



THE Hans India



WOMENIA
Nia Sharma shares unique take on how fame works today
 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."
P8

EDIT
Even hardened criminals are sure to get caught!
 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.
P6

BUSINESS
Oil prices set to ease after US-Iran deal
 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% from recent highs, while LNG benchmark prices have also softened.
P9

YOUNG HANS
Building healthy habits early
 Eating a variety of vegetables every day can help improve immunity and protect children from common illnesses. Leafy greens, carrots, tomatoes, and other colorful vegetables contain nutrients that support healthy eyesight, brain development and energy levels.
P7

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WINDOWS



Mamata moves Kolkata HC against poll defeat in Bhabanipur
 KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday filed an election petition before the Calcutta High Court challenging the poll result in the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency, where she lost to Bharatiya Janata Party leader Suwendu Adhikari. Adhikari, West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister, had defeated Banerjee by a margin of more than 15,100 votes. The BJP leader had also defeated another TMC candidate in the Nandigram constituency, which he vacated on May 15. In 2021 as well, Banerjee had filed a similar petition after she lost to Adhikari in Nandigram by a margin of 1,956 votes.

LS Speaker to hear TMC factions before taking call
 NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will hear the defected TMC MPs as also the faction led by Mamata Banerjee before deciding on giving recognition to the breakaway faction even as the NCPI, the party which the rebel faction will join, has named Jyoti-prakash Chatterji as its new president. One of the leading faces of the TMC rebel faction, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, on Tuesday claimed that 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. The Lok Sabha Speaker 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 privy to the development said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

 I'm as financially strong as the fifth largest party in the Lok Sabha. I, too, have ₹75 in my bank account

WITH HOARDERS RAKING IN MOOLAH

Fine rice prices zoom in TG in last 10 days

- ▶ Prices of fine rice varieties gone up by Rs 5 to Rs 7/kg
- ▶ Millers, big traders hoarding stocks
- ▶ Common people paying through their nose



HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD
 EVEN as Telangana recorded the highest paddy production in the country, retail prices of fine rice shot up in recent days. Hoarding of rice stocks by millers and wholesalers to create artificial shortage of fine rice is putting a heavy burden on the common man. According to traders and retailers, prices have gone up by at least Rs 5 to Rs 7 per kilogram of fine rice varieties in the last 10 days. It is said that millers hoarded two-year-old fine rice varieties. They are said to be selling them in the retail market at higher prices through wholesale dealers and retail agents. Some big traders have also reportedly hoarded those

rice varieties which are in high demand to create artificial scarcity. Nearly 60 lakh metric tonnes of fine varieties of paddy are being procured every year in the state. Another 10 lakh metric tonnes of fine quality paddy are being purchased by the millers from the farmers directly. In all, fine rice totaling 70 lakh metric tonnes, is produced in the state every year. State Civil Supplies Department officials said that the demand for fine rice was increasing in view of the purchase by all sections from lower middle classes to the rich communities for their daily food requirements. Sonamasuri variety from Kurnool, Nizamabad, Bapatla and K-

KHARIF READY
TG draws action plan for smooth distribution of seeds & fertilisers
 CM asks ministers, MPs to put pressure on Centre for urea
HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has drawn an action plan to ensure smooth distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers in the ensuing farming season. The government has also decided to mount pressure on the Union government for adequate urea supply from the Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited. At a high-level review of the Agriculture department on Tuesday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced the constitution of an official committee, headed by the Secretary to Agriculture, to execute the action plan during the kharif season.
Continued on Page 5

Modi-Trump meet set to spotlight G7 Summit

GLOBAL LEADERS GATHER IN FRANCE

NEW DELHI
 A scheduled meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France is set to be one of the most closely watched diplomatic engagements of the week, as world leaders converge in the lakeside resort town of Evian amid growing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and mounting security challenges. Modi arrived in France to participate in the 52nd G7 Summit, where discussions are expected to range from the war in Ukraine and the evolving situation in West Asia to global trade, energy security, and the future of international governance. His anticipated talks with Trump are likely to focus on bilateral trade, tariff issues, the global oil market, regional conflicts, and broader geopolitical developments that are reshaping international relations.
Continued on Page 5



PM Narendra Modi shakes hands with US President Donald Trump before the plenary session of the G7 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, on Tuesday

FIRST IN 16 MONTHS... THE GREAT HANDSHAKE!
 Modi, Trump exchange pleasantries amid strained ties
 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.
Continued on Page 5



CM levelling false allegations against me: Kishan Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD
 UNION Minister for Coal G Kishan Reddy launched a strong counterattack against Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him of making "false, baseless and politically motivated allegations" regarding the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he said the Chief Minister was deliberately misleading the public for political gain and attempting to divert attention from his government's failures. Kishan Reddy said that



IAF to develop indigenous kamikaze one-way attack drones

NEW DELHI: IAF has initiated a project to jointly develop indigenous long-range kamikaze drones with domestic industry partners, aiming to enhance self-reliance and gain greater control over future upgrades and modifications.
Continued on Page 5

Gulf nations seek protection of maritime routes

DUBAI
 THE Gulf countries, while welcoming the peace deal between the US and Iran, have called for protection of maritime routes and freedom of international navigation, including the uninterrupted flow of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. The UAE Foreign ministry said it affirms the importance of "prioritising dialogue and diplomacy, and adhering to international law, in a manner that reinforces regional security



1st Indian LNG tanker Disha safely crosses Hormuz

NEW DELHI: A Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carrier, Disha, safely transited through the Strait of Hormuz. It is the first Indian LNG tanker to cross the war-hit narrow shipping lane since the war in the Middle East broke out.
Continued on Page 5

SHOULD AADHAAR USE BE RESTRICTED TO ID PROOF: SC

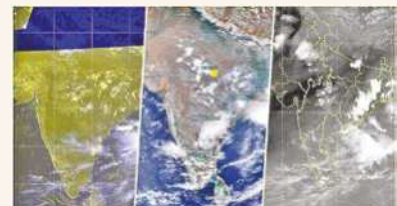
NEW DELHI
 THE Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and state governments on a petition alleging that Aadhaar cards are being wrongly used as proof of citizenship, domicile and address. The petition has asked the court to direct authorities to restrict the use of Aadhaar only to identity verification. A bench of Chief Justice



Surya Kant and Justice V Mohan issued notices to the Centre, all states and Union Territories on the petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. The petition seeks directions to the Centre, state

ALMOST NO RAIN CLOUDS 3 satellites paint worrying monsoon picture for India

NEW DELHI
 FRESH satellite imagery from European and American weather agencies has revealed an alarming picture of India's southwest monsoon, with cloud cover across large parts of the country appearing unusually sparse for mid-June, raising concerns about a prolonged rainfall deficit during a critical phase of the season. Images captured on Tuesday by the European weather satellite Meteosat Indian Ocean Data Coverage (IODC), operated by EUMETSAT, NOAA's weather satellite, and Isro's Insat-3DS show vast stretches of central, western and peninsular India largely devoid of the dense cloud bands typically associated with an active monsoon. The images present a striking contrast to what meteorologists would normally expect nearly two weeks after the monsoon's onset



over Kerala. Instead of widespread moisture-laden clouds advancing across the subcontinent, much of India appears dry, with only scattered patches of convection visible over parts of the Bay of Bengal and eastern regions. Weather experts say the situation reflects a significant weakening of the monsoon circulation. Heat continues to dominate large parts of the country, while key atmospheric drivers that normally fuel the monsoon remain unusually weak. Among the biggest concerns is the absence of a strong Somali Jet, a powerful low-level wind current that transports enormous amounts of moisture from the equatorial Indian Ocean toward India during the monsoon season.
Continued on Page 5

Telegram banned till June 22 post-NEET paper leak

NEW DELHI
 THE Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has blocked messaging app Telegram in India till June 22, and a direction has been issued to the platform to disable the message editing feature in India till June 30. The move is on account of the NEET-UG 2026 retest that will be held on June 21. Welcoming the action against Telegram, the NTA said the move will go a long way in helping the Agency to conduct a safe and secure exam on June 21. "Throughout the period leading up to the present action, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination

SOME FEATURES OF THE APP BLOCKED TILL JUNE 30



Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has served as the principal nodal agency coordinating the operational response to the Telegram-based fraud



and misinformation targeting NEET (UG) 2026 candidates. Acting on inputs received continuously from NTA, from state law-enforcement agencies, including the police forces of Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and from its own continuous monitoring of public channels and platforms, I4C has secured the prompt take-down of a substantial

Google removes Telegram from Play Store, Apple may follow suit

NEW DELHI: Google has removed messaging app Telegram from its Play Store, and Apple is likely to follow suit in compliance with a government order, sources aware of the development said on Tuesday. The government has ordered Google and Apple to delist the Telegram app from their app stores till June 22 to check paper leaks during the upcoming re-examination of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) on June 21.
Continued on Page 5

THE TELANGANA GAZETTE															
PART - I EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY															
District Gazette No.A3/52 /2026 Dated:11.06.2026															
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA															
OFFICE OF THE SUB-COLLECTOR, KALLURU															
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION															
FORM-VI															
(See sub rule (1) of rule -19 and Section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013)															
Collector File No.G1/76169/2024 Date:10.06.2026															
LAO/Sub-Collector, Kalluru File No.A/ 1202/2025 Date:09.06.2026															
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of Acs.17-09 gts. Land is required in Lingudem Village of Penuballi Mandal Khammam District for public purpose, namely, SRLP(Seetha Rama Lift Irrigation Project) requisition submitted by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, No.1, Kothagudem.															
In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10A(b) in chapter III.A of the RCTLA, R&R (Telangana Amendment), 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017), the Government of Telangana vide G.O.Ms.No.38 Irrigation & CAD (LA.R&R/A2), Dated: 30.06.2017 hereby, exempt the Seetha Rama Lift Irrigation Project from application of the provisions of Chapter II and III of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Additional Collector (Revenue), Khammam is appointed as Project Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families videproceedings no. G1/76169/2024, Dated, 09.12.2024.															
Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Lingudem Village of Penuballi Mandal Khammam District land measuring more or less Acs.17-09 gts of standard measurement whose detail description is as following is proposed for acquisition:															
SCHEDULE															
Village: Lingudem		Mandal: Penuballi		District:Khammam											
S. No	Sy No as per SDR.	Title of Land	Type of Land	Area under acquisition in Ac.Gts	Name and address of the enjoyer/ interested person			Boundaries			Trees & Structures				
				East			West			North			South		
1	11/2	Patta	Dry	0-15	Chikativeni W/o Ranjith Babu			41/2	12/2	11/1	11/3	Palm oil-25, Fencing poles -20 with wire, pvc pipes-10			
				0-15											
2	12/2	Patta	Dry	0-09	Godha Satyam S/o Malliah			11/2	15/2	12/1	12/3	Eucalyptus trees-850, Fencing poles-10 with wire			
				0-09											
3	15/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Godha Satyam S/o Malliah			12/2	21/2	15/1	15/3	-			
				0-00											
4	15/2	Patta	Dry	0-10	Godha Nageswara Rao S/o Channa Rao			12/2	21/2	15/1	15/3	Pvc pipes-10, Fencing poles-10 with wire			
				0-10											
5	15/2	Patta	Dry	0-06	Boinapalli Avinash S/o Satyanarayana			12/2	21/2	15/1	15/3	Fencing wood poles -10 with wire, Toddy palm -1			
				0-06											
6	21/2	Patta	Dry	0-11	Anumothu Satyanarayana S/o Muthayam			15/2	VB GO WRA VAR AM	21/1	21/3	Palm oil -21, Pvc pipes-10,			
				0-11											
7	21/2	Patta	Dry	0-11	Mittapalli Pandu Ranga Rao S/o Nagaratham			15/2	VB GO WRA VAR AM	21/1	21/3	Fencing poles-10 with wire			
				0-11											
8	39/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Elam Venkatesh S/o Jogalah			48/2	40/2	39/1	39/3	-			
				0-00											
9	39/2	Patta	Dry	0-15	Savalam Krishnaiah S/o Yarraiah			48/2	40/2	39/1	39/3	Fencing wood poles -20 with wire			
				0-15											
10	39/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Savalam Narishima Rao S/o Yarraiah			48/2	40/2	39/1	39/3	-			
				0-04											
11	39/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Savalam Krishnaiah S/o Yarraiah			48/2	40/2	39/1	39/3	-			
				0-00											
12	40/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Rayala Seetha Ramulu S/o Venkat Ramulu			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	Fencing wood poles -22 with wire			
				0-04											
13	40/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Elam Venkatesh S/o Jogalah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	Fencing wood poles -5 with wire ,Drum sticks trees-10,Neem trees-1			
				0-01											
14	40/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Padham Srinu S/o Chinnabakkiah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	-			
				0-00											
15	40/2	Patta	Dry	0-03	Yadhulla Sambasiva Rao S/o Krishnaiah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	Bore well-1,Teak-2,Neem tree-1,Fencing wood poles -30 with wire			
				0-03											
16	40/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Padham Muthayalu S/o Pedha Bakkiah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	-			
				0-01											
17	40/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Sk Anwar S/o Pakir			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	-			
				0-00											
18	41/2	Patta	Dry	0-05	Sk Anwar S/o Pakir			42/1	21/2	41/1	41/3	Neem tree -1,Fencing wood poles -20 with wire, pvc pipes-3			
				0-05											
19	41/2	Patta	Dry	0-06	Sk Mastan			42/1	21/2	41/1	41/3	Neem tree-1			
				0-06											
20	41/2	Patta	Dry	0-12	Veluphula Laxmi w/o Venkateswara Rao			42/1	21/2	41/1	41/3	Bore well-1			
				0-12											
21	42/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Elam Venkatesh S/o Jogalah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	Drum stick trees-10,			
				0-01											
22	42/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Padham Srinu S/o Chinnabakkiah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	-			
				0-01											
23	42/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Padham Muthayalu S/o Pedha Bakkiah			39/1	41/2	40/1	40/1	-			
				0-02											
24	47/2	Patta	Dry	0-12	Korsa Venkateswara Rao S/o Kannaiah			62/2	48/2	47/1	47/3	Fencing wood poles -20 with wire			
				0-12											
25	47/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Donka			62/2	48/2	47/1	47/3	-			
				0-00											
26	48/2	Patta	Dry	0-06	Korsa Venkateswara Rao S/o Kannaiah			47/2	39/2	39/1	39/3	-			
				0-06											
27	48/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Korsa Narishima Rao S/o Seetha Ramulu			47/2	39/2	39/1	39/3	-			
				0-04											
28	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Karam Pothaiah S/o Yarraiah			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	-			
				0-02											
29	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-10	Karam Siva Jyothi W/o Yarraiah			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	-			
				0-10											
30	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Mensu Ramulamma W/o Raju			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	Fencing wood poles -15 with wire			
				0-04											
31	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-10	Varsa Venkatachry S/o Rangaiah			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	Fencing wood poles -30 with wire,Teak-10, Eucalyptus trees-5, Tomb-1			
				0-10											
32	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Savalam Phandu S/o Pothaiah			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	-			
				0-01											
33	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Savalam Yarraiah S/o Pothaiah			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	Fencing wood poles-10 with wire			
				0-04											
34	62/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Donka			66/2	47/2	62/1	62/3	-			
				0-01											
35	65/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Karam Nageswara Rao S/o Ramulu			68/2	62/2	66/1	66/3	Fencing wood poles-10 with wire			
				0-04											
36	66/2	Patta	Dry	0-08	Paddam Rama Rao S/o Pothaiah			68/2	62/2	66/1	66/3	Fencing wood poles-10 with wire,Neem trees-3,teku trees-2			
				0-08											
37	68/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Paddam Rama Rao S/o Pothaiah			71/2	66/2	68/1	68/3	-			
				0-02											
38	68/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Yetukuri Prasad S/o Rataiah			71/2	66/2	68/1	68/3	-			
				0-02											
39	68/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Karam Nageswara Rao S/o Ramulu			71/2	66/2	68/1	68/3	-			
				0-00											
40	68/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Karam Pothaiah S/o Yarraiah			71/2	66/2	68/1	68/3	-			
				0-00											
41	69/2	Patta	Dry	0-19	Yetukuri Prasad S/o Rataiah			71/2	68/2	69/1	68/2	Mango trees-25,Teak trees-5,Fencing poles-15 with wire,Fencing wood poles -15 with wire			
				0-19											
42	69/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Paddam Somulu S/o Laxmaiah			71/2	68/2	69/1	68/2	-			
				0-00											
43	71/2	Patta	Dry	0-08	Paddam Somulu S/o Laxmaiah			72/2	68/2	71/1	72/2	Neem tree-1, seema chinta tree-1,pencing wood-15 with wire			
				0-08											
44	71/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Kommineni Kamalamma W/o Subba Rao			72/2	68/2	71/1	72/2	Eucalyptus trees-10			
				0-01											
45	72/2	Patta	Dry	0-05	Kommineni Kamalamma W/o Subba Rao			74/2	71/2	72/1	72/3	Eucalyptus trees-10			
				0-05											

46	72/2	Patta	Dry	0-09	Yetukuri Bala Rama Krishna S/o Srinivasa Rao			74/2	71/2	72/1	72/3	Mango trees-7, Fencing poles-10 with wire		
				0-09										
47	72/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Yetukuri Rama Rao S/o Narayana			74/2	71/2	72/1	72/3	-		
				0-01										
48	74/2	Patta	Dry	0-05	Yetukuri Rama Rao S/o Narayana			68/2	71/2	74/1	74/3	Mango trees-10,Teak trees-3,Bore well-1, pvc pipes-5, Fencing poles-10 with wire		
				0-05										
49	79/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Potrubasavaiah S/o Kanthaiah			68/2	71/2	74/1	74/3	Mango trees-7		
				0-02										
50	81/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Potrubasavaiah S/o Kanthaiah			84/2	87/2	81/1	81/3	-		
				0-00										
51	81/2	Patta	Dry	0-03	Chekati Narendar S/o Nageswara Rao			84/2	87/2	81/1	81/3	Eucalyptus trees-250, Neem trees-2,		
				0-03										
52	81/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Boinapalli Avinash S/o Chandarrao			84/2	87/2	81/1	81/3	-		
				0-00										
53	81/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Potru Radha Krishna S/o Kanthaiah			84/2	87/2	81/1	81/3	Eucalyptus trees-320, Temarend tree-1, Toddy-2		
				0-04										
54	82/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Yetukuri Rama Rao S/o Narayana			79/1	88/2	82/1	82/3	Mango trees-2,		
				0-00										
55	82/2	Patta	Dry	0-04	Yetukuri Murali S/o Rama Kotaiha			79/1	88/2	82/1	82/3	Lemon trees-5, Eucalyptus trees-200, Teak-1, pvc pipes-3, Fencing wood poles -20 with wire		
				0-04										
56	82/2	Patta	Dry	0-06	Pedhineni Krishna Rao S/o Muthaiah			79/1	88/2	82/1	82/3	citrus trees-10, coconut tree-1, teku-1,pencing wood -10 with wire		
				0-06										
57	82/2	Patta	Dry	0-05	Pedhineni Phani Prasad S/o Rama Rao			79/1	88/2	82/1	82/3	Lemon trees-20, Teak-15, Bore well-1, pvc pipes-4		
				0-05										
58	82/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Yetukuri Nageswara Rao S/o Achaiah			79/1	88/2	82/1	82/3	Eucalyptus trees-70, pvc pipes-3, pencing poles-5 with wire		
				0-01										
59	82/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Kannakanti Narishima Rao S/o Rama Kotaiha			79/1	88/2	82/1	82/3	-		
				0-00										
60	83/2	Patta	Dry	0-16	Karumanchi Vanaswi w/o Naveen			98/1	81/2	83/1	83/3	Mango trees-5,Eucalyptus trees-1,Fencing wood -20 with wire		
				0-16										
61	83/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Chekati Chinnanarishima Rao S/o Laxmaiah			98/1	81/2	83/1	83/3	Teak trees-6, Soap tree-1, Fencing wood poles 10 with wire		
				0-02										
62	83/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Chekati Arjuna Rao S/o Venkat Appaiah			98/1	81/2	83/1	83/3	Teak trees-4, Eucalyptus trees-50,Fencing poles-8 with wire		
				0-02										
63	83/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Boinapalli Avinash S/o Chandarrao			98/1	81/2	83/1	83/3	Palm oil-5,		
				0-02										
64	84/2	Patta	Dry	0-00	Karumanchi Vanaswi w/o Naveen			98/2	81/2	84/1	84/3	Mango tree-1,		
				0-00										
65	84/2	Patta	Dry	0-02	Chekati Chinnanarishima Rao S/o Laxmaiah			98/2	81/2	84/1	84/3	-		
				0-02										
66	84/2	Patta	Dry	0-01	Chikati Arjuna Rao S/o Venkat Appaiah			98/2						

Naini draws development roadmap, sets tough deadline for works

- A total of 90 per cent of ongoing development works are targeted for completion before monsoon
- Development projects worth Rs 1 crore launched in Venkatadri Nagar and Prashanth Nagar
- Government reiterates strict action to safeguard public lands from encroachment

HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy on Tuesday said that the government was working with a clear target of completing 90 per cent of the development works taken up in Kazipet's 61st Division before the onset of the monsoon season. He said the administration remained committed not only to launching projects but also to ensuring their timely completion and avail-



ability for public use. The MLA laid the foundation stone for development works worth Rs.1 crore in Venkatadri Nagar and Prashanth Nagar and stated that strict timelines had been fixed for every project. According to him, officials were carrying out continuous field-level monitoring

to accelerate execution and maintain quality standards. Highlighting the government's focus on Kazipet, Naini Rajender Reddy said work on the Kazipet Railway Over Bridge had gained momentum after the present government assumed office. He also announced that a foundation stone would

soon be laid for a 30-bed government hospital. Discussions were additionally underway with the Central and State governments regarding the establishment of a new bus stand in Kazipet. The MLA reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting public assets, stating that measures such

as fencing and barricading were being undertaken to prevent encroachments. He said the district administration was conducting a detailed inquiry into the YSR Nagar land issue and assured that appropriate action would be taken based on legal findings and ownership status.

Bandi Sanjay slams Congress over illegal infiltrators in voter lists

- Says Centre committed to Telangana's development and welfare
- Urges deletion of illegal foreign infiltrators from voter lists
- Accuses Congress of creating confusion by linking issue with Muslims

HANS NEWS SERVICE KARIMNAGAR

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar criticised the Congress party over its stand on the removal of illegal foreign infiltrators from electoral rolls, alleging that it was attempting to create communal divisions for political gain.

Speaking to mediapersons after participating in a 'Chai Pe Charcha' programme with RMP doctors at Manakonda, Bandi Sanjay said that no genuine Indian citizen's voting rights should be affected. However, he maintained that the names of illegal immigrants from countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh



must be removed from voter lists.

Questioning the Congress party's position, he asked whether it supported the deletion of votes belonging to illegal foreign immigrants. He further alleged that Congress was unnecessarily linking foreign Muslims with Indian Muslims and demanded an apology to the Muslim community for creating confusion on the issue.

The Union Minister also dismissed allegations that Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy was obstructing the Hyderabad Metro Phase-II project, describing such claims as baseless propaganda. He said the Central government had consistently supported Telangana's development through major infrastructure projects and financial assistance.

Highlighting the comple-

tion of 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led government, Bandi Sanjay said the BJP was reaching out to various sections of society to showcase the Centre's achievements and gather suggestions for future development initiatives. He claimed that the NDA government had focused on welfare, development and transparent governance while extending substantial support to Telangana.

On the Maoist issue, he alleged that extremist ideologies had harmed society and urged those holding such views to join the mainstream. He also accused the Congress of misleading people regarding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, reiterating that only the names of illegal foreign immigrants would be removed and not those of Indian citizens.

Anti-drug drive intensifies as police nab repeat offender

HANS NEWS SERVICE WARANGAL

IN a significant breakthrough in the district's ongoing campaign against narcotics, police arrested a youth and seized 300 grams of dry ganja during a routine vehicle inspection in Mahabubabad mandal. The accused was later produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

Addressing a media conference at the Rural Police Station, Circle Inspector Anjali said the arrest was made at Vemuru Cross Road after police personnel noticed sus-



picious behaviour during vehicle checks. A search of the accused led to the recovery of the contraband.

The accused was identified as Bhanoth Charan, a resident of Uttar Thanda. The seized substance was tested using a ganja detection kit recently provided to

police stations in the district, and the results confirmed it to be cannabis. Police investigations revealed that Charan had previously been involved in a ganja-related case registered at Subedari in Hanumakonda. Officials further alleged that he procured the narcotic substance from

areas around Bhadrachalam and transported it to Mahabubabad for personal consumption and illegal sale among local youth.

The CI said a cash reward of Rs 5,000 was presented to the informer whose tip-off helped police apprehend the accused. She appealed to the public to actively support anti-drug efforts by sharing information about the sale or consumption of ganja, assuring that the identities of informants would remain confidential. The media briefing was attended by the Sub-Inspector and other police personnel.

Ambedkar's ideals key to Dalit upliftment: Palla Rajeshwar Reddy

MLA says Dalit Bandhu scheme brought economic empowerment to Dalit families

HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

JANGAON MLA Dr Palla Rajeshwar Reddy on Tuesday said that the ideals of Dr B.R. Ambedkar continue to serve as the guiding force for the upliftment of Dalits and called upon people to follow his vision in their daily lives.

Speaking after inaugurating a newly installed Ambedkar statue at Ram-sagar village in Komuravelli mandal, the MLA said Ambedkar was a visionary leader who ensured equal



rights for all citizens and strengthened India's democratic foundations through the principle of "One Per-

son, One Vote." Dr Palla said the previous BRS government introduced the Dalit Bandhu scheme to bring

economic and social transformation among Dalit families by providing direct financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh without bank linkage. He noted that the scheme reduced dependence on loans and eased financial hardships.

The MLA also described the 125-foot Ambedkar statue in Hyderabad as a matter of pride for Telangana. He said Ambedkar memorials should inspire both governments and citizens to work towards social justice and an egalitarian society.

Blue Bells champions secure admission to prestigious sports schools

Mokshith and Vedansh earn admission in prestigious sports institutions, bringing pride to their school and city

HANS NEWS SERVICE KARIMNAGAR

BLUE Bells High School, Hanuman Nagar, Karimnagar, celebrated a proud achievement as two of its students secured admission to prestigious State-level Sports Schools.

G. Mokshith was selected for the Karimnagar Regional Sports School, while M. Vedansh earned admission to the Hakimpet Sports School. The school management expressed happiness over their outstanding sporting accomplishments.

Congratulating the students, Correspondent and Chairman Janga Sunitha Manohar Reddy praised their dedication and hard work. She said the achievement reflected the school's commitment to excellence in both academics and sports and encouraged students to pursue greater success through discipline, determination, and regular practice.



Blue Bells High School students G. Mokshith and M. Vedansh receive congratulations from Correspondent and Chairman Janga Sunitha Manohar Reddy after securing seats in State-level Sports Schools

CP Sunpreet Singh urges public to report suspicious persons



HANS NEWS SERVICE HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh has appealed to citizens to immediately inform the police about any unidentified or suspicious persons in their localities as part of intensified efforts to prevent crime.

During an inspection of checking operations at Kazipet Railway Station on Tuesday, the Commissioner said four special surveillance teams have been deployed at

Warangal and Kazipet railway stations to monitor the movement of interstate offenders. Using facial recognition systems, fingerprint verification and advanced police databases, the teams are identifying and tracking suspects arriving by train. He said the initiative, launched in coordination with the GRP and RPF, aims to curb property offences such as burglaries and chain snatching and enhance public safety across the Warangal Police Commissionerate.

MLA Vedum Boju Patel receives CM's blessings on birthday

Revanth Reddy extends wishes, honours MLA with shawl



HANS NEWS SERVICE KHANAPUR

ON the occasion of his birthday, Khanapur MLA and Nirmal District Congress Committee President Vedum Boju Patel met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, on Tuesday and sought his blessings.

The Chief Minister conveyed his birthday wishes, blessed the MLA, and honoured him with a

shawl. Following the meeting, Patel returned to the Khanapur constituency and participated in various social service programmes organised by Congress party workers. Several public representatives, government officials, and

Congress leaders from across the constituency extended their greetings and best wishes to the MLA on his birthday. The celebrations were marked by social welfare activities and interactions with party workers and supporters.

Harish Rao targets Congress over welfare, jobs and farmers' issues

HANS NEWS SERVICE KARIMNAGAR

FORMER Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao on Monday alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises to farmers, students, unemployed youth and weaker sections while increasing the financial burden on the public.

Addressing an extended-level BRS workers' meeting at Alugunur village in Manakondur constituency, Harish Rao said the Congress administration had replaced welfare with corruption and alleged irregularities in civil supplies, Singareni,

- Harish Rao raises allegations of corruption in multiple government departments
- Concerns expressed over pending farmer assistance and power supply reforms
- BRS cadre asked to strengthen grassroots network ahead of voter roll revision

power, land transactions and Gurukul institutions. He claimed that contracts worth around Rs 2,000 crore in Gurukul institutions were awarded under suspicious



circumstances. Rao alleged that farmers were facing hardships due

to delays in paddy procurement, fertilizer shortages and non-payment of insur-

ance premiums under the Rythu Bima scheme. He also claimed that nearly

Rs 19,000 crore in Rythu Bandhu assistance remained pending and demanded its immediate release.

Criticising the government's handling of education and employment, he alleged that around 30 lakh students were affected by delays in fee reimbursement and that only about 16,000 government jobs had been filled despite a promise of two lakh appointments.

He also appealed to BRS workers to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls beginning on June 25 and ensure that no genuine voter was left out during the verification process.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANKATI LAXMI W/O ANKATI THIRUPATHI R/o.3-29 29, SC City, Sangampally, Jagtillai Karimnagar 505454 TG in My Passport my Husband's name was ANKATI THIRUPATHI to ANKATI TIRUPATI (TH_34250)

I, SINGIREDDY KONDAI REDDY, S/O. CHIRANJEVA REDDY, R/O.2-68/A, Gudatipalli, Akkannapet, Siddipet, TS, changed my name as SINGIREDDY KONDAI REDDY, S/O. CHIRANJEVA REDDY (TH_34250)

I, AJAS KHAN, S/O.SADULLA KHAN (Old name),R/O.H.NO:6-3-390,KHANPURA, KARIMNAGAR.I HAVE CHANGED NAME AS "ADJAZ KHAN" S/O.SADULLA KHAN(New name). (TH_34250)

I, LAXMI SIRALA w/o LAXMAN GURRAPU (old name) R/O H.No 2-62/1 kotarmoor, Armour, Di: Nizamabad, T. S.,I have changed my name as GURRAPU LAXMI w/o GURRAPU LAXMAN (New name) (TH_34250)

I Vishal Valji Parmar S/o. Laxman Parmar (Old Name) R/o. H.No. 4-2-164/7/2, Town & District Adilabad, Telangana State (old) have changed My Name as Vishal Parmar S/o. Laxman Parmar (New Name) R/o.H.No. 4-2-164/7/2, Town & District Adilabad, Telangana State (TH_34250)

I, Nittala Uma Rani Renjaliker W/O Rajendra Kumar Renjaliker R/O 6-53/304,Vinil Residency, Mubaraknagar, Laxmipriyana, Mubaraknagar, VTC: Mubaraknagar, P O: Mubaraknagar, District: Nizamabad, State: Telangana, PIN Code : 503003 have changed my name to Nittala Uma Rani forever. (TH_TM_RAO)

I, JANGILI NARSAIAH, S/o. Sailu, aged 44 years, R/o. H.No. 7-1-128/A, Laxmipuram, New Bus Stand, Hanamkonda, Hanumakonda Dist., Telangana - 506001, have changed my name from "JANGILI NARSAIAH" to "JANGILI NARSAIAH" for all purposes. (TH_TM_RAO)

I, MADARAVENA RAVINDAR, EX-NO. 14441667-A, RANIK-HAVILDAR, R/O.H.NO. 17-6-33/2, GODHAVARIKHANDI, RAMAGUNDAM MANDAL, PEDDAPALLI DISTRICT, TELANGANA STATE. (IN MY ARMY SERVICE RECORDS MY SON NAME ENTERED AS MADHARAVENA SAI RITVIK). I HAVE CHANGED MY SON NAME FROM MADHARAVENA SAI RITVIK TO "MADARAVENA SAI RITVIK" AS PER HIS AADHAR CARD AND DATE OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE. (TH_KM_GOUD)

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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.

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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 Sudhakar 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.



THE TELANGANA GAZETTE PART -1 EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY District Gazette No.A3/50/2026 Dated:11.06.2026 GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA OFFICE OF THE SUB-COLLECTOR, KALLURU PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION FORM-VI

Table with columns: S. No., Sy No as per SDR, Area under acquisition in AcGts, Title of Land, Type of Land, Name and address of the employer/interested person, Boundaries (East, West, North, South), Trees & Structures.

Doctor's prescription now mandatory for cough syrups

NEW DELHI LOZENGES, PILLS, TABLETS FOR COUGH CONTINUE TO REMAIN ON LIST THE Union Health Ministry has amended the rules to remove "syrups ... for cough" from Schedule K — the list of medicines exempted from the requirement of a prescription by a registered medical practitioner.



Looking forward to engaging with world leaders: PM NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Evian, France, on Tuesday to attend the G7 Summit and exchange views with world leaders on key global issues.

Google removes Telegram from Play Store, Apple may follow suit The nationwide examination is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to undergraduate medical institutes.

The great shake hand! 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.

Fine rice prices zoom in TG in last 10 days Bhansal, owner of Adarsh retail shop in Kothapet in Hyderabad, told The Hans India that sales of fine rice increased by at least 40 per cent in the last one year.

G7 allies scramble to put Ukraine back atop Trump's agenda Evian-les-Bains: US allies at the Group of Seven summit of major industrialised democracies worked Tuesday to push the war in Ukraine back up the agenda of President Trump after more than four years of fighting sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion.

Telegram banned till June 22 post-NEET paper leak The NTA referred to the directions issued as "a measure of last resort, taken only after intermediate remedies, including the take-down action coordinated by IAC, had been pursued and had not produced, at the platform level, the response required to protect candidates in the run-up to the examination."

Should Aadhaar use be restricted to ID proof: SC continued from P1 Aadhaar is being used as proof of age, citizenship, and residence in processes such as school admissions, property purchases, obtaining birth certificates, ration cards, and driving licenses.

Modi-Trump meet set to spotlight G7 Summit Continued from P1 The meeting comes at a particularly significant moment following Trump's announcement of an agreement with Iran aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz and easing tensions that had unsettled global energy markets.

TG draws action plan for smooth distribution of seeds & fertilisers Continued from P1 The comprehensive action plan would also include the measures to be taken for the procurement of harvested crops.

1st Indian LNG tanker Disha safely crosses Hormuz Continued from P1 The LNG carrier carrying 62,370 metric tons of LNG and managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium and chartered by Petronet LNG Ltd, is also one of the first commercial vessels to transit the Strait since the announcement of a preliminary ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran.

CM levelling false allegations against me: Kishan Reddy Continued from P1 Responding to Revanth's remarks on Metro phases 1 and 2, the Union Minister clarified that the central government has already contributed Rs 1,250 crore to Phase 1, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated.

Should Aadhaar use be restricted to ID proof: SC continued from P1 Aadhaar is being used as proof of age, citizenship, and residence in processes such as school admissions, property purchases, obtaining birth certificates, ration cards, and driving licenses.

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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.

LETTERS

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.

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BENGALURU ONLINE

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>

Even hardened criminals are sure to get caught!



RAVULAPATI SEETARAMA RAO

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 Sudhanshu 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 Chhatrya 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.



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

within 24 hours. The crores that he made are covered up in the form of a 'cooling' period.

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. Make them poor overnight, a workable formula evolved by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

We need to have fast-track courts for fire deaths. Families agonized, tired emotionally, physically and mentally wait for decades and decades but justice remains elusive.

Public apathy too is the reason for such tragedies. We walk into basements with one exit with a 'chalta hai' attitude. If we stop paying to enter unsafe places, they shut. Alas! The ones who took bribes to approve the building, are those very people entrusted with investigating the entire. These thieves outwit the system because the insiders are the ones who help them carry out their 'operations' unhindered. When everyone is hand in glove, the system protects itself, not the victims. And that is the tragic irony in India that is dreaming of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.



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.



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.



Kuchi Sandeep



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 pro-

cess 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 "Behnein," "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

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 India, 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.

CROSSWORD

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30						31	

ACROSS

- Kick up ___ (1,4)
- Paint solvent (5)
- Gallery custodian (7)
- Embellish (5)
- Deprive of weapons (5)
- Toothed wheels (5)
- Let or allowed to fall (7)
- Small spot (3)
- Wild party (4)
- False or insincere, as a prefix (6)
- Intelligent (5)
- Deserving (6)
- Grows old (4)
- Illuminated (3)
- Nazi secret police (7)
- Clear (5)
- Reel (5)
- Cheekiness (5)
- Thor Heyerdahl's raft (3-4)
- Beginning (5)
- Worry (5)

DOWN

- A soft felt hat (6)
- Abrasion (6)
- Light source (3)
- Cooked in an oven (5)
- Sightseer (7)
- Vessels for ashes (4)
- Spell (6)
- Full of pathogens (5)
- Prolong vowels (5)
- Openly manifest (5)
- Hindu goddess of war (5)
- Trunk (5)
- Plume or pride oneself (5)
- Small onion (7)
- Bottom of the crankcase (3,3)
- Reach or gain (6)
- Distinctive periods (6)
- You receive them on your birthday? (5)
- Prod (4)
- Jamaican popular music (3)

Solution to June 16

SUDOKU

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6				2		1		
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Solution to June 16

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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.

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.

PSU banks see sharp jump in green deposits FY26

Deploy funds for clean transport, renewable energy

MUMBAI

STATE-owned lenders witnessed a sharp surge in green deposit mobilisation in FY26 amid increased depositor awareness and the maturation of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Green Deposit Framework, introduced in 2023. According to PTI's analysis of banks' Annual reports for 2025-26, eight state-owned lenders raised Rs 3,733.11 crore in FY26 through green deposits, compared to Rs 1,831.79 crore in the year-ago period.

The rise in green deposits reflects a growing focus among banks and depositors towards sustainable finance, with lenders increasingly linking their fundraising efforts with environmentally responsible lending, analysts said.

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lend-



er, raised Rs 317.39 crore through its green deposit products till March 2026, with outstanding green deposits recorded at Rs 218 crore as on March 31, 2026.

SBI garnered Rs 189.08 crore through green deposits in FY26, with the entire amount being deployed in clean transportation, particularly in green cars or electric vehicles, as per the Bank's Annual Report for 2025-26.

"The amount of green deposit raised has been utilised for financing the Green Car (EV) Loan portfolio," SBI said in its annual report.

The bank said its green car loan portfolio stood at Rs 3,587 crore as of March 31, 2026. Green deposit proceeds have been channelled into this portfolio to align the bank's liability mobilisation and asset deployment strategies.

Agentic AI summer camp at Meru Intl School

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

AI Ready School has concluded three batches of its flagship Agentic AI summer camp, a four-week immersive programme designed for students from Grades 7-9. Conducted in collaboration with Meru International School, the initiative introduced participants to the emerging field of Agentic Artificial Intelligence through structured, project-based learning. Students built AI-powered systems, created intelligent workflows, and developed real-world applications under expert mentorship, culminating in a showcase where they presented their projects to mentors, teachers, parents, and peers.

As Artificial Intelligence continues to reshape industries and workplaces, the need to equip students with future-ready skills is becoming increasingly important. While digital literacy is now a part of mainstream education, understanding how intelligent systems think, make decisions, and solve problems is emerging as a critical capability for the next generation. The Agentic AI Summer Camp was designed to help students move beyond using technology and begin creating AI-driven solutions.

Speaking on the successful completion of the programme, Chiranjeevi Maddala, Co-founder & CEO, AI Ready School, said, "The successful completion of three batches of the Agentic AI Summer Camp reinforces our belief that students are far more capable of understanding and applying advanced technologies than we often assume.

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 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

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.

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 Kobeski 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. Inter-Globe 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.

After the game (against New Zealand) they said to us, 'you have to leave immediately. We've been asked to get on a plane and return to our camp in Tijuana, and we are really troubled by that. They are forcing us to go back early. They are making the situation more and more difficult, more hurdles, but we're not going to let that stop us from doing our best' - Amir Ghalenoi, Iran football team head coach



Cape Verde's veteran wall stands tall on WC debut

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

R J RICO ATLANTA

IT took Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha all of his 40 years on Earth to make his World Cup debut. The long, long wait was worth every fleeting second. Vozinha recorded seven saves on Monday, holding Spain's star-studded lineup to a shocking 0-0 draw.

The veteran keeper was everywhere as the Spanish team and its fans became increasingly frustrated, despite dominating possession and unleashing 27 shots. Not even the second-half entrance of young superstar Lamine Yamal could crack the code to get past Vozinha and the Cape Verde defense.

As the final whistle blew, Vozinha hunched over near his net and cried before being embraced by his teammates. Cape Verde, in its first-ever World Cup match, had gotten a point against Spain, the 2010 champion and one of the tournament favorites this year.

Vozinha said he was overcome by emotions thinking about his loved ones who were unable to see his finest performance: his grandparents who had raised him, and his mother. His grandparents died a few years ago.

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



Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha makes a save during the World Cup match against Spain

whose citizens face bonds of up to \$15,000 to secure a US visa, part of President Donald Trump's broader crackdown on travelers from countries that officials said had high rates of visa overstays.

The Trump administration last month suspended the requirement for ticket-holders from Cape Verde and four other World Cup nations, but critics said it was too late for many fans. Vozinha's performance was a culmination of a career that didn't even start 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

because of this dream."

"I work all my life for this, for this moment, for this dream," Vozinha said. "A lot of generations in the past (dreamed of) this day but they did not achieve. And now the dream comes true." The word "vozinha" is Portuguese for "little grandmother," and the goalkeeper said he was given the nickname by older kids who would beat him on the soccer field and then laugh, saying he was going home to complain to his grandparents.

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.



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku celebrates with teammates after a self goal from Egypt earn a draw for the latter

Belgium settles for 1-1 draw with Egypt

SEATTLE: Romelu Lukaku's mere presence sparked an attack that led to Belgium's lone goal only seconds after he entered as a second-half substitute, helping his team earn a 1-1 draw with Egypt on Monday at the World Cup.

Lukaku came on in the 66th minute with Belgium trailing 1-0. He ran down the middle of the field and lurched to tap a cross from the right into the net, but Egypt defender Mohamed Hany did that instead, scoring an own-goal. The equalising goal came only 23 seconds after Lukaku came on the field. Emam Ashour had put the Egyptians ahead in the 19th minute with his first international goal. Ashour, a midfielder who was playing in his 30th game for his country, took advantage of a defensive breakdown to give Egypt only its second lead in World Cup match. The Egyptians, who are playing in 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)

RESULTS

- Spain 0 Cape Verde 0
- Belgium 1 Egypt 1
- Saudi Arabia 1 Uruguay 1
- Iran 2 New Zealand 2

Fixtures (in IST)

ON WEDNESDAY

- 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

ON THURSDAY

- 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

Gurucharan bags Brilliant Trophy Jrs online chess title

HYDERABAD: Gurucharan Bhole of Raviteja High School, Narayanpet, emerged champion of the Brilliant Trophy Juniors Online Chess Tournament, scoring an impressive 11 points from 12 rounds. The tournament, conducted online, witnessed participation from young chess talents across the country.

Ayaan Arora of New Delhi and Saw Jinson Samuel of Andaman & Nicobar Islands secured second and third places respectively, both finishing with 10.5 points from 12 rounds. Leeladitya Vardhan, Shanmukha Vasudeva, Anjan Goud Panasa, P Jillin Jeffin, Lopamudra Srivalli Aadya, Advitiya A G., and Laxmi Rishaank completed the top ten standings.

The event also featured age-category prizes for boys and girls in Under-15, Under-13, Under-11, Under-9 and Under-7 sections. Several promising young players showcased their skills, making the tournament a highly competitive and successful event.

The age category prize



winners are: Boys: Under-15: 1. Mohammed Shabbir Ahmed, 2. Preran. Under-13: 1. M Adithya, 2. VSai Anirudh. Under-11: 1. Sacit Bara, 2. Arhant Reddy Swarna. Under-9: 1. Mohammed Sahir Ahmed, 2. T Easanth. Under-7: 1. Vaidik Tanwar, 2. B Nithwik. Girls: Under-15: 1. Sri Lasya Tummupudi, 2. Kandeputu Manasa. Under-13: 1. Saanvika Akarapu, 2. Parnita. Under-11: 1.S K Sony, 2. Kandeputu Karthika. Under-9: 1. Anshitha, 2. B Aira. Under-7: 1. B Nithwika, 2. Ishika Garlapati.

Gymkhana FC enter semis, beat Bolarum Sporting 2-0

HYDERABAD: Gymkhana FC secured a place in the semi-finals of the Bolarum Challenge Cup 2026 with a convincing 2-0 victory over hosts Bolarum Sporting in the tournament's second quarter-final match.

Bolarum Sporting made an energetic start and nearly opened the scoring in the 10th minute. Piyush delivered a precise cross to Sai Satya, but a timely intervention by a Gymkhana defender prevented the hosts from taking the lead.

Gymkhana FC gradually settled into the contest and broke the deadlock in the 20th minute of the first half. Jobin finished off a well-constructed attacking move to put his side ahead 1-0.

The visitors maintained control after the break and doubled their advantage in the 75th minute. Majid reacted quickest to a rebound after goalkeeper Likith made an initial save, calmly slotting the ball home to make it 2-0.

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

TCA THREATENS LEGAL ACTION OVER PROPOSED TG-20 LEAGUE



HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

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

TG-20 League, which it claims lacks mandatory approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). TCA General Secretary Dharam Guruvu Reddy said notices would be sent to actors Venkatesh Daggubati and Vijay Deverakonda, former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu, and international players Tilak Varma

and Mohammed Siraj, among others. The association alleged that their endorsements could create a misleading impression that the tournament is officially recognized. The TCA also raised concerns over the role of the Court-appointed Single Member Committee headed by retired Justice P. Naveen Rao and questioned the legality of the league's governing structure and financial transactions.

Further, the association alleged political interference in cricket administration, irregularities in franchise ownership and marginalization of district-level players. It claimed that cricket was being used to advance commercial and political interests.

'People from RSS' behind attack on me: Dipke

JAIPUR

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.

Dipke landed at the Nagpur airport on Tuesday morning, ahead of the BJP's protest scheduled at Samvidhan Square here later in the day to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over last month's NEET (UG) paper leak issue.

The BJP 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.



Asked who he thinks was behind the attack on him, Dipke alleged, "There were some people belonging to RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), and there is nothing new in it."

Whenever someone speaks against the government or their ideology, they do like this; there is nothing new in it, he claimed.

On claims that he has ties

with RSS and had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dipke said, "Is that why they attacked me yesterday?"

He claimed the attack on him was an attempt to divert attention from the real issue and to suppress the students' voices.

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

and democratically and not deviate from our main issue, which is about more than one crore students suffering injustice, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has to take responsibility for it," he said.

"These kind of attacks will keep happening, but I am not afraid. We walk on the path of (Mahatma) Gandhi ji and Ambedkar, and it is our satyagraha, we will keep going on peacefully," he asserted.

Dipke has appealed to Nagpur residents, including students and the youth, to gather at Samvidhan Square at 4 pm on Tuesday for a peaceful demonstration.

The BJP has been demanding Pradhan's resignation over the NEET (UG) paper leak scandal.

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

'BJP failed' accountability test by not seeking Pradhan's exit'

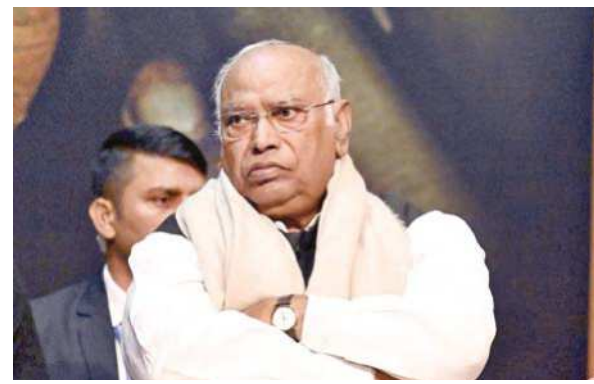
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the BJP government of having completely failed the test of accountability by not asking Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign following several exam irregularities.

He also criticised the government for putting curbs on the Telegram messaging app ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-exam on June 21, "The Modi government has temporarily blocked Telegram for the NEET exam re-test."

Modi ji should first demand the resignation of his Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who has blocked the futures of millions of youth," Kharge said in a post on X.

"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



10 years, 90 paper leaks have occurred, and 9 crore youth are suffering due to this fraud and corruption. How long will this government keep covering up its failures?" the Congress chief asked.

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha claimed that nearly half a dozen young people have been forced to take their own lives due to the exam irregularities.

"Modi ji doesn't utter a single word. There are countless candidates whose parents took loans to prepare them for recruitment exams over

years. And then, one after another, NEET, SSC, UGC-NET, CUET, and other exam papers get leaked," he said.

The situation, Kharge said, has reached such a point that so much fraud was carried out in the CBSE results that talented students had to expose this government.

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.

Jharkhand: NDA MLAs moved to hotel ahead of RS polls

RANCHI: Legislators of the opposition NDA in Jharkhand were being moved to a hotel here days ahead of polls to two Rajya Sabha seats in Jharkhand, a source in the alliance said. Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Babul Marandi said they will hold meetings to chalk out a strategy for the elections on June 18. Asking if the MLAs would stay at the hotel for two days, he said, "We will hold meetings." The BJP leader exuded confidence in the victory of the BJP-backed Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani in one of the two Rajya Sabha seats in the state.

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(M) Liberation.

NCPI names new chief; party gen secy 'has no idea'

KOLKATA: The Nationalist Citizens Party of India, which has been thrust into the spotlight after the Trinamool Congress rebel Lok Sabha faction's merger with it, has named Jyotiprakash Chatterji as its new president, according to Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, a key face of the dissident camp.

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.

Amid TMC split, LS speaker gave Abhishek 2-hr notice

NEW DELHI

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

2 pm on Monday, asking him to meet Birla at 4 pm. Soon after, the speaker's office called party MP Kirti Azad and told him about the email. Azad, in response, informed the speaker's office that Banerjee was "committed to cooperating with all investigative agencies" and was cooperating with the investigation at the ED office in CGO complex in Kolkata, sources said. Later in the day, Azad also met the speaker to inform him about the email.

The sources added that Banerjee returned after questioning only around mid-



night. The communication came as around 20 TMC MPs announced they were merging with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) and said they would later stake claim to be recognised as the "real TMC".

Earlier, sources from Parliament said Birla is likely to seek legal opinion on the defected leaders' demand to be recognised as a separate group after a proposed merger with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI).

Two held for throwing eggs at TMC MLA Kunal

KOLKATA: Two persons were arrested on Tuesday morning, allegedly for throwing eggs at Trinamool Congress MLA Kunal Ghosh outside party supreme 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.

Raut rejects Sena (UBT) MP defection buzz

MUMBAI

A day after Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Deshmukh met Shiv Sena minister Prataprao Jadhav, sparking speculation of a possible switch, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said a "wrong picture was being painted" and asserted all parliamentarians remain firmly with the party.

Talking to reporters in New Delhi, Raut targeted the ruling BJP, accusing it of splitting parties and saying this was bad for the country's political health. "All Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs are together and will remain together," the



Rajya Sabha member said. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has downplayed the speculation of an 'Operation Tiger' being afoot (by ruling Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde) to poach party MPs.

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

party MPs. Of the nine Lok Sabha members, only four --- Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai, Rajabhu Waze and Sanjay Patil --- attended the meeting in person, while Omprakash Raje Nimbalkar, Bhausaheb Wakchaur, Nagesh Bapurao Patil Ashtikar and Sanjay Deshmukh attended online.

Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Jadhav spoke to Thackeray over the phone, Raut said on Monday. The five MPs had cited different reasons to attend the meeting virtually.

Deshmukh, MP from Yavatmal-Washim, had said he skipped the meeting for family reasons.

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 Vangalapati Anitha addresses a press conference along with officials at the Secretariat on Tuesday

HOME minister Vangalapati 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.

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. Filing 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 Annamaya 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 Annamaya 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 Gurrakonda mandal of Annamaya 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 groundwater 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 Ramanna 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.0, 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 Viduyt 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 Viduyt 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 Ramanamurthy, along with chief engineers and superintending engineers.



OTT deals crisis puts big-budget films under financial pressure

SUHAS SISTU

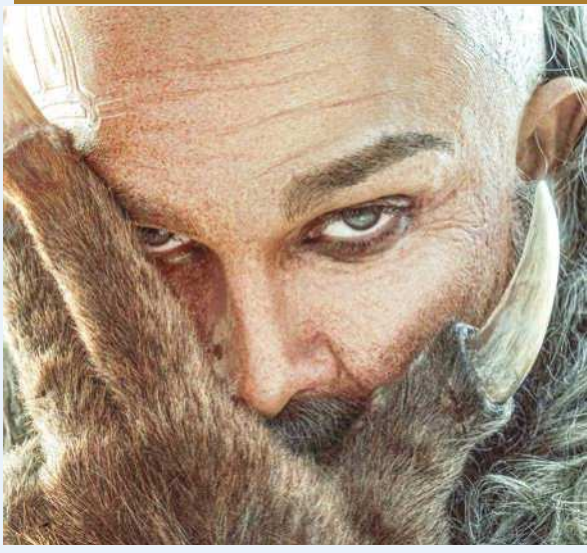
The Indian film industry is facing a new financial challenge as OTT deals, once considered a major source of revenue recovery, have witnessed a significant decline. Streaming platforms are reportedly reducing acquisition budgets, leaving producers of several big-budget films under mounting pressure.

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 dis-

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.



agreements. 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 Karni 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 Karni'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.

'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.



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.

'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 Pavan Gaggireddy. 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?