



Russian Drone Strikes Hit Two Civilian Ships in Black Sea, One Killed



Russian drone attacks hit two civilian vessels in the Black Sea late Thursday, killing one person and wounding five others, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Kuleba said Friday. One ship was operating under the flag of Panama and the other Saint Kitts and Neveis, Kuleba posted on Telegram.



Indian Jurist Bimal Patel Elected As Judge Of Intl Tribunal For The Law Of Sea



Professor (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel



United Nations: An eminent Indian jurist, Bimal Patel, has been elected as Judge of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Patel is a Member of the UN International Law Commission, Chairman of the Working Group on Succession of States in respect of State Responsibility, and Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Pub-

lic International Law at Rashtriya Raksha University. He is also a member of the National Security Advisory Board, National Security Council Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office. "Congratulations to Prof. Dr Bimal N Patel for being elected as Judge of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in New York

today. His election takes forward India's enduring commitment to multilateralism and the Law of the Sea," the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said Thursday. The mission thanked all member states for their support and applauded all candidates for their vision and commitment to UNCLOS.



Harshit Rana Added

Chennai: Pacer Harshit Rana has joined the India squad for the third and final ODI against Afghanistan after completing his rehabilitation from a knee injury, the BCCI announced on Friday. Rana, who suffered a ligament strain in his right knee during India's T20 World Cup warm-up match against South Africa and subsequently underwent surgery in February, has linked up with the squad ahead of Saturday's series finale in Chennai. India have already sealed the three-match series, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead. "Mr Harshit Rana, who has completed his rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE), has linked up with the ODI squad in Chennai," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a media release.

TN Assembly Passes Unanimous Resolution Against K'taka's Mekedatu Dam



Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday adopted a unanimous resolution against Karnataka's move to construct a dam across river Cauvery at Mekedatu, expressing support for all measures undertaken by the state government on the issue. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay piloted the government resolution, and members of the opposition, including LoP Udhyanidhi Stalin and AIADMK's Edappadi K Palaniswami spoke on the subject. The resolution moved by Vijay said that the

House records its "strong objection to the unilateral attempt of the Government of Karnataka to construct a dam across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu, without respecting the Final Award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 and the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 16.2.2018." It said Karnataka acted without obtaining the concurrence of the concerned basin states, and had also not secured any approval from the Union Government.



Sandhya Theatre Stampede Case

Hyderabad: A local court in Nampally issued summons to the popular film actor Allu Arjun asking him to personally appear before it on Monday in connection with a stampede incident that took place in Sandhya 70 MM theatre in Chikkadpally in December 2024. Arjun is All in this case. A woman Revathi died in the stampede that happened during the premiere of the latest film 'Pushpa-2'. Her son Sritej escaped with serious injuries. She along with her husband and two children came to watch 'Pushpa-2' premier show. On January 5, 2025, Arjun appeared before the Chikkadpally police in the same case.

India Calls Pakistan A 'Frankenstein State' At UN, Rejects Kashmir Claims

India has slammed Pakistan at the United Nations, calling it a "Frankenstein state" that gets shocked when its "own monster bites back", as it accused Islamabad of "hosting, training and deploying" terrorists. The remarks were made by Anupama Singh, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the

United Nations, on Wednesday, after Pakistan and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during the Interactive Dialogue on the UN High Commissioner's annual report. "India is compelled to exercise this right of re-

ply in response to references made to it by Pakistan and the OIC. We categorically reject the baseless and malicious allegations made by Pakistan," Singh said. The diplomat further said: "We also categorically reject the references to Jammu and Kashmir made by the OIC... For the record, Jammu and Kashmir was,

is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. The only unresolved issue is Pakistan's illegal occupation of Indian territories and their return." She also said that Pakistan is a country whose sitting defence minister "boasts of hosting, training and deploying terrorists as state policy".

Revanth Reddy Thanks Rajnath Singh Clearing Path for Gandhi Sarovar Project

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Friday expressed his sincere gratitude to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the Indian Army for granting permission to the Telangana government to undertake work on its flagship Gandhi Sarovar Project at Bapu Ghat. The Chief Minister stated: "This approval marks an important milestone in the Government of

Telangana's vision for the comprehensive rejuvenation of the Musi River and the transformation of its riverfront into a vibrant ecological, cultural, and

public asset for the people. We are grateful for the support and cooperation extended by the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Army.



Telangana's vision for the comprehensive rejuvenation of the Musi River and the transformation of its riverfront into a vibrant ecological, cultural, and

Kerala Budget Earmarks Rs 50 Crore for Gen-Z Initiatives



Thiruvananthapuram: Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Friday announced a Rs 50 crore initiative for Generation-Z, describing the digitally native generation as a key driver of Kerala's future economy and innovation ecosystem. Presenting his maiden budget in the Assembly, Satheesan said Generation-Z was among the forces rapidly transforming the world. According to him, those born and raised in the digital age have technology as an integral part of their lives and are quick to adopt emerging technologies.

"Gen Z is the fastest demographic to adopt and utilise breakthroughs in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Data Science, Internet of Things (IoT), and Virtual Reality (VR). The creative abilities and technological excellence of the younger generation can be brought together to develop Kerala's startups, innovation hubs, research centres and smart industries, while emphasising digital ethics, privacy protection, cyber security and core human values," he said in the revised state Budget in the Assembly.



TGSPDCL CMD Conducts Inspection in Banjara Hills

Hyderabad: As part of the statewide Monsoon Preparedness Programme and the ongoing "Poles and Lines Special Drive - Walk Along the Line" initiative, TGSPDCL CMD V. Patil conducted a surprise inspection of the Sagar Society feeder area in Banjara Hills on Friday morning. The CMD inspected the 11 kV power line near Mugdha Silks and reviewed various network deficiencies. He issued necessary instructions to officials and field staff for rectification of the identified issues. Subsequently, he visited

Road No. 10, behind Jubilee Hills Club, and personally participated in the tree-trimming activities being carried out in the area, while reviewing the progress of the works. During the inspection, Patil emphasized the importance of timely trimming of tree branches located close to power lines to prevent power interruptions and ensure public safety. He directed the staff to take all necessary measures to avoid inconvenience to consumers and to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the monsoon season.



Gold, Silver Futures

Gold and silver futures witnessed sharp declines on Friday as investors dumped precious metals amid uncertainty over the implementation of the US-Iran peace agreement, a stronger US dollar and a broader selloff in global markets. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for August delivery fell Rs 3,392, or 2.27 per cent, to Rs 1,45,917 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 9,099 lots, extending losses for a second consecutive session. Silver contracts for July delivery slumped Rs 8,766, or 4 per cent, to Rs 2,28,806 per kilogram in a business turnover of 11,080 lots. The white metal had already plunged Rs 14,235, or 5.7 per cent, in the previous session. Analysts attributed the sharp fall to fading optimism surrounding the US-Iran peace process after high-level talks scheduled in Switzerland were postponed, raising doubts over the implementation of measures aimed at ending hostilities and restoring oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Switzerland's foreign ministry said the talks planned for Friday had been postponed, while US Vice President JD Vance delayed his visit and Iran's participation in the discussions remained uncertain.

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Wristwatch, An Integral Part of Our Body

(On the occasion of "National Watch Day" on 19th June)

Since its launch, the wristwatch has become a part of our body. The smartphones are in our hand, easily indicates the time, the watches worn on the wrist remain a major attraction in our lives. With the increase in the use of smartphones, the use of wristwatches is also decreasing. The civil society, which has recognised the importance of the clock or watch as a part of our culture, which is a part of every moment, various attractive handicraft forms, and the clock or watch, has become a tradition since 2017 to observe "National Watch Day" every year on June 19. On National Watch Day, which was initiated by Nordstrom, watch lovers and ordinary citizens come together to remember the five centuries of history of watches and use them as timekeepers even in the present digital AI age. "The Rich History of Watches: We can organize various activities like wearing our favorite watch, organizing exhibitions of different watch designs, visiting watch shops, remembering the history of watches, organizing watch competitions, getting our watches serviced, gifting watches to our loved ones, exploring vintage watches, doing social media campaigns, and showing watch making videos. In the 16th century, Peter Heinlein discovered that watches were made as pendants worn around the neck. In 1868, the modern wristwatch was designed by Patel Philip. British soldiers began using wristwatches extensively during World War I. In 1926, waterproof Rolex watches were released. In the 1970s, along with quartz watches, digital LED wristwatches were introduced, in the 1980s, artistic watches were introduced, and in 2004, spot watches were introduced. Before the use of wristwatches, soldiers used them, changing the tactics of warfare. "Watches have become a symbol of punctuality, personality, and health management in human lives. Today's watches not only indicate time but also play multifaceted roles such as a fashion statement, fitness monitor, activity tool, notifications, status symbol, and smart communicator. Let us make a decision to use our wristwatch, follow punctuality, stand in front of society with confidence, and move forward by achieving more goals in less time in our lives. Let us give a big push to the watch for punctuality.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

Paddy Bonus Only for 7 Select Varieties: Tummala

Hyderabad: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has made it clear that rice belonging to one or any of the seven select varieties of fine grain rice chosen by the government as a priority for planting this Kharif season will be the only rice crops that will be eligible for the bonus amounts. Nageswara Rao, at a meeting with senior agriculture officials on Wednesday, said even Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had stated the need to encourage cultivation of these select rice varieties and since there is a good demand in the market for these types of rice and potential for exports, seed companies should ensure adequate availability of seeds of these rice varieties. He also directed that the daily stock positions of these seeds should be displayed and dealers should share farmer-wise purchase data of these seeds. The selected seven varieties are BPT-5204 Sambamasuri, RSR-15048 Telangana Sona, HMT Sona, Jai Sriram, KSM-1638 Kunaram Sannalu, WGL-44 Siddhi, and KSM-7715. The minister also said that the government was considering providing subsidies for purchase of seeds for different crops and a decision would be taken soon.



Bandi Urges Coop Societies To Set Up Solar Plants

ADILABAD: Union minister of state for home affairs Bandi Sanjay on Wednesday urged individuals and cooperative societies to set up solar power plants under the PM Kusum Yojana, citing availability of bank loans and income potential. Speaking to the media after visiting a solar power plant on the outskirts of Choppadandi, he said only five such plants have been established in

the state so far, including one in Choppadandi in Karimnagar district and four in Peddapalli. He called upon cooperative societies to participate in the scheme and said a one-megawatt solar power plant could generate an annual income of around Rs 50 lakh. Bandi Sanjay said a one-megawatt plant can be set up on one acre of land at a cost of Rs 3.80 crore. Of this, a cooperative society would have to contribute

Rs 40 lakh, while the remaining Rs 3.40 crore could be availed as a loan from NABARD at an interest rate of 4 per cent. He added that 3 per cent interest would be reimbursed if repayments are made on time. He said the Centre is encouraging solar power generation and that discoms would procure solar power at Rs 3 per unit. The minister also visited a Jana Aushadhi outlet in Choppadandi and reviewed its operations.

e-auction goes awry! SBI moves HC claiming ownership of 'govt land'

Hyderabad: Selling government land in e-auction for record prices is fine as long as the seller has clear title to the entire parcel sold. That precisely seems to be in question with regard to a portion of the land parcel that the Telangana government auctioned on May 28. The land parcel in question is located in Survey No. 83/1 at Knowledge City in the Raidurgam area. It was hailed as "a landmark e-auction" as the 6.29-acre plot surpassed the Rs 170 cr/acre base price to fetch a historic Rs 237 crore per acre (won by Gowra Ventures), set-

ting a new South India real estate benchmark. The total transaction value was put at Rs 1,490.73 crore (70.5% above the reserve price). The auction drew significant attention in real estate and government circles. Subsequently, the State Bank of India (SBI) approached the High Court claiming ownership rights over a portion of the land. The Bank claims that a 5-acre portion of the auctioned land is tied to significant loan defaults and debt recovery proceedings. So, the bank has requested the High Court to halt or review the auction proceedings.

Podu Cultivators, Forest Staff Clash in Adilabad as Monsoon Sowing Starts



ADILABAD: Clashes between podu cultivators and forest staff have been reported with the onset of the monsoon in the erstwhile Adilabad district, as authorities intensified efforts to reclaim forest land under the Land Retrieval Mission. Forest officials undertook operations in Dimda village of Chinthalamanepalli mandal and Lumbininagar in Bejjur mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, where non-tribals are cultivating forest land. Discussions are under way between officials and cultivators over sharing of land. Officials have proposed allocating a portion of land for each family's livelihood from the total area under cultivation. However, cultivators have demanded allocation on an individual basis for each family member instead of treating the family as a unit. Some cultivators possess pahanis but do not have pattas for the land. Forest officials have appealed to Adivasis not to participate in agitations concerning land held by non-tribals, stating that lands in agency areas belonging to Adivasis are not being disturbed. Officials of the Kagaznagar forest division said non-tribals are holding between 15 and 20 acres of podu land, which is classified as forest land. Cultivators, however, said they have been farming the land for around four decades and depend on it for their livelihood. Officials also offered to permit infrastructure works, including roads, culverts, borewells and electricity supply, in Dimda and Lumbininagar if cultivators surrender half of the land under their occupation. Kagaznagar forest division officer Appaiah held talks with cultivators in Lumbininagar. In a separate incident, Adivasis of Gondguda hamlet in Nachanellapur village of Kadam mandal in Nirmal district opposed allocation of land they were cultivating to Adivasi families displaced from the core area of Kawal Tiger Reserve and rehabilitated at Maddipadaga. Tensions escalated when forest staff began demarcating land for the ostees, leading to clashes. Police arrested 20 Adivasis from Nachanellapur for allegedly obstructing officials. Former Adilabad MP and Rajgond Seva Samiti state president Soyam Babu Rao submitted a memorandum to ITDA project officer Manda Makarandu, alleging that forest officials were creating divisions among Adivasis and not ensuring justice to those displaced from the Kawal Tiger Reserve.

Rs 198-Cr Kaleshwaram Temple Restoration Works Begin



Adilabad: Development and restoration works at the Kaleshwara Muktheeshwara Swamy temple in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district commenced on Wednesday, with temple authorities dismantling existing structures following traditional rituals. The dismantling

began at 8.15 am, a day after priests performed the Pancha Brahma Homa. The state government has sanctioned Rs 198 crore for the temple's development and Rs 60 crore for the development of Astra Teerthas in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district. The temple is believed to have been constructed during the Kakatiya and Chalukya periods. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the project on April 20. The redevelopment aims to facilitate darshan for about 25,000 devotees within the temple premises. As part of the project, works will be taken up at Pakshi Teertham, Vyasa Teertham and Gnana Teertham, along with construction of ghats and roads connecting them for devotees

taking holy dips. In the first phase, works will begin from the southern side of the temple and extend up to the garbhlayam. Small gopurams, prakarams and subsidiary temples will be completed, except the east prakaram. Officials said the first phase will be completed before the Godavari Pushkaralu in 2027, after which the remaining works will be taken up. The temple is expected to witness a large inflow of devotees during the festival. Principal secretary (endowments) Shailaja Ramaier, commissioner Hanumantha Rao, Dharmika Advisor Govinda Hari, architect Sraya Narayana and temple executive officer Mahesh are supervising the works.

PPA assures protection for villages affected by Polavaram project



HYDERABAD: The Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) has said that concerns relating to possible submergence and backwater impacts on upstream habitations in Telangana due to the Polavaram Project are being

accorded top priority and receiving due administrative attention. This came in response to a representation submitted by former irrigation minister T Harish Rao regarding the need to protect affected habitations from the project being constructed by the Andhra Pradesh government. In its communication, the PPA acknowledged the concerns raised on behalf of Telangana residents and stated that issues relating to backwater impacts were being accorded top priority and receiving due administrative attention. Referring to the inter-state meeting held on April 8, 2025, the PPA informed Harish that the meeting had concluded with an assurance that all areas in Telangana likely to be affected up to the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of the Polavaram Project.



Hyderabad Voice

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Buoyed by reaction to Telangana public schools, CM pledges one in each constituency

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday announced that Telangana Public Schools (TPS) will be established in every Assembly constituency to provide quality education and nurture sporting talent, with the aim of producing future Olympians and leaders. Inaugurating the TPS at Arutla in Rangareddy district, the chief minister said the initiative was aimed at reviving the public education system and bringing out talented students with immense potential. He also took a swipe at the opposition BRS, warning that it could lose its status as the principal opposition party in the next Assembly elections if it continued to level what he described as false allegations against the government. Revanth urged political opponents to visit the Arutla campus and assess the government's efforts to strengthen public education. Addressing the gathering, he dedicated the school to students of government institutions across Telangana and said the same spirit



would benefit the 27 lakh students studying in government schools statewide. "We are strengthening government schools based on the recommendations of the Telangana Education Commission. Already, 1,814 students have enrolled in the Arutla TPS. It is a matter of pride that a government school has had to put up a 'No Admission' board because of overwhelming demand," he said. The chief minister praised the school's teachers for competing with corporate educational institutions and said the TPS initiative reflected the government's commitment to rebuilding a neglected education system. Revanth noted that several distinguished leaders and officials had studied in government schools, including former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao, former Union minister S Jaipal Reddy and himself. Revanth encouraged students to excel academically and aspire to become IAS and IPS officers, public representatives and leaders. He said the government was providing breakfast, midday meals, quality uniforms and student kits to improve learning outcomes. He added that the establishment of Young India Integrated Residential Schools and

the Young India Skills University formed part of the government's broader effort to provide quality education and skill development opportunities. Stressing the importance of sports, the chief minister said the government had established the Young India Sports University with the goal of helping India win Olympic medals. "A sports training programme has already been launched in schools," he said. Recalling the football event featuring Lionel Messi in Hyderabad, Revanth said the government had succeeded in bringing the legendary FIFA World Cup-winning player to the city despite criticism from the opposition. "I made children of SC, ST, minority social welfare residential schools play football with Messi in front of the world. Is it not a sweet memory of a lifetime for the SC, ST, BC children if they play football with Messi. While I am trying to promote sports, some are not able to digest that Revanth Reddy brought Messi to Hyderabad," he said.

7606 claims pending amid delay in payment of premiums, Telangana govt assures payments



The accumulation of outstanding farmer insurance premium payments owed by the state government has become a major crisis for thousands of farming families in Telangana. Unlike in the past—when LIC would clear claims promptly by accepting pending amounts along with interest—the corporation has now altered its rules. It has made it clear that claims will be approved only if the full premium is paid, resulting in approximately 7,606 claims remaining pending across the state. Consequently, the families of farmers who died due to various causes are facing severe financial hardship, with family members making repeated rounds of government offices seeking compensation. Under the farmer insurance scheme introduced in 2018, a compensation of Rs 5 lakh is provided to the nominee in the event of a farmer's death due to accidental or natural causes. For the 2025-26 financial year, the government was required to pay Rs 1,359.56 crore in premiums to LIC but has paid only Rs 923.11 crore so far. Officials state that LIC has halted the processing of further claims due to the outstanding balance of Rs 436.45 crore; the pending 7,606 claims involve a total compensation amount of Rs 380 crore. Meanwhile, as affected families visit the Secretariat to meet officials regarding the compensation, it is reported that the matter has been brought to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Officials state that the Telangana state government is preparing to pay the pending farmer insurance premiums. Preparations are reportedly underway to make payments within a day or two. Officials explain that if the government clears the arrears immediately, there is a possibility of processing 3,919 claims worth Rs 195 crore by August 14.

Govt Adviser Takes Stock Of Waterlogging Areas



HYDERABAD: With monsoon setting in, a team led by government adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy on Wednesday inspected flood-prone areas under the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) limits to review monsoon preparedness and measures to be taken to prevent waterlogging. The team comprising DGP C.V. Anand, HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath, HMWS&SB MD Ashok Reddy, MMC commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, Malkajgiri police commissioner B. Sumathi, and other officials took stock of flood prone locations. At Prakashnagar Metro Rail Station and Chikoti Gardens, where flooding has been a recurring issue, Ranganath said the situation was improved considerably after extensive desilting of the underground drainage system car-

ried out by HYDRAA last year. He added the construction of a 40-lakh-litre retention pond to capture floodwater flowing from Begumpet airport has also yielded positive results. He noted that lowering the water-level in Hussainsagar would further help resolve flooding in the area. The officials also inspected the five-lakh litre capacity sump at Uppal Crossroads, which helped in preventing waterlogging and noted the restoration of Uppal Nallacheruvu has reduced flood-risk in the area. Later, the team inspected the stormwater drain leading up to Bairamalguda lake near the LB Nagar. Officials said the proposed construction of a 900-mm stormwater drain connecting Chandrapuri Colony and Gunti Jangaiah Colony through the Main Road would help in solving the flooding issue. In Vanasthalipuram, the team inspected stormwater infrastructure along the Vijayawada highway. Officials said an additional 1,000-mm pipeline is required to carry floodwater to Mansoorabad Pedda Cheruvu.

TGHRC Probes Deaths Of Mother, New born

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) has taken note of the death of a pregnant woman and her newborn child allegedly due to absence of a doctor at the Government Hospital at Gundala in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. According to commission, Datla Vanaja, 20, a resident of Shambhunigudem village was taken to the hospital with labour pains. It was alleged that the duty doctor was not available at the hospital at the relevant time and that a nurse conducted the delivery. The newborn child reportedly died shortly after birth and the mother subsequently succumbed while undergoing treatment at the Government Hospital, Khammam.

12 BDS Students from Govt. Dental College Booked for Ragging in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Twelve final-year BDS students were suspended after it was found that they had allegedly ragged first-year BDS students and physically abused an intern, causing blurred vision in one eye, at Government Dental College on June 8. They include all men staying in the men's hostel and allegedly targeted first-year male BDS students. They were repeatedly warned many times. They had also allegedly broken CCTV cameras on December 31, 2025, and continued abusing juniors. This group of twelve included individuals belonging to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh who behaved like rogues said juniors. "To avoid damage to their career and life, many meetings were held with wardens, the principal, and juniors, but they did not listen," officials said. "On Monday, June 15 after repeated warnings for months, we constituted an anti-ragging committee and invited parents, but only the parents of six individuals turned up. They were explained what their children were doing.

Though counselling was conducted many times, they repeatedly ragged the first year students. Hence, they have been suspended for six months," said Dr. Sarjeev Singh Yadav, Principal and HOD, Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Government Dental College. The letter of the juniors accessed by Deccan Chronicle explained that around 40 students were staying in the hostel building, and most of the first-year BDS students were allegedly subjected to harassment. It stated: "In the odd hours, seniors call us to bring orders from outside, bring alcohol, cigarettes, fill water in coolers, and bring five-litre water cans for drinking purposes. If sometimes we fail to do so, they make us do sit-ups and wall chairs, do not allow us to attend classes, and make us stay in the hostel to do their work. They also make us bring food and curries from various places irrespective of the time, by walking." An intern who had completed BDS and was pursuing internship reportedly tried to resolve the issue.

Telangana ministers take Palle Velugu bus ride to tout Maha Lakshmi gains

Hyderabad: Two Telangana cabinet ministers traveled in a TGSRTC Palle Velugu bus in Karimnagar district on Wednesday, June 17, interacting with passengers and reaffirming the state government's commitments on public welfare, education, and transport. Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnab Prabhakar and SC, ST, Minority and Disabled Persons Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar boarded the bus at Thimmapur Vaageshwari Engineering College and traveled to the NTR statue in the district headquarters, speaking with commuters along the way about their experience of the free bus service. Under the Maha Lakshmi scheme, launched in December 2023, TGSRTC Palle Velugu and express buses provide free travel to women, girls and transgender persons across Telangana. Ponnab Prabhakar said ridership had risen sharply since the scheme's launch, prompting the government to procure new buses. He said women had not only been given free travel but had also been made owners of RTC buses, and that longstanding worker grievances were

being resolved under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. He added that trade union elections were underway and that winning representatives would be integrated into the officers' committee upon their conclusion. The minister also said pre-primary schools had been started this year and a breakfast milk scheme launched in government schools. He said Telangana was the only state in the country to have both granted women free RTC travel and made them bus owners. He added that the government would consider extending free travel to students presenting NEET hall tickets on the day of the examination, scheduled for the 21st of this month. Adluri Laxman Kumar, addressing the opposition, said the BRS had failed to govern adequately during its 2014-2023 tenure and accused the previous government of limiting welfare spending to diet charges for hostel students. He said the current administration was providing facilities to 27 lakh students and alleged Rs 1,142 crore in under-procurement in BC and social welfare during the BRS era, with Rs 2,000 crore in corruption.





Saturday, June 20, 2026

Panel set up to oversee farming operations, procurement across Telangana



HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan covering the entire agricultural cycle, from seed distribution to crop procurement, and announced the formation of a high-level committee to monitor farming operations across Telangana. Chairing a review meeting on agriculture, Revanth instructed

officials to ensure seamless coordination between the Agriculture and Civil Supplies departments and planning authorities. The committee, headed by the agriculture secretary, will oversee seed distribution, sowing, farmer registration, crop data collection, yield estimation and procurement. It will also promote the use of modern technology in farming and ensure accurate field-level verification of cultivation across the state. The chief minister stressed the need for advance planning to tackle procurement-related challenges, including unseasonal rains, transportation, storage and marketing, while ensuring farmers receive the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce. Following the state's decision to offer a bonus of ₹500 per quintal of fine variety paddy, Revanth directed officials to make seven identified paddy seed varieties available at subsidised rates through Rythu Vedikas. Farmers will also be

able to register their details and purchase seeds and fertilisers at these centres. Revenue and police personnel will be deployed alongside agriculture officials at each Rythu Vedika, with additional collectors overseeing their functioning. Calling for greater use of technology, the chief minister asked officials to integrate AI-based systems into agricultural operations. He reviewed the pilot project being implemented in Dammipeta mandal of Bhadrachalam district and suggested expanding it if it benefits farmers. Revanth also directed officials to introduce an app-based fertiliser booking system and asked Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageshwar Rao to press the Union government for adequate fertiliser allocations during the kharif season. He further instructed officials to reduce losses in MARKFED, strengthen OIL FED and ensure timely payments to dairy farmers.



TG govt braces for de-siltation of irrigation projects

Hyderabad: Better late than never. Much after the Southwest Monsoon advanced into Telangana and reached Hyderabad in the second week of June, with its progression across the state currently sluggish and weak due to a "weak Bay of Bengal branch", the state government has woken up to the dire need for de-siltation and sedimentation of all irrigation projects. For, the Irrigation Department has belatedly found that delay in de-siltation poses a big threat to the projects during heavy inflows in the monsoon season. So, the Irrigation wing will undertake a detailed study of de-siltation models being implemented in other states and examine best practices that could be adapted to Telangana's conditions. A study of the national framework and guidelines issued by the central government on reservoir de-siltation and sediment management would also be done before the start of the works. At a high-level meeting, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy observed that the cost of delayed action could be enormous. He pointed out that severe flooding in Punjab last year inundated 16 of the state's 22 districts, forcing the government to spend nearly Rs 2,000 crore on flood-related damages and compensation. A substantial portion of such expenditure could have been avoided through timely preventive measures, including systematic de-siltation and restoration of drainage and storage capacities, he opined.



Ready to resign if you prove allegations, says minister Adhuri

HYDERABAD: Hitting back at BRS leader T Harish Rao for alleging a ₹2,000 crore Welfare department tenders scam, SC, ST and Minority Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar on Tuesday dared the former to prove his claims. "The BRS leader has repeatedly been claiming that a scam worth ₹2,000 crore took place but failed to provide any evidence. I am ready to visit any place of his choice. If he proves his allegations, I will resign as minister on the spot," the minister said. Terming the allegations as "false", Laxman asserted that he has never indulged in corruption and that he does not know "how to loot or hide public money". "The present government is not like the previous BRS regime, when decisions used to be taken without informing the ministers concerned. In the Revanth Reddy government, ministers have complete freedom and are fully involved in decision-making," he said.

Polavaram Impact on TG Validated by Project Authority: Harish

Hyderabad: Former irrigation minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday expressed hope that the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), under the Government of India, which acknowledged "the gravity of the concerns" he raised on behalf of the people of Telangana in a letter to PPA and will execute all promised flood-mitigation, protection, rehabilitation and resettlement measures to ensure that no village, farmer, agricultural land, livelihood, or family in Telangana will suffer on account of Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram Project. Harish Rao, in a statement, said following his letter to the PPA on the critical need to protect upstream habitations in Telangana from submergence and backwater effects of the project, the Authority re-



sponded that all these issues were receiving top priority and attention. He said the PPA had, in its assurance to Telangana at the inter-state meeting on April 8, 2025, has said that all areas within Telangana likely to be affected up to the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of the Polavaram Project will either be fully protected through robust engineering safeguards or acquired in accordance with the applicable Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) provisions. He said PPA's response validates the long-standing concerns raised by Telangana, adding that the formal assurance given by PPA, a statutory authority of Government of India, is a significant step towards safeguarding the interests of the affected people.

15 Children Hospitalized after Eating Panipuri in Rajanna Sircilla

Rajanna Sircilla: Around 15 children were hospitalised after consuming panipuri in KCR Nagar Colony, a gated community in Thangallapally Mandal, Rajanna Sircilla district, in a suspected case of food poisoning. According to Thangallapally police, the children and their family members had consumed panipuri from a street vendor who entered the colony to sell it and 15 children later developed symptoms including vomiting and diarrhoea. They were immediately shifted to the Civil Hospital in Rajanna Sircilla district and are undergoing treatment.

Telangana's rainfall deficit during early monsoon worse than in past El Nino years



HYDERABAD: Telangana is witnessing one of its most unusual monsoon starts in recent years, with the southwest monsoon virtually coming to a standstill after entering the state and leaving it with a 23% rainfall deficit midway through June. What is worrying meteorologists, however, is not merely the deficit itself but the stage at which it has appeared. The looming danger can be assessed from the fact that several previous El Nino years, including some that eventually ended in drought, did not witness such a sharp rainfall shortfall this early in the season. With 27 of Telangana's 33 districts already under rainfall deficit and the monsoon yet to cover nearly half the state, weather experts say the current pattern is raising concerns about how the remainder of the season could unfold. The southwest monsoon entered Telangana on June 8 through southern parts of the state. However, instead of progressing steadily across the state as it normally does, the monsoon slowed dramatically within days. After a brief advance around June 13 and 14, it stalled again, leaving nearly half the state outside the monsoon zone. Even after nearly 10 days since its onset, the monsoon has managed to cover only about 50% of Telangana, an exceptionally slow pace for this time of the year. Under normal circumstances, the monsoon would have swept across the entire state by now and advanced well into central India. Meteorologists say the present situation stands out when compared with previous El Nino years. An analysis of IMD rainfall data shows that June 2015, one of the strongest El Nino events on record, recorded rainfall 14% above normal across India. In 2002 and 2004, both remembered for drought conditions later in the season, June rainfall remained near normal, with deficits emerging only during subsequent months. Even in 2023, the most recent El Nino year, June rainfall remained within the IMD's normal range despite ending slightly below average. Only in 2009 and 2014 did June rainfall collapse sharply.

Agriculture department cracks down on fertiliser price violations

Kagaznagar: Mandal Agriculture Officer Ramakrishna conducted surprise inspections of fertiliser shops in Kagaznagar on Wednesday and directed dealers to sell fertilisers only at government-fixed prices. He warned that strict action, including cancellation of licences, would be taken against dealers found charging rates above the prescribed prices. The officer said adequate fertiliser stocks were available at all centres to ensure uninterrupted supply to farmers.

Pawan Kalyan Visits Ailing 17-Year-Old Fan in Hanumakonda, Fulfills Wish



ADILABAD: Andhra Pradesh's Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday met Ponugoti Niranjan, 17, alias Gabbar Singh of Hanumakonda, who was reported to be suffering from a rare disease. Heavy security

from the Telangana police was evident for Pawan Kalyan's tour of Hanumakonda. Niranjan was an ardent fan who regularly watched Pawan Kalyan's movies. Niranjan has been bedridden for the last three years with the affliction

of a rare disease -- Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy—that stopped his body growth and he looked like a child. Niranjan is the son of Ponugoti Ramu and Manasa, a couple living in Pegadapalli Dabhal in Hanumakonda in Greater Warangal. The locals call Niranjan 'Gabbar Singh' since he has been a fan of Pawan Kalyan, the hero in that movie. The deputy CM visited Niranjan's house in Hanumakonda and spent some time with him, enquired about his health and his hobbies, and interacted with the family members. He also visited the Bhadrakali temple and performed puja. Kalyan thanked chief minister Revanth Reddy and the Telangana police for their help during his Hanumakonda and Warangal tour. He thanked the people of Telangana for showing their love and affection towards him and said he was always inspired by the love and affection and blessing of the Telangana people. The AP deputy CM wished for the early recovery of Niranjan with blessings from Lord Venkateshwara Swamy and Bhadrakali. "I wish to see Niranjan in good health and happy, recovering from the rare disease soon," he stated.

CJI calls cyber criminals 'parasites', says they must be locked in prisons



NEW DELHI: Denying bail to an accused in a cyber fraud case, the Supreme Court on Wednesday termed cyber criminals "parasites" who cheat people of huge amounts and said society's interest lies in keeping them in custody (behind bars) during the trial. "You guys (cyber fraudsters) are parasites who dupe investors of crores of rupees. With cybercrimes we have to be very harsh. Your victims are always pan-Indians. You cheat someone in Tamil Nadu then you go to Jammu... Society's interest is only that you should be inside jail", said a partial-working day bench led by the Chief Justice of India

Surya Kant while dismissing the plea. The bench, also comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Sandeep Mehta, turned down the bail plea of the man arrested for allegedly cheating multiple victims through fake banking portals and phishing links. The alleged fraud in the case is over Rs 3 crore. "These are parasites who misuse technology to loot ordinary citizens. Such crimes shake public confidence in digital transactions. Keeping them behind bars serves the larger societal interest," the bench remarked. The petitioner had moved the apex court seeking bail, citing long detention and the fact that co-accused had been granted bail by

the High Court. On the other hand, the Delhi Police opposed the bail plea by calling him the "mastermind" of an interstate racket who evaded arrest for months. The court observed that probe findings showed a network of mule bank accounts, SIM cards obtained on forged documents, and systematic laundering of funds. "Economic offences like these are premeditated and cause deep harm to society. They stand on a different footing from other crimes," the bench noted. While declining bail, the court said delay in trial cannot be a ground for release given the gravity of allegations. It asked the trial court to finish the case within a year.

India's defence production surges to Rs 1.78 lakh cr in 2025-26

New Delhi: India's annual defence production touched an all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, the defence ministry said on Wednesday. The milestone represents a 15.6 per cent growth over the previous fiscal year's output of Rs 1.54 lakh crore and a staggering 110 per cent increase since 2020-21 when the figure was Rs 84,643 crore, it said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the "remarkable rise" in India's defence production in recent years is



the result of the collective efforts of the Department of Defence Production and all other stakeholders. "This upward trajectory is a clear indicator of the country's expanding defence industrial base," he said. "With sustained

policy support, several new initiatives, increased private sector participation, and growing export capabilities, the defence production sector is poised for continued acceleration in the years ahead," he said.

Amit Shah for use of AI to crack cyber crimes



NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday directed modernisation of the National Cyber Crime Helpline 1930 and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies with it to strengthen the country's cyber crime response system. He issued the directions at a review meeting in the national capital. Describing the 1930 helpline as a crucial platform for citizens to report cyber crimes conveniently, Shah stressed that every complainant must receive prompt support. He underscored that no complaint should remain unattended or pending and directed officials to further improve efficiency. The home minister instructed officials that the helpline be upgraded through the adoption of advanced technologies,

including AI, to facilitate faster complaint registration, intelligent call routing and more effective grievance management. He said the revamped system should significantly enhance service delivery and response capabilities for citizens affected by cyber crimes. Shah said that the Centre was committed of building a secure, technology-driven and citizen-centric cyber security framework. He told officials that the 1930 call centres, operating across states and Union territories, be strengthened through improved technological and operational upgrades. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs will provide support for hardware and technology enhancements for the helpline framework, while the states and UTs will be asked to ensure adequate staffing at call centres. Shah asked officials to leverage interactive software systems, especially for voice response, at the call centres. This feature can help ensure easy transfer of calls to the relevant authorities without troubling the complainant to locate them, the ministry said. The minister also ordered the creation of a national call centre within the 1930 framework that will address complaints that remain unanswered at the state level. The meeting also reviewed the performance of the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), a key initiative of the Union home ministry aimed at tackling cyber financial fraud.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi To Promote 'Yoga For Healthy Ageing' In Kolkata Ahead Of 12th International Yoga Day

Yoga is very essential for our body as it helps to keep our body healthy and keep away from any kind of illness. And, in case, body suffers from any illness, yoga makes our immune system strong enough to fight any foreign bacteria or virus. It not only helps our body but mind too. With the practice of yoga, one can calm his or her mind and can deal with any pressurised situations or circumstances. With the aim of spreading its significance PM Modi talked about Yoga and its practices in the United Nations in 2014, which led to the adoption of the international observance of yoga. In 2026, we will be celebrating 12th International Yoga Day which will be led by PM Modi in Kolkata on June 21, 2026. PM Modi to lead 12th International Yoga Day in Kolkata's historic Red Road on Sunday, June 21, 2026. The theme for this year focuses on Yoga for Healthy Ageing. This year's theme was announced by Ministry of Ayush and supported by the United Nations. It aims to highlight how yoga can promote longevity, healthy life, mobility, and preven-



shared global movement for health and wellness. Ministry of Ayush shared PM Modi 2026 yoga clip on X and wrote, "Yoga is an invaluable gift from India to the world, continuously inspiring millions of people toward optimal health. The main event of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 will be held at 'Red Road' in Kolkata, uniting the entire world in a thread of well-being and harmony. This year's theme is 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', which promotes physical strength and mental peace. Come, let us adopt yoga and build a disease-free and healthy society!"

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2 FIRs Filed Against Abhishek Banerjee Over Alleged Rs 550 Crore Corruption Cases

Two separate FIRs alleging corruption worth a combined Rs 550 crore have been registered against Trinamool Congress national general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee following a complaint by BJP leader Abhijit Das (Babi), according to the allegations outlined in the complaints. The cases, registered at police stations in South 24 Parganas district, relate to alleged illegal soil excavation worth Rs 300 crore and an alleged Rs 250 crore irregularity in the distribution of relief materials during Cyclone Amphan. The first FIR was lodged at Kalitala Ashuti Police Station and names Abhishek Banerjee, his private secretary Sumit Roy, Bishnupur Trinamool MLA Dilip Mondal and 20 others as accused. According to the complaint, around 163 bighas of agricultural land were illegally excavated from 2017 onwards, with fertile topsoil allegedly



sold for commercial purposes through an organised network. The complainant alleged that the activity intensified during 2022 and 2023, generating illegal gains exceeding Rs 300 crore. To support the allegations, satellite images and other documents were reportedly submitted to the police, with the complainant claiming they show extensive land alteration and large-scale soil extraction. The complaint further alleges that the activities caused significant environmental damage and harmed agricultural land, while authorities failed to act despite complaints from local residents.

Security forces seize arms, destroy bunkers during search operations in Manipur's Kangpokpi

Security forces conducted large-scale search operations in at least four violence-hit villages in Manipur's Kangpokpi district and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, police said on Thursday. At least thirty illegal bunkers were also destroyed during the operations on Wednesday at Leilon Vaiphei, Leilon Khunou, L Munlui and Konsakhul villages within the jurisdiction of the Leimakhong Police Station, a police statement said.

Three Nihang pilgrims remanded in judicial custody after Karnaprayag clash


DEHRADUN: Three of the four Nihang pilgrims arrested following a violent clash with local traders in Karnaprayag have been remanded in judicial custody, while the fourth remains under police guard in hospital. The incident took place on Tuesday near Krishna Palace Hotel in Karnaprayag, Chamoli district, as a group of pilgrims was returning from the Hemkund Sahib Yatra. A verbal altercation with local shopkeepers allegedly escalated into violence. Police said four pilgrims allegedly attacked local residents with swords and kirpans.

Estd : 1996

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Education

VOICE OF WORDS

Saturday, June 20, 2026

The First Five Years: Where Human Potential Begins



We continue to treat early childhood as a prelude to “real education,” a waiting room before schooling begins. But science, developmental research, and decades of global evidence tell us something profoundly different, the first five years are not preparation for learning. They are the foundation of learning itself. The scale of what unfolds during this period is extraordinary. The first 1,000 days from conception to a child’s second birthday are recognised by WHO and UNICEF as a critical window of opportunity for growth and development. The years that follow extend this developmental arc into roughly the first 3,000 days of life, shaping brain architecture, cognitive ability, emotional regulation, physical health, and social competence. During the first 1,000 days, most neural connections are formed, and nearly 85% of brain development takes place. What happens or fails to happen during this period can leave effects that are enduring, sometimes irreversible. Learning, therefore, begins long before a child recognises letters or numbers. It begins in touch, rhythm, eye contact, language, play, and emotional security. By the early years, the blueprint is already being drawn. Why does this matter so urgently today?

A nation does not secure its future in stock markets, policy corridors, or technology parks alone. It secures it in nurseries, kitchens, playgrounds, and quiet bedtime conversations in the invisible yet astonishing work of a child’s developing brain. If India aspires to become a Viksit Bharat and a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, the most strategic investment it can make may not lie in infrastructure alone but in the earliest years of human development. Yet, this is precisely where our collective attention often falters. Because we are confronting a paradox of modern childhood, families have unprecedented access to information, yet developmental vulnerabilities are rising across socioeconomic groups. We often associate developmental risk with poverty alone. Still, increasingly, children from middle- and higher-income households face a different constellation of challenges: excessive screen exposure, obesity, physical inactivity, delayed social skills, emotional difficulties, and behavioural concerns. In this environment, education risks becoming narrowly transactional, a hurried pursuit of academic readiness detached from developmental readiness.

But early learning is not an industrial process in which knowledge is efficiently installed into young minds. It is more akin to cultivating a living ecosystem. Growth requires nourishment, responsive relationships, movement, language-rich environments, and emotional safety. Childhood cannot be accelerated without cost. The evidence for investing early is compelling, but it is not merely statistical; it is civilizational. Children who grow up well-nourished, emotionally secure, and cognitively stimulated are more likely to complete education, acquire skills, participate meaningfully in the workforce, and earn higher incomes.

Osmania University secures four international ISO certifications from BIS

Hyderabad: The Osmania University (OU) has created a new record of its sort by securing four internationally recognised ISO certifications from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The certifications are ISO 21001:2018 – Educational Organizations Management System, ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental Management System, ISO 50001:2018 – Energy Management System and ISO 22000:2018 – Food Safety Management System. These certifications, the university administration said, reflect the university’s dedication to implementing world-class education, environmental conservation, energy efficiency, food safety, and internationally accepted management practices. OU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram said, “By adopting contemporary global standards, we are preparing Osmania to face future challenges. We are shaping the university to compete internationally and to meet the needs of students and society”. BIS Chennai Deputy Director General (Southern Region) & Scientist ‘F’ Sandeep Kumar Kanojia said securing these rigorous



international certifications is a magnificent achievement. “However, this is only the beginning of the quality journey, not the destination. The real success lies in continuously maintaining and further developing these quality standards,” he added.

Scholarship applications open for workers’ children

Hyderabad: The Government of India’s Labour Welfare Organisation has invited online applications for educational scholarships for the children of Beedi, Mine, and Cine workers for the academic year 2026–27. The notification, issued by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner in Hyderabad, applies to students studying in Government and Government-recognised institutions across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The scholarships cover children of Beedi Workers, Limestone and Dolomite Mine Workers, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mine Workers, Mica Mine Workers, and Cine Workers. Eligible students from Class I to X for Pre-Matric and Class XI to Professional Degree courses for Post-Matric must apply through the National Scholarship Portal. The last date for Pre-Matric applications is 31 August 2026, whilst Post-Matric applications can be submitted until 31 October 2026. Applicants may seek technical support through the NSP Helpdesk at 0120-6619540 or helpdesk@nsp.gov.in. For additional details, students may contact the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Labour Welfare Organisation, Room No 54, Kendriya Sadan, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad – 500001, Tel 040-29561297, Email wclwohyd@nic.in, or visit the nearest departmental dispensary. The Welfare Commissioner urged all eligible students, parents, and guardians to submit applications well before deadlines.

GITAM Hyderabad opens admissions for 2026–27, launches School of Education



Hyderabad: GITAM University, Hyderabad, has announced admissions for its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for the academic year 2026–27. The University has also launched its School of Education, further expanding its multidisciplinary learning ecosystem. The Hyderabad campus has introduced several new programmes this year, including BBA (Entre-

preneurship) in association with the Bower School of Entrepreneurship, B.A. B.Ed. and B.Sc. B.Ed. under the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), B.Sc. Microbiology, M.Sc. Biotechnology, M.Tech. Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, and M.Pharm in Industrial Pharmacy. Admissions are open through GAT 2026 and recognised national and state-level entrance examinations, including TG EAPCET,

AP EAPCET, NCET, NATA, JEE, CUET, GMAT, CAT, and others. Students can avail of scholarships of up to 100%, covering tuition fees, food, and accommodation, based on merit and performance in qualifying examinations. The GITAM Admission Test (GAT 2026), a national-level entrance examination conducted by the University, is scheduled for June 28, in online mode across India. The last date to apply is June 26.

NEET UG 2026 Re-Exam: Delhi Govt To Set Up Cooling Zones And Free Refreshments For NEET Aspirants' Parents At 97 Exam Centres

NEET UG 2026 Re-Exam: Ahead of the NEET UG 2026 re-examination scheduled for June 21, the Delhi government has announced a series of measures to support candidates and their families on exam day. Special cooling zones will be set up at all 97 examination centres across the national capital. According to the Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, the cooling zones will be equipped with seating arrangements, clean drinking water, shikanji, oral rehydration solution (ORS), tea, first-aid facilities, and other essential amenities. The initiative aims to ensure that parents and family members accompanying candidates can wait comfortably during the examination. In addition to these facilities, the Delhi government has also arranged

free travel for NEET candidates on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses. The move is intended to help students reach their examination centres without facing transportation-related difficulties. The government stated that these arrangements are part of its efforts to create a supportive and stress-free environment for students appearing in one of the country’s most competitive entrance examinations. Extending her best wishes to all aspirants, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta encouraged students to approach the examination with confidence, focus, and dedication. She expressed hope that their hard work and determination would pave the way for a bright future and contribute to the progress of their families, Delhi, and the nation.

Global Recognition: University of Hyderabad Alumni Lead Agri-Biotech Expansion at Bharat Innovates 2026

Among the select group of 120 high-potential deep-tech startups representing India’s rising leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship was ATGC Biotech Pvt. Ltd., a pioneering company co-founded by two distinguished UoH alumni, Dr. Markandeya Gorantla and Dr. V.B. Reddy.

The event took place alongside high-level India–France bilateral engagements organized during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s visit to France. Bharat Innovates 2026 served as an elite gathering point for India’s most promising minds across biotechnology, healthcare, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, sustainability, space technology, and advanced manufacturing. Both founders trace their scientific roots back to the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Hyderabad: Dr. Markandeya Gorantla completed his Ph.D. in Plant Sciences (2000–2004) and served as a Senior Research Fellow (2000–2002) in the department. He currently serves as the Chairman & Managing Director of ATGC Biotech. Dr. V.B. Reddy earned his M.Sc. in Plant Sciences (2000–2002), followed by an Advanced Post-Graduate Diploma in Bioinformatics (2002–2003), and completed his Ph.D. in Plant Sciences (2003–2007) at the University. He now serves as the company’s Executive Director. Originally founded in Genome Valley, Hyderabad, ATGC Biotech has grown into one of India’s leading agricultural biotechnology enterprises, specializing in pheromone-based crop protection and sustainable agriculture. At the event in Nice, the UoH alumni-led delegation announced two major international agreements that underscore the global demand for Indian intellectual property: 1. Licensing with Albaugh Europe: ATGC ex-



changed a licensing agreement with Albaugh Europe (a division of the US-headquartered Albaugh Group) covering six proprietary crop protection products powered by ATGC’s patented CREMIT pheromone technology platform. 2. Global Joint Venture: The company solidified its international footprint through SEMIOPHORE LTD., a joint venture with Luxembourg Industries Ltd., which will advance a portfolio of 18 products specifically tailored for global agricultural markets. These landmark agreements were exchanged in the presence of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood (Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India) and Dr. Manish Diwan (Head – RFID, BIRAC). Additionally, the ATGC delegation interacted with Shri Piyush Goyal (Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Indus-

try), highlighting how homegrown Indian innovations are building powerful global partnerships.

Reflecting on the milestone, Dr. Markandeya Gorantla emphasized a shifting paradigm for Indian science:

“For decades, India has been known for generics and cost-effective manufacturing. The next chapter is about creating first-in-class technologies and globally relevant intellectual property from Indian laboratories. Bharat Innovates 2026 demonstrates that Indian science can compete globally, and we are proud that our journey began at the University of Hyderabad.

ATGC’s revolutionary approach is built around a unique core philosophy: “Taming the insect world to feed the human world.” Instead of using conventional, destructive insecticides to kill pests, the company utilizes species-specific pheromone signals to safely manipulate insect behaviour. This disrupts mating cycles and prevents subsequent pest generations—a breakthrough concept trademarked as “Insect Family Planning™ for Sustainable Agriculture.” To date, this highly sustainable technology has been successfully deployed across more than 200,000 acres and is being actively commercialized through cross-border partnerships spanning Europe, the Americas, Asia, and other major international markets. The extraordinary achievements of Dr. Markandeya Gorantla and Dr. V.B. Reddy at Bharat Innovates 2026 showcases the profound capabilities of University of Hyderabad alumni. Their ability to translate academic lab research into scalable, commercial innovations directly addresses the world’s pressing challenges in food security, environmental stewardship, and sustainable technological collaboration.

Maternal Health Awareness health concerns many pregnant women raise during check-ups



From low haemoglobin to fatigue and emotional changes, doctors explain the everyday health concerns pregnant women often raise during clinic visits. Maternal Health Awareness Day, observed on January 23, is less about big statistics and more about everyday realities. What expectant mothers mention during routine check-ups. The small complaints that show up early. The signs that often get ignored until they start affecting daily life. Speaking to India TV, Dr. Sushruta Mokadam, Senior Consultant – Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at Motherhood Hospitals, and Dr. Sabine Kapasi, CEO of Enira Consulting Pvt Ltd, Founder of ROPAN Healthcare and a UN advisor, shared the concerns they hear most often from pregnant women. Together, their inputs reflect the common health issues women raise in clinics today, and why paying attention to them early matters.

5 common health concerns doctors hear from pregnant women

1. Low haemoglobin and nutrition issues during pregnancy Anaemia continues to be one of the most common concerns raised during antenatal visits. According to Dr. Mokadam, low haemoglobin levels are frequently linked to inadequate iron intake and delayed testing.

“Women are now commonly reporting low haemoglobin levels because of inadequate iron intake,” she says. “Including iron-rich foods like spinach, lentils and beans, along with supplements as advised, is essential. Regular blood tests help ensure haemoglobin stays within the recommended range,” she explains. Dr. Kapasi also highlights anaemia as a systemic risk, noting that when it goes unchecked, it can weaken immunity and complicate both delivery and recovery.

2. Blood sugar and blood pressure problems in pregnancy Gestational diabetes and pregnancy-induced hypertension are being detected more often, largely because screening has improved.

“Timely screening, dietary control and regular monitoring are key,” Dr. Mokadam says. When these conditions are identified early, they can usually be managed without major complications.

From a public health perspective, Dr. Kapasi adds that high blood pressure remains one of the leading contributors to maternal complications, particularly when follow-up care is inconsistent.

3. Feeling exhausted during pregnancy

Feeling exhausted is not unusual during pregnancy, especially in the first and third trimesters. Hormonal shifts, anaemia, rising nutritional demands and poor sleep all play a role. “Many women feel constantly tired,” says Dr. Mokadam. “Rest, proper nutrition and iron supplementation make a real difference,” she notes. She also stresses that fatigue should not always be brushed aside, as it can signal underlying deficiencies.

4. Back pain and body aches during pregnancy

As pregnancy progresses, posture changes and added weight place pressure on the back and joints. Dr. Mokadam notes that prolonged sitting, weak core muscles and lack of movement often worsen discomfort.

Heartburn is not harmless: When GERD needs medical attention



Heartburn is not always harmless. Learn when GERD needs medical attention, its warning signs, complications, and when to consult a doctor to prevent serious digestive issues. There are a large number of people who suffer from acidity and a burning sensation in the chest. Though this may seem common, persistent heartburn can signal gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and should not be ignored. Here, the expert helps you to understand everything about GERD, so that you can seek timely intervention without fail.

Acidity and heartburn cases are rising at a rapid rate, from children to adults to older people. These conditions can be unpleasant and affect one's peace of mind. Heartburn is often brushed off as a minor digestive issue caused by the intake of spicy food or irregular meals. Many people tend to swear by home remedies or over-the-counter antacids for quick relief. However, when heartburn becomes frequent or severe, it may be a sign of **gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)**.

Yes, that's right! Did you know? GERD is a chronic condition where acid from the stomach repeatedly flows back into the oesophagus, irritating its lining. If left untreated, it can lead to serious health

problems and affect daily quality of life. Not many are aware of this condition called GERD.

Understanding the risk factors for GERD:

Dr Aparna Govil Bhasker, Consultant Bariatric, Hernia and Laparoscopic Surgeon, MetaHeal - Laparoscopy and Bariatric Surgery Centre, Mumbai; Saifee, Apollo, and Namaha Hospitals, Mumbai, obesity, smoking, alcohol intake, stress, pregnancy, and conditions like diabetes can raise the chances of GERD. Moreover, eating late at night, lying down soon after meals, and frequently consuming fatty or spicy foods can also increase the risk of GERD.

Signs and symptoms of GERD:

Burning sensation in the chest, sour taste in the mouth, frequent burping, bloating, and regurgitation of food or acid. Some people may also experience chronic cough, hoarseness of voice, throat irritation, or difficulty in swallowing.

Heartburn is not harmless: When GERD needs medical attention

Occasional heartburn after a heavy meal may not be of concern. However, GERD should be suspected when symptoms tend to appear 2-3 times a week, disturb sleep, or interfere with routine activities and impact the overall well-being.

A person can also suffer from chest pain that mimics heart pain, unintentional weight loss, vomiting, black stools, or pain while swallowing. Long-standing GERD can damage the food pipe and may lead to complications such as esophagitis, strictures, ulcers, or Barrett's oesophagus, a condition that increases the risk of oesophageal cancer. Hence, if you wish to avoid complications, take charge of your health and seek immediate care.

Timely management is important when heartburn does not improve with lifestyle changes or regular antacids. If you are suffering from these symptoms, please do not ignore them or self-medicate. You must see a doctor immediately.

Should blood pressure medicines be stopped once readings turn normal? Mumbai cardiologist explains

Many patients stop blood pressure medicines once their readings return to normal. Mumbai-based cardiologist Dr Parin Sangoi explains why this can be risky, how untreated hypertension damages organs silently, and why medication decisions should always be guided by medical advice. Many people still believe that daily blood pressure medication can harm the kidneys. Dr Parin Sangoi, a consultant interventional cardiologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, says this belief is incorrect. “Blood pressure medicines do not damage the kidneys. In fact, untreated high blood pressure is a major cause of kidney disease. When blood pressure remains elevated for extended periods, it damages the small blood vessels in the kidneys, gradually reducing their ability to filter waste. This often happens quietly and may go unnoticed for years,” Dr Sangoi told indianexpress.com.

Why are kidney problems often discovered only after blood pressure treatment begins?

According to Dr Sangoi, kidney damage often starts much earlier than people realise. “In many cases, kidney damage has already begun by the time high blood pressure is found. Once treatment starts and blood pressure is controlled, routine tests may reveal existing kidney issues. This timing can lead people to wrongly blame the medicines when the damage was actually caused by long-term untreated



hypertension,” he explained.

If blood pressure readings become normal, why should medicines not be stopped?

Normal readings usually mean the treatment is working. They are not a signal to stop. “High blood pressure is usually a lifelong condition. Stopping medication suddenly can cause blood pressure to rise again, often without any warning symptoms. This sudden increase adds stress to the heart, brain, and kidneys, increasing the risk of heart attack, stroke, and further kidney damage,” Dr Sangoi said. How risky is it to stop blood pressure medicines without medical advice?

Stopping medication on one's own is one of the most serious mistakes patients make. “Many patients stop their medicines based on tips from social media, friends, or because they feel fine. This can lead to uncontrolled blood pressure and the quick progression of organ damage. A doctor should always

supervise any change in dosage or stopping,” Dr Sangoi stressed.

Can lifestyle changes or alternative therapies replace blood pressure medicines?

Healthy habits do help. Diet, exercise and stress management can improve blood pressure control and overall health. However, they should not replace prescribed medicines without a doctor's guidance. In some cases, sustained lifestyle changes may allow a lower dose, but stopping treatment entirely requires careful monitoring. What is the most important takeaway for people living with high blood pressure?

Blood pressure medicines are meant to protect vital organs over time.

“They prevent long-term complications rather than cause them. Decisions about stopping or changing treatment should always be based on medical advice, not myths or fear,” Dr Sangoi said.

VOICE OF WORDS

WOMEN

Hair Botox Treatment for Smoothing: Is it worth the hype? Know details



Hair Botox, this non-invasive treatment has gained popularity in recent years due to its ability to treat a variety of hair concerns such as frizziness, split ends, and lack of shine. People are often recommended to consider Hair Botox treatment in salons for issues such as hair fall, breakage, and dry, curly hair. Hair Botox treatment can indeed add volume and smooth out hair texture. Hair botox treatment is a popular hair rejuvenation technique that involves injecting a special formula into the hair follicles to restore and revitalize damaged hair. The formula used in the treatment contains a high concentration of proteins, amino acids, and vitamins that work together to repair and nourish the hair from within. The procedure involves applying the formula to the hair and then sealing it with heat, allowing the ingredients to penetrate deep into the hair shaft. This results in stronger, smoother, and more manageable hair that looks healthy and vibrant. The effects of hair botox treatment can last for several months, making it a cost-effective and efficient solution for those looking to improve the overall appearance and texture of their hair. With minimal downtime and no harsh chemicals involved, hair botox treatment is a safe and effective option for anyone looking to achieve luscious, healthy-looking locks. However, according to Dr Trishna Gupte, Clinical cosmetologist and Trichologist, International trainer and Head of academics, Founder and owner of The Cosmo-Square clinic, ISCA, it is important to be aware of the associated costs, as this treatment involves chemical processes that may lead to long-term side effects. These can potentially have side effects including increased hair fall, hair thinning, allergies for those with already dry and sensitive scalps, and hair whitening. Opting for clinical treatments like PRP hair and mesotherapy, under the guidance of a doctor, is a preferable approach when addressing hair thinning. Hair issues can stem from factors like poor nutrition or hormonal imbalances. A healthcare professional can thoroughly examine the scalp and hair condition, order blood work if necessary, and prescribe medications to address deficiencies and hormonal imbalances. Clinical and safe treatments like PRP hair, which involves growth factors, and mesotherapy for hair can be recommended by a doctor to improve thinning. When combined with mild laser therapy, these treatments are safe and effective in stimulating and strengthening the hair. However, it is always advisable to take care of your hair at home with simple remedies and follow a proper haircare routine.



5 reasons to drink celery juice for glowing skin

Drinking celery juice is a simple and effective way to achieve glowing skin. Its high antioxidant content, hydrating properties, ability to boost collagen production, and anti-inflammatory and detoxifying effects make it a powerful drink for promoting healthy and radiant skin. When it comes to achieving healthy and radiant skin, many of us turn to expensive skincare products and treatments. However, the key to achieving that coveted glowing complexion may be found in a simple and affordable drink of celery juice.

This humble green vegetable may not seem like much, but it is packed with numerous health benefits, including the ability to give your skin a natural glow. In this blog, we will explore five reasons why drinking celery juice can help you achieve glowing skin.

Rich in Antioxidants

Celery is a rich source of antioxidants, including vitamins A and C, which help protect the skin from damage caused by free radicals. Free radicals are unstable molecules that can damage cells and lead to premature ageing, wrinkles, and dull skin.

Hydrates the Skin

One of the most important factors in achieving glowing skin is hydration. When our skin is dehydrated, it can appear dry, dull, and lacklustre. This is where celery juice comes in, it is made up of over 95 per cent water, making it an excellent hydrating drink for your skin.

Boosts Collagen Production

Collagen is a protein that is essential for maintaining the elasticity and firmness of our skin. As we age, our collagen production naturally decreases, resulting in fine lines, wrinkles, and sagging skin.



Reduces Inflammation

Celery contains compounds called polyacetylenes, which have anti-inflammatory properties. By drinking celery juice, you can help reduce inflammation in the body, leading to calmer and clearer skin.

Detoxifies the Body

Celery contains a compound called coumarin, which stimulates liver enzymes responsible for flushing out toxins from the body. By regularly drinking celery juice, you are aiding in the detoxification process and promoting healthier and clearer skin. Aim to drink fresh celery juice every morning on an empty stomach. This allows for optimal absorption of nutrients. Use a juicer or a high-speed blender to make celery juice. Straining the juice will remove any fibres and make it easier to drink. If you find the taste of pure celery juice too strong, you can mix it with other fruits or vegetables such as apples or cucumbers.

Mindful Skincare: Holistic approaches that combine skincare

In a world where external pressures and societal expectations can take a toll on mental well-being, mindful skincare acts as a sanctuary, a space where individuals can reconnect with themselves and prioritize their inner balance. In a fast-moving and chaotic world, beauty is sought after in many ways than just appearances. The beauty business is undergoing a radical transition towards holistic techniques that integrate skincare routines with mental health as self-care becomes more and more important. People are being encouraged to alter their beauty routines and focus on developing mental calm in addition to taking care of their skin by the emerging trend of mindful skin care. "Mindful skin care is more than just applying products", said Malvika Jain the founder of Sereko. Psychodermatology is a philosophy that recognises the complex relationship between our skin and mental health. It acknowledges the connection between emotions, stress, and skin conditions, offering treatments that combine traditional skincare with psychological techniques to improve overall skin wellness. This approach aims to manage skin issues by considering their psychological roots, providing a holistic approach to beauty and skincare. One of the cornerstones of mindful skin care is incorporating mindfulness techniques into your daily life. Rooted in ancient practices like meditation and deep breathing, mindfulness involves being fully present in the present moment. By incorporating mindfulness into their skincare routine, individuals can transform their routine into a therapeutic experience that not only addresses external skin concerns



but also promotes mental clarity.

Moreover, cleansing is more than just removing impurities. It is also an opportunity to purify your mind. You can begin or end your daily routine peacefully by taking a deep breath, inhaling the soothing scent of natural detergents, and consciously releasing the stress of the day. This meditative approach allows individuals to move from the chaos of daily life into moments of introspection and renewal. Choosing skin care products that emphasise natural ingredients is also an important aspect of mindful skin care. Your skin absorbs much of what is applied to it, so the chemicals in many conventional products can affect both your skin and your overall health. Mindful skincare focuses on using clean, non-toxic ingredients that not only benefit your skin but also align with a holistic approach to health. Aromatherapy, an ancient practice that utilises the therapeutic properties of essential oils, is becoming increasingly important in mindful skin care. Incorporating certain scents into your products, such as relaxing lavender or invigorating cit-

rus scents, can enhance the emotional and mental aspects of your skincare routine. Because the olfactory system is directly connected to the brain, aromatherapy can be an effective tool for influencing mood and promoting a sense of balance. Mindful skincare also incorporates the concept of slow beauty, which counters the prevailing culture of quick fixes and quick fixes. This approach encourages individuals to enjoy the process and evaluate each step of their skin care routine, rather than viewing skin care as a means to an end. The goal is to create a space of mindfulness that promotes self-love and acceptance and reinforces the idea that beauty is a journey, not a destination. To conclude, it is encouraging to see techniques in the beauty business changing in a way that not only makes us look better on the outside but also nurtures the radiant beauty that results from a peaceful mind. The practice of mindful skincare encourages us to set out on a path of self-discovery, where pursuing beauty turns into a celebration of our inner and outer selves.



International News

VOICE OF WORDS

Saturday, June 20, 2026

India, EU eye year-end FTA after Modi-von der Leyen talks; PM meets Merz on trade, defence



India and the European Union aim to conclude a long-awaited free trade agreement by the end of the year, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 summit on Wednesday. The leaders also agreed to deepen cooperation in security and defence, underscoring efforts to strengthen strategic ties amid growing geopolitical uncertainty. The meeting was also attended by European Council President Antonio Costa. "Since we have concluded the mother of all trade deals, we have been moving fast to deliver on our commitments. We will sign the Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year. And accelerate work on an investment agreement," Von der Leyen said on social media. "We will also step up security & defence cooperation. And join forces for better connectivity by advancing IMEC, the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor," she said. India and the EU announced concluding negotiations for the mega trade deal at their summit meeting in January in New Delhi. Meanwhile, PM Modi also held talks with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, focusing on shoring up bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, investments and defence. In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the G7 summit in this French commune, the two leaders also exchanged views on the situation in West Asia and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Modi and Merz welcomed the understanding

reached between the US and Iran to end the conflict in West Asia. "The discussions with Federal Chancellor Merz were very fruitful. We discussed possibilities for how we can further strengthen bilateral cooperation through joint efforts in the areas of trade, investments, circular economy, defence, IT, and other fields," Modi said on social media. "We also talked about how we can strengthen the cultural relations between our countries," he said. It is not immediately known what the discussions on defence entailed. India is in the process of procuring six stealth submarines. German defence major ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) have been holding price negotiations with the defence ministry for the Euro 5 billion deal to supply six stealth submarines to the Indian Navy. Shortly after the Modi-Merz talks, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral engagements and expressed satisfaction at the renewed momentum in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership. They also noted the conclusion of the negotiations between India and the European Union for a free trade agreement. "As India and Germany celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2026, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen cooperation across diverse sectors, including trade and investment, defence and security, green and sustainable development, technology, innovation, education and mobility," it said.

PM Narendra Modi & President Zelenskyy Discuss Restoring India-Ukraine Trade Ties, Expand Bilateral Cooperation & Reaffirm Commitment To Peace

Evian: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed ways to restore trade and expand economic ties during a meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, France. Following the meeting, PM Modi said the two leaders discussed various aspects of India-Ukraine cooperation and reaffirmed the importance of peace and dialogue. "Met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Evian. In recent times, India and Ukraine have been engaging extensively. This has been reflected in different areas of our cooperation. Our



talks today were about reviewing different aspects of our cooperation. We both agree that trade ties need to be restored to what they were in the pre-war time. Also reiterated that India will always be on the side of peace, placing the values of humanity over everything else," PM Modi said in a post on X. The bilateral meeting was attended

by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Zelenskyy also highlighted the potential for deeper cooperation between the two countries and said both sides agreed to work on expanding ongoing projects. "I met with Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. Our countries have

If India is attacked and Modi is leader, we are going to help: Trump backs India-US defence relations

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, backing India-US defence relations, stated that Washington will help India if the nation is attacked, provided Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the leader. During a bilateral meeting at the sidelines of the 52nd G7 Summit, Trump lauded the defence relations between India and US and affirmed support precisely for the PM Modi-led nation during conflict situations. "I think it is a great relationship. If they were attacked, we would be there to help them. We don't have a contract, but if they are attacked and he (PM Modi) is the leader, we are going to be there to help. If anybody attacks that man, we are going to be there. If there is another leader, I don't know about that, but if they are attacked and he is the leader, we are going to help", Trump said. The two leaders were seen shaking hands after US President's act of friendship and support for PM Modi. Furthermore, the US President also recognised himself as a "great friend" of India, adding that the Indian Prime Minister is well respected in Washington. "As long as I am President, they (India) have a great friend in the White House.



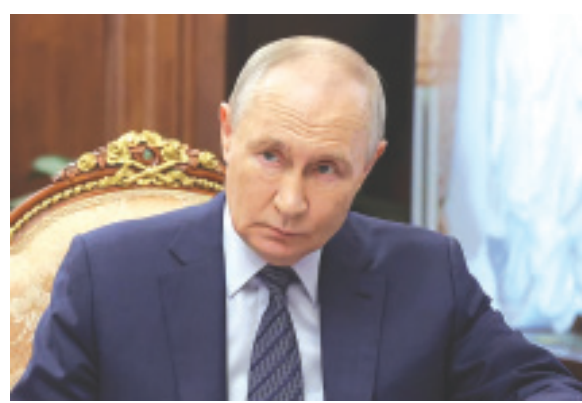
Everyone here loves India and they have tremendous respect for this (PM Narendra Modi) man," he said. The two leaders met at the G7 Summit in France, their first in-person talks in 16+ months, a move past trade and geopolitical tensions and steadying the relationship between the two democracies. It started with a warm handshake at Tuesday's G7 outreach. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of G7 Summit 2026, in Evian on Wednesday. By Wednesday, PM Modi and Donald Trump were in serious talks. And Trump even called the Prime Minister "calm and cool." The White House had earlier confirmed that the meeting would focus heavily on advancing the proposed India-US trade agreement. Earlier sources also said that PM Modi and Trump were likely to discuss the situation in West Asia, the strategic Strait of Hormuz, energy imports from the United States and the proposed bilateral trade

agreement during their meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France. The sources also said both countries are keen on building a long-term energy partnership, with discussions expected to focus on strengthening cooperation in the energy sector amid concerns over disruptions to global supply chains caused by tensions in West Asia. The proposed India-US trade deal is in its final stages, with negotiations progressing steadily and work on the agreement expected to be completed in the coming weeks. The two nations reached an interim trade agreement earlier in February after a year of talks. The meeting assumes significance as instability in the Strait of Hormuz continues to impact global energy markets and maritime trade. The narrow waterway remains one of the world's most critical shipping routes, handling a substantial portion of global oil and gas supplies.

Indian Techie Among 12 Dead in Missouri Skydiving Plane Crash

A business jet carrying six people crashed onto a highway in Laredo, Texas, late Tuesday night, bursting into flames and triggering a dramatic rescue effort by motorists and emergency responders. Authorities said one person was killed in the crash, though it was not immediately clear whether the victim was on board the aircraft or on the ground. The aircraft, identified as a Cessna Citation Latitude twin-engine jet, went down on Loop 20 near the Texas-Mexico border shortly after 10 p.m., according to Jose Baeza, an investigator with the Laredo Police Department. The jet had departed from Los Cabos International Airport in Mexico earlier in the evening and crashed just miles from Laredo International Airport. Videos shared on social media showed the aircraft skidding down the highway, striking a light pole before coming to rest on its side. The impact nearly tore the plane in half, with its tail section separating from the fuselage. Witnesses described chaotic scenes as drivers abandoned their vehicles and rushed to help those trapped inside. Some bystanders used a sledgehammer and shovel to try to break the cockpit window and force open the aircraft's door. Zayra Garza, who witnessed the crash while driving home with coworkers, said she saw people inside attempting to escape as flames engulfed parts of the aircraft.

Putin hosts leaders of Southeast Asia at Russia-ASEAN summit



MOSCOW: Russia's President Vladimir Putin is hosting leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at a summit that opens Wednesday, seeking to bolster business and other ties with members of the regional bloc. The two-day Russia-ASEAN summit, which is held in Kazan, is set to consider ways to expand Russia's "strategic partnership" with ASEAN that includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor and Vietnam. The regional bloc has maintained relations with Moscow as

a "dialogue partner" and engaged Russian officials in annual top-level meetings. The summit in Kazan marks the 35th anniversary of Russia-ASEAN relations. In a message greeting participants in a business forum held on the sidelines of the summit, Putin said he was confident that it will "create new opportunities for expanding mutually beneficial trade, investment, and industrial cooperation, while also strengthening direct dialogue between our business communities." Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said the summit's agenda includes exchanging views on global and regional issues and reviewing efforts to develop Russia-ASEAN ties. He emphasized that the participants are set to underline their adherence to "forming a just and democratic multipolar world order based on the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter." Ushakov told reporters that Putin was set to have bilateral meetings with ASEAN leaders during the summit. Some of ASEAN's diverse member countries are seen to be aligned with the United States, including the Philippines, which currently holds the association's yearly rotating presidency. Other members have heavy trade and security engagements with China and Russia. Several ASEAN members, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, have either imported Russian crude oil or expressed interest in purchasing it after global fuel prices soared in the wake of the war in Iran.

Senior US officials dictate memorandum with Iran to journalists

WASHINGTON: Senior U.S. officials dictated the memorandum of understanding with Iran to journalists Wednesday after days of secrecy, and Iran suggested that its deal with the United States to end the war could be signed by Presidents Donald Trump and Masoud Pezeshkian. Such a signing ceremony would represent a major step for the two countries, which saw diplomatic relations break off in 1980 over the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis in Tehran. The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity to read the draft, which Iran has not released, ahead of formal signing ceremony set for Friday. According to the officials, the draft agreement includes a new "minimum" standard for downblending of highly enriched Iranian uranium and has provisions to ensure the "territorial integrity" of Lebanon after Israel's latest attacks against Hezbollah in Lebanese territory. In return, the U.S. will move to waive, but not eliminate, some wide-ranging sanctions against Iran once the deal is signed. The U.S. draft of the agreement also secures toll-free passage of the Strait of Hormuz for only 60 days, and it does not preclude fees in future, the officials said. Meanwhile in Iran, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei was quoted by Iranian state television talking about the potential for the two presidents to sign the pact.

VOICE OF WORDS

BUSINESS

'Growth For Whom?': PM Modi Reframes Economic Debate At G7 Outreach Session In France

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for a more inclusive and people-centric approach to global economic development as he addressed the G7 Outreach Session in Évian, France. Speaking on the theme of reviving balanced, shared and sustainable growth, Modi urged world leaders to look beyond traditional economic indicators and focus on who benefits from growth and how it is achieved.

In his address, Modi argued that discussions on economic progress should not be limited to GDP figures or trade volumes. Instead, he said policymakers must ask fundamental questions: "Growth for whom, with whom, and in what direction?" stressing that development should benefit all sections of soci-



ety, particularly the most vulnerable. The Prime Minister highlighted India's development philosophy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" (Together with all, Development for all, Trust of all, Efforts by all). He said India's experience demonstrates how democratic empowerment and inclusive policies can drive large-scale economic transformation. Modi also cited India's G20 Presidency and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) as examples of collaborative and forward-looking development initiatives. Drawing attention to ongoing instability in West Asia, Modi noted that disruptions in fuel, fertiliser and food supply chains continue to af-

fect developing economies disproportionately.

He called on international financial institutions to establish mechanisms that help vulnerable nations absorb external shocks and build resilience, arguing that the burden of global crises should not fall solely on the Global South.

As part of his address, Modi proposed the creation of the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade (IMPACT). The initiative envisions combining G7 capital, India's expertise and talent, and Global South ownership to develop connectivity and infrastructure projects across Africa, Latin America and Pacific Island nations, building on the broader vision of IMEC.

Tesla opens first Experience Centre in Hyderabad, fifth in India



HYDERABAD: Global EV giant Tesla on Wednesday said it had opened its first Experience Centre in Hyderabad and its fifth in India. Customers can explore the new 2026 Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive and Model Y L at the centre, according to a press release. "Visitors can explore the vehicles through guided walkarounds and immersive product experiences led by Tesla Advisors. Customers can learn about Tesla's design philosophy, electric vehicle technology, safety features, and performance capabilities in an interactive environment," it said. To provide a seamless direct-to-consumer experience, Tesla has also commenced delivery and after-sales services at its facility in the Bollaram Industrial Area near Hyderabad. The facility will support customers across Telangana, the release added. Tesla already operates Experience Centers in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi and Gurugram.

Vedanta lists 4 de-merged entities simultaneously on BSE and NSE



rialisation, infrastructure boom, and manufacturing self-reliance goals. The four newly listed companies—Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel, and Vedanta Power—commenced trading on Wednesday (June 17, 2026) alongside the group's flagship listed parent entity, Vedanta Limited. "Today is a historic day for Vedanta, and an emotional one for me. Twenty-four years ago, Vedanta became the first Indian company to list on the London Stock Exchange. The seed planted that day has grown into a massive banyan tree. Our next chapter of exponential growth now begins in Mumbai—the city where my corporate journey first started," said Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group. Addressing the listing ceremony, Chairman Agarwal highlighted that Vedanta has delivered over a 300% total shareholder return over the past five years—nearly five times the Nifty index—along with a cumulative dividend yield of over 70%.

MUMBAI/RAIPUR: Billionaire Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Group on Wednesday listed four newly de-merged companies simultaneously on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE). The sweeping structural overhaul creates a robust portfolio of independent, pure-play businesses covering strategic metals, critical minerals, aluminium, oil and gas, power, and iron and steel. These stand alone entities are designed to align directly with India's long-term indus-

Indian Domestic Airlines To See 10-15 Per Cent Profit Decline This Fiscal Year Amid Higher Fuel And Lease Costs: CRISIL

Mumbai, June 17: The aggregate operating profit of domestic airlines is projected to plummet by 10% to 15%, dropping to Rs 16,000-17,000 crore, down from approximately Rs 19,000 crore last fiscal, according to a detailed sector analysis released by CRISIL Ratings. The projection is driven by rising jet fuel prices, a weakening rupee and soaring aircraft lease rentals, which are collectively straining airlines' cash flows. Indian airlines are facing an intense financial squeeze this fiscal year as a toxic cocktail of elevated fuel prices, a weakening rupee and airspace restrictions stemming from the West Asia conflict takes its toll. As a result, the country's domestic airlines are expected to see a 10% to 15% decline in operating profit. The primary disruptor this fiscal has been the West Asia conflict, which sent global Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices soaring by more than 50% above pre-conflict benchmarks. Because fuel typically accounts for 40% to 50% of an airline's total operating expenditure, the spike dealt an immediate blow to carrier balance sheets. Although there are signs of relief on the horizon, with global ATF prices having receded from a peak of around \$145 per barrel in early June 2026 to below \$125 currently, they remain well above last year's average of \$90. According to CRISIL Ratings, the reopening of the critical Strait of Hormuz energy transit corridor could pull prices down further. However, because carriers bore the brunt of peak prices through the first quarter, full-year fuel expenses are locked into an elevated trajectory. Airlines have found some shelter under a policy umbrella.



OECD oil stocks fall to lowest level since 1990: IEA

PARIS: Oil inventories held by OECD member countries fell in May to their lowest level since 1990 as governments drew down stocks to offset the blockage of Gulf crude shipments during the Middle East war, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday. The drawdown since the start of the conflict has reached 163 million barrels in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development club of wealthy countries, the IEA said in its monthly report.

"Despite the significant reductions in demand for crude oil and refined products, the buffers in the system continue to erode at a record pace," the agency said. To ease the burden from soaring oil prices due to Tehran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the IEA organically coordinated stock releases of 400 million barrels to the global market, of which 252 million have been released as of June 12. "The flow of emergency stocks is expected to decelerate somewhat in

June and July," the agency said, after a deal was announced this week to end the war that began on February 28 with US and Israeli strikes on Iran. But the impact of high prices will weigh heavily on demand through this year, with an expected decline of 1.1 million barrels a day compared to 2025 levels. "We see growth rebounding to 2 mb/d in 2027, as a normalisation of trade flows, lower oil prices and an improving economic outlook contribute to the recovery," the IEA said.

NSE files DRHP with SEBI to launch IPO



The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to raise funds through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The IPO, with a face value of Rs 1, is entirely an offer-for-sale of up to 148, 905, 525 shares by State Bank of India, MS Strategic (Mauritius) Ltd,

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, Aranda Investments (Mauritius) Pte Ltd, Bank of Baroda, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, General Insurance Corporation of India Limited, The New India Assurance Company Ltd, National Insurance Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited, as per the document filed with the SEBI. The offer is being made through the book-

building process, wherein not more than 50% of the net offer is allocated to qualified institutional buyers, and not less than 15% and 35% of the net offer is assigned to non-institutional bidders and retail bidders, respectively. As per reports, IPO size could be in the range of Rs 25,000-30,000 crore, making it one of the largest issues in India's capital market history. NSE, which has around 1.8 lakh shareholders, is valued at over Rs 5 lakh crore, with its shares trading in the range of Rs 1,950-2,050 in the unlisted market, according to market participants. Upon listing, NSE is expected to become one of the most valuable listed financial institutions in India. A syndicate of its 20 domestic and global

investment bankers, including Kotak Mahindra Capital Co. and Morgan Stanley India Co., are among the book-running lead managers for the share sale. The filing would mark a major milestone for NSE, whose listing plans had remained on hold for nearly a decade due to regulatory issues, including the co-location controversy. The NSE made its first attempt to list in 2016, but was advised to withdraw the plan as regulatory probes gathered pace over co-location and dark fibre cases. The listing of the exchange even reached the Delhi High Court. While approval from Sebi's high-powered advisory committee on settlement was earlier seen as a prerequisite for granting a no-

objection certificate, the regulator issued the NoC in January this year without waiting for a formal nod from this panel. This decision was taken amid prolonged delays and after key Sebi departments, in principle, agreed to settle the cases under the consent mechanism. On June 20, 2025, the NSE filed a settlement application with Sebi to resolve the co-location and other related cases by agreeing to pay around Rs 1,400 crore as settlement for the co-location and dark fibre cases. In its latest financial disclosures released in November 2025, the NSE made a provision of Rs 1,297 crore, over and above the Rs 100 crore already deposited with Sebi in compliance with a SAT order passed in 2023.

Incorporated in 1992, NSE is the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total turnover in cash market and total turnover in equity derivatives (based on notional turnover for equity options) from FY2001 to FY2026, and is also the largest stock exchange in India in terms of total turnover in exchange-traded currency derivatives (based on notional turnover of currency options) from FY2009 to FY2026, according to the Redseer report. As per the World Federation of Exchanges, NSE also retained its position as the largest equity derivatives exchange globally with over 36.99 billion (including NSE International Exchange ("NSEIX")) contracts traded in Fiscal 2026.

Govt Likely To Clear Dixon-Vivo Joint Venture, Boosting Local Manufacturing

The Indian government is likely to clear the long-pending joint venture between Dixon Technologies and Chinese smart phone maker Vivo later this month. The approval is expected to reduce Vivo's operational and regulatory exposure in the Indian market, according to a report by the Press Trust of India. The agreement between the two companies was signed in December 2024, under which Dixon Technologies will hold a majority 51% stake in the proposed joint venture, while Vivo will hold the remaining share. The JV is intended to strengthen local electronics manufacturing capabilities in India,

VOICE OF WORDS

SPORTS

Amateur Zara and Lavanya share lead in 8th leg of Women's Pro Golf Tour

Bengaluru: Amateur Zara Anand, who joins college in the United States later this year, continued to show that she is one of the most promising talents in the country as she shot 4-under 64 in the first round of the eighth Leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Bangalore Golf Club. Sharing the lead with Zara was Lavanya Jadon, who played the Singapore Ladies Masters last week. With 4-under 64 each at the Par-68 course, the duo was one shot clear of Durga Nittur and Smriti Bhargav, who carded 3-under 65 each. Two other young stars, Anvvi Dahhiya and amateur Mahreen Bhatia, were tied fifth with 2-under 66 each in the event, carrying a purse of Rs. 17 lakh, which started with 57 players, but Jahanvi Bakshi withdrew due to medical reasons. Zara began with three pars before faltering with



bogeys on the next two holes. Then she made her recovery with back-to-back birdies on the sixth and the seventh and yet another one on the ninth to turn in 1-under. She maintained that momentum with a birdie on the tenth and three in a row from the 13th to the 15th. A late bogey on the 17th cost her sole leadership. Lavanya also made a great comeback on the back nine. With one birdie on fourth and bogeys on the next two holes, she was 1-over for the front nine. She roared back with five birdies on the back nine, as she picked a hat-trick of gains from the 11th to the 13th and two more on the 16th and the 17th for a 64. Nittur had three birdies on the front nine and three more on the back nine, but she also dropped three shots on the back nine. At one stage, Nittur was 5-under and may well have led the first round but for her back-to-back bogeys on the 16th and the 17th. Smriti had four birdies and one bogey in her 65. Mahreen holed

six birdies, but she also dropped shots on four holes, while Anvvi Dahhiya carded five birdies against three bogeys. Three players, Mannat Brar, Karishma Govind, and amateur Ananya Sood, were tied seventh with rounds of 1-under 67, while four players, Jasmine Shekar, Kashika Misra, Nayanika Sanga, and Ayushi Dutta, scored even par 68 each to round off the Top-10. Among the big names struggling on the first day were last week's runner-up and 2025 Hero Order of Merit winner Vani Kapoor, who carded 4-over 72 with her only birdie coming on the 18th. She was T-34 alongside her good friend Amandeep Drall. Ridhima Dilawari and Vidhatri Urs were T-14 with 1-over 69 each, as were Heena Kang and Neha Tripathi. Hero supported Tvesa Malik (70) was T-19.



Tharun Mannepalli and Anmol Kharb advance to Macau Open Round of 16

Hyderabad: India made a positive start to the Macau Open as Tharun Mannepalli, Isharani Baruah, Ashmita Chaliha, Anmol Kharb, Rounak Chouhan, Shriyanshi Valishetty, Rakshitha Sree and the mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Shruti Mishra advanced to the Round of 16. Results of Indian players: Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj bt Kisona Selvaduray (MAS) 21-16, 24-22; Ishaan Bhatnagar/Shruti Mishra bt Calvin Devereux/Desiree Toepffer (GER) 21-4, 21-6; Shriyanshi Valishetty bt Tasnim Mir (IND) 21-18, 19-21, 21-15; Rounak Chouhan bt Wu Zhe Ying (TPE) 18-21, 21-15, 21-19; Anmol Kharb bt Mutiara Ayu Puspitasari (INA) 21-13, 21-16; Ashmita Chaliha bt Tung Ciou-Tong (TPE) 21-14, 11-6 (Ret.); Isharani Baruah bt Hung Yi-Ting (TPE) 21-16, 19-21, 21-14; Tharun Mannepalli bt Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar (IND) 15-21, 21-17, 21-14.

India enter World Team Snooker Championship quarterfinals with win over Mongolia



Hyderabad: India scored a hard-fought 3-1 win over Mongolia to book their place in the quarterfinals of the World Team Snooker Championship in Guangdong (China) on Wednesday. The nervy victory helped the former champions set up a last-eight meeting with China 'B', whom they had narrowly lost to in the league stage on the opening day. The hosts overcame Singapore 3-1 in their pre-quarterfinal encounter. Earlier in the day, India were too good for the lowly Turkey, registering a lopsided 3-0 win in their final Group 'B' league match to advance to the knockouts. After a gruelling battle with Nasanbayan Orgil, Aditya Mehta secured the win to put India ahead in the last-16 clash against Mongolia. Pankaj Advani made a break of 51 en route to a 70-6 win over Sergelen Batdelger. Advani and Ketan Chawla, playing his first match of the tournament, then went down 54-70 in the doubles to give Mongolia a look-in. But multiple-time world champion Advani returned to score a facile 67-37 win over Orgil to seal the tie. In the morning, Advani kickstarted the rout against Turkey, registering a comfortable 60-39 win over Ismail Turker. Aditya Mehta, a former World Games gold medallist, outclassed Enes Bakirci 95-17 to give India a 2-0 lead. The country's top two players combined to score a 90-13 win over the duo of Turker and Bakirci to clinch the doubles match and the tie 3-0.



Hyderabad's Diya Mattipati wins Junior National pickleball title

Hyderabad: For someone who started pickleball only three months ago, Diya Mattipati has surprised not just herself but critics too by winning the Junior National (under-18) title in Ahmedabad and moving closer to making it to the Indian team for the Junior World Cup in Vietnam later this year. The 18-year-old Diya, who is a trainee at Advantage Tennis Academy under the mentorship of DRC Kiron, one of the cleanest and most straightforward tennis coaches in the city, informed Telangana Today that she initially started playing pickleball to improve her touch game and volleys in tennis. "Since we had two clay courts at the Academy, I started taking it a little more seriously and, when there is a break in the tennis circuit, I compete in pickleball. In March this year, I won the Hyderabad Pickleball League women's title and that turned

out to be a big boost," she explained. The second-year degree student of St. Francis College in the city said her consistency saw her take part in the national selections for the Junior World Cup, and she looked confident of making the team too. "Yes, definitely, it will be great to represent India in any World Cup. I hope, if selected, to come back with something big," Diya said with a smile. "Obviously, I owe whatever I have achieved in tennis and pickleball to my coach Kiron Sir. He is such an amazing person, always keen to see the trainees keep improving every day," the young champion said. With father Subhan (a businessman dealing in electricals in the city) and mother Onisha (a housewife) extending complete support, Diya gently reminded that doing well does not mean she will leave tennis. "It will be great to do really well in both disciplines," she said.

Semifinal spot assured, India look to continue winning run against Uruguay in FIH Nations Cup

AUCKLAND: A semifinal spot already sealed, a relaxed Indian women's hockey team would look to end the pool engagements undefeated to bolster its confidence against a lower-ranked Uruguay in the FIH Nations Cup here on Thursday. Unbeaten India are atop Pool A with six points from two games and have already qualified for the last four, having defeated USA 3-2 and Japan 2-1 in their first two matches. India are determined to win the FIH Nations Cup to get their place back in next season's elite FIH Pro League, from which they got relegated last year. The Indian women's team was relegated from the elite FIH Pro League to the second-tier FIH Hockey Nations Cup, following its last-place finish in the 2024-25 season, after managing only 10 points from 16 matches. The winner of the eight-nation FIH Nations Cup will progress to next year's FIH Pro League. Going into their final pool game against a rela-

tively easy opponent, India would take heart from their fighting wins in the opening two games. Ranked ninth in the world, the Salima Tete-led India will definitely start as favourites against world no.17 Uruguay, who have lost both their opening two matches. India scored all their five goals in the two matches through penalty corners. Deepika is joint second in the goal scorers list with two strikes, while Navneet Kaurn Salima and Lalremsiami found the net once each. But going into the business end of the tournament, India's chief coach Sjoerd Marijne would expect heavy effort from his strikers and would want them to find the net from field efforts and Uruguay provides them the best opportunity to do that. With two important tournaments lined up this year -- World Cup and the Asian Games -- Marijne would also be tempted to try out new combinations in the remaining matches of the FIH Nations Cup, which is part of the team's preparations for the big ticket events.

Smriti and Shafali power India to 95-run win over Netherlands



Leeds: Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma struck commanding half-centuries before Sree Charani claimed a four-wicket haul to power India to a comprehensive 95-run victory over the Netherlands in their 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup clash at Headingley in Leeds on Wednesday. Pushed into batting first under overcast skies, Smriti and Shafali cashed in on wayward new-ball bowling to share a 115-run stand before Shafali departed for 55 off 38 balls, studded with ten boundaries. Smriti, in imperious touch, top-scored with 74 off 47 balls, her consecutive fifty laced with 11

fours and a six. The finishing burst came from Richa Ghosh (20 not out) and Deepti Sharma (10 not out), who combined clean hitting with sharp placement to take India to their highest score in the competition's history. As India hit their first-ever 200-plus total in ICC Women's T20 World Cup history, the Netherlands had their moments but squandered the chances with dropped catches and nervy bowling. The bowlers, led by Charani's four-for and Shafali Verma's 3-20, ensured it was never threatened as they bowled out the Netherlands for 114 in 17.3 overs. With the win, India are now on top of the Group A table, with a net run rate of 3.98, which is 0.10 more than that of Australia. India will also hope that nothing is too serious with off-spin all-rounder Shreyanka Patil, who was stretched off after twisting her right ankle while fielding off her own bowling. The sight of her being taken off the field on a stretcher was a dampener amid India's dominant win. India's innings began with Shafali opening her bat face late to steer Iris Zwilling for four, before rocking back to cut Heather Siegers through extra cover for another boundary. With the Netherlands struggling with lines, Smriti joined the boundary-hitting act with crisp drives, before Shafali pulled and lofted Isabel van der Woning for three boundaries. Smriti then lofted Iris over extra cover and punched through the same region to bring up India's joint-fastest team fifty in Women's T20 World Cup history -- achieved inside 5.1 overs. Myrthe van den Raad's nervy

debut overcompounded the Netherlands' woes, as she conceded six wides and India surged to 59/0 by the end of the powerplay. The momentum only grew from there as a measured Shafali lofted and sliced Isabel for boundaries, before hoicking and sweeping Caroline de Lange to her maiden T20 World Cup fifty off 34 balls in the 11th over. Smriti followed it up with back-to-back fifties of her own -- this one coming in 36 balls by carving Heather for a six over long-off after dancing down the ground to hit a boundary. Even after Shafali's dismissal for 55, after holing out to long-on off Heather, Jemimah Rodrigues arrived with crisp timing -- driving through extra cover and pulling confidently for her boundaries. Smriti showcased her impeccable timing and proper placement of shots while hitting Silver Siegers for four boundaries in the 15th over. She first advanced down the pitch to carve one over extra cover, then again came out to loft straight back over the bowler's head. Staying deep in the crease, Smriti then powered a pull square of the wicket before finishing the 18-run over with an emphatic slog-sweep through deep mid-wicket. After Smriti brought out a fantastic lofted straight drive off Caroline, Netherlands clawed back -- Smriti toe-ended a loft to mid-off, while Jemimah gave an edge behind while trying to play a pre-mediated scoop off Myrthe, and Yastika Bhatia was stumped after being foxed by a googly from the leg-spinner. Richa lit up the 18th over with a flat six over the bowler's head and a boundary slapped past sweeper cover, while Harmanpreet Kaur sliced and smashed to get two fours.



Is Trisha Now the Highest-Paid South Indian Actress?

Trisha Krishnan is once again making headlines in the film industry. The popular actress, who has been a leading star for more than two decades, is reportedly increasing her remuneration after the success of her latest film Karuppu. Trisha is one of the few actresses who continues to enjoy huge popularity despite being in the industry for many years. She has successfully worked in Tamil, Telugu, and other South Indian films and has also built a strong pan-India image. Fans admire her for maintaining her charm and staying relevant across generations. In recent months, Trisha has been in the news not only for her film projects but also for several discussions on social media and in political circles. While she has faced ups and downs in her career, she has always managed to bounce back with successful films. After the blockbuster success of Ponnin Selvan, expectations were very high for Trisha. However, some of her recent films, including Vidaamuyarchi with Ajith Kumar and Thug Life with Kamal Haasan, received mixed reactions and criticism from audiences. Interestingly, Trisha has a history of making strong comebacks after a few setbacks. The recent success of Karuppu appears to have brought her back into top form. According to reports circulating on social media, the actress is now being consid-



ered for a big pan-India Tamil film. The buzz is that Trisha has demanded a remuneration of ₹12 crore for the project. Although she was already said to be charging a high fee for Karuppu, reports suggest that she is now asking for an even bigger amount. Sources claim that discussions are currently taking place between the actress and the film's producers regarding the remuneration. The makers are reportedly trying to negotiate the amount and bring it down. At the moment, there is no official confirmation from Trisha or the production team regarding these reports. However, the rumor has gone viral online, with many fans saying that Trisha is in no mood to reduce her fee after delivering another successful film.

SM Gunde Pelipothondhe Song: A Relatable Melody



Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni is debuting in films with his highly anticipated Srinivasa Mangapuram. The action romance is presented by Ashwini Dutt and directed by Ajay Bhupathi. Rasha Thadani is playing the leading lady and the promotions for the film have created a huge buzz, anticipation to watch the two youngsters on big screens. Jaya Krishna has proven his skills in action, dance and dialogue delivery with the teaser and songs released till date. In this new song, he looks beautiful like a perfect Telugu boy in traditional Panche. His mannerisms, his style and his looks make it a very attractive song to watch and pleasant one to listen. Rasha Thadani is a big surprise as she pulled off traditional dance very gracefully. Her looks in Telugu traditional voni is mesmerizing. She looks very relatable to Telugu people like a girl-next-door. This song is visually pictured in such a manner that audiences immediately connect with it. GV Prakash Kumar's mesmerizing fusion of Carnatic ragas in this song and Anurag Kulkarni's rendition are other major highlights. Chandrabose written very heart-touching lyrics

that every person would have felt in love. With great buzz and anticipation building with every passing day, Srinivasa Mangapuram is gearing for a grand release in theatres soon.

Rajamouli Knows the Game Better

SS Rajamouli's upcoming magnum opus Varanasi, which stars Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu in the lead role, is hands down the most eagerly anticipated upcoming film from India cinema because of the mammoth expectations across the globe. While the team has been silently working on its production, film circles are buzzing with unfounded rumours around the staggering budget. As per these speculations, the estimated budget has spilled beyond the initial estimation and turned into a matter of concern for the team, especially given a sharp downturn in the OTT market where streaming rights are no longer fetching the expected prices like it was previously when the market was booming. The rumours claimed that Rajamouli and his team are exploring the possibilities to reduce the budget through cost cutting measures. However, the ground reality appears to be quite contrasting given that Rajamouli is a master in such dynamics. Besides establishing an unprecedented track record where his brand value alone ensures massive hype among trade circles.

Can Suriya Become South India's Next Big Superstar?



Very few actors enjoy huge popularity outside their home film industry. One such star is Suriya. Though he is a Tamil hero, Telugu audiences have always treated him like their own. Many of his films have performed well in the Telugu states and helped him build a strong fan following over the years. However, the last few years have been challenging for Suriya. Several of his films failed to meet expectations at the box office. Despite those setbacks, Telugu audiences never lost faith in him and continued to support the talented actor. Recently, Suriya bounced back strongly with Karuppu, which was released in Telugu as Veerabhadru. The film turned out to be a big success in Tamil Nadu and received a decent response in Telugu as well. More importantly, it has once again increased the excitement around Suriya's future projects. His upcoming line-up looks very promising. Suriya's next release is expected to be Viswanath and Sons, directed by Telugu filmmaker Venky Atluri. The film is in the final stages of production and is expected to strengthen his market in Telugu cinema. Apart from that, Suriya has signed a film with Jithu Madhavan, the director of the Malayalam blockbuster Aavesham. He is also reuniting with director T.J. Gnanavel, who previously delivered the critically acclaimed Jai Bhim with him.

Priyanka Jawalkar's Timeless Charm Captured in Graceful Window Shot



In this graceful portrait, Priyanka Jawalkar looks elegant and radiant in a sleek black outfit with golden accents. With her flowing hair, subtle smile, and poised expression by the window, she exudes quiet confidence and timeless charm that her fans can't get enough of. Priyanka Jawalkar, a popular Telugu actress and model born on November 12, 1992, in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, began her career with modelling and fashion design. She made her acting debut in the

2017 Telugu film Kala Varam Aaye. She gained wider recognition with her role opposite Vijay Deverakonda in the hit supernatural comedy Taxiwala (2018). Her notable films include SR Kalyanamandapam (2021), Thimmarusu (2021), Gamanam (2021), and Tillu Square (2024). Priyanka continues to impress with her versatility and screen presence. She has upcoming projects including Mad Square (2025) and other exciting ventures in Telugu cinema. This latest post perfectly captures her poised persona and growing stardom in Tollywood. Priyanka remains a favorite for her beauty, talent, and strong connect with her audience.

Bharata Varsha: Gopichand As Warrior Drenched In Rain & Fire

T Gopichand's historical action saga Bharata Varsha is nearing completion with its shoot. The film, directed by Sankalp Reddy, made a strong impression with its title teaser. Srinivasaa Chitturi of Srinivasaa Silver Screen is bankrolling the project on a huge canvas, while it is presented by Pavan Kumar. On the occasion of Gopichand's birthday, a brand-new poster from the movie has been unveiled. It showcases Gopichand in his most powerful avatar yet. Set against a raging battlefield drenched in rain and fire, Gopichand appears as a fearless warrior prepared for a massive confrontation. Armed with a bow and arrow, his commanding stance and piercing gaze hint at a character driven by courage, destiny, and valor. The poster alone promises a larger-than-life cinematic spectacle packed with action, emotion, and grandeur. Ritu Varma plays the leading lady in the movie that features music by Anudeep Dev, and cinematography handled by Soundar Rajan.

