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# The Pioneer

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NO BIG SURPRISES, JUST STEADY SUSPENSE



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The Pioneer

*Congress MLAs should evaluate their performance. The performance of the majority of MLAs is not good and it is their responsibility to improve. MLAs need to work hard for better results in local elections. The leaders should work with double enthusiasm as they are in power. There would be a chance for the party to come to power again if the leaders work efficiently*



*- Mahesh Kumar Goud, TPCC Chief*

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**DON'T MISS...**

## 'Don't politicise Rajanna cows issue'

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha hit out at the BRS for attempting to politicise the Rajanna Cows controversy in Vemulawada, holding the previous government responsible for the current state of affairs at the temple. She questioned the moral right of the BRS to criticise the Congress government, stating that it was KCR's regime that failed to allocate even a single rupee after announcing funds for Vemulawada during their rule. "Tell us what you did for the Vemulawada temple in the last ten years," Surekha asked, stating that the ...

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## Indian envoy meets top Chinese official

Top diplomats from India and China discussed bilateral relations to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries last year, the foreign ministry here said on Friday. The meeting between Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat and China's Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong on Thursday is the first diplomatic engagement between the two countries post the Operation Sindoor. Both sides expressed their willingness to work together to earnestly implement ...

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## Bank, auto stocks soar on RBI's rate cut

Interest-rate-sensitive stocks were in huge demand on Friday, with the realty index climbing nearly 5 per cent as investors cheered the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points. Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy. The RBI's six-member monetary policy committee, headed ...

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## Piyush announces retirement

Veteran leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who was part of India's two World Cup-winning campaigns, on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after a career spanning more than two decades to undertake a "new journey" that he did not specify. The 36-year-old made the announcement via an Instagram post. "After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game," Chawla wrote. "Though I step away from the crease, cricket ...

-SPORTS



HOME, AUTO LOANS TO GET CHEAPER

# RBI goes for steepest interest rate cut in 5 yrs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points on Friday, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

The RBI's six-member monetary policy committee, headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra and consisting of three external members, voted five to one to lower the benchmark repurchase or repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent. It also cut the cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent, adding Rs 2.5 lakh crore to already surplus liquidity in the banking system.

With the latest reduction, the RBI has now cut interest rates by a total of 100 basis points in 2025, starting with a quarter-point reduction in February - the first cut since May 2020 - and another similar-sized cut in April.

The central bank, at the same time, changed its monetary policy stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' which means rates could increase or decrease in future depending on incoming data, with Malhotra stating that it may have limited space for further easing.

The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to banks to meet their

Continued on Page 2

**The RBI has now cut interest rates by a total of 100 basis points in 2025, starting with a quarter-point reduction in February - the first cut since May 2020 - and another similar-sized cut in April**

CALLS BRS 'DEVIL'S RAJYA SAMITHI'

# Will rejuvenate Musi river: CM

Development board for Yadadri temple

Full scale development of Telangana

Amma Adarsha Patashalas empowering women



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy lashed out at the BRS, calling it the "Devil's Rajya Samithi" (DRS) while reaffirming his government's commitment to development, social welfare, and protecting Telangana's cultural identity.

Addressing a massive public meeting under the Praja Palana–Pragathi Baata programme in Aleru on Friday, Revanth contrasted Congress and BRS rule and accused the BRS government of betraying Nalgonda district and leaving irrigation projects incomplete.

Taking a swipe at KCR, he said, "With just one notice, he panics. It's the Kaleshwaram Commission or Congress Commission, why are they blaming us. Even PV Narasimha Rao appeared before a sessions judge when called. Instead of answering his daughter's questions, he is attacking me. The BRS is now DRS, the Devil's Rajya Samithi. Let him first respond to his family's allegations."

The CM said that his only objective was to defeat KCR for sending him to jail unjustly, which has been done, and that now he wants to work for people's welfare.

He began his speech invoking the blessings of Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, announcing that a development board on the lines of Tirumala would be set up for the Yadadri temple. He also declared plans to upgrade the Yadadri Medical College into a full-fledged university.

On the subject of Musi River, the Chief Minister reiterated his vow made during the November 8 padayatra to cleanse and revive the river. "Modi can clean Sabarmati and Ganga. Why shouldn't we clean our Musi? Should our children from Nalgonda continue to live in sewage? No matter who stands in our way, we will rejuvenate the Musi," he said.

Revanth accused the BRS government of doing nothing for Nalgonda in the last 10 years.

"They didn't complete even a single project like the SLBC or the Bunadigani Canal. The BRS house is full of ghosts, and even when someone from within exposed them, their leader remained silent. This is not the BRS, it's the DRS, the Demons' State Committee," he said, urging people to chase these "vultures" out of Telangana.

He also took jibes at KCR's visit to Vasala Marri, accusing him of offering symbolic gifts while demolishing homes.

"We will rebuild what they destroyed," he promised. Revanth said his government has begun systematically correcting past mistakes. "From launching the Young India Sports University to skill training for youth and water projects like SRSP and Mid Manair, we know how to deliver water to Gandhamalla."

Outlining key achievements, he said the free bus travel for women

Continued on Page 2

**With just one notice, KCR panics. It's the Kaleshwaram Commission or Congress Commission, why are they blaming us. Even PV Narasimha Rao appeared before a sessions judge when called. Instead of answering his daughter's questions, he is attacking me. The BRS is now DRS, the Devil's Rajya Samithi. Let him first respond to his family's allegations**

## 'KCR, Harish acted like AP's envoys for Krishna river projects'



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy held the BRS admin squarely responsible for compromising Telangana's rights over Krishna waters and accused it of colluding with Andhra Pradesh for a decade.

He said that former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Irrigation Minister Harish Rao acted as 'unofficial ambassadors' of Andhra Pradesh at the cost of Telangana's irrigation interests.

Uttam described the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project as a "death sentence" for Telangana and said the BRS government did not even try to stop the Mutchumarri project.

"Every day, three TMCs of Krishna water are being diverted. KCR supported this exploitation by entering into a secret understanding with Jagan," he said. He said that more water was pumped out from Mutchumarri and Malyala during KCR's rule than during the United Andhra Pradesh era.

He said that Telangana deliberately avoided

Continued on Page 2



## Etela deposes before PC Ghose Commission

Says Cabinet approved all Kaleshwaram decisions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant development in the ongoing inquiry into irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project, BJP MP and former finance minister Etela Rajender appeared before the PC Ghose Commission on Friday and submitted his statement under oath. As the 113th witness before the Commission, Etela responded to 19 detailed questions during a 40-minute open-court session.

Etela began his deposition by affirming, "I will speak only the truth," following which the Commission proceeded with its questioning regarding key decisions on the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages, the formation of Kaleshwaram Corporation, and related DPR approvals. To a direct question on

Continued on Page 2

# Indiramma housing scheme to cover towns too: Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is now extending the Indiramma housing scheme to urban areas, with a focus on constructing G+3 buildings in slums, so that the urban poor do not get displaced from their communities.

Announcing this after a review meeting on Friday, the Minister for Revenue, Housing, and I&PR, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the government's approach is shaped by feedback from the ground.

The Indiramma housing scheme, which has already gained traction in rural areas, is now being tailored to urban realities.

"Poor families living in slums do not want to relocate far from their livelihoods. Earlier, the government built 42,000 houses on the outskirts of Hyderabad, but only around



19,000 moved in. Today, only 13,000 houses are occupied," Ponguleti said.

Taking these factors into account, the government has decided to construct Indiramma houses right where the poor live – in the slum areas – using a G+3 model. In the first phase, 16 slums in Hyderabad have been identified, and similar plans are being developed for Warangal, Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, and Karimnagar.

As part of the scheme's tribal component, the government has sanctioned 13,266 houses for Chenchu, Kolam, Thoti, and Kondareddy tribes in the four ITDA areas of Bhadrachalam, Utnoor, Eturunagaram, and Mannanur. An additional 8,750 houses have been allotted to 16 ST constituencies, taking the total sanctioned for tribal groups to 22,016.

Ponguleti asked officials to immediately identify the beneficiaries and start construction.

He emphasised the need for continuous monitoring to ensure the timely execution of the housing programme.

# Harish warns of moving SC on Banakacharla



Slams Revanth, Uttam, BJP MPs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a no-holds-barred attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and BJP MPs, accusing them of surrendering Telangana's water rights to Andhra Pradesh, failing farmers.

He also accused the government of pushing its employees into despair.

Addressing a press conference in Dubbaka on Thursday, Harish ridiculed the Congress leadership for what he called their "Goebbelian lies" and declared that the BRS would approach the Supreme Court if the TG government failed to act on the illegal Godavari Lift Irrigation

Continued on Page 2



## PM Modi to attend G7 Summit in Canada

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he will be attending the G7 Summit later this month in Canada and that he looked forward to meeting his newly elected Canadian counterpart Mark Carney.

Carney called up Modi as the Indian prime minister thanked him for the invite to the Summit in Kananaskis.

Modi said on X, "As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Canada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the Summit."



# 4 officials of RCB, event firm remanded to 14-day custody

PNS ■ BENGALURU

A city court on Friday remanded four people, including an official of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), to 14-day judicial custody in connection with the stampede outside M Chinnaswamy stadium here.

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court sent to custody Nikhil Sosale, Head of Marketing and Revenue of RCB, along with Sunil Mathew, Sumanth and Kiran Kumar from DNA Entertainment Private Limited, the event management firm involved in organising the event.



All the four were arrested this morning in a joint operation by the crime branch and Bengaluru police.

Sosale, who was arrested at Bengaluru Airport, as he was heading to Dubai, had filed a petition challenging his arrest at the Karnataka High Court.

Justice S R Krishna Kumar, who heard the petition, had declined an interim relief from arrest and adjourned the case to June 9.

## Top Naxal Bhaskar killed in encounter

PNS ■ BIJAPUR



Top Naxalite leader Bhaskar, who carried a cumulative bounty of Rs 45 lakh, has been killed in an encounter with security forces in Indravati National Park area in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, a senior police official said citing "preliminary identification of body".

The encounter was part of the same anti-Naxal operation underway since Wednesday by personnel from the state police's Special Task Force (STF) and District Reserve Guard (DRG) as well as

Continued on Page 2

# *Kavitha asks govt to celebrate Dasarathi's birth centenary*

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha, MLC, strongly criticised the Congress government for ignoring the upcoming centenary of legendary poet, freedom fighter Dasarathi Krishnamacharya.

Addressing the media after visiting the historic Khilla Ramalayam prison, where Dasarathi was once jailed, Kavitha accused the government of lacking cultural sensitivity and failing to honour Telangana's literary legacy.

"It is painful to see a government with no roots in Telangana's soil running the State. They have completely ignored Dasarathi's legacy, despite repeated appeals to celebrate his



100th birth anniversary," she said.

She demanded that the government conduct official programmes from June 6 to July 22, to remember Dasarathi's birth anniversary.

"If the government does not act by the first week of July, Telangana Jagruthi will organise large-scale centenary celebrations on July 21 and 22," she said.

Kavitha said the celebrations would include poets, writers and activists from across the State and would reflect Dasarathi's revolutionary spirit and literary brilliance.

"He was a voice of resistance during Nizam rule. His famous phrase, 'Naa Telangana Koti Ratanaala Veena' was born in this very prison," she recalled.

She also pointed out that during BRS rule, efforts were made to preserve this heritage site, and that she had allocated Rs 40 lakh from her MLC funds for its development.

She said it was shameful that both Dasarathi's and Biranuraju Ramraju's centenaries

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# Rahul's dy'nasty' politics on Op Sindoor

**Shashi Tharoor, when asked about Rahul's "Narender Surrender" statement, laughed and rubbished the accusation. Salman Khurshid tweeted, "Is it so difficult to be patriotic? Manish Tiwari said that one should rise above the noise of party politics and try to take a view that is in the larger national interest**



KISHORE POREDDY

What explains Rahul's statements on Operation Sindoor? Politics certainly doesn't. Anyone with a bit of political acumen will conclude that his statements, which were welcomed more in Pakistan than in India, do more harm than good to Congress's image among Indian voters. Not just average Indians, Rahul's rhetoric on Operation Sindoor has been rebuffed even by senior Congress leaders like Shashi Tharoor, Salman Khurshid, and Manish Tiwari, who are visiting world capitals as part of India's all-party delegations to explain India's new doctrine on terrorism.

Take, for example, Rahul's latest jibe - Narender Surrender - against Prime Minister Modi. Addressing Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, Rahul accused Modi of surrendering to Pakistan on US President Donald Trump's instructions. Rahul's claim came weeks after the three Indian Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) made it amply clear that the decision to pause Operation Sindoor was in response to a request made by the Pakistani military on the DGMO hotline. Pakistan's request had come after India dominated Pakistani airspace like never before and inflicted crippling damage to their military infrastructure, including 11 airbases. Not just the armed forces but our external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, and every member of our all-party delegations, irrespective of their party, have reiterated this sequence of events across the world.

Yet, Rahul Gandhi outdid even Pakistani generals and politicians in claiming that India paused hostilities under pressure from Trump. Shashi Tharoor, when asked about Rahul's "Narender Surrender" statement, laughed and rubbished the accusation by saying that as long as Pakistan uses the language of terrorism, India will use the language of force, and that doesn't require a third party. Salman Khurshid, another senior Congress leader part of India's delegations, had earlier tweeted, "Is it so difficult to be patriotic?" A third Congress leader, Manish Tiwari, in an interview, expressed that as a parliamentarian, one should rise above the noise of party politics and try to take a view that is in the larger national interest.

Though none of the three Congress leaders criticised Rahul Gandhi directly, it was obvious whose statements they were rubbishing or who they were asking to be "patriotic" or "to take the view that is in the larger national interest." Except for Rahul Gandhi and some Congress leaders like Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister of Telangana, who were trying to impress their boss, every prominent opposition leader, including Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) arch-rival like Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) have spoken in one voice on the spectacular success of Operation Sindoor.

When every opposition party in India can unite behind our defence forces and our government against Pakistan, why is it that Rahul and some Congress leaders are bent on diminishing India's military victory by supporting Pakistan's narrative? Politics is one explanation. Another is Rahul's hate for Modi, which often leads to personal attacks rather than constructive criticism. A third is that Rahul cannot read the mood of the nation and thus commits juvenile political mistakes. Yet another is that Rahul, albeit in his own way, is determined to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's wish to dissolve Congress.

But the most plausible explanation is rooted in Rahul's dynastic legacy. Like every other dynast, Rahul has to defend, uphold, and, if possible, extend his family's reputation. Unfortunately for him, his family's track record on Pakistan, Kashmir, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and terrorism has been disastrous. POK became a reality under Nehru. So did Article 370 of the Constitution, which, in Salman Khurshid's words, "somehow gave the impression that Kashmir was separate from the rest of the country", fuelling Pakistan's hopes of snatching it from India using terrorism.

Indira's record on Pakistan and POK was equally indefensible. The Indian Army won a spectacular victory in 1971 against Pakistan at the cost of more than 3000 Indian soldiers' lives. Yet, Indira returned the 15,000 square kilometres of Pakistani land and 93,000 Pakistani soldiers captured by our Army without asking for POK, which measures a little above 13,000 square kilometres - less than the land returned to Pakistan. Rahul's mother Sonia's record on Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks is even worse. The central government, of which Sonia Gandhi was the de facto Prime Minister, cowered under the nuclear blackmail of Pakistan and decided not to take any action after the 26/11 terror attacks, thus encouraging Pakistan to commit more terror attacks.

It is this family record that Rahul, as a dynast, needs to defend. Hence, his need to portray every Indian success under Modi against Pakistan as a failure. Be it Surgical Strikes, Balakot Airstrikes or Operation Sindoor. Revanth Reddy's remark that Rahul could have reclaimed POK if he were the PM is intended to diminish and, if possible, convert the victory a non-Nehru-family PM had achieved into a defeat. It is not politics over patriotism. It is family over nation for dynasts like Rahul-one more reason Indians should keep dynasts from power.

***(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)***

# Don't politicise Rajanna cows issue: Min Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha hit out at the BRS for attempting to politicise the Rajanna Cows controversy in Vemulawada, holding the previous government responsible for the current state of affairs at the temple. She questioned the moral right of the BRS to criticise the Congress government, stating that it was KCR's regime that failed to allocate even a single rupee after announcing funds for Vemulawada during their rule.

"Tell us what you did for the Vemulawada temple in the last ten years," Surekha asked, stating that the collapse of temple infrastructure, including the cowshed (goshala), was a direct consequence of KCR's unfulfilled promises. "We responded immediately to the recent incident. Action has been taken. But dragging politics into sacred spaces is unacceptable," she said.

Surekha pointed out that despite KCR pledging Rs. 100 crore at the feet of Rajanna, not even a fraction of that was spent, especially on facilities like the goshala. "If even a part of the promised money was spent, we wouldn't have seen this condition," she added.

Responding to BRS criticism, she said the Congress government had successfully conducted the recent Saraswati Pushkaralu, attended by 30 lakh devotees without a glitch. "We've launched expansion works at Bhadrakali temple with huge investments, and gold-plated the Yadadri gopuram with 63 kg gold," she said, adding, "BRS leaders who got KCR's statues carved in Yadadri have no right to speak about temples."

Accusing BRS of speaking like a band of mythical villains, she likened their recent remarks to laughable fables. "What else can one say when the very people who robbed Telangana's wealth for ten years now pretend to care about cows and temples?" she said. Surekha also alleged internal conflicts within the KCR family were spilling over and leaving BRS leaders directionless.

She noted that under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership, a master plan for Vemulawada has already been cleared and development funds released. "We are acting swiftly to upgrade temple infrastructure," she said. She added that sick cattle being left at temples by devotees is a known practice and the responsibility to care for them lies with temple authorities, not to be politicised.

# SCCL must buy mineral blocks abroad: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, said that the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) should own mineral blocks in foreign countries. This would further strengthen the country's mineral sector, he added.

Addressing the gathering after launching the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) Outreach Forum on Friday in New Delhi, Kishan said that already SCCL is on top in coal production, and SCCL should invest in the mineral sector abroad.

He said that India had entered into agreements with Australia, Argentina, and Chile for critical mineral supply, exploration and processing. He hoped that these agreements would help in the development of Indian technology and energy security.

# 'Majority MLAs' performance not good'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud addressing the Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency review meeting at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday

TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud suggested that the MLAs should evaluate their performance. The performance of the majority of MLAs is not good and it is their responsibility to improve, Mahesh directed MLAs that they need to work hard for better results in local elections.

AICC in charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in the Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency review meeting at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday. The Government Whip Adi Srinivas, MLA and DCC president Kavvampally Sathyanarayana, senior leader T Jeevan Reddy, MLC Balmoori Venkat and others participated in the meeting.

Speaking on this occasion, TPCC Chief said that it is good that the party sent Meenakshi Natarajan, who is spotless leader, as an incharge of Telangana. However, leaders have to concentrate on strengthening the party, he said.

Mahesh said, "The leaders should work with double enthusiasm as they were in power. There would be a chance for the party to come to power again if the leaders work efficiently. The party construction should be done from booth level. The leaders have to take the government schemes to the people. The government should work tirelessly. There is a need for the leaders to work in coordination as the party cadres are in disappointment".

He said that the government is not getting expected publicity. He said that the PCC executive committee and cabinet expansion would take place this month only.

PHONE -TAPPING CASE

# Prabhakar Rao gets clearance, to return to India

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former SIB chief Prabhakar Rao has secured official clearance to return to India in connection with the high-profile phone tapping case. Following the Supreme Court's directive, the Indian Embassy in the United States has issued an emergency transit warrant, facilitating his return journey.

With his passport earlier revoked by Indian authorities, Prabhakar Rao had applied for an emergency transit warrant to travel back. The embassy in the U.S. processed the request, and the warrant has now been officially issued.

Prabhakar Rao is expected to depart from the U.S. on Saturday and land in Hyderabad around midnight on June 8. He will appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on the morning of June 9.

## Will rejuvenate ...

*Continued from page 1*

has been implemented under Praja Palana. "Gas cylinders now cost only Rs 500, women SHGs have received Rs 21,000 crore in bank linkage loans, 'Amma Adarsha Patashalas' are empowering women to manage schools, the Rs 2 lakh farm loan waiver is underway, every paddy grain harvested is being procured from farmers, a legal framework is being laid to ensure 42 per cent reservation for BCs through the caste census, and SC categorisation has finally been addressed," he said.

Reflecting on his journey, Revanth said, "I once declared I would defeat them, and I did. Today, I stand before you as your Chief Minister with no more personal ambitions. My only goal now is to make Telangana the most ideal state in India."

Revanth concluded by promising full-scale development for Aleru and added that his government will not rest until Telangana is a national model in governance and growth.

## Harish warns of ...

*Continued from page 1*

Project at Banakacharla. He slammed the silence of BJP MPs and Union Ministers, questioning why they were not protesting the Godavari water theft.

"Chandrababu is being shielded by the KRMB, and the BJP is acting blind," he said, calling for a stop to both the Banakacharla and Srisailam Right Bank Canal lining works.

He called Uttam Kumar Reddy more deceitful than Revanth Reddy himself. "We thought Revanth was the brand ambassador of lies, but Uttam has outdone him," he said, describing the Congress handling of the irrigation portfolio as negligent and irresponsible.

Harish said that despite massive water availability, the Congress Government used the lowest quantity of Krishna waters in the state's history and betrayed farmers by not releasing water to six-and-a-half lakh acres.

"Instead of fighting for our rightful share, Uttam went to Vijayawada, ate snacks with Chandrababu and came back silent," he said, questioning why the government didn't raise the Banakacharla Project at the Cabinet meeting.

"Was there no time, or was the agenda filled with discussions on kickbacks and cuts for the high command?" he asked.

He said Telangana used 65 TMCs less of its temporary allocation and demanded that Uttam should explain why the state failed to move the Supreme Court, approach the Centre, or raise the matter with NITI Aayog.

"Why is the government acting like a mute spectator when Andhra Pradesh is siphoning off 400 TMCs of Godavari water without Apex Committee or tribunal approval?" he asked.

Harish dared the government to lead an all-party delegation to New Delhi or protest at the Jantar Mantar. "If not, we in the BRS will go to the Supreme Court. We remain committed to our word," he declared.

Turning to Ghandhamalla, Harish lashed out at Revanth for his contradiction. "You mock Kaleshwaram as a collapsed project, but then inaugurate Ghandhamalla, which depends on the same project for water. How will water reach there if the Kaleshwaram is dead?" he asked.

He described Revanth's statements on the Musi-Godavari connection as absurd. "You are trying to portray two sunk pillars as a collapsed project. If you had the will, it could have been repaired in two months," he added.

Harish also accused the Congress government of betraying government employees.

## Kavitha asks govt ...

*Continued from page 1*

were ignored by the Congress government. "We are cautioning this government not to enter history as one that disrespected TG's cultural icons," she said.

Shifting focus to public issues, Kavitha lambasted the government over the delay in paddy procurement despite the onset of monsoon.

"Farmers are being neglected, and even basic operations like paddy procurement haven't been completed," she said.

She added that the condition of ration shops across Telangana was deplorable, with people being forced to wait in long queues for hours to receive their share of rice.

"This government made many promises but has failed to deliver. The people will soon hold them accountable," she asserted, demanding immediate relief for the poor struggling with ration delays.

Kavitha concluded by urging the State to uphold Telangana's heritage and ensure that its icons like Dasarathi are celebrated with dignity and honour.

# Eatala hid facts before Kaleshwaram panel: Kiran

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress's Bhongir MP, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, commented that the BJP's Malkajgiri MLA, Eatala Rajender, hid facts regarding the Kaleshwaram Project while deposing before the Kaleshwaram Commission. It would have been better if Eatala had spoken the truth, Kiran said.

In a video message issued on Friday, he said that Eatala had stated that the Kaleshwaram Project redesign took place with the approval of the Cabinet. However, Eatala should have said that the entire Kaleshwaram project design was done at KCR's farmhouse without anyone's involvement, he said.

# CM shielding KCR from arrest: Maheshwar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is the one who is protecting KCR from arrest, BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said.

Addressing the media at the state BJP office here on Friday, Maheshwar said the Congress Abhaya Hastam (manifesto) had promised that legal action would be taken against KCR after conducting a probe by a retired High Court judge into the various alleged scams and corruption allegations that took place during BRS rule.

"Revanth Reddy said that KCR's family will have to be put in jail for a thousand years for the crimes committed during their rule. And what happened? Not a single case has been registered against KCR, KTR and Harish Rao. Not a single one of them has been put in jail for even a single day. Who is blocking it? What about match-fixing? Is Rahul Gandhi blocking anything?. The cabinet approved the Justice Madan Lokur Commission report on power purchase contracts. Why is that report not being made public?" Maheshwar said.

## TODAY

### ALMANAC

| | |
|---|---|
| **Month & Paksham:** | Sukla Paksha |
| **Tithi:** | |
| Dwadashi: | Jun 07 04:48 AM to Jun 08 07:18 AM |
| **Nakshatram:** | |
| Chitra: | Jun 06 06:33 AM to Jun 07 09:39 AM |
| Swati: | Jun 07 09:39 AM to Jun 08 12:42 PM |
| **Rahukalam:** | 8:59 AM to 10:37 AM |
| **Yamagandam:** | 1:52 PM to 3:30 PM |
| **Varjyam:** | 03:58 PM to 05:46 PM |
| **Gulika:** | 5:44 AM to 7:22 AM |
| **Amritakalam:** | 02:47 AM to 04:35 AM |
| **Abhijit Muhurtham:** | 11:49 AM to 12:41 PM |

### HYDERABAD WEATHER

**Forecast:** Partly Cloudy
**Temp:** 34°c
**Humidity:** 48%
**Sunrise:** 5:45 AM
**Sunset:** 6:45 PM
**Updated:** June 6, 2025 5:00 PM

## Etela deposes ...

*Continued from page 1*

who ordered the construction of the three barrages, Etela replied that the decision was taken by the State Cabinet. "Only after Cabinet clearance, the construction began," he said. On redesigning the project, he stated that it was initiated after objections from the Maharashtra government. "Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao formed a sub-committee chaired by Harish Rao, with me and Tummala Nageswara Rao as members. Based on expert and technical committees, the project was redesigned," he explained.

Etela confirmed that the sub-committee formally signed off on the redesign, and clarified that final decisions were always ratified in Cabinet. When asked about technical reports suggesting the location of the barrages was unsuitable, Etela noted that several reports were considered but the Cabinet took the final call.

Regarding the DPR, he claimed ignorance about whether Rs. 597.45 lakh was paid to WAPCOS for it, but insisted all necessary approvals, including for the DPR, were taken in the Cabinet. When asked about the purpose of setting up the Kaleshwaram Corporation, Etela said it was created for raising and managing funds through loans. "It functioned outside the purview of the Finance Department. Fund collection and repayment of loans were its responsibility," he clarified.

He admitted, however, that expected fund collection through the Corporation did not materialise. On whether the project was financed off-budget, Etela stated that all fund disbursal happened through the Corporation and not the Finance Department.

When asked about the suitability of the barrage locations, Etela said, "Only technical teams decide where to build a barrage." On questions about financial discipline during the project's execution, he replied, "That falls under the Irrigation Department, not Finance."

The former minister's deposition is being closely scrutinised as the Commission delves into large-scale financial, administrative, and engineering decisions taken during the Kaleshwaram project's execution under the BRS regime.

## 'KCR, Harish ...

*Continued from page 1*

attending Apex Council meetings until the Rayalaseema Project's tenders were finalised. "This wasn't neglect, it was a wilful act. Telangana skipped the Apex Council meetings to protect Jagan's interests as per a secret deal," Uttam said.

Turning to the Banakacharla Project, Uttam accused BRS leaders of spreading deliberate lies. "They should rename themselves 'Goebbels Rao'. If Goebbels were alive, he would be surprised at how shamelessly BRS leaders are lying today," he said.

He clarified that Telangana will not accept the Banakacharla Project under any circumstances, calling it a violation of GRMB, CWC, and Apex Council norms.

"This is against the interstate water policy. We have explained this in detail to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman," he said.

He also said that on January 22, he had written to Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil outlining Andhra Pradesh's violations, and in May, received an assurance from Patil that any proposal from AP would be scrutinised as per the law.

## Top Naxal ...

*Continued from page 1*

the CRPF's specialised unit CoBRA, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj said.

"After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a Naxalite along with one AK-47 rifle and other explosives, weapons, and ammunition were recovered from the encounter site. Preliminary identification suggests the body is of Bhaskar alias Mailarapu Adellu, a special zonal committee (SZC) member of the Telangana State Committee (TSC) of the outlawed Maoists," he said.

"Bhaskar, a resident of Adilabad district in Telangana, was the secretary of the Mancherial-Komarambheem (MKB) division of the TSC of Maoists. He carried a reward of Rs 25 lakhs in Chhattisgarh and 20 lakhs in Telangana," the IG added.

This is the third big success in the past fortnight for security forces pushing relentlessly against the Naxals with the aim of ending the menace by March 2026.

## RBI goes for ...

*Continued from page 1*

short-term funding needs. With the latest cut in the repo rate, all External Benchmark Lending Rates (EBLR) linked to it will come down. And if the banks fully pass on this to the borrowers, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, auto and personal loans will decline by 50 bps.

RBI, Malhotra said, expects lenders to pass on lower borrowing costs to consumers and boost credit growth with the additional cash they would have following the cut in cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent. The cut in CRR will take effect in four stages between September and December.

"Today's monetary policy actions should be seen as a step towards propelling growth to a higher aspirational trajectory," he said, adding the aspiration is for growth of between 7 per cent and 8 per cent.

Giving rationale for the decision, the RBI Governor said inflation or price rise has softened significantly over the last six months from above the tolerance band in October 2024 to well below the target, with signs of a broad-based moderation.

Growth, on the other hand, remains lower than aspiration amid a challenging global environment and heightened uncertainty. "Thus, it is imperative to continue to stimulate domestic private consumption and investment through policy levers to step up the growth momentum," he said.

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# City Pioneer

The Pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JUNE 7, 2025 03




## CITY EVENTS

**Book Release Function**
By Ramesh
*Venue*
Ravindra Bharathi
Jun 7, (1:30 pm)

**Book Release Function**
By Subadra Seela
*Venue*
Ravindra Bharathi
Jun 7, (1:30 pm)

**Three Day MultiLingual Festival**
By Shudraka Hyderabad Shilpitirtha Trust
*Venue*
Ravindra Bharathi
Jun 7, (9 am)

**Sangeetha Vibhavari**
By Pallavi Charan Music Academy
*Venue*
Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
Jun 7, (4 pm)

ALLEGED FOOD POISONING

## Institute of Mental Health now in the spotlight


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HYDERABAD




Kitchen at Institute of Mental Health (IMH) at Erragadda in Hyderabad presenting a dismal picture

The shocking incident of suspected food poisoning at Hyderabad's Institute of Mental Health (IMH) at Erragadda, which resulted in the death of a 30-year-old patient and left 92 others ill, has raised serious questions about the dire condition of Telangana's only mental health institute and the larger public health system.

Sources call it a wake-up call for the Health Department to urgently upgrade infrastructure in government hospitals. A ground visit reveals a grim reality: the institute is under partial repair, with heaps of dug-up mud across the premises.

Pathways connecting wards are filled with stones, posing a serious hazard to both staff and patients—some of whom are seen being escorted in handcuffs.

The hospital kitchen, where food was prepared on June 2, presents an appalling scene.

Blackened walls, spider webs, and filthy floors would easily trigger a red flag if inspected by the Food Safety Department—conditions far below any acceptable hygiene standard.

A canteen for outsiders operating inside the hospital also appears to be in urgent need of inspection.

A senior doctor from the Health Department questioned the department's inaction, especially after Ten Task Force Teams submitted a recent report to Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, detailing the poor conditions across several government hospitals.

The 600-bed facility, currently housing 318 patients, continues to struggle with bare minimum infrastructure, raising urgent concerns about patient safety and the long-overdue need for reforms in mental health care infrastructure.

The update is that 18 admitted in Osmania General Hospital (OGH) 12 have been improved health and shifted to IMH and six are still undergoing treatment in OGH.

## 15% of food samples tested in State found adulterated


SAMUEL JOSHUA
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HYDERABAD





On World Food Safety Day 2025, Telangana faces a serious food safety crisis as 90 per cent of eateries have been found violating hygiene standards , putting public health at risk. So far in 2025, over 1,000 inspections across Hyderabad's restaurants, hotels, hospitals, and canteens have revealed major hygiene problems, including expired products and rat infestations.

When asked about measures for food safety, Dr K Deepthi Priya, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology at St Mary's College, Hyderabad, said, "In an era of global food challenges, a stronger push and focus on biotechnology is crucial to ensure safer food, from precision farming to pathogen detection." She added that investing in innovation and public education is essential to safeguard every step of the food chain, from soil to shelf.

The Telangana Food Safety Department also reported widespread violations in eateries, street vendors, and hospital cafeterias. The crackdown has resulted in Rs 78 lakh in penalties, forcing many businesses to improve hygiene standards.

Authorities are increasing surveillance and enforcing stricter rules, but concerns remain if these actions will be enough to protect consumers.

Telangana's performance in consumer awareness and training is especially low, scoring just 2 and 1 out of 10, respectively. Also, 15 per cent of food samples tested in the state were found to be adulterated, violating FSSAI guidelines. In response to these alarming numbers, Hyderabad is seeing major changes with more inspections and new food testing labs being set up.

Meanwhile, Executive Chef Satya Pandari of The Park Hyderabad said, "At The Park, food safety is a non-negotiable priority. We follow strict hygiene protocols, conduct regular training, and use technology to track inventory and ensure freshness. We also focus on transparency with allergen disclosures and open kitchens, building trust with our guests."

Chef Satya added, "We conduct regular training sessions for our team, empowering them with best practices in food handling, storage, and personal hygiene, and this should be followed without fail at every hotel and restaurant. Technology plays a vital role in tracking inventory and shelf life, enhancing transparency and accountability."

To raise awareness, the Telangana Food Safety Department has trained over 1,500 street food vendors through Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programs, and 3,774 vendors have received FSSAI registrations. Hygiene evaluations were also conducted in 516 schools and 84 hospital cafeterias, followed by training for cooks.

While challenges remain, Telangana faces serious food safety issues, but increased efforts in biotechnology, stricter inspections, and public education offer hope for safer food and healthier communities.




## Khairatabad Ganesh to appear as Sri Vishwashanti Mahashakti Ganapati

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 71st Maha Ganapati celebrations at Khairatabad will be held on Friday, coinciding with Nirjala Ekadashi. This year, the idol will be worshipped in the form of Sri Vishwashanti Mahashakti Ganapati. A model of the idol was unveiled as part of the preparations.

Organisers revealed that a 69-foot clay idol will be installed this year. The celebrations were officially announced in the presence of Khairatabad MLA and Ganesh Utsav Committee President Danam Nagender, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Yadav, Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, former MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, and Corporator Vijaya Reddy. Several members of the festival committee were also present at the launch event.

## IIT harnesses clay sedimentation to identify, measure coronavirus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a new, affordable method to detect and measure the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. This innovative technique uses sedimentation, the natural settling of a clay-virus mixture to identify the virus quickly and cheaply, offering an alternative to costly and complex existing methods.

The study, published in the journal Applied Clay Science, was led by Prof TV Bharat from the Department of Civil Engineering, along with Prof. Sachin Kumar from the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, and research scholars Dr. Himanshu Yadav and Deepa Mehta.

## Nepalese man kills live-in partner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Police here solved the murder case of a woman whose body was found in a travel bag abandoned in an isolated area, by arresting her live-in partner for allegedly killing her.

The deceased woman (33) and the accused (30) are natives of Nepal. They became acquainted through a social media platform and developed a relationship, a release from Cyberabad Police Commissionerate said on Friday.

On June 4, the body of the woman, initially unidentified, was found stuffed in a large travel bag in bushes in the Bachupally area and a murder case was registered at Bachupally Police Station.

DCP (Balanagar Zone) K Suresh Kumar said five special teams were formed to trace the accused.

Based on credible information, police apprehended the accused, who works as a chef at a fast food stall, from Bowrampet here on June 5 night. He was brought to the Bachupally Police Station and upon interrogation, he confessed to the crime, police said. The deceased was already married and had two children. She left her family in Nepal and came to Hyderabad on April 15, and the couple began living together in a rented room in Bowrampet, police said.

## Prostitution racket in spa busted, a sub-organiser, five customers held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a coordinated operation, the Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone Team, along with the SR Nagar Police, busted a prostitution racket being operated under the guise of a spa in Hyderabad. The raid was conducted on June 5 at around 8:30 pm at a location in Ameerpet, resulting in the apprehension of one sub-organiser, five customers, and the rescue of one woman.

The spa, operating under the name "NS Beauty Saloon and Spa," was located in Alrich Purandevi Apartments, near Gurudwara in the SR Nagar limits. Acting on credible intelligence, officials raided the premises and took 30-year-old Nathari Sudha, a resident of Prasanthi Nagar, Balanagar, into custody. She hails originally from Utnoor in Adilabad district and was working as a sub-organizer in the illegal operation.

Five customers were also caught during the raid. They were identified as Sagiraju Dinesh Varma, 21, a student from West Godavari district, Gudala Goutham, 28, a private employee from Warangal, Nenavath Ravi Kumar, 32, a businessman from Quthbullapur, Chavan Surender, 36, a businessman from Banjara Hills and Pinni Praveen Kumar, 29, a businessman from Tenali, Guntur district.

Investigators revealed that the spa functioned as a front for a brothel. The main organisers, identified as Lingampally Shiva Nandini alias Anjali and Maddineni Sandeep, allegedly procured sex workers from various parts of the city and paid them daily commissions ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000. Sudha, the arrested sub-organiser, confessed to assisting them for a monthly salary of Rs. 25,000.

The modus operandi involved Shiva Nandini or Sandeep receiving customer calls and then redirecting them to the spa, sharing Sudha's mobile number. Upon their arrival, Sudha collected charges ranging between Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 before sending them to the sex workers inside the spa.

Police seized Rs. 8,500 in cash and nine mobile phones from the premises.

## Hyd Police step up security ahead of Bakrid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD




With Bakrid approaching, the Hyderabad Police have intensified security measures across the city to ensure a peaceful and safe celebration. Multiple check posts have been set up in sensitive areas within the Hyderabad Police Commissionerate limits as part of heightened vigilance.

Commissioner of Police and Director General, CV Anand, conducted surprise inspections at key locations including Goshala Jia Guda, MJ Bridge, Hasannagar, and Bandlaguda check posts on Friday. During the inspections, he interacted with personnel stationed on the ground and reviewed the preparedness of the force.

He issued specific directions to the officers and staff to maintain a strict yet people-friendly approach, aiming to ensure that the festival passes off without incident. "Police must be alert, vigilant, and ensure public convenience is not compromised," he said, while urging officers to remain courteous and responsive to citizens' concerns during checks.

CV Anand also appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to the police and help in preserving law and order. He reiterated that joint responsibility and public participation were key to maintaining Hyderabad's communal harmony during major festivals.

## HYDRAA demolishes Nala encroachments in Sec'bad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a major step toward addressing long-standing flooding issues in central Secunderabad, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has started operation demolition to remove encroachments on the Patny Sewerage, which has been severely narrowed due to unauthorised commercial constructions.

Originally designed to span 70 feet, the nala at Patny has been reduced to a mere 15 to 18 feet at several locations due to illegal constructions, leading to recurring flooding in nearby colonies including Paigah Colony, Patny Compound, Patny Colony, Viman Nagar, BHEL Colony, and Indiramma Nagar.

With the numerous complaints from residents, HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, along with Cantonment CEO Madhukar Naik and officials from GHMC, Irrigation, and Revenue departments conducted a joint inspection of the site on Thursday.

## OGH doctor gets international recognition for painless haemorrhoids surgery

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Osmania General Hospital (OGH) has announced a significant medical breakthrough by Dr Pallam Praveen, Professor and Head of the Department of General Surgery.

His innovative treatment—Pallam's Painless Hybrid Laser Sandwich Procedure for Grade III and Grade IV haemorrhoids—has been officially accepted for publication by the prestigious International Journal of Surgery.

This newly developed procedure addresses the major drawbacks of conventional haemorrhoid surgeries, which are often associated with severe pain, high recurrence rates, and the risk of incontinence.

Dr Praveen's technique is sphincter-sparing, ensuring that patients experience minimal pain, virtually no recurrence, and no postoperative incontinence.

Remarkably, patients undergoing this treatment are often able to walk home the same day.

Over the past four years, Dr Praveen has successfully performed this minimally invasive hybrid laser procedure on more than 500 patients,, combining the benefits of traditional and laser techniques for faster, more effective healing.

The faculty of Osmania Medical College (OMC) and Osmania General Hospital have unanimously appreciated Dr Praveen's contribution to surgical innovation.

Osmania General Hospital Superintendent Dr Rakesh Sahay congratulated and felicitated Dr Praveen, lauding his work as a valuable addition to modern medical science and a significant step forward in patient-friendly surgical care.



Minister for Defence Sanjay Seth at the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering in Secunderabad

## Union Minister visits MCEME

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Defence Sanjay Seth visited Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering on Friday.

He was briefed by the Commandant, Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, VSM about the training activities at the institution.

He interacted with the soldiers and visited the new Drone Training Lab, Drone Alaya and discussed ways and means to develop indigenous anti drone systems to prevent Kamikaze attacks.

He witnessed the new projects of staff on radars in super high-altitude areas and appreciated the work of EME technicians in Op Sindoor and MCEME's initiatives in promoting Atma Nirbharta in defence technologies along with MSMEs and Startups.

Sanjay Seth also planted a tree on the premises of MCEME.

## *Vaginal rejuvenation therapy essential for post-partum makeover*

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Dr. Pratibha Narayan

Vaginal rejuvenation therapy is very essential for new mothers after childbirth, said Dr Pratibha Narayan, Senior Obstetrician and Cosmetic Gynaecologist based in Hyderabad. She explained that after a normal delivery, many women experience physical changes and internal injuries in the vaginal area. While exercises can help restore tone, many mothers are unable to focus on their recovery due to busy work schedules and caring for their babies. "For the first two months, some care is taken, but after that, many women suffer in silence because of the stigma around intimate health," she said.

Dr Pratibha Narayan, speaking to The Pioneer, pointed out that post-partum health is often neglected. Many women are unaware that problems like pelvic floor collapse, urinary leakage, and injuries in the birth canal need medical attention. She also highlighted how hormonal changes during and after menopause lead to issues like wrinkles, reduced skin elasticity, and loss of collagen. She stressed, "Cosmetic gynaecology is not just about looks, it is about restoring health and quality of life."

She added that female hormones protect women from high blood pressure, heart disease, strokes, and diabetes. After menopause, estrogen levels drop, causing excessive sweating, chills, mood swings, and other symptoms. She emphasized that cosmetic and aesthetic gynaecology provides effective medical solutions for these concerns and should be available in proper hospital settings, not just in cosmetic clinics.

Dr. Pratibha Narayan emphasised the need for greater awareness, noting, "I will begin training doctors on these issues and move towards ensuring patient safety, comfort, and discretion in such sensitive and intimate procedures, with a clear vision for the future of women's intimate healthcare."

To address these needs, Dr. Narayan has launched '9M India's first Intimate Wellness and Cosmetic Gynaecology Centre' at Ankura Hospital for Women and Children. She said that in the last decade, global advancements in aesthetic gynaecology have made many new treatments possible.

The centre offers specialized care through its '9M' program, including vaginal rejuvenation using radiofrequency, laser, and jet plasma; PRP therapy for sensitivity and tissue repair; non-surgical solutions for stress urinary incontinence; rejuvenation of perineal scars and postpartum tears; labial and vulvar aesthetic enhancements; G-spot amplification and O-shots; liposuction, lipolysis, and hyaluronic acid fillers; autologous fat transfer and monsoplasty; and the "NewMomMe" program for a complete post-partum makeover.

## E-cigarette racket busted in Hyd, 670 vapes worth Rs 21L seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force, Central Zone, in coordination with Saifabad Police, busted an illegal e-cigarette racket and apprehended one individual on Wednesday night. A total of 670 banned electronic cigarettes, estimated to be worth Rs. 21 lakh in the grey market, were seized during the operation.

The accused, identified as Akash Sinde, a 28-year-old private employee residing in Adarsh Nagar, Saifabad, was caught red-handed during a raid on a flat in Prinstancode Apartments, opposite Grand Bazar. The raid followed credible intelligence inputs and was conducted under the jurisdiction of Saifabad Police Station.

According to officials, Akash was working as a caretaker for a person named Vishesh Agarwal and was using the premises to stock and distribute illegal e-cigarettes. The seized vapes included popular and banned brands like Elfbar, Elux, Raya D1, Nasty, and Shisha.

Police said that Akash originally hails from Mangalhat and began this illegal trade to make quick money. He procured the banned products from Delhi via a network of agents, then transported and stored them in Hyderabad for secret sales, primarily targeting college students and young consumers.

"Electronic cigarettes, containing nicotine and harmful chemical-laced flavors, are highly addictive and pose serious health risks. Despite the ban, they are still finding their way into the market through illegal channels," the police noted.

The seized contraband and the accused have been handed over to the Station House Officer of Saifabad Police Station for further legal proceedings.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of the Inspector of Police, Central Zone Task Force, with active participation of the Sub-Inspector and staff of the Task Force and Saifabad Police.

## Dial-112 team rescues attempt-to-murder victim

**PNS** ■ KAMAREDDY

A swift and coordinated response by the Dial-112 emergency team helped save the life of a seriously injured victim in an alleged attempt-to-murder case in Kamareddy district. The incident took place late on Wednesday night at Tangojipet Tanda in Banswada mandal.

According to officials, at around 10:07 pm on June 5, an anonymous caller from Tangojipet Tanda alerted Dial-112, reporting that an unidentified person had attacked an individual with weapons. The victim was said to be in a critical condition and required urgent police and medical assistance.

Upon receiving the call, the Dial-112 team promptly alerted the Banswada Rural Police Station and ambulance services. Field officers from the Banswada Rural Police Station reached the scene quickly and took immediate action. Thanks to their timely response and coordination, the victim was safely rescued and shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

## 'We will complete Palamuru-Rangareddy lift irrigation scheme'

**PNS** ■ MAHABUBNAGAR



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka speaking at a public meeting at Devarakadra in Mahabubnagar on Friday

To transform the backward Palamuru district into a lush green area, the Palamuru-Rangareddy lift irrigation project will be completed, and funds for it will be fully released, assured Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. On Friday, in Devarakadra constituency in Mahabubnagar district, he laid the foundation stone for the construction of 33/11 KV substations (12) and a 132/33 KV electricity substation (1) with an expenditure of ?72 crores.

Speaking at a public meeting, he assured the people that funds for R&R (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) and land acquisition would be released immediately. To fill the gap between the Narlapur and Edula reservoirs, the required funds would be released. A total of Rs 70 crores is needed for the Uddandapur R&R package, which has already been released promptly. The people's government is ready to release all the funds required in the future as well, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister alleged that previous rulers had no love for the people, and even their family members were exposing it. To establish true democracy and spend funds for the people, the entire Cabinet under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been striving for the development of the State. He sought blessings and support from the people for the people's government. He congratulated the people of Mahabubnagar for electing MLAs who always espoused the cause of people's welfare.

He criticised previous rulers for not providing irrigation water to even a single acre in the districts during their 10-year rule, although Palamuru people fought for Krishna waters for their lands. The Deputy Chief Minister questioned why water could not be supplied even after 10 years when there was a promise to complete it in three years.

Minister for Excise Jupally Krishna Rao said that no welfare schemes initiated by the previous government were cancelled despite the difficult financial situation.



A clerk in Nirmal Municipal office after being caught by the ACB recently (file photo)

## Corruption in Nirmal district emerges as a major challenge

**PNS** ■ NIRMAL

Corruption in Nirmal district continues to rise alarmingly. Recently, a Junior Assistant from the Nirmal Municipality was caught red-handed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting a bribe. The shocking part is that the bribe was demanded to make an entry in the service book of an employee from his own department — an amount of Rs 20,000 was asked just for that.

There are also serious allegations that higher-level officials in the district, especially those with district-level authority, are involved in collecting bribes for every official task, including staff appointments and transfers. Victims are reportedly hesitant to come forward due to fear, as these corrupt officials hold powerful positions.

In many departments across the district, officers and staff are reportedly openly demanding bribes. Some even bluntly ask, "How much will you pay?" Bribes seem to have become an unofficial norm — "the more you pay, the faster the service."

In the latest incident, Shakir Khan, a Junior Assistant currently in charge of the Establishment (C-Section) in the Nirmal Municipality, was caught by the ACB after allegedly demanding Rs 20,000 from Bill Collector Bharat for making an entry in his service book. After continuous harassment over two months, the money was finally handed over, leading to his arrest.

Corruption seems to be prevalent across all departments, with no distinction between senior and junior officials. Allegations are surfacing even against a high-ranking district officer who is reportedly accepting bribes from everyone. Lower-level employees reportedly handled staff transfers under the officer's influence, with four of them allegedly operating this scheme with the help of another employee.

This year alone, five to six ACB raids took place in the district across various departments. Those caught red-handed included officials from the Revenue, Registration, Municipal, and Labour Departments.

In the past, even in Mamda Police Station, Sub-Inspector Raju was caught by ACB while accepting a Rs 10,000 bribe for station bail. This incident highlighted the corruption even within the police department.

Furthermore, in the district headquarters and Kadam area, Revenue Inspector Santosh and outsourced Bill Collector Shoaib were caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 6,000 by the ACB.

Many are expressing concern that if strict action is not taken against such officials, corruption will become deeply rooted in every department in the coming days.

## Two held for illegal drug trade in Wanaparthy dist

**PNS** ■ WANAPARTHY



Deputy Superintendent of Police Venkateshwar Rao speaking to reporters in Wanaparthy on Friday

An inter-state gang supplying the banned substance alprazolam was apprehended by the Pebberu police in Wanaparthy district, according to Vanaparthi Deputy Superintendent of Police Venkateshwar Rao here on Friday.

Speaking at a press conference at the Pebberu police station, Venkateshwar Rao stated that two individuals who were transporting the banned substance alprazolam—commonly mixed in illicit liquor—were arrested on Thursday evening at the Agricultural Market in Pebberu town.

The arrested individuals were identified as Ediga Narasimha Goud from Bingidoddi village in Ieeja mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal district, and Ediga Bhaskar Goud from Tummalapalli village in Gattu mandal of the same district. The duo was caught red-handed by police while attempting to sell 500 grams of Alprazolam in the market premises.

He explained that Narasimha Goud procured the Alprazolam from Harshavardhan Goud, Jagadeesh Goud, and Gopal Goud of Kurnool district, and sold it to Bhaskar Goud. Bhaskar in turn was supplying the banned drug to local illicit liquor shops in the district.

He further revealed that a person named Ramakrishna Goud from Madakasira village in Anantapur district was the primary supplier of the banned Alprazolam to them. The drug was being purchased at Rs 2,80,000 a kg and sold to liquor shops for Rs 4,00,000 a kg.

Since last year, Narasimha Goud and Bhaskar Goud had been supplying alprazolam to Gajender Goud and Lakshman Goud, with intermediaries like Kumar Goud from Kodumur (Kurnool district), Yugandhar Goud from Amrabad (Nagar Kurnool district), and Panty Ramesh Goud from Santosh Nagar (Kurnool district), as per the confessions of the arrested individuals.

Cases have been filed under the NDPS Act Sections 8(c), 29) against Narasimha Goud and Bhaskar Goud. The investigation is ongoing, and based on their statements, more people are expected to be taken into custody.

## Racket in fake pesticides, weedicides busted, seven arrested

**PNS** ■ WARANGAL



Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh inspecting the seized fake pesticides in Warangal on Friday

In two separate incidents in Warangal city, a total of seven people from two gangs allegedly involved in selling fake pesticides and expired seeds by pasting the labels of prominent companies on the packages were arrested by the Task Force, along with the police from Parakala and Geesugonda.

The police seized fake and expired pesticides worth approximately Rs 63,62,000.

A total of 166 kilograms of fake seeds, 800 liters of weedicide as well as materials required for the manufacturing of fake pesticides and seven mobile phones from the two gangs.

The arrested individuals include Jaydeep Gautam, 33, from Medchal Malkajgiri, Muddangula Aditya, 32, from Mohideenpet, Hyderabad, Machaboyina Tirupati, 35, from Nagaram village, Parakala Mandal, Annam Kumaraswamy, 42, from Papayapalli, Chelapur village, Mulugu, Berri Reddy Marri Reddy, 42, from Elkaturthi Haveli, Geesugonda andal, Warangal District, Tumma Gundla Sandeep Reddy, 37, from Sangareddy district and Tumma Gundla Vijay Joseph, 36, from Sangareddy district

In relation to the arrests, Warangal Police Commissioner Sanpreet Singh said that based on specific information received, the Task Force and Parakala police, along with Agriculture Department officials, jointly raided the house of the main accused, Machaboyina Tirupati from Nagaram, and seized fake and expired pesticides. Upon interrogation, Tirupati provided information that led the police to raid a location in Mohideenpet, Hyderabad, where fake pesticides were being manufactured. The police seized approximately Rs 57,44,000 worth of fake and expired pesticides and arrested Jaydeep Gautam, Aditya, and Kumaraswamy.

In another incident, based on information received, the police raided the house of Berri Reddy Marri Reddy in Elkaturthi Haveli area of Geesugonda Mandal. During the raid, they seized one kilogram of fake seeds.

## TG sends a resounding message through Miss World event

***Even though global headlines buzzed with the heightened Indo-Pak tensions, Telangana stood tall, like a lighthouse in stormy seas, championing peace and cross-cultural camaraderie.***



BHOOMPAG JACOB ROSS

"Driven by vision, the Telangana government, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, turned the Miss World 2025 dream into a global masterpiece of diplomacy, culture, and flawless execution." In an electrifying crescendo of lights, elegance, and emotion, Hyderabad etched its name in history as the radiant heart of the 72nd Miss World Festival. In a moment that sparkled with destiny, Opal Suchata of Thailand was crowned Miss World 2025 at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, bringing the curtain down on a month-long extraordinary odyssey.

A cultural carnival, a philanthropic pilgrimage, and a festival of female empowerment, the Miss World Festival in Telangana was a landmark event where 108 dazzling delegates from across continents converged in a grand celebration of beauty with a purpose. Telangana played host to this international crown jewel of pageantry for the first time, and India, for the third time (after 1996 and 2024), rolled out the red carpet with unmatched splendour.

Telangana didn't just host an event, it orchestrated a symphony of culture, compassion, and cosmopolitanism. The finale shimmered like a constellation of dreams, where the past embraced the future.

As Krystyna Pyszková of the Czech Republic, the 71st Miss World, gracefully handed over the crown to her successor, the arena thundered with applause. Opal Suchata stood bathed in stardust, a beacon of hope and humanity, embodying the very soul of the Miss World ethos. Her victory was not just a personal triumph. It was a powerful reminder that beauty, when fused with empathy and intellect, can move mountains.

Even though global headlines buzzed with the heightened Indo-Pak tensions, Telangana stood tall, like a lighthouse in stormy seas, championing peace and cross-cultural camaraderie. The 72nd Miss World Festival was not only flawlessly executed but was hailed as a diplomatic and logistical masterstroke.

At the helm of this Herculean achievement was none other than Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, whose leadership turned a dream into reality. His efforts didn't merely raise the curtains on a show, they raised Telangana's image to stratospheric heights. Under his stewardship, Miss World 2025 became a gold standard for global event management, a powerhouse of economic growth, and a living canvas of soft power diplomacy.

Telangana unfurled its cultural brilliance in a spectacular celebration of heritage, hospitality, and harmony as it played gracious host to the 72nd Miss World Festival. The journey began with the opening ceremony at Hyderabad's Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. The soulful resonance of the state anthem 'Jaya Jaya Hey' set the tone, followed by a mesmerising Perini dance by 250 artistes. A magnificent flag parade saw over 108 contestants shimmering in their national costumes. From the tribal pulse of Gussadi and KommuKoya dances to the presence of global dignitaries, including Miss World Chairperson Julia Morley and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the event was a masterstroke of tradition and international unity.

As the Miss World anthem played and 'Telangana ZaroorAana' lit up the air, the message was crystal clear: the world had found a new cultural heartland for investments.

In a serene shift, the contestants from Asia and Oceania found spiritual solace in the tranquil embrace of Buddhavanam at Nagarjuna Sagar. The stillness of the setting became a mirror for inner beauty, as contestants immersed themselves in the meditative grace that defines the Miss World ethos.

A regal passage through Hyderabad's Charminar, heritage walk and the sparkling corridors of Laad Bazaar awaited next. The experience peaked during an opulent dinner at the Chowmahalla Palace, where Mughal elegance and Nizami grandeur came alive.

As the journey unfolded, a reverent encounter with Telangana's Kakatiya legacy awaited in the ancient stone marvels of Ramappa Temple and through Warangal's architectural jewels, the majestic Thousand Pillar Temple and the Warangal Fort. Each step through those hallowed corridors awakened awe for the engineering genius of the Kakatiyas. Touching local handicrafts added a sensory dimension to their discovery.

The festival's spiritual core radiated at the sacred Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Yadagirigutta, where Caribbean delegates were enveloped in divine devotion.

The African group explored the vibrant village of Pochampally, the heart of India's Ikat weaving tradition. Inside the Handloom Park Museum, looms sang age-old stories through threads of colour and pattern. In the natural sanctuary of Pillalamarri, under the wide canopy of a 700-year-old banyan tree, a symphony of folklore and tradition played out. Bathukamma beats filled the air as the contestants danced with joy.

Beauty met innovation at AIG Hospitals, where delegates explored Telangana's strides in medical tourism. Hosted by Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy, the visit revealed the power of healing. A radiant fusion of style and sustainability came alive at the Experium Eco Park, where nature became the runway. Surrounded by over 25,000 plant species, fashion met environmental consciousness as Telangana's designers showcased garments.

The Gachibowli arena erupted with energy during the Miss World Sports Challenge. From shuttle rallies to shot put triumphs, strength and sisterhood reigned supreme. In a cinematic twist, the Ramoji Film City cast its spell over the beauties. Technological marvel met civic pride at the Telangana Police Integrated Command and Control Centre, where the contestants witnessed a futuristic model of public service.

The journey then turned reflective at the Secretariat, where an evening of culture, compassion, and remembrance unfolded. Inside T-Hub, the contestants took centre stage with their 'Beauty with a Purpose' projects, the very soul of the Miss World platform. Passionate presentations on mental health, environmental protection, women's empowerment, and access to education highlighted the conviction of each delegate.

The festival reached a crescendo at Shilparamam, where the contestants moulded clay, wove baskets, and painted alongside master artisans. In laughter, colour, and collaboration, they embraced the humble majesty of rural India.

And the world came alive on stage at Shilpakala Vedika for the Talent Finale, a brilliant celebration of creativity.

The night pulsed with passion, dazzling dances, stirring piano performances, heartfelt spoken word, and theatrical flair. Miss India's electrifying garba lit up the room, Indonesia's piano melody struck a soulful chord, and Miss Kenya turned DJ in a finale that united all in rhythm and joy.

With the successful hosting of the 72nd Miss World Festival, Telangana sent a resounding message to the global community that it is fully equipped to organise world-class events. Hyderabad, with its well-planned logistics, expansive convention centres, modern transportation network, and tech-enabled coordination, proved that it is not just a cultural hub but also an international destination for mega global events.

***(The writter is Asst. Director, CPRO TO CM Team.)***


GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR, LA, HAML, HYDERABAD

**FORM–F**

Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML (See rule 7 (C))

File No.: C6/07/2025-RHS-15/6 Dated: 06-06-2025.

Whereas the following Notifications were issued and published in the Gazettes for acquisition of the land under Extension of Metro Rail Project, Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Shami-E- Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District for the Public purpose.

In response to the said Notifications the following affected persons (Property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiations. The details of the willing affected persons/Land Owners are as follows.

| S.NO. | NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE | GAZETTE NO. & DATE |
|---|---|---|
| I | No C6/188/2024- RHS (201 to 225) | HAML No.29, Dated: 28-11-2024 |

| S.No | Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | **Sri. Mohd Haneef,** S/o Late. Mohd Laiyaq @ Layaq, R/o 23-6-316, Sultan Shai, Hyderabad. | RHS-201 | 23-2-624 | 7.46 |

| S.NO. | NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE | GAZETTE NO. & DATE |
|---|---|---|
| II | No C6/189/2024- RHS (226 to 250) | HAML No.30, Dated: 28-11-2024 |

| S.No. | Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | **Sri.Mohd.Wajihullah Khan,** S/ o. Mohd Inayathullah Khan R/o 23-2-550, Han Bowli, Shah Ali Banda, Hyderabad-500065. | RHS-232 | 23-2-551/5 (Common Passage) | 11.64 |

| S.NO. | NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE | GAZETTE NO. & DATE |
|---|---|---|
| III | No C6/191/2024- RHS (276 to 300) | HAML No. 32, Dated 28-11-2024 |

| S.No | Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | **1.Sri.Mohd Abdul Raoof,** S/o. Mohd Abdul Hameed, **2.Ahmed Hussain** S/o Late Mohd Hussain R/o.21-3-260, Moosa Bowli, Charminar, Hyderabad. | RHS-278 | 20-4-159/1 | 27.92 |

| S.NO. | NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE | GAZETTE NO. & DATE |
|---|---|---|
| IV | C6/193/2024- RHS (326-350) | HAML No.34 dated 28-11-2024 |

| S.No | Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | **Sri Syed Ahmed Hashmi,** S/o. Syed Mohammed Hashmi, R/o. 20-6-16, Syed Ali Chabutra, Charminar, Hyderabad. | RHS-343 (II) | 20-6-616 | 10.10 |

| S.NO. | NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE | GAZETTE NO. & DATE |
|---|---|---|
| V | C6/194/2024- RHS (351-375) | HAML No.35 dated 28-11-2024 |

| S.No | Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | **1.Habeeb Abdul Khader ,** S/o. Habeeb AM **2.Shaneela Khatija,** W/o. Habeeb Abdul Khader, R/o 20-6-337,Shah Ali Banda, Charminar, Hyderabad. | RHS-357 (A) | 20-6-616/B, 20-6-616 (G/ 2 to 4 | 34.40 |
| | **1.Fareeda Rahmath,** W/o. Mohammed Younus Siddiqui, **2.Mohammed Abdul Hafeez Siddiqui,** S/o. Mohammed Younus Siddiqui, **3.Master Mohammed Haneef Siddiqui,** S/o. Mohammed Younus Siddiqui, R/o. 20-6-616, Allabad, Syed Ali, Chabutra, Charminar, Hyderabad. | RHS-357 (B) | 20-6-616 (G/ 1 | 13.20 |

| S.NO. | NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE | GAZETTE NO. & DATE |
|---|---|---|
| V | C6/195/2024- RHS (376-400) | HAML No.36 dated 28-11-2024 |

| S.No | Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | **1.Sri. Mohammed Jaweed Uddin Ahmed,** S/ o. Late Sharfuddin **2.Sri. Sayeed Uddin Ahmed,** S/o Late Sharfuddin **3.Smt. Husna Tabassum,** D/o. Late. Hameed Uddin, **4.Sri. Sana Tabassum,** D/o. Late. Hameed Uddin, R/ o 11-3-281, Secunderabad | RHS-385 | 19-3-880 | 8.81 |

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the **Seven days** of publication of this Notification.

Sd/-
Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

DPR No.212/LA-PP/AdvNegotiation/2025-26

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JUNE 7, 2025



## ACROSS THE STATES



### UP: Ex-serviceman's wife, daughter commit suicide

A retired army officer's wife and daughter allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves at their home in Bijli Kheda locality of Uttar Pradesh's Banda district on Friday, police said. Circle Officer (CO) Rajeev Pratap Singh said, "Heermani (46), wife of retired serviceman Nankai Prasad, and their daughter Ranjana (19) died allegedly by hanging themselves in their home this morning." Upon receiving information from neighbours, police arrived at the scene, forced open the door, and recovered the bodies, he said."Preliminary investigations suggest that the suicides were a result of a domestic dispute. Nankai Prasad, the husband and father, was visiting relatives at the time of the incident," the CO said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and further probe is underway.



### Over 18,000 bottles of fake IMFL seized in Thane

Police in Maharashtra's Thane district have seized more than 18,000 bottles containing spurious Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) worth over Rs 45 lakh, and arrested four persons in this connection, officials said on Friday. The operation, which began on Wednesday night, continued till the next morning in Dombivli area in the district, they said.
Addressing a press conference, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Amarsingh Jadhav said, "Our officials received a tip-off that a gang was transporting low-grade IMFL from Goa to Thane. Based on this input, the police laid a trap on June 4."
"Around 8.30 pm, a transport vehicle was intercepted at Govindwadi area in Dombivli and found to be carrying liquor bottles. However, the driver failed to produce any documents for the transportation," he said. The investigation led the police to a house in nearby Sudamwadi area, where a huge stock of fake liquor bottles was found, he said, adding that two of the accused were found repackaging it with counterfeit labels of reputed liquor brands for sale.



### RPF's commandos to protect J-K Vande Bharat trains

Commando forces of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), popularly known as CORAS, have been deployed for the security of Vande Bharat trains on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line, ferrying passengers between the Kashmir Valley and Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the Vande Bharat train service between Katra and Srinagar in J-K — the first train connection between the Kashmir valley and the Jammu region. "The RPF's Commandos for Railway Security (CORAS) have been deployed on Vande Bharat trains on USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link) between Katra and Kashmir," an official told PTI. The commandos made their presence felt on the inaugural trains flagged off by the prime minister. Each of the two Vande Bharat trains will have 15 commandos and a supervisor each on board to ensure the security and safety of train travel, officials said.

# PM: Won't allow terror attack to hinder development work in J-K

PNS ■ KATRA



Assuring his full support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which he termed "crown of India", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday pledged not to allow the Pahalgam terror attack to hinder development works in the union territory.

He also praised the border residents for bravely facing indiscriminate cross-border shelling by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, and announced an additional relief of Rs 2 lakh for the families whose houses were completely damaged and Rs 1 lakh for those whose houses were partially damaged.

"I will not allow the Pahalgam terror attack to stop development in J-K. The dreams of the youth will be fulfilled and any obstacle has to face Modi first," the prime minister said while addressing a public rally after flagging off the first train service to the Kashmir Valley here.

The terrorist attack at the Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on April 22 killed 25 tourists and a local pony rider, bringing tourism to a standstill in the Valley.

"Today, people in J-K are looking at new dreams, and fulfilling them as well. The youth are happy with the construction of shopping malls, opening of cinema halls. They want J-K to become a prominent shooting destination for films. They also want the region to become a sporting hub," the prime minister said.

Modi also lauded the heavy turnout at the famous Kheer Bhawani Mela, a major festival of Kashmiri Pandits, and noted that the annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3.

The Eid festivities are in the air and "I promise that development will not be affected by the Pahalgam incident", he said.

Praising the people of J-K for standing together against Pakistan's conspiracy in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, Modi said their stand against the attack sent a strong message to people with terror mindset across the globe that they have made up their mind to give a befitting reply to terrorism.

"The decades-long terrorism burnt down schools in Kashmir and ruined the future of two generations. Not only schools, they burnt hospitals and even contesting an election became a challenge for the locals," Modi said. Stating that people tolerated terrorism and the devastation caused by it for decades, the prime minister said, "People had stopped dreaming and thought that terrorism was their future. It was imperative to pull J-K out of the menace of terrorism, which we have done successfully."

Referring to the loss of lives and heavy damage caused by Pakistan shelling in the border districts of J-K between May 6 and May 10, Modi said Pakistan Army's action showed its frustration as it targeted civilian areas in Jammu, Poonch and other districts.

"The whole world witnessed how Pakistan destroyed homes, schools, temples, mosques and gurdwaras. The people of the country also saw the bravery of the border residents who held their ground," Modi said, adding that every citizen of the country stood behind the victims' families.

"The next of kin of those who lost their lives were recently handed over jobs on compassionate grounds. We share the pain of over 2,000 families whose houses suffered damages and they will be provided adequate relief for repair work," Modi said.

# Indian envoy meets top Chinese official, discuss bilateral ties

PNS ■ BEIJING



Top diplomats from India and China discussed bilateral relations to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries last year, the foreign ministry here said on Friday.
The meeting between Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat and China's Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong on Thursday is the first diplomatic engagement between the two countries post the Operation Sindoor.
Both sides expressed their willingness to work together to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, the Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said.
The two sides are also working out ways to promote cultural exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation, properly manage differences, and promote the development of China-India relations along a healthy and stable track, it said.
The two sides also exchanged views on the issues of common concern, the statement added.
Sun is the former Chinese Ambassador to India and currently Chinese Foreign Ministry's pointsman on South Asia.
Thursday's meeting also took place as the two countries are finalising preparations to resume the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in Tibet for the Indian pilgrims.
The Yatra, when it starts, would be the first among the steps being initiated by the two countries after normalising the relations after over four-year long military standoff in eastern Ladakh, which had brought the ties to a standstill.
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on April 26 that the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is set to take place from June to August via two routes -- Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La in Sikkim.
The Yatra was suspended initially in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently because of the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.
Following complete disengagement of troops at Demchok and Depsang under a pact sealed in October last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting at Russia's Kazan agreed to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms.

# Evening of music and discussions to celebrate king of fruits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



A one-of-its-kind evening in the national capital will celebrate the mango through storytelling, music, discussions and a culinary experience, all dedicated to singing paeans to the king of fruits.
The evening dedicated to the mango, 'Bazm-e-Aam', will be organised by Kashkol Collective at the India International Centre on June 14.
The event, led by Kashkol Collective's Ambreen Shah and Ashhar Haque, will feature a qissagoi session, a riveting discussion on the fruit's cultural and historical significance, a musical performance and a curated dinner menu centred around the mango.
"In every home, the mango arrives not merely as fruit, but as memory - nostalgia wrapped in stories of elders known for their love of its flavor. 'Bazm-e-Aam' is our way of coming together to celebrate those memories - sweet, tangy, timeless," Shah said in a statement.
The evening will begin with a dastan by noted storyteller Ashhar Haque, tracing the mango's journey from Buddhist parables to Mughal memoirs, colonial kitchens, and folk wisdom.

# Ansari's MLA son Abbas deliberately disqualified: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said SBSP MLA Abbas Ansari was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly "deliberately" by the government and said he saw caste bias in such matters.
Ansari, the son of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, was disqualified as MLA after he was sentenced to a two-year jail term in a hate speech case.
He won from the Mau Sadar assembly seat on a Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) ticket when the party was in an alliance with the Samajwadi Party in 2022. The SBSP has

# Social media influencer Sharmistha released on bail

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli was released from prison on Friday after the Calcutta High Court granted her interim bail in a case involving alleged communal remarks made in a video uploaded on social media. The Calcutta High Court on Thursday granted interim bail to Panoli, who was arrested by Kolkata Police last week following an FIR lodged at the Garden Reach Police Station. The court observed that the complaint against Panoli did not disclose any cognisable offence. Panoli, a 22-year-old law student, was arrested from Gurugram in Haryana last week after the FIR was registered.

# UP cops sponsor wedding after family's breadwinner shot dead

PNS ■ GONDA (UP)

The police in Gonda city organised the wedding of a young woman whose family was in dire straits due to the death of its breadwinner among other financial hardships, officials said on Friday.
The wedding took place in Dhannipurwa village in the Umri Begumganj area on Thursday night.
Uday Kumari lost her brother in a dacoity incident in April, which forced the family to postpone her wedding, originally scheduled for May. Taking the family under their wing, the police took full responsibility for the wedding and solemnised the ceremony in a grand, traditional manner.
The event was carried out with the support of the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), Superintendent of Police (SP) Vineet Jaiswal said.
"The girl was to be married on May 5, but on the night of April 24, her brother Shivdeen was shot dead by robbers who had broken into their home. As a result, the wedding had to be called off," he said.
The investigation led the police to the Pasi gang.
Acting swiftly, multiple police teams were deployed, resulting in the identification of six accused individuals. Four were arrested during encounters, in which three sustained bullet injuries.
The gang's kingpin, Gyan Chand Pasi and another wanted criminal, Sonu Pasi, were killed in separate encounters by the STF and the police on May 20 in Umri Begumganj and May 22 in Barabanki, respectively.
Ritu Shahi, the wife of STF Circle Officer DK Shahi and a member of the State Women's Commission, along with Dr Tanvi Jaiswal, wife of SP Vineet Jaiswal and chairperson of VAMA Sarathi (a police family welfare organisation), visited Kumari's house.
Besides consoling the grieving family, they also assured to take full financial responsibility for Kumari's wedding.
On Thursday, officers from the police and STF participated in the wedding festivities. From decorations and food to rituals, every detail was handled by the police.
The police chief and his wife attended the ceremony and presented Rs 1.51 lakh in cash, along with essential jewellery and household items to the newlyweds on behalf of the department.
"We wanted to send out a clear message: we are not just here to fight criminals, but also to stand strongly with victims in their times of need. When a family is in crisis, it is our duty to protect, reassure, and help bring their lives back on track," the SP said.

## BENGALURU STAMPEDE

# ADGP Intelligence transferred, CM's political secy removed

PNS ■ BENGALURU



Karnataka government on Friday relieved MLC K Govindaraj as political secretary to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and transferred Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Intelligence, Hemant Nimbalkar, following the stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium that killed 11 people, official sources said.
These decisions came a day after Siddaramaiah suspended Bengaluru police commissioner B Dayananda and four other senior police officials.
The stampede occurred on Wednesday evening in front of the stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Eleven people died and 56 were injured in the incident.
"The appointment of K Govindaraj as Political Secretary to the Chief Minister is hereby revoked with immediate effect. Accordingly, K Govindaraj is hereby relieved from the post of Political Secretary to the Chief Minister with immediate effect," an official notification said.
Though no official reason was given for Govindaraj's removal, the decision is said to be linked to the June 4 incident, according to official sources.

# *Gujarat Cong leader held for 'misleading' posts on Op Sindoor*

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD




Gujarat Congress general secretary Rajesh Soni was arrested on Friday and charged under a tough section of the BNS for allegedly uploading "misleading" as well as "morale breaking" content on a social media platform related to 'Operation Sindoor', police said.
After registration of an FIR on Thursday, the Cyber Crime Cell of the state CID arrested Soni in the wee hours over his controversial posts on the operation launched by Indian armed forces to destroy terror hubs in Pakistan and PoK, said Superintendent of Police (CID-Cyber Crime) Bharatsinh Tank.
During the May 7-10 operation, launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces also bombed airbases in Pakistan in retaliatory strikes.
Soni has been accused of breaking defence personnel's morale and putting India's sovereignty in danger through misleading posts on Facebook, said Tank.
The Congress leader has been booked under sections 152 (acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India) and 353(1)(a) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), said the SP.
The section 353(1)(a) can also be invoked against someone who makes, publishes or circulates any statement, false information, rumour, or report, with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, any officer, soldier of India to mutiny or otherwise disregard or fail in his duty as such.
Punishment under BNS section 152 can range from life imprisonment to seven years, plus a fine.
The FIR lodged by the CID cited two Facebook posts of Soni, whose arrest was denounced by the opposition party.
In one of the posts, the Congress leader shared photos of posters of Operation Sindoor featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the uniform of a fighter jet pilot.
The post had a caption in Gujarati, which reads "Please note that soldiers will not get the credit. The cost of his publicity will be double than the cost of flying the Rafale in Operation Sindoor".

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**
**REVENUE DEPARTMENT**
**FORM-F**
Notification by the District Collector
(See rule 7 (c))

Collector's Office File No. G/2487/2024 Date: 06.06.2025
Sub-Collector's Office File No. B/7450/2024 Date: 06.06.2025
Gazette No.: 15/2025 Date: 06.06.2025

Where a notification was issued vide letter **No. G/2487/2024** (Collector's Office File No.) and **B/7450/2023** (Sub-Collector's Office File No.), dated: 29.11.2024 and published for acquisition of the land total extent **Ac.351-10 gts.** in **Sy No 252** of Hakeempet Village, Dudyal Mandal, Vikarabad District for the project towards the Establishment of Multipurpose Industrial Park in favour of the TGIIC Limited.

In response to the said notification, the following affected persons having **Ac 96.21 gts** have come forward to settle their claims through negotiation. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows.

**Village: Hakeempet; Mandal: Dudyal; District: Vikarabad**

| Sl. No | Name of the Land Owner Interested Person | Sy.No | Extent (Ac.Gts) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mancha Anthamma W/o Venkataiah | 252/75 | 1.20 |
| 2 | Mancha Kashthamma W/o Balaiah | 252/15 | 1.30 |
| 3 | Mamilla Govind S/o Ramulu | 252/12/3 | 0.30 |
| 4 | Malhari Naga ratnamma W/o Chandra Shekhar | 252/89 | 0.20 |
| 5 | Bhukali Mallaiah S/o Chinna Basappa | 252/36 | 1.30 |
| 6 | Kavali Sailu S/o Timmaiah | 252/4e | 1.00 |
| 7 | Doddi Vijaya Lakshmi W/o Narsappa | 252/38 | 0.05 |
| 8 | Yarra Chinna Padmamma W/o Venkataiah | 252/4i | 1.30 |
| 9 | Jagadishwar S/o Narayana | 252/35 | 3.00 |
| 10 | Satyamma W/o Mallappa | 252/25/1 | 3.00 |
| 11 | Balamma W/o Basappa | 252/42 | 1.20 |
| 12 | D. Gopal S/o D. Ramulu | 252/90 | 1.20 |
| 13 | Mogulaiah S/o Basappa | 252/72 | 1.20 |
| 14 | Mangamma W/o Mallappa | 252/74/2 | 1.30 |
| 15 | Bukali Hanmaiah S/o Tippanna | 252/30 | 0.30 |
| 16 | Mamilla Venkataiah S/o Chandraiah | 252/12/1 | 0.30 |
| 17 | Kummari Venkataiah S/o Basaiah | 252/68/1 | 1.06 |
| 18 | Sharadamma W/o Bal Reddy | 252/101 | 2.00 |
| 19 | Mamilla Srinivas S/o Chandraiah | 252/12/2 | 0.30 |
| 20 | Srinivas S/o Chandraiah | 252/4 | 1.00 |
| 21 | Sudharani W/o Lakshmi Narayana | 252/73/1 | 1.30 |
| 22 | Vijayalakshmi W/o Narsappa | 252/69/1 | 1.20 |
| 23 | Nadmint Sujatha W/o Venkataiah | 252/88 | 1.10 |
| 24 | Mancha Anthamma W/o Balappa | 252/60 | 2.00 |
| 25 | Matam Chandra Shekhar S/o Mallaiah | 252/95 | 2.00 |
| 26 | Mancha Maneemma W/o Mallappa | 252/107 | 1.10 |
| 27 | Mogilimoni Ramakrishna S/o Gandyappa | 252/108 | 0.30 |
| 28 | Mogilimoni Padmamma W/o Thammappa | 252/108 | 0.30 |
| 29 | Mogilimoni Padmamma W/o Thammappa | 252/109 | 1.20 |
| 30 | Kavali Neelamma W/o Venkataiah | 252/110 | 2.00 |
| 31 | Mancha Aruvadha W/o Balraj | 252/111 | 2.00 |
| 32 | Kavali Bhanalamma W/o Ramulu | 252/112 | 1.20 |
| 33 | Kavali Srishailam S/o Ramulu | 252/112/1 | 1.20 |
| 34 | Doremoni Lakshmi W/o Anjilaiah | 252/78 | 2.00 |
| 35 | Balamma W/o Ramaiah | 252/10/3 | 1.30 |
| 36 | Govindamma W/o Mallaiah | 252/10/6 | 1.20 |
| 37 | Kavali Pakeeramma W/o Ananthaiah | 252/116/1 | 0.30 |
| 38 | M. Lakshmi W/o Bhimaiah | 252/10/7 | 1.30 |
| 39 | Kavali Ramulamma W/o Chandraiah | 252/10/16 | 2.00 |
| 40 | D. Sai Kumar S/o Balakishtaiah | 252/10/18 | 2.00 |
| 41 | D. Krishnakanth S/o Anjilaiah | 252/10/19 | 4.00 |
| 42 | Bolni Nagamani W/o Balakishtaiah | 252/14 | 2.00 |
| 43 | Mohammad Khaza Begum W/o Yousuf | 252/3/23 | 3.00 |
| 44 | Kavali Anjamma W/o Ravinder | 252/10/21 | 4.00 |
| 45 | Vijaya lakshmi W/o Goverdhan | 252/10/26 | 1.20 |
| 46 | A. Yellamma W/o Ramulu | 252/10/24 | 1.20 |
| 47 | K. Krishna S/o Venkataiah | 252/10/27 | 1.20 |
| 48 | Danala Lakshmi Kantam S/o Lakshmaiah | 252/10/23 | 2.00 |
| 49 | C. Srishailam S/o Venkataiah | 252/10/28 | 0.25 |
| 50 | C. Anjilaiah S/o Pentaiah | 252/10/28 | 0.25 |
| 51 | K. Ramulu S/o Kishtaiah | 252/10/29 | 1.20 |
| 52 | Mahmood S/o Hapsar | 252/10/32 | 2.00 |
| 53 | Doremoni Mallesh S/o Venkataiah | 252/118 | 2.00 |
| 54 | Doremoni Ramesh S/o Venkataiah | 252/119 | 2.00 |
| 55 | Rachuri Maneemma W/o Srinivas | 252/120 | 1.00 |
| 56 | D. Kishthamma W/o Mallappa | 252/118/4 | 2.00 |
| 57 | Afzal S/o Hakim | 252/10/30 | 2.00 |
| 58 | Mamula Vinod S/o Ananthaiah | 252/10/31 | 1.00 |
| 59 | Ramulu S/o Yellappa | 252/33/1 | 1.20 |
| 60 | Anjilaiah S/o Yellappa | 252/33/2 | 1.20 |
| | Total Extent | | Ac.96.21 Gts |

It is hereby notified for calling claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector within the seven days of publication of this notification.

Date: 06.06.2025.

Sd- Tahsildar, Dudyal Mandal | Sd- Sub-Collector, Tandur Division | Sd- Addl. Collector (Rev.) Vikarabad District. | Sd-District Collector, Vikarabad District.

DIPR RO No.213/LA/PP-Pub/2025-26

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JUNE 7, 2025



## Editor's TAKE

# Bengaluru stampede tragedy: Lessons learnt

**As the families of the deceased demand accountability, there is urgent need for strict safety protocols**

The tragic stampede at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4 has left the city shaken and mourning. What was meant to be a grand celebration of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) first IPL title win in 18 years turned into a devastating catastrophe, claiming the lives of 11 innocent fans and injuring many more. The event, which drew an overwhelming crowd of over 2.5 lakh people to a stadium with a maximum capacity of just 33,000, became a nightmare due to a fatal combination of poor planning, political grandstanding, and lack of co-ordination. The stampede broke out outside Gate 3 of the stadium, where the surge of the crowd led to people being crushed and trampled. It was not merely a case of over-enthusiastic fans, but a structural and administrative failure involving both the cricket franchise and the state Government. Preliminary investigations reveal that the tragedy was the result of a breakdown in communication and responsibility.

RCB had announced a victory parade early on the morning of June 4 through social media, despite not having secured the mandatory police permissions under the Karnataka Police Act. Their request for a parade, made the previous night, had already been rejected by the police due to the risk of a massive crowd. Regardless, the franchise went ahead with their announcement, and by 9 am the information had gone viral across platforms, bringing tens of thousands of fans to the streets. Simultaneously, the Karnataka Government decided to hold its own felicitation event for the RCB team at the Vidhana Soudha, just a kilometre away from the stadium, at nearly the same time. This resulted in the Bengaluru police being stretched beyond its capacity.

Officers had already been on duty late into the night due to the IPL finals, and were now expected to provide security for the team's airport arrival, transport, felicitation at the Vidhana Soudha, and the stadium event — all on short notice and with limited manpower. An FIR has now been registered against RCB, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), and a private event management company called DNA Events for negligence. The Karnataka Government has since ordered a full inquiry into the incident. The High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the tragedy and asked for explanations from all involved parties. Politicians have not escaped scrutiny in the aftermath. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who had taken the initiative to felicitate the team, attended both the Government and stadium events. This tragedy must serve as a wake-up call.

It highlights the dangers of allowing celebrations to go ahead without adequate safety checks, co-ordination, and crowd management. What happened on June 4 was not an accident — it was a preventable disaster born out of administrative chaos and competing egos. No public celebration should ever proceed without thorough planning, clear communication, and above all, respect for human life. The victory of a cricket team is meant to unite, uplift, and inspire — not become a day of mourning. The hope now is that lessons are learnt, responsibilities are fixed, and that never again will joy turn so swiftly into sorrow.

## PIC TALK



Walled city of Jaipur on a cloudy day. PTI

# Reimagining higher education

**As we near the 100th year of independence, India stands on the cusp of a historic leap empowered by knowledge. What we need is an education system that not only trains the head and hands, but also inspires the heart**



As India marches toward the centenary of its independence in 2047, the vision of Viksit Bharat — a self-reliant, inclusive, and developed nation — places education at the very heart of its transformation. Higher education is not merely an instrument for economic growth but a vehicle for intellectual evolution, cultural continuity, and moral clarity.

It must not only equip youth with market-ready skills but also shape them into conscious citizens, ethical leaders, and visionary thinkers. The dream of a developed India extends far beyond infrastructure or GDP — it rests on harnessing the true wealth of the nation: its people. To unlock this potential, we need a complete reimagining of the spirit, structure, and purpose of education — an ecosystem that encourages critical thinking, creativity, life skills, global perspectives, and deeply rooted human values. A nation's future is scripted in its classrooms. For a country that boasts the world's largest youth population, education is not a sector — it is the soul of its progress. It bridges the gap between aspiration and achievement, between demographic potential and democratic excellence. As such, education must receive central focus in policy, investment, and innovation.

While India's premier institutions are gaining global recognition, there remains an urgent need to universalise quality education, particularly in rural and underserved regions. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its goal to raise the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) to 50 per cent by 2035, marks a pivotal step. Yet access alone is not the destination; excellence must accompany expansion. Every learner, regardless of socioeconomic or geographic background, must have a genuine opportunity to realise their full potential. This demands a flexible and diverse academic architecture — undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that are adaptable, interdisciplinary, and outcome-oriented. The emphasis must shift from traditional, input-heavy models to a learner-centred framework focusing on real-world applicability, innovation, and holistic development. In today's knowledge-driven world, critical thinking is not a luxury — it is a necessity. Our education system must evolve from rote memorisation to nurturing analytical minds. Students should be encouraged not only to answer questions but to question answers. The university space must transform into a zone of inquiry, dialogue, and debate — where every discipline encourages exploration and dissent. Pedagogies must promote problem-solving, project-based learning, interdisciplinary research, and Socratic questioning. In such an environment, curiosity becomes the compass and imagination, the engine. True innovation arises when science intersects with ethics and when technology blends with aesthetics. Creativity, too, must be seen not as a niche skill, but as central to national progress. As India aspires to lead in start-ups and innovation, we must instill creative confidence in our students.

Traditional classroom settings — characterised by one-way lectures and passive learning — are increasingly losing relevance for Gen Z learners. Today's students are disengaged by rigid formats and static curricula. Their dwindling attention spans demand immersive, skill-based, and participatory learning methods. Modern students thrive in experiential learning ecosystems — where they learn through case studies, simulations, field visits, internships, classroom debates, and hands-on projects. They connect better when presented with real-life scenarios before abstract theories. Institutions should champion flipped classrooms, technology-enabled learning, and hybrid pedagogies to replace conventional "chalk-and-talk" models. Resources and training for educators are crucial to foster such dynamic, engaging experiences. In an era of constant disruption, technical prowess is necessary — but not sufficient. An educated individual must be equipped to navigate life with resilience, integrity, and empathy. Our higher education system must balance domain expertise with life literacy — the capacity to understand and manage one's emotions, collaborate effectively, and act responsibly. Skills like emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, environmental stewardship, digital discipline, and financial literacy must be made integral to all curricula. These are no longer auxiliary competencies — they are foundational for individual well-being and societal harmony. One urgent area is mental health. With rising stress, anxiety, and burnout among students, institutions must foster cultures of psychological safety and mindfulness. Dedicated counselling services, well-being workshops, stress-management programs, and spaces for reflection are no longer optional — they are essential. Education must nourish not only sharp minds but also kind hearts.



RAGHAVENDRA PRASAD TIWARI

Equally crucial is the nurturing of human values. Qualities like vinay (humility), karuna (compassion), and seva bhav (a spirit of service) must be inculcated deeply. These values form the backbone of India's civilisational ethos. Consider the Sikh practice of Seva, or selfless service — reflected in community kitchens, grassroots outreach, and inclusive welfare. Such traditions teach us that true leadership lies not in control, but in service and humility. When students embody these values, they evolve from mere job seekers to nation builders. They become socially conscious, ethically grounded individuals who carry forward the spirit of India into every realm they enter.

India's aspiration to become a $30 trillion economy by 2047 hinges on how well we prepare our youth. The future will be shaped by breakthroughs in AI, robotics, biotechnology, space exploration, climate innovation, and digital transformation. Higher education must align with this future. Our universities must become centres of innovation — housing incubation hubs, research parks, and start-up accelerators. Industry-academia collaboration is vital. Curricula must reflect market realities, emerging technologies, and skill gaps. Stackable degrees, modular learning, and certification programmes should empower students to learn, unlearn, and relearn across their lifetimes. Entrepreneurial thinking should be embedded within every discipline. Our aim must be to produce not just job seekers, but job creators. Government initiatives like the Anusandhan National Research Foundation and Startup India need to be amplified at the institutional level. Every college, every university must become a breeding ground for innovation and enterprise.

Importantly, economic empowerment must be inclusive. Educational justice demands that all citizens — irrespective of caste, gender, location, or ability — have equal opportunities to thrive. Scholarships, digital equity programmes, mentorship, and special support for marginalised communities are essential pillars. As India embraces rapid technological change, we must also deepen our inner compass. Our curricula must prioritise not only breadth but depth, not only speed but reflection. Educational spaces should include zones for nature, meditation, contemplation, and ethical inquiry — alongside digital labs and high-speed connectivity.

In the age of acceleration, character will be our greatest differentiator. Let us design education that helps young people live wisely, act compassionately, and create meaningfully. We must nurture a generation that is grounded in India's wisdom yet global in its outlook; technologically adept yet ethically anchored.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. Views are personal)

# Search for God: The one pursuit that cannot wait

SECOND Opinion

In today's world, life is a never-ending sprint — alarms, deadlines, emails, meetings, goals, and ever-growing to-do lists. We're constantly in motion, chasing success, recognition, and comfort. But in all this striving, one essential truth often gets lost: everything else can wait – except your search for God. Think about it.

Most people wouldn't dream of missing a job interview or a doctor's appointment. Yet, time with God? That often gets delayed, postponed, or forgotten altogether. Spirituality slips to the bottom of our list, pushed aside by urgent but often unimportant things. We tell ourselves there will be time later – after the project ends, after the kids grow up, after retirement.

But life never really slows down. There's always another storm, another milestone, another distraction. Time is a silent thief. No one can guarantee the next moment.

And beneath all the chaos, the soul is quietly calling out — whispering from the depths of our being, reminding us that we are more than our routines, our achievements, or our social media personas.



SAKSHI SETHI

We are spiritual beings, yearning for connection, peace, and meaning. We soothe ourselves with thoughts like, "I'll focus on God later." But later is uncertain. The search for the Divine is not a future task — it's a present invitation. Imagine being lost in a dense forest. Would you wait for nightfall before searching for a path, or would you begin while there's still light? The answer is clear. Begin now.

This journey inward is not about perfection, rituals, or religious performance. It is about presence. God isn't asking us to be flawless. He is simply asking us to show up — with our longing, our honesty, our brokenness, our hope. Even a single, sincere step toward the Divine is never wasted. As the Bhagavad Gita assures us, "Even a little effort in the right direction never goes to waste." We mistakenly believe we control time. But unexpected losses, illnesses, or global crises quickly shatter that illusion.

In a world that feels increasingly fragile, the search for God is not only important — it is urgent. Across traditions and centuries, spiritual masters like Rumi, Ramakrishna, Jesus, and the Buddha have shared a consistent message: Seek now. Not after you've achieved something. Not after life settles down. Not after the storm passes. Seek now. Why now? Because the soul is not fed by applause, wealth, or vacations.

The ego feeds on praise; the soul is nourished by silence, surrender, and sacredness. Real peace won't come from acquiring more but from going deeper — into stillness, into love, into God. And the search for God isn't about finding a figure in the sky or locating a temple or altar. It is about inner transformation — becoming more compassionate, more patient, more loving, more awake. As we seek the Divine, we begin to see the sacred everywhere — in strangers, in suffering, in nature, and even in ourselves.

This shift moves us from living by ego to living from essence. Importantly, God is not far. We are not separated by mountains or oceans. As the Holy Quran says, "We are closer to you than your jugular vein."

God is already near. It is we who have drifted. The spiritual journey is simply a return — to the part of us that already knows love, already knows peace, already knows truth.

So, pause. Breathe. Close your eyes. Whisper a prayer, hum a hymn, light a candle, or take a silent walk. Do whatever draws you inward. Let that moment of stillness remind you that your soul is not separate from the Source. Because in the end, everything else — careers, achievements, possessions — will pass.

What remains is the soul's eternal longing for God. That is the one relationship that will never fade, the one pursuit that brings meaning to all others. So don't wait. The perfect time is isn't tomorrow — it's this moment, right here, right now.

(The author is a councillor and an educator. Views are personal)

# Letters to the Editor

### Cheers drowned by sirens

Apropos the news item, "PM shares anguish, 11 crushed in RCB victory frenzy", published on June 5, this is my response.

The heartbreaking loss of 11 lives during what should have been a joyous celebration at Bengaluru in connection with RCB's maiden IPL title triumph, is a stark reminder of the critical importance of meticulous planning, empathy, and safety in public gatherings. While the spirit of victory unites communities, it must never come at the cost of human life.

The most important question that continues to haunt us is why the celebrations continued despite the stampede taking place. When sirens were blaring outside the Chinnaswamy stadium, how and why the celebrations were allowed to carry on and who will take the responsibility for this crassitude? While it was wholly meant for fans, some of those fans lost their lives, and yet the celebrations went on!

Do human lives really matter or have we become totally heartless? What happened in Bengaluru should be a life lesson for all of us.

As we honour RCB's remarkable achievement, equally we must ask ourselves: how can Bengaluru or India as a whole build safer, more inclusive spaces for public joy that protect every individual.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR | CHENNAI

### The aftermath of Operation Sindoor

In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, seven all-party delegations visited several countries to convey India's message against cross-border terrorism. Key questions raised by countries visited by the delegations have been related to US President Donald Trump's role in the India-Pakistan ceasefire, the number of fighter jets India lost in the military face-off, the status of Muslims in India, the western narrative portraying India and Pakistan as equally responsible, the potential use of nuclear weapons, and Pakistan's inclusion in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list.

The most challenging outing was in Malaysia, where Pakistan tried to invoke "Islamic solidarity" to undermine India's outreach. While the Indian delegation was in Kuala Lumpur, the Pakistani embassy reportedly urged Malaysian officials to cancel the delegation's programmes. Malaysia, however, reportedly refused to entertain Pakistan's request. BJP MP Brij Lal, who was part of the Sanjay Jha-led delegation that visited Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia, said, "Pakistan tried to scuttle our mission. The Malaysian embassy was very active and questioned why we were making the trip." With this, the Indian delegation failed to convince the countries they visited against Pakistan.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

### Justice served but shadows persist

The recent conviction in the Anna University rape case is a welcome step, but serious procedural lapses continue to cast a shadow.

BJP leader K Annamalai has flagged key concerns that warrant deeper attention. The then Chennai Police Commissioner's premature statement that no one else was involved — made even before the investigation was complete — was rightly criticised by the Honourable Madras High Court for potentially prejudicing the probe.

While the investigation proved that the convict's phone was in airplane mode when he pretended to call someone post-incident, Annamalai has raised doubts over actual calls made later to police personnel and political functionaries, and the taking into custody, release, and re-arrest of the accused.

These raise unresolved questions about possible wider involvement. Though a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted, the lack of clarity on its reporting structure may have undermined its effectiveness. Moreover, the unethical leak of the FIR, despite court directions for action, appears to have gone unaddressed.

Justice, to be meaningful, must rest not just on conviction but on procedural integrity. For the sake of both the victim and public confidence, lingering doubts must be transparently resolved.

GOPALASWAMY J | CHENNAI

### ENVIRONMENT: A DAILY AFFAIR OR ANNUAL RITUALS?

The editorial on environment concerns (6-6-25) is perfectly worded. There is a dire need to give up mere gestures and symbolic rituals but to take tangible steps with commitment to pass this Earth on to our own siblings for their comfortable living.

Most leaders deliver nice lectures on environmental damages and the steps to be taken but stop there without plunging into action. Plastic manufacturing can be banned. But it requires a lot of political will and social commitment to do so. Yet, every day passes with a callous attitude towards the imminent task of saving this Earth from plundering, which is nothing but hastening the task of making the Earth unsuitable for living.

The way forests are being destroyed by the avaricious investors and their sycophant rulers for their pecuniary concerns, positive turns are not in sight. Therefore, it should be the responsibility of the people to take up the task and act. As a first step, let people disown and reject plastics and show their commitment to preserve the Earth. Climate turning erratic and its furious manifestations fail to sensitise the concerned. Most of us are preparing to face and adjust our lifestyle to manage the damages rather than addressing the cause.

The latest findings about microplastic particles entering human and animal bodies should caution everyone and make them understand the seriousness of the situation turning too dangerous. Capital knows no mercy or sentiments, and its nexus with politics poses the imminent dangers, which could be effectively addressed only by a democratic movement of the people.It is our life and we can only save it. Let saving environment become a part of our life. Let us save nature for nature to save us.

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTPUR

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JUNE 7, 2025



# Op Sindoor: How India's precision strikes forced a ceasefire

**In a stunning display of technological prowess and strategic clarity, India's Operation Sindoor reshaped the contours of modern conflict by compelling Pakistan to request a ceasefire within just 80 hours**

FIRST Column




The sudden ceasefire request by Pakistan within 80 hours of India's decisive Operation Sindoor left many analysts and strategists stunned. Pakistan had abruptly called off its own military operation, Bunyan Marsoos ("Wall of Lead"), signaling a white flag in what was expected to be a protracted escalation. What caused this rapid turnaround? The answer lies in the Indian Air Force's (IAF) precision strikes on Pakistan's most secure military assets — especially their deeply buried command and control centres at key airbases. These surgical strikes shattered Pakistan's operational capability and broke their will to continue hostilities.

The flashpoint for Operation Sindoor was the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam — the deadliest since the 2019 Pulwama bombing. This attack was claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy terror outfit linked directly to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which enjoys overt support from Pakistan's establishment. Despite global condemnation, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and their Army Chief remained unapologetic and silent on state — sponsored terrorism.

India's response was swift and calculated. Since the 2019 Balakot airstrikes, the IAF had refined its doctrine of striking terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistan with surgical precision, backed by highly accurate intelligence. This time, nine terror-related targets were hit, including the JeM's training academy at Bahawalpur and LeT's headquarters at Muridke.

The Pakistani retaliation was brutal but ineffective: drone attacks, shelling border villages, and failed attempts by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to target Indian military bases. India, in turn, struck back with coordinated attacks on Pakistan's air defense radars, surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites, integrated air defense systems (IADS), and other critical PAF installations at 13 locations. These strikes were not just tactical but demonstrative — designed to showcase India's technological edge and disrupt Pakistan's ability to respond or escalate further.



VINAYAK BHAT

**Targeting Pakistan's Hardened Deeply Buried Targets (HDBTs)**

One of the most critical aspects of these strikes was the destruction of Pakistan's Hardened Deeply Buried Targets (HDBTs). These underground military complexes are designed to withstand aerial and even nuclear attacks. Militaries worldwide dig deep to protect their critical command, control, communications, and intelligence (C4I) centres from enemy strikes.

Pakistan's network includes at least 22 such underground bunkers around its major airbases and strategic cities like Islamabad and Karachi. These facilities are reinforced with multilayer concrete, steel rebar, and equipped with advanced heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to sustain prolonged occupancy underground.

During Operation Sindoor, the IAF successfully struck two vital HDBTs: one at Chaklala (now Nur Khan) Airbase near Islamabad, and another at Murid Airbase on the Pothohar Plateau. According to the Indian Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, these were command and control air defense centres — but the author contends they functioned more broadly as C4I nerve centres, integrating radar data, intelligence feeds, and coordinating air operations.

**The Chaklala Airbase Strike: A Technical Masterclass**

The underground facility at Chaklala was built in the 1990s by General Electric Aviation, a US company specialising in subterranean military infrastructure. It spanned roughly 750 square meters and was considered one of Pakistan's most advanced air defense hubs. In fact, VIPs and foreign military delegations frequently toured this bunker to marvel at Pakistan Air Force's indigenous technological integration.

The IAF's strike on Chaklala was a demonstration of extraordinary precision. Satellite imagery revealed the bomb entered through a tiny HVAC shaft barely 45 centimeters wide — an incredibly small target given the best satellite resolution of 30 cm per pixel. This meant zero margin for error, requiring perfect intelligence, exact coordinates, and probably the deployment of the best pilots and weaponry available.

> ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECTS OF THESE STRIKES WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF PAKISTAN'S HARDENED DEEPLY BURIED TARGETS (HDBTS). THESE UNDERGROUND MILITARY COMPLEXES ARE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND AERIAL AND EVEN NUCLEAR ATTACKS

The bomb's explosion was so powerful that it blew a large chunk of the concrete roof into the air, pulverising the entire facility underground and everyone inside instantly. Following the strike, Pakistan took days to clear debris, eventually deciding to bury the remains of fallen personnel in situ since nothing else remained. This strike was likely the first of its kind in aerial warfare history — hitting such a tiny and deeply buried target with pinpoint accuracy and total destruction.

**Overcoming Advanced Defences**

Murid Airbase's underground facility was even more sophisticated. Pakistan's Special Works Department had learned from earlier constructions and implemented advanced countermeasures — extending HVAC shafts away from the facility to prevent precision strikes via ventilation ducts.

Faced with this challenge, the IAF adapted its tactics, opting to strike the central section of the bunker directly. Post-strike satellite images revealed a small, sharply defined crater consistent with a deep penetrating bomb exploding underground, not on the surface. The light color of the crater edges confirmed it was an impact crater with the explosion occurring deeper below.

Imagery showed a large truck stationed at the entrance, likely involved in salvage or recovery operations, and a lone ambulance nearby — suggesting at least one survivor but significant casualties among airbase personnel. Pakistan quickly cemented the crater to obscure evidence from overhead satellites.

**Strategic Implications and Aftermath**

Pakistan's attempts to shield critical command centres underground were foiled spectacularly by Indian ingenuity, intelligence, and precision weapons. The destruction of these two HDBTs, alongside other strikes at Sargodha and Jacobabad airbases, crippled Pakistan's air defense command and air operations infrastructure for months.

Further satellite imagery revealed additional bunkers, including one near Islamabad International Airport believed to protect the PAF Chief of Air Staff (CAS). Despite fortifications added as recently as March 2025, these too were rendered ineffective.

This lack of functioning C2 nodes meant Pakistan's air operations became fragmented and ineffective. Orders from the CAS could not reach field commands or aircraft, severely degrading Pakistan's ability to wage aerospace warfare or activate nuclear options.

**A Calculated yet Devastating Message**

The IAF's strikes were meticulously calibrated to avoid triggering Pakistan's nuclear threshold, while still delivering crippling blows to Pakistan's military infrastructure. The destruction was so complete that Pakistan had no face — saving nuclear option, yet the scale of damage forced them to seek an early ceasefire to prevent further humiliation.

India also took a strong diplomatic stance, suspending the Indus Water Treaty and cutting water flow to Pakistan until it ceases support for terrorism. This multi-domain pressure — from aerial strikes to economic leverage — exemplified a new, integrated approach to national security.

**Conclusion: The Unseen Triumph**

The world was largely silent on the satellite evidence, but India's demonstration of air power during Operation Sindoor was unprecedented in modern warfare. Within barely 80 hours, the IAF achieved what many believed impossible: obliterating the backbone of Pakistan's air defense and command capabilities underground, and forcing a reluctant adversary to call a halt to hostilities.

The strikes at Chaklala and Murid airbases remain benchmarks of precision, intelligence fusion, and technological excellence. These operations showcased India's ability to blend advanced ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) assets, superior weapons technology, and tactical innovation — sending a clear message that aggression backed by terrorism will meet with swift and decisive consequences.

This episode in modern conflict underscores a new paradigm of aerospace warfare, where intelligence accuracy, technological superiority, and surgical strikes dictate the outcome before full-scale battles even begin. For India, Operation Sindoor was not just a military success but a strategic victory that restored deterrence and sent an unequivocal warning to Pakistan and the world.

(The writer is a retired Colonel in the Indian Army. Views expressed are personal)

# The case for a new international communications framework



Institutions in 2025 are undergoing a deep shift, one that's not just structural but perceptual. It's not only about geopolitics or multilateral equations anymore; it's about how the narrative of power is built, sustained, and fought over. Power shifts are no longer isolated; they play out on backdrops that are curated with strategy, layered with intent, and fuelled by the urgency to dominate the narrative space. The flashpoints keep growing, and so does the pace.

There is now a rising call, soft but persistent, for a global institutional framework that may help bring consistency to how the world communicates during geostrategic tension. It's not just about press releases or soundbites anymore. As crises multiply and conflicts evolve, a more permanent space to think, shape, and guide international messaging could prove invaluable. More and more, observers are asking: do we need a standing global body that can anchor communication strategy, information architecture, and perception management across borders?

Because here's the truth, we're facing gaps. Not just gaps in infrastructure or intelligence, but in alignment; between message, medium, and messenger; between the event and its interpretation; between what's real and what's allowed to pass as real. In this chaos, perception turns volatile, and messaging becomes a battleground.



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

Historically, conflict communication had a kind of order to it. It was ceremonial, visual, and symbolic — a white flag, a signed treaty, and messages delivered with intention and weight. Even in the Cold War, diplomacy expanded into media but still retained rhythm; grainy press visuals, state briefings, symbolic seating arrangements. It all meant something. It was slow but deliberate. Today, communication is loud, constant, and often borderless.

Social media, livestreams, memes, reels, podcasts; everything's a potential weapon or a viral distortion. We've entered a space where information carries no shared watermark of authenticity. No one knows what's true anymore, and no one's bound by any common standard. And that's where the need for a structured, collaborative approach starts to feel less like a good idea and more like an eventual necessity.

This is where the idea of a Framework for International Communications Collaboration comes in. Not a rigid authority, but a dynamic, evolving space; bringing together voices from across nations, with expertise in digital ethics, media regulation, information warfare, and communication law. Its job could be to gently lay the foundation for a shared protocol, something that may help fact-check at scale, design responsible crisis communication, and set broad contours for messaging ethics.

We don't have to imagine it from scratch. We've seen glimpses already. India's WAVES 2025 global media summit was one such moment; it showed that when storytelling, technology, and tradition are placed on the same table, something extraordinary can happen. WAVES didn't just host dialogue, it sparked trust, layered complexity with hope, and created space for nations to be seen and heard on their terms. The same spirit can shape this proposed framework, one that is inclusive, future-facing, and fundamentally human.

This framework, if realised, may align itself with values enshrined in the UN Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals. It could offer a moral compass, anchored in responsible communication, narrative equity, and truth as a shared global good.

The guiding principles could be kept simple but strong: communication as a public good; universal access to factual, verified information; accountability in digital and emerging media; respect for cultural nuance and narrative diversity; and zero tolerance for misinformation warfare.

The framework may also explore a visual authentication protocol, a watermark that confirms source credibility in real-time. A global fact-check network could be designed, powered by AI but human-led. It could supervise viral misinformation with urgency and care. Emergency communication standards may be developed for conflict, disaster, or humanitarian moments. Ethical audits for digital platforms may be introduced to assess intent and impact.

Training simulations could be offered to media professionals, built on the immersive models showcased at WAVES 2025. There is also scope to set light-touch norms for responsible content creation, especially in fast-growing mediums like podcasts and independent storytelling. The idea isn't censorship, but curation; to create incentives for platforms that promote constructive storytelling and take accountability for harmful virality, while still respecting freedom of expression.

Another critical dimension is balance. For decades, developing nations have been misrepresented or erased altogether in global news cycles. Western media bias isn't a conspiracy theory, it's a pattern.

A framework like this could gently shift the scales. It could offer emerging nations a fairer chance at narrative sovereignty, allowing stories to be told by those who live them, not filtered through the lens of geopolitical power centres.

To make it real, the process must start with a group of aligned nations. India may consider taking the lead, using the momentum and goodwill created by WAVES 2025. From there, regional dialogues could follow, supported by partnerships with global media alliances, tech platforms, AI councils, and institutions such as UNESCO, UNDP, and the G20. It doesn't have to be big on Day One; it just has to be sincere, strategic, and capable of growth.

Eventually, the framework could grow into something treaty-backed. It could carry legal recognition, soft enforcement authority, and enough institutional weight to influence norms. That's the long game, not to police narratives, but to protect truth from being drowned out by volume, algorithms, or viral fear.

Because today, warfare isn't just about weapons or borders. It's about timelines and trending hashtags; about distortion as a strategy. And in that kind of battlefield, the tools of storytelling can be as destructive, or redemptive, as anything else.

India isn't just offering an idea here, it's offering a way forward; a path from noise to clarity, from suspicion to consensus. This framework may not fix everything, but it might just hold the line, one that keeps truth visible, dignity intact, and global dialogue possible in the face of chaos.

(The writer is former civil servant, writes on cinema and strategic communication. Views are personal. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan)

# Katchatheevu: A longstanding issue of livelihood, and national interest

Over the past few days, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the longstanding and sensitive issue of Katchatheevu, a small island whose sovereignty remains contested between India and Sri Lanka. This dispute, along with other recurring conflicts such as the Cauvery water dispute, Mullaperiyar Dam controversy, and Palar river issues, tends to resurface annually in public discourse before gradually fading away.

Minister Jaishankar traced the origins of the Katchatheevu matter back to the early 1970s. Correspondences from that era reveal that the then Indian Foreign Secretary Kewal Singh engaged in discussions with Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi and other officials in 1973 and 1974. The central Government, including then Union External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh, kept the Tamil Nadu administration informed as part of ongoing diplomatic negotiations with Sri Lanka.

Despite this, Karunanidhi publicly opposed the transfer of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka, arguing that the island was handed over without the Tamil Nadu Government's proper consent. He called for protests and convened an all-party meeting that included opposition leaders, communist parties, and other political groups — though the ADMK, which had split from the DMK at the time, walked out in protest.



KS RADHA KRISHNAN

Historically, the issue predates this period. During Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure, parliamentary leaders raised concerns over Katchatheevu, but Nehru dismissed it as a minor land matter. In the 1960s, legal experts advised the central Government against ceding the island. Under Lal Bahadur Shastri's administration, a committee including Tamil Nadu's minister Pudukkottai Ramaiah was sent to Colombo to negotiate. Nonetheless, despite opposition, the island was officially ceded in 1974 during Indira Gandhi's tenure without parliamentary approval, based solely on diplomatic exchanges between India and Sri Lanka.This agreement, widely condemned by various members of Parliament — including leaders from the DMK and Atal Bihari Vajpayee — occurred amid broader geopolitical shifts in the Indian Ocean region. These included increased U.S. military presence in Diego Garcia and Sri Lanka's development plans for Trincomalee Port.

In exchange for Katchatheevu, India received the Wadge Bank, a 6,500 square kilometer barren sandbank within its Exclusive Economic Zone near Kanyakumari. A 1976 agreement formalised fishing rights and boundaries in the Gulf of Mannar, restricting Sri Lankan boats from fishing in Wadge Bank after a transitional period. However, this sandbank proved to be of little economic value to India, while the rich fishing grounds surrounding Katchatheevu became inaccessible to Indian fishermen.

Since the transfer, Tamil Nadu's fishing community has faced severe hardships. Reports document over 115 attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on Tamil Nadu fishermen, resulting in more than 300 deaths and numerous boats seized or destroyed. Fishermen are often arrested or fired upon for crossing into disputed waters despite relying on these grounds for their livelihoods. Multiple political resolutions and legal challenges in Tamil Nadu have sought to reclaim the island. Notably, a unanimous 1991 Tamil Nadu Assembly resolution affirmed the fishermen's historic rights in the region.

The ongoing distress faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen is compounded by intensified harassment from the Sri Lankan Navy, which reportedly attacks fishermen by cutting their nets, seizing motorboats, and even sinking vessels. These incidents have been repeatedly reported to the central Government. Between 1983 and 1991 alone, the Sri Lankan Navy reportedly carried out 236 attacks, destroying or damaging 51 boats, injuring over 135 fishermen, killing more than 50, and arresting 205.

Historically, Katchatheevu belonged to the Sethupathi kings of Ramanathapuram, who leased it to traders for harvesting medicinal herbs. The island, located in the Palk Strait near Pamban Island, was part of the Ramanathapuram kingdom and was integrated into India after the Zamindari Abolition Act of 1947. The British also used the island for naval purposes. In 1955, the Indian Parliament opposed Sri Lanka's plan to use Katchatheevu for naval training.

While national leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi showed limited interest in contesting this transfer, Tamil Nadu politicians, including Vaiko and former Chief Ministers Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi, have repeatedly raised the issue and pursued legal action to reclaim the island. Historical documents and maps affirm Katchatheevu's Indian ownership, a position even acknowledged by some Sri Lankan officials referencing the Ramanathapuram Samasthanam. The dispute is not merely territorial but also touches on matters of national dignity and security. Katchatheevu's strategic location offers advantages for security against foreign dominance, naval training, communication systems, and marine research. The unresolved status of the island threatens India's sovereignty and the livelihood of Tamil Nadu's coastal communities.

Given these stakes, the Tamil Nadu Assembly has demanded that the central Government intensify diplomatic and legal efforts to reclaim Katchatheevu. Some voices have even called for military options, if necessary, to protect India's geopolitical interests and the welfare of its fishermen.

(The writer is a political activist. Views expressed are personal)

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JUNE 7, 2025



## IN BRIEF



### US team for trade talks in India, aims at pact conclusion

The proposed trade agreement between India and the US would provide greater market access for goods by reducing tariffs, cutting trade barriers, and improving supply chain integration, an official said on Friday. The ongoing negotiations here between the teams of the two countries are aiming to achieve an expeditious and mutually beneficial conclusion of the initial tranche or phase of the BTA (bilateral trade agreement), the official said. As part of the ongoing talks for the BTA, a US delegation led by the Additional US Trade Representative is here from June 4-10. "The two countries are actively engaged in focused discussions to facilitate greater market access, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, and enhance supply chain resilience and integration," the official said. The two sides are engaged in detailed discussions on various aspects of the proposed BTA.
On February 13, 2025, both nations agreed to more than double bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030.



### Delhi court acquits ex-coal secy H C Gupta, others

A special CBI court has acquitted former coal secretary H C Gupta, ex-joint secretary (coal) K S Kropha and then director K C Samaria on Friday in a coal scam case while it convicted JAS Infrastructure Capital Ltd and its then Director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal for cheating and criminal conspiracy. Special Judge Sanjay Bansal announced his verdict in connection with Mahugarhi Coal Block in Jharkhand. The judge will hear the argument on sentence on July 8, 2025. "This is the 19th conviction in coal block allocation cases investigated by CBI. Initially, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had filed final report (closure) in the case on November 20, 2014," the CBI spokesperson said in a statement. The special court had previously taken cognisance and framed charges against JAS Infrastructure Capital Pvt Ltd, Manoj Kumar Jayaswal, H C Gupta, K S Kropha and K C Samaria.



### Get personal loans easily through Bajaj Markets

Bajaj Markets simplifies access to personal loans from multiple financial partners, and facilitates the funding for diverse needs, including travel, wedding expenditures, and medical emergencies. Users can easily compare vital loan specifics like interest rates, available loan amounts, and repayment tenures, and select those that align with their specific requirements and preferences. Loans available through Bajaj Markets can extend to amounts of up to ?55 Lakhs, provided without the requirement of collateral submission. The instant personal loan options presented on the platform are characterised by several features:

- Tenure: Flexible repayment options ranging from 12 to 96 months
- Interest Rates: Starting from as low as 9.99% p.a.*
- Processing: Completely digital, with quick approval and disbursal
- The entire process, from initial application to final disbursal, is conducted digitally.

RATE-SENSITIVE REALTY

# Bank, auto stocks soar on RBI's jumbo rate cut

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

Interest-rate-sensitive stocks were in huge demand on Friday, with the realty index climbing nearly 5 per cent as investors cheered the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points.

Home, auto and other loans are likely to cost less as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut interest rates by a larger-than-expected 50 basis points, and unexpectedly reduced the cash reserve ratio for banks to make available more money to lend in a bid to boost the economy.

The RBI's six-member monetary policy committee, headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra and consisting of three external members, voted five to one to lower the benchmark repurchase or repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent. It also cut the cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to 3 per cent, adding Rs 2.5 lakh crore to already surplus liquidity in the banking system.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 82,188.99.

Among realty stocks, Godrej Properties surged 6.75 per cent, DLF jumped 6.61 per cent, Oberoi Realty climbed 6.41 per cent, Prestige Estates Projects rallied 5.03 per cent, Sobha (4.72 per cent), Macrotech Developers (3.68 per cent), Signature Global (India) Ltd (3.02 per cent), The Phoenix Mills (2.31 per cent), Anant Raj (1.20 per cent) and Brigade Enterprises (1.19 per cent).

The BSE realty index jumped 4.74 per cent to 8,069.29.

"The RBI's aggressive rate and CRR cuts triggered a powerful rally in Indian equities, with the Nifty-50 breaking above 25,000 and the Bank Nifty hitting a record high.

Rate-sensitive sectors -- banks, realty, and auto -- led the gains, fuelled by expectations of stronger credit growth and improved liquidity," Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

The cut in CRR will take effect in four stages between September and December.

From the auto index, Ashok Leyland climbed 3.53 per cent, Maruti went up by 2.64 per cent, Hero MotoCorp (2.17 per cent), Bharat Forge (2.09 per cent), Mahindra & Mahindra (2.02 per cent), Apollo Tyres (1.84 per cent), Eicher Motors (1.80 per cent), TVS Motor Company (1.09 per cent), Bajaj Auto (0.92 per cent) and Tata Motors (0.24 per cent). The BSE auto index rallied 1.50 per cent to 53,094.15.

Among bank counters, Axis Bank advanced 3.15 per cent, IndusInd Bank rose 2.50 per cent, Bank of Baroda (1.65 per cent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.61 per cent), HDFC Bank (1.42 per cent), State Bank of India (0.84 per cent), Federal Bank (0.39 per cent) and ICICI Bank (0.16 per cent).

### RBI has done its bit for growth, expect others to do their's: Guv

**PNS** ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Friday said the central bank has done its bit for pushing growth, and it is now for the stakeholders to do their bit. Malhotra was responding to a specific question whether he expected fiscal authorities to support growth as the central bank after 50 basis points repo rate cut will have "very little space" for monetary policy action. "I believe in doing my work, and we have done that bit. And obviously, it is expected that everyone else will be doing their bit," the RBI Governor said. He was quick to add that it is not appropriate for him to suggest what others should be doing, and added that he believes in doing his job and will continue to do so ahead as well. At many instances in the past, there has been a lack of warmth between RBI and the finance ministry over the kind of policies to be adopted by the former. Often, the central bank's policies stemming from focus on financial stability and price rise have not been appreciated by the government. Earlier in the day, Malhotra said the RBI has already cut rate by 1 percentage point in three moves since he took over, and there is little more it can do to help prop up growth. He also announced a change in the monetary policy stance to "neutral" from "accommodative". "After having reduced the policy repo rate by 100 bps in quick succession since February 2025, under the current circumstances, monetary policy is left with very limited space to support growth," he said.

INVESTORS CHEER RBI'S JUMBO RATE CUT

# Sensex jumps over 700 points, Nifty reclaims 25,000-level

**PNS** ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged nearly 1 per cent on Friday, driven by a rally in rate-sensitive sectors following the Reserve Bank's jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points.

Market analysts said in light of benign inflation forecasts, RBI has taken steps to boost growth. A 50 bps repo rate cut supported by phased 100 basis points CRR cut will boost growth and lower the borrowing costs.



The policy is broadly positive for growth and investment in a challenging global macro environment, they said.

After a muted start, benchmark sensitive index Sensex and Nifty soon recovered all the early lost ground fuelled by the RBI monetary policy decision and gained over 1 per cent.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day higher by 746.95 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 82,188.99. During the day, it surged 857.85 points, or 1.05 per cent, to 82,299.89.

The 50-share NSE Nifty reclaimed the 25,000-level and climbed 252.15 points, or 1.02 per cent, to settle at 25,003.05.

All key sectors contributed to the rally, with rate-sensitive segments such as realty, financials, and auto emerging as top gainers, closely followed by others.

Among sectoral indices, realty jumped 4.74 per cent, financial services (1.79 per cent), metal (1.56 per cent), auto (1.50 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.38 per cent), consumer durables (1.30 per cent) and bankex (1.25 per cent).

Industrials and capital goods were the only laggards.

Interest-rate-sensitive realty index jumped 4.74 per cent, while auto index went up 1.50 per cent and bankex climbed 1.25 per cent.

"The tone was initially cautious ahead of the outcome of the MPC's monetary policy review, but sentiment turned sharply positive following the surprise announcement of a 50-basis points repo rate cut and a staggered 100 basis points reduction in the CRR.

# Silver continues record run for 2nd day, hit fresh peak

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

Silver prices soared Rs 3,000 to hit another record high of Rs 1,07,100 per kilogram in the national capital on Friday amid buying rush by local jewellers and stockists as global macroeconomic uncertainties continued to fuel safe-haven chase.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal bounced Rs 2,000 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,04,100 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) in the local markets on Thursday.

So far this year, the metal prices have jumped Rs 17,400 per kg, or 19.4 per cent, since December 31 last year.

As per the Association, the precious metal of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity traded flat at Rs 99,690 and 99,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday.

Traders said silver prices saw an uptrend due to a rise in domestic demand as well as global influences.

The most-traded July contract for silver increased Rs 1,622 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,06,065 per kg. Also, the contracts for September delivery climbed Rs 1,650 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1,07,130 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).



Gold contracts for August delivery fell Rs 44 to Rs 97,830 per 10 grams on the MCX.

In the overseas markets, spot gold rose 0.22 per cent to trade at USD 3,360.05 per ounce.

According to Kotak Securities' AVP-Commodity Research Kaynat Chainwala, gold is trading firm as investors remain cautious ahead of the US Nonfarm Payrolls data to be released later in the day.

# Goa surpassed all in vital development parameters: CM

**PNS** ■ PANAJI

Goa might be the size of a district of some of the bigger states but it has surpassed "everyone" in per capita income, gross state domestic product and literacy, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Friday.

He was addressing the 'Regional Rural Workshop 2025' under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana in the presence of Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communication Pemmasani Chandrasekhar here. "Goa is spread over 3702 square kilometres, which could be compared to a district in any of the bigger states, but I would like to say that as far as per capita income, gross domestic product and literacy is concerned, we have surpassed everyone," he said.

"Goa is a pioneering state in sustainable development. It is the first coastal state to submit an eco-sensitive zone plan to the Centre.

# KP Group, Delta Electronics India ink three initial pacts

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

Surat-based KP Group on Friday said it has inked three strategic initial pacts with energy and power management solutions provider Delta Electronics India.

This collaboration spans three high-impact areas: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Green Hydrogen and EV Charging Infrastructure and Solar PV Inverters, a statement said.

The Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed by Niranjan Nayak, Managing Director of Delta Electronics India, and Faruk Patel, Chairman and Managing Director of KP Group, marking a significant step toward co-developing future-ready energy infrastructure that aligns with India's clean energy ambitions.

Delta Electronics India and KP Group already share a long-standing relationship. The newly signed MoUs deepen this collaboration and provide a structured framework to accelerate renewable energy and clean technology deployment at scale, the statement added. The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) MoU outlines a detailed framework for developing and deploying scalable BESS projects. In this, KP Group will help in project development, site integration, and regulatory coordination to accelerate the deployment of BESS solutions, whereas Delta will supply key power electronics, including inverters.

# Maternity leave is a woman's fundamental right: SC

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark decision, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India declared that availing maternity leave is not a privilege but a fundamental right for all working women. The apex court firmly struck down the decision of the Madras High Court, reinforcing that motherhood and maternity care are integral parts of a woman's right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.



Satendra Singh, Chairman of the Indian Council of Industrial Management (ICIM) and a leading advisor for workplace equity and compliance, hailed the judgment as "a resounding affirmation of women's constitutional and human rights."

Background of the Case:

The case revolved around a woman schoolteacher in a government-aided high school in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu. After her divorce in 2017, she was granted custody of her two children. In 2018, she remarried and later conceived another child.

When she applied for maternity leave in 2021 for her newborn, her request was denied by the Tamil Nadu education department on the grounds that she already had two children, which, as per state rules, disqualified her for further maternity benefits.

The High Court upheld the state's rejection, citing Rule 101(A) of the Tamil Nadu Fundamental Rules. However, the Supreme Court overturned this interpretation, emphasizing that denying maternity leave on such a ground violates the spirit of equality and dignity guaranteed to every woman.

- The right to maternity leave is rooted in a woman's right to life and personal liberty.

# Battery breakthroughs are making EVs more dependable

**PNS** ■ GURUGRAM, HARYANA

Electric vehicles are surging ahead driven by breakthroughs in battery technology—an evolution that companies like VinFast are leveraging to push the industry forward.

It's easy to think of electric vehicles as a modern innovation, but over a century ago, they dominated the streets. In 1900, lead-acid batteries provided a range of up to 100 miles, which was quite remarkable at the time. As roads improved and vehicles became faster though, these heavy, low-energy-density batteries struggled to keep up. Internal combustion engines took over, and EVs faded into history.

Fast forward to 1996. An American manufacturer launched an all-electric car that relied on the same lead-acid technology from a hundred years before. Its second generation, also equipped with nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries, failed to compete with gasoline-powered vehicles. The problem? Energy density. These batteries simply couldn't store enough power to make EVs practical for daily use.

Then, in 1998, A Japanese manufacturer introduced an EV with a lithium-ion battery. It didn't make headlines, but in hindsight, it marked a turning point. Lithium-ion technology could store up to three times more energy than lead-acid batteries and about twice as much as NiMH. A decade later, the world finally took notice.



However, "lithium-ion" is not a single technology but an umbrella term for several distinct chemistries. Most rely on a graphite anode, but the real advancements come from the cathode.

Early lithium-ion batteries combined lithium with nickel, cobalt, or manganese. Over time, manufacturers fine-tuned these blends to balance energy density, safety, and cost. One thing has remained consistent: the industry has been reducing cobalt content, which is both expensive and ethically controversial, in favor of high-nickel formulations.

Another chemistry, lithium iron phosphate (LFP), has taken off for its affordability and safety. The trade-off? Slightly less energy storage. Yet, by 2024, LFP and nickel-manganese-cobalt (NMC) batteries are expected to power 94% of light electric vehicles worldwide, according to S&P Global Mobility.

The improvements aren't just on paper. A recent study by Geotab found that EV batteries now degrade at just 1.8% per year, down from 2.3% in 2019. At this rate, batteries could last over 20 years—far exceeding concerns about longevity.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**
**OFFICE OF THE SPL.DY.COLLECTOR (LA), RLISP-UNIT-I, MAKTHAL**

Gazette No: 32/2025 Date: 02.06.2025
File No.B/40/2022 Date: 08.05.2025.
File No: G/511/2025 Date: 23.05.2025

**FORM - VI**
**NOTIFICATION**

**Under the right Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act (Telangana Amendment), 2016 (Act 21 of 2017 amended from the fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013 and Following an exemption as per the Section- II (1) and 10(A), see Rule 6/12)**

The Telangana Government/ District Collector Narayanpet Felt that a total extent of **AC.1.15 Gts** is needed for Establishment of R&R Center to **Dasardoddi** Village of **Makthal** Mandal Narayanpet District which is being to establish Rehabilitation And Resettlement centre in public interest which was shown in the below mentioned scheduled.

Hence, a Notification has been issued for the Land Acquisition of **AC 1.15 Gts** needed in **Dasardoddi** Village **Makthal** Mandal Narayanpet District as explained in detail for above said **Dasardoddi** Village R&R center.

| Sl. No | Survey No. | Patta / Inam / PP or Govt | Wet/Dry | Total Extent to be acquired (Ac - Gts | Name & Address of person interested | Boundaries | | | | Type of trees Number type of construction |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | North | South | East | West | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1 | 137 | Govt. | Dry | 1.15 | Venkatappa S/o Lingappa | | | | | |
| | | Total | | 1.15 | | | | | | |

Such advertisement relates to whomsoever it may concern under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Telangana Amendment), 2016 (Act 21 of 2017) amended from the Fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (Amended by the Telangana) Act 2013 (Center Act. No 30/2013) and following an exemption as per section -II (1) to inform the concerned people.
The plan related to the lands and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector, Narayanpet and the Special Deputy Collector(LA), RLISP Unit-1, Makthal. The Telangana Government / Collector and his staff are authorized to enter into the land mentioned in the above schedule survey and take the measurements or to dig the land to check sub-soil and lay a bore find out the quality of the land and permitted to take up necessary steps under Section 12 of Act.
As per section-II (4), no one is permitted to do any kind of transactions such as sales /purchases/mortgage with reference to such land in the above cited schedule without the notices of the District Collector, after the date of issuance of this notification. As per section (15) the owners of the land in the above mentioned schedule should bring to the notice of land Acquisition Officer/ District Collector, Narayanpet, or the official concerned, in writing, if they have any objections with regard to the acquisition of their land, duly submitting the necessary proofs within 60(Sixty) days of the issuance of such preliminary notification.

**Sd/- Spl.Dy. Collector, (L.A) RLISP-Unit-I,Makthal** **Sd/- Additional Collector Narayanpet** **Sd/- Dist. Collector Narayanpet**

DIPR RO No.286/LA/PP-Pub/2025-26

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**
**'E' PROCUREMENT TENDERS**

NIT No.: 06/J1/IT/GHMC/2025-26. Dt: 05.06.2025
**Name of Work:** Supply and Delivery of Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Scanners and Copier Machines to Head Office, GHMC-Rate Contract for (1) Year. **Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: Start date:** 09.06.2025 @ 11:00 AM onwards **End date:** 17.06.2025 @ 04:00 PM., **Name & Address Officer Cell No.:** O/o Additional Commissioner (IT), 3rd floor, CC complex Building, GHMC, Liberty Circle, Hyderabad -500063. Ph: **6309999458. deeit-ghmc@gov.in**

**Sd/- Additional Commissioner (Information Technology), GHMC**

DIPR R.O.No: 3269-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt. 06-06-2025

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**
**'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**NIT No. 12/EE-30 /SDZ/GHMC/2025-26, Dt: 06-06-2025** published on 'e' procurement platform. The details can be seen by logging @ **https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in**. The date of events is detailed below: **Name of the Work:** 1. Providing injection bore wells in existing pond -1 Work, 2. Providing of Chainlink mesh -1 work, 3. CC Road and SWD - 1 work, 4. CC road-1 work, 4. Repairs to Multi-Purpose Function hall - 1 Work, 5. Laying of RCC 600 mm dia -1 Work, 6. Minor Repairs to Womens Commission Office1 work . **Estimate Amount: Rs. 137.25 lakhs, Bid Document Download Start Date & Time/Bid Submission Closing Date & Time:** 09-06-2025 12.00 PM to 12-06-2025 12.00 PM for item 1 and 09-06-2025 02.00 PM to 17-05-2025 02.00 PM for Item 2 to 7 , **Name & Address officer Cell. No.:** EE., Circle- 30, GHMC, Secbad, Cell No.s: 7331181426 / 7995468066. Address of the officer concerned Sri. Subramanya SVRNRD, Executive Engineer, Circle-30, Begumpet, Sec-bad Zone, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Circle-30, Begumpet.**

DIPR R.O.No: 3262-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt. 06-06-2025

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# *Chhal Kapat*: No big surprises, just steady suspense

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REVIEW

**DIRECTED BY:** Ajay Bhuyan

**PRODUCED BY:** Juggernaut Production

**CAST:** Shriya Pilgaonkar, Kamya Ahlawat, Ragini Dwivedi, Tuhina Das, Yahhve Sharma, Pranay Pachauri, Smaran Sahu and Anuj Sachdeva

**STREAMING ON:** ZEE5 **RATING:** 3/5



## PLOT

Set in a small town in Madhya Pradesh, *Chhal Kapat – The Deception* follows the sudden death of Shalu (Yahhve Sharma), a popular social media influencer, during a destination engagement. Initially assumed to be a suicide, the incident soon draws suspicion. SP Devika Rathod (Shriya Pilgaonkar), newly appointed in Burhanpur, is called to the scene and begins a methodical investigation. The haveli, where the incident occurred, becomes a closed circle of suspects—each with secrets, motives, and emotional baggage. As the investigation progresses, the layers of each character begin to unravel, revealing that the bonds of friendship may not be as pure as they seemed.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The series thrives on its old-school whodunit structure—complete with red herrings, hidden pasts, and timed revelations. What makes it engaging is its compact storytelling; with episodes running around 20 minutes each, the show wastes little time in moving the plot forward. There's a gradual build-up of tension that holds attention, and the confined setting of the haveli adds to the claustrophobic intensity. The mystery plays out like a game of psychological chess, where the viewers, like the protagonist, are forced to question every character's intentions. It also integrates a domestic abuse subplot subtly, giving a social context to the psychological stakes.

## DRAWBACKS

Despite its watchability, *Chhal Kapat* doesn't offer anything particularly novel. The writing sticks too close to genre tropes and avoids narrative risks that could have made the mystery more dynamic. The subplots, especially SP Devika's troubled backstory hinted through flashbacks, remain underdeveloped. Some investigative breakthroughs—like blood reports or financial trails—come into play too late, reducing their narrative impact. Small technical oversights (such as an IPS officer being called an "inspector") also affect the credibility of the show. A more layered approach or earlier integration of clues could have elevated the storytelling.

## TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The series makes good use of its location. The old haveli with its creaky corridors and rustic charm creates an eerie yet grounded atmosphere that suits the narrative. The cinematography is tight and functional, often focusing on facial expressions to amplify suspense. The pacing is sharp thanks to the short episode lengths, though this occasionally leaves little room for deeper character exploration. The background score is minimal but well-timed, helping build mood without overwhelming scenes. Directionally, the show plays it safe, sticking to a linear format and relying on genre familiarity rather than innovation.

## PERFORMANCES

Shriya Pilgaonkar is the standout performer as SP Devika Rathod. Her composed, no-nonsense demeanor anchors the show and lends credibility to the investigative arc. She effectively balances strength with restraint, giving her character authority and depth. Kamya Ahlawat, Tuhina Das, Ragini Dwivedi and Yahhve Sharma, who play the group of friends, perform adequately but aren't given enough emotional range to make a lasting impression. Interestingly, it's the male characters—particularly Anuj Sachdeva as the politically connected Vikram—who add to the simmering tension, playing their parts with measured ambiguity.

## VERDICT

*Chhal Kapat – The Deception* doesn't break new ground, but it doesn't need to. It functions well as a quick, tightly-packaged murder mystery that leans on classic storytelling devices. While it lacks bold twists or standout writing, the series benefits from strong pacing and a committed lead performance. It's a decent pick for viewers who enjoy traditional whodunits that deliver closure without demanding too much emotional investment.

BEYOND MEGAWATTS

# How leadership in renewable energy is shaping India's economic future

India's progress in renewable energy showcases a blend of a purposeful approach and a sustained focus on planning. The shift is not just about producing clean power; it represents a vital step towards long-term self-reliance. Being one of the most rapidly growing economies and needing new sources of energy, India's leadership in renewables is shaping global perceptions of the country as both responsible and economically forward-thinking. The commitment to 'powering a cleaner future, sustainably and equitably' is already shaping a new era for the nation.

## STRATEGIC POLICY: UNDERPINNING SELF-RELIANCE AND GREEN GROWTH

India's renewable energy transformation is no coincidence—it's the result of bold targets and well-executed plans. The government provides direction by setting milestones, such as a target of 500 GWof non-fossil fuel-based power generation capacity by 2030. Initiatives such as the National Solar Mission, the Production Linked Incentives (PLI), the aspirations outlined in the National Green Hydrogen Mission, and the forthcoming Green Hydrogen Policy are essential for transforming India into a global renewable energy hub. Notably, the National Solar Mission has helped propel India into the ranks of the world's top five solar energy producers. The aim of the PLI schemes is to create a dependent integrated domestic manufacturing value chain for advanced battery storage and high-efficiency solar modules, thus enabling lower imports and increased energy security. India has an installed renewable energy capacity (including large hydro) of around 232 GW as of early 2025, which is expected to increase over the next decade and is threefold from the past decade. These policies pave the way for incoming foreign investment, increase energy security, decrease trade deficits on fossil fuel imports and widen prospects of green technology exports.

## ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND THE GROWTH OF A SKILLED JOB MARKET

Leadership in the renewable energy sphere is a potent catalyst for diversifying India's economic foundations. The expanding solar, wind, biomass and emerging green hydrogen sectors are creating a substantial wave of employment across manufacturing, installation, operations, maintenance and R&D. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), India's renewable energy sector employed over sixteen million people in 2023, a figure projected to expand significantly by 2030. This job creation is particularly impactful in rural and semi-urban areas, offering sustainable livelihoods, fostering skill development and empowering local communities. Initiatives focusing on upskilling the workforce are crucial, ensuring human capital meets the demands of this technologically advancing sector. Bringing green jobs closer to home is helping reduce the need for outward migration and encouraging regional stability. This widespread employment generation helps reduce urban migration pressures and promotes balanced regional economic development.

## CATALYSING NEXT-GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENCOURAGING INDIGENOUS INNOVATION

The nationwide deployment of large-scale renewable energy projects necessitates ambitious infrastructural undertakings. This includes the development of expansive solar parks, resilient transmission networks and the critical deployment of advanced energy storage solutions to ensure grid stability. India's leadership is visibly investing in modernising its national grid, implementing smart meters, and expanding its EV charging infrastructure. A landmark initiative is the Green Energy Corridors project, designed to integrate vast renewable power seamlessly into the national grid, thereby catalysing development in remote regions. Furthermore, there is a significant push towards innovation in energy storage, evidenced by declining tariffs in Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) tenders and exploration of other solutions like pumped hydro. This infrastructural push, coupled with a growing R&D ecosystem, stimulates growth in construction, manufacturing and allied service sectors, fostering a cycle of innovation and sustainable progress. Such initiatives not only improve grid resilience but also unlock new economic opportunities across sectors.

## PRIVATE SECTOR DYNAMISM AND A THRIVING STARTUP ECOSYSTEM



India's enabling policy environment and long-term commitment to renewables have cultivated fertile ground for private enterprises and innovative startups. The scale of India's renewable ambitions presents an attractive market, drawing significant domestic and international private capital. This capital inflow is fueling cutting-edge innovations, making India a hub for next-generation renewable technologies. From pioneers in advanced solar panel technology to developers of AI-driven grid management platforms, a new generation of companies is flourishing. These entities are contributing massively to domestic capacity addition and are attracting substantial foreign direct investment (FDI). The renewable energy sector, for instance, attracted nearly 8% of India's total FDI inflows in FY25, a significant leap from approximately 1% in FY21, with FDI in the first three quarters of FY25 reaching USD 3.4 billion. This vibrant ecosystem, supported by venture capital, is a testament to the nation's entrepreneurial spirit and its potential to become a hub for green technology innovation.

## ELEVATING GLOBAL STATURE AND WIELDING GREEN DIPLOMACY

India's proactive stance and tangible achievements in renewable energy significantly enhance its stature on the global stage. Its visionary role in co-founding the International Solar Alliance (ISA) positions it as a pivotal leader in fostering solar energy cooperation worldwide, particularly among developing nations. Its leadership extends beyond borders, influencing international energy policy and climate action through strategic diplomacy. The ISA aims to mobilise over USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030. India's leadership also extends to active participation in global platforms such as the G20 and COP, where it champions climate justice, technology transfer, and affordable financing for clean energy transitions. This engagement in green diplomacy strengthens India's geopolitical leverage and promotes collaborative solutions for shared global challenges, attracting vital international climate finance.

## FORGING LONG-TERM ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND HOLISTIC SUSTAINABILITY

The shift toward domestic renewable energy reduces exposure to international fuel markets, promoting both sustainability and economic sovereignty. This stepwise shift toward renewable energies is vital for instilling stability in the macroeconomics of India for years to come. An increase in renewable sources of energy allows a country's economy to safeguard itself from the rampant price fluctuations in fossil fuels at a global level. This process improves energy independence, resulting in a more stable balance of payments. Furthermore, the shift to clean sources of energy supports sustainable development by fostering a healthier environment and driving economic growth. In addition to these co-benefits, there are other factors that significantly enhance public health spending, such as improved air quality and reduced healthcare costs. To meetclimate targets and create environmentally self-sufficient resources, it is imperative for India to continually evolve its renewable infrastructure targets with reliability and ambition.

All in all, India's role in advancing renewables is solely focused on strengthening the economy, rather than portraying itself as an eco-warrior. Although challenges remain, the direction of current initiatives is positive. India is at the forefront of a clean energy revolution that promises to transform its industries, enhance its international reputation, create new employment opportunities and modernise public operations. Developing a comprehensive clean energy policy nationwide will empower India to take a leading role in the global energy landscape. Sustaining these commitments will propel India to the top of the clean energy dominators' chart.

***(The author, Narayan Kumar, is the CEO of Kshema Power.)***

# You're not alone! Coping with hair loss after childbirth



Postpartum hair loss is a common experience for many women after giving birth, yet it often comes as an unexpected and distressing surprise. During pregnancy, the body undergoes a whirlwind of hormonal changes that not only support the development of the baby but also impact the mother's entire physiological system, including her hair growth cycle. Many women notice that their hair becomes thicker, shinier, and fuller during pregnancy. This is primarily due to elevated levels of estrogen, which prolong the growth phase of hair (known as the anagen phase) and reduce hair shedding. However, after delivery, as hormone levels rapidly return to their pre-pregnancy state, particularly estrogen, a large number of hair follicles abruptly enter the shedding phase (telogen phase). This condition, known as telogen effluvium, is responsible for the sudden and noticeable hair loss that can occur in the months following childbirth.

Typically, postpartum hair loss begins around two to four months after delivery and may peak around the four to five-month mark. Some women notice only a slight increase in shedding, while others may experience clumps of hair falling out during brushing or showering, leading to visible thinning around the temples, hairline, or parting. While it can be alarming, this type of hair loss is usually temporary. Most women will see significant improvement by the time their baby reaches one year of age, as their hair cycle gradually returns to normal. However, the emotional impact can be significant, especially when combined with the physical and psychological adjustments that come with caring for a newborn.

Coping with postpartum hair loss begins with understanding that it is a natural, temporary response to hormonal shifts rather than a sign of a more serious medical issue. However, certain factors such as stress, nutritional deficiencies (especially iron, zinc, vitamin D and biotin), thyroid imbalances, and a lack of sleep can worsen hair shedding or delay recovery. Therefore, ensuring proper nutrition and self-care is essential. A balanced diet rich in protein, fruits, vegetables and healthy fats supports hair health. In some cases, supplements may be recommended, but it is always best to consult a healthcare provider before beginning any new supplement regimen, particularly during breastfeeding.

Gentle hair care practices can also help manage postpartum shedding. Avoiding tight hairstyles like ponytails or buns, which can cause tension on already fragile hair, is advisable. Using a wide-toothed comb, minimizing the use of heat-styling tools, and choosing sulfate-free, gentle shampoos and conditioners can reduce breakage. Some women find benefit from scalp massages, which may stimulate blood circulation to the hair follicles and promote growth. Additionally, topical treatments like minoxidil are sometimes used to encourage hair regrowth, though they should only be considered under medical guidance during postpartum and breastfeeding.

Equally important is the psychological aspect of dealing with postpartum hair loss. The postpartum period is already filled with changes and challenges, and added concerns about physical appearance can affect self-esteem. It's helpful to talk openly about these changes, whether with a partner, friends, or support groups, as many new mothers share similar experiences. Wearing hair accessories, trying different hairstyles, or even opting for a shorter haircut can help manage the aesthetic changes and boost confidence during this phase. In cases where hair loss seems excessive or prolonged beyond one year postpartum, it's important to consult a healthcare provider or dermatologist to rule out underlying conditions such as postpartum thyroiditis or chronic telogen effluvium.

Postpartum hair loss is a temporary but very real experience for many new mothers. Understanding the causes and knowing that it is a normal part of the postpartum journey can provide reassurance. With proper nutrition, gentle hair care, and emotional support, most women can navigate this period with confidence and see their hair return to its pre-pregnancy fullness over time. As with many aspects of motherhood, patience and self-compassion play a vital role in coping and recovery.

***(The author, Dr. Tejashri Shrotri, is a Senior Consultant (Obstetrics & Gynecology), at Apollo Cradle & Children's Hospital - Chirag Enclave, New Delhi.)***


Kiranpreet Kaur


The Hyderabad campus of Chennais Amirta International Institute of Hotel Management was filled with joy and energy as it celebrated Tarangutsavam 2025, marking 15 years of excellence in hospitality education. The event was graced by popular celebrity Noel Sean—rapper, actor, music producer, lyricist, and TV host—whose vibrant presence uplifted the celebration. The program began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony by Noel Sean, Chairman R. Boomee Naathan, Principal T. Chandra Mohan and special guests including Ravi Shankar, Vishal Mehra and Kiran Preet Kaur from Marriott International.


Jyothika




Latha and Lakshmi


Lavanya






LEAD Group's Young Leaders Program empowered 53 Grade 7-9 students from 14 states to tackle real-world education challenges. Mentored by industry experts, they developed innovative solutions, fostering critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity - essential 21st-century skills aligned with the National Curriculum Framework 2023.



Photos by- SV Chary





Golkonda Handicrafts Export Oriented Showroom in Musheerabad, Hyderabad (a unit of Telangana Handicrafts Development Corporation) is hosting a Cotton Mela till June 10, 2025, as part of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations on June 2. The showroom is offering discounts of up to 20% on handicrafts, up to 30% on handlooms, and up to 40% on selected items. Visitors can shop daily between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

Guru Nanak University (GNU), a UGC-recognized institution in Hyderabad, has signed an exclusive MoU with Intellipaat School of Technology (IST) to launch industry-integrated B.Tech programs at its campus. As part of this collaboration, GNU will offer a B.Tech in Computer Science Engineering with a specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. The program aims to bridge the gap between academics and industry by providing a modern curriculum, live projects, and hands-on experience to enhance student employability.



PARTY




Celebrated TEDx speaker and awareness coach Kuruva Venkataramana Murthy launched his transformative book, Inspire. Impact. Ignite – Leadership is a Story, Not a Title, in Hyderabad. More than a traditional book launch, the event became a soulful gathering where leadership was redefined through presence, purpose, and humanity. In the book, Murthy challenges conventional notions of leadership, inviting readers to see it not as a title to be earned but as a story to live—especially for those who've ever felt invisible or underestimated.



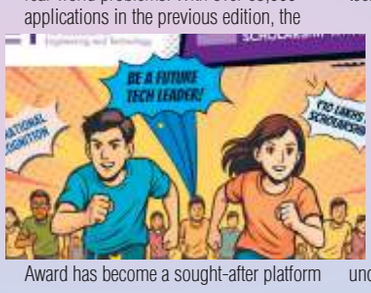
The Heart Garden, the inspiring children's book by Hansika Nasanally, which has now been released, brings together three girls from diverse backgrounds on a magical journey, promoting self-esteem, cultural pride, and heart health. With reflection questions and heart-health tips, it's a story of healing, acceptance, and celebrating individuality.

LISTINGS

## IET India Scholarship 2025 Applications Close Soon

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), one of the world's largest professional engineering organisations, has announced that applications for the 9th edition of the IET India Scholarship Award—one of the country's most prestigious honours for undergraduate engineers—will now close on 22 June 2025, extending the opportunity by three additional weeks.

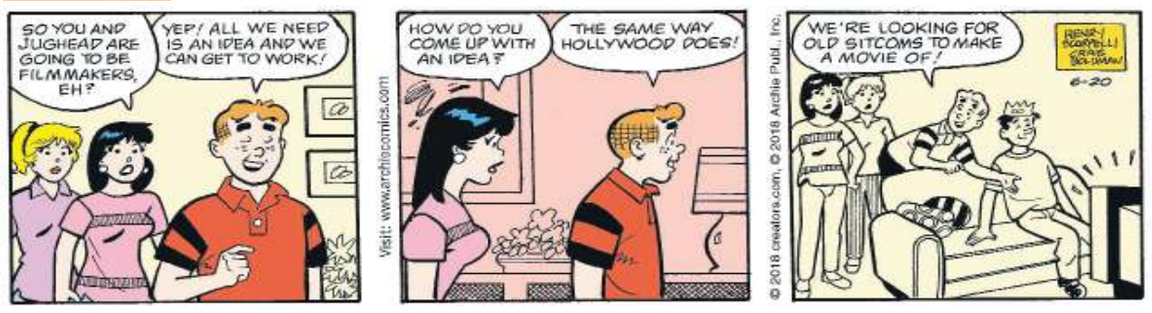
Established in 2013, the IET India Scholarship Award was created with the vision of identifying and supporting engineering students who not only excel academically but also demonstrate a deep commitment to innovation and solving real-world problems. With over 65,000 applications in the previous edition, the Award has become a sought-after platform for aspiring engineers eager to make a meaningful impact on society through technology.




The 2025 edition offers a total prize pool of ?10 lakhs, with the national winner receiving Rs 3,00,000, in addition to significant exposure at major industry events, mentorship opportunities, and national recognition. The programme is completely free to apply, making it one of the most accessible and high-value scholarships available to undergraduate engineers in India.

# FUN

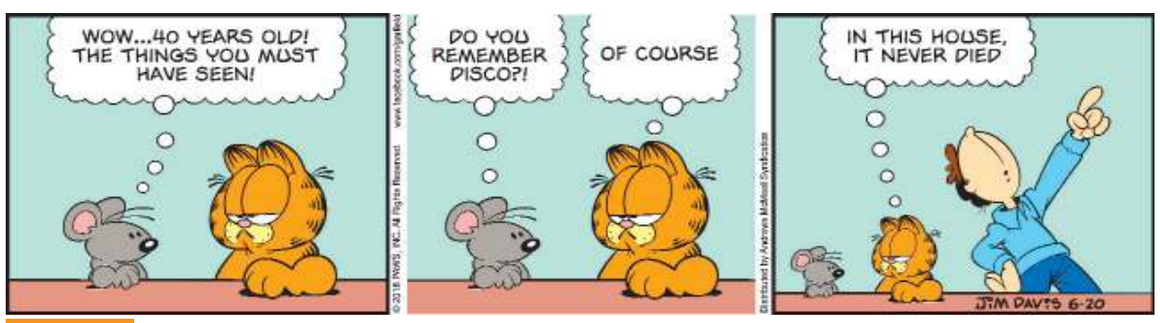
## ARCHIE




## CALVIN AND HOBBES




## GARFIELD



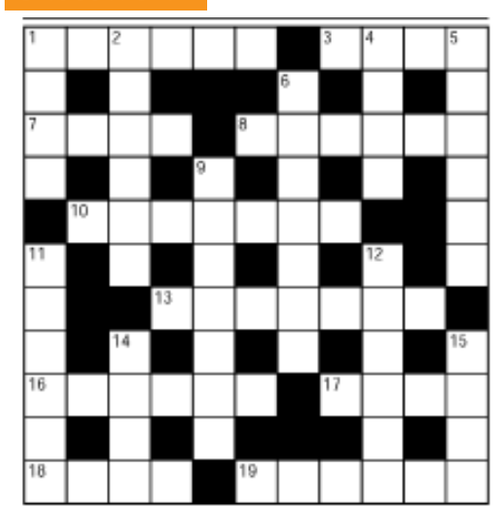

## REALITY CHECK




## SPEED BUMP




## CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

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3 Use needles and wool to make something
7 Quick
8 Spread this on bread
10 Rich
13 Injured
16 Repaired
17 Factual
18 Utters
19 A weight to stop a boat drifting

**DOWN**

1 Not in danger
2 Less difficult
4 A short letter
5 Wearying
6 Shoving
9 Permitted
11 Postage stickers
12 Look carefully for
14 Jealousy
15 Expensive

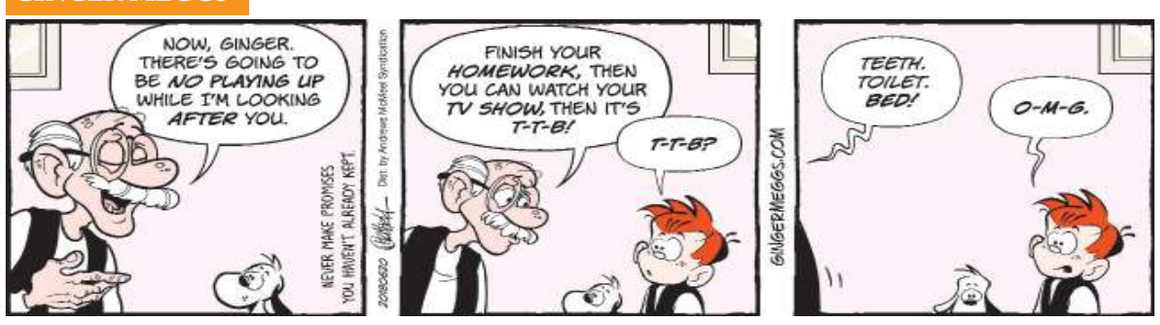
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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**Rules**

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.







# Akhil Akkineni ties the knot in a private Hyderabad ceremony

Nagarjuna's younger son Akhil Akkineni tied the knot in the early morning of Friday. He started a new chapter in his life as he married his longtime girlfriend, Zainab Ravdjee, at a ceremony in Hyderabad. Both Akhil and Zainab have been in a relationship for the past three years and got engaged last year on November 26. On Friday, the wedding ceremony took place following traditional Hindu rituals. Many of Nagarjuna's close friends and relatives attended the wedding.

The wedding took place at Akkineni Nagarjuna's residence and some of Nagarjuna's close friends from the industry, including Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan and Prashanth Neel, were present for the wedding. The entire wedding ceremony was a low-key affair, as Nagarjuna is arranging a grand reception on June 8 at his Annapurna Studios. Many film and other celebrities are expected to attend the reception in a big way, says the source.

Some of the wedding pictures of Akhil Akkineni are now going viral on social media. Zainab hails from Delhi and she is a theatre artiste and a social influencer. Her father, Zulfi Ravdjee, is a prominent name in the construction industry.

# Despite flaws, *Devika & Danny* offers a pleasant escape with Ritu Varma at the helm

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*Devika & Danny* is the latest web series streaming on JioHotstar. Ritu Varma plays the main lead, with Surya Vashistta and Shiva Kandukuri in other important roles. B Kishore of Sreekaram fame directs the series. This also marks Ritu Varma's OTT debut and here's a look at the story and how it unfolds.

## STORY

Devika (Ritu Varma) is a music teacher in a school and a very down-to-earth individual. She gets engaged to Jaggu (Subbaraju), a highly possessive man who wants to control every aspect of Devika's life. Just when everything seems to be going smoothly, an astrologer predicts that a second person will enter Devika's life before her marriage. Soon, Danny (Surya Vashistta) enters her world and unexpected events begin to unfold. Devika, who lives in a quiet village, decides to take a bold step. What is that decision? Who exactly is Danny, and why does he appear only to Devika? Who is Subbu (Shiva Kandukuri) and how is he connected to Devika? Does she eventually marry Jaggu? What happens in the end?

## ANALYSIS

Director Kishore, who earlier directed *Sreekaram*, has always shown a flair for clean storytelling with village backdrops. Though *Sreekaram* wasn't a big commercial hit, it revealed Kishore's sensibilities and his preference for rooted narratives. In *Devika & Danny*, he brings back the village aesthetic and once again delivers a clean, family-friendly show — a refreshing change from many of today's web series that rely heavily on abusive language and double entendres.

Kishore takes a simple story centered around Devika, a calm and reserved village teacher who finds her life disrupted after Danny enters the scene. The revelation of who Danny is and why he only appears to Devika comes at the end of the second episode. Despite Danny being a ghost, the series is far from a typical horror show. Instead, it focuses on how Devika, inspired by Danny's request, transforms from a timid woman into a courageous individual with a mission. The story is told in a pleasant manner without too many twists and turns.

The initial episodes feel a bit slow and even dull, but the narrative gains momentum from the second episode onward. However, Danny's flashback lacks emotional weight and fails to make a deep impact. Kovai Sarala's character, too, could have been written stronger. Characters like Soniya Singh and Mounika Reddy are underutilised and Harsha Chemudu's character feels unnecessary and forced. Though the story is predictable, the series picks up from the third episode and remains engaging. Most importantly, it remains clean and decently enjoyable throughout.

## PERFORMANCE

When it comes to performances, Ritu Varma undoubtedly steals the show with her lively and natural portrayal of Devika. She fits perfectly into the role and brings charm and grace to the character. Her chemistry with Surya Vashistta and Shiva Kandukuri works well and feels genuine. As an OTT debut, this is a solid project for Ritu. Surya Vashistta, who plays Danny, is impressive and brings warmth to his role, especially in his scenes with Ritu. Shiva Kandukuri appears as Subbu in the fourth episode and justifies his part effectively. Subba Raju appears sporadically and brings in a few laughs. Kovai Sarala, often known for her loud characters, surprises here with a subdued performance, though her role lacks depth. Soniya Singh and Mounika Reddy do their parts well, though they are not given enough screen time or development. Goparaju Ramana, Shivannarayana, Rajitha, and other supporting actors deliver solid performances. Abhinayasri makes a return to the screen after a long time in this series.

## TECHNICAL ASPECT

Technically, the series is top-notch, boasting high production values that are rare in many current web series, which often resemble daily soaps. Cinematographer Venkat C Dilip does a commendable job capturing the scenic village locations and natural beauty. Jay Krish's music enhances the overall mood and supports the storytelling effectively. The dialogues are well-written and sensible.

## VERDICT

*Devika & Danny* is a decently made web series with a clean and engaging narrative by director B Kishore. While there are a few loopholes and underdeveloped portions, the show is watchable, thanks to its pleasant storytelling and strong production values. Ritu Varma, in her OTT debut, delivers a standout performance and carries the show on her shoulders.

**Cast:** Ritu Varma, Surya Vashistta, Shiva Kandukuri, Subba Raju, Kovai Sarala, Mounika Reddy, Shivannarayana, Rajitha, Soniya Singh and others

**Music Director:** Jay Krish

**Cinematographer:** Venkat C Dilip

**Producer:** Sudhakar Chaganti

**Director:** B Kishore

**OTT Channel:** JioHotstar

**Rating:** 3/5

# SHINE TOM CHACKO INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT, FATHER DIES

Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko was injured, while his father, CP Chacko, died early Friday morning in a road accident in Tamil Nadu's Dharmapuri district. The actor was in the news a few months back related to a drug case. He acted in many Malayalam films and also made his debut in Telugu with the film *Dasara*. Post that, Shine acted in a few other Telugu films. The accident occurred near Parayur, close to Palacode, when the car carrying the actor's family reportedly collided with a truck on the highway. Shine Chacko's father, CP Chacko, succumbed to his injuries on the spot, according to the police. Shine Chacko, his mother and another person who were also travelling with the family were seriously injured and are currently undergoing treatment at a hospital.

According to some media reports, Shine Tom Chacko, along with his mother, brother and the driver, sustained injuries in the collision. All were promptly taken to the government hospital in Palakottai for medical treatment.

Shine Tom Chacko reportedly suffered a fracture. The Malayalam actor is known in Telugu for films like *Dasara, Daaku Maharaaj* and *Rangabali*.



# Aamir Khan teams up with Lokesh Kanagaraj for a superhero film

Aamir Khan is all set to work with another South director in his next film. The actor earlier worked with Ram Gopal Varma and AR Murugadoss for the films *Rangeela* and *Ghajini* respectively, and has now joined hands with another talented director, Lokesh Kanagaraj. This was disclosed by the actor himself in a media interaction promoting his latest film *Sitaare Zameen Par*.

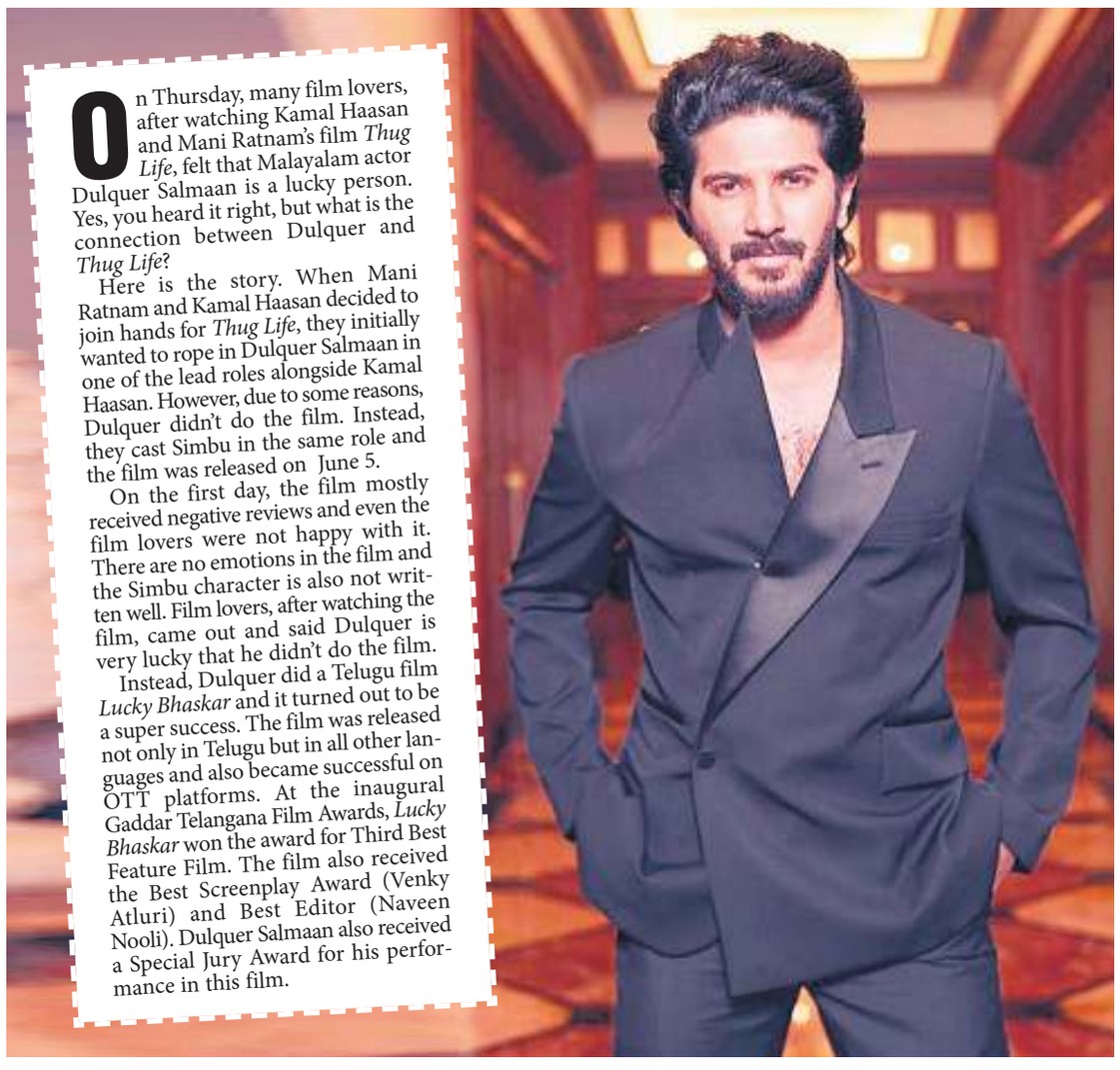
There are also reports that he is going to play a cameo in Lokesh and Rajinikanth's film *Coolie*, though it is still not confirmed. However, the actor is definitely doing a film with the director. It is said that this film is a superhero film. "Lokesh and I are working on a film in the superhero genre. It's a big-scale action film and will go on floors in the second half of 2026," said Aamir in the media interaction.

According to some reports, Lokesh initially wanted to rope in Suriya for the same superhero film, but because of various reasons, it got delayed. Now, Lokesh and Aamir Khan will collaborate for this superhero film, added the reports.

There are also reports that Aamir Khan would return as the alien in a sequel to his 2014 blockbuster *PK*. But the actor dismissed the rumors and said, "*PK 2* is a rumor. I don't know anything about it."

At present, Lokesh is working on the film *Coolie* that stars Rajinikanth in the lead, while Telugu actor Nagarjuna and Kannada actor Upendra are playing key roles in it.

# Lucky Escape?: Dulquer Salmaan dodges bullet with *Thug Life* rejection



On Thursday, many film lovers, after watching Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam's film *Thug Life*, felt that Malayalam actor Dulquer Salmaan is a lucky person. Yes, you heard it right, but what is the connection between Dulquer and *Thug Life*?

Here is the story. When Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan decided to join hands for *Thug Life*, they initially wanted to rope in Dulquer Salmaan in one of the lead roles alongside Kamal Haasan. However, due to some reasons, Dulquer didn't do the film. Instead, they cast Simbu in the same role and the film was released on June 5.

On the first day, the film mostly received negative reviews and even the film lovers were not happy with it. There are no emotions in the film and the Simbu character is also not written well. Film lovers, after watching the film, came out and said Dulquer is very lucky that he didn't do the film.

Instead, Dulquer did a Telugu film *Lucky Bhaskar* and it turned out to be a super success. The film was released not only in Telugu but in all other languages and also became successful on OTT platforms. At the inaugural Gaddar Telangana Film Awards, *Lucky Bhaskar* won the award for Third Best Feature Film. The film also received the Best Screenplay Award (Venky Atluri) and Best Editor (Naveen Nooli). Dulquer Salmaan also received a Special Jury Award for his performance in this film.

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# Piyush Chawla announces retirement from cricket



After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game: Chawla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Veteran leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, who was part of India's two World Cup-winning campaigns, on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after a career spanning more than two decades to undertake a "new journey" that he did not specify.

The 36-year-old made the announcement via an Instagram post. "After more than two decades on the field, the time has come to bid adieu to the beautiful game," Chawla wrote. "Though I step away from the crease, cricket will always live within me. I now look forward to embarking on a new journey, carrying with me the spirit and lessons of this beautiful game," he said. Chawla was a member of India's T20 and ODI World Cup-winning squads in 2007 and 2011 respectively. He represented India in three Tests, 25 ODIs, and seven T20Is, taking 43 wickets across the three formats of the game.

"From representing India at the highest level to being part of the victorious 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup squads, every moment in this incredible journey has been nothing short of a blessing. These memories will forever remain etched in my heart," Chawla said in the post. He thanked his coaches, teams and IPL franchises for playing a part in shaping his career, and described his time in the popular T20 league as "a special chapter in my career." "A heartfelt thank you to the IPL franchises who placed their trust in me — Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, and Mumbai Indians.

"The Indian Premier League has been a truly special chapter in my career, and I have cherished every moment playing in it. I owe my deepest gratitude to my coaches — Shri KK Gautam and Late Shri Pankaj Saraswat-for nurturing and shaping me into the cricketer I became," he said.

"Today is a deeply emotional day for me as I officially announce my retirement from all forms of international and domestic cricket," he added.

The leg-spinner was a part of KKR's 2014 IPL-winning team and hit the winning runs for the Gautam Gambhir-led side in the summit clash against the Punjab Kings in Bengaluru. "A special mention to my late father, whose belief in me lit the path I walked. Without him, this journey would never have been possible," he stated.

Chawla made his competitive cricket debut at 15, and also represented India Under-19 and Uttar Pradesh Under-22 sides. He burst onto the scene when he bowled Sachin Tendulkar with a googly in the Challenger Series 2005-06, and made his his first-class debut at 17.

Chawla has over 1000 wickets across formats in domestic cricket.

# Meetings would all be about how to dismiss Pujara: Rohit




PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

How to dismiss Cheteshwar Pujara? It was the million dollar question Rohit Sharma and his Mumbai teammates discussed the most in a huddle during their junior cricket days, as they knew the Saurashtra batter could ground them to the dust over two or three days of persistent batting.

Rohit reminisced that the wicket of Pujara was often the difference between a victory or defeat for his team in age-group matches, the early signs of the doughty batter who made 7,195 runs at 43.60 with 19 tons and 35 fifties from 103 Tests.

"I still remember, team meetings only revolved around him (on) how to get him out, and if we don't get him out, probably we'd lose the game," Rohit said at the launch of Pujara's wife Puja's book 'The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife' here on Thursday.

The former India skipper quipped that his looks would change so much after playing against Pujara under the sun that even his mother would fret a bit.

"All I remember is that when I used to go to the ground, when I was 14-years-old, and when I came back in the evening, the colour of my face would be completely different," he said.

"Because he used to bat all day and we used to field in the sun for (even) 2-3 days. I still remember that my mother asked me a couple of times that when you go to play from home, you look different and when you come home, after a week or 10 days, you look different.

"I would say, 'mom, what do I do? There's a batsman by the name of Cheteshwar Pujara. He's been batting for three days'... So that is the first impression that we had of him," Rohit added.

Rohit credited Pujara for playing more than 100 Tests after suffering ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injuries to both his knees right at the start of his career.

"(It was) such a big injury (and) such a bad injury. Both his ACL were gone. For any cricketer, leave alone if you are not an athlete or not playing any sport, for a sportsman it's very, very tough if you lose both your ACL," he said.

"We used to tease him about his running technique and all that but he managed to play more than 100 Test matches for India after that, a lot of credit goes to him for how he managed it. Great amount of dedication and passion he had to play the sport," Rohit said.

Pujara rated the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at home against Australia in 2016-17 as the toughest series he was involved in his career.

"I can mention one incident, in 2017, when India was bowled out for 200 odd runs against Australia, that was one of the toughest Test series I've been part of," Pujara said.

"This was the second Test match at Bangalore, and the team didn't do well in the first innings, and we were again in a spot of bother in the second innings, but I spoke to Anil (Kumble) bhai about how to tackle Nathan Lyon, and he came up with a technical suggestion." On his part, the former India coach Kumble said he was only trying to second-guess the bowler.

"Because I was second guessing the bowler, and I got it right after the 115 (read 132) Test matches, so it was all about guess work," Kumble said.

# I am still heavily committed to DC, says Mitchell Starc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Mitchell Starc is still "heavily committed" to his Indian Premier League team Delhi Capitals but only "time will tell the repercussions" after he decided not to return after the resumption of the tournament unlike some of his other Australian colleagues.

Starc decided against returning to India when IPL resumed on May 17 following a 10-day break after country's armed forces executed Operation Sindoor, a military operation in response to Pakistan-backed terrorists killing 26 civilians in Pahalgam. Starc, who was a vital cog in the Capitals' bowling line-up, took 14 wickets in 11 matches, featured in the contest against Punjab Kings in Dharamsala on May 8 when lights abruptly went off in the stadium and the game was abandoned.

> Time will tell with repercussions or how it looks with guys that didn't return. But I've had my questions and concerns leading into that game
> — MITCHELL STARC, CRICKETER

Starc's wife and Australia Women's captain Alyssa Healy was also attending the game when the game was stopped and the stadium was urgently evacuated due to Dharamsala's proximity with the international border.

The 35-year-old Starc said he had his doubts heading into that IPL game between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings given the tensions.

"I'm comfortable with my decision and how I felt about the whole situation and how it was handled," Starc was quoted as saying by The Age.

"That's why I made my decision post-that, and my focus changed to red-ball cricket for about a week prior to coming over here (the UK)."

"Time will tell with repercussions or how it looks with guys that didn't return. But I've had my questions and concerns leading into that game, and obviously we saw what happened, which played a part in my decision," he said.

Starc said for the same reasons he had decided not to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy with the Australian team earlier this year.

"There was a little bit of that to my decision around the Champions Trophy (in Pakistan) and then once the tournament (IPL) was delayed, you start to think about guys' preparation for the Test match," he said, referring to Australia's World Test Championship final against South Africa to be played at Lord's from June 11.

Starc said things were "handled differently for different players and different teams" in Dharamsala.

# Gukesh is tenacious defender but should not provoke struggle every time: Anand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Stavanger (Norway)

D Gukesh's tenacity in the face of setbacks is admirable but he shouldn't make it a habit to wait for mistakes from his opponents when faced with difficult situations in long-drawn-out games, feels his mentor and former world champion Viswanathan Anand.

The reigning world champion has pulled off wins against world number one Magnus Carlsen and world number four Arjun Erigaisi in the Norway Chess here, despite being in serious trouble, by provoking a struggle and forcing them to make mistakes.

World number two Hikaru Nakamura has expressed surprise at the Indian's style, saying he has been lucky to have survived Carlsen and Erigaisi being in a losing position for most part in both the showdowns.

"I feel he is a tenacious defender. People often give up and he just keeps on playing these totally lost positions, but not pointless ones. He plays the ones where he still has a little bit of counterplay and he finds resources to hang in there. And people get careless and fatigued," said Anand during an interaction on the sidelines of Norway Chess. "Is he doing it all the time? It's a couple of games in this time control (at Norway Chess). It's true here; this stuff is happening... I don't know. There are a lot of trends to unpack. There's also the fact that Hikaru was mentioning that it's very hard to find some interesting lines to play," added the five-time former world champion.

> Both these games he played (against Carlsen and Erigaisi) extremely poorly. If that's a conscious decision to provoke a struggle, I would be alarmed
> — VISWANATHAN ANAND, FORMER CHESS PLAYER

Gukesh has trained at the Westbridge Anand Academy set up by the 55-year-old chess maestro.

The 19-year-old prodigal talent has often stated that he wouldn't be where he is without his "Vishy sir".

And Anand said he does not want his ward to be a defensive player.

"Both these games he played (against Carlsen and Erigaisi were played) extremely poorly. If that's a conscious decision to provoke a struggle, I would be alarmed," said Anand.

"It tells me that he's an amazing fighter (and) at the same time, I would not be happy if he defended in this way."

## Carlsen the best classical player

Anand has great admiration for five-time world champion Carlsen, saying he is still the best classical player in the game's history. The legendary Norwegian player has, of late, expressed his desire to move away from the long format to focus on Freestyle, Rapid and Blitz chess.

"He's done it (played classical chess) for quite a long time. And also it is natural (to move on). Let's be clear, if he stopped (playing classical chess), (and) these (Norway Chess games) were his last, he is still the best classical player in history," Anand said.

"I understand there are other contenders, but I think he probably pulls ahead because of many details. He's really put his stamp, especially very early, by keeping that quality all along, winning equal positions, snatching points out of the blue, he's done so much," he added.

However, Anand was clear that the game will find its new star when Carlsen leaves the scene.

# Satwik-Chirag bow out of Indonesia Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jakarta



India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament after losing to Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun in the quarterfinals here on Friday.

The former world number one Indian duo, who won the title in 2023, went down 19-21, 16-21 in a 43-minute contest against the flat-hitting Malaysian pair, who notched up their first win over the Indians in five meetings.

Satwik-Chirag's loss ended the Indian challenge in the competition.

The Indians looked rusty as they struggled with their serve and return against Man and Wee, who won the Malaysia Masters last month and Indonesia Masters in January.

The Indians also lacked the discipline in defence and anticipation and were often put in uncomfortable positions and rushed errors throughout the match by the Malaysians.

Satwik sent a couple into the net, allowing the Malaysians to edge ahead 9-7. They went into the mid-game interval leading 11-9.

Satwik-Chirag levelled at 11-all with aggressive flat exchanges, but Man and Tee restored a 15-12 cushion. The Indians clawed back to 17-17 after the Malaysians hit the net twice, but couldn't capitalise.

A quick return from Tee took the score to 19-17 before Chirag pounced on a loose net shot. However, Satwik faltered at the net again to hand the Malaysians game point, which they converted.

Switching sides, the Indians looked unsettled and trailed 3-7 early in the second game. The Malaysians used the flat trajectory and drift to their advantage, and a sharp smash from Tee widened the gap to 15-9. Despite being 13-17 down, the Indians showed late resistance. A run of attacking points brought them back to 16-18, including a couple of high-quality flat smashes.

But Man's brilliance at the net and Tee's curling floater at 20-16 sealed four match points and they sealed the contest without further delay to enter the semifinals.

Albania and Serbia face off in a politically charged World Cup qualifier

Tirana (Albania), Jun 6 (AP) The roar of the crowd or the thrill of the game are hallmarks of international soccer. But when Albania and Serbia meet Saturday in a 2026 World Cup qualifier, the energy will be different.

# Brazil draws 0-0 with Ecuador in World Cup qualifying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Sao Paulo



Brazil held Ecuador to a 0-0 draw Thursday in a South American World Cup qualifying game that marked Carlo Ancelotti's debut as national team coach.

The match in Guayaquil offered few scoring opportunities for either team, and featured once again a Brazilian lineup that struggled to be creative.

Ecuador edged closer to one of the direct World Cup spots by maintaining second place in the round robin competition with 24 points. Brazil is in fourth place with 22 points. The top six teams in South America qualify automatically for the World Cup next year in the United States, Canada and Mexico. World Cup champion Argentina, which has already secured its place at the 2026 global tournament, beat 10th-place Chile 1-0. Lionel Messi went on as a second-half substitute in his first run for the national team in seven months. Argentina has 34 points, 10 clear of Ecuador.

Paraguay moved into third spot on 24 points after a 2-0 home win over Uruguay, which dropped to fifth. Matías Galarza scored the opener in the 13th minute and Julio Enciso added a second from the spot in the 81st.

Ancelotti's changesAnceIottti made a lot of lineup changes compared with his predecessor, Dorival Júnior, who was fired after the team's 4-0 defeat at Argentina. The result was a team that successfully blocked the hosts almost all of the match but also failed to be creative and aggressive in offense, a flaw also under Ancelotti's predecessors.

The 65-year-old Italian coach gave Vinicius Júnior Brazil's No. 10, brought veteran midfielder Casemiro and striker Richarlison back into the starting lineup, gave a debut to defender Alex and played teenager Estêvão on the left wing as a replacement to suspended Raphinha.

Brazil seemed comfortable defending against Ecuador, which is unbeaten in its last 14 home games. The best chance for Ancelotti's team came in the 22nd minute, when Vinicius shot from close range and was stopped by goalkeeper Gonzalo Valle.

Ancelotti predicted Brazil won't be as defense-minded next week when it hosts Paraguay in Sao Paulo.

"We will have more opportunities to control the match, have more mobility and intensity," Ancelotti told a post-match news conference. "This game was more complicated for the three (strikers). We needed more of an offensive game. But Ecuador defended well." "It was a very good match in the defensive stage — I saw the team doing well with the ball, with a more fluid game," Ancelotti added. "This was a good draw and we leave here satisfied, with confidence for the next match."

The 33-year-old Casemiro, who played his first match for Brazil in more than a year, was happy to return and play under a coach he enjoyed a lot of success with at Real Madrid. "Little by little we will grow," Casemiro said.

"We had a strong, solid defensive system tonight." Vinicius said Ancelotti "is yet to show his game plan" for Brazil.

"We will manage. The World Cup is right there and we need to be together to do well at the end of South American qualifying and World Cup preparations," the striker said.

Brazil can qualify for the World Cup with a win over Paraguay next week, as long as its cushion over the seventh-place team is larger than six points.

Argentina accounts for ChileMessi barely had to play for an Argentina lineup missing several regular starters in Santiago. Julián Álvarez scored the winning goal in the 16th minute. Messi didn't have clear opportunities to score in his brief appearance. "It was a beautiful goal. We had a great first half, and we waned a little in the second," Álvarez said. "But we did well."

# French Open: Coco Gauff faces Aryna Sabalenka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

The biggest difference Coco Gauff sees between the player who lost her first Grand Slam final at the 2022 French Open at age 18, and the one who will play for the trophy again on Saturday at 21, this time against number oneAryna Sabalenka, is the way she views the importance of the occasion.

Three years ago at Roland-Garros, Gauff was making her debut on that sort of stage and with that sort of prize at stake. It felt like the outcome meant absolutely everything, a burden that was a lot at the time and made her nervous. Now, the number two-ranked Gauff says, she understands "how miniscule" the result Saturday is in the scheme of things.

"Everybody is dealing with way bigger things in life than losing a final," the American said after beating 361st-ranked French wild-card entry Loïs Boisson 6-1, 6-2 in the semifinals Thursday.

"I'm sure there are hundreds of players that would kill to win or lose a final, so just knowing that (makes) me realise how lucky and privileged I am to be in this position," Gauff said. "At first, I thought it would be the end of the world if I lost, and, you know, the sun still rose the next day. Regardless of the result, the sun will still rise." Here's another key difference: The Gauff of today is a Grand Slam champion. She won the 2023 US Open; her opponent in that final just so happened to be Sabalenka.

"I just remember kind of feeling," Gauff said, "like I was holding my breath to the match point."Their head-to-head series is tied 5-5 entering the first number one vs number two matchup in a French Open women's final since Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova in 2023. Sabalenka beat Gauff in their most recent meeting, which came at the Madrid Open in May on the type of red clay used at Roland-Garros.

So Gauff is well aware of Sabalenka's many talents, which were on full display during a 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-0 semifinal victory over three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek.

"She can come up with some big shots and big winners pretty much at all areas of the court," Gauff said about the 27-year-old from Belarus. "She's a fighter, as well. She's going to stay in the match regardless of the scoreline."

After getting pushed to a third set by Swiatek, who had won 26 matches in a row at the French Open, Sabalenka was pretty much perfect down the stretch.