



THE Hans India



'People from RSS' behind attack on me: Dipke
Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday alleged that "some people from RSS" were behind the attack on him a day earlier, claiming it was an attempt to shift focus away from the real issue and stifle the voice of students. **P10**

Even hardened criminals are sure to get caught!
Our ancestors used to talk about the ages. They said that in the Treta Yuga dharma stood on four legs, in Dwapara Yuga the number of legs decreased, and in Kali Yuga dharma almost lost its footing — elders would say this and people used to laugh. **P6**

Oil prices set to ease after US-Iran deal
Crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices are expected to moderate following signs of a potential US-Iran peace agreement and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, although analysts cautioned that supply disruptions, damaged infrastructure and tight inventories. **P11**

Pooja Hegde showcases fashion-forward style
Actress Pooja Hegde is enjoying a successful phase in her career as her latest Bollywood entertainer Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai continues to attract audiences in theatres. The romantic comedy, directed by David Dhawan, features Varun Dhawan. **P12**

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WINDOWS

Home guard stabbed to death by husband

BENGALURU: A 34-year-old home guard was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband in front of her daughter and mother following marital discord, police said on Tuesday. The deceased, identified as Manjula, worked as a home guard at the Mahadevapura police station here, they said.

Police said they have arrested her husband, Pradeep Kumar (38), who was an auto-rickshaw driver. Manjula had been living separately with her two children at her parents' house in Udayanagar since nearly a month due to frequent quarrels with her husband, they said.

According to police, the incident occurred on Sunday evening when Kumar on the pretext of reconciling with his wife went to her parents home. He apparently had been wanting Manjula to return with him to house with their children but she refused.

He allegedly fell at her feet seeking forgiveness and, while she was off guard, pulled out a knife and stabbed her repeatedly. She sustained at least eight stab injuries, including on her chest and abdomen. Their 14-year-old daughter also sustained injuries on her finger as he attempted to intervene in a bid to save her mother, a senior police officer said. Manjula was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared brought dead, he said.

After the attack, Pradeep allegedly fled the spot and informed police that he had killed his wife. He later attempted suicide by slitting his wrists, police said. Investigators said the couple had been married for 15 years and often argued over Kumar's addiction to betting, online gaming and alcohol, which had pushed the family into financial distress. Police also said he suspected his wife's fidelity.

Hours before the incident, Kumar allegedly recorded selfie videos in which he said his betting habit had ruined his family and claimed that both he and his wife would die soon. In the videos, he also blamed his mother-in-law and sister-in-law for influencing Manjula to live separately from him. He was taken into custody and later arrested, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

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NEET-UG re-test: Centre blocks Telegram app till June 22

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE government on Tuesday temporarily restricted access to the Telegram messaging app ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination, with the National Testing Agency (NTA) saying the measure was aimed at tackling cheating rackets and misinformation.

NTA Director General Abhishek Singh said the restriction on Telegram till June 22 was part of efforts to ensure that the June 21 re-test is conducted without malpractice.

"We will not let anything

We will not let anything go wrong. We will take all possible actions to ensure that the examination is conducted without any malpractice: NTA Director General Abhishek Singh

go wrong. We will take all possible actions to ensure that the examination is conducted without any malpractice," Singh told



PTI when asked about the move. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), acting on recommendations made

by the NTA, has issued a direction under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, restricting access to the

APPS EXIT FROM PLAY STORE

Google has removed messaging app Telegram from the Play Store and Apple is likely to follow suit in compliance with a government order, sources aware of the development said.

Telegram platform in India for a defined and limited period ending June 22, 2026 covering the day of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination and its immediate aftermath.

A separate direction requires Telegram to disable in India the

"The government has asked Google and Apple to delist the app temporarily. Google has done it. Apple will be doing it," a source said.

When checked, Google Play Store displayed the

message that the app is not available.

Queries sent to Google, Apple and The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) did not elicit any immediate reply.

message-editing feature for already-posted messages till June 30, addressing the specific structural feature through which the platform has been used to fabricate after-the-event "paper leak" evidence in respect of national examinations, the NTA said in a statement.

"Both measures have been taken in the interest of public order, in response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June, 2026," it said.

Cough syrups can be bought only with doc's prescription

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

AMID drug quality and patient safety concerns, the Union Health ministry has amended rules to prohibit sale of syrups, including cough syrups, without a doctor's prescription across the country. The move is aimed at bringing syrup-based formulations, including cough syrups, under stricter regulatory oversight, officials said.

Earlier, prior to this amendment, entry No. 13 of Schedule K permitted the sale of cough syrups in villages with a population of less than 1,000 without requiring compliance with certain retail sale licensing provisions, the ministry said in a statement. With the omission of the word

The decision comes against the backdrop of increased regulatory scrutiny of cough syrups and other liquid oral formulations in recent years following reports of contamination-linked deaths of children in several countries



"syrup" from the said entry, this exemption will no longer be available for cough syrups.

"Consequently, the sale and dispensing of cough syrups in smaller villages will now be required to

take place only through duly licensed pharmacies in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules framed thereunder," the statement said.

The decision comes against the backdrop of increased regulatory scrutiny of cough syrups and other liquid oral formulations in recent years following reports of contamination-linked deaths of children in several countries. According to sources, the latest amendment is expected to enhance traceability and regulatory supervision of syrup-based medicines by ensuring that manufacturers and sellers comply with stricter licensing and quality-control requirements.

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump exchanged pleasantries and held a brief conversation on Tuesday at a gathering of G7 leaders, marking their first in-person encounter in 16 months amid continuing strain in bilateral ties.

In Evian-les-Bains, the site of this year's G7 summit of the powerful grouping, Modi and Trump shared a warm handshake followed by a short conversation. A full bilateral sit-down is slated for Wednesday on the sidelines of the gathering.

While details of their brief exchange were not known, the encounter sets the stage for their high-stakes talks. Following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India last month, the two



sides are now looking at rebuilding the bilateral ties.

The relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May.

Over the next few months, the US president repeat-

edly and publicly claimed that he had resolved the military conflict between the two neighbours and saved millions of lives as it was heading toward a full-scale war. New Delhi stoutly maintained that the cessation of the hostilities was a result of talks between India and Pakistan, and the US involvement had nothing to do with it.

Should Aadhaar use be restricted to ID proof?

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of the Unique Identification Authority of India-issued Aadhaar cards as proof of citizenship, domicile and residential address, and seeking directions to restrict its use strictly for identity verification.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana issued notices to the Centre and all the states and UTs on a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay and tagged it with the pending similar matters.

The plea has sought directions to the Centre, states and the Election Commission to ensure that Aadhaar



is used as a proof of identity and not as a proof of citizenship, domicile, address and date of birth. The plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Dubey, also sought directions that the use of Aadhaar as a proof of date of birth and residence in the application form for new voter registration be considered against Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, Section 23(4) of the RPA, 1950 and Article 14 of the Constitution. "Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 expressly states that 'Aadhaar is not the evidence of citizenship or domicile'.

Attack on Lebanon would mean truce violation: Iran

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DUBAI

IRAN's top diplomat said Tuesday that the deal ending the war with the United States would also require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. But with Israel insisting it will keep forces in Lebanon, questions are growing about the still-unpublished agreement and whether disagreement over its terms could prolong the conflict.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon would violate the memorandum of understanding reached between the United States and Iran. "The end of the war in Lebanon is an inseparable part of the complete end of the war," Araghchi said in statements made to foreign diplomats in Tehran that were aired on Iranian state TV.

"Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during this war, the war has not fully come to an end," Araghchi said further Israeli attacks on



Lebanon "will be considered by us a violation of the memorandum of understanding." The United States has not said whether Lebanon was part of the final agreement. But Araghchi's description clashes with statements made by Israeli officials about the deal to end the war that started with joint US-Israeli airstrikes on Feb. 28. Israel is not a party to the agreement. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described it as President Donald Trump's decision, noting Israel had its own priorities and would remain in a buffer zone in Lebanon "as long as necessary."

20 TMC rebels accepted into NCPI, to work with NDA

KOLKATA: Rebel Trinamool Congress MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar on June 16 said the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) has agreed to accept the joining of all the dissident Lok Sabha members of her party, whose numbers are likely to go up to 22 from the present 20.

Dastidar also said that the rebel MPs have no connection with the dissident TMC MLAs, who have formed a separate group in the West Bengal assembly, recognised by Speaker Rathindra Bose.

Asked about the next move of the rebel TMC MPs, the lawmaker from Bengal's Barasat said first they want to settle down while trying to merge into another party.

"Acceptance has already come to us. They (NCPI)



Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar

are happy to take us. We will work together with the NDA under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," Dastidar told reporters at the Parliament House complex, New Delhi. Asked about her faction's strength, she said, "Currently we are 20 (MPs). The numbers may go up to 22."

Altogether, 28 MPs got elected to the Lok Sabha on TMC tickets in the 2024 general elections.

3.3 kg 'Noorjahan' mango fetches Rs 3,800 in Alirajpur

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ALIRAJPUR

THE 'Noorjahan' mango variety, hailed as the Queen of Mangoes, is drawing attention in Madhya Pradesh's Katthiwada region after growers reported a fruit weighing 3.3 kilograms was sold for Rs 3,800 this season.

According to mango growers, the largest fruit of this rare variety in the current season so far weighed 3.3 kg. Some of the larger fruits on 'Noorjahan' trees could weigh

up to four kg by the end of this month, they told PTI on Tuesday. Katthiwada region in Alirajpur district, located 250 km from Indore, is especially known for the cultivation of 'Noorjahan' and other varieties of mangoes.

Bharatraj Singh Jadav, a mango grower from Katthiwada, said his orchard has two old and 11 new grafted 'Noorjahan' mango trees. The new trees have also begun to bear fruit, and production is expected to increase in the future, he said.

"The Noorjahan mango harvest this season has been satisfactory.

He said that the 'Noorjahan' mango trees in his orchard still bear many fruits, and their final weight will be known only after they are harvested. According to Jadav, demand for the 'Noorjahan' mango is currently coming not only from Madhya Pradesh but also from Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The grower said he recently also received inquiries about the fruit from Tamil Nadu.

This season, 'Noorjahan' mangoes from his orchard have reached the United Arab Emirates, the US, and Spain, although these were not exported directly and people took them abroad through their acquaintances, he said. Jadav said that his orchard has approximately 2,500 trees of different mango varieties. Ten guards have been deployed to protect the orchard because the 'Noorjahan' mango requires special monitoring due to its high price, he informed.

The largest fruit of this rare variety in the current season so far weighed 3.3 kg; Alirajpur district is especially known for the cultivation of 'Noorjahan' and other varieties of mangoes





IN BRIEF
Advanced minimal invasive treatment for urology care

BENGALURU: Trustwell Hospital has enhanced its urology department with the launch of an advanced 160-Watt Holmium Laser System, enabling minimally invasive treatment for a wide range of urological conditions.

The state-of-the-art laser technology can effectively treat kidney stones, ureteric stones, bladder stones, enlarged prostate (BPH), urethral strictures and select upper urinary tract tumors. The new system offers greater surgical precision, reduced bleeding, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery and improved patient outcomes.

Speaking on the occasion, Consultant Urologist Dr. Ravikumar B. said the high-power laser will help perform complex endourological procedures with enhanced safety and efficiency while ensuring quicker recovery for patients.

CMD of hospital Dr. H.V. Madhusudan said the introduction of the advanced laser platform reflects the hospital's commitment to adopting the latest medical technologies and providing world-class healthcare services. The addition further strengthens Trustwell Hospital's capabilities in advanced urological care.

Novartis launches cancer treatment therapy

BENGALURU: In a significant milestone for cancer treatment in India, Novartis India has launched Pluvicto (lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan), the country's first regulatory authority-approved radioligand therapy for eligible patients suffering from advanced PSMA-positive prostate cancer.

The launch marks a major advancement in precision oncology, offering a targeted treatment approach for metastatic prostate cancer by delivering radiation directly to cancer cells while minimizing damage to healthy tissues. Experts believe the therapy could help delay disease progression, improve survival outcomes in specific patient groups, and enhance overall quality of life.

Prostate cancer has emerged as one of the fastest-growing cancers among Indian men, with nearly 2.5 lakh cases reported annually. According to medical experts, nearly half of all diagnosed patients are detected only after the disease has spread to other parts of the body, making treatment significantly more challenging.

MSR Academia hosts evening of fashion, music

BENGALURU: MSR Academia successfully hosted an exclusive evening of fashion, music, and networking, bringing together industry leaders, creative professionals, fashion enthusiasts, and aspiring designers under one roof. The event celebrated the convergence of creative expression, contemporary style, and design innovation while offering guests a first-hand glimpse into the institution's vision for the future of fashion and design education. The evening featured engaging interactions, vibrant networking opportunities, curated music experiences, and insightful conversations around emerging trends in fashion, creativity, luxury craftsmanship, and design leadership. Attendees explored potential collaborations and connected with like-minded professionals committed to shaping the next generation of creative talent.

During the event, MSR Academia highlighted its industry-focused fashion design programs, including Indian Textiles & Luxury Crafts, Future Textiles & Innovation, and Fashion Collection Development, designed to equip students with both creative excellence and practical industry skills.

Dog bite cases surge in capital; nearly 9,800 cases reported in five months

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

DOG bite cases continue to rise at an alarming rate in Bengaluru, with the latest figures released by the Health Department raising serious concerns over public safety. In the last five months alone, the city has recorded 9,763 dog bite cases, while 13,220 cases were reported across Karnataka in just one week.

The growing menace of stray dog attacks has also led to fatalities. According to official data, two people lost their lives due to dog attacks in the state last week. From January till date, Karnataka has reported a staggering 2,66,367 dog bite cases, resulting in 30 deaths.

Among Bengaluru's health zones, the South Zone has recorded the highest number of dog bite incidents with 3,303 cases reported in

the last five months. The East Zone follows with 2,909 cases, while the North Zone has reported 2,569 cases. Anekal has recorded 982 dog bite incidents during the same period.

The sharp rise in cases has put additional pressure on government hospitals. Hospitals, including KC General Hospital, are witnessing an increased demand for anti-rabies vaccines, with nearly 60 to 70 dog bite victims vis-

iting hospitals every day for treatment and vaccination.

To tackle the growing demand, government hospitals have started stocking larger quantities of anti-rabies vaccines to ensure uninterrupted availability.

Medical experts have urged the public not to ignore dog bites under any circumstances and to seek immediate medical attention, as timely vaccination remains the most effective

way to prevent rabies.

The increasing number of dog attacks has once again brought the issue of stray animal management to the forefront. Residents and public health experts have called for stronger measures, including intensified sterilisation drives, vaccination of stray dogs and greater public awareness, to curb the menace and ensure the safety of citizens across Bengaluru and the state.



GBA entrusts E-Khata correction responsibility to deputy commissioners



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a significant move aimed at improving citizen services, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to entrust the responsibility of e-Khata corrections in its five city corporations to Deputy Commissioners.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting of the Revenue Department, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said that the authority had earlier vested the power to make corrections in e-Khata records with Zonal Joint Commissioners. However, considering their extensive workload, the responsibility will now be transferred to the Deputy Commissioners of the respective zones.

"Based on the suggestions received from various city corporations, Deputy Commissioners in the Revenue Department have been assigned greater responsibilities. They will take steps to expedite the disposal of pending corrections and complaints under the 'My e-Khata, My Right' campaign," Rao said.

He added that the move is expected to make e-Khata services more efficient and accessible, enabling citizens to avail themselves of services in a quicker and more streamlined manner.

Rao further stated that the

authority has undertaken several initiatives related to e-Khata and property tax administration, resulting in a substantial increase in revenue collection.

"So far, property tax collection has crossed Rs 3,000 crore. During the corresponding period last year, the collection stood at Rs 2,800 crore," he said.

The Chief Commissioner also noted that a comprehensive review of the functioning of city corporations has been conducted with the objective of simplifying the e-Khata system and improving service delivery to the public. Necessary modifications to the software platform have been recommended to ensure smoother operations.

Special Commissioner for Revenue, Munish Moudgil, instructed officials to intensify efforts to recover pending taxes from defaulters and in revision cases.

"All officers must work proactively to ensure effective collection of taxes due to the city corporations from defaulters and pending assessment revision cases," he said.

The review meeting was attended by Special Commissioner Dr. K. Harish Kumar and Commissioners D.S. Ramesh, G. Jagadish, Pommalla Sunil Kumar, K.N. Ramesh and Dr. K.V. Rajendra, among other senior officials.

‘Doctors are living gods, uphold people’s trust’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday urged newly graduated doctors to uphold the trust reposed in them by society, describing them as "living gods" who play a crucial role in people's lives during their most difficult moments.

Addressing the 28th annual convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) at the GKVK campus in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister, along with the Governor, conferred degrees on graduating students and encouraged them to pursue excellence with dedication and compassion.

"Doctors are the living gods people can see and approach. No matter how difficult their circumstances are, people come to doctors with immense faith and trust. It is your responsibility to preserve that trust and serve society with commitment," Shivakumar said.

He noted that the medical profession presents new challenges every day and emphasized that Karnataka-trained doctors have earned global recognition for their competence and dedication. "I have travelled to many countries and visited renowned hospitals abroad. In several of them, I have seen Indian doctors, especially those from Karnataka, serving with distinction. The quality of doctors produced here is

DK SHIVAKUMAR TELLS MEDICAL GRADUATES



second to none," he added.

Serve rural areas, prevent migration to cities

The Chief Minister called upon young doctors to extend quality healthcare services to rural areas and help bridge the urban-rural healthcare gap. "India is at a crucial stage of social and technological transformation. Medical education and healthcare have witnessed tremendous advancements. However, your focus should not remain confined to urban centres alone. By serving in rural areas, you can ensure better healthcare access and prevent unnecessary migration of people to cities," he said.

Shivakumar also praised Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil for his commitment

to the sector and lauded his disciplined approach to governance. He expressed hope that the campaign for a drug-free India, drug-free Karnataka and drug-free campuses would succeed with the active participation of healthcare professionals.

Quality teachers are the strength of a university

Highlighting the importance of quality education, the Chief Minister said that the strength of any university lies not in the number of students or degrees awarded, but in the quality of its teachers.

"Teachers should act as mentors and role models, inspiring students towards research and innovation. Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences has

emerged as one of the largest health sciences universities in the country, and the state government remains committed to extending all necessary support for its growth," he said.

Shivakumar revealed that this was his first public address after assuming office as Chief Minister. Reflecting on his own journey, he said, "I was born into a farming family, became an entrepreneur by profession, an educationist by choice and a politician by passion."

Karnataka produces around 14,000 doctors every year

Emphasizing Karnataka's contribution to healthcare and education, Shivakumar said the state produces nearly 72,000 healthcare

graduates annually, including 13,940 doctors every year, making it one of the largest producers of medical professionals in the world.

"Karnataka is not just an IT powerhouse; it is also a hub of talent across various sectors. Bengaluru alone has 2.6 million IT professionals, nearly double that of California. Our state has 72 medical colleges, the highest among all Indian states, and our doctors and nurses are serving with distinction across the globe," he said.

He credited RGUHS as a cornerstone of Karnataka's healthcare ecosystem, noting that the university, named after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has produced over eight lakh graduates in the last three decades.

‘Set goals and become role models’

Sharing a personal anecdote, Shivakumar said he could not complete his graduation at the usual age because he entered politics during his student years. He eventually earned his degree from the University of Mysore in 2008 at the age of 47.

"Despite serving as a minister earlier, the joy I felt when I finally received my degree was unmatched. Today, history is repeating itself through you. You are graduating at a time when the world is looking towards India and Karnataka. Set ideals for yourselves, define your goals and strive for excellence. I wish each one of you a bright and successful future," he told the graduates.

HC questions anticipatory bail granted to Vachanananda Swamiji in POCSO case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Karnataka High Court has expressed serious concern over the manner in which anticipatory bail was granted to Vachanananda Swamiji of the Harihar Pan-chamasali Peetha in Davanagere district, who is facing allegations of child abuse and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The case came up before a bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna while hearing a petition filed by the mother of a minor boy challenging the anticipatory bail granted to the seer by a Davanagere district court. During the hearing, the High Court observed that the anticipatory bail appeared to have been granted even before a formal complaint was registered, describing the development as "shocking" and prima facie improper.

The court noted that serious offences had been invoked against the seer under the POCSO Act and remarked that the manner in which anticipatory bail was granted required judicial scrutiny. The bench is-



sued notice to Vachanananda Swamiji and adjourned further hearing of the matter to June 23.

The controversy surrounding the seer has been building over the past several months. In April, trustees of the Pan-chamasali Peetha removed him from the religious institution. Of the 15 trustees, 13 participated in a meeting and unanimously resolved to remove him from the post. The dispute reportedly stemmed from the management of two religious institutions. Trustees alleged that despite repeated requests to choose between the two peethas, the seer failed to comply.

Separately, complaints were also raised by children residing in the mutt. Some of them allegedly accused the seer of verbally abusing and harassing them. Following these allegations, officials of

the Child Welfare Committee visited the institution and conducted an inquiry.

Subsequently, based on a complaint lodged by the mother of a minor boy, a POCSO case was registered against the seer. Authorities have already questioned him in connection with the allegations and conducted a medical examination as part of the investigation.

Anticipating arrest in the case, Vachanananda Swamiji approached the Davanagere district court seeking anticipatory bail on April 21. The district court granted him relief subject to certain conditions. However, with the High Court now expressing reservations about the process, attention has shifted to the next hearing, where the legality of the bail order is expected to come under closer examination.

CM defends Bidadi township, minister expresses concern over project

BENGALURU

CHIEF Minister D K Shivakumar has defended the proposed Bidadi township project amid growing opposition from farmers and sections within the Congress, while Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi expressed concern over the growing discontent. Jarkiholi also said the issue could come up for discussion at the Cabinet meeting scheduled on June 20.

The Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township is seen among Shivakumar's ambitious projects presented as India's first AI-powered integrated township. The project is expected to cover about 7,481 acres across nine villages in the region, according to official sources. The proposed township project, estimated to involve investments worth several thousand crore rupees, envisages the acquisition of large tracts of land in and around Bidadi on Bengaluru's outskirts, for urban development.

"This is not a township conceived by me. It was originally notified by former CM Kumaraswamy himself. During the previous BJP government,



about 1,000 acres were acquired and allotted by KIADB," Shivakumar told reporters in Bengaluru on Monday while responding to criticism of the project.

The chief minister said similar large-scale township projects were being implemented in other states and accused critics of attempting to politicise the issue. "In Maharashtra, 80,000 acres have been acquired, and a new township is being developed. In Telangana, a new township is being developed over 40,000 acres," he said.

Referring to earlier industrial and urban development projects in the region, Shivakumar asked,

"Who developed the Bidadi township? Who developed the Bidadi Industrial Township? Who developed the Aravalli Industrial Township? Did farmers not lose land for those projects?"

Claiming that affected landowners had accepted previous development initiatives, he said, "Now the farmers have agreed. Some people want to do politics; let them do politics." Meanwhile, speaking separately, Jarkiholi struck a more cautious note and said the government would take into account concerns surrounding the project before taking a final call.

"Perhaps the issue may

come up for discussion, because the future of the entire party also depends on it. Unnecessary confusion should not arise. The government should not end up burdened because of an attempt to develop a township," the minister said. Asked whether opposition to the project could hurt the government's image, Jarkiholi said the administration was conscious of the political implications. "We should not launch a scheme and then have it become a burden on the government. It should not become the cause of another problem. We are aware of those concerns as well," he said.

Jarkiholi said the government did not yet have a complete assessment of the extent of opposition to the project, but maintained that a discussion was necessary. "Any programme should produce positive outcomes and not negative consequences. We don't even have complete information about the extent of opposition on the ground. We do not know how much opposition is there. Still, it is necessary to discuss it from the party's broader perspective," he added.

STATE SCRIPTS NEW CHAPTER IN EDUCATION

CM to inaugurate first ‘Telangana Public School’ today



- This new institution is equipped with cutting-edge facilities, designed to compete with those found in private educational establishments
- It offers an international standard of education, catering to students from nursery through the intermediate level
- Students here will benefit from complimentary bus transportation and receive free meals, including breakfast, lunch, and evening snacks



HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister Revanth Reddy will officially open the first Telangana Public School (TPS) in Arutla, Rangareddy district, on Wednesday.

This new institution is equipped with cutting-edge facilities, designed to compete with those found in private educational establishments, and is poised to spark a significant transformation in Telangana's educational landscape.

The Chief Minister will

tour the school's modern amenities, including its digital classrooms, library, science laboratories, dining area, and sports facilities.

A crucial part of his visit will involve a dedicated session with students, educators, and school committee members to gather their valuable feedback.

He will also share a breakfast meal with the students. The Chief Minister will later address a large public gathering at the same location.

In pursuit of elevating

public education to the same standard as the state's private institutions, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy established a unique Education Commission, a first of its kind in the nation, to solicit recommendations for enhancing the education sector.

The Arutla facility offers an international standard of education, catering to students from nursery through the intermediate level. Beyond academic excellence, there is a strong emphasis on developing students



through sports, cultural activities, and personality enhancement programs.

Students enrolled in Telangana Public Schools will benefit from complimentary bus transportation and receive free meals, including breakfast, lunch, and evening snacks. Instruction will be delivered in English. With its contemporary teaching methodologies

and advanced technological infrastructure, the Telangana Public School stands as a benchmark for education in the state, aimed at restoring and bolstering public trust in government-run schools.

Four schools have been initially selected for the Telangana Public School initiative. The first phase includes schools located in Arutla and Manchala, both

in Ranga Reddy district, and Vangur and Polkam-palli, which were formerly part of Mahabubnagar district.

The government has outlined a strategic plan to gradually extend the 'Telangana Public School' model across the state, with an ambitious goal of establishing 100 such schools in a phased rollout.



NPDCL CMD directs measures for uninterrupted power supply in Nirmal

- Power supply is strengthened through preventive measures during monsoon
- Covered conductors are to be installed in forest areas to reduce outages
- Safety standards and consumer service remain top priorities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHANAPUR



NORTHERN Power Distribution Company of Telangana (NPDCL) Chairman and Managing Director Karnati Varun Reddy directed officials to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply to consumers across Nirmal district during a tour of the Nirmal Circle on Tuesday.

The CMD inspected rain-damaged power lines in Lingapur village of Kadam section and Maskapur village of

Khanapur section. Reviewing the situation with officials, he stressed the need for immediate preventive measures to minimise disruptions caused by falling tree branches and adverse weather conditions during the monsoon season.

Later, he visited the 33/11 kV Kadam substation and reviewed its performance, maintenance standards and consumer services. He instructed officials to improve planning and reduce power interruptions.

Varun Reddy ordered the installation of covered con-

ductors on 33 kV lines passing through forest areas in Kadam and Pembri to prevent outages caused by falling branches.

He also reviewed alternative power supply arrangements being developed for substations in Kadam, Pembri and Dasturabad to ensure continuity of service during heavy rains and strong winds. The CMD said a new 132 kV substation had been sanctioned for Tallapet, while the Nirmal 220 kV-Khanapur 132 kV line would be converted into a double-

circuit line to strengthen the network.

Emphasising safety, he directed operations and maintenance staff to strictly follow safety protocols and use personal protective equipment during repair and maintenance works. He warned that negligence in addressing power interruptions would not be tolerated and called for prompt resolution of consumer grievances.

Nirmal SE Rathod Subhash and other senior officials participated in the inspection and review meeting.

Karimnagar police tighten school transport safety, 87 cases detected

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

KARIMNAGAR Police Commissionerate, in coordination with the Road Transport Authority (RTA), conducted a special inspection drive on school transport vehicles across the commissionerate limits on Tuesday to ensure the safety of students.

During the drive, officials checked school buses and autos for compliance with road safety regulations and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Drivers were also educated on child safety and the importance of following traffic rules.

Authorities seized 17 school buses and 50 autos for operating without valid fitness certificates. Legal action was initiated against 64 vehicles for lacking mandatory

A total of 17 buses and 50 autos seized for operating without fitness certificates



documents, 13 drivers for not wearing uniforms, one vehicle for operating without a number plate and nine vehicles for overloading. In total, 87 violations were de-

tected.

Police Commissioner Gaush Alam said the safety of schoolchildren was a collective responsibility and warned that strict action

would continue against transport operators violating safety norms. He stressed that all school vehicles must carry valid fitness certificates and necessary documents.

Rakesh Reddy E-Classes app to boost competitive exam preparation

Rakesh Reddy initiative offers free coaching and study material for students and unemployed youth



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

THE Rakesh Reddy E-Classes application, designed to

provide free coaching for competitive examinations, will be launched in Hanumakonda on June 18. The initiative aims to support poor

and middle-class students and unemployed youth preparing for Central and State government jobs.

The app brochure was

unveiled on Tuesday at the Kakatiya University Library premises by BRS senior leader Dr Palamakula Komuraiah and Kakatiya University BRSV In-charge Dr Jetty Rajender. They said the app was developed under the guidance of BRS State leader and former Graduate MLC candidate Enugula Rakesh Reddy to ensure quality educational resources are accessible to all aspirants free of cost.

Developed with the support of Chakravarty E-Classroom, the platform provides coaching classes, study material and career guidance for various competitive examinations. The official launch and live demonstration will be held at 10 am on June 18 at Ambedkar Bhavan, Gokul Nagar, Hanumakonda.

CPI warns Congress of public agitation over unfulfilled poll promises

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

CPI State Secretary and Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao warned that the Congress government could face a massive public agitation if it failed to honour the promises made during the Assembly elections. He demanded immediate implementation of welfare commitments, including the distribution of house site pattas to poor families residing in huts on government lands and the sanctioning of Indiramma houses for the homeless.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the CPI office named after Suravaram Sudhar Reddy Nagar at Bhuporata Centre in Gundla Singaram on Tuesday, Kunamneni said lakhs of poor families across Telangana were still struggling with-

out permanent housing even after decades of Independence. The programme was attended by CPI State Assistant Secretary Takkallapalli Srinivasa Rao and other party leaders.

He said the Communist movement had consistently fought for the rights of the poor and landless, leading several struggles for housing and land rights. Criticising both the State and Central governments, he alleged that pro-poor policies were being neglected while corporate interests were receiving priority.

Kunamneni assured residents of Gundla Singaram that he would take up the issue of house site pattas with officials, local representatives and, if necessary, the Chief Minister. CPI leaders also demanded basic civic amenities, including drinking water, electricity and sanitation facilities, for the colony.

‘Annalu’ now in TRS, says Kavitha

Alleges officers harass workers in Singareni

HYDERABAD: Alleging that officers in state-run miner Singareni Collieries are harassing workers thinking that ‘Annalu’ (an informal term used to refer to naxalites) are not around, TRS president K Kavitha on Tuesday said that they are now in her party.



Kavitha, who visited a mine of Singareni at Srirampur in Mancherial district, asked why funds are not available for the welfare of workers when there is money to fulfil the needs of officers and contractors. “In the past, because the Annalu were around, officers behaved somewhat properly with the workers. Now, thinking that they are gone, they are resorting to human rights violations. All those Annalu are now in our party,” a TRS release quoted her as saying.

The Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) would not tolerate if human rights of workers are violated, she said. The TRS would file cases against officials who harass workers, she said. She alleged that the Singareni management is refusing to provide funds no matter how small the hardship faced by the workers. The management has plenty of money to pay the contractors, she claimed.

She further alleged that the workers are forced to repair and reuse old machinery. They do not have proper safety equipment and are not provided with basic drinking water.

Claiming that attempts were made to stop her when she went near the mine on June 15 and on Tuesday, she asked whether Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did not attend meetings at the mines when the party was in opposition in Telangana. Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy must allocate more blocks to Singareni instead of allowing it to compete with private companies. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a coal mining company jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and Government of India on a 51:49 equity basis.

Crime down 14% in two years of NDA rule: Anitha

- ▶ Home minister says Rs 247 cr saved from cyber fraud
- ▶ 8,396 missing persons traced; 56,674 ganja cases registered under anti-drug drive
- ▶ Emergency response time cut to under 10 minutes; over 6,000 police personnel recruited

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

HOME minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Tuesday said the NDA coalition government has achieved significant improvements in law and order, women's safety, cybercrime prevention and anti-drug enforcement during its first two years in office, with the state's overall crime rate declining by 14.1 per cent.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, Anitha said the government has strengthened policing through the use of CCTV surveillance, drones, artificial intelligence-based analytics and digital monitoring systems, enabling faster crime detection and investigation.



Home minister Vangalapudi Anitha addresses a press conference along with officials at the Secretariat on Tuesday

Highlighting women's safety initiatives, the minister said over 11.15 lakh SOS alerts have been received through the Shakti app, with authorities responding promptly to emergency calls. She said dedicated women's protection mechanisms and technology-based safety systems have been established across the state.

Under Operation Muskaan, police traced and reunited 8,396 missing persons, including children, women and elderly citizens, with their families. The government has also intensified action against crimes involving children, with 2,293 victims receiving

counselling and rehabilitation support.

Anitha said the state has launched an aggressive crackdown on narcotics and ganja cultivation through the EAGLE enforcement unit. According to the minister, authorities registered 56,674 ganja-related cases, initiated legal action against 2,366 individuals and seized assets worth more than Rs 4 crore.

In the cybercrime sector, she said coordinated efforts involving cyber war rooms, banks, telecom operators and the 1930 cyber helpline helped prevent losses of nearly Re 247 crore

to online fraudsters.

The minister said emergency response services have been significantly strengthened, reducing average response time from 30 minutes in 2024 to less than 10 minutes, while achieving a response efficiency rate of 97.47 per cent.

On police welfare, Anitha said the government recruited more than 6,000 police personnel, promoted 505 gazetted officers and increased the stipend for constable trainees from Rs 4,000 to Rs 7,500 per month.

She also said the government is modernising forensic infrastructure, with forensic examinations completed in 7,793 cases between January and May this year and strengthening prosecution systems to improve conviction rates.

According to the minister, courts delivered judgments in 279 major criminal cases, resulting in eight death sentences, three life imprisonment terms, 42 convictions carrying sentences of more than 20 years and 14 convictions carrying 14 year prison terms.

Anitha said the government's focus remains on technology-driven policing, public safety, police welfare and ensuring effective delivery of justice across the state.



MSME, SERP and NRI empowerment minister Kondapalli Srinivas, along with senior officials of the departments, speaks to the media at the Secretariat on Tuesday

MSME sector got ₹1.9 L-cr in two years: Srinivas

- ▶ MSME, SERP and NRI affairs minister says MSME parks, private industrial parks and revival policy have driven investment and job creation
- ▶ Women SHGs provided Rs 63,000 cr bank linkage; 5 lakh new women entrepreneurs is target
- ▶ Informs that APNRTS resolved 1,376 NRI grievances
- ▶ Social security pensions cross Rs 33,000 cr annually

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government extended more than Rs 1.9 lakh crore in bank credit to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector over the past two years while implementing a range of industrial reforms and entrepreneurship programmes aimed at boosting economic growth and employment, MSME, SERP and NRI empowerment minister Kondapalli Srinivas said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press confer-

ence on achievements of NDA coalition government in the past two years at the Secretariat, Srinivas said the government has identified MSMEs as a key driver of industrial expansion, investment attraction and job creation. Andhra Pradesh currently has around 55,000 micro enterprises, 8,000 small enterprises and over 1,000 medium enterprises. The sector comprises 49 per cent services, 28 per cent trade and 23 per cent manufacturing.

To strengthen industrial growth, the government has introduced more than 20 sector-specific policies covering textiles, food processing, electric mobility, clean energy, electronics, defence and aerospace, logistics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. MSME parks are being developed across the state, and land has already been allotted to 792 industries, which are expected to generate more than 1.03 lakh jobs.

Srinivas said the Private Industrial Park Policy is expected to attract investments of over Rs 1,900 crore and create 16,500 jobs. A dedicated MSME revival policy has also been launched to support stressed units through restructuring and investment mobi-

lisation. In the past two years, MSMEs received more than Rs 22,448 crore in collateral-free loans under the CGTMSE scheme and over Rs 40,000 crore under the PM MUDRA programme.

The government has also established a Rs 100-crore Collateral-Free Loan Guarantee Fund and launched the Rs 300-crore Chief Minister Entrepreneurship Advancement Programme (CMAP), which is expected to generate more than 17,600 jobs.

The minister spoke of the government's focus on women's empowerment, noting that self-help groups received bank linkage support exceeding Rs 63,000 crore and over Rs 9,300 crore through the Sreenidhi credit system. The government created one lakh women entrepreneurs last year and aims to create another five lakh this year. The newly launched 'Swayam AP' brand will market products manufactured by women's self-help groups across the state.

Srinivas also said the state government continues to provide extensive welfare support through social security pensions and NRI assistance programmes, while advancing the NRT Icon Towers project in Amaravati.

SIR: ECI enables online submission of forms

- ▶ The Election Commission has enabled online filling and submission of enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.
- ▶ Voters can complete the process online without waiting for a Booth Level Officer visit, provided their mobile number is linked to their voter ID and details match Aadhaar records

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CHIEF electoral officer (CEO) Vivek Yadav on Tuesday said that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has enabled the facility to fill and submit enumeration forms online as part of the SIR. The ECI kicked off the enumeration period of the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral roll in the southern state on June 15, which will continue for a month until July 14. "ECI has enabled the facility for filling and submission of enumeration form online. Filling this form online allows to match elector record with the historical base roll without



Picture for representational purpose only

waiting for a Booth Level Officer (BLO) home visit," Yadav said in a press release. Before availing online submission of EF via eSign, Yadav said an elector must meet the prerequisites of mobile linkage and name matching. Under mobile linkage, he said an elector's mobile number must be linked to his Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC or voter ID card). Likewise, he said the spelling of the elector's name on EPIC must match exactly with his Aadhaar card. If there is a mismatch, the digital eSign will fail, and the elector will need to submit a physical form through his/her BLO, Yadav added.

Merely two years after the general elections in the state, which witnessed the simultaneous Parliamentary and Assembly polls, the ECI is undertaking the SIR with July 1, 2026 as the qualifying date. The exercise will cover nearly 4.16 crore electors across 28 districts and 175 Assembly Constituencies in Andhra Pradesh.

Gandikota project gains pace, phase-II tenders invited

- ▶ Rs 5,250-cr drinking water project being implemented in two phases

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

ONE of the largest rural drinking water projects in Rayalaseema is gathering momentum. The state government is pushing ahead with a Rs 5,250-crore scheme to transport and treat water from the Gandikota reservoir for supply to drought-prone areas of Annamayya and Chittoor districts.

The 'Drinking Water Supply Scheme for Western Chittoor Region' aims to provide a permanent solution to the chronic drinking water shortage faced by the western parts of the erstwhile Chittoor district. The project will draw water from the Gandikota reservoir in YSR Kadapa district and supply it to seven Assembly constituencies spread across Annamayya and Chittoor districts.

The scheme is being implemented in two phases at a total estimated cost of over Rs 5,250 crore. While works under Phase-I are already in progress, the government has invited tenders for Phase-II, marking a significant step in the execution of the long-pending project.

Under Phase-I, the government sanctioned Rs 2,370 crore and commenced works in April 2025. The project is scheduled for completion by October 2027. Officials said works worth nearly Rs 90 crore have already been completed and construction activity is expected to pick up pace in the coming months. The first phase will provide drinking water to Rayachoti, Pileru and Thamballapalle Assembly constituencies.

For Phase-II, tenders worth Rs 2,886 crore have been invited. Online bids are being accepted from June 12 to June 27. Rural Water Supply Chief Engineer Hareram Naik issued



Gandikota reservoir in YSR Kadapa district

orders related to the tender process on June 5. After completion, the second phase will extend drinking water supply to Madanapalle, Punganur, Palamaner and Kuppam constituencies.

As part of the project, a balancing reservoir will be constructed at Gandikota. Water will then be conveyed through transmission pipelines to treatment facilities proposed in Gurramkonda mandal of Annamayya district. Separate water treatment plants are being established for the two phases.

The Phase-I water treatment plant, estimated to cost around Rs 300 crore, is already under construction. A second treatment facility will be taken up after the Phase-II contract is finalised. Each plant will have a treatment capacity of 75 million litres per day (MLD), taking the total capacity to 150 MLD. Officials said the project is expected to meet the drinking water needs of several lakh people across the beneficiary constituencies. The scheme is considered crucial for the western Chittoor region, which has long struggled with low rainfall, recurring droughts and excessive dependence on ground-water sources.

Jagan asks YSRCP cadre to guard votes during SIR

- ▶ Directs party constituency-coordinators to closely monitor and immediately report irregularities to election authorities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed party constituency coordinators and regional in-charges to remain on high alert during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, describing the next four weeks as crucial for protecting genuine voters from deletion.

At a review meeting with senior party leaders at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Jagan instructed coordinators to closely monitor the electoral roll revision process on a daily basis, immediately report irregularities to election authorities, and escalate unresolved issues to the party headquarters.

He said the deletion of a genuine voter during the SIR process could be difficult to reverse and stressed the need for continuous vigilance at the grassroots level.

Jagan alleged that the ruling government



was attempting to remove YSRCP supporters from electoral rolls through administrative means and claimed that efforts were being made to alter voter lists ahead of future elections. He urged constituency coordinators, Booth Level Agents and party workers to ensure that no genuine voter is removed from the rolls.

Calling voter protection the party's top organisational priority, Jagan directed the cadre to treat the electoral revision exercise as a mission to safeguard democratic rights and maintain constant field-level monitoring until the process is completed.

Naidu releases book on his visionary decisions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu released a book CBN@361 Degrees-Polymath at a special event organised by the Kakatiya Cultural Association in Singapore on Tuesday. The Chief Minister presented the first copies of the book to Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore. The book was written by Shakamuri Srinivasa Prasad, chief editor of Repatikosam daily and translated into English by retired IAS officer K V Satyanarayana. The publication offers an in-depth analysis of the decisions taken by Chandrababu Naidu as a visionary leader across different phases of his public life and governance.

Speaking on the occasion, author Shakamuri Srinivasa Prasad said that Naidu's leadership style and decision-making reflect the vision-driven approach demonstrated by globally acclaimed leaders such as former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and former



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu along with others releases 'CBN@361 Degrees-Polymath' in Singapore on Tuesday

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

He noted that Naidu's commitment to long-term planning, economic development and construction of Amaravati as a world-class capital city exemplifies this approach. Former AP RERA chairman Ramanath stated that the book brings to light several lesser-known aspects of Chandrababu Naidu's leadership and governance philosophy, drawing from observations and insights that are not widely known to the public.

During the event, the Kakatiya Cultural Association honoured Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu with the Global Polymath Award. The

Association also presented him with a commemorative silver coin released to mark the birth centenary of Singapore's founding leader, Lee Kuan Yew.

Representatives of the association announced that the book will soon be published in Telugu, Hindi and several other Indian languages. They also noted that the digital version of the earlier publication, Chandrababu X.O, had recorded over 8 million downloads.

Former AP RERA chairman Ramanath, K V Satyanarayana, Shankara Prasad and prominent members of Telugu community in Singapore participated.

APTRANSCO TO COMMISSION 24 PROJECTS WORTH Rs 3,507 Cr BY DEC

- ▶ Projects to add major capacity and strengthen state's power infrastructure
- ▶ Vijayanand directs officials to expedite ongoing and upcoming transmission works

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

SPECIAL chief secretary to the Chief Minister K Vijayanand on Tuesday directed officials to ensure the timely completion and commissioning of 24 transmission projects being executed by APTransco at an estimated cost of Rs 3,507 crore between June and December.

Reviewing the progress of various transmission projects at a meeting held at Vidut Soudha in Vijayawada, Vijayanand said the government and APTransco are committed to providing quality, reliable and uninterrupted power supply to agriculture, industries, com-



Special chief secretary to the Chief Minister K Vijayanand reviews the progress of APTransco transmission projects during a meeting at Vidut Soudha in Vijayawada on Tuesday

mercial establishments and domestic consumers.

He stressed the need to expedite the implementation of 400 kV, 220 kV and 132 kV transmission projects to meet the State's growing power demand and strengthen its transmission infrastructure.

During the meeting, officials informed him that APTransco has already commissioned three 400 kV substations, eight 220 kV

substations and 21 substations of 132 kV capacity. Additionally 1,465 MVA of transformation capacity and 571 circuit kilometres of transmission lines added to the State grid, they said.

Also, they said a total of 68 transmission projects, involving an investment of Rs.5,279 crore, are currently under various stages of execution. Once completed, these projects would add 15,224.50 MVA of trans-

formation capacity and 1,828 circuit kilometres of transmission lines, they explained.

Vijayanand directed officials to closely monitor the works and complete them within the stipulated timelines while maintaining high-quality standards. He also noted that tenders have been floated for 29 new transmission projects, which are expected to create an additional transformation

capacity of 4,520 MVA and establish 700 circuit kilometres of transmission lines. Besides, 72 more projects are in the planning stage and tenders for these works are expected to be floated within the next three months.

Reviewing the action plan for the inauguration of the 24 completed transmission projects, Vijayanand said these projects would significantly improve grid stability, reduce transmission losses and support the industrial, agricultural and socio-economic development of the state. Reiterating APTransco's commitment to meeting the state's future energy requirements, he said the utility is focused on building a robust, modern and future-ready transmission network capable of supporting Andhra Pradesh's long-term growth and development.

The meeting was attended by directors A K V Bhaskar, J V Rao, and Venkata Ramamurthy, along with chief engineers and superintending engineers.

India must diversify fuel supply chains despite US-Iran MoU

THE memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the United States and Iran to mark the end of the war in West Asia has been greeted with more than a sigh of relief, all over. Stock markets have welcomed it including, in India whose half of crude imports pass through Strait of Hormuz. The Strait will be “completely open” from Friday, US President Donald Trump declared. It is “partially opened, already. However, there was “hunting” in the area to ensure it was de-mined, he said. This is good news but demining the Strait is easier said than done. The US knows it. On June 2, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee that

Iran had “mined large segments of Hormuz—international waters.” Shipping and maritime security experts told a prominent Israeli newspaper that ensuring the Strait of Hormuz is safe from mines could delay a return to normal shipping traffic by weeks. Conventional minesweepers could be deployed along with state-of-the-art underwater drones, but it may take 40 to 50 days before many insurance, shipping, or oil companies are confident enough to sail through, according to experts. Further, there is still a great deal of uncertainty with the MoU, which is just the beginning of real negotiations. Given the recalcitrant attitude of the clerical regime and

hardliner jihadists in Iran, the talks getting derailed at any moment is a distinct possibility. For these people are fired by revolutionary fervour; in their scheme of things, getting nuclear weapons is not a strategic requirement but a doctrinaire imperative. It is to be seen if these people could be reined in by saner elements in Tehran. Then there is Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is sulking because of Trump’s insistence to have a deal as quickly as possible. While he has not criticised the MoU, he is certainly not happy; he and his nation will like a regime change in Iran—or, at least, substantive degradation of its military might. To be sure, the degradation

of Iran’s armed forces is quite substantive, but Tel Aviv wants more. In other words, peace will prevail for some time in the Middle East, but it will be fragile. The success of the proposed negotiations will depend on whether Iran’s leadership is willing to make meaningful concessions on its nuclear programme and regional activities. Hardliners within the Iranian establishment may view any compromise as a sign of weakness and seek to obstruct the process. At the same time, domestic political pressures in both the United States and Israel could limit the room for diplomatic manoeuvre. Any perceived violation of commitments, however minor, may

trigger renewed tensions. Israel, as we mentioned, remains unconvinced that diplomacy alone can neutralise what it sees as the Iranian threat. Worse, the problem is not just the divergence in objectives between Washington and Tel Aviv; it is also Trump’s temperament and temper, which he loses very often. He even uses four-letter words in public—something no head of state or government has done in recent memory. Therefore, countries like India should not celebrate the MoU too much. It is a good start, but a start, nonetheless. To reduce our dependence on the Strait, we must earnestly start diversifying our fuel supply chains.

RTI: System must deliver

PROPOS “21 years of RTI: Miles to go” (June 16). The Right to Information Act (RTI) completed 21 years as a pillar of Indian democracy. It has exposed corruption, tracked funds, and forced answers from public bodies. RTI helped citizens challenge opaque political funding and projects like electoral bonds. Yet the law is strained. Over 4.1 lakh appeals choke Information Commissions, and 2.4 lakh new cases came in a single year. States like Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh face the most delays. When authorities deny data, trust erodes. The Supreme Court recently called some RTI activism a business, dismissing an activist’s bail plea in a road work case. Abuse must be curbed, but courts questioning motives risk chilling genuine queries. We need faster disposal, penalties for needless denial, and training for officials. Protecting whistleblowers and streamlining commissions will keep RTI strong. Transparency is not optional for governance. After two decades, the promise remains, but the system must deliver.

K Chidanand Kumar, Kollam

RTI and judicial interference

PROPOS of “21 years of RTI: Miles to go” (THI June 16). It’s been 21 years since the promulgation of the Right to Information Act (RTI). It was a milestone ordinance meant to instil accountability and transparency in functioning of governments, service sectors, and availability of fundamental rights to citizens. However, judicial interference and governmental foot-dragging have undermined RTI. This is exemplified by 4.1 lakh appeals pending and 2.4 lakh cases registered for review before Information Commissions. The incident of the Supreme Court denying anticipatory bail to a ‘RTI activist’, for monitoring road construction in Punjab, exemplifies the beating RTI has received. If that person who was denied bail had paid the gargantuan road tax and vehicle registration fees, it is his prerogative to ascertain the progress of the road meant for his use.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Hail Indian army’s move to end colonial-era customs

THE Indian army’s recent introduction of new uniform regulations is commendable. These changes successfully shed vestigial colonial-era customs and embrace indigenous cultural aesthetics, while enhancing overall practicality and operational comfort for personnel across the board. Through these combined measures, the Indian army cultivates a distinct institutional identity rooted in India’s own cultural fabric. Such measures reflect the army’s continued commitment to ensuring that the institutions, traditions and spaces where soldiers live, train and serve increasingly embody India’s own heroes, values and national legacy while preserving the professionalism and heritage of the force. These changes align the military’s visual and ceremonial identity with contemporary sovereign Indian values, without compromising the dignity and discipline of the force. It is a proud moment for India that the visual landscape of the world’s second-largest standing army is being fundamentally rewritten to project a modern and self-reliant nation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai-210

Not a typical peace framework

This refers to “Peace on paper, war on the ground — The fatal flaw in the Iran deal” (THI, June 16). The article identifies the central weakness of the US-Iran agreement with precision. A MoU that defers every substantive issue — nuclear sequencing, sanctions relief, regional security — to a sixty-day negotiation window is not a peace framework. It is a postponement dressed as diplomacy. The Israeli variable alone makes durability doubtful. Israel was not a party to the negotiations, does not consider itself bound by the terms, and has demonstrated repeatedly that it will act independently when it perceives existential threats. For countries like India that have genuine economic stakes in West Asia’s stability, this uncertainty will prove a costly affair. Cautious optimism is warranted but structural confidence is not.

K Sakunthala, Coimbatore-641671

A fine line between true morality and hypocrisy

IN an act of moral prudery, the NCERT ‘appareled’ the ‘Dancing Girl’ of Mohenjo-daro (and disfigured her in the process) to spare Class 9 students the ‘embarrassment’ of having to look at her bare torso. NCERT officials have restored the palm-sized figurine to her original looks in the face of the flak from historians and educationalists. The modification misrepresenting the original artefact, if not reversed, would have denied the students the benefit of looking at the metallurgical marvel as it was conjured up about 4500 years ago. It is a must-see for students of the Indus Valley Civilization. Deriving aesthetic pleasure from human anatomy is not immoral or sinful to be so puritanical about it or take offence at it. For instance, Michelangelo’s statue of David and sculptural works at the Khajuraho temple appeal to us as sentient beings. Desmond Morris’ book The Naked Woman is a study of the female body worth reading by everyone. It will disabuse us of outdated attitudes to nudity and sex. After all, there is a fine line between true morality and hypocrisy.

G David Milton, Maruthancode (TN)

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MLA adopts three girls after Bidar family tragedy

BIDAR: In a heartwarming gesture following a tragic incident that claimed the lives of two sisters, Aurad MLA Prabhu Chavan has announced that he will take responsibility for the future of the three surviving daughters of the affected family in Shembelli village of Bidar district. The decision came after the legislator visited the family, which has been struggling emotionally and financially since the tragedy. The incident occurred on June 7 when six members of the family allegedly fell seriously ill after consuming mangoes. The victims, including mother Indumati and her five daughters, suffered severe vomiting and diarrhoea and were rushed for treatment.

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



RAVULAPATI SEETARA-MARAO

OUR ancestors used to talk about the ages. They said that in the Treta Yuga dharma stood on four legs, in Dwapara Yuga the number of legs decreased, and in Kali Yuga dharma almost lost its footing — elders would say this and people used to laugh. But looking at the crime-filled times that are spreading now, it feels as if our ancestors, with uncanny insight, were foretelling the future: “dharma will wither in the Kali Yuga.” How true is that?

A reader going through newspapers would be left with no doubt that dharma has largely gone astray — it is a sickening, nauseating feeling. In one village, people who had regarded a poor man as a benevolent trustee were stunned when a police investigation revealed that he was a criminal who had been stealing the trust’s assets; they were speechless and later felt they had no option but to cut him off completely. But an old man in that village, who was in the twilight of his life, did not show surprise—he muttered to himself, “It is the age of Kali,” and accepted it.

In a small village of Uttar Pradesh, one Vikas Singh Thagor, known to be a modern Robin Hood, spent many years helping the poor as if it were a gift from God. He lovingly gave schoolbags to children who couldn’t afford them. He helped the most disadvantaged in the village with money when they were in trouble. He even paid for luxury trips for his friends. Wherever he traveled, he flew and stayed in big hotels. For a man like that, how devastating it must have been to be caught in Manikanta Nagar colony in Vikarabad, and then after a police investigation that exposed him as Raju-Peda Double Roll—be forced to account for every penny? The poor villagers in UP and his friends must have been crushed by disappointment, while the police were elated at having caught a major thief.

Fate plays strange games. When a person’s life is portrayed on film in a sensational way that makes theatre audiences gasp, and then people in real life encounter such a figure, the police warning that “this could be a fraud” becomes terrifying. When someone with a criminal past is finally caught, the old guard comforts that justice still moves forward. In Telangana he posed as a labourer. Going from colony to colony pretending to be a worker, he noted which houses were locked. At night he looted many of those locked homes, and with the money he stole he



It always seems that police failures make the headlines — their successful work rarely does. In times like these, elders say, righteousness — whether small or great — inevitably endures. Scientific investigation is making tremendous inroads into the methods of hardened criminals.

returned to his village in UP and, without asking anyone, provided financial help to his friends, the poor and to children, living a life of luxury. That was Vikas Singh Thakur —who lost his freedom after he was trapped by the police. He confessed that he had stolen about 1.57 kg of gold, 2.56 kg of silver and cash totaling Rs 8.22 lakh. He began stealing at the age of 16 and built a notorious record: 34 cases in police books, which makes for a remarkable criminal history. Now, after Vikarabad police investigations, his number of thefts has risen to 61. In Sultanpur district,

four gold traders aided him, taking the stolen jewellery, giving him a share and even lending money when he needed it. He gave the gold to them through his mother. If a mother does not stop her son from stealing vegetables, she must bear some responsibility for the history that follows. This episode almost feels like a moral drama playing out in real life. The Vikarabad police and higher authorities must be commended for bringing Vikas Thakur’s career to account.

In another incident, white-collared criminals who had expanded the marijuana trade all the way to Thailand

were arrested by the newly formed “Eagle Force” (a police unit), writing new pages in history! They used 300 vehicles, made 405 flight bookings, and spent lakhs on flights alone. They landed in Thailand with wine and water facilities, spent nearly Rs three crore, and were trying to set up a “Pattaya-style” nightclub in Kokapet area of Hyderabad when the police caught them during a sting! Forty people operate in this network. Many have been arrested. Hemang Pramod Kelsukar and Sudhansh Pramod Kelsukar (both from Mumbai) were running the gang. Operating since around 2023, they had established links across Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, among other states, running this drug operation in a highly organized manner — until police surveillance exposed it. People are very pleased that Eagle Force and senior officers, through hard, painstaking work, successfully caught such big time criminals.

On the same page is the news that Dilshuknagar police caught international cannabis smugglers from Odisha while they were selling the drug. Ramesh Bandam and Nirmal Chhatriya were arrested. These are brazen, clever thefts — frauds carried out to deceive officials and cover their tracks — and this criminal experiment to trick authorities also makes the headlines in newspapers!

Cyberabad police warned people to be careful of such

criminals and revealed their tactics. Posing as employees of the Metropolitan Water Works, they were sending WhatsApp messages to residents in some areas saying that their water bill was unpaid and the connection would be disconnected — a ploy to extort money. Although the identities of those involved haven’t been reported in the news, this warning makes it clear that Hyderabad residents must stay on guard. Any reader who goes through this page of varied crime reports can’t help but exclaim, “Good heavens!” But learning that the police are making proper efforts to catch and control crime makes it worth sharing these details. It always seems that police failures make the headlines — their successful work rarely does. In times like these, elders say, righteousness — whether small or great — inevitably endures.

Scientific investigation is making tremendous inroads into the methods of hardened criminals. CC cameras, WhatsApp messages, telephonic conversations, and a watch on hardened criminals outside and inside jail see them as sitting ducks. Let people encourage not only Telangana police but the firmament in our country to continue similar efforts to ensure people lead happy lives, safe, and secure.

(The writer is a retired IPS officer, who has served as an Additional DGP of Andhra Pradesh)

Man made tragedies-Lifetime trauma for victims’ kin; protection for perpetrators

DR HYMA MOORTY

Major man-made fire disasters—ranging from industrial accidents and city-wide bombings to catastrophic infrastructure failures have claimed several precious lives.

The Uphaar cinema tragedy was one of the worst fire disasters in recent Indian history. The fire started in the parking lot during the matinee screening of the movie ‘Border’ on June 13, 1977. Approximately, 59 people died of asphyxiation and 103 were seriously injured in the subsequent stampede. There is no record of how many succumbed eventually. The result was that one of the Ansal brothers (The hall’s promoters) was sentenced to two years in jail. Justice delivered for so many deaths? This is the result of a 24-year legal battle fought by two grieving parents.

Seven newborns died and 12 were rescued following a fire at the baby care wing in New Born Hospital in East Delhi’s Vivek Vihar. A massive fire broke out at the TRP Game Zone in Rajkot, claiming 33 lives, including nine under-16 children. Foreign nationals were among the 21 people who died in a blaze that ripped through a hotel in South Delhi’s Malviya Nagar on June 3. At least 47 people were pulled out of the inferno and taken to nearby hospitals but how many of them will walk out of the hospitals remains uncertain.

Tragically, most fire tragedies in the country happen either when greed takes over safety or the build-

By the time the CBI or ED book a case, he emerges as a popular real estate developer in Hyderabad. These guys roam in circles where ‘getting away with it is a flex’. Shame does not work and conscience is something they don’t have. You must hit at the things that they value most-money, freedom + status and the ability to do business, all over again. Seize assets before trial. Not after 10 years. Freeze bank accounts; attach properties, auction them to pay victims within 90 days can be good deterrents.

ers save money by going in for cheap wiring, blocked exits and illegal extra floors. A fire NOC costs less than a life, but compliance eats into profit.

All tragedies are pinned down to unethical behaviour and collusion of interested parties. It is rarely just the owner. Someone signs the fake fire safety certificate. Someone in the municipal fire department looks the other way in lieu of a bribe. Someone approves of an illegal commercial space in a residential area. The paper trail is clean; the building is not. Zero concern for lives is the greatest tragedy of our lives.

Emergency exits locked to ‘pre-



vent theft’. Overcrowding beyond permitted capacity. Flammable material stored because “What are the odds”? The calculation is always: “Will I get caught?” and not “Will someone die”?

A person who has done something illegal is a criminal. One who is morally and ethically wrong is also a criminal. Thieves outwit systems. What is the punishment ‘if’ caught? A fine that is one per cent of a day’s profit and the case drags for any number of years. The risk reward is broken again. Unethical behaviour pays. Safety doesn’t. Officers personally should be made liable if structures cleared by them burn. Make owners criminally liable for deaths, not just fines. Charge them with culpable homicide not amounting to murder and straight away jail them for 10 years, if not

more. Property should be seized.

These are hardened criminals; public shaming does not embarrass them at all. Jail is a ‘business risk’. A twitter trend is just blabber. They are budgeted for it. Shut down in Rajkot and move to Surat is the modus operandi-a new name, new company but the same old illegal activities.

While anguished families of victims are in courts awaiting justice, the owner-perpetrator is inaugurating a new gaming zone, around the same time. No dearth of money results in getting a new identity, shifting base to a new city and enjoying new political protection. If there is a fire safety case against a person in Gujarat or Delhi, the ‘viable’ option for street-smart individuals is to set up a new establishment in the neighbouring state

Kurnool health wing launches direct toll-free line to fight female foeticide

- Citizens can report unauthorized ultrasound scans and illegal gender tracking on the dedicated toll-free line 1800 233 2447, with absolute informant identity protection
- The district health wing warned that diagnostic labs, technicians, or individuals advertising sex-selection services will be prosecuted under the PCPNDT Act, 1994

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO), Kurnool, Dr Y Kameshwar Prasad on Tuesday announced the availability of a state-wide toll-free helpline number 1800 233 2447 to report violations under the Pre-Conception and Pre-



DMHO Dr Y Kameshwar Prasad speaking to the media in Kurnool on Tuesday

Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act. Speaking to the media, he said that the initiative aims to strengthen enforcement of laws prohibiting illegal sex determination and sex-selective practices. He emphasized that public participation is crucial for the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act, 1994, which is designed to prevent gender-based discrimination before birth.

He reiterated that the government remains firmly committed to protecting women's rights and eliminating gender bias in society. He stated that any form of prenatal sex determination, advertisement of such services, or promotion of sex selection is strictly illegal under the law.

Such practices not only violate legal provisions but also contribute to disturbing the natural sex ratio and reinforcing harmful social inequalities.

He further warned against illegal activities such as unauthorized ultrasound or diagnostic centers conducting sex determination tests, promotional advertisements encouraging gender selection, and any other related unlawful practices.

Citizens have been urged to immediately report such violations through the toll-free helpline. He added that the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential, and all complaints will be thoroughly investigated by the concerned authorities, followed by appropriate legal action against offenders.

Calling for collective responsibility, the DMHO appealed to all sections of society—including women's groups, youth organizations, medical professionals, elected representatives, and the general public—to support the strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act.

High-profile NDA conclave marks two years of coalition rule in AP

- Health Minister and BC Welfare Minister credit the governance milestone to the coordinated roadmap of Chief Minister Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan
- Police Parade Ground saw a powerful show of solidarity, drawing regional heavyweights including Hindupur MP BK Parthasarathi and several district MLAs
- Collector A Shyam Prasad reveals that Sri Sathya Sai district has secured enhanced funding under the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub initiative to expand commercial fruit and mulberry farming
- Highlighting infrastructural milestones, the administration confirmed the active construction of 450 kilometers of cement concrete (CC) roads and 100 kilometers of bituminous (BT) blacktop road

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

TO commemorate the successful completion of two years of the NDA coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, a massive state-backed public meeting titled “Yella Nammakam” was celebrated with grandeur at

the Police Parade Ground in Puttaparthi on Tuesday.

The event drew a galaxy of top political figures, including Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, BC Welfare Minister Savitha, Hindupur MP BK Parthasarathi, and MLAs Palle Sindhura Reddy (Puttaparthi), Kandikunta Ven-



Ministers, public representatives and officials join beneficiaries during a programme marking two years of the coalition government's tenure at the Police Parade Ground in Puttaparthi on Tuesday

kata Prasad (Kadiri), Paritala Sunitha (Rapthadu), and MS Raju (Madakasira), alongside senior leaders Paritala Sriram and former minister Palle Raghunatha Reddy.

Addressing the sea of beneficiaries and party workers, Minister Satya Kumar Yadav asserted that the administration had successfully fulfilled its core electoral mandates and restored public confidence under the combined

leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. Minister Savitha added that the last two years signaled a complete structural overhaul in public grievance redressal, ensuring a secure environment free of law-and-order breaches.

Detailing district-specific achievements, Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad and Joint Collector Mourya Bharadwaj high-

lighted that the region has been structurally integrated into the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub project to aggressively expand sericulture and fruit plantation.

On the infrastructure front, the Collector announced the completion of 450 kilometers of cement concrete (CC) roads and nearly 100 kilometers of bituminous (BT) blacktop highways across the district's rural sectors.

NDA partners convene for mega 'two years of progress' assembly



HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy and former minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy anchored a massive victory celebration at the district headquarters on Tuesday, marking two years of alliance rule.

The mega rally featured top NDA leaders, including Ministers Satya Kumar Yadav

and Savitha, MP Parthasarathi, District BJP President Sekhar, and Janasena leader Umesh. Speakers criticized the previous regime's destructive policies and highlighted the state's transition toward sustainable growth.

District Collector Shyam Prasad and several regional MLAs attended the event, which showcased strong tri-party coordination.

Hundreds join MLA Sunitha for mass yoga session

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAMAGIRI

EMPHASIZING that daily physical wellness is the only effective antidote to the pressures of modern life, Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha on Tuesday called upon citizens across all age groups to make yoga an permanent, integral part of their morning routines.

She made the remarks while participating as the chief guest at the special “Yoga-2026” programme, organized ahead of the 12th International Day of Yoga at the scenic premises of the Sri Tirumala Devara Venkateswara Swamy Temple near Nasanakota in Ramagiri mandal.

The wellness campaign



Participants, including Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha, performing yoga during the International Day of Yoga programme at the Sri Tirumala Devara Venkateswara Swamy Temple near Nasanakota in Ramagiri mandal on Tuesday

witnessed strong voluntary attendance, with local Telugu Desam Party (TDP) cadre, mandal revenue officials, and hundreds of rural residents joining the mass session.

Setting a personal ex-

ample, the MLA rolled out a mat and performed a series of synchronized asanas alongside the participants.

Addressing the congregation, Sunitha noted that modern lifestyles have become increasingly mechan-

ical, leaving individuals vulnerable to severe physical exhaustion and emotional stress.

She stated that regular, uninterrupted yoga practice serves a dual purpose—optimizing physical stamina while restoring mental peace and emotional equilibrium.

The legislator lamented that neglecting physical health under the pretext of busy work hours is directly causing chronic lifestyle disorders among the youth.

Observing that the Union and State governments are heavily backing the wellness movement, she appealed to families to transform yoga into a daily household habit to build a healthier, more vibrant society.

TC Varun inducted in powerful 14-member state joining committee



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

THE political stature of Janasena Anantapur District President and AHUDA Chairman TC Varun continues to rise, with his appointment to the party's newly constituted State Joining Committee. Formed under the absolute direction of Janasena chief and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, the

14-member panel is tasked with inviting prominent opposition leaders, academicians, and social activists into the party.

Varun's inclusion in this elite state-level body is seen as a reward for his organizational efficiency.

Party cadre across the combined district celebrated the decision, predicting a wave of fresh inductions.

Anantapur administration unveils massive prosthetic support drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

IN a major humanitarian boost for persons with disabilities across the Rayalaseema region, District Collector and Magistrate O Anand launched “Project Cheyutha”—a specialized initiative to distribute advanced, functional LN-4 prosthetic hands to lower-income amputees completely free of cost.

The launch took place at the Police Parade Ground on Tuesday, where the official poster was unveiled during a “Divyang” thematic wellness session. The mega-project is a collaborative venture executed by Rotary District



Collector O Anand and Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan unveil the “Project Cheyutha” poster during the launch of the free prosthetic hand distribution initiative at the Police Parade Ground in Anantapur on Tuesday

3150, the global LN-4 Hand Project, and the Andhra Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society.

According to the official layout, a series of specialized fitting camps have been scheduled across the state. The drive will hit Guntur on August 2, Vizianagaram on

August 16, and culminate with a mega-camp in Anantapur on August 30, 2026. The programme caters to individuals aged four and older who have lost an upper limb below the shoulder, provided they maintain a residual limb length of at least four inches to anchor the device.

Anantapur MP attends dinner hosted by WB CM Suwendu Adhikari

ANANTAPUR : MP Ambika Lakshminarayana attended a formal dinner hosted by West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari at his official residence, alongside members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

During the visit, the Anantapur lawmaker congratulated Adhikari on making history as the first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal. The Chief Minister greeted the parliamentarians individually, holding warm bilateral discussions on governance and presenting them with mementos.



Kalyandurg urban forest park set to open soon



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KALYANDURG

COLLECTOR O Anand and MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu on Tuesday inspected the upcoming Urban Forest Park near Kalyandurg town to review its final readiness.

The officials visited the bird aviaries, children's parks, and the ‘Hill View Point.’ Collector Anand di-

rected forest authorities to submit expenditure sheets for two eco-cottages under the ‘Jee Ram Jee’ scheme in July.

MLA Surendra Babu added that the government will be asked to develop separate tourist resorts on-site and confirmed that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan will be approached to formally inaugurate the eco-tourism spot.

Kurnool fast-tracks massive preparations for Int’l Yoga Day

- SETKUR CEO announces that registration targets of 5.50 lakh citizens have been successfully locked in across the district ahead of International Yoga Day on June 21
- Following state directives, the administration has structured dedicated wellness sessions, including a mega-event for 1,000 municipal sanitation workers at the SCP Grounds on June 18
- As part of a unique tourism push, the district has already completed scenic mass-yoga sessions at iconic sites including Kondareddy Buruju, Orvakal Rock Garden, and the Jagannatha Gattu temple temple-lands
- Multi-tier competitive qualifiers have wrapped up from the village to the mandal level, with top regional yoga practitioners being actively forwarded to represent Kurnool in the upcoming state-level finals

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

EXTENSIVE arrangements are underway in Kurnool district to celebrate International Yoga Day in a

grand manner, with a target of mobilising 5.50 lakh participants for the ‘Yoga Andhra’ programme, said SETKUR CEO Venugopal on Tuesday.

A special Yoga Andhra

Aims to mobilize 5.50 lakh citisens



Setkur CEO Venugopal participating in the Yoga Andhra programme organized at Kurnool on Tuesday

programme was organised on Tuesday at the premises of Sri Rupala Sangameswara Swamy temple located near Jagannatha Gattu on the outskirts of Kurnool.

Addressing the event, SETKUR CEO Venugopal said that all preparations

have been completed to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 across the district on a massive scale. He noted that registration for participation has already been completed, targeting 5.50 lakh people across the district.

He further stated that

11,500 master trainers have been specially trained and are currently imparting yoga training across various regions of the district.

As part of tourism-oriented yoga activities, sessions have been successfully conducted with around 800 participants at prominent tourist locations such as Rock Garden and Kondareddy Buruju in Kurnool city.

Yoga programmes are also being organised at major temples including Yaganti, Mantralayam, Peravali, Kalvabugga, and Jagannatha Gattu under the supervision of the Endowments Department Assistant Commissioner.

Highlighting the coordination among departments, he said a special yoga programme with around 1,000 sanitation workers will be conducted on June 18 at the SCP Grounds as per state

government instructions.

He attributed the successful implementation of Yoga Andhra initiatives in the district to the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and the directions of the District Collector.

Officials from all departments, from village to district level, are working in coordination to ensure the success of the programme.

He added that various yoga competitions were conducted at village, panchayat, mandal, and district levels, and district-level winners are being sent to state-level competitions.

The event concluded with expressions of gratitude to all officials and staff who contributed to the successful organisation of the programme at the spiritually serene Jagannatha Gattu environment.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

STRONGLY condemning the growing trend of misogyny in political discourse, Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy on Tuesday slammed former YSRCP Minister Gudivada Amarnath for his highly objectionable comments targeting State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha.

Addressing a press conference at her camp office in Nellore, Prashanthi Reddy stated that turning political opposition into personal mockery regarding a woman's appearance, attire, or makeup is a shameful low.

She emphasized that robust political debates must remain strictly centered around policy decisions, public welfare, and institutional governance.

The legislator highlighted that Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha is a self-made leader who rose from

a modest background, beginning her career as a school teacher before rising to head the state's law and order wing through sheer merit.

She noted that launching personal tirades against a Dalit woman leader who achieved success through grit sends a dangerous, regressive signal to society.

Prashanthi Reddy underscored that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu are actively driving women's political integration by championing the 33% legislative reservation. She warned that attempts by political rivals to belittle women in public life would completely fail. Reminding opposition leaders that everyone has mothers, wives, and sisters in their households, she urged politicians to maintain absolute restraint and respect to ensure more women feel safe entering the democratic mainstream.

How excessive heat damages hair and why henna creams can be a gentler alternative

Healthy hair doesn't lose its shine and strength overnight. Repeated exposure to excessive heat and harsh chemical treatments can gradually weaken hair fibers, leading to dryness, breakage, and fading colour over time



CLELIA CECILIA ANGELON

Hair damage rarely happens overnight. Dullness, dryness, loss of shine, breakage, and premature color fading are often the result of cumulative stress that builds up over time. One of the main contributors is frequent exposure to excessive heat, whether from intense sun exposure, blow dryers, flat irons, curling tools, or other heat sources.

When hair is repeatedly subjected to high temperatures, its natural moisture content decreases, making the fiber more vulnerable to dryness, porosity, and reduced strength. In many cases, these effects are ampli-

fied when combined with repeated chemical treatments.

What Excessive Heat Does to Hair

The cuticle, the outer protective layer of the hair, helps retain moisture and preserve the integrity of the hair fiber. Frequent exposure to excessive heat can gradually compromise this protective barrier, leading to frizz, loss of shine, and increased fragility.

Heat styling tools used at very high temperatures can accelerate the evaporation of water from within the hair shaft, contributing to structural changes that weaken the fiber over time. For this reason, regular exposure to intense heat requires additional care to help maintain healthy-looking hair.

The Role of Chemical Coloring Processes

While heat contributes to hair wear and tear, one of the most significant factors associated with cumulative



damage in color-treated hair is the repeated use of alkaline agents commonly found in conventional hair color products.

Ingredients such as ammonia, ethanalamine, diethanolamine, and triethanolamine are used to open the cuticle and allow pigments to enter or be lifted from the hair. While this process is effective for coloring, repeated exposure can increase porosity, contribute to dryness, and reduce the overall resilience of the hair fiber. Many consumers notice these effects through rougher texture, faster color fading, scalp sen-



sitivity, and a growing need for intensive conditioning and repair treatments.

How Henna Creams Work Differently

Henna creams offer a different approach to hair coloring. Rather than relying on aggressive alkaline systems to alter the hair structure, henna deposits color in a gentler way that better respects the hair's natural integrity.

This characteristic can be especially beneficial for hair that is already exposed to frequent heat styling or has undergone multiple chemical treatments over time.

In addition, cream-based henna formulations have made the coloring process more convenient by eliminating many of the preparation and application challenges traditionally associated with powdered henna, while preserving its plant-based origin.

A New Approach to Caring for Color-Treated Hair

Maintaining healthy hair involves multiple factors, but reducing excessive heat exposure and choosing gentler coloring systems can make a meaningful difference in the appearance and condition of the hair over time.

As a result, more consumers are seeking alternatives that provide beautiful color without adding unnecessary chemical stress to the hair fiber. Henna creams represent one practical option for achieving that balance.

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

Nia Sharma shares unique take on how fame works today



Television actress Nia Sharma has shared a unique perspective on fame. She offered her thoughts on how stardom is perceived in today's fast-moving entertainment industry.

In her recent post, she compared the nature of modern fame to something instantly accessible and widely enjoyed. Taking to Instagram, the 'Naagin' actress posted her sultry video and wrote, "Fame today is like instant noodles. everyone enjoys!" In the clip, Nia is seen dressed in a shimmering, stylish saree and striking different sultry poses for the camera. Notably, her 'Ek Hazaron Main Meri Behna Hai' co-star and dear friend Krystle Dsouza commented, "For 2 mins max."

In April, Nia Sharma and Krystle D'Souza, who are known for their

on-screen sisterly bond in 'Ek Hazaron Mein Meri Behna Hai,' were spotted enjoying a fun-filled long drive in Nia's luxury car. Krystle also took to her social media account and shared a light-hearted video of the duo having a great time during the ride. She captioned it as, "High on coffee and some careless whispers."

Nia often shares her videos and photos on social media.

On the work front, Nia is widely known for her performances in television shows such as "Behenein," "Ek Hazaron Mein Meri Behna Hai," "Meri Durga," and "Kaal - Ek Agnipariksha." In 2020, she participated in "Khatron Ke Khiladi: Made in India" and emerged as the winner. She has also appeared in popular web series including "Twisted" and "Jamai 2.0."

Soha Ali Khan talks about passing down her favourite childhood toy to daughter Inaaya

Soha Ali Khan has spoken about how her favourite toy, whom she lovingly named Elliott, shaped her childhood and also revealed that she passed it down to her daughter, Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, as the actress wanted her little one to experience the same joy of creating her own little world.

In a nostalgic video, Soha reflected on her favourite childhood companion, a stuffed toy dog named Elliott, and the countless adventures she created alongside her siblings, Saif Ali Khan and Saba Ali Khan.

Soha shared in the video: "One of my most favourite summer vacation memories is just sitting with Bhai, with my sister Apa and making up stories around Elliott. One of us would start the story, another would continue it, and third would add a twist; and by the end of the afternoon, Elliott had travelled the world, solved mysteries, and made the most unlikely friends."

The actress recalled how



her brother Saif Ali Khan would "hide clues around the house" and her sister Saba Ali Khan Pataudi "would draw up a treasure map."

She added: "And I would lead the investigation through Elliott. I remember entire afternoons just disappearing as we solved mysteries that basically existed only in our imaginations."

"It was never really about the toy itself. It was about

everything our imagination allowed it to become," she said. Soha sees those same qualities come alive in her daughter, Inaaya.

"When Inaaya was born, I really wanted her to experience that same joy of creating her own little world, so starting with Elliott; I gave Elliott to her and now her favourite toy is stuffed animals. One day she is reading to them, she's cooking for them, she's teaching them

lessons," she shared.

Soha said that watching her imagination take over is "honestly one of my favourite things."

The actress took to the caption section, where she mentioned that "a toy is never just a toy."

"It's an adventure waiting to happen - a window to imagination, create, and the beginning of some of our most cherished childhood memories. I watched my first #ToyStory movie with my family and the legacy has been such a big part of my childhood and growing up years!" She added: "As Disney and Pixar's Toy Story 5 releases in cinemas, what I love most is that this new chapter not only reunites us with Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Jessie and the gang, but also asks a very important question for today's children and parents: how do we continue to nurture imagination in a world increasingly shaped by screens?"

Disney and Pixar's Toy Story 5 releases in India on June 19.

DOWN

2 A soft felt hat (6)

3 Abrasion (6)

4 Light source (3)

5 Cooked in an oven (5)

6 Sightseer (7)

7 Vessels for ashes (4)

8 Spell (6)

12 Full of pathogens (5)

13 Prolong vowels (5)

14 Openly manifest (5)

15 Hindu goddess of war (5)

16 Trunk (5)

18 Plume or pride oneself (5)

19 Small onion (7)

21 Bottom of the crankcase (3,3)

22 Reach or gain (6)

23 Distinctive periods (6)

25 You receive them on your birthday? (5)

26 Prod (4)

28 Jamaican popular music (3)

ACROSS

1 Kick up ____ (1,4)

6 Paint solvent (5)

9 Gallery custodian (7)

10 Embellish (5)

11 Deprive of weapons (5)

12 Toothed wheels (5)

13 Let or allowed to fall (7)

15 Small spot (3)

17 Wild party (4)

18 False or insincere, as a prefix (6)

19 Intelligent (5)

20 Deserving (6)

22 Grows old (4)

24 Illuminated (3)

25 Nazi secret police (7)

26 Clear (5)

27 Reel (5)

28 Cheekiness (5)

29 Thor Heyerdahl's raft (3-4)

30 Beginning (5)

31 Worry (5)

Solution to June 16

NOT OUT J V F
A R HOMICIDE
S WAKE N V I
SMITHY OGLING
A TOZ O LADEN
USSR QUEER W
C WEIRD E A
O WIDEN LARA
EUROS T UARD
GREETS UPHELD
E G F RIOS L
EVALUATE R E
D L L AGE OLD

SUDOKU

Solution to June 16

6 2 9 1 4 7 8 3 5
1 8 3 6 9 5 4 7 2
7 4 5 8 2 3 6 1 9
9 3 6 7 8 4 2 5 1
2 1 8 3 5 9 7 6 4
5 7 4 2 6 1 3 9 8
3 6 2 9 1 8 5 4 7
4 9 7 5 3 2 1 8 6
8 5 1 4 7 6 9 2 3

'Western wear kinda gal' Zeenat Aman reveals Manish Malhotra's trick to make her comfortable in sarees

Veteran actress Zeenat Aman, who is often dubbed the queen of Instagram, has shared how celebrity fashion designer and producer Manish Malhotra ensured comfort for her on the sets of her film 'Bun Tikki'.

On Monday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a few pictures of herself wearing sarees on the sets of the film. The actress shared while she has a natural affinity for western styling, Manish ensured she feels comfortable wearing sarees. The trick was that Manish turned all sarees by making them ready to wear.

She penned a long note in the caption as she wrote, "Shooting 'Bun Tikki' was such a sweet, endearing experience. Working on it showed me how much I have grown to appreciate gentle stories that unravel human intricacies without the "pow boom bang" aggression of masala formula flicks. My wardrobe for the



film was exquisite, and I felt reinvented in the saris @manishmalhotra05 designed for me. Now it's evident that I'm more of a western wear kinda gal, so Manish eased me back into traditional clothes by making each of these saris "ready to wear". Sheer genius."

She further mentioned, "That made 12 hour shoot days and long hours of styling oh so comfortable. There is no doubt great beauty and legacy to draping a sari, but for those of us who don't

have the patience or skill, this is the ultimate hack. Ladies, have you tried wearing a sari in this style? Your thoughts?"

Earlier, the actress took a trip down memory lane and reflected on how her return to the screen after the birth of her first son, Azaan, was possible only because of the support of her mother.

She revealed she was going through a rough patch in her married life at the time and just wanted to escape her personal life.



NARAYANA, A PLACE WHERE ASPIRATIONS TURN INTO AIRs

From Olympiad gold to JEE Advanced AIR 5: The remarkable rise of Kuchi

HARI NARAYANAN
HYDERABAD

At 18, Kuchi Sandeep from Visakhapatnam has emerged as one of India's most promising young minds.

Kuchi secured an outstanding AIR 5 in JEE Advanced 2026 after earlier achieving AIR 37 in JEE Main 2026. A student of Narayana, Hyderabad, his achievement places him among the country's top engineering aspirants.

But Kuchi's success story extends far beyond competitive examinations. He had already earned international recognition by winning a gold medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad held in the UAE. He is now preparing to represent India once again at the upcoming International Chemistry Olympiad in Uzbekistan.

Aspiring to study Computer Science at IIT Bombay and build a career in technology, Kuchi believes the future belongs to innovation, while retaining a healthy perspective on the opportunities and challenges posed by artificial intelligence.

Q. Congratulations on securing AIR 5 in JEE Advanced. Before we talk about preparation and strategy, take us back to those crucial moments—the day before the results were announced, the day the results were declared, and the day after.

Kuchi: Those 3 days were a rollercoaster of emotions. My exam had gone well, I was expecting a decent result but every second was filled with mixed emotions—fear, excitement and anticipation. The moment results were announced I was overjoyed. It was a proud moment for my family and to be honest, I was very very proud of myself.

Q. The moment students open their JEE Advanced results is something they remember forever. What happened when you finally saw AIR 5 on the screen? What was your immediate reaction, and how did your family respond?

Kuchi: The moment I opened the results I was on cloud 9. It was a dream come true. A single digit all India rank was in itself a very proud moment for me, but top 5 was a cherry on the cake.

Q. When did you first begin to believe that securing a top rank in one of the toughest exams in the country was possible? Was there a particular moment when you felt, "Yes, I can do this"?

Kuchi: In the days before JEE Advanced I did really well on my mock tests. Combined with my previous Chemistry Olympiad selection it gave me the confidence that I could secure a top rank

Q. Narayana is often described as a place where aspirations turn into AIRs. How did you choose Narayana?

Kuchi: I visited the campus and I really liked the teachers there. I also felt the regular Narayana testing did help my JEE preparations.

Q. Many people assume that top rankers have their careers planned from childhood. Tell us about your journey. When did your serious JEE preparation actually begin, and how different was your experience from what people generally imagine?

Kuchi: I studied in a CBSE school before

Narayana. In Class 9th, I joined Narayana for the Junior Science Olympiad and I have been with them since. I began my journey by Olympiad preparation and started serious JEE prep in 11th grade. My journey was quite similar to what people imagine but a less intense version of it.

Q. JEE preparation is often described as a two-year marathon rather than a sprint. What did your daily routine look like during the most intense phase of preparation, and how did you maintain consistency over such a long period?

Kuchi: I made sure that I spent a considerable chunk of my day trying to solve

different kinds of problems from different sources. I also made sure I revised previous topics while reading new ones. I maintained consistency over a long period by treating each mock test I gave as the final exam which always made me give my best.

Q. There is a popular belief that students who secure top ranks study 14 to 16 hours a day. Was that your reality, or do you believe success is more about the quality of study rather than the quantity of hours?

Kuchi: I believe both are important. Quantity is important until one can ensure at least 8-10 hours of study but after that further increase in quantity will just worsen the quality. After reaching a minimum it is much more important to focus on quality of study.

Q. A journey as demanding as JEE preparation inevitably comes with moments of pressure, self-doubt, and frustration. Were there times when you felt overwhelmed, and how did you navigate those difficult phases?

Kuchi: Bad tests always made me feel down. I overcame it by looking back at my good test results and talking to my parents and teachers.

Q. Apart from the guidance of Narayana's teachers and mentors, family support often plays a crucial role behind the scenes. How important were your parents, family members, and friends during these two years of preparation?

Kuchi: My parents stayed with me throughout my JEE prep so I was able to come back home instead of a hostel which was helpful. Also, my parents gave me motivation whenever I did badly in tests.

Q. Many IIT graduates eventually choose careers in technology, entrepreneurship, research, or even the Civil Services. Have you thought about the path you would like to pursue in the long run, and what attracts you to that field?

Kuchi: I would like to pursue a career in technology. Modern technology is fascinating to me, I would like to be a part in discovering it.

Q. If engineering had not been your chosen path, what other career options would have interested you? Were there any subjects or professions outside engineering that genuinely appealed to you?

Kuchi: If I hadn't chosen engineering, I would have chosen research in chemistry.

Q. Now that you have secured a rank that gives you access to the country's finest institutes, which IIT and branch are you aiming for, and what makes that choice special for you?

Kuchi: IIT Bombay Computer Science. The field is rapidly growing and changing and therefore seems exciting.

Q. As someone preparing to enter the technology world at a time when Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming industries, what are your thoughts on AI? Do you see it primarily as an opportunity, or are there concerns that students should be mindful of?

Kuchi: It is both an opportunity and a concern. It will take over a lot of jobs which can easily be automated and don't require deep thinking but it will also make jobs easier.

Q. India will celebrate 100 years of Independence in 2047. Looking ahead to that milestone, what kind of technological future do you envision for the country? Do you think innovations such as flying cars and advanced urban mobility could become a reality in everyday life?

Kuchi: I think flying cars and all are still science fiction in the near future but I envision a future where most repetitive and boring tasks are automated.

Q. Finally, lakhs of students across India are currently preparing for JEE while dealing with pressure, uncertainty, and fear of failure. Having successfully completed this journey, what message would you like to share with them?

Kuchi: Work hard and stay focused so that you can achieve your dreams.



Kuchi Sandeep



IIT Madras celebrates international graduates

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) celebrated the achievements of its international students during a special Degree Distribution Programme, where graduating scholars from across the world received degrees across postgraduate and doctoral programmes.

The event marked the successful completion of studies for international students enrolled in programmes including MTech, MS, PhD, joint degrees and other international academic collaborations. Graduates representing several countries participated in the ceremony, highlighting the institute's growing global academic presence.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India, congratulated the graduating students and encouraged them to apply the knowledge, skills and research experience gained at IIT Madras to address global challenges, particularly those affecting developing nations.

He urged students to use innovation and technology to contribute to sustainable development and problem-solving in an era of rapid technological transformation. Emphasising the importance of global cooperation, he noted that highly skilled graduates have an important role to play in addressing issues related to economic development, infrastructure, healthcare, education and climate resilience.

The ceremony also reflected India's growing role as an international higher education destination. Over the years, IIT Madras has expanded opportunities for students from different countries through scholarships, academic partnerships and dedicated international outreach initiatives.

The institute offers several support mechanisms for overseas students, including scholarships under the IIT Madras Global Engagement initiatives, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) programme, the Study in

India initiative and other international collaborations. These efforts have helped attract talented students from Asia, Africa and other regions.

Officials noted that international enrolment at IIT Madras has steadily increased in recent years, with strong participation from countries across the Global South. The institute has also strengthened global academic engagement through research collaborations, exchange programmes and international partnerships.

For many graduating students, the ceremony marked not only the completion of their academic journey but also the beginning of careers in research, industry, entrepreneurship and public service. The event underscored the growing importance of international education and the role of institutions such as IIT Madras in preparing graduates to contribute to global development through science, technology and innovation.

TODAY IS NATIONAL EAT YOUR VEGETABLES DAY

Honing healthy habits early

Vegetables are an important part of a balanced diet and play a key role in helping children grow strong and stay healthy. Packed with essential vitamins, minerals, fiber and antioxidants, vegetables provide the nutrients needed for healthy bones, muscles and overall development.

Eating a variety of vegetables every day can help improve immunity and protect children from common illnesses. Leafy greens, carrots, tomatoes, beans, peas and other colorful vegetables contain nutrients that support healthy eyesight, brain development and energy levels. They also aid digestion and help maintain

a healthy weight.

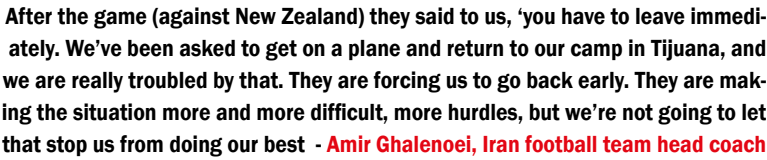
Health experts recommend including vegetables in every meal to ensure children receive a wide range of nutrients. Different colors of vegetables provide different benefits. For example, orange vegetables such as carrots and pumpkins are rich in vitamin A, while green vegetables like spinach and broccoli contain iron and calcium that are important for growth and strong bones.

Developing healthy eating habits at an early age can have long-term benefits. Parents and teachers can encourage children to eat vegetables by offering colorful salads, soups and healthy snacks. Involving children

in gardening or helping with simple meal preparation can also make them more interested in trying different vegetables.

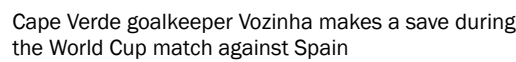
Eating vegetables regularly not only helps children stay active and energetic but also supports concentration and learning. A nutritious diet, combined with regular physical activity and adequate sleep, contributes to overall health and well-being. By making vegetables a regular part of their meals, children can build healthy habits that will benefit them throughout their lives. Small changes in daily eating patterns can make a big difference in helping children grow into healthy and happy adults.





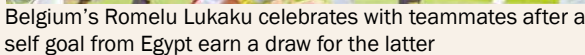
Vozinha, 40, makes seven saves to hold Spain's star-studded lineup to shocking 0-0 draw

And his mother had been unable to gather the money in time to secure a visa to enter the US, Vozinha said. Cape Verde is among 50 countries



at the professional level until Vozinha made his debut at the age of 25 for Angolan club Progresso. Since then, he's had stops in Moldova, Cyprus, Slovakia and Portugal, where he currently plays for Chaves in the Portuguese second division. He joined the national team in 2012 and at times, Vozinha said, he thought about retiring from the national team, but he "continued

Years later, he took on the nickname after someone else on his club also had the same first name, Josimar. These days, Cape Verde defender Steven Moreira said he and his teammates like to tease Vozinha about his age. He said he was proud of the keeper, calling him a "big legend" who had a "crazy game" and showed that age doesn't matter.

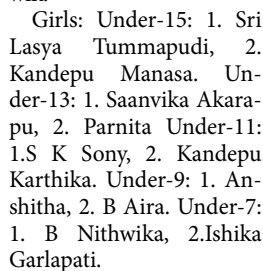


their fourth World Cup, still have never won a game at the tournament. Belgium failed to advance past the group stage at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and has not won any of its last three matches in the tournament. Egypt had numerous chances to increase its lead but could not put the Red Devils away. Lukaku and teammate Kevin De Bruyne also had an abundance of opportunities to take the lead. (AP)

- France vs Senegal 12:30 am at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey
- Iraq vs Norway 3:30 am at Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Massachusetts
- Argentina vs Algeria 6:30 am at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri
- Austria vs Jordan 9:30 am at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, California
- Portugal vs Congo DR 10:30 pm at NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas

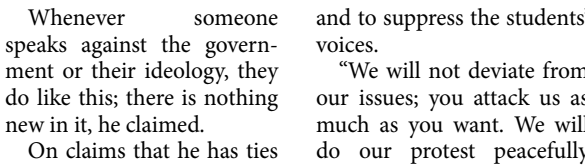
- England vs Croatia 1:30 am at AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas
- Ghana vs Panama 4:30 am at BMO Field, Toronto, Canada
- Uzbekistan vs Colombia 7:30 am at Estadio Banorte, Mexico City, Mexico
- Czechia vs South Africa 9:30 pm at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia

THE Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) has announced that it will issue legal notices to several film personalities, cricketers and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) officials over their alleged association with the proposed



Bolarum Sporting continued to battle hard and created a late chance through Abhishek, but he was unable to find the target.

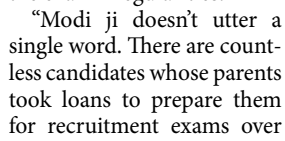
The CJP founder was allegedly slapped multiple times by two men while supporters carried him on their shoulders during a protest in Jaipur on Monday. Two youths have been detained in connection with the incident.



“We will not deviate from our issues; you attack us as much as you want. We will do our protest peacefully

Elaborate security arrangements have been made ahead of the protest in Nagpur, officials said. PTI

“Whether it’s deploying the Indian Air Force, blocking Telegram, or catching small fish to protect the paper leak mafia - this is all something the Modi government has to do because in the last

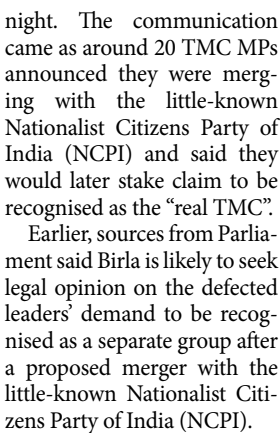


Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will also be addressing a few student conventions across the country starting June 17 in Kota while seeking to unite the student community against the Modi government over the paper leaks.

A candidate is required to secure a minimum of 28 first-preference votes to emerge victorious. The BJP-led NDA does not have the numbers in the state assembly to make Nathwani a winner in the polls, unless there is cross-voting, a ruling party legislator said. In the Jharkhand Assembly, the INDIA bloc has 56 members, comprising 34 from the JMM, 16 from the Congress, four from the RJD and two from CPI(ML) Liberation.

Ghosh Dastidar's statement came a day after NCPI founder Shewli Kundu told reporters that she had stepped down as the NCPI chief, triggering speculation that Ghosh Dastidar herself had taken charge of the party.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will hear the defected TMC MPs as well as the faction led by Mamata Banerjee before deciding on giving recognition to the breakaway faction, sources said. Meanwhile, sources from the Mamata-led TMC said that on Monday, its leader Abhishek Banerjee was called for a meeting with Birla at a two-hour notice when he was still being questioned by the ED. TMC sources said Banerjee got an email from the speaker's office at around



KOLKATA: Two persons were arrested on Tuesday morning, allegedly for throwing eggs at Trinamool Congress MLAs. Kunal Ghosh outside party supremo Mamata Banerjee's residence here, a senior police officer said. Chandan Singh and Ravi Koyal were arrested following a complaint lodged by Ghosh late on Monday evening. "An FIR was registered immediately. One accused was detained in the night, and based on information gathered during his interrogation, the second accused was arrested on Tuesday morning," a senior police officer said.

Notably, the mascot of the undivided Shiv Sena was a tiger drawn by party founder Bal Thackeray. Thackeray on Sunday called a meeting of



A separate and practical contingency plan should be developed for each vulnerable district ahead of for Kharif season with special attention to water conservation, moisture management, intercropping, and alternative crop patterns

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Agriculture Minister

BIZ BRIEFS

Beautyverse by Amazon

Amazon India has announced the third edition of Beautyverse, its flagship beauty discovery event, scheduled for June 20 in Mumbai. Siddharth Bhagat, Director, Amazon India, said: "Last year, Beautyverse brought together over 1,400 attendees and brands who witnessed 1.6X growth in their business post the event. This year, we're bringing together over 2,000 attendees, 70 brands, India's biggest celebrities, more than 600 creators and Prime members."

GHR Infra's project in Hyd

GHR Infra has commenced Phase 1 handovers at GHR Callisto, its premium residential community in Kollur, marking a key milestone for the 1,190-apartment project in West Hyderabad. Spread across 8.3 acres, the IGBC pre-certified Gold-rated development comprises four towers and offers 2, 2.5, 3 and 4 BHK homes. The project features a 50,000 sq ft clubhouse, nearly 70 per cent open space, smart-home automation and sustainability-focused amenities, including EV charging stations and rainwater harvesting systems.

Isuzu unveils service camp

Isuzu Motors India has announced a nationwide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Monsoon Service Camp' for its D-MAX pick-up and SUV range from June 18-24. The initiative will offer customers a free 37-point vehicle check-up along with discounts on labour, parts, lubricants, roadside assistance, extended warranty and select service packages. The camp will be conducted across all authorised ISUZU service outlets nationwide, aiming to ensure preventive maintenance and a hassle-free driving experience during the monsoon season.

Hero, Salesforce collaborates

Salesforce, an agentic SCRM, announced its collaboration with Hero FinCorp, an NBFC, to revolutionise loan processing with Agentforce. Abhimanyu Munjal, MD, Hero FinCorp, said: "At Hero FinCorp, we are leveraging AI, data and digital innovation to transform the way customers access credit. As we continue to scale our business and expand financial inclusion across India, enhancing speed, efficiency and customer experience through technology remains a strategic priority."

JCB logs milestone

JCB India has produced and sold its 600,000th machine in the country, marking a significant milestone in its over four decades of operations in India. The milestone machine is a Backhoe Loader, one of the country's most widely used construction equipment models.Deepak Shetty, CEO, JCB India, said: "This milestone is much more than a number. It reflects the trust that customers have placed in JCB over several decades."

Telangana, AP among revenue deficit states: CAG

NEW DELHI

UTTAR Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur, and 9 other states recorded surplus revenues in 2024-25, while the remaining 15 states had a deficit.

Eighteen states targeted revenue surplus, 3 states targeted revenue deficit, and 7 targeted zero revenue deficit in FY 2024-25, according to a report on 'State Finances 2024-25' released by Comptroller and Auditor General of India K Sanjay Murthy on Tuesday.

"In FY 2024-25, 15 states were revenue-deficient while the rest 13 states were revenue surplus," the report said.

Of the 18 states that targeted revenue surplus, 9 achieved the target, while Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh,

UP, Gujarat, Jharkhand, 10 other states recorded revenue surplus in FY25

Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, and Telangana ended up being revenue deficit in 2024-25.

Seven states -- Goa, Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh -- targeted a zero-revenue deficit.

Among them, 4 states -- Goa, Jharkhand, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh -- achieved a revenue surplus, whereas Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu ended the year with a revenue deficit.

Of the 15 states that were revenue-deficient in 2024-25, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab and West Bengal received Finance Commission revenue deficit grants.

The report further said that if the indicative fiscal deficit target of 3 per cent of the GSDP, fixed by the Fifteenth Finance Commission for 2024-25, for states' fiscal consolidation path is considered, then 18 states were above the target.

The aggregate revenue deficit of 15 revenue-deficit states, without netting revenue surplus of 13 states, stood at Rs3,46,385 crore, which was 1.5 per cent of their combined GSDP. The net revenue deficit, after adjusting the revenue surplus in 13 states, stood at Rs2,19,041 crore, 0.68 per cent of the combined GSDP of all 28 states.

"I hope that the publica-

tion on State Finances 2024-25 will serve as a useful evidence-based resource for governments, researchers, policymakers and citizens, enabling a deeper understanding of state finances and supporting informed fiscal decision-making," CAG Murthy said.

The publication highlights the growing importance of states' own tax revenues, which accounted for 50 per cent of the combined total revenue receipts of Rs40.52 lakh crore across the 28 states in 2024-25.

State GST constituted more than 43 per cent of the combined states' own tax revenues. The combined budgetary expenditure of all

states stood at Rs 51.20 lakh crore in 2024-25, equivalent to 15.78 per cent of their combined GSDP.

The decadal trend shows that salaries, pensions and interest payments continue to constitute a major share of revenue expenditure.

In 2024-25, such committed expenditure exceeded 43 per cent of the combined revenue expenditure of the 28 states, with significant inter-state variation -- from 74 per cent in Nagaland to 29 per cent in Maharashtra.

As of March 31, 2025, the total liabilities of the states stood at Rs 90.51 lakh crore. All 28 states recorded a fiscal deficit.

A decadal analysis of defi-



cit parameters shows that states as a whole, during the period 2015-16 to 2024-25, remained in revenue and fiscal deficit. A substantial increase in revenue deficit took place in 2020-21, a year impacted by the Covid pandemic.

There has been a substantial increase in the fiscal defi-

cit in 2020-21 and 2024-25.

The states which witnessed a substantial increase in fiscal deficit in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24 were Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

OIL PRICES SET TO EASE AFTER US-IRAN DEAL

However, prices unlikely return to previous levels immediately: Analysts

NEW DELHI

CRUDE oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices are expected to moderate following signs of a potential US-Iran peace agreement and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, although analysts cautioned that supply disruptions, damaged infrastructure and tight inventories could keep energy markets volatile for months.

The prospect of normalised shipping through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz has already triggered a sharp decline in geopolitical risk premiums, helping Brent crude retreat about 20 per cent from recent highs, while LNG benchmark prices have also softened.

"The potential reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, amid signs of de-escalation



in the West Asia conflict, has triggered a sharp decline in geopolitical risk premiums in energy markets," said Sehul Bhatt, Director, Crisil Intelligence. Bhatt said the decline in crude prices, coupled with recent increases in domestic fuel prices and reductions in excise duties, had largely offset under-recoveries on automobile fuels, easing pressure on petrol and diesel market-

ing margins.

"The cumulative under-recovery on petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas during March-May 2026 is estimated at approximately Rs1 lakh crore. If the Indian crude basket remains below \$90 per barrel, under-recoveries are unlikely to increase materially from current levels," he said.

Lower crude prices would

also help reduce inflationary pressures, and India's energy import bill, Bhatt added, though he cautioned that it could take weeks or months for global oil and gas markets to fully normalise.

"While the risk of prolonged supply disruption has eased, it may take several weeks or months for crude oil and LNG markets to fully normalise," Bhatt said. "In the near term, uncertainties around the implementation of the peace deal could continue to drive volatility in energy markets."

Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head, Corporate Ratings at ICRA Ltd, said a successful US-Iran agreement would ease crude and gas prices, but a return to pre-conflict levels could take significantly longer.

Primary markets lose steam in 2026

NEW DELHI: After a strong run in 2025, India's primary market witnessed a slowdown with 23 companies tapping the Initial Public Offering (IPO) route to mobilise over Rs 27,000 crore in 2026 so far, amid heightened volatility and macro uncertainty, according to a report released by Equirus Capital on Tuesday.

This came following a launch of 103 maiden public issues in 2025, together raising Rs 1.76 lakh crore. This fundraising figure far exceeded the Rs 1.6 lakh crore raised by 90 firms in



2024 and the Rs 49,436 crore garnered by 57 companies in 2023.

However, the IPO activity is showing signs of a major pickup as geopolitical tension eased with insurtech firm Turtlemint Fintech Solutions and Advit Jewels slated to launch their public issues this month. Further, Waterways Leisure Tourism

Ltd, the operator of Cordelia Cruises, is also expected to come out with its maiden public offering this month. The public issues of insurtech firm Turtlemint Fintech Solutions and Advit Jewels are scheduled to open on June 19 and June 23, respectively.

Additionally, the country's largest stock exchange NSE is expected to file its preliminary papers with Sebi this week. Further, quick commerce unicorn Zepto and the largest fund house SBI Mutual Funds plan to launch their public issues next month, people aware of the matter

said. In June, CMR Green Technologies and Hexagon Nutrition have already floated their IPOs.

Moreover, the pipeline remains robust and as of May 2026, with 236 mainboard IPO draft papers were in the pipeline, including 163 with valid Sebi's observations and 73 awaiting regulatory observations, according to Equirus Capital report.

Going by the report, IPO activity peaked sharply on September 25 with 25 issues, capitalising on buoyant markets and strong domestic inflows during that period.

Atria Renewable expands solar footprint

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

ATRIA Renewable Private Limited, a Bengaluru-based solar energy company, has announced the launch of its regional operations across Andhra Pradesh, starting with Mangalagiri and Vijayawada. This expansion reinforces the company's commitment to accelerating clean energy adoption across South India's fast-growing urban centres.

Atria Renewable specialises in bringing high-quality,

hassle-free rooftop solar to residential and commercial customers, completing most installations within a matter of hours, and providing customers with 24/7 real-time performance monitoring through its proprietary Namma Atria App. With every system backed by a 30-year warranty and five years of complimentary quarterly maintenance, the company has built its proposition around making the switch to solar as seamless and reliable as possible for Indian homes and businesses.

SpaceX nears Microsoft's valuation

NEW DELHI: Shares of Elon Musk-backed space and satellite company SpaceX continued their remarkable post-listing rally, with the stock trading above \$220 in overnight trading and pushing the company's market capitalisation close to tech giant Microsoft, a market commentary platform said on Tuesday.

In a post on X, The Kobeissi Letter said SpaceX is now valued at less than \$100 billion below Microsoft, while the stock has gained about 63 per cent from its IPO price of \$135 per share since its market debut on June 12.

The rally has propelled the combined market capitalisation of SpaceX and Tesla to a record \$4.4 trillion, exceeding Apple's market value and approaching that of Google, according to the platform. It described the surge as un-

precedented, saying no initial public offering in history had witnessed a rally of such magnitude in such a short period. SpaceX raised a record \$85.7 billion after underwriters exercised the greenshoe overallotment option, making it one of the largest IPO fundraising exercises ever. In addition, the rally has significantly boosted Elon Musk's personal fortune, with Musk's net worth surpassing \$1.3 trillion, a level never before reached by an individual.

At that valuation, Musk's wealth exceeds the market capitalisation of all but 12 publicly listed companies worldwide, the platform noted. It further said that the combined value of SpaceX and Tesla now surpasses that of Apple, underscoring the scale of investor enthusiasm surrounding Musk's business empire.

Mkts rally for 3rd day on positive trends

The rally was broad-based, with notable gains in IT, realty, FMCG, and oil & gas sectors

MUMBAI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rose for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, propelled by a positive trend in global markets and softening crude oil prices following a peace deal between the US and Iran.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 544.15 points, or 0.71 per cent, to settle at 76,808.48 following gains in IT, select energy and banking stocks. Intraday, it surged 582.41 points, or 0.76 per cent, to 76,846.74. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 135.25 points, or 0.57 per cent, to end at 23,989.15.

During the day, it jumped 148.7 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 24,002.60. In three straight sessions, Sensex jumped 2,975.93 points, or 4 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 827.55 points, or 3.57 per cent. Foreign investors turning net buyers in Indian equities also



boosted the sentiment, according to experts.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, HCL Tech rose the most by 3.59 per cent a day after the IT major announced a Rs 1,427 crore investment in government-backed sovereign AI model developer Sarvam AI for a 10.46 per cent stake. Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services

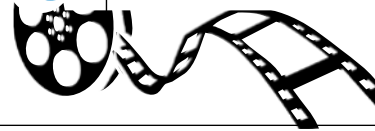
and Bajaj Finance were also among the winners. InterGlobe Aviation, UltraTech Cement, Maruti and Tata Steel were among the laggards.

"Domestic equity markets continued their recovery momentum, buoyed by growing optimism around a de-escalation in US-Iran tensions and softening crude oil prices. The rally was broad-

based, with notable gains in IT, realty, FMCG, and oil & gas sectors," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Broader markets also ended higher. The BSE MidCap Select index climbed 0.64 per cent and SmallCap Select index went up by 0.59 per cent. Sectorally, Realty jumped 2.27 per cent, Focused IT (1.72 per cent), IT (1.66 per cent), FMCG (1.12 per cent), Energy (1 per cent) and Oil & Gas (0.85 per cent). Metal, Commodities and Auto were among the laggards. A total of 2,368 stocks advanced, while 1,886 declined and 153 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday, purchasing equities worth Rs 200.05 crore on net basis, according to exchange data.



OTT deals crisis puts big-budget films under financial pressure

SUHAS SISTU

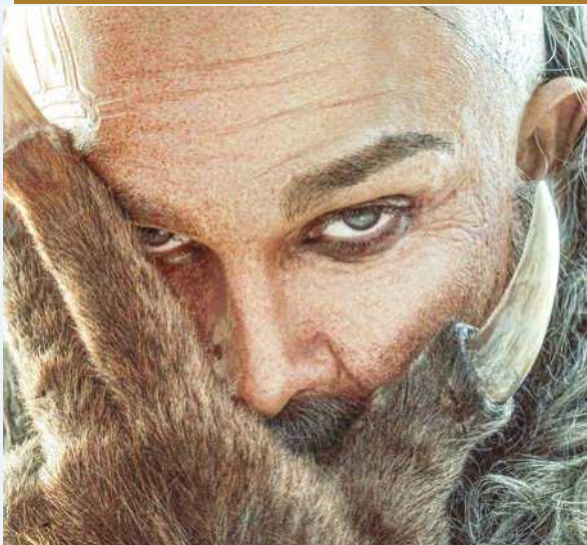
The Indian film industry is facing a new financial challenge as OTT deals, once considered a major source of revenue recovery, have witnessed a significant decline. Streaming platforms are reportedly reducing acquisition budgets, leaving producers of several big-budget films under mounting pressure.

Industry sources indicate that major upcoming projects, including Varanasi, Raaka, and Toxic, are finding it difficult to secure digital deals at their expected valuations. While producers have quoted premium prices for streaming rights, OTT platforms are reportedly offering less than one-third of those amounts, creating a substantial gap between expectations and market realities.

The slowdown has become a major concern because digital rights have played a crucial role in helping producers recover a significant portion of production investments in recent years. With production costs and star remunerations continuing to rise, filmmakers are now relying more heavily on theatrical collections to achieve profitability.

Several Telugu and Hindi films are reportedly yet to finalize their digital agreements due to pricing disa-

The sharp decline in OTT acquisition prices has created fresh challenges for film producers across India. With digital platforms significantly reducing their spending, several high-profile projects are struggling to close streaming deals, increasing dependence on theatrical performance for financial recovery.



greements. Even some of the country's most anticipated projects are facing uncertainty in this area. Reports suggest that Shah Rukh Khan's King is yet to conclude its OTT deal, while films such as Vishwambara starring Chiranjeevi and Prabhas' Fauzi are also awaiting digital partners before key release-related decisions can be finalized. Industry insiders claim that many

streaming platforms have informed producers that their annual content acquisition budgets have already been allocated, making fresh negotiations increasingly difficult. This has led to growing anxiety among producers who have invested heavily in large-scale productions.

As the OTT market undergoes a correction phase, filmmakers are being forced to rethink recovery strate-



gies. For now, the success of many big-ticket films may depend largely on their theatrical performance, mark-

ing a significant shift from the OTT-driven business model that dominated the industry in recent years.

'Nagabandham' promises a grand visual spectacle: DOP Soundararajan

With its worldwide release scheduled for July 3, Nagabandham – The Secret Treasure is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious Telugu films of the year. Starring Virat Karna in the lead role and directed by Abhishek Nama, the epic adventure thriller has already created significant buzz through its promotional content. Now, cinematographer S. Soundararajan has shared fascinating insights into the making of the film, revealing the scale, research, and technical efforts that went into bringing the story to life.

According to Soundararajan, the film's biggest highlights are the visually stunning Anantha Padmanabha Swamy temple sequences and a grand climax designed to leave audiences mesmerized. He explained that extensive research was carried out before production began, with the director, art director, and cinematography team visiting several temples, including the famous Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, to study intricate architectural and cultural details.

The production team then recreated a fictional temple setting called "Srirangapuram," blending influences from iconic South Indian temples. Massive sets were constructed on a scale rarely seen in Telugu cinema, presenting one of the biggest challenges for the cinematography department. Soundararajan revealed that advanced drone technology and specialized camera equipment were used to capture the enormous sets in immersive single-shot sequences.

The cinematographer also praised director Abhishek Nama's vision, describing him as a filmmaker with exceptional clarity and storytelling ambition. He noted that the makers never compromised on quality, with certain sequences reportedly mounted on a massive budget to achieve the desired grandeur and realism.



Produced by Kishore Annapureddy and Nishita Nagireddy under the Nick Studios banner, Nagabandham also stars Nabha Natesh, Aishwarya Menon, Jagapathi Babu, Mahesh Manjrekar, and Rishabh Sawhney in pivotal roles.

Soundararajan further lauded lead actor Virat Karna's dedication, revealing that he performed demanding scenes in extreme weather conditions and remained committed despite health challenges during filming.

Blending mythology, fiction, adventure, and drama, Nagabandham aims to offer audiences a visually rich and spiritually immersive cinematic experience. With grand visuals, extensive VFX work, and a divine musical backdrop, the film is expected to deliver a unique theatrical spectacle when it arrives in cinemas on July 3.

'Odiyan' marks Dharma Productions' Malayalam debut; Prithviraj in lead

Dharma Productions is expanding its footprint into Malayalam cinema with the announcement of Odiyan – The Age of Illusion, an ambitious folklore horror thriller starring Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead role. The project marks the first Malayalam production venture for the renowned Bollywood banner and brings together Dharma Productions and Prithviraj Productions for a prestigious collaboration. The film will be directed by acclaimed filmmaker Rahul Sadasivan, who earned widespread praise for his atmospheric horror dramas Bhoothakaalam and Bramayugam. Joining Prith-

viraj in a pivotal role is actress Manju Warrier, further elevating expectations surrounding the project.

The makers unveiled a striking announcement poster that immediately captured attention. Featuring a skeletal figure curled inside an ornate antique mirror, the artwork hints at a dark and mysterious narrative rooted in supernatural themes. The imagery reflects elements of black magic, ancient rituals, and shapeshifting folklore that form the foundation of the story.

Set in the 19th century, Odiyan – The Age of Illusion draws inspiration from Kerala's legendary Odiyan folklore. According to popular myths, Odiyans were feared shapeshifters believed to possess mysti-



cal powers, allowing them to transform into animals and move unseen under the cover of darkness. Known for his unique storytelling style, Rahul Sadasivan is expected to present the folklore through a gripping and immersive horror lens. The film is being produced by Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, and Supriya Menon. Mounted on a grand scale, the project

is planned as a multilingual release in Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi, enabling it to reach audiences across India. With a celebrated director, a strong cast, and a fascinating mythological backdrop, Odiyan – The Age of Illusion has already emerged as one of the most anticipated horror films in development.

Production is expected to begin shortly, with the makers targeting a theatrical release next year.



Pooja Hegde showcases fashion-forward style

Actress Pooja Hegde is enjoying a successful phase in her career as her latest Bollywood entertainer Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai continues to attract audiences in theatres. The romantic comedy, directed by David Dhawan, features Varun Dhawan, Mrunal Thakur, and Pooja Hegde in lead roles and has been generating positive buzz since its release on June 5. Amid the film's encouraging response, Pooja has also caught the attention of fans with her latest stunning photoshoot. The actress showcased her fashion-forward style in a graceful sage-green corset dress that perfectly blended elegance and contemporary glamour. The outfit featured delicate lace-trimmed layered hems, adding a soft and sophisticated touch to her overall appearance.

The photographs, captured during a night-time shoot, highlight Pooja's effortless charm and confidence. Her flowing jet-black hair, caught dramatically in the breeze, added a striking visual appeal to the images. Sparkling drop earrings and stylish stacked rings completed the look, enhancing the actress's refined fashion statement. Known for her versatility both on-screen and off-screen, Pooja continues to maintain a strong presence in the entertainment industry. Her latest appearance has received appreciation from fans on social media, with many praising her elegant styling and radiant look. With a successful film currently running in theatres and several anticipated ventures in the pipeline, Pooja Hegde appears to be enjoying one of the most promising phases of her career. Her combination of screen presence, fashion appeal, and consistent performances continues to make her one of the most sought-after actresses in Indian cinema.

'GUNDE PELIPOTHONDHE' FROM 'SRINIVASA MANGAPURAM' HIGHLIGHTS FRESH ROMANCE

The makers of Srinivasa Mangapuram have unveiled the film's third single, Gunde Pelipothondhe, offering audiences a delightful glimpse into the romantic world crafted by director Ajay Bhupathi. The song, which celebrates the innocence and excitement of first love, has quickly caught the attention of music lovers with its melodious composition and vibrant visuals. Featuring debutant Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni and actress Rasha Thadani, who is making her Telugu cinema debut, the track showcases the blossoming emotions of a young man enchanted by a girl who changes his world. Set against a picturesque temple backdrop, the song captures youthful affection, admiration, and the magical feeling of falling in love for the first time. Music composer GV Prakash Kumar delivers a soothing and enchanting melody that blends classical



influences with contemporary sounds. Complemented by Oscar-winning lyricist Chandrabose's heartfelt lyrics and Anurag Kulkarni's soulful vocals, the song creates an emotional and memorable listening experience. The elegant

flute passages, rich orchestration, and violin arrangements further elevate its appeal.

Visually, Gunde Pelipothondhe stands out with colorful frames and graceful choreography by Bhanu Master. Jaya Krishna Ghat-

tamaneni impresses with his natural screen presence, while Rasha Thadani brings charm and elegance to the screen. Their refreshing chemistry has emerged as one of the song's major highlights.

Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, who earned acclaim with Mangalavaaram, Srinivasa Mangapuram also features veteran actor Mohan Babu in a powerful antagonist role. Produced by P. Kiran and presented by Ashwini Dutt, the film is generating strong curiosity with each promotional release.

Backed by a talented technical team including cinematographer Jayakrishna ISC, editor Madhav Kumar Gulapati, production designer Sahi Suresh, and action choreographer Real Sathish, the film promises a blend of romance, emotion, and engaging storytelling. The makers are expected to announce the release date soon.

'Save The Tigers Season 3' premiere creates buzz

The much-anticipated Save The Tigers Season 3 is all set to stream on JioHotstar from June 19, and the excitement surrounding the popular Telugu web series reached new heights with a grand premiere event held at AMB Cinemas in Hyderabad on Monday evening. The star-studded screening witnessed an overwhelming response from celebrities, media representatives, and special guests, turning the evening into a celebration of one of the most successful regional OTT franchises. The red-carpet event featured glamorous appearances, exclusive interactions, and a special screening that left attendees entertained and laughing throughout.

Several prominent personalities from the entertainment industry attended the premiere, including Sundeep Kishan, Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Rag Mayur, VJ Sunny, Kalyan Padala, Chaitanya Rao, Ven-



katesh Kakumanu, Karthik Ratnam, Aditya Mandala, Srinath Maganti, Mukku Avinash, Nirupam, and Kireeti Damaraju. The screening received an enthusiastic response, particularly for the performances of Priyadarshi, Vennela Kishore, Jordaa Sujatha, Krishna Chaitanya, Deviyani Sharma, Abhinav Gomatam, and Pavanigangireddy. The new season revolves around the lives of three couples while introducing a fantasy element through a divine character portrayed by Vennela Kishore, adding a

fresh dimension to the narrative. Having emerged as one of the most-watched Telugu web series on OTT platforms, Save The Tigers earned widespread popularity through its relatable humor, quirky characters, and family-friendly entertainment. With Season 3 introducing a unique fantasy twist, expectations are soaring among fans eager to witness the next chapter of the beloved franchise.

The countdown has officially begun for what promises to be another entertaining and laughter-filled season.

Is Dhanush quietly preparing son Yatra for a grand debut?

The buzz around star kids entering the film industry never seems to fade, and the latest name creating excitement is Yatra, the son of Tamil superstar Dhanush. While the actor has repeatedly maintained that his son is still young and that there is no immediate plan to launch him, fresh industry gossip suggests that things might be moving faster than expected behind the scenes. According to reports doing the rounds in film circles, Yatra could be gearing up for his acting debut sooner than anyone imagined. Interestingly, the project is said to be backed by Dhanush himself, making it a special launch vehicle for his son. Though there has been no official confirmation, the speculation has gained momentum after reports claimed that pre-production work is already underway.

Adding more fuel to the rumours, sources suggest that filmmaker Rajkumar Periasamy is likely to direct the project, while popular composer GV Prakash could be on board to score the music. There is



also chatter that Yatra has already undergone a look test and that the makers are considering a formal launch event in the near future. What makes the gossip even more believable is Dhanush's recent decision to introduce his nephew Pavish to cinema through Nilavukku Enmel Ennadi Kobam. With the actor already encouraging young talent within his family, many believe Yatra's debut may only be a matter of time.

For now, fans are eagerly waiting for an official announcement. Until then, the question remains—will Yatra be the next star from the Dhanush family to step into the spotlight?