



THE Hans India



Ayurveda and yoga restore balance
 In an age dominated by stress, overstimulation, and lifestyle disorders, yoga expert, speaker, and author Anita Dua believes the world is gradually returning to an ancient truth — wellness cannot exist in fragments. For her, true health is the harmony of body, mind, and spirit. **P5**

'B Nagi Reddi: A Son's Memoir' - A heartfelt tribute to a visionary legend
 B Nagi Reddi: A Son's Memoir is far more than a conventional biography. Written by B. Viswanatha Reddi, popularly known as Viswam, the book offers an emotionally rich and deeply researched account of the life of legendary filmmaker, publisher, and philanthropist B. Nagi Reddi. **P8**

The real battle is within
 In the present world many people consider survival and security as prime values. They argue that if a person does not survive, then what value the other values have for him. In a similar vein, they further argue that if a person lives in a state of constant insecurity. **P9**

Nagarjuna gets emotional as 'Manam' completes 12 years
 Veteran Telugu actor Nagarjuna turned emotional while reflecting on the special significance of May 23, a date deeply connected to both his personal and professional journey. The occasion became even more memorable as his cult classic family drama Manam completed 12 years. **P10**

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Cockroach party website taken down

NEW DELHI: The official website of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has been taken down in the recent crackdown against the youth and Gen Z-led online movement after the party's official X handle was withheld. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said on Saturday that both his personal Instagram account and the party's Instagram account had also been "hacked".

The platform surfaced last week after a row over remarks linked to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant during a court hearing on granting "senior" status to lawyers, referring to "youngsters" as "cockroaches" and "parasites". Later, the CJI said his remarks had been misquoted and that they were aimed at people entering the legal field with "fake and bogus degrees".

What started as an online

FOUNDER SLAMS GOVT'S 'DICTATORIAL BEHAVIOUR'

satire campaign later became a broader discussion of digital dissent and growing frustration among young people. Through memes and political commentary, the platform has raised issues such as unemployment, examination paper leaks and education.

On Saturday, Dipke said the party's "iconic website", cockroachjantaparty.org, had been taken down as part of the latest action against the movement. The founder said 10 lakh cockroaches had registered as members through the website, while 6 lakh cockroaches had signed a petition seeking the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan



over alleged failures in the education system, particularly due to the NEET-UG 2026 'paper leak' controversy. "Why is the government so scared of cockroaches? But this dictatorial behaviour is opening the eyes of India's youth. Our only crime is we were demanding a better future for ourselves. But you can't get rid of us that easily. We're working on a new home right now. Cockroaches never die," he wrote in a post on X. As of Saturday afternoon,

CJP crossed 22 million followers on Instagram. This put it well ahead of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has around 9.2 million followers on the Meta-owned platform, and the main opposition Congress party, which has around 13.4 million followers.

The party appeared after controversy broke out over CJI Surya Kant using the terms "parasites" and "cockroaches" while reprimanding a lawyer over his plea seeking senior designation. "There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have any place in profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists and

they start attacking everyone," the CJI said.

The CJI later said he had been misquoted and clarified that the remarks were aimed only at people entering the legal profession using "fake and bogus degrees".

The Cockroach Janta Party was formed a day after the CJI's remarks on May 15. It rapidly went viral and drew support from politicians, activists, artists and a large number of social media users across age groups.

Political leaders such as Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders Mahua Moitra and Kirti Azad, along with Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, have either interacted with or shown interest in the movement. Activists, including Prashant Bhushan and Anjali Bharadwaj, have also engaged with it.

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US tightens green card rules

Applicants may now have to return home to apply



WASHINGTON

Green Card must return to their home country to apply," the department said in a statement.

The administration argues that the immigration system should function "as the law intended" rather than encouraging temporary visa holders to remain in the country while pursuing permanent residency.

According to analysts at the Cato Institute, more than one million immigrants in the US are currently waiting for green cards. The new rules could force many applicants to leave behind jobs, homes and families while their applications are processed overseas. Immigration experts say the change could particularly hurt mixed-status families, where some members are US citizens or permanent residents while others are on temporary visas. There is also uncertainty over how pending green card applications already filed inside the US will be treated.

Immigrant aid organisations strongly criticised the move. HIAS said the policy could endanger vulnerable people, including survivors of trafficking and abused children, by compelling them to return to countries they had fled. Critics also warned that the policy could worsen delays, as the US immigration system is already struggling with a large backlog of visa and residency applications.

IN a major shift in US immigration policy, the administration of President Donald Trump has announced that many foreign nationals seeking permanent residency, or green cards, may now have to leave the United States and apply from their home countries.

The new policy, issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), marks one of the biggest changes to the green card process in more than six decades. The move has drawn criticism from immigration lawyers, aid organisations and policy analysts, who warn that it could disrupt the lives of millions of immigrants and their families.

Until now, many immigrants legally staying in the US could apply for a green card without leaving the country through a process known as "adjustment of status". Under the revised policy, USCIS officers have been instructed to decide on applications on a case-by-case basis and grant exceptions only in extraordinary circumstances.

DHS said the new approach was intended to prevent misuse of immigration loopholes. "An alien who is in the US temporarily and wants a

US & Iran close to extending ceasefire by 60 days



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New Delhi on Saturday

PM gets WH invite as he talks trade & security with Rubio

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held crucial talks on security and trade with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who in turn extended him an invitation to the White House on behalf of Donald Trump.

The three-day visit to India by Rubio comes at a time when ties between India and the US under Trump 2.0 have continued to fluctuate amid trade and energy tensions, which have only deepened amid the Iran conflict.

US envoy Sergio Gor, who joined Rubio for the meeting with PM Modi, said the talks also spanned the Indo-Pacific, where China has sought to assert its strength. India has always

TEHRAN: The ceasefire between US and Iran is likely to be extended by two more months, according to reports, citing mediators. The ceasefire has been in place since April 8 and reports of extending the truce comes amid fresh diplomatic push after mediator Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir met top Iranian leadership in Tehran over the weekend.

Earlier Asim Munir in Iran met with the top leadership, including President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi



and top Iranian negotiator and parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. Pakistan army in a statement on Saturday said

that Field Marshal Asim Munir concluded a short but highly productive tour of Iran, Reuters reported.

Meanwhile, US secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday hinted that Iran could agree to a peace deal as soon as today. His remarks indicating progress in diplomatic efforts to end the war come at a time when Pakistan army chief Asim Munir met top Iranian leadership in Tehran as Pakistan has positioned itself as a mediator in the peace talks between Iran and US.

Phogat gets HC relief to take part in Asian Games trials

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has given its nod to the participation of celebrated grappler Vinesh Phogat in the upcoming trials for the Asian Games, saying the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) selection policy is exclusionary for the lack of discretion to consider an iconic player like her, who is returning from a maternity break.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia ordered that the selection trials, to be held on



May 30-31, shall be video-recorded by the WFI and an independent observer from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) each shall also remain present.

"The appellant shall be permitted to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games, 2026, which are scheduled for 30.05.2026 and

31.05.2026," the court said in its order passed on May 22 and uploaded on its website on Saturday.

"The policy and the circular are clearly exclusionary in nature as it does not give any discretion to Respondent No.1 (WFI) to consider iconic players like the appellant in view of the sabbatical taken on account of her maternity leave," it stated.

The court further observed that the grounds taken in the show-cause notice "appear to be pre-mediated and reopening the closed issues"

and that "it is necessary that the appellant is permitted to participate in the selection trials in the interest of the sport and justice".

The court passed the order on Phogat's appeal against the May 18 order of a single-judge bench, refusing her immediate relief on the issue of her participation in the selection trials. Phogat, a wrestler of international repute, was disqualified from the 50-kg category finals in the Paris Olympics in August 2024 for being 100 gm overweight in the morning weigh-in.

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PARLIAMENT SECURITY BREACH

13,967-page 4th supplementary chargesheet filed in court

NEW DELHI

THE fourth supplementary chargesheet of 13,967 pages has been filed before a Delhi court in the 2023 Parliament security-breach case. Additional Sessions Judge Amit Bansal noted on Friday that the matter is listed for further arguments regarding the charges against accused Neelam Ranolia and Amol Dhanraj Shinde.

He said the investigating officer (IO) has filed the fourth supplementary chargesheet, consisting of 13,967 pages, against the accused under anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code (IPC) provisions.

The court posted the matter for further proceedings, including a scrutiny of documents, on

Petro prices hiked again

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices were increased again on Saturday, marking the third hike in less than 10 days as global crude oil prices continue to surge amid the ongoing West Asia conflict and disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz. Petrol prices were raised by up to 87 paise per litre, while diesel prices increased by as much as 91 paise per litre across major cities. In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 99.51 per litre, up from Rs 98.64, while diesel prices rose from Rs 91.58 to Rs 92.49 per litre. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) prices were also increased by Re 1 per kg, marking the third hike in less than 10 days. With the latest revision coming into effect immediately, CNG in Delhi will now cost Rs 81.09 per kg. Prices in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad have risen to Rs



89.70 per kg, while Gurugram will see CNG priced at Rs 86.12 per kg. The latest hike follows a Rs 2 per kg increase announced on May 15 and another Re 1 per kg hike on May 17. With the latest revision, CNG prices in Delhi climbed to Rs 80.09 per kg, breaching the Rs 80-mark for the first time. The latest hikes come as India faces mounting pressure from soaring global crude oil prices triggered by the West Asia conflict and disruptions to shipping routes through the Strait of

Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints.

Expressing concerns over the issue, citizens, as well as the taxi drivers, raised concerns over the hike. The taxi drivers said that the increase in prices does not mean an increase in fares for them.

Delhi residents raised concerns over the increase in fuel prices, with no effective increase in income. Some held the government responsible for the hike and for dismissing the public concerns.

A local said, "It's affecting the middle class. Petrol prices are increasing. It's a loss. But what can we do? People who have work will have to use a car. People are carpooling as asked. But petrol is expensive. There is no alternative. Electric cars are so expensive."

Centre asks Delhi Gymkhana Club to vacate by June 5

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked Gymkhana Club in Lutyens' Delhi to hand over the premises by June 5, citing that the 27.3-acre plot was required for "strengthening and securing defence infrastructure". The order, issued by the Land & Development Office (L&DO) under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, stated that the premises, located in a highly sensitive and strategic area of Delhi, is critically required for the strengthening and securing of defence infrastructure and other vital public security purposes.

Nestled in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi, the sprawling Delhi Gymkhana Club stands adjacent to the prime minister's residence on Lok Kalyan Marg. In its letter to the club's secretary on May 22, the L&DO said the premises situated at 2, Safdarjung Road, were leased to the



Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd (now known as Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd) for the specific purpose of maintaining a social and sporting club.

The land is essential to fulfill urgent institutional needs, governance infrastructure and public-interest projects, integrated with the resumption of adjoining government lands, the L&DO said. "In exercise of the powers conferred under Clause 4 of the Lease Deed, the President of India, through the Land & Development Office, hereby determines the lease and orders re-entry of the aforesaid premises with immediate effect," it stated.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

We've always treated them like cockroaches...so why are they forming a political party now?

Twisha Sharma suicide case

Husband Samarth sent to 7-day police remand

TWISHA'S FAMILY WELCOMES CBI PROBE, DEMANDS FAST-TRACK TRIAL

BHOPAL

SAMARTH Singh, husband of model-turned-actor Twisha Sharma and the prime accused in her alleged suicide case, was sent to seven days of police remand by a Bhopal district court on Saturday. He was produced before the court amid tight security, a day after being taken into custody from Jabalpur.

Prior to his court appearance, Samarth was taken to Jai Prakash (J.P.) Hospital for a mandatory medical examination under police supervision. He was later brought to the district court in a heavily guarded convoy.

A large police deployment was made at the court premises to manage the crowd and prevent any untoward incident, given the public attention surrounding the case. Samarth was escorted into the courtroom of Judicial Magistrate Anudita Gupta under tight security. He was produced around 3:15 p.m., following which the court granted police custody remand for seven days.

Police had sought custodial remand to facilitate further interrogation in connection with Twisha Sharma's death.

Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Singh said Samarth was brought to



Bhopal late on Friday night after being detained in Jabalpur.

He added that strict action would be taken against anyone found to have assisted Samarth while he remained untraceable for about 10 days after the incident.

"If it is found that someone provided him shelter or helped him evade arrest, action will be taken against them as well," he said.

Samarth Singh had been missing since May 12, the day Twisha Sharma was found hanging at her matrimonial home under the Katara Hills police station

area. The case sparked public outrage, with allegations of dowry harassment against her husband and in-laws.

Meanwhile, Twisha Sharma's family on Saturday welcomed the decision of a CBI probe and demanded a speedy investigation along with a fast-track trial to ensure quick justice to the young woman and her family.

Speaking to IANS, Twisha Sharma's cousin said that

action in the case had been delayed initially, but recent developments in the judiciary had raised hopes for a fair investigation. "Overall, we feel that the

Salon CCTV hrs before death raises fresh questions

BHOPAL: Fresh CCTV footage showing Twisha Sharma visiting a beauty salon in Bhopal hours before her death has surfaced, adding a new dimension to the probe into her alleged suicide. According to salon owner Kiran Parihar, Twisha visited the parlour on May 12 at around 3.12 pm and remained there for nearly three hours. During her visit, Twisha underwent a head massage and pedicure before leaving the salon around 6.15 pm.

The CCTV footage surfaced on social media shows Twisha appearing calm and relaxed during her stay at the parlour, with no visible signs of distress.

Parihar said Twisha was a regular customer at the salon and had visited several times in the past.

The salon owner also revealed that the next morning after Twisha's death, her mother-in-law, retired judge Giribala Singh, con-

tacted the salon seeking details about the visit.

Parihar said Twisha had not made any payment during the visit because she already had a prepaid package purchased earlier, around the time of her brother's wedding.

She further claimed that Giribala Singh later specifically requested the CCTV footage and informed her that Twisha had died by suicide.

Soon afterwards, a group of five to six unidentified people dressed in black-and-white clothes resembling lawyers allegedly arrived at the salon claiming they had come on behalf of the police to collect the footage. Parihar said the CCTV footage was extracted after a technician was called to the salon.

It is a fact that CCTV technician Rohit Vishwakarma had visited Giribala Singh's house late at night on May 12.

action taken in the case was quite delayed. However, the judiciary has recently taken several important decisions. Permission has now been granted, and the court has also observed that the bail

granted to Giribala Singh was taken in haste. I welcome this decision of CBI probe and hope that the CBI will investigate the matter properly and without delay," the cousin said.

Dual PAN card case

SP LEADER AZAM KHAN'S JAIL TERM RAISED TO 10 YRS

RAMPUR (UTTAR PRADESH)

IN fresh trouble for jailed Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Khan, an Uttar Pradesh court on Saturday enhanced the sentence of the former MP from seven years to 10 years and raised the penalty imposed on his son from Rs 50,000 to Rs 3.5 lakh in the latter's dual PAN card case.

The Special MP-MLA Court in Rampur also enhanced the penalty imposed on Azam Khan from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh, a lawyer said. The court decision came in connection with the prosecution's appeal seeking sentence enhancement for the father-son duo serving seven years' imprisonment for the offence of Abdullah Khan possessing two PAN cards with different dates of birth (DOB), the lawyer added.

The former MP and his son were sentenced to seven years' jail each on November 17, 2025, after holding Abdullah Khan guilty of getting a second PAN card made with a wrong date of birth to increase his age on record, making him eligible to contest election.

Earlier, Azam Khan's appeal against his sentencing was dismissed by a court on April 20 this year while the decision on the prosecution's appeal seeking sentence en-



hancement was delivered on Saturday, the lawyer said.

The case was registered in Civil Lines police station in Rampur on a fraud, forgery and criminal conspiracy complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Akash Kumar Saxena on December 6, 2019.

He alleged that one of Abdullah's PAN cards recorded his DOB as January 1, 1993, and the other mentioned September 30, 1990.

After the court decision on Saturday, Saxena said, "This is a historic verdict, enhancing the sentence on an appeal. This is a rare case in which an appeal to increase a convict's sentence has been accepted by court."

Earlier, during the trial, the prosecution succeeded in proving in court that

Abdullah Khan, a former MLA, indulged in forgery to qualify for contesting an election and Azam Khan was part of the larger conspiracy.

The prosecution said that Abdullah was underage and did not meet the requirement for a minimum age to contest an election. To increase his age in records, he used a fake DOB and got a second PAN card made.

At the time of the court judgment on November 17 last year, Azam Khan had barely stepped out of jail in another matter.

Complainant Saxena alleged that forged documents were used to prepare the PAN cards that were used for electoral purposes and filing income tax documents.

Three siblings killed in house fire in Sidhi

SIDHI (MP)

IN a devastating tragedy that has shocked an entire village, three young siblings were burnt alive after a sudden fire engulfed their tiled-roof house in Kasihwa village of Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Saturday.

The victims included two sisters and their younger brother, who were trapped inside the house while their parents were away. The incident has left the local community in deep mourning and raised serious concerns over fire safety in rural households.

The deceased children have been identified as three-year-old Riddhi Saket, eight-year-old Ragini Saket and their five-year-old brother. Their father, Ramratan Saket, had left early in the morning for daily wage work in the city, while their mother had gone out to buy groceries. The three children were alone at home when the



fire suddenly broke out.

Another sister of the victims narrowly escaped the tragedy as she was staying at her maternal grandparents' house at the time.

According to villagers, the children screamed for help as the flames rapidly spread through the house.

Local residents rushed to the spot and made desperate attempts to douse the flames and rescue the children. However, due to the intensity of the blaze and the lack of adequate

water and resources, their efforts failed.

The fire brigade reached the village nearly two hours after the incident was reported. By then, the entire house had been reduced to ashes, with thick smoke still rising from the debris.

Upon receiving information about the incident, Jamodi police station in-charge Divya Prakash Tripathi arrived at the spot along with a police team. With the help of villagers, the bodies of the three

children were recovered from the ruins. After completing the necessary panchnama and legal formalities, the bodies were sent for post-mortem examination.

A large number of villagers gathered at the site, expressing grief and shock over the heart-rending loss.

Sidhi Collector Vikas Mishra visited Kasihwa village to assess the situation and console the bereaved family. Expressing profound sorrow, the Collector described the incident as extremely tragic and unfortunate. He said the exact cause of the fire was being thoroughly investigated.

While some villagers suspect a short circuit to be the possible cause, authorities have assured that strict action will be taken if any negligence is found.

The Collector also assured prompt financial assistance to the family under the government's Sambal Yojana and other applicable welfare schemes.

Land fraud linked to Suntec City project

ED arrests cooperative society secretary in Punjab

JALANDHAR

THE Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Jalandhar, has arrested Ajay Sehgal, Secretary of the Indian Cooperative House Building Society, in a money laundering case linked to the submission of forged consent letters used to fraudulently obtain Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions for the Suntec City real estate project from the Government of Punjab, officials said on Saturday.

The arrest was made on Friday following an investigation initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Punjab Police. The complaint originated from farmers who alleged that their consent signatures had been forged to facilitate the CLU approvals.

According to the ED, investigation has revealed that Ajay Sehgal, acting through the cooperative housing society, prepared fake consent letters relating to 30.5 acres of land belonging to 15 landowners. These allegedly forged documents were then used to secure CLU permission for developing a large-scale real estate project named 'Suntec City'.

Officials said the consent letters carried forged signatures and thumb impressions of landowners, which were used to obtain regulatory approvals for the project.



The ED further stated that earlier search operations were conducted on May 7 at eight locations linked to the Indian Cooperative House Building Society and ABS Township Private Limited. During these searches, cash amounting to Rs 21 lakh was allegedly thrown from the balcony of a liaison businessman, identified as Nitin Gohel, which scattered on the road below before being recovered by ED officials.

The agency also found that apart from residential plots, Ajay Sehgal was involved in the development of La Canela residential multi-storey complex and District 7 commercial complex, both of which were built on the basis of CLU permissions allegedly obtained through forged consent documents.

According to the investigation, units in these projects were being sold even before obtaining proper registration and approval from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), with total sales exceeding Rs 200 crore from allegedly

unauthorised transactions. It was also revealed that the accused had not transferred plots earmarked for the Economically Weaker Sections to the Estate Officer of GMADA to date.

The ED further stated that, contrary to earlier proceedings before the High Court, only partial revocation of CLU for 30 acres was carried out under Section 85 of the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, instead of stricter action under Section 90 of the same Act. Officials said the role of senior officials and authorities in the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) and Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) is also under investigation.

The ED has indicated that further arrests are likely in the case, and the probe may reach higher-level officials who allegedly facilitated or supported the accused in exchange for illegal benefits.

The agency added that its investigation has uncovered large-scale irregularities in approvals granted by GMADA and the Department of Town and Country Planning for Suntec City and other similar projects, alleging that illegal gratifications were used to benefit developers at the cost of farmers and landowners in Punjab.

Rahul reaches out to family of NEET aspirant who died by suicide

JAIPUR :Amid the ongoing nationwide protests over the NEET paper leak controversy, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi spoke with the family of NEET aspirant Pradeep Meghwal, who allegedly died by suicide after reportedly suffering severe distress following the cancellation of the examination.

NSUI National President Vinod Jakhar visited Pradeep Meghwal's family at Kanika Dhani in Guda Ponkh village, nearly 60 kilometres from Sikar in Rajasthan, late on Friday night. During the visit, Jakhar facilitated a phone conversation between Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the bereaved family. Gandhi expressed deep condolences to the family and assured them that a strong nationwide fight would be launched against examination paper leaks and the "paper mafia" responsible for compromising students' futures.

Pradeep Meghwal, a resident of Jhunjhunu district, had been living in Sikar for the past three years while preparing for the NEET examination. According to



family members, he had performed well in the examination but had been under severe mental stress following the controversy and uncertainty surrounding the exam. He died by suicide on May 15 at his residence in Jaldhari Nagar on Piprali Road in Sikar.

During the interaction, the family demanded strict action against those involved in examination paper leaks and called for stronger laws to prevent such incidents in the future.

Rahul Gandhi assured the family that he stood with them during this difficult time and that the issue of paper leaks affecting students across the country would be strongly raised.

Earlier in the day, the National Students' Union of

India (NSUI) organised a peaceful protest march in Sikar against the alleged NEET paper leak scam and corruption in the education system, jeopardising students' futures.

Led by NSUI National President Vinod Jakhar, the march proceeded from Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Circle to CLC Chowk, where students held a candlelight tribute in memory of Pradeep Meghwal. Protesters demanded transparency in the examination system, an impartial investigation into paper leak cases, and strict punishment for those found responsible.

Addressing the gathering, Vinod Jakhar said recurring paper leaks and corruption in the education system were pushing millions of students into despair and uncertainty.

4 killed as truck runs over family in UP

BARABANKI (UTTAR PRADESH)

A speeding dumper truck crushed four members of a family, including three children, sleeping by the roadside in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district on Saturday, officials said.

The accident occurred on the Fatehpur-Bhanoli road near the village of Jhansa, located within the Fatehpur Kotwali police station area of Barabanki.

The accident claimed the lives of a man and his three children, while his wife and the children's mother sustained critical injuries. She is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Lucknow, officials said.

Due to scorching heat and a lack of electricity, the family had set up their beds outside their home, right by the roadside, to sleep. At that moment, a speeding dumper truck approaching from the direction of Mahmudabad lost control and ploughed into the sleeping family, according to the officials.

Amit Singh, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Fatehpur, confirmed that



four people lost their lives, while one is in critical condition.

The injured were initially taken to a Community Health Centre; however, after receiving first aid, the mother was referred to the District Hospital due to her critical condition. The injured children had already succumbed to their injuries by that time.

According to the officials, upon hearing the cries, locals had immediately rushed to the site and initiated rescue operations.

Officials said that the locals informed the police following the incident. Upon receiving the information, the police also arrived at the spot; they facilitated the injured woman's transport to the hospital and sent the bodies for a post-mortem examination.

The police have taken the dumper truck and its driver into custody.

2 killed after tractor-trolley with labourers overturns

VIDISHA, May 23 (IANS) At least two persons lost their lives and around 20 others, including several children, were injured after a tractor-trolley overloaded with migrant labourers overturned in the Kurwai police station area of Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district on Saturday.

The tractor-trolley was carrying around 22 people, mostly migrant labourers from Umaria district along with their young children. The accident occurred on Bina Road between Layra and Maliyakheda villages while the group was on its way to agricultural fields to harvest the moong crop.

According to police officials, the vehicle suddenly lost balance and overturned, throwing the passengers heavily onto the road. Panic and chaos gripped the spot as labourers and children cried for help following the mishap.

Local villagers and passers-by rushed to the accident site and assisted in rescue operations. Kurwai Station In-charge RK Mishra reached the spot with his



team soon after receiving information and coordinated the rescue efforts.

All the injured were immediately shifted to the Kurwai Community Health Center for treatment.

Doctors declared 55-year-old local farmer Rishabh Sahu, also known as Rishi, and 65-year-old labourer Darbri Kaul from Umaria dead on arrival.

Police completed the preliminary inquest proceedings and sent both bodies for post-mortem examination.

Among the injured, 20-year-old Divya Kol and 35-year-old Rajni Kol sustained serious injuries and were referred to the District

Hospital after primary treatment. The remaining 18 injured people, including several young children, are undergoing treatment at the Kurwai Community Health Center, where doctors are closely monitoring their condition.

Police and health department officials remained on high alert for several hours after the accident.

Preliminary investigation by the police suggested that overloading of the tractor-trolley and excessive speed were the primary causes behind the mishap. The vehicle has been seized and evidence collected from the accident site.

DU-ST STEPHEN'S ROW

New teachers added to exam roster despite HC stay

NEW DELHI

AS the tussle between DU and St Stephen's College intensifies, with disagreements continuing on several administrative fronts, a fresh examination invigilation roster includes newly recruited teachers despite a university probe and a stay order on the recruitment process, an official said.

A Delhi High Court order dated May 13 directed the college to halt recruitment pursuant to the recommendations of the selection committee after four assistant professors of St Stephen's College approached the court seeking regularisation of their services at the college, where they have been working on an ad-hoc or guest basis since 2018-2021.



report/recommendations of the Selection Committee pursuant to Advertisement No. SSC/04(4)/TS/2025 (for recruitment) shall not be implemented without leave of this Court," the order mentioned.

The four college professors also sought consequential reliefs, including regularisation from their initial dates of appointment, continuity of service, pay fixation, seniority and other benefits available to regular employees, besides interim protection against termination or displacement during the pendency of the case.

On Saturday, a college official told PTI on condition of anonymity, "A fresh examination roster was sent to professors on Friday.

The roster included the names of some newly recruited teachers as well."

"While a previous roster issued on May 15 also had new names, this subsequent roster has several additional names.

The appointment letters were sent out on May 11 but following the court order, there is some ambiguity regarding the teachers joining," the official added.

The examination roster for May 28-31, as seen by PTI, has been signed by the superintendent, superintendent of examinations and deputy superintendent of examinations on Thursday, along with John Varghese, whose signature continues to appear as principal of the college. Meanwhile, the website of St Stephen's College now lists Varghese as a faculty member in the English department, while the principal's page remains blank.

Rekha gupta inspects air pollution mitigation devices



NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday inspected some of the newly installed air pollution mitigation devices in parts of the city under the government's 'Innovation Challenge'.

Gupta, along with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, inspected pole-mounted dust catchers installed near the Kirti Nagar industrial area and central verge air purifiers set up at the Kirti Nagar fire station.

Last year in October, Sirsa launched the challenge for pollution reduction solutions, inviting individuals, startups, and research institutions to submit ideas aimed at reducing particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) emissions. During the inspection, Sirsa explained that dust

keeps getting collected in the device, and after about 15-20 days, the backend technology alerts authorities once the units are full. "The device can collect dust from a radius of 400 square metres," he said. Explaining to Gupta, Sirsa further pointed out that the device would be enclosed within an iron frame for protection. The devices inspected on Saturday are among the 22 shortlisted innovations currently undergoing trials in the next phase of the government's innovation challenge to assess their effectiveness.

"Around 15-16 such pilot projects have been installed in parts of Delhi. Our aim is that if we find any such innovations and technology that can help clean Delhi's air, then we will keep working on them," Sirsa said.

Showroom gutted in northwest Delhi fire

NEW DELHI: A major fire broke out at a showroom in Kingsway Camp Market on Saturday morning, and large quantities of stock were gutted, causing substantial financial losses, police said. Police received a PCR call regarding the blaze at the Bata showroom in Mukherji Nagar around 6:52 am in northwest Delhi. Soon after receiving the information, police rushed to the scene and found that the fire initially erupted on the showroom's ground floor. Police said the flames quickly spread to the first and second floors because the shop's shutter could not be broken open immediately, delaying fire-fighting efforts initially.

Officials said the shop housed a huge stock of shoes packed in paper boxes, which intensified the fire and made the operation more challenging. The fire caused heavy financial losses to the showroom due to damage to stock and property, police said. Dense smoke engulfed the market area during the operation, drawing a large crowd and shopkeepers, police said.

Police cordoned off the area and ensured no one entered the affected premises during the fire-fighting.

One of the biggest drug hauls at IGI

Hydroponic weed worth Rs 48 cr seized

NEW DELHI

IN one of the biggest narcotics seizures at IGI Airport in recent times, Customs officials have seized suspected hydroponic weed worth around Rs 48 crore from two Thai nationals who arrived from Bangkok, officials said on Saturday.

Delhi Airport Customs Commissioner Arvind Saran told PTI that the seizure was perhaps among the largest narcotics recoveries made at any international airport in the country in recent years. "Customs officials at

TWO THAI NATIONALS ARRESTED



the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport are maintaining strict round-the-clock vigil to check attempts to smuggle drugs and other prohibited

items," Saran said. Concerted efforts were also being made to curb gold smuggling, he said. Hydroponic weed is a high-potency form of cannabis

cultivated in nutrient-rich water instead of soil.

According to an official statement, the two passengers landed in Delhi on May 22 and were intercepted after crossing the Green Channel at the airport.

"Acting on specific profiling inputs and suspicious travel indicators, Customs officers subjected the baggage of both passengers to detailed examination," the statement said.

During a physical examination of the baggage, officials recovered six vacuum-sealed packets suspected to contain hydroponic weed. Of the total seizure, four

packets weighing around 29 kg were recovered from one passenger, while two packets weighing around 19 kg were recovered from the second passenger, officials said.

"The total quantity of the suspected narcotic substance recovered in the case was approximately 47.805 kilograms (net weight)," the statement said.

According to Customs officials, the seized contraband has an estimated market value of around Rs 48 crore. "This is one of the highest seizures in recent times at IGI airport, Delhi," they said.

Tribal congregation at Red Fort

Traffic curbs, diversions in central, north Delhi today

NEW DELHI: Delhi Traffic Police on Saturday issued a revised advisory ahead of the 'Janjati Saanskriti Samagam' at the Red Fort on Sunday, warning of major traffic restrictions and diversions across central and north Delhi as nearly one lakh people are likely to attend the event.

The event organised by Janjati Jaagriti Samiti will include multiple 'Shobha Yatras' beginning from Shyamgiri Mandir, Ramlila Maidan, Rajghat, Quesia Park and Ajmeri Gate before converging at the Red Fort, the advisory said.

Movement of large processions and gathering of participants on May 24 are likely to affect vehicular traffic in several areas and commuters have been advised to avoid non-essential travel on affected routes, the police said.

Traffic restrictions will remain in place on key stretches, including GT Karnal



Road, Boulevard Road, Sham Nath Marg, Lothian Road, Netaji Subhash Marg, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Asaf Ali Road, Nishad Raj Marg and several adjoining roads at different time slots from noon onwards. According to the advisory, traffic movement on Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate Chowk to Chhatta Rail at both carriageways will remain closed from 12 pm till 3 am. Restrictions will also remain in force on Nishad Raj Marg till 3 am.

Traffic movement is also likely to be affected on Rajpura Road, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg, Ring Road near Salimgarh bypass, ITO, BSZ Marg, DDU Marg, Minto Road, Chawri Bazar and Desh Bandhu Gupta Road.

MCD cancels Nehru Hill Park allotment for Eid

NEW DELHI: Amid the allegations of operating illegal selling of goats in Nehru Hill Park near Ramlila Maidan, the MCD on Saturday cancelled the permission to use the site allotted for Eid celebrations, an official order said. The move comes days after the civic body's horticulture department had complained to Delhi police on May 12 and May 14 about the alleged illegal use of the park for buying and selling of goats.

In an official order issued on Saturday, the assistant director (Horticulture), City-SP Zone, said permission granted to a residents' welfare association representative for use of the park from May 21 to May 27 stood "withdrawn/cancelled with immediate effect."

The official order stated that "activities" were being carried out at the site in violation of the conditions of the permission granted.

"You are directed to vacate the site forthwith and remove all related activities/ material from the premises



immediately," the order said, while seeking assistance from the IP Estate police station to ensure compliance.

The permission had reportedly been granted after payment of around Rs 1.07 lakh, Delhi BJP alleged.

According to the statement by the party, the issue has triggered protests from some local residents and BJP office bearers, who alleged that the allotment was being used to legitimise an illegal goat market at the public park located in the mixed-population locality around Mata Sundari Road and Minto Road.

A delegation led by Delhi BJP office bearer Amit

Gupta met Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and demanded cancellation of the allotment, the statement read.

"There is no mention anywhere in the receipt about permission for a goat market. This is clearly a case of intimidating municipal officials and obtaining a receipt to legitimise an illegal activity," Amit Gupta alleged in a statement.

He also claimed that no such goat market had been held at the park in the past several decades and questioned the allotment of a public park when the Delhi government had already stated that slaughtering of goats would not be allowed at public places.

3 HELD FOR SELLING FAKE 'BRANDED' AUTO SPARES

NEW DELHI

DELHI Police has busted an alleged counterfeit auto parts racket and arrested three men for allegedly selling fake switches bearing the name of an auto component manufacturing brand, an official said on Saturday.

During raids at three shops in Karol Bagh, police recovered 10,650 allegedly counterfeit switches that were imported and sold as genuine UNO Minda products, police said in a statement.

According to police, the accused allegedly procured cheap foreign-made on/off switches and illegally engraved them with the trademarks of the reputed brand before selling them in the market for profit.

The accused have been identified as Rajesh Malhotra, Som Bhutani and Ka-



mal Raswant, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said. Police said the action was carried out following specific inputs regarding the sale of fake branded products in Karol Bagh. Acting on the information, police along with authorised legal representatives of UNO Minda, conducted raids at three wholesale establishments in the area on May 19, the officer added. During the operation, police recovered

8,500 allegedly counterfeit switches from one shop, 650 from another and 1,500 from the third store, Yadav said. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the BNS and the Copyright Act at the Crime Branch police station. Police said the three accused had been involved in wholesale trading of auto parts for nearly 15 to 20 years and allegedly turned to the counterfeit business due to higher profit margins associated with branded products.

Govindpuri double murder case: Accused held after encounter with police

NEW DELHI: The main accused in the double murder of a woman and her teenage son in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri was arrested after a brief encounter with police, officials said on Saturday.

The accused, Saurabh, a distant relative of the deceased, sustained a bullet injury in his leg during retaliatory firing by police after he allegedly ignited fire at the police team in the Govindpuri area late Friday night, they said.

According to police, Saurabh was wanted in connection with the murder of Sharda Sahu (38) and her 13-year-old son. The two were stabbed to death inside their house in Govindpuri in the early hours of Thursday. Based on a tip-off, the accused was traced to the Ghati Park area, where he was consuming smack. Po-



lice reached the spot and attempted to surround him. The accused was repeatedly asked to surrender, but he fired four rounds at the police team in an attempt to escape, police said.

The police team retaliated in self-defence and a bullet struck Saurabh in the leg. He was subsequently overpowered and taken into custody before being shifted to a hospital for treatment, they said. No police personnel were injured in the exchange of fire.

The arrest comes a day after the investigators identified Saurabh through CCTV footage.

Let's ensure a Cong victory to make Rahul Gandhi as PM: Jagga Reddy

- We must ensure Cong wins over 300 of 543 Lok Sabha seats in next polls
- Rahul Gandhi's slogan, "Samvidhan Bachao" is of pivotal importance
- Indira Gandhi nationalized the banks, benefiting common people
- Rajiv Gandhi sowed seeds of IT revolution, lowered voting age to 18
- Cockroach Janata Party should highlight achievements of Cong era
- It should expose failures of Modi govt in last 12 years
- Says TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy



HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TELANGANA: Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president T Jagga Reddy on Saturday made a strong pitch for the Congress party's return to power at the national level, stat-

ing that the party must secure a decisive majority in the next Lok Sabha elections to see Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Jagga Reddy said the Congress should aim to win more than 300 of the 543 parliamentary seats, and, if delimitation expands the number of constituencies, should target over 500 of the projected 850 seats.

Referring to a "Cockroach Janata Party" in his remarks, he urged the online group to use social media platforms to highlight what he described as the contrast between development during the Congress era and the present Modi government.

He said the intent behind the so-called "Cockroach movement" remained unclear and suggested that Rahul Gandhi should extend support to it, adding that clarity on the issue should come from the party's top leadership.

Jagga Reddy described Rahul Gandhi's "Samvidhan Bachao" (Save the Constitution) campaign as "critical," saying the Constitution drafted by Dr BR Ambedkar acts as a protective framework for citizens, similar to the "Kavacha Kundalas" of Karna in the Mahabharata.

He said protecting constitutional values was central to the Congress party's ideology and to Rahul Gandhi's political message.

The TPCC leader credited earlier Congress governments with shaping India's modern development. He said Indira Gandhi nationalized banks to expand financial access, while Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation for the Information Technology revolution and lowered the voting age to 18.

He also cited welfare initiatives under the Congress-led UPA government headed by Dr Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi,

including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which he said ensured employment security for rural households. Jagga Reddy accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of misusing institutions and questioned the fairness of democratic processes, referring to the Election Commission while alleging erosion of electoral integrity.

He also accused the BJP of using religion in politics and failing to fulfill major promises, including large-scale job creation.

Jagga Reddy further cited rising national debt levels, claiming that public debt had increased significantly since 2014 and arguing that governance standards had declined under the present government. Calling for strong electoral support for Congress, Jagga Reddy said a decisive mandate would help address issues such as Special Category Status

and key infrastructure projects like Polavaram to Andhra Pradesh.

He urged voters to exercise their franchise carefully and support what he described as constitutional and inclusive governance.

Jagga Reddy said he personally participates in religious traditions such as 'Sita Rama Kalyanam' but does not seek votes in the name of religion. He accused political opponents of misusing religious symbolism for electoral gain.

Reiterating his position, he said Rahul Gandhi should lead the country as Prime Minister and described the Congress party as a collective movement rather than a leader-centric organization.

He added that the outcome of the next general elections would determine whether India continues on its current path or returns to what he called constitutional governance under the Congress party.

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Focus on preventive healthcare drives Sanjeevani expansion

- Govt sanctioned Rs 162 cr for deployment of 904 mobile medical units in remote and rural areas
- Target set to conduct health screenings for 56.40 lakh people within a year
- Digital Health Profiles to store prescriptions, diagnostic reports, medical history and follow-up details



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu looking at the Sanjeevani project details in Yadamari of Chittoor district on Saturday

screenings, digital health records, specialist consultations and artificial intelligence-based health advisories to provide continuous healthcare monitoring, particularly for people suffering from chronic and lifestyle-related diseases.

During the pilot phase in Kuppam, more than 80,000 residents were enrolled under the programme and over 70,000 medical tests were conducted. Following the response received during the trial phase, the government decided to extend the initiative across the state.

A major feature of the programme is the creation of Digital Health Profiles for every registered person. These profiles will contain prescriptions, diagnostic reports, medical history and follow-up details in digital format. Doctors will be able to access patient records from anywhere in the state, helping reduce repeated tests and improving treatment accuracy.

The project has been developed with support from the Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation and Tata Consultancy Services. A centralised Digital Nerve Centre has also been established to integrate health data collected from Primary Health Centres, village clinics and hospitals.

Under the programme, 42 different medical tests will be conducted covering major health concerns including diabetes, hypertension, cardiac ailments, kidney disorders, respiratory diseases, cancers and maternal and child health issues. Health experts believe the initiative can strengthen preventive healthcare services and reduce pressure on tertiary hospitals through early detection and continuous monitoring. Officials said screenings would be conducted through village and ward secretariats to improve access to healthcare services in both rural and urban areas. Artificial intelligence tools integrated into the system will generate health scores, issue reminders for follow-up consultations and support preventive care measures.

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI

GIVE this news story a catchy, sharp but brief headline and three bullet points without sub-headings

Chittoor
The Sanjeevani Digital Health Project, a major public healthcare initiative aimed at strengthening preventive healthcare services through technology-driven systems is all set to be implemented across the state in the next couple of months. After recording encouraging results during the pilot phase in Kuppam, the

government has started expanding the programme in a phased manner to cover rural and urban populations.

The large-scale rollout of the project across the Chittoor district formally began at Yadamari of Puthalapattu constituency in Chittoor district on Saturday. As part of the programme, the state government has sanctioned Rs 162 crore for the deployment of 904 Mobile Medical Units in remote and rural areas. Authorities have also set a

target of conducting health screenings for nearly 56.40 lakh people within the next year. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure that medical test reports are delivered to beneficiaries through WhatsApp within 48 hours to improve accessibility and speed of service.

Unlike regular health screening drives, Sanjeevani has been designed as a long-term healthcare management system. The programme combines doorstep

Op 'Clean Sweep' launched in municipalities across AP



Municipal administration and urban development minister P Narayana, Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao and others join sanitation workers in sweeping roads during the launch of 'Operation Clean Sweep' in Vijayawada on Saturday

- Four-week sanitation drive aims to make urban local bodies clean and dump yard-free
- Minister Narayana joins sanitation workers, launches awareness campaign in Vijayawada
- Govt targets waste processing, waste-to-energy expansion and cleaner urban infrastructure

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

MUNICIPAL administration and urban development (MA & UD) department on Saturday launched 'Operation Clean Sweep,' a four-week statewide sanitation campaign aimed at transforming municipalities into clean and dump yard-free urban centres through public participation and community involvement.

Minister for municipal administration and urban development P Narayana inaugurated the programme at Kurmaiah bridge on Sambamurthy Road near Bavajipet in Vijayawada by releasing balloons along with government whip and Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, Swachh Andhra Corporation chairman K Pattabhiram, MA & UD principal secretary S Suresh Kumar, NTR district collector and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation special officer Dr G Lakshminisha, Swachh Andhra Corporation MD B Anil Kumar Reddy, municipal commissioner

H M Dhyanchandra and campaign brand ambassador Dr G Samaram. As part of the programme, the minister joined sanitation workers in sweeping roads, painted road dividers, planted saplings and later shared breakfast with the public at an Anna canteen.

Addressing the gathering, Narayana said the state government was implementing the special Swachh Andhra campaign to make state clean and free from dump yards. He said the first week of the campaign would focus on cleaning roads and public places, while the second week would involve drain-cleaning activities with public participation. The third week would create awareness on waste segregation at households and commercial establishments, and the final week would focus on maintaining cleanliness in public toilets.

The minister said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had launched the Swachh Andhra initiative in Machilipatnam on October 2, 2024, with the objective of encouraging public participation in sanitation activities. He added that the Chief Minister has been personally reviewing the programme by visiting one district every third Saturday.

Narayana said out of nearly 153 lakh tonnes of legacy waste left unattended earlier, around 85 lakh tonnes of above-ground garbage had already been cleared in record time under the directions of the Chief Minister. He said the remaining

underground waste would also be removed by the end of June.

The minister further said the government was giving priority to waste-to-energy projects. While plants in Visakhapatnam and Guntur are already operational, six more projects are under various stages of construction and are expected to become operational within the next two years.

Swachh Andhra Corporation chairman K Pattabhiram said the government was striving to make the state a national model in sanitation through people's participation. He said steps were being taken to establish eight waste-to-energy plants and 107 waste processing centres across the State. He also noted that 2,000 electric vehicles had been deployed for door-to-door garbage collection.

Municipal administration principal secretary S Suresh Kumar said Swachh Andhra would play a key role in achieving the vision of Swarna Andhra. He appealed to citizens to treat urban cleanliness as a collective responsibility and avoid dumping waste on roads and in drains.

MLA Umamaheswara Rao called upon traders, educational institutions, self-help groups, NGOs and youth to actively participate in sanitation activities and contribute towards building a clean Andhra Pradesh.

Several NGOs, terrace garden groups, resident welfare associations, sanitation workers and citizens participated in the programme.

TDP, BJP hit back at Jagan over 'politics of violence'

HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

FINANCE minister Payyavula Keshav and BJP MP C M Ramesh launched a sharp counterattack against YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday, accusing the YS family of institutionalising faction and violence-based politics in Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing reporters along with Ramesh in Vijayawada, Keshav alleged that factional politics and the criminalisation of political culture in the state originated under the YS family. He asserted that the YS family were "the accused, not the victims," and accused Jagan of attempting to rewrite political history through emotional narratives.

The minister alleged

that political intimidation, violent factionalism and misuse of influence had become entrenched in parts of Rayalaseema during the era of Y S Raja Reddy. He claimed the TDP was considering compiling and publishing incidents linked to faction violence in Pulivendula politics.

Keshav accused the YSRCP of weakening institutions, damaging industrial growth and disrupting projects during its tenure. He said the "axe image" associated with the YSRCP had gained public traction because of the party's political conduct over the years.

BJP MP Ramesh alleged that Jagan was attempting to project himself as a victim in order to divert attention from the murder case of former minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy.

Govt aiming for clean Godavari Pushkaralu, says Durgesh

HANS NEWS SERVICE RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

TOURISM, culture and cinematography minister Kandula Durgesh said the state government aims to conduct the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu in a completely pollution-free environment.

On Saturday, the minister, along with district collector Kirti Chekuri, joint collector Y Megha Swaroop, district SP D Narasimha Kishore and municipal commissioner Rahul Meena, inspected Pushkar Ghat to review arrangements ahead of Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan's visit.

Speaking to the media, Durgesh said senior officials reviewed preparations for the Deputy Chief Minister's visit to Rajamahendravaram on May 25. He said Pawan Kalyan is laying special focus to pollution control in the Godavari basin and



Tourism minister Kandula Durgesh reviewing arrangements for the Deputy CM's visit in Rajamahendravaram on Saturday

measures needed for the smooth conduct of the Pushkaralu.

The Deputy Chief Minister is scheduled to arrive in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday night. On Monday morning, he will travel by boat from Pushkar Ghat to Kotilingala revu to inspect various ghats. He will also review measures to clear pollution and clean the Nalla channel.

A review meeting on

Godavari Pushkaralu arrangements will later be held at the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation office under the chairmanship of the district collector.

Durgesh said that although the Godavari is a sacred river, it is facing a serious pollution problem. He said timely action and proper planning could help ensure clean and hygienic Pushkaralu for pilgrims.

Mahesh rules out PCC leadership change

Some people unable to digest coordination between me and CM Revanth Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

REACTING on a malicious campaign launched by a TV channel targeting him, PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud on Saturday ruled out change in leadership of the Telangana Congress unit.

He asserted that any such decision rests solely with the All India Congress Committee (AICC), while dismissing criticism and media speculation against him.

Speaking during an informal interaction with the media in Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh Goud said party workers and the AICC leadership were the appropriate authorities to assess his performance as TPCC chief.

"The high command has the final authority on any changes in PCC leadership. I was appointed PCC chief because the party believed I was the right person for the responsibility," he said.

Claiming that the AICC leadership has confidence in him,



Mahesh Goud stated that Congress general

secretary KC Venugopal had congratulated him on

several occasions for his work.

The TPCC chief alleged that some individuals were uncomfortable with the coordination between him and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

"I will not be intimidated simply because a particular TV channel expresses its opinion. One channel running a campaign against me does not make it the ultimate truth," he remarked, while reiterating his respect for press freedom.

On party affairs, the TPCC chief revealed that the names of proposed working presidents had already been sent to the AICC and that appointments would be announced soon.

He also clarified that the proposed Telangana Cabinet expansion would be handled directly by the Chief Minister and that he would have no role in the process.

Mahesh Goud also clarified that Gandhi Bhavan belonged to the party trust and dismissed reports and rumours targeting him, saying he

would not waste time responding to "trivial matters."

On the proposed "Future City" project, the TPCC chief defended the Congress government's vision, stating that the project would become a model for the entire country. He accused the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) of lacking foresight and failing to expand Hyderabad during its tenure.

"Development happens only when a city expands. Is Harish Rao suggesting that Hyderabad does not require further development," he asked, criticising senior BRS leader T Harish Rao for opposing the initiative.

Mahesh Goud further alleged that the Central government was adopting a "step-motherly attitude" towards Telangana. At the same time, he said the Congress government was continuing welfare schemes introduced by the previous administration, drawing a comparison with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.

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Ayurveda and yoga restore balance

ASKARI JAFFER

In an age dominated by stress, overstimulation, and lifestyle disorders, yoga expert, speaker, and author Anita Dua believes the world is gradually returning to an ancient truth — wellness cannot exist in fragments. For her, true health is the harmony of body, mind, and spirit, a balance that both Ayurveda and Yoga have advocated for centuries.

With over three decades of experience practising and teaching Yoga, Anita Dua has emerged as a strong voice for integrating traditional wisdom into modern life. A disciple of legendary yogacharya B K S Iyengar, she trained at the prestigious Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute in the early 1990s. Her work today combines the therapeutic precision of Iyengar Yoga with the holistic principles of Ayurveda, encouraging people to rethink wellness beyond temporary fixes and fitness trends.

Her latest book, 'Power of Ayurveda and Yoga,' comes at a time when conversations around mental health, preventive healthcare, mindfulness, and holistic living are finding greater relevance across generations. According to Anita, the inspiration behind the book emerged from both personal experience and years of observing how disconnected people have become from their own natural rhythms.

"My yoga and pranayama practice of more than three decades has led me to a medicine-free life with a tranquil mind most of the time," she says. "It proves that Yoga and Ayurvedic practices are not merely wellness tools — they are complete, time-tested systems of healthy living."

For Anita, one of the greatest misconceptions surrounding these disciplines is the tendency to separate them. Yoga, she says, is often reduced to physical exercise, while Ayurveda is seen merely as herbal medicine. In reality, the two sciences complement one another deeply.

"Ayurveda is the science of life and longevity, while Yoga is the science of the

Yoga expert and author Anita Dua believes Ayurveda and Yoga are not separate wellness practices but deeply connected sciences of balanced living. In a fast-paced, overstimulated world, she advocates returning to natural rhythms, mindful discipline, and holistic healing for lasting well-being



mind," she explains. "One prepares the body and lifestyle for balance, while the other steadies consciousness and emotional well-being."

Drawing from the teachings of Sage Patanjali, Anita frequently refers to the Yoga Sutras to explain how Yoga was always intended to go far beyond physical postures.

Yogah citta-vritti-nirodhah

The sutra, she explains, describes Yoga as the calming of the fluctuations of the mind. According to Anita, the real transformation brought by Yoga and pranayama is gradual but deeply transformative. Better immunity, emotional stability, improved digestion, and mental clarity are simply natural outcomes of consistent practice.

"These are not quick-fix solutions. They require patience, discipline, and persistence," she says.

Anita also believes the

growing interest in Ayurveda and Yoga among younger audiences reflects a larger cultural shift, particularly after the pandemic. Increasingly, people are becoming aware of the importance of sleep, digestion, emotional balance, and daily routine.

"There is a visible shift towards natural living," she says. "Young people today are more conscious about gut health, mindfulness, and reconnecting with nature."

She points out that Ayurveda has always emphasized rhythm — waking early, eating meals at regular times, spending time outdoors, and maintaining balance between activity and rest. These practices, she believes, are becoming increasingly relevant in a world driven by speed and constant stimulation. One of the central themes in her book is the Ayurvedic understanding of disease as *Prajnaparadha*, or "a mistake of the intellect."

Anita believes the concept



Anita Dua

perfectly describes modern lifestyles.

"We know what is unhealthy, yet we continue doing it. We sleep late scrolling through screens, eat irregularly, live under constant stress, and disconnect ourselves from nature," she says.

According to Ayurveda, these repeated choices disturb the body's balance, particularly Vata dosha, which governs the nervous system and mental activity. Over time, this imbalance manifests as anxiety, fatigue, digestive disorders, sleep disturbances, and chronic disease.

For Anita, healing begins not through extreme changes, but through conscious awareness and discipline. "To wake up with the sun, eat mindfully, breathe deeply, move consciously, and create moments of silence — this is where healing begins," she says.

Discipline, she believes, is where most people struggle today. Modern life constantly encourages distraction, overstimulation, and instant gratification, making consistency difficult even when awareness exists.

"We already know what creates imbalance. The real challenge is maintaining discipline in everyday

life," Anita explains. Yet she insists transformation does not require dramatic lifestyle overhauls. Small, sustainable practices — a few minutes of pranayama, timely meals, reducing screen exposure before sleep, spending time in nature — can gradually restore equilibrium.

"Yoga and Ayurveda are not asking us to withdraw from modern life. They are teaching us how to remain centred within it," she says.

At the heart of Anita Dua's philosophy is the belief that balance is humanity's natural state. The body, mind, and emotions are designed to function in harmony, but modern lifestyles continuously pull individuals away from that alignment.

"Either we consciously slow down and reconnect with nature's rhythm or eventually nature forces us to slow down through disease," she says.

In many ways, 'Power of Ayurveda and Yoga' is not simply a book about wellness practices. It is an invitation to return to simplicity, rhythm, and self-awareness — ancient principles that Anita Dua believes may hold the answers to many of modern life's deepest struggles.

Cruelty-free haircare: The rising demand for natural henna creams



CLELIA CECILIA ANGELON

Hair colouring decisions used to be fairly simple for most people. If the shade looked good and covered greys properly, that was enough. Very few consumers paid attention to ingredient lists or thought much about how frequently those products were being used. That has slowly started changing.

When the use of a particular product becomes routine, certain things start coming to light, such as irritation of the scalp or dryness of the hair after prolonged usage. This rising consciousness about choices related to daily haircare practices is one reason why natural henna creams are gaining more room within contemporary hair care regimes.

Cruelty-Free Beauty Is Becoming More Visible

Cruelty-free beauty is no longer something associated only with niche or alternative beauty spaces. People nowadays are much more conscious about how the products are manufactured, the testing methods used to produce those products, and the philosophy behind the brand itself.

Natural henna hair creams that combine Ayurveda with the biome of Brazilian plants blend naturally into this shift because they are rooted in plant-based ingredients and gentler-feeling haircare routines. Ingredients such as henna, aloe vera, hibiscus, and amla already feel familiar to many consumers looking for more balanced beauty choices. The addition of Brazilian botanical ingredients like guarana, açai, Brazilian nuts, and babassu oil further strengthens this combination by bringing together traditional Ayurvedic knowledge with the richness of Brazil's natural biodiversity. These ingredients are increasingly associated with nourishment, scalp comfort, hydration, and softer-feeling hair, making them appealing for consumers seeking more mindful and long-term haircare solutions.

For most people, these changes are gradual. They are



not trying to build perfect routines overnight. They simply want products that feel better suited for long-term use.

People Are Getting Tired of Overly Harsh Haircare

A lot of consumers who colour their hair regularly eventually notice small changes. Hair starts feeling rougher than before. The scalp becomes uncomfortable more easily. Even washing routines begin feeling different after repeated colouring sessions. That experience is pushing many people towards gentler options.

Henna creams are increasingly becoming part of those conversations because they feel easier to include within long-term routines. Cream formats, especially, appeal to consumers who want convenience along with softer-feeling haircare. Conventional henna powder takes more effort to prepare, unlike creams, which are quicker and easier to use.

There is also familiarity attached to plant-based ingredients now. Henna, aloe vera, hibiscus, amla, and coconut-derived ingredients are no longer viewed as old-fashioned ingredients sitting quietly in traditional beauty spaces. They have become part of modern haircare discussions too.

Consumers today often prefer products that feel balanced rather than extremely aggressive. That does not mean they expect natural products to completely transform their hair overnight. Most people are simply looking for routines that feel easier to maintain

consistently.

Ingredient Awareness Is Quietly Changing the Industry

One interesting shift happening across beauty categories is how carefully consumers now read ingredient labels. Earlier, most people ignored formulation details unless they had severe scalp sensitivity. Today, ingredient awareness has become much more common. This is especially true for products people use again and again over long periods of time.

Many consumers now actively look for brands with formulations that avoid ammonia and related chemicals such as ethanalamine, diethanolamine, and triethanolamine, which are often associated with faster and stronger colour processing. Many brands are also becoming more selective about their ingredient choices, avoiding large numbers of substances that do not fit within their overall formulation approach.

What is interesting is that this shift often comes from experience more than trends. People notice when their scalp feels irritated repeatedly. They notice when hair starts feeling excessively dry after regular colouring. Eventually, those experiences influence purchasing decisions.

Haircare today feels less rushed than before. Consumers still want good colour results, of course, but they are thinking more carefully about what comes with those results too.

(The writer is a founder & CEO of Surya Brasil)

Shivaleeka Oberoi documents her pregnancy journey: '9 months in a blink of an eye'

Actress Shivaleeka Oberoi, who welcomed her first bundle of joy in April, shared a glimpse into her pregnancy journey through a heartfelt video montage.

Shivaleeka shared a video, which began with the words "Growing my greatest love." The clip captured her baby bump's evolution from five weeks to 38 weeks.

The video then showed her bump slowly growing as she documented her pregnancy journey with text overlays that read: "5 weeks, 8 weeks, 11 weeks, 20 weeks, 28 weeks, 38 weeks."

She captioned the clip: "9 months in a blink of an eye. I was creating a life while life recreated me!"

On May 19, Shivaleeka and her filmmaker husband Abhishek Pathak revealed that they have named their newborn daughter Aarika, which symbolises grace, abundance, prosperity, and divine beauty.

Shivaleeka and Abhishek shared two pictures of themselves along with their "greatest blessing" in a collaborative post on Instagram.

The post was captioned: "Introducing our greatest blessing Aarika Pathak.

Aarika carries the essence of Goddess Lakshmi — symbolising grace, abundance, prosperity, and divine beauty."

The post further read: "Born on 19.04.2026 the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya, it all feels so beautifully and divinely connected — as if the universe planned it this way all along. She is everything we ever dreamed of and more. Grateful, blessed, and completely in love... all over again!"

The couple had announced in December last year that they are set to become parents for the first time on a post on social media, which read: "Our love story has found its sweetest verse — a tiny blessing is joining our universe (Baby angel, evil eye and Dizzy emojis) (sic)."

Abhishek and Shivaleeka first met during the shoot of their 2020 film "Khuda Hafiz", which stars Vidhut Jammwal. They exchanged rings in July 2022 and finally got married in February 2023.

The couple got married in a private ceremony in Goa in the presence of their family and close friends, including actor Ajay Devgn.



Triptii Dimri says 'Maa Behen' reminded her of two women unfairly judged by society

Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri opened up about the emotional connection she felt with 'Maa Behen', revealing how two women, who were "unfairly judged" by society, from her childhood society, inspired her character.

The actress said during the trailer launch of the upcoming film "Maa Behen", that the women were judged for being single and independent.

Triptii said at the trailer launch: "When sir narrated the story to me, I told him that there were two women in my society who were single, didn't have parents, and were considered a little fashionable for those times. People would call them names."

"As kids, we were told, 'You can't go to them, don't be friends with them, don't go near their house, it's dangerous.' That stayed with me somewhere. When 'Maa Behen' came along, it was the image of those two girls that I had in my mind."

She added: "I was like, 'I have to be a part of this film,' because society judged them for no reason. If I could get a chance to apologise to them, I think this is my chance."

On Saturday, she shared a string of images of herself from the trailer launch and showcased the whole "Maa Behen" drama.

"It was all smiles, fun and a whole lot of Maa Behen drama #MaaBehen trailer out now," Triptii captioned the images on Instagram.

The chaotic crime-comedy 'Maa Behen' also stars Madhuri Dixit Nene. It will release on June 4 on Netflix.



Along with Triptii and Madhuri, the film also Dharna Durgaa, and Ravi Kishan in pivotal roles. They are joined by Geetanjali Kulkarni, Arunoday Singh, and Shardul Bhardwaj.

Premiering on June 4, at the heart of "Maa Behen" is Rekha, a mother

who's already juggling enough until life throws her the ultimate curveball, a dead body in her kitchen. With her two daughters, Jaya, the responsible one, and Sushma, the wild card, this trio must think fast, lie faster, and somehow keep their nosy neighbors from sniffing out the truth.

Wealth without well-being: the paradox of India's elderly

TEJ SINGH KARDAM

IN India, senior citizens often find themselves in a paradoxical situation. Indians born in the pre-liberalisation era grew up in a time of scarcity and limited economic opportunities. In this situation their upbringing instilled a deep-seated habit of saving and an aversion to spending. For them, wealth accumulation was not just about financial security but also a means of pacifying their fears about their unknown future needs.

Despite possessing significant assets and savings, many lead frugal lives, unwilling to enjoy the wealth they have painstakingly accumulated. This has resulted in them 'dying rich but not living rich'. This is particularly prevalent among older generations, who, despite being financially sound, feel insecure and choose to live with a cautious, conservative approach. While the younger generation is moving away from traditional investments like real estate and gold, the elderly remain emotionally attached to these assets.

Possible reasons as to why senior citizens tend to die rich rather than living rich:

Living modestly despite wealth:

Many senior citizens in India continue to live modestly despite being financially sound. They often prioritise frugality and self-denial, driven by concerns about potential medical expenses, longevity, and the need to support their children or grandchildren. This conservative approach can lead to an unnecessarily restricted lifestyle, where seniors deny themselves the comforts and experiences they could easily afford. The fear of outliving their

The biggest gift seniors can give their children is not a house or a gold chain but life well-lived. The irony is that many senior citizens live frugally, sacrificing pleasures, only to die wealthy. They were in a way, poor in life but rich in death. There is a need for senior citizens to focus on personal well-being and happiness.

savings, or the possibility of an unexpected medical emergency wiping out their wealth, often looms large in their minds.

Emotional factors:

Senior citizens have retained their emotional attachment to traditional investments. They often see real estate and gold as tangible assets that provide a sense of security, stability and returns in the form of rent. These assets hold sentimental value and are associated with memories and legacy. The older generation grew up in an era when these investments were the primary wealth-building tools, making it harder for them to break away from this mindset. In addition to emotional attachment, they tend to invest heavily in traditional assets - real estate and gold, viewing them as symbols of security and legacy. However, this emotional attachment makes these assets illiquid, leaving them unable to generate regular income for day-to-day comfort.

Invisible burdens-Inflation, healthcare and over-giving:

Beyond emotional letdowns, there is the real challenge of rising costs. Medical inflation in India is growing faster than general inflation. A single health emergency can wipe out years

of savings. Many senior citizens also deplete their retirement funds supporting their children's education, business or weddings. While done with love, it can leave them financially vulnerable later in life.

Generational shift:

Younger generations today value mobility over inheritance, convenience over nostalgia. They are choosing apartments near work, rental flexibility and minimalist living over ancestral homes. The generational shift in financial thinking leaves many senior citizens feeling disconnected and even disappointed.

Changing trends and priorities:

The younger generation, in contrast to their elders, prefer simplicity and minimalism. The next generation are witnessing a significant shift in their investment preferences as well. They are moving away from traditional investments, which were once considered safe and reliable. Instead, they are exploring new avenues such as stock, mutual funds, income plans and even cryptocurrency. This shift can be attributed to various factors, including the desire for higher returns, ease of diversification and the influence of global investment trends.

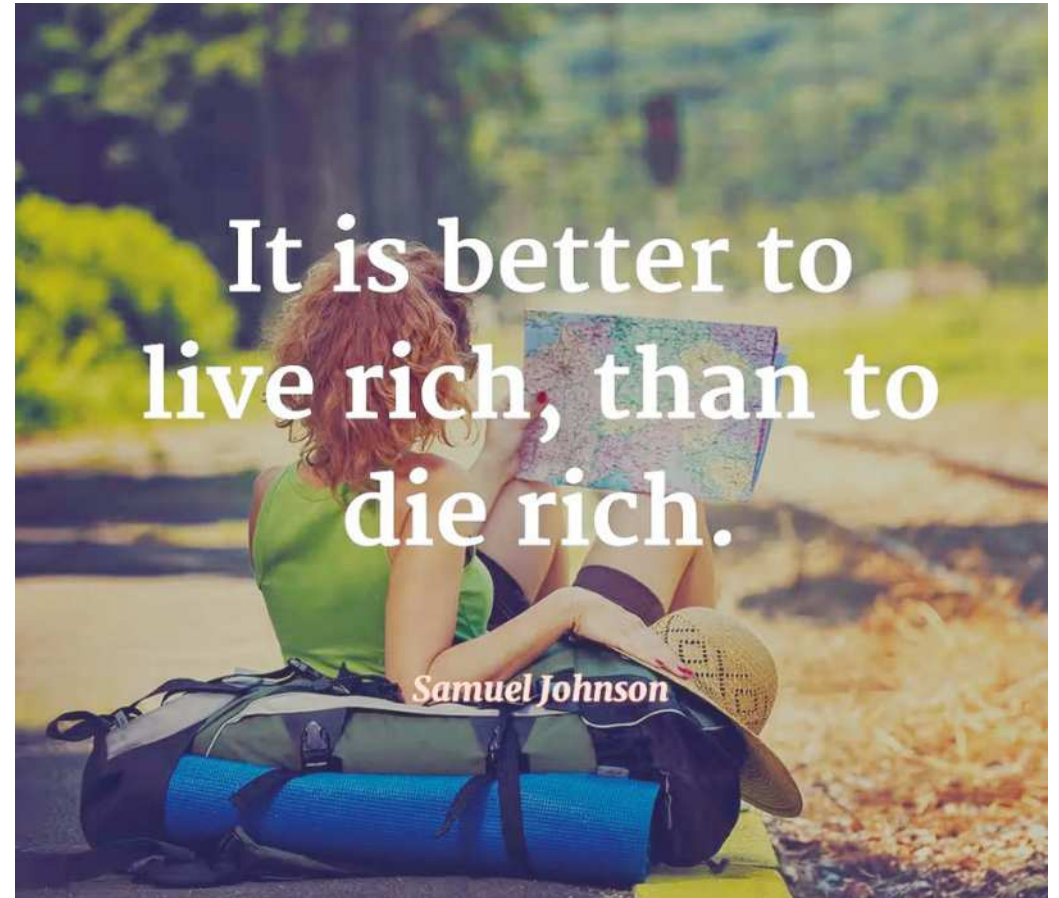
One such example of the

younger generation not being interested in traditional assets is of one senior citizen, who died aged 85. His wife had predeceased him. One son lives in London and the other in New Zealand. They have the nationality of those countries. Neither was interested in the house their father had built in his prime age.

The father had written a will before his death to give all the property equally to both his children. The sons did not have time to get all the property in their names and then sell it. Both made a power of attorney to sell the property in someone's name. Thereafter the proceeds from the sale of the property were sent to their home country.

Benefits of financial planning:

It is important that senior citizens live life to the fullest and explore the reasons behind their emotional investments. It is high time they understand the changing taste and priorities of the younger generation and the rising costs faced by senior citizens. There is a need for the senior citizens to utilise a portion of their wealth for their own comfort and happiness. Going for financial planning like having a well-structured retirement plan can ensure that they have enough funds set-aside for emergencies and long-term



care, while allocating money for travel, leisure and other personal interests. The seniors should explore annuity plans; systematic withdrawal plans from mutual funds with a steady income stream without depleting their core assets. Ultimately, Indian senior citizens need to prioritise their own well-being and happiness, breaking free from the cycle of living economically to make the next generation rich.

Self-care and setting an example:

Retirement should be about fulfilment. Senior citizens should travel, pursue hobbies, attend cultural events, or just

enjoy quiet time with friends. These are not luxuries but are essential to a rich life. They should not forget the power of community like joining clubs, senior networks for emotional support, to combat loneliness and foster a sense of belonging. By prioritising their own well-being, embracing change, and spending meaningfully, they can rewrite what ageing looks like. They can prove that it's possible to live rich - not just financially but emotionally and spiritually. The biggest gift seniors can give their children is not a house or a gold chain but life well-lived.

The irony is that many senior

citizens live frugally, sacrificing pleasures, only to die wealthy. They were in a way, poor in life but rich in death.

There is a need for senior citizens to focus on personal well-being and happiness, diversification into annuities, mutual funds, and income plans to balance financial security with comfort and enjoyment, in addition to balancing the children's education etc.

Further they should break free from the habit of extreme thrift, enjoy the fruits of their hard work, and "live rich" rather than merely "die rich".

(The writer is a retired IFS officer)

Homage to K S Gopal, the architect of sustainable development and agricultural innovation

His pioneering SWAR irrigation framework earned UNESCO laurels

VANAM JWALA
NARASIMHA RAO

DURING the 1990s, while serving as a faculty member at the Dr MCR HRD Institute, I was tasked with planning a training program on the 'Role of NGOs in Rural Development.' The singular, exceptional expert who immediately came to my mind, and whom numerous professional colleagues strongly recommended was KS Gopal. By then, he was steering the Hyderabad-based Centre for Environment Concerns (CEC).

Established in 1984 by a visionary group of activists, the CEC was dedicated to pioneering innovations, fresh ideas, and 'next practices' in the development sector. The broad areas of their operations encompassed poverty alleviation, rural development, environmental sustainability, and inclusive markets to enhance livelihoods.

Through these pillars, they aimed to regenerate natural resources in rain-fed, agriculturally backward dry land areas. The process they envisaged was driven by multi-disciplinary action research, field-level pilots, and a strategic mix of policy and practice advocacy. Against this dynamic backdrop, Gopal joined CEC as its director in 1993. Since joining, he spearheaded initiatives in participatory forest development, foreign funding research in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, later in Telangana, and local cereal-based community grain banks. His expertise included environmental hotspots, civil society

advocacy, soil enrichment, organic agriculture, chemical-free forestry pest management etc. He also worked extensively on optimal utilisation of River Godavari waters.

Though he passed away at the age of 72 years, his vibrant energy remained undiminished until about six months prior to the tragic day. Since our first meeting, we have enjoyed a lifelong friendship. He was always the life of small gatherings with like-minded friends. He thoroughly enjoyed a social drink and a smoke, generously sharing joyful, unreserved moments with his closest companions.

Gopal left an indelible mark on everyone he touched, and his profound influence will stay with his friends, including me, forever.

Upon hearing the news of his passing on May 16, I visited his residence, offered condolences to his wife, before paying my last respects at the crematorium. Our bond was deeply academic. We shared ideas. Whenever we met, whether at Dr Ula Balaji's house, my flat, Dr AP Ranga Rao's residence (later Dr Bharat's), or Sashi's home, our discussions were invariably intense yet stimulating. They ranged broadly from politics to development, driven by Gopal's passion.

We shared an intellectual 'common ground,' where Gopal was the undisputed leader. However, the 'actual physical ground' he chose once, for his groundbreaking 'System of Water for Agriculture Rejuvenation (SWAR)' irrigation experiment was a 1000-square-yard mini-farm near the Chilkoor



He foresaw generic commodities transforming into branded 'Farm-to-Fork' (Farm-to-Table) products, moving directly, or with minimal steps, from a local farm to the consumer's plate. However, he warned that this transformation would be aggressively driven by big players with deep pockets, smart information and communications technology systems, and remote management tools. He remarked that whoever commands the marketplace will ultimately dictate the future of our rural economy. Gopal cautioned that a handful of mega-corporations often end up controlling the entire value chain, squeezing farmers, intermediaries, and consumers alike

Balaji temple. His primary focus was always irrigation water efficiency, which he firmly believed was structurally linked to soil and plant root health.

The core concept was delivering water directly to the root zone with minimal waste.

As a first-of-its-kind system, SWAR provided

measured moisture to the roots, cutting water use by 50 per cent compared to standard drip irrigation for horticulture and agroforestry crops. He advocated precise moisture delivery tailored to different soils and crop cycles. When he casually mentioned this seven years ago, I offered our mini farm. Gopal self-funded the entire project, covering all installation and fertilizer expenses.

While I was working with Telangana's first Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR's), as his CPRO, Gopal in July 2019 discussed with me a CEC study on the effective use of water for Telangana's prosperous agriculture. This coincided with KCR's massive re-engineering of irrigation projects to ensure state-wide water supply. Gopal's insights directly complemented KCR government's plans to establish specialized crop colonies for efficient, high-quality agricultural service delivery.

In that context, Gopal presented a distinctive proposal: the Khairif season should focus on pulses, coarse cereals, millets, and fodder, boosting productivity through quality seeds, protective irrigation, and sustainable farming practices. Conversely, during Rabi, canal-fed flood irrigation could support crops like paddy, wheat, and cotton. Additionally, he favoured agro forestry to simultaneously enhance farmer incomes and restore local ecology.

Again, in June 2020, aligning with KCR's initiatives, Gopal proposed the framework of 'Right Interventions for Regulatory Farming.'

This concept emerged against the backdrop of 24/7 quality power supply, unprecedented paddy harvests, and landmark agricultural welfare schemes like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima. During this period, KCR suggested strategically converging MGNREGS with core farming operations to directly support landowners while simultaneously securing employment for agricultural labour.

Gopal, who contributed significantly to the evolution of MGNREGS, analysed that the Indian agricultural ecosystem was undergoing deep, structural shifts. These changes spanned procurement models, crop diversification, urban dietary demands, mechanization, and modern supply chains. In this rapidly evolving landscape, he focused on how to social-engineer and unleash human creativity toward building a more equitable rural economy. For him, the pathways and opportunities were always plenty.

He shared an insightful perspective regarding the Research and Innovation Circle Hyderabad (RICH). He envisioned RICH, designed to take lab research from Telangana's top scientific institutions to the market, as a potent force multiplier. For him, this ecosystem could empower a vast number of young people to secure meaningful livelihoods while remaining deeply connected, with their feet and hearts, to the soil.

The strategic suggestions made by Gopal, which we so deeply debated, did not remain confined to

our private conversations. Beyond bringing his visionary ideas directly to the notice of the Chief Minister, who responded with a highly positive, considerate, and accommodating approach, I also documented them from time to time, extensively in detailed articles published across mainstream platforms to ensure they reached a wider audience.

When major agricultural reforms, including the 'One Nation, One Market' framework, amendments to the Essential Commodities Act, contract farming, and public-private partnerships for storage infrastructure were proposed in July 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, Gopal observed that the sector was on the cusp of a structural shift. He noted that traditional peasantry farming was rapidly giving way to corporate agribusiness.

He opined that farmers could no longer rely on Minimum Support Price (MSP) or assured government procurement. Instead, the sector would transition into an era of customized production, dynamic price discovery, and nationally integrated markets dominated by large corporations, food chains, and exporters. He foresaw generic commodities transforming into branded 'Farm-to-Fork' (Farm-to-Table) products, moving directly, or with minimal steps, from a local farm to the consumer's plate.

However, he warned that this transformation would be aggressively driven by big players with deep pockets, smart information and communications technology systems, and

remote management tools. He remarked that whoever commands the marketplace will ultimately dictate the future of our rural economy. Gopal cautioned that a handful of mega-corporations often end up controlling the entire value chain, squeezing farmers, intermediaries, and consumers alike.

He often said, 'Markets are brutal, fierce battlegrounds. Their architecture decides who thrives, who benefits, and who is ultimately subjugated or decimated.'

To illustrate this grim reality, he shared a striking real-life story he personally encountered. In the academic and corporate realms, Gopal was a highly qualified management specialist, with MBA and a Diploma in International Trade. He shared his vast practical knowledge as a faculty member at ASCI and a 'Scholar-in-Residence' at TISS, eventually delivering guest lectures at world-renowned institutions like Oxford and York.

Gopal served on the EPTRI Governing Council and NIRD Research Council. He founded the IDL Rural Development Trust, co-founded the Deccan Development Society (DDS), and promoted communal harmony in Hyderabad. His pioneering SWAR irrigation framework won international accolades, including from UNESCO, leading to his frequent participation in high-level forums convened by the World Bank, UN, UNEP and FAO.

Gopal's loss leaves a deep void. His revolutionary practical ideas nurture our soil.

Dr Soumya's hour of glory gets subdued media attention

LETTER OF THE WEEK



nathan are the first Indian father-daughter duo to get the FRS and Soumya is the

HEARTY congratulations to the Indian scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan, who has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Soumya and Bharat Ratna MS Swami-

second Indian woman to get the honour. Soumya has now entered a privileged league of exceptional scientists. Soumya's role as chief scientist in the World Health Organization (WHO) helped understand the Covid situation better during the pandemic. Alas Indian newspapers did not give as much page 1 prominence as her achievement deserved.

S Sankaranarayanan, Chennai 40

DON'T IGNORE SOLAR POWER

EVERYONE knows that summer temperatures will be extremely high. I remember that during our childhood days, Vijayawada used to be called as 'Blazewada' due to the scorching heat. Ironically nature continues to be peaceful and cheerful irrespective of the season. We must be thankful that nature is giving us free solar power. We should make appropriate use of this bountiful. The government and private authorities must utilise the abundant solar power. With solar powered panels, we can obtain and reap the benefits of

an overwhelming power availability that can be used to maximum levels.

G Murali Mohan Rao, Secunderabad-11.

Better late than never

THE state government of Telangana had taken the right forward step by enhancing minimum wages that have remained stagnant for the past 12 years. Indeed, the decision was prompted by the ongoing writ petition filed in the High Court by members belong-



ing to the working class. It is a paradox of civil administration that while government employees are entitled to DA, yearly increments and a hefty pay revision every ten years together with accrual of arrears, the working class in the unorganised and MSME sectors are denied a regular minimum wage revision. Hope this move will usher in better days for the perennially deprived class.

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad

A Melody moment in Italy

THE gesture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifting a packet of Melody chocolates to his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni took India by storm. It contagiously went viral on social media and grabbed the attention of millions of viewers. The picture postcard of the pair at the iconic Colosseum was bubbling under and, understandably so, given their glamour and charisma. It was fortuitous that the names blended so well to form the coinage - Meloni + Modi = Melody. Both the leaders exuded exuberance and smiled radiantly without detectable simulation. While a packet of eye-catching Melody may have warmed the cockles of the heart of the Italian Prime Minister and established a close rapport with her, it is hard to quantify how much it has contributed to strengthening, as against 'sweetening', the relations between the two countries. Still, it is certainly indicative of greater cooperation and collaboration that both the countries are keen on having. Leaders too are human

like the rest of us, and they are quite within their rights to give a personal touch to their diplomatic encounters if they choose to. However, it becomes farcical when it is done to make reels for the consumption of supporters. The thought of how Modi's predecessor Dr Manmohan Singh would have conducted himself while meeting another head of government springs to mind. The Opposition has dubbed it "Toffee diplomacy" and faulted him for handing out candies as a token of intimacy in Italy when India is faced with the prospect of an economic crisis.

G David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)

It's more than an amusing market anecdote

With reference to the news report "Wrong Parle Stock jumps 5% after Modi-Meloni video," (THI, May 21), the episode of investors rushing to buy Parle Industries Ltd — an entirely unrelated listed company —



simply because its name resembled Parle Products, the maker of Melody toffees, is more than an amusing market anecdote. It exposes a serious and persistent problem with retail investor behaviour in India. A significant section of market participants continues to make buying decisions

based on social media videos and name recognition rather than any basic due diligence. SEBI has repeatedly flagged this concern, yet the pattern recurs. Stock exchanges and brokers must strengthen real-time investor alerts when trading surges in scrips with no visible fundamental

trigger. Financial literacy campaigns need to move beyond awareness posters and reach investors at the point of transaction, before uninformed decisions cause avoidable losses.

A Myilsami, Suler (P O)-641402

Modi must pursue diplomatic goals

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy seems more glamorous than achieving an economic breakthrough out of trade deals between the nations. The 'Melody' and Meloni rhyming and Modi gifting Re one iconic toffee to Giorgia Meloni, his Italian counterpart, became an amusing meme creating an internet viral moment. The expensive foreign trips of the PM need to pursue diplomatic goals, such as regarding the Iran-US and Ukraine-Russia war as well as to ink deals bringing capital/technology inflows into India.

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad.

Restoring trust in Indian exams

ABHINANDAN BHATIA

FOR a student, on examination day, all the hard work, teachers' relentless efforts and parents' expectations — are all at stake. Underlying every competitive examination is a tacit public trust that the system is fair, cannot be gamed, and rewards purely on merit. However, such confidence erodes due to episodes like the recent NEET paper leak, which reflects the deep-rooted systemic complacency of our institutions.

The vulnerabilities in the current method of conducting the NEET examination are evident: too many human points of failure in the channel — from officials engaged in the examination process and question paper setting to the printing press employees and logistics intermediaries. These create enormous financial incentives for organised



"exam mafias" to cultivate networks of insider access.

More concerning, however, is the continued complacency and lack of urgent corrective action by the concerned authorities after the 2024 NEET exam leak. Why were the relevant agencies and departments so slow — nearly two years after the report's submission — to adopt the recommendations of the expert committee led by Dr K Radhakrishnan?

The major recommendations included introduction of Computer Based Testing (CBT) for secure and paperless conduct of the examination across multiple shifts; equipping rural areas and each district with CBT infrastructure; utilising the infrastructure of Kendriya Vidyalayas as well as Central and State Universities; and deploying appropriate normalisation techniques for multi-session examinations.

Infrastructure will remain a challenge in ensuring accessibility to rural candidates. Apart from this, we cannot ignore the contentious normalisation methods used to equate varying difficulty levels across multiple exam shifts.

Nonetheless, we would have a more secure and credible examination system.

It is time decisive and proactive measures are taken by policymakers and public authorities towards restoring public confidence in the integrity of our examination systems.

It is the call of the hour to take stringent action against the perpetrators who desecrate the sanctity of our examinations for private gain and, in doing so, jeopardise the futures of millions of students.

(The writer is a research student at Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR)



Make Antya Pushkar devotee-friendly

THIS refers to the news report "Sri Kaleshwara Mukteshwar temple is Greater than Prayag: Priest," (THI, May 21). The Antya Pushkaras at the Triveni Sangam of the Saraswati River is a significant religious event, and the arrangements made for hundreds of thousands of devotees are commendable. Large gatherings of this nature, however, require equally serious attention to crowd management, sanitation, medical facilities, and

river cleanliness. The spiritual importance of the occasion must be matched by administrative preparedness. Authorities must ensure that the sacred experience for pilgrims is not undermined by inadequate infrastructure or pollution of the very waters in which devotees seek to bathe and be cleansed. Proper planning today will preserve the sanctity of such events for future generations.

S P Suganya Devi, Coimbatore

Co-op banks must boost governance

THIS refers to "High yields, tight liquidity: Wake-up call for cooperative banks" (THI, May 22). The article rightly highlights the growing pressure on cooperative banks in a period of rising bond yields and uneven liquidity conditions. These institutions remain vital for rural borrowers, small traders and agricultural communities, yet many continue to function with weak risk management systems and excessive dependence on wholesale funding. Instead of merely increasing lending rates, cooperative banks must strengthen governance, improve deposit mobilisation and invest in professional treasury management. Greater financial literacy among customers and timely regulatory guidance from the RBI can also improve resilience. Cooperative banking is not only about profitability; it is equally about sustaining trust and ensuring stable credit access for vulnerable sections of society.

Swathi Senthilkumar, Coimbatore

IMD move a blessing for farmers

THIS refers to the THI article "Weather forecasting blends two models to sharpen accuracy." The IMD's initiative to blend two forecasting models for improved monsoon accuracy is a welcome and overdue step. For Indian farmers, weather unpredictability is not an inconvenience but a direct threat to their livelihood. A missed forecast can mean delayed sowing, wasted inputs, or crop failure. The real test, however, lies in last-mile delivery. Block-level forecasts are only useful if they reach farmers in their local language,



through channels they use like mobile alerts, local radio, or panchayat networks. Technology at the top must translate into actionable information at the field level, or its potential remains largely unrealised.

M Barathi, Bengaluru-560076



Disturbed biodiversity is bad news

ENVIRONMENT is the second home of both animate and inanimate matter. Air pollution biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and earth care are all issues that are closely associated with maintenance of a clean and sustainable environment. Destruction of wildlife habitats, deforestation, expanding populations and adverse climate changes allow easy passages for viral infections from animal to man. The cycle is: deforestation—loss of habitat—increased human and animal interaction—viral transmission. In the last five decades, the rich natural resources of the globe have declined by at least half. Overpopulation, global warming and wildlife sustainment have, therefore, been primary topics of global interest.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Each of us should swear by austerity

IN times of economic challenge, the strength of a nation lies in the collective discipline of its people and its leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined key austerity measures that every citizen should embrace as a measure of one's national duty.

Austerity measures for citizens:

1. Postpone gold purchases: Delay buying gold by at least one year. Gold imports drain foreign exchange. Preserving our forex reserves is critical for national stability today.
2. Conserve fuel: Save petrol and diesel. Carpool whenever possible and choose alternative transport des like electric vehicles (EVs).
3. Harness solar power: India is blessed with abundant sunshine. We delayed adopting solar energy. At least now go in for rooftop solar panels and generate your own electricity.
4. Reduce edible oil use:



Cut consumption by at least 10 per cent to save on money and improve health.

5. Embrace gold-coated jewellery: Women can lead by choosing gold-coated jewellery over real gold, reducing import burden without losing tradition.

Meanwhile, official convoys can be reduced by half. Courts should immediately

expand virtual hearings. Patronise online transactions.

Austerity measures for governments:

1. Public Representatives: Salaries and pensions for public representatives should be revised. A specially constituted committee can decide the amount of honorarium.
2. Downsize official quar-

ters: Where possible, reduce the size and cost of government housing, and vehicle repairs to prevent waste.

3. Digital shift: Exams should gradually move online. All government services that can be done virtually should make the shift on priority basis.

4. Vote by mobile: Software engineers should develop secure ways for citizens to cast votes using mobile phones.

Citizens, government employees, banks and corporates must all understand austerity and spend only on what is necessary. I suggest a dedicated committee to prepare comprehensive austerity guidelines for all departments, including Parliament.

Our long-term goal must be clear. We must move from a deficit budget to a balanced budget where revenue equals expenditure. It is tough, but not impossible to achieve. This is our moment. Let us rise to the occasion.

K Lakshman Rao, Bangalore

An ode to Alfred Rose, the golden voice of Goa

THERE are voices that simply entertain, and then there are voices that become woven into the fabric of people's lives. Alfred Rose belonged firmly to the latter. For generations of Goans and admirers of Konkani music across the globe, his songs were never just melodies—they were living narratives, filled with emotion, humour, and the rhythms of everyday life. Born in 1932, Alfred shot to prominence when Konkani music was still striving for

wider recognition. Through sheer talent and dedication, he transformed it into a powerful medium of cultural expression. With his distinctive baritone voice, sharp lyrical wit, and remarkable storytelling ability, he created compositions that explored love, satire, social concerns, and the ordinary yet meaningful experiences of Goan society. His songs often carried subtle messages, addressing issues like migration, identity, and community values, all

while remaining deeply engaging and accessible. What truly set him apart was his ability to connect. His music resonated with both the local Goan community and the diaspora, preserving the Konkani language and identity during times when cultural erosion was a genuine concern. He didn't just sing songs; he safeguarded a heritage.

Beyond his musical achievements, Alfred Rose also made significant contri-



butions to Konkani cinema. His appearance in the film Boglantt, alongside his wife Rita Rose, highlighted his versatility as an artist. The couple became an iconic duo for their shared commitment to promote Konkani art and culture.

Even today, his music continues to endure. His songs are still played at family gatherings, cultural events, and celebrations. Older generations revisit them with nostalgia, while

younger listeners discover them with fresh appreciation. In a rapidly changing world, his work remains timeless—bridging generations and keeping traditions alive. Remembering Alfred Rose is not merely about honouring a legendary musician; it is about celebrating a legacy that continues to inspire, unite, and define a community. Alfred Rose will always remain the golden voice of Goa.

Jubel D'Cruz, Mumbai

BENGALURU ONLINE

Upcoming Anekal cricket stadium to accommodate 80,000 spectators

BENGALURU: A major milestone in Karnataka's sports infrastructure development was marked on Saturday as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar jointly laid the foundation stone for a massive international cricket stadium at Indlawadi village in Anekal taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The proposed stadium, which is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore, is expected to become the second-largest international cricket stadium in the country with a seating capacity of nearly 80,000 spectators. The ambitious project is being undertaken by the Karnataka Housing Board across nearly 100 acres of land and is expected to be completed within the next two to three years. The groundbreaking ceremony was held amid much fanfare, with thousands of people and party workers gathering at the venue. Local MLA Anekal Shivanna welcomed the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister by presenting them with a symbolic silver mace as a mark of honour and appreciation. The dignitaries were also greeted with massive apple garlands, traditional folk performances and ceremonial 'Poorna Kumbha' processions by women. Several senior political leaders and officials attended the event, including Home Minister G. Parameshwara, MLA K.M. Shivalingegowda, CPM's legal advisor A.S. Ponnanna and MLA Krishnappa.

Officials said the upcoming sports complex will feature world-class indoor, outdoor and aquatic facilities. The indoor sports arena will accommodate 11 major disciplines including badminton, basketball, volleyball, handball, table tennis, squash, kabaddi, kho-kho, judo, taekwondo, wrestling, fencing and weightlifting. The project will also include an Olympic-size swimming pool, a high-diving pool, a separate practice pool, synthetic athletic tracks and courts for tennis, basketball and volleyball. Dedicated arenas for emerging sports like padel and pickleball are also planned.

Apart from sports facilities, the stadium complex will feature multilevel parking for more than 500 vehicles, commercial and retail outlets, sports equipment stores, food courts and modern accommodation facilities for players, coaches and staff. A helipad, public plaza and a large green zone are also part of the master plan.

Read more at <https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

It is the essence of genius to
make use of the simplest ideas
— Charles Péguy

Different Strokes

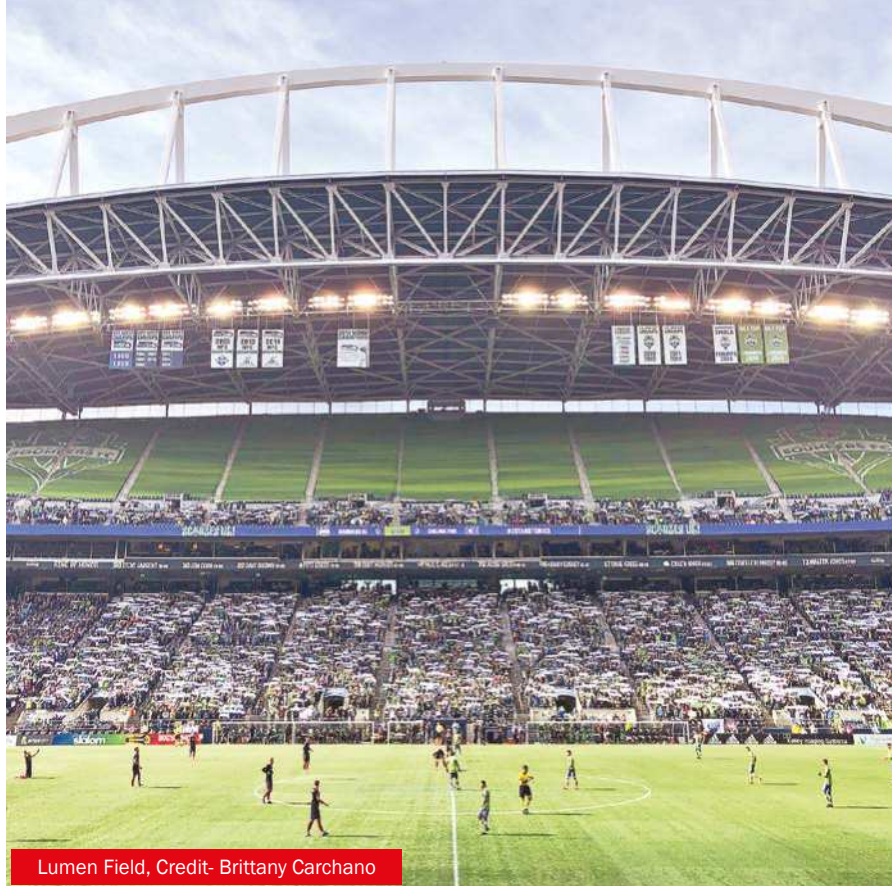
A guide to exploring Seattle during FIFA 2026: Sports, culture and sightseeing



City, Credit- David Newman



Waterfront Park Seattle-Photo by Hannah Te courtesy Friends of Waterfront Park



Lumen Field, Credit- Brittany Carchano

Seattle is set to experience a landmark year in 2026 as it becomes one of the host cities for FIFA World Cup 26™, transforming the city into a global hub of football, culture, and celebration. Known for its vibrant sports culture and walkable urban core, Seattle offers visitors a unique blend of high-energy matches, iconic landmarks, and immersive local experiences.

At the heart of the action is Lumen Field, known during events as Seattle Stadium. The venue will host six World Cup matches between June and July, including four group-stage fixtures featuring top international

teams such as the USA vs Australia on June 19 and Iran vs Egypt on June 26. The stadium sits in the city center, making it easily accessible for fans and turning the surrounding district into a festival-like atmosphere throughout the tournament.

Beyond the matches, Seattle will come alive with official fan celebration zones across locations like Seattle Center, Pacific Place, Waterfront Park, and SoDo's Victory Hall. These free public spaces will feature live match screenings, food stalls, entertainment, and community events starting June 11, creating a citywide festival of football.

Seattle's sports identity

extends well beyond the World Cup. The city is home to teams like the Seahawks (NFL), Sounders FC, and Reign FC, with Seattle Mariners representing Major League Baseball at nearby T-Mobile Park. Game days across the city are marked by lively sports bars such as Flatstick Pub, Atlantic Crossing, and The George & Dragon Pub, where fans gather to watch global and local matches in a spirited atmosphere.

Between matches, visitors can explore the city's most iconic attractions. A must-visit is Pike Place Market, where fresh produce, artisan stalls, and historic charm define Seattle's food culture. Nearby, the

revitalized waterfront offers scenic views, public art, and attractions like the Seattle Great Wheel and immersive experiences along Overlook Walk.

At the cultural core of downtown lies Seattle Center, home to major landmarks including the Space Needle, the futuristic Chihuly Garden and Glass, and the interactive Museum of Pop Culture (MOPOP). Together, these sites showcase Seattle's mix of innovation, creativity, and entertainment.

For dining and nightlife, Pioneer Square offers refined options such as modern Indian cuisine and contemporary Pacific Northwest dining, along with theaters, concerts, and

performances at venues like Climate Pledge Arena and McCaw Hall.

Additional experiences include panoramic city views from Smith Tower, historical insights at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, and cultural exploration at the Wing Luke Museum in Chinatown-International District. For a quieter escape, Capitol Hill offers Volunteer Park, the historic Water Tower observation deck, and the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

With its combination of world-class football, cultural depth, and scenic urban exploration, Seattle in 2026 promises an unforgettable experience for sports fans and travellers alike.

'B Nagi Reddi: A Son's Memoir' – A heartfelt tribute to a visionary legend

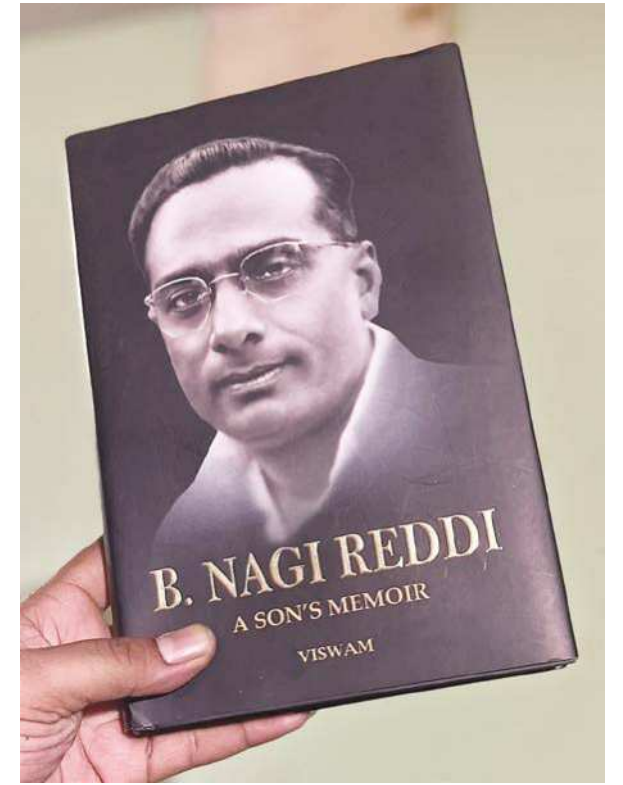
SUHAS SISTU

B Nagi Reddi: A Son's Memoir is far more than a conventional biography. Written by B. Viswanatha Reddi, popularly known as Viswam, the book offers an emotionally rich and deeply researched account of the life of legendary filmmaker, publisher, and philanthropist B. Nagi Reddi. Instead of glorifying the icon with exaggerated mythology, the memoir focuses on presenting a grounded and authentic portrait of a man who played a monumental role in shaping Indian cinema, publishing, and healthcare.

Structured across 37 chapters, the book traces Nagi Reddi's inspiring journey from a small village in Andhra Pradesh to becoming one of the most respected names in South Indian cinema. His story unfolds like one of the magical tales from Chandamama, the beloved children's magazine he co-founded alongside Chakrapani. The memoir beautifully captures how traditional values, discipline, and compassion became the foundation of his remarkable life.

One of the strongest aspects of the book is the way it expands beyond cinema. While readers get fascinating insights into the making of iconic films and the establishment of Vijaya Studios, the narrative also highlights Nagi Reddi's achievements as the founder of Vijaya Hospital and a pioneering force in Indian publishing. The book reveals how he successfully balanced creativity, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy without ever losing his humility.

The memoir also serves as an important historical document, chronicling the growth of Chennai and the South Indian film industry



during the second half of the 20th century. Through anecdotes shared by colleagues, employees, and close associates, readers gain a rare behind-the-scenes look at the evolution of filmmaking, magazine publishing, and business culture during that era.

Viswam's writing style remains crisp, factual, and emotionally sincere throughout the book. Rather than relying on dramatic embellishments, he allows real incidents and personal memories to speak for themselves. This restrained storytelling approach adds credibility and emotional depth to the narrative. The book consistently portrays Nagi Reddi as a "karma yogi" — a man who never claimed personal credit for his achievements and always acknowledged the contribution of his team members.

Another compelling

element is the insight into Viswam's own legacy. As the longtime publisher of Chandamama, he expanded the magazine into multiple languages, including Braille editions, helping generations of children connect with storytelling and culture. His contributions to publishing, social welfare, and public service further strengthen the memoir's emotional authenticity.

What makes B. Nagi Reddi: A Son's Memoir truly engaging is its ability to combine personal emotion with historical importance. It is not merely a tribute from a son to his father, but a valuable record of an extraordinary personality who left an unforgettable mark on Indian society. For readers interested in Indian cinema history, publishing, philanthropy, and inspiring real-life journeys, this memoir stands out as a must-read and deeply rewarding experience.

Magical fingers on the harmonium



Pandit Ratan Sharma with son Govind, granddaughters Jyothi and Devika

JAYWANT NAIDU

Pandit Ratan Sharma, lovingly known in music circles as the "Harmonium Master," carries a legacy that blends tradition, devotion, and generations of musical excellence. A proud mentor to his granddaughters Jyothi Sharma and Devika Sharma—both rising stars in the world of Indian music—he finds his greatest joy not in accolades, but in their achievements.

Recalling his formative years, Ratan Sharma speaks with reverence about his gurus. "My teacher in Ujjain, Guru Kaluram, was a Sarangi player who always said, 'Khane ke saath daal hona aur saangeet ke saath taal hona'—there should be daal in food and rhythm in music," he reflects. Later, his journey took him to Mumbai, where he trained under Guru Mohan Singh, a respected name in the Hindi film recording circuit. "If my fingers move on the harmonium at this breathtaking speed, it is all due to his blessings," he



Pandit Ratan Sharma on his 70 year old Harmonium

says humbly. His vintage harmonium, first played in 1955, remains his most cherished companion. With visible wear on its wooden keys, it stands as a silent witness to decades of dedication. "Yeh mera saathi hai," he says fondly—this is my partner.

For Ratan Sharma, his greatest pride is his family's musical ascent. Jyothi Sharma has already made a mark as a finalist on Suron Ka Eklavya 22 (DD National), winner of the 6th edition Khazana Ghazal Festival,

recipient of the Yuva Pratibha Singing Talent Hunt 2023 by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and finalist of the Asha Ki Asha International Talent Hunt. Her sister Devika Sharma is also emerging as a promising young artist with a bright future ahead.

The family's musical thread is further strengthened by his son Govind Sharma, a tabla player who also manages the performances and schedules of the young artistes, ensuring their talents reach wider audiences. Ratan Sharma's journey has also placed him alongside legends, having shared musical spaces with ghazal maestro Ghulam Ali and Vithal Rao. Today, he continues to dedicate his time to teaching students at his home near Kabutar Khana in Hyderabad. "It is my duty to teach the younger generation as a tribute to my gurus who gave me everything about music and life," he says, embodying the spirit of a true custodian of tradition—where every note played is a continuation of a timeless legacy.

Jasmine and Jetstreams: The calm of Chennai, the energy of Hyderabad

JYOTSNA HARISH

Here's a unique tale of two South Indian cities—Chennai and Hyderabad. Both attract talent and investments. Comparing them helps you see which city aligns with your vibes and supports your academic, career, and lifestyle goals.

The educational landscape of Chennai is built on tradition. It features prominent institutions such as IIT Madras, Anna University, Madras Christian College, and Ethiraj College for Women. These provide a strong base in engineering, arts, and research. Over 30 deemed universities add to this strength. The city has led in medical education through CMC Vellore, AIIMS, and private universities like SRM and VIT. Most schools follow the CBSE or a state board. There is a strong focus on coaching for JEE and NEET exams.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad has quickly closed the gap with Chennai. Institutions like IIT Hyderabad, BITS Pilani Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad, and ISB support research and startups. Mahindra, Woxsen, and NMIMS universities add to the city's educational landscape. IB, IGCSE, and CBSE International and national board schools are common in busy areas like HiTech City, Gachibowli, and Miyapur. These schools serve many IT families.

While Chennai still leads in research output,



Hyderabad has made inroads, particularly with industry-linked programs. Turning to healthcare and culture, Chennai stands out for hospitals such as Apollo, Fortis, GH, and Stanley, making it the city with the most hospitals in India. It attracts almost 45 per cent of India's medical tourists. Low-cost health care in facilities for heart, cancer, and transplant care is boosting the healthcare sector's popularity.

The city is also known for its beaches like Marina, Akkarai, and Besant Nagar. Chennai's classical arts scene is strong, thanks to sabhas that promote Carnatic music and Bharatanatyam dance. However, the city is less welcoming to speakers of other languages than Hyderabad, and languages such as Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, Gujarati, and Bengali are mostly found in small areas. However, Chennai faces persistent urban challenges. These include flooding during the monsoon, water shortages in summer, and ageing drainage systems. Poor garbage segregation worsens these issues. The city's waste

management is inconsistent. This is seen in dump yards at Perungudi in the south and Kodungaiyur in the north. Compared to Chennai, the city of pearls stands out for its efficient roads and cost-effectiveness. Commuting is easier thanks to the Outer Ring Road and wide main roads. Its water supply, sourced from the Godavari-Krishna projects, is more reliable than Chennai's, although certain areas in the Old City and northern suburbs still face pressure issues. Healthcare infrastructure is expanding, with major hospitals such as AIG, Yashoda, and KIMS.

Compared to residents of many other Indian cities, Hyderabadis are generally more welcoming to speakers of other languages. One can hear Hindi, Telugu, Urdu, and English widely spoken. However, lake encroachment and traffic jams in HiTech City are becoming increasingly serious.

Looking more closely at transport, the Chennai Metro covers 54.1 km. It has two main lines, Blue and Green, and 41 stations. These connect the city to its suburbs, including



the airport, train stations, and business areas such as Aalandur and Koyambedu. Phase II, a 118.9-km expansion, is underway but slow, causing traffic and road issues. Metro ridership is currently about 2.6 lakh daily, which is low for a big city.

Compared to Chennai and other major Indian cities, Hyderabad Metro Phase 1 runs on a 69.2 km network. It links key residential, business, and IT areas through three elevated lines: Red, Blue, and Green. It is India's largest public-private partnership metro. The metro serves about 4.7 lakh riders daily, making it a strong public transport option. Its main drawback is that it does not connect to the airport or the Old City.

Beyond infrastructure, the good mornings of Chennai are threaded with small rituals. Office-goers pause at roadside temples to touch brass bells and offer a quick prayer; flower vendors cluster near bus stops and railway stations, exchanging jasmine garlands for a few rupees; women tuck blooms into their hair, and men buy garlands for home altars. These gestures slow the city's

pace and bind people to place.

In contrast, Hyderabad's mornings emphasise efficiency, unlike more leisurely cities. People grab quick coffees, go for runs along the Outer Ring Road, and take the fast metro or shuttle to workplaces. While temples and flower sellers are present, most commuters focus on their schedules and reaching their destinations quickly. Unlike in some other cities, ritual stops are less common.

Bringing these aspects together, Chennai offers long-standing educational institutions, a strong healthcare system, and rich cultural traditions, but faces ongoing infrastructure and environmental challenges. In comparison, Hyderabad offers a dynamic, fast-growing environment in these areas, but each city has its trade-offs.

Each city will influence your daily routines, from how you start your morning to the small, meaningful habits you keep—like putting jasmine in your hair at sunrise or giving a quick nod to a colleague on the metro as the city moves around you.

The real battle is within



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR
NIKUNJ JI

In the present world many people consider survival and security as prime values. They argue that if a person does not survive, then what value the other values have for him. In a similar vein, they further argue that if a person lives in a state of constant insecurity and fear, then what is the charm, the joy, the fun or the zest in living? Because the quality of life of a man in fear is like that of a man in a state of suspended animation and it's not at all cherishable, relishable or enjoyable or valuable. On the other hand, there are other people who question the contention of the former kind of people. The questions they raise are that 'after all what is the purpose of survival?' & 'what is the goal of life?'. Further they ask 'what do we want to achieve by living or while living?'. They argue

that the difference between a human being and an animal is narrowed down to zero if man also, like other animals, is concerned primarily and mainly about his physical survival only. They feel that there should be some higher and nobler aim of human existence & that there should be something more worthy for humans to be achieved. Arguing thus, they ask:

If personal survival is the main value, then why do military men endanger their own survival or sacrifice their life at the battle-front in order to keep intact the sovereignty of the nation? Again, why did the heroes of Indian Freedom Struggle happily embraced death for the sake of independence of their motherland? Why did kings in the olden times, give up their palaces and bodyguards and go to the forest in pursuit of truth, endangering their life, knowing well that there were tigers and lions there? With these questions in mind, they further argue that why should man have fear if he has moral and spiritual strength and has good relations with all the human beings? Because fear, they assert, arises from guilt-consciousness, suspicion or enmity. So, man should be free from these negativities rather than have additional negative tendencies or emotion, namely fear

Survival as the basic human value is contrasted with the need for higher moral and spiritual goals in life. It emphasizes overcoming fear and negativity through ethical living, self-control, and universal brotherhood to achieve true peace and happiness

because one's survival should normally be an assured thing if one's actions are in harmony with other beings, with the environment and with the moral and physical laws. Each one of us must understand a fact that our life and death, or survival and happiness, are governed by the law of Karma and if our karma is good, why should we fear? Because death will surely come to all on one fixed day; why should then we not sleep well night after night?

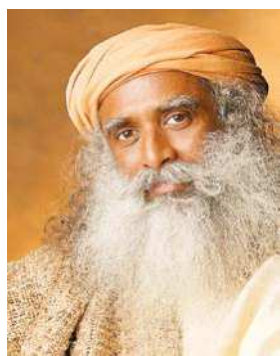
Today, what makes the world-situation peaceless is that mankind has not yet been able to realise the truth that the factors that lead nations to race for military superiority build-up of weapons and subjugation of other people and their territories are religious bigotry, scramble for power or spirit of revenge. Because of his lust for power, man cheats himself of happiness. It is a pity that he easily

forgets that the power of arms or money without the power to rule one's own mind is worse than evil. Also, man does not realise that the political power without the power to rule one's physical senses and without the intent to use power for human good, leads to turmoil. Remember! Lasting happiness of the human race depends not on power to dominate others but on his mastery over his demonic traits. So, the rub of the matter is that man needs to be reminded in an effective manner that if he does not kill the demons of hate, anger and war with the weapons of love and universal brotherhood, the demons would kill mankind.

(Writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist for publications across India, USA, UK, Australia, South Africa, Canada & Mauritius. 9500+ Published Columns have been written by Him.)



Envy and compassion



SADHGURU

The fundamental nature of jealousy or envy is that you feel inadequate. Envy is: somebody has something that you would like to have or somebody has something more than what you have. If you are very blissful you would not be envious of anybody. Right now, somebody seems to have or you assume that they have something more than you and you feel less than them. So, envy can exist only if somebody else is there who is better than you. If you are here by yourself, envy cannot happen. But compassion is not like that. Compassion can happen even if nobody is here.

Let us take away this understanding that compassion is some kind of sympathy or empathy or pity. Passion means total involvement with something. When we say passion, people are only thinking man-woman passion. No. When you are passionately involved with something, nothing else exists for you. Passion means unbridled involvement with something. It could be anything; you can sing passionately, you can dance passionately, you can do your gardening passionately, you can read a book passionately, or you can just walk passionately. So, it does not mean any specific activity as such nor does it mean any particular area of life. It is just that you have deep sense of involvement.

Compassion means it is an all-encompassing passion. That means your passion is no more

Envy arises from comparison and a sense of inadequacy, which disappears in the absence of others to compare with. It contrasts this with compassion, described as a deep, all-encompassing, and non-discriminatory state of passionate involvement with all aspects of life



discriminatory. Whatever is in touch with you right now, you are deeply passionate with that. Whatever it is, if you look at something you are not just casually looking at anything; there is nothing like casual in your life. Everything is with total passion. You breathe with passion, you walk with passion, you live with passion; your very existence is with absolute involvement with everything. This is compassion. This has got nothing to do with anybody. Even if nobody is here you can live in great compassion. But if nobody is here, you cannot live enviously. You need somebody to cause that for you – you need help. So, you are sympathetic with them when they have fallen down but when they stand up you do not like it. It is from this basis that all

charity has come. Do not try to handle sympathy and compassion and all these things. Just develop unbridled passion towards everything. Do not understand passion as this person. Understand passion as anything that is in touch with you right now. The very cloth that you wear, the very air that you breathe, the very food that you eat, and choose stability over passion. Just be passionate about everything. When it is unbridled, it is not entangling any more.

(Sadhguru is a Yogi, mystic, and Padma Vibhushan awardee, also known for his New York Times bestselling books. He founded Conscious Planet-Save Soil, the world's largest people's movement, impacting over 4 billion people)

The world is not enough when courage has no limits



SHIV RAJVANSHI

In every era of human history, progress has belonged to those who possessed the courage to challenge limits. Empires were built, discoveries were made, revolutions were ignited, and impossible dreams became reality because someone, somewhere, decided not to surrender to fear. The phrase "The World Is Not Enough If You Have the Courage" perfectly captures this spirit of limitless ambition and fearless determination. It is not simply a motivational line; it is a philosophy that defines the difference between those who merely exist and those who truly create impact.

Courage is one of the rarest qualities in the modern world. In an age where people constantly seek comfort, security, and validation, courage demands something different: the willingness to take risks, embrace uncertainty, and move forward despite fear. Most people wait for perfect timing, guaranteed success, or universal approval before taking action. Courageous individuals understand that perfect moments rarely exist. They create opportunities through belief, resilience, and action.

The world often teaches people to think within boundaries. From childhood, individuals are conditioned to follow safe paths, avoid failure, and choose stability over passion. Society celebrates achievement but frequently discourages risk-taking. Yet, every extraordinary success story has emerged from someone refusing to



accept ordinary limitations. Whether it was inventors changing technology, entrepreneurs disrupting industries, athletes breaking records, or artists redefining creativity, courage has always been the driving force behind transformation.

True courage is not the absence of fear. Fear is natural. Fear accompanies every major decision, every new beginning, and every uncertain journey. Courage simply means refusing to let fear control destiny. Some of the most successful people in the world have openly admitted that they faced rejection, uncertainty, and setbacks repeatedly. What separated them from others was their ability to continue moving forward when others stopped.

Today's generation has access to opportunities unlike any previous era. Digital platforms, global connectivity, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and innovation have opened doors that were unimaginable decades ago. A student from a small town can build a global business. A creator with a smartphone can influence millions. An entrepreneur with an idea can disrupt billion-dollar industries. Yet, despite these opportunities, many still hesitate because fear remains stronger than

ambition.

The reality is that success has never belonged only to the most talented people. Talent without courage often remains hidden. Intelligence without action produces no impact. Courage transforms potential into achievement. A person willing to fail, learn, and rise again will always move ahead of someone who remains trapped in self-doubt.

In professional life, courage has become more important than ever. Industries are evolving rapidly, careers are changing, and competition is global. Companies that succeed are led by individuals who are willing to innovate and take bold decisions. Startups that become industry leaders are founded by people who dared to challenge established systems. Leadership itself requires courage the courage to make difficult choices, stand by values, and lead through uncertainty.

The same principle applies to personal growth. Many people spend years living according to societal expectations rather than their own aspirations. They suppress dreams because they fear judgment or failure. However, real fulfillment begins when individuals gather the courage to pursue authenticity. Courage allows people to embrace

who they truly are instead of becoming what society expects them to be.

Some of the greatest battles are not fought publicly but internally. Self-doubt, insecurity, fear of rejection, and fear of failure silently prevent countless individuals from reaching their true potential. A courageous person is not someone who never struggles but someone who refuses to surrender to those struggles. Mental resilience, emotional strength, and self-belief are forms of courage that shape extraordinary lives.

India today provides a powerful example of how courage can transform a nation's future. Across industries, Indian entrepreneurs, creators, athletes, and innovators are competing on global platforms with confidence and ambition. Young Indians are no longer confined by geographical or societal limitations. They are building startups, leading multinational companies, influencing digital culture, and creating worldwide recognition. This transformation is fueled not only by talent but by the courage to dream bigger.

The rise of India's startup ecosystem itself is a story of courage. Thousands of young founders have chosen uncertain entrepreneurial journeys over traditional career security. Many failed

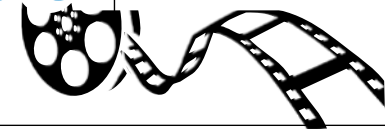
initially, yet continued building until success arrived. Their journeys prove that courage often matters more than immediate results. Every failure becomes a lesson, every setback becomes preparation, and every challenge becomes a stepping stone.

Courage also has the power to inspire others. One brave decision can create a ripple effect that motivates entire communities. A teacher inspiring student to think independently, a social entrepreneur solving grassroots problems, or a public figure speaking honestly about challenges — all of these acts influence society positively. Courage is contagious. When people witness fearless action, they begin to believe in their own potential.

Importantly, courage must be balanced with purpose. Fearless ambition without values can become destructive. True courage is not recklessness; it is purposeful determination guided by integrity and vision. It is about creating meaningful impact rather than chasing hollow success. The individuals who leave lasting legacies are those who combine boldness with responsibility.

The phrase "The World Is Not Enough If You Have the Courage" ultimately reflects the limitless nature of human potential. A courageous mind cannot be confined by geography, circumstances, criticism, or temporary failure. The world itself becomes too small for individuals who dare to think beyond conventional boundaries.

At the end of life, people rarely regret the risks they took. More often, they regret the opportunities they ignored, the dreams they postponed, and the fears they allowed to control them. Courage is what transforms life from ordinary existence into meaningful experience. Because in the end, the world does not belong to those who wait it belongs to those who dare.



Nagarjuna gets emotional as 'Manam' completes 12 years

Veteran Telugu actor Nagarjuna turned emotional while reflecting on the special significance of May 23, a date deeply connected to both his personal and professional journey. The occasion became even more memorable as his cult classic family drama Manam completed 12 years since its release.

Celebrating the milestone, Annapurna Studios shared a heartfelt tribute on social media, describing Manam as more than just a film.

The production house called it "an emotion cherished by audiences," remembering the movie's timeless storytelling and emotional legacy.

The banner also highlighted how May 23 remains a landmark date in Nagarjuna's life. It was on the same day in 1986 that the actor first faced the camera as a lead hero for Vikram.

Years later, May 23 gained even greater emotional weight when Manam released as the final on-

screen appearance of legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao.

Sharing his emotions on social media, Nagarjuna thanked fans for showering him with love and blessings over the years. He described Manam as a deeply personal film because it allowed him the rare privilege of sharing screen space with both his father ANR and his sons, making it a once-in-a-lifetime cinematic memory.

The actor also fondly recalled the release of Vikram, which marked the beginning of his journey in cinema and opened the doors for decades of stardom and audience affection.

He expressed gratitude to fans who have supported him throughout his career and hoped for many more memorable May 23 celebrations in the future.

Fondly referred to as Tollywood's "Celluloid Scientist," Nagarjuna has constantly reinvented himself across generations. From intense performances in Siva to



romantic classics like Geethanjali and entertainers including Manmadhuru, Hello Brother, and

Bangarraju, Nagarjuna continues to remain one of Telugu cinema's most stylish and enduring stars.

'Nanna Kutty' FL showcases intense father-daughter action drama

Versatile actor Vijay Antony is gearing up for another content-driven entertainer with his upcoming film Nanna Kutty, the Telugu version of the Tamil project Appa Kutty. Directed by Mu. Maran, the film is positioned as an emotional action drama centered on the powerful bond between a father and daughter.

The makers recently unveiled the first-look poster, instantly grabbing attention for its raw intensity and emotional depth. The poster features Vijay Antony in a bruised and bloodied avatar, with visible cuts and swelling across his face. Despite the injuries, his determined expression stands out, while a little girl resting on his shoulder subtly highlights the emotional core of the story.

Produced by Meera Vijay Antony and co-produced by Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji under the Sarvanth Ram Creations banner, Nanna Kutty is said to blend family emotions with gripping action and intense drama. The makers believe the film will connect with both mass audiences and family viewers.

The shooting formalities have already been completed, and the team is currently busy with post-production work. The makers are planning a grand theatrical release in August.

Apart from Vijay Antony, the film features a strong supporting cast including Preethi Asrani, Lithanya, Bhagavathi Perumal, Haripriya Isai, Aruvi Madhan, Chitra Lakshmanan, Sreeja Ravi, Vettai Muthukumar, Jansen Diwakar, Muruganatham, and Munnar Ramesh in important roles.



The technical team also adds weight to the project. Rajeesh Raajendran handles cinematography, while Vijay Antony himself composes the music and takes charge as editor. Production design is managed by A Raja. With its emotional storyline, action-packed narrative, and strong performances, Nanna Kutty is shaping up to be one of the notable family entertainers of the upcoming season.

'Ugly Story' team thanks audience for overwhelming response

Actor Nandu expressed happiness over the positive response received for his latest emotional thriller Ugly Story, which hit theatres recently and has been gaining strong word-of-mouth from audiences. The team held a thank you meet following the film's impressive reception, where the actor and makers shared their excitement about the movie's growing success.

Directed by Pranava Swaroop under the banner of Riya Jiya Productions, Ugly Story features cinematography by Sri Sai Kumar Dara, music by Shruvan Bharadwaj, and editing by Srikanth Patnaik. The film is produced by Subhashini and Konda Lakshman, while Shivaji Raja, Ravi Teja

Mahadasyam, and Pragna Nayan played pivotal roles.

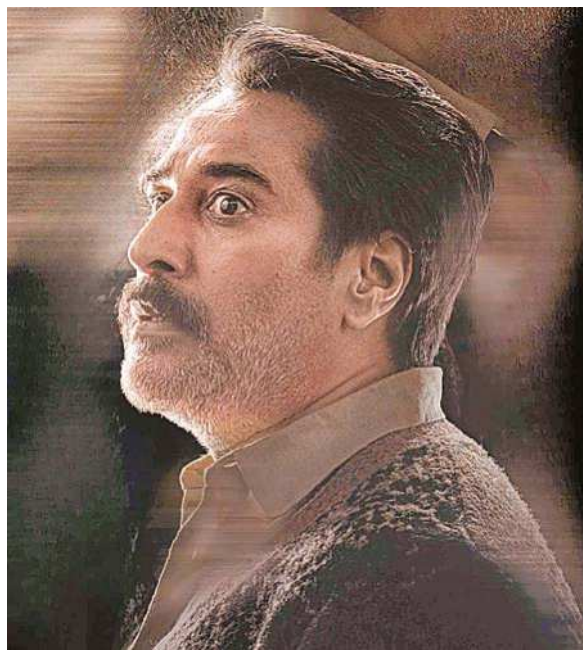
Speaking at the event, Nandu revealed that the film witnessed strong growth from evening shows on its release day itself. He thanked the media and audience for encouraging the movie and said the emotional support he received felt very personal. The actor described the project as one of the most important films in his career and admitted that some emotionally intense scenes were difficult to perform, but necessary for the story.

The actor also stated that his script selection process has evolved and that he now wants to focus more on emotionally strong stories suitable for family audiences. Nandu credited nearly "95 percent" of his

performance success to director Pranava Swaroop for shaping the character effectively.

Director Pranava Swaroop shared that the story was inspired by emotional realities seen in society and explored how people remain trapped in certain emotional phases despite changing circumstances. He added that Nandu was the perfect choice for the role and confirmed that his next film would also be emotion-driven.

Producer Bekkem Venugopal said the film's reception exceeded expectations and described Ugly Story as a major breakthrough that could mark the beginning of Nandu's successful second innings in Telugu cinema.



Pournami Entertainments releases surprise b'day poster for veteran actor Rahman

Veteran actor Rahman, known for his stylish screen presence across Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam cinema, received a special surprise on his birthday as the makers of Production No.1 unveiled his first-look poster from the upcoming project. Released by Pournami Entertainments on May 23, the poster has already started creating buzz among movie lovers.

The newly released birthday poster introduces Rahman's character in a mysterious and elegant manner, hinting at a powerful role in the film. With his intense expression and commanding appearance, the actor once again showcases the charisma that has made him a favorite among audiences for decades. The makers have intentionally

kept details about the character under wraps, adding more curiosity around the project.

Rahman, who made his Telugu debut with Raga Leela in 1987, went on to impress audiences with notable films like Bharat Bandh, Priyathama, Billa, Simha, and D16. Over the years, he has built a strong fan base with his versatile performances and sophisticated on-screen style. The production house stated that this poster marks only the beginning of an exciting cinematic journey and promised that more updates regarding the film will be revealed soon. Though the makers have not yet disclosed complete details about the cast and storyline, the birthday poster has successfully generated anticipation around the film.

'Pandiraaj' reveals how 'Parimala & Co' was wrapped up in just 45 days

Acclaimed filmmaker Pandiraj has opened up about the fast-paced shooting schedule of his upcoming Tamil entertainer Parimala & Co, revealing that the film was completed in just 45 days.

The director made the revelation during the film's pre-release event after veteran actress Urvashi praised the team for finishing the project in record time. She pointed out that while Malayalam films are usually known for short shooting schedules, Pandiraj managed to complete his Tamil film even faster.

Responding to the appreciation, Pandiraj clarified that the film was shot in 45 days, although the total could technically be considered around 60 days if double call-sheet schedules were counted separately.

He credited the achievement entirely to his cast and crew, especially the actors, whom he described as "one-take artistes."

According to the director, working with performers who deliver scenes efficiently naturally helped the production move at a brisk pace without compromising quality.

Parimala & Co, which marks Pandiraj's 12th directorial venture, is said to be a blend of thriller and comedy elements. The film stars Jayaram and Urvashi in lead roles and revolves



around a family and the unique personalities and problems faced by its members.

Industry sources reveal that the story begins in Chennai before shifting to locations such as Coimbatore and Palacode as the narrative progresses.

The film also features Santhosh Sobhan in a pivotal role alongside Sanchana Krishnamoorthy, Sandy, and Ananthika Sanalkumar. Popular

comedian Yogi Babu reportedly plays a lengthy and significant role throughout the film.

Director Mysskin will also be seen portraying a police officer, while comedians Singam Puli and Baks appear in important supporting roles. The film is jointly produced by Lyca Productions, Tamilkumaran Productions, and Pandiraj's Pasanga Productions.



'Sandigdam' will appeal to everyone: Director Parthasaradhi at trailer launch event

Upcoming suspense thriller Sandigdam is gearing up for its theatrical release on May 29, with the makers recently unveiling the film's trailer at a grand launch event.

Produced by Sandhya Tiruveedhula under the Thirdha Creations banner and directed by Parthasaradhi Kommoju, the film has already generated decent buzz

through its posters and teaser.

The movie stars Nihal, Priya Deshpag, Kajal Tiwari, and Arjun CH in lead roles, while Naveenraj Sankarapu, known for Thera Chepa, appears as the antagonist.

The newly released trailer hints at a mystery-driven narrative packed with suspense and emotional twists.

Speaking at the trailer launch event,

director Parthasaradhi Kommoju thanked his wife and producer Sandhya Tiruveedhula for supporting him throughout the making process.

He said the entire cast and crew worked with dedication to bring the project to life and expressed confidence that Sandigdam would connect with audiences.

Lead actor Nihal revealed that the film

revolves around a unique concept and appreciated the producers for overcoming several challenges during production.

Actress Kajal Tiwari, meanwhile, shared that the team made her feel comfortable on set despite her limited Telugu fluency.

Actor Arjun CH thanked the makers for giving him an important character named Sathya, while music director

Gowtham Raviram stated that both the soundtrack and background score would stand out as major highlights of the film.

Naveenraj Sankarapu expressed confidence about the movie's output and mentioned that every actor delivered strong performances.

Supporting actors Anand and Chitti Babu also praised the hard work of the director and producer during the film's



journey. Technically, Sandigdam features cinematography by

Nandan Krishna and editing by Vishwan Raj DS. With suspense, mystery, and emotional

drama at its core, the film is aiming to attract thriller lovers when it hits theatres on May 29.

BIZ BRIEFS

BharathCloud, BDIA in pact

BharathCloud engaged in discussions at Bharat Digital Samvad, the inaugural national forum organised by the Bharath Digital Infrastructure Association (BDIA), in New Delhi. The summit brought together policymakers, cloud infrastructure leaders, regulators, enterprises, and technology stakeholders to discuss India's digital sovereignty, AI infrastructure readiness, and the future of domestic cloud ecosystems. The event also initiated the official launch of BDIA as an association of not-for-profit industry dedicated to developing and improving India's digital infrastructure.

Classic Legends' new initiative

Classic Legends has announced the launch of the 9-day "Legends' Care Camp", a nationwide service initiative across its authorised Jawa, Yezdi and BSA dealership network from May 23 to May 31, 2026, reinforcing the company's continued focus on customer satisfaction and after-sales experience. The service camp will be organised across multiple cities and will offer customers comprehensive vehicle health check-ups along with exclusive benefits on service, spare parts, labour and genuine accessories. As part of the initiative, trained technicians will conduct a detailed 72-point motorcycle inspection.

Bajaj Finserv AMC's report

In its latest outlook, Bajaj Finserv AMC believes global markets are entering a more challenging phase marked by moderating growth, elevated inflation, and heightened geopolitical uncertainty. According to the latest IMF projections, global growth is expected to slow to 3.1 per cent in 2026 from 3.4 per cent last year, while inflation is projected to rise to 4.4 per cent, largely due to elevated energy prices and supply-side disruptions.

ITC focuses on biodiversity

As the world marks International Day for Biological Diversity, under the theme 'Acting Locally for Global Impact', ITC's large-scale and integrated biodiversity conservation initiatives demonstrate how grassroots action can deliver impactful ecological outcomes, build climate resilience and support livelihoods creation, the company said. ITC's biodiversity programme in collaboration with State Governments cumulatively covers nearly 7.8 lakh acres across 10 states in India till date and the aim is to cover 1 million acres under the initiative by 2030.

BLSe releases FY26 results

BLSe (BLSe), a technology-enabled digital service provider, announced its consolidated audited financial results for the quarter and full year period ended March 31, 2026. The company's total income increased to Rs. 1,142.8 crore in FY26 as compared to Rs 545 crore in FY25, up by 109.7 per cent YoY. EBITDA of the company increased to Rs. 99.9 crores from Rs. 86.1 crore in FY25. PAT rose to Rs. 69.3 crore as compared to Rs 58.8 crore in FY25.

When oil and rain conspire against your wallet

Rising fuel prices, El Niño, weakening rupee, and constrained govt spending create a squeeze on real incomes

CHOLLETT

HERE is a number worth pausing over: 6.7 per cent. That is how fast India Ratings and Research - one of the country's most credible independent credit rating and economic research agencies, affiliated with the global Fitch Group - expects the Indian economy to grow in the financial year 2026-27. Not a bad number by global standards. But it represents a meaningful deceleration from the 7.6 per cent growth recorded in FY26, and the reasons behind that deceleration matter enormously to the ordinary Indian household navigating the crosscurrents of rising prices, a weakening rupee, and a world that seems perpetually on the edge of the next crisis.

Let us translate the economics into plain language - because this forecast is not an abstraction. It will show up in your petrol bill, your grocery basket, your EMI, and your savings account.

The Oil Problem — And Why It Is Your Problem

The single biggest villain in this economic story is crude oil. India imports roughly 85 per cent of its petroleum needs, making it one of the world's most oil-import-dependent large economies. When global oil prices rise - driven, as they currently are, by the ongoing West Asia conflict - the impact on India is swift, broad, and deeply personal.

India Ratings has built its base-case forecast on oil averaging USD 95 per barrel across FY27, with higher prices assumed in the first half of the year before moderating. Under this assumption, GDP growth comes in at 6.7 per cent. But here is the sensitivity analysis that should make policymakers and citizens alike sit up: every USD 10 per barrel increase in crude prices reduces India's GDP growth by 44 basis points - nearly half a percentage point. If oil averages USD 120 per



barrel - not an inconceivable scenario if the West Asia situation deteriorates - growth could fall to 5.6 per cent. That is a significant economic setback.

For the middle-class family, this translates into the cost of a litre of petrol and diesel. The government has already raised retail petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 3 per litre and compressed natural gas prices by Rs. 2 per kg in May 2026, following earlier hikes in March and April. Another round of increases - Rs. 5 more per litre in the first quarter of FY27 under India Ratings' assumptions - is anticipated. The household budget that has been absorbing one inflation shock after another is being asked to absorb yet another. Every additional rupee per litre of petrol is not merely a transport cost - it is a multiplier that raises the price of every good that travels on Indian roads, which means virtually everything you buy.

El Niño - The Weather Risk Nobody is Talking About Enough

The second major headwind is something less amenable to policy intervention: the weather. India Ratings specifically flags the likely emergence of El Niño weather patterns from mid-2026 as a significant risk to agricultural output and food prices. El Niño - a periodic warming of the Pacific Ocean surface temperature - historically



disrupts the Indian monsoon, reducing rainfall below normal levels and damaging crop production.

Agriculture still employs approximately 45 per cent of India's workforce, even as its share of GDP has declined. A bad monsoon does not merely reduce farm incomes - it reduces rural consumption spending, which in turn slows the entire demand-driven economy. India Ratings has assumed rainfall at 92 per cent of the long-period average - already below normal - and projects agricultural GDP growth of only 2.1 per cent in FY27. If El Niño is more severe, even this modest projection could prove optimistic.

For the urban middle-class consumer, the connection is direct: food inflation. Retail inflation is already projected to rise to 4.4 per cent in FY27 from 2.1 per cent in FY26. Wholesale inflation, which is a leading indicator of future retail prices, has already jumped to a 42-month high of 8.3 per cent in May 2026. Vegetables, cereals, pulses, and dairy - already subject to supply pressures - will be



crude oil, fertilisers, electronic components, and the hundreds of goods whose production chains run through imported inputs. For the family that is already absorbing higher petrol prices, a weakening rupee compounds the problem by making the underlying dollar cost of energy even more expensive in domestic currency terms.

further squeezed if the monsoon disappoints. The government has already shown how sensitive it is to food price pressures: import duties on gold were raised to contain the current account deficit, and milk brands like Amul and Mother Dairy have already raised prices by Rs. 2 per litre each. This is only the beginning of what could be a difficult food price environment through the year.

The Rupee - Quietly Losing Ground

There is another tax that falls on every Indian who buys anything imported - and that includes fuel, electronics, edible oils, and medicines among many other goods. It is called currency depreciation, and it is working silently and continuously against the Indian household.

India Ratings projects the rupee-dollar exchange rate to average Rs. 94.28 to the dollar in FY27 - a depreciation of 6.7 per cent from the FY26 average of Rs. 88.35. A weaker rupee makes every import more expensive in rupee terms. It directly inflates the cost of

The trade deficit - the gap between what India imports and exports - is projected to widen to USD 421.2 billion in FY27, the highest since FY13. India's current account deficit (the broader measure of the country's external balance) is expected to deteriorate to 2.6 per cent of GDP. This is manageable but uncomfortable and it places continued downward pressure on the rupee.

The Government's Balancing Act - And Its Limits

The government is attempting to navigate these pressures through a combination of fiscal prudence and targeted support. The fiscal deficit target for FY27 is 4.3 per cent of GDP - tighter than last year's 4.4 per cent. A fiscal stabilisation fund of Rs. 1 trillion created in FY26 will provide some cushion. The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 (ECLGS) has been activated for MSMEs and other borrowers facing liquidity stress from the West Asia-driven disruptions.

Every additional rupee per litre of petrol is not merely a transport cost - it is a multiplier that raises the price of every good that travels on Indian roads, which means virtually everything you buy

But the government's room for manoeuvre is genuinely constrained. Fuel subsidies, fertiliser subsidies, and the need to support El Niño relief measures - if the monsoon disappoints - will all press against the fiscal deficit target.

India Ratings notes that Niti Aayog has recommended deferring major construction activities for two years to reduce fiscal pressure - a significant recommendation that, if accepted, would slow government capital expenditure and reduce infrastructure investment precisely when private investment remains below its potential. A 10 per cent reduction in government capital expenditure, the report notes, would reduce GFCF (Gross Fixed Capital Formation - a measure of investment in the economy) growth from its current trajectory and pull GDP growth down to 6.0 per cent. This is the capex dilemma at the heart of Indian economic management today: the government needs to invest to sustain growth momentum, but it also needs to consolidate fiscally to maintain credibility with investors and ratings agencies. Threading that needle in a year of high oil prices and potentially poor rainfall will test policymakers considerably.

What This Means for You
At 6.7 per cent, the Indian

economy is still growing faster than almost any other major economy in the world. The structural story - demographics, digital infrastructure, manufacturing expansion, services exports - remains broadly intact. These are not trivial advantages, and they provide genuine reason for medium-term optimism.

But growth at the aggregate level and the experience of growth at the household level are different things. The combination of rising fuel prices, potential food inflation from El Niño, a weakening rupee, and constrained government spending creates a squeeze on real incomes - particularly for salaried and self-employed middle-class families whose nominal incomes are not rising fast enough to offset these pressures.

The practical implication is straightforward: this is a year to be financially conservative. High consumer price inflation, rising borrowing costs, and currency weakness argue for reducing discretionary spending where possible, building a liquidity buffer in household finances, and being cautious about taking on new floating-rate debt. The RBI's tolerance band for inflation (2-6 per cent) means the central bank will not cut rates aggressively in this environment - which means EMIs are unlikely to get cheaper any time soon.

India's economy is resilient and its long-term trajectory is positive. But the year ahead will test that resilience - and the households best positioned to navigate it will be those that see the headwinds clearly rather than those who assume that 6.7 per cent GDP growth means that everything is comfortably fine. It is not, for everyone, and it is important to say so.

(The author is with the Chollett BlackRobe Chambers, Hyderabad, and writes on economy, politics and law)

BUILDING YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE: A GUIDE FOR EVERY STAGE

Whether you are just starting out or already climbing - your profile must speak the right language



SHILLA SHREE R

A LinkedIn profile is not a one-size-fits-all document. Just as the clothes you wear to a campus interview differ from what you wear to a boardroom, the way you present yourself on LinkedIn must reflect exactly where you are in your career - and where you are headed. Over the past few weeks, we have talked about resumes, interviews, and first impressions. Today, let us go deeper into one of the most powerful tools you carry with you every single day: your LinkedIn profile. And let us talk about it honestly, for three very different kinds of professionals.

For the First-Timer: You Have More to Say Than You Think

If you are a fresher starting at a blank LinkedIn profile and wondering what on earth you have to offer, stop. You have more than you realise - you simply have not learned to frame it yet.

Begin with your headline. Do not write "Fresher"



or "Looking for Opportunities" - these are the two most common mistakes I see, and they immediately signal a lack of confidence. Instead, write what you are: "B.Tech Graduate | Aspiring Data Analyst | Python & SQL Enthusiast" or "Commerce Graduate | Passionate About Finance & Auditing." Lead with identity, follow with direction.

Your About section is where you tell your story. Write three to four sentences about what you studied, what excites you professionally, and what kind of work you are looking for. Mention a college project, an internship, a competition you participated in, or a skill you taught yourself.

Recruiters hiring freshers are not looking for experience - they are looking for curiosity, initiative, and the potential to grow. Show them that. Add your education, any internships, certifications from platforms like Coursera or LinkedIn Learning, and at least five relevant skills. Ask a professor or

internship manager for a recommendation. Even one genuine recommendation on a fresher profile is worth a hundred self-descriptions.

For the One-to-Two Year Professional: Move From Potential to Proof

You have crossed the first milestone. You have real experience now - projects completed, problems solved, lessons learned. Yet many professionals at this stage still carry a LinkedIn profile that looks like it was set up in college and never touched again. That is a missed opportunity.

At this stage, your profile must shift from potential to proof. Update every role with specific achievements, not just responsibilities. There is a critical difference between "Handled social media accounts" and "Grew Instagram engagement by 40 per cent in six months through targeted content strategy." Numbers, results, and outcomes are what make recruiters lean forward.

Revisit your headline. You are no longer an aspir-

Today, let us go deeper into one of the most powerful tools you carry with you every single day: your LinkedIn profile. And let us talk about it honestly, for three very different kinds of professionals

ing professional - you are a working one. "Digital Marketing Executive | SEO & Content Strategy | Driving Organic Growth for B2B Brands" is a headline that commands attention. Your About section should now open with your professional identity, describe your area of expertise, highlight a key result from your work, and close with what kind of next step you are looking for.

For the Mid-Level Professional: Your Profile Must Lead, Not Follow

At four to six years of experience, you are entering the most competitive and most exciting phase of your career. You are no longer being judged purely on skills - you are being evaluated on leadership, judgement, and vision. Your LinkedIn profile must reflect that shift completely.

At this level, your headline should position you as a specialist or a leader in your domain. "Supply Chain Manager | End-to-End Logistics Optimisation | Delivered 20% Cost Reduction Across 3 Plants" is a headline that opens doors. Your About section should read like a professional manifesto - what you stand for, what you have built, and where you are taking your career next.

At this stage, activity on LinkedIn carries real weight. Share your professional perspective on industry developments. Write a short post about a challenge you solved at work. Comment meaningfully on articles by leaders in your field. Mid-level professionals who are visible on LinkedIn are consistently the ones who receive the best unsolicited opportunities - because they have built a reputation, not just a resume. Remember: at this stage of your career, recruiters are not just reading your profile. They are watching how you think.

Wherever you are in your journey - start today. Open your profile, read it as a stranger would, and ask yourself honestly: does this person sound like someone I would want to hire? If the answer is not an immediate yes, you know what to do.

(The writer is the Founder of Search Partners)

Kadamba gets 2026 Monde Selection Gold Medal

Kadamba Indian single-malt whisky from Goa-based luxury spirits conglomerate valued at Rs1,200 crore Cheers group led by Dr Mohan Krishna Balivada, received 2026 Monde Selection Gold Medal recently. And, receiving Monde Selection Gold medals continuously year on year is a significant achievement that serves as a powerful testament to 'Kadamba Indian Single-malt' brand's commitment to sustained quality and excellence. Since 1961, the Brussels-based International Institute for Quality Selections has provided this independent, expert-driven evaluation, often referred to as the "Olympics of Food Products".

The 65 year-old Monde Selection is one of the oldest and most respected international quality institute, that evaluates products using over 120 independent experts - including Michelin-starred chefs, chemists, and oenologists - across over 30 criteria, including sensory evaluation, taste, packaging, and composition. A yearly, consecutive award means the product has repeatedly passed these strict international standards. It is a powerful "360° Quality" validation, indeed.

"We are thrilled to announce a monumental milestone for Kadamba Single-malt whisky, team and for our dedicated community of consumers and Single-malt global enthusiasts. Our flagship



Kadamba has been officially granted the prestigious Gold Quality Award at the 2026 World Selection by Monde Selection" says Ashwin Balivada CEO of Cheers Group and alumnus of Cambridge University Business Management graduate school.

Kadamba Indian Single Malt whisky continues its winning streak, earning the prestigious 2026 Monde Selection Gold Medal and being crowned "Best World Whisky" at the 2026 John Barleycorn Awards in the USA. It has Pan-India presence and expanding internationally to USA, Canada, Europe, UAE, Asia, and is currently expanding on high demand its Goa distillery into a carbon-neutral facility with international visitor centre to pop up Goa tourism.

Indian single malt whiskies are rapidly transforming India from a historical whisky consumer into a premium global exporter. Premium liquor exports generate over \$400 million. By earning foreign exchange and beating global giants, distilleries are proving that "Made in India" premium spirits hold commanding power internationally, the company said.

It is an encouraging performance by our Greco-Roman wrestlers to finish the opening day with five medals. The wrestlers showed great determination and discipline on the mat, and this performance reflects the steady progress Indian Greco-Roman wrestling has been making at the continental level
- Sanjay Singh, President of WFI



U23 ASIAN WRESTLING C'SHIP
Suraj, Sagar win silver as India bag 5 Greco-Roman medals

NEW DELHI: Suraj Singh and Sagar Singh led the charge with silver medals as India made an impressive start to its campaign in the U23 Asian Wrestling Championships by securing five medals in the Greco-Roman category on the opening day of the competition at the Tien Son Sport Center in Da Nang, Vietnam, on Saturday.

While Suraj Singh and Sagar Singh claimed silver medals in their respective weight categories, Kumar Sachin, Rohit, and Hardeep added to the tally with bronze medals in their respective weight categories.

Suraj Singh impressed in the 60kg category with a solid run to the final before going down 0-4 against Kazakhstan's Aibek Aitbekov in the gold medal bout to finish with silver.

In the 67kg category,



Sagar Singh also produced a commendable performance throughout the tournament. However, he suffered a 0-9 defeat by technical superiority against Uzbekistan's Aytjan Khamkhanov in the final and settled for the silver medal.

Kumar Sachin added a bronze medal in the 77kg category despite going down 3-10 against Kazakhstan's Alikhan Dursunov, while Rohit narrowly missed out after suffering a hard-fought 3-5 defeat against Uzbekistan's Bekhriz Barnoev in the 97kg division. Hardeep also fell short in the 130kg bout, going down 0-4 against Kazakhstan's Jokhar Uzarov.

4 Indians enter Asian Jr Individual squash finals

PANZHUIHUA (CHINA)

ARYAVEER Dewan (boys' U-19), Shiven Agarwal (boys' U-17), Anika Dubey (girls' U-17), and Amarya Bajaj (boys' U-13) advanced to the finals in their respective categories at the 33rd Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in Panzhihua, China, on Saturday. Aryaveer, seeded 3/4, defeated Malaysian top seed Nickhileswar Moganandharam in four games in the semifinals and will meet either Md Alnasafan (KSA) or Jonghyeok Lee (Kor) for the crown. Aryaveer had beaten the Malaysian for the U-17 title last year.

Meanwhile, Shiven, seeded 5/8, beat fellow Indian Squash Academy trainee Lokesh Subramani in a close four-game semifinal and will take on Pakistan's 9/16 seed Nauman Khan for the U-17 title. Anika, seeded 3/4 and



bronze medallist in this age group last year, will battle with Malaysian top seed Harleem Tan for the U-17 crown after her semifinal opponent retired midway through their match.

Amarya, seeded 3/4 and bronze medallist in the boys' U-13 category last year, beat Malaysian second seed Muhammad Sharhan Mohd Saiful in four close games in the semifinals. He will take on top seed Leung Ngo San of Hong Kong in the U-13 final.

Results involving Indians (semifinals):
U-19 Boys: 3/4-Aryaveer Dewan bt 1-Nickhileswar Moganandharam (Mas) 11-

6, 11-4, 3-11, 11-6.

U-17 — Boys: 5/8-Shiven Agarwal bt 5/8-Lokesh Subramani 4-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9. Girls: 3/4-Anika Dubey bt 2-Jinoreeka Ning Manivannan (Mas) 9-11, 3-2 ret.

U-13 —Boys: 1-Leung Ngo San (HK) bt 3/4-Abhyuday Arora 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4; 3/4-Amarya Bajaj bt 2-Muhammad Sharhan Mohd Saiful (Mas) 11-9, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8. Girls: 1-Kareena Sashikumar (Sgp) bt 3/4-Shanaya Parasrampuria 11-5, 11-6, 13-11; 3/4-Rio Yoshino (Jpn) bt 2-Divyanshi Jain 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 4-11, 12-10.

Super Chess Classic: Pragg draws with Vachier-Lagrave

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa missed a few winning attempts and was held to a draw by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France even as the race for the title tightened at the end of the penultimate round of the Super Chess Classic here.

On what turned out to be another excitement-filled day, the clash between overnight leaders Fabiano Caruana of United States and Vincent Keymer of Germany ended in a draw while world championship challenger Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan scored his second victory on the trot over Dutchman Jorden Van Foreest Friday night.

It was not a day the two Dutch GMs would like to remember as Anish Giri went down to lowest ranked Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania.

76th Jr National Basketball C'ship
TN off to flying start; Kerala, K'taka continue winning run

PUDUCHERRY

REIGNING champions Tamil Nadu launched their campaigns on a triumphant note, securing dominant victories in both the men's and women's categories on the opening night of the 76th Junior National Basketball Championship at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Puducherry.

In a late-night fixture on Friday, the Tamil Nadu men's team outlasted Delhi 54-37, powered by a stellar 16-point performance from Yadesh Kumar, well-supported by 10-point contributions each from Sumanesh V, Manish R M, and Vishal V. Delhi's resistance was led by Mohamed SainGauri and Gagin Atri, who scored 10 points apiece.

In the women's division, Tamil Nadu registered an equally emphatic 74-36 victory over Punjab. M Kaviya spearheaded the attack with 16 points, while Sumitha Devi (12), Shanjana P K (10), and Dheivithya S (10) ensured a balanced team effort to overshadow Punjab's Tishmeet Kaur, who fought hard for her 17 points.

The prestigious eight-day mega sporting event is being organised by the Pondicherry Basketball Association under the aegis of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).

The second day of the championship witnessed high-voltage drama as powerhouse teams consolidated their positions. In Group A of the men's section, Kerala survived a nerve-wracking encounter to scrape past Uttar Pradesh 57-55 in a see-saw battle that saw multiple lead changes.

Milen Jose Mathew led the charge for Kerala with 16 points, aided by Abhishek R Pradeep (14) and Adwaid A S

(11), narrowly neutralizing a fierce 16-point performance by UP's Raj Sibgh. The quarter-wise scoreline of 17-12, 10-13, 17-12, and 13-18 reflected the razor-thin margins of the contest.

Meanwhile, in Men's Group B, Karnataka cruised to their second consecutive victory with a commanding 87-46 demolition of Rajasthan, courtesy of a scorching blitz from Samath Manur (26 points), Vijayendra Vedanthi (20 points), and Harshan Yatish (11 points). Rajasthan's offense was limited to scattered efforts by Muhammad Raza Khan (12) and Manish Kumar Maal (10).

The women's fixtures on day two delivered equally thrilling action, highlighted by a down-to-the-wire Group A clash where Haryana edged past Punjab 68-63. Kanika and Jahnavi Sheoran notched 15 points each, while Myrah Sabbar chipped in with 10 to help Haryana withstand a potent Punjab attack led by Vanshika Kaur (19), Priya (17), Tishmeet Kaur (11), and Pawanpreet Kaur (10).

In Group B matches, Uttar Pradesh displayed strong offensive depth to defeat Gujarat 85-69, riding on Neha's brilliant 22-point game, with Anshika Sharma (15) and Pragya Singh (11) playing crucial supporting roles against Gujarat's Dinal Viththani (13) and Nithya Agraal (10). In the same group, Kerala maintained their perfect start by convincingly beat Maharashtra 81-59. Kerala's multi-pronged attack featured Aritha K (17), Vaigha T (16), and Liya Maria (15), which ultimately overwhelmed Maharashtra despite a spectacular, game-high 29-point lone crusade by Aarya Phatangare.

RR play for playoff spot, MI for pride

MUMBAI: Before the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, neither the Mumbai Indians nor the Rajasthan Royals would have imagined that their last match of the preliminary round at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday would turn out to be so crucial not only for them but for the entire league.

Both teams have everything to play for -- RR for the playoff spot, MI for their pride, and to avoid finishing at the bottom of the pile.

The outcome of the match will decide the fourth spot in the playoffs -- if Rajasthan Royals, who are on 14 points, win the match, they will move to 16 and beyond the reach of Punjab Kings, who are on 13 and at



maximum move to 15 points at most by winning their last league match against Lucknow Super Giants.

Winning the match will also help five-time champions Mumbai Indians avoid the wooden spoon as they are currently tied with Lucknow Super Giants on eight points and have a better Net Run Rate.

So, the last day of league action in the IPL 2026 will start with a make-or-break afternoon for Rajasthan Royals, who will be getting into it with their fortunes in their hands, with the two teams engaging in the final

day game of the season.

The winner of the inaugural edition of IPL has had an up-and-down season so far and are coming into Sunday's encounter after ending a three-match losing streak with a win over bottom-placed LSG. They had started their campaign with four wins, but then lost their way, posting indifferent results due to inconsistent performances.

In contrast, the Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, have endured a season to forget. They made history by winning their season opener for the first time in 14 years, but things went downhill soon after as they lost matches in clusters.

IN ACTION TODAY
MI vs RR at 3.30 pm in Mumbai
KKR vs DC at 7.30 pm in Kolkata

TG20 unveils franchise owners for Telangana Cricket League

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a major boost to cricket in Telangana, the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) on Saturday announced the founding franchise owners for the inaugural edition of TG20, the State's first franchise-based T20 cricket league. The announcement was made during the "TG20 Origins - Shape the Future" event held at ITC Kakatiya in Hyderabad.

The league will feature eight teams representing different regions of Telangana. M/S Ushodaya Enterprises Pvt Ltd secured the Hyderabad franchise with the highest bid of ₹7.5 crore, while Boorugu Infra/Pranava won the Ranga Reddy franchise for



₹7.2 crore. Other franchises include Warangal, Medak, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar and Khammam. TG20 aims to provide a structured platform for emerging cricketers from Telangana and strengthen grassroots cricket in the State. The league will feature local talent alongside established domestic players and experienced coaching staff.

The organisers said discussions are underway

with JioStar for live telecast on Star Sports Telugu and streaming on JioHotstar. Marriott Hotels will host teams and officials during the tournament. HCA Secretary M. Jeevan Reddy described TG20 as a "defining moment" for Telangana cricket, while TG20 Governing Council Chairman V. Agam Rao said the league would combine sporting excellence, entertainment and commercial growth.

132 NCC cadets stranded in Manipur airlifted to Assam

IMPHAL

IN view of the prevailing situation in Manipur, 132 NCC cadets were evacuated to Guwahati and Jorhat in Assam by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday, officials said.

A senior official said that in the true spirit of jointmanship and commitment towards the safety and welfare of youths, 132 NCC cadets who attended the NCC North Eastern Region (NER) Flying Camp in Imphal from May 11 to May 20, 2026, are undergoing emergency evacuation to Guwahati and Jorhat by the IAF amid the prevailing security situation and restrictions on road movement in Manipur.

"The evacuation has been planned by the NCC NER Directorate in consultation with the Headquarters Director General NCC and in coordination with the Headquarters Eastern Air Command," the official said.

He said that the swift and timely action ensured that the cadets safely reached their destinations in time for their examinations, bringing immense relief and happiness to their parents and family members. "The NCC cadets have also conveyed their heartfelt gratitude for the care, support and timely assistance extended to them. Special thanks have been extended to the Defence Minister, the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Air Force for their unwavering support," the official added.

Chinese-made weapons seized in Mumbai

MUMBAI

IN a major crackdown, the Anti-Extortion Cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch has arrested three alleged criminals who had reportedly arrived in the city to sell illegal foreign-made weapons, officials said on Saturday.

They added that the accused, all from outside Maharashtra, were apprehended during a late-night operation carried out on the basis of specific Intelligence inputs.

According to police officials, credible information was received indicating that certain individuals carrying weapons were on their way to Mumbai.

THREE ARMS SUPPLIERS ARRESTED



Acting swiftly on the tip-off, the Crime Branch laid a trap near a public toilet located on P D Mello Road close to St. George Hospital.

Around 10:45 P.M. on Friday, the three accused were caught red-handed

during the operation.

Police recovered three firearms, magazines and 45 live cartridges from the possession of the accused. Officials said the ammunition and weapons bore the inscription

'Made in China'. However, investigators are now trying to determine the actual source and route through which the weapons entered the country, making the origin of the Chinese-marked arms a key aspect of the ongoing probe.

The arrested accused have been identified as 24-year-old Jashanpreet Mangal Singh and 24-year-old Sukhwinder Singh, both residents of Patiala in Punjab, and Arbaz, a resident of Jhalawar in Rajasthan, officials mentioned.

They said all three have serious criminal backgrounds and multiple cases registered against them.

Investigators further

revealed that two of the accused had allegedly been absconding since 2022 in connection with a murder case and had been on the radar of law enforcement agencies for a long time. Arbaz alone is stated to have as many as 19 criminal cases registered against him.

According to preliminary investigations, the accused were allegedly planning to supply and sell the weapons to local criminals operating in Mumbai and nearby areas.

Following the arrests, a case under relevant sections of the Arms Act has been registered against them at Mumbai's M R A Marg Police Station.

Further investigation into the case is currently underway.



COIMBATORE GIRL'S MURDER SHOCKS TN

CM Vijay promises justice; two accused arrested

COIMBATORE

A wave of grief and outrage swept across Tamil Nadu after the brutal abduction and murder of a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore, triggering renewed concerns over the safety of women and children.

As the incident sent shockwaves across the state, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay expressed deep anguish over the tragedy and assured strict action against those responsible.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Chief Minister described the incident as an "inhuman and unforgivable criminal act" that has caused immense pain and shock. He said such barbaric acts can never be tolerated in a civilised society and extended his deepest condolences to the grieving family of the child.

"I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family that is suffering the unbearable loss of their beloved daughter. The government stands with them in this difficult time," CM Vijay said.

The case took a major turn after police arrested two persons identified as Karthik (33), a native of Nagapattinam who had been residing at Pallapalayam near Coimbatore, and his associate Mohanraj in connection with the crime.

Police sources said the accused were known to the victim's family and are suspected to have abducted the child before allegedly murdering her.

Investigators revealed that Karthik sustained injuries while attempting to escape from police custody. According to officials, he suffered fractures to his leg and hand during the escape attempt.

The injured accused was later secured and brought under police custody for further investigation.

Meanwhile, Mohanraj was produced before Judicial Magistrate Arun Kumar at the Sular Judicial Magistrate Court on Saturday. The court ordered that he be remanded to judicial custody until May 27. Chief Minister Vijay stated that he had directed police authorities to carry out a thorough and time-bound investigation and take all necessary steps to ensure the immediate filing of the chargesheet. "The Tamil Nadu government will act firmly to ensure severe punishment under the law for those who commit heinous crimes against women and children. All immediate and necessary actions will be taken," CM Vijay said. Police officials said the investigation is continuing and more details are expected to emerge in the coming days.

Miscreants vandalise Kolkata school, probe on

KOLKATA: A group of miscreants allegedly went on a rampage inside a girls' school in south Kolkata in the early hours of Saturday, prompting a police probe.

The incident took place around 4.30 a.m. at Kamala Chatterjee Girls' High School under the jurisdiction of Gariahat Police Station. Acting on a complaint, the police have initiated an investigation.

The school authorities said that one of their buildings is not their own; rather, it is a rented premise where classes for the primary and secondary sections are held.



They claimed that the act of vandalism was specifically carried out within this particular building.

The school is equipped with surveillance cameras, which captured a group of youths scaling the main gate in the early hours of Saturday morning to gain entry into the school premises. Subsequently, they proceeded to vandalise the building. School

Headmistress Debjani Das said, "When I arrived at the school in the morning today, I saw that everything had been damaged. Everything was recorded on the CCTV camera. A complaint has been filed with the police as well as the district school inspector."

According to sources in the District School Education Department, the next step will be taken after speaking to the headmistress next Monday. The vandalism inside a school in Kolkata has raised questions about the safety and security in educational institutions.

Encounter breaks out in Rajouri during search ops

JAMMU: An encounter started on Saturday between terrorists and the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Officials said on Saturday that an encounter had started between terrorists and security forces in Dorimal forests of Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir.

"At least 2-3 Pakistani terrorists are believed to be trapped, operation is underway", officials said. Following specific Intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in Dorimal forest area of Rajouri, security forces

started a cordon and search operation.

"As the security forces closed in on the hiding terrorists, they opened fire, after which an encounter started which is now going on.

"Reinforcements have been rushed in to plug all exit points of the hiding terrorists", an official said.

The two border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have witnessed a significant surge in counter-terror operations and encounters since the area has served as the primary infiltration and revival corridor for terrorists in the past.