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HYDERABAD

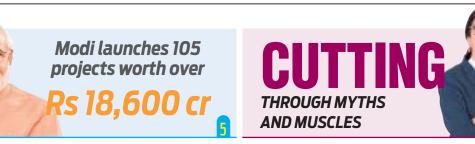
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BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR **RANCHI**

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Kuberaa: A strong message wrapped in a stretched RUNTIME



QUOTE OF THE DAY The Pioneer Five villages — merged into Andhra Pradesh during bifurcation — be returned to Telangana. The issue must be raised strongly by CM Revanth Reddy in the upcoming June 25 meeting of Chief Ministers with Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the 'Pragati' initiative. Polavaram has created a permanent flood threat to the Bhadrachalam region. Over 1,000 acres of endowment land belonging to Bhadrachalam Rama temple Purusottapatnam, merged with Andhra Pradesh. The Lord remains in Telangana, but his lands are in another state

- Kavitha, BRS MLC

'Welfare topmost priority of govt'

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Friday made it clear that the Indiramma government, formed with the blessings was dedicated to uplifting the poor. The government under the leadership of the Chief Minister is implementing developmental and welfare programs in equal measure, even though the state is burdened with a debt of approximately Rs 8.19 lakh crore. The Minister ...

Min Sukanta alleges 'threat to life'

Union minister Sukanta Majumdar on Friday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging a "grave breach of privilege" and a "threat to life" after his convoy was allegedly attacked in the Budge Budge area in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on the previous day. Majumdar, who is also the BJP's West Bengal unit president, was visiting the area on Thursday to meet party workers who were reportedly injured after ..

-PAGE: 5

Coop sector grew unevenly: Shah

Union minister Amit Shah on Friday said the cooperative sector grew unevenly in India as it stabilised only in the western parts but remained weak in northern and eastern regions, and added that the government intends to make its growth symmetrical. Addressing a cooperation sector conference organised by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), he also said the cooperative ..

Indian archers return with 9 medals

India's junior archers returned with nine medals — two gold, six silver, and one bronze from the Asia Cup Leg 2 here on Friday. It seemed a successful outing on paper, but a deeper look once again highlighted a troubling trend that has come to define Indian archery at all levels - faltering when it matters the most. Despite making seven of the 10 finals across recurve and compound disciplines, Indian archers finished on top of the podium just twice. The rest of the

BANAKACHARLA ISSUE

CM wants resolution, not confrontation with AP

will be invited for talks after its defunct politics. But let's be

Revanth stressed that discussions, not disputes, are the way forward. "We have maintained cordial relations with with Andhra Pradesh. The

clear. KCR and Harish Rao themselves are responsible for the injustice done to Telangana on irrigation matters," he said.

The CM recalled that the Karnataka. We want the same groundwork for Banakacharla was laid in 2016, when Andhra

Revanth stressed that discussions, not disputes, are the way forward. "We have maintained cordial relations with Karnataka. We want the same with Andhra Pradesh. The problems we face today are not new; they existed even before the formation of Telangana," he

said, while accusing the BRS of reviving the

Godavari issue purely for political reasons

new; they existed even before the formation of Telangana," he said, while accusing the BRS of reviving the Godavari issue purely for political reasons.

"The BRS is trying to use the Godavari waters issue as Sanjeevani to breathe life into

problems we face today are not Pradesh issued GOs in 2016 and 2018 allowing surveys for transferring Godavari water to

> objectionable, why didn't the Telangana Government go to court then?" he asked.

"If these decisions were

KCR, during Apex Council meetings, had openly suggest-ed that 400 TMCs of Godavari floodwater could be diverted via Polavaram and Somasila for around 86 days.

"Only after Telangana comoletes its projects will we know how much floodwater is avail able," he said, defending the Centre's decision to act based

on feasibility reports.

Directing flak at Harish, the Chief Minister said, "In the Apex Council meetings held in 2015 and 2020, it was KCR and Harish who agreed to give 2009 TMCs of Krishna water to Andhra Pradesh. In 2023, Harish admitted this was a mistake and demanded 50 per cent, about 405 TMCs, for Telangana. Now, after asking for 500 TMCs, how could the same Harish write a letter agreeing to 45 TMCs? Where loes he hide his head now?"

On the Kaleshwaram Project, Revanth said that it provided irrigation to only 50,000 acres, despite tenders Continued on Page 2

JAGRUTHI FLAGS FLOOD RISKS DUE TO POLAVARAM PROJECT

Kavitha demands return of 5 villages merged with AP

Telangana Jagruthi President Kavitha demanded that the five villages merged with Andhra Pradesh during bifurcation should be returned to Telangana, warning that their future hangs in the balance due to the backwater threat posed by the Polavaram Project.

Speaking at a roundtable meeting organised by Telangana Jagruthi on Friday, she said the issue must be raised strongly at the June 25 meeting of Chief Ministers with Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the 'Pragati' initiative.

villages Purusottapatnam, Gundala, Etapaka, Kannayigudem, and Picchukalapaka are suffering immensely. The TG Chief Minister must ask the Centre to bring them back. If not, a single year of heavy rains could completely submerge them," Kavitha said.

She pointed out that raising the bunds is the only way to ensure protection, adding, "Polavaram has created a permanent flood threat to the Bhadrachalam region."

Kavitha also expressed concern about temple lands. "Over

1,000 acres of endowment land belonging to the

Bhadrachalam Rama temple are now in Purusottapatnam and it has been merged with Andhra **Pradesh**

acres of endowment land belonging to the Bhadrachalam Rama temple are now in Purusottapatnam and it has been merged with Andhra Pradesh. The Lord remains in

Telangana, but his lands are in another state. Andhra Pradesh is not even showing interest in protecting this divine endowment," she said, demanding its restoration.

She said a joint survey must be conducted to assess flood impacts and that Telangana Jagruthi would pursue legal action if needed. Recalling the organisation's earlier legal interventions, she reminded that it had approached the Supreme Court

Revanth remarks expose secret deal with Naidu: Harish

PNS HYDERABAD

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water sharing.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

wrapped up his New Delhi

visit on Friday, stating that

Telangana seeks resolution

inter-State matters like river-

and not confrontation on

During an informal interac-

tion with reporters, the Chief

Minister clarified that a

Cabinet meeting will be held

on June 2, and if required, the

Former Minister Harish Rao on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his recent comthey reveal a secret understanding with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu over the Banakacharla water issue. In a sharp rebuttal, Harish accused Revanth of conspiring to compromise Telangana's rightful share in both Godavari and Krishna

words. His readiness to consid- ed press release. er 1000 TMC from Godavari

Telangana's share shows a dan-

"The real story behind evident that this is a pre-set Banakacharla has been match with Chandrababu," exposed by Revanth's own Harish said in a strongly word-

He argued that while KCR

and 500 TMC from Krishna as demanded 2,918 TMCs from Godavari—968 TMCs based gerous inclination to undercut on existing GOs and 1,950 Friday came down heavily on the State's entitlements. It is TMCs from the floodwaters merging into the sea— Revanth's position caps

> 1000 TMCs. "This is nothing short of a betrayal," Harish said. In the case of Krishna waters, Harish Rao assert-

> ed that KCR fought for a rightful allocation of 763 TMCs by placing a strong affidavit before the Brijesh Tribunal, while Revanth was willing to settle for

only 500 TMCs. "This is not negotiation; this is surrender. Revanth repaying Chandrababu with political Continued on Page 2

Local body polls only after court verdict: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The high command's decision will be final in selecting the candidate for the Jubilee Hills by-poll, TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said. He also made it clear that local body elections will be held only after the court's verdict.

Addressing the media on Friday, Mahesh said that there was nothing wrong in Azharuddin, who contested the 2023 Assembly elections, saying that he (Azharuddin) would contest once again.

"However, Azharuddin's statement is not final. We will recommend some names to the Election Committee. Later, the high command will take a final decision," Mahesh said. He said that former Chief Minister K.

Chandrasekhar Rao violated the tradition of making election unanimous

Cong, BRS moving forward with mutual understanding: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

Both the Congress and the BRS are moving forward with mutual understanding, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.

Addressing a meeting of public office on Friday, Kishan said that BJP leaders must explain the corruption that took place during BRS rule to the people. He also said that BJP activists should tell the people how the Congress Government has failed to implement its six guarantees.

Kishan said there is a need to bring a BJP government to power to protect the state's interests and asked BJP activists to ensure the victory of BJP candidates in the local body elections.

He said that it is not possible for the state government to implement development projects without the help of the Congress

the Centre. Social welfare schemes are being implemented in Telangana with the Centre's help, he added. He said the Congress



issues to the fore to deflect public attention. The public must pressure

Tummala says Rs 7310.59 cr released for Rythu Bharosa till now

PNS HYDERABAD

Nageshwara Rao said that the state government released Rs.905.89 crore on the fifth day for Rythu Bharosa. With the release of this amount, the farmreceived Rythu Bharosa amount, area of land.

Tummala said.

The government released Agriculture Minister Tummala Rs7310.59 crore within five days. He said that 65.12 lakh farmers benefited from the Rythu Bharosa scheme till Friday. The Minister made it clear that the government will extend Rythu Bharosa to the ers who have below 7 acres cultivated land without linking the

Inform consumers in advance about power maintenance: CMD Musharraf

PNS HYDERABAD

Chairman and Managing Director of the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSSPDCL), Musharraf Faruqui, IAS, on Thursday directed electricity officials to ensure that all consumers

are informed at least a day in downs for network maintenance is tenance schedules and supply interruptions.

Speaking during a teleconference with Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers, Faruqui stressed that timely communication about line clearances and shut-

advance regarding power main- essential to prevent inconvenience to consumers. He observed that sudden power outages without prior notice have been causing frustration among the public. Highlighting the need for reli-

able and quality power supply during the **Continued on Page 2** during the

SIT to issue notice to Bandi in tapping case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the phone-tapping case is getting ready to serve a notice in a day or two to the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who exposed the phone tapping issue.

SIT officials called the Union Minister on Friday night and asked him for an appointment to record his

Protest at Indira Park demands filling of two lakh jobs, DSC notification

PNS HYDERABAD

Thousands of unemployed youth from across Telangana gathered at Indira Park on Friday, demanding the immediate release of a job calendar, notification for 25,000 teacher posts under DSC, and the fulfilment of the Congress government's promise to fill two lakh government jobs. The protest was led by the Telangana Unemployed JAC Chairman and BC Welfare Association State President Neelam Venkatesh, with the participation of Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah, who voiced strong criticism of the

government's inaction. Addressing the gathering, Krishnaiah pointed out that not even 60,000 posts have been filled in the



past 18 months, including those crete steps to fill them," he said, under various court orders. "There demanding immediate action to are thousands of vacancies across address the crisis. government departments. Yet, the

Protesters expressed disappointgovernment has failed to take con- ment that despite high expecta-

dar was not announced on June 2, Telangana Formation Day. Many asserted that the unemployed youth were instrumental in bringing the Congress to power and electing Revanth Reddy as Chief Minister, and now feel betrayed by the delay in recruitment. They alleged that some officials

are providing inaccurate vacancy data and are resorting to irregular methods in calculating sanctioned posts. "There is no account of how many retired, how many were promoted, or how many new posts were created due to the formation of new districts and offices. This is leading to an artificial underreporting of vacancies," the JAC

Iran's FM holds talks with top European diplomats in Geneva

Iran's foreign minister was holding talks with top European diplomats in Geneva on Friday about the crisis that centres on concerns about his country's nuclear programme, a week after the long-simmering dispute erupted into war between Ísrael and Iran.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived at a hotel in the Swiss city for a meeting with his counterparts from France, Germany and the UK and the European Union's foreign policy chief.

It is the first face-to-face meeting between Western and Iranian officials since the start of the conflict.

Ahead of the meeting, Araghchi said his country has "nothing to discuss" with the United States as long

ut is open to "dialogue" with oth- war has seen

as Israel continues its strikes on Iran, but is open to "dialogue" with oth-but is open to "dialogue" with oth-war has seen Continued on Page 2

Iran lifts airspace curbs to evacuate 1,000 Indians

PNS NEW DELHI

In a special gesture, Iran has lifted airspace restrictions for three charter flights to evacuate about 1,000 Indian nationals, mostly students, from the Iranian city

of Mashhad. Mohammad Javad Hosseini, the deputy chief of mission at the Iranian embassy, said more to Mashad from Tehran following evacuation flights could be operated in the coming days to bring

The Indian nationals were moved

back Indians if required.



Israeli attacks on the Iranian capital city. The evacuation flights, to be operated by Iranian airline Mahan, are being arranged by New Delhi.

PLANE CRASH

231 victims identified, 210

bodies handed over to kin

matched and relatives have

been contacted. So far, the

mortal remains of 210 victims

have been handed over to

Ahmedabad Civil Hospital

The 210 victims comprise

166 Indians, 36 British nation-

als, seven Portuguese nation-

als and one Canadian, he

Medical

families.

Superintendent

Rakesh Joshi said.

Action against Konda Murali only after getting report: Mahesh

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that he is observing political developments in Warangal and that he had sought a report on former MLC Konda Murali's com-

He said that he will respond to the issue only after getting a report from the DCC and an observer, and made it clear that he will not comment on the

Warangal issue till then. It may be recalled that Minister Konda Surekha's hus-

PNS HYDERABAD

understandable.

PNS HYDERABAD

IAS officers of the 2017

batch met with Chief

Secretary K. Ramakrishna

Rao on Friday as part of

their ongoing training engagement. The Chief

Secretary used the occasion

to share Telangana's unique

model of governance, high-

lighting the State's innovative

Drawing from his vast

experience, the Chief

Local body polls ...

if the party, whichever it may be, fields the candidate in by-poll from the fam-

Chief Minister YS Rajashekar Reddy

started the convention of not fielding

a candidate from the Congress if any-

Continued from page 1

ily of MLA, who died.

He recalled that form

approach towards develop-

ment and administration.

The Congress's Bhongir MP,

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy,

said that Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy's declaration

that he would approach the

Supreme Court if the Centre

does not listen to TG regarding

He said the BRS MP walked

out of the all-party meeting

when they were supposed to take a unanimous decision on

the Banakacharla Project is

that Congress leaders who came from other political parties should resign their posts. He also warned some leaders that they should stop spreading lies against Konda Surekha.

Meanwhile, the MLAs from Warangal district, Kadiyam Srihari, Revuri Prakash Reddy, KR Nagaraju, Gandra Sathyanarayna, MLC Baswaraj Saraiah, Mayor Gundu Sudharani had a meeting at MLA Naini Rajender Reddy's camp office on Friday.

Later, speaking to the media,

loot everything. People gave

power to Congress because

Congress leaders have ethics,

he added. He said that BRS

MLA T. Harish Rao is trying to

Chandrasekhar Rao a villain.

He said the BRS has politi-

cised the word 'water.' It would

have been better if the BRS had

built irrigation projects with

basic common sense. After the

collapse of Kaleshwaram, the

people of Telangana fully under-

CS interacts with 2017 batch IAS officers,

highlights TG's development model

officers to remain commit-

ted to public service with

dedication and to embrace

emerging technologies like

Artificial Intelligence to

enhance governance deliv-

ery. He emphasised that the

Telangana model was built

on innovation, efficiency,

During the interaction,

he also quoted economist

David Landes to inspire the

citizen-centric

make his uncle

that the party will not remain silent if Konda Murali speaks as he likes.

"Sins cannot be washed away using the caste card. They have to tell the party if they have any problems. It is not proper to speak publicly as they like. We will not tolerate this any longer. The party leadership should focus on it. They are trying to create trouble in every constituency, and the issue should be settled. We will complain to the high command soon," he said.

Addressing the media at the

Gandhi Bhavan on Friday,

Kiran asked KCR to explain

what he spoke at the 2016 CWC meeting. Kaleshwaram became Kuleshwaram due to

KCR's ignorance, he said and

added that KCR did injustice to

Telangana by holding talks with Jagan four times. AP lead-

ers thought of transferring

water to Banakacharla due to

"BRS leaders who are

Harish's attitude, he added.

have it, not because they

are always right, but

because they are positive.

Even when wrong, they

are positive, and that is the

way of achievement, cor-

rection, improvement, and

The officers appreciated

the insight and were urged

to carry forward the spirit

of optimism and responsi-

bility as they take up key

roles in administration

CM's decision to approach SC on

Banakacharla issue understandable: Kiran

The people of Telangana stood the issue of water, he dumped the BRS for trying to $\,$ added.

Kadiam Srihari unable to bear seeing me as Minister: Surekha

PNS HYDERABAD

Forest, Environment and Endowment Minister Konda Surekha said that former Minister Kadiam Srihari is unable to bear seeing her as a Minister.

"Kadiam Srihari feels inferior to me. So he has launched a campaign saying that I will lose my Minister post. Kadiam is going to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and telling lies about me,"

Addressing the media at Warangal on Friday, Surekha said, "Kadiam Srihari is thinking of running his 'hawa' in the

shouting about Godavari

waters should explain why

they don't talk about Krishna

waters. Harish is more angry

than content. BRS leaders are

unable to tolerate Revanth

sitting on the CM's chair.

Harish should know that river

waters are not anybody's jagir.

Harish thinks that no one

knows anything about water

except KCR. KCR is the one

who gave Telangana's water to

AP. This water dispute start-

ed when Harish was the

Irrigation Minister," he said.

Young India Skills varsity

works reviewed

Following government directions, K.

Shashanka, Commissioner of Future

City Development Authority, inspected

the construction works of Young India

Skills University on Saturday morning at

Meer Khanpet village in Kandukur man-

executing agency), TG Growth in Industrial

Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC), and

local revenue staff, the Commissioner

reviewed the ongoing works at the site.

During the inspection, he enquired about

the progress made so far and issued instruc-

tions to expedite the construction activities

without compromising on quality.

Accompanied by officials from MEIL (the

dal of Rangareddy district.

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress like in the TDP, but that is not possible in the Congress. I became a Minister due to my good luck. Kadiam Srihari too became a Minister due to the same thing. It is not proper for Kadiyam to say that I have to quit my Minister post. My daughter did not become an MLA, but Kadiam's daughter has become an MP due to her good luck."

Surekha criticised Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy for spreading lies regarding Bhadrakali Ammavaru.

Surekha appealed to the Centre to treat Telangana on par with Andhra Pradesh regarding Godavari Pushkaralu.

SIT questions Prabhakar for around 8 hours

PNS HYDERABAD

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the phone tapping case interrogated former SIB chief Prabhakar Rao on Friday for around eight hours at the Jubilee Hills Police Station.

This is the fifth round of questioning, after the earlier sessions held on June 9, 11, 14, and 19. Sources said Friday's interrogation was based on the testimonies of the other suspects and witnesses.

However, SIT officials reportedly said that Prabhakar did not fully cooperate during the interrogation. He avoided giving direct answers to some crucial questions, hindering the investigation process.

SIT sources indicate that the investigating team may inform the court about Prabhakar's non-cooperation, as his responses were described as evasive and incomplete during important phases of the ques-

The investigation into the phone tapping case continues to widen, with the SIT aiming to establish the full extent of the illegal surveillance network which allegedly operated before the 2023 TG Assembly elections.

of 210 of them were handed over to their families, a health official said on Friday. A London-bound Air India flight AI-171 carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12. All but one on board the plane died along with pearly 29 on the ground when

Over a week after 270 people

were killed in the Ahmedabad

plane crash, 231 victims have

been identified through DNA

tests, and the mortal remains

shortly after its take-off. Authorities are carrying out DNA matching to establish the identity of the victims, as several bodies were charred beyond recognition or dam-

nearly 29 on the ground when

the aircraft smashed into a

medical complex in

Meghaninagar area of the city

"Till Friday evening, 231 Of the 166 Indians, a total DNA samples have been of 155 were on board the ill-

fated aircraft, Joshi informed The Indian victims who were identified so far belonged to various parts of the country, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Diu and

Nagaland, he said. earlier said that samples of 250 victims, including persons on board the ill-fated flight as well as those killed on the ground, were collected for

The state government had

PAC, TPCC advisory panel meet on June 24

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Political Affairs Committee (PAC) and Advisory Committee meetings would be held on June 24. TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud would preside over the meetings. The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting will be held at 11 AM and followed by the PCC Advisory Committee meet-

ing.
These meetings would mainly discuss local body elections, it is

In the afternoon, the TPCC would conduct a meeting with newly appointed TPCC Vice Presidents and General Secretaries. In this meeting, appointment letters to be handed over to the newly appointed office bearers.

AICC In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, and Ministers would participate in these meetings.

Anil Kumar transferred from I&CAD; Amjad Hussain given FAC as Engineer-in-Chief

PNS HYDERABAD

In an administrative reshuffle, the Government of Telangana has issued orders transferring G. Anil Kumar, Engineer-in-Chief (General), Irrigation & CAD Department. He has been directed to report to

the Government immediately.
According to Memo No. 4574-A/Ser.II/A1/2025, dated 16.06.2025, Mohd. Amjad Hussain, currently serving as Chief Engineer (Enquiries) and holding FAC as Engineer-in-Chief (Administration), has now also been placed on Full Additional Charge (FAC) for the post of Engineer-in-Chief (General), with imme-

diate effect until further orders.

The orders were issued by Principal Secretary to Government, Rahul Bojja. The Engineer-in-Chief (Admn.), I&CAD, has been instructed to take further necessary action in the matter.

Fine rice bonus promise bogus: Harish Rao

BRS MLA Harish Rao accused the Congress Government of betraying Telangana's farmers by failing to release payments for procured produce, including the much-promised bonus for fine rice (sanna vadlu). In a sharply worded press release here on Friday, Harish said the government's inaction has become a recurring nightmare for the farming com-

"Despite procuring 23.22 lakh tonnes of fine rice from 4.01 lakh farmers during rabi, not a single rupee of the Rs 1,161 crore bonus has been released," Harish said, calling it a cruel betrayal.

'The bonus for fine rice has become a bogus announcement. Are we to believe the government's promises are only sannaayi nokkula (empty talk)?"

He also drew attention to the plight of sunflower farmers. "It has been 75 days since procurement ended, yet payments have not reached farmers' accounts. In Siddipet alone, 50 per cent of farmers are still waiting for their dues. Imagine the condition of sunflower farmers across the state."

Harish pointed out that Ministers had earlier claimed money would be credited within 48 hours of procurement. "Two months later, there's still no trace of payment. Is this not proof of negligence and incompetence?" he asked.

He demanded that the government immediately release the pending Rs 1,116 crore towards fine rice bonus and clear sunflower dues. "Failing to pay for purchased crops is an injustice. The Congress Government has made it a habit to ignore farmers,"

Iran's FM holds ...

one from the family of the dead sitting MLA is willing to contest. He said that local body elections were linked to the court verdict. 'The Congress aims to implement a 42 per cent quota for BCs in local body elections. The Minister concerned should not speak on this issue. The party will decide after discussing it," Mahesh said. He said the Congress would not compromise on the Banakacharla issue and protect the water rights of Telangana. "There are guidelines regarding sharing river waters. KCR 'mortgaged' Telangana's water share to AP after 'having' fish soup in Andhra Pradesh. It is shameful on the part of the BRS to speak on Godavari and Krishna waters now," Mahesh said. TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Jun 20 09:49 AM to Jun 21 07:19 AM Ekadashi Jun 21 07:19 AM to Jun 22 04:27 AM Nakshatram: to Jun 21 07:50 PM Bharani: Jun 21 07:50 PM to Jun 22 05:38 PM Rahukalam 9:02 AM to 10:40 AM 1:55 PM to 3:33 PM Yamaqandam:

SIT to issue ...

young officers, saying, "In across the country.

Continued from page 1 statement, and he said that he would check his schedule and give them

Secretary encouraged the this world, the optimists

Sanjay, who repeatedly said that phones were being tapped during KCR's rule, had stated that the phones of his family members, personal staff and core associates were also tapped. Sanjay had organised many protests as the BJP state president against the policies of the KCR government.

The BRS government tapped the phones of Sanjay, his family and personal staff to sabotage the BJP's programmes. After getting information through phone tapping, the police raided Sanjay's residence and arrested him for the tenth examination paper leak.

Cong, BRS moving ...

Continued from page 1

admin to implement the six guarantees given to the people, he said.

"The phone tapping case is very scary. The phones of staff working in the BJP office, BJP leaders, and

the social media team were also tapped. The phones of judges, businessmen, film stars, opposition leaders, and elected representatives were tapped by the BRS government. However, the Congress and the BRS are playing a game in the phone tapping case. These two parties are conspiring to stop the BJP. When Revanth was in the opposition, he demanded a CBI investigation into this. When he came to power, he is now talking differently," Kishan said.

He said that the corruption and irregularities that took place when the BRS was in power, and the failure of the Congress government to fulfil its guarantees, should be explained to the people.

"The new mandal and district committees should be prepared for struggles in the coming days. A BJP government should come to power in the state as per the aspirations of the people. We can save Telangana only through Modi's leadership. Telangana is now in debt due to the incompetence of the BRS and the Congress. Now, the situation is such that welfare programmes cannot be provided to the poor. The BJP must organise party workshops all over Telangana,"

SRINIVAS GOUD SLAMS CONG GOVT

Floodwater wasted, Mahabubnagar **left parched despite rains**

Former minister V Srinivas Goud on Thursday lashed out at the Congress government for its "utter negligence" in handling water resources, especially in the drought-prone districts of erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda. Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, he alleged that while heavy rains are currently lashing several regions and inflows are swelling into major reservoirs like Jurala, the government has failed to utilise even a drop meaningfully.

"Any sensible government would seize this opportunity to fill its reservoirs, especially in districts that faced severe water scarcity in the past," Srinivas said. "But this government lacks both intent and action. Despite inflows from Almatti and Tungabhadra, they have not held a single review on how to use this water."

Jurala, which could be diverted to Nettempadu and Bheema ayacuts, is simply flowing downstream and going to waste. "Even when rains have arrived early this year, there's no plan to utilise the water effectively. The government is letting the water flow away into rivers while farmers suffer, just like they did during rabi due to lack of irrigation," he

He pointed out that water from

Raising concerns over poor maintenance, he said the Sangambanda reservoir was on the brink of being unusable because repairs to its gates were neglected. "Even at Bhutpur, reservoir gate repairs are pending. In the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, though pump houses are ready, canals haven't been dug. Even gravity-based diversion of Jurala waters is possible, but there's no response from the government."

04:33 AM to 06:00 AM Varjyam: 5:46 AM to 7:24 AM Amritakalam: 01:12 PM to 02:41 PM Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:51 AM to 12:43 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 32°

Humidity: 56%

Sunrise: 5:47 AM Sunset: 6:48 PM **Updated:** June 20, 2025 5:00 PM

CM wants ...

Continued from page 1

called for Rs 1,27,872 crore and Rs 96,000 crore already paid. "Another Rs 50,000 crore is needed to complete it. Names and estimates were changed just to pocket kickbacks," he said.

The Chief Minister also took jabs at both KTR and BJP leader Kishan Reddy. "Kishan is KTR's tutor, and KTR is Kishan's liaison officer. It was due to their internal coordination that the BJP managed to win eight LS seats in Telangana," he said. "Let's not forget that the only two parties that executed irrigation projects in Telangana were the Nizam and the Congress. KCR built nothing," Revanth declared.

He reminded that Telangana's permission is essential for any changes in Polavaram.

Mocking Harish further, the CM said, "Being clever doesn't mean being tall. Harish speaks due to frustration and arrogance. His and KCR's lies are so shocking that even God would wonder whether he had actually created them."

Revanth concluded by linking the political strategies of both the BJP and the BRS to the issue. "Modi needs Chandrababu to win in Andhra Pradesh, and for that, he needs Godavari waters. The BRS, on the other hand, wants to use this issue as a Sanjeevani to remain alive in Telangana," he said.

Revanth remarks ...

Continued from page 1 dakshina?" he asked. Harish accused Revanth of deliberately avoiding Apex

Council meetings to push forward a backdoor political deal with Andhra Pradesh. "Trying to link KCR's participation in Apex Council with Banakacharla approval is a lie. I have already exposed that falsehood with full documentation," he said, reiterating that the BRS never agreed to any such

Refuting Revanth's claim that the previous government agreed to 299 TMCs, Harish clarified that the BRS only accepted 299 TMCs as an ad hoc arrangement until the final award. "We demanded 405 TMCs as a temporary allocation, pending the Tribunal's final decision. The CM's statements reflect either ignorance or a danger-

ous lack of understanding," he added.

Harish Rao concluded by stating that under Congress and TDP rule in united Andhra Pradesh, Telangana was denied its fair share, with only 299 TMCs worth of projects allowed on Krishna. "It took KCR's government to challenge that injustice. Now, Revanth Reddy is reversing those hard-won gains," he said.

Inform consumers ...

Continued from page 1

ongoing monsoon season, the CMD said scheduled maintenance is critical to prevent breakdowns and ensure uninterrupted electricity. However, he insisted that transparency and timely updates must go hand-in-

To ensure effective outreach, Faruqui instructed officials to disseminate maintenance details through press releases and SMS alerts to consumers' registered mobile numbers. In addition, he recommended deploying auto- or bike-mounted staff with loudspeakers (tom-toms) to make announcements in slums and densely populated

For residential communities, he asked officials to use WhatsApp groups formed with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), gated communities, and apartment bodies to circulate updates on maintenance timings and duration.

The CMD also directed Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers to personally monitor the implementation of the maintenance schedules in their respective areas. He emphasized strict adherence to timelines and safety protocols during repair operations.

Kavitha demands ...

Continued from page 1 United Andhra Pradesh days to oppose

the Polavaram Project.

She also hit out at the Centre's ordinance in 2014 that approved the merger of seven mandals with Andhra Pradesh, calling it unconstitutional.

"It was backdoor politics by Chandrababu Naidu. Even the Lower Sileru Project was handed over to AP. BRS MPs protested in Parliament, while Congress members remained indifferent," she said. She also cautioned that increasing the Polavaram spillway's capacity to 50 lakh cusecs had worsened the backwater situation, putting Bhadrachalam Temple itself at risk.

CPI (ML) New Democracy leader Govardhan reiterated that the seven mandals from Khammam were merged without justification.

"Bhadradri belongs to the people of Telangana. It's inseparable from our identity," he said. He demanded that at least the five gram panchayats of Etapaka, Kannayigudem, Gundala, Picchukalapaka, and Purusottapatnam should be given back to Telangana.

Continued from page 1 Israeli airstrikes target Iranian nuclear and military sites and Tehran firing back.

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said that "a window now exists within the next two weeks to achieve a diplomatic solution." He travelled to Geneva after meeting in Washington with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy, Steve Witkoff.

Trump has been weighing whether to attack Iran by striking its well-defended Fordo uranium enrichment facility, which is buried under a mountain and widely considered to be out of reach of all but America's 'bunker-buster" bombs.

He said Wednesday that he'll decide within two weeks whether the US military will get directly involved in the war given the "substantial chance" for renewed negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme.

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By Nrityamala Natyakala

Venue Lamakaan Jun 21, (3:30 pm)

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand on

Friday announced a series of

new initiatives to streamline

traffic management in the

Anand addressing media said that the project Rope

which removes encroach-

ments on roads has increased

average vehicle speed i.e 6 km

per hour and widened the car-

riage way.

He also explained that the

Traffic Marshal system will

soon be introduced under

Responsibility (CSR) initia-

tives, allowing trained volun-

teers appointed by corporate

bodies to assist in managing

traffic at key junctions. This is

aimed at addressing the city's

manpower shortage in the

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand addressing

'High-rise Eagle View cameras to

be installed to bolster surveillance'



SCR GM Arun

Kumar Jain

gets Rajbhasha

gold medal

South Central Railway (SCR)

General Manager Arun Kumar Jain has been award-

ed the prestigious Kamlapati Tripathi Rajbhasha Gold Medal by the Railway Board

This honour was given in

recognition of his outstand-

ing efforts in promoting and increasing the use of Rajbhasha (Hindi) within the

It is a proud moment not

just for Arun Kumar Jain, but also for the entire SCR, which

falls under the 'C' region. The

award was given at the All-

India Railway level, high-

lighting his exceptional con-

tribution in strengthening

a motivation for other officers

and staff across the zone. SCR

officials said the medal

reflects the General Manager's dedication.

Addressing a comprehen-

sive review meeting with

DCPs, ACPs, Inspectors, and

SIs from all traffic police sta-

tions, Police Commissioner

Anand said Hyderabad wit-

nesses the addition of nearly

1,600 new vehicles every day,

with over 91 lakh vehicles

operating across the tri-com-

missionerates. "Despite these

pressures, our team's hard

work has improved average

This recognition is seen as

official language usage.

PNS HYDERABAD

on Friday.

railway zone.

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JUNE 21, 2025

strength of the model we are building," he said. Bhatti highlighted that 100 ITIs

in Telangana are being upgraded into Advanced Technology Centres with the help of leading corporate players. He added that CSR should be viewed not as a statutory 2% of

be viewed not as a statutory 2% of profits, but as a tool for deep, long-

term community transformation.
He emphasised that develop-

ment should not be measured just

in corporate infrastructure but in

the upliftment of girls in govern-

ment schools, distressed farmers,

and vanishing rural artisans. "Let

us stop seeing CSR as a donation.

Let's see it as a partnership. We

must enable youth in villages with

green skills, provide not just funds

but tools, training, and marketing support to women's groups," Bhatti

He urged companies to engage with people in their operating

regions, work with local bodies,

and understand their lived realities.

"Buildings become old, but skill,

confidence, and leadership in peo-

ple create lasting impact. Every CSR initiative should help people

stand on their own feet, not with

including Suresh Chukkapalli,



Bakeries urged to maintain hygiene standards in food items

PNS HYDERABAD

In a city-wide drive to enforce food safety standards, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Food Safety Wing conducted surprise inspections at 90 bakeries

across various circles. The inspections were carried out under the directions of the GHMC Commissioner, focusing on ensuring compliance with food safety regulations.

During the inspections, officials lifted 80 surveillance samples and sent them to the State Food Laboratory at Nacharam for

The Food Safety Officers also issued advisories to bakery owners regarding the maintenance of cleanliness and hygiene in food preparation areas, storage, and display coun-

They emphasised proper labeling practices, including date of preparation and shelf life of food items on display.

Notices were issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations, 2011 for various violations. Major infractions may lead to legal adjudication before the designated Adjudication Officers.

The Common violations observed include: Failure to display valid FSSAI licenses. Absence of Best Before or Use By dates on

Open dustbins and improper waste disposal. Presence of houseflies and littered premises. Lack of health records and water analysis reports. Food handlers working without hair-

What we now need is an inclusive lift-all approach: Bhatti

Telangana is scripting a new definition of development by blending economic growth with human values, asserted Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday. Addressing the ASSOCHAM Southern CSR and Sustainability Council Conference and Awards ceremony at The Westin, Mindspace, Hyderabad, Bhatti said the Congress-led government is firmly committed to constructing a socially just and environmentally responsible Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

"In a world of vast resources yet deep inequality, we've seen that trickle-down models don't work. What we now need is an inclusive lift-all approach," Bhatti said, adding that the Congress philosophy roots economic growth in the foundation of social justice. He stressed that corporate social responsibility (CSR) must be driven by accountability, not charity, and must focus on real social transformation rather than token gestures.

'Your efforts should not just build institutions, but uplift communities. Telangana is the most transparent and effective platform for utilising CSR funds. Every paisa spent here will have impact," he told industry representatives, urging companies to expand their social investments in the state.



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu speaking at the ASSOCHAM Southern CSR and Sustainability Council Conference and Awards ceremony in Hyderabad on Friday

Bhatti pointed out that Telangana is a highly investmentfriendly state with no language barrier, abundant human resources at competitive costs, strong law and order, and above all, a government that supports and partners with

Telangana is not just competing with other Indian states, but with developed countries," he said, citing the State's progress in health, pharma, IT, and food processing sectors. He revealed that 100 Young India International Residential Schools are being established—one per Assembly constituency—with an investment of Rs. 200 crore each on 25-acre campuses. These institutions aim to provide international-standard education to students from economically weaker sections.

The Deputy Chief Minister also stated that many corporations responded enthusiastically to the government's appeal to manage these schools. "Within 15 days, companies came forward to take responsibility. This shows the outstretched hands. Let it be guided by self-reliance and the spirit of Swaraj," he concluded.

The event was attended by
Hyderabad Collector Dasari food items. Harichandana and key organisers

Barun Islam, Abhishek Ranjan, and Krishna Edula.

Community Connect Drive held at Gandhi Nagar

PNS HYDERABAD

The Central Zone Police conducted a "Community Connect" programme under the jurisdiction of Gandhi Nagar Police Station on Friday at 60 pm. The initiative, held under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Zone), aimed to engage with the local community, address their concerns, and take action against illegal and anti-social activ-

vehicle speeds from 17–18 kmph to 24–25 kmph," he The operation focused on areas including CC Nagar and Bansilalpet. Around 200 police per-To bolster surveillance, high-rise Eagle View cameras sonnel participated in the extensive drive, covering over 250 houses. During the operation, authorities seized 32 bottles of beer from an buildings across the city in unauthorised belt shop and confiscated 150 partnership with building

Several vehicles including 80 two-wheelers, These cameras will provide one three-wheeler, and one four-wheeler were real-time traffic feeds and seized for violations such as missing documents, help local authorities detect lack of number plates, or being found abanand resolve congestion issues doned. Police also checked three known rowdysheeters and eight suspects as part of the crack-



Central Zone Police participating in a "Community Connect" programme in Hyderabad

or officers including Additional DCP F Anand, ACP A Yadagiri, SHO N. Bose Kiran, and other officials from surrounding police stations participated in the event. They interacted with residents, gathered input on civic issues, and assured the public that their concerns would be addressed through proper channels. Police thanked the residents for their cooperation and encouraged continued vigilance.

TGIC launches 'Innovation Panchayat Vol.1'

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government's TGIC -Telangana Innovation Cell launched 'Innovation Panchayat Volume1' on Friday, an initiative designed to connect innovators, startup founders, and aspiring entrepreneurs directly with ecosystem experts.

Held at T-Hub, the event opened a new, walk-in platform for idea-stage innovators to get personalised advice, mentorship, and direction. The goal is to help people easily access Telangana's

vibrant startup network. Many innovators struggle to find the where to go next. TGIC's new programme tackles this problem by offering a direct, faceto-face way to connect with key organisations and mentors in the ecosystem.

The pilot will run till August 2025. Starting from



Representatives of TGIC releasing 'Innovation Panchavat Volume1' at T-Hub on Friday

June 20, it will be held on the a clear path forward." 3rd Friday of every month at T-Hub from 2 pm to 5 pm. T-Works, WE innovation are advised to

CEO of TGIC, Meraj Faheem said, "We are bringing the ecosystem to the people. Every idea matters, and this is about giving innovators

NIMS announces admissions for

Master's in Hospital Management

Experts from TGIC, T-Hub,

EdVenture Park type, or even questions about IIITH, and MATH were present, offering real-time support. A follow-up process within a week ensures continued help. This initiative reflects Telangana's strong push for inclusive, accessible

Inter-state narcotics racket busted, 166 kg of marijuana seized

PNS HYDERABAD

In a major crackdown on interstate drug trafficking, the Special Operations Team (SOT) of LB Nagar Zone, along with Hayathnagar Police, arrested four individuals involved in smuggling 166 kilograms of dry marijuana worth over Rs 50 lakh.



tified as Vikas Baban Salve (30) - a painter from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, Ranganath Yurajn Sadve (36) – a farmer Aurangabad, from from

Sports Authority chief lauds Telangana Sports Schools

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Shivsena Reddy appreciated the facilities at Telangana's sports schools and academies, calling them among the best in the country. During his visit to the Karimnagar Sports School on Friday, he emphasised the government's commitment

to transforming these institu-tions into model educational and training centres for

young athletes. Speaking on the occasion, Shivsena Reddy said that with increased budget allocations for sports, efforts are underway to further upgrade infrastructure and establish more academies across the

Applications are now invited from eligible candidates interested in pursuing careers in hospital and healthcare

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nizam's Institute of

Medical Sciences (NIMS) has

officially announced admis-

sions for the Master of Hospital

Management (MHM) pro-

gramme for the academic year

administration.

The entrance examination will be held on July 28, 2025 and the last date for submission of applications is July 9, 2025. The results will be declared on August 2, 2025, with all events scheduled before 5pm on their respective

The MHM course is designed to train professionals for management roles in hos-

pitals, health systems, and allied healthcare sectors. The programme is open to graduates from life sciences, health sciences, and other relevant

The application fee Rs 5,000 (for OC/BC/EWS candidates) and Rs 4,000 (for SC/ST candidates).

Interested candidates can visit the official websit for further details.

CREDAI Hyderabad elects new managing committee members

PNS HYDERABAD

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) Hyderabad has announced its new managing committee for the 2025-2027 term. The new team will lead efforts to strengthen the real estate sector in Hyderabad.

In the Annual Council Meeting on Friday, N Jaideep Reddy has been appointed as President. B Jagannath Rao is the President-Elect. Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Kurra Srinath, K Anil Reddy, and Y Ravi Prasad are Vice Presidents. Kranti Kiran Reddy K will serve as General Secretary, Nitish Reddy Gudoor as Treasurer, and Sanjay Kumar Bansal and Sriram Musunuru as Joint Secretaries.

The Executive Committee includes Addula Gopal Reddy, Alugubelli Venkat Reddy, B Jaipal Reddy, B Vinod Reddy, C Amarendher Reddy, Kavya Kavuri (first woman EC member), N Venugopal, and Susheel Kumar Jain.

With the theme "Embracing Growth and Innovation," the new team plans to promote



smart construction, sustainability, skilling, and collaboration with the Telangana government. They will support developers and promote 'Brand Hyderabad' as a leading real estate destination.

President N Jaideep Reddy said, "Hyderabad's growth is real and visible. CREDAI Hyderabad will drive innovation, trust, and sustainability to build a resilient future."

President-Elect B Jagannath Rao emphasized innovation and policy reform, while General Secretary Kranti Kiran highlighted the Rs.4,000 crore worth of home registrations in May 2025,

marking a strong and confident market.

Maharashtra, Sagar Gajanan Khandebharad (29) - a Central Government railway employduring a vehicle check near Buldhana, Maharashtra Amol Narayan Dhananjaya Function Hall, Borde (26) - a driver from Hayathnagar. The accused were caught The arrested persons iden-Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Bhadrakali Bonalu temporarily

deferred to avoid unrest' PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to temporarily defer the Bhadrakali Bonalu celebrations in Warangal, citing the need to prevent potential disturbances due to emerging political tensions and misinformation. Announcing this on Friday, Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha said that recent objections and misleading reports in certain media outlets had raised concerns over the sanctity and

peaceful conduct of the event. Minister Surekha stated that while the government had earlier taken a decision to organise Bonalu at the Bhadrakali Temple with reverence and grandeur, some individuals appeared to be deliberately trying to create confusion by mixing political disputes with



religious practices. "There is apprehension that anti-social elements might exploit the situation and create unnecessary conflict," she said, explaining the reason behind the post-

ponement. Clarifying the religious procedures, Surekha noted that the temple authorities, along with Vedic scholars and the Endowments Department, had reiterated that only vegetarian Bonalu would be offered at the Bhadrakali Temple. "Based on Agama Shastra and the guidance of Vedic priests, we intended to organise the event accordingly. However, some individuals began spreading that non-vegetarian offerings were being made, leading to miscommunication among the

devotees," she said.

Minister Surekha emphasised that political motives should not be allowed to disturb the faith and sentiments of devotees. "We are not cancelling the Bonalu permanently. We are only deferring the June 22 celebration to ensure harmony. The government is committed to organising the Bonalu celebrations with greater splendour after wider consultations with stakeholders," she said.

Appealing to devotees, Surekha reiterated that the government's primary aim is to protect traditions and honour the genuine devotion to Goddess Bhadrakali. She asserted that the government will soon announce the future course of action after taking into account the views of the public, priests, and elected epresentatives.

job fraud case

Man arrested in

PNS HYDERABAD

An alleged conman, who promised three job aspirants, including two women, jobs in the defence forces and took them to a military college's premises, was arrested, police said on Friday. The accused, who claimed

to be an army employee, allegedly assured the three persons that he would get them jobs on outsourcing basis in the defence forces. He took them to the premis-

es of the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) here on Thursday, they said. The accused allegedly

sought to sexually exploit the

women. The accused, claiming to be an Air Force employee, showed an identity card that was downloaded from the internet to the security personnel to gain

access to the area.

Telangana





Warangal court receives hoax bomb threat call

PNS HANAMKONDA

Tension gripped the Warangal court premises after an unidentified person made a threatening call to the police, claiming that a bomb had been planted in the court. The call, made to the control room 100 number, prompted immediate action from the

Officers quickly cordoned off the court complex and launched a thorough search

During the search, six detonators were recovered from the premises

The bomb squad was immediately deployed to examine the scene, and the surrounding area was evacuated as a precautionary mea-However, further investiga-

tion revealed that the recovered detonators were related to an old case and had no connection to the recent bomb threat.

According to police and court staff, the detonators had been stored within the court premises as part of evidence from a resolved case.

Welfare topmost priority of government: Ponguleti

PNS BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Friday made it clear that the Indiramma government, formed with the blessings was dedicated to uplifting the

The government under the leadership of the Chief Minister is implementing developmental and welfare programs in equal measure, even though the state is burdened with a debt of approximately Rs 8.19 lakh crore. The Minister visited the

Chundrugonda, Annapureddypalli, and Mulakalapalli mandals within the Aswaraopeta constituency. During his visit, he laid the foundation stones for various development programs, including the construction of Indiramma houses. He was accompanied by Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, local MLA Jare Adinarayana, and District Collector Jitesh V Patil.

He further detailed the government's initiatives, including 200 units of free electricity, LPG cylinders for RS 500, free bus travel for women irrespective of distance, a



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy addressing a gathering at Annapureddypalli in Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Friday

40 per cent increase in mess charges and a 200 per cent increase in cosmetic charges for students, distribution of finequality rice through ration shops, Rs 500 bonus per quintal of fine rice, and the distribution of new ration cards.

The Minister highlighted the government's commitment to farmers: "While the previous government waived RS 17,000 crore farmer loans over ten years, the Indiramma government has waived Rs 21,000 crore within just

10 months of coming to power. The previous BRS government left the dream of double-bedroom houses for the poor unfulfilled for 10 years, but the Indiramma government is fulfilling the dream Under the Rythu Bandhu scheme, the previous BRS government provided RS 10,000 per acre in two instalments, whereas the Indiramma government is providing Rs 12,000 per acre under the Rythu Bharosa scheme."

He also mentioned that Rythu Bharosa funds have begun to be

deposited into farmers' accounts for the last three days, and the entire Rs 9,000 crores in Rythu Bharosa funds would be credited to beneficiaries' accounts within nine days.

The Minister concluded his speech by stating, "Even though the state's financial situation is not sound, the government is moving forward with the resolve to support the poor. I sincerely request the people to bless the Indiramma government's candidates in any upcoming elections.'

Three women forced out of RTC bus, stranded midway

PNS WARANGAL

Acting promptly on its election promises, the Congress government in Telangana has launched a free bus travel scheme for women across the state. While the initiative has been widely welcomed, it has also led to overcrowding and rising tensions during peak travel

In a disturbing incident that underscores the challenges emerging from the scheme's implementation, a video has gone viral showing three women being forcibly removed from a TGSRTC bus by a conductor in Warangal district. The incident happened near Anantaram crossroad in Parvathagiri Mandal.

According to reports, the women, hailing from Gopannapalli, had pur-chased chilli peppers from a local market and boarded the bus with their luggage. Midway through the journey, the conductor allegedly objected to their bags and forced them to disembark on the roadside.

The women, visibly distressed, said they had no money to arrange alternative transportation and were left strand-

This incident raised serious concerns about the safety and fairness in the



Women passengers walking to their destination after conductor forced them out of TGSRTC bus at Anantaram crossroad in Warangal on Friday

implementation of the free bus travel

Citizens and transport experts are now urging the Telangana Transport Department to put in place stronger regulations and better infrastructure to manage the surge in demand and prevent such incidents.

Social media users reacted with outrage and sympathy, with many condemning the act and questioning the handling of the scheme. While earlier videos showcased women competing for seats, this latest clip highlights a different, more troubling side of the issue.

Leopard, tiger movements cause panic among people

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA / JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

Leopard movement is causing panic in the Rajanna Siricilla district. On Friday morning, farmers spotted leopard pug-marks in the 10th ward of Siricilla Municipal limits and on the outskirts of Chinna Bonala.

Upon receiving the information, forest department officials confirmed that the tracks were those of a leopard. Forest department officials advised farmers in the surrounding areas to avoid going to the fields at night as the leoparound the Chinna Bonala forest area. The local residents are expe-

riencing fear



and anxiety due to the leopard's presence. Meanwhile, a tiger attacked and killed a cow belonging to farmer Gurram Rajayya in Yedlapalli.

For the past three days, there has been tiger movement in the forest areas of Tadicherla, Koyyur, Mallaram, and

Speaker vows to ensure welfare benefits to all eligible

PNS VIKARABAD

Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has assured the people that he will take responsibility for bringing welfare schemes to their doorsteps.

On Friday, Speaker Prasad Kumar attended a programme as the chief guest where Indiramma house sanction letters, Kalyana Lakshmi, and Shaadi Mubarak cheques were distributed to beneficiaries from Mominpet, Marpally, and other mandals.

Speaking on the occasion, Prasad Kumar mentioned that the government's goal is to fulfil the dream of owning a

He would work towards immediately ensuring that every eligible



Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar speaking at a meeting in Vikarabad on Friday

government welfare and development schemes, he assured.

He further explained that the allocation of Indiramma houses in the state was underway, and the beneficiaries should commence and comconstruction

person receives the benefits of bills related to Indiramma cy who did not own a house

houses would be credited directly to the beneficiary's bank accounts in four instalments without any intermediaries. He said that if the construction work such as the basement, walls, or slab is completed, the beneficiaries themselves could take photos and upload them on the mobile app, and the funds would be directly transferred

to their accounts. He also highlighted that the state budget has allocated Rs 22,500 crore for the construction of 4.4 lakh houses this

He mentioned that Vikarabad would receive a Indiramma houses. He assured He promised to see that the that people in his constituen-

Six arrested in kidnapping of DCCD director

PNS NIRMAL

Police have solved the sensational kidnapping case of District Co-operative Central Bank (DCCB) director Harish Kumar and the arrested six individuals on Friday. The police seized two cars, a gold chain, six mobile phones, two knives, and Rs 2,000 in cash from the accused. Providing details to the media, Nirmal District Superintendent of Police Janaki Sharmila revealed that those arrested include Shaik Haidar, a former driver of Harish Kumar, along with Banala Prince, Thatturi Ravi, Kalakanti Suresh, Gudem Koteshwar

ATTACK ON YOUTH

BRS leaders, activists stage protest, demand arrest of accused

PNS MANCHERIAL

MLA Nadipelli Diwakar Rao on Friday said that the police should take strict action against the rowdy politics. He demanded the arrest of

Congress leaders who attacked a Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader last night. Diwakar Rao, along with leaders and activists, staged a

protest at Bellampalli centre in

Mancherial town. The police whisked away the protesters in a police vehicle, which led to another protest in front of the Mancherial Town Police Station. During this



BRS leaders staging a protest in Mancherial on Friday to protest against attack on party activist in Mancherial on Thursday night

accused Congress leader Prem using his influ-

Diwakar Rao said that rowdy- ence to attack the BRS activists. ism in politics had never been He also alleged that the police seen in Mancherial before. He were siding with the ruling party. He demanded the immearrest of

attacked Dagula Madhu last night and called for strict pun-On Thursday evening,

unidentified persons attacked a BRS youth leader in Mancherial. The victim, Dagula Madhukar, suffered neck injuries on neck and was rushed to a local hospital with severe bleeding. His condition is reported to be stable.

Madhukar alleged that Congress leaders targeted him for exposing their illegal activities. He expressed concern for his family's safety and requested the police to file a case and take strict action

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR, LA, HAML, HYDERABAD

FORM-F Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML

Where as the following notifications were issued and published in the Gazettas for the acquisition of land under

Extension of Metro Rail Project, Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayanguita, Comidor-VI

File No.: C6/06/2025-LHS-17/3

Charminat Hyderabed

Minister vows to improve standards of health, education in Wanaparthy

PNS WANAPARTHY

Minister for Animal Husbandry Vakiti Sridhari, has directed Wanaparthi District Collector Adarsh Surabhi to take measures for the development of Atmakur and Amarachinta areas under the Makthal constituency in Vanaparthi dis-

On Friday, after assuming office as Minister, Vakiti Sridhari visited the Atmakur and Amarachinta municipalities in the Makthal constituency for the first time.

District Collector Adarsh Surabhi welcomed the Minister Vakiti and extended his greetings on his first visit to Wanaparthy district as Minister.



Minister for Animal Husbandry Vakiti Srihari being welcomed by Wanaparthy Collector Adarsh Surabhi in Atmakur on Friday

On the occasion, the Minister stated that necessary steps would be taken to develop the education and healthcare sec-

tors in Atmakur and Amarachinta areas in the district. He emphasised that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is a

strong supporter of farmers and has launched initiatives like Indiramma housing and free bus services for the poor. He added that the Chief Minister is working with great determination.

Later, Minister Sridhari participated in a programme held on the premises of Amarachinta Zilla Parishad High School, where he distributed cheques and approval letters of Indiramma hosues to beneficiaries under the Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak, and Indiramma housing schemes.

The event was attended by Atmakur Municipal Commissioner Shashidhar, Tahsildar Chand Pasha, and

Collector warns Panchayat Secretaries against interfering in civil disputes

PNS NALGONDA

District Collector Ila Tripathi has issued a stern warning against

interfering in civil disputes or cases that are under judicial consideration. In an official statement, she emphasised that any such interference would invite strict disciplinary action. The Collector noted that it has

come to the notice of the officials that some Panchayat Secretaries in the district were meddling in civil disputes, especially in cases that are pending in She pointed out that in several

instances, secretaries were seen allocating house numbers or making unilateral decisions on disputed lands or houses even while the matter was sub judice. Such actions are not only unauthorised but also beyond the scope of administrative jurisdiction.

Collector Tripathi warned that these activities disrupt legal processes and lead to serious legal complications at the village level. She also noted



that such interference is bringing unwanted legal trouble to the Panchayat Raj Department and district administration, and drawing criticism from the public.

Therefore, she has directed the Panchayat Secretaries to immediately stop issuing house numbers or certificates in disputed areas or in cases under litigation. The Collector made it clear that the district administration will no longer tolerate such unautho-

situated at Share E. Hyderabad Village, Bahadurapura Mandal of Hyderabad District for the Public purpose. In response to the said Notifications the following affected ensoris (Property owners and others) have come forward to ettle their claims through Negotiations The details of the willing affected persons/Land Owners an GAZETTE NO. 8DATE SNO. NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE PNIDO OS/164/2604-LHS (276 to 297) PM:HAML No.29 dated 02-11-2020 DD:HAML No.57 dated 24.00 2021 Name and address (Pati-A) 23-6-956 4.51 Rio.20-7-44/33/A, Qazi Pura, Charmings Shelibanda lyderabad-500065 2. Mittlesh Sharma, Wo. Late 23-6-958 4.09 Rio. 21-1-279, Ghansi Bazar

S.NO. NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE GAZETTE NO. & DATE II C6/200/2024-LHS (301 to 325) HAML No.45 dated:07-12-2024 Sketch Premises Estar No. 1. Sir Avadhootha Shanker, LHS-315 23-5-459 19:40 Rib 23-6-918/21, Shallbanda, Charminat, Hyderabad 2. Sri Avadhootha Mahesh S/o Late A Yadagiri 3. Sri A. Rajesh, LHS-315 23-5-459 8.97 5/o Late A. Yadagiri, Rib. 23-6-918/21/A, Shalibanda, Hyderab SNO. NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE GAZETTE NO. & DATE

Smt. N. Savithri, Wo Late LHS-376 18-4-650 14.1 N.Om Prakash, R/o 18-4-651. It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District / Specie

Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rascolpura, Hyderabad within the

III CG/283/2024-LHS (376 to 400) HAML No.48 dated.07-12-2824

Name and address

Seven days, of publication of this Notification. Signature of: Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML

Essential medical equipment donated to MGM Pediatric Department

PNS WARANGAL

Warangal District Collector Satya Sharada commended the contributions of donors who supported the Pediatric Department at MGM Hospital by providing essential medical equipment. The inauguration ceremony took place on Friday. The Collector, accompanied by representatives of the Collector Foundation, unveiled equipment worth Rs 60 lakh, donated under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in collaboration with Billion Hearts Beating Foundation and

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Satya Sharada said that the newly provided equip-



speaking at a meeting at MGM Hospital in Warangal on Friday

ment would significantly enhance the functioning of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU), thereby improving pediatric healthcare services. She emphasized the hospital's pivotal role in serving not only North Telangana but also neighboring states such as Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.

Maoist bandh fails to make any impact in Telangana

PNS ■ MULUGU / BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

The Maoist call for shutdown led to a high alert in the agency areas of Telangana on Friday.

The Telangana State Committee gave a call to make the shutdown on June 20 a success across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, condemning the BJP and Hindutva fascist "Operation Kagar" attack.

The shutdown called in protest against the killings carried out by the security forces, which they described as acts of repression. Among those killed were Comrade TLNS Chalam alias Anand alias Sudhakar alias Gautam — a senior state committee member with 45 years of revolutionary experience and Comrade Mailarapu Adella alias Bhaskar.

encounter that took place two days later, the top Maoist leader and Central Committee representative from Telangana, Gajarla Following this, in another Ravi, and senior Maoist leader

Aruna were killed. Although no formal statement has been issued by the Maoists following this incident, the shutdown was meant to demonstrate the party's exis-

Security forces patrolling tribal areas in the Mulugu district

Meanwhile, police forces intensified search operations. The shut-

down failed to make much impact

ACROSS THE STATES



Rajnath to attend Yoga Day celebrations in J&K

efence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said he will attend the International Day of Yoga celebrations in Jammu and Kashmir on June 21 and also interact with the armed forces personnel at Udhampur Cantonment. He shared the update in a post on X. "Leaving New Delhi for Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir. Shall attend the International Yoga Day celebrations tomorrow morning. Also, looking forward to interact with the Armed Forces personnel at Udhampur Cantt," Singh said in a post. The defence minister will be on a two-day visit to the Jammu region. The main IDY celebrations, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam.



BJP leader seeks help to rescue man stranded in Iran

By leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Avinash Rai Khanna has sought the help of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Ministry of External Affairs for the safe return of a Ludhiana man stranded in Iran amid heightened tensions in the region. Khanna said that Simardeep Singh, son of Jaspal Singh, owner of Shahpuri Industries, had travelled to Tehran to participate in a trade exhibition held from June 10 to 13, according to a press note issued on Friday. However, due to the ongoing hostilities between Israel and Iran, he has reportedly become stranded in the Shomal region of Iran and is facing difficulty returning to India. Following a plea from the family, Khanna said he initiated formal communication with the PMO and the MEA, urging swift diplomatic efforts for Simardeep's evacuation. He added that the Centre is committed to the safety of its citizens abroad and expressed hope that Simardeep would return home safely.



Bengal Irrigation Minister inspects Durgapur barrage

Winspected the Durgapur Barrage to assess water release mechanism amid concerns over potential flooding due to discharge from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) reservoirs. In the wake of heavy downpours over the past few days in some districts, downstream rivers have swelled, and the state administration was cautious about flood threats in case of a heavy release of water, officials said. Bhuiyan said he has been holding regular discussions with departmental officials on the issue, and said that although water is being released from DVC system, the Durgapur Barrage is ensuring a gradual discharge to help mitigate any flood risk.

Azamgarh got new identity under BJP govt: Adityanath

PNS ■ AZAMGARH (UP)

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said people of Uttar Pradesh were earlier scared of taking the name of Azamgarh or identifying with the place but under Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's leadership, it has become the fortress of "indomitable courage".

A z a m g a r h had to earlier beg for its identity but now the situation has

changed, he claimed while speaking at the inauguration of the Gorakhpur Link Expressway.

Expressway.

"Uttar Pradesh is making its identity from a 'BIMARU' state to an expressway state. Remember what the condi-

tions were eight years ago.

The youths of Uttar Pradesh and the residents of the state would suffer from an

identity crisis. People used to feel scared to take the name of Azamgarh and Uttar Pradesh," he said.

"Azamgarh has given two chief ministers and this Azamgarh had to beg for identity But, today in a span of eight years under the guidance of PM Modi, now

Azamgarh does not have to beg for i d e n t i t y, " Adityanath said.

Adityanath said.

He was apparently referring to former chief ministers Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh

Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh Yadav, who contested from the Azamgarh seat.

"Azamgarh has now become the fortress of indomitable courage. Now, it has integrated (itself) with the mainstream of develop-

ment," he said.

The 91.352-km-long
Gorakhpur link expressway
has been built at a cost of Rs

7,283 crore.

UNVEILS ODISHA VISION DOCUMENT

Modi launches 105 projects worth over Rs 18,600 cr

PNS RHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched 105 development projects valued at over Rs 18,600 crores, unveiled the "Odisha Vision Document" and flagged off new trains during his visit to the state.

He also felicitated several people, including 'Lakhpati Didis' and others.

Modi, who visited Odisha for the sixth time since the BJP government was formed in the state in June 2024, launched the projects at a function at Janata Maidan here. The projects launched by the

The projects launched by the Prime Minister included drinking water and irrigation, health infrastructure, rural roads and bridges, national highways and railway infrastructure.

Modi flagged off the first passenger train to Boudh district after inaugurating the Sonepur-Purunakatak railway

Railway projects such as the third and fourth rail lines between Sarla-Sason and the fourth rail line between Jharsuguda-Jamga were also launched.



This apart, Modi also flagged off 100 electric buses under the Capital Region

Urban Transport (CRUT) sys-

tem, promoting eco-friendly

Prepared following people's feedback, the Prime Minister

unveiled the 'Odisha Vision

Document', the roadmap for

the state's development goals,

anchored around the centenary

of Odisha's formation as a lin-

guistic state in 2036 and India's 100 years of independence in

urban mobility.

The vision aims to transform Odisha into a Dollar 500 billion economy by 2036 and a Dollar 1.5 trillion economy by 2047.

The Prime Minister also launched 'Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana', an initiative to transform birthplaces of Odia icons into memorials, featuring museums, interpretation centres, statues and libraries, thereby promoting cultural tourism and preserving her-

DECLINED TRUMP'S INVITE FOR COMING TO LAND OF LORD JAGANNATH: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he had declined an invitation from US President Donald Trump to visit Washington, and instead chosen to come to Odisha, the sacred land of Lord Jagannath. Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, Modi said, "I was in Canada for the G7 Summit when US President Trump had called me and invited me to Washington for a discussion and lunch. I thanked him for the invitation, saying I have to visit Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath. I humbly rejected his invitation. Modi participated in the first anniversary function of the BJP's maiden government in the state and launched development projects worth over Rs 18,600 crore.

itage.
Modi also felicitated some
women achievers from across
the state, who included some
"Lakhpati Didis".

Union Min Sukanta writes to LS Speaker alleging 'threat to life'

PNS KOLKAT

Union minister Sukanta Majumdar on Friday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging a "grave breach of privilege" and a "threat to life" after his convoy was allegedly attacked in the Budge Budge area in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on the previous day.

Majumdar, who is also the BJP's West Bengal unit president, was visiting the area on Thursday to meet party work-

ers who were reportedly injured after being attacked outside the Budge Budge-1 BDO office on Wednesday. His visit trig-

gered tensions in the area, where TMC supporters allegedly surrounded his convoy, raised slogans, and pelted

it with stones.

In a letter written to the Speaker under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Majumdar, the Balurghat MP, described the attack as a serious threat not only to his life but also to the

safety of those accompanying

He stated that the mob, reportedly comprising TMC workers, gheraoed and violently attacked his convoy, damaging vehicles and injuring several individuals.

"The attack posed a direct and serious threat to my life and the lives of those present," the letter said.

Majumdar said Diamond Harbour Police District Superintendent of Police Rahul Goswami was physically present at the spot

but "failed to take any preventive or protective action," which the minister termed as "wilful negligence" and "derelic-

tion of duty."
He also noted that the SDPO of Diamond Harbour was absent from the scene despite prior intimation of his scheduled visit.

"The situation was brought under control only due to the timely intervention of CISF personnel assigned to me as I have Z category security cover provided by the Union government," Majumdar wrote.

Panel to examine reliance of coaching, fairness of entrance exams

PNS NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education has set up a nine-member panel to examine issues relating to coaching and the emergence of 'dummy schools' besides the effectiveness and fairness of entrance examinations, according to officials.

The panel headed by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi will suggest measures to reduce the dependency of students on coaching centres for transition to higher education.

"The committee will examine the gaps in the current to schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres, particularly the limited focus on critical think-

ing, logical reasoning, analytical skills and innovation and the prevalence of rote learning practices," a senior Ministry of Education official said.

"The reasons behind the emergence of 'dummy schools' will be examined and the panel will study their role in encouraging full-time coaching at the cost of formal schooling and suggest ways to mitigate them," the official added.

The panel will study the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations in the context of the

school education system and their influence on the growth of the coaching industry.

"The role and impact of formative assessments at school and higher education levels will be assessed and how their absence affects students' conceptual understanding and preparedness for competitive examinations. The panel will also analyse the rising demand for quality higher education, limited availability of seats in premier institutions and how



gical
g, analytical skills and towards coaching institutes, on and the prevarote learning pracEvaluating the awareness

Evaluating the awareness levels among students and parents regarding multiple career pathways and the impact of this lack of awareness on the over-dependence on a few elite institutions; assessing the availability and effectiveness of career counselling services in schools and colleges and suggesting measures for strengthening career guidance frameworks are among other terms of reference of the committee, the official said

PM Modi slams RJD for 'insulting' Ambedkar

'WON'T TOLERATE DISRESPECT TO DALIT ICON

PNS ■ SIWAN (BIHAR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday slammed the RJD for allegedly insulting Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar and asserted that the people of Bihar would not tolerate any disrespect to the Dalit icon.

At a rally in Siwan district, which marked his fifth visit this year and second in less than a month, Modi hailed the "big role" played by Bihar in India's emergence as the "third largest economy" of the world.

In a nearly 45-minute-long

speech that followed the launch of projects worth more than Rs 5,900 crore and the flagging off of a Vande Bharat train, the Prime Minister cautioned the people against "attempts to recapture economic resources of Bihar" by the RJD-led opposition in the upcoming assembly polls

"Ambedkar was against dynasty rule. But they (RJD and its allies) do not like it. So they have his portrait placed at their feet. On my way, I saw posters demanding an apology for this insult to Babasaheb," said Modi.

He added, "But there has been no apology. This is because they hold Dalits in contempt.

In contrast, Modi has Babasaheb in his heart and would like to keep his portrait close to his chest".

Modi, who did not mention RJD chief Lalu Prasad by name, referred to the instance of a portrait of Ambedkar being placed close to the feet of the ailing septuagenarian, for which he (Prasad) has been drawing flak from the BJP-led NDA.

"The reason is that the RJD- third largest economy".

Congress people have little respect for people belonging to the deprived castes, the Dalits, the OBCs and the EBCs. They consider themselves above Babasaheb Ambedkar.

But they must remember that the disrespect to Babasaheb Ambedkar will not be forgiven by the people of Bihar," the PM said.

Speaking at the rally, Modi asserted that the world was "greatly impressed" with India's progress and underscored Bihar's "big role" in the country's emergence as the "world's third largest economy"

SC stays Madurai temple demolition

PNS NEW I

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the demolition of a temple allegedly constructed without valid permission in Tamil Nadu's Madurai.

A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan sought the response of the civic body on a plea of the residents through their body, Visthara Welfare Association in Madurai, challenging the Madras High Court order directing the temple's demolition.

"The high court has directed the demolition of the temple. Issue notice, returnable in eight weeks. In the meanwhile, the demolition of the temple shall remain stayed," the bench ordered.

55-year-old man marries woman once engaged to his son

PNS ■ RAMPUR (UP)

A 55-year-old man in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district allegedly married a woman who was initially engaged to his 17-year-old son, leaving his family shocked and distraught, officials said on Friday.

The incident occurred recently in Bansnagali village and came to light on Thursday following the family's claims. Shakeel, a father of six and grandfather to three, frequent-

grandfather to three, frequently communicated with a 22year-old woman, Ayesha (name changed), from a nearby village, after their daughter's wedding last month, his wife Shabana said.

When questioned, Shakeel claimed he was arranging Ayesha's marriage with his son, Aman (name changed).



Initially, the family resisted the union citing both financial constraints and Aman's age, but Shabana alleged that Shakeel forced the match by being verbally and physically aggressive.

Aman, however, said that he grew suspicious of his father's behaviour after noticing fre-

quent calls between him and Ayesha.

"Once, I checked his phone and found some objectionable content involving him," Aman explained, adding that he later refused to proceed with the wedding.

Last week, Shakeel left for Delhi on the pretext of work.

Refugee status a reminder of unfinished battle for justice: Kashmiri Pandits

PNS ■ JAMMU

Panun Kashmir, an organisation advocating for displaced Kashmiri Pandits, said on Friday that refugee status was not an identity but a reminder of the "unfinished battle for justice".

At a function to mark World Refugee Day, Panun Kashmir organising secretary B L Kaul denounced the "global silence around the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir" and urged the community to consolidate its demand for rightful restitution, not sym-

bolic gestures.

"The refugee status is not an identity but a reminder of the unfinished battle for justice. Today is not a day of mourning, but of assertion. We gather not to seek pity but to remind the world of the betrayal we continue to endure," Kaul said.

Former director general of J-K Police S P Vaid spoke on the Pahalgam attack, in which 26



people were killed by terrorists.
All but one of those killed in

All but one of those killed in the attack were tourists. "The threats were real, the targets were known, yet the system failed. Why?" he said.

system failed. Why?" he said. Referring to his time in the police, he said every operation meant to safeguard Kashmiri Pandits was either delayed or diluted. "I witnessed how the machinery was systematically programmed to ignore red flags. Pahalgam wasn't a failure

of intent," he said.

Legal luminary and former chairperson of the Jonaraja Institute of Genocide and Atrocities Studies, Tito Ganju, spoke on the international framework of genocide studies. "Kashmiri Hindus are not just victims of displacement but of a systemic and prolonged

machinery was systematically programmed to ignore red flags. Pahalgam wasn't a failure of intelligence. It was a failure

genocide," he declared.

on an unhealed scar."

Drawing upon international conventions, he said that the 2005 UN basic principles on the right to remedy and reparation prohibit enforced reconciliation without recognition of the crime and yet, that is precisely what is being attempted in the name of symbolic return and political adjustment.

"We are caught in the deadly triad of genocide, denial of genocide, and now, the consolidation of genocide.

The perpetrators are being mainstreamed, and the victims are being told to forget," he said.

Ganju categorically rejected the call for a moment of silence, saying, "Our silence has been weaponised for 35 years. Today, we speak, we name, and we indict."

Chairman of Panun Kashmir Dr Ajay Chrungoo said, "The massacre at Pahalgam is part of the same uninterrupted genocidal campaign.

China, Pak, Bangladesh hold inaugural trilateral meet

PNS ■ BEIJING

China, Pakistan, Bangladesh have held the inaugural session of their trilateral meeting of foreign ministry officials, Beijing's new strategic initiative to promote closer ties between two estranged South

Asian countries in India's immediate neighbourhood.

It is the second such trilateral that China has established in India's neighbourhood after its foreign ministers' mechanism with

Pakistan and Afghanistan last month.

Argnanistan last month.
On Thursday, Chinese Vice
Foreign Minister Sun
Weidong, Bangladeshi Acting
Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam
Siddique and Additional
Foreign Secretary of Pakistan
Imran Ahmed Siddiqui
attended the meeting held at

the Chinese city of Kunming, capital of Southern Yunnan province.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch participated in

Amna Baloch participated in the first phase of the meeting via video link, a Chinese Foreign Ministry press release said here on Friday.



In his address, Sun Weidong said Bangladesh and Pakistan are both good neighbours, good friends, and good partners of China, and important partners in high quality Belt and Road cooperation, the Foreign Ministry's press release said.







Iran-Israel conflict could devastate world peace

Rising Iran-Israel tensions, likely US involvement, and Putin's warning cast a dark shadow over global peace

he drums of war are beating louder than ever. As tensions between Iran and Israel escalate to alarming levels, fresh reports suggest that US President Donald Trump has approved military strike plans on Iran though final orders are still pending. The world now watches with bated breath as a volatile triangle of Tel Aviv, Tehran, and Washington threaten to spiral into an all-consuming regional war. This isn't just a matter of political one-upmanship; it's a global concern with deep implications for security, energy, diplomacy, and humanity itself. The current situation in the Middle East is a dangerous mix of ideological enmity, nuclear ambitions, and historical grievances. Iran and Israel have long viewed each other as existential threats. Add the United States — a global superpower — to the mix, and the stakes become dangerously high. Recent developments, including President Trump's consideration of a military strike on Iran, signal a major turning point. It could also lead to China and Russia pitching in. Russian President Putin has already warned the US to keep away from it. While the White House maintains it is weighing all options, including diplomatic ones, preparations for a potential weekend strike indicate how close the world is to the edge.

The war, if once started, could lead to dire economic consequences too. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital chokepoint for the world's oil supply, lies at the heart of any Iran conflict. If war erupts, Iran could retaliate by disrupting this route, choking global oil flow and causing energy prices to skyrocket. Iran has deep ties with regional militias and proxy groups - from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Houthis in Yemen and militias in Iraq and Syria. A military strike on Iran could unleash a chain reaction of asymmetric retaliation, dragging multiple countries - including Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and even Turkey — into a broader regional conflict. An outright war would destabilise international institutions like the United Nations and cause a breakdown of diplomatic channels. In a world already dealing with crises in Ukraine, Gaza, and Taiwan, another warfront would overstretch peacekeeping capabilities and reduce trust in multilateralism.

While Trump's statement — "If it's a choice between fighting and having a nuclear weapon, you have to do what you have to do" — may appeal to hardliners, it oversimplifies a highly complex geopolitical dilemma. True strength lies in de-escalation, diplomacy, and long-term vision, not reactionary force. This moment demands global leadership. The European Union, India, China, Russia, and Gulf nations must step forward to mediate. The Iran nuclear deal, though imperfect, was a framework that kept dialogue alive. Walking away from it without a viable replacement is not a good idea. Beyond the missiles and politics, it is the ordinary citizens who suffer the most. Iranian civilians, already grappling with economic sanctions and political repression, could face mass casualties and humanitarian disaster, Israelis, too, would live under constant threat of retaliatory rocket fire. Missiles do not differentiate between uniforms and schoolchildren. The time to act is not after the war is declared. It is now through restraint, reason, and relentless diplomacy.





On the 10th International Day of Yoga last year, people gathered to perform yoga on the Yamuna River at Sonia Vihar. PANKAJ KUMAR

Coexistence must prevail over conflict

Whether acknowledged or ignored, interdependence lies at the heart of existence; life thrives not in isolation, but in interconnectedness. Yet, history is rife with conflict — a result of ego, domination, and the failure to honour this fundamental truth

hether one accepts it or not, one needs each other. Interdependency is the essence of life. The sooner one realises this, the more effective one's range is. Goodwill for each other is needed not just for the other person but for oneself.

Life itself begins with interdependency when the infant needs the mother and then the father, not only to feed oneself but also to be free from disease, ill health, and more. As one changes because of changes in age, life, and status, the nature of interdependency changes, but dependencies continue. In such a scenario, the scope for arrogance and self-adulation can have little or no space.

It is unrealistic and impractical. Humility, therefore, becomes the key. Humility is only partly modesty. Essentially, it is a realisation of interdependency that is a hallmark of maturity. This is the core of the existence of living creatures, living beings. Many schools of philosophy across

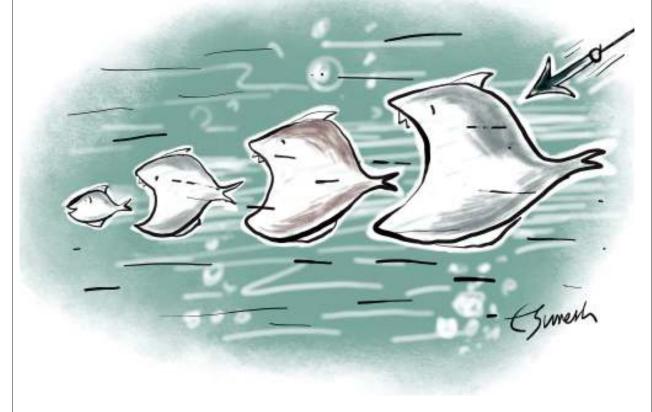
the world have expounded on this.

This approach is true for all living entities and not just human beings. It applies to non-living entities too. Water needs land, and land needs water. Together, they give life to living entities of plants, trees, and more, which in turn bear fruit for living beings. Clearly, interdependence is the key. Together with interdependency is a sense of the requirement of modesty, proportion, and respect for the other entity's needs. Unfortunately, this simple truth is not recognised sufficiently in operation, and some entities destroy another entity's existence in the interest of so-called selfpreservation.

A reaction can and does set in. This is a dilemma that is yet to be resolved. Empathy may provide a route to it. Therefore, one of the crucial questions of life is: where does interdependency recede, and the dominant takeover to establish their hegemony?

Attempts at hegemony can and do meet with a reaction sooner or later. This is the origin of war and the struggle for dominance takes on a violent shape. It is not surprising, therefore, that the story of different parts of the planet is dotted with anecdotes of wars, violence, and worse. If the theory of inter-dependencies is so obvious — which indeed it is — why does it escape attention? Philosophers have dilated upon this from the hoary past in Asia to the more recent past from the Renaissance onwards in the West.

The Chinese, the Indian, and subsequently the European thinkers have done their bit to plough the theme of inter-



dependency, but no one has been able to convert this into practical terms for everyone's welfare and everyone's growth. There

is a Sanskrit dictum to the effect 'Sarve bhavantu sukhinah; sarve bhavantu niramaya' (freely translated, it means: May all become satiated, may all without become attachment).

This too has often remained a distant ideal, and people do get attached, and people do identify with things material and otherwise. 'This is mine and that is thine'

is a driving philosophy. This has the roots of much conflict at

VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

many levels. This includes, as explained, conflict at an interpersonal level, group level, and at a larger social level, leading to

Many people talk of wars and conflicts as not helping in solving problems, but they still indulge in wars or conflicts and

worse. The tendency for domination overtakes the feeling of co-existence. To possess more than one's share becomes a need for many. The pursuit of this need overtakes the pursuit of co-existence. The feeling and the realisation that whether one likes it or not, one needs each other, becomes a distant dream.

This planet is divided into races, colours, religions, and other distinctive categories. These constitute groups and periodically one or the other tries to dominate. It may not be fantasy to say that the history of this planet is also the history of wars.

Since time immemorial, groups have coalesced with weaponry and more to dominate other groups.

Dominating other groups has also become the route to access to resources and, therefore, greater physical comfort and material prosperity.

The matter does not stop there. Access to more resources leads to a desire for even more: not just resources but also comforts. This is then converted into more luxurious living, more luxurious housing, palaces, and luxury haunts.

Perhaps reversing this is a time-consum-

ing and foundational effort. Many saints and philosophers have tried to do so by talking about peace, goodwill, and more. That movement is equally strong, and the names of many philosophers, thinkers, and enunciators come to mind.

The names of Buddha, Confucius, Moses, and others are but a few among literally dozens and hundreds of leading thinkers who would have preached the route and practice of peace and mutual goodwill. Thus, it is the interdependency and conflict that seem to run on parallel lines. Sometimes one seems to have the upper hand; sometimes the other.

Be that as it may, the history of the planet runs between co-existence and conflict. It is for the sake of the sanity of the species and the race that one must support the forces of coexistence and interdependence. This alone will bring to the fore and perpetuate the achievements of the race which dominates this planet. Being 'human' is perhaps the biggest achievement of it all.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. Views

India's race to superpower needs more than GDP & missile

SECOND **Opinion**

¬or a nation to rise to the level of a superpower, it must possess not only military might, scientific innovation, economic strength, and industrial depth, but also something far less tangible — soft power. In the 20th century, the notion that a newly independent and economically fragile India could one day stake its claim as a global superpower seemed farfetched. Today, that vision is not only conceivable — it's within reach. Since 1947, India has come a long way.

With a GDP that ranks fifth globally and expected to become the third-largest by the end of the decade, with one of the world's largest and best-trained armed forces, India has many of the hard power ingredients necessary for superpower status. Technologically, India is advancing rapidly, especially in sectors like digital payments, space exploration, and phar-

Yet history tells us something crucial: hard power alone does not create enduring superpowers. True global influence comes when a nation captures not just territory or markets, but the imagination and affection of people around the world. It's here that India must focus its next leap on soft power.

The British Empire understood this well. Alongside its colonial exploits, it spread games like and, of course, the English language, which today connects dians are under threat. In a democracy, the freedom to through Hollywood, jazz, jeans, and the global appeal of its democratic ideals. South Korea is now a case study in how cultural exports — K-pop, Korean cuisine, and Samsung's technological prowess — can transform global perception. Even China, often criticised for its authoritarianism, has found admiration through exports like Chinese cuisine, TikTok, and cutting-edge electric vehicles.

India, with its immense cultural wealth, has a deep reservoir of soft power waiting to be tapped. Yoga and meditation have already found a vast following across the West. Bollywood is now a recognised global brand. Indian cui-

sine, from North Indian tandoori to South Indian vegetarian dishes, is increasingly mainstream in cities like London, New York, and Sydney. The philosophical legacy of Mahatma Gandhi continues to inspire peaceful resistance movements across the globe.

Then there are unique cultural treasures like the Kama Sutra, a historical celebration of human intimacy, and architectural marvels like the Taj Mahal, among the most visited monuments in the world. India could position itself not just as a cultural superpower but as a "Superpower of Peace," exporting harmony, wellness, and heritage. But to do so, India must confront a critical internal contradiction: its

cricket and tennis, cultural symbols like the Christmas tree, soft power cannot flourish if its artists, thinkers, and come-

dation of cultural confidence. Yet India is currently the only major democracy where comedians and authors can face legal action for offending sentiments. Recently, creators like Ranveer Allahbadia and Samay Raina found themselves in legal trouble simply for making jokes about sex — this, in the land of the Kama Sutra! Compare this with the United States, where even the President isn't spared satire.

During Joe Biden's presidency, American comedians regularly poked fun at his age and perceived cognitive decline, without fear of prosecution. That resilience of free expression is the lifeblood of a vibrant cultural ecosystem. India cannot expect its cultural exports to thrive globally while stifling expression at home. If the world is to embrace Indian ideas, art, and identity, Indians must be free to explore and express them without fear. Allowing creators to flourish, even when they provoke or offend, is not a sign of weakness; it's a marker of maturity. To truly lead the 21st century, India must pair its growing economic and military influence with an equally bold embrace of soft power. That begins with cultural confidence at home. Let India's next great export not be just software or satellites, but the vibrant diversity of its voices — unfettered, fearless, and free.

(The writer is a Global Trendwatcher, Futurist and Bestselling Author based in the Netherlands. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Women in Espionage

Espionage, the clandestine art of gathering intelligence for national security, has existed since the dawn of states, as seen in ancient texts like Kautilya's Arthashastra and the Mahabharata. Spies played vital roles in safeguarding frontiers against unknown threats.

Historically, espionage was a male-dominated field. That's what makes the appointment of Blaise Metreweli as the first female head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) in over a century particularly noteworthy. Since its formation in 1909, MI6 has operated globally to counter terrorism, cyber threats, and hostile states — often invisibly.

Though rare, history records remarkable female spies Virginia Hall of the US outwitted the Gestapo during WWII, while Melita Norwood passed crucial British atomic secrets to the Soviets over four decades. India too produced brave women like Noor Inayat Khan and Saraswati Rajamani, who contributed significantly to wartime intelligence, with the latter thwarting British plans against Netaji

Subhash Chandra Bose. Interestingly, life now imitates art — MI6's historic decision echoes the 1995 James Bond film Golden Eye, where a woman heads the intelligence service. While symbolic, this move challenges entrenched norms. Yet, whether it transforms real-world espionage or merely scratches the surface of male-centric structures remains to be seen.

Rising Covid cases is a cause of concern

The number of active COVID-19 cases is steadily rising across the country and in Haryana, prompting health authorities to intensify surveillance and testing. Hospitals are being urged to resume antigen and RTPCR testing to detect infections early.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the recent surge in cases is linked to the Omicron sub-variant NB 181, which is showing rapid transmissibility. In response to the growing threat, the Haryana government has extended COVID-related restrictions until March 31, 2026. Governor Bandaru Dattatreya has invoked Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, to implement precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread.

Health Minister Arti Singh Rao has appealed to both citizens and health officials to remain alert and proactive. The central and state Governments have reiterated the importance of adhering to COVID protocols, including wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings.

While the Government is responsible for ensuring the availability of medical infrastructure and resources, individual responsibility remains critical. Public cooperation and vigilance are essential to curb the spread and avoid another health crisis.

Trump's bizzaare ceaefire claims

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I fail to understand what kind of leader Donald Trump is. Just yesterday (June 18), Prime Minister Narendra Modi clarified to Trump that India has never accepted third-party mediation on the Kashmir issue and never will Yet, only hours later, Trump claimed he "stopped the

war" between India and Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, crediting not just PM Modi but also Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir — not their elected PM Shahbaz Sharif. This alone reveals who really calls the shots in

Pakistan, exposing it as a military-run state. More troubling is Trump's false equivalence: comparing PM Modi, leader of the world's largest democracy, to a Pakistani military general. It's insulting. Why hasn't India objected? Why is our elected leader being likened to someone from a nation that harbours terrorists?

The truth is murky. If a ceasefire happened, was it due to US pressure? Or did Modi act at Pakistan's request? And if so, why didn't he demand the extradition of terrorists hiding in Pakistan, including those behind the April 22 attack?

It's time for PM Modi to be transparent with Indians. Trump may be playing his own game, America is no one's true friend

BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE | FARIDABAD

CAN PAKISTAN EXPLOIT THE GEOPOLITICAL SITUAION?

ongoing Iran-Israel War, can Pakistan join hands with Turkey to unite the Muslim countries in the name of Ummah or the whole community of Muslims bound together by ties of religion? Can it use this trick to put geopolitical pressure on India and blackmail it in any future escalation of tension or on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir? These questions surfaced after a senior military commander and member of Iran's National Security Council. Mohsen Rezaei, claimed that Pakistan had assured the Shia nation it would attack Israel with a nuclear bomb. Pakistan has used the bogev of Jammu and Kashmir in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Though it has failed almost every time. Islamabad can use the issues of "fight against Zionism" and "Islam in danger" in the Iran-Israel War. It also should be kept in mind that Islamabad has always defended its own nuclear programme as

iving a communal twist to the

"Islamic bomb". I strongly feel that it is almost impossible to unite the Muslim countries in the name of the Islamic world or Ummah. They cannot be united even in the name of "fight against Zionism" and "Islam in danger" because each of them prioritises its own interests. Many Muslim countries are upset with the treatment of Muslims, the Citizenship Amendment Act. the National Register of Citizens and the rise of Hindutva and majoritarianism in India. Pakistan wants to exploit the situation for its own strategic needs.

The way Turkey and Azerbaijan joined hands with Islamabad in the recent clashes with India has raised the alarm bells. Should India chalk out its own strategy to checkmate Pakistan's design by seeking help from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Malaysia? Should India stop backing Israel and reach out to Iran and mend its own domestic policies?

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words.

VIJAY SINGH ADHIKARI I NAINITAL

YUGAL KISHORE SHARMA Į FARIDABAD



India's quiet power: How yoga became the world's breath of unity

From UN halls to public parks across continents, yoga has become more than exercise; it's a shared language of breath and balance. And in a fractured world, that quiet connection may be India's most revolutionary contribution yet

n a world constantly jostling for attention, through missiles, money, and media, India has managed to slip something quietly into the global bloodstream: yoga. Not just the stretch-on-a-mat version that floods Instagram, but the real thing, an ancient, rooted philosophy that has slowly become one of the most persuasive tools of soft power diplomacy in the 21st century. It's not flashy, it doesn't demand loyalty, but it lingers; and that's where its magic lies.

For the past 10 years, yoga's rise has been deliberate, strategic, and honestly, quite beautiful to watch. The turning point came in 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea of an International Day of Yoga at the United

177 countries backed it, not because they wanted to do India a favour, but because yoga had already embedded itself in their societies. That was the win, not just the declaration itself, but the global readiness to accept that this was more than India's past; it was part of humanity's future.

In 2024, that symbolic circle came full with PM Modi leading the Yoga Day celebrations at the UN Headquarters in New York, in the very halls where he had first proposed it.

Over 180 nationalities came together in a collective breath, a rare moment of unity in a fragmented global order. American singer Mary Millben's soulful rendition of India's national anthem at the event added a layer of cultural grace that moved many to tears.

It wasn't just a diplomatic spectacle; it was a deeply human moment, where art, breath, and belief converged into something much larger than protocol. In that gathering of movement and stillness, India didn't just host the world, it held it.

Since then, June 21 has transformed from a cultural celebration into something much deeper, a show of presence, not power; of balance, not bluster. And that's what makes yoga such an exceptional soft power tool.

It doesn't yell, it invites. It doesn't push a product; it offers a practice. While other cultural exports often come dressed in capital-

ism or carry subtle imperial agendas, voga feels clean, disarming even. Its strength lies in its quietness.
From New York to Nairobi, Tokyo to

Toronto, the sight of thousands moving together in breath and stillness is not just aesthetic, it's symbolic. In a time where nations scream over each

other, yoga listens, and people respond. Back home, the Ministry of Ayush has played a crucial role in deepening this influence. From local wellness programs and school modules to international MOUs and yoga certification frameworks, the past two decades have

seen real, measurable investment in making yoga accessible, authentic, and global. This isn't

Ayush's campaigns this year reflect that urgency. Over 30,000 organisations are joining the 'Yoga

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

DINESH KUMAR TYAGI



A CULTURAL CELEBRATION INTO

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TOOL. IT DOESN'T YELL, IT INVITES

just branding, it's cultural stewardship, and it matters. Because when a country not only preserves

but exports its deepest values, and does so with humility, it earns something far more valuable than visibility; it earns trust.

This year, the International Day of Yoga 2025 campaign is themed "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", a line that captures, in five words, everything the world is craving: connection, sustainability, healing.
After years of pandemic panic, men-

tal health breakdowns, and climate anxiety, the idea that the health of our bodies is directly tied to the health of our planet doesn't feel like a philosophy anymore; it feels like a necessity.

Sangam', turning parks, schoolyards, hospitals, and railway platforms into yoga grounds. These aren't token events; they're public declarations that India's contribution to global peace and wellbeing will not be transactional, it will be transfor-JUNE 21 HAS TRANSFORMED FROM

And then there's YogAndhra 2025, one of the most ambitious state campaigns we've seen in years. Two crore people, a month-long activation, a mass event along the Visakhapatnam coastline; it's massive, and honestly, deeply moving.

Not because of the numbers, but because of what they represent: ordinary people coming together, voluntarily, in a moment of pause.

That's the real diplomacy, not the flags, not the official handshakes. Just breath, stillness, surrender; and in that shared silence, India speaks loud-

er than any press release ever could. What makes all of this even more powerful is the tenor of yoga itself. It's not ornamental, it's foundational. Yoga doesn't demand performance, it demands presence.

And in a hyper-digitised, algorithm-driven world, that's revolutionary. Yoga has no nation, but it does have an origin; and every time someone anywhere rolls out a mat and begins their practice, they are, whether they know it or not, engaging with India, not politically, but spiritually and philosophically. That's legacy, and that's how soft power works.

Health diplomacy is another layer in this story that often gets overlooked. In a time when the world is buckling under non-communicable diseases, burnout, and post-pandemic trauma, India's offering isn't just ancient, it's relevant.

Yoga is preventive and sustainable; it teaches you to listen to your body, manage your mind, and egulate your breath.

That's public health without a prescription. It's affordable, scalable, and deeply human. The fact that international bodies like the WHO are now aligning with Ayush to explore integrative health models is no coincidence; it's recognition.

But to fully understand yoga's impact, you have

to go beyond the policy speak.
Yoga isn't about flexibility; it's about balance. It's not about how you look, it's about how you feel. It doesn't sell transformation in 21 days; it teaches you to surrender to slow, patient

When someone in Buenos Aires Berlin or Bengaluru sits in silence, they're not just accessing a wellness tool; they're entering a cultural portal, one that leads, always, back to India.

And that's what makes yoga such a rare diplomatic asset. It doesn't just generate influence; it generates affection. It's not transactional. It's not about lobbying.

It's about resonance, and resonance lasts. India, through yoga, is not trying to dominate global narratives. It's anchoring them, centring them, reminding the world that wellness, at its core, is not a luxury; it's a right. And that stillness, in a fractured, frantic world, is not weakness; it's power.

So as India gears up for another powerful edition of IDY, it's not just about the scale of participation or the number of countries involved. It's about what yoga continues to signify: that even in a global order shaped by conflict, chaos, and competition, there is space, sacred, silent, strong; for something slower, deeper, and more human. Yoga isn't just India's cultural gift; it's its geopo-

litical signature. Not loud, but lasting.

And maybe that's the whole point. In a world obsessed with speed and spectacle, yoga reminds us that the real revolution begins when we learn to just stop, breathe, and listen; to ourselves, and

(The writer is former Civil Servant. Views are personal. Inputs

Mainstreaming Climate Resilience and Disaster Management

and cloudburst in Sikkim have resulted in loss of human lives, damage to houses, roads and other infrastructure. It has disrupted normal life and has significant impact on business and industries in these states. The incident of forest fire in Uttarakhand — reported to be 11,256 incidents in the year 2023-2024 and spread in many districts has caused heavy damage to the biodiversity of the region. These incidents highlight the need to look into the approach followed by Government in dealing with disaster and climate resilience and whether there is need for course correction to contain such massive loss of life, property, business, beside other long-term impacts on the environment and ecology. As per the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2025 (GAR) published by UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction, the economic cost of disaster is increasing every year. From an average of \$70-80 billion a year (1970-2000), the annual cost is now \$180-200 billion. The real cost of disaster is estimated to be \$2.3 trillion when other related aspects are taken into account. India itself suffered economic losses of about \$12 billion in 2023 against an average of \$8 billion (2013-2021).

Some estimates project the loss of about 2 per cent GDP due to disaster in the medium term. The trend is showing substantial increase in losses and likely to increase in future. Disaster happens almost in all countries across the world and has become a very regular phenomenon, thus affecting the community, infrastructure, flora and fauna, environment and economy. In India, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides the framework for effective management of the disasters which include, besides the responses to deal/manage after the occur-

rence of event, provision for implementing measures in prevention of danger or threat of any disaster. Section 6 of the Act inter alia authorises the NDMA/SDMA — national/state authority — to lay down guidelines to be followed by all departments by integrating the disaster plan in their existing schemes and programmes. It also prescribes for making disaster plan at various level/department of the Government and also allocating the resources in their budget proposal for the same.

Has the Act and its provisions been able to enthuse every departmental functionary at all levels to appreciate and understand the need to take steps necessary for mitigating and addressing the causes and factors leading to disaster? Though the response of the administrative machinery has been laudable after the event (disaster/calamity) has happened, their support in addressing the causes/factors has not been very encouraging. The seriousness to be taken by every department of the Government in designing and developing programmes and making them integral part of their functioning does need a lot of

ecent incidents of floods in North East India improvement. The committee approach at various levels has not been able to mainstream the disaster mitigation and related issues addressed appropriately and with desired sincerity in view of large scale and long-term consequences.

There are six main types of disasters — earthquake, floods, storms, heatwaves, forest fire and droughts — which accounted for more than 95 per cent of direct losses noticed/accounted in disasters across the world. The losses include environmental, human displacement cost, health impact, and other social cost including loss of education and business. Disaster impacts almost every walk of life Almost every sector of the economy — from agriculture, forest, fisheries, small and medium industries and labour — are affected in disaster. In case of special children and Divyang, disaster is a way of life for them as they encounter it every day. This means that every department/institution of the Government needs to design programmes/schemes for mitigation of disaster. For example, a disaster by flooding will require measures from Irrigation Department (to design control measures), Public Works, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Food and

Civil Supplies, Education, Forest, Social Welfare/Revenue, Education, Police, Health. This reflects the need for dovetailing the disaster and climate resilience programmes in every department so as to facilitate preventative as well as effective management aspects of such

Central level and state level bodies with mainly coordination function do not seem to suffice this requirement. Most Government bodies think that disaster and climate resilience are issues to be addressed by Disaster Department or Forest and Environment Departments.

The exigencies of dealing with climate resilience are not integral to their functioning. Disasters destabilise national economy, strain public finances, deepen poverty and inequality and disrupt long-term development gains, beside social and psychological impact on the community. One example of the disaster is on children — most vulnerable section of the society. At least 242 million pre-primary and upper-secondary students have experienced school disruptions due to climate events in 2024 across 85 countries or territories and three-quarters (74 per cent) of those affected students are in low- and lowermiddle-income countries.

In India too, schools are generally the first one affected in any disaster - closed or used as shelter. Nowadays extreme weather events such as heatwave, pollution especially in the urban areas are having serious and long-term impact on the students. The main events leading to nationwide school disruptions in 2024 in at least 20 countries were heatwaves, tropical cyclones, storms, and floods large-

ly influenced by ongoing climate change. It is estimated that globally 90 per cent of children are exposed to one or more major climate and environmental hazard.

Another major sector affected by disaster and climate change is Health. Globally around 4.2 million premature deaths take place due to air pollution. The emergence of new strain of virus — COVID — also poses serious disaster impacting large and vulnerable population. Unpreparedness of the Health Department infrastructure and, in some cases, a total collapse was noticed during the COVID outbreak

With such long-term consequences, can disaster management be left to a "postmortem approach" deal with it after occurrence of the disaster event or does it need to be looked at differently in view of the serious impacts these disasters have on communities and nations? Presently, climate resilience approach has not been integrated in a manner that every department of the Government follows a focused and continuous approach in addressing the same. At one point of time, a similar approach as adopted by the NDMA Act was followed for dealing with matters relating to North Eastern States. North Eastern Council (NEC) was set up as a statutory body in 1972. Persuading every department to provide for specific component of their schemes for NE states despite issuance of guidelines/advisory was not found to be very effective. Despite NEC having all state Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Minister (Chairman) as members, the approach of exciting/persuading every department in Government was not found to be highly satisfactory. It was thereafter decided in 1998-99 to prescribe allocation of 10 per cent of total budget of each department for NE states. The unutilised portion of earmarked funds is maintained in a "nonlapsable pool" of resources. Ministry of Development of NE implements various schemes/programmes from the non-lapsable pool. Re-appropriations or diversion of funds from such allocation is strictly prohibited

This has really helped and supported in mainstreaming the developmental issues related to NE states. Some of the most affected states — coastal, hilly, adjoining main rivers — do take a proactive approach in bringing stakeholders to appreciate the impact/consequences of such disaster on community, flora and fauna and other economic consequences. However, mainstreaming climate resilience in every agency of Government functioning still remains a challenge. The impact of climate disruption and disaster on future generations is going to be far more due to the significant environmental changes noticed due to various factors such as receding glaciers, rising temperature, forest fire, pollution of land and sea, water crisis and certain emerging technologies such as AI.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer.

World has woken up to the power of Yoga

s we observe the 10th Anniversary of International Day of Yoga (IDY), it is a matter of immense pride for every Indian to see how an ancient Indian tradition has transformed into a global wellness movement. June 21, known as the Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere marking the longest day of the year, is now observed globally as the International Day of Yoga, a day to raise awareness about the benefits of Yoga. While numerous IDY events will be held across India, globally it will be the largest ever spectacle of Yoga. Spearheaded by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the cultural arm of the Ministry of External Affairs, Yoga sessions, events and programmes will be held in 191 countries, practically covering every nation across the globe.

More than 2,000 Yoga events are being organised in 1,300 cities covering all the continents.

The theme for this year's IDY is — "Yoga for One Earth, One Health." This theme echoes a vital truth about the interconnectedness of health, sustainability, and the environment — aligning with India's "One Earth, One Family, One Future" vision

highlighted during its G20 presidency. It is due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that Yoga today has gained international recognition. It is one of India's greatest cultural diplomacy achievements. The rage for Yoga has grown exponentially over the years, not only in India but across the world. People have taken to Yoga for their well-being and to beat stress. Yoga has become a daily ritual for crores of people across the globe. The success of IDY can be gauged from the fact that in 2018

around 9.60 crore people participated globally, while the participation jumped to almost 25 crores in IDY-2024. This year, when the largest ever participation of people is expected across the globe, new records will surely be set this time.

In India, while various Yoga events are being organised, the signature event of IDY-2025 will be "Yoga Bandhan" where 17 Yoga Gurus and practitioners from 15 countries including Brazil, Argentina, Russia, China, South Africa, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea, will be leading the IDY events across India. These Yoga practitioners are those training others in their countries. To make this even more memorable, iconic locations have been chosen to host "Yoga Bandhan" programmes.

For instance, in Delhi, Yoga events are being led by these foreign Yoga gurus at Jantar Mantar, Qutub Minar, Purana Kila and Humayun's Tomb which showcases our National Capital's rich cultural and architectural heritage. Similar "Yoga Bandhan" programmes are being organised in iconic locations in Lucknow; on the 'ghats' of Ayodhya and Varanasi; at the marvellous locations in Jaipur,

Jodhpur, Bhopal and Gwalior. Just as Yoga is a 'union' between 'Atma' and 'Paramatma', 'Yoga Bandhan' seeks to unite India and the world. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Yoga has come full circle. Yoga went from India to these countries. People abroad learnt Yoga, and today they have come back to India to lead Yoga demonstrations of Indian people in India.

ICCR has played a pivotal role in the promotion of Yoga across the world. Through its 37 cultural centres abroad, ICCR teaches Yoga. ICCR-appointed teachers not only teach Yoga to the people at its centres, Yoga is also taught in universities and schools. People in foreign countries are adopting Yoga in their daily lives to stay healthy and beat stress. Yoga has truly become a global movement.

Yoga is going places. It gives us a sense of pride and satisfaction when we see a woman leading the IDY demonstration in Saudi Arabia, or the Government of Kuwait allowing more than 1,200 people to practise Yoga in a public place. Imagine the power of these images. It inspires crores of people in India and globally to rediscover our tradi-

tional knowledge, heritage and our civilisational wisdom that lies in Yoga.

Yoga is becoming something that is not just being practised at the United Nations or just a June 21 event. People are genuinely adopting Yoga, they are making it a part of their lives for their own wellbeing, health and happiness.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means "The world is one family", far and wide. He has emphasised the interconnectedness of all living beings and promoted global unity

SANDEEP

India also believes in "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" (May all be happy, may all be free from illness, may all see what is good, may none experience suffering). We believe that we are all made of energy vibrating in different frequencies, but we are all made of the same energy. We are one, and Yoga is the best expression of that belief and value system. If we want peace, harmony and well-being in the world, then humanity has no option but to go to Yoga. Yoga is the need of the hour. The reason why Yoga is growing in popularity is because people globally are looking up to Yoga to boost their wellbeing. Today there is increasing burnout, although we live in the most comfortable of times. But spiritually and mentally, we are the most isolated, and in most unease. Yoga is helping people discover the inner peace; you have to be still, you have to be quiet, you have to delve within. It is then you realise that we can have a peaceful world only when we have peaceful human beings, because the world

(The writer is a freelance journalist. Views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS



Panel reduces short term lending rate

BI Governor Sanjay Malhotra suggested that a change in monetary policy stance to neutral will provide the necessary flexibility to the central bank to 'cut, pause or hike policy rate' in response to the evolving domestic and global economic conditions, as per the minutes of the ratesetting panel meeting issued on Friday. On June 6, the RBI governor-headed six-member panel reduced the benchmark short-term lending rate by 50 basis points, taking the total reduction to 100 bps in quick succession, besides a change in the policy stance to neutral from accommodative. "This package of measures will provide some certainty in times of uncertainty and is expected to support growth," Malhotra said during the three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). While five members voted for a 50 bps reduction in the repo rate, an external member of the panel, Saugata Bhattacharya, suggested a 25 bps cut.



Chandrasekaran pays homage to crash victims

Tata Motors Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Friday led the management and the company's shareholders in paying homage to the victims of the Air India plane crash by observing a one-minute silence at the company's 80th annual general meeting (AGM) here. Chandrasekaran, who is also chairman of Tata Sons, stated that the Tata Group will miss out its former chairman Ratan Tata, who died last year. This was the first AGM of a Tata Group company that Chandrasekaran has attended since the June 12 plane crash. He had not attended the AGMs of two other group companies -- TCS and TCPL -- which took place earlier this





5 paisa Capital launches Model Context Protocol

5 paisa Capital, one of India's leading discount broking firms, has officially launched its Model Context Protocol (MCP). This framework integrates Claude, a state-of-theart large language model (LLM), with 5paisa's internal APIs. This launch represents a strategic integration aimed at enhancing user experience and brings Al-powered trading capabilities to 5paisa users. With MCP, 5paisa users can now perform a wide range of trading tasks from placing orders and analyzing market data to backtesting strategies — simply by interacting with Claude via natural language. This rollout aligns with 5paisa's vision to simplify advanced trading tools for everyday investors. With the MCP, users can now harness the power of cutting-edge LLMs to make more informed trading decisions using real-time market data and their own custom datasets. By enabling intelligent prompt-based trading through 5paisa XStream Open APIs, MCP empowers users to bring any data source — be it weather, crop yield, or macroeconomic indicators — into the decision-making process for personalized stock market analysis. "We believe the future of investing lies in empowering users with intelligent tools that are not just data-driven, but context-aware.

COOP SECTOR GREW UNEVENLY

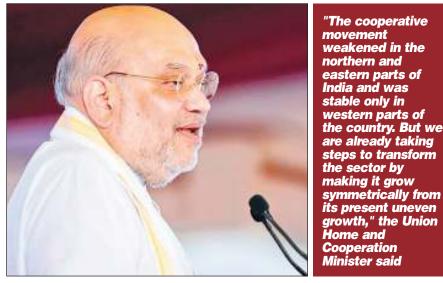
Govt taking steps for its symmetrical growth: Shah

Union minister Amit Shah on Friday said the cooperative sector grew unevenly in India as it stabilised only in the western parts but remained weak in northern and eastern regions, and added that the government intends to make its growth symmetrical.

Addressing a cooperation sector conference organised by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), he also said the cooperative sector boosts the economy by providing more profit with limited capital.

The cooperative movement weakened in the northern and eastern parts of India and was stable only in western parts of the country. But we are already taking steps to transform the sector by making it grow symmetrically from its present uneven growth," the Union Home and Cooperation Minister said.

'We will make the cooperative sector progress by strengthening it at all levels in the country," he said. GDP is not the only para-



According to Shah, the growth. cooperation ministry has Cooperative sector boosts compiled the data of coopgrowth and economy by proerative units in the country viding more profit and employment opportunities with less capital, Shah added. so the government knows where the vacuum is and

The cooperative movetakes steps towards the ment revolutionised the expansion of the sector. Two lakh new primary rural economy. In Gujarat, 36 lakh women associated agricultural credit societies with Amul (dairy coopera-(PACS) will be formed and tive), did not even have Rs made multi-dimensional, he 100 as capital, but today its turnover of Rs 80,000 crore,

Organic farming will also get a boost, the minister

said, adding that protection and conservation of seeds is being done and emphasis will be given on increasing the production of seeds.

"The cooperative

weakened in the

movement

northern and eastern parts of

India and was

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Home and

Cooperation Minister said

western parts of

the country. But we

"We plan to give a boost to the sector in export, organic food and seeds in the next 10 years," he added.

Farmers can sell dal, maize and oilseeds to NAFED if they register on its app. But if the market rate is more, they can sell the produce directly, Shah said.

HAL outbids Adanibacked firm to bag transfer of tech

In a significant milestone, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was on Friday declared the winner of the bid for the transfer of technology of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), the ISRO's rocket to place satellites up to 500 kg in low-earth orbit, edging out two consortia, including one led by a defence manufacturer backed by the Adani

Group. Fighter jet man-ufacturer HAL was the standalone bidder for the coveted contract to build the ISRO-designed rocket and was pitted against the two consortia -- one led by Alpha Design Technologies, backed by the

Adani Group, and the other led by Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Limited.

HAL presented the winning bid of Rs 511 crore to emerge as the sole manufacturer of the SSLV after the completion of the process of transfer of technology that is expected to take place over the next two years.

"Under this technologytransfer agreement, HAL will have the capability to independently build, own and commercialise SSLV launches," Pawan

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe), told a press conference here.

HAL will be the third company to build rockets after space sector start-ups Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos.

Goenka said nine companies had evinced interest in the transfer of technology of the SSLV, of which

three were rejected. Of the remaining six, three chose not to apply.
"The SSLV

technology transfer marks a pivotal moment in India's transformative commercial space segment, as this

is one of the first instances of a space agency transferring complete launch vehicle technolo-

gy to a company," he said. Goenka said the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will handhold HAL and assist it in building two prototype rockets over the next two

After that, the state-owned company is expected to independently produce six to 10 SSLVs every year, depending on

MAHE rises in global rankings, excels in sustainability, research

PNS ■ BANGALORE

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), an Institution of Eminence Deemed-to-be-University, has once again demonstrated its global academic and research excellence by securing improved positions in three of the world's most prestigious

university rankings: the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2026, Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, and the U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings 2025-26. These

chievemen MAHE's unwavering commitment to academic quality, sustainability, and international collaboration. MAHE has demonstrated exceptional progress across multiple performance indicators, marking a historic milestone in its

global recognition. The overall global ranking has improved substantially, with MAHE now positioned in the 851-900 band, advancing from the 901-950 band in 2025. This represents a significant leap in global standing among the world's leading universities.

Commenting on MAHE's remarkable achievement, Lt. Gen. (Dr.) M. D. Venkatesh, VSM (Retd), Vice Chancellor, MAHE said: "This remarkable progress across multiple global rankings signifies MAHE's



steadfast dedication to excellence in education, impactful research, and global collabo-

We view rankings as vital indicators for growth and transformation. QS World University

Rankings 2026

MAHE advanced to the 851-900 band globally, up from the 901-950 band in 2025, among 1,501 ranked institutions worldwide.

Delhi-Pune Air India flight suffers bird hit

PNS MUMBAI

An Air India Pune-bound flight from Delhi suffered a bird hit on Friday, forcing the airline to cancel its return journey. The aircraft landed safely

and the bird hit was detected after it touched down in Pune, the airline said in a statement. It has been grounded and extensive checks are being

carried out by the engineering team, Air India said.
"Flight AI2470 scheduled to operate from Pune to Delhi

on June 20 has been cancelled due to a bird-hit which was after the incoming flight landed safely in Pune, it said. The airline also said it is

making all arrangements, including providing accommodation for the stranded passengers. Refunds on cancellation or complimentary rescheduling is also being offered to passengers who opt for it, the airline said, adding that alternative arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to Delhi.

MARKETS SNAP 3-DAY LOSING RUN

Sensex jumps 1,000 pts as financial, telecom shares gain

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by over 1 per cent on Friday after sliding for the past three sessions, propelled by bargain hunting in financial, telecom and tech stocks amid a correction in global crude

A largely supportive trend overseas and renewed foreign capital inflows supported domestic equities following signs of easing tension in the Middle East, traders said.

After a flat start, the BSE and surged 1,046.30 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at 82,408.17. During the day, it jumped 1,132.62 points or 1.39 per cent to 82,494.49.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 319.15 points or 1.29 per cent to 25,112.40.

As many as 2,463 stocks advanced while 1,484 declined and 147 remained unchanged on the BSE. This week, the BSE benchmark gauge jumped 1,289.57 points or 1.58 per



cent, and the Nifty surged 393.8 points or .59 per cent. "Equity indices surged as Middle East tension moderated with risk of immediate military actions reduced as US dialogue with Iran is expected to ta The development led the crude price to correct, favouring domestic markets and boosting foreign investors' sentiments.

"In the broader market, rapid fall in VIX index and buying was witnessed in rate sensitives and consumer-oriented sectors like Finance, Auto and Reality and in anticipation of better Q1FY26 results led by rate cuts benefits, drop in inflationary pressure and rebound in consumer spending," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geoiit From the Sensex firms, Bharti

Airtel, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Eternal and biggest gainers.

In contrast, Maruti was the only laggard. The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.20 per cent, and smallcap index climbed 0.55 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices ended higher. Telecommuni cation surged 2.73 per cent, realty (2.22 per cent), teck (1.42 per cent), capital goods (1.17 per cent), bankex (1.15 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.12 per cent) and metal (1.10 per

CONCERN OVER RIFT BETWEEN MARAN BROTHERS

Sun TV shares tumble over 5 pc in intra-day trade

PNS NEW DELHI

Shares of Sun TV Network tumbled over 5 per cent in intra-day trade on Friday before recovering most of the lost ground to end 1 per cent lower amid concerns over a rift between brothers Dayanidhi and Kalanithi Maran.

According to reports, Dayanidhi has sent a legal notice to his brother and several others, accusing them of "fraudulent practices" and "misgovernance" in taking control of Sun TV after their father Murasoli Maran's death

The stock of Sun TV dropped 5.20 per cent to Rs 581.55 during the day on the BSE. Later, it ended at Rs 606.80, down 1.09 per cent.

On the NSE, shares of the firm tanked 5.25 per cent to Rs 580 during the day. The stock later ended at Rs 605.75 apiece, a decline of 1.04 per cent. A day after reports emerged

of former Union minister Dayanidhi Maran accusing his brother of "fraudulent practices" and "misgovernance", the elder sibling Kalanithi-run Sun TV on Friday said the division between the promoter family done 22 years back was in



compliance with all legal obligations.

Defending its promoter Kalanithi, Sun TV Network in a regulatory filing said the agreements between the two brothers had been "duly vetcerned before the company's public issue. The board of Sun TV

Network is led by Kalanithi as Executive Director and Chairperson.

Kalanithi, as a promoter, owns 75 per cent shareholding in Sun TV Network. Sun TV Network said, "The

alleged matter dates back to 22 years, when the company was a closely held private limited company". Defending the promoter, it further stated, "Statements allegedly made in the articles are incorrect, misleading, speculating, defamatory and not support-

Gold declines Rs 600 to Rs 99,960/10 g; silver plunges

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices slipped below the Rs 1 lakh-mark, falling Rs 600 to Rs 99,960 per 10 grams in the national capital due to selling by jewellers and stockists in line with weak global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 1,00,560 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity dipped Rs 550 to Rs 99,250 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had closed at Rs 99,800 per 10 grams on Thursday.

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 67/EEC-2/UPL/GHMC/2695-26. Name of Work: For 16 Works "Laying of CC Road opp to Namerimannamy lengthe beside if No. 2-15-96, Secrappingadda, W No. 7 Chikanagar Lippal Carde-2 GHMC. (Reserved for SC community Individuals and Societies). Construction of Societies Verlagt Sa Mager in Sa Kristina College will Weed to 9, Remarkshoper, Lippal Carde-2, GHMC. Estimate Amount Rs. 206.58 Lakks, Last Date. & Time for Receipts of Bids. 05-07-2025 @ 03.00 PM, Name & Address of Officer: Sn. V. Hartial Executive Engineer, Uppal, Div No-2, OHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement (i) http://www.tonder.tolangana.gov.in DIPR R.O.No. 3876-PPICLIADVT11/0025-36, DI. 39-06-3025

DIPR R.O.No. 3885-PPICLIADVT110025-26, DI. 30-06-2025

🔞 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚵 E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. BRIDEC-21UPL/GHMC/21025-26.

Name of Work: For 4 Works "Meintenance of BT Roads, CC Roads and Storts Vision (Meintenance of BT Roads, CC Roads and Storts Vision (Meintenance of BT Roads, CC Roads and Storts Vision (Meintenance of BT Roads). Catchpt:repairs) for 5 months in Ward No. 7, Chilkanaganin Uppali Cide 2, GHWC. Maintenani of BT Roads, CC Roads and Storm Water Drains (Catchpt repairs) for 5 months in Word No. 1 Uppel in Uppel Crisi-2, GHMC." Estimate Amount Rs. 31:30 Lakins, Last Date & Time fo Recepts of Bids: 28-06-2025 @ 83:00 PM, Name & Address of Officer: Srt. V. Hanlat, Executive Engineer, Uppal, Division No-2, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement &

💮 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🙈

E- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Sender Notice No. 26/28/25-26, (1st Call)

Dt. 19.06/202

Name of the Work: I&CADD-Permanent restoration to the bund at Breached, and I Scoul of Pedda Cheruvu, Ravirola(V), Nellikudur (M) of Mahabubabad District -509101 istimated Cost Value: Rs. 36.96.795\. Tender Documents Available: From 21-66-2025 at 11.30 AM onwards Upto 25-95-2025 at 3.60 PM. For more details and for downloading ter documents please visit. https://tender.telangana.gov.in

DIFRIRONS: 3813-PACLADVITI 0025-28, Date: 25-06-2025 | & CADO, Imgation Circle, Bhadrachalan

Sebi mulls guiding principle for usage of AI, ML for market integrity financial markets and may As a part of the proposal, the

PNS NEW DELHI

Sebi on Friday proposed guiding principles for responsible usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) applications in securities markets to safeguard investors and market integrity.

Also, the regulator has proposed that a "regulatory lite" framework may be adopted for usage of AI/ML in the securities market for any purpose other than for business operations that may directly impact their customers.

The proposed "guiding principles are intended to optimise benefits and minimise potential risks associated with integration of AI/ML-based applications in securities markets to safeguard investor protection, market integrity, and financial stability," Sebi said in its consultation paper.

monitoring, surveillance, pat-

tern recognition, internal com-

At present, AI/ML is being used by market participants

mainly for advisory and suppliance purposes and cyber port services, risk managesecurity. ment, client identification and

it is also important to manage these systems responsibly as "While AI/ML has the their usage creates or amplifies potential to improve produccertain risks which could have tivity, efficiency and outcome, an impact on the efficiency of

as well as globally.

AI/ML applications or tools. T The proposed guiding principles were suggested by a Sebi-constituted working group after studying the existing AI/ML guidelines in India

investors," Sebi said.

result in adverse impact to working group suggested that market participants using Accordingly, Sebi proposed AI/ML models should have an high-level principles to provide internal team with adequate guidance to the market particskills and experience to monipants for having reasonable itor the performance, efficacy procedures and control sysand security of the algorithms tems in place for supervision deployed throughout their lifeand governance of usage of cycle, as well as maintain auditability and explain interpretability of such models.

Furthermore, the team should establish procedures for exception and error handling related to AI/ML-based

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SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025

BREATHING TOGETHER, HEALING TOGETHER

THE RISE OF INTERGENERATIONAL **YOGA IN HYDERABAD**



TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

s the sun rises over Hyderabad's Necklace Road, it's not uncom-mon to find a group of yoga enthusiasts gath-ered by the Hussain Sagar Lake. But look closer and you'll spot something heartwarming—grandparents and grandchildren side by side, moving through sun salutations and pranayama, sharing not just space but also energy, focus and laughter.

In the past years, yoga has moved beyond a solitary or age-specific practice. In Hyderabad, an emerging trend this International Yoga Day is the growth of intergenerational yoga—sessions where seniors and their grandkids roll out mats together. It's not just about fitness. It's about bonding, memory-making and shared wellness.

Hyderabad-based yoga practitioner and nerapist Nirmala Rao, who runs a wellness studio in Banjara Hills, says the idea began almost serendipitously.

"A few years ago, I had a client—a 72-year-old woman—who brought her 10-year-old grandson along because she couldn't find a babysitter. I asked if he'd like to join the session. What followed was beautiful-they laughed through balancing poses, helped each other with stretches and were completely in sync during breathing exercises," Rao recalls.

Since then, she began offering "Family Yoga Mornings" on Sundays and the

This International Yoga Day, Hyderabad is witnessing a heartwarming shift grandparents and grandchildren coming together on yoga mats to stretch, breathe, and bond. Whether it's partner poses, shared laughter during sun salutations, or synchronised breathing across continents via Zoom, these sessions are creating new rituals and rekindling old ties—proving that wellness knows no age, only intention

response has been overwhelming. "In a fastpaced city like ours, where families often live together but barely interact, yoga is creating new bridges," she adds.

Experts note that this trend aligns with larger wellness goals. According to Dr Tarun Prasad, a geriatric physician based in Secunderabad, yoga offers significant cognitive and emotional benefits, particularly

et's talk about someone who's

when practiced in a familiar social setting. "When elders and children engage in yoga together, it reduces isolation among seniors and encourages empathy in younger generations. It's therapy disguised as exercise," says Dr Prasad. He's even begun recommending intergenerational yoga as part of post-retire-

ment wellness planning.
For 68-year-old Madhavi Reddy from

Jubilee Hills, yoga sessions with her 9-year-old granddaughter Naina are now a weekly ritual. "We used to barely talk beyond daily instructions. Now, we giggle through our failed attempts at partner tree pose and dis-cuss breathing patterns. I feel more connect-ed to her world."

Naina chimes in: "I love yoga time because I get to teach grandma some things. And she's always better than me at meditation!"

In a city known for its rich cultural heritage and deep respect for family values, this shift

feels particularly resonant. Yoga, deeply rooted in Indian tradition, becomes a medium for rediscovering intergenerational connections.

"Hyderabad has always had a strong cul-

ture of elders being actively involved in family life," says sociologist Dr. Anuradha Kale from the University of Hyderabad. "In an age where children are glued to screens and elders often feel left out, yoga is helping rewrite those dynamics."

Interestingly, Hyderabad's tech-savvy residents are also finding ways to adapt the trend digitally. Ramesh and Leela Goud, both in their 70s and based in Kondapur, practice yoga every Sunday with their grandson who lives in Chicago—via Zoom.

"It's the only way to keep up with both health and family. We may be continents apart, but when we do pranayama together, we feel connected."

Of course, not all elderly individuals can perform traditional poses. For them, yoga instructors are adapting movements through chair yoga and breathing-only sessions.

chair yoga and breathing-only sessions.

Therapist Veena Rani, who runs specialised yoga classes for seniors with mobility challenges shares, "Even a simple act like synchronised breathing between a grandparent and grandchild can be powerful," she says.

One of her clients, 76-year-old Rehana Ghosh from Mehdipatnam, shares, "My knees don't allow me to sit on the floor anymore But when I sit with my grandson close

more. But when I sit with my grandson, close my eyes and breathe with him, it's magic. I feel lighter."

Yoga Day this year, many families are ditching commercial mall outings for community park yoga. Local initiatives have been inviting families to participate in free intergenerational yoga sessions across parks like KBR Park and Indira Park.

"Our aim is to normalize shared wellness practices within families. This isn't a oneday event—it's about creating lifelong mem-ories," says Vidya Rana, a volunteer of one such initiative.

Parents like Arvind and Sneha Menon from Begumpet say these sessions are ecoming more than just tradition—they're becoming legacy. "Our daughter may not remember the toys she got last year, but she'll never forget holding her ajji's hand during savasana under the sky," giggles Sneha. In a time when wellness often feels com-

mercialized, Hyderabadis are finding a quieter, more meaningful revolution in the simplicity of shared breath and movement. And it all starts with rolling out a mat next to someone you love.

In yoga, we often talk about balance. What better way to find it than between generations?



Joon realty unveils ₹450 crore sustainable **luxury development** 'Adi Grand'

oon Realty, luxury real estate developer has announced Adi Grand, a 40-acre mixed ultra-luxury climate-positive retreat on the outskirts of Jaipur. Located near the upcoming Delhi-Jaipur-Mumbai Expressway (NH148). Backed by a RS 450 crore investment, the project is designed as a seamless blend of emission-reversing architecture,

emission-reversing architecture, ecology and hospitality. The project has over 60% open green space anchored by a central man-made lake.

The company had announced a Rs 1,125 crore capital expenditure plan earlier this year, marking a transition from land bank-

ing to real estate development.

The launch comes at a time when broader market trends are reflecting a renewed confidence in blended developments: according to Colliers, invest-ments in mixed-use real estate surged to \$191 million in Q1 2025, underscoring the growing appeal of projects like Adi Grand, which offer both lifestyle and investment value.

investment value.

"Adi Grand represents the broader shift in how real estate now engages with green building principles," said Mohit Joon, Managing Director, Joon Realty.

"As the market for sustainable luxury is projected to reach USD 39 billion in India by 2025, we're finding that high-net-worth indi-

finding that high-net-worth individuals are increasingly factoring environmental performance into their investment decisions. Our goal is to respond to that shift with a development model that is both carbon-conscious and built for long-term value." further added

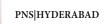
Strategically located on the Delhi-Jaipur-Mumbai Expressway (NH148), Adi Grand is within a 40-minute drive from key tourist destinations, including Hawa Mahal and Amer Fort. The project is positioned as a compelling second-home and long-term investment opportunity for high-net-worth individuals, non-resident Indians, and urban professionals.

Comprising a collection of branded villas and luxury resort within an environmentally enriching framework, Adi Grand features a 75000 sq.ft recreational clubhouse, golf courses, land-scaped gardens and spa facilities, powered by a passive solar design. The development is based on an emission-reversing architecture with 100% rainwater harvesting, solar-powered street lighting and water heating, EV charging infrastructure, grey-water recycling and on-site waste management. The project is positioned as a compelling and ong-term investment opportunity for high-net-worth individuals, non-resident Indians, and urban professionals.

While the project is currently under construction, the prebookings are slated to begin in July 2025, with handovers expected by early 2027.



CUTTING THROUGH MYTHS AND MUSCLES



truly making waves in the world of medical education - Dr. Vaishaly Bharambe! With over 25 years of experience teaching anatomy, she's not just a rockstar in her field, but a mentor, a researcher and a passionate advocate for organ donation. Her YouTube channel, VB Anatomy Academy, is a game-changer for students and her dedication to making complex concepts accessible is inspiring. But Dr.
Bharambe's impact doesn't stop there. She's held leadership roles at top medical institutions, published over 55 research papers and received numerous awards for her work. And yet, despite all her accomplishments, she's still all about giving back – whether that's through her teaching, her research, or her advocacy work. What sets her apart is her commitment to her students and the community. And with her recent work in 3D human models for immersive anatomy education, she's pushing the boundaries of innovation in her field.

> After more than 20 years of teaching anatomy in schools, you are currently creating engaging digital models for students. changes have you seen in your

nersonal anatomy knowledge as a result of these various teaching methods?

My years of classroom teaching have taught me to simplify complicated anatomy for students in an effort to help them form an internal mental image of it. However, building immersive 3D models has changed my perspective since it highlights the human body's multi-layered, spatial reality in a manner that neither dissection nor a textbook could. For me as well, it has brought anatomy to life.

What was the pivotal moment that convinced you that a more user-friendly digital platform was necessary for conceptual clarity in anatomy?

I saw a sudden decline in student participation in class a while back; they were more interested in their phones than in the material. I realised then that the anatomy lesson must travel to them if they refuse to attend. I made the decision to make anatomy interesting, understandable and available on their cell phones. That is how the YouTube channel got its start.

You contributed to the creation of Symbiosis Medical College for Women's Department of Anatomy from the ground up. What does it take to create an anatomy department with an instructional philosophy in mind, in addition to infrastructure?

I have a very personal connection to this subject. It takes more than just facilities to start an anatomy department from scratch; it also takes a dedicated staff, a supportive dean, and forwardthinking leadership. It's a complicated procedure that frequently entails passing stringent regulatory inspections and obtaining certifications. But in the end, what matters most is sticking to your main goal: providing the best possible anatomy instruction that creates a solid, long-lasting foundation.

How do you reconcile virtual anatomy with hands-on dissection in a subject that is based on physical form?

Whether anatomy is taught through virtual exploration or actual dissection, its emphasis on the human form is what makes it so beautiful. Every technique has advantages of its own. Students gain invaluable tactile learning and emotional development experiences through cadaveric dissection—feeling the texture, comprehending the weight and appreciating the human form. However, even in the absence of cadavers, digital tools such as virtual reality (VR) provide repetitive, immersive exploration, which aids in reinforcing spatial understanding. The secret, in my opinion, is striking a balance between respecting history and welcoming innovation to make sure that no student is left behind in their anatomy education.

In both your scholarly work and community service, you have continuously promoted organ and body donation. What moral and psychological difficulties arise when advocating for this cause in India?

In India, encouraging organ and body donation poses mental health issues rather than just moral or sentimental ones. The goal of organ donation is to dispel ingrained beliefs and anxieties while emphasising the act's capacity to save lives. The difficulty with body donation is dispelling myths and raising awareness about the procedure. Many people are unsure of the goal or worry that organs may be harvested. Persistence and education are essential. Because of my dedication to this transformative cause. I've learnt to be ready to respond to inquiries and concerns at any moment as an advocate.

You claim that your upbringing in a military household influenced your values of commitment and discipline. What impact have those early experiences had on your teaching style and academic leadership style?

My military family raised me with a heavy emphasis on moral courage, discipline and excellence, accountability and honesty. My approach to academics and leadership has been influenced by the encouragement I received to think creatively, advocate for my beliefs and pursue my artistic activities.

What do you believe the upcoming generation of physicians most needs from their mentors and from their education?

Today's medical students frequently see their undergraduate studies as a means of preparing for entrance examinations and postgraduate positions, which diverts their attention from the fundamental goal of medicine, which is to comprehend and treat patients. Education that fosters empathy, clinical intuition and ethical clarity is necessary for the future generation. In addition to helping students succeed academically, mentors should help them develop into kind, considerate healers who see past tests to the human tales that lie behind each case.

In today's intensely demanding medical academic setting, how would you

define mentorship?

Mentoring today, in my opinion, is fostering students' self-belief and assisting them in realising medicine's greater purpose—not merely as a topic, but as a vocation to heal. Beyond the choices that are popular, a mentor helps them find what they actually connect with and helps them match their passion with their career.

Which study result or instance from your academic career stands out as the most personally transforming?

A number of research experiences are noteworthy. One was researching abnormal hand tendons, which provided information about the evolution of humans. Another was research on organ donation, which showed that India has a lot of myths but also a surprising level of awareness. Additionally, my studies on the heart questioned accepted notions about coronary arteries.

Have you faced any unseen obstacles being a woman scholar and leader in an area that is still predominantly male at the highest levels?

Indeed, I have encountered imperceptible obstacles such as opposition, criticism and the silent scrutiny that accompanies being a woman in a top academic position. However, my advice to young ladies is to approach this area with an open mind because you picked it. Don't waste your time hoping for an entirely equitable world; it might not exist yet. Instead, infuse every area you occupy with your discipline, intelligence, empathy and work ethic. Lead with purpose and clarity. Allow your superiority to overpower the surrounding noise!











83% of Firms Appoint **Dedicated AI Executives: Study**

mazon Web Services (AWS) released a study

Access Partnership, which reveals that generative Al (Gen Al) adoption in India surged in 2024. A top finding is that 83% of organisations in India have appointed a dedicated Al executive, namely a Chief Al Officer (CAIO), to accelerate adoption and manage implementation complexity, with another 15% planning to do so by 2026. The research study titled, "Generative Al Adoption Index" identifies patterns and insights from organisations in India successfully moving Gen Al from experimentation to fullscale implementation, revealing actionable strategies for accelerating business value. While Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Chief Technology Officers (CTOs), and Chief Innovation Officers (CIOs) currently lead most generative AI innovation initiatives, leadership structures are evolving to meet new demands and creating new career opportunities for Al-skilled talent at the highest levels of organisations. The appointment of a dedicated AI executive is a result of organisations having Gen AI as the top priority in their budget for 2025 (64%), followed by security (21%) and

Eastman Expands Clean Energy Footprint in Telangana

astman Auto & Power Limited, a leading manufacturer of Solar Energy products, is expanding its footprint in Telangana with a powerful lineup of high-performance solar products. In response to the state's growing demand for reliable and sustainable energy, Eastman now offers a comprehensive range including Grid Tie Inverters, Hybrid Inverters, Off Grid Inverters, Lead Acid & Lithium Batteries, and Solar Panels — all tailored to meet the needs of residential, commercial, and industrial users. Eastman's inverter range is engineered to integrate seamlessly with rooftop solar systems, enabling users to generate and export surplus solar energy back to the grid — effectively lowering electricity bills and promoting greener energy consumption. As Telangana accelerates its Solar energy efforts, Eastman's advanced solar solutions aim to reduce reliance on conventional energy sources and contribute to the

Gauvansh Welfare on the Rise

ore than 2000 gauvansh have been rescued from the clutches of cattle mafia in just last two months from different districts of Telangana with combined efforts of Gau Gyan Foundation, Telangana Police & State Government and more than 50 FIRs have been registered. The gauvansh are put through harsh living conditions, rough handling, and often outright abuse and cruelty. They are routinely castrated, dehorned, and hot-iron branded without anaesthetics. Those transported to feedlots and slaughterhouses are often shocked with electric prods, beaten, kicked, dragged and deprived of food and water for long periods. Crammed in trucks during transport, their limbs get broken, they sustain multiple injuries and infections. Young calves are slaughtered in front of their mothers and kin, one can imagine the





WHAT'S BREWING? 10









Hyderabad witnessed two remarkable world record moments. Four-year-old Vasa Ishan, a student at GD Goenka School, broke the record for the Youngest Chess Coach (Basics), previously held by Advith Reddy of Oakridge International School. Meanwhile, fiveyear-old Dhanwinn Reddy Vangeti of Srinidhi International School created a new record for the Youngest to complete 4.5 km River Kayaking, finishing in 35 minutes at Kotipalli River, Vikarabad. Both records were adjudicated by Noble Book of World Records and mentored by Learnorama Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

ARCHIE





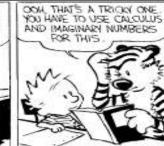


HERE'S ANOTHER MATH PROBLEM I CAN'T FIGURE OUT. WHAT'S

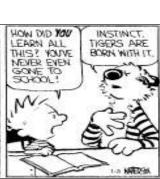
CALVIN AND HOBBES

Chary

Photos by-SV







GARFIELD







AUNT FRITZI TOOK HER SCREEN TEST-AND WE WAITED BREATHLESSLY FOR THE STUDIO'S DECISION---







GINGER MEGGS







REALITY CHECK





SUDOKU

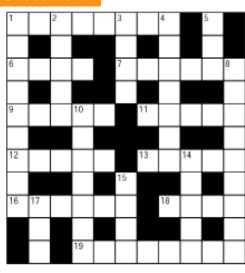
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

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- 9 Opposite of best
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14 A book written in daily

15 Strike with an open

4 A person who does

8 Startled

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5 Stuff for colouring cloth





Kuberaa: A strong message wrapped in a stretched runtime

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

ekhar Kammula is known for his sensible storytelling, and a section of the audience eagerly awaits his films. After a five-year hiatus, he returns with *Kuberaa*, featuring Dhanush and Nagarjuna in lead roles. Rashmika Mandanna plays the female lead, and music is composed by Devi Sri Prasad. Bollywood actor Jim Sarbh makes his Telugu debut with this film. This marks the first time Sekhar has directed a high-budget film with big stars. Kuberaa is a bilingual made in both Telugu and Tamil. Here's a look at the story and how it fares.

PLOT

Deepak (Nagarjuna), a former CBI officer, is wrongly convicted and sent to jail. Despite wanting to fight his case legally, he remains imprisoned. Neeraj (Jim Sarbh), a billionaire and powerful Sarbh), a billionaire and powerful businessman, offers him a job in exchange for helping him out. Deepak, burdened by concern for his family, accepts the offer.

Neeraj, in conversation with a central minister, tries to privatize a newly discovered oil field. In return, he agrees to pay Rs 1 lakh crore to certain politicians—half in

certain politicians—half in white, half in black. He entrusts Deepak with the task of distributing the money. Neeraj instructs him to open four benami accounts in a Swiss bank. Deepak recruits four beggars from different parts of India; among them is Deva (Dhanush) from Tirupati.

Once the accounts are set up, Deepak transfers the money into Indian accounts to convert it into white. Then, they begin eliminating the beggars after the transfers are completed. But when it comes to Deva, something unexpected happens. He escapes Deepak's team and encounters Sameera (Rashmika Mandanna), a girl waiting for her boyfriend at a railway station, planning to elope. Did her boyfriend show up? Did Deepak find Deva and complete his mission? What Deva and Sameera do next to confront Deepak and Neeraj forms the crux of the story.

ANALYSIS

With Kuberaa, Sekhar Kammula presents his first pan-Indian film.



Known for directing romantic and collegebackdrop films, this marks a shift as he works with stars like Dhanush and Nagarjuna and handles a big-budget project.

Staying true to his story-telling roots, he focuses more on

characters than stardom. The story explores the world of money laundering and the corrupt nexus between political leaders and business tycoons. It highlights how corporate giants manipulate resources like oil, acquire them through underhanded means, and resell them to the government at higher prices— ultimately burdening the middle class.

Sekhar uses the character of Deepak to shed light on how even honest officers are manipulated for unethical agendas. A fresh narrative angle comes from involving beggars as benamis for a top businessman, bringing in a unique socio-economic perspec-

The first half moves engagingly, especially scenes between Nagarjuna, Jim Sarbh and Dhanush, showing how black money is laundered. Rashmika's entry before the interval adds a lighter, humorous touch. Her exchanges with Dhanush offer some comic relief.

However, the film suffers from its excessive length. At 3 hours and 15 minutes, it feels like a four-hour watch. The second half, especially the chase sequences, could have been trimmed by at least 40 minutes for bet-

True to Sekhar's signature, the characters feel authentic, with actors behaving naturally rather than theatrically. A few cinematic liberties-like lorryloads of cash dumped in front of Neeraj's house-veer into implausibility. The climax also falls a bit flat. Nevertheless, cinematography, dialogues, and music remain strong assets throughout.

PERFORMANCES

Dhanush once again steals the show with a remarkable performance as Deva, the beggar. He truly inhabits the character, making it hard to imagine anyone else in the role. A National Award-winning actor, he delivers yet another compelling portrayal.

delivers yet another compelling portrayal.

Nagarjuna's role marks a significant shift from his usual image. As a disgraced CBI officer, he delivers a solid and restrained performance. Jim Sarbh is another highlight—his portrayal of Neeraj is stylish, composed and impactful. His debut in Telugu cinema is a promising one, and he's likely to attract more roles.

Reshmika Mandanna plays her role with charm

Rashmika Mandanna plays her role with charm. Her character is lighter and she delivers it well, particularly in scenes with Dhanush. Dalip Tahil as Neeraj's father adds some unintentional humour, especially in scenes where he offers diamond crowns to Lord Venkateswara. Sunaina, as Nagarjuna's wife, and the supporting cast deliver strong perfor-

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Technically, *Kuberaa* is well-crafted. Niketh Bommireddy's cinematography enhances the narrative, syncing perfectly with the mood of the film. Devi Sri Prasad's music and background score elevate the film's impact. The dialogues, written by Sekhar himself, are thought-provoking and layered.

Kuberaa carries the hallmark of Sekhar Kammula's sincerity in storytelling. Tackling themes of money laundering and corruption, he delivers a film that is both relevant and performance-driven. Despite its unnecessarily long runtime and a few dragging sequences, the film remains watchable, thanks largely to its strong performances—especially by Dhanush, Jim Sarbh, and Nagarjuna.

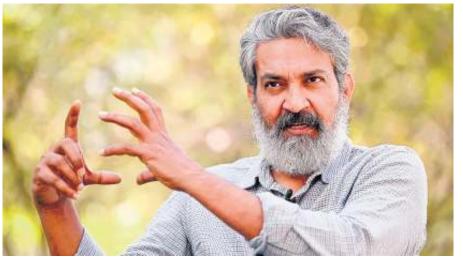
Cast: Nagarjuna, Dhanush, Rashmika Mandanna, Jim Sarbh, Dalip Tahil, Sunaina Yella, Hareesh Peradi and others

atography: Niketh Bommireddy

Music Director: Devi Sri Prasad Producers: Suniel Narang, Puskar Rammohan Rao

play, Dialogues and Direction: Sekhar Kammula

Rating: 3/5



Rajamouli builds ₹50-crore Varanasi set for Mahesh Babu's epic adventure

op director SS Rajamouli is directing superstar Mahesh Babu in an untitled period drama, reportedly an adventurous tale in the vein of Indiana Jones. A few months ago, the team shot crucial sequences in the dense forests of Odisha with Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Now, the makers have erected a massive Varanasi set at Ramoji Film City, where the next schedule is set to begin. The lavish set, estimated to cost around Rs 50 crore, includes replicas of the Kashi Vishwanath temple, the ghats and the bustling streets of

Benaras, according to sources.

Reports also suggest that Tamil actor R. Madhavan has joined the cast of this big-budget film. Initially, the makers approached Vikram for a key role, but he declined to play the antagonist. Subsequently, Madhavan was brought on board.

Rajamouli is reportedly planning a grand action sequence on the Varanasi set. Known for his extensive use of VFX, the director has been in talks with multiple Hollywood companies for the visual effects, which are expected to require a hefty investment. The next schedule is expected to be filmed in Kenya, after which the team will return to shoot on the Varanasi set in Hyderabad. Sources reveal that the film will be released in two parts, with the first installment slated for a 2027 release. Recently, pictures of the elaborate set have surfaced on social media, sparking curiosity



Arvind Krishna shines as the only south star at NBA India's First BudX Celebrity Game



outh Indian actor and determination, and undeniable star power. made headlines at the first-ever BudX NBA House Celebrity Game, held at the Dome, Mumbai. Sharing the court with national icons like Disha Patani, Badshah, Rannvijay Singha and Varun Sood, Arvind stood out as the only South Indian celebrity in the elite lineup—representing Telugu cinema and the Southern entertainment industry on one of basketball's biggest platforms.

Wearing jersey No. 3, Arvind brought his signature blend of athleticism and cinematic charm to the court. The moment was especially signifi-cant, marking his comeback after a year-long recovery from a serious knee injury. From enduring intense rehabil-

itation to sprinting across an NBA court in front of a packed arena. his performance was a powerful disresilience, multiple worlds.

star power. What made the moment even more remarkable was NBA India's official spotlight on Arvind. Among dozens of participating celebrities, he was one of the few to receive a dedicated, sponsored highlight reelshared across NBA India's, NBA Style's and Budweiser India's official social media platforms. In a striking caption, NBA India described the moment as "A Masterpiece"—a poetic nod not only to Arvind's commanding presence on the court but also to his upcoming superhero film A Masterpiece, which is already

generating significant buzz.

From being a young boy inspired by the NBA to becoming a rising star celebrated by the league itself, Arvind Krishna's journey is one of vision, transformation, and a new-age crossover between cinema and sport. Whether he's donning a superhero mantle on screen or competing alongside basketball legends like Derek Fisher and Gary Payton, Arvind is emerging as a of rare talent who effortlessly bridges



Viraatapalem: PC Meena reporting to stream on Zee5 from June 27

elugu web series have frequently explored superstitions and super-Continuing that trend, Viraatapalem: PC Meena Reporting is set to stream on Zee5 from June 27.

The series stars talented actress and social media sensation Abhignya Vuthaluru in the lead role. Set in the fictional village of Viraatapalem, this suspense thriller is directed by Poluru Krishna and produced by KV Sriram.

The trailer offers a glimpse into the eerie world of Viraatapalem, where newlywed brides are mysteriously found dead within a day of their wedding. The villagers blame a curse that haunts

the village. Enter Police Constable Meena, who arrives to investigate and unravel the truth behind these suspicious deaths. Her quest plunges her into a web of superstitions and hidden secrets, where she risks her life to uncover the

Abhignya leads the cast as Meena, supported by a talented ensemble that includes Charan Lakkaraju, Lavanya Sahukara, Ramaraju, Gowtham Raju and Satish. The series is written by Divya Thejaswi Pera, with the screenplay by Vikram Kumar Kandimalla. The background score is composed by Rohit Kumar.

Viraatapalem promises to be an edge-of-the-seat thriller catering to audiences across age groups.

Ayan Mukerji: Crafting Hrithik vs NTR face-off took the most time in War 2

ar 2, directed by Ayan Mukerji and produced by Aditya Chopra under Yash Raj Films, is one of the most anticipated films of 2025. The action-packed spectacle is the sixth installment in the blockbuster YRF Spy Universe, a franchise that has consistently delivered commercial and critical successes.

Ayan Mukerji, making his directorial debut in the spy universe, opened up about the creative process behind *War 2*, especially the effort that went into building a compelling face-off between two of Indian cinema's biggest superstars— Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr.

"It's a huge responsibility to take forward a franchise as beloved as War and still leave your own creative imprint. I saw directing War 2 as a thrilling opportunity to pay homage to the first film. You can't have fun otherwise when stepping into such a massive blockbuster world. You take what's already been built, and then elevate itcrafting a new journey that excites both fans of the film and fans of these gigantic superstars. As a director, I immersed myself in

delivering this experience."
He adds, "Everything about *War* 2 has been designed with meticulous planning to enhance the theatrical

experience. Most of our time went into developing the action set pieces and especially the storyline and central conflict needed to mount a faceoff worthy of Hrithik and NTR. That was the biggest creative challengeand the most rewarding one."

Ayan describes *War 2* as a celebration of the scale and power of Indian cinema, promising an adrenaline-fueled spectacle that brings together two cinematic titans like never before.

He says, "War 2 is truly a coming together of Indian cinema, with these two huge actors joining forces. We were very aware of the expectations this pairing would generate. Every moment in the creative process was spent thinking about how to deliver a once-in-a-lifetime

experience to fans in theatres." War 2 is set to release in cinemas worldwide on August 14, 2025.

Indian archers return with 9 medals in Asia Cup Leg 2

ndia's junior archers returned with nine medals and one bronze — from the Asia Cup Leg 2 here on Friday. It seemed a successful outing on paper, but a deeper look once again highlighted a troubling trend that has come to define Indian archery at all levels - faltering when it matters the most.

Despite making seven of the 10 finals across recurve and compound disciplines, Indian archers finished on top of the podium just twice.

with the Indians visibly crumbling under pressure. İt wasn't so much that the losses stood out, but the manner in which the Indian archers lost was - two gold, six silver, more concerning with top seeds going down to lowerranked opponents, arrows straying to outer rings, and composure evaporating at the slightest of resistance.

As usual, the results were particularly alarming in recurve the Olympic discipline where India failed to win a single gold. In fact, apart from two silver medals in team events, the recurve archers returned empty-handed.

The men's team, top-seeded The rest of the finals — five after the qualification round, in all — ended in heartbreak, simply fell apart against Japan

Paras Hooda and Juyel Sarkar failed to touch the 50-mark in two of the three sets, bowing out in straight sets 6-0.

It was a similar story in the recurve mixed team final. Fourth-seeded Choudhary and Vaishnavi Pawar were errorprone throughout their clash against Indonesia. A 32-point start, followed by

a disastrous second set that included a one-pointer, effectively sealed their fate. The lack of rhythm and nerve showed again in the

third as they lost 32-35 to fin-

ish with silver. The women's recurve team, along with all individual recurve entries, failed to even



outcome that underlined India's deepening struggle in the discipline while they continue to chase a maiden Olympic medal. If the recurve results were disheartening, the com-pound section offered some respite, albeit not without its own share of missed chances. Incidentally, they bagged

both their gold medals here.

Kushal Dalal, the top seed, justified his billing by easing past Australia's Joshua Manon, seeded 22nd, in the men's individual final 149-143. India also bagged a bronze in this event, with Sachin Chechi, who was seeded 10th, defeated fourthseeded Himu Bachhar 148-146 in a tight playoff.

gold was assured as it featured two Indians -- second-seeded Tejal Salve prevailing over the higher-ranked Shanmukhi Naga Sai Budde 146-144.

There were also a few nearmisses for the Indians. The men's compound team, also topseeded, was stunned by thirdseeded Kazakhstan 231-235. The women's compound team lost in the shoot-off to lower-ranked Malaysia after being tied 232-all, with the shoot-off score reading a disappointing 26-29.

The mixed compound team of Shanmukhi and Dalal lost a lead (78-77) at halfway stage against Kazakhstan, faltering in the crucial third end before losing in the shoot-off.



Indian players during first cricket test match between England and India in England on Friday

India, England players observe

silence for Air India crash victims

India and England players along with on-field umpires observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad ahead of

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the first Test here on Friday. In the gruesome accident of the Air India flight to London, 241 passengers and crew on board were killed on June 14.

"What happened in the aircraft (crash), I think the whole India was disheartened but at the same time the only thing from our side... We are going to be sticking with them, how again," vice-captain Rishabh Test entrant for India, and he England shores since 2007.

INDIA LOSE TWO QUICK WICKETS TO REACH 92/2 AT LUNCH ON DAY 1 AGAINST ENGLAND

Leeds: India lost KL Rahul (42) and debutant B Sai Sudharsan (0) in quick succession shortly before lunch to reach 92/2 after the first session's play on day one of the opening Test, here on Friday. Yashasvi Jaiswal was batting

on 42 off 74 balls with eight fours as the twin strikes took some sheen off an impressive session for the visitors

Rahul put on 91 runs for the first wicket with Jaiswal, making

Pant had told media here on Wednesday. On the cricketing front, top-order batter B Sai

42 from 78 balls with eight fours. In the penultimate over before lunch, Brydon Carse had Rahul caught at first slip and Ben Stokes then had Sudharsan caught behind for a four-ball duck to provide the breakthroughs for England Brief scores: India 92/2 in 25.4

overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 42 not out, KL Rahul 42: Brydon Carse 1/23, Ben Stokes 1/20) vs England.

will bat at Number 3. India under new captain Shubman Gill are searching

Jaiswal has the game to succeed in England, feels Rahane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

onth after rumours about a rift between them dominated headlines, out-of-favour India batter Ajinkya Rahane is backing the flamboyant Yashasvi Jaiswal to shine on the tour of England thanks to his ability to perform multiple roles as opener. The five-match Tests series begins at the Headingley from Friday.

"Personally, I'm really looking forward to seeing Yashasvi Jaiswal do well because opening the batting in England is really important," Rahane said

in a video on his YouTube channel.

"He has the game for it - he can control one end and also go on the attack when needed. So I'm really looking forward to seeing Jaiswal perform in England."

There were reports in April that Mumbai teammates Iaiswal and Rahane had a fall out during the last Ranji Trophy season after the side's defeat to Jammu and Kashmir.

While Rahane last played for India two years ago against the West Indies, Jaiswal has been the team's first-choice opener since making his Test debut in the Caribbean in July 2023. Rahane, who led an injury-plagued Indian team to a memorable Test series win in Australia in 2020-21, has also placed his bets on lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah to live up to his expectations with Mohammed Siraj too chipping in with plenty

"I also want to see Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah do well because, as senior campaigners, they have the responsibility to lead the attack and pick up wickets for the team," Rahane said.

"We all know Bumrah is an excellent bowler and a proven

wicket-taker, but I'd like to see him take that extra responsibility and help the team get through challenging situations, because winning a Test series in England is always very special." The last time India won a

Test rubber in England was way back in 2007, only the third such instance (after 1971 and 1986) in that part of the world since start of bilateral engagements in 1932. Shubman Gill will lead

the Indian team in England and Rahane said the young skipper will live up to the challenge of making the transition from T20 captaincy to Test leadership. "I think it's going to be a challenging task for Shubman because in Test cricket I always believe you have to be proactive as a captain. I'm sure Shubman will do well, but it will take time because captaining in T20s and ODIs is completely different.

"In the Test format, sometimes you have to stay one or two steps ahead of your opponents, talk to your bowlers, and plan things with them. So, it's going to be a challenging task for him, but I'm sure he will do well as both a skipper and a batter," Rahane said in the video.

Playing alongside Rahul, Prasidh very comforting: Nair kept me going, kept me hungry and

n comeback trail, Karun Nair says the presence of childhood companions KL Rahul and Prasidh Krishna in the Indian dressing room adds a layer of comfort as he seeks to capitalise on the chance that came his way after eight years.

The five-match Test series against England, starting here on Friday, is an opportunity for Karun to cement his place in the side, years after becoming only the second Indian batter to score a triple century in Test cricket.

"I try to keep it very simple, always think about the positive, have certain goals in mind, visualize things and have real belief in what you visualize.

"Playing alongside Rahul and Prasidh is also a very comforting factor. We've played cricket for so many years since probably we were young kids and grew up together," Karun told Karun and Rahul, both 33, have in England. It's been a while and I India again. That's probably what belief," Karun said.

played age-group cricket together embrace that." He was dropped from

and have been close friends since then. "Life has come a full circle because I went out of the team in England and

the Indian team in 2017.

"My first thought when I woke up (after being dropped) was I want to was the driving force to train and practice everyday.

"I had a goal to play Test cricket again. Everyday, every morning I used to wake up thinking what should I do to reach that goal. Never losing that belief and having that target to reach was something that helped me," he added. In the 2024-25 domestic season, Karun amassed 863 runs in nine matches at an average of 54, helping Vidarbha clinch their third Ranji Trophy title.

The season revived his Test career as he made his return to the Indian Test side for the tour of England.

"Mentally I am more patient and I am more forgiving of myself. I have learnt to enjoy small things a little more and also not trying to be not someone that I am not. I have tried to keep it very simple. I always think about positives, have certain goals in visualise things and have real

Indian men's, women's hockey

Saptak Talwar tied at 18 in Hotel Planner Tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Pleneuf Val Andre (France)

aptak Talwar started his week at the Golf Bluegreen de Pleneuf Val Andre with a steady round of 1-under 69 to a second birdie on the 12th. place himself at tied 18 in the standings at the Blot Play9 in Brittany here.

Talwar has been playing as many events as possible on the Hotel Planner Tour, the second rung of the DP World Tour and has had modest results but has made seven cuts in nine previous starts. His best finish has been T-37 in the UAE Challenge. Talwar began his round on the front nine and had two bogeys against one birdie by the turn of the round.

On the back nine he picked up the pace and picked up shots on the 11th and 14th holes to close the day at one under. Max Kennedy played 10-under 60 to set the course under 64, with six birdies, one record and moved four shots

clear of his closest rival, James Morrison of England, who shot 64. The Irishman Kennedy started his day on the back nine with a birdie and followed that with an eagle on the 11th and

He made birdies on the 15th and 18th holes as well. Once he moved onto the front nine, he picked up shots on the first and fifth holes with two more birdies.

He also had his second eagle of the day on the seventh hole. Overall, he had six birdies and two eagles and no bogeys. The 23-year-old had his sea-

son best finish at the Raiffeisenbank Golf Challenge just last week when he finished in 11th place and will be hoping to capitalise on the strong form. In the second place four strokes behind the leader is James Morrison of England.

He shot a strong round of 6eagle and two bogeys.

Bhatia makes modest start with 70, Scheffler leads with 62 at Travelers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Cromwell (US)

▼ndian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia dropped a double bogey on way to an even par start for a tied 43rd place at the Travelers Championship, the final USD 20m Signature event of the season here.

Scottie Scheffler, the world No. 1, carded 62 for his second-lowest opening-round score of the season, for a share of the lead with Austin Eckroat here on Thursday.

Bhatia has had a fair season with three top-10 finishes, including a tied third at the Players, while playing with the former Open winner, Brian Harman. Bhatia had nine pars on the front nine and dropped a double bogey on the 10th. He got his shots back on the 14th and the 17th and was tied



43rd at even par 70 in an event that does not have a cut. Bhatia is just coming off a

missed cut at the US Open, but was T-16 at Memorial and T-22 at the Charles



Schwab Challenge. Aaron Rai, the Indo-British player, was T-26 with 2-under 68 that had four birdies against

two bogeys. Scheffler's lowest this sea-

son is 61 at the CJ CUP Byron Nelson. Scheffler has not finished out of the top 10 since THE PLAYERS in March, a stretch of

eight tournaments.

teams seek positive results PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antwerp (Belgium)

¬heir dream of booking a direct ticket to next year's World Cup crushed after six consecutive losses in the European leg of Pro league, India are now hoping to conclude their campaign on a positive note with wins in their last two matches against Belgium.

The Indian men's hockey team will take on world Number 3 Belgium in consecutive matches here on Saturday and Sunday. After a good outing in the home leg earlier this year, the Indian men entered the European leg with high hopes, but they had a horrendous outing instead.

The losses meant India slipped from third to the eighth and penultimate position in the nineteam standings. The winner of the Pro League will automatically qualify for the World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by Belgium and Netherlands. Against

Netherlands, India lost 1-2 and 2-3, followed by defeats against Argentina (2-3, 1-2) and Australia (2-3, 2-3). It was not that India played badly throughout the European leg, but what cost them dearly was their perennial habit of conceding late goals.

The Indian defence crumbled under pressure at late stages, evidence of which was their opponents scoring most of their winners in the last 13 minutes of the match. India's senior players committed elementary mistakes when put under pressure. Harmanpreet has stood tall in defence but the likes of Amit Rohidas and Sumit need to buckle up to support young goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Surai Karkera. The Indian forward line too needs to convert the chances that comes their way.

Cheif coach Craig Fulton would also be worried about the team's penalty corner conversion rate, although Harmanpreet scored a few from them.

"The players showed courage

US advances in CONCACAF Gold Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

¬he United States is moving to the knockout rounds at the CONCA-LAF Gold Cup, like it always does. Yet two wins in two matches have been far from consistent and still raise questions about the young squad coach Mauricio Pochettino is guiding into the quarterfinals. The Americans advanced out of Group D with a match still to play with Thursday night's 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia thanks to defender Chris Richards' left-footed goal off a free kick from Sebastian Berhalter.

"We need to be calm," Pochettino said. "This is the second victory in a row in the competition. We still need to be improve. The competition is going to be tougher." Richards' goal was the lone

scored five goals against Trinidad and Tobago, and then looked mostly stagnant and stifled by Saudi Arabia on a steamy night in Texas. There were a couple of glaring defensive lapses, as well. Richards had to track back to save the US from an early deficit when a mistake by Alex Freeman nearly surrendered a goal in the first half.

The Americans' two wins in the tournament so far have come against a Trinidad and Tobago team ranked Number 100 in the world, and Number 58 Saudi Arabia. They will end Group D play Sunday against No. 83 Haiti in Arlington, Texas. Pochettino dismissed the low ranking for Saudi Arabia, noting its first-round victory over eventual champion Argentina in the 2022 World Cup. "It wasn't an easy game. They are very

"They have quality."

competitive," Pochettino said.

moment of finesse from a US attack that The US will have to navigate a tournament that will only get tougher with a roster Pochettino stitched together with many of the usual stars and starters sitting out for personal reasons, injuries or playing in the Club World Cup. Missing the tournament for the U.S. Are regulars Christian Pulisic, Yunus Musah, Weston McKennie, Tim Weah, Gio Reyna, Antonee Robinson, Folarin Balogun and Sergiño Dest.

And forward Haji Wright did not suit up for the match against Saudi Arabia because team officials said he has an "issue" with his left Achilles tendon. The team did not elaborate.

Richards, who scored his second career goal for the Americans, said he sees a roster that is growing as it navigates the Gold Cup in its last competitive matches before the 2026 World Cup, which the US will cohost with Mexico and Canada.

Atlético beats Seattle 3-1 in Club World Cup PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Seattle (US)

Pablo Barrios scored twice and Atlético Madrid beat the Seattle Sounders 3-1 in the Club World Cup.

Giuliano Simeone found Barrios at the top of the penalty box in transition to open the scoring in the 11th minute on Thursday. Madrid pushed the lead to 2-0 in the opening at Lumen Field, which has a minutes of the second half as substitute Axel Witsel scored off an assist by Robin Le Normand in the 47th. Albert Rusnak got Seattle on the



game in the 55th to restore Madrid's two-goal lead. The attendance was 51,636

capacity of 68,740.

Key Moment

Atlético Madrid was initially awarded a penalty kick around scoreboard in the 50th, but the 35th minute, but it was Barrios got his second of the overturned after video review



determined that the foul occurred outside the box.

Takeaways

The Sounders need Paris Saint-Germain to lose against Botafogo later Thursday to have a chance to advance out of Group B.

today. I mean, they were down, and they were able to come back and still fight and play brave. You know Atlético's strength is in their transition, their counterattacks, but we weren't afraid to attack. And that opened us up a few times, but at the end of the day, the players played to win, and that was courage," said Seattle Sounders head coach Brian Schmetzer.

"The most difficult thing in football is creating chances. We created many opportunities today, but weren't fortunate enough to score more goals. But that's in the past now, and we're already focusing on Botafogo.

What they said