



## 3rd Vessel With Indian Crew Attacked as 3 Killed in Earlier Strike

Another merchant vessel with Indian crew has come under attack by the US on Thursday, third attack in recent days. All crew members are safe so far, according to initial reports. Meanwhile, all three missing Indian seafarers have died after a U.S. military strike on a tanker in the Gulf of Oman, Indian Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Thursday. The U.S. said its military carried out a "precision" strike on the vessel that failed to follow its instructions and was carrying oil from Iran. Indian sources told reporters that New Delhi had summoned the U.S. deputy chief of mission



after lodging a "strong protest" on the strike. The three Indian seafarers went missing after 21 other Indian mariners were rescued following an attack on their tanker off the coast of Oman. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday condemned

the attack, saying 21 of the 24 Indian crew members onboard had been rescued. "We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel Settebello off the coast of Oman, earlier today. Of the 24 Indian crew onboard, 21 Indians have been rescued thus

far and 03 Indians are reportedly missing. Our Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing Search and Rescue operation," the MEA said in a statement.



## TN CM Vijay To Raise Key Issues At NITI Aayog Meeting

New Delhi: All eyes are now set on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, who will be delivering his maiden address at a national forum by speaking at the 11th Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. CM Vijay is likely to raise issues regarding central fund allocation and voice regional

concerns at the NITI Aayog meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which commenced here on Thursday. Vijay is also likely to demand the allocation of funds for key infrastructure projects. Earlier, upon his arrival at the Tamil Nadu House, he was received by Chief Secretary M Saikumar and Tamil Nadu Resident

Commissioner R Jaya. The NITI Aayog meeting will discuss measures to promote entrepreneurship, enhance skills, and create sustainable employment opportunities nationwide. Discussions will also focus on collectively charting an implementation roadmap that leverages key enablers, including governance, digital public infrastruc-

ture, and partnerships, while ensuring accountability and measurable impact. The theme of this year's meeting is "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047. The meeting has brought together Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors from across the country to discuss the Inclusive Human Development Framework.

## US-Israel-Iran War



The US-Iran conflict entered a dangerous new phase as both sides exchanged fresh military strikes, raising fears of a wider regional war and a major disruption to global energy supplies. Iran launched missile and drone attacks targeting US military facilities in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, while the United States responded with a new wave of strikes on Iranian military infrastructure, including surveillance systems, communications networks and air defence sites.

The escalation marks the most serious deterioration in relations since the fragile April ceasefire, which both Washington and Tehran have repeatedly accused each other of violating. Tensions had already been building following clashes around the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran accused the United States of aggression and Washington

blamed Tehran for attacks on American assets in the Gulf.

The latest crisis was triggered after US defence secretary Pete Hegseth signalled a fresh military offensive against Iran, arguing that increased military pressure would strengthen Washington's negotiating position. President Donald Trump simultaneously warned Tehran that it would "pay the price" for delaying a deal, while Hegseth declared that the United States was prepared to "negotiate with bombs" if necessary.

Hours later, US Central Command confirmed fresh strikes across Iran, prompting explosions and air defence activity in several Iranian cities, including Bandar Abbas, Sirik, Minab and Karaj. Tehran accused Washington of targeting civilian infrastructure, claiming that water facilities serving thousands of residents had been damaged.

## Cops Gift 100 Helmets Under Road Safety

Jogulamba Gadwal: The Telangana government's road safety initiative 'Arrive Alive,' launched by the Police and Transport Departments to reduce road accidents and fatalities, is being conducted state-wide. Campaigns are being held by officials in a bid to educate the youth, students, and rural communities on safe driving, seatbelt usage, and



strict helmet compliance. At Pudur village in Jogulamba Gadwal district, CI Tanguturi Srinivasulu and Rural SI Srikanth went beyond their official duties to take this message forward.

## Markets Fall in Early Trade on US-Iran Tensions, Rising Oil Prices



Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early deals on Thursday, tracking weak trends in global equities and rising crude oil prices amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran. Unabated foreign fund outflows and a spike in US inflation also dented markets' sentiment, according to market analysts. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 358.54 points to 73,624.64 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 117 points to 23,098.30. From the 30-Sensex

firms, HCL Tech, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal and Trent were among the laggards. Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and InterGlobe Aviation were among the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.70 per cent higher at USD 94.68 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,124.98 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Com-

posite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower. US markets ended significantly lower on Wednesday. "Wall Street witnessed a sharp correction overnight, with the Dow Jones falling over 950 points. The weakness was broad-based as investors moved away from risk assets amid fears that escalating geopolitical tensions could disrupt energy markets and keep inflationary pressures elevated," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

## NHRC Takes Suo Motu Cognizance Of Workers' Death

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that nine workers died and at least six others suffered severe burn injuries after an explosion at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh on 8th June 2026. Reportedly, the workers' union has alleged that the management ignored safety protocols. The Commission issued notice to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks. NHRC said that the report shall include the status of the injured



workers' health and payment of ex gratia amount to the victims and the kin of the deceased. According to the media reports, the incident occurred in the 'Steel Melting Shop' of the plant when a ladle carrying around 150 tonnes of liquid steel at a temperature of about 1600°C, suddenly exploded, and the molten steel poured across the

shop floor, causing severe burn injuries to the workers. Meanwhile, one more incident triggered panic among workers when molten steel spilled from the ladle at the argon rinsing station in the Steel Melting Shop-1 (SMS-1) section of the plant early morning on Thursday. However, fortunately, no one was present at the scene during the incident.

## Kerala on Nipah Alert

Kozhikode: Kerala is on high alert after the preliminary test of a 43-year-old man for Nipah virus infection at the Government Medical College here returned positive, officials said on Thursday. Officials said samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune for confirmation, and the results are expected shortly. The Health Department has initiated measures to trace and isolate those who came into contact with the patient, a businessman from Feroke. According to health officials, the man, who was initially admitted to a private hospital, was shifted to the Government Medical College on Wednesday



and is on ventilator support. Nipah virus is spread by fruit bats, and Kerala has reported multiple outbreaks since 2018. Health Minister K Muraleedharan told reporters late on Wednesday night that directions had been issued to health officials in Kozhikode to remain vigilant. "The National Virology Institute's result is awaited for final confirmation. Based on the symptoms

and preliminary test, it points to Nipah," he said. Muraleedharan said the patient had come into contact with a large number of people. "He first visited the outpatient section of a hospital. Later, he underwent MRI and echocardiography tests. We have asked the concerned health workers and others who may have been exposed to remain in quarantine," the minister said.

## OU Warns PhD Students Using AI Tools For Theses, Cites Plagiarism Risk

Hyderabad: Osmania University (OU) authorities have cautioned PhD scholars against using artificial intelligence tools for academic work. OU faculty members said that using AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini for English-language drafting could increase plagiarism risk and create complications during thesis evaluation. They also warned that such practices could lead to restrictions on future PhD admissions for up to three years. Reports state that faculty members are scrutinizing PhD theses drafted with AI tools and conducting plagiarism checks before accepting them. Officials said nearly 600 theses examined over the past



two years required corrections, revisions, or additions after review. Osmania University has been using specialized software since July last year to assess the originality of research submitted by scholars. The percentage of plagiarism is determined with the help of state-of-the-art Turnitin software. It identifies these issues in just ten minutes, whether the student used an AI tool, and from which

AI tool the content was taken. Based on scan reports, faculty are asking research scholars to rewrite sections flagged as AI-generated content. According to reports, checks using advanced AI detection software found that up to 40% of some submissions contained content generated with ChatGPT, while another 5% included material copied from other theses.

Friday, June 12, 2026

## Protect Play, Protect Childhood

(On the occasion of "International Day of Play" on 11 June)

Children can learn best through playing. Childhood development is deeply rooted in the act of play, which allows children to explore their creativity, develop social skills, and learn about the world around them.

Through play, children can express their emotions, build resilience, learn new things, and cultivate a sense of joy and wonder. By ensuring that all children have the opportunity to play, we are investing in their future and setting them up to become all-rounder, confident responsible individuals. "Importance of Playing: Play creates powerful learning opportunities across all areas of development - intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, mental and physical. Through playing they learn to forge team work, build a wide range of leadership skills, develop resilience, navigate relationships, inculcate sportsman spirit, and face social challenges as well as conquer their fears and failures. Play provides a platform to children to express and develop imagination and creativity, which are key skills critical for the technology-driven and innovative world we live in. Playful interactions contribute to the well-being and positive mental health of parents, caregivers and children. Play comforts and soothes children.

When humanitarian crises turn a child's world upside down, only playing can console them. "Theme of International Day of Play-2026: Beyond mere recreation, play is a universal language spoken by people of all ages, transcending national, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. Play fosters a sense of community and national pride. The UNO general assembly decided to bring awareness about playing in every child/parent/caregiver to observe International Day of Play annually on 11 June. The theme of International Day of Play-2026 is "Protect Play ; Protect Childhood", to remind all of us (governments, businesses, schools, families, communities etc) to take decisions that embrace and prioritise play for children.

This day is observed on 11 June annually, marks a significant milestone in efforts to preserve, promote, and prioritise playing so that all people, especially children, can reap the rewards and thrive to their full potential. "Parents Won't Allow Children to Play Freely: Restricting opportunities for play directly impedes a child's well-being and development. Global research shows that 78% of children say adults don't think playing is important, 73% of children don't believe adults take play seriously. Poverty, conflict's poverty, wars, natural or made made disasters, discriminations limit children's ability to play. In present educational pedagogy, play-based learning has been recognised as an effective approach to engage students actively in the learning process. It helps make learning more joyful and relevant, thereby enhancing motivation and retention of information. Play has a positive impact on promoting tolerance, facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention, and peace building.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

## State Keen on Strengthening Cooperative Banking System: Tummala

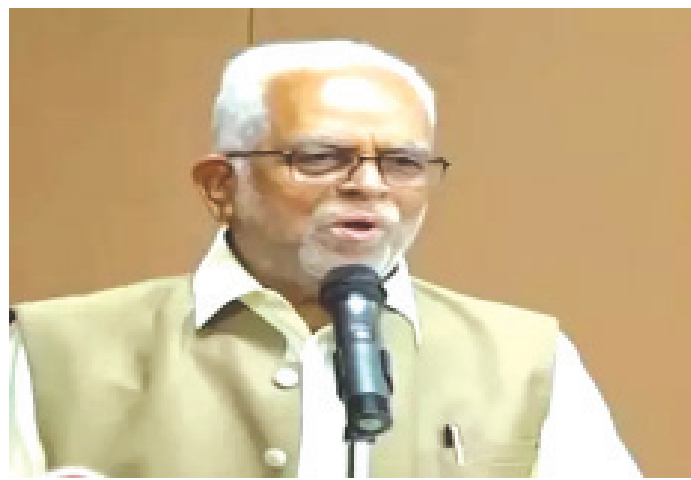
Nalgonda: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday said the Telangana government is committed to strengthening the cooperative banking system in both rural and urban areas to ensure quality financial services for the people. Along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, he inaugurated a new branch of the District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB) at Karunagiri in Edulapuram of Khammam district. Addressing the gathering, the minister said cooperative banking services should be made easily accessible to farmers. He observed that the growth of the cooperative sector would contribute to greater financial



empowerment of farmers. Tummala said the government is taking measures to ensure timely sanction of agricultural loans and delivery of other banking services to the public. Expressing confidence that the expansion of the DCCB network would improve banking access, he said the new

branch would help provide better services to local residents. Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, district collector Diwakara T.S., commissioner of police Sunil Dutt and Telangana state warehousing corporation chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao were present.

## Justice Reddy Warns Against Misuse of Farmhouses



Hyderabad: Justice B. Sudershan Reddy on Tuesday called for a crackdown on farmhouses in the state, declaring that such places have become "centres for antisocial activities." Addressing a meeting where the Rythu Swarajya Vedika (RSV) released its 'Telangana Tenant Farmers Survey Report 2026', Justice Reddy said, "Farmhouses are neither farms, nor houses. These are actually making a mockery of agriculture." Justice Reddy, whose nomination as the opposition can-

didate for the last Vice-President of India elections was championed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, also said the government should relook at why farmhouse owners should not be excluded from state provided aid to farmers as no agriculture takes place in such compounds. Justice Reddy also said one of the worst cuts on tenant farmers was imposed by the previous BRS government which removed Column 16 in the 'Pahani' land records, in which the name of the actual cultivator of farm land used to be listed. This must be revived, he said, adding that Revanth Reddy when he was the TPCC president had raised several of the issues faced by tenant farmers and promised to address them. He called on the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission to organise a meeting with the Chief Minister and agriculture minister along with RSV representatives where the findings of the report on tenant farmers can be discussed.

## Minor Girl Pushed From Building After Sexual Assault Attempt

Khammam: A 12-year-old girl sustained serious injuries in Khammam city of Telangana after being allegedly pushed from an apartment building by a person who attempted to sexually assault her. The incident, which took place on June 6, came to light after her parents lodged a complaint with police.

According to Khammam II Town police, the girl's family stays in an apartment complex where her father worked as a watchman. On October 6, a man residing in the same apartment allegedly attempted to sexually assault the minor atop the building. When she screamed for help, the accused allegedly pushed her off the building. She suffered severe injuries to her spine and ribs in the fall. The girl has been rushed to a private hospital in Khammam, where she is currently undergoing treatment. Police have registered a case and are investigating.

## Three of family from Hyderabad drown in Godavari near Basar



Nirmal: Three persons from a family in Hyderabad drowned in the Godavari river while taking a dip near

Basar on Tuesday. Police said that Chandrashekhar (38), Ramchandar (36) and Mallesh Kumar, all members of a family from Chappal Basar in Kachiguda, drowned while attempting to rescue one another. They are suspected to have been washed away by the strong current. Police launched a search operation to trace the bodies of the three by deploying personnel of the State Disaster Response Force. The trio were on a pilgrimage to Basar and were taking a holy dip when the mishap took place. The police informed the parents and family members of the three about the tragic incident over mobile phones. Family members of the victims were on their way to Basar.

## Over 22L TG tenant farmers deprived of subsidies and financial aid: Report



Hyderabad: About 22 lakh tenant farmers are in dire need of assistance due to the non-availability of benefits, mainly urea supply, bank loans, and compensation in case harvested crops are damaged. As per a newly released report, tenant farmers constitute 36 per cent of the total farming community in Telangana. This means 2.2 million cultivating families are completely excluded from receiving subsidised fertiliz-

ers or selling their produce at government procurement centres. They also lack access to essential interest-free institutional loans. Furthermore, if they suffer severe crop losses due to natural calamities, they do not receive any state financial compensation. The survey revealed that these farmers operate entirely on a lease basis. Demographically, 47.2 per cent belong to Backward Classes, 26.9 per cent to Scheduled Castes, 13.9 per cent to Scheduled Tribes, 4.2 per cent are Muslim, and 7.5 per cent belong to Open Category communities. Only 6.7 per cent could sell cotton to the Cotton Corporation of India. Facing systemic difficulties caused by the biometric OTP verification requirement, many were forced to pay a heavy commission of Rs 10,000 to local agents to clear their produce. Additionally, 85 per cent suffered massive crop damage from floods and hailstorms, yet only 0.7 per cent received any disaster relief. Due to a total lack of official identification cards, they cannot access zero-interest crop loans. Consequently, Rythu Bharosa benefits and state crop loss compensation flow directly into the bank accounts of landowners instead of the actual cultivators.

## Fight Between Podu Cultivators, Forest Staff Over Ownership of 'Podu Lands'



Adilabad: Podu land cultivators and forest staff clashed at Dimda village in Penchikalpet mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Tuesday. Podu cultivators obstructed the forest staff from planting trees in the podu lands while forest staff claimed that the lands belong to the forest department. A push and pull took place between the podu cultivators and forest staff. Some podu cultivators staged protest by sitting in front of their foresters' vehicles. Podu cultivators say that they have been cultivating the land for over 40 years, and agriculture was the only source of livelihood for them.



# Hyderabad Voice

Friday, June 12, 2026

Two electrocuted in Hyderabad amid heavy rains

Hyderabad: Heavy rains in the city on Tuesday claimed two lives after they were electrocuted in Bandlaguda, Old City, when they came into contact with live power lines that had fallen on a main road. The victims were identified as Jaffer and Abu, residents of Chandrayangutta. According to police, the incident occurred when the duo stepped out of an auto-rickshaw and unknowingly walked onto the road where electric wires had snapped due to the heavy rains. The victims reportedly failed to notice the live wires amid poor visibility.



## ACB uncovers assets worth Rs 17.9 cr from R&B official

Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday, June 9, registered a disproportionate assets case against Mohan Naik Jarupla, Engineer-in-Chief of the Roads and Buildings Department, alleging that he amassed assets worth Rs 17.94 crore beyond his known sources of income. According to ACB officials, the case was registered under Section 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The officer is accused of acquiring substantial assets through alleged corrupt practices during his tenure in government service. Following the registration of the FIR, ACB teams conducted simultaneous searches at 17 locations, including the officer's residence, office premises, and properties linked to his relatives, associates and suspected benamidars. During the raids, officials unearthed assets with an estimated official value of Rs. 17.94 crore. The ACB stated that the actual market value of the properties is likely to be significantly higher. The assets identified include 19.38 acres of agricultural land in Nizamabad district.

## SHGs Will Rent 3,000 Buses To RTC, Says CM

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said that the Congress government would financially empower Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by renting 3,000 buses owned by SHGs to the Telangana Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC). He said that women's economic empowerment was central to the government's development agenda. Addressing a gathering of women SHG members from across Telangana at the 'Indira Mahila Shakti' programme held at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad, the Chief Minister said that 1,000 buses owned by SHGs had already been rented to TGRTC at a monthly rental of about ₹70,000 per bus and that another 2,000 buses would be inducted over the next two years. The Chief Minister flagged off 553 buses owned by SHGs and rented to TGRTC. The buses were financed by Mandal Mahila Samakhya (MMS) and are being operated and maintained by TGRTC. During the event, Revanth Reddy handed over a cheque of ₹20.34 crore from TGRTC to the MMS towards rental charges for the 553 buses. He said each bus was earning a monthly rental of ₹69,468 for the women's groups and that the total rental amount paid so far for these buses had reached Rs 20.34 crore. Heavy rains in Hyderabad on Tuesday disrupted normal life and also affected the Chief Minister's schedule. To reach the venue, Revanth Reddy travelled in a TGRTC bus along with Women and child welfare minister Seethakka, and women SHG members. Referring to the rainfall during the event, the Chief Minister described it as an auspicious sign and said the rain god had blessed the programme soon after the launch of



the 553 buses. The Chief Minister also released a cheque of ₹500 crore towards interest-free loans for women self-help groups and handed over a cheque representing savings of Rs 10,700 crore accrued to women through the government's free bus travel scheme. He said the Congress government was committed to transforming the lives of women through economic opportunities and financial independence. Declaring that he was personally taking responsibility for making one crore women "crorepatris", Revanth Reddy said women's participation was crucial for achieving the economic goals set by the Congress government. We are un-

deterred by the conspiracies of the opposition and are striving with the goal of making one crore women crorepatris. I am taking this responsibility for women's economic empowerment. With the blessings of women, we will continue to run this government until 2034," he said. He maintained that the government's welfare and empowerment initiatives would continue with renewed vigour and expressed confidence that the support of women would help the Congress remain in power until 2034. Criticising opposition parties, Revanth Reddy alleged that rival parties were conspiring to obstruct the government's efforts to empower women economically.

## Ministers Review Preparedness for Muharram



Hyderabad: The city in-charge minister Ponnab Prabhakar and minorities welfare minister Mohammed Azharuddin on Tuesday reviewed the preparedness for the ensuing Muharram month. They instructed

officials for immediate completion of pending drainage and road repair works in the vicinity of the Ashur Khanas, particularly in parts of the old city. After the review meeting with government adviser Mohammed Ali

Shabbir, the ministers said that the government was making all necessary arrangements for Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, which is expected to begin from June 16, after the crescent moon sighting. Prabhakar directed that police pickets and high-mast lights be set up at the Ashur Khanas, where events related to Muharram are held. The ministers also directed senior police officials to take precautionary measures to prevent traffic disruptions during the Muharram procession. They emphasised the need for robust security arrangements in the area surrounding Bibi-ka-Alava, where the main procession is set out after 10 days following the beginning of Muharram month. Shabbir directed officials to ensure that all basic amenities are provided so that visitors to the Ashur Khanas do not face any inconvenience.



## Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme From Nov. 19: Bhatti

HYDERABAD: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday announced that the state government would launch Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bima, a universal life insurance scheme covering 1.15 crore families across Telangana, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi on November 19. Addressing a public meeting in Jangaon and Bhongir districts to inaugurate development programmes, Bhatti Vikramarka said the government would conduct a door-to-door survey to identify eligible beneficiaries under the scheme, which would provide Rs 5 lakh life insurance coverage to each enrolled family.

The entire premium would be borne by the state government and the insurance amount would be paid in the event of the death of the registered head of the family or primary breadwinner. Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the previous BRS government had burdened Telangana with debts of nearly ₹8 lakh crore during its decade-long rule, forcing the present Congress government to spend around Rs 76,000 crore annually on loan repayments and interest. He said the Congress government was committed to building an Indiramma Rajyam focused on public welfare and accused BRS leader T. Harish Rao of creating "a new lie every day" to remain in the public spotlight. He also criticised

the BJP-led Centre for failing to procure paddy through the food corporation of India despite announcing minimum support prices. He claimed the state had procured a record 72.30 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the recent Rabi season and implemented a one-time farm loan waiver of Rs 22,000 crore. Highlighting welfare initiatives, he said 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses had been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 22,500 crore, while electricity infrastructure works worth Rs 60 crore were being undertaken in Station Ghanpur. He further said women's self-help groups had received Rs 67,000 crore in bank-linked loans and the government aimed to raise the figure to Rs 1.25 lakh crore over the next five years.

HC rejects realtor's claim to 15 acres, orders probe into fake pattas

HYDERABAD: The Telangana High Court has dismissed a writ petition filed by Bengaluru-based real estate firm Ittina Properties Pvt Ltd, holding that its claim over 15 acres in Khanamet village, Serilingampally mandal, was based on fabricated and bogus documents. The court also imposed exemplary costs of Rs 5 lakh on the company and directed that the amount be deposited in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Telangana. Justice Nagesh Bheemappa, while rejecting the plea, directed the DGP to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

## Heavy Downpour Lashes Hyderabad



HYDERABAD: Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds lashed Hyderabad on Tuesday, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue a yellow alert for several districts across Telangana. The weather department has forecast continued rainfall activity over the next two days, with wind speeds expected to reach 40-50 kmph. According to the IMD, isolated areas in Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy and Mahabubnagar districts are likely to receive heavy rainfall on Tuesday. Moderate showers are also expected in Hyderabad and parts of the erstwhile Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Nalgonda districts. The weather is

likely to intensify on Wednesday, with Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet and Gadwal districts expected to witness heavy downpours. In Hyderabad, a sudden spell of thunderstorms, lightning and intense rain disrupted normal life across several localities. Strong winds uprooted trees at multiple locations, including VST Road in Ramnagar and stretches in Hyderguda, leading to severe traffic congestion. Waterlogging was reported on several roads, slowing vehicular movement and causing inconvenience to commuters. The heavy winds also affected power infrastructure, resulting in electricity disruptions in areas such as Musheerabad. Authorities have advised residents to remain alert.

## Man arrested for allegedly filming woman while bathing in Film Nagar

Hyderabad: A man was arrested for allegedly attempting to secretly record a woman while she was bathing at her residence in the Film Nagar. According to police, the incident occurred in the Shaikpet, when the woman noticed a mobile phone camera positioned near the bathroom ventilator while she was taking a bath. Alarmed by it, she immediately informed her husband. The family then searched the surroundings and identified the suspect, Aravind.

## 3 Brothers from Kacheguda Drown in Godavari River in Basara

Hyderabad: Three brothers from Kacheguda drowned in Godavari River at Basara in Nirmala on Tuesday. The trio - Chandrashekhar (38), Ramachander (36) and Mallesh Kumar (31) from Chappal Bazar in Kacheguda, had reached Basara from Kacheguda in Hyderabad this morning. They went missing after taking a holy dip in the river. Upon receiving information, the personnel of NDRF came to the spot to fish out the bodies. More details are awaited.

## Telangana Procures Record 147 LMT Paddy: Uttam



Hyderabad: Irrigation and civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that Telangana has set a new national record following procurement of 147 LMT of paddy for the current KMS 2025-26 season (both Kharif and Rabi). He noted that this makes it the highest-ever paddy procurement in the history of Telangana and even combined

Andhra Pradesh. Addressing a press conference along with ministers Adhuri Laxman Kumar and Vakiti Srihari at Secretariat on Tuesday, Uttam said Telangana had procured 75 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the current Yasangi/Rabi season, against the Centre's approved target of only 52 lakh metric tonnes. He said another one

to two lakh metric tonnes of paddy was likely to arrive at procurement centres in the next few days. Minister noted that the government had borne an additional financial burden of about Rs 6,650 crore in the present Yasangi season alone to ensure that farmers received the Minimum Support Price (MSP). "The Centre fixed a target of only 52 LMT. But we went ahead and procured 75 LMT to protect Telangana farmers. Our priority is clear—Telangana paddy farmers must be protected first," he said. Uttam said Telangana had emerged as the single largest Rabi paddy producing and procuring state in the country. Over 61 per cent of the total Yasangi paddy procured in India came from Telangana alone. In comparison, Andhra Pradesh procured about 25 LMT, Tamil Nadu 12 LMT, Maharashtra 5 LMT, Odisha 4 LMT and Kerala 2 LMT during the season. The minister said the state had paid about Rs 35,077 crore directly into 25.20 lakh bank accounts of the farmers for Kharif and Rabi procurement. He strongly criticised the Centre for reducing Telangana's paddy procurement quota even as production was increasing due to better irrigation and farmer-friendly policies.



## Shiv Sena Prioritizes Telangana at National Executive Meeting in Delhi

Hyderabad: Key decisions were taken regarding the party's expansion at national level and strengthening of organization state wide and strategies for upcoming elections in the Shiv Sena National Executive meeting held in New Delhi. During the meeting, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had an extensive discussion on the political situation in Telangana and opportunities for the party's expansion. State president Sinkaru Shivaji explained that Shiv Sena has a promising political future in Telangana, noting strong prospects particularly in the Greater Hyderabad metropolitan area, districts bordering Maharashtra, industrial zones, and regions with significant Marathi-speaking populations. The party leaders discussed on further strengthening the party's organizational structure at the Mandal and district levels in Telangana, providing the necessary support for Shiv Sena to contest the upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, formulating a special action plan by the national leadership to conduct a widespread membership drive in Telangana, undertaking special programs to connect youth, women, students, and the working class with the party, drawing the attention of both Central and State governments to issues concerning the development of Maharashtra-Telangana border areas, including roads, irrigation, and employment opportunities. Shivaji said that expanding Shiv Sena's movements in Telangana regarding public issues such as education, employment, farmers' welfare, and social justice, inviting the Shiv Sena chief to personally tour Telangana to strengthen the party across the state was also discussed. He said that Eknath Shinde had responded positively to the invitation extended by Sinkaru Shivaji and assured full cooperation for the party's expansion in Telangana.

## TG Ministers condemn rejection of Meenakshi's RS nomination



Hyderabad: Telangana Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Ponnampati Prabhakar have strongly condemned the rejection of Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination in Madhya Pradesh, calling it contrary to democratic principles and constitutional values. Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the rejection of the nomination on the grounds of pending cases was against the spirit of democracy. He alleged that attempts to win through undemocratic means after failing to secure victory in the people's court reflect the ruling party's

weakness and fear. He stated that every citizen and political leader has the right to participate in elections, and any action that restricts this right undermines public confidence in the democratic system. Jupally added that the Congress Party would continue its legal fight against what it termed unjust decisions to uphold democratic values. Separately, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar also criticised the decision, terming it highly unfortunate and against democratic norms. He said that no cases had been registered against Natarajan in Telangana and explicitly

questioned the basis of the allegations cited in the rejection of her nomination. Ponnampati Prabhakar alleged that the incident indicates a possible political conspiracy and accused the BJP of misusing institutions for political gain. Politics He said rejecting a nomination during an ongoing electoral process undermines public trust in democracy. Both ministers reiterated that the Congress Party would explore all legal options and continue its fight to ensure justice, stressing the need to strengthen democratic institutions and protect the sanctity of the electoral process.

## Hyderabad woman held at RGIA with 2.15 kg hydroponic ganja from Bangkok

Hyderabad: The EAGLE Force team of Telangana, in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Customs Department, busted a transnational Hydroponic ganja racket and arrested an individual. A total of 2.15 kilograms of ganja was seized. Based on credible inputs, the EAGLE Force, along with NCB and Customs, caught a woman, Doddi Suri Kala, a resident of Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, at the RGI Airport and seized 2.15 kilograms of hydroponic ganja. The woman had arrived from Bangkok and landed at the RGI Airport Shamshabad carrying the contraband.

## MP Minister claims TG Cong leaders leaked Meenakshi Natarajan's case details to BJP



Hyderabad: Madhya Pradesh BJP Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya has made a sensational claim that information related to a legal case involving Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan in Telangana was provided to the BJP by Telangana Congress leaders themselves. Speaking on the rejection of Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination, Vijayvargiya said the party had received detailed reports about the case and related background information from

within the Congress organisation in Telangana. He stated that the BJP had approached the Election Commission with an official complaint alleging that details of the Telangana case, along with crucial information on assets and bank accounts, were not disclosed in her mandatory nomination affidavit. Highlighting that the Congress party is in power in Telangana, he added that internal members were responsible for sharing the data. It was people within the Congress party who gave us this information, Vijayvargiya claimed.



## Kishan launches vitriolic attack on Revanth for spreading canards

Hyderabad: Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday launched a sharp counterattack against Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him of spreading baseless lies, personal insults, and diversionary politics to cover up the failures of the Congress administration. Addressing the media in New Delhi, the minister stated that the Chief Minister was behaving inappropriately rather than upholding the dignity of his high office. Kishan Reddy noted that for several days, the Chief Minister had been making unfounded allegations and personal remarks, claiming he would not allow him to move freely in Telangana. The Union Minister responded that he had faced many Chief Ministers throughout his long career and had even led massive protests up to Delhi, asserting that Revanth Reddy possessed neither the strength nor courage to stop him. He accused the Congress government of failing to implement the six guarantees and 420 sub-guarantees promised during the Assembly elections, resorting instead to false propaganda to divert public anger. Kishan Reddy challenged the Chief Minister to set up an independent committee of senior journalists to examine the claims. Rebutting allegations that he was actively stalling the expansion of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project and had influenced Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on an interstate irrigation project, he challenged the administration to show definitive proof of obstruction, offering to resign immediately if found at fault.

## EC conducts training session for EROs ahead of SIR drive

Hyderabad: A training programme for all Electoral Registration Officers was conducted by the Election Commission regarding the execution of the upcoming Special Intensive Revision. The sessions were led by Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy, Additional CEO Vasam Venkateswar Reddy, Joint CEO M Satyavani, and Deputy CEO AS Chary. During the session, the CEO briefed participants on the revision process, which is scheduled to commence on June 25. State Training Nodal Officer B Chennaiah explained the various procedural steps in detail,



whilst PM IT D Chiranjivi provided necessary technical training on ECINET and the BLO Application. This included the exact procedure for filling enu-

meration forms, mapping electors, and categorising uncollectible forms. The CEO thoroughly explained the challenges likely to be raised during the implementation and clarified specific doubts raised by the participants. The training programme aimed to strengthen the operational capacity of election officials, familiarise them with the digital tools related to the revision, and ensure a smooth, peaceful, and highly effective implementation of the process across the state. The designated nodal officers and concerned department staff were also present during the concluding session.

## US Senators, business leaders congratulate Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected PM

### Mamata Banerjee meets Sonia Gandhi, discusses strategy amid rebellion in TMC



A day after an opposition INDIA bloc meeting stressed unity and better coordination among the alliance partners, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday met senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at her 10, Janpath residence. Sources said the two leaders are learnt to have discussed the strategy between the two parties going forward after the opposition bloc meeting, and following an exodus of Trinamool members after the party's defeat to the BJP in the recent Bengal polls. The meeting followed after Gandhi, the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, and Banerjee met each other warmly with a hug at the opposition bloc's meeting here on Monday. The Congress shared pictures of the bonhomie between the two leaders. In a post on X, Trinamool Congress spoke about the warmth between the two leaders. "The smiles said what words could not... a bond strengthened through decades of dedicated service to the nation. Our Hon'ble Chairperson with Sonia Gandhi Ji, today in Delhi." The meeting comes in the wake of a rebellion within the Trinamool, with several party MPs deciding to form a separate group and align with the ruling NDA. A majority of Trinamool's 80 MLAs have already formed a separate group led by Ritabrata Banerjee as the leader of opposition in the state Assembly. This was the first closed-door meeting between Banerjee and Gandhi after Trinamool's defeat in the polls, and alleged attacks on party workers and MP Abhishek Banerjee after the elections.

### India Urges World To Hold Pakistan Accountable in Deadly PoK Violence

New Delhi : India on Tuesday came down hard on Islamabad for its "brutality" against people in Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) and called on the international community to hold that country accountable for its "abuses". India's reaction came as over 20 people were reportedly killed in police action on protesters in several parts of PoK. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, slamming Pakistan, said there have been "desperate" attempts by Islamabad to cover up its "failings" and deflect attention away from its alleged human rights abuses. We continue to see in this context, a pattern of fake news and videos emanating from Pakistan. It is a desperate attempt by Pakistan to cover-up its own failings and deflect attention away from its human rights abuses," he said. "There are reports of severe police brutality in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in which several protesters have been killed and many injured. We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," Jaiswal added. He was responding to a question at a media briefing. India's reaction came a day after Pakistan's human rights body said.

US senators, industry leaders and members of the Indian diaspora have congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected prime minister, describing his time in office as transformative for the country. On Wednesday, Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving prime minister, with an unbroken tenure of 4,399 days in office, surpassing the record of the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. "Congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi on becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. 4,399 days of leadership earned through the trust of 1.4 billion people across three democratic mandates," John Cornyn, the Republican Senator from Texas, said in a post on X. "From lifting 250 million out of poverty to making India the world's fastest-



growing major economy, PM Modi's tenure has been nothing short of transformational. The US-India partnership has never been stronger," said Cornyn, the co-chair of the Senate India Caucus. "Congratulations to Indian Prime Minister @narendramodi who has become the country's longest-serving prime minister. Under PM Modi's leadership, the US-India partnership has truly become comprehensive, global, and strategic," Senator Bill Hagerty, a Republican from Tennessee, said. American singer Mary Millben described Modi as her friend and offered heartfelt congratulations on "becoming India's longest-serving Prime Minister." "You have outlasted consecutive US Presidents, some with whom you had great relationship and oth-

ers you have had great grace towards, yet you never wavered in exercising clear diplomacy that upheld the interests of the Indian people coupled with the health of our two countries," Millben said. Nikesh Arora, CEO of Palo Alto Networks, congratulated Prime Minister Modi on the leadership earned through the trust of 1.4 billion people across three democratic mandates. Nehru, who was first elected to the post in 1952, took the oath of office on May 13 and served until May 27, 1964 -- a tenure of 4,398 days. Nehru's previous stint from 1947-52 was as head of an interim government, as elections were yet to be institutionalised and held. Indira Gandhi had a fractured tenure as prime minister for 14 years from 1966 to 1984. She was voted out as prime minister in the 1977 general elections held after the lifting of the Emergency.

### Vizag Plant Fiasco: Can Pawan Take This Tough Task?



The emotional outburst of the victims and other workers at the Vizag steel plant after the unfortunate incident last evening which killed 8 people has reached Nara Lokesh and Pawan Kalyan who were at the sight today. In particular, the deputy chief minister stated that he would get to the root cause of the issue and sit down with workers and unions if needed. He assured them that he would spend at least 4 to 5 hours with them to understand what is the entire mechanism. At first Pawan Kalyan communicated that it was the NDA government that was working proactively to stop the privatization of this plant in the first place. He stated that no one had the courtesy to question the previous YCP government but they're seeing the NDA govt as a punching bag for standing affirmed on their stance.

The most important thing for the government here is to obviously understand the problems of the unions and workers. It is crucial that such accidents do not happen in the future and certain measures are taken by the state government at the administrative level. So this potential meeting between Pawan Kalyan and the union workers is going to be extremely important. This would decide the public mandate on this accident and it would require skilled and calm treatment from the top representatives like the DCM himself. For a long time now, there have been efforts to increase the safety protocols at industrial places. So if the government, through Pawan Kalyan can find a possible solution, it would be a great deal all over.



### CM Vijay Announced Drone System For Women Safety

Tamil Nadu has been witnessing increased number of brutal attack cases against women as the volume of rape and social misconduct concerning the female population was on the rise. So there was this mounting pressure on new chief minister Thalapathy Vijay to take certain action on this matter, and he has now announced a pretty ambitious plan. In a historic development, chief minister, Vijay has communicated that Tamil Nadu will be utilising drone system for increased surveillance for women safety. For the first time in Tamil Nadu, the government is imposing a drone surveillance system using dedicated Singapore technology for monitoring the female safety in the state. The state police department will be receiving significant app and adequate knowledge on drone surveillance in the days to follow, and these technological advancements will be used to track the safety. The interesting thing here is that chief minister Vijay has allocated a massive budget of Rs 354 crore for this drone surveillance system.

### Amit Shah launches tech-driven border management system for seamless operations at land ports

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the Land Port Management System (LPMS) 'Vinimay', a certified digital platform designed to modernise and streamline operations across India's land ports, marking a significant step towards technology-driven border management. The integrated platform will enable seamless coordination among multiple agencies involved in land port operations, including customs, immigration authorities, border guarding forces and other regulatory bodies. The system aims to improve efficiency, transparency and security while facilitating smoother movement of cargo and passengers. Speaking at the launch function, Shah said the transformation of India's land ports reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of strengthening border security while enhancing trade and



connectivity. "The idea of the Land Ports Authority was primarily driven by security concerns. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, land ports have evolved into the first line of border security while also making trade smoother and more secure," he said. The Home Minister noted that land ports have acquired a broader role beyond security and commerce, serving as important links between people living across international borders. According to Shah, these facilities have become instruments of regional connectivity and cooperation alongside their core functions of trade facilitation and border management. Highlighting the impact of land ports on national security and economic activity, Shah said their rapid development has contributed to increased trade volumes while helping address challenges such as illegal trade and migration. "Land ports have not only strengthened security and boosted trade but have also helped convert illegal trade into legitimate trade channels. They have played a significant role in addressing migration-related challenges and supporting the overall


development of border regions," he said. Describing the launch of LPMS as a landmark initiative, the Home Minister said the platform would accelerate India's transition towards a modern, technology-enabled smart border management ecosystem, aligned with the vision of a developed India by 2047. The LPMS is designed as a unified digital platform integrating operations across all land ports. It will facilitate secure, real-time exchange of logistics and regulatory information, bringing land port operations in line with the digital systems already deployed at airports and seaports. The government said the platform functions as a neutral and open system that will enable seamless interaction among government agencies and private stakeholders, reducing procedural delays and improving operational efficiency.

Estd : 1996

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### VOICE OF WORDS

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## Education

**VOICE OF WORDS**

Friday, June 12, 2026



### SPF Appeals to District Collector for Immediate Release of Pending IDP Student Scholarships

Hyderabad: A delegation from the Students Protection Forum (SPF), led by State President Rahul Naik, submitted a formal representation to the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector on Monday, urging immediate release of long-pending ePASS scholarship and fee-reimbursement dues for Integrated B.Tech (IDP) students of the 2021-22 batch at JNTUH University College of Engineering Science and Technology (UCESTH). Geographic Reference Rahul Naik said eligible SC, ST, BC and General category students were entitled to full tuition reimbursement of Rs 70,000 per year. However, during the first and second years, only Rs 35,000 was released, leaving a pending balance of Rs 35,000 per student for each year. Despite repeated appeals and timely submission of all required documents by students, the outstanding dues have been outstanding for more than four years. Following SPF's persistent efforts, senior officials updated the reimbursement amount from Rs 35,000 to Rs 70,000, and full reimbursement was issued for the third and fourth years, confirming that the IDP course is eligible for the complete amount. Yet, the backlog from the first two years remains unresolved. Rahul Naik said many students and their families are facing severe financial distress due to the prolonged delay. He urged the District Collector to coordinate with ePASS authorities and relevant government departments to ensure immediate clearance of the pending dues. SPF demanded that the government act urgently in the interest of students' academic stability and financial well-being.

## TGEAPCET-2026 Counselling Schedule Released; Three-Phase Process Begins June 19

Hyderabad: The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) has released the complete counselling schedule for TGEAPCET-2026 admissions following a meeting held on June 8 under the chairmanship of Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, Commissioner of Technical Education and TGEAPCET-2026 Admissions Convenor A. Sridevasena, and other committee members, finalised the timelines for all stages of the admission process. The first phase begins with online filing of basic information, payment of the processing fee and slot booking from June 19 to June 28. Certificate verification for slot-booked candidates will be conducted from June 22 to June 29. Candidates may exercise web options from June 25 to July 1, with freezing on July 1. The mock seat allotment will be displayed on or before July 4, followed by option modifications from July 5 to July 7. Provisional allotments will be released on or before July 10, and tuition fee payment and self-reporting must be completed between July 10 and July 14. The second phase will be held for candidates who



did not participate in the earlier phase. Slot booking is scheduled for July 17, certificate verification on July 18, and option entry from July 18 to July 19. Freezing of options will take place on July 19. Seat allotment will be announced on or before July 22, followed by fee payment and self-reporting from July 22 to July 24. Physical reporting at allotted colleges is mandatory from July 25 to July 28, and July 28 is the last date for cancellation. The final phase begins on July 31 with slot booking, followed by certificate verification on August 1 and option entry from August 1 to August 2. Options will freeze on August 2, and allotments will be released on or before August 5. Candidates

must complete fee payment and reporting between August 5 and August 7. Colleges must update their joining details by August 8. No cancellations or dropouts are permitted after this phase. Andhra Pradesh News Centralised internal sliding will be conducted from August 12 to August 13, with allotments on August 15 and reporting from August 16 to August 17. Spot admission guidelines for university, constituent and private unaided engineering colleges will be published on August 16 at <https://tgeapcet.nic.in>. As per AICTE's academic calendar, classwork for the 2026-27 academic year will commence on August 1.

### Azim Premji University opens admissions for Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership 2027



Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, has announced admissions for its Postgraduate Diploma in Development Leadership programme for the 2027 academic session. The 11-month part-

time programme is aimed at professionals in the social sector seeking to strengthen their leadership capabilities while continuing their current employment. Designed for mid- and senior-level practitioners with at least eight years of experience, the diploma focuses on enhancing understanding of development frameworks, civil society dynamics, and organisational cultures. The programme combines online and on-campus learning across three academic terms, enabling participants to balance professional commitments with academic engagement. The curriculum aims to deepen participants' perspectives on development realities in India, encourage exploration of equitable and sustainable development approaches, and build leadership skills for managing inclusive and collaborative organisations. It also offers training in financial management, communication, and data analysis. Arima Mishra, Director of the School of Development, said the programme provides an opportunity for experienced professionals to reflect on their organisational experiences within broader development perspectives and strengthen their capacity to lead effectively. National Politics Updates The last date to submit applications is October 11, 2026. Written assignments and interviews will be conducted between October and November 2026, while classes are scheduled to begin in the first week of January 2027. Interested candidates can visit the university website for details on eligibility, fees, and programme structure.

## Government Music and Dance Colleges Release Annual Examination Schedule for 2026



Hyderabad: The Controller of University Examinations of Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University, M.V. Adilakshmi, on Monday released the 2026 annual examination schedule for certificate and diploma courses offered in government music and dance colleges and schools across Telangana. The examinations will be conducted for students studying at government music and dance institutions in Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Patabasti, Warangal, Nizamabad, and Manthani. These centres collectively cater to a wide range of traditional performing arts education in the state. As per the timetable, the Certificate Course Paper-1 is scheduled for July 2, followed by Diploma Paper-1 on July 3 and Diploma Paper-2 on July 4. All written examinations will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The courses covered include Carnatic vocal, veena, violin, flute, nadaswaram, mridangam, dola, Hindustani vocal, sitar, tabla, and classical dance forms such as Kuchipudi, Bharatanatyam, Andhra Natyam, Kathak and Perini. Officials announced that practical examinations will commence on July 6. Students can download their hall tickets from [www.pstucet.org](http://www.pstucet.org) one week before the exams. The examination department has instructed principals of all participating colleges to circulate the timetable among students and ensure necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examinations.

### National Forensic Sciences University trains representatives from 96 countries, expands to 13 campuses worldwide

The National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), headquartered in Gujarat's Gandhinagar and recognised as the world's only university dedicated exclusively to forensic sciences, has emerged as a global centre for forensic education, training and research, with representatives from 96 countries having received specialised training through the institution. Established in 2009 in Gandhinagar under the leadership of the then Gujarat Chief Minister and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the university attained the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) in October 2020. The institution currently operates 13 campuses in India and abroad, including its international campus in Jinja, Uganda, and is considering further overseas expansion following proposals received from several countries. National Politics Updates Under the leadership of its founding Vice-Chancellor and senior forensic scientist, Padma Shri J.M. Vyas, NFSU has developed an academic model that combines education, research, training and investigation. The university said its academic standards and environmentally conscious campus infrastructure have attracted international interest, leading several nations to formally express interest in establishing NFSU campuses within their own countries. The institution has also expanded its contribution to criminal justice systems through the development of 'Mo-

bile Forensic Investigation Vans' designed and manufactured in India. More than 300 such vans are currently operating across over 17 states and Union Territories. Equipped with specialised forensic kits and staffed by trained experts, the units remain available round the clock to assist law enforcement agencies in scientific crime scene investigations and evidence collection. To promote research and technological innovation, NFSU has established the Forensic Innovation Council under the Companies Act and the Forensic Innovation Centre with support from the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP). The facilities provide advanced laboratory infrastructure for researchers and start-ups working in forensic science and related fields. According to the university, more than 20 forensic products developed under its innovation initiatives are now being exported to countries, including the United States, Australia, Israel, Singapore and several European nations. The institution has also secured specialised patent approvals in both India and the United States. National Politics Updates NFSU has played a significant role in disaster victim identification and complex investigations. Following the Air India Flight 171 crash near Ahmedabad Airport on June 12 last year, the university's forensic experts completed DNA profiling to establish the identities of all 265 victims of the accident.

# VOICE OF WORDS

## HEALTH

For many Indians, the day begins with a cup of tea, continues with coffee at work and occasionally includes a cola with meals. While these beverages are a regular part of daily life, many people wonder which one is causing the most damage to their smile. According to Dr Preyas Gaikwad, Dental Surgeon and Implantologist at Dr Gaikwad's Dental Clinic, Pune, all three drinks can affect oral health, but they do so in different ways. When it comes purely to tooth staining, black tea may be the biggest culprit.

# Tea, coffee or cola: Which drink stains your teeth the most?

## Why black tea tops the list

Tea is often viewed as a healthier alternative to many beverages, but it can be surprisingly harsh on teeth. According to Dr Gaikwad, black tea contains tannins and colouring compounds that readily bind to tooth enamel. Over time, these compounds can cause yellow or brown discoloration, particularly in people who drink multiple cups a day or sip tea slowly throughout the day.

The staining effect can become even more noticeable when professional dental cleanings are skipped for long periods.

## Coffee is not far behind

Coffee is another major contributor to tooth discoloration. It contains dark pigments that can stick to enamel and dental plaque, gradually causing teeth to appear dull, yellow or brown. The staining becomes more noticeable when coffee is consumed several times a day, and oral hygiene habits such as brushing, flossing and regular dental visits are neglected.

Adding sugar may not directly increase staining, but it can contribute to other dental problems that affect oral health.



tribute to other dental problems that affect oral health.

Cola may stain less, but it causes another problem

Many people assume cola is the worst offender because of its dark colour. Surprisingly, it may not stain teeth as much as tea or coffee.

**However, cola presents a**

## different concern: acidity.

According to the expert, the acids present in cola can weaken and erode tooth enamel. Once enamel becomes damaged, stains from other foods and beverages can adhere more easily to the teeth. Cola also contains sugar, which increases the risk of tooth decay.

## Which one stains your teeth the most?

Based purely on staining potential, Dr Gaikwad ranks the beverages in the following order:

- Black tea
- Coffee
- Cola

While cola may rank lower for staining, its acidic nature means

it can still have a significant impact on dental health.

## Simple habits that can protect your teeth

The good news is that you do not have to completely give up your favourite drinks.

## The expert recommends a few simple precautions:

- Rinse your mouth with plain water after drinking tea, coffee or cola
- Avoid brushing immediately after consuming acidic drinks such as cola
- Use a straw when drinking cold soft drinks
- Reduce added sugar where possible
- Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste
- Floss regularly

Visit your dentist for a professional cleaning as advised. Tea, coffee and cola can all affect the appearance and health of your teeth, but black tea appears to be the strongest staining agent of the three. Coffee follows closely behind, while cola's greatest threat lies in its ability to weaken enamel through acidity.

## 6 prostate cancer myths every man should stop believing

One of the health topics that men tend to avoid discussing is prostate cancer. It often feels distant, something that happens to someone else or something to worry about later in life. Unfortunately, that silence has allowed several misconceptions to spread. According to Dr Zeeshan Rahman, Consultant – Urology, RG Stone Urology & Laparoscopy Hospital, Kolkata, prostate cancer is among the most common cancers affecting men, and early diagnosis can be crucial. Understanding the facts is the first step.

**Myth 1:** If you feel fine, you don't need to worry

This is one of the most dangerous misconceptions.

Many men believe that if they are urinating normally and feeling healthy, everything is fine. However, prostate cancer can develop in its early stages without causing any noticeable symptoms. By the time signs such as difficulty urinating, blood in the urine or pelvic pain appear, the disease may have already progressed. This is why regular screening is particularly important for those who are at higher risk.

**Myth 2:** Prostate cancer only affects older men

While older men face a higher risk, prostate cancer is not limited to them. Men in their forties and fifties can also

develop the disease, especially if they have a family history of prostate cancer. Doctors consider factors such as age, family history and overall health when deciding whether screening is appropriate.

**Myth 3:** A high PSA result means you have cancer. Not necessarily. The PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) blood test is commonly used for screening, but a high PSA level does not automatically mean cancer. PSA levels can increase for several reasons, including an enlarged prostate, inflammation or infection. Further tests are usually required before a diagnosis can be confirmed.

**Myth 4:** Prostate cancer always requires immediate treatment

Not quite. Some forms of prostate cancer grow very slowly. In certain cases, doctors may recommend active surveillance, which involves closely monitoring the condition through regular tests and follow-up appointments instead of rushing into surgery or radiation treatment. The right approach depends on the individual case.

**Myth 5:** Treatment will ruin your quality of life

Concerns about treatment-related side effects prevent many men from seeking medical advice. While issues such as urinary incontinence and sexual dysfunction can occur, treatment options have improved significantly in recent years.



Robotic surgery, targeted radiation therapy and nerve-sparing techniques have helped reduce complications and improve outcomes for many patients.

**Myth 6:** A diagnosis means the worst. A prostate cancer diagnosis can be frightening, but it is not necessarily a worst-case scenario. Many men diagnosed with localised prostate cancer go on to live full, active lives after treatment. Even in more advanced cases, modern therapies can often control the disease and help maintain quality of life for years. Early

detection remains one of the strongest factors associated with better outcomes. When it comes to prostate cancer, misinformation can be almost as harmful as the disease itself. Believing myths about symptoms, screening, or treatment may delay diagnosis and care. Staying informed and speaking openly with your doctor about your risk factors and screening options can make a real difference. In many cases, that one conversation could be the most important step you take for your health.

# VOICE OF WORDS

## WOMEN

In a world saturated with perfect selfies, flawless filters, and heavily edited images, 2026 is marking a refreshing shift towards something much more real: authentic beauty. The desire to embrace natural skin, imperfections, and genuine self-expression is reshaping how people approach skincare today. This movement is not about erasing flaws but about enhancing what's naturally there, fostering confidence, and celebrating skin's true potential.

# Authentic Beauty is the biggest skincare trend of 2026

According to Dermatology, Vanila Dermologie, New Delhi, for a long time, skincare was mostly about hiding flaws or changing how we look, but now, things are changing. People are starting to care more about keeping their skin healthy and letting their natural beauty shine.

Instead of using lots of makeup or filters, the focus is now on caring for the skin—nourishing it, healing it, and helping it glow from the inside out.

Today, people want their skin to look like themselves, just fresher, healthier, and more vibrant. This new way of thinking is inspiring skincare brands and experts to create products and treatments that truly support skin health, instead of just covering things up.

**What does authentic beauty look like in skincare?**

Authentic beauty in skincare means focusing on treatments



that work harmoniously with the skin's biology. It involves boosting hydration, improving skin texture, and restoring natural elasticity, all without harsh chemicals or aggressive procedures. One of the standout innovations in this approach is Profhilo, a treatment designed to stimulate the skin's natural ability to regenerate and

remodel itself. This method helps restore firmness and smoothness while preserving the skin's unique character. Unlike traditional fillers or invasive interventions, it supports the skin's structure by encouraging the production of essential components like collagen and elastin, which tend to decline with age.

### The science behind the glow

This new way of thinking about skincare is all about understanding how our skin works and changes over time.

As we age, our skin loses moisture and important proteins, which can make it look dull and tired. Instead of just covering up wrinkles, the focus now is on strengthening the skin from within. One key ingredient helping with this is hyaluronic acid—a substance our body naturally makes that holds moisture really well. Skincare treatments using hyaluronic acid help the skin stay hydrated and encourage it to produce more collagen and elastin. This makes the skin look fresher, firmer, and naturally glowing—no need for filters or heavy makeup.

### Confidence in real skin

One of the best parts of the authentic beauty trend is how it makes people feel. When skin

looks healthy and feels good, it naturally boosts confidence. This new way of thinking helps people feel comfortable in their own skin and proud of what makes them unique, instead of trying to hide it. It also challenges the old idea that we always have to look perfect. Now, skincare is seen as a way to take care of yourself, not to fix flaws, but to show yourself love and care.

### Conclusion

As 2026 goes on, people are talking more about honest skincare that's based on real science. They want products and treatments that keep their skin healthy and help them look their best naturally. Instead of using masks and filters, the focus is now on showing real beauty. New skincare ideas work with the skin's natural processes, encouraging everyone to stop using filters and love the skin they have.

## Applying curd on hair helps prevent scalp problems



The use of curd for hair is no less than nectar. It has many properties that take excellent care of hair. Curd rich in vitamin C and citric acid strengthens the hair from the roots. It also contains some healthy fats that help in correcting the texture of the hair. Apart from this, it is antibacterial and also helps in cooling the scalp from within. Let's know what the benefits of applying curd to hair are.

**Applying curd to hair removes these problems:**

**Beneficial in dandruff:** Yogurt is rich in antibacterial properties, which help in reducing dandruff. Its citric acid cleanses the scalp and improves blood circulation. In this way, yogurt acts as a natural anti-dandruff fighter.

**Get rid of dry hair:** If you have dry hair, then curd can treat dry hair. It acts as a

natural conditioner or moisturizer, so it makes the hair soft. This gives life to your hair and makes it shine.

**Effective for hair fall:** Yogurt protects the scalp from any infection or bacteria that may grow on it. The biotin present in yogurt, along with zinc, helps in strengthening the hair from the roots, which reduces hair fall. So, yogurt acts as a booster for hair growth.

**Scalp infection will not occur.** The lactic acid present in curd helps to clean the scalp. It helps exfoliate dead skin cells.

### How to use curd?

You should use curd in your hair 2 hours before washing your hair. Beat the curd well and apply it to your scalp and hair. Apply curd on your hair once a week. Using curd in this way in your hair routine will make your hair soft and smooth.

## Alum and lemon provide relief from these skin problems



Alum is used for many purposes. However, in the olden days, people used to apply alum on their faces after shaving. Alum proves to be effective in curing many problems ranging from skin to health. The reason for this is the anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, and anti-biotic properties found in alum. Which cures hair, skin, and many other problems. If you mix lemon juice with alum, then its properties increase manifold. Know the benefits of using alum by mixing lemon in it.

### Benefits of applying alum mixed with lemon

**Effective in removing dead skin:** Dead skin accumulates on the face in winter. Due to increased dryness, a layer-like structure starts coming out from the face. For this, you can use alum and lemon. This helps in removing dead skin cells. Applying a mixture of alum and lemon juice deep cleans the skin. Massaging gently will bring a glow to the face.

**Spots will go away:** If there are a lot of

spots on the face, then alum and lemon can be used for this. The problem of pimples can be reduced, and old spots will also start to clear. Mix lemon in alum and massage the face with light hands; this will also improve the complexion.

**Hair will get shine:** Alum can also be used to make hair soft and silky. Applying a mixture of alum and lemon gives shine to the hair. It can also reduce the problem of grey hair.

**You will get rid of dandruff:** The use of alum and lemon proves beneficial for hair. Dandruff can also be removed with this. The antifungal and antibacterial properties found in alum reduce dandruff. Bacterial infection on the scalp can also be reduced with this.

**Wrinkles can be reduced:** The problem of wrinkles can be reduced by applying a mixture of alum and lemon on the face. This tightens the skin and reduces pores. You can apply it on the face like a pack and keep it for some time.



International News

# VOICE OF WORDS

Friday, June 12, 2026

## Sri Lanka Emerging as a New Base for Asia's Scam Networks



The crackdown on scam compounds in Cambodia is leading some gangs to relocate to beach resorts and office buildings in Sri Lanka, in what may be the next phase of one of the world's fastest-growing criminal industries. A combination of visa-free travel, available building space, relatively strong telecommunications networks and a well-established informal money transfer system make the South Asian island nation an appealing destination for scammers, investigators say. Authorities in Sri Lanka have set up a new cybercrimes unit and say they've arrested more than 1,000 people this year alone, most in western beach areas where tourists flock or in the capital, Colombo. "Police, along with the immigration department and the central bank, are working as a collective effort to see that this is being controlled," said assistant

police superintendent Fredrick Wootler. Rescued Still, observers say the country has a brief window to get its arms around what are fast-moving and increasingly sophisticated operators. "In Sri Lanka there are issues with implementing our laws, the fact that we don't necessarily crack down on these companies — they simply use tourist visas," Dilrukshi Handunnetti, director at the Center for Investigative Reporting Sri Lanka, said. When officers descended on one west coast property in April, they found more than 150 foreign nationals allegedly running a cyber-scams operation. Days later, police raided a multi-story apartment building near Colombo and arrested another 120 foreign nationals. As authorities step up the pressure, some operators appear to be shifting from large compounds to hotels, apartment buildings and

office space that can be rented quickly and abandoned just as fast. "This is happening in ways that are unfortunately even more difficult for us to keep our eyes on," said Erin West, founder of anti-scams nonprofit Operation Shamrock. "I think we've created such skilled workers, whether they wanted to be or not, that they can operate really in any kind of environment." A report by a US congressional committee in July last year warned fraud networks appear to be relocating into environments marked by "regulatory stress" — jurisdictions with weak enforcement capabilities but strong digital infrastructure. Some of the suspected centers in Sri Lanka may be staffed by escapees from Southeast Asia's scam centers who, with limited alternate work opportunities, are choosing to put their newfound skills to use, scam investigators said.

## Palestinians 'trapped' between Israeli forces, settlers and Hamas: UN probe

GENEVA: Palestinian civilians are caught between "mass atrocities" of Israeli forces, settlers, and Hamas's brutal rule, a UN-mandated inquiry said Tuesday. Civilians across war-ravaged Gaza and the occupied West Bank are being "systematically and deliberately" subjected to severe rights violations, the UN's Independent International Commission of Inquiry said. The investigative team, which last year concluded that Israel had committed "genocide" in the war in Gaza, highlighted in a new report that civilians in the territory were also being "violently repressed and controlled by the very faction that claims to govern them". In the Gaza Strip, "ordinary Palestinians find themselves trapped between the structural violence and mass atrocities of Israeli forces and the predatory, fear-based rule of Hamas", the report said. And in the West Bank, which has seen soaring violence since Hamas's October 7, 2023 at-



tack on Israel triggered the Gaza war, it described how Palestinian civilians were increasingly targeted by Israeli settler attacks. "Violence by settlers is the direct outcome of Israeli policies that support, enable and protect their actions," commission chair Srinivasan Muralidhar said in a statement. Hamas-affiliated forces, he added, had meanwhile "exploited the vacuum created by relentless Israeli attacks and widespread destruction of Gaza". "What is alarmingly similar is the deliberate infliction of suffering on

Palestinian civilians. While their origins and motivations differ, both operate within environments engineered by Israel," said Muralidhar, an Indian judge. The three-person commission was established by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2021 to investigate alleged rights violations in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Tuesday's report focused heavily on the situation in the West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since 1967. In the territory, Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at

# Ebola Claims 100 Lives Out of 550 Cases Within a Month in DR Congo

Bunia: Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday said confirmed Ebola deaths had climbed to 101 and that the presence of armed groups was continuing to hinder the response in the hardest-hit province. Attacks on health workers from angry residents, skepticism among some locals and armed conflict in hot spots continue to challenge efforts to stop the spread. The outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola was announced on May 15, though officials have since said it went undetected for weeks, leaving health authorities and struggling to bring it under control. Out of the 550 cases of the disease confirmed as of Sunday, there have been 101 deaths and 19 recoveries, according to the latest situation report late Monday. The number of cases though is believed to be higher because the outbreak was confirmed weeks late, and response has been challenging also because the virus has no approved vaccine or treatment. The latest Ebola disease outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, which does not have an approved vaccine or treatment unlike the Zaire virus responsible for most of Congo's past 16 outbreaks of



the disease. It is unfolding in three provinces long beset by armed conflict: Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. In its latest situation report published on Monday, Congo's government said there had been 35 new confirmed cases in the previous 24 hours, including 10 deaths. That brought the total number of confirmed cases to 550 and the total number of confirmed deaths to 101. The cases have been recorded in 17 of Ituri's health zones as well as in seven health zones in North Kivu and one health zone in South Kivu. Outbreak and the Most at Risk Mistrust and resistance have hampered the response, with on burial teams and treatment centres reported. The latest such attack occurred on Sunday, a source familiar with

the government response said, with a burial team targeted at the Nyamurongo cemetery in Bunia, leaving two people seriously injured and two vehicles damaged. The situation report said the presence of armed groups in Djugu, Irumu and Mambasa - all in Ituri - was continuing "to limit humanitarian access in multiple health zones affected or at risk." It said that Bunia, the capital of Ituri, was relatively calm. Earlier on Monday, Africa's top public health agency said the number of confirmed Ebola cases in Congo had risen to 544. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention gave Congo's confirmed Ebola deaths as 88.

## Three Telangana workers among the dead in Dubai fatal road mishap

Dubai: A devastating road accident on Dubai's busiest road claimed seven lives including three from Telangana after a speeding minibus crashed into a truck on busiest Emirates Road on Monday. Among the injured, five sustained serious injuries while other four including from a Telangana suffered moderate wounds. The deceased persons were identified as Abdul Rafiq of Metpalli Mandal, Sayed Saleem of Kodimial Mandal and Gajula Tirupati of Mallial Mandal, all three from Jagtial district. Mohammed Sayeed of Hyderabad city is among the injured who are out of danger and being treated at a local hospital, according to sources. More details awaited. All of them were working for an aluminum glass and door frame industry based in Sharjah and owned by an Indian entrepreneur hailing from Kerala. According to Dubai Police, the truck had come to a halt in the middle of the road following a sudden technical failure. Preliminary investigations suggest the minibus driver failed to maintain a safe distance and could not stop in time, resulting in a deadly collision. The police said that the bus driver reportedly failed to pay attention. The Indian consulate plunged into action and contacted the bereaved families and also a team of officials visited hospital.



## UN Urges Afghan Taliban To End Arrests Of Women Over Dress Rules

Kabul: The United Nations mission in Afghanistan has expressed concern over the arrest and detention of women in a western province for allegedly failing to comply with "dress requirements" and urged Taliban authorities to treat all people equally. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) did not specify how many women had been affected, though local media reported last week that at least 21 women and girls were detained in Herat province. The Afghan Taliban did not respond to Reuters request for comment. "UNAMA is concerned over multiple arrests and detentions of women in Herat...for alleged non-compliance with dress requirements, which raises serious human rights concerns," UNAMA said in a post on X late on Sunday. "We remind the de facto authorities that all people have the right to freedom of movement and that all persons, both women and men, are entitled to equality before the law," it said. The reported detentions follow a Taliban directive issued last week prohibiting women from appearing in public without what authorities described as a "proper hijab," according to local media. The directive warned that women who failed to comply with the dress code — including those showing their faces or wearing makeup — would face punitive measures, the reports said. Reuters was unable to independently verify the directive. Since seizing power in Kabul in 2021, the Taliban has imposed sweeping restrictions on women and girls in the war-shattered country, including limits on access to education, employment and sport, drawing widespread international criticism. A UNICEF report released in April had warned the country was at risk of losing more than 25,000 female teachers and health workers by 2030 if restrictions on girls'.

## Beijing says 'firmly opposed' to US blacklist of Chinese companies

BEIJING: Beijing said on Tuesday it "firmly opposed" the US blacklisting of Chinese companies after Washington added tech giants Alibaba and Baidu to a list of firms it says are aiding the Chinese military. The Pentagon update on Monday came months after it released, and then quickly withdrew, an earlier version of the list without explanation. "China has consistently and firmly opposed the United States' generalisation of the concept of national security... and its unreasonable suppression of Chinese companies," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a news briefing. Lin urged Washington to "correct its erroneous practices", warning that Beijing will "take necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies". The new list includes 80 companies and

their subsidiaries, and is largely similar to the version momentarily published in February, although two memory chipmakers were reinstated after having been removed at the time. The re-added companies are ChangXin Memory Technologies and Yangtze Memory Technologies. The Pentagon's release marks the latest test of relations between the world's two top economies, whose leaders met in Beijing last month for a highly anticipated summit. That meeting saw President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping seek to stabilise bilateral relations. Trump has invited Xi to pay a reciprocal visit to Washington in September. The companies targeted in the US Defense Department's latest list include some of China's top tech giants involved in artificial intelligence.

# Finance Ministry Seeks Gold Loan Data From Banks, Hinting at Policy Moves

The finance ministry has directed banks engaged in bullion imports to submit detailed information on gold metal loans (GMLs) and loans backed by gold from 2023 onwards, in what could indicate upcoming policy measures on gold. Despite a lower import volume of 721 tonnes compared with the previous year, India's gold import bill surged 24% to a record \$71.9 billion in 2025-26. The banks either borrow gold from international lenders and lend it to jewellers through GMLs, or procure gold under consignment arrangements, making payments based on confirmed domestic demand from wholesale buyers. According to a report by The Times of India, the Department of Financial Services sent a communication to banks on Friday requesting data on loan values and volumes, customer counts, international suppliers, portfolio sizes, collateral amounts, and borrower numbers. Banks were asked to submit the information by Monday, with some providing month-wise figures. Following the restoration of gold import duty to 15% and restrictions on silver imports, further measures may be announced soon. June and July are typically slow months for gold demand, making this period suitable for reviewing policy options. The Reserve Bank of India had recently asked banks to estimate their GML exposure for the current year. Introduced in 1998 for exporters and later extended to jewellers, GMLs



are strictly monitored. Industry participants have suggested measures to moderate imports without affecting supply. A bullion trade body proposed that banks use gold refined from dore instead of importing fresh gold for GMLs. Dore, or unrefined gold, is processed domestically before being supplied to jewellers. Gold ETFs could also purchase dore-refined bars to reduce import dependence. Recently, four mutual fund houses restricted subscriptions to gold-linked schemes. During a recent RBI meeting, industry representatives also discussed permitting gold exports under specific conditions.

## Retail auto sales record 9.55% growth despite heatwave and fuel price hike



Despite evolving headwinds such as an above-normal heatwave, fuel-price pressure and the evolving West Asia situation, automobile retail sales registered its best ever May sales across 3-wheeler, passenger vehicle (PV), tractors and overall registrations. As per Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) data released on Monday, total automobile retail sales grew by 9.55% year-on-year to a record 25,31,067 units in May 2026. Passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales were at a record 4,02,591 units last month as compared to 3,26,656 units in May 2025, a growth of 23.25% while two-wheelers also clocked best-ever monthly numbers at 18,44,947 units in May this year as compared to 17,15,581 units in the same month a year ago, a growth of 7.54%. Dealers reported a visible rise in enquiries for fuel-efficient and alternative-powertrain options, reflected in the two-wheeler EV share climbing to 9.25% from 6.11% a year ago. EV share in the passenger vehicle segment also improved to 6.63% "PV retails were the clear standout at 4,02,591 units, a robust 23.25% YoY expansion, with the Bharat-led character of the recovery firmly intact — Rural PV grew 30.35% YoY against Urban at 18.80%. Dealers pointed to a small-car revival co-existing with a sustained SUV mix, healthy booking pipelines and refreshed product launches, alongside a richer alterna-

tive-powertrain mix in which CNG share rose to 23.34% and EV share improved to 6.63%. Overall alternative fuel share rose to 38%+ in May," said FADA President C S Vigneshwar. On 2W sales, Vigneshwar said that dealers attributed the steady commuter and rural participation to marriage-season buying and continued affordability under the GST 2.0 framework, even as heatwave conditions dampened showroom walk-ins in several markets and selective model-wise supply gaps tempered the momentum. Looking ahead to June 2026, FADA said that dealer sentiment is measured, with 50.52% of dealers expecting growth, 39.90% anticipating a flat market and only 9.59% foreseeing a decline. With the south-west monsoon having set in over Kerala on 4th June and beginning its northward advance, demand expectations are anchored in the progress of the monsoon, early Kharif sowing preparation and the tail of the marriage season, supported by a stable financing environment after the Reserve Bank of India held the repo rate at 5.25% in its June review, it added. "Overall, the next three months appears to be Cautiously Optimistic — with a tad below normal monsoon, the firm 7.7% FY26 GDP print and broad policy continuity providing a supportive backdrop, the industry looks set to move from a seasonally soft patch towards a firmer second-quarter footing," said FADA.

## Fitch Cuts FY27 India Growth Outlook, GDP Forecast Lowered To 6.4% Amid West Asia Tensions & Oil Price Risks

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings has lowered its growth outlook for India for the financial year 2026-27 (FY27), citing rising global uncertainties and the impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The global credit rating agency now expects India's economy to grow by 6.4 percent in FY27. This is 0.3 percentage points lower than its forecast made in March. According to Fitch, higher oil prices and geopolitical tensions are likely to affect economic activity over the coming quarters. Despite the downgrade, Fitch believes India will continue to be one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. The agency said domestic demand will remain the biggest driver of growth. Household spending, investments and government expenditure are expected to support economic activity. Fitch also noted that

lower imports could contribute positively to growth through improved net external demand. Looking ahead, Fitch expects growth to improve in FY28. The agency forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.7 percent in FY28 as global conditions stabilise and the Middle East crisis eases. Stronger consumer spending and higher investments are expected to support this recovery. However, growth is likely to moderate again to around 6.4 percent in FY29, which Fitch considers India's long-term trend growth rate. Fitch Chief Economist Brian Coultan said rising oil prices are creating fresh challenges for economies around the world. He noted that the oil price shock is weakening global growth prospects and increasing downside risks. However, a strong increase in global spending on information technology is helping offset

some of the economic pressure, especially across Asian economies. Fitch said inflation in India has not increased sharply so far but is expected to move higher in the coming months. The agency projects inflation to reach 5.3 percent by the end of 2026 due to higher energy costs and base effects. It also warned that below-normal monsoon rainfall forecasts and ongoing heatwave conditions in some regions could push food prices higher. On the currency front, Fitch said it does not expect any major depreciation in the Indian rupee during the remainder of the year. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India has projected GDP growth of 6.6 percent for FY27. The central bank has cautioned that global supply-chain disruptions, financial market volatility and weather-related shocks continue to pose risks to the growth outlook.



## PhonePe, Cred Plan To Reintroduce Rent Payments Via Credit Cards

Fintech companies like PhonePe and Cred are testing rent payments through credit cards under the marketplace model. The companies plan to launch the service publicly over the next month, according to a report by Moneycontrol. Most fintech companies had stopped allowing rent payments through credit cards after the Reserve Bank of India had expressed its displeasure over the service. According to the banking regulator, the service could be used to make routine person-to-person transactions using credit card, which is essentially for person-to-merchant transactions. To continue the service, landlords were required to be treated as merchants which would have brought them under stricter merchant KYC norms. In their latest testing round of the service, the companies are believed to follow the RBI's guidelines. PhonePe, Paytm and Cred had discontinued rent payment service after the RBI tightened its payment aggregator and payment gateway guidelines. The guidelines restricted payment aggregators from facilitating payments to entities with whom they do not have direct contractual relationship. This time, the companies are bringing the service back through the marketplace platform model which would ensure end-user and end-usage are verified. Hence, the companies will collect PAN cards of the payer and the payee and rent agreement documents. Rent payment had become a significant contributor to revenues of many fintech firms. According to the draft red herring prospectus of PhonePe, it had lost Rs 1,250 crore in revenue after exiting the rent payment business. Soon, banks were finding it unsustainable to incentivise rent payments through credit cards. In June 2024, HDFC Bank imposed 1 percent fee for rent payments using credit card on up to Rs 3,000 per transaction. ICICI Bank and SBI Cards also stopped reward points for rent payment through credit cards. Fintech firms like PhonePe, Paytm, Mobikwik, Freecharge and Amazon Pay also had to stop the service. However, some companies reintroduced the service after introducing stringent KYC norms for the payer and the payee.

## ATF Prices Rise 10 Per Cent As Oil Companies Launch Fixed Fuel Pricing Scheme For Airlines

New Delhi, June 9: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were raised by around 10 per cent on Tuesday as state-owned fuel retailers rolled out a price stabilisation regime, offering domestic airlines a fixed fuel rate for up to three years in a move aimed at shielding carriers and passengers from sharp swings in global oil prices. Jet fuel for domestic airlines will now cost Rs 115 per litre, up from Rs 104.927, industry sources said. The new rate will be locked in for up to three years for airlines that opt to participate in the government-backed price stabilisation scheme. Airlines that do not opt for the scheme will pay market-linked prices, currently around Rs 142 per litre, similar to international carriers. Those opting into the price stabilisation scheme will continue to receive ATF at Rs 115 per litre, insulated from global benchmark fluctuations. While non-participating carriers will benefit from price declines, they will also face higher costs when international rates rise. Sources said the scheme is completely voluntary, and airlines will have to take a call if they want to participate in it. Under the voluntary scheme, participating airlines will pay a fixed free-on-board (FOB) benchmark price of Rs 86.32 per litre, plus airport charges, oil company margins.



## Ujjwala Scheme Update: Centre Cuts Subsidised LPG Cylinder Quota To 4 Per Year For Beneficiaries

### GOVT CUTS SUBSIDISED LPG CYLINDERS TO UJJWALA BENEFICIARIES TO 4

Subsidised LPG Cylinders per year for Ujjwala Beneficiaries

Initially (2016) 12 cylinders → Reduced (2025) 9 cylinders → Now (2026) 4 cylinders

SUBSIDY BENEFIT

Rs 300 subsidy per 14.2-kg cylinder credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts (up to 4 cylinders a year)



New Delhi, June 8: The government has reduced the number of subsidised cooking gas cylinders available annually to beneficiaries of its flagship Ujjwala scheme to four, aligning support with average household consumption levels, a senior government official said on Monday. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), launched in May 2016 to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households, beneficiaries were initially entitled to 12 subsidised 14.2-kg cylinders a year. The subsidised quota was reduced to nine cylinders last year and has now been cut further to four. At a news briefing, Praveen Mal Khanooja, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, said the revised entitlement broadly matches the average annual consumption of Ujjwala beneficiaries. To encourage the use of cleaner cooking fuel and improve affordability, the government introduced a targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in May 2022, credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts after every refill is purchased for up to 12 cylinders annually. In October 2023, the subsidy was increased to Rs 300 per 14.2-kg cylinder, with a proportionate benefit extended to 5-kg cylinders. The latest reduction in the subsidised quota follows increases in LPG prices. The price of a 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi has risen by a cumulative Rs 89 over two hikes in the past three months, the latest on June 7, taking the retail price to Rs 942. After accounting for the Rs 300 subsidy, PMUY beneficiaries pay Rs 642 for a 14.2-kg cylinder. He said the revised entitlement broadly reflects the average annual consumption among PMUY households. Beneficiaries effectively receive support of about Rs 1,000 per cylinder when compared to the government's estimated supply cost of around Rs 1,600 per cylinder. Cooking gas LPG prices were raised on June 7 by Rs 29 per cylinder. "The increase comes to Re 1 per day," he said, adding that for a family of five, the increase comes to 20 paise per day. Indian households continue to pay among the lowest prices for cooking gas globally despite a sharp rise in international LPG prices triggered by disruptions in West Asia, he added.

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VOICE OF WORDS

SPORTS



Stars from 16 countries to feature in Mumbai chess event

Mumbai: In all 58 leading chess players representing 16 countries will comprise the star-studded field that will be fighting for the various titles in the Masters Section (Category A) of the Masters Chess Tournament...

Women's T20 World Cup 2026: Bharti Fulmali, Shreyanka Patil shine as India beat West Indies by 26 runs in warm-up clash

Cardiff: An unbeaten half-century from Bharti Fulmali and a dominant display from spinners Radha Yadav and Shreyanka Patil powered India to a convincing 26-run victory over the West Indies in their opening warm-up match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in Cardiff on Monday.



rhythm-less opening spell from the West Indian pacers. Despite losing Mandhana, India raced to a formidable 70 for 1 by the end of the Powerplay. However, a slight middle-order wobble saw India lose three wickets in quick succession...

ever, their 63-run partnership lacked urgency, yielding just 37 runs in the Powerplay and leaving them far behind the required run rate. The turning point arrived with the dismissal of Campbelle, which triggered a severe middle-order collapse.

Managing expectations has been hardest thing about being World Champion: D Gukesh



D Gukesh, the youngest undisputed world chess champion in history, has admitted that managing expectations has been one of the hardest things as world champion.

there is this kind of elephant in the room," he told a few Indian journalists just after Norway Chess' Closing Ceremony. "Like you are expected and also you expect something. I'm in general also an ambitious player and I keep going for wins.

Gukesh can draw inspiration from Praggnanandhaa's Norway Chess triumph, says Anand



Hailing R Praggnanandhaa's remarkable turnaround en route to winning the Norway Chess title, chess legend Viswanathan Anand on Monday said struggling world champion D Gukesh can take inspiration from his compatriot's perseverance and hard work to rediscover form ahead of his title defence later this year.

added. The five-time world champion said Praggnanandhaa is always "ready for a fight" on the board, and the attitude helps him produce some interesting concepts while playing. "Actually, it's the same Pragg in the last one and half years.

Gaikwad's century help India A edge Sri Lanka A by 8 runs in tri-series opener

Dambulla: A magnificent century from Ruturaj Gaikwad and a composed effort from the bowlers helped India A begin the Tri-Nation A Series with a hard-fought 8-run victory over Sri Lanka A at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Tuesday.



run knock, before a late flourish lifted the scoring rate. Ayush Badoni contributed a brisk 24 from 18 balls, while Suryansh Shedje's unbeaten 26 off just 14 deliveries gave India A the finishing kick.



## Allu Arjun's Sudden Surprise For Mega – Allu Fans



on Peddi. Naturally, his tweet grabbed the attention of both Mega and Allu fans. For some time now, social media has been flooded with unverified rumours about differences between the Mega and Allu families. However, both families have repeatedly dismissed such talk through their actions and public appearances. Now, Bunny's warm words for Charan have once again strengthened that message. Fans from both sides are celebrating the gesture and welcoming the positive vibes surrounding the two families.

Despite relentless rumours of a rift, the Mega and Allu families continue to prove them wrong time and again. From family events to public gestures, the bond remains strong. Now, Allu Arjun's praise for Ram Charan and Peddi has once again delighted fans of both camps. Allu Arjun has shared his thoughts on Peddi and his tweet is winning hearts across social media. The Pushpa actor heaped praise on Ram Charan's performance and called it a gritty and raw act backed by an extraordinary transformation and graceful dance moves. Bunny said he was genuinely proud of his brother and felt Charan deserved every bit of the applause coming his way. He also appreciated Jagapathi Babu, Janhvi Kapoor and the rest of the cast for their contributions to the film. Special praise was reserved for director Buchi Babu Sana. Allu Arjun credited the filmmaker for elevating every artist in the film and presenting Ram Charan on a grand scale. He also congratulated the producers and technicians behind the project. Interestingly, Allu Arjun is the first major Tollywood star here to publicly shower praise

## 3K For Hollywood Movie Ticket In India: Not An Alarming Sign?



Advance booking for Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey opened in India at 10:00 am on June 8, there's been a sudden demand for the tickets. No one expected that the film would attract a big demand since it is a Hollywood film due for release only next month. Interestingly, the film's ticket prices are going to touch 3000 rupees in one of the North Indian cities. Universal Pictures has announced plans for only two shows, both on IMAX screens: one early morning and one at night or evening. Nolan's last film, Oppenheimer, also attracted a big craze, but then there were no exorbitant prices for the film. In the recent past, we have seen this crazy demand only for Dhurandhar: The Revenge. Pune will be the city to host a costly screening

for the film. The film starts at around 1400 rupees and goes up to 3000 rupees, which is shocking. In Mumbai, the film's ticket is priced affordably, at less than 1000 rupees. Only at PVR Lower Parel, the rates are slightly higher, as the starting price is 700 rupees and it goes up to 1400 rupees. At most, the film's ticket is available for 2000 rupees in the city. Now, coming back to reality, the Indian audiences are always ready to embrace foreign movies. But at the same time, if these foreign films are sold at high prices, compared to our films, it will surely lead to a debate. Having said that, a lot of genuine moviegoers will not be able to afford such prices even when they want to watch the film. Surely, this is not a healthy trend in Indian market and we have to see the outcome of it.

## Anumana Pakshi Teaser: Innovative and Fresh



Anumana Pakshi starring Rag Mayur is directed by DJ Tillu director Vimal Krishna and produced Rajiv Chilaka. The movie promotional material has created good buzz and anticipation for it. Now, the makers released the teaser. The teaser introduces us to Anumana Pakshi character about how his fears, doubts irritate even his parents. They think about getting him married and the girl accepts him with his character intact. We see Ajay as police officer investigating the story of the lead. Ajay and Raasi scenes bring new comic energy and every character looks fresh. Rag Mayur's performance as the man who doubts everyone and everything is humorous, intelligent and engaging. The entire teaser discusses about makers brought in a mix of three genres including dark comedy, horror and investigative thriller. Vimal Krishna has created a very innovative narrative that flows through organically. The humor works big time and character based jokes work really well.

## Monday BO: Peddi Holds Very Strong On Working Day

Generally, for most films passing the test at the ticket counters on Monday is the most crucial task as this forms the first working day after the opening weekend. In the case of Ram Charan's latest film Peddi, it has passed the Monday test with flying colours. The film has reportedly completed the first Monday test with absolutely brilliant returns as it was able to bring the audience to theatres in substantial numbers. According to the latest reports, this film was able to generate significant revenues at the ticket counters on the first Monday, and the booking trends on BookMyShow were also pretty promising. Mega Power Star Ram Charan is breaking records with his rural sports drama Peddi at the box office.



## Kajal Chooses Love Over Controversy for South Cinema

Kajal Aggarwal, one of the most celebrated stars in South Indian cinema, has once again expressed her admiration for the industry that played a major role in her successful career. Speaking about the strengths of South cinema, Kajal said, "When it comes to professionalism, the South is far superior. We've got great technicians, we've got phenomenal directors and storylines and creativity. Look at South cinema's reach now. It's doing far, far better than most Hindi films." Her comments come at a time when discussions around the Janhvi Kapoor-Peddi controversy have created tension among sections of the Bollywood ecosystem and Tollywood supporters. While some voices have been critical of Tollywood over a single issue, Kajal chose a different path. Instead of remaining silent or aligning with the criticism, she openly acknowledged the achievements and strengths of South cinema especially Telugu Cinema. Kajal's remarks highlight the factors that have helped South Indian films achieve nationwide and global recognition in recent years. From innovative storytelling and technical excellence to strong performances and visionary filmmaking, South cinema has consistently raised the bar for the Indian film industry. Many Telugu fans have warmly welcomed Kajal's words, viewing them as an honest and courageous acknowledgment of Tollywood's growth and influence. Having earned the status of a former Tollywood queen, Kajal's appreciation has resonated strongly with audiences.

## No Lesbian Love Story Between Rashmika & Kriti Sanon

As anticipation builds for Cocktail 2, slated to hit theatres on June 19, the film's makers have addressed rumors surrounding the storyline and the characters played by Kriti Sanon and Rashmika Mandanna. In recent weeks, social media buzz suggested that the two actresses would portray a lesbian couple in the film and that the narrative would include several steamy scenes between them. The speculation gained traction online, prompting discussions among fans eager to know more about the romantic drama. However, during a press interaction held on Monday, producer Dinesh Vijan firmly denied the reports. Clarifying the film's plot, he stated that Cocktail 2 does not feature a lesbian love story. Instead, the film revolves around two separate romantic tracks that are contemporary, emotionally charged, and bold in their treatment. Vijan emphasized that the rumors were baseless and that audiences should wait to experience the story on the big screen. While the film does explore modern relationships and complex emotions, he stressed that the circulating claims do not accurately reflect the narrative. Directed by Homi Adajania, Cocktail 2 stars Shahid Kapoor in the



lead role alongside Kriti Sanon and Rashmika Mandanna. The film is expected to blend romance, drama, and humor, much like its predecessor, while presenting a fresh take on relationships for a new generation of viewers.

## Another Meaty Role For Bhumika



The much-awaited second season of Dhootha is progressing steadily, with Naga Chaitanya not only reprising his lead role but also stepping into the shoes of a producer for the Amazon Prime Video series. Directed by Vikram Kumar, the supernatural thriller has already generated significant buzz following the success of its first season. The latest update is that Bhumika Chawla has been roped in for a key role in the new season. While details about her character are being kept under wraps, sources indicate that she will play an important part in the narrative. The talented actress was last seen in Euphoria, where she portrayed a mother, and has increasingly gravitated towards content-driven projects.