



The Pioneer

Paper with passion since 1864

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NDA govt redefined women-led development in 11 years:
PM Modi

'INDIA WILL PROTECT FARMERS' INTEREST IN US TRADE TALKS'



Aadi Saikumar's Shambhala teaser unleashes a mystical STORM



QUOTE OF THE DAY
The Pioneer
Criticism should be based on values and must be sharp. It should not be derogatory. I am appealing to the public not to entertain leaders who use abusive language and to teach them a lesson with your votes. Leaders who work with dedication are decreasing by the day in politics
- M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice-President of India

P2

DON'T MISS...

Nizam era building: The Pride Of Warangal

The Subedar Collector Bungalow in Warangal, constructed in 1886 during the Nizam rule era, is undergoing a significant transformation into a Heritage Bhavan. With an allocation of Rs 2 crore for minor repairs, work commenced in February and is now complete. The government has made the commendable decision to preserve this remarkable building as a heritage property, recognising its excellent condition even after 139 years. Set across 13 acres, this expansive estate features vast halls and a building comprising ...

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'NDA will come to power TN, WB'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the NDA would form governments in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Addressing party office bearers, he hailed Madurai as a city of 'Parivartan' and said his party's Karyakarta Sammelan (workers meet) would lead to change as well, of dislodging DMK from power. In the 2026 Assembly election, BJP-AIADMK will form NDA government in Tamil Nadu and people will defeat DMK in 2026 polls and the DMK is 100 per cent failure...

-PAGE: 5

BoB, HDFC Bank reduce lending rate

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Sunday said it has cut its benchmark lending rate linked to repo rate by 50 basis points in line with the RBI's rate reduction. Meanwhile, private sector HDFC Bank reduced its Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points across tenure, which will benefit borrowers whose loans are linked to this benchmark. Pursuant to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reducing the policy repo rate, the bank has slashed its Repo Linked Lending Rate...

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Diksha stays within top Ten

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar carded an even par 72 to hold her position within the top 10 after the third round of the Tenerife Women's Open at Abama Golf here. Diksha was five-under for three days and is placed sole 9th in the standings. She is three shots behind the leader Sara Kouskova (69) at eighth-under. The other Indian to make the cut in Tenerife, Avani Prashanth played an even par third round and is now placed at 43rd on the leaderboard. Sara Kouskova surged ahead of the field on the third day with a round ...

-SPORTS



Expansion reflects social justice

Three Congress MLAs sworn-in as T'gana ministers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ruling Congress MLAs G Vivek Venkata Swamy, Adhuri Laxman Kumar, and Vakiti Srihari were sworn in as ministers in the Telangana government on Sunday, marking the first cabinet expansion under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma administered the oath of office and secrecy at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, his cabinet colleagues, MLAs, and other leaders were present on the occasion.

The induction of the three new ministers marks the end of weeks of speculation over the expansion of the council of ministers headed by Revanth Reddy. The appointment of the three new ministers and the deputy speaker reflected the focus of the ruling Congress on social justice.

It follows recent discussions between CM Revanth Reddy, state Congress president B Mahesh Kumar Goud, and the AICC leadership in Delhi regarding cabinet appointments and party posts.

The full strength of the Telangana cabinet, including the Chief Minister, is 18.

With the induction of the three new ministers, the number of min-

- The full strength of the Telangana cabinet, including the Chief Minister, is 18
- With the induction of the three new ministers, the number of ministers rose to 15



Adhuri Laxman Kumar



Vakiti Srihari



G Vivek Venkata Swamy



Ramchander Naik (Deputy Speaker)

isters rose to 15.

Following the induction of the three new ministers on Sunday, there are now three vacancies in the cabinet.

The appointment of state Congress office bearers, including the working president and others, has been pending since Goud took over as Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president in September 2024.

In a post on X, Reddy also congratulated party legislator Ramchander Naik on becoming the

Continued on Page 2

Cong launches pacification move

The Congress state leadership has launched an exercise to appease MLAs, who are disappointed at not getting a Minister post in the Cabinet expansion

that took place on Sunday. MLAs Adhuri Laxman, Vakiti Srihari and Vivek got berths in the Cabinet, and they took oath on Sunday at the Raj



TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar convincing Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy at his residence on Sunday

Bhavan. However, MLAs P. Sudharshan Reddy, K. Premasagar Rao, Malreddy Ranga Reddy and Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy didn't get berths and they are deeply disappointed.

The AICC's TG in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud entered the scene to pacify them. They spoke to Malreddy Ranga Reddy and made him cancel his press conference scheduled at Sunday 5 pm. Later, Mahesh Kumar Goud and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar went to Malreddy Ranga Reddy's residence and explained the situation.

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CM Revanth Reddy addressing the Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's autobiography book release function at Shilpakala Vedika on Sunday

My school education was in the BJP, college in TDP, now doing a job with Rahul: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that he recently told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that his school education was in the BJP, college education in the TDP, and now doing a job with Rahul Gandhi.

The CM said he has good relations with both the Dattatreya and Kishan Reddy families. "There is no need to talk specifically about my ties with Kishan Reddy. However, I used to contact Kishan Reddy now and then. I will pur-

sue the development of the state along with Kishan Reddy," the CM said.

Addressing Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's autobiography 'Prajala Kathe naa Athma Katha' book release function at the Shilpakala Vedika on Sunday, the CM said that he will not hide his close ties.

He said that he had come to the book release function immediately after the Cabinet expansion programme due to his ties with Dattatreya. Dattatreya is a person who has no

Continued on Page 2

Dattatreya reflects gentlemanliness: Chandrababu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya is a replica of the word 'Gentleman'.

Attending in Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's autobiography 'Prajala Kathe Naa Athma Katha' release function at the Shilpa Kala Vedika on Sunday, Chandrababu remembered that he was affectionately called Dattanna.

Declaring that he still remembers



AP CM Chandrababu Naidu participates Haryana governor Bandaru Dattatreya's autobiography book release function at Shilpa Kala Vedika on Sunday

the old days 40 years ago, he said that it is not easy for a commoner to

come up in national politics.

He said that Dattatreya's name

means Hinduism and added that Dattatreya comes to mind whenever he says Alai Balai. He also praised Dattatreya for his interest in people and his secular credentials.

Chandrababu said that Dattatreya took part in many public movements and faced several problems. However, Dattatreya has no enemies and his political life is a role model for others, he added.

He said that Dattatreya used to write letters to governments and Chief Ministers on public issues and also strived for the development of Hyderabad.

No need to protect KCR, Cong trying to mislead public: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajigiri MP, Eatala Rajender, made it clear that he has no need to protect former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao. Congress Ministers are willfully issuing statements to mislead the public, Eatala said.

He said that he didn't go to the Kaleshwaram Commission to make a political statement. There is no Kaleshwaram Project without the



Cabinet Subcommittee. The Cabinet Subcommittee recommended the redesigning of several irrigation projects in the Kaleshwaram Project,

he said, making it clear that he will reveal all GOs and Subcommittee decisions soon.

Addressing the media on Sunday, Eatala said that nothing is done by the government without discussing the matter in the Cabinet and taking a decision based on that.

"How can Tummala Nageshwara Rao say that the Cabinet did not discuss the Kaleshwaram Project? KCR did not implement any decision on his own. KCR

Continued on Page 2

CASH DISCOVERY ROW

Resignation only option before Justice Varma to avoid removal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Resignation is the only option before Justice Yashwant Varma to avoid impeachment by Parliament as the government pushes for bringing a motion to remove the Allahabad High Court judge over alleged corruption.

Officials aware of the procedure to appoint and remove Supreme Court and high court judges pointed out that while defending his case before lawmakers in any of the House, Justice Varma can announce that he is quitting and his verbal statement will be considered as his resignation.

Should he decide to resign, he will get pension and other benefits entitled to a retired HC judge.



But if he is removed by Parliament, he will be deprived of pension and other benefits, they noted. According to Article 217 of the Constitution, a high court judge "may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office"

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According to Article 217 of the Constitution, a high court judge "may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office."

A judge's resignation does not

require any approval. A simple resignation letter is sufficient.

A judge may give a prospective date to step down. In such cases, the judge can withdraw the resignation before the date he or she has mentioned as the last day in office.

Removal by Parliament is the other way a judge can vacate office.

Then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna had written to the president and the prime minister to remove Justice Varma, mired in the cash discovery row. Justice Khanna's report was based on the findings of a three-judge in house panel which investigated the case.

Justice Khanna had prodded

Varma to resign but he had refused, sources had earlier said.

A motion could be brought in either of the two Houses of Parliament. In the Rajya Sabha, at least 50 members have to sign the motion. In Lok Sabha, 100 members have to support it.

According to the Judges (Inquiry) Act of 1968, once a motion to remove a judge is admitted in any of the Houses, the speaker or the chairman, as the case may be, will constitute a three-member committee to investigate the grounds on which the removal (or, in popular term, impeachment) has been sought.

The committee consists of the chief justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge, the chief justice of one of the 25 high courts and

a "distinguished jurist".

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had last week said the present case is 'slightly different' as an in-house committee formed by then CJI Khanna has already submitted its report. "So what is to be done in this matter, we will take a call," he said. The minister said the process has to be followed, but how to "integrate the inquiry already conducted" needs to be decided.

"As per the rule, a committee has to be constituted and then the committee has to submit a report and the report will be tabled in the House and discussions will start to impeach. Here, a committee has already been constituted, not by Parliament. But it cannot be brushed aside" as it was constituted by the CJI, he said.

Phone tapping suspect Prabhakar to appear before SIT today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prabhakar Rao, one of the main accused in the phone tapping case, arrived at the RGI Airport on Sunday.

He is scheduled to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for questioning at the Jubilee Hills Police Station, where most of the accused were questioned earlier.

Sources indicate that Prabhakar's appearance before the SIT may bring out vital details, as investigators continue to unravel the extent of the illegal surveillance operation.



Monday Mirchi

IPS CHARU SINHA ARRIVED WITH DREADLOCKS AND SWAGGER

IPS officer Charu Sinha is back in Telangana—this time as CID chief—and she's making heads turn. Not just for her rock-solid record in tackling Naxals and terrorists, but for her look: dreadlocks. From leading CRPF in Srinagar during peak unrest to now heading Women Safety and Bharosa too, she's done it all. But it's the quiet confidence and that unmistakable swag that has everyone talking. "She didn't return, she arrived", as per young officers. Lady Singham, now with locks to match her legacy. She is No-nonsense on duty, but off duty? Total vibe. No one's seen a top cop walk in with this kind of presence in a long time—and it's clearly shaking things up. In a world of crisp buns and polished boots, Charu Sinha just reminded everyone that power isn't always in the protocol. Sometimes, it walks in wrapped in grit, grace, and a whole lot of dreadlocked dignity.

NIZAMABAD CP'S SHIVA TANDAVAM MOMENT WINS THE INTERNET

It was a brief moment, but it struck a powerful chord. During the Telangana Formation Day celebrations, Nizamabad Commissioner of Police K R Nagaraju was spotted humming along as the Shiva Tandava Stotram echoed through the venue—and the internet took note. Netizens were quick to appreciate the top cop's unfiltered connect & others lauded him for not shying away from singing along in uniform.

For the uninitiated, the powerful stotram was played right before the briefing of Operation Sindoor, by Armed forces officers, setting a tone of intensity and purpose. That video alone had already broken the internet—Nagaraju's spontaneous moment only added more spark.

ILAMBARITHI ESCAPES THE MONSOON MAYHEM

Talk about perfect timing—Ilambarithi has walked out of GHMC just before the rains roll in, and insiders are calling it the luckiest bureaucratic escape of the season. When he took charge, the monsoon had already wrapped up. And now, just as the clouds are gathering again, he moved out—clearly a happy man with a clean exit. For newbies, GHMC Commissioner's job knows monsoon is the toughest stretch: waterlogging, traffic chaos, open drains, seasonal illnesses, citizen outrage—the works. New commissioner has to face the music—flood

complaints, dengue buzz, and angry WhatsApp groups. Yours truly wishes him luck just like officers in corridors of power have been doing it. He'll need it.

BUREAUCRATIC STORM BREWING, NIZAMABAD MAY SEE EXIT

Another round of transfers is loading in Telangana—this time, it's the districts that are under the scanner. A major reshuffle is expected any moment now, with most collectors likely to be moved. But it's Nizamabad that's buzzing the most. Whispers in Secretariat corridors say the change here is almost sealed—not for administrative lapses, but because of the growing chatter about family members of the collector getting too involved in official matters. That's never a good look, and it seems the top brass isn't amused. Across districts, performance, political equations, and even a few image issues are shaping the list. The exercise is also expected to realign postings based on recent performance and internal feedback from ministers and MLAs. A few surprise names may enter the mix, especially young officers who've been waiting in the wings for key district roles. It's going to be a game of chairs—and from the looks of it, the music has already started.

RETIRED IPS ABV SLAMS AP POLICE OVER PUBLIC HUMILIATION

Retired IPS officer A B Venkateswara Rao has come down heavily on the Andhra Pradesh police for what he called "cruel and excessive" treatment of three accused individuals, who were allegedly beaten and paraded on public roads. Though full details of the case are still murky, the visuals reportedly showing the accused being thrashed and photographed in the open sparked outrage. Rao didn't mince words. He said such public humiliation was a direct violation of the accused's dignity and due process. "This undermines the very foundation of legal safeguards," he remarked. Known for his sharp takes on policing standards, ABV cautioned that such street justice tactics could deeply damage public trust in law enforcement. His words echoed the growing discomfort among civil society and former officers about how policing is evolving under the current regime. His comments have now added weight to the calls for accountability—and reminded the system that even those under arrest deserve constitutional protection, not spectacle.

--Yours truly

Today is an unforgettable day for me, says Adluri Laxman

I will work as per the CM's directions: Vivek

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dharmapuri MLA Adluri Laxman said that today (Sunday) was an unforgettable day for him.

"I was shocked when Chief Minister Revanth Reddy phoned me on Saturday night and asked me to get ready for the oath-taking ceremony. The CM told me to come to the Raj Bhavan at 11 am on Sunday," he said.

Addressing the media after taking oath as a Minister on Sunday at the Raj Bhavan, Laxman said that as an ordinary Congress worker, he thinks that getting a place in the Cabinet is a fortunate thing. All sections would get opportunities under the leadership of Revanth Reddy, he said.

He said that he is extending special thanks to the Congress high command and the CM on behalf of the Madiga community.



nity.

Chennur MLA G. Vivek said he will work as per the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and that the high command knew about how he had worked for the Telangana Movement and after that.

Responding after taking oath as a Minister, Vivek said that he has now got a chance

to serve the public as a Minister.

He said they used to organise charity programmes through their charity agency as per his father's directions, even when they were in business.

"My father had a good image as he used to organise several social service programmes," he added.

Telangana now in the race for FDI investment: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Maharashtra and Karnataka emerged as the top magnets for foreign investment in India, together accounting for more than half of the country's FDI. However, Telangana stood in the 7th place with a booty of USD 3 billion.

Overall, India's total FDI, comprising equity inflows, reinvested earnings, and other capital, rose by 14% to \$81.04 billion in 2024–25, marking

the highest inflow in the past three years.

In the previous fiscal, the country received USD 71.3 billion. As per the latest figures released by the DPIIT, the two states attracted 51% of the country's overall foreign direct investment during the 2024–25 financial year.

Maharashtra led the chart, attracting FDI worth USD 19.6 billion, 31% of the national total between April 2024 and March 2025.

Karnataka followed with overseas investments amounting to USD 6.62 billion. Other key recipients included Delhi (\$6 billion), Gujarat (\$5.71 billion), Tamil Nadu (\$3.68 billion), Haryana (\$3.14 billion), and Telangana (\$3 billion).

Experts said the surge in investment in Maharashtra and Karnataka was largely driven by improvements in infrastructure, which have made both states investor-friendly.

If new people are given party posts, workers will suffer: Malreddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress's Ibrahimpatnam MLA, Malreddy Ranga Reddy, said that they were the one who saved the Congress after fighting the BRS for 10 years and that if new entrants are given posts in the party, old time workers will suffer. The party is facing an embarrassing situation, he added.

It is known that Malreddy

was disappointed as he was hoping for a Minister post and was later pacified by Congress leaders.

Later, Malreddy spoke to the media and said that he would stay within the party line and demanded that Minister posts should be given to all 10 erst-while districts.

"The high command has not listened to us. If new people are given posts in the party, workers will suffer.

The party is facing an embarrassing situation. They are giving two or three Minister posts to the given districts. Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts used to have six Ministers in the past. The TPCC chief should give us an opportunity to air our grievances to the high command. If my community blocks us, we will sacrifice our posts for the party," Ranga Reddy said.

9-year-old girl's body found in suitcase in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A nine-year-old girl was allegedly raped, killed and her body stuffed in a suitcase at a neighbour's house in northeast Delhi's Dayalpur area, triggering protests by her family members and locals.

The girl's body was found on Saturday evening. Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in the area on Sunday to maintain law and order.

Police said the perpetrator of the heinous crime seems to have fled after stuffing the body in the suitcase. Senior police officers said all angles are being probed, including sexual assault.

"We are awaiting the autopsy report to confirm the cause of death. Teams have been formed to nab the absconding accused. We are taking this matter with utmost seriousness," a police officer said.

The girl, a resident of Nehru Vihar, had gone to give ice to a relative living nearby around 7 pm on Saturday, her family members said.

When she did not return home for a long time, her parents began searching for her. According to the victim's father, they approached several relatives and neighbours, but no one had seen her after her brief visit to the relative's house.

Expansion reflects ...

Continued from page 1

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Vivek and Laxman Kumar belong to SC (Mala) and SC (Madiga) communities, respectively, while Srihari is a leader who hails from the backward classes.

Ramchander Naik represents the ST community. Vivek Venkata Swamy, son of late Congress veteran G Venkataswamy, is a senior leader who had served as a Lok Sabha member earlier.

Popularly known as Vivek, he started his political career with Congress but also worked with the BRS and BJP before returning to the Congress ahead of 2023 assembly elections.

Vivek had also served as the president of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). Vivek's elder brother, G Vinod, is an incumbent Congress MLA, while Vivek's son Vamsi Krishna is a sitting Lok Sabha member.

In a bid to placate ministerial hopefuls who were left disappointed over their non-inclusion in the cabinet, AICC in charge of party affairs in Telangana, Meenakshi Natarajan, state Congress president Mahesh Kumar Goud visited the residences of Congress MLAs P Sudarshan Reddy and Prem Sagar, party sources said.

Cong launches ...

Continued from page 1

Meenakshi Natarajan, CM's Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, Mahesh Kumar Goud and Minister Ponnann Prabhakar and Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav went to Sudarshan Reddy's residence on Sunday to pacify him as he was deeply disappointed at not getting a chance to join the Cabinet, as he

BRS MLA Maganti ...

Continued from page 1

IT Minister Nara Lokesh and other leaders paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Gopianath at his residence. BRS Working President K T Rama Rao, BJP MP K Laxman and several other leaders attended the funeral of Gopinath at the 'Maha Prasthanam' crematorium here on Sunday evening. The funeral was held with state honours as decided by the ruling government.

had hoped that he will get a Minister post.

It is learnt that Meenakshi explained to Sudarshan about why he did not get a chance in the Cabinet expansion. She said the MLAs were selected to meet the need to maintain social balance.

Cooling down after Meenakshi's appeasement attempt, Sudarshan said that he will obey the high command's decision. Later, they went to Prem Sagar Rao's residence.

No need to ...

Continued from page 1

took signatures from everyone. The then Ministers, Tummala Nageshwara Rao, Jupally Krishna Rao and Kadiam Srihari knew that. Congress leaders should take action after getting the PC Ghose report if they have the guts. Otherwise, the Congress Government should hand over the case to the CBI," Eatala said.

Party ensured caste balance in Cabinet: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, MLC, said that the Congress ensured caste balance while expanding the Cabinet. He said two ministries were given to the SCs and one to the BC category.

He said the allocation was done on the basis of the caste survey and SC classification demands. Three more Cabinet berths have not been filled so far, Mahesh said.

Addressing the media after meeting Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy at his residence on Sunday, Mahesh said that they had met senior leader Malreddy Ranga Reddy and understood his concern regarding ministerial expectations.

The matter has been communicated to AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and the CM, he said, assuring that Ranga Reddy district will be given due priority in coming days.

Strong castes given place in the Cabinet, says MLA Samuel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Thungathurthy MLA Mandula Samuel said that strong castes have been given a place in the Cabinet.

Addressing the media after attending the swearing-in of the Cabinet at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday, he said that the social engineering was done to strengthen the Congress.

He said that they (Madigas) got a place in the Cabinet, and expressed happiness over the Congress leadership giving a

chance to just three people to join the Cabinet, including two SCs, Vivek Venkataswamy, Adluri Laxman, and Vakiti Srihari from the BC rank and file.

He said that ministerial posts were allocated to strengthen the Congress socially. He thanked AICC leader Mallikarjuna Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, KC Venugopal, Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, the CM and PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud.

Politicians changing parties like diapers: Venkaiah

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said that some politicians are changing political parties like the diapers of children.

"Criticism should be based on values and must be sharp. It should not be derogatory. I am appealing to the public not to entertain leaders who use abusive language and to teach them a lesson with your votes. Leaders who work with dedication are decreasing by the day in politics," he said.

Participating in Haryana

Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's autobiography book 'Prajala Katha Naa Atma Katha' release function held at the Shilpa Kala Vedita on Sunday, Venkaiah advised politicians to consider Dattatreya as their role model in politics and to practice value-based politics.

He said that there is no need to reveal Dattatreya's background to people, as his past is like an open book. Dattatreya has earned the image of a spotless leader. He remained in the BJP regardless of posts, Venkaiah said.

Pained by stampede, have no connection with cricket stadium: Siddaramaiah

PNS ■ MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that the stampede that killed 11 people outside the Chinnaswamy stadium shouldn't have happened and he "didn't have any connection with the cricket stadium".

The CM also said, he was pained by the incident.

"This incident shouldn't have happened, it happened at the Cricket stadium. I don't have any connection with the cricket stadium," Siddaramaiah told reporters here. The stampede occurred on June 4 evening in front of the Chinnaswamy stadium here, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Opposition is demanding the resignation of chief minister and deputy chief minister in this issue.

He said, "It was an unfortunate incident, it shouldn't have happened. Such an incident

never happened after I became the CM. Prima facie it seems to have happened because of the officials' fault, so we have taken action. Everyone is in pain, including me."

Siddaramaiah said he attended the RCB team felicitation event in front of Vidhana Soudha on the invitation by Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) Secretary and Treasurer.

Asked about the allegation that the then Bengaluru Police commissioner B Dayananda was made scapegoat, he said, the Commissioner alone has not been suspended, five officers have been suspended, and the intelligence chief has been charged.

"My political secretary K Govindaraj has been removed. We have taken a series of actions, not the police commissioner alone," he added.

On the issue of transferring Hindutva activist Suhas Shetty's murder case to NIA he said,

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Sukla Paksha

Tithi:

Trayodashi: Jun 08 07:18 AM to Jun 09 09:36 AM

Chaturdashi:

Jun 09 09:36 AM to Jun 10 11:35 AM

Nakshatram:

Vishaka: Jun 08 12:42 PM to Jun 09 03:31 PM

Anuradha:

Jun 09 03:31 PM to Jun 10 06:01 PM

Rahukalam:

7:22 AM to 9:00 AM

Yamagandam:

10:37 AM to 12:15 PM

Varjyam:

07:56 PM to 09:42 PM

Gulika:

1:53 PM to 3:30 PM

Amritakalam:

None

Abhijit Muhurtham:

11:49 AM to 12:41 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 35°

Humidity: 60%

Sunrise: 5:41 AM

Sunset: 6:50 PM

Updated: June 8, 2025 5:00 PM



CITY EVENTS

Cultural Programmes
By Sangeet Natak Academy
Venue
Ravindra Bharathi
June 9, 9 am.

Felicitation Programme
By Telangana Rashtra Janapada Kalakarula Sangam
Venue
Ravindra Bharathi
June 9, 6 pm.

Sri Shyam Falgun Mahautsav
By Swara Brindavanam
Venue
Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
June 9, 4:30 pm.

Hindi Musical Event
By Subbu Music Academy
Venue
Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
June 9, 3 pm.

GHMC launches online property tax services

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has announced that all property tax-related services previously available only at MeeSeva centres can now be accessed online through the official GHMC website under the Online Services tab. This initiative allows citizens to avail property tax services from the comfort of their homes, eliminating the need for in-person visits. By providing their Property Tax Identification Number (PTIN) and uploading essential documents such as sale deeds, applicants can now submit their requests directly online, said the GHMC office in a statement. The applications will be automatically forwarded to the concerned GHMC revenue Officials for verification and approval. The following property tax services are now available online: Self-assessment of property tax, revision of property tax, assessment exemption (for ex-servicemen), mobile number updation, correction of door number in property tax, correction of owner name in property tax and vacancy remission. Additionally, GHMC stated that the Mutation of Property service is under development and will be made available online in due course.

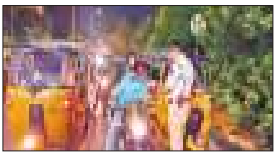


City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | MONDAY | JUNE 9, 2025

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362 caught in special drunk driving initiative

The Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, leading to the apprehension of 362 offenders for driving under the influence of alcohol. The breakdown of cases by vehicle type is that two-wheelers are 260, three-wheelers: 24, four-wheelers: 73 and heavy vehicles: 5. Offenders were also categorised based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels: 316 individuals had BAC levels between 35 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml, 30 individuals had BAC levels between 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml, 16 individuals had BAC levels between 301 mg/100 ml to 500 mg/100 ml.

OVER RS 30 LAKH FINES IMPOSED, 12 HOSTEL KITCHENS SHUT

GHMC cracks down on food adulteration in city

In a determined effort to curb food adulteration and ensure safe consumption, the Food Safety Wing of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified its enforcement actions across the city. In a statement issued on Sunday, the Food Safety Wing officials said that 1,887 food samples were collected in 2024, of which 95 were found in violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Based on these violations, the GHMC imposed fines amounting to Rs 30.60 lakh on erring food business operators. Furthermore, 12 samples were deemed unsafe for human consumption, prompting criminal prosecution against the violators. As part of its awareness and monitoring drive for the financial year 2024-25, GHMC's Food Safety



GHMC's Food Safety Wing inspecting food outlets

Wing conducted 210 training and awareness camps using the Food Safety on Wheels mobile unit. During these camps, 4,006 spot tests were conducted to check the quality and hygiene of ingredients used by street food vendors. Vendors were educated on basic hygiene practices and safe food preparation methods. To formalise and regulate street food vendors and hawkers, the GHMC issued 1,500 registration certificates. Additionally, a special drive to inspect hostels was carried out in areas such as LB Nagar, Kukatpally, Serilingampally, Ashok Nagar, Dilsukhnagar and Ameerpet. The officials inspected 117 hostels, issued notices to 74 hostel managements and shut down kitchens in 12 hostels due to unhygienic conditions. Fines amounting to Rs 5.09 lakh were imposed on 70 hostels under the GHMC Act, 1955.



SCR GM Arun Kumar Jain flagging off the 'Fit India Cyclothon' event on Sunday

SCR flags off 'Sundays on Cycle' event to promote fitness routine

South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Arun Kumar Jain flagged off the "Fit India Cyclothon" event along with a team of SCR officials at the Railway Sports Complex on Sunday. The event was organised by the SCR Sports Association under the 'Khelo India Scheme's Fit India initiative. It aimed at promoting fitness as a daily habit, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, to build a fitness culture among railway staff and local communities. Speaking at the event, Arun Kumar Jain appreciated the Sports Association for taking up such a meaningful initiative. He stressed that staying fit is the need of the hour and vital for everyone's well-being. He noted that the Fit India Movement has greatly encouraged people to lead healthier lives. Arun Kumar highlighted that cycling is not only good for health but also environment-friendly. He added that people in many countries are returning to cycling to stay fit. He urged all railway staff to actively take part in the Fit India campaign. The Fit India Cyclothon is part of a nation-wide drive envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make fitness a people's movement through campaigns like "Sundays On Cycle."



Man arrested at RGI Airport for human trafficking

The RGI Airport Police on Sunday arrested a man for allegedly cheating a woman under the pretext of providing her employment abroad and attempting to traffic her illegally. According to RGI Airport Police, the accused, A Satyanarayana, a resident of West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, promised Lankapally Mary a job in Muscat. However, instead of securing a legitimate work visa, he arranged a tourist visa and fake documents, misleading her about the

National conference on high-risk pregnancies

Yashoda Hospitals - Hitec City organised a National Conference on Excellence in High-Risk Pregnancies, bringing together top specialists in obstetrics, internal medicine and critical care. The event focused on collaborative approaches to managing complex pregnancy cases. Dr Pavan Gorukanti, Director of Yashoda Hospitals, highlighted their multi-disciplinary care model to anticipate complications early and safeguard both mother and baby. The conference featured expert talks on maternal cardiac issues, obstetric emergencies, endocrine disorders and innovations like MR-Linac-based radiation therapy.

City startups turning to neobanks for smarter money management

SAMUEL JOSHUA samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, fast emerging as India's innovation capital, is seeing a sharp rise in the use of 'neobanks' by startups looking for smarter ways to manage money. These fully digital banking platforms offer the speed, transparency and flexibility that young companies need to grow and scale quickly. Today's startups require dynamic financial ecosystems and neobanks are uniquely positioned to meet that demand," said Dario Schiraldi, a global fintech expert who has studied market trends in India, the UAE and China. What we are witnessing in Hyderabad mirrors the agility-first approach startups demand across emerging markets. This trend is being driven by Hyderabad's booming startup ecosystem, supported by accel-



erators, tech parks and funding initiatives. While traditional banks continue to play a role, many lack the digital infrastructure and quick response times that startups require. Neobanks, on the other hand, offer features like automated invoicing, real-time analytics and simplified cross-border payments.

Many new startups in Hyderabad have found that neobanks make it easier to transact globally with fewer delays. Dario Schiraldi noted that in countries like China and the UAE, digital banking is already deeply embedded into the startup landscape and Hyderabad is now following a similar path.

Hyderabad's startups are adopting the same digital-first, capital-intelligent strategies we see in other high-growth global markets, he added. He also emphasised that the next wave of unicorns is likely to be built on neobank infrastructure. Dario noted, "In the UAE, digital banks have helped startups scale by cutting financial overheads. India is on a similar trajectory." Unlike traditional banks, neobanks provide more than just basic financial services. They offer tools that help startups predict burn rates, manage vendor payments efficiently and access early-stage credit, all without the slow processes of legacy banks. With support from T-Hub, WE Hub and access to global VCs, Hyderabad is ready for this shift. "Smart money management is not optional anymore, it's essential," said Dario Schiraldi.

Lighting to be inaugurated at Kachiguda station today

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has installed an elegant facade lighting system at the historic Kacheguda railway station at a cost of ₹2.23 crore. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy will formally inaugurate the lighting on June 9. In recent times, efforts have been made to beautify heritage structures through facade lighting, making them more visually appealing and helping the public appreciate their cultural and historical significance. As part of this initiative, the Kacheguda railway station - built in 1916 during the Nizam's rule in Gothic architectural style - has now been illuminated with 785 lighting fixtures. These lights will



enhance the station's majestic architecture and heritage appeal, especially at night. Centrally located within the city and catering to thousands

of daily passengers, the newly lit-up station will now also serve as a cultural and visual attraction. The lighting will help people understand and appreciate the historic importance of this railway station. In addition to its heritage value, Kacheguda railway station is also a model of green infrastructure. It has been awarded the Platinum Rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its commitment to environmental sustainability through green energy use. Moreover, it is recognised as an Energy-Efficient Station by Indian Railways, and notably, it was the first station in Indian Railways to introduce digital payment systems. Further, under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the station is set for a massive redevelopment with an investment of ₹421.66 crore, further enhancing passenger facilities and preserving its iconic legacy.

WEDDING RECEPTION



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy blesses actor Akkineni Akhil at the latter's marriage reception in Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad on Sunday

Fish prasadam distribution begins at Nampally exhibition grounds

The annual fish prasadam distribution by the Bathini Goud family kicked off at Nampally exhibition grounds on Sunday, drawing thousands of asthma patients from across the country. The 170-year-old tradition involves swallowing a live fish filled with herbal paste, believed to offer relief from asthma and respiratory problems. The event was inaugurated by Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, along with Madhu Yashiki, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, and Fisheries Development Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar.



To manage the massive turnout, 42 queue counters were set up and over 1,000 police personnel were deployed. Voluntary organisations distributed drinking

water, breakfast, lunch and buttermilk. The Minister appreciated their support in handling the large-scale event. Minister Prabhakar said people have deep faith in the prasadam and many have experienced relief and appreciated the Bathini family's decades of service. He added that elaborate arrangements had been made over the past 15 days to ensure a smooth experience for attendees. The Minister also expressed hope that the rains beginning during the Mrigasira Karthi period would bring prosperity to agriculture, especially dairy crops across the State and country. PCC President Mahesh

Kumar Goud, who also takes the prasadam every year, assured full government support. MP Anil Kumar Goud appreciated the arrangements and public participation. The Bathini family appealed for the Padma Shri in recognition of their long-standing public service. Leaders present said they would recommend the same to the State and Central governments. Fisheries Commissioner Priyanka, local councillor Rajesh Jaiswal, Secunderabad RDO Sairam, members of the Bathini family, Karnataka State MLC Manjula Bhandari, officials, local public representatives and others participated in the programme.

Severe hostel shortage forces SC/ST students to quit studies

Severe hostel shortage is forcing many SC/ST students in Greater Hyderabad to quit their studies, said R Krishnaiah, President of the National BC Welfare Association. In a letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Krishnaiah mentioned that severe hostel shortage is affecting students, with fewer than 25 hostels available for SC boys and girls studying in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts. These are not nearly enough, considering the thousands of engineering, degree, PG and pharmacy colleges in the region, he said. Krishnaiah stressed that



SC/ST students are also facing the same situation. SC/ST students cannot afford to stay in private hostels which cost around Rs 5,000 per month. He noted that they are often denied houses for rent and suffer from financial and

social difficulties due to ongoing social discrimination. Krishnaiah also mentioned that severe hostel shortage is causing many ST students to drop out because they cannot get accommodation. Tribal students are only now starting to pursue higher education and they must be supported and encouraged, he said. Despite the Central and State governments announcing many educational schemes for tribal students, more action is needed on the ground. Krishnaiah urged the government to sanction college hostels for ST students in Greater Hyderabad, five in Hyderabad, four in Ranga Reddy and four in Medchal for both boys and girls.



Veterinary doctor administering medicine to a calf

One more kode dies due to illness at Vemulawada

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRCILLA

In Tippapur village, one young kode (bull calf) that was ill at the local cattle shelter died on Sunday. However, the remaining 11 sick kodelu are responding well to treatment provided by veterinary doctors and are recovering, said District Animal Husbandry Officer Ravinder Reddy.

He stated that out of the 1,300 animals in the cattle shelter, currently, 11 kodelu are under veterinary care. All 11 are responding positively to the treatment and recovering from their illness. He further added that no new cases of illness have been reported and assured that strict measures are being taken to safeguard the health of the goats.

NARAYANPET-KODANGAL LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME

Farmers demand Rs 70 lakh per acre compensation

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

As per the promise made during the Assembly elections, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has launched a lift irrigation scheme worth Rs 4,000 crore for the undivided Mahabubnagar district. This is the Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme. The project once completed would provide irrigation water to 1,30,000 acres in the region. The construction of the project has been initiated to meet the drinking and irrigation water needs of the area. Water for the project will be lifted from the Bhutpur reservoir constructed as part of the Bhima project.

Currently, various works related to the project are gradually taking off.

However, farmers who are set to lose their lands due to the Narayanpet-Kodangal project gave a shock to the authorities. They demanded a compensation of Rs 70 lakh per acre for their lands. With no other option, the officials had to step back. People from two villages expressed their opposition



Bhutpur reservoir

in this manner.

As part of the land acquisition for the Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme initiated by the Congress government, farmers from Katrepalli and Ernaganipalli villages who are set to lose their lands shocked the officials. They refused to give consent to give up their lands. Moreover, they demanded fair compensation for the loss of their lands, insisting on Rs 70 lakh per acre.

Additionally, they clearly stat-

ed that they would only agree to part with their lands if one member from each affected family was given a government job. With no way forward, the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and revenue officials, who held public hearings, had to retreat.

A public hearing was conducted in Katrepalli village under Makthal mandal, under the supervision of the Narayanpet RDO. Speaking to the farmers on this occasion, the RDO assured them

that compensation would be provided to all those who would lose land according to the 2013 Land Acquisition Act. He urged the farmers to cooperate with the land acquisition survey and support the government in the construction of the project.

However, the farmers rejected the officials' proposals. They demanded that Katrepalli village, which is losing land, be declared as an R&R (Resettlement and Rehabilitation) centre. They also insisted that each affected farmer be paid Rs 70 lakh per acre and that one government job be provided to each affected family.

Since the authorities did not agree to these demands, the meeting was concluded, and the officials proceeded to Ernaganipalli village, where another public hearing was held. There too, farmers demanded compensation between Rs 50 lakhs and Rs 70 lakh per acre. With no way forward, the officials had to step back again. Now, people are waiting to see how the government will respond to the farmers' demands.

Fitness test of 692 school buses is still pending in Warangal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Behind every school bus, the message "Children's Safety is Our Priority" is proudly displayed. Yet, many bus owners seem to be neglecting this vital responsibility. According to regulations, all school buses must undergo fitness tests every year before the academic session begins. However, reports indicate that these tests are not being conducted properly due to negligence.

With the school reopening fast approaching, the bus safety aspect seems to be ignored. Just like last year, hundreds of buses are avoiding the mandatory fitness tests, raising serious concerns among parents.

In Warangal district alone, there are 1,820 school and college buses. So far, only 863 buses have been tested and certified. Despite the expiration of the five-year validity period, authorities have exempted 225 buses from testing for various reasons. This leaves 692 buses still requiring online fitness tests and certification. With only five



For representation purpose only

to ensure that the vehicles undergo fitness tests.

When accidents happen, officials face the blame. Parents are demanding more rigorous and proactive bus inspections to avoid such incidents. "Child safety must be our top priority, and bus fitness checks should be thorough. Having one bus pass the test does not guarantee the safety of the entire fleet. Regular inspections every one or two months are necessary. If any issues are found, buses should be immediately taken off the road," parents insisted.

Idol installation ceremony held in Kottur mandal

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The idol installation festival of Kethalamma Medalamma Sametha Mallana Swamy was held with great devotion and community participation at the temple in Inmul Narva village of Kottur mandal. The event, organised by the Reddy Seva Samiti, featured special puja rituals and a food distribution programme.

Telangana Legislative Council member Nagarakunta Naveen Reddy attended the celebrations as the chief guest. He was joined by senior Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders Kadempalli Srinivas Goud and Satyanarayana, who also took part in the puja activities and offered prayers.

The event saw participation from



MLC Nagarakunta Naveen Reddy, along with BRS senior leaders, participating in the idol installation ceremony in Kottur mandal on Sunday

several local leaders, including former Sarpanch Ajay and former MPPTC member Balwanth Reddy.

sub-sarpanch Sriramulu Yadav, along with community members such as Jangaiah Yadav, Ramesh Yadav, Mahesh Yadav, Srinu Yadav, Gopal Nayak, Indrasena Reddy, Shyam Sundar Reddy, Maheshwar Reddy, Shashidhar Reddy, Rajender Reddy, Sekhar Reddy, and Shiva Chari, were also present.

From sarpanch to Minister, Vakiti Srihari rises through ranks

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a moment of pride for the Mudiraj community and the Congress party, Vakiti Srihari, a seasoned leader from the joint Mahabubnagar district, has been inducted into the Telangana state Cabinet. His appointment is being hailed as a symbol of social justice and recognition for backward classes within the party's framework.

Former ZPTC and senior Congress leader of Kottur mandal, Mamidi Shyamsunder Reddy, expressed immense happiness over Srihari's elevation, describing it as a historic step. Shyamsunder Reddy met Minister Srihari personally and honoured him with a bouquet and shawl to mark the occasion.

Srihari, who hails from Palamuru and belongs to a family with a strong local political background, began his political journey in 1995 with the Congress party. Over the last 28 years, he has been



Former ZPTC and Congress leader Mamidi Shyamsunder Reddy felicitating newly appointed Minister Vakiti Srihari in Shadnagar on Sunday

a steadfast loyalist to the party's values and leadership. Born to Vakiti Narsimhulu and Ramulamma, he is one of eight siblings and holds a degree-level education.

His political career has been marked by consistent grassroots involvement.

He served as the Sarpanch of Maktal Major Gram Panchayat from 2001 to 2006, where he won with a record majority in the then united Mahabubnagar district. During the same peri-

od, he was also the Vice President of the United Andhra Pradesh Sarpanchs Association.

In subsequent years, Srihari won as an MPPTC from Dasarpalli village (2006-2011) and as ZPTC from Maktal mandal (2014-2018), each time securing the highest majorities in the region. He also served as the floor leader of the Mahabubnagar Zilla Parishad during his ZPTC tenure.

Voluntary organisation distributes free medicines to children with thalassemia

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Businessman Vatsavai Ravi said that although he had heard about the suffering of children with thalassemia, seeing them in person touched the heart deeply. On Sunday, under the auspices of Sankalpa Voluntary Service Organisation, free medicines were distributed to children at the organisation's office. Vatsavai Ravi and TGSRTC Karimnagar Zonal Medical Officer Dr Giri Simharao participated and distributed medicines to the children.

On this occasion, Vatsavai Ravi said that recently, during a blood donation camp organised by their organisation, even just a

single needle prick to draw blood caused great pain to the donors. He said he understood the extreme agony the children endure, having to get needle pricks two to three times a month for blood transfusions. He prayed to God to grant good health to the children with thalassemia. He also said that from now on, he would work alongside the Sankalpa organisation to support the thalassemia children. They plan to organize blood donation camps every three months for the children.

TGSRTC Karimnagar Zone Medical Officer Giri Simharao said that children with thalassemia and their parents should stay confident and courageous.

Tribal farmers protest over 'land grabbing' by pvt school

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

Tribal farmers staged a protest by blocking the vehicle of MLA Murali Naik, who was on his way to inaugurate a private school building that was allegedly constructed by grabbing their lands.

The tribal farmers raised slogans like "MLA Go Back" and "Do Justice", expressing their anger and frustration.

As tensions rose, the MLA, showing displeasure, turned back and left the spot. On this occasion, tribal farmer and former Congress municipal ward coun-

cillor Bhukya Srinu spoke out, alleging that lands which had under cultivation since ancestral times were arbitrarily grabbed to construct private school buildings. He expressed anguish that these land grabbers were carrying out such acts with the backing of revenue officials.

He further stated that the private school in question is enrolling students without obtaining any proper permission, and urged higher authorities to take action against the school and deliver justice to the tribal farmers.



Tribal farmers blocking the vehicle of MLA Murali Naik in Mahabubabad on Sunday

Leopard kills calf in Gadwal district

PNS ■ JOGULAMBA GADWAL

A leopard attacked a calf on Saturday night on the outskirts of Kottapalem village under Dharur mandal in Jogulamba Gadwal district.

A farmer named Ramesh had tied the calf in his agricultural field near the village and returned home for the night. When he went back the next morning, the calf was missing. After searching in the surrounding area, he found the dead calf near a hill. Upon informing the villagers, panic spread among them. Leopard pugmarks were found at the scene, confirming the presence of the big cat in the area. It has left farmers and villagers in a state of fear and anxiety.



Mulugu Government General Hospital facing shortage of doctors, staff

PNS ■ MULUGU

The Government General Hospital has been integrated into the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) in Mulugu. It is well known that until now, this was under the Medical Policy Council. In the fight to achieve better medical services in the newly formed Telangana State, the then BRS government established a medical college in the district. In this process, a medical college was also set up in Mulugu district, which has led to the daily growth of the government hospital at the district level in the district headquarters. As a result, people in the agency area now have access to better medical services.

Twenty years ago, a medical officer and a government hospital with 30 beds existed. After the formation of Telangana State, with the efforts of the previous government, the hospital was expand-



Government General Hospital (file photo)

ed to 100 beds.

In 2023, the then BRS government sanctioned a medical college for Mulugu district, transforming the hospital into an affiliated institution. After the Congress government came to power, the medical college was inaugurated, and the first batch of 50 students began their studies, with another 50 students to be admitted this time.

To provide better education for medical college students,

the government upgraded this hospital to a general hospital and transferred it to the Medical Education Department. The transfer process of employees and medical staff has been ongoing for three days. As part of this, Dr Jagdishwar, who served as the superintendent of the government hospital, will continue as DCH superintendent. Dr B Mohan Lal, principal of the medical college, has been appointed as the superinten-

dent of the general hospital.

Despite converting Mulugu Hospital into an affiliated hospital of the medical college, the state government has not appointed sufficient number of doctors and staff, resulting in limited services. Compared to the past, the outpatient and inpatient services have doubled. On average, 650 patients receive OP services daily, while 150 patients are admitted as inpatients. Services such as maternal and child health, general medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics, and other departments are now available through a total of 14 specialists. Due to the lack of adequate staff in laboratories, tests are being halted.

The medical college has classes conducted by 12 professors, 17 associate professors, and 29 assistant professors. However, they face difficulties due to the lack of adequate facilities in the Mulugu hospital.

Nizam era building: The Pride Of Warangal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Subedar Collector Bungalow in Warangal, constructed in 1886 during the Nizam rule era, is undergoing a significant transformation into a Heritage Bhavan. With an allocation of Rs 2 crore for minor repairs, work commenced in February and is now complete.

The government has made the commendable decision to preserve this remarkable building as a heritage property, recognising its excellent condition even after 139 years.

Set across 13 acres, this expansive estate features vast halls and a building comprising 22 rooms. Historically, it served as a residence for Subedars and later for Collectors. The repairs, amounting to Rs 2 crore, have



utilised traditional techniques to maintain its authenticity.

This bungalow, situated next to the Warangal Collectorate,

boasts an impressive design across its 13 acres of land. Built to withstand floods and other calamities, its sturdy construc-

tion utilises lime mortar for durability. The grand entrance gate, complemented by rooms for watchmen, welcomes visitors, with a large clock perched atop the arch.

Surrounding the bungalow is an expansive garden filled with a variety of trees, including sandalwood, black tamarind, and neem. Inside, the bungalow features 22 rooms designed for optimal airflow and natural light.

The original layout included two spacious halls, each measuring 44 feet in length and 10 feet in width, intended for guest seating. The ceiling rises to an impressive 22 feet, adorned with chandeliers that still exude a sense of royal grandeur.

The Subedars made this their home until September 17,

1948. After 1950, the bungalow transitioned into an official government residence for Collectors.

From the first Collector, MV Rajendra, to the current one, P Pravina, this has been a significant place of service.

In 1982, under Collector Jawahar's tenure, archaeological excavations revealed swords and artefacts from the Nizam era, later handed to the Archaeological Department. The garden is being revitalized with a selection of plants including Temple Tree, Royal Palm, Ukofellam, Lantana, Spider Lily, and Wadelia Rubra. The repair work is expected to be completed this week, with plans for a library, food court, and cultural activities in the pipeline. Soon, the public will have the opportunity to visit this Heritage Bhavan.

Six bodies of youth retrieved from river

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

Bodies of six youths, who were feared to have drowned in the River Godavari, were retrieved on Sunday. The tragic incident happened at a tragic incident at Ambatipelli village under Mahadevpur mandal in the district on Saturday evening.

Six youths accidentally went missing while bathing in the Godavari river upstream.

With the help of two speedboats, State Disaster Response Force, Singareni rescue teams, and Fire Department personnel conducted intensive search operations.

The bodies Patti Madhusudhan (18), Patti Shiva Manoj (15), Thogari Rakshith (13), Karnala Sagar (16), Ram Charan (18), and Rahul (19) were recovered.

The recovery of all six bod-



Heart-rending scenes are witnessed at Mahadevpur Government Hospital where the bodies of six youngsters are kept in mortuary for post-mortem on Sunday

ies cast a pall of gloom over the village.

The bodies were shifted to Mahadevpur Government Community Hospital for post-mortem. Meanwhile, former MLA Putta Madhukar demanded that the government take responsibility for the Medigadda incident. On

Sunday, he visited the families of the youths who were swept away near the Medigadda barrage and offered his condolences at the Mahadevpur government hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, he alleged that the Congress government deliberately sidelined the world-renowned Medigadda project, despite being aware that flood flow would increase in the area. He accused the government of failing to implement even basic safety measures.

He claimed that due to the government's negligence, six innocent children lost their lives and demanded that the government be held accountable.

He urged the state government to respond immediately and provide Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia to the kin of those who drowned in the river.

ACROSS THE STATES



Farmer's income has doubled in Tripura: CM

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday claimed that farmer's income in the state has doubled in last eight years. Addressing a programme in West Tripura's Tufanialunga tea estate, the CM claimed that farmer's income has increased from Rs 6,580 in 2016 to Rs 13,590 per month in 2024 in the state. The northeastern state has 4.74 lakh farmers. "The present government has been working for the welfare of the farmers because it will boost the rural economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi who considered farmers as 'annadata' has set a target of doubling the farmers' income. Tripura has already made it possible," he said. Reeling off the schemes for farmers, the chief minister said the farmers have already received Rs 2,272 crore from the Centre under PM Kishan, Rs 23 crore by selling paddy under MSP by the state government and Rs 446 credit linkage under KCC. Urging the farmers to adopt modern equipment in agriculture, the chief minister said the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare department has distributed equipment amounting to Rs 204.50 crore to farmers.



Bank executive arrested for stealing gold

A bank executive was arrested in Thane district for allegedly stealing gold worth Rs 27 lakh that was pledged by customers, a police official said on Sunday. Accused Sachin Arun Kalan (29), who works in a private bank in Ambarnath East in the district, was held on June 6 under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for criminal breach of trust and other offences, the Shivaji Nagar police station official said. "Between May and May 26, Kalan, as the bank's relationship executive, was handling gold loan cases. During this period, he took away gold ornaments worth Rs 26.90 lakh that had been mortgaged by customers who had available loans. A detailed probe is underway to cover all aspects of the crime," he said.



Rajasthan reels under intense heat

Mercury soared in most parts of Rajasthan on Sunday as maximum temperature in several areas remained above the 45-degree mark with Sri Ganganagar being the hottest district in the state at 47.4 degrees Celsius. The Jaipur Meteorological Centre has predicted that the state will continue to grapple with an intense heatwave in the coming days. Bikaner on Sunday recorded a high of 46.0 degrees while it was 45.9 degrees in Barmer, 45.6 degrees in Churu, 45.4 degrees in Phalodi, 45.2 in Jaisalmer and 45 degrees Celsius in Kota. The weather will remain dry in most parts of the state next week. The mercury is likely to touch 45 to 47 degrees in Bikaner division of north-western Rajasthan till June 11 and severe heatwave in some places, the meteorological centre said. Similarly, strong dusty winds can blow at a speed of 30-40 kmph in Bikaner division and surrounding areas between June 8 and 10.

BENGALURU STAMPEDE

BJP demands special session of the legislature

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka on Sunday demanded that the government call a special session of the state legislature for three days, to discuss the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people, as he pointed out that people are seeking answers.

The BJP leader, who reiterating the demand for resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, also announced that all his party legislators will contribute a month's salary to the kin of those deceased, who are in need, while urging the government to enhance the compensation to Rs 1 crore if it is not



bankrupt.

The stampede occurred on June 4 evening in front of the Chinnaswamy stadium here, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Eleven people died and 56 were injured in the incident.

NDA govt redefined women-led development in 11 years: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before his government marks its first anniversary in third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has redefined women-led development in its 11 years in power.

In all sectors, including science, education, sports, start ups and the armed forces, women are excelling and inspiring several people, Modi said on X.

He cited a number of welfare programmes which, he noted, have benefitted women immensely.

Various initiatives, from ensuring dignity through Swachh Bharat to financial inclusion via Jan Dhan accounts, the focus has been on empowering the women, he said.

If 'Ujjwala Yojana' brought smoke-free kitchens running on gas cylinders to the poor households, 'MUDRA' loans enabled lakhs of women entrepreneurs to pursue dreams on their own terms. Houses under the women's name in PM Awas Yojana too have made a remarkable impact, he added.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (save daughter, educate daughter) programme ignited a



national movement to protect the girl child, he said.

The prime minister shared a thread of a government-run citizenship engagement platform, which listed benefits brought to women by several government schemes.

It said the maternal mortality ratio declined to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-21 from 167 in 2011-13, and the households with tap water connections zoomed to 15.64 crore in May 2025 from 3.23 crore in August 2019.

Over 10 crore cooking gas connections were given under the Ujjwala scheme, it said, while highlighting several other welfare measures targeting women.

MODI LACKS COURAGE TO HAVE 'UNEDITED' PRESS MEETS: CONGRESS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of scripting his media interactions and said, unlike his predecessors, he lacks the courage to hold "undoctored" press meets.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said leaders across the world hold freewheeling press conferences from time to time, but "ours has had none for 11 years".

"Narendra Modi produced,

directed, and scripted his media interactions last year during the election campaign - during one of which he famously claimed to be non-biological. But he has never ever had the courage to have an undoctored press meet," Ramesh said in his post.

"This is in total contrast to all his predecessors. His favourite hate used to have spontaneous press meets almost every other month, where he would be ruthlessly questioned, and he would answer patiently.

Extremely fortunate to be part of space mission: Shukla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of his historic journey to the International Space Station (ISS), Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla has termed the preparations for the Axiom-4 mission as an "amazing journey" and that he was extremely fortunate to be part of something that is "much larger than yourself".

The 39-year-old Indian Air Force pilot is all set to travel with three other crew members to the ISS onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, mounted on a Falcon 9 rocket, that will lift off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Tuesday at 5:52 pm IST.

Shukla, who goes by the nickname "Shux", will be the second Indian to travel to space, 41 years after his idol Rakesh Sharma undertook a



spaceflight in 1984 onboard erstwhile Soviet Union's Soyuz spacecraft for an eight-day stay in orbit.

"It has been an amazing journey; these are the moments that really tell you that you are getting to be a part of something that is much larger than yourself. I can only say how extremely fortunate I am to be

a part of this," Lucknow-born Shukla said in a short video issued by Axiom Space ahead of Tuesday's launch.

Shukla's crewmates, commander Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Tibor Kapu from Hungary and Sławosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland, describe him as "operational-savvy", "focussed" and

"wicked smart" when it comes to space technologies.

"Shux's wisdom, the knowledge he possesses, shows he could be 130 years old," said Kapu, the second Hungarian astronaut to travel to space since 1980.

"For me, having him as my pilot in the dragon capsule is great. He is already operational-savvy, and he is just wicked smart when it comes to spacecraft technologies," said Whitson, a veteran US astronaut who has spent 675 days in space and undertaken 10 spacewalks.

Sławosz said Shukla is very focussed in his approach and quick to respond to situations.

"He is very focussed. He will go one, two, three, four in record time. I don't even know how he gets there so fast," the Polish astronaut said.

Encroachers can't claim right to continue occupying public land: Delhi HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has held that encroachers cannot claim a right to continue occupying public land till their rehabilitation claims are not resolved, as this would unduly impede public projects.

The high court made the observation while granting liberty to the DDA to proceed with the demolition action at Bhoomiheen Camp in South Delhi's Kalkaji in accordance with law.

Justice Dharmesh Sharma

said the writ petitions were not only flawed due to the misjoinder of multiple parties with multiple causes of action, but also failed to meet the essential threshold provided by the Delhi Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy for being considered eligible for relocation and rehabilitation.

"None of the petitioners have any legal right to continue occupying the JJ cluster incessantly, to the detriment of the public at large," the court said in its order passed on June 6.



Can't defy court orders, says Delhi CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said the authorities cannot go against demolition orders issued by the courts and stressed that the displaced residents have been provided accommodation.

The remarks come amid criticism from the opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the razing of the Madras Camp slum cluster near Barapullah in south Delhi, and similar demolition drives in other parts of the city.

While the AAP has targeted Gupta, saying those evicted were provided houses lacking basic amenities in faraway Narela, party MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday visited the demolition site of the Madras Camp slum cluster, where they met with displaced residents, and intensified their attack on the BJP.

Attending an event to mark the construction of a Jan Sewa camp at a slum cluster in the Haiderpur area, Gupta told reporters, "In the last few days... demolition action has been taken by the authorities, like at the Madras camp

where the court had given directions to remove the encroachment over the Barapullah drain, almost four times.

"No slum will be demolished without first providing permanent housing to its residents," she said.

The encroachment over the Barapullah drain had reduced its width, causing problems of waterlogging in nearby areas, she said, adding the action was necessary to carry out desilting work.

"Neither the government nor the administration can do anything if the court has ordered something for the slums. Most anti-encroachment actions are being carried out in compliance with court orders and are targeting illegal occupations that are obstructing traffic or hindering public movement.

"The court had ordered the removal of this slum so that machines could be deployed to clean the drain. No one can defy court orders. Houses have been allotted to the residents of that camp," she told reporters.

Gupta also said that "FIRs will be filed and strict action will be taken against those spreading false information about demolitions".

Editor's
TAKE

A political bromance
turned bitter feud

Once a formidable force reshaping US, Donald Trump and Elon Musk are now locked in a fierce war of words

In a turn of events as dramatic as their rise to influence, US President Donald Trump and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk have severed ties, transforming from strategic allies to fierce public adversaries. What began as a mutually beneficial relationship built on shared interests in deregulation, Government efficiency, and anti-establishment rhetoric has now devolved into a bitter feud, rife with personal attacks, policy clashes, and political threats that may shape the course of the 2026 midterm elections.

The alliance once seemed improbable — Trump, a brash political force with a loyal base, and Musk, the visionary tech magnate behind Tesla, SpaceX, and social media platform X (formerly Twitter), came from different worlds but found common ground. Trump admired Musk's entrepreneurial genius and boldness; Musk appreciated the former president's deregulatory stance and willingness to upend bureaucratic norms. The collaboration reached its peak when Musk was handed leadership of the Department of Government Efficiency, where he led aggressive cost-cutting reforms and reshaped federal spending frameworks.

Under Trump, Musk's ventures thrived with major Government contracts and minimal interference. But the fragile bond began to crack when Musk publicly denounced a major new fiscal bill championed by Trump and Republican lawmakers. Dubbed the "big beautiful bill," it promised sweeping tax cuts and spending reductions but also carried the risk of ballooning the national deficit and stripping health insurance from millions. Musk slammed it as a "disgusting abomination," warning it would increase fiscal instability. His criticism struck a nerve in the White House.

Musk escalated tensions by suggesting Trump should be impeached. Trump responded with threats, hinting at cutting Musk's federal contracts and warning of undefined "consequences" should Musk choose to support Democratic candidates in the upcoming elections. The President's warnings carried weight — Musk's companies rely heavily on federal partnerships, particularly in aerospace and defense.

For Musk, the breakup comes with significant consequences. Musk's criticism of the Trump administration could jeopardise future Government contracts and expose his businesses to political retaliation. On the other hand, his apparent openness to backing Democrats marks a significant departure from recent years, where his alignment with conservative causes and voices had grown stronger. For Trump, the loss of Musk's endorsement may alienate segments of the tech-savvy rightwingers. Yet it also gives him ammunition to portray himself as a populist leader unafraid to challenge. This breakup is more than a personal spat; it is a reflection of deeper tensions between Government power and private influence. As their relationship crumbles, the political and economic reverberations are likely to be felt far beyond Washington DC, shaping alliances, elections, and policy for years to come.

Maithili cuisine: A one of its kind

Spread across parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, and southern Nepal, Maithili culinary tradition is not merely about food — it is a living chronicle of Mithila's history, devotion, Ayurveda and deep ecological harmony

An inalienable part of the robust culinary offerings from Bihar is the Maithili or Mithila cuisine. It spans across parts of Bihar, Jharkhand (Part of Bihar till 2000) and the Koshi, Bagmati and Madhesh provinces of Nepal. Mithila first gained prominence after being settled by Indo-Aryan people who established the Videha kingdom. During the Later Vedic period (c. 1100-500 BCE), Videha became one of the major political and cultural centres of Ancient India, along with Kuru and Panchala. The kings of the Videha Kingdom were called Janakas and the Videha Kingdom was incorporated into the Vajjika League, which had its capital in the city of Vaishali and is also in Mithila. Mithila is one of the most significant pilgrimage sites in Jainism and is associated with Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara. Lord Buddha also visited this region and during his visit, he is recorded to have preached the Makhadeva and Brahmayu suttas, which are part of the Pali canon.

The region's legacy therefore is unparalleled, and it extends to the culinary sphere as well. In the 14th century, the Maithili book titled Varnaratnakara discussed Maithili cuisine and mentioned the importance of yoghurt (dahi), fish (machha), and various other elements. This historical reference suggests that Maithili cuisine has remained relatively unchanged for many centuries. Maithili cuisine isn't just about tradition, it also follows Ayurvedic principles and adapts to seasonal food cycles. Special dishes are prepared during Maithili festivals like Juddhashtami, Dashahara, Tila Sankranti, and the Chhath Puja.

Local produce is the fundamental and star element of the cuisine, there is also the incorporation of meticulous techniques, leading to dishes known for their simplicity as well as sophistication which resonate with the rich cultural history of the area. Did I mention the simplicity of dishes? There is also an element of grandeur that is associated with the food of this region — the 'Chhappan Bhog'! a feast in honour of people, usually, revered guests, friends, and family. This has its beginnings in being offered to Lord Krishna in gratitude, a total of 56 dishes offered to him by the Brijwasis, representing eight meals for each of the seven days he shielded the people of Vrindavan from Lord Indra's wrath. Chhappan Bhog represents a harmonious blend of six tastes: bitter (karwa), spicy (teekha), astringent (kasaila), sour (khatta), salty (namkeen), and sweet (meetha). By skillfully combining these tastes in various ways, 56 distinct and delectable dishes are made and include Parwal Tarua — Parwal, also known as pointed gourd is sliced into two halves lengthwise, coated in a thick batter, and deep-fried, Kadima Tarua



— Kadima refers to the fresh leaves of the pumpkin in Maithili, after washing the fresh leaves of Kadima, it needs to be folded like a triangle, the leaves are then heated on a low flame and coated in a batter giving it a crunchy exterior and a soft interior. The list goes on to include dishes made from potato, cauliflower, sesame, flaxseeds, Colocasia leaves (Kachu ke Patte), Chana Daal (Ninwa/Ghewre ki Sabzi), Drumsticks (Sahjan ki Sabzi), and Biriya — a special recipe from the Mithila region of Bihar made by drying chickpea greens and coating them in flour and used in a spicy potato and mustard gravy. It is known for its aroma, texture and slight bitterness, all of which are standout features of the dish.



ANIL
RAJPUT

"Maach, paan aa makhaan swarne seho nahin bhatet," which translates to "Fish, betel leaves, and makhana (fox nuts) are not found even in heaven." This saying implies that these items are so highly regarded in Maithili culture that they are considered even more precious than heavenly delights. In Maithili culture, fish is typically not brought in from outside, it is sourced from local ponds and lakes.

Even vegetables and ingredients for making pickles and papads are usually grown in the region itself, often in home gardens. The emphasis on using locally sourced ingredients adds to the uniqueness of Maithili cuisine.

The seasonal focus of the cuisine is reflected through dishes like Bagiya, which celebrates the new rice harvest. Typically enjoyed around November or December, it is made from freshly harvested rice flour stuffed with lentils or vegetables, jaggery and steamed. It is filled with sweet or savoury ingredients making it a powerhouse of flavour. Tilauri, a kind of cracker made from a batter of rice flour, sesame seeds and jaggery or salt, post this it is made in round shapes and dried in the sun — the dried Tilauri is then deep-fried in oil and eaten — this can be both sweet or savoury depending on the ingredients used. Bidhiya is made by drying green leaves like mustard greens (tori), lamb's quarters (beta), or pea leaves (mattar), these leaves are mixed with black lentil batter before being dried — this dish showcases Mithila's resourcefulness in preserving seasonal produce. Kumhrauri is made by drying Ash Gourd and later used in different curries and dishes, and is made to preserve the excess production in the harvest season for other dry seasons. Tarua dish uses different vegetables, dipped in a batter of blended soaked rice and various spices are added to the batter. It is one of the major dishes in Mithila culture which is mandatorily prepared for every festival and occasion.

The variety of the Maithili cuisine is augmented through its sweet dishes like Thakuwa which holds huge cultural and religious significance. It is also known as Thekuwa or Thokni and is a traditional Indo-Nepali cookie. It is an important item especially during the Chhath festival season — offered as a sacred gift to Lord Surya and Chhathi Maya on the third day of the festival. Another famous recipe is Anarsa — made from rice flour, soaked in sugar syrup, and deep-fried to perfection. The region's culinary story is incomplete without mentioning the Makhana kheer — a sweet rice pudding made with lotus seeds (makhana), milk, and dried nuts, and Kasar, a traditional dish, particularly associated with the Chhath Puja festival — it's dry and prepared with rice flour, jaggery, ghee, and sometimes fennel seeds and dry fruits.

The Maithili cuisine is without doubt a celebration on a plate, it's a burst of flavour that is unmatched and unique. It is reflective of the top-class culinary prowess of the region, and an ode to an unaltered culinary journey through the ages. I firmly believe that the youth and future generation need to discover its full range of variety, nutrition and an environmentally harmonious approach — only then will they understand its true value and grand stature!

(The writer is the Secretary of the Cuisine India Society. Views expressed are personal)

Understanding Karma, and divine control through Gita

SECOND
Opinion

We are aware of what autopilot is. It is a system that automatically controls a vehicle's path, allowing it to operate with minimal or no human intervention. Why am I using it for us human beings? Believed or not, our material bodies are vehicles, as described in the Bhagavad-Geeta by Lord Krishna in verse # 18.61. He states, "God, present as a part, in the vehicle (our body), resides in the hearts of all beings." Before I go any further, let me give you the Big Picture. There is God on top, as we can imagine. Then, there is the Divine Authority, which works under the superintendence of God. They oversee the working of the material nature, which gives birth to the world along with moving and stationary things. And on account of this, the world cycle goes on. (9.10) Then, there are all living beings with souls, which are parts of God. (15.7) And, of course, there are trees, plants, etc. This entire setup is under the control of God, who is the Controller.

Now returning to the topic, how are we on autopilot? For us to understand this, we must know the 'Karmaphala Principle' and the personal nature. The first one is simple: "What you sow is what you reap." For example, one thinks of starting a business. If the thought is a serious one, he will one day get started on it. Similarly, someone is working as a menial labourer. He gets paid for it. The third

example is of words. Teachers are the best examples of it. They get salaries for the effort made. Personal nature is a little more complex matter. For this, an understanding of the three 'gunas' (modes) is important. Whatever we see is made up of the three gunas, which are goodness, passion and darkness.

These are the basic ingredients of the Creation. Surely, our natures also consist of goodness, passion and darkness in various proportions. A good person will have a higher percentage of the 'sattvaguna' (the mode of goodness) and a small per cent of the 'tamoguna' (the mode of darkness). Similarly, a bad person will have just the opposite proportions, i.e. more tamoguna and less sattvaguna. 'Rajoguna' (the mode of passion) constitutes the majority percentage in nature of a common man. Then, how are our natures formed? Life after life, we associate with the three gunas, and that gets embedded in our natures. And when a person dies, the impression is carried to the next body. For example, a good man associates with objects in goodness. He eats foods, which are wholesome and nutritious. He sees programmes, which have natural scenes and even spiritual content. He hears mostly what is instructive. Contrarily, people, who are greedy, lusty, angry or hateful, engage in acts related to these hellish emotions. Lord Krishna warns, "Lust, anger and greed are the three different doors to hell, which cause ruination of the soul. Therefore, one should give up these three. (16.21) Lord Krishna is very stern about hate. The Lord states, "I send those envious, harmful, cruel and low-grade people



AJIT KUMAR
BISHNOI

to the world again and again, and that too in demonic species." (16.19)

Now I come to how we are on autopilot. It should be clear to us that karmaphalas generated by pious and impious acts will manifest in our present lives or future ones. There is no escape from it. Even God does not interfere in it.

What God does do in the case of a person in God's consciousness? Lord Krishna states, "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace." (18.58) The rest of us will have to face and tolerate the consequences. There is no escape, which is what autopilot is. We are programmed that way. The other feature of autopilot in our lives is much more serious. Our natures are continuously evolving as a result of what we do or associate with. For example, a person is naturally lusty. He will get attracted to objects of lust automatically. He can stop himself using the free will given to him, but few can do so. One needs God's help to undo what the present nature ordains. So what have we learnt? That we are on autopilot helplessly. Our karmaphalas will determine what happens to us. What we do today will largely determine what we will get in our future and subsequent lives. Our present efforts will have some effect, but not of any great significance. Are we stuck? Not really. God is the Controller. As explained earlier, God can change things. He can help tackle our bad karmaphalas, as well as help us in changing our faulty natures. You will be surprised by the outcome. We would no longer be on autopilot but in good control over our lives.

(The author is a spiritual coach. Views expressed are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Indian workers face harrassment

Labour laws are being violated in Kuwait and many other countries of the world and Indian workers are facing harassment from their employees. Many people migrate in the hope of a better life, but are asked to surrender in front of the powerful authorities there. Companies manipulate labour laws in their favour.

They file fake 'absconding' cases against those who raise their voice against violations of labour laws. They ask the employees to vacate their company flats without giving him/her his/her 'end of service' letter and passport.

The Indian Embassy must intervene and investigate the matter to safeguard the workers' rights. They must also ensure that labour laws are not violated and no person has to go to jail over false allegations. In light of growing reports of Indian workers facing exploitation and false charges abroad, particularly in Kuwait, urgent action is needed.

Many migrate seeking dignity and opportunity but are instead subjected to abuse, illegal evictions, and denial of rightful documents. Companies misuse labour laws to silence dissent.

The Indian Embassy must step in decisively, investigate such cases, and ensure that no worker is left helpless or wrongfully criminalised in a foreign land. Justice and dignity must prevail.

JUBEL D'CRUZ | MUMBAI

Donald Trump Elon Musk part ways

Donald Trump and Elon Musk's friendship is well-known. One is a powerful politician and the other is the richest person. However, differences have started between the two. It is turning into a war of words. US President Donald Trump has announced a reduction in contracts with Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's companies. Musk has threatened to stop the service of the "Dragon Capsule", which is used to transport astronauts and other materials to the International Space Station, on social media. After the failure of the US Government's Boeing Company's Starliner spacecraft, Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams was safely returned to Earth by the Dragon Capsule. Also, NASA has taken help from SpaceX in many military missions.

Elon Musk's Government Efficiency Account (DOSE) was created primarily to reduce Government spending. Musk believes that Trump's policy undermines the original purpose of this account. He described Trump's bill as "disgusting." Trump initially took a tough stance on imposing import tariffs on China. Musk's Tesla company was to directly benefit from it. Because Chinese electric cars have eroded Tesla's position in other major markets. After all, Elon Musk helped Trump in the election with a business perspective or goal in mind. But Trump's new bill will be a problem for Musk's Tesla company.

DATTAPRASAD SHIRODKAR | MUMBAI

Water ATM's in Delhi

The report "Government to install water ATMs across schools and public spaces" (June 7) reveals the Delhi Government's keen interest in safeguarding the interest of the students and increasing the facilities in the schools. The proposal to provide pure cold water along with language laboratories and digital libraries is indeed a welcome step. It will be a great encouragement for the children who struggle a lot in reaching the school, carrying a heavy load of books, study materials and water-bottles. Free Laptops to meritorious students will definitely motivate the students to fare better in studies.

Since most schools have no adequate space and facility for boarding and debarking of students and are located on the edge of the main roads, it often creates problems and chaos, apart from persistent traffic — snarls and even accidents in the vicinity. Though it is mandatory for the management of every school to arrange necessary space and convenience in the compound itself, this rule is not adhered to rigidly. Moreover, the to and fro travel of students between schools and homes, mostly in hired vehicles, packed like sardines, in highly precarious condition, often causes mishaps. Hence remedial steps have to be taken on priority basis to ensure adequate space and convenience within the school precincts.

TT SAKARIA | DELHI

INCREASING WORKING HOURS IS
COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE

The news that the Andhra Pradesh Government increasing the daily working hours to 10 hours (7-6-25) shocks one and all. The ruling dispensation takes pride in implementing drastic changes in the name of Reforms, however anti people they are. Even the previous tenures of the present Chief Minister are marked by pro management and anti workers decisions. Now increasing the cap on daily working hours to 10 hours, increasing the overtime in a quarter from 75 to 144 hours and allowing women to take up night shifts are being justified by the concerned minister as acts to allure investors and empower women by enabling them to earn more. Both the claims are absurd.

No doubt, labour is the most flexible and vulnerable component that could be exploited more easily to maximise profit. But experts say any amount of work done for more than 8 hours a day will have

diminishing marginal productivity, besides its serious negative impacts on physical and mental health and social behavior. Investors have never claimed working hours as a disturbing factor for not investing in the State. The minister says ensuring safety in the workplace as a condition to allow women in the night shift. It may remain only in the statutory books as the Government that allures the investors cannot be expected to be strict in enforcing rules.

The Government's apathy towards the wealth creating toiling section could be easily understood from the fact that even the Wage Board is not formed and the Minimum wage of the scheduled employees are not upwardly revised since more than a decade. It would be a wise act on the part of the Government to consult the workers' Unions before taking up such measures which are likely to have far reaching impact on workers.

AG RAJMOHAN | JANANTIPUR

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

How climate change is pushing agriculture to the brink

The rainfall has grown erratic, endangering the livelihoods of millions. From delayed rains and failed crops to groundwater depletion and glacial melt, a cascading crisis is unfolding — one that not only threatens food security but also fuels rural distress, mass migration and growing unrest

FIRST
Column

Agriculture in India remains deeply intertwined with the monsoon, which accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the country's annual rainfall and supports over half of its cultivated land. However, rising global temperatures have made the monsoon increasingly unpredictable. Early or delayed onsets are now common, while rainfall patterns have grown more volatile, with some regions experiencing intense downpours while others endure prolonged dry spells.

In states such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and eastern Uttar Pradesh — where agriculture heavily depends on the monsoon rains — farmers are struggling to cope with these shifting climatic patterns. Smallholder farmers, who typically cultivate less than two hectares and constitute the majority of the agricultural workforce, often lack access to adequate irrigation, storage facilities, and financial support. Consequently, even slight disruptions in rainfall timing or unexpected droughts during critical crop phases can lead to significant yield losses, pushing already vulnerable households deeper into debt.

With monsoon rains becoming less reliable, farmers are increasingly turning to groundwater to keep their crops alive. Borewells and tube wells have become essential lifelines during prolonged dry spells. However, this fallback is fast becoming a crisis of its own. Unregulated and widespread extraction of groundwater is rapidly depleting aquifers, especially in regions already under significant water stress. According to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), over 1,000 of the 6,607 assessed groundwater blocks across the country have been classified as “overexploited.” The situation is particularly severe in the northwestern, western, and southern peninsular regions of the country. In states like Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, decades of intensive agriculture — especially the cultivation of water-intensive crops such as wheat and paddy — have severely strained groundwater reserves. According to CGWB 2023 data, 87 per cent of Punjab's 153 assessed blocks are classified as overexploited, critical, or semi-critical, leaving only 13 per cent in the ‘safe’ category. Haryana fares no better, with more than 75.5 per cent of its groundwater blocks deemed unsafe for continued extraction. This unsustainable pattern of groundwater use is driven by a mix of poorly designed policy incentives, unreliable surface water availability, and weak regulatory oversight. Subsidies for electricity used in groundwater pumping and procurement policies that favour water-guzzling crops have inadvertently encouraged overuse.

The growing water crisis in India is made even



worse by changes taking place at higher altitudes, particularly in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region. The region has seen average temperatures rise by +0.28°C per decade since 1951, with some river basins warming at an even faster rate. As a result, glacial melt has accelerated significantly. Scientific assessments indicate that the rate of glacier mass loss has increased by 65 per cent in the past decade, with average losses rising from — 0.17 metres of water equivalent per year between 2000 and 2009 to — 0.28 metres per year between 2010 and 2019.

The rapid retreat of glaciers poses serious risks to downstream water availability, especially for key glacier-fed rivers such as the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Indus. These rivers are vital lifelines, supporting millions across northern India by providing water for irrigation, drinking, and hydroelectric power. Historically, meltwater from these glaciers played a crucial role in sustaining river flows and replenishing groundwater supplies. However, the accelerated glacial melt and resulting drop in river discharge, especially during dry seasons, are slowing groundwater recharge. This poses a severe challenge to farmers who depend heavily on both groundwater and river water to sustain their crops. Reduced river flows are also undermining canal irrigation systems and hydropower generation, both of which are essential for India's agricultural productivity and energy security.



BKP
SINHA



ARVIND
KUMAR JHA

THE INCREASING SOIL SALINITY IS DRIVING DOWN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND ESCALATING RECLAMATION COSTS — OFTEN TOO EXPENSIVE FOR SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS. MANY ARE FORCED TO ABANDON FARMING OR SHIFT TO ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS LIKE SHRIMP AQUACULTURE, WHICH CAN FURTHER EXACERBATE SALINITY PROBLEMS

gy security.

As both surface and groundwater sources come under increasing stress, the consequences are becoming visible in the form of rising soil salinity — especially in heavily irrigated regions. This problem is particularly acute in coastal areas such as the Sundarbans in West Bengal and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, where rising sea levels have led to salt-water intrusion into freshwater aquifers and paddy fields. In the Sundarbans alone, nearly 30 per cent of arable land is affected by salinity. Across the country, approximately 6.74 million hectares of land are classified as salt-affected, and this area is expanding by nearly 10 per cent annually. Experts warn that if this trend continues unchecked, nearly half of India's cultivable land could be compromised by 2050.

The increasing soil salinity is driving down agricultural productivity and escalating reclamation costs — often too expensive for small and marginal farmers. Many are forced to abandon farming or shift to alternative livelihoods like shrimp aquaculture, which can further exacerbate salinity problems. With more than half of India's workforce dependent on agriculture, the loss of fertile land presents a dire threat not only to rural livelihoods but also to the country's overall food security. According to the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, over 30 per cent of the country's total geographical area is undergoing desertification/ degradation, much of it driven by water and wind erosion, and loss of soil fertility. States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana are among the worst affected. Experts warn that rising temperatures are compounding the crisis by depleting soil moisture and

increasing water stress during critical crop stages such as flowering and grain filling. The Indo-Gangetic plains, India's wheat basket, are already experiencing significant yield declines of 1 per cent to 8 per cent (depending on the region) due to these climate pressures. However, when indirect impacts — particularly reduced water availability and declining irrigation levels — are taken into account, wheat yields are plummeting even more sharply, with losses ranging from 4 per cent to as much as 36 per cent.

Climate change is also intensifying the threat of agricultural pests and diseases by creating favourable conditions for their proliferation. Rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and changing humidity levels have expanded the range and severity of pest outbreaks. For instance, the locust swarms that ravaged crops across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in 2020 were partly triggered by unusually wet weather conditions in the Arabian Peninsula, linked to climate variability. These swarms ravaged nearly 48,669 square kilometres of cropland, with Maharashtra being the hardest hit, losing over 10 per cent of its farmland. Similarly, the incidence of pests such as the fall armyworm, whiteflies, and mealybugs has increased significantly. Climate change is also altering the life cycles of pests and their natural predators, reducing the effectiveness of traditional pest control methods. This has forced farmers to increase pesticide usage, leading to higher production costs, health hazards, and environmental degradation.

These interconnected challenges are deepening agricultural distress, severely impacting farmers' livelihoods and mental health. Financial pressures and uncertainty have contributed to a tragic rise in farmer suicides. In 2022 alone, more than 11,000 suicides were reported, with Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka bearing the greatest burden. As farming becomes increasingly unsustainable, many young people are abandoning agriculture in pursuit of more secure livelihoods, driving a surge in rural-to-urban migration. This demographic shift is putting enormous strain on urban infrastructure, public services, and labour markets. In already overstretched cities, even minor disruptions can trigger social unrest, presenting significant challenges for local governance and law enforcement. Economic desperation in rural India has also been linked to rising protests and growing susceptibility to radical ideologies. Groups like the Naxalites in central and eastern India have historically exploited economic marginalisation and agrarian grievances to fuel anti-state sentiment and recruit disaffected populations.

If climate — induced despair continues unchecked, it risks deepening disillusionment and weakening the bond between vulnerable communities and the state — posing a serious threat to internal stability and national cohesion.

(The writers are former PCCFs, UP and Maharashtra. Views are personal)

From sidelines to centre stage: Women athletes redefine the future of sports

The next Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, in 2028, will have many firsts! The number of women athletes exceeds their male counterparts. There will be a full gender parity in all team events, while the number of women's football teams surpasses men's. There is another first! Kirsty Coventry, a Zimbabwean athlete, elected this year, takes up the mantle of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), becoming the first-ever woman to lead the Olympics in its 131-year history. In the Olympics, in terms of the number, women athletes scaled new heights from 2.2 per cent representation in 1900 in Paris to achieving gender parity in Paris again in 2024, a quarter and a century later. But, the journey remained fraught with multiple challenges. Lack of financial resources impacted the quality of training, facilities, and overall support available to female athletes (Blinde et al., 1993), and hampered the growth and sustainability of women's sports leagues and teams (Sartore & Cunningham, 2014). Potential brands often undervalued women's sports, considering it to be an arena of 'unproven returns'. There was, however, a significant shift in recent times when angel investors and venture capitalists came forward to explore the over-looked market and made use of the best available data, and content on digital/ social media. The emergence of Angel City FC in 2020 in the US National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), set a new precedent, when its all-female founding team 'invented the accepted business model of sports franchise, moved their brand beyond the local base, to digital brand building'. Within the first three years, it could raise a market valuation of \$250 million in 2024. Such experimental ventures remain not confined to Europe and the USA, but, in areas like the Middle East, where governments are increasingly directing resources towards grassroots initiatives designed to foster greater girls' participation in sports.

In India, around 1200 companies invested a combined ₹526.14 crore in 2022-23 on CSR investments, nearly double compared to the previous financial year (₹291.75 crore), for promoting sports, including women's. However, many sports analysts believe that 'not many companies consider women's sports while choosing their CSR goals' (Goodera). Nevertheless, a 2024 survey (Service Monkey & Parity), found that 'women athletes are trusted influencers', the majority of sports fans (88 per cent) regard them as 'impactful role models' and almost 73 per cent said that they watch women's sports at least a few times a year, which is 81 per cent in case of men's sports, and an overwhelming majority think (92 per cent) that it is 'important' for girls to play while growing up. A 2023 report (Deloitte) highlighted that 85 per cent of women who played sports as children, and are now Fortune 500 CEOs, believed that the 'top skills they developed by playing sports



ARCHANA
DAITA



helped them to succeed in their professional careers'. In 2024, global revenues for women's sports moved up \$1.3 billion, with an impressive 300 per cent growth in just three years (Deloitte). Moreover, sponsorship deals for women's sports have also seen a 20 per cent year-over-year increase since 2020 (Sports United). 'In recent years, attendance, viewership and social engagement for women's sports have spiked, leading to long-overdue financial backing through investments and sponsorships...' said, the CEO and founder of SponsorUnited. Across all countries, 32 per cent of fans of women's sports say they are more likely to purchase products when a brand supports women's sports. While in 2022, there was a 30 per cent surge in the number of advertisements featuring women sports celebrities in India (TAM AdEx). The owner of the UP Warriors in the Women's Premier League (WPL) and the head of Capri Sports, were categorical that 'perception about women athletes as brand endorsers has transformed significantly because of changing consumer mindsets, and growing data-backed proof'. Now, this momentum requires a strategic roadmap that balances innovation with a focus on core business fundamentals for sustained growth and commercial success as well. Industries must move from a short-term return on investment (ROI) to a venture capital mindset driven by values, long-term vision, and a commitment to societal impact for the long-term health of women's sports.

Undeniably, digital space could boost the visibility of women in sports to about 18.5 per cent in 2022, marking a 2.53 per cent average annual increase. But, women sportspersons face a 'different scrutiny on digital space as audiences expectations are still deeply embedded in societal norms' and brand marketing strategies continue to focus more on 'traditional femininity'. A social media analysis during the 2018 Commonwealth Games, found that words like 'strong' and 'talented' were frequently used in the case of male athletes, while women athletes were

labelled with terms like 'pretty' or 'girls'. A similar analysis of the online sports stories and images posted during the Rio Olympic Games found that men athletes were portrayed in 'active or competitive roles', while women athletes were frequently depicted in 'passive or aesthetically appealing ways'. Women athletes' Instagram posts on non-sport-related images receive significantly higher engagement. As a result, many high-profile women athletes adopt branding strategies that promote polished, heteronormative femininity, avoiding controversial political stances and thus limiting their abilities to challenge gendered perceptions in sports', argued a study on feminist neo-liberal marketing strategies. Women sportspersons also continue to face 'widespread, overlapping and grave forms of violence at all levels' (UN). Nearly 21 per cent of professional women athletes experienced sexual abuse as a child in sports, almost double the rate of male athletes (11 per cent). A 2021 study (World Athletics) found that 85 per cent of online abuse in the lead-up to and during the Tokyo Olympics was directed at women. But, sports bodies tend to focus more on curbing doping and match-fixing as sports integrity measures. In India, the prolonged protests by Olympic medal-winning women wrestlers exposed the ineptitude of such bodies.

In 2023, the UN Women and UNESCO outlined a 10-point 'Call to Action' for gender equality in and through sports, addressing issues like fair pay, media representation, and safeguarding standards. Countries must adopt it, and standardise procedures to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanisms of sports bodies with a strong legal framework, ensure survivor support and accountability, and also take technology companies and social media platforms on board to tackle online abuses. Governments, Corporations and media houses should all come together to create a level playing field with resources, exposure and voice to herald an era of equitable, safe and inclusive sports.

(The writer is former Director-General of Doordarshan and AIR. She is also the former Press Secretary to the President. Views expressed are personal)

From discipline to display: The silent erosion of traditional Yoga

Growing up, I always learnt and practised yoga in a quiet, disciplined, and almost sacred way. In India, yoga was never just an exercise; it was a deeply spiritual and scientific system, honed over thousands of years to align the body, mind, and spirit. Whether it was traditional forms like Hatha Yoga and Ashtanga Yoga, or guru-shishya lineages such as Sivananda Yoga, Iyengar Yoga, or Satyananda Yoga, the core practices remained largely consistent, with only minor variations, and were intentionally grounded in both physical discipline and profound philosophical wisdom.

Hatha Yoga, which I practice at Sivananda School of Yoga practice, for instance, is not merely about bending the body into various shapes. It is about balancing the masculine and feminine energies within oneself ('Ha' in 'Hatha' means Sun and 'tha' means Moon). The slow, purposeful asanas are designed to prepare the body for deeper spiritual practices like meditation and so on. Ashtanga Yoga, demands discipline and synchronisation of breath with a progressive series of postures, promoting physical endurance and mental clarity.

Iyengar Yoga, developed by BKS Iyengar, emphasises precision and alignment. Props like belts and blocks are used not as gimmicks but as intelligent aids to help practitioners achieve the correct posture safely. Satyananda Yoga, from the Bihar School of Yoga, also a disciple of Swami Sivananda, offers a holistic system combining asanas, pranayama (breath control), and meditation, deeply grounded in ancient scriptures yet highly accessible to modern practitioners. These traditional forms of yoga were complete systems — designed not just to build strong bodies but to cultivate resilience, compassion, inner peace, and eventually, spiritual awakening. But today, the variations presented, especially to attract younger audiences are at times of concern. In the quest to make yoga more 'appealing', a whole new breed of hybrid practices have emerged at times sans focus on posture or mind breath and body coordination.

While innovation can often bring new energy to old traditions, in the case of yoga, I worry that something fundamental is being lost. Power Yoga, for example, was developed to suit the Western craving for calorie — burning workouts. It emphasises speed, strength, and sweat — but often sacrifices breath awareness, alignment, and the contemplative aspects that are central to yoga. Aerial Yoga uses silk hammocks to suspend practitioners per cent in mid-air. While it might look beautiful on social media, it introduces new risks to the musculoskeletal system, especially if taught without a proper understanding of traditional postures and body mechanics. HIIT Yoga and CrossFit Yoga attempt to fuse high-intensity interval training and weightlifting

principles with yogic postures.

The fact is that yoga was never intended to be a high-stress activity on the body. Then there's Paddleboard Yoga and Spin and Yoga, both interesting combinations, but ones that often seem to dilute the inward focus that traditional yoga demands. Balancing on a paddleboard or spinning on a cycle while trying to breathe deeply and remain mindful often becomes more of a challenge to one's physical endurance rather than an invitation to stillness and self-inquiry.

What concerns me is not merely the creation of these hybrids, but the way they are marketed: Yoga is increasingly sold as a product — a lifestyle choice that promises flat abs, glowing skin, and mental sharpness in 30 days or less. The ancient aim of yoga — union with the higher self — is often barely mentioned. The sacredness of the practice, its depth, and its inherent science seem at risk of being trivialised into a trendy hashtag or a flashy gym class. Experimenting with traditional practices without a deep understanding of their purpose and structure can be risky. Traditional yoga evolved slowly, through painstaking observation of the human body and mind. Every asana was designed with attention to anatomical, energetic, and psychological effects.

Disrupting this carefully developed sequence — speeding it up, loading it with weights, suspending it mid-air — can lead to injuries ranging from minor sprains to serious spinal issues. Traditional yoga balances the nervous system, calming the fight-or-flight response and cultivating parasympathetic dominance (rest and digest mode).

High-intensity fusions may instead overstimulate the nervous system, leaving practitioners wired and anxious rather than grounded and serene. Having said that, I believe there is always room for creativity. Yoga should be alive, growing, and meeting the needs of new generations. But this growth must be rooted in respect for the science behind traditional systems. Without that grounding, we risk turning yoga into just another fitness fad — here today, gone tomorrow — when in fact it is one of humanity's most precious treasures for holistic health and self-realisation. As someone who has felt the profound benefits of traditional yoga, I urge others — especially younger audiences drawn to 'new-age' yoga, to explore the traditional systems first. Understand the depth before seeking novelty. Build a strong foundation before experimenting. After all, yoga isn't just something we do, it's something we become, and it's a way of life. And that transformation is far too sacred to be rushed, repackaged, or compromised.

(The writer is a certified Sivananda Yoga teacher. Views expressed are personal)

MONEY MATTERS



China to hold South Asia expo from June 19

Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan province, will host from June 19 to 24 this year's China-South Asia Expo with India and Pakistan having the largest presence. The expo will feature 11 themed halls highlighting key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and modern agriculture. This is the 9th edition of the expo in which a vast number of businessmen from India and South Asian countries besides traders from around the world take part. About 1,400 enterprises from 54 countries and regions have confirmed participation, state-run Xinhua reported. Nearly 1,000 professional buyers are expected to attend, Li Chaowei, director of the Yunnan provincial department of commerce said. China's trade with South Asia in 2024 is stated to be around USD 200 billion with the bulk of it with India, according to official data. The India China trade last year totalled to about USD 127.7 billion with India's trade deficit mounting to USD 99.2 billion. He said the expo also provides a broad platform for showcasing products from South Asian countries, with two South Asia pavilions offering nearly 800 booths. India and Pakistan have the largest presence, with each having 140 booths, state-run Global Times quoted Li as saying.



'India poised to benefit from FTAs'

India has emerged as a "great place" to use the advantages accruing from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), a senior retail industry official said as he highlighted the success of Make in India programme. "We are among the most attractive markets, with a growing young population that makes us one of the world's largest consumer markets with insatiable demand for the best in the world," said Retailers Association of India (RAI) CEO Kumar Rajagopalan at an event here. FTAs will also give Indians access to items that get manufactured abroad at a more convenient pricing, he added. But he was also quick to dismiss notions of dumping cheap inferior goods into the Indian market, pointing out that the country has created laws that can protect against such trade-damaging practices, and that can be challenged at the World Trade Organization. According to Kumar, a trade veteran of 40 decades, a full-fledged quality control checking system is in place to ensure Indian consumers are getting the best products as imports of edibles is set to increase following the signing of more and more FTAs by the Indian government in an endeavour to reach out the global markets.



Completed 29 major irrigation projects: UP

The Uttar Pradesh government has completed 29 major irrigation projects over the past eight years, according to an official statement. These projects have directly benefited 43,53,850 farmers across the state and led to an increase of 19,11,231 hectares in irrigation capacity. The initiative not only strengthens the state's agricultural productivity, but also marks a significant milestone in flood control and water conservation efforts, the UP government said in the statement. Over the past eight years, seven major irrigation projects have been completed -- Bansagar Canal Project, Lahchura Dam Project, Pahari Dam Project, Saryu Canal National Project, Arjun Sahayak Canal Project, UP Water Restructuring Project (Phase-II), and Umarhat Pump Project (Phase-II)," it said. These projects have benefited 42,28,355 farmers in districts like Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Bahraich, Gonda, Balrampur, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Banda, Amethi, Raebareli, Etawah, Etah, Kannauj, Kanpur Dehat, Kasganj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Farrukhabad, Firozabad, Barabanki, Mainpuri, and Lalitpur, it said.

India is key strategic market for global brands, says Myntra CEO

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

India is a key strategic market for global brands while domestic brands are strengthening their propositions, Nandita Sinha, CEO of Bengaluru-headquartered Myntra, which launched in Singapore last month, said. "With the launch of Myntra Global in Singapore, we're also laying the foundation for

our global foray, with a long-term aspiration to serve the Indian diaspora beyond India," Sinha said on Sunday after attending the NRF 25, an international retail show held here June 3-6. "The new-age insurgent brands are tailoring their value proposition," she said, underlining the growing strategic importance of the Indian market.

'India will protect farmers' interest in US trade talks'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will prioritise protecting its farmers' interests while assessing potential gains and losses in the ongoing trade negotiations with the United States over agricultural market access, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. "Our priority is to protect the interest of our farmers. India will not work closing its eyes. We will assess our gains and losses. Keeping that in mind, an agreement will be finalised," Chouhan said in an interview. He was responding to a query on how India would safeguard farmers amid US pressure for greater market access for American agricultural and horticultural products. The negotiators are expected to agree on the framework for the broad contours of the first phase of the bilateral deal, expected to be signed by



"The discussions are ongoing between India and the US. One thing is clear, we will protect the interest of our farmers. When we talk about two nations, we need to see the overall trade."

fall (September-October) 2025. "The discussions are ongoing between India and the US. One thing is clear, we will protect the interest of our farmers. When we talk about two nations, we need to see the overall trade," the minister added. According to a NITI Aayog report, "Promoting India-US Agricultural Trade under the new US Trade Regime", the value for US agriculture and

allied product exports to India was about USD 2.22 billion in the triennium ending 2024. In the same period, India exported USD 5.75 billion worth of agricultural products to the US. India's main agricultural exports to the US include frozen shrimp, basmati rice, spices, processed cereals, and other value-added products. The US wants to export more agricultural products

such as corn, soybeans, and animal feed, but faces high Indian tariffs -- especially in agriculture, where average tariffs can reach up to 39-50 per cent. The minister's comments come as India and the US continue negotiations on expanding agricultural trade, with Washington seeking reduced tariffs and improved market access for its farm products in the Indian market.

European plane maker ATR bullish on India; in talks with airlines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bullish on the business opportunities in India, European aircraft maker ATR is in discussions with scheduled and non-scheduled operators to explore sale of its aircraft. Considering the growth potential of the Indian market, a senior ATR official said it expects the country to have 300 more turboprops in the next 10 years. A joint venture between Airbus and Leonardo, ATR manufactures turboprops with up to 78 seats as well as freighters. Currently, there are 70 ATR aircraft in the country that are operated by IndiGo, Alliance Air, and FLY91. ATR is still "very bullish" on



the Indian market and is in active discussions with some of the operators, the company's Managing Director and Head of Region Asia Pacific Jean-Pierre Clercin told PTI in a recent interview in the national capital. Without divulging specific details, he said the company is in talks with scheduled and non-scheduled operators, including those already flying ATR aircraft.

Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank reduce lending rate by up to 50 bps, 10 bps

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Sunday said it has cut its benchmark lending rate linked to repo rate by 50 basis points in line with the RBI's rate reduction. Meanwhile, private sector HDFC Bank reduced its Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points across tenure, which will benefit borrowers whose loans are linked to this benchmark. Pursuant to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



reducing the policy repo rate, the bank has slashed its Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) by 50 basis points with effect from June 7, BoB said in a statement. The bank's RLLR

stands at 8.15 per cent, it said. With this, BoB has fully effected on the RBI rate cut in its RLLR, it added. According to HDFC Bank website, the new MCLR rates are effective from June 7. With the reduction, the overnight and one-month rates are down by 10 basis points to 8.90 per cent. The three-month rate has dropped 10 bps to 8.95 per cent, while the six-month and one-year rate is 9.05 per cent, down 10 bps. Both the two-year and three-year tenure lending rate have

been reduced from earlier 9.20 per cent to 9.10 per cent. Earlier on Friday, the RBI cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy. The RBI's six-member monetary policy committee, headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra and consisting of three external members, voted five to one to lower the benchmark repurchase or repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent.

Gautam Adani draws Rs 10.41 cr pay, lags behind peers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's second richest person Gautam Adani received a total remuneration of Rs 10.41 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, lower than most industry peers and his own key executives. Adani, 62, drew salaries from two out of the nine listed companies in his ports-to-energy conglomerate, the latest annual reports of the listed entities of the group showed. His total remuneration was 12 per cent more than the Rs 9.26 crore he had earned in the previous 2023-24 financial year. His remuneration for 2024-25 from the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) included Rs 2.26 crore salary and



another Rs 28 lakh in perquisites, allowances and other benefits. The total earnings from AEL at Rs 2.54 crore was higher than Rs 2.46 crore in the previous fiscal. Besides, he drew Rs 7.87 crore from Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) -- Rs 1.8 crore salary and Rs 6.07 crore commission. This compared with Rs 6.8

crore he received from APSEZ in 2023-24. Adani's salary is lower than the heads of almost all large family-owned conglomerates in India. While the richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani, has been foregoing his entire salary since Covid-19 broke out, prior to which he had capped his remuneration at Rs 15 crore, Adani's remuneration is much lower than telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal (Rs 32.27 crore in 2023-24), Rajiv Bajaj (Rs 53.75 crore in FY24), Pawan Munjal (Rs 109 crore in FY24), L&T Chairman S N Subrahmanyam (Rs 76.25 crore in FY25) and Infosys CEO Salil S Parekh (Rs 80.62 crore in FY25).

Maha, K'taka account for 51 pc of FDI in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 51 per cent of the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the country during the last financial year 2024-25, according to the latest data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Maharashtra attracted maximum foreign inflows at USD 19.6 billion and accounted for 31 per cent of the country's total FDI during April-March 2024-25. Karnataka received USD 6.62 billion overseas investments during the last fiscal year, the data showed.



Global trends, inflation data to drive market sentiments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors would track global market trends, inflation data and trading activity of foreign investors for further cues this week, analysts said. Moreover, progress of monsoon and developments related to trade talks would also be monitored by investors, experts noted. "Going forward, market participants will focus on key macroeconomic data for further cues. High-frequency indicators such as CPI inflation will be closely tracked to gauge demand trends and the central bank's next steps. Additionally, the progress of monsoon and sowing patterns will be monitored due to their implications for rural consumption," Ajit Mishra -- SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd -- said. On the global front, developments in trade negotiations and movements in US bond yields will continue to influ-

ence investor sentiment, he added. Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged on Friday, driven by a rally in rate-sensitive sectors following the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 82,188.99. The 50-share NSE Nifty reclaimed the 25,000-level and climbed 252.15 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 25,003.05. "We expect Indian markets to witness a gradual up-move, supported by positive sentiment following higher-than-anticipated rate cut by the RBI and optimism surrounding a potential US-India trade agreement with officials from both sides meeting in New Delhi to finalise the first phase of the proposed deal," Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Odisha is becoming diversified industrial powerhouse: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha is no longer the minerals hub of India, it is becoming a diversified industrial powerhouse, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said on Sunday. Majhi made the statement while interacting with industrialists at the Lok Seva Bhavan, ahead of the first anniversary of his government. "Odisha is no longer just a minerals and metals hub. We are becoming a diversified industrial powerhouse, where opportunity flows from port to plant and from cities to every aspi-

ration district," he said. The state is growing across 20 sectors -- from mining, metallurgy and metal downstream to emerging opportunities in chemicals, food processing, apparel and textiles, he said. Majhi spoke about the measures his government has taken to help industries. "One year ago, the people of Odisha placed their faith in us to build a future that is inclusive, aspirational, and transformative. Today, as we reflect on this first year, we do so with pride, in our progress and



renewed commitment to the journey ahead," he said. Maintaining that his government was focused on job creation, he urged the industrialists to join the journey of making the

an industrial powerhouse. "Over the last year alone, 206 large projects were approved -- nearly double the average of the previous five years. These represent a total investment value of over Rs 4.5 lakh crore and an employment potential of nearly 2.9 lakh jobs," he said. "Since the Utkarsha Odisha summit, 56 projects have already been taken up for ground-breaking and inauguration, with a combined investment of over Rs 1.78 lakh crore, and employment potential for 1.1 lakh people.

Revival signs in primary market: Over a dozen IPOs set to launch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a sluggish start to 2025, the primary market is showing signs of revival with over a dozen companies having lined up their IPOs in the next three to six months buoyed by a stabilizing secondary market and easing geopolitical tensions, merchant bankers said. Among the companies preparing to tap the capital markets are HDB Financial Services, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), Kalpataru, Rubicon Research, All Time Plastics, Regreen-Excel EPC India, and Paramesu

Biotech, they added. Additionally, Credila, SK Finance, Veritas Finance, Paras Healthcare, CIEL HR Services, Avanse Financial Services, Drof-Ketal Chemicals India, Brigade Hotel Ventures and Shreeji Shipping are looking to launch their IPOs. All these companies have already received clearance from the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). These companies are mobilising funds to support capital expenditure requirements especially for expansion plans, repayment of borrowings, and for general corporate purposes.



es. This renewed activity follows the launch of six IPOs last month, including Schloss Bangalore, the owner of luxury hotel chain The Leela.

However, the overall IPO activity in 2025 has slowed, with only 16 firms coming out with public issues so far, compared to 29 IPOs in the

same period last year. The slowdown is attributed to ongoing volatility in the equity market due to a mix of global and domestic factors. This shift followed a remarkable 2024, in which 91 maiden public issues collectively raised Rs 1.6 lakh crore, driven by robust retail participation, a resilient economy, and booming private capital expenditure. Despite the cautious start to 2025, there are promising signs. A growing number of companies are filing documents, and the second half of the year is expected to witness robust IPO activity.

"We will see robust activity in the IPO markets in the second half of 2025 as a good set of companies are looking to launch their public issues. There is a good appetite among investors for attractively priced IPOs," said Saahil Kinkhabwala, Director, Investment Banking, Monarch Network Capital Ltd. Pranjal Srivastava, Partner, Investment Banking, Centrum Capital, noted that the Indian IPO market's sluggish beginning in 2025 reflects cautious investor sentiment amid global economic uncertainties and domestic market volatility.





Kamy



Salauni



Mahek and Mihika



Pooja



Pooja

P&S Co. launched its first Telangana store at GVK Mall, Hyderabad, under franchisee Rapid Corp. The inauguration was attended by the brand's co-founders, Pooja Bihani Kanoria and Salauni Gupta Bihani. Known for dressing celebrity children from families like the Ambanis, Piramals, Adanis and Bollywood stars, P&S Co. blends tradition with comfort.



Nidhi Aggarwal



Celebrity stylist, fashion designer and managing director of Pooja Sarees, Ram Aggarwal unveiled the brand's newest venture—Pooja Sarees Couture—at the upscale Road No. 10 in Banjara Hills. The launch event was graced by Special Secretary to the Telangana Government, Hari Chandana Dasari and BNI Hyderabad Executive Director, Sanjana Shah, who jointly inaugurated the boutique alongside founder, Archana



Neha



Sapna



KavitaJain and Arthy



Sanjana



Pooja



Kashish

PARTY



KP's 21st Century IAS Academy celebrated the success of its 2024 UPSC achievers with a grand felicitation event on June 8 at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad. The event honored top rankers including Pulkit Bansal (AIR 155) and C. Sravana Sowmya (AIR 951) and featured distinguished guests like former Maharashtra Governor CH. Vidya Sagar Rao and Additional DGP Dr Mahesh Bhagwat. Academy founder P. Krishna Pradeep outlined an ambitious vision to produce 100 civil servants by 2028, while also highlighting initiatives like free training for tribal students in Adilabad.

Photos by- SV Chary



The Eid-ul-Adha (Bakrid) prayers were held with great fervour and joy at the Eidgah of Dargah Shareef Hazrat Salar-E-Auliya in New Hafeezpet village, Serilingampally Mandal. The celebrations were conducted under the spiritual guardianship of the Dargah's Muthawalli and Sajjada Nasheen, Sultan Ahsan-Ud-Dowla and witnessed a large gathering of devotees offering prayers in a spirit of unity and devotion.



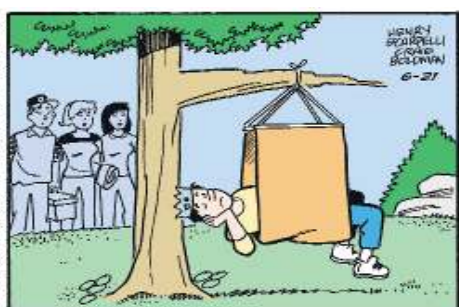
Kosmo Dental Group hosted its franchise launch and Convocation Ceremony in Hyderabad, marking a key milestone with the on boarding of five new clinics under its FOFO model. The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr Sanjeeva Reddy Garu, MLA of Narayankhed and Dr Narsimha Swamy, President of IDA Telangana. The group also celebrated graduates from its Clinical Mastership Program, reinforcing its commitment to raising clinical standards and building a quality-driven dental care network across India.



PAPEXPO 2025, India's first dedicated exhibition for the paper industry, was inaugurated at HITEX, Hyderabad, by key industry leaders including Narendra Paruchuri, Soumyajit Mukherjee, and Dr. Ajay Satia. Hosted by the Paper Foundation and supported by the Ministry of MSME, the three-day event, held until June 8, brought together the entire paper industry value chain with support from IPPTA, IIP and FPTA.

FUN

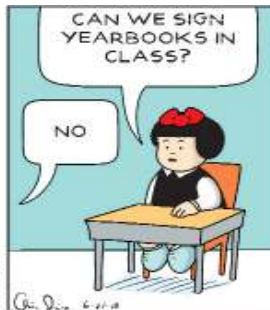
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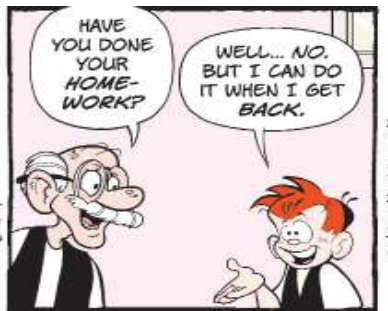
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NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



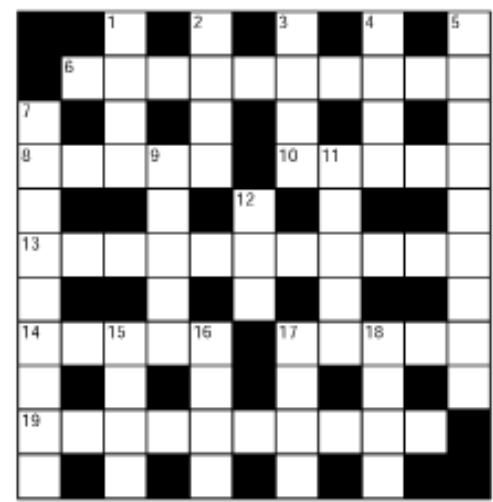
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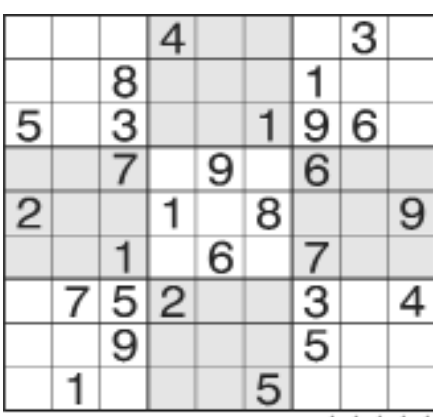
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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1	8	3	4	9	2	7	5	6
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Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- 6 Transport for someone who cannot walk
8 With nothing in it
10 The outside ends of something
13 Vanished
14 Opposite of outer
17 The country with Tokyo
19 In all places

- 9 Annoy or bother someone for fun
11 A play
12 Secret agent
15 Require
16 Sunbeams
17 A boy's name
18 Meat from a pig

DOWN

- 1 A large boat
2 Extremely
3 A throbbing pain
4 The sound of an explosion
5 The leader of the USA
7 Large-lettered words above items in a newspaper



‘NO ONE CAN STOP PAWAN KALYAN’S FILM — IT’S SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE’

The Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce elected a new body. President and secretary spoke about the theatre bandh, actors’ remuneration, and Pawan Kalyan’s film



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No one can stop Pawan Kalyan’s film — it is simply not possible, said Sunil Narang, who has been elected as the President of the Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce for the third time. “Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself praises Pawan Kalyan and calls him a ‘Toofan’, so nobody can stop his film,” he added.

Sunil said he was shocked upon hearing about the theatre bandh. “I didn’t participate in last month’s exhibitors’ meeting held by the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce. But I was surprised to hear about the theatre bandh. In the industry, many refer to ‘four people’ as being behind such decisions, but in reality, there are many owners,” he stated. Speaking after the

election of the new body on Saturday, Sunil addressed several ongoing issues. “Of all the theatres in Andhra Pradesh, our Asian Cinemas chain owns nearly five percent. We have 70 theatres, out of which 30 are on ground lease. Apart from these, we also have a few multiplexes — but the total doesn’t exceed 5 to 6 percent,” he clarified.

Commenting on the high remuneration taken by top actors despite underperforming films, Sunil said, “I can’t talk about their remuneration, because they are like Gods. But they should definitely do more films each year.”

Newly elected secretary Sridhar also shared his thoughts. “This percentage system for single screens is not new — we’ve been fighting for it since 2016. We want the percentage system, and we never spoke about the theatre bandh. That actually came from the East Godavari district. We never issued any

letter or statement about a bandh. Two producers and two directors deliberately created this issue. We’ll soon reveal their names,” he said.

Sridhar emphasised that stardom comes from consistent work. “Many actors became stars because they used to do two to three films a year. But nowadays, actors are doing just one film in two years. Since January, only three films — *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*, *Mad Square* and *Court* — were successful. The rest haven’t yielded profits for theatre owners.”

He added that actors are still drawing massive salaries despite poor box office performance. “One actor’s film turned out to be a disaster, yet he was paid Rs 13 crore for it,” he said.

Speaking about the Chamber itself, Sridhar noted, “This is one of the oldest bodies. It was originally called the Hyderabad Film Chamber of Commerce

and started nearly 80 years ago. After Telangana was formed, the name was changed.”

Addressing another issue, Sridhar said he had left theatres vacant in anticipation of Pawan Kalyan’s film *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*, which was scheduled to release on June 12. “But now, the film has been postponed. What can we do? This entire month is gone without a good release — it’s a huge loss, especially for single-screen theatres,” he said.

He warned that if actors don’t increase their output, the cinema exhibition business will suffer greatly. “Many stars must do at least two films a year. Otherwise, theatres will soon be turned into malls, godowns, or wedding halls. Six single-screen theatres shut down due to financial losses,” he concluded.



Balakrishna and Gopichand Malineni reunite for a historic action film

Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Gopichand Malineni are teaming up once again for a new film — and this time, it’s a historic action spectacle. The duo previously collaborated on *Veera Simha Reddy*, which was declared a hit. Now, they are reuniting for their second project, officially announced by the director on social media.

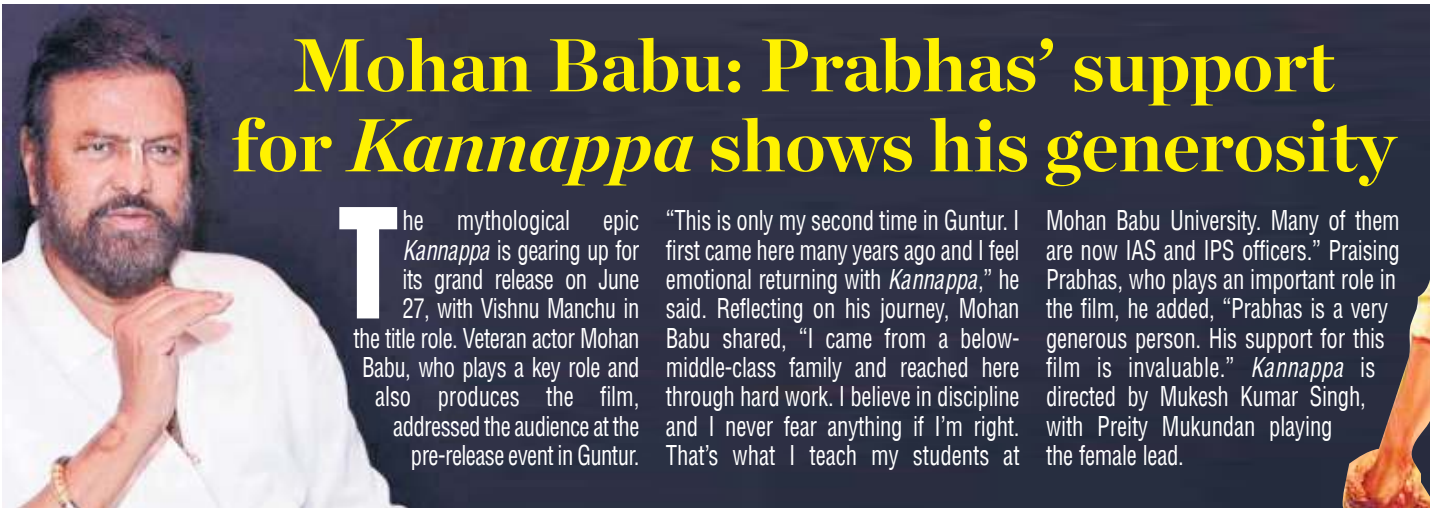


The film will be produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru, who is also bankrolling Ram Charan’s upcoming film *Peddi*. The announcement was accompanied by a striking poster featuring a roaring lion, half of its face armored with a metallic shield and the other half depicted in its wild, natural form — giving a symbolic hint at Balakrishna’s character in the film.

“The God of Masses is back... and this time, we’re roaring louder! Honoured to reunite with Nandamuri Balakrishna garu for our second mass celebration together — #NBK111. This one’s going to be historic!” wrote Gopichand Malineni on

his social media handle.

The announcement coincides with Balakrishna’s birthday on June 10. In addition to this exciting update, fans can also expect something special from his other film *Akhanda 2* — possibly a teaser. Directed by Boyapati Srinu, *Akhanda 2* is the sequel to the successful *Akhanda* and the team is currently in the midst of shooting.



Mohan Babu: Prabhas’ support for Kannappa shows his generosity

The mythological epic *Kannappa* is gearing up for its grand release on June 27, with Vishnu Manchu in the title role. Veteran actor Mohan Babu, who plays a key role and also produces the film, addressed the audience at the pre-release event in Guntur.

“This is only my second time in Guntur. I first came here many years ago and I feel emotional returning with *Kannappa*,” he said. Reflecting on his journey, Mohan Babu shared, “I came from a below-middle-class family and reached here through hard work. I believe in discipline and I never fear anything if I’m right. That’s what I teach my students at

Mohan Babu University. Many of them are now IAS and IPS officers.” Praising Prabhas, who plays an important role in the film, he added, “Prabhas is a very generous person. His support for this film is invaluable.” *Kannappa* is directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, with Preity Mukundan playing the female lead.



Aadi Saikumar’s Shambhala teaser unleashes a mystical storm

Director Anil Ravipudi was all praise for the teaser of *Shambhala: A Mystical World*, calling it “stunning with an intriguing concept.” The film stars Aadi Saikumar and is directed by Ugandhar

Muni, with production by Rajasekhar Annabhimoju and Mahidhar Reddy. The teaser opens with a thought-provoking voiceover: “There are countless unfathomable mysteries in this universe. When science cannot explain them, it calls them superstition. But the moment it finds an explanation; it calls it a breakthrough.”

Chaos ensues in a village after the discovery of a mysterious fragment believed to control the five elements. Villagers begin behaving as if possessed. The protagonist enters the scene to stop the dark force, only to be met with hostility from those under its influence.

Featuring eerie visuals and suspenseful pacing, the teaser introduces characters exhibiting abnormal behavior, setting the stage for a gripping supernatural experience. The film stars Archana Iyer, Swasika, Ravi Varma, Madhuranandan, Shivakarthik and Shailaja Priya in pivotal roles.



Deepika Padukone joins forces with Allu Arjun and Atlee for pan-India spectacle

As anticipated, Deepika Padukone has officially joined the cast of the highly anticipated pan-India film starring Allu Arjun and directed by Atlee. Produced by Kalanithi Maran under the Sun Pictures banner, this is one of the most expensive Indian films in recent times. The announcement video revealed the grandeur of the project — Deepika is seen discussing the film with Atlee, then transforming into her character by donning regal headgear and stepping onto a lavish set, prepared for battle.

With Deepika Padukone — one of India’s most versatile and bankable stars — on board, the scale and ambition of this project have soared even higher.

Tentatively titled Project A422 x A6, the film promises an epic blend of emotion, action, visual spectacle, and culturally rooted storytelling with global appeal.

“Collaborating with Deepika on *Jawan* was incredible — her power, range and grace elevate every scene. She drives the narrative. Pairing her with Allu Arjun is a dream for any filmmaker,” said director Atlee.

Priyadarshi & Niharika NM shine in Mithra Mandali poster reveal

After teasing fans with quirky pre-look posters, the makers of *Mithra Mandali* have unveiled the much-awaited first look — and it’s every bit as vibrant as promised. Produced under Bunny Vasu’s new banner BV Works, in collaboration with Kalyan Manthina, Bhanu Pratapa and Dr Vijender Reddy Teegala, the film introduces a masked ensemble featuring Priyadarshi, Rag Mayur, Vishnu Oi and Prasad Behara.

Adding to the buzz, the film also marks the Telugu debut of social media sensation Niharika N M, who recently gained international attention for her involvement with *Mission: Impossible – Final Reckoning*.

Directed by debutant Vijayendar S, the film is set to be a riot of comedy, chaos and youthful energy, riding on the comic timing and unique style of its core cast.



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"There is just a lot of uncertainty, I would say, too much uncertainty, that the fan base doesn't want to think about."