



## Ukraine Launches Major Drone Attack Strikes Moscow Oil Refinery



Ukraine hit a Moscow oil refinery for a second time in a week and disrupted commercial flights at Moscow airports in one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia's invasion more than four years ago, Russian officials said

Thursday. The Russian Defense Ministry said that its air defenses overnight shot down 555 Ukrainian drones over multiple regions, with almost 200 intercepted as they were approaching the Russian capital. Several

drones hit the Moscow Oil Refinery on the southeastern outskirts of the city, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said. The Russian Transport Ministry said that flights from four Moscow airports were halted.

## Vanamahotsavam at Gurranguda

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday said the Vanamahotsavam programme being launched at Gurranguda is not a symbolic exercise but a result of a firm resolve shaped by past environmental challenges. He recalled the large-scale destruction caused by encroachments on lakes and forest lands during previous regimes, which led to severe flooding in Hyderabad even with minimal rainfall. He said such issues highlighted the urgent need for sustainable urban planning. The Chief Minister stated that the present government has been focusing on protecting water bodies, restoring drainage



systems, and reclaiming forest lands through legal efforts. He added that the initiative aims to transform 2021 floods as Malkajgiri Referring to his visit to Gurranguda during the 2021 floods as Malkajgiri MP, he said the distress witnessed at the time inspired the idea behind the current plantation drive. He noted that after as-

suming office, the government has intensified legal action against encroachments and taken steps to safeguard forest areas. Describing the Vanamahotsavam at Gurranguda as a reflection of the government's commitment, he said efforts are underway to create green spaces and improve ecological balance in the city.

## DMK MLAs Protest Over Law



Chennai: Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MLAs wore black badges in the state assembly on Thursday to protest the alleged deterioration of the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. Ahead of the session, the legislators staged a demonstration inside the Assembly premises, amidst the reported rise in sexual violence against young girls in the state. They carried placards featuring slogans such as "Open your mouth, CM!", "Can you hear the cries of anguish, CM?", and "Young girls are here; where are the Lion Women?". Amidst the rise in sexual violence against young girls in Tamil Nadu, DMK MLAs staged a protest within the Legislative As-

sembly complex wearing black badges bearing the slogan "Speak up, CM" (Vaai Thiranga CM). "SpeakUpCM," said DMK. The protest was led by the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, Udhayanidhi Stalin. The legislators accused the TVK of allegedly attempting to destabilise the Opposition through political inducements. Earlier, the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Udhayanidhi Stalin, attended a wedding presided over by DMK President and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. During the event, he criticised the governance of the Joseph Vijay-led TVK and dismissed the party as a 'Sofa Model' government.



## Police Raid

Hyderabad: Police conducted raids on adulterated paneer manufacturing units in the city, uncovering large-scale food safety violations. During the inspections, officials checked 45 food outlets and eight manufacturing units, seizing 825 kg of adulterated paneer along with other food items and cheese. Several units were found operating without valid licences. Authorities revealed that traders were preparing paneer using starch, non-milk fats, synthetic milk, and other substandard materials. Action is being initiated against those involved for endangering public health.

# Oil Prices Sink Further as Trump Signs Deal to Reopen Hormuz

HONG KONG: Oil prices tumbled again Thursday after US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart signed off on a deal to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The news boosted optimism for a lasting peace between the two nations after more than three months of war that has rattled energy markets and fuelled a fresh spike in inflation. However, the upbeat mood on trading floors was tempered by

expectations the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates before year's end, after its new boss held his first policy meeting and acknowledged "persistently high prices are a burden for the American people". Trump put his signature to the memorandum of understanding in Versailles after the G7 summit, telling reporters: "Just signed it." Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei, quoted by the state news agency IRNA, said the

document "was finalised with the signatures of the presidents". All eyes are now on the strait, through which a fifth of world oil normally passes and which Tehran effectively closed after the US and Israel launched their war on Iran on February 28. "As a first step, Islamic Republic of Iran will instantly reopen the Strait of Hormuz and the United States of America will immediately lift the naval blockade," Pakistan Prime



Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose officials mediated the agreement, said on X. The deal will see Washington commit to immediately waive oil sanctions and facilitate

the release of a \$300 billion reconstruction fund, while Tehran agrees to dilute its enriched uranium as talks on a longer-term agreement are held.



## Free Entry to Zoos in Tamil Nadu on June 21-22 to Mark CM Vijay's Birthday

Chennai: To mark the birthday of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, the state government on Thursday announced a waiver of entry fees at zoological parks on June 21 and 22. Announcing the measure, Minister Ranjith Kumar told reporters that the

initiative was organised specifically for the enjoyment of young visitors. "Children are like gods to us. We have arranged this for their happiness," the Minister said. The CM's birthday falls on June 22, and the two-day waiver is part of the administration's celebratory measures.

## Informal Cabinet Meet at Secretariat Telangana Moves Towards Digital Cabinet

Hyderabad: An informal Cabinet meeting is currently underway at the Secretariat, where Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and ministers are holding detailed discussions on key issues. The meeting is focusing on the release of Rythu Bharosa funds, recent political developments, and strategies to mount pressure on the Centre for approvals related to Metro Phase-2. Discussions are also being held on ensuring that the Centre procures the entire paddy produced in



the state. Meanwhile, the government has approved the Telangana Digital Cabinet initiative, marking a shift towards paperless governance. The Chief Minister re-

viewed the new system, while IT Minister Sridhar Babu distributed special tablets to ministers to enable digital access to Cabinet agendas and documents.

## TCA Issues Notice to Vijay Deverakonda



Hyderabad: Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) reportedly issued legal notices to film actors Vijay Deverakonda and Venkatesh, as well as cricketers Tilak Varma, Ambati Rayudu, and Mohd Siraj. The notice states that the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) is conducting business with corporate companies without BCCI approval and that promoting the HCA's TG20 League—which lacks BCCI authorization—constitutes an offense.

## Resumption of 100 Acres at Fabcity SEZ

Hyderabad: Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka of the Telangana High Court on Thursday refused to interfere presently with the resumption of 100 acres of land at Fabcity, SEZ, Raveriya Village of Maheswaram Mandal at the instance of State Bank of India (SBI). The judge was livid at the manner in which the SBI had granted a loan on the basis of a lease document. The judge wondered how such a huge loan could be granted against a wafer insecurity.



## Gold Rates

On June 18, Gold prices moved in a mixed trend across major Indian cities on Thursday. While the gold rate today in Chennai surged sharply across 24K, 22K and 18K categories, the gold rate today in Hyderabad remained largely unchanged after the recent correction. The gold rate in Hyderabad stayed stable today after the recent correction in bullion prices. As of today, the 24K gold rate today in Hyderabad stands at Rs. 15,110 per gram, while the 22K gold rate today in Hyderabad is Rs. 13,850 per gram and the 18K gold rate today is Rs 11,332 per gram. For buyers planning larger purchases, the 10-gram gold price today in Hyderabad is Rs. 1,51,100 for 24-carat gold, Rs. 1,38,500 for 22-carat gold, and Rs. 1,13,320 for 18-carat gold.

## Tamil Nadu Slams Kerala Over Mullaperiyar Dam in First Assembly Session



The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday criticized Kerala on the issue related to the Mullaperiyar dam, during the first session of the state Legislative Assembly held after Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led government assumed office and won the trust vote earlier this year. During the policy speech, the government clarified that it will not allow a new dam and will resist the efforts of the Kerala government. The Mullaperiyar dam issue has been a bone of contention between the two states for a long time. The session began with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar's address to the House in the morning. In his maiden address to the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Arlekar said the state government will take

steps for fair devolution of funds from the Centre. A report detailing Centre's "discriminatory approach" over financial devolution to Tamil Nadu will be published, he said. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin and others were present. He also referred to the White Paper presented by the TVK-led state government released recently over the previous government's "fiscal mismanagement." "Every individual living in TN bears debt burden of over Rs 1 lakh." For the first time in the past few years, the Governor struck to the government-prepared text of his speech, unlike his predecessor RN Ravi who even walked out during his address in the wake of the face-off between the Raj Bhavan and the DMK-led government.

Friday, June 19, 2026

## Picnic Binds Community, Family, and Friends Together

(On the occasion of "International Picnic Day" on 18 June)

The word 'picnic' is originated from French term "pique-nique", which means to a meal where everyone contributed at least a dish each. Over the time, picnicking evolved into a popular, delightful, enjoyable, leisure, outdoor activity and share a meal with others. The Sun is shining, and a gentle breeze whispers through the trees - it's the perfect setting for a picnic. And it is a better way to celebrate "International Picnic Day" annually on 18 June, embracing the slower pace of life, savouring good food, and making memories with close friends and relatives. It's a time to pack a basket full of favourite foods, find a scenic spot, and enjoy the experience of dining outside. "Significance of Picnic:" Picnic May be a small or large gathering, it is a beloved tradition that brings people together. This day is a fun and informal observance that encourages people to enjoy a meal outdoors in the company of friends, family, or community. It is the simple pleasure of eating together, in park, by the beach, or in your own backyard. Picnic is a wonderful way of relax, connect with nature, and spend quality time with loved ones. The significance and benefits of picnic are community bonding, appreciation of nature, exchange of culture, spending family time, and help mindfulness and relaxation. "Let's all get outside and enjoy the nice weather by dining under sky with good food and drinks. Let's celebrate the World Picnic Day by organising a picnic in the nearby scenic outdoor, enjoy to the fullest extent, treasure the memories in your digital reels.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

## Naini draws development roadmap, sets tough deadline for works



Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy targets 90% completion for Kazipet development works before the monsoon. Get updates on the Railway Over Bridge, new 30-bed hospital, and land issue inquiries. Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy on Tuesday said that the government was working with a clear target of completing 90 per cent of the development works taken up in Kazipet's 61st Division before the onset of the monsoon season. He said the administration remained committed not only to launching projects but also to ensuring their timely completion and availability for public use. The MLA laid the foundation stone for development works worth Rs. 1 crore in Venkatadri Nagar and Prashanth Nagar and stated that strict timelines had been fixed for every project. According to him, officials were carrying out continuous field-level moni-

toring to accelerate execution and maintain quality standards. Highlighting the government's focus on Kazipet, Naini Rajender Reddy said work on the Kazipet Railway Over Bridge had gained momentum after the present government assumed office. He also announced that a foundation stone would soon be laid for a 30-bed government hospital. Discussions were additionally underway with the Central and State governments regarding the establishment of a new bus stand in Kazipet. The MLA reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting public assets, stating that measures such as fencing and barricading were being undertaken to prevent encroachments. He said the district administration was conducting a detailed inquiry into the YSR Nagar land issue and assured that appropriate action would be taken based on legal findings and ownership status.

# Urea Availability to Farmers Being Ensured, Says Tummala

HYDERABAD: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday urged farmers, especially those with large farm holdings, not to rush to purchase large quantities of urea at a single time, stating that the government was committed to equitable distribution of the fertiliser to all farmers, including those with small and marginal holdings. Urea supplies will be provided in phases according to need and stage of the crop. Farmers should also be cautious not to use urea in excess as this can damage soil fertility, the minister said. Nageswara Rao, addressing farmers via videoconferencing during the weekly Rythu Nestham programme, said, 22.67 lakh urea bags were available at retail outlets, 5.56 lakh with cooperative societies, 59.56 lakh with Markfed, and 3.56 lakh bags were available in warehouses in the state. He said farmers who do not have a smartphone, or were unable to use the fertiliser app for various reasons, could also a toll-free service available daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Upon receiving a call, staff will complete the urea booking process on the farmers' behalf, and help them throughout the process. Measures are being taken to ensure that only genuine farmers receive fertilizers and that individu-



als without agricultural land cannot purchase urea. The state is coordinating with the central government to secure the required urea quota and steps are being taken to ensure timely transportation of urea to districts through railway wagons and trucks, he said.



## Two killed, three injured as speeding car hits auto on Rajiv Rahadari in Siddipet

Siddipet: A speeding car rammed into a stationary auto rickshaw, which in turn dashed against a pedestrian leading to two deaths and injuries to three persons on Rajiv Rahadari near Gouraram village on Tuesday. Police said the car driver Katkri Ashok, who was proceeding towards Siddipet side, lost control of the vehicle and rammed into the auto rickshaw, which in turn hit a pedestrian. The pedestrian Kaiti Sathaiah (42) and a passenger sitting in the auto Korimi Lakshmi (45) died on the spot. The auto driver, his daughter and three passengers travelling in the car sustained injuries. The police have registered a case.

## CM's Agriculture Review An 'Eye Wash': Harish

HYDERABAD: Former minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's review of agriculture department on Tuesday was a "mere eyewash" which tried to mask the Congress government's conspiracy to completely withdraw crop bonus. Harish Rao, in a statement, asked if the meeting was conducted only to impose further restrictions on farmers and reduce the burden of bonus payments. "The Congress promised a ₹500 bonus for all crops in its election manifesto. Later, it restricted the bonus to 33 varieties of fine paddy. Now, it has further reduced eligibility to just seven varieties. This clearly exposes the government's intention to evade its commitment to farmers," he said.



He also questioned the fate of farmers who had already prepared nurseries of other varieties of rice based on earlier government announcements. Criticising the government's crop diversification campaign, Harish Rao said many farmers who trusted official advice and cultivated maize, sorghum, sunflower, soybean and groundnut had suffered heavy losses.

## Bandi Sanjay slams Congress over illegal infiltrators in voter lists

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar defends the electoral roll revision process, rejects claims of Metro Phase-II obstruction, and highlights the NDA government's 12-year milestones. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar criticised the Congress party over its stand on the removal of illegal foreign infiltrators from electoral rolls, alleging that it was attempting to create communal divisions for political gain. Political Opinion Articles Speaking to mediapersons after participating in a 'Chai Pe Charcha' programme with RMP doctors at Manakondur, Bandi Sanjay said that no genuine Indian citizen's voting rights should be affected. However, he maintained that the names of illegal immigrants from countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh must be



removed from voter lists. Questioning the Congress party's position, he asked whether it supported the deletion of votes belonging to illegal foreign immigrants. He further alleged that Congress was unnecessarily linking foreign Muslims with Indian Muslims and demanded an apology to the Muslim community for creating confusion on the issue. The Union Minister also dismissed allegations that Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy was obstructing the Hyderabad Metro Phase-II project, describing such claims as baseless propaganda. He said the Central government had consistently supported Telangana's devel-

opment through major infrastructure projects and financial assistance. Highlighting the completion of 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led government, Bandi Sanjay said the BJP was reaching out to various sections of society to showcase the Centre's achievements and gather suggestions for future development initiatives. He claimed that the NDA government had focused on welfare, development and transparent governance while extending substantial support to Telangana. On the Maoist issue, he alleged that extremist ideologies had harmed society and urged those holding such views to join the mainstream.

## Forest-revenue boundary disputes take centrestage

Khammam: District Collector Divakara TS directed officials to take coordinated measures to resolve land disputes arising from forest and revenue boundary issues in the district. At a review meeting on Tuesday, the Collector assessed issues relating to forest and revenue land boundaries with officials from the concerned departments. Divakar said the district administration has initiated steps to address disputes involving forest and revenue land boundaries and emphasized the need for close coordination between departments to ensure effective resolution. The Collector reviewed issues related to CA land mutations, forest-revenue boundary disputes, and problems concerning lands covered under the Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) Act. He sought inputs from field-level officials on the status of these cases.

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

Hanumakonda: Jangaon MLA Dr Palla Rajeshwar Reddy on Tuesday said that the ideals of Dr B.R. Ambedkar continue to serve as the guiding force for the upliftment of Dalits and called upon people to follow his vision in their daily lives. Speaking after inaugurating a newly installed Ambedkar statue at Ramsagar village in Komuravelli mandal, the MLA said Ambedkar was a visionary leader who ensured equal rights for all citizens and strengthened India's democratic foundations through the principle of "One Person, One Vote." Dr Palla said the previous BRS government introduced the Dalit Bandhu scheme to bring economic and social transformation among Dalit families by providing direct financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh without bank linkage. He noted that the scheme reduced dependence on loans and eased financial hardships. Indian Current Events The MLA also described the 125-foot Ambedkar statue in Hyderabad as a matter of pride for Telangana. He said Ambedkar memorials should inspire both governments and citizens to work towards social justice and an egalitarian society.



# Hyderabad Voice

Friday, June 19, 2026

## Telangana Metro: Triangular Fight Takes Flight



Hyderabad Metro is one of the large scale implementations in terms of public transportation in all of India. It has now started to create a political discourse of it-

self with the three leading parties indulging in their own argument. Firstly, it is Congress chief minister Revanth Reddy, who is firing on both BRS and the BJP for their inhibitions with the project. He claims that the previous BRS administration which orchestrated this project sought their own benefits and financial gains over public demand. Revanth Reddy is giving the clear indication that the BRS messed up the Hyderabad Metro project by not allocating crucial routes that have public demand. He is blaming the BJP for not contributing enough to this Metro project at the central level, and even said minister Kishan Reddy is opposing the same. In response to this, the BRS leadership is saying that Revanth Reddy is an incompetent leader who is unable to secure additional Metro lines and simply crying foul on the previous government. The BRS leadership is saying that Revanth Reddy must focus on working with the Centre and allocating new routes to the metro project rather than criticising the BRS regime which initiated the project in the first place. BJP leader Rakesh Reddy said Revanth Reddy came to power by making false promises, and he is unable to fulfil the same, and he is pushing the blame on the BJP by making allegations on Kishan Reddy. The BJP leadership is saying that they are contributing enough to this Metro project at the central level, but it is Revanth Reddy, who is unable to gain the intellectual capability to execute the same. It turns out to be that the Hyderabad Metro project has become a political topic of discussion with the three mentioned parties indulging in a triangular fight.

## ACB uncovers Rs 13 cr assets from land survey official



Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday, June 16, raided the properties of a Survey and Land Records official as part of a disproportionate assets case and uncovered assets worth Rs 13.05 crore. According to the ACB, Deputy Director of Multi Zone-II, Sunkari Narahari Rao acquired these assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by indulging in corrupt practices and dubious means during his service. Raids were conducted at 10 different places where officials uncovered documents of five open plots in Rangareddy District, 1.24 acre of agricultural land at Maheshwaram, a residential flat in a high-rise building at Puppalaguda, two residential flats in a high-rise building at Narsingi, and another residential flat in a high-rise building at Rajendranagar. One G+3 building located at TNGOs Colony, Gachibowli, and one G+2 residential building at Chatrinaka were also detected. Net cash of approximately Rs 1.54 crore, bank balances amounting to Rs 2.29 crore, fixed deposits worth Rs 5.04 crore, gold ornaments weighing about 1.3 kg, and eight kilogram of silver were also found in the accused's house. Two lockers in the name of the officer's wife were also detected and will be opened in due course of the investigation, ACB said.

## Telangana govt forms panel to establish hamali welfare board

Hyderabad: The Telangana government will form a special committee to establish a dedicated Hamali Welfare Board for manual loading workers across the state, Labour and Mines Minister G Vivek Venkata swamy announced on Tuesday, June 16. The committee will include government officials, representatives from hamali associations, union leaders and domain experts, the minister said, adding that he had directed immediate steps for its constitution. Venkata swamy said the proposed board would comprehensively address issues of worker welfare, minimum wages, identity cards, insurance and social security. The government, he



added, intended to set up a strong and effective board after consulting all hamali associations in the state. The minister noted that hamali workers are currently covered under an accidental death insurance scheme providing Rs 2 lakh to families of workers who die in on-duty accidents. He also urged workers to register under the Indira Jeevan Bheema

scheme, which offers insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh. Venkata swamy further called for expediting the sanctioning of houses to eligible hamali workers under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, describing it as essential to ensuring a dignified life for poor labour families. He appealed to all hamali workers to register and avail the benefits of existing government welfare schemes.

## Doctors In Telangana Lost Rs 30 Crores To Cyber Fraud

Hyderabad: With 735 doctors having been scammed of Rs 30 crore by cybercriminals since September 2024, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) held a high-level cyber awareness meeting with the medical fraternity here on Tuesday. Speaking at the meeting, TGCSB Director Shikha Goel highlighted the rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape and emphasized the need for greater vigilance among health care professionals. Cybercriminals today are targeting everyone, including healthcare professionals. Being highly educated or professionally accomplished does not make anyone immune to cyber fraud. Awareness, caution, and timely reporting remain our strongest defenses," she said.



## 650 families panic as bulldozer threat looms in Secunderabad Cantonment

Hyderabad: Tension prevailed in Secunderabad Cantonment after officials allegedly arrived with bulldozers on Tuesday and warned residents of Ambedkar Huts (Mudfort Huts) to vacate their homes within 15 days. The incident triggered fear among nearly 650 poor families who have been living in the area, reportedly for around four decades. Residents alleged that no prior notices were served before the eviction warning. The arrival of bulldozers sparked concerns over a possible demolition drive, prompting local families to seek intervention. BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank visited the locality and met the affected residents. He assured them of political and legal support including approaching the courts to secure a stay against any eviction or demolition. He de-

clared that the BRS would oppose any demolition of the huts. Condemning the proposed action, Krishank termed the move inhuman and questioned how families that had lived in the area for nearly 40 years could be forced out without rehabilitation. He took up the issue with BRS working president KT Rama Rao, who promised all possible legal assistance to the affected families. Targeting the Congress government, the BRS leader alleged that despite being in power for nearly three years, it had failed to construct even a single Indiramma house in Hyderabad. "A government that should be building houses for the poor appears interested in demolishing the homes of the poor," he said, condemning the bulldozer politics being replicated in Hyderabad.

## Minister asks builders to withdraw protest, assures dues clearance

Hyderabad: Telangana Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komati Reddy on Tuesday, June 16, assured clearance of pending dues for builders and contractors and asked them to call off their 'Chalo Hyderabad' protest scheduled for June 18. He expressed concern over the suicide of six contractors over pending dues and said that the government is working sincerely to resolve their problems. The Minister said the government is paying dues of thousands of crores pending from the previous government in phases. There are dues of Rs 4,000 crore in the R&B department itself, he said. He said that since Congress came to power, bills of more than Rs 3,000 crore have been released to contractors, and about Rs 2,500 crore are still to be paid. He said that the total arrears accumulated across the state reached Rs 8,000 crore at one stage. He accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of spending one lakh crore rupees on "unnecessary projects" while ignoring key projects like Brahmin Vellamla, SLBC Tunnel, and



Palamuru-Ranga Reddy. "These projects were very necessary for the farmers and the people, but were neglected. That is why they (BRS) were limited to only three out of the 30 Assembly seats in those three districts," the minister said. He urged builders and contractors to cancel the 'Chalo Hyderabad' program, saying that in the wake of widespread

rains, there is a need to continue work on roads, bridges and emergency repairs. The minister promised to hold a meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka in the next three or four days and formulate an action plan to resolve the pending dues within three months.

## Malla Reddy College Fined Rs 1 Lakh For Withholding Student's Certificates

Hyderabad: The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission-I levied a fine of Rs 1.10 lakh on Malla Reddy Engineering College for harassing and withholding a former student's original certificates, demanding additional fees to retrieve the same. As per reports, Rakesh Varma's son from Nampally joined the B.Tech AI & Machine Learning course at the Malla Reddy Engineering College Maisammaguda campus in October 2021. He paid Rs 80,000 as the first-year tuition fee. At the time of admission, the college staff took his Class 10 and Intermediate original certificates as per requirement. Due to severe financial difficulties, the student could not continue his studies after completing the first semester. When he and his father approached the college to retrieve the original certificates, the management demanded an additional Rs 80,000 in fees, which he could not pay, and as a result, the student lost four academic years. He approached the Consumer Commission in September last year. After receiving the Commission's notice, the Malla Reddy College management returned the certificates and requested dismissal of the case. The Commission noted that the management's conduct caused severe mental agony to the student and directed the college to pay Rs 1 lakh as compensation and Rs 10,000 towards court costs within 45 days, failing which the amount must be paid with 9% interest.

## HC Allows Students to Write Exam

Hyderabad: Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the Telangana High Court directed authorities to allow two diploma students to appear for the June 2026 supplementary examinations. The students questioned the decision of the education authorities and the board to prevent them from appearing for the supplementary examinations scheduled from June 18. The petitioners contended that they were allowed to attend classes, internal examinations and practical examinations, and that medical grounds raised by some students were not properly considered.

## Revanth Aligns Bullet Train With Urban Hubs



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed officials to ensure that the alignment of the three proposed bullet train corridors in Telangana was designed to boost tourism and support future economic growth centres across the state. He stressed that location of stations and planning of the route should be aligned with key tourist destinations and emerging urban hubs. He directed officials to establish a station near Ananthagiri Hills in Vikarabad on the Hyderabad-Pune corridor and ensure seamless transport connectivity from the hill station

to Hyderabad's IT hub. For the Hyderabad-Bengaluru project, he directed that a station be set up in Bharat Future City and that additional stations be planned near Mannanur in the Nallamala forest region and close to Somasila. Revanth Reddy said the railway alignment should be designed keeping tourism potential in mind and proposed that Hyderabad, particularly Shamshabad, be developed and promoted as a major bullet train hub. He was speaking at a review of the Hyderabad-Pune and Hyderabad-Bengaluru high-speed rail projects, which were sanctioned for

Telangana in the Union Budget 2026-27. The Chief Minister also reviewed the proposed designs for the Warangal airport and emphasised that the facility should reflect the rich heritage of the Kakatiya dynasty. He suggested that the airport's architecture and aesthetics should showcase the legacy of the Kakatiya Empire. Revanth Reddy directed officials to plan a large island at the entrance of the airport and install statues of Rani Rudrama Devi, Rudradeva and a massive Nandi sculpture as iconic landmarks. He instructed officials to visit Delhi and hold discussions with Airports Authority of India officials regarding the airport's design and development plans. The review meeting was attended by MP Vem Narender Reddy, special chief secretary Vikas Raj, CMO principal secretary Srinivasa Raju, TGIIC commissioner Shashanka, Rangareddy collector Narayana Reddy and roads and buildings special secretary Praveenya.



## Bonalu Buzz Begins As Ujjaini Temple Unveils Schedule

HYDERABAD: Ashadam Bonalu, the biggest festival in the state, will be celebrated with grandeur this year. On Tuesday, the temple authorities and priests of Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Devasthanam, Secunderabad, presented the schedule of the 2026 Bonalu Jatara events to minister Ponnampati Prabhakar. According to the schedule, the Ghatotsavam (Edurukolu) will be held at 4 pm on Sunday, July 19. The main Bonalu festival will be celebrated on August 2. The Rangam Bhavishyavani ceremony is scheduled for 8.30 am on Monday, August 3, followed by the Gaja Vahana procession at around 10.30 am. During their interaction with the minister, the temple priests requested the government to make comprehensive arrangements and provide adequate facilities for devotees, as a large number are expected to attend the Ashada Jatara from across Telangana and neighbouring states. Prabhakar assured them that the government would extend full cooperation and take all necessary measures for the smooth conduct of the festivities. He added that a review meeting with officials and the endowments minister would be convened shortly to finalise the arrangements.

## Kishan Reddy Rebuts Revanth's Metro Loan Allegations



Hyderabad: Union coal minister G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday strongly rebutted Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's allegations that he had engineered a stall in a Rs 13,500-crore financing arrangement with the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) for Hyderabad Metro, saying the loan pact was negotiated and agreed by the Telangana government and is a matter between the State and the lender. Speaking to newsmen in Delhi, Kishan Reddy said he had never inter-

vened to secure or block IRFC funds and that the state government, not the Centre, finalised the agreement for Rs 13,527 crore. "This is for them to decide," he said, adding that he had discussed the matter with Union urban development minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who conveyed the Centre's concern that metro revenues must first be used for operations and maintenance before servicing any loan. Kishan Reddy said he had advised the Chief Minister to prioritise developing a sustainable financial plan for the project instead of pre-paying loans from projected metro receipts, and suggested operational stability be achieved first so the metro can be self-sustaining. Kishan Reddy accused Revanth Reddy of making baseless, politically motivated charges. "Which minister told me to withhold funds — can Revanth Reddy point to one," he asked, calling the Chief Minister's allegations at a public forum

## Strong response to HMDA's Medipally land auction

Hyderabad: Over 200 prospective bidders have shown interest in the auction of land at Medipally to be taken up by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority on June 24. Hyderabad City Guide A pre-bid meeting regarding the proposed Medipally layout was held at the project site on June 16. Over 200 prospective bidders enthusiastically attended the meeting, making the event a success. Officials and representatives present at the meeting addressed the queries raised by the participants. HMDA Deputy Collector Y Sudarshan explained the key features of the Medipally layout and answered various questions posed by the bidders. HMDA Chief Planning Officer A Ravinder Reddy clarified doubts regarding layout planning aspects and development proposals.

## Pawan Kalyan In Warangal – What's Up?



Janasena Chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan will visit Warangal tomorrow. The visit is mainly planned to meet young Boy Niranjan, a child who is battling a serious illness. Reportedly, the boy's last wish was to meet his favourite leader, and Pawan decided to personally fulfil that wish. After meeting the child, Pawan is also expected to interact with local Janasena leaders. Because of this, the visit is now attracting political attention in Telangana as well. Recently, Pawan Kalyan came into focus after the Telangana government denied permission for the "Navanirman Sabha" planned in Hyderabad during Telangana Formation Day celebrations. His strong comments against the denial created political discussion across the state. While BRS and Congress leaders criticised him, BJP lead-

ers openly supported his stand. Later, during a party event in Delhi, Pawan once again spoke about Telangana and questioned why he was being stopped from touring the state. He also shared his views on the state bifurcation issue. Now, with his Warangal visit being announced, political circles are closely watching his moves. Officially, the tour is meant to console and support young Niranjan. But many believe Pawan may also respond to the ongoing political developments in Telangana. At the same time, Janasena is said to be speeding up its expansion plans in Telangana. Party sources say a state level joining committee may be announced soon. In this background, Pawan's Warangal visit has gained even more importance politically.

## Police urge motorists to update contact info on VAHAN

Hyderabad: With an aim at ensuring that vehicle owners receive timely information, Hyderabad City Police issued an advisory urging all motorists in the city to update their contact details on the 'VAHAN' portal. This measure is regarding traffic e-challans and other critical updates directly on their personal devices. Hyderabad City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar stated that to facilitate seamless and prompt delivery of traffic violation e-challans and pre-notifications, the department is leveraging SMS, WhatsApp and e-mail services. On Tuesday, Sajjanar issued a crucial advisory urging all motorists in the city to update their contact details on the 'VAHAN' portal.



## ABVP Protests Over Govt School Issues, Fee Hike in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Tuesday staged a demonstration at the School Education department director's office in Saifabad demanding solution to the problems being faced by the government schools and to prevent fee extortion by the private and corporate schools. Raising slogans denouncing the inaction of the State government in resolving the issues related to school education, a large number of ABVP activists took part in the demonstration. Speaking on the occasion, ABVP national executive council member Jeevan said that it is unfortunate that attempts are being made to close government schools without strengthening them. He said that the government take immediate action against the fee extortion in private and corporate schools and bring a Fee Control Act.

## Telangana govt to soon introduce Domestic Workers Welfare Act

Hyderabad: Telangana Labour and Employment Minister Dr Vivek Venkatswamy on Tuesday, June 16, announced that the government will soon introduce the Telangana Domestic Workers Welfare Act to ensure social security, dignified wages and safe working conditions for domestic workers. He also stated that a special committee would be constituted to address the issues and concerns of domestic workers across the state. Speaking at a programme organised on the occasion of International Domestic Workers Day, the Minister said



that domestic workers are the backbone of society, but their contributions often go unnoticed. He said the government aims to change this situation and ensure that domestic workers enjoy rights and opportunities on par

with other categories of workers. For this, officials will study domestic workers' welfare laws implemented in various countries and examine suitable models that can be adapted to Telangana's requirements, he said.



## Why Pawan Bringing Lady Tigers To Andhra?

AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has come up with an interesting request to the Centre. Concerned over the declining tiger population in Andhra Pradesh, he urged the Union Government to send six tigresses to the state. Nallamala forests have long been known as a major tiger habitat. However, the tiger population has been showing signs of decline in recent years due to various environmental and human factors. During his Delhi visit, Pawan Kalyan met Union Environment and Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav and discussed wildlife conservation in the state. His key focus was on increasing the tiger population in Nallamala. Pawan requested four tigresses from Maharashtra and two from Madhya Pradesh. He believes this move can help revive tiger breeding and strengthen the long term tiger population in Andhra. The Deputy Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh can emerge as a strong tiger conservation zone if the breeding program succeeds. He also expressed confidence that the state could contribute tigers to other regions in the future.

After bringing Kumki elephants for wildlife management, Pawan is now turning his attention to tiger conservation. His latest proposal reflects a bigger push to restore the glory of Nallamala as one of India's prominent tiger habitats.

## PM Modi emphasises importance of 'trust' in global partnerships at G7, flags lack of respect for international law

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told G7 leaders that global partnerships can succeed only when they are founded on trust, stressing that the world today suffers not from a shortage of resources but from a shortage of trust. Calling for renewed international solidarity in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, Modi said mutual trust is the most important strategic asset and warned that disregard for international law remains the biggest obstacle to building global cooperation, and highlighted that dialogue and diplomacy must be prioritised to ensure peace, stability and stronger international partnerships. The remarks came shortly after Modi was seen exchanging a handshake and a brief conversation with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the summit. The interaction, ahead of a scheduled bilateral meeting between the two



leaders on Wednesday, drew attention amid ongoing discussions on trade, technology, security, and geopolitical challenges. Addressing the Outreach Session on "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity," Modi, seated next to Trump, said that while global interdependence has increased, confidence among nations has eroded. "In a world that is getting more interconnected and interdependent than ever before, this subject becomes all the more vital. But partnerships can succeed only when they are founded on trust," Modi said. "Mutual trust is the most important strategic asset today. But, sadly, today, the world does not suffer from a shortage of resources - it suffers from a shortage of trust. And the future of our partnerships depends on rebuilding this trust," he said. He also identified the "lack of respect for international law" as the biggest hurdle

to building international solidarity and said it must be addressed as a priority. Emphasising the need for peaceful engagement in a volatile global environment, Modi said international partnerships must prioritise "dialogue and diplomacy" to ensure peace and stability. "We, in India, view the world as one family. Our experience shows that development is most effective when it is connected to the aspirations of people," he said. Modi cited a series of India-led global initiatives, including the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and Global as examples of partnerships built around common goals and collective responsibility. A major focus of Modi's address was the need to redefine engagement with developing countries and the Global South. He said nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America were looking for equal partnerships rather than traditional aid arrangements.

## YCP Ex Minister Bad Mouths HM Anitha In Public



search of Andhra Pradesh people these days. I wonder what kind of jobs that she is referring to. We definitely cannot do the kind of jobs that she used to do in the past. Our women are disciplined, and they can't do those jobs." Amarnath said. Amarnath was very vague with his comments, but they are obviously provocative and derogatory by nature. This has triggered a strong reaction from Anitha and she replied "What a YSRCP leader said about me on camera, at a public meeting was not merely an insult. It was a vile, casteist attack aimed at humiliating a woman and a Dalit holding a constitutional office." The language he used is so disgraceful that it cannot even be repeated in public. That fact alone exposes the culture YSRCP has nurtured and normalised.

One of the infamous practices of the previous YCP administration, and Andhra Pradesh was the tendency to use the most derogatory terms against their opponents. Several leaders like Kodali Nani, Ambati Rambabu, Roja and others were constantly on the job of badmouthing the likes of Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan. After the historic 2024 election, many people expected YSR Congress leaders to learn a lesson from the public and stop the unparliamentary language speeches. But that doesn't appear to be the case now. Former IT minister of Andhra Pradesh, Gudivada Amarnath has used extremely objectionable language against home minister Anitha while speaking at a public gathering. In this video, which is now going viral, it is heard that Amarnath says "This makeup minister (referring to Anitha) wears enough makeup that we can weigh it by kilograms. She puts on at least 1 kg kilogram of make up." "She is saying that jobs are coming in



## 12 Sexual Assault Cases In 24 Hours: What Will CM Vijay Do?

There was once a time when Tamil Nadu was one of the safest states in India with regard to women's safety and also general law and order maintenance. But in the recent years, things have been interesting with a massive surge in crimes against women. Now, something significant has happened in Tamil Nadu as it is being reported that 12 sexual cases were filed in the state in the last 24 hours. The shocking thing is that all 12 of these cases were reported in the Chennai city region alone. This includes a three year old girl child who was brutally raped and murdered, followed by seven other attacks on minor girls. Along with that, four women were apparently assaulted in this mentioned period of 24 hours itself. The fact that as many as 12 cases of women and child abuse were reported in Chennai city in the last 24 hours has shocked everyone. Thalpathy Vijay might be new to the job as the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, but there is this pressure on him to take substantial action to this effect. Many people on social media are commenting that it is the responsibility of CM Vijay to set a strong precedent by enforcing strict action against such culprits. Many people are commenting that a few encounters could set things right in Tamil Nadu and warn culprits of deadly consequences if they assault women.

## Phase 1 of Census 2027 Completed in 23 States, Union Territories



New Delhi: Phase one of the 2027 Census, house listing and housing census (HLO), has been completed in 23 states and Union territories so far, a government statement said Tuesday. A 15-day self-enumeration process is underway in Kerala and Nagaland, followed by a field operation starting on July 1 and

continuing until July 30, it said. The field operations for the phase commenced in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, and are already underway in Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Puducherry and Uttar Pradesh. Residents who have completed self-enumeration are requested to keep their generated self-enumeration ID ready and share the same with the enumerator during the field visit to complete the HLO process. Households that have not opted for self-enumeration will be covered during the physical house-to-house visit by enumerators," the statement said. The Rs 11,718 crore census exercise, which is the eighth since Independence, is being conducted in two phases -- the first stage is known as house listing and housing census, while the second stage is the population census. The housing listing and housing census, which started on April 1 and will continue till September 30, will systematically list all structures, houses, and households throughout the country to provide a sound framework for the population enumeration. In a first, the exercise will be digital, with enumerators using a special mobile application to collect the information.

## El Niño To Hit 12 States Severely

New Delhi: The impact of the El Nino weather phenomenon, linked with a weaker monsoon in India, is likely to be "relatively severe" in 12 states, including Telangana, in the Kharif season, according to the agriculture ministry, which on Tuesday directed coordinated action through district-level machinery in the most vulnerable regions. Other states likely to be impacted by El Nino include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. "In 9-10 states where the impact of El Nino may be relatively higher, coordinated meetings should be organised with district magistrates, agriculture departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other extension systems of the identified districts," Union agriculture min-


ister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who chaired the weekly review meeting on Kharif 2026 preparations, said. The minister also stressed the need for advance contingency planning in rain-deficient districts, while also pushing for increased acreage under cotton and pulses, an official statement said. After the meeting, a senior ministry official told the news agency PTI that 12 states have been identified that may be severely impacted due to El Nino and contingency plans for 326 districts in these states are being prepared. El Nino is a climate phenomenon historically linked to weaker monsoons and heightened rainfall uncertainties - a concern that looms large this year. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast the southwest monsoon at around 90 per cent of the long-period average, signalling a below-normal season.

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### VOICE OF WORDS

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## Education

**VOICE OF WORDS**

Friday, June 19, 2026



### TGECET & TGPOLYCET ISSUE ADMISSION SCHEDULES

The Telangana Department of Technical Education has released the counselling schedules for TGECET 2026 and TGPOLYCET 2026. Students are urged to complete fee payments, slot bookings, and option entries within the stipulated timelines to secure their seats. Visit the official portals for detailed notification and helpline information. The Telangana Department of Technical Education on Monday released detailed schedules for TGECET-2026 first-phase admissions counselling and TGPOLYCET-2026 final-phase counselling, urging students to complete fee payment, slot booking, and option entry within the stipulated timelines. Commissioner of Technical Education and convener for both admissions processes, A Sridevasena, issued separate press notes outlining the procedures. Per the TGECET-2026 schedule, you can pay the processing fee and book your certificate verification slot from June 15 to 18. As of June 15, 3,233 candidates have already booked their verification slots. The Commissioner emphasised that students who book early will have more time to exercise their web options, thereby improving their chances of securing seats at their preferred colleges and courses. Certificate verification for TGECET candidates will take place from June 17 to June 19, followed by web option entry from June 17 to June 21. The provisional allotment of seats will be released on or before June 24, 2026. The press note states: "Candidates who book the slot and attend for certificate verification early will have more time for exercising options." Students have been advised to visit the official website at <https://tgecet.nic.in> for detailed notifications, lists of helpline centres, and course information. Officials requested media outlets to give wide publicity to ensure that all eligible candidates complete the required steps on time. Meanwhile, the TGPOLYCET-2026 final-phase counselling will be conducted on a shorter timeline. Certificate verification is scheduled for June 16, while option entry will be open from June 16 to June 17. The provisional seat allotment will be announced on or before June 20. All relevant information, including notifications and course lists, is available on <https://tgpolycet.nic.in>. The Technical Education Department reiterated that timely participation in the counselling process is crucial to securing admission to diploma and engineering programmes across Telangana. We encourage students to use the available helpline centres for guidance and to ensure all documents are ready for verification.

## IRCTC Bids To Organise Study Tours For Maharashtra Govt School Students To ISRO And NASA For First Time

Mumbai: In a significant move aimed at expanding educational travel opportunities, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has expressed interest in organizing study tours for Maharashtra government school students to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). For the first time, IRCTC's Western Zone has participated in the tender process for such an international educational programme and could be awarded the project if it meets all government requirements. Every year, selected meritorious students from government schools across Maharashtra are given an opportunity to visit leading space research institutions such as ISRO and NASA. These tours are designed to expose students to advanced scientific research, innovation and technology, inspiring them to pursue careers in science and space studies. Until now, such educational tours have largely been handled by private tour operators. IRCTC's entry into this segment marks a new development in the state's educational tourism landscape. According to IRCTC officials, the corporation is looking to strengthen



its presence in the educational travel sector across Maharashtra. While the current bid relates to a tender floated by a single district, IRCTC is preparing to participate in similar tenders expected from other districts, including Kolhapur. Officials said Mumbai will also be included in the planned expansion. The corporation is already known for organizing domestic and international tour packages, pilgrimage circuits and school excursions, and now intends to place greater focus on science- and technology-based educational tours. 2016 Ambedkar Bhavan

Demolition Case: Police, BMC Commissioners Tell Bombay HC They Had No Prior Information About Late-Night Action "IRCTC organizes a wide range of domestic and international tourism packages, pilgrimage tours and school excursions. For the first time, we have submitted a bid for an international study tour. At present, the tender pertains to a single district. However, we are preparing to participate in similar tenders for other districts in the future, including Mumbai," said Gaurav Jha, Group General Manager, Western Zone, IRCTC.

### AI job fears push IIT aspirants towards core engineering branches



Hyderabad: Fears of artificial intelligence impacting the software and IT industry, with thousands of skilled professionals being laid off every quarter, appear to be driving students' preference while joining the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). While the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) programme continues to dominate the admissions to premier IITs, the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2026 data revealed a shift in the preference of the IIT aspirants. This year's first-round of JoSAA seat allotment revealed that an increasing number of top-ranked students in the JEE Advanced have opted for the core engineering branches at premier IITs. At the IIT Delhi, the opening rank (the best rank at which a student got a seat) for Civil Engineer-

ing improved from 3,030 in 2025 to 179 in 2026, while it jumped from 2,666 to 385 at the IIT Bombay. Similarly, opening ranks improved in the mechanical engineering branch from 490 to 380 at IIT Bombay, 1,156 to 861 at IIT Delhi and 762 to 543 at IIT Madras. According to Osmania University Vice Chancellor and senior Civil Engineering professor Kumar Molugaram, slowly the trend is again shifting towards the core engineering branches like the civil. "Some students choose civil out of their passion for the branch but a few opt for it, giving preference to the premier IITs. However, the trend is slowly shifting. Given the kind of infrastructure from tunnels, flyovers to high-rise buildings being developed using the latest technology in the country, civil engineers have good scope," he added. TG EAPCET 2026 convener and JNTU-Hyderabad Mechanical Engineering department senior faculty Prof. Vijaya Kumar Reddy said mechanical engineering today has gone beyond traditional manufacturing, with adequate opportunities available in design, automation, materials and thermal systems.



### NTA And IIT Madras Justify Telegram Ban Ahead Of Re-NEET, Cite Edited Messages With Fake Timestamps As Evidence

New Delhi, Jun 16: The National Testing Agency (NTA) and IIT Madras on Tuesday justified the temporary restriction on Telegram ahead of the re-NEET examination, citing instances where the platform was allegedly used to fabricate evidence of question paper leaks through edited messages carrying old timestamps. The Internet Freedom Foundation, however, criticised the government's curbs on Telegram, calling the move a band-aid solution and a "disproportionate" response to exam fraud. Google has removed messaging app Telegram from the Play Store and Apple is likely to follow suit in compliance with a government order, sources aware of the development said. Explaining the rationale behind the restrictions on Telegram, NTA Director General Abhishek Singh said the step was taken to safeguard the integrity of the re-NEET examination following the cancellation of the May 3 exam over malpractice allegations. "The primary reason for cancelling the exam and ordering a re-exam and CBI inquiry was to ensure that nobody violates the sanctity, the integrity of the NTA examination, the NEET examinations, and nobody should be able to take away the rights of hard-working students," Singh said in a video message on X. He acknowledged the burden on candidates who have been asked to appear again. "This is a big hardship for the students who had to appear at the exam again. We fully understand that and that's why we are not leaving any stone unturned for ensuring that examinations are conducted in a safe, secure, trustworthy manner," he said. According to Singh, one of the major concerns was the misuse of Telegram channels claiming to sell question papers. "Social media is flooded with such stories about Telegram channels claiming to sell re-examination papers. We have verified every claim and what we have found is that they are all fake," he said, adding, "None of them has access to the actual papers." He said those behind such channels exploit students and parents by taking money on false promises. "Anyone claiming to sell you any paper is lying, scamming and fooling you..." he said. Singh also alleged that Telegram channels use message-editing features to create a false impression that question papers were available before the examination. "What Telegram channels have been doing for long is that they show videos and screenshots of Telegram chats that appear to contain question papers with dates which are before the examination," he said. Singh cited an instance from the May 3 NEET examination to explain how the alleged misuse worked. "On May 3, when the examination was conducted, we got a similar complaint wherein a video was circulated by several handles after the examination.

## Can Personalized Learning Improve Student Outcomes?

Personalized learning is transforming education by moving away from traditional, one-size-fits-all models. Learn how leveraging AI, digital platforms, and adaptive software can boost student engagement, motivation, and academic success while overcoming the challenges of implementation in modern classrooms. Development is going in the right direction, but at the same time, it keeps changing, and we want to keep up with all the changes as a school. In order for us to do this effectively, we have to utilize every opportunity we can to help us create, develop, and nourish the educational pursuits of each student through various forms of learning and instruction. With all of this personalization, students will be able to progress further than they would in a traditional manner. With individualized learning and the use of technology to help students learn, students will also be able to progress faster through the curriculum. Schools should look to include Personalized Learning in their day-to-day teaching so they can provide their students with a better opportunity for academic and social success by giving teachers the materials that they need to be successful and an opportunity for every student to excel. Besides being



able to add personalized learning to your school curriculum, you have many options available through various programs, services, and resources that can assist you in effectively meeting student needs and producing high levels of student performance and equity of opportunity. Personalizing the learning process provides the learner with higher motivation and engagement than what they generally receive in a traditional environment. Frequently, traditional classrooms do not stimulate learning through the found content that connects to the learner's interests or aptitude. Personalized Learning provides the learner with control of how they learn by providing opportunities for exploration of personal interest and moving through the curriculum at their own pace. Thus, creating a far superior, more pleasant, and rewarding experience in the learning process for the learner. Students who are fully engaged in the learning process are far more likely to succeed than those who are disengaged. The rise of personalized learning is mainly due to technology. Using digital platforms for education, AI applications, and adaptive software to assess a student's performance and customize instruction based on their skills and needs is a common occurrence today. These tools also

provide immediate feedback to the teacher so they can identify where students have struggled or excelled; however, teachers play an important role in mentoring and guiding all learners within a supportive environment. While there are many benefits to personalized instruction, there are also challenges associated with this method of teaching. Providing one-on-one support to students can be difficult for a teacher when assisting numerous students in a large classroom with limited access to resources. Schools may have to invest in and train staff on additional resources and tools, as well as access to digital tools, to effectively implement personalized instruction. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure that by providing support through personalization, teachers do not create a screen dependence and create an equal opportunity gap among students of different socio-economic statuses. Nonetheless, personalized learning has significant long-term potential based on the idea that every student is unique with their own strengths and weaknesses and should not be treated the same way as others. Personalized learning has the potential to satisfy all of a person's educational needs because it meets all of the educational objectives for individuals.

## Think liver cancer only affects drinkers? Doctors say that's no longer true



Liver cancer is increasingly affecting non-drinkers in India. Doctor explains how fatty liver disease, diabetes, hepatitis infections and dietary toxins are driving this shift, and why early screening and lifestyle changes are critical for prevention. A liver cancer diagnosis has long carried an unspoken assumption: How much did they drink? For decades, liver disease, and especially liver cancer, has been viewed as a condition rooted almost entirely in alcohol consumption, often accompanied by stigma and quiet judgment from society. But that narrative is no longer accurate. Homemakers, young professionals, and lifelong teetotalers are increasingly being diagnosed with serious liver disease, signalling a major shift in the country's liver cancer profile. Dr Rakesh Kumar Sharma is a Consultant Medical Oncologist at M | O | C Cancer Care & Research Centre, Gurugram, shares his insight on the subject.

### A silent wave driven by lifestyle, not liquor

While alcohol remains a known risk factor, it is no longer the dominant one. The more pressing concern today is Metabolically Dysregulated-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD), commonly known as fatty liver disease. Recent studies estimate that nearly 38.6 per cent of Indian adults are affected by fatty liver disease, with rates even higher in urban populations. The condition is closely linked to modern lifestyle patterns, poor diet, physical inactivity, obesity, and diabetes. The irony, experts say, is that many affected individuals appear "thin" or outwardly healthy. "The problem is not always visible weight gain," doctors note. "Visceral fat, fat stored around internal organs, accumulates silently and damages the liver over time." Diets heavy in refined carbohydrates, sugary beverages, fried foods, sweets, and processed snacks contribute significantly to fat deposition in the liver.

### From fatty liver to cancer

Fatty liver disease is not benign. In many cases, it progresses to Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH), a more aggressive inflammatory condition that can lead to cirrhosis and eventually liver cancer.

### Diabetes, obesity and sedentary lifestyles are emerging as key drivers.

**Viral hepatitis:** The old threat that never went away. Before fatty liver took centre stage, chronic Hepatitis B and C infections were the leading causes of liver cancer in India, and they continue to play a major role. Hepatitis B is often acquired at birth if the mother is infected, remaining dormant for decades without symptoms. Despite national vaccination programmes, millions of Indians remain silent carriers, unaware of the infection until advanced liver disease develops.

### The hidden danger on our plates: Aflatoxin

The other less-known but severe risk factor is aflatoxin, a toxin that is produced by moulds which develop on poorly stored grains like groundnuts, maize and sorghum. In damp weather and rural areas where storing in traditional ways is a norm, extended contact with aflatoxin may cause liver damage to liver DNA. In addition to Hepatitis B infection, experts call it as a perfect storm in the development of liver cancer.

## How hormonal changes after 30 can weaken bone strength in women



Hormonal changes after 30 can quietly weaken bone strength in women and increase the risk of osteoporosis later in life. An orthopaedic expert explains how estrogen affects bones, early warning signs, and practical steps to protect bone health. Often, the 30s feel like the beginning of a new phase of life, particularly for women. Careers find the right direction, personal lives settle into rhythm, and physical health rarely feels like an immediate concern. Yet, beneath the surface, the body begins a slow, largely silent transition, one that can have lasting implications for bone strength. "Hormonal changes don't announce themselves loudly," says Dr Prince Gupta, Consultant – Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement, Manipal Hospital, Gurugram. "Bone loss often begins years before symptoms appear, which is why many women are caught off guard later in life." Osteoporosis, a condition where bones become weak and prone to fractures, doesn't develop overnight. For many women, its foundation is laid quietly in their 30s.

### The link between hormones and bone health

Bones are living tissue, constantly breaking down and rebuilding. Estrogen plays a central role in

maintaining this balance. As estrogen levels begin to decline with age, sometimes subtly after 30, the process of bone rebuilding slows down. "Estrogen protects bone density," explains Dr Gupta. "When its levels drop, bone breakdown can start to outpace bone formation, making the skeleton more fragile over time." Hormonal fluctuations can also interfere with calcium absorption and vitamin D metabolism, both of which are essential for strong bones. While bone loss accelerates after menopause, the early groundwork is often set much earlier, making awareness in the 30s crucial rather than optional.

### Early signs women shouldn't ignore

Bone loss is often called a silent condition, but the body does send signals, if you know where to look. Persistent back pain, a slight loss of height, or a gradual stooping posture can point to weakening bones. Some women notice brittle nails, reduced grip strength, or fractures from minor falls that previously wouldn't have caused injury. "These are not just signs of ageing," says Dr Gupta. "They are warning signals that bone strength may already be compromised." Recognising these symptoms early can make a meaningful difference in slowing further bone loss.

### Preventive care that protects bone strength

The good news is that bone health can be supported with timely, practical steps. Small lifestyle decisions made in the late 20s and 30s often determine bone resilience decades later. A balanced diet is foundational. Calcium-rich foods such as dairy, leafy greens and fortified products should be paired with adequate vitamin D to ensure proper absorption. Weight-bearing and resistance exercises, walking, jogging, and light strength training stimulate bone formation and improve muscle support. "Bones respond to load," Dr Gupta notes. "Movement signals them to stay strong."

## How air pollution raises the risk of asthma, learning issues and infections in children, doctors explain

Air pollution may seem like a daily nuisance, but exposure during pregnancy and early childhood can have lasting effects. Paediatric and respiratory specialists explain how polluted air affects lung growth, immunity and brain development, increasing vulnerability to illness well beyond childhood. Air pollution may seem like a daily nuisance, but exposure during pregnancy and early childhood can have lasting effects. Air pollution is usually framed as a daily nuisance. Watery eyes. Throat irritation. A cough that hangs around. Easy to brush off. But when exposure happens very early in life, the consequences can be far more lasting. Pregnancy, infancy and early childhood are periods when the body is still under construction. Lungs, brain, immune system and blood vessels are all developing at speed. Pollution during this phase can quietly disrupt that process. The effects may not always be immediate, but they can surface much later, shaping a child's health in ways that are hard to reverse. To understand how and why this happens, we got in touch with Dr Pradeep Suryawanshi, Director, Neonatology and Paediatrics, Sahyadri Hospitals MomStory, Pune, and Dr Jai Mullerpattan, Consultant Pulmonologist, P. D. Hinduja Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Mumbai. Both doctors spoke about how early exposure to polluted air can influence health



well beyond childhood.

### What counts as air pollution for child health

"Air pollution is often discussed as a day-to-day inconvenience, watery eyes, throat irritation, cough," says Dr Pradeep Suryawanshi. "But when exposure happens very early in life, the impact can be far more enduring." He explains that the pollutants most strongly linked with child health outcomes include "PM2.5 and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). PM2.5 refers to extremely fine particles, so small they can travel deep into the lungs." NO<sub>2</sub>, he adds, "is commonly associated with traffic emissions and tends to irritate the airways." Dr Suryawanshi also points out that there are "other harmful components such as ozone and certain chemicals released from burning fuels." What really matters is not just what the pollutant is, but "how often and how long a child is exposed."

### Why early life is a critical window of vulnerability

"Children are biologically more vulnerable to pollution than adults," Dr Suryawanshi explains. "They breathe faster and take in more air per kilogram of body weight, which means they can receive a higher dose of pollutants from the same environment." He adds that "their airways are narrower, so even mild swelling can cause noticeable breathing difficulty." Most importantly, "their organs are still forming and maturing." Dr Jai Mullerpattan echoes this concern, saying, "Rapid development of lungs, brains, and immune systems in children makes them more susceptible to the toxic effects of pollution." He also highlights that "children breathe faster and inhale more pollutants relative to their body size." Exposure can begin before birth. Exposure does not begin after delivery. As Dr Suryawanshi explains, "During pregnancy, the placenta is responsible for supplying oxygen and nutrients to the developing baby."

# VOICE OF WORDS

## WOMEN

### Want to have healthy nails? 7 tips to take care of them



You can keep your nails healthy and strong by following these tips in your daily nail care routine. This doesn't just improve how your hands look but also boosts your self-confidence. Well-groomed nails are an indicator of general health and well-being. They can give the impression that your hands are well-groomed or dirty. If you want to have healthy nails, there are a few things you can do to take care of them, as suggested by Rajesh U. Pandya, Managing Director of KAI India. Eat a healthy diet: Maintaining a balanced diet is essential not only for your overall physical well-being but also for nurturing healthy nails. Add natural food sources that are abundant in vitamins, minerals, and proteins to foster the growth of stronger and more resilient nails. Stay hydrated: Drinking sufficient water facilitates the retention of moisture in your nails, acting as a barrier against breakage and peeling. Protect with gloves: Frequent exposure to too much heat and harsh chemicals can make our nails weak and brittle. To prevent this, wear light gloves when doing tasks like washing dishes or cleaning, as they involve using soaps and sprays. Wearing gloves will protect your hands and nails from the harmful effects of these substances. Also, try not to keep your hands soaked in water for a very long period. Keep your nails trimmed: Opting for shorter nails is generally preferred over longer ones. Short nails are simpler to take care of, are easy to clean, and less prone to accumulating dirt. They are less likely to break and offer a neat appearance. Additionally, shorter nails can assist in warding off potentially harmful bacteria inside them. Say No to Artificial Nails: Though getting artificial nails might seem stylish, it's not without downsides. They can weaken your real nails because of the way they're attached and the glue used. Plus, they can trap a lot of dirt underneath, which could lead to bacterial infections. Care for Your cuticles: It's important to be mindful of your cuticles. Avoid pushing them back too much, especially during frequent manicures, as this can harm them and create openings for infections to enter the nail bed. Moisturize your nails: Applying regular moisturization is recommended, as it creates a protective layer that enhances the resilience and strength of your nails.



## Are you using rice water for skincare? Expert shares benefits

Rice water, a natural skin toner rich in vitamins and antioxidants, is gaining popularity for its anti-ageing, brightening, and oil-balancing benefits. Dr Madhu Chopra recommends soaking rice to create a toner that may improve skin texture and tone over time. Rice water in this day and age has become an essential skincare routine. According to Dr Madhu Chopra, MBBS, DORL, Cosmetologist, Managing Director of Studio Aesthetique, Mumbai, rice water has become a must-have in skincare today, and for good reason. To prepare this rice water, soak a cup of clean washed rice in 3 cups of water. Leave it overnight. Strain the water and refrigerate it. You can use it as a spritz or mix it with lemon juice and aloe vera to create a refreshing gel. Apply rice water to your face 2-3 times a week for optimal benefits. Use a cotton pad soaked in rice water to gently tone your face. Additionally, you can use it as a facial rinse following a cleansing routine. Over time, consistent use might result in skin that is notably smoother and brighter.

### So why use Rice water?

It has anti-ageing benefits because it contains amino acids, antioxidants, and also stimulates collagen. Well, it's packed with amino acids and antioxidants that fight ageing and boost collagen production. Plus, it's a lifesaver for sunburn, calming and repairing damage caused by UV rays.



Rice water helps to diminish pigmentation and improves uneven skin tone. It is most beneficial for oily and acne-prone skin.

The starchy water that remains after cooking or soaking rice is known as rice water. It contains a lot of vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, all of which are vital for healthy skin. Antioxidants and substances like ferulic acid and allantoin found in rice water can lighten, lessen pigmentation, and balance out skin tone. In a nutshell, incorporating rice water into your skincare routine can work wonders for your skin. It's a simple, natural remedy that can transform the quality of your skin over time.

## Ready to shine this Spring? Skincare routine with a special

With the changing seasons, our skin's needs also change. As we transition into spring, it's important to focus on hydrating and rejuvenating our skin to achieve a healthy, glowing complexion.

Spring is finally here, and with it comes the promise of warmer weather, blooming flowers, and a fresh start. As we shed our winter layers and embrace the new season, it's important also to revamp our skincare routine to reflect the changing needs of our skin. After months of battling cold, dry air, our skin needs some serious hydration and rejuvenation. So let's get ready to shine this spring with a skincare routine that will leave our skin glowing and refreshed.

### Hydration is Key

During the winter months, our skin tends to become dehydrated due to the harsh weather and indoor heating. This can result in a dull, dry complexion that lacks radiance. As we transition into spring, it's important to focus on hydrating our skin from within. This means drinking plenty of water throughout the day to keep our skin hydrated and plump. In addition to staying hydrated from the inside, it's also crucial to incorporate hydrating products into our skincare routine. Look for products with ingredients like hyaluronic acid, glycerin, and ceramides, which help to lock in moisture and keep our skin hydrated. A great way to add hydration back to our skin is by using a hydrating serum before applying moisturizer. Serums have a lightweight texture that allows them to penetrate deeper into the skin, providing intense hydration.

One product that has been gaining popularity in the skincare world is the use of facial mists. Facial mists are a great way to hydrate and refresh our skin throughout the day



instantly. They can be used as a toner after cleansing or as a pick-me-up whenever our skin needs a boost of hydration. Look for facial mists with ingredients like aloe vera and rose water for added benefits.

### Exfoliate for Renewed Skin

Another important step in any spring skincare routine is exfoliation. Exfoliating helps to remove dead skin cells and reveal a fresh, radiant complexion. By removing the top layer of dead skin cells, our skincare products can penetrate deeper and work more effectively. However, it's important to use gentle exfoliants on our skin, especially during the springtime when our skin is still recovering from the harsh winter weather. Look for exfoliators with ingredients like alpha-hydroxy acids (AHAs) and beta-hydroxy acids (BHAs) which are gentler on the skin compared to physical exfoliants like scrubs. These ingredients help to dissolve dead skin cells and unclog pores without irritating them. A great way to incorporate exfoliation into our skincare routine is by using a chemical exfoliant 2-3 times a week.

### Protect with SPF

As the weather gets warmer and we spend more time outdoors, it's crucial to protect our skin from harmful UV rays. This means incor-

porating SPF into our daily skincare routine, even on cloudy days. Sun exposure can cause premature ageing, dark spots, and even skin cancer, so it's important to make SPF a non-negotiable step in our spring skincare routine.

### Rejuvenate with Face Masks

Face masks are a great way to give our skin an extra boost of hydration and rejuvenation during the springtime. Look for face masks with ingredients like hyaluronic acid, glycerin, and vitamin C, which help to brighten and plump the skin. Another option is to use a clay mask once a week to help draw out impurities and excess oil from the skin. Look for masks with ingredients like kaolin clay or bentonite clay, which help to purify and detoxify the skin.

### Don't Forget about the Eyes

Our delicate under-eye area deserves special attention in our spring skincare routine. The skin around our eyes is thinner and more prone to dryness and fine lines, so using products specifically designed for this area is important. Look for eye creams or serums with hydrating ingredients like hyaluronic acid, caffeine, and vitamin C. These ingredients will help to brighten, hydrate, and reduce puffiness.



International News

# VOICE OF WORDS

Friday, June 19, 2026

## PM Narendra Modi Receives Slovakia's Highest Honour, Order of The White Double Cross

Bratislava: Slovakia conferred its highest honour, the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the European nation. Slovakian President Peter Pellegrini presented PM Modi with the honour. This is the 33rd global honour bestowed by a country upon PM Modi. The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) is the highest state decoration conferred by the Slovak Republic and is awarded by the President of Slovakia to foreign dignitaries in recognition of exceptional contributions to the development of friendly relations with Slovakia, as well as for outstanding support of its foreign policy interests and international standing. "Honoured to receive The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) in Bratislava this evening. My gratitude to the people and Government of Slovakia for this honour, which belongs to the 140 crore people of India. I dedicate this award to the enduring friendship between India and Slovakia," PM Modi posted on X.

The External Affairs Ministry, in a statement, said that Slovakia recognised PM Modi's contribution to strengthening ties between the two nations. "PM Narendra Modi has been conferred with The Order of the White Double Cross (1st



Class), the highest state decoration of the Slovak Republic, in recognition of PM's contribution to strengthening India-Slovakia ties. The honour reflects the growing depth of the India-Slovakia partnership. PM dedicated it to the people of India and underscored the strengthening of people-to-people ties between the two countries," the MEA said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi met Slovak President Peter Pellegrini at the Presidential Palace in the capital city of Bratislava. President Pellegrini extended a warm welcome to PM Modi, who is the first

Indian Prime Minister to visit Slovakia since its independence, in the Presidential Palace, where he also signed the visitor's book. Prime Minister Modi later held a delegation-level meeting with President Pellegrini at the Palace. The Indian delegation participating in the talks included External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (West) Sibi George and Additional Secretary in the MEA Puja Kapur.



## 6.7 magnitude earthquake shakes part of Indonesia

PALU: A 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook part of Indonesia's Sulawesi island Tuesday and was followed by strong aftershocks. The initial tremor caused strong shaking lasting more than a minute around Palu, a city of about 400,000 people and the capital of Central Sulawesi province. Scattered damage was reported, and several hospitals evacuated patients, some with IV drips, outside as a safety measure. No information on casualties was immediately available. The initial quake was centered 43 kilometers (27 miles) east-southeast of Palu, and the U.S. Geological Survey said it was about 10 kilometers (6 miles) deep. The strongest subsequent quake measured 5.2 magnitude. There was no tsunami risk. Indonesia is crossed by several seismic faults, and earthquakes and volcanic activity are common. Many Sulawesi residents are haunted by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake that devastated Palu city in 2018, setting of 3-meter (10-foot) high tsunami and a phenomenon called liquefaction in which soil collapses into itself. More than 4,000 people were killed, including many who were buried when whole neighborhoods were swallowed in the falling ground. In January 2021, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake near the city of Mamuju on Sulawesi island left at least 100 people dead, with thousands sleeping outdoors for days out of fear of aftershocks.

## China's Xi promises to safeguard Myanmar's sovereignty and territorial integrity



BEIJING: Chinese leader Xi Jinping pledged support on Tuesday for Myanmar in safeguarding its sovereignty, state media reported, as he met with President Min Aung Hlaing in Beijing. China is Myanmar's most crucial ally and a rare enduring partner after Min Aung Hlaing's 2021 coup ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, prompting Western nations to cut ties with the Southeast Asian nation. Beijing has emerged as a key power-broker in the civil war sparked by the coup, and also vocally backed recent polls that excluded Suu Kyi's party and returned a walk-over win for pro-military MPs -- who elected Min Aung Hlaing as president. Xi said that China "firmly supports" Myanmar in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as he met Min Aung Hlaing at Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People on Tuesday following a welcome ceremony, state broadcaster CCTV reported. The Myanmar leader's trip -- his second state visit since taking over as civilian president in April -- comes as ties with Beijing have frayed in recent years over internet scam centres along the countries shared border areas that have targeted Chinese citizens, analysts say. Beijing "supports the new government in balancing de-

velopment and security to find a correct development path that suits its national conditions and enjoys the people's support", Xi told Min Aung Hlaing. Both countries, the Chinese leader added, must continue to "crack down hard" on telecom fraud, online gambling and drug trafficking. Xi also hailed the China-Myanmar relationship, saying that the two countries have "stood together through thick and thin". "China supports all parties in Myanmar in advancing peace and reconciliation through dialogue," he said. Min Aung Hlaing landed in Beijing on Monday to a red-carpet welcome, according to images shared by his office, and spent the first hours of his five-day trip touring Beijing Aerospace City -- the centre of China's space programme. He is also set to meet Chinese Premier Li Qiang and top legislator Zhao Leji. Beijing is a key provider of materiel to the Myanmar military and has also brokered a pair of landmark truces with two of the most powerful rebel factions that once challenged it in the borderlands with China. While Myanmar has been massively impoverished by the civil war, it has also emerged as a major global supplier of mined rare earth minerals -- vital for China's production of renewable energy technology.



## Pakistan Police Mistakenly Kill 9-Year-Old Australian Girl In Punjab; PM Albanese Seeks Probe

hicle, mistaking it for a car being used by armed robbers. The victim has been identified as Hania Ahmed. She was from the Perth suburb of Kewdale and was visiting relatives in Chakwal with her family when the incident occurred late on the night of June 10, according to a Guardian report. Reportedly, the family was travelling in a rental car when they were confronted by two robbers on a motorcycle, one of whom was carrying a pistol. Officers from the Crime Control Department intervened after the Australian family was allegedly taken hostage at gunpoint. During the incident, the suspects reportedly fired at a police officer, triggering an exchange of gunfire, News18 reported, citing Punjab Police. Punjab Police said the officer involved wrongly concluded that the suspects were escaping in the victims' vehicle. "This erroneous decision resulted in the tragic death of Hania and injuries to her father and brother," the force said in a statement. Punjab Police said the officer's actions were a complete departure from established procedures and legal principles governing the use of force. The officer has been suspended, formally arrested, and produced before a court, which remanded him to judicial custody. His weapon and spent shell casings have been seized and sent for forensic examination. Police said a "thorough, impartial investigation" was underway. The family was rushed to hospital after the shooting. Hania was declared dead, while her father, Adeel Ahmed, and her older brother suffered serious injuries. Her mother was not injured. The father and son were later transferred to Benazir Bhutto Hospital in Rawalpindi for surgery. Hania was a Year 4 student at Australian Islamic College in Kewdale, while her elder brother studies in Grade 5 at the same school.

A shocking incident has come to light from Pakistan's Punjab province. A nine-year-old Australian girl was killed and two members of her family sustained serious injuries after police opened fire on their ve-



## Iran says the deal to end the war with the US requires Israel to withdraw from Lebanon

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday that the tentative deal to end the war with the United States would require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon -- a condition Israel has already rejected and that could sink the agreement, leading to the resumption of all-out war. The deal, which is between the US and Iran, has not been made public, and officials have sometimes offered contradictory interpretations of what is in it. While Israel is not party to the agreement, it is part of the war: It joined the US in launching strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, and has since fought the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon and seized large swaths of that country. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon would violate the deal. "Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during this war, the war has not fully come to an end," Araghchi said. Pakistan, a key mediator, has said the deal called for an end to military operations, including in Lebanon, as Iran long insisted.

## UN calls on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to reverse crackdown on women

UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Monday calling on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to swiftly reverse their crackdown on women and to combat militant groups inside Afghanistan that Pakistan accuses of carrying out cross-border attacks. China's U.N. Ambassador Fu Cong, whose country sponsored the resolution, said the hope is that the Afghan government will "take more proactive measures to protect human rights, especially the rights of women, and project an image of openness, inclusivity and responsibility." The resolution extends the U.N. political mission in Afghanistan until June 17, 2027, and authorizes it to support humanitarian aid deliveries "without discrimination" and to promote national and local governance "without any discrimination based on sex, religion or ethnicity, with the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women, ... minorities, youth and persons with disabilities." The resolution's adoption follows the arrest of at least 30 women in the western city of Herat this month for allegedly violating the Taliban's strict dress code. A rare protest sparked by the arrests was violently dispersed by Taliban police, who shot and killed one person and injured several others, according to the U.N. mission known as UNAMA. The Taliban have run Afghanistan since 2021 in the wake of the chaotic withdrawal



of U.S.-led forces and have imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Shariah, including draconian restrictions on women and girls, such as bans on education beyond primary school and on many jobs. Minorities have also been impacted. The resolution authorizes the U.N. mission to facilitate talks between the Taliban and regional countries.

# VOICE OF WORDS

## BUSINESS

### India's Unemployment Rate Climbs To 5.5% In May, Labour Market Shows Signs Of Softening From April's 5.2%



New Delhi: India's unemployment rate increased to 5.5 percent in May from 5.2 percent in April, according to official data released by the government on Monday. The rise of 30 basis points indicates that a larger share of people in the labour force was unable to find jobs during the month. The latest figure was also slightly higher than market expectations. A Reuters survey had projected the unemployment rate at 5.3 percent for May. The data suggests that labour market conditions softened during the month. Both the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) recorded declines in May. LFPR

measures the share of people who are either working or actively looking for work, while WPR reflects the proportion of the population that is employed. A fall in both indicators points to weaker activity in the job market. According to the data, employment opportunities contracted faster than the decline in labour force participation. As a result, the proportion of unemployed people within the labour force increased. This pushed the unemployment rate higher even though fewer people were participating in the labour market. Economists generally view a simultaneous decline in LFPR and WPR, along with a rise in unemploy-

ment, as a sign of softer labour demand. What the Numbers Mean? The increase does not indicate a sharp deterioration in employment conditions, but it suggests that job creation slowed during May. The data will be closely watched by policymakers and businesses, as employment remains a key indicator of economic health. Future labour market trends will depend on economic growth, investment activity and hiring across sectors. For now, the latest figures show that India's labour market lost some momentum in May, with unemployment rising to 5.5 percent from 5.2 percent in April.

# India needs more foreign capital inflows: Sitharaman



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that attracting more foreign capital is the need of the hour and accordingly the government is taking a calibrated approach. She highlighted the recent measures by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will enable government banks to raise funds from overseas markets with reduced exposure to currency risks. She also indicated that the government will take more steps if needed to have for capital inflow. Speaking at the Mindmine Summit 2026, Sitharaman said, "We recognise we need more foreign capital to come, but the fact that the RBI has now allowed public sector, undertaking banks to go out and pick money from outside, giving them a framework, and in that framework, the very important aspect is that the hedging is at the RBI's expense."

To ensure more foreign capital inflows into the country, the RBI introduced a forex swap facility for public sector enterprises to raise external commercial borrowings (ECBs). Additionally, it also introduced swap facility for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank), or FCNR(B), deposits with maturities of three-five years until September 30. The central bank plans to absorb the full hedging cost for banks on 3-5 years deposits and will also exempt fresh deposits from reserve requirements, so that the banks can offer higher yields without currency risk for NRIs. The finance minister said the move is part of a broader strategy to ensure that domestic markets receive adequate investment while maintaining financial stability. "We have taken a very calibrated approach to make sure that the markets do receive the required investments," she said. Meanwhile, Sitharaman flagged concerns over possible headwinds in the domestic consumption this year due to the impact of the El Niño, which is likely to adversely affect the agricultural income and productivity. Underscoring the risks arising due to the El Niño effect this year, the minister said "Because of the El Niño, I think we are preparing for not so good consumption," emphasising that the stress on rural incomes remains a key concern. Assuring that India does have a buffer of food stocks for a year, she added, "For farmers, it will have an impact because this year this income will be stressed up." She further flagged that the shortage of fertilisers due to the current geopolitical situation has made the situation worse. She highlighted how several countries have withdrawn themselves from the fertilisers' global supply chain making the availability even more skewed."

### Despite PM's appeal, gold imports surge 34% in May

Despite the Prime Minister's call to curb gold imports and a sharp increase in customs duty, India's gold imports surged 34% in May 2026 to \$3.4 billion, up from \$2.5 billion in May 2025. During April-May FY27, gold imports jumped 60% to \$9 billion. In contrast, silver imports witnessed a sharp decline, falling 85% in May and 33% during the April-May period. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in May 2026, appealed to citizens to refrain from purchasing gold for a year. Following the appeal, the Ministry of Finance raised the import duty on gold and silver from 6% to 15%. Trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce on Monday suggests that the appeal and higher customs duties have not significantly slowed gold imports. Elevated gold imports have continued to put pressure on India's foreign exchange resources and the rupee. A Commerce Ministry official said, "If we minus our dependence on energy goods and precious metals.



### Centre Raises Windfall Tax On Diesel, ATF Exports; Petrol Rate Unchanged

The Centre has increased the windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for the fortnight beginning June 16, while keeping the existing levy on petrol exports unchanged, according to a Finance Ministry notification. Under the revised structure, the special additional excise duty (SAED) on diesel exports has been raised from Rs 13.5 per litre to Rs 14 per litre. The duty on ATF exports has also been increased significantly, from Rs 9.5 per litre to Rs 12.5 per litre. However, the tax on petrol exports remains unchanged at Rs 1.5 per litre. The revised rates came into effect from June 16. The government clarified that there has been no change in duties applicable to petrol and diesel used for domestic consumption. Export duties on petroleum products were first introduced on March 26 amid rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia, triggered by military conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. Since then, the levy structure has been reviewed on a fortnightly basis in response to shifting global oil market con-

ditions. In May, the government extended the windfall tax regime to include petrol exports as well, widening the scope of the levy. The objective of these export duties is to ensure adequate domestic fuel availability and to prevent exporters from benefiting excessively from elevated global prices caused by geopolitical disruptions. Meanwhile, global crude oil prices showed a slight rebound on Tuesday after falling in the previous session. The earlier decline followed reports of a US-Iran agreement aimed at easing tensions through a proposed peace deal. Brent crude rose 0.3% to \$83.42 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also gained 0.3% to \$81.12 per barrel. Prices had earlier dipped to around \$83 after US President Donald Trump indicated that a memorandum of understanding on peace with Iran would be signed soon. Although global equity markets rallied on the announcement, oil prices remain sensitive to uncertainty around the implementation of the deal and the speed of normalization of energy flows through key routes like the Strait of Hormuz.

### US trade minister Greer to visit India on June 22 for next round of trade talks

A delegation from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) will visit India on June 22 and hold meetings with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on June 23 and 24, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday. The US delegation will be led by US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. This will be Greer's first visit to India since negotiations on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) began. While the discussions will primarily focus on the ongoing negotiations for the proposed BTA, the agenda will also include issues related to Section 301 investigations, ministry officials said. "Our expectation is that discussions will be centred around



giving final touches to the first tranche of the deal, as well as the broader BTA that has been under discussion," Agrawal said. Earlier this month, a US negotiating team led by the chief negotiator visited New Delhi for discussions with Indian counterparts. India and the US had issued a joint statement in February agreeing on a framework for an interim trade agreement aimed at enhancing reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade ties. The two countries have also set an ambitious target of expanding bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, with growth expected to be driven by sectors such as technology, artificial intelligence and data centres. While negotiations on the proposed BTA have been un-

derway, the USTR has initiated investigations involving India and several other countries under Section 301. The USTR has alleged that India has excess capacity and overproduction in sectors such as textiles and steel, leading to trade distortions and increased exports to the US.

Rejecting these claims, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Amitabh Kumar said last week that India's production levels must be assessed in the context of its large population and domestic demand requirements. Data released on Monday showed that India's trade surplus with the US narrowed to \$6.14 billion during April-May 2026 from \$7.88 billion in the corresponding period a year earlier.

### GIC Re Shares Fall Over 6% As Govt Launches Discounted OFS

Shares of state-owned reinsurer General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) declined sharply on Tuesday, falling over 6% after the government launched an offer for sale (OFS) to divest up to a 5% stake in the company at a discounted price. The stock dropped 6.54% to an intraday low of ₹363.45 on the NSE. It opened 4.14% lower, ending its recent two-day winning streak as selling pressure intensified following the OFS announcement. The government opened the OFS at a floor price of ₹352 per share, which represents a discount of about 9.10% compared to the previous closing price of ₹387.25. The lower pricing led to immediate weakness in the stock as investors reacted to the supply overhang. According to an exchange filing by GIC Re, the government plans to sell up to 3.51 crore shares, representing a

2% equity stake in the base offer for non-retail investors on June 16. The divestment is part of a broader disinvestment strategy aimed at reducing the government's stake in public sector enterprises. DIPAM Secretary confirmed on social media platform X that the government will divest 2% equity initially, with an additional 3% available through a green shoe option, taking the total potential stake sale to 5%. The OFS structure also includes flexibility for an additional oversubscription option of 5.26 crore shares, equivalent to another 3% stake in the company. For retail investors and employees, the bidding window opens on June 17, following the initial non-retail tranche on June 16. The government's move is part of its ongoing effort to monetise holdings in state-run companies, improve market liquidity, and broaden public ownership.

### Input cost pressures mount for India Inc as raw material expenses jump 18.3% in Q4

Raw material expenses of listed manufacturing companies surged 18.3% year-on-year in the January-March quarter of FY26, highlighting growing input cost pressures amid global uncertainties. The raw material-to-sales ratio rose to 58.5% in Q4 FY26 from 57.5% in the preceding quarter, signalling that a larger share of revenues was being absorbed by input costs, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released on Tuesday. The increase in input costs came despite a strong improvement in sales. Aggregate sales growth of 3,266 listed private non-financial companies accelerated to 13.9% year-on-year in Q4 FY26 from 10.1% in the previous quarter, while manufacturing companies recorded sales growth of 14.5%, driven by automobiles, electrical machinery and non-ferrous metals. However, rising raw material expenses weighed on profitability. Operating profit growth of manufacturing companies moderated to 9.4% in Q4 FY26 from 11.8% in the previous quarter as companies faced a significant increase in input costs. Employee costs showed a mixed trend across sectors. Staff cost growth in manufacturing moderated to 9.8% year-on-year, while non-IT services companies saw staff expenses rise at a faster pace of 8.9%.

Friday, June 19, 2026

# VOICE OF WORDS SPORTS



## Boxing World Cup: Deepak, Poonam progress in China

NEW DELHI: Deepak and Poonam Ponia emerged as the lone Indian winners on the opening day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) in China, advancing to the next round of their respective categories while seven other Indian boxers suffered defeats. Competing in the women's 54kg category, Poonam registered a convincing 5-0 victory over Uzbekistan's Aziza Yokubova in the preliminary round of 32 to move ahead in the competition. Deepak joined her in the next round after producing an equally dominant display in the men's 70kg division, defeating Turkmenistan's Bayramdurdy Nurmuhammedov by a unanimous 5-0 verdict in the preliminary round of 32. The remaining Indian boxers, however, could not progress further. In the Round of 16, Rishi Singh (50kg) lost to Azerbaijan's Subhan Mamedov, while Sanamacha Chanu Thokchom (75kg) went down against Canada's Tammara Thibeault. Sawan Gill also bowed out after suffering a defeat to Norway's Omar Shiha in the men's 90kg category. In other preliminary contests, Anmol (60kg) was narrowly beaten 2-3 by Salim Ellis Bey (USA). Meanwhile, Harsh Choudhary (90kg) had his bout stopped prematurely, losing to Sweden's Elwin Belezika via Referee Stops Contest due to Injury (referee stops contest) in the third round. India also endured disappointment in the quarterfinals as Naina lost to China's Xiaomeng Wang in the women's 80kg category, while Alfiya Tarannum Akram Khan Pathan was defeated by Poland's Elzbieta Wojcik in the women's 90+kg division. Deepak and Poonam will now look to maintain India's challenge in the tournament as the competition progresses.

## Deepika brace helps India fightback to edge USA 3-2



Auckland: The Indian women's hockey team staged a remarkable comeback to clinch a 3-2 win over the USA in its opening Pool A match of the FIH Nations Cup here on Monday. For India, Deepika netted a brace while Navneet Kaur also scored. Ashley Sessa and Madeleine Zimmer were on the score-sheet for the USA. The winner of the Nations Cup will be promoted to the elite

## Sunit Chowrasia shares lead at DP World PGTI NexGen Varanasi

Hyderabad: The 31-year-old Sunit Chowrasia of Kolkata, Mukeem Ali of Mathura and Dipankar Kaushal of Noida carded matching rounds of three-under 67 to share the first-round lead at the inaugural Rs 25 lakh DP World PGTI NexGen - Varanasi being played at the BLW Greens Golf Course. Sunit, the current DP World PGTI NexGen Order of Merit leader, arrived in Varanasi on the back of consecutive victories at the Alpha Sports Academy Golf Championship hosted by Patna Golf Club in March and the Vijay Kumar Memorial in Lucknow last week. The Kolkata golfer mixed seven birdies with two bogeys and a double bogey on the par-4 10th to join the lead at three-under 67. Reflecting on his round, Sunit said, "It feels good to be in a share of the lead. I started well, but the double bogey on the 10th checked my momentum a little. After that, I stayed patient, focused on my game plan and managed to recover well." Mukeem Ali, who started from the par-4 fifth hole in the shotgun format, also posted a three-under 67 to grab a share of the lead. The Mathura golfer carded five birdies against two bogeys, with a decisive run of three consecutive birdies from the 16th through the 18th helping him climb to the top of the leaderboard. Dipankar Kaushal, whose



home course is Noida Golf Course, started from the par-3 eighth and produced a round featuring an eagle on the par-5 18th, four birdies, one bogey and a double bogey on the par-4 12th. Delhi's Pawan Verma and Gurugram's Nikhil Sharma shared fourth place at two-under 68. Kolkata's Pratim Kumar and Souvik Nayak, along with local favourite Hemant Yadav of Varanasi, were a further shot back in tied sixth place at one-under 69.

# Smriti Mandhana lone Indian in TIME's list of 100 most influential sportspersons

India vice captain Smriti Mandhana has been named in TIME magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026, emerging as the only Indian sportsperson to feature in the prestigious global ranking. TIME's list of the 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026 features athletes, coaches, advocates and investors who are "people shaping sports today." The list, headlined by American basketball legend LeBron James, includes superstars from the world of sports such as football icon Lionel Messi, Chinese-American skier Eileen Gu, tennis star Carlos Alcaraz, basketball player Victor Wembanyama, legendary golfer Rory McIlroy among others. The other big names in the list include another football icon Cristiano Ronaldo, South African cricket captain Temba Bavuma, who last year led his team to a historic Test series win in India as well as victory in the World Test Championship (WTC), basketball player for the New York Knicks Jalen Brunson and FIFA president Gianni Infantino. Mandhana, 29, the vice captain of Indian women's national team, is part of the elite club. TIME's profile for Mandhana said that the Mumbai-born left-handed opening batter was the "first Indian woman to score a double century in a domestic one-day game, the first to score a century in all three international formats, and is a joint holder of the most international women's cricket centuries with 17" as it noted that the "records keep tumbling in" for Mandhana. She is also the first woman to score more than 1,000 one-day international runs in a calendar year. "But Mandhana is



proudest of the team honors she is also accumulating. She captained the Royal Challengers Bangalore to the 2024 and 2026 Women's Premier League titles and was vice captain for India's triumph at last year's ICC Women's World Cup, scoring the second-most runs in the tournament," TIME said. In 2024, she set the record for most international runs across formats by a woman and then beat her own record last year-"a feat that contributed to her being crowned BBC Indian Sportswoman of 2025."

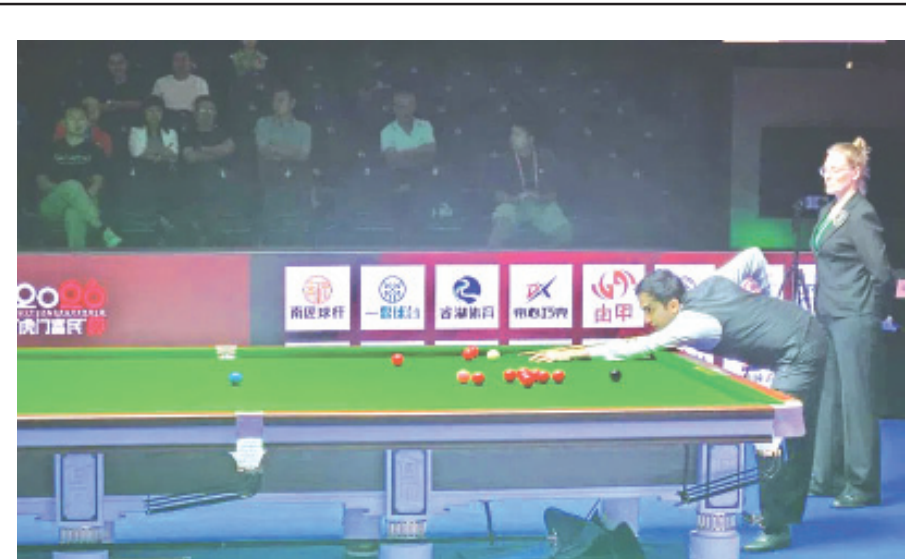
## Hyderabad E-Champions aim to groom future stars, says Brihathi Cherukuri



Hyderabad: "Sports is not new to the Ramoji Group. We have been at the forefront of promoting not just cricket but many sports over the last couple of decades,"

says Brihathi Cherukuri, owner of Hyderabad E-Champions, which was also the most expensive franchise in the T20 League. For the record, former Ranji star Anirudh Singh is the head coach of the team. "The whole vision is to scout talent, groom them into champion performers and that remains our only objective. We look at this League as an opportunity to provide a perfect platform for young talent, and many of our team members have also played in the Ranji Trophy and are dreaming of playing for the country," Brihathi said on Tuesday. "We ourselves have been conducting State-level league cricket championships in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for quite a long time and the response has been tremendous in terms

of participation and unearthing talent too," she said. "Well, our strategy is guided by the coaches who picked young and genuine talent, from whom we are expecting stellar performances, as all the players are excited about the huge opportunity presented to them and are keen to prove themselves. We have a lot of faith in our support staff too," Brihathi said. "It is pertinent to note that another CSR initiative of the Ramoji Group is Eenu Lakshya, where we pick athletes from different sports by going into the interiors just to ensure that no genuine talent is found wanting for support. Two of our athletes under this initiative have won some of the country's highest awards too," she said.



## China B edge India 3-2 in World Team Snooker Championship opener

Hyderabad: Former champions India suffered a narrow defeat to China 'B' in their opening match of the World Team Snooker Championship in Guangdong (China) on Tuesday. The 2-3 loss to the hosts in the three-team Group 'B' leaves India with a must-win game against Turkey on Wednesday morning. India had their chances to get the better of their rivals in the best-of-five-frame encounter. With the match poised on a knife's edge at 2-2, Aditya Mehta, who gave India the opening frame, frittered away the advantage and allowed the formidable Zhou Jinhao to help the hosts prevail in a thriller. Down 20-22, Jinhao capitalised on Mehta's poor safety shot with a crucial break of 23. The Chinese cueist resorted to safety after taking the penultimate red. After a brief cat-and-mouse game, the Indian missed a long red and left it over the top left-hand pocket. The promising Jinhao accepted the generous offering gleefully to seal the frame and match for China 'B', who had earlier outclassed Turkey 3-0. Earlier, Jinhao had defeated Pankaj Advani with a gritty break of 53 in the second frame to draw level with India. Partnering Xu Jianhao, Jinhao later compiled a fluent break of 81 to down Advani and Mehta in the doubles for a 2-1 lead. Advani brought India back into contention with a splendid win over Ma Hailong. Despite the black ball being out of play, stuck near the top cushion, he made a frame-clinching break of 62 to level the scores at 2-2. However, Mehta, who looked solid in his opening win against Hailong, failed to reproduce the same touch. Results: Group 'B': China 'B' bt India 3-2 (Ma Hailong lost to Aditya Mehta 18-94 (54); Zhou Jinhao bt Pankaj Advani 76 (53)-29; Jinhao/Xu Jianhao bt Advani/Mehta 96 (81)-7; Hailong lost to Advani 12-73 (62); Jinhao bt Mehta 60-22).



## Senior Star Hero To Join Lenin



Akhil Akkineni's Lenin, which was supposed to hit the screens this month, has been postponed to July 10. The team sought some more time to get the post-production done with utmost quality. Hence, the film is postponed. The buzz that is slowly being generated around the film has now been paused, with no promotional activity happening around the film. However, there is an interesting scoop that one of the senior star heroes will join the project. As per sources, one of the senior star heroes will lend his voice to the film. The voice-over is reportedly going to play a key role in the narrative, and the team thinks the presence of a star hero will elevate the film further. But, it is unclear if it is only for the intro part or else for the entire key episodes of the film. Having said that, there are rumors about who the star hero is. While some say that since Nagarjuna is very much

a part of the film from the start, the team might request him. On the other side, the names of Chiranjeevi, Venkatesh, and Balakrishna are also doing rounds, but there is no confirmation over the same. Directed by Murali Kishore Abburu, the film is produced by Sithara Entertainments and Annapurna Studios.

## Samantha Chooses Naga Chaitanya's Film Over Raj Nidimoru's Film

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is currently busy promoting her upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram, which is set for release on June 19. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the film is being produced under Samantha's production banner, with her husband Raj Nidimoru handling the production responsibilities. As part of the film's promotions, Samantha recently took part in a fun rapid-fire interview. During the session, she was asked to choose between some of the most important projects from her career. The first question was whether she preferred Ye Maaya Chesave or Eega. Without hesitation, Samantha picked Ye Maaya Chesave. She explained that the film played a huge role in shaping her career and opening doors to future opportunities. Next, she was asked to choose between Oh! Baby and A Aa. Samantha selected Oh! Baby. When given a choice between Yashoda and Rangasthalam, she picked Rangasthalam. The most talked-about moment came later in the interview. Samantha was first asked to choose between Citadel: Honey Bunny and The Family Man. She chose The Family Man. How-



ever, the next question was even more interesting: The Family Man or Ye Maaya Chesave? Once again, Samantha selected Ye Maaya Chesave. Explaining her choice, she said, "If Ye Maaya Chesave had not happened, I would not be here today."



## Manasa Choudhary Dazzles In Elegant Lehenga

Manasa Choudhary, known for her roles in Bubblegum, Lucky Baskhar, and the upcoming Mustafa Mustafa, is steadily gaining popularity in Telugu cinema. The young actress has been attracting attention with her charm, screen presence and growing fan base. Manasa has now caught everyone's eye with a stunning new photoshoot that is going viral on social media. She looked elegant in an ivory lehenga adorned with pastel floral embroidery and mirror-work detailing. The stylish blouse and sheer dupatta added a touch of sophistication, while her wavy hair, statement earrings and subtle makeup perfectly complemented the traditional look. Fans have been showering praise on her beauty and fashion sense, making the pictures a talking point online.

### Director Responds To Criticism On Crying Video

When the release of Suriya's Veera Bhadrudu aka Karuppu got delayed by a day, director RJ Balaji is full of tears and made a video on that day. He shared on social media that he has done whatever he could for the film, and it's only in God's hands if the film hits cinemas or not. The video went viral, and after the film's release, many felt that his honest cry had paid off, and the movie turned out to be a blockbuster. However, a noted financier criticised these acts of RJ Balaji, saying that rather than crying over the movie's release issues.

# MEGA Legacy: Father and Son Set Record Milestone!



In a rare and remarkable feat in Telugu cinema, a father and son have rewritten the record books with the biggest solo blockbusters of their respective careers. Megastar Chiranjeevi and his son, Mega Power Star Ram Charan, have achieved an unprecedented milestone by delivering the two highest-grossing South Indian films of the year. Chiranjeevi's previous outing, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, emerged as a massive blockbuster, collecting over 300 crore gross and becoming South India's highest-grossing film of 2026. Now, Ram Charan has surpassed that benchmark with his latest sensation Peddi. The film has crossed the lifetime collections of Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, entered the prestigious 300 crore club, and emerged as the highest-grossing South Indian film of the year. What makes this achievement even more extraordinary is that the year's top two highest-grossing films belong to a father and son duo, something never witnessed before in Indian cinema. While Chiranjeevi's film, directed by Anil Ravipudi, captivated audiences as a wholesome entertainer during the Sankranti season, Ram Charan's Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, struck a chord as an inspiring rural sports drama released towards the end of the summer season. Throughout his illustrious career spanning several decades, Chiranjeevi has delivered numerous blockbusters and industry hits while also experimenting with path-breaking stories and socially relevant cinema. Following in his father's footsteps, Ram Charan has consistently balanced commercial appeal with strong content-driven storytelling. After the landmark success of Rangasthalam, Charan has once again earned widespread acclaim for his stunning transformation and career-best performance in Peddi. With both father and son scaling new heights simultaneously, the Mega legacy continues to set new benchmarks at the box office.

## Mahesh Babu, Vanga Film – What Is The Truth?



Rumors are rife about Mahesh Babu teaming up with Sandeep Vanga after Varanasi in Asian Cinemas Production. Previously, they were supposed to do Devil for the same production but it did not happen. Asian gave advances to both but as of now, there is nothing concrete about both of them teaming up and doing a film after Varanasi for Asian.



## Naga Chaitanya Is In Awe Of 'Sing Geetham'

Yuvasamrat Naga Chaitanya is very selective in talking about the films he watched and rarely he tweets about them. He saw Legendary director Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's musical fantasy Sing Geetham and stated that he is mesmerised by the pure vision. He wrote on X, "SingGeetham A film that has to be experienced! Very rarely do films come so pure, A vision that's not corrupted by the pace of things today. SingeethamSrinivasaRao Garu's legendary work is the foundation of what we do today and this one will inspire us for what we do tomorrow." Chaitanya continued to say that the film has involved him into the story and every aspect worked for him big time. He said, "A few minutes into the film and all your judgements will be put to rest, every aspect of it being so honest. I'm in awe and no words will describe my respect to this team and the actors. Come together and celebrate this vision." Sing Geetham is receiving praises from every audience member while Celebrities like Jr. NTR, Nani and Adivi Sesh, now Chaitanya have praised the master and his craft. The movie showcased that unique and new ideas will always be welcomed with open arms at the box office.