Hegde, who has been looking for a strong commercial project after a series of setbacks. Sharing the screen with Pawan Kalyan in one of the industry's most anticipated sequels could give the actress the much-needed boost in her career.

Nabha Shares Nagabandham Sacrifice

Virat Karina and Abhishek Nama's much-awaited flick Nagabandham will be hitting the screens on July 3rd. Nabha Natesh plays a pivotal character in the movie. Sharing her excitement, Nabha revealed that Parvathi is unlike any role she has attempted.

"She is deeply rooted in tradition yet possesses immense courage. Every important development in the film is shaped by her choices. This is undoubtedly the strongest character I've portrayed." The actress believes the film will stand out for its extraordinary visual scale. "Nagabandham is a complete visual wonder. Every set, every sequence, and every frame has been designed with exceptional care. It's an experience that deserves to be watched in theatres." Among the film's biggest attractions is an extravagant song sequence featuring nearly 5,000 dancers under the choreography of Ganesh Acharya. "The choreography combines grandeur with devotion. It isn't merely about dance; it celebrates spirituality through breathtaking visuals." She fondly recalled filming inside the massive replica of the Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple. "The detailing was astonishing. It felt sacred the moment we entered the set, and I believe audiences will experience that same emotion while watching the film." Nabha credited director Abhishek Nama for transforming an ambitious concept into reality. "His preparation was extraordinary. Every shot had already been visualized through detailed storyboards. That level of planning made even such a massive production feel incredibly organized." The actress also revealed the discipline maintained during filming. "Since we were shooting inside a temple set, everyone respected the spiritual atmosphere. Daily rituals were performed before the shoot, and we even followed a vegetarian diet throughout that schedule." While romance exists in her character's journey, Nabha emphasized that Parvathi is far more than a conventional heroine. "She carries enormous emotional weight in the narrative. There are twists connected to her character that audiences won't see coming." Speaking about Virat Karina, she admired his commitment. "He approached every scene with remarkable sincerity. Watching his dedication throughout the shoot was inspiring." She calls Nagabandham as one of the most enriching experiences of her career.



RAPO'S VISION COMES ALIVE

There are projects that entertain, and then there are projects born from years of relentless passion. For Energetic Star Ram Pothineni, #RAPO23 belongs firmly in the latter category. His long-cherished vision officially came to life today with a traditional pooja ceremony of #RAPO23, marking the beginning of a path-breaking film that sees him wear multiple creative hats. Krishna Pothineni is producing the prestigious venture under the Rapo Cinematics banner. As per tradition, producer Krishna Pothineni handed over the bound script to Ram Pothineni. The muhurtham shot was initiated with P Murali Mohan switching on the camera and PV Ravi Kishore sounding the clapping board. The highlight of the event was Ram Pothineni taking charge of the very first shot, officially embarking on his directorial journey. The celebrations were immediately followed

by the commencement of regular shooting. The film's story was written by Ram himself. Conceived as a psychological action thriller set in a gripping neo-noir universe, the film aims to introduce to a fresh cinematic experience packed with emotional intensity, mystery, and compelling character journeys. Ram's involvement extends far beyond acting. As the film's writer, director, and leading man, he is personally looking after every aspect of the project, making it one of the most creatively demanding undertakings of his career. It also marks his highest budgeted movie to date. National Award-winning cinematographer Thirru brings his rich visual expertise, while Peter Hein is designing spectacular action sequences. With its groundbreaking story, stellar technical support, and a talented cast soon to be unveiled, #RAPO23 promises to stand apart as one of the most distinctive and ambitious films in contemporary Telugu cinema.

