



Crude Prices Drop, Most Stocks Rise on 'Positive' US-Iran Talks

HONG KONG: Oil prices fell Monday on optimism over US-Iran peace talks, with mediators flagging a "roadmap" to a final agreement, while most equities rose thanks to another healthy start for tech firms. After a meeting planned for Friday was cancelled owing to fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, the negotiations finally got underway on Sunday in Switzerland with teams led by US Vice President JD Vance and Iran's Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. Traders remain in buoyant mood after news that the two foes had ended their conflict, which had sent energy costs soaring and stoking inflation, sending shivers through the global economy. There were



initial jitters following reports that Iran had called off the talks over US President Donald Trump's threat to carry out more strikes if Hezbollah kept attacking Israel, but mediators Pakistan and Qatar said the talks took place in "a positive and

constructive atmosphere". Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi added on X that "mediation has delivered major progress to end Lebanon War". Both main oil contracts fell in early trade, while most stock markets advanced. Tokyo climbed two per-

cent, Seoul was up more than one percent and Taipei jumped 2.7 percent. The gains came on the back of another rally in tech firms, particularly chipmakers including South Korea's SK hynix, Taiwan's TSMC and Japan's Advantest.



Ropeway Planned for Bhongir Fort

Hyderabad: Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday conducted a field inspection of the tourism development works at Bhongir Fort and reviewed the progress with officials. He examined ongoing projects including the ropeway, hotel, parking facilities, restrooms, children's play area, fort restoration works, cafeteria, interpretation centre, and other tourist amenities. The Minister directed officials to complete all works by October 2, and instructed them to closely monitor the projects and ensure that work continues round the clock, if necessary. The Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the State Government is giving special priority to tourism development. He stated that Bhongir Fort is being modernized while preserving its historic grandeur. He also noted that the government is working towards developing an integrated spiritual and heritage tourism circuit connecting Yadadri, Bhongir Fort, and Kolanupaka. The Central government has sanctioned the project "Development of Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone" at Bhongir, under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0 with an approved project cost of Rs. 56.81 crore.

Telangana Governor Shukla Offers Prayers at Tirumala

Tirupati: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday offered prayers to Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala during the Suprabhata Seva. The Governor was accompanied by his family members during the visit to the hill shrine. Sharing details of the visit in a post on X, the Telangana Governor's office said that Shukla of-



ferred prayers to Lord Venkateswara and sought the blessings of the Almighty. "Hon'ble Gover-

nor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shiv Pratap Shukla, accompanied by his family members, visited sacred Sri Venkateswara Swamy Vaari Temple, Tirumala, this morning. He offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara and sought the divine blessings of the Almighty," the Governor's office said in a post on X.

Russian Drone Strike Kills Egyptian Crew Member on Vessel Bound for Ukraine

Russian drones set fire to a cargo vessel en route to Ukraine and killed one of its crew, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Kuleba said on Monday. "A drone strike set fire to a vessel sailing under the Panama flag. A crew member was killed -- a

58-year-old cook, a citizen of Egypt," Kuleba wrote on Telegram. Kuleba said eight sailors, including citizens of Turkey and India, fled on a life raft, and that the vessel "sustained significant damage and lost seaworthiness".



Rahul Gandhi Greets CM Vijay On His 52nd Birthday



New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi greeted Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on his birthday on Monday and said he stands with the TVK chief in defending the rights, dignity, and aspirations of the Tamil people, as well as in working together for the state's progress. Vijay,

who assumed charge as chief minister of Tamil Nadu on May 10, turned 52 on Monday. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "Wishing the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Joseph Vijay, a very happy birthday. I wish you good health and success in all your efforts." "I stand with you in defending the rights,

dignity, and aspirations of the Tamil people, and in working together for the state's progress," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said. The Congress joined hands with actor-turned-politician Vijay's TVK after this year's assembly polls and is part of the Tamil Nadu government.

Court Postpones Sandhya Theatre Stampede Case to July 6

Hyderabad: A local court here on Monday postponed the case related to stampede at Sandhya 70 MM theatre to July 6. Popular film actor Allu Arjun, who is A11 in the case, did not appear today as he is believed to be attending to shooting in Mumbai. The advocate arguing the case on behalf of Arjun, filed a petition in the court seeking to give exemption to him from appearing personally and allow him to appear virtually.

Barring the film actor, all the accused named in the case appeared before the court. The police already filed a charge sheet against 23 people. A woman died and her eight-year-old son was grievously injured in the stampede. The Chikkadpally police registered an FIR and filed

the chargesheet against 23 persons in the last week of December 2025. After taking cognisance of the chargesheet, the court issued summons to the accused including Arjun to appear before the court.



Cargo Barge Docked at Private Yard in Kochi Catches Fire

Kochi: A major fire gutted a section of a cargo barge docked for maintenance at a private shipyard in Vypeen here on Monday, officials said. According to Fire and Rescue Services officials, the fire broke out on the deck of a cargo barge, MV Vishalakshi, at around 3 am. The vessel was undergoing maintenance work at Sea Blue Shipyard in Vypeen when shipyard employees noticed the fire and attempted to extinguish it, but were unsuccessful, officials said. Fire and Rescue Ser-

vices personnel were subsequently alerted, and three fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Officials said the blaze continued for several hours despite firefighting efforts, prompting authorities to seek assistance from the firefighting team of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The team arrived at the site aboard another vessel and joined the operation to contain the fire. The situation has since been brought under control, although smoke was still emanating from parts of the deck, officials said.

Cockroach Janta Party Continues Jantar Mantar Protest Over NEET Paper Leak



The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) remained at Jantar Mantar on Monday for the third consecutive day, continuing their protest over alleged examination irregularities and the May 3 NEET paper leak. The sit-in, which began on Saturday afternoon, continued overnight with protesters staying at the site under police deployment. Some people were seen distributing food and drinking water to those participating in the agitation through the night. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke on Sunday announced that the protest would continue on Monday and appealed to farmer unions and mem-

bers of the public to join the movement. The protest site witnessed sloganeering, speeches and cultural performances on Sunday, with supporters clapping, playing dafis (dafis) and singing patriotic songs. By evening, over 200 people gathered at the venue, according to organisers. Dipke has demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging a lack of accountability over the examination controversy. He has also called for compensation for the families of students who allegedly died by suicide following the paper leak and cancellation of the examination.

Revanth Reddy Assures Full Support for Adilabad Airport Development

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy thanked the Union Minister Rajnath Singh for transferring defence lands for Gandhi Sarovar project. He assured the Union Minister that the state government will provide full cooperation in land acquisition, transfer of utilities etc for the development of Adilabad

airport, one of the state government's most priority projects. Revanth Reddy assured the Union Minister that the state government will provide all possible assistance and cooperation as it is a matter related to national unity and defence. The Chief Minister said that the state government will extend all possible co-

operation for the massive expansion of the airport in Adilabad. He requested cooperation in setting up cargo, MRO and hangar facilities on a large scale along with the Indian Air Force terminal and the terminal building of the Civil Aviation to be



constructed for the convenience of passengers. In the wake of recent developments in Middle-

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Rainforests for Food Security

(On the occasion of "World Rainforest Day" on 22 June)

Rainforests are lush green forests that have a continuous tree canopy. The entire forest is heavily dependent on moisture. Rainforests don't have any forest fires. Flora, fungi, epiphytes, lianas, and tress forming a closed canopy, are found in rainforests. World Rainforest Day is an annual event observed on 22 June aiming to educate people about the importance of rainforests - why they are important, need for their protection and preservation for future generations, and diversity of life that lives in them. This day serves as a reminder to protect these vital ecosystems from threats like deforestation, illegal mining, and unsustainable logging. "World Rainforests Day-2026 Theme: "Founded in 2017, World Rainforest Day celebrates the importance of healthy, standing rainforests for climate, biodiversity, culture, and livelihoods - and convenes a global movement to protect and restore them. The theme of World Rainforest Day-2026 is "The Forest Within You" that highlights the crucial role of rainforests in providing food security, nutrition, healthy soil, regulate climate, preserve biodiversity, and also provide livelihoods. "The theme encourages people to recognise that we are a part of our nature, and that every action taken to protect these critical ecosystems helps sustain our own wellbeing. "Importance of Rainforests:" A majority of living organisms - birds, animals, plants, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, amphibians, and trees - are native to rainforests. Rainforests are an important source of freshwater for humans. They also absorb carbon dioxide and protect the Earth from the effects of climate change. They are an important natural source directly or indirectly. Apart from these advantages, they provide us several ingredients used in everyday life and manufacturing are derived from these forests. Timber, meat, animals products, plant derivatives, and tourism are also among the other benefits offered by rainforests. "The 10th anniversary of World Rainforest Day highlights how the rainforests are not just ecosystems, but also they are deeply rooted to our daily lives, culture, health and climate.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

90 pc Karimnagar-Warangal Highway works completed: Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay announced on Saturday that the Karimnagar-Warangal National Highway project will be completed and opened to the public by Dasara. "Almost 90 per cent of the construction works have already been completed. Minor works like BT roads, culverts, U-turns, and bypasses are pending," he addressed the media. The works on the 68-km-long highway are being taken up for Rs 2,147 crore. On the expansion of the Karimnagar-Jagtial Highway, he assured that the works would commence immediately after the completion of the Karimnagar-Warangal High-



way. The tender process has already begun, he said. Bandi Sanjay claimed the Centre is prioritising road infrastructure development, extending beyond national highways to roads at the village, mandal, and district levels. He emphasised that road quality

played a crucial role in improving transportation facilities and accelerating the development of villages, towns, and mandals. As part of this commitment, he said the Centre was investing nearly Rs 3 lakh crore annually in road infrastructure projects.

Six held in Rs 91 lakh paddy procurement scam in Sircilla

Rajanna Sircilla: Police busted a paddy procurement scam involving Rs 91 lakh in Rajanna Sircilla district and arrested six persons for allegedly misappropriating government funds through forged procurement records and diversion of paddy stocks. Addressing a press conference at the Sircilla Town Police Station on Saturday, Superintendent of Police Mahesh B. Gite said the accused had conspired to generate fake truck sheets and transport documents to fraudulently claim payments under the government procurement system. Investigations revealed that officials and staff associated with procurement centres and a godown allegedly created false records showing paddy transportation and delivery. These forged entries were uploaded to the Civil Supplies portal, enabling the release of payments that were later distributed among those involved. Police also found that several lorry loads of paddy procured from different IKP centres were diverted and sold to rice mills instead of being unloaded at the designated government godown. The proceeds from these sales were allegedly shared among the accused. The scam came to light following a complaint by Civil Supplies Manager S. Narasimha. During the investigation, police seized Rs 14.16 lakh in cash, froze bank deposits worth Rs 46.21 lakh and recovered crucial documents and mobile phones. The arrested accused were produced before a court, while efforts are underway to trace two absconding suspects.

National Lok Adalat settles 3,909 cases in Rajanna-Sircilla



Rajanna-Sircilla: A total of 3,909 cases were settled during the National Lok Adalat held in Rajanna-Sircilla district on Saturday, with compensation and penalties amounting to Rs 2.27 crore awarded and recovered. District Principal Judge P. Neeraja said the Lok Adalat provided speedy and cost-effective justice while helping

reduce the backlog of pending cases. She noted that compensation of Rs 7.50 lakh was awarded to an accident victim under the Motor Vehicles Act. Cases related to motor accident claims, civil disputes, compoundable criminal cases and bank recovery matters were resolved through mutual consent. First Additional

District Judge B. Pus hpalatha, POCSO Court Judge Radhika Jaiswal, Additional SP D. Chandraiah, Senior Civil Judge P. Lakshmanachari, Bar Association President Avunoori Ramakantha Rao, Lok Adalat Member Chintoju Bhaskar, advocates, police officials, bank representatives and litigants participated in the programme.

200 huts demolished in anti-encroachment drive in Hanamkonda



Hyderabad: At least 200 huts were demolished in Hanamkonda on Saturday, June 20, in a demolition drive held in survey number 174 in Gundla Singaram. According to reports, the demolition drive began at 5 am. On Friday, June 19, residents of the area held a protest at the Collector's office against the demolition drive, after which the Kakatiya University police detained 30 protestors. Videos shared on social media showed people in distress due to the anti-encroachment drive. A JCB was used to demolish the makeshift huts.

Pollutants in groundwater threaten drinking water sources in several districts in Telangana



HYDERABAD: Improved groundwater levels across Telangana have not translated into safer drinking water. Despite groundwater rising in 98% of monitored wells following excess rainfall and strong recharge, the latest assessment by the groundwater department has found persistent fluoride and nitrate contamination across several districts. The report recorded fluoride levels as high as 13.9 mg/l in Mancherial district and nitrate concentrations

of 697 mg/l in Nizamabad and 683 mg/l in Kamareddy. According to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, the permissible limits are 1.5 mg/l for fluoride and 50 mg/l for nitrate in drinking water. A report by the Ministry of Jal Shakti further revealed that 28 districts in Telangana have excess fluoride, while 32 of the state's 33 districts exceed safe nitrate limits, making Telangana the third-worst state in the country for nitrate pollution. The assessment, based on more than 2,200 groundwater samples collected during pre- and post-monsoon seasons, found contamination from fluoride, nitrate and salinity in several parts of the state. Fluoride contamination remains one of Telangana's most significant groundwater quality concerns. Affected districts include Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and parts of Nagarkurnool and Mahbubnagar. Fluoride concentrations ranged from 0.01 mg/l in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district to 13.9 mg/l in Mancherial during the pre-monsoon season. Nitrate contamination is even more widespread, with elevated levels detected in isolated pockets of nearly every district. Experts attribute this largely to human activities such as excessive use of chemical fertilisers, agricultural runoff, sewage seepage and wastewater infiltration. The report notes

that fluoride contamination is primarily linked to Telangana's geology. Nearly 81% of the state is underlain by hard-rock formations, including granites, gneisses, schists, quartzites and Deccan basalts. Groundwater stored in these formations remains in prolonged contact with fluoride-bearing minerals, causing fluoride to dissolve into aquifers over time. Environmental experts warned that improved groundwater availability alone cannot guarantee safe drinking water. "There is a need for sustained groundwater quality monitoring, better fertiliser management, protection of recharge zones and targeted interventions in fluoride- and nitrate-affected areas," said Kalpana Ramesh, founder of the Rainwater Project. Environmentalist Donthi Narasimha Reddy stressed the importance of preventing untreated sewage and wastewater from entering aquifers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices to reduce contamination. The assessment also highlighted salinity-related concerns. Total dissolved solids (TDS), an indicator of salinity, reached 4,851 mg/l in Mulugu district during the post-monsoon season, while some locations in Sangareddy recorded values exceeding 8,000 mg/l. Although TDS is not considered a major health hazard, high concentrations can make water unpalatable and cause scaling problems.



Hyderabad Voice

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

One killed after bus collides a scooter in Hayathnagar

The deceased identified as Pratyusha worked as a beautician was returning home after her duties when the bus collided her scooter near Pulla Reddy Sweets in Hayathnagar of Hyderabad. The deceased identified as Pratyusha worked as a beautician was returning home after her duties when the bus collided her scooter. Although she was rushed to a nearby hospital with severe injuries following the accident, she passed away around midnight on Saturday while undergoing treatment. Pratyusha hailed from Padara Mandal in Nagarkurnool district.

Come to Telangana with Ideas: Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad: The inaugural Hyderabad Economic Forum (HEF) 2026, held under the theme "One City. One Vision. Infinite Possibilities", hosted by SAS Infra in association with knowledge partner Bower School of Entrepreneurship, brought together over 500 business leaders, policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, academics and industry experts today at SAS iTower, Khajaguda, to shape Hyderabad's next growth story and strengthen its position among the world's leading economic and innovation hubs. As one of India's fastest-growing economic centres, Hyderabad has emerged as a global destination for technology, enterprise, innovation, investment and world-class infrastructure. The Forum served as a platform for collaboration, strategic dialogue and actionable ideas aimed at driv-

ing sustainable and inclusive growth. The event commenced with a keynote address by Chief Guest Sri Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for IT, Industries and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, on "Hyderabad: Becoming India's Innovation Capital." In his address he said, "The 20th century was defined by competition for resources, industries and capital; the 21st century belongs to nations that can attract ideas, talent and innovation. India's remarkable rise from 81st to 39th in the Global Innovation Index over the past decade reflects this global shift and underscores the country's growing innovation strength. Telangana is determined to lead this transformation from the front." Hyderabad Metro Issues "Today, India is the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, and Telangana has emerged as one of its most dynamic innovation hubs, earning recognition as a 'Top Performer' in the Centre's States' Startup Rankings. Through pioneering initiatives such as AIKAM, the Telangana Data Exchange (TGDeX), a Rs. 1,000-crore Fund of Funds for Startups, the proposed AI University, Skill University, and 100 Advanced ITIs, we are creating an ecosystem where innovation is not only encouraged but enabled," Sri Sridhar Babu added. He further emphasised that, "Our commitment extends beyond startups and enterprises. Through AI-enabled classrooms and the AI Literacy Mission, we are equipping nearly 20 lakh government school students with the skills required for the future economy. We are building a state where innovation is embedded in education, governance and entrepreneurship." He concluded by saying, my message to innovators, entrepreneurs and creators is simple, Come to Telangana with an idea. We may not guarantee that every idea will succeed, but we can assure you that every sincere idea will find support, opportunity and the confidence to grow.



Governor Emphasises Significance of Yoga as a Way of Life

Hyderabad: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla underlined the significance of yoga as a way of life, not merely an exercise, by stating that it unites body, mind and spirit, offering physical health, mental tranquillity and spiritual balance. He highlighted the Centre's cultural initiatives over the past 12 years — Unesco recognitions, elevating 11 Indian languages to classical status, digitisation of over 1.2 million manuscripts and repatriation of 668 art efacts — as steps to preserve India's heritage and project its civilisational strengths. Addressing a large number of students and other participants as part of '24-hour countdown' ahead of International Yoga Day at Parade Ground in Secunderabad on Saturday, the Governor lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to secure June 21 as International Yoga Day at the UN, saying the global embrace of yoga reflects India's ancient knowledge systems. Union minister G.

Kishan Reddy said that a preparatory yoga event here had become a distinctive local tradition, held on June 20 for seven years. He said thousands right from children to senior citizens, Governors, celebrities, national leaders, parliamentarians and yoga practitioners, have been taking part enthusiastically in this event, reflecting robust public interest ahead of International Yoga Day. Hyderabad Metro Issues BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao told the gathering that yoga was a "divine medicine" for students as it reduced mental stress and urged students to adopt regular practice to build physical resilience and concentration. He credited Prime Minister Modi for popularising yoga globally. Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender emphasised the need for youth to incorporate yoga into daily life to strengthen their physical and mental fitness, calling it essential for the nation's future.

Telangana government may complain to RBI against SBI

HYDERABAD: As part of its tough stand against the State Bank of India (SBI) over the disputed land issue in Raidurg, the state government is considering filing a complaint with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It is also examining the option of taking up the matter with the Union Finance Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). According to sources, the government is compiling details of its accounts, deposits and other financial transactions maintained with the bank. This, the sources said, indicated that the government was exploring the possi-

bility of shifting them to other banks. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is expected to visit Delhi and meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to discuss the issue. It may be recalled that the state government is unhappy with SBI for creating a dispute despite being allotted land at a significantly subsidised price. Officials suspect possible political pressure behind the bank's stance and have begun reviewing the state's financial relationship with the bank. The dispute centres on a 5.09-acre plot in Survey No 83/1 at Raidurg Panmaktha in Hyderabad.

Kavitha Now Targeting Tollywood For Political Mileage?



Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kavitha's recent media statements, in the wake of Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan's controversy, have drawn attention and sparked debate. Some observers feel her comments may be contributing to regional sensitivities between the two Telugu states, while others see it as part of broader political positioning. Every time she interacted with the media after that incident, she has repeatedly attacked Pawan Kalyan by mixing up the Telangana sentiment. She has been insisting that Pawan Kalyan should restrict his activities in Telangana purely to

the film industry and should not poke into politics. Today, Kavitha has once again tried to paint the same picture and again appealed to her followers to not encourage Pawan Kalyan beyond films. Quite shockingly, she now started a new narrative to up her political ambitions. This time, she has targeted Tollywood and blamed the artists of the past generation for allegedly made fun the accent and culture of Telangana in their movies. Kavitha claimed that even before Pawan Kalyan, many actors came to Telangana in the guise of acting and later occupied the state. She shockingly stated that Telangana dialect became popular in movies only after the formation of the state, but it was mocked earlier. Political observers say that Kavitha is speaking without facts as they are pointing how Tollywood embraced Telangana culture even before the formation of separate state. Prominent industry bigwigs of the past generation like T. Krishna and R. Narayana Murthy made revolutionary movies based on Telangana culture and dialect and they were encouraged by people of united Andhra very well in those days. Also, Telangana based directors of the present generation depicted the region's cultural identity through movies which are well received by audiences of both states. Over the years, artists and technicians from both regions flourished in Tollywood and neither of them tried to belittle the culture and traditions of Telugu states. But, Kavitha is very desperately trying to project a false narrative using the regional sentiment ever since Pawan Kalyan announced that he will contest in Telangana. It is unclear if she really going to benefit out of this lame political strategy.

SIR exercise in Telangana: House-to-house enumeration process from June 25

Hyderabad: House-to-house enumeration process under the SIR of electoral rolls would be taken up in Telangana from June 25 to July 24, a top official said on Saturday. Addressing a press conference, state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy said the primary objective of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is purification of electoral rolls and to see to it that all the eligible citizens are included on the electoral rolls. He said that all arrangements have been made for a door-to-door visit by the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during which distribution of enumeration forms will be done. "BLOs will be visiting every household at least three times during which they will distribute the enumeration forms and also collect the filled forms from electors. BLOs play a crucial role in the entire SIR process," he said. In addition, Booth Level Agents have also been trained in assisting BLOs in filling up of enumeration forms, he said. The CEO appealed to the electors to co-operate in the SIR process when BLOs visit door-to-door for distribution and collection of enumeration forms. "House-to-house enumeration process will start from June 25 and continue upto July 24," he said and clarified that no extension will be given beyond July 24. The entire SIR 2026 programme will be carried out with strict adherence to the instructions and guidelines issued by the ECI in a transparent way, Reddy added.



MEA honours Telangana Police for passport verification



Hyderabad: Telangana Police have been recognised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) with the Institutional Performance Award for State Police for their outstanding contribution to passport verification services. The award was presented to Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar during the Passport Seva Divas celebrations and Regional Passport Officers' Conference held at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi from June 17 to 19. Telangana secured the top position among state police organisations across the country for delivering efficient, transparent and citizen-focused passport verification services, an essential component of the passport issuance process.

According to officials, Telangana Police processed approximately 7.73 lakh passport verification requests during the 2025-26 period, accounting for nearly 99 per cent of the 7.87 lakh applications received. The average verification turnaround time was maintained between five and seven days. A major factor behind the state's performance has been the implementation of VeriFast, a technology-enabled passport verification platform. The system was initially developed by the Cyberabad Police in 2014 when CV Anand served as Police Commissioner and was later expanded across Telangana in 2015. VeriFast uses artificial intelligence and advanced data-matching tools to verify applicant information against records available in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) database and previous passport data. The system helps identify discrepancies, duplicate records and potential criminal antecedents, enabling faster and more accurate verification. Police officials said the latest recognition marks the seventh national-level award received by Telangana Police for passport verification services since the introduction of the technology-driven system. Speaking on the achievement, DGP CV Anand said the award reflects the commitment, professionalism and public service orientation of Telangana Police personnel. He added that the recognition would motivate the department to further improve service delivery and ensure faster, more citizen-friendly processes in the future.

Be Alert on S.I.R., Tummala Tells Congress Cadre

Nalgonda: Agriculture minister Tummala Nag eswara Rao on Saturday urged Congress leaders and workers to remain vigilant during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise had affected the electoral prospects of opposition parties in some states. Addressing a meeting of Congress Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at his camp office in Khammam, he claimed that parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Trinamool Congress had raised concerns over the deletion.

Govt Plans Petrol Bunks, Solar Plants For Women SHGs



NALGONDA: Panchayat raj and rural development minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Saturday said economic empowerment of women would lead to overall development of the state. Inaugurating the Durgabai Mahila Sishu Vikasa Kendra at Alair, she said anganwadi teachers are now being retired at the age of 61 and assured that issues faced by them would be addressed by the state govern-

ment. She said plans were in place to allocate petrol bunks, godowns and solar plants to women self-help groups (SHGs). She added that special groups are being formed for women above 60 years, who were earlier not part of such groups. The minister said interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh had been extended to SHG members, with Rs 61,000 crore disbursed across the state

over the past two-and-a-half years. "Of the 67 lakh women in self-help groups across the state, 12 lakh were uneducated. Under the state government's 'Amma ki Aksharamala' programme, six lakh women have achieved Class 10-level literacy," she maintained. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the government's initiatives aim to empower women and make one crore women financially strong. He said welfare schemes are being implemented in the names of women. Telangana State Women's Cooperative Development Corporation chairperson Bandu Shobha Rani said the government is focusing on women's development through various welfare programmes. On the occasion, the minister handed over a 'Srinidhi' bank linkage cheque worth ₹50 crore to 194 self-help groups. Earlier, she participated in a housewarming programme of Indiramma houses at Alair. Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah and child welfare officer Narasimha Rao were present.



51 DRF Teams, 300 MRTs Ready For Rains

Hyderabad: City Incharge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar directed HYDRAA's Disaster Response Force (DRF) and Monsoon Response Teams (MRT) teams to remain on constant alert during the monsoon season and ensure that citizens do not face difficulties due to heavy rains and flooding. He said that authorities must remain vigilant every minute to prevent flood-related problems. Addressing a meeting organised by Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency at Jalavihar on Saturday, the minister said that changing weather patterns have made rainfall more intense and unpredictable. He stated that the amount of rain usually expected over a month was now sometimes falling in a single day, while a day's rainfall could occur within an hour. HYDRAA commissioner A. V. Ranganath said extensive arrangements have been made to tackle emergencies during the monsoon. They said that 51 DRF teams, 300 MRTs and 889 static teams have been deployed across the city. The MRT was earlier known as the Monsoon Emergency Team and was renamed on the suggestion of the minister. Commissioner Ranganath said that 20 bike-based quick response units have been introduced to ensure quick action during emergencies for fallen trees and waterlogging. Officials said that 371 de-watering pumps have been positioned in flood-prone areas, while continuous monitoring is being carried out at 60 flyovers, 38 underpasses and 705 lakes. Ranganath also participated in a round-table conference organised by Telangana Rashtriya Lok Dal party and said that HYDRAA is protecting government lands and lake assets, and said that the Agency is working to protect government assets. "We fought for an exploitation-free Telangana, yet hundreds of acres of government land are being encroached. They are occupying lakes, storm-water drains, government lands and even parklands. These encroachers are causing floods in the city. It is against such people that HYDRAA is taking strict action, and those very same people are spreading misinformation and trying to tarnish HYDRAA's image", Ranganath said.



Telangana Gets Major Boost in Highways, Railways and Infra: Dr Laxman

Hyderabad: Rajya Sabha member Dr K. Laxman on Saturday said that the 12 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have witnessed unprecedented progress in welfare, infrastructure development, women's empowerment and transparent governance. Addressing the 'VARTA' Media Interaction Programme organized by the Press Information Bureau, Hyderabad, Dr Laxman highlighted flagship initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PM SVANidhi, PM Mudra Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which have improved the lives of crores of people, particularly the poor, women and marginalized sections. He noted that more than 11 crore women have benefited from the Ujjwala scheme, while the Swachh Bharat Mission has enhanced dignity and safety by ensuring access to sanitation facilities. He also highlighted the distribution of free food grains to over 81 crore beneficiaries and the healthcare benefits provided under Ayushman Bharat. Dr Laxman stated that technology-driven governance, combined with the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) framework, has ensured the transparent delivery of benefits directly to beneficiaries, thereby eliminating middlemen and reducing corruption. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Writes To Kishan Reddy, Seeks Meeting With Railway Minister Over Pending Hyderabad Metro Issues He added that nearly 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty through targeted welfare interventions over the past decade. Highlighting Telangana's progress, Dr Laxman stated that while the State had around 5,000 kilometres of National Highways over several decades, an additional 5,000 kilometres of National Highways have been developed during the last twelve years with an investment exceeding Rs.1.20 lakh crore.

EPFO Joins Hyderabad PM-VBRY Event

Hyderabad: A regional event related to Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) for promoting employment generation was held here on Friday, organised by the Union ministry of labour and employment. The event was attended by around 350 participants, including 60 beneficiaries, 10 employers, representatives of industry associations, public representatives, senior state government officials and EPFO personnel. Employers also distributed 10 appointment letters to newly recruited candidates. Prime Minister Narendra had addressed in the main event in New Delhi. "The aspirations, skills and potential of our youth will shape the journey towards a Viksit Bharat. The PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana aims to em-

power first-time employees and build a strong bridge between youth and industry. India's youth will lead global growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in the years ahead," Modi said. In the city, Malka Komaraiah, MLC, said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, both workers and employers are being recognised as partners in the country's growth. He said 17 crore jobs were generated between 2014 and 2024. Komaraiah urged employers to enrol their workforce under the scheme to ensure better benefits and financial security. Speakers at the event said the initiative would strengthen the manufacturing sector, while employers and employees expressed satisfaction over being recognised and supported under the programme.

Vijaya Dairy to supply milk to 27 lakh Telangana govt school kids

Hyderabad: Telangana government on Saturday, June 20, announced that the state-owned Vijaya Dairy will provide milk to 27 lakh children studying in government schools and anganwadi centres. In a review meeting held at the Secretariat, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Animal Husbandry Minister Vakiti Srihari discussed milk consumption in the state, collection, and the bills to be paid to farmers. The Deputy CM directed the officials to prepare precise figures



on total milk production by going to the field and identifying the actual number of milk-giving cattle across the state. He said that bills related to milk supplied to schools should be directly transferred by the welfare departments to the respective departments to ensure no pending dues for farmers. Stating that people in rural areas depend heavily on the dairy industry, he ordered that timely payments be made to dairy farmers to strengthen their livelihoods.

People vexed by Congress's anarchic rule in Telangana, claims BRS leader KT Rama Rao

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday alleged that "mafia raj" has been prevailing in the state in the last two-and-a-half years and the people were vexed by the anarchic rule of the Congress. Addressing party workers from Malkajgiri segment, Rama Rao said that BRS is certain to regain power, whenever Assembly elections are held in the state. The former minister claimed that BRS would win in the forthcoming Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal polls too. Terming the Congress government "an utter flop movie", Rama Rao said that every day people were cursing the inefficient governance of the Congress. The former minister alleged that the Congress failed to fulfil its poll promises and it has not even implemented the six guarantees it announced before the hustings. The days of the Congress government, which demolished the houses of the poor, are numbered, he said. Rama Rao further said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who claims that he would transform one crore women into crorepati, should first implement the Mahalakshmi scheme announced during the elections. On the SIR exercise, he called upon the party's booth level agents to be cautious and see that the names of all the eligible persons are included in the voters' list. There were doubts that the names of those opposing the BJP might be deleted from the electoral rolls, Rama Rao said and alleged that around 90 lakh votes were deleted in West Bengal alone. Stating that the BRS introduced digital membership, he asked the party leaders to utilise the membership app and enrol party workers by visiting every house.



52 pan shops booked for selling drugs in Karimnagar

Hyderabad: The Karimnagar police on Friday, June 19, booked 52 pan shops for allegedly selling drugs and banned tobacco products. As part of a special drive, police raided 99 pan shops located near educational institutions in the commissionerate, of which the owners of 52 shops were booked. According to Karimnagar Commissioner of Police Gautham Alam, the special drive was taken up to prevent youth in the district from falling prey to drugs. To curb the sale of nicotine-based substances to schoolchildren, police on April 18 conducted search operations at more than 550 pan shops located near educational institutions across Hyderabad under the Operation Safe School programme.

Parliament panel to examine India's economic outlook amid global uncertainties



Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance has decided to examine India's evolving economic conditions amid global uncertainties, including geopolitical conflicts, tariff concerns and their possible impact on domestic growth. The panel has added 'Evolving Economic Conditions in the Country' as an additional subject for detailed examination during 2025-26, according to a Lok Sabha bulletin. Parliamentary committees usually select their subjects soon after they are constituted but can take up additional issues later in view of changing circumstances. The committee's move comes as India navigates challenges arising from global conflicts, supply

chain disruptions, trade uncertainties and fluctuations in commodity prices while attempting to sustain high economic growth. India's economy is estimated to have grown at 7.7 per cent in 2025-26 (April-March), with a 7.8 per cent expansion recorded in the January-March quarter. GDP growth stood at 7.1 per cent in the 2024-25 fiscal year. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected GDP growth to slow to 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal year, citing risks from global developments, including the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which could push up the cost of fuel and fertilisers. India is a net importer of both crude oil and fertiliser.

The committee is expected to seek inputs from the Finance Ministry, RBI, economists and other stakeholders before preparing a report containing its observations and recommendations. The review is likely to examine a wide range of issues, including economic growth, inflation, employment, investment trends, fiscal management, banking sector developments, trade and the impact of international developments on the Indian economy. For 2026-27, the Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Bhartruhari Mahtab, has selected subjects covering various ministries, including Finance, Corporate Affairs, Planning (NITI Aayog) and Statistics.

ED Cases: Telangana HC Gives Relief To Jagan?



case who had their properties attached. However, this decision was challenged by the enforcement directorate, which noted that release of these attach properties goes against prevention of money laundering. When this matter came to discussion at the Telangana High Court, the bench ruled that the ED cannot sustain this argument as there are no new establishments to uphold the freeze of properties. The High Court sided with the tribunal which advised the authorities to release the properties which are currently on hold. This can be considered as significant positive news to YS Jagan, Nimmagadda Prasad and others, who face serious allegations in this case. The total value of the attached properties in this case is over ₹1400 crore and it involves Jagan and Prasad. Jagan faces allegations of misusing his political power during his father, Rajasekhara Reddy's time to allot big parcels of land to Prasad and others.

The disproportionate assets cases related to YS Jagan have been in the court of law for the last decade and half but there's no closure even to this day. But now there is a reasonable update in this regard. The Telangana High Court has provided significant relief to Jagan in connection with the Vanpic Quid Pro Quo case. Incidentally, a tribunal that was formulated to decide the fate of the attached properties in this case suggested the bench to release the same. This was supposed to be in favour of Jagan and other accused in this

PM Modi joins thousands in Kolkata for International Day of Yoga, urges daily practice

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted yoga's role in improving personal health and promoting global harmony, saying the practice can help create a more balanced way of life. Addressing thousands of participants at the 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations at Red Road in central Kolkata, Modi said yoga teaches individuals how to maintain balance in their daily lives and should be embraced across all age groups. Quoting the Bhagavad Gita, the Prime Minister said a balanced lifestyle involving work, food and sleep is essential to overcoming suffering, and yoga can guide people towards achieving that balance. "That balance is yoga's basic crucible, just as it is the crucible of our lives," Modi said. "Most people are struggling to maintain that balance in their modern lifestyle. Yoga teaches us the art of living in a balanced manner; it teaches us dos and don'ts. When we learn to operate our bodies in the right manner, health becomes a habit," he added. The PM stressed that yoga does not merely focus on physical health, but, in fact, helps in finding the path to physical fitness through mental health. "The consciousness of identifying the dos and don'ts not only brings inner peace but also opens up the path to world peace. That's why yoga is not only required for our personal lifestyles, it is essential for a better future for this world," he said. "Let us pledge to not restrict yoga to only one particular day or to an event, rather make it a part of our lives and that of our families and our future



generations," he added.

Modi said yoga has become the world's largest community celebration, bringing people together across countries and cultures. "June 21, which marks the longest day on Earth, has now become the largest community celebration day because of yoga. Yoga brings people together. I congratulate the people of the world on this occasion," he said. The PM also congratulated the people of Kolkata for pursuing the 'Swachhata Se Swagat' initiative with dedication. "I congratulate the people of Kolkata for their unwavering dedication and effort to make the 'Swachhata Se Swagat' slogan into a mission and reality; their citizen duty has inspired the whole nation," he said.

Referring to this year's International Day of Yoga theme, 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', Modi said the ancient practice plays a crucial role in

promoting physical health, mental well-being and active ageing, thereby improving the quality of life. "Yoga is not just physical exercise. It is not restricted to any age group. It is an expression of the human spirit," he said. Emphasising the importance of healthy ageing, Modi said efforts must be made to ensure that advancing age does not reduce human potential. "When we speak of yoga for healthy ageing, we can work to ensure that age does not reduce human potential," he said. "Our target is to be more flexible at 40 than we were at 20. We aim to be more energetic at 50 than we were at 30. Our target is to be more resistant to lifestyle-related diseases at 70 than we were at 50. This is where yoga can help us," he added. When society becomes healthy, the nation becomes more able, powerful and self-confident, the PM said.



Sai Krishna's Mother Finds Relief After CBN Meeting

The disappearance and alleged custodial torture of Gade Sai Krishna has started to create a political discourse in Andhra Pradesh with YS Jagan getting involved yesterday. This matter took a big twist today with the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu getting on the ground. Chandrababu interacted with the family members of Sai Krishna and had an elongated conversation with them today. Shortly after this conversation, the family members came out and said they were thinking that the common folk would not be served justice in the societal system but CM Chandrababu came in at last minute and promised to help them when they needed it the most. Sai Krishna's uncle said CM Chandrababu assured them that the culprits would be behind the bars and they're grateful to the CM for this. He thanked Lokesh and Pawan Kalyan for their contributions as well. The victim's mother came in front of the media, and said Chandrababu promised all possible support and vowed to correct the series of incidents that happened and this is a great outcome for the family. This case has taken a full twist now with the chief minister himself getting involved, and it should be a matter of time before the concerned police officials face the consequences.

BJP chief Nitin Nabin on 3-day Punjab visit, seeks to firm up plans for Assembly polls

CHANDIGARH: Amid the BJP's push to expand its footprint in the political landscape of Punjab where it intends to contest all 117 seats in the 2027 state polls, party's national president Nitin Nabin arrived in Amritsar Saturday a three-day tour of Punjab. Nabin will be taking part in a series of religious, social and organizational programmes in Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana in three days. His visit is being seen as an effort to energise the cadre and review the party's preparedness for the assembly elections. Nabin's first visit to the state comes close on the heels of the appointment of Kewal Singh Dhillon, a Jat Sikh face, as the state unit president. It was for the first time that the BJP chose a Jat Sikh to head the state unit with an eye on assembly polls. Nabin chaired a nearly two-hour meeting of the Punjab BJP core committee at a hotel in Amritsar. Nabin said the meeting involved detailed discussions on strengthening the organisation down to the booth level, upcoming programmes and the prevailing political situation in the state.

Eastern India Ignored During Congress Rule: Modi




Rairangpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said eastern India, which remained backward during Congress rule, was now emerging as a gateway to development. Addressing a public meeting at Rairangpur after unveiling projects worth over ₹47,600 crore, he said Odisha was progressing rapidly. "Eastern India, which remained backward during the Congress rule, is now emerging as a gateway to progress and development," he said. The Prime Minister said the Centre was focusing on developing the country through the growth of eastern India under the 'Purvodaya' policy. "Odisha is rapidly progressing on the path of development. The vision of the Centre is to develop India through the development of eastern India. That is why we are working on the policy of 'Purvodaya'," he said. He said the BJP government in Odisha was converting the state's resources into opportunities and claimed that investment proposals worth nearly ₹20 lakh crore had been received. Modi also extended birthday greetings to Droupadi Murmu, stating that she had strengthened Odisha's identity.

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Education

VOICE OF WORDS

Tuesday, June 23, 2026



Engg counselling for international students conducted at OU

Hyderabad: The Office of International Affairs (OIA), Osmania University, successfully conducted the counselling and seat allotment process for international category students seeking admission to engineering programmes for the academic year 2026-27. Geographic Reference The counselling was held on Thursday under the leadership of Prof B Vijaya, Director, Office of International Affairs, along with Dr MA Hameed and Dr Amanchi Nageshwara Rao, Joint Directors. Based on merit and the preferences exercised by the candidates, seats were allotted in various programmes offered by the University College of Engineering, including Computer Science & Engineering, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering. Students belonging to the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Children of Indian Workers in Gulf Countries (CIWG/NRI) categories participated in the counselling process. Several meritorious candidates secured admissions in highly sought-after branches such as CSE and AI/ML. Speaking on the occasion, Prof B Vijaya stated that Osmania University remains committed to providing quality technical education and to strengthening its international outreach through transparent, merit-based admissions for students from diverse international backgrounds. Indian Current Events She further announced that the Phase-II notification for admissions to engineering programmes under the international categories will be issued on June 20.

Brilliant Move, AP Govt Giving Canva Freely To Students!

One of the main members of the Andhra Pradesh administration, Nara Lokesh has been very consistent with his efforts to enhance the education sector. The latest news is that the government of AP is contemplating the provision of Canva technology to government school students. For those who don't already know, Canva technologies is one of the major visual imagery platforms across the globe and is richly reputed for their insane library of visual composition. It is good that the government is placing active emphasis on grooming the school students with regard to visual composition. This can very well be a game changer for the government

school students and rightly so as well. Generally, this is a paid platform and comes with a monthly subscription basis, but the Andhra Pradesh government is going to cover these costs while providing the service free of charge for government school students. This will not only provide the government school student with the opportunity of creating visual image, but also build a strong skill set with visual composition. This can help their future with regard to visual communication as well. This is the kind of positive impact that an educated and determined minister can have, and it is good that Lokesh is taking special attention towards this matter.

University of Hyderabad Scientist Co-Authors Trio of Breakthrough Studies in Plant Immunity Published in Science Advances

HYDERABAD: In a major milestone for agricultural science and molecular biology, Dr. J. Madhuprakash, Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Hyderabad (UoH), has co-authored three landmark research papers published in the prestigious international journal Science Advances. The breakthrough studies significantly advance global understanding of plant immune systems and the sophisticated infection strategies deployed by destructive crop pathogens. Indian Current Events The high-impact research was conducted during Dr. Madhuprakash's study leave at The Sainsbury Laboratory (TSL) in Norwich, United Kingdom, a world-renowned premier center for research on plant-microbe interactions. Working in the cutting-edge laboratory of global expert Prof. Sophien Kamoun, Dr. Madhuprakash collaborated with international scientists to decode the intricate "molecular arms race" between



Dr. Madhuprakash



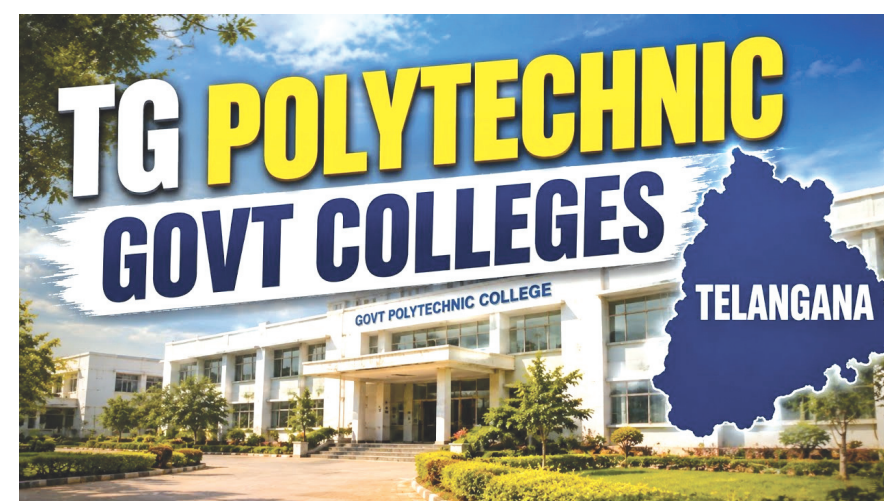
Prof. Sophien Kamoun

plants and the pathogens that threaten food security. Unlocking the Secrets of Plant Defense Mechanisms Plants rely on highly specialized intracellular immune receptors, known as NLRs (Nucleotide-binding Leucine-rich Repeat receptors), to detect invading pathogens and activate defensive countermeasures. Dr. Madhuprakash's contributions across the three published studies shed light on how these receptors operate and how pathogens attempt to hijack them: Hyderabad Traffic Updates The Architecture of Defense: One study reveals the structural activation mechanism of a key helper immune receptor called NRC2. The team demonstrated how NRC2 reassembles into a higher-order hexameric (six-part) complex upon detecting a pathogen, acting as a crucial molecular switch to trigger immune signaling. Defeating the Famine Pathogen: The subsequent two studies focused on Phytophthora infestans—the notorious pathogen behind potato late blight, famously responsible for the historic Great Irish Famine. The research unraveled how the pathogen's effector protein, AVRcap1b, works to suppress a plant's immune response by targeting host cellular components and disabling helper NLRs (specifically NRC2 and NRC3). Together, these structural and mechanistic discoveries provide founda-

tional insights necessary for bioengineering next-generation crops with durable, engineered resistance against devastating agricultural diseases. Pioneering a New Era of Research at UoH Following his return from the United Kingdom, Dr. Madhuprakash is actively leveraging his international expertise to establish Plant NLR (Immune Receptor) Biology as a brand-new, cutting-edge research program within the Department of Plant Sciences at UoH. This initiative drastically strengthens the university's research portfolio in contemporary plant biology. Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Madhuprakash stated: "I am deeply thankful to Prof. Sophien Kamoun and the exceptional scientific environment at The Sainsbury Laboratory for the opportunity to contribute to this vital field. I also extend my sincere thanks to the University of Hyderabad administration for granting the study leave that made this invaluable international research experience possible."

AIIMS BSc Nursing Admit Card 2026 Released; Download Hall Ticket At aaimsexams.ac.in For June 27 Exam

AIIMS BSc Nursing Admit Card 2026: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has released the admit card for the AIIMS BSc Nursing Entrance Examination 2026. Candidates who have successfully registered can now download their hall tickets from the official website AIIMS Exams Portal. To access the admit card, candidates must log in using their Candidate ID or registered mobile number along with their password. The institute has clarified that admit cards will be available only online and will not be sent by post. AIIMS BSc Nursing Admit Card 2026: How to download admit card. Candidates can follow below steps to access the admit card: Step 1: Visit the official website at aaimsexams.ac.in. Step 2: Navigate to the Academic Courses section. Step 3: Select the Undergraduate Programmes option and click on BSc Nursing. Step 4: Click on View Details. Step 5: Choose the Login option. Step 6: Enter the Candidate ID/Mobile Number and Password. Step 7: Submit the details. Step 8: The admit card will appear on the screen. Step 9: Download and save the hall ticket PDF. Step 10: Take a printout for future use. AIIMS BSc Nursing Admit Card 2026: Exam day instructions. Candidates must carry a printed admit card, a valid photo ID, a recent passport-size photograph, and any additional documents specified by AIIMS. They are advised to reach the examination centre well before reporting time for smooth verification. The exam is scheduled to be conducted on June 27, 2026, across designated centres nationwide for admission to undergraduate nursing programmes offered by AIIMS institutions. Candidates must carefully verify all details on the admit card and report discrepancies immediately to the authorities.



TG POLYCET 2026: Govt colleges record higher seat allotment, private sector trails

Hyderabad: The government polytechnics are giving their private counterparts a run for their money with 92 percent seats allotted in the TG POLYCET 2026 final phase counselling. As per the final phase seat allocation released by the Technical Education department on Friday, 17,001 (92 percent) out of 18,538 seats in 59 government polytechnics were allotted to students, while only 54 percent out of 14,997 seats in 53 private polytechnic colleges had takers. Several government

polytechnics reported more than 90 percent seats allotment. This reflects students' preference for government institutions for the academic year 2026-27. Overall, 112 institutions offered 33,535 seats and 25,111 (75 percent) were allotted to students who took part in the counselling. Students who received a provisional seat allotment order must self-report online and pay the tuition fee on or before June 22. The provisional allotment order will automatically stand cancelled if candidates fail to pay the fee

or self-report online before the deadline. Further, provisionally allotted candidates should report at the allotted college physically on or before June 23, otherwise the allotted seat stands cancelled. Candidates who report at the allotted college, if desired, can exercise options online for centralized internal sliding (change of branch within college) on June 27 and 28. Fee reimbursement is also applicable for the internal sliding round. For more information, visit the website <https://tgpolycet.nic.in>.

Maharashtra Signs Pact With Google To Train Over 4 Lakh Teachers In AI And Digital Skills Free Of Cost



Mumbai: In a major step towards integrating emerging technologies into the education sector, the Maharashtra School Education Department on Friday signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Google for Education to provide advanced training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technology to teachers across the state. Under the initiative, more than four lakh teachers from government and aided schools will receive training through the 'Google AI Educator Series' over the next 18 months. The programme aims to equip educators with AI literacy, digital skills and modern teaching

methodologies aligned with the evolving educational landscape. The Letter of Intent was signed by Chris Phillips, Vice President of Google for Education, on behalf of Google, and Joint Secretary Tashildar on behalf of the School Education Department during a programme held at the office of Maharashtra School Education Minister Dadaji Bhuse at Mantralaya. Addressing the gathering, Bhuse said that equipping teachers with contemporary technological skills has become essential in the era of Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation. He said the training programme would be implemented in phases, beginning with the training of selected master trainers who would subsequently train teachers across the state. "The objective is to ensure that AI-based learning reaches every school in Maharashtra. Importantly, the initiative will not impose any financial burden on the state government as Google will provide the training free of cost," Bhuse said. The minister also assured that adequate measures had been put in place to safeguard teachers' digital security and that the entire programme would remain under the supervision of the Maharashtra government. Minister of State for School Education Dr. Pankaj Bhojar said the role of Artificial Intelligence in education is expanding rapidly and that the department wanted teachers from government and aided schools to benefit from training offered by a globally recognised organisation. "This partnership with Google for Education will

help lakhs of teachers gain access to world-class training. Through the master trainer model, the benefits of the programme will reach schools across the state and ultimately enhance learning outcomes for students," he said. According to officials, the collaboration will focus on improving AI literacy and digital competencies among teachers. The programme will offer training materials in Marathi, Hindi and English, issue secure digital identities to educators and promote the educational use of Google's AI-powered tools. It will also support teachers' professional development and encourage technology-enabled teaching practices. The initiative is aligned with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises the integration of technology into education. Officials said the programme would also strengthen digital educational infrastructure, including ICT laboratories, connected classrooms, smart classrooms, digital libraries and language laboratories. The event was attended by Principal Secretary of the School Education Department Ranjitsinh Deol, Joint Secretary Tashildar, senior Google for Education official Sanjay Jain, departmental officers and other dignitaries. Officials expressed confidence that the collaboration would help create greater awareness about Artificial Intelligence among educators while preparing Maharashtra's teaching workforce for the future of digital learning.

The first 1,000 days shape a child's brain more than we realise, a neonatologist explains



Parents today are paying closer attention to children's brain development, from nutrition to screen habits. A paediatrician explains why the first 1,000 days matter and how everyday choices shape long-term health.

Why early nutrition matters more than ever for children's brain development? Parents today are far more aware of what goes into their child's body and how those early choices shape the developing brain. It's a shift paediatricians have been noticing quietly over the past few years. Conversations that once revolved only around weight and height now include nutrients, sleep patterns and screen habits. According to Dr Vinaya P, MBBS, DCH, DNB, Consultant, Pediatrics & Neonatologist at Apollo Cradle, Koramangala, Bangalore, this growing awareness is a welcome change. She says parents are no longer looking for shortcuts. Most families now try to avoid processed foods and excess sugar, leaning instead towards home-cooked meals. Labels are being read. Proteins, healthy fats, fruits and vegetables are no longer afterthoughts. There is also a noticeable rise in questions around iron, iodine, omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins that support brain development.

Why the first 1,000 days matter so much

Doctors have long emphasised that the first 1,000 days of life, from conception to around two years, are critical. Dr Vinaya explains that nearly 80 to 90 per cent of brain development happens during this period, which is why early nutrition and routine matter so much. This is also the reason paediatricians caution against unnecessary supplements. Balanced, age-appropriate meals tend to work far better unless a deficiency has been medically identified. Breastfeeding, when possible, continues to play an important role, followed by the timely introduction of complementary foods. Just as important are sleep patterns and regular movement. Children do not need rigid schedules, but they do benefit from predictability. A body that rests well allows the brain to grow well.

Nutrition works best with routine and emotional security

Food, however, is only one part of the picture. Screen time is being questioned more often, especially during the early years. Many parents are consciously limiting exposure and replacing it with activities that engage the brain naturally, such as reading together, music, puzzles, and outdoor play. These aren't new ideas, but they are finally being treated as essentials rather than extras.

A balanced approach over perfection

What often gets overlooked is the emotional environment. Dr Vinaya points out that nutrition works best when paired with emotional security. Responsive parenting, consistency and a calm, reassuring presence create conditions where learning and development happen more naturally. When children feel safe, their brains are better able to process, retain and adapt. There is also a sense of relief in knowing that perfection is not required. No single food, routine or parenting style guarantees outcomes. What matters is steadiness. Everyday choices repeated over time make the difference.

Why does digestion become weaker during summer? Ayurveda expert explains



Experiencing acidity, bloating or indigestion during summer? An Ayurveda expert explains why digestion weakens in hot weather and shares simple tips on hydration, diet, yoga and seasonal habits that can help improve gut health and overall well-being. As temperatures rise during the summer months, many people begin experiencing digestive issues without fully understanding the reason behind them. Problems such as acidity, bloating, gas, constipation, nausea and loss of appetite often become more common during periods of extreme heat. According to Ayurveda, the root cause of these symptoms lies in the body's digestive fire, known as Agni. Ayurveda expert Acharya Manish Ji explains that excessive heat, dehydration and lifestyle changes during summer can negatively affect digestion and make it harder for the body to process food efficiently.

How summer heat affects your digestive system

According to Ayurveda, Grishma Ritu (summer season) is a period that naturally weakens digestion. Frequent sweating, dehydration, lack of sleep, stress and irregular eating habits can affect the stomach and its functioning. As a result, the

digestive system becomes less efficient during hot weather.

What happens when food is not digested properly?

According to Ayurveda, improper digestion leads to the formation of Ama, a toxin that accumulates in the body.

This may contribute to fatigue, low immunity, poor metabolism, acidity and digestive discomfort. Since every tissue in the body depends on nutrients obtained through digestion, maintaining healthy digestion is considered essential for overall well-being.

Everyday habits that may be making digestion worse

Modern nutrition science also recognises that dehydration and unhealthy eating habits can affect gut health during the summer months.

Experts warn that excessive consumption of processed foods, fried foods, carbonated drinks, tea, coffee and irregular meal timings can place additional stress on digestion and leave people feeling sluggish and exhausted.

However, Ayurveda and naturopathy suggest that a few simple lifestyle changes can help improve digestion and overall health during hot weather.

Some of the recommendations include:

Staying adequately hydrated throughout the day
Drinking coconut water, buttermilk and lemon water

Eating light, freshly prepared meals

Avoiding fried, spicy and heavily processed foods

Consuming hydrating fruits such as watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber and pomegranate

Avoiding overeating and eating according to your digestive capacity

Can yoga and pranayama help?

Ayurveda places significant importance on yoga, meditation and breathing exercises for maintaining digestive balance.

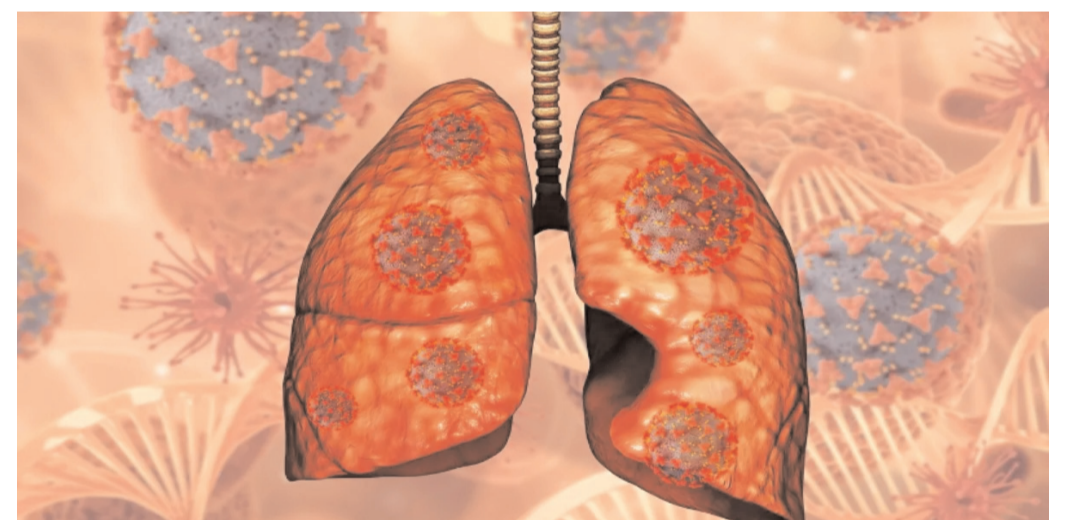
Lung cancer in non-smokers:

Early recognition and expert prevention advice

Lung cancer is increasingly affecting non-smokers worldwide. Learn why this trend is rising, how to recognise early warning signs, and expert-recommended prevention tips to protect your health. Early recognition signs of lung cancer in non-smokers. In the current scenario, Lung cancer is shedding its smoker's disease label, as more number of non-smokers are being diagnosed, challenging the traditional assumptions about the disease's causes and forcing a rethink among the medical professionals and the public alike. According to Dr Nandih Kumar Jeevangi, Sr. Consultant, Medical Oncology, HCG Cancer Centre – Gulbarga, lung cancer is increasingly affecting non-smokers, with one in five cases globally occurring among non-smokers. The trend is particularly striking among the younger adults and women, highlighting the growing impact of environmental, lifestyle and genetic factors on cancer risk. The question is no longer limited to "Do you smoke?" but rather, "What are you exposed to every day?"

Breathing in Danger: Air Pollution's Role

Cities worldwide now pose a greater danger to our health every time we leave the building because urban air is heavily polluted with a mixture of man-made particles consisting of PM2.5 particles, either from vehicles or industrial activity (smoke and dust), all of which can get embedded deep into our lungs



and cause chronic inflammation and damage the genetic material. In addition to this damage to the lung tissues and the DNA in these cells, long-term exposure to polluted air can put people at an equivalent risk of developing cancer as if they were smoking a few cigarettes each day. And surprising that people who try to stay away from cigarettes (i.e., through conscious decision-making) would actually expose themselves each day to levels of pollution that are similar to smoking a few cigarettes per day through various points of entry (inhalation, etc.) and not be aware of it. The hidden hazards within homes

A lot of news articles talk about how bad outdoor air quality is for us, but did you know that indoor air quality can sometimes actually be worse? Indoor pollution occurs in poorly ventilated kitchens which use biomass as an energy source or where people cook on high-flame stoves. Burning these fuels releases toxic chemicals and fine particulates into

the air that continue to build up over time. Another type of invisible indoor pollutant is radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that escapes from the ground through cracks in our floors and walls. Radon exposure has been linked to lung cancer among non-smokers. Even the little things we do every day, such as incense sticks, burning candles or cleaning with aerosol-based products, release hazardous emissions into our homes. We may think of our homes as places of safety, but for some people, continued exposure to indoor air pollution can be a slow, insidious way of developing health conditions. Recognising early warning signs of lung cancer detected early can often be treated successfully, yet non-smokers rarely see themselves at risk. Common symptoms like a long-standing cough, chest pain, fatigue, hoarseness, or unexplained weight loss are frequently mistaken for minor infections.

5 tips on how to apply sunscreen on an oily face



Any skincare regimen must include sunscreen, but it's especially important for people with oily skin. It can be difficult to choose the correct sunscreen and apply it correctly, though. Today, Dr Rachel's co-founder Pravin Bera will give you some insightful advice on how to apply sunscreen on oily skin, allowing you to avoid looking greasy or glossy while staying protected from the sun's damaging rays.

Choose the Right Sunscreen:

The first step in proper sunscreen application is selecting the right product for your oily skin. Look for sunscreens that are oil-free, toxin-free, and made with natural ingredients. Additionally, opt for a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to ensure adequate protection against both UVA and UVB rays.

Cleanse Your Face Before Application:

Always start with clean skin. Wash your face with a gentle cleanser and pat it dry before applying sunscreen. Cleansing helps to remove excess oil and dirt, allowing the sunscreen to adhere better to your skin.

Apply Generously and Evenly:

Don't skimp on sunscreen. Apply a generous amount to cover your entire face, neck, and under the chin area. Be sure to get into all the nooks and crannies, such as your ears, lips, and the tops of your feet. This ensures that your skin receives full protection.

Allow Sunscreen to Dry Before Makeup:

Give your sunscreen some time to set before applying makeup. If you rush and apply makeup too soon, it can cause the sunscreen to pill up, making the application less effective. Let the sunscreen dry completely to ensure proper absorption.

Reapply Regularly:

Even the best sunscreen needs reapplication. For oily skin, it's crucial to reapply every two hours, or more often if you are sweating or swimming. Reapplying ensures continuous protection and helps maintain the sunscreen's effectiveness.

What to check before buying sunscreen for oily skin?

Look for 'Mattifying' or 'Oil-Control' Sunscreens: If you struggle with excessive oiliness, choose sunscreens specifically labelled as "mattifying" or "oil-control." These formulations are designed to absorb excess oil and keep your skin shine-free throughout the day.

Opt for Gel or Lotion Formulas:

Sunscreens in gel or lotion forms are ideal for oily skin, as they tend to be less greasy than creams or oils. These lightweight formulas provide effective protection without adding extra shine.

Avoid Sunscreens with Alcohol:

Steer clear of sunscreens containing alcohol, as they can dry out your skin and trigger increased oil production. Opt for alcohol-free options to maintain the balance of your skin's natural oils.

Non-Comedogenic Sunscreens for Acne-Prone Skin:

If you have acne-prone skin, go for sunscreens labelled as "non-comedogenic." These products are specifically formulated not to clog pores, reducing the risk of breakouts.

Collagen Absorption: Know how to get the most of it through diet

Collagen, a vital protein, serves as the primary component of various connective tissues, essentially providing structural support to the body. The human body encompasses 29 types of collagens with Types I, II, and III being predominant. Type I contributes to skin elasticity, Type II is prevalent in cartilage, and Type III is found in the skin, blood vessels, and internal organs. Ageing, alongside factors like sleep patterns, diet, and stress, results in diminished collagen production, leading to issues such as wrinkles. Supplementing collagen has become a popular trend with artificial forms available in powders and capsules. However, according to Dr Rashmi Aderao, MD Dermatology Consultant at Ruby Hall Clinic, opting for natural sources of food is deemed a safer alternative. Foods that stimulate collagen production include bone broths, rich in collagen extracted from fish, chicken, and mutton, providing a natural and readily usable form. Additionally, protein-rich foods like mutton, chicken, fish, beans, eggs, and dairy, particularly fish with marine collagen, contribute to collagen synthesis. Vitamin C-rich foods such as citrus fruits, bell peppers, tomatoes, and leafy greens play a crucial role in pro-collagen pro-

duction, the precursor to collagen. Foods abundant in zinc and copper, like meats, shellfish, nuts, and whole grains, also support collagen synthesis. However, processed, refined foods and excessive sugar can promote inflammation and damage collagen. While collagen supplements in the form of powders and pills are available, their high molecular weight may cause digestive discomfort. Creams and serums, although popular, often contain large collagen molecules that struggle to penetrate the skin layers. Regular exercise, particularly high-intensity workouts and weight training, aids in building new collagen. Quality sleep, totalling an adequate duration, proves essential while smoking and alcohol should be avoided as they hinder collagen production. Consulting a dermatologist before using over-the-counter creams or pills is advisable.



Stubborn Acne Issue? Know the causes and treatment

Most of us have suffered from some kind of acne in our adolescence but adult acne is a fact too. It not only affects the skin but also impacts the security appearance and confidence in the looks.

Know the causes and treatment for stubborn acne. For most of us, it is easy to spot the signs of breakouts. They are not the same for everybody but the general symptoms are changes in the skin, some itching, excessive shine, blocked pores etc. Most breakouts go away in a few days but if the pimple is still there for long it could be stubborn acne. Stubborn acne needs targeted and curated treatments that are a step ahead the regular spot treatments. We pride ourselves in offering individualized treatments for stubborn acne that include a combination of medical treatments, skin care routines, and lifestyle changes to get rid of stubborn acne and keep it away for a lifetime.

The treatment begins with finding the reason behind acne. A pimple that has inflammation and does not go away in six weeks is stubborn acne. The main cause is blockage in the pores because of makeup, dead skin cells, oil or dirt. The second main cause is the contact with acne-causing bacteria. Stubborn acne usually finds its home in the areas of the skin that are oily (this can be because of hormones medications or overexposure to the sun). This can be on the face, back, upper arms, chest etc. According to Dr Rinky Kapoor, Consultant Dermatologist, Cosmetic Dermatologist & Dermato-Surgeon, The Esthetic Clinics, the common reasons for stubborn acne are:

Unsuitable skin hygiene: Good skin care and hygiene are important to keep breakouts and acne away. A regular skin care routine is important but there are other factors too



that impact the health of the skin. Everyone's skin is different and hence the cleanser, moisturizer and serums are also different. Touching your face frequently with your hands, going to bed without washing your face, sharing makeup products or brushes not cleaning makeup products, and popping pimples, all can contribute to the worsening of stubborn acne. Sometimes makeup can also clog pores.

Hormones: Hormonal changes in the body cause overproduction of oil (sebum) in the skin. This sebum clogs the pores and leads to acne, blackheads, whiteheads or even cysts which can become painful. Overusing products: When it comes to acne treatment, Dr Kapoor recommends that less is more even if you are looking for quick results. Overusing scrubs or topical treatments can only make the acne worse and even irritate the skin. Use one product at a time and don't mix the products, advises the doctor. For example, if you are using salicylic acid wash then avoid using the salicylic acid pads after it, also if you are using topical acne products then keep the retinol away from your routine. It will only damage the skin. Stubborn acne treatment requires patients and use the

product for the given period to give it time to work effectively.

The content of your plate: What you eat directly impacts your skin. Fried foods, excess sugar, and lack of fibre and protein in your diet can cause inflammation in the skin and even disrupt the hormone cycle leading to painful acne.

Once the cause is identified the next step is to work on the treatment. There is no one packaged treatment for stubborn acne.

Stubborn acne treatment includes the following:

Use retinol A products: The combination of topical benzoyl peroxide with prescription retinoids is the gold standard for defeating stubborn acne. This combination not only reduces the redness and inflammation but also destroys the bacteria and unclogs the pores.

Medications: Antibiotics and non-antibiotics such as isotretinoin help in killing the skin bacteria and calm the skin. Treating the underlying cause: PCOS is a major cause of cystic acne in women. The cause is endocrine disorder which when treated correctly can reduce the acne to a great deal. These treatments include oral contraceptives and hormone therapy



International News

VOICE OF WORDS

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

British PM Starmer vows to fight as Burnham's victory fuels Labour leadership showdown

LONDON: Labour's Andy Burnham, the popular mayor of Greater Manchester, won a special election for a seat in Parliament and signaled Friday that he will use it to challenge embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer for leadership of the country. Burnham decisively won the seat of Makerfield in northwest England over Rob Kenyon of the anti-immigration party Reform UK, and called the victory a chance for Britain "to turn the tide." The result cements the status of Burnham, a 56-year-old politician nicknamed the King of the North, as the top contender to replace Starmer as leader of the Labour Party and the country. Burnham won almost 55% of the 45,510 votes cast for a field of more than a dozen candidates, over 9,000 more than runner-up Kenyon. Burnham's acceptance speech left no doubt that he wants to lead the country, and not just be one of the more than 400 Labour lawmakers in the 650-seat House of Commons. "Everyone knows that politics isn't working," he said. "Everyone can feel that the country isn't where it should be. Tonight could, just could, be the turning point." Starmer congratulated Burnham, writing on X that



voters "chose Labour's campaign of hope and optimism over division and hate." But the prime minister insisted he would fight any attempt to oust him. "Yes, I will run, I will stand," if there is a Labour leadership contest, Starmer said. "I've said repeatedly I'm not going to walk away from that." (L-R) Labour Party leader Andy Burnham and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Burnham has led Manchester since 2017, overseeing rapid regeneration for the city where the Industrial Revolution was forged. He is pledging to repeat his signature brand of "Manchesterism" on a national scale. Burnham said he would work to ensure that "the name Makerfield is forever synonymous with bringing about the change this country needs." He told supporters and cam-

paign workers on Friday that voters' rejection of Labour in local elections last month was "a clear call for change" and "we are going to lay out a new path for Britain." "We need an economy that works for everybody, not a few in far-off places from here," he said. "We have an opportunity to turn the tide, to make the country feel like it's working again, to make people see that politics can make a positive difference, to make people feel hope again." Earlier, in his victory speech, he said Labour had "a final chance to change" and win back voters' trust. "But it is a chance now, from this result tonight, to build a new politics based on unity and hope, turning away from the path that takes us to a divided, dark politics of the kind we see in the United States," he said.



Israel, Hezbollah Agree To Ceasefire After Fresh Clashes, Says US Official

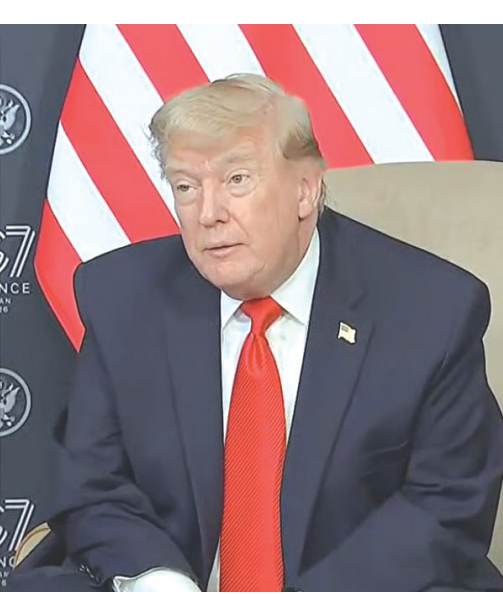
Israel and Hezbollah have agreed to a ceasefire beginning at 4 p.m. local time on Friday, according to a senior US official cited by Reuters, marking a significant attempt to halt renewed fighting along the Lebanon-Israel border amid wider regional diplomatic efforts. The reported truce comes shortly after a broader diplomatic breakthrough involving the United States and Iran, raising hopes of de-escalation in the Middle East. According to Reuters, the ceasefire was reached following fresh exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and the Iran-backed militant group. Negotiators from the United States and Qatar reportedly played a key role in brokering the agreement with assistance from Iran. Before the ceasefire announcement, Hezbollah accused Israel of repeatedly violating previous truce arrangements. The group alleged that Israeli forces attempted to advance toward the Ali al-Taher hill area in southern Lebanon and claimed its fighters confronted the move. Hezbollah further accused Israel of targeting villages and civilian areas during the confrontation. The ceasefire remains fragile, with reports indicating that military activity continued around the time the truce was due to take effect. Reuters reported that Israeli strikes were carried out shortly after the ceasefire's scheduled start, underscoring the volatility of the situation despite diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions.

One Dead, Several Injured As Two London-Bound Passenger Trains Collide Near Bedford



London: Emergency services rushed to the scene of a collision between two trains north of London on Friday afternoon that killed at least one person. A passenger reported that he was thrown forward by the impact then saw fellow travellers with broken bones and bloody injuries. Both trains were traveling south to London St Pancras station when they collided outside the town of Bedford around 5:15 pm (local time), according to information on rail tracking websites. Emergency services deployed a number of resources to the scene, including an air ambulance and hazardous incident team from the East of England Ambulance Service. "We know that a number of people have been injured and one person has very sadly died," police said in a statement.

'Italy And I Never Beg': Giorgia Meloni Hits Back At Donald Trump Over G7 Photo Remark



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has publicly dismissed US President Donald Trump's assertion that she pleaded with him for a photograph during this week's G7 summit, describing the claim as entirely false and expressing astonishment over the remarks. In a post on Instagram on Friday, Meloni rejected Trump's version of events, stating that

his comments were "completely fabricated." She added that neither she nor Italy "ever beg" and argued that some statements require an immediate rebuttal. The prime minister also questioned why the US president would make such remarks about allied nations, saying it was unfortunate that he did not display

the same attitude towards the West's adversaries. Trump made the claim during an interview with Italian television channel La7, where he said Meloni was eager to take a picture with him and had "begged" for one. He further remarked that he agreed only because he "felt sorry for her." The exchange comes amid signs of strain in what had previously been viewed as a close relationship between the two leaders. Meloni was notably the only European leader invited to Trump's inauguration last year. However, disagreements have reportedly emerged over issues including Italy's refusal to allow the use of a Sicilian air base for US military operations during the Iran conflict and Meloni's defence of Pope Leo XIV following Trump's criticism of the pontiff. Despite the controversy, Meloni maintained after the G7 summit that there were no lingering recriminations between the two leaders and that they continued to understand each other's perspectives. During one interaction at the summit, she light-heartedly rejected Trump's joking claim that she had "abandoned" him, replying, "We've always been friends."



Twin roadside blasts kill at least seven in Pakistan's Bannu district

PAKISTAN: Twin roadside blasts killed at least seven people in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said on Saturday. "A private pickup truck carrying passengers was targeted with a remote-controlled IED," said Yasir Afridi, a police officer in Bannu district, using a common acronym for a homemade bomb. "... the injured were being transported to hospital in a car for emergency treatment when a second IED exploded," he said, adding that three people were wounded. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blasts but the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and other militant groups are active in the region. Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and expressed his sorrow over the casualties. He said the government "remained committed to eliminating terrorism" and "bringing those responsible to justice".

Who Is Vivek Aggarwal? Top Indian Bureaucrat Elected FATF Vice President

New Delhi: In a major diplomatic and strategic victory for India, senior bureaucrat Vivek Aggarwal was elected Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog responsible for combating money laundering and terror financing. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the development as a 'major win for India' and said the appointment reflects the country's growing influence in global efforts against terrorism financing and illicit financial networks. Announcing the development in a post on X, the MEA said, "Major win for India in FATF! Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Government of India, has been elected the Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force." The ministry further stated that India's leadership role in FATF reinforces its 'zero-tolerance policy against terrorism' and highlights the country's continued push to dismantle global terror financing systems. Vivek Aggarwal is a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre and currently serves as Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. A senior administrator with over 30 years of experience, Aggarwal has held several important positions across the Union and state governments in sectors including finance, agriculture, infrastructure, urban development and public policy. Before assuming charge as Culture Secretary in April 2025, he served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance. During his tenure there, he headed the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and also led India's delegation to the FATF. He played a key role in matters related to anti-money laundering operations, financial intelligence, economic security and GST-related frameworks. Aggarwal had also earlier served in the Ministry of Agriculture, where he was associated with major government initiatives such as PM-KISAN, Digital Agriculture and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.



VOICE OF WORDS BUSINESS



Indian Money In Swiss Banks Falls 8% In 2025 To Rs 36,793 Crore

Indian money held in Swiss banks declined by more than 8% in 2025, falling to CHF 3.25 billion (about ₹36,793 crore), according to a report by the Press Trust of India citing data from the Swiss National Bank (SNB). The drop was mainly driven by a reduction in funds routed through local branches and other financial institutions. However, within the overall figures, customer deposits from individual and institutional clients rose sharply by over 50% to CHF 524 million (around ₹6,000 crore), though this still accounted for a relatively small share of the total. The largest component of Indian funds remained "amounts due to banks," or money held via other financial institutions, which stood at CHF 2.6 billion despite a nearly 15% annual decline. The 2025 decline follows a sharp surge in 2024, when Indian funds in Swiss banks more than tripled to CHF 3.5 billion, the highest level since 2021. Historically, Indian holdings peaked at CHF 3.83 billion in 2021 but have mostly trended downward over the years with occasional spikes. The SNB clarified that these figures represent total reported liabilities of Swiss banks to Indian clients, including deposits from individuals, companies, banks, and branches, and do not represent alleged "black money." They also include funds held through fiduciaries, trusts, bonds, securities, and other financial instruments. Separately, data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), considered a more reliable measure of Indian individual deposits, showed a 20% increase in 2025 to USD 89.73 million. However, this figure remains significantly lower than earlier peaks seen in 2007. Globally, foreign client funds in Swiss banks also fell by nearly 8% in 2025 to CHF 1.05 trillion. India ranked 46th among countries with money in Swiss banks, improving slightly from 48th place.

Jio files DRHP to launch India's biggest IPO at USD 4 billion



Jio Platforms, the digital service arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), is all set to launch India's largest initial public offering (IPO) as the company filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator SEBI on Friday. Industry sources estimate the IPO at \$4 billion or Rs 37,700 crore, well over the widely speculated Rs 30,000 crore IPO of the National Stock Exchange and Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870 crore IPO in October 2024. According to the filed DRHP, Jio's IPO is structured as a primary issuance of 270 million (27 crore) equity shares, representing approximately 2.9% of post-issue share capital. As per market analysts, Jio's post-issue valuation could range between Rs 12.5 and 13 lakh crore, making it one of the most valuable companies on the bourses by market capitalisation. The company aims to use the proceeds for repayment/prepayment of outstanding borrowings of Rs 27,500 crore and general corporate purposes. "The capital raise positions Jio Platforms for its next phase of growth, while further strengthening its balance sheet. Net proceeds from the issue are proposed to be used primarily for repayment/prepayment of outstanding borrowings and general corporate purposes," the draft paper stated. Morgan Stanley and Kotak Mahindra Capital are acting as the lead bookrunners for the transaction. Meanwhile, the draft paper also stated that none of Jio's global partners, such as Meta and Google, is selling its stake in the IPO. In 2020, Jio Platforms raised Rs 43,574 crore from Meta / Facebook for a 9.99% stake and Rs 33,737 crore from Google for a 7.73% stake. In addition, Jio Platforms raised approximately Rs 74,745 crore for a 15.2%

stake from a marquee group of global financial sponsors, sovereign investors and strategic investors, including Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, PIF, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures. "This represented Rs1.52 lakh crore / US\$20.3 billion capital raise for approximately 33% stake. None of these sellers are selling down in the IPO, highlighting their continued commitment towards Jio Platforms and their conviction in the company's next phase of growth," the draft paper said. The listing will mark an important milestone for the Reliance Group. The IPO would be the first IPO from the group since 2008, and its first-ever consumer-focused company IPO. Jio Platforms' revenue from operations grew to Rs 146,885 crore in Fiscal 2026 from Rs 109,558 crore in Fiscal 2024, representing a 15.8% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR), and EBITDA increased to Rs 76,255 crore from Rs 54,959 crore, representing a 17.8% CAGR. Profitability has continued to expand, with EBITDA margin improving to 51.91% in Fiscal 2026 from 50.16% in Fiscal 2024, supported by scale benefits, proprietary technology, automation and network operating leverage. Jio Platform, which competes with Bharti Airtel, has leadership positions across both mobile broadband and fixed broadband, with 1.4x and 1.9x the second player in terms of customer market share, respectively. In Fiscal 2026, Jio Platforms carried approximately 60% of India's wireless data traffic, with monthly data consumption of 42.3 GB per customer in Q4 Fiscal 2026. The draft paper stated that international markets represent a massive growth opportunity for the deployment of Jio.

India's forex reserves decline USD 9.98 bn to USD 671.62 bn: RBI data

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped USD 9.985 billion to USD 671.625 billion during the week ended June 12 due to sharp drop in gold reserves, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped USD 711 million to USD 681.610 billion. For the week ended June 12, foreign currency assets -- a major component of the reserves -- increased USD 846 million to USD 544.290 billion, the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, such as the euro, pound, and yen, held in foreign exchange reserves. However, the value of gold reserves decreased USD 10.754 billion to USD 103.821 billion during the week, the RBI said. The special drawing rights (SDRs) were down USD 66 million to USD 18.699 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF were down USD 11 million to USD 4.815 billion in the reporting week, according to the apex bank's data.

Accenture outlook raises concerns over delayed recovery in Indian IT sector

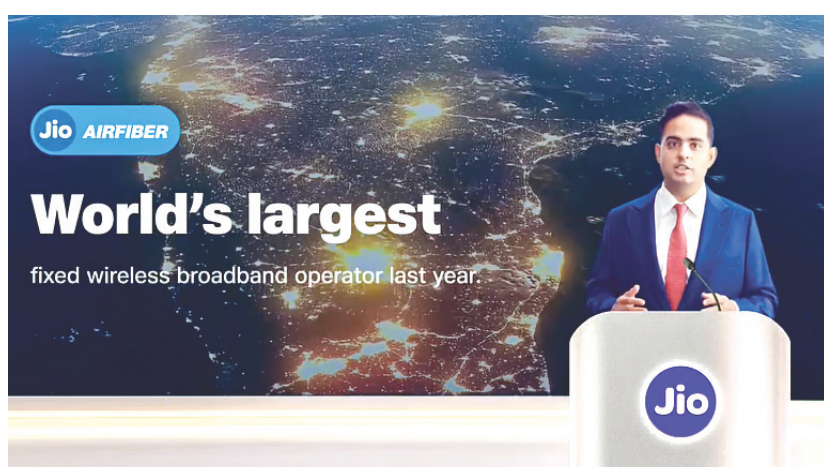
Accenture's weaker outlook and softer bookings have deepened concerns over a delayed recovery in India's IT sector, with investors fearing AI disruption and subdued client spending could extend into FY27. Shares of Indian IT companies fell on Friday after Accenture lowered the upper end of its annual revenue growth forecast and reported lower-than-expected new bookings for the third quarter. The company's results are seen as an indicator of demand trends for Indian software exporters, which derive a large part of their business from global clients. The Nifty IT index hit a three-year low and has been the worst performing index. Stocks such as Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro, Tech Mahindra and LTIMindtree ended 2-7% lower on the National Stock Exchange. Accenture also flagged deal delays and said the conflict in the Middle East would have a \$400 million impact on its business in the region. The company now expects annual revenue growth of 3% to 4%, compared with its earlier forecast of 3% to 5%. The company's results added to concerns around India's \$315 billion IT industry, which is already facing questions over whether artificial intelligence could disrupt its labour-intensive outsourcing model. Geopolitical and economic uncertainty have also weighed on technology spending as clients defer non-essential projects. Brokerages said Accenture's comments could delay expectations of a recovery in spending. "Investors had already priced



in a weak start to FY27 but had expected improvement from Q3. But, after Accenture's earnings it looks unlikely that FY27 will be any better than FY26," an analyst who tracks the sector at Kotak Institutional Equities said. "Indian IT companies have limited direct exposure to the Middle East, so that might not be a concern. The key risks still are delay in deal closures, and slower ramp-ups," he said. Jefferies said Accenture's revised revenue outlook could lead to cuts in consensus estimates across the sector.

Jio enters satellite race; unveils plan for homegrown LEO network

NEW DELHI: In a move that could put it in direct competition with Elon Musk-led Starlink and other global satellite internet providers, Reliance Jio on Friday announced plans to enter the satellite communications sector by developing a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation for India. Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani, while speaking at Reliance Industries' 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM), said the company is evaluating the development of its own LEO satellite constellation and will also partner with leading global satellite operators. The announcement is significant as Jio is already India's largest telecom operator and one of the world's largest mobile service providers by subscriber base. "Jio connected India on the ground. Now,



we must connect India from the skies. There are still remotest villages, island communities, and border outposts where the Jio network cannot reach. For them, satellite connectivity will be the bridge to the rest of India," said Akash Ambani. Jio is also setting up its own ground stations in India, which will act as links between satellites in space and users on the ground. These stations will support both satellite networks operated by Jio's global partners and any future satellites launched by Jio itself. LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellites operate much closer to the Earth, usually between 160 km and 2,000 km above the surface. Because they are closer, they can provide faster internet speeds and lower delays than traditional communication satellites,

making them ideal for broadband services. Starlink currently leads the global satellite broadband market as Industry reports suggest the company has around 10,634 active satellites in orbit and serves nearly 12 million customers worldwide. Amazon's satellite broadband project, Project Kuiper, has around 367 satellites in orbit, while Bharti Enterprises-backed Eutelsat OneWeb operates about 654 satellites. Jio Platforms has already partnered with Luxembourg-based SES to offer satellite broadband services in India. However, SES mainly operates geostationary and medium Earth orbit satellites and does not currently have a LEO satellite network. Another major announcement was the launch of "Jio Call Agent".

BSE Launches Large Mid Stable Dividend 50 Index To Track Consistent Dividend-Paying Companies

BSE LAUNCHES
LARGEMID STABLE DIVIDEND 50 INDEX
TO TRACK CONSISTENT DIVIDEND-PAYING FIRMS

- NEW BENCHMARK**: Tracks large-cap and mid-cap companies with a history of stable dividend payments.
- COMPOSITION**: Top 20 from BSE 100 LargeCap TMC Index & Top 30 from BSE 150 MidCap Index.
- RECONSTITUTION**: Semi-annually in June and December.
- BASE VALUE**: 1,000 (FIRST VALUE DATE: 22 JUNE 2015)
- FOCUS**: Combines large-cap strength and mid-cap growth with focus on dividend stability.
- WEIGHTING**: Discipline based weighting caps for interest and diversified exposure.

IDEAL FOR PASSIVE INVESTING: Designed as a benchmark for ETFs, index funds, PMS, mutual fund schemes & investment portfolios.
BETTER CHOICE FOR INVESTORS: Offers exposure to companies that deliver dividend income and long-term growth potential.

Mumbai, June 19: BSE Index Services Pvt. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE, has announced the launch of the BSE LargeMid (60:40) Stable Dividend 50 Index, a new benchmark designed to track the performance of large-cap and mid-cap companies with a history of stable dividend payments. The index comprises the top 20 largest companies from the BSE 100 LargeCap TMC Index and the top 30 largest companies from the BSE 150 MidCap Index that have demonstrated consistent dividend payouts. It has a base value of 1,000, with June 22, 2015, designated as the first value date. The index will be reconstituted semi-annually in June and December. Ashutosh Singh, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BSE Index Services Pvt. Ltd., said the new index combines the strength of India's leading large-cap companies with the growth potential of mid-cap firms, while maintaining a focus on dividend stability. He noted that the methodology seeks to provide balanced and diversified exposure across market segments through the selection of top constituents from the large-cap and mid-cap universes and the application of disciplined weighting caps. According to BSE, the index has been developed as a benchmark for passive investment products such as exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and index funds. It can also be used for benchmarking portfolio management services (PMS), mutual fund schemes and investment portfolios. The launch expands BSE's suite of indices and offers investors an additional tool to gain exposure to companies that combine income generation through regular dividends with the potential for long-term capital appreciation.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

VOICE OF WORDS SPORTS



Without the injured Christian Pulisic, US beats Australia 2-0 to advance to World Cup knockout round

The U.S. national soccer team found a way to advance to the knockout round without the injured forward on the field, beating Australia 2-0 Friday for its second straight victory at the largest World Cup in history. "C.P. is a fantastic player — the quality and the leadership that he gives us," said Folarin Balogun, who scored two goals in the 4-1 victory over Paraguay on June 12. "We didn't have him today, but I think you saw we're still capable to go out there and get a result and put up a performance." Pulisic, who plays for AC Milan and has 33 goals in 87 international appearances, missed Friday's match because of a calf injury. To play without a superstar like Pulisic could have derailed previous American teams in World Cup play. But much has changed since the last time they served as World Cup hosts in 1994, when they advanced by being one of the best third-place teams. They then lost to eventual champion Brazil in their next match, which was in the round of 16. At this year's 48-team tournament, the U.S. has won consecutive games for the first time at a World Cup since 1930. The Americans have scored six goals, one off their record for most in a single World Cup, and received contributions throughout their roster. Alex Freeman, the youngest player on the team at 21 and son of Super Bowl champion Antonio Freeman, gave the Americans a 2-0 lead in the 43rd minute off a set piece. Freeman headed in a deflected shot by Sergiño Dest for his first career World Cup goal. The goal was confirmed after a video review. "(He) is doing a fantastic job," coach Mauricio Pochettino said of Freeman. "The evolution is massive. He's so humble. He wants to learn. He always listens. He's a player that you really enjoy being with him. Not only coaching, but being with him." The U.S. took a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute after a run down the left sideline by Balogun. He directed a centering pass towards striker Ricardo Pepi, who started in place of Pulisic. The ball never reached Pepi, deflecting off Australia defender Cameron Burgess and into the Soccerroos' net for an own-goal. "I want to be dangerous, I want to create opportunities," Balogun said. "It might not always be myself that scores, but if I can force an error that gives us the lead, then for me it's like a goal as well. It was a special start to the game to give us the momentum." The Americans did not score again after halftime, but the manner with which they so thoroughly dominated Australia in the opening 45 minutes left a lasting impression on Soccerroos coach Tony Popovic. "It did not surprise us because their quality is clear," Popovic said. "Their power is clear. Their athleticism is clear. They are not surprising in what they did." Expectations will only increase for the U.S. as they rack up more victories and momentum builds around the team. The way the Americans have started the tournament in dominant fashion has not changed Pochettino's perception of the team and what it is capable of, though. "I think it's much better when you show good performances and win the games," Pochettino said. "I think that makes it easier, everything.

Telangana Junior Basketball League launched in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: The inaugural edition of the Telangana Junior Basketball League (TJBL) was formally inaugurated by Mr Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to the Telangana Government, at the Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy Indoor Stadium (Yousufguda) here on Friday. Messrs Sridhar Reddy, President, TBA, A Prudhvishwar Reddy, General Secretary, N Chandra Shekhar, Treasurer, Masood Bin Ahmad Zakir, Chairman of TBA, Pratap Reddy and others were also present. Mr Jayesh Ranjan said the sports ecosystem in India is fully gearing up. So are the players from Telangana. Telangana players are regularly finding a place in national and international teams. He appreciated TBA for conceptualising the TJBL. He also unveiled the league trophy and interacted with franchise owners and players. TBA President Sridhar Reddy said TBA was more vibrant than ever before. "It is known now for pioneering leagues. Players from the state are also doing well nationally," he said. Prudhvishwar Reddy said, "The objective behind TJBL is to nurture talent from the grassroots level, provide access to quality coaching and professional infrastructure, and create a sustainable ecosystem for basketball to thrive in Telangana. We want to identify promising players at a young age and provide them with a clear pathway to excel at the state, national and international levels." The tournament features Under-15 and Under-18 categories for both boys and girls, marking a significant milestone in the development of grassroots basketball in the state. The inaugural season of the league comprises six city-based franchises: Hyderabad Hurricanes, Nizam Royals, Warangal Stallions, Nalgonda Speed Strikers, Rangareddy Raptors and Vikarabad Mambas.

India Falls Short In World Team Snooker Championship Final As Aditya Mehta Loses Decider To China 'A'

Guangdong, China: India's title hopes came unstuck in the final rubber as they lost 2-3 to hosts China 'A' in the World Team Snooker Championship gold medal clash here on Friday. With the final on the balance at 2-2, an out-of-sorts Aditya Mehta came up short in the crucial decider against Li Chengjie. In a frame that could have gone either way, the error-prone India No. 2 failed to take the chances that came his way and let the hosts walk away with the title. The humid conditions and the resulting behaviour of the table — way too much throw off the cushion — likely played a role in the error-strewn final, as players from both countries struggled. Pankaj Advani gave India the first rubber, prevailing in a battle of attrition against Chengjie. With both players struggling to adapt to the conditions, safety play was the name



of the game. Advani, known as much for his tactical play as his break-building prowess, came out on top. However, a huge slice of luck helped him produce a frame-clinching break of 36. The Chinese cueist tried to snooker him behind the green near the bottom cushion. While trying to escape the snooker off the side cushion, he sank a red into the top right-hand pocket to give India the lead. Mehta, who endured a poor day at the office, went down to Xu Jiarui 34-66. Later, Advani and Mehta lost to the pair of Jiarui and Pan Yiming in the doubles. The Chinese cueists made runs of



32 and 33 en route to a 2-1 lead. Advani brought India back into contention with his percentage play, relying on small breaks and resorting to safety whenever he lost position. The 11-time National champion compiled breaks of 36, 16 and 17 in his 82-4 win over Jiarui. In the decider, Mehta, however, couldn't find his characteristic touch, failing to take India past the finish line. Result (Final): China 'A' bt India 3-2 (Li Chengjie lost to Pankaj Advani 19-54; Xu Jiarui bt Aditya Mehta 66-34; Jiarui/ Pan Yiming bt Advani/ Mehta 79-0; Advani bt Jiarui 82-4; Chengjie bt Mehta 68-32).

Doha Diamond League 2026: Neeraj Chopra Finishes Fourth; Qualifies For Commonwealth Games



Doha: India's javelin ace Neeraj Chopra has booked his place at the upcoming Commonwealth Games after comfortably breaching the qualification mark at the Doha Diamond League, marking his first competition of the 2026 season. The 28-year-old, who had missed the last eight months due to a back injury, registered a foul throw on his first attempt. However, the former Olympic gold medallist dusted off the rust and soon found his groove on the third attempt, registering a throw of 85.69 metres to jump to third in the standings at the end of round three. The former World Number 1 followed it up with a throw of 83.45 metres in the fourth round and needed a throw in excess of 86 metres in the fifth round to remain in the top three and qualify for the final shootout. Unfortunately, as things panned out, Neeraj recorded another foul throw and dropped down to fourth to bring an end to his participation. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathiraje clinched the top spot with an impressive

88.68m throw, while Grenada's Anderson Peters finished second with 86.38m. American athlete Curtis Thompson secured third place overall with a best effort of 85.99m. The stadium also holds special significance for the Indian star, as it was here last year that he crossed the 90m mark for the first time, before being surpassed by Germany's Julian Weber, who registered a 91m throw. Ahead of the Doha Diamond League event, Neeraj said that the upcoming Commonwealth Games this year would be a tough competition, with several athletes having thrown 90 m or more. He also spoke on his historic 90 m throw at the same venue last year, saying that "technically, it was not that good". "All of them have thrown 90m, so the Commonwealth Games will not be less (competitive) than the Olympics or World Championships; it will be a really tough competition," Chopra said during the presser at Doha as quoted by Olympics.com. On his epic 90 m throw last year, Neeraj has some interesting thoughts, noting that he could have gone two to three metres further. "Technically, that throw was not that good. It was really fast from the arm, but if I had done better with my lower body, that may be two to three metres more," Chopra explained.



India assures six medals at World Boxing Cup as Prachi shines

Hyderabad: India delivered a commanding performance at the World Boxing Cup 2026 (Stage 2) in Guiyang, China, with Prachi leading the charge as the country confirmed six medals following a strong showing in the quarterfinals. Prachi (57kg) produced the standout performance of the day, defeating Paris Olympics bronze medallist Shih Yi Wu of Chinese Taipei in a hard-fought 4-1 verdict to secure her place in the semifinals and guarantee a podium finish. World No. 1 in the 48kg category, Minakshi, competing in the 51kg category after moving up in weight, continued her dominant run with a clinical 5-0 victory over Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova, the reigning world champion (2025) and world No. 3, marking one of the most significant wins of the day. In the men's category, Deepak (70kg) delivered a composed performance to outclass Azerbaijan's Nabi Isgandarov with a unanimous 5-0 decision, while Nikhil (55kg) also impressed with a dominant 5-0 win over Azerbaijan's Amin Mammadzada to progress to the semifinals.



Teja Sajja Runs Two Sequel Tracks Together



Young Tollywood sensation Teja Sajja is on a roll after scoring back-to-back blockbusters with Hanu-Man and Mirai. He is wasting no time in pushing his career stakes further with a strong line-up of projects. Just a few days back, the actor wrapped up a major shooting schedule for Mirai 2 in the scenic locales of Vizag. Without taking any breathing space, he has shifted his focus into another much anticipated project. Reportedly, he has commenced shooting for Zombie

Reddy 2, which went on floors recently. This filming for the zombie thriller sequel has commenced in a specially erected set in Hyderabad, where crucial scenes involving Teja are being canned. While happening director Prasanth Varma has provided the story for this highly anticipated sequel, a new director is reportedly stepping in to helm the project, which is being bankrolled under the People Media Factory banner. Official details regarding the full cast and crew are expected to drop very soon.

With both Mirai 2 and Zombie Reddy 2 moving at a rapid pace, it looks like both movies may get released within a short span of time next year. Sources revealed that Zombie Reddy 2 might actually release ahead of Mirai 2. Either way, movie lovers are in for a double treat in the near future as Teja Sajja gears up to continue his success streak. Teja Sajja is smartly balancing his shooting schedules between two crazy sequels and his impressive planning is going to benefit both teams as there won't be much delay in wrapping up the entire filming portions at the current pace.

Will Harshith Reddy's Deewana Justify Good Buzz?



Harshith Reddy is one of the young heroes who wants to break out into the big league and taste success. Having been impressed with the film Mail on Aha Video, Harshith later made many appearances, including one alongside Prabhas in Kalki. This week, he is coming up with a new film titled Deewana, which is carrying a decent buzz. The film impressed Allu Aravind, who has stepped in to release the film. There are a lot of expectations on this film, and we have to see if the pre-release buzz justifies the film's content. The film was supposed to have a grand release today, but the

delay with censor clearance has pushed the film to tomorrow. However, the team planned paid premieres from tonight across the Telugu states. Harshith Reddy is a relatively well-known face for those who follow social media and coming-of-age cinema. The team is also promoting the film extremely well, targeting youth. Going by the promotional content, the film's content looks super interesting and radical, going by today's youth preferences. All those who watched the film during the special screenings have loved it and shared positive feedback on the same. If the movie lands perfectly, it will get good numbers at box office undoubtedly. Srikanth Sangisetty directed the film and it is produced by V Studios and Arha media.

Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 Planning Big Surprises

Jailer 2 is already one of the most awaited films in Indian cinema, and the latest reports are making fans even more excited. Ever since the huge success of the first film, expectations for the sequel have been rising day by day. Now, fresh rumors about special appearances and release plans have created even more buzz around the movie. According to reports from Chennai film circles, director Nelson Dilipkumar is working hard to make Jailer 2 bigger and better than the first part. The film, which stars superstar Rajinikanth in the lead role is said to be nearing the final stages of production. Some scenes were reportedly reshot to improve the overall impact of the story. Because of these changes, the release schedule may have shifted slightly.



Obsession India Collection: Will It Create History?



Hollywood's latest psychological horror thriller, Obsession, carved out by YouTube Curry Baker, is still going unstoppable at the USA box office. The film is such a level box office phenomenon that it grossed a staggering \$290 million at the box office. Even in India, the film is doing extremely well, and it's likely to create a history of sorts at the box office. If we look at the most successful Hollywood horror movie in India, definitely "Conjuring" tops the list. One of the film's franchise movies, "The Conjuring: The Last Rites" has collected almost Rs 82 crores gross at the Indian box office, and that's the highest ever. Now that "Obsession" has collected Rs 70 crores already from the Indian box office, and refuses to die down, many say that it might beat The Conjuring's record. As there are no big films at the Indian Box office currently, with the likes of Ram Charan's Peddi, Varun Dhawan's Hai Jawaani Tho Ishq Hona Hai and other movies not doing so great at all in the tinsel towns, Obsession has a fair advantage as we speak. On the other hand, as more local films hit cinemas, Obsession might find it tough to get single screens, while the movie's run at multiplexes is undoubtedly going the best. In metros like Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Delhi, the film is having a great run with amazing collections for almost all the shows. Anyway, we have to see if the movie will create history very soon.

Will an Early 2000s Hero Bring Magic to the Big Screens?



Vadde Naveen is a senior actor in the film industry. He is one of those heroes who enjoyed stardom during the 1990s and early 2000s. There are a lot of successful films in his career that the audiences enjoy even today. Now, he is making a comeback to the big screen, and this time as a main lead, but not as a character artist like his contemporaries. It is a unique feat and with his new film Transfer Trimurthulu releasing tomorrow, we have to see if Naveen can taste a big success. Naveen's contemporaries Jagapathi Babu, Rajasekhar, Srikanth and others also tested their luck as leads but then settled to doing character artist roles. Naveen was last seen in Na Oopiri which did not do well at the box office. For almost a decade, Naveen decided to stay away from doing movies, and waited for a right story. Naveen was not desperate to whatever that came his way. Meanwhile, Naveen's Transfer Trimurthulu is carrying a decent buzz among the film buffs. The film is expected to bring him back to the success form. Based on the content released so far along with the promotional material, it looks like Naveen has a winner in hand.

Samantha's MIB: Struggling In Single Screens

Nearly three years after a gap, former star heroine Samantha Ruth Prabhu is coming up with a movie that has her leading the show all the way. It's none other than "Maa Inti Bangaram", which is produced by her, directed by Nandini Reddy and written by her husband, Raj Nidimoru. While the actress is promoting the film a lot by giving lots of interviews to every single journalist out there, here's what the box office reception is like for Day 1 bookings.

Rose Sardhana Shines with Poise and Charm in Stunning Outdoor Portrait

In this graceful outdoor photograph, Rose Sardhana radiates poise and beauty as she poses in a flowing maroon co-ord set. With one hand resting on a structure and the other gently touching her face, eyes softly closed, she captures a moment of serene elegance against a sunlit backdrop. 00:09 / 02:25 Born on January 8, 1995, in Chandigarh, Rose Sardhana (also known as Rozy Sardana) is an Indian actress and television presenter. She made her acting debut in 2015 with the Colors TV show Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi. She gained popularity through television serials like Akbar Ka Bal Birbal, Kundali Bhagya, and others. Her film career took off with Muklawa (2019) as Gulaabo. She delivered notable performances in Drishyam 2 (2022) as Yatin's girlfriend, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 (2024) as Meera's sister, and Wild Wild Punjab. Rose continues to shine with ongoing and upcoming projects including Ek Chatur Naar (2025) as Anjali, IIZ: Indian Institute of Zombies (2026) as Kiran, Godaan (2026), and other exciting films and digital ventures.



Nag Ashwin's Bold OTT Gamble for Kalki 2



Kalki 2898 AD became one of the biggest blockbusters in Indian cinema and crossed the Rs 1000 crore mark at the global box office. Because of its huge success, fans are eagerly wait-

ing for Kalki 2 which is already one of the most anticipated films in the country. According to the latest industry buzz, director Nag Ashwin and his team are working on an interesting plan before the release of Kalki 2. Reports suggest that the makers are considering special one-hour OTT films based on some of the important characters from the Kalki universe. These projects are expected to explore the personal journeys and backstories of key characters. Hyderabad is one of the culturally gifted cities in the world and the kind of culinary experience that is established here is beyond ordinary as well. The idea is said to be aimed at helping audiences understand the world of Kalki in greater detail.