



Satellite images show 'alarming' Chinese buildup near nuclear silos

Deep in China's remote desert, a massive military construction project is under way that experts believe is aimed at ensuring the country can still launch a nuclear response even if its nuclear facilities are attacked first by the United States, reported news agency Reuters. China already possesses missiles capable of reaching anywhere in the US. However, newly reviewed satellite images show Beijing is significantly strengthening the infra-



structure that supports its nuclear missile force. According to images examined by Reuters, China has built more than 80 launch pads along with three large octagon-shaped facili-

ties near the Hami nuclear missile silo field in the country's north-west. The launch pads could be used by mobile missile launchers and air-defence systems,

while the larger facilities may support communications, electronic warfare and military command functions, according to security analysts who reviewed the imagery. Experts say the scale of the construction suggests China is creating a far more resilient network for its land-based nuclear forces. The goal appears to be ensuring that China's nuclear arsenal remains operational even if some facilities are destroyed in a first strike.

Rahul Gandhi says 'not a single exam conducted with honesty'

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a fresh attack on the Centre after reports emerged that the CUET-UG 2026 examination was cancelled and delayed at several centres across the country due to technical glitches. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rahul alleged that the government had failed to

conduct major national examinations fairly and efficiently, citing controversies surrounding NEET, CBSE, SSC and now CUET. In a post on X, he wrote: "NEET. CBSE. SSC. And today CUET. Four exams. One crore children. Not a single one conducted with honesty." "Claims of 'world guru', but can't conduct even one exam in the country - Modi ji has com-

pletely ruined the entire education system. The generation whose future you are destroying - that same generation will hold you accountable," he added. Rahul's remarks came after the National Testing Agency (NTA) acknowledged that a



technical glitch at the end of its technology partner, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) delayed the commencement of CUET-UG 2026 at several examination centres on Saturday.

Former Kerala PWD Minister TU Kuruvila Dies at 89

Kochi: Former Kerala minister and Kerala Congress (Joseph) vice-chairman TU Kuruvila died at a private hospital here late Friday night, party sources said. He was 89 and had been undergoing treatment for age-related ailments for a long time. Kuruvila served as Public Works Minister in the V S Achuthanandan-led government and represented the Kothamangalam Assembly constituency from 2006 to

2011. A senior leader of Kerala Congress Joseph faction, he also served as a member of the Rubber Board and as chairman of the state Housing Board. Also Read - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Takes Oath as 23rd Governor of Kerala Advertisement Chief Minister V D Satheesan condoled his demise, describing Kuruvila as a steadfast Kerala Congress leader who stood firmly with P J Joseph throughout his political career.



Food Safety Raid Uncovers Violations at Nagole Namkeen Unit

Hyderabad: A flying squad of Telangana Food Safety wing inspected Balaji pheni and namkeen unit in Nagole and detected several deviations. The squad seized 150 kg of cook-

ing oil, 720 kg of sev, and 120 kg of potato chips. Notices are being issued and adjudication proceedings will be initiated under the Food Safety and Standards Act, officials said.

Hyderabadi Biryani Connoisseur To Murder

Hyderabad: City residents were shocked after Nawab Mehboob Alam Khan and his son, Mujahid Alam Khan, were arrested Saturday for their alleged role in the killing of Waqf Board advocate Khaja Moizuddin. Alam Khan is well known in the culinary circles and is credited with preserving several authentic recipes including the biryani. Advocate Moizuddin was killed in the early



hours of May 23rd, 2026 in Masab Tank. Police said he had stepped out of his car for a routine swim when an SUV rammed into him and dragged him for about 200 metres. Moizuddin suffered grievous injuries and died later at Mahavir Hospital.

TG EdCET 2026 Results Declared



Hyderabad: The results of TG EdCET 2026 have been released on Saturday. The examination was conducted across the state on May 12. Officials had earlier released the preliminary key and invited objections before announcing the final results on Saturday. The results

were declared by Higher Education Council Chairman Balkishta Reddy and Kakatiya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pratap Reddy. A total of 35,600 candidates had applied for the EdCET exam across the state, of whom 29,342 appeared for the test.



Hegseth Says US Ready to Restart Strikes on Iran If No Deal

The U.S. is ready to restart attacks on Iran if a deal cannot be reached, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Saturday, as negotiators from Washington and Tehran worked to bridge major differences blocking an agreement.

"Our ability to recommence if necessary...we are more than capable," Hegseth said in Singapore. "Our stockpiles are more than suited for that, both there and around the globe, so we're in a very good place," he added.

Hegseth, speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's premier forum for defence leaders, militaries and diplomats, said the U.S. has not turned its back on the Asia-Pacific region despite being engaged in conflict with Iran. "We can do

two things at one time. We're super-charging our defence industrial base so that we're building 2X, 3X, 4X the munitions very soon to ensure that all of our (operations) plans are properly funded throughout the world," he said. The Pentagon chief said President Donald Trump was "patient" and wants to make a "great deal" that ensures Iran does not get a nuclear weapon. On Friday, Trump said he would meet in a secure White House room to make a "final determination" on a proposal to end the Iran war, which would extend an early-April truce for another 60 days, giving negotiators time to forge "a permanent end to the conflict. The war launched by the U.S. and Israel on February 28 has killed thousands of people, mainly in Iran and Lebanon, and caused global economic pain by pushing up energy prices due to Iran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Indiramma Houses a Gift from Revanth Reddy to Urban Poor, Ponguleti

Hyderabad: Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy here on Saturday assured that advanced Indiramma houses would be constructed and provided within the vicinity of the areas where the urban poor currently reside, ensuring no disruption to their livelihoods. He clarified that not only will the foundation stone for the one lakh houses approved in the first phase within the Qura limit soon be laid by Chief Minister A

Revanth Reddy, but also measures will be taken to complete their construction within a year. Srinivas Reddy, along with fellow ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, laid the foundation stone for the Integrated Sub-Registrar Offices to be built in Banjara Hills for the community. On this occasion, speaking at the meeting organized as a chief guest, Minister Srinivas Reddy ad-



ressed the gathering. Stating that unlike the previous BRS government, which intended to scatter houses 30-40 kilometers away from where people lived, he said each constituency will be treated as a unit, and houses will be constructed within that

constituency for its residents—this is a great gift to the poor, presented by Revanth Reddy. The Minister affirmed that the people's government schemes are being implemented to reach right to the doorsteps of the poor in the state.

Siddaramaiah's Son Yathindra To Be Made Cabinet Minister, Not DyCM

Bengaluru: The exercise for formation of new Council of Ministers is deliberated by Congress leaders while the name of MLC Dr Yathindra, the son of acting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is in the reckoning for a cabinet berth, but not for Deputy Chief Minister's post. Making Yathindra a cabinet

minister was one of the conditions put forward by Siddaramaiah to the Congress High-Command leaders for him to resign from the post. The central leaders reportedly agreed to his demands including a cabinet berth for Yathindra. Siddaramaiah after tendering his resignation, left for New Delhi on Thursday to meet central Con-

gress party leaders - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, President of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Mallikarjun Kharge, to thank the leaders for giving him an opportunity to serve as Chief Minister for the second term from



May, 2023 to 28th May 2026, the date of his resignation. A day later, the resignation was accepted by Governor Thawarchand Gehlot.

95% Works of Kazipet Railway Manufacturing Unit Completed



Hyderabad: The Railway Manufacturing Unit (RMU) under construction in Kazipet is nearing completion. With 95 per cent of the work already completed, the unit will be inaugurated soon. The RMU will not only increase the capacity of

Indian Railways but will also contribute to industrial growth in the state, Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said in a post on 'X'. Explaining the highlights of the unit, Kishan Reddy said the cost of the RMU is Rs.521.36 crore and 95 per cent of the

70% drop in gold demand Import duty hike from 6% to 15% rattles buyers

NEW DELHI: Gold demand in India has slipped by nearly 70 per cent after the government doubled import duty on the precious metal earlier this month. The higher fuel and food prices linked to the ongoing Iran conflict had further dragged down the consumer sentiment. Industry estimates showed gold demand fell to around 7.5 tonnes



in the fortnight ending May 27, compared with nearly 25 tonnes during the same period last year. The sharp slowdown came after the government raised the import duty on gold from 6 per cent to 15 per cent with effect from May 13, according to ET.

Monday, June 01, 2026

200 Years of Hindi Journalism Legacy

(On the occasion of "Hindi Journalism Day" on 30 May)

Two centuries back most newspapers were in India were either in English, Bengali, or Persian languages. The Hindi speaking people of this country had no publication of their native language. Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla, who actually hailed from Kanpur, recognised this gap and decided to act in 1826. Shukla took the initiative of bring first Hindi newspaper as weekly in Kolkata, named "Udant Martand" which means "The Rising Sun" published on 30 May 1826. This historic day in the field on journalism in India is marked as "Hindi Journalism Day" annually on 30 May. This day recognise the work done by Hindi journalists, reporters, editors, photographers, field correspondents, and many others contribute daily to ensure that news reaches the masses across India. The theme revolves around the concept of Hindi from traditional knowledge to AI, emphasising the impact of digital revolution on journalism. "A Small Step for Big Change:" Although the newspaper had to shut down after just 79 issues due to financial constraints and limited readership, it left behind a legacy that still lives on. This single step by Shukla laid foundation for a powerful journalistic movement. Over the past two decades, Hindi newspapers grew in both number and influence, bringing important stories to households across the Hindi speaking belt and beyond. Language is not only a tool for communication, but also it connects the people emotionally and culturally. Hindi journalism has helped create awareness about civic rights, healthcare, elections, education, current affairs, politics, and social issues among both rural and urban population. "Events of Hindi Journalism Day:"

From a single Hindi newspaper in 1826, many papers like Dainik Jagran, Amar Ujala, Hindustan, and Rajasthan Patrica reached millions of readers every day in metros, small towns, and even rural areas. In addition to print media, Hindi television came on 1990s, Hindi news channels (like Aam Tak, ABP News, Zee News, and News 18 India etc) became popular for their accessibility and reach. Hindi news portals, YouTube channels, and mobile apps now serve a massive audience that prefer to stay informed in Hindi. The media institutes, press clubs, and universities must celebrate the day by organising lectures, debates, award ceremonies, and panel discussions. Students, journalists, and educators come together to talk about the evolution of Hindi media and the future of News in Indian regional languages.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

BRS, BJP Must Stop False Campaign on Paddy Procurement: Uttam

Nalgonda: Irrigation and civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday asked Opposition parties BRS and BJP to refrain from "false propaganda" on paddy procurement, alleging attempts to create confusion among farmers for political gain. Along with revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and IT minister D. Sridhar Babu, he conducted surprise inspections at a paddy procurement centre in Vangapally and an FCI godown at Ramajipeta in Yadadri-Bhongir district. Addressing the media, Uttam Kumar Reddy said BJP leaders from the state were not pressuring the Centre to enhance the procurement limit for Telangana but were visiting procurement centres. He also criticised BRS leaders for targeting the Congress government on the issue, stating that procurement had surpassed levels recorded during the previous regime. He said the state government would procure "every grain" of paddy produced by farmers despite financial constraints. "Farmers need not panic, as every grain of paddy produced by them will be procured," he said, adding that even rain-soaked paddy would be procured.



The minister directed officials of the revenue, civil supplies and police departments to coordinate efforts to expedite procurement and avoid inconvenience to farmers. He said payments would be credited to farmers' bank accounts within 48 hours of purchase. He also instructed that sand transport vehicles be temporarily used for shifting procured paddy to rice mills. Srinivas Reddy said record production was reported in

the current yasangi season and assured farmers of procurement at Minimum Support Price. Sridhar Babu said the state would protect farmers' interests irrespective of limits fixed by the Centre and procure the entire produce. The ministers later held a review meeting with officials at the District Integrated Offices Complex in Bhongir to assess procurement operations.

Repair works may slash Singur project water storage



SANGAREDDY: Officials have tentatively decided to store only up to 15 tmcft of water in the Singur project this monsoon as repair works continue following recommendations made by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). The Singur project supplies drinking water to Hyderabad, industries and several areas in the erstwhile Medak district. Officials had released nearly 8 tmcft of water from the reservoir last March to facilitate repair works. Despite concerns over water availability during peak summer, officials managed supply by regulating distribution schedules. In some areas, drinking water was supplied on alternate days, while Sangareddy received water once every two or three days. Irrigation department Executive Engineer B Bheem said authorities now plan to store up to 15 tmcft and release excess floodwater downstream if heavy inflows arrive from the Manjeera catchment areas in Karnataka and Maharashtra during the rainy season. Officials recalled that unprecedented inflows last year forced large-scale downstream releases from the project, leading to flooding around the Edupayala Durga Bhavani temple on the Manjeera river. Repair works at the dam are progressing rapidly and are expected to be completed within the next two to three months. Officials said that there would be no major disruption to drinking water supply or irrigation for nearly 40,000 acres downstream of the project.



Bhatti launches devpt works worth crores in his constituency

Khammam: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Thursday said the government aims to develop Madhira Assembly constituency into a model constituency in the State by strengthening infrastructure and improving connectivity in rural areas. During an extensive tour of Errupalem mandal, the Deputy Chief Minister, along with NPDCL CMD Varun Reddy and District Collector Divakar TS, laid foundation stones for several road, power and temple development works worth crores of rupees. At Gosaveedu village, Bhatti Vikramarka inaugurated works for a BT road from Gosaveedu to Ramakrishnapuram to be taken up at a cost of Rs 2.80 crore, internal CC roads in the SC Colony costing Rs 35 lakh, and a BT road from Ramannapalem to Katleru Cheruvu estimated at Rs 2 crore. In Inagali village, he launched BT road works from Inagali to Saidellipuram costing Rs 6.75 crore,

another BT road from Inagali to Siddinenigudem at Rs 3.75 crore, and internal CC roads in the SC Colony at Rs 31 lakh. India news analysis The Deputy Chief Minister also laid foundation stones in Mulugumadu village for the reconstruction of Sri Bhakta Anjaneya Swamy temple at a cost of Rs 1.29 crore, BT roads from Mulugumadu to Nagavarappadu costing Rs 3.75 crore and from Mulugumadu to Saidellipuram at Rs 3.50 crore, besides internal CC roads in the SC Colony worth Rs 63 lakh. At Takkellapadu village, foundation stones were laid for a BT road from Takkellapadu to Madhira R&B road costing Rs 4.50 crore and internal CC roads in the SC Colony at Rs 69 lakh. Bhatti Vikramarka also inaugurated works for the construction of a 132/33 KV substation at Pedda Gopavaram village and a 33/11 KV substation at Jamalapuram village.

Komatireddy takes part in Bakrid celebrations, greets Muslims



Nalgonda: Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy participated in Bakrid celebrations and offered special prayers at the Eidgah located on Munugode Road in Nalgonda town on Thursday. Addressing

the gathering on the occasion, the Minister extended heartfelt Bakrid greetings to all the people of Nalgonda district, especially to Muslims of the region. He described Bakrid as a sacred festival that reflects deep faith in Allah

and symbolises the spirit of sacrifice. Remembering the great sacrifice of Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim, the Minister said that Bakrid is not merely a religious celebration but also carries a powerful message for humanity. True devotion, he said, lies in being willing to sacrifice even one's most beloved possessions for God and for the welfare of society. The minister stated that the essence of Bakrid is sacrifice, charity, and compassion toward the poor and needy. He emphasized that the festival teaches people to give up selfishness and ego and work for the welfare of society. Referring to Rahul Gan dhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, he said the march conveyed a message of unity, equality, and harmony among people of all religions and communities. He also recalled that during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y. S. Raja sekhar a Reddy, Muslims were provided 4 percent reservations, which helped improve educational and employment opportunities. According to him, this reflects the secular values of the Congress party. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Telangana, particularly Nalgonda, stands as a symbol of communal

harmony and the Ganga-Jamuni culture, where Hindus and Muslims celebrate all festivals together in peace. He noted that for the past 30 years, the district has remained free from communal disturbances, which he described as the unique identity of Nalgonda. The minister further stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government is committed to the welfare of Muslim minorities. He said the government is building modern schools, organizing job fairs, and working toward better educational and employment opportunities for minorities.

Youth arrested for sexually assaulting a minor girl

Hyderabad: A new case has been registered at the Jubilee Hills police station in connection with the case involving Chandrashekhara Azad alias Arjun, who allegedly deceived young girls under the guise of love using the Instagram platform. In connection with that case, the police have now arrested a friend of the prime suspect, Arjun. According to the police, Jitender Reddy alias Jithin, a resident of Jagadgirigutta, established contact via Instagram in 2024 with a 15-year-old girl from KPHB who was studying in the tenth grade. Initially engaging in friendly conversation, he later took her to a 'Drive-in' establishment in Jubilee Hills, where he behaved inappropriately. Threatening to make her photographs go viral on social media, he took her to a hotel in Miyapur and subjected her to sexual assault. Police said exploiting the victim's personal photographs, he extorted a sum of Rs 2.48 lakhs. His friends also subjected the girl to mental harassment, circulating her personal photographs.



Hyderabad Voice

Monday, June 01, 2026

Revanth Unveils NTR Statue, Says Cong. Govt Will Transform Hyd Into a Global City With Future City Project

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday said that the state government was committed to transforming Hyderabad into a global city and that the proposed Future City project, spread across 30,000 acres, was aimed at achieving that vision. He said the government would bring the world's leading global companies to Future City and create massive employment opportunities for the youth of Telangana. The Chief Minister was speaking after unveiling the 23-foot-tall bronze statue of legendary actor and former chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), at Maitrivanam Junction in Ameerpet. The statue was unveiled in fulfilment of a promise made during the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign in November 2025. Addressing a large gathering, Revanth Reddy said some people were questioning how a Congress chief minister could unveil the statue of NTR, who hails from Andhra and is also the founder of the Telugu Desam. He said NTR was a leader who transcended caste, religion, re-



gion and language and was a personality the entire nation could take pride in. He said the statue was not merely a monument but a source of inspiration beyond politics. Expressing confidence about the Congress remaining in power, Revanth Reddy declared that the people's government would continue till 2034. He described NTR as a great leader who made the Telugu community proud, and said he was happy to unveil the statue of a leader who was affectionately called "Anna" by Telugu people. Calling the occasion one of the most memorable mo-

ments of his life as the Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy said NTR had given Telangana several prominent leaders, including Tummala Nageswara Rao, Mandava Venkateswara Rao, Kadiyam Srihari and Motkupalli Narasimulu. He said even BRS chief and former chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was recognised and encouraged as a leader in TDP by NTR. "KCR's political rise is the 'political biksha' of NTR", Revanth Reddy remarked. In an indirect reference to BRS working president K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), Revanth

Reddy remarked that even those who had adopted NTR's name were criticising the installation of the statue. Describing KTR as a "fake NTR," Revanth Reddy said there was no need to pay attention to such remarks. The Chief Minister said the inspiration behind the government's fine rice distribution scheme could be traced back to NTR's iconic '2-per-kg rice scheme. He said several welfare initiatives for women, including the distribution of saris and other schemes, were inspired by NTR's governance model. He said NTR played a major role in empowering the weaker sections and enabling them to become rulers and decision-makers in society. Revanth Reddy said NTR earned lasting respect by abolishing the Patel-Patwari system in Telangana and giving poor people an opportunity to live with self-respect. He said every decision taken by the present Congress government reflected the inspiration of both Indiramma and NTR. "Indiramma was a generation, and NTR was an era.

BJP State Chief Bats for UCC in Telangana



Hyderabad: BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday urged implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Telangana, saying a common civil law — while exempting Scheduled Tribes' customs — would grant women and children clear legal rights to property and adoption. Speaking at the party's cadre training camp under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Shikshan Maha Abhiyan at Moinabad in Rangareddy district, Rao said UCC was not anti-religion and noted that states such as Uttarakhand, Goa and Assam have already enacted similar measures. He likened the importance of UCC to landmark steps like the Modi government's repeal of Article 370 and recalled nationwide approval when Triple Talaq was abolished. Rao attacked the political culture of the Congress and the BRS, accusing both of encouraging disruptive elements and a similar mindset. He referred to the controversial remarks by former BRS MP Balka Suman and blamed both parties for misleading unemployed youth and students, criticising the previous BRS government for deception and the current Congress administration for failing to provide jobs and clear fee reimbursement dues. He also condemned the state government's procurement failures after unseasonal rains left paddy, maize and jowar soaked at purchase centres, saying farmers were abandoned despite promises to "buy until the last grain" and that the government was shifting blame to the Centre. The BJP leader reaffirmed that the party's Rythu Gosa- BJP Bharosa yatra, which concluded in Nirmal (Sarangapur), would continue to press for farmers' rights until justice is delivered. He warned against intimidation of BJP leaders and workers through false cases or house arrests. Rao welcomed the Supreme Court's endorsement of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing opposition parties, including Congress, BRS and MIM of spreading malicious propaganda to undermine.

HC impleads 70 candidates in TGpsc AE qualification dispute

HYDERABAD: Justice K Sarath of the Telangana High Court has allowed an implead petition seeking to add 70 proposed respondents in a writ petition challenging the eligibility criteria adopted by the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGpsc) for recruitment to various engineering posts. The main writ petition was filed by Kolakani Sasikumar and eight other unemployed candidates who appeared for the Assistant Engineer (Civil Engineering) qualifying examination. The petitioners contended that the TGpsc illegally selected candidates possessing only B Tech/BE qualifications despite the recruitment notification dated September 12, 2022 allegedly mandating a Diploma in Civil, Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering for posts.

No Power Cuts in Telangana Despite Peak Demand Rise: Bhatti

Nalgonda: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said Telangana aims to emerge as a green energy hub by promoting renewable energy production. Addressing a media conference at Garlapadu in Bonakal mandal of Khammam district, he said the government was encouraging installation of solar panels in rural households to reduce electricity bills and generate additional income. He said households could earn about Rs 500 per month through power generation. The Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TGRED CO) has designed solar sheds that can generate electricity while also serving as rest areas and storage spaces for farmers, he said, adding that the initiative is intended to supplement farm income. He said 81 villages have been identified as model solar villages, where installation of solar panels is under progress. He urged farmers and domestic consumers to use the schemes. The Deputy



Chief Minister said the government was focused on ensuring uninterrupted power supply to support agriculture, industry and services, and had prioritised strengthening power infrastructure. He said despite a rise in peak demand from 15,000 MW in 2023-24 to 18,542 MW at present, there had been no power cuts due to measures such as installation of additional transformers and increased generation capacity. He attributed higher paddy production to uninterrupted free power supply to agricultural pump sets. Criticising BRS leader T. Harish Rao, he alleged that Opposition leaders were making statements against the government and challenged them to an open debate on paddy procurement.

Future City To Be National Model: Ministers



Hyderabad: Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and D. Sridhar Babu on Thursday said the ambitious Future City project being developed by the state government was shaping up to become a model for the entire country. The ministers inspected the ongoing construction of the Future City Development Authority (FCDA) office building and the Skill University in Future City. Speaking on the occasion, they said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, was developing the project with state-of-the-art infrastructure keeping future needs in mind. They noted that the Skill University would emerge as a hub for education, skill development and employment generation. The FCDA office, they added, would help accelerate urban development works in the region. The ministers also directed officials to ensure that construction is completed with high quality standards and within the stipulated timelines.

Telangana Tourism Launches Saraswati Anthya Pushkaralu Package Tour to Kaleshwaram

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC) has announced a special package tour for devotees attending the Saraswati Anthya Pushkaralu at Kaleshwaram, one of Telangana's prominent pilgrimage centres. According to the tour brochure released by TSTDC, the package includes travel in an AC Hi-tech Sleeper bus with a capacity of 30 passengers. The fare has been fixed at Rs 3,600 for adults and Rs 2,880 for children. The tour will commence from CRO Basheerbagh and IRO Yatriniwas, Secunderabad, on Day 1 night, with devotees reaching Kaleshwaram early the next morning. The itinerary includes Pushkarini Snamam, darshan at Mukteshwara Swamy Temple, lunch at Haritha Hotel, and a visit to the historic Ramappa Temple in Mulugu district before returning to Hyderabad. TSTDC stated that the package includes transportation, temple darshan, lunch, hi-tea, and guide services, while accommodation, dinner, and breakfast are excluded. Officials said the initiative aims to provide devotees with a comfortable and organised pilgrimage experience during the Pushkaralu festivities.

Cinema should not become tool to exploit audience, says Telangana CPI leader



Hyderabad: Telangana Communist Party of India (CPI) leader K Narayan, on Thursday, May 28, opined

that cinema shouldn't become a tool to exploit the audience. He was referring to a meeting of Tollywood stars where he claimed that the actors decided to demand a share in the additional revenue generated through increased movie ticket prices during film releases. "Using the excuse of huge production budgets for big films, the film industry has been seeking permission for 'benefit shows' and special ticket price hikes, thereby placing an additional burden on common people. State governments are also readily approving these increases, which is unfair to the public," Narayan said in a video message.

Two separate bus accidents trigger panic in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Two separate bus accidents at Dilsukhnagar and Punjagutta triggered panic on the city's busy roads on Friday. The incidents once again raised concerns among commuters and general public over road safety and reckless driving in the city. At Dilsukhnagar, a private bus reportedly rammed into a traffic booth, while in Punjagutta an APSRTC bus is said to have crashed into a vehicle that was moving ahead on the main road. While no casualties or injuries were reported, the incidents.

All-in-one welfare card on anvil in TG



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to design and develop a 'Comprehensive Welfare Card' that will carry details of all welfare schemes accessed by a citizen and help consolidate all government scheme benefits onto a single platform. Powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the card is expected to eliminate duplication, weed out ineligible beneficiaries, and streamline the direct delivery of welfare services to eligible citizens.

During a high-level review held here on Thursday, the Chief Minister instructed the officials concerned to immediately initiate a special drive to collect beneficiary data from all government departments. The proposed card is expected to provide complete information on the benefits received by an individual, including the department concerned, the scheme under which assistance is being provided, and the extent of benefits received. The review was attended by

IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Special Secretary B. Ajith Reddy, IT Department Joint Secretary Anudeep Durishetty, among other senior officials. Revanth Reddy said the welfare card would create a unified welfare profile for every citizen in the state, enabling the government to access all welfare-related information from a single source. He emphasised that integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based analysis into the system would improve transparency in welfare implementation and help ensure benefits reach genuinely eligible beneficiaries. The system would also aid in identifying ineligible recipients more efficiently, he observed. The Chief Minister suggested that, instead of multiple cards issued by different departments, the unified card should be administered under the IT Department. He directed officials to involve technologically skilled young government officers in implementing the initiative.



BJP Challenges CM to Visit Procurement Centres

Adilabad: BJP floor leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy on Thursday alleged that the state government had failed to fulfil promises made to farmers, citing issues in implementation of Rythu Bandhu and paddy procurement. Addressing a farmers' meeting at Sarangapur in Nirmal district on the concluding day of the 'Rythu Gosa - BJP Bharosa' programme, he said the government was not procuring adequate quantities of paddy. Referring to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he said the same standards earlier applied to former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao should now be applied to the present government. Maheshwar Reddy said party leaders had travelled about 1,000 km over four days and interacted with farmers, claiming that less than 40 per cent of paddy had been procured. He challenged the Chief Minister to visit Nirmal, Peddapalli and Sarangapur to assess the situation at procurement centres. He alleged that the government was not purchasing the entire produce and demanded procurement of all paddy if it was committed to farmers' welfare. Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender said farmers would respond politically as they had done in the past. He alleged that farmers were incurring additional expenses on transportation and procurement materials without adequate government support. Other BJP leaders, including MLA Payal Shankar and others, also criticised the government over procurement and support measures, alleging that farmers were facing distress due to delays and rain-damaged produce. The meeting was attended by farmers and local residents, with party leaders reiterating demands for timely procurement and support.



New Record: Rs 237 Crore Per Acre In Hyderabad

Land prices in Hyderabad are reaching unbelievable levels and the latest government land auction has left everyone stunned. The Telangana capital, which is already known for its booming real estate market, has now created an all time record with land touching a massive Rs 237 crore per acre. A few years ago, Kokapet land auctions shocked the country after government plots crossed the Rs 100 crore per acre mark. Now, within just two years, prices have more than doubled in some prime locations

of the city. The latest record came from Rayadurg near Gachibowli, one of Hyderabad's biggest commercial hotspots. The Telangana government auctioned around six acres of land belonging to TGIIC, and the response was beyond expectations. Real estate firm Gaur Ventures emerged as the winning bidder by quoting an eye watering Rs 237 crore per acre for the land. With this, all previous land price records in Hyderabad and even the Telugu states have been completely broken. Interestingly, the same region had earlier

seen government land auctions touching around Rs 177 crore per acre, which itself was considered unbelievable at that time. But the new auction has taken Hyderabad's real estate craze to another level altogether. The speed at which land prices are rising in Hyderabad is now becoming a major talking point in business and real estate circles. While investors see huge future potential in the city, common people are left shocked at how expensive land in Hyderabad has become within such a short period.

Unauthorised playschools mushroom in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: With schools set to reopen in a few days, the proliferation of unauthorised schools, especially playschools, has sparked severe concern among parents across the city. Parents and education sector representatives allege that nearly 500 schools in residential colonies and apartments operate without mandatory permission or recognition from the Telangana School Education Department. Many lack a valid Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) code, which is essential for maintaining official student records. They blame weak enforcement by the School Education department for this unchecked growth and demand strict monitoring before the new academic year begins. Telangana Recognised School Management Association (TRSMA) President S Madhusudhan told TNIE: "Children admitted to these schools face difficulties in obtaining academic records, transfer certificates and government-linked student identification numbers. Parents pay hefty fees for tuition, books and uniforms without verifying whether the institution has government recognition. They only realise the issue when trying to transfer their children to recognised institutions for higher classes." Parents' associations also alleged that several institutions operate without proper infrastructure and safety standards. Mohamed Arif, a parent from LB Nagar, noted that most families falsely assume that because a school operates openly, it has official approval. Some parents also alleged that recognised private institutions demand unofficial payments to accept transfer students coming from unrecognised schools.

Yadadri-Warangal stretch among NHs listed for monetisation in 2026-27



HYDERABAD: As part of National Highways Monetisation, the Union government has decided to monetise Yadadri-Warangal section of NH 163. On Thursday, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) finalised the list of road assets for monetisation in 2026-27. The Yadadri-Warangal stretch is among the 17 National Highways identified for monetisation. The 99 km four-lane Yadadri-Warangal stretch has two packages and two toll gates at

Komalla and Komatipalli in the erstwhile Warangal district. This will be monetized under the Toll, Operate and Transfer (TOT) or Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) mode. NHAI said that the initiative is part of the Union government's asset monetisation strategy focused on leveraging operational National Highway assets to mobilise capital for further infrastructure development, promote private sector participation and accelerate the expansion as well as modernisation of the National Highways network. This would enable investors or bidders to plan their investments in an efficient manner, it added.

TRS unveils party flag; vows to strengthen party across district

Mahabubnagar: TRS leaders unveiled the party flag in front of the RDO office in Mahabubnagar town on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, party's observer Gunjapadugu Hariprasad said the TRS would be strengthened in every village across district. He alleged that both the previous BRS government and the present Congress government failed to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Telangana. Telangana news portal The Telangana Rakshana Sena party was formed under the leadership of Kavithakka to support unemployed youth, Telangana activists, and marginalized sections, he asserted. Constituency in-charge Nandini Prabhakar and observer Soujanya Reddy added that the promises of "water, funds, and employment" envisioned during the formation of Telangana State had been neglected by successive governments. District in-charge Mettukadi Prabhakar Mudiraj said real social justice in Telangana could be achieved only through the TRS party. He added that



the party was committed to working for the welfare of farmers, workers, youth, backward communities, and the education and healthcare sectors. Several party leaders and activists, including Dr. Venkata Ramamurthy, JP Shyam Prasad, B. Poornachandra Goud, Mallesh Yadav, Manjuladevi, Mahender, Narsimlu.

Separate hostels for male, female doctors at TIMS

Hyderabad: Telangana Health Minister C Damodar Raja Narasimha on Thursday, May 28, ordered construction of separate hostels for male and female doctors at the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS), Sanathnagar. Narasimha asked to construct separate hostel blocks for male and female doctors within the hospital campus. He reviewed various departments and inspected medical equipment, laboratory services, blood bank infrastructure and patient care facilities. According to a report by Deccan Chronicle, the hospital is likely to be inaugurated in the second week of June. The authorities were asked to maintain washrooms in the in patient and out patient blocks for the convenience of the patients. They were asked to construct two canteens and to expedite the completion of the administration block and the TB Hospital Board office works. Narasimha asked officials to set up a



police outpost at the main entrance of the TIMS Hospital. He also directed officials to provide advanced facilities for foreign patients. A committee comprising members from the medical education directorate, heads of the departments and engineering officials from the Telangana Medical Services Infrastructure Development Corporation to oversee the establishment of an international-standard laboratory at the hospital.

Settle inter-state water disputes through cooperation: PM Modi

Pradhan, Rahul Clash Over CBSE Evaluation Row



New Delhi: Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday traded charges over alleged irregularities in the CBSE examination process. The exchange followed Gandhi's demand for an independent judicial probe and a Special Investigation Team into what he termed an "entire scam" in the evaluation system. He also alleged that a firm with a controversial background was awarded a contract for digital evaluation of answer scripts. Responding, Pradhan accused Gandhi of politicising the issue and said he appeared "frustrated" due to electoral setbacks. "But as far as Rahul Gandhi is concerned, he seems to have reached a different state of mind. Due to continuous electoral defeats, he appears frustrated. He opposed SIR, he used to oppose EVMs, and he opposed Digital India. He does not seem to stand with India's scientific progress," he said. The minister said CBSE's actions were in line with government procurement policy and assured that any irregularities would be addressed. "As far as this issue is concerned, I take responsibility on

behalf of the government for any inconvenience, and I request everyone that this is not the time for politics. I have said this earlier as well. Politics can be done later," he said. Gandhi responded, "Dharmendra Pradhan ji, you can attack me all you want, but it won't absolve you of your crimes. Nor will it stop me from demanding answers for 18.5 lakh children." On-Screen Marking (OSM) contract to a firm he identified as COEMPT, and asked, "On whose orders was it done? Why were no background checks done? What is the connection between COEMPT's management and the Modi government?" He added, "Either you ran a background check and went ahead anyway - or you didn't run one at all. Either way, you are complicit." Jairam Ramesh also criticised the minister, alleging mismanagement in the education sector. Earlier, Pradhan said certain issues had emerged in the Class 12 evaluation process and that re-evaluation would be undertaken. He said about 17 lakh students appeared for the examination and that nearly 98 lakh answer scripts, amounting to around 40 crore scanned pages, were evaluated through the OSM system.

Congress rules out rift with TVK as Vijay misses meeting with Sonia & Rahul



NEW DELHI: Congress on Thursday dismissed speculation of a rift with its Tamil Nadu ally, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), after the postponement of a scheduled meeting between Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and senior leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in the capital. While Vijay, who was on a two-day visit to Delhi, was expected to meet Rahul and Sonia Gandhi at 10 a.m., the meeting was postponed late Wednesday night, with the Congress saying it had been deferred due to the leadership's tight schedule. Incidentally, during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday, Vijay raised the Meke datu dam issue involving neighbouring Congress-ruled Karnataka. The

Chief Minister also expressed concern over Karnataka ka's announcement of a ground breaking ceremony for the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project across the Cauvery River, saying the move was against the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court verdict. However, Tamil Nadu Congress MP Christopher Tilak dismissed speculation about differences between the partners. "We are coalition partners and part of the government. There is no complication or disagreement. Rahul Gandhi was among the first leaders to warmly support CM Vijay during his swearing-in ceremony. There is absolutely nothing negative to speculate about," he told reporters

in Delhi. He explained the reasons for the last-minute change in plans. "Leaders from Karnataka arrived today, and discussions regarding Rajya Sabha seats from Jharkhand have been underway for the past two days. Since the leadership is engaged in these pressing matters, a meeting with the CM was not possible at this juncture," he said. Tilak said the CM had decided to keep the current visit strictly official and would meet Congress leaders during his next month's visit. The meet has only been postponed, not cancelled, he added. "The CM met PM Modi and left. He is expected to visit New Delhi again on June 11 for the NITIAayog meeting, and I think he would meet our leaders Rahul and Sonia Gandhi, then," Tilak said.

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 51st PRAGATI meeting on Wednesday evening and urged states to settle inter-state water disputes through cooperation and faster administrative action. He stressed the importance of timely approvals, close monitoring through technology and coordinated implementation of large public projects. Modi said the Ken-Betwa river-linking project should serve as an example for other states facing similar water-sharing challenges. During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed seven major infrastructure projects in railways, roads, and the power sector across nine states. These projects are valued at nearly Rs 30,000 crore. He noted that delays in public works increase costs and prevent citizens from receiving important services on time. The review focused on deadlines, coordination among agencies and the removal of pending obstacles. While discussing the Ken-Betwa project, Modi encouraged states to identify similar opportunities involving river-linking, water conservation, groundwater recharge and efficient irrigation systems. He said these measures should be implemented in an integrated manner to ensure long-term water security and better resource manage-



ment. PRAGATI is an ICT-based platform designed to improve governance and speed up implementation by bringing together the efforts of the Centre and the states. Apart from the river-linking project, the Prime Minister also reviewed the progress of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0. In the power sector review, Modi highlighted the need to expand rooftop solar installations in urban areas, residential colonies and public institutions. While examining road and port projects, the PM said the Vadhavan Port should be developed as a model for integrated transport hub. Modi also stressed the effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0. He said the programme must move beyond building infrastructure and focus on measurable results through monitoring, public participation and coordination among stakehold-

ers. He directed states to speed up the construction of waste-processing facilities and GOBARdhan plants. The Prime Minister further suggested exploring installing solar panels over canal networks to reduce evaporation, conserve land, and generate renewable energy. Modi asked ministries, departments, and state governments to adopt a more proactive, time-bound approach to clear bottlenecks and accelerate execution. Somanathan added that the monthly review mechanism had initially taken up the Swachh Bharat Mission at the state level. According to him, the initiative is intended to ensure supervision of schemes, faster settlement of implementation difficulties and stronger accountability at both district and state levels across the country.

'No double standards on terrorism': NSA Doval in key Moscow security meet; reviews energy, defence ties



NEW DELHI: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Thursday issued a strong call for a unified global response to terrorism, warning against "double standards" in dealing with terror networks and their sponsors, while addressing the first International Security Forum and the 14th Meeting of High Representatives for Security Matters in Moscow. Speaking at the high-level gathering hosted by Sergei Shoigu, secretary of Russia's Security Council and a former

defence minister, Doval said nations must make clear choices in confronting terrorism. "Responsible nations have to evaluate their choices and decide whether they support sponsors of terrorism or counter them with decisive action," he said, in remarks seen as reflecting India's long-standing concerns over cross-border terrorism and state-backed extremist infrastructure. The forum focused on "Challenges and Threats to International Security in the Context of the Emergence of the Multipolar World," bringing together senior security officials from several countries amid heightened geopolitical tensions and growing instability across regions. Doval stressed that there "cannot be double standards in the fight against terrorism," and pointed out that selective approaches weaken global security frameworks and embolden extremist groups. His comments come at a time when international debates continue over state support to militant organisations and the effectiveness of existing counter-terror mechanisms. The NSA also highlighted the need for urgent reforms in global institutions created after the Second World War, arguing that present-day security challenges require a more representative international architecture. According to an official release, Doval said reforms "must give greater representation to

From Defeat To Dominance: How DK Shivakumar Rose To Become Karnataka Congress' Most Powerful Leader



Bengaluru: It was 1983 and Karnataka state was heading for a political transformation in the form of first non-Congress government. One of the Chief Ministerial candidate H D Deve Gowda was contesting from two constituencies. One from his home constituency of Holenarasipura and another from Sathanur constituency, which is now merged with Kanakapura constituency. No one took his 21-year-old opponent in Sathanur. When the results arrived, Deve Gowda himself was surprised to see a kid called D K Shivakumar had lost by a slender margin of 3000 votes. What happened next made the kid a formidable fighter. A few days after the results were announced, police raided his house and filed a case for possessing unlicensed gun. In 1985, during mid-term polls, Congress denied him the ticket and he fought the election as an independent and emerged victorious. Since then, he never looked back and he etched his name as DK in the Karnataka politics. DK, who was active in Congress politics from the student days, was equally adored and hated. In 1989, he won on Congress ticket and became close to the then senior leader S Bangarappa. Bangarappa had once said that DK would be minister, if he ever became Chief Minister.

Estd : 1996

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VOICE OF WORDS

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Education

VOICE OF WORDS

Monday, June 01, 2026

Master trainers workshop on AI and digital learning conducted at JNTUH



Hyderabad: A Master Trainers Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Learning was conducted on Tuesday at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad under the Telangana government's flagship Community Engagement – Teaching Internship Programme on AI and Digital Learning. The initiative, led by Yogitha Rana, Principal Secretary to the Education Department, with support from A Sridevasena, Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education, aims to build a collaborative educational ecosystem by integrating state government schools, degree colleges, polytechnic colleges, universities, and engineering institutions. The programme focuses on strengthening overall awareness of AI, digital literacy, coding skills, and computational thinking among youth. Following the innovative Anna-Akka Mentorship

Model, fifth-semester degree and polytechnic students will actively mentor government school students from Classes 6 to 10. The programme is expected to cover nearly 9,000 government schools through the strategic participation of 159 Government Degree Colleges, 59 Polytechnic Colleges, and trained Master Trainers. The workshop was organised with the active support of JNTUH under the leadership of K Venkateswara Rao, Registrar of JNTUH, who emphasised the supreme importance of AI and technology-enabled education in preparing students for future global opportunities. V Kamakshi Prasad, JNTUH Nodal Officer, explained the academic framework and training strategy, while prominent faculty members, including B Mangu from Osmania University and P V Sudha, expressed their support for collaborative implementation.

Russia Seeks More Indian Students, Stronger Education Ties



New Delhi: Russian ambassador to India Denis Alipov on Thursday called for strengthening education ties with India and urged more Indian students to pursue higher studies in Russia. He was speaking at the India-

Russia Education Summit in New Delhi, attended by representatives of over 30 Russian universities. Highlighting Russia's academic strengths, Alipov said, "Russia's long-standing academic traditions and accessible,

high-quality education have made its universities a preferred destination for Indian students for generations. Thousands of Indian graduates who studied in Russia have gone on to contribute across various sectors in India, serving as enduring bridges of friendship between the two countries. Russia's education system is known for its strong scientific schools, rigorous academic standards, practical training, and expertise in fields such as engineering, medicine, artificial intelligence, nuclear science, industrial innovation, and advanced research. He said Russia currently hosts around 300,000 international students, including nearly 40,000 from India, and aims to increase the number to 500,000 by 2030. "The continued growth of academic exchanges, joint research initiatives, and university partnerships between Russia and India is creating new opportunities for students and scholars while fostering innovation and addressing global challenges," he said. The remarks come amid ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and ahead of the proposed visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India for the BRICS Summit in September. The event focused on expanding academic collaboration and student mobility between the two countries.

IAF To Transport NEET UG Question Papers For June 21 Re-Exam Amid Tight Security Push

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on Thursday that the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be deployed to transport question papers for the upcoming NEET UG re-examination on June 21, citing logistical challenges and unpredictable weather conditions in June. In a firm push to make the examination process completely leak-proof and secure, the government has decided to bring in the IAF for the critical task of ferrying sensitive documents. Pradhan emphasised that the Centre is adopting a comprehensive "whole-of-government" strategy, coordinating closely with the Defence Ministry, Home Ministry, Postal Department, and state governments to ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of the examination. "Earlier, the Postal Department played a major role along with the Home Ministry and the states. We will continue this collaborative approach, but now the Indian Air Force will also step in to ensure question papers reach examination centres safely and on time," Pradhan said. The decision follows a high-level meeting held earlier in the day involving Defence Minister Rajnath



Singh, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The meeting focused on bolstering security measures and preventing any possibility of paper leaks. Pradhan assured that the government is fully prepared and committed to conducting a free, fair, and credible examination, leaving no room for compromise on security or efficiency.

CSIR UGC-NET June 2026 Registration Begins At csirnet.nta.nic.in; Exam On July 17-18

Joint CSIR UGC-NET June 2026: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has started the online application process for the Joint CSIR UGC-NET June 2026 examination. Conducted on behalf of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the exam determines the eligibility of candidates for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), appointment as Assistant Professor, admission to PhD programmes, or both in universities and colleges across India. According to the public notice issued on May 27, the examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode on July 17 and 18, 2026, in two shifts each day. Candidates can submit their applications online through the official website. The NTA has also advised applicants to carefully go through the information bulletin available on the portal before filling out the form. The Joint CSIR UGC-NET is one of the country's key national-level eligibility tests for science stream candidates seeking careers in research and higher education. The examination will cover five subjects - Chemical Sciences, Earth, Atmospheric, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences.



The city intimation slip, admit cards, answer key, and result dates will be announced later on the official website. Candidates have been advised to regularly check the NTA portal for updates. For any clarification, candidates may contact the NTA Help Desk at 011-40759000 or 011-69227700, or email at csirnet@nta.ac.in.

Pan IIT Alumni India Launches 'Pariniti' AI Think Tank To Shape India's AI Policy



Pan IIT Alumni India (PIAI), the umbrella organisation representing more than 500,000 IIT alumni worldwide, has launched "Pan IIT AI Niti (Pariniti)," a new think tank aimed at contributing to India's evolving Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy and innovation ecosystem. The initiative was soft-launched at a curated gathering held at Bombay Gymkhana in Mumbai on Thursday, with participation from senior IIT alumni, industry leaders, startup founders, investors, and policy professionals. Accord-

ing to Pan IIT Alumni India, the think tank has been established to create an independent and credible platform focused on the entire AI value chain, including semiconductors, cloud infrastructure, data centres, energy systems, algorithms, governance frameworks, and AI applications. Speaking at the event, Prabhat Kumar, Chairman of Pan IIT Alumni India, said the initiative seeks to strengthen India's thought leadership in Artificial Intelligence by bringing together experts from academia, industry,

government, and the startup ecosystem. "Pan IIT AI Niti (Pariniti) is a significant step towards building India's thought leadership in Artificial Intelligence. Through this initiative, Pan IIT Alumni India aims to bring together IIT alumni, industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to contribute towards responsible AI growth, innovation, and nation building," Kumar said. The think tank will function through five to six specialised verticals focusing on key layers of the AI ecosystem. Pan

IIT Alumni India said around 50 to 60 professionals, including CEOs, CXOs, venture capital partners, startup founders, civil servants, and academicians, will be inducted as members after a detailed selection process. Praxis Global Alliance, an Indian management advisory firm with IIT alumni leadership, has been appointed as the think tank's knowledge and research partner. The firm will support research activities, policy discussions, white papers, and analytical reports, while intellectual property.



University Of Queensland Signs New Agreements With Indian Institutions To Boost Student Exchange & Research

The University of Queensland (UQ) has concluded a high-level visit to India with a renewed push towards academic partnerships, student mobility, and collaborative research, signing fresh agreements with Indian institutions and expanding existing ties. The delegation, led by UQ Chancellor Mr Peter N Varghese AO and President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Deborah Terry AC, visited Delhi and Chennai as part of the university's broader strategy to deepen engagement with India, a country UQ considers central to its international education and research ambitions. During the visit, the delegation met with senior representatives from the Australian High Commission, the Australian Consulate-General in Chennai, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to discuss opportunities aligned with India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. One of the major highlights of the visit was UQ's continued engagement with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), a long-standing academic partner. The two institutions discussed expanding cooperation in faculty exchange, industry engagement, and joint research, while also renewing the UQ-IITD Research Academy partnership for another five years. The Academy, considered a flagship model of Australia-India research collaboration, currently supports 133 doctoral researchers and has produced 23 graduates so far. Professor Deborah Terry said the partnership reflects how sustained collaboration can lead to impactful research outcomes across critical sectors. "We have seen the depth and breadth of collaborative research across a range of critical areas, from energy and sustainability to digital technologies and biomedical sciences," she said. She added that the partnerships are helping build a generation of globally connected researchers capable of working across disciplines and borders. As part of the visit, UQ signed a new agreement with Lady Shri Ram College for Women to strengthen academic exchange programmes and international learning opportunities for students. The university also expanded collaborations with SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai.

VOICE OF WORDS

HEALTH

Is this normal;
is it a heart disease?



Have you ever lifted your left arm and felt a strange pain near your chest, sharp enough to make you pause and wonder if something is wrong with your heart? This worry recently surfaced on Quora, where a user asked whether pain in the “heart area” while raising the left arm could signal heart disease.

When is it muscle pain and when is it serious?

“Pain while lifting the left arm is often due to muscle strain, shoulder problems, or nerve compression in the neck,” says Dr Gupta. This kind of pain is typically linked to movement it may feel sharp and localised, and it may worsen when you raise your arm or press the area.

He adds, “This type of pain is commonly related to muscle or joint issues, especially if it occurs with movement or specific positions.” In such cases, the discomfort is usually not heart-related. However, the nature of the pain matters. If it feels more like pressure or heaviness rather than a sharp twinge, it could indicate something more serious. “If associated with heaviness, breathlessness, or sweating, it could indicate angina and needs urgent cardiac evaluation,” he warns. heart If associated with heaviness, breathlessness, or sweating, it could indicate angina and needs urgent cardiac evaluation In some situations, it may even point to a myocardial infarction. “In some cases, it can be a sign of a myocardial infarction, especially if accompanied by chest pressure, sweating, or breathlessness,” Dr Gupta explains.

The difference often lies in how the pain behaves. Muscle-related pain is easier to pinpoint and is triggered by movement. Heart-related pain, on the other hand, tends to feel deeper—like pressure or tightness—and may spread to the left arm, jaw, or back, often along with symptoms like nausea or breathlessness.

Dr Gupta emphasises that certain warning signs should never be ignored. “Severe chest pressure or tightness, pain spreading to the left arm, jaw, or back, along with breathlessness or sweating, needs immediate attention,” he says. He also advises seeking urgent care if there is “dizziness, fainting, nausea, or sudden unexplained weakness.” While not every pain near the heart signals a serious problem, understanding these differences is crucial. Your body may not always point to the heart but when it does, recognising it early can be lifesaving.



Is dark chocolate healthier than milk chocolate?



Easter chocolate is all over supermarket shelves. Some people reach straight for milk chocolate eggs while others pause at the darker varieties, assuming they’re healthier. Dark chocolate has gained a reputation as the “better” choice because it usually contains more cocoa and less sugar than milk chocolate.

How do they compare?

All chocolate begins with the cocoa (or cacao) bean. Cocoa beans are the seeds of the Theobroma cacao tree, a tropical plant native to Central and South America. Processing the bean gives you cocoa solids (the bitter part) and cocoa butter (the fat part that gives chocolate its smooth texture). Chocolate is made from cocoa solids, cocoa butter and sugar. Milk chocolate also contains milk powder or condensed milk.

How about nutritional benefits?

Because dark chocolate contains more cocoa solids than milk chocolate, it naturally provides slightly higher amounts of certain minerals. This table shows the differences between milk chocolate (30 per cent cocoa) and dark chocolate (more than 60 per cent cocoa) per 20-gram serve. That’s about one row of a Lindt chocolate block. As you can see, dark chocolate provides more minerals such as magnesium, iron and zinc. It also contains noticeably more caffeine (but far less than in a

typical cup of coffee, which would contain about 100mg).

Milk chocolate offers significantly more calcium due to its milk solids, but it generally contains more added sugar. Cocoa is naturally rich in plant compounds called polyphenols. These act as antioxidants in the body, helping to protect the body’s cells from damage. Because dark chocolate contains more cocoa, it naturally contains higher levels of these compounds. In fact, dark chocolate contains roughly five times more flavanols (a type of polyphenol) than milk chocolate. Compared to other foods often praised for their antioxidant content, cocoa contains around 17 times more catechins (another type of polyphenol) per serving than black tea. It also contains around three times more than red wine.

Does dark chocolate improve your health?

Research into cocoa and dark chocolate has produced some interesting findings, particularly about heart health. Cocoa flavanols appear to help blood vessels relax and support better blood flow. Some clinical trials have reported small reductions in blood pressure and improvements in measures of blood vessel function after consuming cocoa products.

But the overall quality of evidence was rated as weak or very low, largely because many of the studies

were observational. Observational studies can identify patterns, but they cannot prove chocolate itself caused those benefits. The bottom line is that cocoa does contain beneficial plant compounds but the chocolate most of us enjoy is not a health supplement.

But I thought dark chocolate has less sugar?

Choosing dark chocolate doesn’t automatically make it the healthier option, especially where sugar is concerned. Some dark chocolate contains surprisingly high amounts. Depending on the cocoa percentage and recipe, some dark chocolate products contain 40-50 per cent sugar. So a 150g dark chocolate Easter bunny containing 50 per cent sugar, for example, can contain about 19 teaspoons of added sugar. This applies to Easter eggs too. Some dark chocolate Easter eggs sold in supermarkets still list sugar as one of their first and main ingredients, ahead of cocoa butter. This means sugar makes up a significant chunk of what you’re eating. So it’s always worth flipping the packet over and checking the ingredients list and nutritional panel to be sure.

What to choose this Easter?

Dark chocolate has a nutritional advantage over milk chocolate. But how much depends on the cocoa percentage and how it’s been made. As a general rule, aim for 70 per cent cocoa or more, and flip the packet over before you buy.

A higher-quality dark chocolate might have its ingredients listed in this order: cocoa mass, cocoa powder, cocoa butter, sugar, vanilla.

A lower-quality dark chocolate might look like this: sugar, cocoa mass, cocoa butter, emulsifiers, flavour, milk solids. If sugar is listed first, it’s the largest ingredient by weight. Beyond that, choose chocolate you actually enjoy and watch your portion size. Remember that your overall diet matters far more than a few Easter eggs.

‘your sugar is normal’

This article is based on information from the public domain and/or the experts we spoke to. Always consult your health practitioner before starting any routine. According to Dr the problem is “over-relying on fasting glucose”. “Fasting sugar is just a snapshot. Post-meal spikes do the early damage. HbA1c reveals what fasting sugar hides. Many patients already have nerve damage and/or vascular damage ...while fasting sugar is still “normal”. Stressing that the clinical takeaway from such cases is that if you see patients with unexplained neuropathy or idiopathic symptoms, don’t rely on one number (FBS); “check HbA1c and post-meal blood sugars as well.”

“Controversial but true: Fasting glucose is the least sensitive test for early diabetes. By the time fasting sugar rises, the damage has often already begun.” To verify, we reached out to Dr Pranav Ghody, a consultant endocrinologist and diabetologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, who said that fasting blood sugar reflects the glucose level at a single point in time, usual-

ly after several hours without food. “It does not reflect how the body manages sugar throughout the day. A person may have normal fasting levels but still experience high spikes after meals. These repeated spikes can silently harm blood vessels and nerves over time, even before fasting levels start to rise.

Post-meal blood sugar levels show how the body reacts after eating, when early imbalances often appear. “HbA1c reflects the average blood sugar levels over the past two to three months. Together, these tests provide a fuller picture. Some one may have a normal fasting reading but an elevated HbA1c, indicating that sugar levels have been higher than expected over time.”

Can nerve damage start even when fasting sugar is normal?

Yes, this can occur, concurred Dr Ghody. “Symptoms like burning sensations in the feet, tingling, or numbness may start even when fasting sugar looks normal. This happens because long-term exposure to fluctuating blood sugar levels can affect nerves and small blood vessels. By



the time fasting sugar rises, some damage may have already begun.”

What should people keep in mind if they have unexplained symptoms?

If symptoms like persistent tingling, fatigue, or unusual discomfort are present, it is important not to rely on a single test. “Examining a mix of fasting sugar, post-meal levels, and HbA1c offers a clearer understanding. Early detection helps in managing the condition better and preventing further complications.”

VOICE OF WORDS

WOMEN

Should you apply moisturiser before or after sunscreen?



If you've ever stood in front of the mirror with moisturiser in one hand and sunscreen in the other, wondering which goes first, you're not alone. Many people are unsure about the right order, and it can make a big difference to how well your skincare products actually work.

We reached out to Dermatologist, Aesthetic Physician at La Clinique and Expert at Oteria, who broke down the answer with an easy-to-remember analogy. She shared her incredible input on the issue. Let's take a look:

Moisturiser first, sunscreen last

"It's one of the most common points of confusion for anyone starting a skincare routine. Moisturiser should go first, and sunscreen should always be the last step in your routine," explains Dermatologist.

She compared it to making a sandwich: "Moisturiser is like the filling; it goes on first to nourish your skin. Sunscreen is like the top slice of bread that holds everything together and protects it. If you put the top on first, the filling won't stay in place or work properly."

According to her, moisturiser helps keep skin soft and hydrated, while sunscreen creates a protective barrier against the sun. If you apply sunscreen first, your moisturiser won't absorb well. And if you put moisturiser on after, it can weaken the sunscreen's protection.

The right way to layer skincare

Dermatologist also highlighted the importance of timing. "Always moisturise first, wait a minute for it to sink in, then apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen on top. Don't forget your neck and reapply every 3 to 4 hours when you're outdoors. It's a small step that makes a big difference in keeping your skin healthy and safe."

Why the order matters for protection

The way you layer your products affects how well they work. Sunscreen needs to form an even, undisturbed layer on top of your skin to block UV rays effectively. If it's covered by moisturiser, makeup, or other products, its ability to protect drops significantly.

That is why sunscreen must be the final step.

Meaning: skincare products first, sunscreen last. This is important because it nourishes the skin and protects it from harmful UV rays. A small change in order can be the difference between skincare that works and one that falls short.

Summer acne bothering you?



Summer heat and humidity can worsen acne by increasing oil production and clogging pores. This guide, backed by dermatological advice, outlines effective skincare routines, treatments and lifestyle changes to manage stubborn breakouts. Summer has a way of showing up on your skin before you even notice it on the calendar. One week, your routine is working fine, the next, you are dealing with breakouts that feel more inflamed, more frequent, and much harder to calm. That shift is not random. As temperatures rise, your skin produces significantly more oil, sweat sits longer on the surface, and pores get clogged faster than usual. What starts as a small breakout can quickly turn into stubborn acne that refuses to settle.

Why summer acne feels more aggressive: There is a reason your skin behaves differently in this season. Heat and humidity push oil glands into overdrive. Sweat mixes with that oil and whatever is already sitting on your skin, creating the perfect environment for acne.

"Summer hits our skin hard. Sweat mixes with extra oil and humidity, clogging pores and turning small breakouts into stubborn night-

mares,". The result is not just more acne, but acne that lingers longer and often leaves marks behind.

This is where most people go wrong. Either they overdo skincare or stick to routines that are too heavy for the weather. Start simple. A salicylic acid cleanser, around 2 per cent strength, used twice a day, helps clear out pores without stripping your skin. Give it a few weeks, and you will notice fewer blackheads and a smoother texture. Follow that with niacinamide. It is one of those ingredients that quietly does everything well. It reduces redness, controls oil, and helps your skin feel more balanced overall. Moisturiser is still necessary, just switch to a gel-based one. And sunscreen is not optional. A broad-spectrum SPF 50, especially zinc oxide-based, protects your skin from UV damage that can worsen acne and pigmentation. If there is one thing to avoid, it is heavy creams. They tend to trap sweat and make things worse.

How to deal with those stubborn, angry breakouts: Some pimples need more than a basic routine. That is where targeted treatments come in. Benzoyl peroxide works well when a breakout is red and

inflamed. It tackles acne-causing bacteria quickly and can reduce swelling overnight. Retinoids are another strong option, especially for clogged pores, but they need to be introduced slowly. Start a few nights a week and see how your skin responds. If your acne tends to leave dark marks, azelaic acid is worth adding. It works gently over time, helping both active acne and the pigmentation that follows.

When skincare alone isn't enough: There is a point where over-the-counter products stop being enough, and that is okay. Chemical peels can help reset your skin by removing built-up dead cells and refining pores. LED light therapy is another option that is gaining popularity, mainly because it is non-invasive. Blue light targets acne bacteria, while red light helps with healing. For more persistent cases, treatments like laser therapy can help regulate oil production at a deeper level.

These are usually done under supervision and can show visible results over a few sessions. If you are sweating, shower soon after. Staying in damp clothes for too long can trigger breakouts. Switch to breathable fabrics like cotton, especially in peak summer.

Hydration also plays a bigger role than people think. Around 2 to 3 litres of water a day helps your skin stay balanced. Stress matters too. When it spikes, so do breakouts. Even small things like regular walks or yoga can help stabilise that.

Summer acne can feel relentless, especially when nothing seems to work the way it used to. But it is not about trying more products. It is about adjusting your approach to what your skin actually needs right now. Once you get that balance right, things start to settle.

Losing hair fast?

Hair loss can feel deeply personal. A widening part, extra strands in the shower, or a thinning hairline can quickly dent confidence. But dermatologists say the problem is far more common than people realise and in many cases, it can be managed with the right treatment and patience. According to Dr Joyce Park, a board-certified dermatologist trained at Stanford and NYU, the biggest mistake people make when trying to treat hair loss is overcomplicating their routine. Instead of trying every trending product, she recommends focusing on a few science-backed treatments and using them consistently. "Hair loss is incredibly common, often fixable, and there are real science-backed options that work," she explains in a recent video shared online.

Why consistency matters more than complicated routines

When hair thinning starts, many people rush to try multiple treatments at once, oils, supplements, serums and devices. But dermatologists warn that this "everything at once" approach can irritate the scalp and make it harder to see what actually works.

Dr Park emphasises that hair regrowth is usually slow and gradual. A routine built around a few



effective treatments, followed consistently for months, tends to deliver better results than constantly switching products.

The foundation: Minoxidil 5%

One of the most widely recommended treatments for hair thinning is Minoxidil, a topical medication that helps stimulate hair follicles and extend the hair growth phase. Dr Park says Minoxidil 5% remains the foundation of most hair-loss routines. It is typically applied to the scalp once or twice daily. For people with sensitive scalps, once-daily application may be enough.

Another ingredient that is sometimes used in conjunction with hair loss products is Tretinoin, which is

well known for use in acne treatment and for skin texture improvement. In some cases, a dermatologist may suggest using a small amount of it on the scalp since it is thought to aid in the absorption of other products, such as Minoxidil. This should be done with care and under medical supervision, as tretinoin can irritate the scalp if overused. Microneedling tools such as dermarollers are increasingly popular in hair-growth routines. These devices create tiny micro-injuries in the scalp, which may stimulate blood circulation and support hair growth. Dermarolling can be used once or twice a week at most, but it should be done gently and on a clean scalp. She also advises avoiding strong treatments like Minoxidil or tretinoin immediately after dermarolling, as this combination can lead to irritation.

A gentler option: Scalp massage

On days when dermarolling is not used, a soft scalp massage can help distribute topical treatments and improve blood flow. The key is a light touch. Aggressive rubbing or excessive pressure can stress the scalp and hair follicles rather than helping them.

SUNSCREEN/MOISTURISER

If you're using a chemical-based sunscreen, apply it before the moisturiser, as it needs to penetrate your skin to be effective.

If you're using a physical/mineral sunscreen, it is suggested to use it after the moisturiser.



International News

VOICE OF WORDS

Monday, June 01, 2026

US, Iranian negotiators agree to 60-day ceasefire extension; Trump's approval pending



The United States and Iranian negotiators have reached a tentative agreement to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and launch talks on Iran's nuclear program, according to a US official familiar with the matter. The official, who was not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said President Donald Trump still needs to sign off on the emerging memorandum of understanding. The tentative agreement worked out by the two sides comes at a moment when the fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran appeared to be wavering. However, there was no immediate confirmation from Trump himself, or from Iran. The 60-day deal will say that shipping through the Strait of Hormuz will be unrestricted, with no tolls or harassment and with Iran having to remove all mines within 30 days, Axios reported. The US will, in return, lift its naval blockade on Iran's ports, but only in proportion to how much commercial shipping is restored, it said. The memorandum will also contain an Iranian commitment not to pursue a nuclear weapon, Axios said. Among the first issues to be addressed is how

to dispose of Iran's stocks of enriched uranium. The US military earlier on Thursday accused Iran of violating the ceasefire after Kuwait reported coming under attack following an American strike against the Islamic Republic. It was the latest flare-up of fighting to threaten ongoing negotiations to end the war. Details of the tentative agreement were first reported by the news outlet Axios. Earlier, the US military on Thursday accused Iran of violating a fragile ceasefire after Kuwait reported coming under attack following an American strike against the Islamic Republic. It was the latest flare-up of fighting to threaten ongoing negotiations to end the war. US Central Command said Kuwait intercepted missiles fired from Iran late Wednesday, and military officials called the attack on one of America's top allies in the Persian Gulf an "egregious ceasefire violation". Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei (L) and US President Donald Trump. Kuwait had earlier announced an attack on its territory, and Iran said it had retaliated for strikes earlier in the week by firing on a US base in a Gulf state it did not name.

Russian Drone Hits Apartment Building In Romania Near Ukraine Border; 2 Injured

Bucharest: A Russian drone reportedly struck an apartment building in Galati in eastern Romania near the Ukrainian border, injuring two people and triggering fresh security concerns inside the NATO member nation. According to Romania's Defence Ministry, the incident occurred during overnight Russian drone attacks targeting civilian and infrastructure sites in neighbouring Ukraine close to the Romanian border. Visuals circulating online showed fire and rescue teams rushing to the building as flames and smoke emerged from the damaged structure. Debris recovered from the site reportedly appeared consistent with a Russian-made Geran-2 or Shahed-136 drone, according to local reports and images shared online. According to a report by CBS News, officials said one drone entered Romanian airspace and was tracked by radar systems before crashing into the roof of a residential apartment building in the city of Galati. The impact sparked a fire, prompting a major emergency response.

Norway Joins French President Emmanuel Macron's European Nuclear Deterrence Initiative Amid Growing Security Concerns

Oslo: Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store has announced that Norway will join French President Emmanuel Macron's nuclear deterrence initiative, while stressing that the decision will not change Norway's basic policy on nuclear weapons. Norwegian PM Store travelled to Paris on Wednesday (Local time) for talks with Macron. Speaking to Norwegian media, he said Norway's decision was based on the current security situation in Europe and that Europe must assume greater responsibility for its own security. The Norwegian Prime Minister also emphasised that Norway's nuclear weapons policy remains unchanged. Norway will not allow nuclear weapons to be stationed on its territory in peacetime, he said, adding that Norway will not



contribute financially to France's nuclear weapons program, reports Xinhua news agency. In March, Macron announced plans to strengthen France's nuclear arsenal by increasing the number of nuclear warheads. He also said France was prepared to add "a European dimension" to its nuclear deterrence strategy, noting that several European countries, including Britain, had expressed interest in the initiative. Later on Wednesday, Norway and France signed a new defence agreement in Paris, under which the two countries commit themselves to provid-

ing military support to each other if needed. Last month, France and Poland deliberated on conducting joint military exercises as Paris continues to seek European allies' involvement in its nuclear deterrence framework, according to Polish news website Onet. French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the idea with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk during talks in Gdansk, northern Poland, in April, where the two leaders also explored closer cooperation in trade, investment and defence. "Among the options we will consider are informa-

tion sharing, joint exercises and the possible deployment of forces," Macron told a joint press conference when asked about nuclear cooperation. Tusk said that discussions on nuclear security cooperation were being held discreetly, adding that Poland had joined "an exclusive group that understands the need for European solidarity and sovereignty" by accepting France's invitation, according to the Polish Press Agency. Macron said last month that France would strengthen its nuclear arsenal and incorporate "a European dimension" into its deterrence posture, offering interested partners closer coordination, including consultations and joint exercises. Countries including Sweden, Britain, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece and Denmark have expressed interest.

Ordered Army To Take Control of 70% of Gaza Strip: Israel PM



Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday he had ordered the country's military to take control of 70 percent of the Gaza Strip, in defiance of the terms of a fragile ceasefire that took effect in October. "We are currently squeezing Hamas. We now control 60 percent of the territory in the strip," he said at a conference in an occupied West Bank settlement, according to a video aired by Israel's Channel 12 network. He said the military had controlled 50 percent of Gaza under the terms of the ceasefire, adding: "My directive is to move to... 70 percent". "We're squeezing them from all (sides). We'll deal with what's left afterwards." The first phase of the truce saw the last hostages seized in Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks

on Israel, which triggered the war in Gaza, released in exchange for Palestinians detained by Israel. The transition to the second phase, which was supposed to involve Hamas's disarmament and a gradual withdrawal of the Israeli army, has been stalled for months. Under the terms of the ceasefire, Israeli forces were to pull back behind a so-called "yellow line", a demarcation between the area under Hamas control and that held by the Israeli army. Netanyahu announced on May 15 that the Israeli army had expanded its grip on the Gaza Strip. There were those who said: get out, get out. We did not get out. Today we control... how much? 60 percent. Tomorrow we shall see," he said at the time. Gaza remains gripped by daily violence, with both the Israeli mili-

tary and Hamas accusing one another of violating the truce in effect since October 10. Israel has killed more than 900 people since the ceasefire, according to Gaza's health ministry, which operates under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations. After US Strikes Israel said on Wednesday it had killed the new head of Hamas's armed wing in Gaza, Mohammed Odeh, after killing his predecessor earlier this month. Since Hamas's October 2023 attack, Israel has systematically targeted the group's leaders, both in Gaza and across the region. Odeh is the fourth head of the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades that Israel says it has killed since the start of the Gaza war. On Wednesday, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz repeated Israel's goal of ending Hamas's rule over the Palestinian territory and alluded to a plan for the forced displacement of its residents. "The plan for voluntary migration from Gaza will also be implemented -- everything will be done at the right time and in the right way," he said.



Three sanctioned oil tankers attacked by drones off Turkey's Black Sea coast; crews safe

ISTANBUL: Three oil tankers were attacked by drones Thursday off Turkey's Black Sea coast, a shipping agency said. The ships all appear on Western sanctions lists as part of a "shadow fleet" exporting Russian oil and petroleum products and evading Western sanctions on Moscow because of its war in Ukraine. One was previously targeted in March. Tribeca Shipping said the Palau-flagged ship James II was sailing 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Turkeli district in Sinop when it was attacked. It was not carrying any cargo. The Altura and Velora, both flagged to Sierra Leone, were targeted while carrying out ship-to-ship operations in a nearby area, according to a statement from the agency cited by Turkish media. The crews of all three ships were unharmed. Turkish coast guard vessels were dispatched to assist. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, and Turkish officials were unavailable for comment. The Altura was previously struck by a naval drone on March 26 as it approached the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus, damaging its bridge and engine room. The Altura and Velora belong to Turkey-based Pergamon Shipping, according to the OpenSanctions website, which tracks people or organizations involved in sanctions evasion. The James II is owned by the Marshall Islands-registered James Navigation.

Lashkar Terrorist Saifullah Kasuri Threatens Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief Asim Munir Over Possible Israel Recognition: 'Will Be Assassinated, Destroyed'



Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) deputy chief Saifullah Kasuri openly threatened Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir over any possible move towards recognising Israel or joining the Abraham Accords. The threat comes amid growing debate in Pakistan after US President Donald Trump reportedly urged several Muslim-majority nations to normalise ties with Israel through the Abraham Accords framework. Addressing supporters after Eid al-Adha prayers, Kasuri warned that any Pakistani leader or military official supporting recognition of Israel "will be assassinated, ruined and destroyed." He also declared from a public platform that "whoever speaks of recognising Israel will be eliminated." During his speech, the Lashkar leader claimed that no international power could force Muslim countries to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. He also attempted to invoke religious sentiments by referring to jihad and martyrdom while addressing the gathering. Kasuri further claimed that Pakistan's military capabilities had reached a level comparable to Israel's and referenced alleged defence cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The remarks have added to political tensions in Pakistan, where the issue of relations with Israel remains highly sensitive. Earlier, Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had also rejected the idea of recognising Israel. He stated that Pakistan would not establish ties with Israel until an independent Palestinian state is formed with East Jerusalem as its capital under the 1967 borders framework. Khawaja Asif additionally described any agreement with Israel as being against Pakistan's ideological position. Meanwhile, Trump recently said ongoing diplomatic efforts related to regional peace talks were progressing positively and reiterated his support for expanding the Abraham Accords. The agreement, first signed in 2020, focuses on normalising diplomatic, economic and security relations between Israel and several Arab nations. Countries including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have already joined the accords, while discussions and speculation continue around whether countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Pakistan could eventually participate.

VOICE OF WORDS

BUSINESS

12th CEPA Talks: India, Korea Agree To Address Widening Trade Deficit



New Delhi: The Commerce ministry on Thursday said that India and South Korea agreed to address the widening trade deficit between the two countries within the overall framework of the bilateral trade pact. The two nations also decided to constitute sub-groups to discuss cooperation in the areas of digital trade, supply chain and strategic industrial collaboration. The issue was discussed during the 12th round meeting on the up-gradation of the existing comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), which was implemented in January 2010. "Both sides acknowledged India's bilateral

trade deficit, which has risen significantly since the IK CEPA came into force in 2010, and agreed to address the issue within the overall India-Korea CEPA framework," the ministry said. The ministry also said that both sides reviewed the progress achieved so far in the negotiations. During the current round, discussions were held on trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin and origin procedures, investment, and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards. The negotiations were co-chaired by Kapil Chaudhary, joint secretary, department of commerce, and Park Geun-oh, director general for trade

agreement policy, ministry of trade, industry and energy, Republic of Korea. Also Read - SC: Trauma Care Part of Right to Life As per the latest government data, India's exports to Korea increased 3.31 per cent to \$6 billion in 2025-26 from \$5.81 billion in 2024-25. "The export growth was negative during 2022-25. Imports grew 1.38 per cent to \$21.35 billion in 2025-26 from \$21 billion in 2024-25. The trade deficit widened to \$15.35 billion in 2025-26, from \$15.2 billion in 2023-24, up from \$14.57 billion in 2022-23 and \$9.4 billion in 2021-22," the data showed.

Chambal Breweries & Distilleries Q4 FY26 Loss Widens 31%, Total Income Declines Amid Higher Operating Expenses



Mumbai: Chambal Breweries & Distilleries Limited reported a higher standalone net loss for Q4 FY26 as the company continued to operate with negligible revenue. Net loss widened to Rs 0.05 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2026, from Rs 0.04 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Total income declined to Rs 0.01 crore from Rs 0.02 crore a year ago. The company's expenses remained elevated due to employee costs and other operational expenses. On a sequential basis, the company's net loss widened slightly from Rs 0.04 crore in Q3 FY26 to Rs 0.05 crore in Q4 FY26. Total income improved marginally from Rs 0.01 crore in the previous quarter but remained below the year-ago level. Total expenses rose to Rs 0.06 crore from Rs 0.05 crore in Q3 FY26 and Rs 0.06 crore in Q4 FY25. Employee benefit expenses stood at Rs 0.02 crore, while other expenses were Rs 0.04 crore during the quarter. The company did

not report any exceptional items or tax adjustments during the period. What Drove The Numbers? The filing showed that the company continued to face pressure from fixed operational costs despite limited income generation. Other income remained the only source of revenue during the quarter. Basic and diluted loss per share stood at Rs 0.06 each for Q4 FY26, compared with Rs 0.05 in the corresponding quarter last year. The auditor also highlighted that the company continues to prepare its accounts on a going concern basis while identifying new business plans to restart operations. For FY26, Chambal Breweries & Distilleries reported a net loss of Rs 0.19 crore compared with Rs 0.08 crore in FY25. Total income for the year declined to Rs 0.04 crore from Rs 0.09 crore in the previous financial year. Total annual expenses increased to Rs 0.23 crore from Rs 0.17 crore a year earlier. The company ended FY26 with cash and cash equivalents of Rs 0.15 crore, up from Rs 0.07 crore at the end of FY25.



NEW DELHI: India, along with more than 30 countries, is working to build an alternative supply chain for critical minerals used in electric vehicles, smartphones and defence equipment, as governments seek to reduce heavy dependence on China after Beijing tightened exports of key minerals, sources said. "India, along with 30-40 other countries, is trying to create an alternative market and supply chain for critical minerals to reduce import dependence on China," an official aware of the matter said. India is in talks with Chile, Canada, Japan, Australia and others to bring them on board for creating a resilient critical minerals supply chain. Recently, India, Australia, Japan and the US—the Quad partners—set an ambitious target of mobilising up to \$20 billion in government and private-

India among 30+ nations working to build non-China supply chain

sector support to build secure critical minerals supply chains, reduce dependence on dominant suppliers and strengthen regional industry. "India does have reserves, but these are mostly used for very specific projects, such as those in ISRO. For mass-market needs like smartphones and vehicles, the industry is still importing from China," another official said. The biggest challenge lies in convincing Indian industry to source from alternative markets, as China continues to enjoy a strong competitive edge in critical mineral exports, sources said adding that pricing is a big concern.

"The challenge lies in matching prices and convincing industry to buy from India and partner countries that are working together," the official said. India is seeking to position itself as a trusted partner in emerging mineral alliances. "Countries need confidence in our systems before they open up sensitive technologies," the official said. Indian agencies are also exploring partnerships with research institutions in Australia to gain expertise in mineral extraction and processing.

Tata Motors passenger vehicle unit sees EV demand rising since West Asia crisis



NEW DELHI: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (TMPV) has seen a 2-2.5 times jump in demand for electric vehicles (EVs) since tension broke out in West Asia on February 28. To cater to the growing demand, the country's largest electric carmaker will enhance its EV production by 50% in the next three to four months. TMPV on Thursday also launched the Next Gen electric Tiago at a starting price of Rs 6.99 lakh. The popular hatchback is also launched in Petrol and iCNG powertrains at Rs 4.99 lakh. "If I am seeing for the last two months, I was just comparing the monthly bookings that we get in electric vehicles prior to February. And what we are getting today, it is 2-2.5 times more," said Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD & CEO Shailesh Chandra. He added that EV demand had already begun gaining traction even before the recent fuel price hikes, possibly in anticipation of higher running costs. On increasing the capacity for EVs, Chandra said that in the next three to four months, they should be able to enhance capacity by at least 50% more than what they are doing today. At present, TMPV produces around 10,000 EVs a month. The company aims to increase this production to 15,000 units. However, on the supplier side, Chandra said the company would need to work with suppliers on agreed supply schedules ranging from three months to a year, depending on requirements. In several cases, suppliers may already have spare capacity and only need clarity on production scheduling to begin supplies, while in some instances, additional investments in production lines may be required, he added. He also projected that EV penetration in the Indian passenger vehicle market, currently around 5-6%, could rise to 8-10% this year if supply constraints ease. Electric PV sales closed FY2026 with record retail sales of 200,946 units up 85% year-on-year. The strong momentum continued in April 2026 with sales surging 73% to 23,163 units to customers, as per Vahan data. TMPV remained market leader with 36.7% market share or 8,506 units.



PSU banks recover over Rs 35,000 crore from written-off accounts in FY26

India's public sector banks, often criticised for mounting written-off loans, recovered more than Rs 35,000 crore from bad and technically written-off accounts in FY2025-26, according to annual reports and investor presentations of state-owned lenders. The banks deployed a wide range of recovery tools — from bankruptcy courts and property auctions to one-time settlements, and Lok Adalats — underscoring the scale and sophistication of their recovery machinery. At the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), recoveries from written-off accounts rose to Rs 10,054 crore in FY26 from Rs 8,002 crore in FY25. Recoveries from its Advances Under Collection (AUC) account — the pool of fully written-off loans that the bank continues to pursue — stood at Rs 17,551 crore during the year, compared with Rs 20,342 crore in FY25. SBI's stock of written-off loans stood at Rs 1.61 lakh crore as of March 2026. Of this, Rs 25,528 crore was over 10 years old, Rs 86,157 crore was between five and

10 years old, and Rs 49,228 crore was up to five years old. Despite the large stock, fresh write-offs in FY26 were limited to Rs 17,551 crore, the lowest in six years, compared with Rs 34,403 crore in FY21 at the peak of the NPA cycle. For large corporate accounts, SBI continues to rely heavily on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) route. The bank has referred 1,247 cases to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), of which 293 resulted in approved resolution plans while 549 ended in liquidation. For mid-sized stressed assets, SBI assigned 355 accounts with outstanding principal of Rs 5,205 crore to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) and permitted transferees during FY26, recovering Rs 2,071 crore — comprising Rs 1,315 crore in cash and Rs 756 crore in security receipts. Another 337 accounts worth Rs 689 crore were sold as portfolio pools for Rs 215 crore in cash. For small-ticket borrowers, SBI continued to use its Rinn Samadhan compromise settlement scheme alongside Lok Adalats.

Why Is The US Repeatedly Striking Bandar Abbas & Why Should India Be Worried? | Explained

Mumbai: The United States has once again carried out military strikes near Iran's key port city of Bandar Abbas. According to US Central Command (CENTCOM), American forces shot down four Iranian drones that were allegedly threatening shipping routes near the Strait of Hormuz. The US also targeted a control station where another drone was reportedly being prepared for launch. Iran, however, claimed it had shot down a US MQ-9 Reaper drone and fired at other American aircraft.

Why Bandar Abbas Is Important? Bandar Abbas is located on Iran's southern coast and lies about 70 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes. The city is home to the headquarters of



Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy, which oversees many of Iran's maritime operations. Because of its location, whoever controls Bandar Abbas can influence traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Strait of Hormuz: A Global Energy Lifeline

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway through which around 20 million barrels of oil pass every day. It accounts for nearly 25% of the world's seaborne oil trade. Countries such as Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Iran depend heavily on this route for oil exports. Any disruption

can quickly affect global energy markets and oil prices.

Why the US Is Focusing on Bandar Abbas? Since joint US-Israeli military operations against Iran intensified earlier this year, Bandar Abbas has been one of the main targets.

The city hosts naval bases, fast attack boats, anti-ship missiles, drones and sea mines. The US believes weakening these capabilities can reduce threats to commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

What It Means for India?

India imports a large share of its crude oil through routes connected to the Strait of Hormuz. Although India has diversified supplies by purchasing more oil from Russia, Brazil, Venezuela, Angola and Nigeria, shipping disruptions remain a major concern.

VOICE OF WORDS
SPORTS



Stereotype-breaker, confessional-booth user and India's next chess star: Divya Deshmukh

OSLO: There's one original Norway Chess innovation that the rest of the sporting world ought to copy. Its confessional booth. Just imagine if sportspersons were given the choice to freely go inside a soundproof room and air their thoughts about anything and everything to the watching world during matches. No journalists. No prompts. Just them, a mic and camera and their unfiltered thoughts. While introverts would avoid stepping into a room like that, a lot of players have, over the years, gone viral for their ability to turn the booth into pure theatre. In fact, on Tuesday, Magnus Carlsen, one of the players who loves using the confessional, coined a new term to evaluate his own performance against Vincent Keymer. "I think like a cow that's ashamed of its body," the Norwegian said while the game was on. "This game is just an utter embarrassment. I feel like every move we are making is some kind of positional mistake." The World No. 1 — while intensely self deprecating — was correct in his own assessment. He missed a checkmate, took the draw before coming back to win the Armageddon. Indian players, and there have been a fair few of those at Norway Chess over the last few years, are generally shy. Shier still when it comes to visiting the confessional. In 2025, when R Vaishali was part of the field, she had to be coaxed by the organisers to visit the confessional. This year, D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa and Koneru Humpy have stayed away from the place. But Divya Deshmukh, who's probably one of the more extroverted chess players in India today, has broken the Indian stereotype. She has visited the confessional on both days and found it a 'breath of fresh air'. "It's a breath of fresh air because you have to be quiet for so many hours," was her reasoning for immediately getting acquainted with the small room inside the playing hall. "You can just go there and talk, you can let out your thoughts. It helps me because when I go there, I can talk and it helps me calculate better." She in fact called the organisers 'progressive' for coming up with a place like this. "I'm talking about the moves and I'm also calculating at the same time." And she gets the intention and the idea behind the need for a confessional booth. It's a broadcast friendly place as it gives people a peek into the mind of an elite chess player when they are not on the board. When she was facing the world champion Ju Wenjun, the Nagpur-born World Cup winner had some sympathy for some of the people sleeping on the first row. "I saw that there are some people sleeping while sitting in the first row," she cheekily remarked. "I don't blame them. It's what I would have done too." The comment that went viral, though, involved a dried mango. "I am actually getting a bit hungry," she said. "There's a packet of dried mango but I'm unsure if we can eat it. It might be kept there for promotional causes."

Janhavi Soneji Stuns Leader Reyaansh Venkat To Open Up Title Race In Mumbai Chess Event

Mumbai, May 27: Round 7 of the All India Chess Masters – Season 4 produced thrilling results on the top boards as Janhavi Soneji (1792) defeated tournament leader Reyaansh Venkat (1906) in a crucial encounter, throwing the title race wide open heading into the final round at the Mumbai Chess Centre, hosted at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, Pedder Road, Mumbai. Playing with the black pieces, Janhavi displayed excellent composure in a tense strategic battle and capitalized on her opportunities in the middlegame to hand Reyaansh his first defeat of the tournament. The victory moved Janhavi into joint lead contention and became the biggest talking point of the round. Former leader AGM Rajveer Pinkesh Nahar (1801) bounced back strongly with an important victory over top seed Shreyansh Somaiya (1973), while Mayuresh Parkar (1781) defeated higher-rated Shardul Kadam Aditya (1917) in another major result on the top boards. A closely fought encounter between Kush Ajay Agarwal (1835) and Samvid Paspola (1729) ended in a draw, keeping both players in contention going into the final round. Among other notable performances, Gaurang Bhandari (1889) defeated Pradhyumna Amit Mishra (1498), while Yash Kapadi (1854)



scored a valuable win over Dhruv Muthe (1619). Promising youngster Vihaan Ravi Rao (1725) continued his impressive run with a victory over Samar Singh Pragnay (1519), while Raaghav Agarwal (1660) defeated Neev Nirav Bafna (1521) in a competitive encounter. Further down the boards, Om Nilesh Deorukhakar (1726) defeated Tejas Tiwari (1507), and AFM Aryan Sista (1658) scored an important win against Shrivya Gavand (1524). With one final round remaining, multiple players remain in contention for the title, setting up an exciting finish to one of Mumbai's strongest classical chess events. Organized by Mumbai Chess Centre, the All India Chess Masters – Season 4 continues to showcase high-quality competitive chess and emerging young talent from across the country.

Indian junior hockey teams look to shine as U-18 Asia Cup 2026 begins in Japan

The Indian U-18 Men's and Women's Hockey Teams are all set to begin their campaigns at the U-18 Asia Cup 2026 in Kakamigahara, Japan, scheduled from May 29 to June 6. After weeks of intensive preparation camps and valuable exposure matches against Australia in Bhopal, both teams will look to make a strong impact at the continental tournament against some of Asia's finest young talent. The Indian U-18 Men's team, led by forward Ketan Kushwaha, heads into the tournament following a month-long national coaching camp at the Udhav Das Mehta (Bhai Ji) Central Centre at SAI, Bhopal, under the guidance of coaches Sardar Singh and Rajnish Mishra. As part of their preparations, the side played a four-match series against the visiting Australian U-18 team, registering one win, one loss, and two draws. India have been placed in Pool A alongside hosts Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and



Kazakhstan in the men's competition. The team will open its campaign against Kazakhstan on May 29 before taking on Japan (May 31), Korea (June 1), and Chinese Taipei (June 3). Pool B comprises Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals scheduled for June 5, while the final will take place on June 6. Speaking ahead of the tournament opener, India U-18 Men's Team captain Ketan Kushwaha said, "The team is feeling confident and excited ahead of the Asia Cup. The camp in Bhopal and the matches against Australia helped us improve a lot as a unit and understand the areas we need to work on. We know every match in the tournament will be competitive, but the squad is motivated to give its best and make the country proud." The Indian U-18 Women's Team, captained by Sweety Kujur, also enters the tournament after a productive national camp in Bhopal under the guidance of coach Rani. The camp focused on strengthening

combinations, improving tactical awareness, and building match fitness ahead of the continental challenge. The women's team also played a four-match series against Australia during their preparations and ended the series with a confidence-boosting victory. Drawn in Pool A, the women's team will begin its campaign against Malaysia on May 30, followed by matches against Korea on May 31 and Singapore on June 2. Pool B includes China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Bangladesh. The top two teams from each pool will progress to the semi-finals on June 5, with the final scheduled for June 6. India U-18 Women's Captain Sweety Kujur expressed confidence in the team's preparations and said, "The entire squad is excited to finally begin the tournament. We have trained really hard over the past few weeks and the Australia matches gave us important match exposure before the Asia Cup. The team has developed strong understanding during the camp and everyone is eager to perform well."



French Open 2026: World No 1 Aryna Sabalenka Sweeps into Third Round

Paris: World number one Aryna Sabalenka eased into the third round at Roland Garros on Thursday with a 7-5, 6-2 win over France's Elsa Jacquemot. Sabalenka snatched a tight opening set with a break in the final game and then swept Jacquemot aside to set up a meeting with Australia's Daria Kasatkina. The Belarusian has reached the final at five of the past six Grand Slams. She finished runner-up to Coco Gauff at last year's French Open.

'Suryavanshi Ki Umar Mat Dekhiye': Sunil Gavaskar Calls For 15-Year-Old To Make India Debut In England Series



Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has called for Vaibhav Suryavanshi to be handed his T20I debut in the upcoming India vs England series. The 15-year-old has had a record breaking IPL 2026 season and leads the run charts with 680 runs. Gavaskar has urged the management to look beyond his age and believed the Bihar star was a 'god's gift to Indian cricket'. Speaking to Vikrant Gupta on Sportstak, Gavaskar said that Suryavanshi was a 'god's gift to Indian cricket'. "Suryavanshi ki umar dekhiye. Sirf dekhiye wo kis tarah se khel rahe hai, kis andaaz se khel rahe hai [Don't go by his age. He is hitting those bowlers who are older than him. In fact at 15, he is hitting bowlers with 15 years of international experience. Just look at his fearless approach]," Gavaskar said in glowing praise. Suryavanshi has captured the imagination with his exploits in the IPL 2026 season. The 15-year-old currently leads the Orange Cap race with 680 runs, striking at a strike rate of over 230. He has hit 65 sixes, the most ever by a player in 19 seasons of IPL. "For England away T20 series, he will be selected. I mean he deserves to be selected after this brilliant show. If you don't give him chance when will you give him chance?" Gavaskar said. India have a juggernaut of a T20 outfit having defended their T20 World Cup title before the IPL. In Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, India have a settled and fiery opening combination, but Gavaskar has still backed Vaibhav, who he believes is 'God's gift to Indian cricket'. "And when one bowls short balls, he comes inside the line and hooks and pulls it with such cleanliness, that's a rarity. Not just me but everyone apart from SRH players were sad when he got out at 97 and missed the record for fastest century. Sooryavanshi is God's gift to Indian cricket," the former India captain added.

Sumit Antil wins gold, stars at Indian Open Para Athletics 2026

Hyderabad: Paralympic champion Sumit Antil emerged as the star attraction on the concluding day of the 8th Indian Open Para Athletics International Championship 2026, delivering a dominant performance in the Men's Javelin Throw F64 event at the Shree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Representing Haryana, Sumit clinched the gold medal with a massive throw of 74.82m. Maharashtra's Sandip Sargar secured silver with an effort of 62.88m, while Rajasthan's Sandeep claimed bronze with a throw of 61.83m. Another exciting contest unfolded in the Men's Javelin Throw F46 category, where Haryana's Rinku won gold with a best throw of 61.70m. Uttar Pradesh's Ajeet Singh took silver with 60.72m, while Ravi Kumar added another bronze for Uttar Pradesh with 59.33m. In the Men's Javelin Throw F57 event, Haryana's Parveen Kumar topped the podium with a throw of 45.02m, ahead of Uttarakhand's Hem Chandra (42.60m) and Tamil Nadu's Balasubramanian Arulraj (40.62m). Paralympic medallist Nishad Kumar showcased his class in the Men's High Jump T47 event, winning gold for Himachal Pradesh after clearing 2.05m.



Pooja Hegde Stuns in Cool Denim Outfit

Pooja Hegde has faced a tough time at the box office recently with several flops in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi films. However, her upcoming movie Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, releasing on June 5th, is giving her and her fans a lot of hope and excitement. The film is already creating massive buzz online. The songs and trailer are trending big time, and audiences are loving what they see. It looks like this movie has all the ingredients to become a big hit and bring Pooja back strongly into the spotlight. Meanwhile, Pooja is leaving no stone unturned in her promotions. She is stunning everyone with her back-to-back stylish looks. In her latest pictures, she looks absolutely gorgeous in a cool denim outfit, keeping it chic and effortlessly stylish. Fans are rooting hard for her!



Transfer Trimurthulu: Vadde Naveen Entertains With Dance Moves



Actor-producer Vadde Naveen has released the first look of his upcoming film Transfer Trimurthulu, marking his return to the sil-

ver screen after a long hiatus. Produced under his newly launched banner Vadde Creations and presented by Vadde Jishnu, the project is directed by Kamal Teja Narla, who co-wrote the story and screenplay with Naveen. Today, the makers unveiled the film's first single, titled Tata Tata, and it speaks about the character, attitude, and best habits of Constable Transfer Trimurthulu. Vadde Naveen is seen in a powerful avatar in the teaser. In this song, viewers can witness his playful side as he dances joyfully while praising his honest character, who doesn't bow down to money or power. The lyrics, penned by renowned lyricist Bhaskarbatla, are perfect. They explain the character of Transfer Trimurthulu with catchy lines. Kalyan Nayak composed an energetic track with a vibe that perfectly suits Vadde Naveen's style. Vijay Polaki's choreography adds more magic to the song. Rashi Singh plays as Trimurthulu wife in the film. The movie also features Shilpa Tulaskar, Raghu Babu, Sivannarayana, Devi Prasad, Baba Baskar, Pramodini, Sathwik Raju, Anjali Priya, Gayatri Chaganti, and others in prominent roles. The film is produced by Vadde Naveen under the Vadde Creations LLP banner. Transfer Trimurthulu hitting big screens on June 19, 2026.

Tella Pori from Deewana: Quirky Lyrics



Young actor Harshith Reddy, who made his big-screen debut with Samantha's Subham, is gearing up for his next romantic outing titled

Deewana. Directed by Sreekanth Sangishetti, the film is produced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the banners of Arha Media and V Studios. The film gets a big boost with the prestigious Geetha Film Distribution releasing the film. After the story poster, the teaser and first single reated curiosity around the film's emotional core. Deewana hitting big screens on June 19th, 2026 under the banner of Geetha Film Distributors. Meanwhile, Deewana has already been creating buzz with its music, and the makers have now released a lively track titled Tella Pori. The energetic number highlights the unique romance between Harshith Reddy and Smeha. The song is composed, sung, and written by Eshwar Chand. Branded with the tagline "The Cringe Song of the Year," the track embraces a fun, quirky vibe packed with playful teasing and catchy lyrics, making it an entertaining and humorous musical number.



Gen Z Normalising Nudity Is Not a Good Sign

OFF CAMPUS has officially become the third most-watched debut series of all time on Amazon Prime Video, attracting an impressive 36 million viewers within just 12 days of release. The series' rapid success once again highlights how streaming platforms are dominating youth entertainment consumption across the world, including India. However, the growing popularity of such shows has also sparked debate about the increasing use of nudity and explicit content in the name of cinematic liberty and modern storytelling. Many viewers believe that streaming platforms are now aggressively pushing bold content because they know it attracts instant attention, especially among younger GenZ audiences. The curiosity factor and social media buzz around intimate scenes often become major promotional tools for these projects. What surprises many observers is the open acceptance and promotion of such content by sections of the Indian audience, particularly among Telugu youth and even several girl influencers on Instagram and other social media platforms. Instead of discussing storytelling quality or performances, much of the online conversation revolves around provocative scenes and viral clips. This reflects a significant cultural shift in audience behavior, where digital entertainment trends are increasingly shaped by shock value and viral appeal which is not a positive sign at all. While supporters call it creative freedom and evolving cinema, critics argue that excessive dependence on explicit content may gradually normalize sensationalism over meaningful storytelling and artistic depth.

CM Son's Movie Locks Perfect Release Date

Kollywood star and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's son, Jason Sanjay, is making his directorial debut with the action-adventure film Sigma, starring Sundeep Kishan. Along with high-octane action, the movie also packs ample humour. The teaser received an excellent response for its intriguing narrative. The makers have now announced the film's release date. Sigma will grace the cinemas on July 31st. The release date poster shows Sundeep Kishan gripping a blood-stained shovel, staring ahead with burning resolve. Set against an industrial backdrop, it radiates grit and danger. Faria Abdullah plays the female lead, while Catherine Tresa features in a special song. Produced by Subaskaran under the Lyca Productions banner, Sigma also stars Raju Sundaram in a pivotal role.



Dude Pair Is Back, But This Time It's Different



Pradeep Ranganathan made his directorial debut and later became a mainstream actor. With his three films, he scored 100

Cr rupees gross at the box office. While he was last seen in Love Insurance Kompany which was a disappointing one, he will soon produce a film, featuring his Dude co-star Mamitha Baiju in the lead role. Interestingly, his Dragon director Ashwath Marimuthu will also be a part of it. Pradeep and Mamitha's pair received a huge appreciation and praise from the audience. They wanted them to reunite on the screen, but this time it is different. The project in the discussions is reportedly a female-centric film where Mamitha will be seen in a never-before-seen character. Ashwath Marimuthu will also be acting in the film, playing a police officer. The director's details are currently kept under wraps. We hear that Pradeep Ranganathan's assistant will make his debut as a director with this film. The shoot also reportedly began, and the team wants to wrap up the shoot at the earliest. Mamitha, Ashwath and Pradeep are stars on demand currently.