

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 20 JUNE 2025

## WEATHER

Max: 33.0°C  
Min: 24.4°C  
RH: 49%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Overcast Clouds.  
Max/Min temp. 33/24 °C

## ASTROGUIDE

Vishwawas: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Jyeshtha Bahula Navami till 9.47 am  
Star: Hasta till 2.38 pm  
Varjyam: Revathi till 9.41 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 8.23 am to 9.15 am; 12.44 pm to 1.36 pm  
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon  
HJRI CALENDAR  
Zulhijjah 23, 1446 H  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 04.32 am  
Zohar: 12.27 pm  
Asar: 04.54 pm  
Maghrib: 6.58 pm  
Isha: 8.15 pm  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 05.42 AM  
SUNSET TODAY 18.52 PM  
MOONRISE 00.56 AM  
MOONSET 13.40 PM

## COUNTER POINT



Very safe house... one hall, kitchen and three bedrooms with attached bunkers, sir!

## BRIEFS

### SC tells K'taka to act against thugs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Karnataka government to act against those obstructing the release of Kamal Haasan starrer *Thug Life* in the state, underlining that a movie, stand-up comedy or a poem's recital can't be stopped on the grounds of hurt sentiments.

Full report on Page 10

### ED probes Bihar scam in cop jobs

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted multi-state raids in connection with a money-laundering probe into an alleged scam in the recruitment of police constables in Bihar during 2023. The agency's sleuths searched a dozen locations of private entities like agents, syndicate members.

Full report on Page 10

### Sonia Gandhi discharged

New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson and former AICC president Sonia Gandhi was discharged from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Thursday, four days after she was admitted for a stomach-related issue, the hospital said. The 78-year-old leader had been under medical care since June 15 for an abdominal infection.

Full report on Page 10

## EAGLE EYE

### Students express outrage over US visa directive

### US to students: Make SM public

PRATHYUSH NALLELLA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19  
Although the United States' state department resumed scheduling interviews for F, M and J student visas, a new requirement from the country has sparked significant outrage among applicants: social media accounts must now be set to "public" so that consular officers can review the online activity of applicants. The directive from the US state department (DoS), after resuming the visa interview scheduling process, has also stated that

## WORLD | 13

### Russia warns US of military intervention

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### TG delegation opposes AP's unilateral project

## Centre lines up CMs' meet on Banakacharla

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The Central government has agreed to convene a meeting between Chief Ministers A. Revanth Reddy of Telangana and N. Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh to deliberate on the contentious Godavari-Banakacharla link project being taken up by Andhra Pradesh. Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil conveyed this assurance to Revanth Reddy and irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy when they met him in New Delhi on Thursday. During the hour-long meeting, Patil assured the Telangana delegation that a tripartite meeting involving the Chief Ministers of the two states would soon be organised.

Page 9: GWDT omits flood and surplus waters: CM

## SPORT | 15

### India-England Test series kicks off today

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## TABLOID

### SRK gives a nod to Mythri Movie Makers

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## WORLD | 13

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# Khalistanis fomenting trouble in India: Canada

Canadian intel report vindicates India's stand against Khalistanis

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Pro-Khalistan elements are using Canada to fund and plan violence in India and it is this extremism that is driving Indian "foreign interference" activities in Canada (to counter it), the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) says in its latest report. It added that transnational repression "plays a central role in India's activity in Canada". The Canadian intelligence report has admitted, perhaps for the first time, the extremist activities of pro-Khalistan elements in that country, which comes as a vindication of India's stand on the efforts of such



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic lay a wreath at the Monument to the Homeland in Zagreb, Croatia.

elements to foment violence in Punjab. It may be noted that such activities also fall under the category of "transnational crime" that both countries have to cooperate in combating. This also comes hours after Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney held talks on the sidelines of the G-7 summit at Kananaskis, Alberta, on Wednesday and decided to take steps to rebuild and reset bilateral ties between the two nations.

"Since the mid-1980s, the politically motivated violent extremism threat in Canada has manifested primarily through Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKEs) seeking to use and support violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan, largely within Punjab, India", the CSIS said, according to media reports.

Page 10: Khalistan extremists used Canada: CSIS

## Trump in U-turn says India, Pak talks secured ceasefire

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Hours after talking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the phone and meeting Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House for lunch, United States

President Donald Trump conceded before the media for the first time that it was both India and Pakistan that "decided" to halt their military confrontation last month.

Page 10: Trump discusses Iran with Pakistan

## Amid Israeli bombing, Iran opens peace talks with US

Dubai, Calgary, June 19:

US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi have spoken by phone several times since Israel began its strikes on Iran last week, in a bid to find a diplomatic end to the crisis, three diplomats told

Reuters. According to the diplomats, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter, Araghchi said Tehran would not return to negotiations unless Israel stopped the attacks.

Full report on Page 13

## SC panel indicts Justice Varma

RAKESH K. SINGH | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

A three-judge panel appointed by the Supreme Court, which conducted an inquiry into the alleged recovery of cash from the house of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, has revealed that he and his family members had "covert or active control" over the storeroom where the cash was allegedly stashed. In its 64-page report, the panel also held that the judge's "misconduct" was serious enough to seek his removal. Acting on the report,

## Tall buildings near airports face hammer

DC CORRESPONDENT with agencies input NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

In a significant step towards creating obstruction free airspace near airports, the ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) has notified draft rules and regulations to keep the 'buffer zone' near airports free of obstructions from buildings, tower erections and tall plantations. The rules come nearly a week after the crash of an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad. Height violation may lead to enforcement

## Air India slashes 15% int'l flights, enhances checks

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Grappling with enhanced inspections and air space closure due to ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, Air India has announced a 15 per cent reduction in its international flights operated with widebody planes till mid-July. The airline that has been facing disruptions in its international operations, especially with the ongoing safety checks of B787-8/9 aircraft after the June 12 crash in Ahmedabad, will under-

take enhanced safety checks on its Boeing 777 fleet as well as a matter of added precaution. "Temporary route curtailment due to the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, night curfew in the airspaces of many countries in Europe and East Asia, the ongoing enhanced safety inspections, and also the necessary cautious approach being taken by the engineering staff and Air India pilots, there have been certain disruptions in our international operations over the last 6 days leading to a total of 83 cancellations," the Tata Group-owned airline said. "Given the compounding circumstances that AI is facing, to ensure stability of our operations, better efficiency and to minimise inconvenience to passengers, Air India has decided to reduce its international services on wide body aircraft by 15 per cent for the next few weeks," the statement said. Air India flight cuts will apply till mid-July

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# HC fines GHMC, HMDA for Rolling Hills layout revision

L. RAVICHANDER  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Justice C.V. Bhaskar Reddy of the Telangana High Court struck down the controversial revised layout plan for the upscale Rolling Hills residential community in Gachibowli and imposed exemplary costs on the civic authorities and developers involved. The court directed the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to pay ₹1 lakh each and Patel Engineering Limited and PBSR

Developers Pvt. Ltd. to pay ₹2 lakh each. The amounts are to be deposited in the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund within four weeks. Justice Bhaskar Reddy was hearing two writ petitions — one filed by S a t t i r a j u Venkateswarlu and others, and another by the Rolling Hills House Owners Association — challenging the GHMC and HMDA's approval of a revised layout that altered open spaces and community amenities. The original lay-

out, sanctioned in 2004 for an 18.14-acre gated community in Gachibowli, had been sold to individual buyers who built and occupied 101 independent villas. The designated park area (8,833 sq.yds) and amenities zone (1,742 sq. yds) were handed over to the civic bodies and maintained by the residents. Years later, the developer, in coordination with GHMC and HMDA, revised the layout in April 2013, January 2015 and November 2017 — claiming to reallocate open space by merging

land from adjacent Sy. No. 32. The residents raised objections when attempts were made to demolish a compound wall and modify common areas. The petitioners first approached a civil court and later moved the High Court, arguing that their vested rights were being violated without due process. They cited Condition No. 12 of the original permit, which explicitly barred any post-approval alterations. In a 30-page judgment, Justice Bhaskar Reddy found that officials had ignored statutory safeguards and allowed illegal

changes despite the residents occupying the layout for over a decade. He referred to Supreme Court rulings to affirm that collusion between officials and developers cannot override the rights of lawful homeowners. Rejecting the respondents' argument of delay and laches, the court observed that residents acted promptly upon discovering the physical consequences of the revised layout. The judge warned that condoning such manipulations could open the floodgates to similar violations across urban layouts.

## VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

**ROLLING Hills House Owners Association challenges HMDA and GHMC's approval of a revised layout plan that altered open spaces and amenities.**

**8,833** sq.yd park area and 1,742 sq. yd amenities zone transferred to civic bodies.

**A DECADE LATER**, the developer, in collaboration with GHMC and HMDA, revised the layout, claiming to adjust the open spaces by merging land from adjacent Sy. No. 32.

**Petitioners raised alarm when attempts were made to demolish a compound wall and alter community spaces.**

**ORIGINAL LAYOUT** sanctioned in 2004 for a residential gated community, sold to buyers who constructed and occupied 101 independent villas.

**JUSTICE BHASKAR REDDY** strikes down revised layout plan. He imposed an exemplary cost of ₹1 lakh each on GHMC and HMDA, and ₹2 lakh each on Patel Engineering Ltd. and PBSR Developers Pvt. Ltd.

## EVENTS TODAY

- Music programmes by Pragnika Foundation**  
Time: 6 pm  
Venue: Ravindra Bharathi Tum, Main Aur Ishq
- Poetry by Ashish Bagrecha**  
Time: 6 pm  
Venue: KLN Prasad Auditorium
- Cine Sangeet Vibhavari by RK Entertainers**  
Time: 10 am  
Venue: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
- Gaurav Kapoor Live: Stand-up Comedy**  
Time: 6 pm  
Venue: Shilpakala Vedika
- Anaganaga: Story-telling for children**

- Time: 7 pm**  
Venue: Our Sacred Space
- Theatre acting workshop**  
Time: 7 pm  
Venue: Samahaara Metro Medley: World Music Day
- Time: till June 24, 5-7 pm**  
Venue: Ameerpet, Dilshuknagar, Durgam Cheruvu, Kukatpally, MGBS, Parade Grounds and Uppal stations
- COMING UP NEXT:**  
**Sri Veturi Sundararama Murthy's Srikakolanu Chinnadi**  
Time: June 26, 6.30 pm  
Venue: Ravindra Bharathi Paropakar-Art for Education: Fundraising art exhibition  
Time: June 21, 22, 10 am  
Venue: The Culinary Lounge, Jubilee Hills

## Adivi Sesh backs PETA exposé, wants all animals rescued

MRITTIKA BANERJEE | DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19



Adivi Sesh

Actor and director Adivi Sesh has written to Dr Abhijit Mitra, chairman of the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA), asking that all animals held by Palampur Biosciences Pvt Ltd. be rescued and provided new homes. His letter follows a whistleblower-led exposé by PETA India that revealed alleged abuse of beagles, rhesus macaques and minipigs at the drug-testing facility.

The CCSEA, a central government body, has constituted an emergency committee to inspect the premises following the PETA India report. "I earnestly urge you to stop Palampur Biosciences Pvt Ltd from using or breeding animals and to take steps to ensure the surviving animals are sent to loving homes and reputed sanctuaries," Sesh wrote, adding, "The world is moving away from the use of animals in experiments and toward modern non-animal means, and so must we."

On Wednesday, the Boothur police registered a first information report (FIR) against Palampur Biosciences Pvt. Ltd citing killing and maiming of animals in the company's custody, causing irreversible damage and violating protocols notified by the Animal Welfare Board of India. PETA India's investigation, released last week, describes overcrowding, violent handling, untreated injuries and unlawful killings. Beagles were crammed into cages in groups of three or four despite the space being designed for two. Dogs fought over food and space, which led to torn ears and infected wounds that, according to whistleblowers, were left untreated. Staff reportedly kicked the animals and slammed cage doors on them. Some dogs were said to have suffered fractures.

PETA India has filed complaints with the CCSEA, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority. The group is seeking cancellation of Palampur's licence, prosecution of those responsible and rehabilitation of surviving animals.

## Red light: Plane to Tirupati returns

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

A Hyderabad to Tirupati SpiceJet flight returned to the city shortly after take-off on Thursday morning due to a warning light indicating a potential issue with the rear baggage door. Though cabin pressure remained normal, the pilots chose to return to Hyderabad as a precaution, a SpiceJet spokesperson said. The aircraft landed safely and all passengers were deplaned without incident. The airline clarified that it was not an emergency landing and that an alternate aircraft was being arranged to complete the journey to Tirupati.

an intermittent warning light for the aft (rear) baggage door after take-off, although cabin pressure remained normal throughout the flight. "The AFT baggage door warning light came on intermittently after take-off. Though cabin pressure remained normal, the pilots chose to return to Hyderabad as a precaution," a SpiceJet spokesperson said.

The aircraft landed safely and all passengers were deplaned without incident. The airline clarified that it was not an emergency landing and that an alternate aircraft was being arranged to complete the journey to Tirupati.

# UTTAR PRADESH-EXPRESS PRADESH

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of

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Direct Connectivity to 4 Districts (Gorakhpur – Sant Kabir Nagar – Ambedkar Nagar – Azamgarh)

Time : 10:00 AM | Time : 12:30 PM  
Salarpur, Phulpur, Azamgarh | Jaitpur (NH-27), Gorakhpur

By

### Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

In the August Presence of

<b>Swatantra Dev Singh</b> Minister, Jal Shakti & Flood Control, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'</b> Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI & Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Anil Rajbhar</b> Minister, Labour & Employment, Coordination, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Dr. Sanjay Kumar Nishad</b> Minister, Fisheries Development, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Dara Singh Chauhan</b> Minister, Jail, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Girish Chandra Yadav</b> Minister of State (Independent Charge), Sports & Youth Welfare, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Jaswant Singh Saini</b> Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs & Industrial Development, Uttar Pradesh	<b>Vijay Laxmi Gautam</b> Minister of State, Rural Development, Overall Village Development & Rural Engineering, Uttar Pradesh		
<b>Ravi Kishan Shukla</b> MP, Gorakhpur	<b>Sadhna Singh</b> Chairman, District Panchayat, Gorakhpur	<b>Dr. Manglesh Srivastava</b> Mayor, Gorakhpur	<b>Fateh Bahadur Singh</b> MLA, Caimpiyanganj	<b>Mahendra Pal Singh</b> MLA, Pipraich
<b>Vipin Singh</b> MLA, Gorakhpur Rural	<b>Shriram Chauhan</b> MLA, Khajani	<b>Rajesh Tripathi</b> MLA, Chillupar	<b>Pradeep Shukla</b> MLA, Sahajanwa	<b>Dr. Vimlesh Paswan</b> MLA, Bangsaon
<b>Dharmraj Nishad</b> MLA, Katehari	<b>Ganesh Chandra Chauhan</b> MLA, Dhanghata	<b>Dr. Dharmendra Singh</b> MLC	<b>Devendra Pratap Singh</b> MLC	<b>C. P. Chand</b> MLC
<b>Vijay Bahadur Pathak</b> MLC		<b>Ramsurat Rajbhar</b> MLC	<b>Vikrant Singh 'Rishu'</b> MLC	

Date : 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

#### BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- High-speed traffic corridor connecting Kashi, Lucknow, Agra, and Delhi
- Development of two industrial corridors on 154 acres and 362 acres to boost investment, generate employment, and strengthen the local economy
- Compensation of ₹2,030.29 crore paid for the acquisition of 1,149 hectares of land from 22,029 farmers across 172 revenue villages

#### KEY FEATURES

- 4-lane carriageway, expandable to 6 lanes
- Food courts, petrol pumps, and toilets every 49 km
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Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

SHORT TAKES

**KALESHWARAM WAS CABINET DECISION: ETALA**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

BJP MP Etala Rajendar reaffirmed that the decision to construct the Kaleshwaram Project was a Cabinet decision, not a unilateral move by former chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. He said he could provide all supporting evidence to back this claim. Responding to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's remarks on the project, Rajendar, finance minister in the BRS Cabinet when the Kaleshwaram scheme was built, questioned how such a major initiative could have proceeded without Cabinet approval. "Some leaders are trying to create unrest by spreading misinformation. Every decision is ratified by the Cabinet. I am ready to hand over all documents related to Kaleshwaram to the media. KCR always insisted that departmental matters be presented before the Cabinet before any final decision. If this is not true, I am prepared to face the consequences," he averred. Rajendar emphasised the need to separate the project's construction from any corruption allegations. He clarified that the BJP opposed profiteering under the guise of development. The BJP continues to demand a CBI probe to expose all individuals involved in the Kaleshwaram scam. While supporting the project's construction, the party opposes awarding contracts without tenders and turning such projects into money-making ATMs. "If the Congress government has the courage, it should act on the available reports and repair the damaged piers," he said. Recalling the origins of the Telangana movement, he said it was driven by demands for fair access to irrigation water, funds, and government jobs. After state formation, completing irrigation projects became a top priority. He questioned why the Pranahita-Chevella project remained incomplete during the five years when Congress was in power.

**Revanth seeks faster nod for Metro phase-2**

Briefs Union minister about Hyd public transport needs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has requested Union urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar to grant necessary approvals for the proposed Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II at the earliest. Revanth Reddy met Khattar at the latter's residence in Delhi on Thursday and briefed the Union minister about the importance of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2 project, which is being taken up over 76.4 km, to meet the growing requirement of public transportation in the fast-developing megapolis.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and other Congress leaders call on Union minister for housing and urban affairs Manohar Lal Khattar in Delhi on Thursday.

He said the Metro Rail Phase-2 will create hassle-free commuting and also contribute to sustainable development once the project is completed. Revanth Reddy also informed the Union minister that the state government was ready to

undertake the ₹24,269-crore project as a joint venture with the Centre. He said the detailed project report had been submitted with necessary amendments as per the suggestions of the Union urban development minister and sought necessary permissions from other departments considering the importance of the project. The State Cabinet on

June 5 approved the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2 project for three corridors. This phase of the project is to be undertaken as a 50:50 joint venture between the state government and the Centre. The three corridors include RGI Airport to Future City (Skills University), second stretch from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Medchal and third stretch from

the JBS to Shamirpet. Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, MPs Mallu Ravi and K. Raghuvver Reddy, state government special representative in Delhi A.P. Jitender Reddy, Hyderabad Metro Rail MD N.V.S. Reddy, coordinating secretary of Centrally-sponsored projects Dr Gaurav Uppal and others participated in the meeting.

**SLBC WORKERS: HARISH SEEKS CM'S APOLOGY**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The BRS on Thursday demanded an apology from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for not retrieving the bodies of dead workers from inside the SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool district, nearly four months after the February 22 collapse of a section of the tunnel. Former irrigation minister T. Harish Rao told reporters that, on Wednesday, Revanth Reddy alleged that BRS leaders were delighted over deaths of the people. "It is Revanth Reddy who is shameless, who failed to at least get the bodies of still missing six workers out of the tunnel. The CM must apologise to the people for the tunnel collapse and the deaths," Harish Rao said.

He also said irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy should have resigned from his post following the accident. "Around ₹4,000 crore was spent on the project. Revanth and Uttam are trying to attribute their failure to ensure safety to us in the BRS," Harish Rao said.



**CM pitches TG Rising to Blair**

M. SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday made presentation on Telangana Rising 2047 to British former prime minister Tony Blair, who took particular interest in flagship initiatives like Bharat Future City, Young India Skills University and Young India Sports University. The state government and the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change exchanged a letter of intent for partnering in the Telangana Rising vision development and implementation.

Key elements of "Telangana Rising 2047" would be unveiled publicly on the second anniversary of the state government on December 9. The government's focus would be on rapid massive infrastructure projects including RRR and Regional Ring Railway, radial roads between RRR and ORR.

In his interaction with Blair during his visit to Delhi, Revanth Reddy spoke of the key highlights of Telangana Rising including the plan to grow the state's GDP from \$200 billion currently to \$1 trillion by 2035, and \$3 trillion by 2047. He explained that this would be achieved through a plethora of strategic and tactical pol-

icy interventions, including creating a services-focused zone inside the ORR and China+1 manufacturing zone between the ORR and Regional Ring Road (RRR). "Key elements of "Telangana Rising 2047" would be unveiled publicly on the second anniversary of the state government on December 9. The government's focus would be on rapid massive infrastructure projects including RRR and Regional Ring Railway, radial roads between RRR and ORR.

A dry port, dedicated connectivity to a sea port in AP, Metro Rail expansion in Hyderabad, airports in Warangal and Adilabad, Musi rejuvenation were the other initiatives, Revanth Reddy said. The former British PM has started the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBIGC) after stepping down from his public career, said he was enthralled by the vision of Revanth Reddy.

**Ponguleti: Facelift for 'KCR village'**

P. SRINIVAS | DC NALGONDA, JUNE 19

Revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Thursday said that the Congress government would restructure and develop Vasalamarri, a village that he claimed was neglected and destroyed by former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao after adopting it. Speaking at a programme held in the village of Thurkapalli man-

dal in Yadadri-Bhongir district, where sanction letters for Indiramma houses were distributed to selected families, including Akula Agavva, an elderly woman whom Chandrashekar Rao had once claimed as a friend, Srinivas Reddy accused the former CM of failing to fulfill the promises made for the village's development.

"Vasalamarri was destroyed in the name of adoption. None of the development assurances



Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy hands over an Indiramma house sanction letter to Akula Agavva, during a programme held at Vasalamarri in Thurkapalli mandal of Yadadri-Bhongir district.

were fulfilled," he said. "As per the instructions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, steps will now be taken for the village's development. Just as the people of Vasalamarri were misled in the name of housing, Chandrashekar Rao misled the entire state with promises of double-bedroom houses," he alleged. He further accused the previous BRS government of pushing the state into debt under the pretext of irrigation projects.

**IRCTC SPECIAL TRAINS TO JYOTIRLINGAS**

Hyderabad: The IRCTC has announced that its 'Ambedkar Yatra with Panch Jyotirlinga Darshan' Bharat Gaurav tourist train would start from the Secunderabad station on July 5. The train will cover the Jyotirlingas at Mahakaleswar and Omkareswar at Ujjain; Deeksha Bhoomi

Stupa (where Dr B.R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism) and Shri Swaminarayan Man-dir at Nagpur; Jamma Bhoomi (Dr Ambedkar's birth place) at Mhow; Triambakeswar Jyotirlinga at Nasik; Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga at Pune and Grishneswar Jyotirlinga at Aurangabad.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Fake BIS bottled water seized**

**Hyderabad:** The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Hyderabad, seized cases of bottled water bearing the fake BIS mark during a search and seizure operation on Thursday at a packaged drinking water manufacturing unit in Moosapet. The unauthorised use of the mark is a violation of the BIS Act, 2016. BIS clarified that the standard mark is granted only after a thorough assessment of a manufacturer's production and testing facilities to ensure compliance with safety, quality and health standards. Officials seized 717 cases of one-litre bottles 549 cases of 500 ml bottles and 444 cases of 250 ml bottles.

**4 hurt as car hits divider, bike**

**Hyderabad:** Four persons received minor injuries after an over-speeding car ramed into a divider and a two-wheeler, near CRPF office in Barkas in Chandrayangutta, on Wednesday night. Two of the injured were in the car and the other two on the two-wheeler, according to Chandrayangutta sub-inspector V. Srinivas. Police reached the spot on being informed by a passer-by. Police booked a case against the driver and seized the car, which was damaged in the incident.

**Driver stabbed for questioning**

**Hyderabad:** Daramoni Narayana, a 30-year-old tractor driver, was stabbed by a man whom the victim had questioned over selling a mobile phone late on Wednesday night. KPHB police said Narayana was taken to Gandhi Hospital where he is undergoing treatment. Police said at around midnight, Narayana was sitting on the footpath near the hotel when he noticed the accused, Jabbar, trying to sell a mobile phone. On questioning him, the man took out a knife, threatened him.

**Biker dies while overtaking lorry**

**Hyderabad:** A 21-year-old bike rider died after being hit by a lorry that he was trying to overtake, in Suraram on Thursday morning. Suraram police said, the deceased, Vislawath Sai Kumar, a private employee, had left home on Wednesday night to go to a friend's house. "Preliminary investigation revealed he was trying to overtake the lorry and while doing so, the lorry driver hit him," a police official said. Kumar had died on the spot. Police identified the victim and informed his family.

**Fire breaks out in bldg: 9 rescued**

**Hyderabad:** Nine persons were rescued after a fire broke out at the ground floor of a three-storey building in Moghalpura on Wednesday night. Moghalpura additional district fire officer V. Bhanupratap said the was suspected to have been triggered by a short circuit. Illegally stored cardboard boxes on the ground floor intensified the fire. Moghalpura and Gowliguda fire personnel reached the spot and doused the flames. Nine persons, who were on the floors above, were shifted to a nearby building during the rescue ops.

**Gym trainer dies by suicide**

**Hyderabad:** A 40-year-old gym coach died allegedly by suicide at his residence in Maruthinagar, Moosapet, on Wednesday afternoon. Kukatpally police said the deceased, Thumu Narendar, had been facing financial problems and had not been attending work regularly. His father, Thumu Narasimha, 65, a retired employee, stated that there were also ongoing tensions between Narendar and his wife.

# Owner of a convention hall arrested for assault

**Sridhar, aides had beaten up housing society members**

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

The Gachibowli police arrested and remanded Sandhya Convention owner S. Sridhar Rao for allegedly physically assaulting the members of the Fertiliser Corporation of India (FCI) Employees' Cooperative Housing Society during the demarcation on the roads in the layout by HYDRAA officials on Thursday. According to Gachibowli inspector Mohd Habeebullah Khan, a complaint was lodged on Wednesday by one of the members, Khushichand Wadde, alleging that Sridhar Rao's 'henchmen' had pelted stones on the car she was travelling in. According to the complainant, she had reached FCI colony when the HYDRAA officials

**INCIDENT OCCURRED** just a day after the brother of another member had lodged a complaint with police alleging the henchmen attacked members with knives and bats.

Members were engaged in marking roads in the layout. She alleged that Sridhar's henchmen — Venkatesh and three others — allegedly attacked her, and pelted stones at her car. The Gachibowli police had registered a case under Sections 115(2), 126(2), 324(5) and 125 r/w 3(5) of the BNS, and arrested Sridhar. He was produced at the Kukatpally court on Thursday for his judicial remand, the inspector said.

The incident occurred just a day after the brother of another member had lodged a

complaint with the Gachibowli police alleging the henchmen attacked members with knives and bats. In the previous FIR, a case was registered against Venkatesh, and three others. Reacting to the earlier incident, HYDRAA officials had clarified that these attacks did not happen in their presence. According to HYDRAA officials, the society's 20-acre land was divided into 162 plots, but Sridhar Rao encroached into it and tried to erase the boundaries. Sridhar Rao illegally built Sandhya Convention's mini convention hall, a G+2 iron shed structure, 10 restrooms, and kitchen structures, after erasing the pre-existing layouts. All of these were demolished by HYDRAA on May 6. The complainants

reached out to HYDRAA alleging Sridhar Rao was not allowing them to go into their layouts, while others complained that he is getting development agreements made without their involvement and is raising illegal structures. Many people shared videos and emails from around the world and filed complaints to HYDRAA against Sridhar Rao. A woman from Delhi had filed a complaint to HYDRAA online stating that her husband died by suicide after Sridhar Rao and his henchmen claimed that the plot that her husband purchased does not exist. She further informed HYDRAA officials that she will come to Hyderabad and file a complaint directly. Further investigation into the incident is underway, police said.

# 15 arrested for circulating, viewing child abuse content

**MANVI VYAS | DC AND ATHULYA M. ANILKUMAR HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

The child protection unit of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has arrested 15 individuals from across the state for viewing and circulating child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM). TGCSB director Shikha Goel announced at a press conference on Thursday.

Among the accused are high-profile individuals and IT professionals. Most of the content involved minor girls aged between six and 14 years. All accused have been booked and sent to judicial remand. The TGCSB arrested 12 while the Jagtial, Cyberabad

and Rachakonda police arrested the remaining three. The accused hail from districts including Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Warangal and are repeat offenders, each with at least two to ten cyber tip-offs against them. Director Shikha Goel warned that browsing, creating or circulating child exploitative content is a serious crime. "We are closely monitoring individuals linked to closed criminal groups and also tracking

such materials on the dark web," she said. She added that the TGCSB handles CSEAM-related complaints through the NCRP Portal and Case Monitoring Tools of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since the Child Protection Unit was launched in February 2025, the bureau has registered 294 FIRs and arrested 105 offenders.

People were urged to report any suspicious activities involving children. "Circulating sensitive content can lead to serious legal action. Parents must enable parental controls and supervise children's online activity," Goel said. Reports can be filed at [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) under the women/children Related Crime tab or by dialling 1930.

# PREGNANT WOMAN RUN OVER BY RTC BUS

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

A seven-month pregnant woman was run over by an RTC bus and two others including a minor were injured in an accident triggered by a car driver suddenly opened the door of the vehicle, in Attapur on Wednesday evening. They were riding on a two-wheeler. According to Attapur inspector K. Nageshwar Rao, the deceased, Syed Asra Fatima, 29, was riding pillion with her husband Syed Zameer, 30, and their four-year-old daughter. Zameer, a driver by profession, residing in Mallapur, and a native of Vikarabad, and his family were returning home at about 5 pm.

When they reached near PVNR pillar 198, an unidentified person opened the door of a parked four-wheeler, causing the vehicle's door to strike their bike. Due to this, all three fell — Zameer and the child to the left side of the vehicle, and Fatima to the right.

An RTC bus, going from Mehdiapatnam to LB Nagar, ran over Fatima. Zameer filed a complaint with the police. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

# 60 KG TAMARIND THEFT PROMPTS 2 PARALLEL PROBES

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

A theft of 60 kg of tamarind from the kitchen of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam in Yadagirigutta has prompted police action and two parallel investigations — one by the temple and another by the endowments department.

Discovered 15 days ago, the theft did not affect the daily preparation of 'Pulihora prasadam,' which uses around 800 kg of tamarind to make 15,000-20,000 sachets. The temple kitchen has a staff of 92. The Yadagirigutta police identified two outsourced kitchen workers and questioned them, said sub-inspector G. Uday Kiran. Meanwhile, devotees have questioned the need for two high-level committees for minor theft, pointing out delays in addressing larger issues like darshan wait times and the pending implementation of the Tirupati-style queue system.

# Parents alarmed as drivers found drunk during checks

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

Parents have voiced serious concerns about their children's safety after police and Road Transport Authority (RTA) officials caught several school-bus drivers operating under the influence of alcohol during surprise checks this week. Officers seized the drivers' licences and filed drunk-driving cases in court, prompting parents to demand that school managements face penalties as well. D. Rama Koteswar Rao, a committee member of a school-parents association, said families pay extra for school-run transport in the belief that "the management will safeguard our children's safety and security," yet basic monitoring of drivers is being overlooked. "Parents are paying lot of money and placing their trust in school-managed transport services, expecting the school to ensure their children's safety and security. However, the management is failing to monitor the most critical aspect which is student safety," he said.

Since May, the RTA has been running special inspections of vehicles owned by educational institutions, focusing on road-worthiness certificates and other technical requirements. Officials noted that when a driver fails a breath-analyser test, administered by traffic police, the RTA issues a notice to the school and alerts the District Education Officer (DEO). Authorities have also held awareness programmes for school administrators and exclusive interaction sessions with bus drivers, including health screenings, to highlight lapses and potential dangers.

Hyderabad DEO R. Rohini told Deccan Chronicle that her office oversees roughly 2,700 schools and has directed every institu-



Police commissioner C.V. Anand along with Collector Harichandana Dasari at a meeting of school authorities, parent committees, auto unions and transport operators in Hyderabad on Thursday.

# Schools' responsibility to ensure students are safe

**M. SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

Police commissioner C.V. Anand on Thursday said that the school managements must implement and maintain all safety measures and cautioned that school principals and managements will be held responsible for safety lapses within 200 metres of the school premises.

Speaking at a meeting organised by Hyderabad traffic police with school managements and officials from various departments, Anand advised schools to install and maintain CCTV cameras around their premises as a basic safety standard. He warned drivers to be vigilant when students were boarding and alighting, as these are the most accident-prone moments. "Even a single child's death can have a huge impact on a

school," he said. Noting that some children travel in overloaded autorickshaws, he urged parents to monitor how many children are being taken in each autorickshaw. He advised schools to ensure the presence of signboards in front of their premises and said that areas like Abids, Secunderabad, and Jubilee Hills face more traffic issues due to school clusters.

Anand said the city had 3,000 traffic police officers, but only 325 of the 650 major junctions can be manned due to manpower constraints. He said special coordination teams, involving transportation and traffic personnel, would be formed. He raised concerns about the presence of pan shops and juice centres near schools potentially being involved in the sale of narcotic substances. He called upon all stakeholders to remain vigilant and

report any suspicious activity. Joint commissioner of police (Traffic) D. Joel Davis said that over 90 lakh vehicles operate daily in Hyderabad, and only 3,000 personnel were available to manage the city's traffic. "Special drone surveillance will soon be introduced near schools," he said.

Davis said that traffic regulation near school premises was the responsibility of the respective school managements. He advised schools to deploy their own security staff for traffic regulation. He cautioned against overloading school vehicles and urged parents to also take accountability instead of leaving everything to the police. He recommended raising awareness among students about traffic signals and staggering school hours for primary and high schools to reduce traffic congestion.

# Techie's body found floating

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19**

A 27-year-old IT professional was found dead in Durgam Cheruvu early on Thursday. Preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, Sushma, may have died by suicide. Madhapur sub-inspector Laxmi Kanth said Sushma, employed at an IT firm in Hitec City, was reported missing on Wednesday night. Her father, Anjaiah,

Her father lodged a complaint after she failed to return home from work. Her manager reportedly told that Sushma had left the office around 10.30 pm. Her body was found floating in the lake around 7 am.

lodge a complaint after she failed to return home from work. Her manager reportedly told Anjaiah that

Sushma had left the office around 10.30 pm. Her body was found floating in the lake around 7 am and was shifted to the Osmania mortuary for post-mortem examination soon after.

Anjaiah told police that Sushma, who had married five months ago, had allegedly been facing dowry harassment from her husband's family for the past three months. She had returned to her

parental home in Secunderabad two days ago.

While a case of suspicious death was initially registered, the FIR is being altered. "We are booking a dowry death case against her husband, who is also an IT employee. We are examining CCTV footage and other evidence to confirm the sequence of events," the SI said. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

**Aarshadharmasri**  
**Sri Maturi Venkata Subba Rao**  
 (01.10.1920 - 20.06.1992)  
**Our Founder Secretary**  
 Your legacy lives on. We are constantly guided by your vision, principles and charismatic leadership even today - more than three decades later. We remember you at all times.  
 Sponsored Institutions: Maturi Venkata Subba Rao (MVSRR) Engineering College (An Autonomous Institution), Nadergul, Hyderabad; Matusri Engineering College (An Autonomous Institution), Saidabad, Hyderabad.  
 From: All Members of Matusri Education Society (Date: 20.06.2025)

**15th DAY CEREMONY on 21st June 2025**  
  
**Lion W S Krishna Rao**  
 D.O.B: 02-08-1953 D.O.D: 07-06-2025  
 We deeply cherish your memories, your thoughtfulness, hard work and high spirits will always be remembered by us.  
 Inserted by: Family Members. Ph: 9848251593

The remembrance of the righteous is a blessing. *From: 18.07*  
**48th Death Anniversary Of**  
  
**Rev. GUDI PATI GEORGE**  
 Podili, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh  
 Poet, Field Minister, Pastor, Missionary to Burma  
 DOB: 18.07.1906 DOD: 20.06.1977  
 In Loving Memory From: Sons, Daughters & Family Members (CA-4377)

**PAGDI**  
  
**KALAWANTI S MULCHANDANI**  
 W/o Late Satramdas G. Mulchandani  
 Pagdi to be held on Friday 20th June 2025 From 5.00 pm to 5.30 pm at Sindhu Bhavan, P.G.Road, From: Naina Prakash, Geeta Rajesh, Jaya Rajender, Harsha Vinay, Vijana Dinesh, Nidhi Mohit. MULCHANDANI FAMILY Ph: 9848217744 (S/2526/D00234)

**OBITUARY**  
  
**CLEMENT XAVIER**  
 D.O.B: 7-7-1962 D.O.D: 14-6-2025  
 7th Day Requiem Mass at St.Cecilia Parish at 6pm on 20th June followed by Prayer Meeting at Residence. DOB: 20-06-1955 For they shall be comforted. Mathew 5:4 Contact: 9849702462, 9666861774. (S/2526/D00235)

**31st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**SUMITRA KAUR WASU**  
 W/o SARDAR SINGH WASU GURUKA LANGER @12.30hrs On 20-06-2025 at Sikh Gurudwara, Sec'bad. S. Avtar Singh Wasu, S. Charanjit Singh Wasu, S. Jaspal Singh Wasu, S.Mahinder Singh Saluja & Families (S/2526/D00236)

**70th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
 The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. - Ps 112:6  
  
**KANAMALA JOHNSON**  
 Youngest S/o Late Sri.K.William Carey DOB: 28-01-1914 DOD: 20-06-2002 Called to Glory: 18-04-2024 Inserted by: Wife, Children & Grandchildren (S/2526/D00232)

**3rd Death Anniversary**  
  
**Late Sri Undavalli Venkata Rao Garu**  
 DOB: 10.5.1938 - DOD: 23.6.2022  
**We Miss You**  
 Undavalli Raja Sree - Wife, Undavalli Subba Ramprasad, Hari Priya Kanuparthi, Madhumati Velamuri, Sandhya Rani Bommaraju 9949411003

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion; & unfailing love. Lamentations 3: 32 & 33  
  
**Mrs. SARAH DANIEL BANDUGULA**  
 We wish your soul enjoys all heavenly pleasures on your birthday  
**We Love You**  
 Husband: Daniel Solomon Children: Susitha Doris, Suchaika, Sudeep Daniel & Susan

**10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**DODLA PANDU RANGAM**  
 DOB - 12-07-1940 DOD - 20-06-2015  
 10 years have passed, but your blessings and love remain with us, Forever in our hearts.  
 Inserted by: Wife, Daughters, Son, Son-in-law, Granddaughters, Grandsons, Great Grandsons.

**7th ANNIVERSARY**  
  
**Late Sri Dandu Narsing Rao**  
 DOB: 15-08-1952 DOD: 20-06-2018  
 Ever Remembering You with love & Respect  
 Inserted by: Wife: Dandu Laxmi Bai Sisters - Brothers in Law, Brothers - Sisters in Law, Daughters - Sons in Law, Sons - Daughters in Law, & Grand Children.

**23rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 "We know that God works all things together for good, for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28  
  
**Bandela Sneha Latha**  
 D/o: Late Bandela Moses and Late Ratna Kumari DOB: 28-01-1974 DOD: 20-06-2002 In Loving Memory, Inserted By: B J Kaarthik-Sreedevi, B Ravi Chakravarthy-Srinisha, Dr Nirmita Karuna-Anam, Manjula - Joseph Madhu, their children and Grand Children

**PROVISION OF CYBER SECURITY**  
 E-Tender Notice No.: TRD/LMG/15 of 2025-26 Dated: 17-06-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:  
 Tender No.: EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-35 Dated: 17-06-2025.  
**Name of work:** Provision of Cyber Security in existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) used at RCC/Lumding for Athori-Lumding and Senchoa Jn.-Silghat Town-Mairabari Section under Lumding Division. (Phase-1).  
**Tender Value:** ₹ 1,93,00,000/-  
**Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,46,500/-  
**Date & Time of closing of Tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 11-07-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
 N. DEE/TRD & GS/Lumding  
**NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
 Serving Customers With A Smile

SHORT TAKES

**COPS DETAIN IPSP MEMBERS OVER ISRAELI PROTESTS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Police detained several members of the Indian People in Solidarity with Palestine (IPSP), BDS India, and other protesters on Tuesday before they could begin a demonstration outside the US Consulate in Gachibowli, against Israeli attacks in Gaza and the role of the United States in enabling it. The protesters were released in the evening. Organisers described the detention as brutal and accused the government of suppressing democratic voices.

"The voice of dissent only gets louder with each such suppression," said a statement shared by the organisers. Videos showed people shouting slogans inside the Narsingi police station where they were briefly taken. IPSP member Bhargavi addressed gathering there and said the massacre in Palestine had not started recently. "Since October 7, 2023, Israel has escalated its attacks with unprecedented brutality," she said. She described the killing of over 60,000 Palestinians, including children and women, and referred to the bombing. "It is well known that US imperialism backs this genocide. That is why we must stand with the people of Palestine and oppose imperialism," she said. She added that food, clean water, and medicine are being blocked, and people are being pushed towards extermination.

"As a country once crushed by colonial rule, it is our responsibility to stand by Palestine's freedom struggle," Bhargavi said. She called for increased participation in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and urged people to reject companies supporting Israel. Dr Suhas, also from IPSP, described the scale of violence as staggering. "Israel has killed over a thousand education personnel," he said. "Malnutrition and hunger are worsening by the day," he said, adding, "Every conscious citizen with an iota of humanity will keep speaking for Palestine, no matter the extent and severity of repression. Israel can bomb the last remaining hospital in Palestine, but doctors across the world will take to the street and bring it to its knees."



Members of the IPSP protest against Israeli attacks in Gaza outside the US Consulate in Gachibowli on Tuesday. — DC

**HC issues 2 notices to Mittal for NOC to evacuee property**

Certificate given by senior IAS officer when he was collector of Hyd

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Two separate single-judge benches of the Telangana High Court on Thursday issued separate notices to senior IAS officer Naveen Mittal, regarding his issuance of a no-objection certificate (NOC) to declare evacuee property as non-evacuee property to some applicants in Nanal Nagar, Gudimalkapur, when he was the Hyderabad district collector.

Evacuee property refer to land left behind by individuals who migrated to Pakistan after the

partition of India in 1947. They have been a subject of controversy and legal battles. These properties are governed by the Evacuee Property Act, 1950. Petitioner Shanti Agarwal had filed two separate petitions before the High Court, challenging the inaction of the government in prosecuting Mittal though the High Court had pointed to his conduct in issuing the NOC.

She had requested the Chief Secretary for sanction for prosecution under Section 197 of the CrPC on 26.4.2024. The Chief Secretary neither rejected nor gave sanction for prosecution in



Naveen Mittal

spite of the three-month deadline on such petitions, mandated by the Supreme Court of India in the 'Vineet Narian' case. This was the subject matter of one of the petitions. She filed another petition challenging the decision of the trial court, which kept the recording of cognisance against Mittal and other

public servants in abeyance for want of sanction to prosecute them under Section 197 CrPC. Agarwal, who was aggrieved with the issuance of the NOC to a third party, alleged that Mittal, in criminal collusion with the other accused, had reportedly created fake and fabricated documents. He had allegedly issued the NOC with false recitals, even to the extent of recording the objections of the complainant.

Agarwal stated that she was not even issued notice to record her objections. Mittal then proceeded to declare the title and possession of

the NOC applicants, the petitioner alleged.

The entire exercise was to declare the subject land in Survey No. 284/6, Nanal Nagar, as non-evacuee property, so that the title of the complainant became untenable; she was claiming her title through GO No. 388 dt. 20.12.1954 declaring the subject property as evacuee property.

These two petitions were heard by two separate single-judge benches, one headed by Justice K. Lakshman and the other Justice N. Tukaramji separately. In the two cases, the benches issued notices to Mittal and the others.

IN BRIEF

**24-hour countdown for International Yoga Day**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The coal and steel ministries said they would jointly organise a 24-hour countdown event ahead of International Yoga Day, beginning at 5.30 am on Friday at Lal Bahadur Stadium here.

This celebration will bring together yoga practitioners, youth, and students from Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Cyberabad.

Present will be Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, Union minister of steel

Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, former vice-president M. Venkaiah Naidu, former member of the Women's Commission of India Khushbu Sunder, film actors Sai Dharam Tej and M e e n a K s h i Chowdary Kishan Reddy reviewed the event arrangements on Friday, and emphasised the importance of participant safety and ensuring facilities were in place. The organisers have also invited celebrities, political leaders, sports stars, software engineers, doctors, and eminent personalities.

**Union min to take part in Yoga day tomorrow**

Hyderabad: Union minister Dr Virendra Kumar will attend an event on International Yoga Day on June 21 featuring more than 3,000 people with disabilities (divyanganas), at the Kanha Wellness Centre in Chegur. The participants will represent 16 categories of disabilities. The event is being organised by the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities (DEPWd) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID). A statement said the programme will include cultural shows, sports events, a purple festival and an ability mela.

event is being organised by the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities (DEPWd) National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID). A statement said the programme will include cultural shows, sports events, a purple festival and an ability mela.

**Two sides of GHMC**



GHMC placed plants on the Shivaji Bridge in Osman Shahi over Musi River but neglects to retain wall for the area with littered garbage, posing risk to pedestrians. —P. SURENDRA

**Petrol pump found cheating people**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

A petrol station was found delivering short quantities of fuel, prompting swift action from the legal metrology department. The issue was resolved within 24 hours after a customer

complained of receiving petrol worth only ₹73 despite paying ₹100. Zonal officer S. Rajeshwar led the investigation. Upon inspecting the dispensing unit, officials confirmed the short delivery and took action. The department's prompt response drew

praise from citizens on social media. Officials urged consumers to stay alert while refuelling. "Always check that the dispenser meter is reset to 0.00 before fueling begins. Do not make payment until the full quantity is received," department advised.

**HC hears habeas corpus plea over 3 minor kids**

L. RAVICHANDER HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court comprising Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice B.R. Madhusudhan Rao heard a habeas corpus petition seeking the immediate production and release of three minor children allegedly being held in illegal custody by their mother and maternal grandparents. The petitioner, the biological father and natural guardian of the children, alleged that his sons were forcibly taken from his residence by the respondents and had been unlawfully detained. The petitioner also contended that the action of the respondents was arbitrary and in violation of the principles of natural justice. During the proceedings, the special government pleader argued that the matter appeared to be a private familial dispute rather than one warranting extraordinary constitutional remedies like habeas corpus. The panel questioned counsel as to how the writ petition was maintainable and posted the matter to June 23.



LEGAL STORIES

Endowments Act. The judge ordered status quo and posted the matter for further hearing.

**FARMER WANTS TO FELL TREES ON HIS LAND**

Justice Pulla Karthik of the Telangana High Court will hear a writ plea of a 72-year-old agriculturist from Mancherial district, challenging the denial of permission to fell trees on his patta land.

The judge was hearing a writ plea filed by Bukya Teja, assailing the action of the district collector and forest department officials who, through proceedings issued in November 2024, denied him permission to cut 127 out of 140 trees standing on his land. The petitioner contended that the land was private patta and that the denial of felling permission was contrary to the guidelines for liberalising felling and transit regime for tree species grown on non-forest/private land, issued by the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change in November 2014. It was argued that because of the liberalised policy framed by the Union government, the petitioner was entitled to fell trees on non-forest land without undue restrictions. The judge directed the respondents to file their response and posted the matter for further adjudication.

**टाटा स्मारक केंद्र / TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE**  
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान  
A Grant-in-Aid Institution under Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.

Advt. No.: TMC/AD-67/2025 उपलब्ध पद / POSITIONS AVAILABLE 10.06.2025

टाटा स्मारक केंद्र (टीएमसी) निम्न पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है / Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) invites applications for the following posts:

स्थान/LOCATION: एचबी/एमएम/एमएससी, वाराणसी HBCH / PMPMC, VARANASI	स्थान / LOCATION: टीएमसी, मुंबई / TMH, MUMBAI
1 कन्सल्टंट 'ई' (प्लास्टिक सर्जरी) /CONSULTANT 'E' (PLASTIC SURGERY)	1 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (अनेस्थीसियोलॉजी) /ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (ANESTHESIOLOGY)
2 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (बोन मॅर्रो ट्रांसप्लांट) /मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT) (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY)	2 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (इंटरवेंशनल रेडियोलॉजी) /ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY)
3 कन्सल्टंट 'ई' (गैस्ट्रोएंटरोलॉजी) /CONSULTANT 'E' (GASTROENTEROLOGY)	3 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी) /ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY)
4 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (रेडियोडायग्नोसिस) /CONSULTANT 'D' (RADIODIAGNOSIS)	4 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (जनरल मेडिसिन) /CONSULTANT 'D' (GENERAL MEDICINE)
5 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी) (एडल्ट हेमेटोलिम्फोमा) / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY) (ADULT HAEMATOLYMPHOID)	5 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (डेंटल एवं प्रोस्थेटिक सर्जरी) /CONSULTANT 'D' (DENTAL & PROSTHETIC SURGERY)
6 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी) (सॉलिड ट्यूमर) / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY) (SOLID TUMOR)	6 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'एसबी' (पथोलॉजी) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'SB' (PATHOLOGY)
7 कन्सल्टंट 'ई' (यूरो ऑन्कोलॉजी) /CONSULTANT 'E' (URO ONCOLOGY)	7 वैज्ञानिक सहायक 'बी' (रेडियोडायग्नोसिस) /SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT 'B' (RADIODIAGNOSIS)
8 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (जनरल मेडिसिन) /CONSULTANT 'D' (GENERAL MEDICINE)	8 वैज्ञानिक सहायक 'बी' (सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी - प्रोग्रामर) /SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT 'B' (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - PROGRAMMER)
9 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (बायोकेमिस्ट्री) /CONSULTANT 'D' (BIOCHEMISTRY)	9 टेक्नीशियन 'ए' (मैकेनिकल) /TECHNICIAN 'A' (MECHANICAL)
10 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी) /CONSULTANT 'D' (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY)	स्थल /LOCATION: बाँबोली/आय.गुवाहाटी /BBCI, Guwahati
11 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'एसबी' (रेडियो डायग्नोसिस) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'SB' (RADIO DIAGNOSIS)	1 कन्सल्टंट 'ई' (प्लास्टिक सर्जरी) /CONSULTANT 'E' (PLASTIC SURGERY)
12 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'एसबी' (ऑक्युपेशनल थेरेपी) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'SB' (OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY)	2 कन्सल्टंट 'ई' (रेडियोडायग्नोसिस) /CONSULTANT 'E' (RADIODIAGNOSIS)
13 क्लिनिकल सायकोलॉजिस्ट / CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST	3 असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर 'ई' (सर्जिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी) /ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E' (SURGICAL ONCOLOGY)
14 टेक्नीशियन 'सी' (मॉलिक्यूलर पथोलॉजी) /TECHNICIAN 'C' (MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY)	4 कन्सल्टंट 'डी' (मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी) /CONSULTANT 'D' (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY)
15 टेक्नीशियन 'सी' (रेडियोडायग्नोसिस) /TECHNICIAN 'C' (RADIODIAGNOSIS)	5 सहायक चिकित्सा अधीक्षक - I / ASSISTANT MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT - I
16 सहायक प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (क्रय एवं भंडार) / ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PURCHASE AND STORES)	6 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'डी' (न्यूक्लियर मेडिसिन) (रेडिएशन सेफ्टी ऑफिसर लेवल - III) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'D' (NUCLEAR MEDICINE) (RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER LEVEL - III)
ऑनलाइन आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख 11.07.2025 है / Last date for online application is 11.07.2025 (शाम 05.30 बजे तक) (upto 05.30 PM ; IST)	7 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'डी' (मॉलिक्यूलर पैथोलॉजी) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'D' (MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY)
अधिक विवरण के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें / For details, please visit our website: <a href="http://tmc.gov.in">http://tmc.gov.in</a> and click "Careers" Advt. No.67/2025	8 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'डी' (मॉलिक्यूलर पथोलॉजी) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'D' (MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY)
CBC 48149/12/0002/2526	9 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'सी' (मॉलिक्यूलर पथोलॉजी) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'C' (MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY)
	10 वैज्ञानिक अधिकारी 'एसबी' (ट्रायल कोऑर्डिनेटर) /SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'SB' (TRIAL COORDINATOR)
	11 महिला नर्स 'सी' / FEMALE NURSE 'C'
	12 महिला नर्स 'ए' / FEMALE NURSE 'A'
	13 सहायक प्रशासनिक अधिकारी / ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad and L&T Metro Rail officials light a lamp to inaugurate the World Music Day at Ameerpet Metro station on Thursday. — DC

**Metro tunes into World Music Day**

DC CORRESPONDENTS HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

This World Music Day brings a musical treat to commuters, as Metro Rail authorities celebrate with Metro Medley — a vibrant showcase of sound, style and stories. Running until June 24, the celebration will feature over 220 artists across 65 curated acts at seven different metro stations.

Organised by Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad in collaboration with L&T Metro Rail, Alliance Française, George Hull Collective and Dark Vibe Society, the series was inaugurated on Thursday at the Ameerpet station with lively performances by The Djembe Circle and George Hull Collective.

Commuters can catch live performances from 5 pm to 7 pm at Ameerpet, Dilsukhnagar, Durgam Cheruvu, Kukatpally, MGBS, Parade Ground and Uppal metro stations between June 20 and 23. From eight-year-old students to 68-year-old folk storytellers, the line-up

spans a wide canvas, including Carnatic, jazz, drag artistry, indie, Burakkatha and experimental genres.

World Music Day or Fête de la Musique, observed globally on June 21, began in France in 1982 as a celebration of open-access music. It invites amateur and professional musicians alike to perform in public spaces, allowing music to exist as a spontaneous and free experience.

"Any musician, professional or amateur, from any style, is invited to play in a public place to offer a beautiful moment to anyone passing by, making music accessible, at its present." Hyderabad Metro Rail MD N.V.S. Reddy said the Metro Rail was more than a transit system. "It's a platform that celebrates our rich cultural identity and brings communities closer," he said.

The festival will conclude on June 24 with a live concert by French artist David Walters at EXT, Filmnagar; and the entry to the closing concert is free.

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LIMITED**  
OPERATION : SURYAPET CIRCLE  
Open Tender Notice No-01/2025-26 (EXTENSION-I)

Tenders are invited from eligible vendors for various Civil works in Suryapet Circle. Schedule dates for Open Tender Specification No: 01/25-26,03/25-26 and 04/25-26 of Tender Notice O-01/2025-26 of SE/OP/Suryapet are:

- Bid download starts from 20.06.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
- Last date and time for submission of Bid hard copies along with DD's and BG's : 27.06.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs.
- Bid opening Date & Time: 27.06.2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

Details are available at [www.tgspower.com](http://www.tgspower.com)  
Ph.No: 8712472748 Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, OPERATION CIRCLE, SURYAPET.  
DIPR RO No.: 3794-PP/CL/Advt/1/2025-26

**THE TELANGANA DAIRY DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LIMITED**  
Vijaya Bhavan, Lalapet, Hyderabad-500017.

Tender Notification No. 2747/CAS/P/A/2014. Dated: 18-06-2025

Sealed Tenders are invited from the reputed Chartered Accountant firms

- Appointment of Pre-Auditor : having experience in Pre-Audit of Co-operative Institutions / Commercial Organizations / Dairy farms with experienced staff for Two Financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27 for T.G.D.D.C.F Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana Milk Products Factory (Hyderabad), Mega Dairy (Haviryal), Co-operative Institutions / Commercial Organizations/ Dairy farms with experienced staff for the Financial year 2024-25 for TGDDCF Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Appointment of Tax Auditor : having experience in Pre-Audit of Co-operative Institutions / Commercial Organizations/ Dairy farms with experienced staff for the Financial year 2024-25 for TGDDCF Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana.

Important Dates:

- Sale of Tender Schedule Starts Form: 20.06.2025, 11:00 AM
- Last Date for Receipt of filled Forms: 03.07.2025, 1:00 PM
- Opening of Sealed Tenders: 04.07.2025, 3:00 PM.

Tender Forms: Interested Chartered Accountants may purchase the Tender forms by paying the cost tender forms in the form of DD in favour of Managing Director, TGDDCF Ltd. payable at Hyderabad from the office of Accounts Officer, Central Accounts Section, 4th Floor, Head office, Hyderabad.

\* Pre-Audit: Rs. 5000/- each.  
\* Tax Audit: Rs. 1000/- each.  
For further details, please contact:  
Contact No: +91 9121160543 & +91 9121160518  
DIPR RO No.: 3848-PP/CL/Advt/1/2025-26 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Ministry of Finance**  
**Department of Financial Services**  
**Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001**

Applications are invited from eligible and willing candidates for anticipated vacancy of the post of Chairperson, Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Delhi under the provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time.

For details, candidates may visit the Department's website at URL: <https://financialservices.gov.in/beta/en/vacancies>  
The last date of receipt of application is 04/08/2025.  
New Delhi Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
CBC 15415/11/0005/2526

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Open Tender No: JHS-RCNK-M-ECA-25-26-10 Dated: 17.06.2025

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from experienced and interested contractors by Chief Workshop Manager Rail Coach Navenikanen Karkhana, Jhansi on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-

Name of Work: Surface Defect Detection Test by Eddy Current Array (ECA) Method on Wheels of LHB Coaches as per scope of work at RCNK Jhansi.

Cost of work: ₹ 1,25,93,524.44 (Including 18% GST)

Bid Security: ₹ 2,13,000.00 Time of completion: Thirty Six Months

Online tender closing date and time: 11.07.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.

Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in). 1053/25(A)

f North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 10/2025 dated 17.06.2025

On behalf of President of India, Divisional Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites the E-procurement tenders:

S.N. - 1	Tender No. - 19255600
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Description - 05 watt VHF Digital Walkie Talkie Set, Qty. - 200 Nos.

EMD (Rs.) - 1,14,880 Tender Opening Date - 22.07.2025

Note:- (1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.irps.gov.in>. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against Above Tender, for this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III Digital Signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed on their body. The above tender notice has been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 1056/25 (D)

f North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**SHORT TAKES**  
**DU PLANS COURSE ON INTIMATE RELATIONS**

**AASTHA MISHRA**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

As people struggle with difficult relationships in a world that is getting ever complex, the Delhi University's department of psychology has proposed to introduce an elective course titled "Negotiating Intimate Relationships" for undergraduate students for the academic year 2025-26.

Commenting on the development, Professor Dr. Vishal Akula, a psychologist, said, "It's often that intimate relationships play a crucial role in emotional development and mental health."

Nevertheless, people lack the skills to deal with them efficiently. With the help of this course, students can better understand emotions, communication, boundaries, attachment and resolving conflicts.

According to the University of Hyderabad's Professor Madhavi Ravikumar, "The introduction of an 'Intimate Relationship' elective at Delhi University is a bold and progressive move. It suggests an effort to open up dialogue on topics such as consent, emotional well-being, and interpersonal relationships, the issues that are often neglected in formal education in India."

Furthermore, she believes it is important to critically examine what lies beneath such initiatives.

However, the UoH professor also sought to understand as to whose voices and perspectives shaped the course. She wondered if the course draws meaningfully from intersectional, gender-sensitive, and culturally-nuanced scholarship, which challenged patriarchy, heteronormativity, caste and class inequalities. "Or does it risk becoming a tokenistic gesture that avoids addressing the deeper structural realities of our society?"

**TUTF DEMANDS PROMOTIONS FOR ELIGIBLE TEACHERS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The Telangana United Teachers Federation (TUTF) met the new commissioner and director of school education Naveen Nicholas to present a list of grievances affecting teaching staff in government schools. Among their foremost demands was the immediate promotion of eligible teachers to fill vacancies in headmaster and school assistant positions. They also drew attention to long-pending medical reimbursement claims and requested an end to delays in processing them.

TUTF president Ramineni Venkateswarlu, accompanied by general secretary Lachchimala Venkanna, handed over a union diary after formally welcoming the officer.

The delegation raised concerns about administrative vacancies and stated that the roles of mandal and district education officers should be held by regular officers, not temporary appointees, to ensure continuity.

Another pressing issue involved unpaid scavenger bills from the previous academic year. The federation asked that these dues be cleared and that this year's funds be directly deposited into the Amma Adarsh School Committee accounts.

As many schools now hold digital equipment such as computers and televisions, the teachers' body sought the appointment of night watchmen for basic security.

● **THEY** also drew attention to long-pending medical reimbursement claims and requested an end to delays in processing them.

**GHMC launches crackdown on officials in graft cases**

**Due to corruption, a few tenders were transferred to HYDRAA**

**NABINDER BOMMALA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The GHMC has finally moved to oust several officials either directly involved in corrupt practices or those who turned a blind eye to wrongdoing within their departments. The action includes filing criminal cases, issuing notices seeking explanations and referring erring officials to their parent departments for disciplinary action.

Recently, criminal cases were registered against those involved in issuing fraudulent birth and death certificates.

The anti-corruption drive gained momentum after GHMC commissioner R.V. Karnan and the corporation's vigilance wing uncovered irregularities in the tenders related to monsoon emergency teams (METs). The tenders were found to be tailored to favour specific agencies. As a result, the entire tendering process was transferred to the HYDRAA.

Following this discrepancy, in addition to the action being initiated against the officials of the GHMC engineering wing, who are responsible for the MET tenders, and the corporation is also taking steps to weed out corruption in the town planning, sanitation, and transport wings of the corporation.

Following the discovery, action was initiated

**CLEAN-UP ACT**

● **FRAUDULENT** birth and death certificates prompt criminal cases.

● **MONSOON** tenders rigged; tendering process transferred to HYDRAA.

● **TOWN** planning, sanitation and transport wings face GHMC actions.

● **IN** the transport wing, officials found a lack of clear auditing for vehicle-related payments.

● **MOREOVER**, some staff members have remained in the same postings for over two decades.

against officials in the GHMC engineering wing responsible for the MET tenders. The corporation has also begun taking gradual steps to root out corruption in other wings, including town planning, sanitation and transport.

A source told Deccan Chronicle that the main corrupt practices in the town planning wing include ignoring illegal constructions and demanding bribes to issue no-objection certificates (NOCs). In the sanitation wing, irregularities include sweepers existing only on paper and payments made for sweeping machines that

violated norms and failed to cover their designated routes.

In the transport wing, officials found a lack of clear auditing for vehicle-related payments.



GHMC commissioner R.V. Karnan along with other officials conduct inspection at Durgam Cheruvu park in Hyderabad, on Thursday.

**Fix streetlight without delay, says GHMC chief**

Hyderabad: Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner R.V. Karnan has directed officials to fix streetlight problems without delay. At a meeting on Thursday, he directed zonal commissioners and department heads to visit problem-prone areas, identify why the lighting was poor, and take quick action.

He said approvals for manpower and materi-

als were in place and zonal teams must act without delays. Karnan said he would make surprise visits to monitor the work. The meeting also covered sanitation and mosquito control during the rainy season. Later, the commissioner visited Durgam Cheruvu and instructed officials to complete sewage diversion, water testing, and stormwater drain works by September.

Moreover, some staff members have remained in the same postings for over two decades.

"There are instances where an employee joined an area on the first

**35 illegal units razed at M'devpally**

Hyderabad: The GHMC in a major anti-encroachment operation, cleared 35 unauthorised structures that had come up on the footpaths in Mailardevpally. The drive, which began around 7.30 am, stretched from Mainarepally junction to Durganagar along Old Karnam Road, and continued till nearly 11.30 am.

The demolition was carried out under tight police security.

Rajendranagar circle deputy commissioner said the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation had issued notices to the encroachers in advance. "This stretch had many illegal temporary structures occupying the footpath, including flower shops, small mechanical sheds, and roadside trading stalls." Officials warned the vendors not to reoccupy cleared spaces.

day of his job and, decades later, is still working in the same place with retirement just a few years away," said a source in the corporation.

**GHMC spends ₹118 cr on wedding halls**

**PARUCHURI SAALINI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The GHMC is constructing multi-purpose function halls to provide affordable spaces for weddings, birthdays, and other family or community gatherings. The GHMC has taken up the construction of 28 such halls across six city zones, with a total budget of ₹118.09 crore.

Of these, 13 halls have been completed and are operational in Kukatpally, Addagutta, KPHB Colony, Chaitanya Nagar, Bansilalpet, and Marredpally, among others.

Eight more halls are under construction, including at Jummerat Bazaar, Banjara Hills, and Suraram.

According to official



The GHMC constructed a multi-purpose function hall to provide affordable spaces for weddings, birthdays, and family gatherings in Hyderabad.

data, the Serilingampally, Secunderabad, and Charminar zones have received the highest project allocations. While the project in Kanchanbagh is yet to begin, three are in the tendering process, and three others have been delayed due to court

cases or land disputes. The halls are being developed with basic infrastructure such as parking space, power backup, and drinking water facilities. GHMC officials say the completed halls have seen steady demand, especially from middle-income families who are looking for low-cost, functional spaces to host events.

To improve public access and ease of booking, GHMC has introduced an online reservation system. The civic body plans to finish the remaining halls soon, once legal and land issues are cleared.

**20 officers get BTech degrees at MCEME 107th convocation**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad, conducted its 107th convocation ceremony here on Thursday, awarding BTech degrees to 20 officers of Technical Entry Scheme course-43.

Chief guest Prof. Himanshu Rai, director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore, emphasised the role of character, ethical leadership and intellectual agility in both military and civilian spheres. He made a mention of the excellent response by armed forces in Operation Sindoor.



Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, Commandant, MCEME felicitates Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, in Secunderabad, on Thursday.

Lt D. Subhash received the DGESE gold medal and GOC-in-C ARTRAC Trophy for being the best all-round student officer and Lt Abhinav Nair and Lt Adarsh Kumar Singh were awarded with commandant's silver medal for securing first position in Mechanical and Electronics streams respectively.

Lt Gen. Neeraj Varshney, Commandant, MCEME, lauded the commitment and perseverance of graduating officers. He highlighted the growing relevance of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones robotics, machine learning and unmanned systems in contemporary and future warfare.

"The training imparted at MCEME ensures that our officers remain at the forefront of technological and operational excellence," he remarked. He also mentioned that countries which possess technology would dominate the world.

"This agreement offers abundant opportunities to enhance training skills and conduct excellent research."

The MoU was signed on Wednesday by OU registrar Prof. G. Naresh Reddy and Prof. Boothby, in the presence of education faculty, college heads, and members of the MoU committee. Prof. Ravindranath K. Murthy, Principal of OU's College of Education, said the focus would be on building a practical mechanism for rollout. "This is not just

**MUSEUMS LIE IN STATE OF UTTER NEGLECT IN HYDERABAD**

**ATHULYA M. ANILKUMAR**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

In a fast-changing world, several monuments and structures that represent the past of Hyderabad are now struggling to stay relevant, with the neglect shown by officials and people.

The Telangana Archaeological Museum, which was the first museum to be set up in Hyderabad in 1927 and houses rare artefacts including Buddha's relics and an Egyptian mummy, lies in a state of neglect. For several decades, it used to attract school students. However, in a technologically advanced world, the museum fails to attract people's attention and is slowly getting erased from public memory. Although interactive kiosks and display boards are present, none of them function as visitors navigate through.

Hayat R., a frequent visitor of the State Archaeological Museum, said, "The crowd has forgotten this gem. The museum's visitors, mostly consisting of students, have diminished. There has been a rapid decrease in the footfall, making the interiors feel ghostly." The Shaikpet Sarai, located within the Golconda circuit at Tolichowki, has been an overnight inn meant for weary travellers for at least four centuries.

**GHMC staff: Arrest R'nagar corporator**

Hyderabad: Tension prevailed at the Yousufguda circle office on Thursday after GHMC officials and staff staged a protest demanding the arrest of Rahmathnagar Congress corporator C.N. Reddy for allegedly abusing and attempting to assault assistant municipal commissioner (AMC) A. Balraj on Wednesday.

The incident reportedly took place in the presence of the deputy commissioner and other staff. According to Balraj, who submitted a written complaint at Madhuranagar police station, the corporator used abusive language and threatened him when he declined to leave an official meeting to attend to Reddy. Balraj alleged that Reddy barged into the circle office with several men described as "local rowdies" and attempted to physically assault him. "He came to the Yousufguda circle office with a group of rowdies, tried to assault me, used vulgar language, verbally abused me and threatened to kill me — all in front of my colleagues and subordinates," the AMC wrote in his complaint.

**Government of Kerala**  
**TENDER**  
**FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT**  
Window No: iprd 25/e 68 • E-auction No: KFDDO/57493/2024-DFO/TSFBVR/A2 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Perumbavoor, Mudukkal P.O-683547, Phone-0484-2522219 • E-auction of timber on 02/07/09/07, 14/07/25/07, 02/08, 12/08, 21/08, 26/08/2025 from Chalakudi, veetoor, Mudickal, Chettikulam & Varapuzha depots of Timber sales division, Perumbavoor • PAC : 4 Crore.  
Full details on Tender Advertisement appeared above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender requires. For Details on all Tenders, please visit our website: board.kerala.gov.in/tenders. Please put in search the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice. R.O. No. 90/G3/2025/PRD.

**TELANGANA STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY**  
DMRHS Campus, Sultan Bazar, Kothi, Hyderabad - 500 095 (Phone: 040-2555 1613)  
CANCELLATION OF NOTIFICATION No. 346/TGSACS/Est/2025, Dt. 12.06.2025  
It is hereby informed that the Notification No. 346/TGSACS/Est/2025, Dt. 12.06.2025 issued by the Office of Telangana State AIDS Control Society, Hyderabad on 16.06.2025 for recruitment for the posts of Deputy Director (SI), Deputy Director - Prevention, Assistant Director (SI) and Assistant Director (BSD) in O / o TGSACS and for Posts of Clinical Services Officers (02), Cluster Prevention Officer (01) and Data Monitoring & Documentation Officer (02) posts in DISHA/ DAPCUs of Telangana State on contractual basis is cancelled on administrative grounds and new notification will be issued at a later date for the recruitment.  
Sd/- Project Director, TGSACS  
DIPR R.O.No.258/PPCL/AGENCY/ADV/11/2025-26, Dt.19.06.2025

**RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)  
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Connaught Tower-II DMRC Building, Ameer GATE, New Delhi-110002.  
**REQUEST FOR EMPANELMENT THROUGH TENDER**  
(RFE Notice No. RLDA/RFE/CT-14 of 2025 Dated 16.06.2025)  
Request for Empanelment (RFE) for Consolidated empanelment of Architectural Consultant for Station Redevelopment Projects, Colony Sites, Commercial Sites, MFC, Master Planning of Railway Colonies And Self-Development Projects.  
Name of the Work Bid Document Fee  
Consolidated empanelment of Architectural Consultant for Station Redevelopment projects, Colony Sites, Commercial Sites, MFC, Master Planning of Railway Colonies And Self-Development Projects. (Rs. 11,800/-) (1% GST @ 18%) (Non-refundable)  
Last date of downloading of e-RFE Document for Participation submission online: 30.06.2025 at 14:00 Hrs.  
(Any details to be obtained from Joint General Manager/Project-5)  
Last Date of Submission of Application for empanelment: 15.07.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs.  
Opening Date: 15.07.2025 at 15:30 Hrs.  
Publication of empanelment list: 01.10.2025  
For Further details of the project, please visit our website: www.raildev.gov.in or on e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA under the heading 'e-tender'. For any clarifications, may please contact:  
Sh. Neeraj Kumar Gupta Joint General Manager/Project-5 M: 9711305031 jgm.expert@rida.railnet.gov.in  
Sh. Rahul Singhal Joint General Manager/Project-5 M: 7877053940 jgm5rda@gmail.com  
For e-bid queries Sh. Suraj Singh M: 959953865 suraj@tenderwizard.com  
JGM/Expert/Tender (M) 9711305031  
Note-Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on above Mentioned Websites.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. EL-C-PRYJ-05-25-26 Dated: 18.06.2025  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Const.N.C.R.Iy/Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 hrs. on 14.07.2025. The details of the tender are as under:-  
Name of work : Lefover work for detouring of existing 132 kv 3 phase double circuit transmission line at various 2x25 kv TSS in Jeonathpur-Kanpur section of North Central Railway in connection with MISSION RAFTAR PROJECT.  
Advertised value of work (In Rs.) : 16,54,04,382.50/-  
Bid Security (In Rs.) : 9,77,000/- Period of completion: 6 Months  
Tender Opening Date: 14.07.2025  
Note:- 1. The complete information alongwith tender document of above e-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1059/25 (AS)  
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-008-2025-26 Date: 18.06.2025  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12.00 hrs. on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. The details of the Tender are as under:-  
S.N. Tender No. Name of Work  
1 008 (A) S&T Works for improvement of various Yards in PRYJ-CNB section under ADEN/FTP (15 Yards) (B) improvement of various Yards in PRYJ-CNB section under ADEN/AL/PRYJ (15 Yards) (C) Provision of Track Renewal Works for improvement of various Yards in DDU-PRYJ section under ADEN/CAR & MZP (18 Yards) and (D) Track Renewal Works for improvement of various Yards in Chunar-Chopan under ADEN/CAR (08 Yards).  
Approx. Cost of work: 15624926.71 Bid Security (Rs.): 228100.00  
Cost of Tender Form : 0.00 Completion Period : 12 Months  
Date of closing of tender: 15.07.2025  
2 Availability of tender form: Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in  
3 Time, date & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre-determined date at 12:30 hours 1059/25 (ADM)  
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**पथ निर्माण विभाग**  
**कार्यालयक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय**  
**पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, लातेहार**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> Call), ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना**  
ई-टेंडर रिफरेंस संख्या- RCD/LATEHAR/416/2025-26 दिनांक- 16.06.2025  
1. कार्य का नाम जुबली चौक (NH-75) से हेरहंज भाया नवादा (SH-10) पथ के चैनज 2,500 कि०मी० से 28,700 कि०मी० (कुल लम्बाई- 26,200 कि०मी०) का राईडिंग क्वालिटी में सुधार (Improvement of Riding Quality) कार्य।  
2क. प्राक्कलित राशि (रु० में) रु० - 17,95,69,074.00 (सतरह करोड़ पंचानवे लाख उनहतर हजार चौहत्तर रुपये) मात्र  
2ख. बिड सिक्युरिटी - (रु० में) रु०- 18,00,000.00 (अठारह लाख) मात्र  
3. कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 06 (छ) माह  
4. वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 24.06.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से  
5. निविदा प्रारि की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 15.07.2025 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक  
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल लातेहार, पिन कोड- 829206  
7. ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क संख्या 06565-247907  
8. ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या 0651-2403007  
नोट : निविदा की प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। निविदा की अन्य जानकारी http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। कार्यपालक अभियन्ता PR 355435 Relief(25-26)#D पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

**SUPPORT | SYSTEM** **OU, Notre Dame varsity to jointly work to embed social learning**

**Future teachers to learn to nurture minds**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Future teachers in Hyderabad will soon be trained not just in pedagogy, but in how to support students emotionally, which could change classroom dynamics across government schools. As part of a new partnership, Osmania University and the University of Notre Dame (USA) will jointly work to embed Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) into B.Ed programmes

● **OU VC** Prof. Kumar Molugaram said the MoU provides an excellent opportunity to deliver Social and Emotional Learning through a school-wide perspective.

through a whole-school approach. "This MoU provides an excellent opportunity to deliver Social and Emotional Learning through a school-wide perspective," said OU Vice Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram. He said both

institutions would also collaborate on joint research and urged them to publish findings internationally. Notre Dame's Global Centre for the Development of the Whole Child will help develop the curriculum and training methods, in an effort to make classrooms more responsive to students' emotional needs, particularly in early and middle school years. "We are excited to work with India, a rapidly developing nation," said Prof. Neil Boothby, who leads the cen-

tre. "This agreement offers abundant opportunities to enhance training skills and conduct excellent research." The MoU was signed on Wednesday by OU registrar Prof. G. Naresh Reddy and Prof. Boothby, in the presence of education faculty, college heads, and members of the MoU committee. Prof. Ravindranath K. Murthy, Principal of OU's College of Education, said the focus would be on building a practical mechanism for rollout. "This is not just

theory, we're working on implementation, training, and structured follow-through." The partnership also includes plans for faculty and student exchanges, and research that will examine how emotional learning impacts teacher performance and student outcomes. OU officials say the goal is to equip educators with tools to manage not only academics, but the growing emotional and behavioural needs of students in today's classrooms.



SHORT TAKES

FDDI ANNOUNCES AIST 2025 RESULTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) has declared the results of its all-India selection test, and opened admissions into its UG and PG programmes. Students who cleared the entrance test can take part in the online counselling process, which will continue until June 28.

Seat allotments are scheduled to begin from July 4. Selected candidates have a ten-day window to complete fee payments. The semester fee must be submitted between July 4 and July 15. Classes for the new academic session are set to begin on July 21.

General category applicants are required to pay ₹25,000 to confirm participation in counselling.

Of this, ₹10,000 counts as a non-refundable registration fee while ₹15,000 goes towards the semester fee and is refundable if no seat is allotted, according to FDDI's withdrawal policy.

Reserved category candidates, including SC, ST, OBC (non-creamy layer), PwD and EWS, will need to pay ₹10,000, of which ₹5,000 will be refunded under the same policy. Courses offered include BDes, BBA, MDes and MBA in areas such as footwear, fashion, retail, leather, and lifestyle product design across all FDDI campuses.

STATE DISBURSES RYTHU BHAROSA TO 62L FARMERS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The state government has disbursed ₹6,404.7 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in just four days for ongoing kharif season, benefiting 62.47 lakh farmers owning up to five acres of land each.

This accelerated disbursement of money marks a record-breaking effort in the history of farmer welfare schemes in the state.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the disbursement on June 16 at a special event under the "Rythu Nestham" initiative. As per his commitment to deposit ₹9,000 crore into farmers' accounts within nine days, the finance department has been releasing funds on a daily basis.

By Thursday evening, the state had credited funds to farmers with holdings of up to five acres.

Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, in a media statement, said that on Thursday alone, the government released an additional ₹1,189.43 crore, enabling 4.43 lakh more farmers, covering 19.82 lakh acres, to receive assistance. In total, investment support has now been extended to 1.06 crore acres of cultivable land.

The scheme provides ₹6,000 per acre for kharif and ₹6,000 per acre for rabi in two phases, amounting to ₹12,000 per acre per year to each eligible farmer, helping them meet essential input costs for kharif and rabi seasons.

The breakdown of beneficiaries for ongoing Kharif includes 24.22 lakh farmers owning below one acre, 17.02 lakh up to two acres, 10.45 lakh up to three acres, 6.33 lakh up to four acres and 4.43 lakh up to five acres.

The remaining eight lakh farmers, who own more than five acres, will receive their payments in the next five days, ensuring complete coverage within the promised timeline. Tummala said that Rythu Bharosa was being extended to all cultivable land, regardless of acreage, reinforcing the state's inclusive approach.

AI videos make fake content convincing

Images complicate efforts to verify authenticity: Experts

PRIYA RATHNAM | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Recently, a fraudster had allegedly used an AI-generated video of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to create an advertisement to attract potential investors for his fraudulent investment schemes. The result: A 70-year-old doctor lost ₹20 lakh.

Welcome to the new world of Artificial Intelligence, where real and virtual merge seamlessly to create a reality that is difficult to distinguish for common people, especially those who belong to the old world.

Earlier, clues like lack of blinking and the poor lip sync do not apply anymore. The AI generated videos are just too perfect to make out the difference if it is fake or the original.

Experts and police officials said the users must stay cautious and rely on genuine and verified websites, if they want to avoid getting defrauded.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, cybercrime investigator and trainer Sandeep, the founder and CEO of Sytech Labs, said, "The faces which are artificially generated are either already existing on the Internet or completely created newly. These are being misused by fraudsters. On the flipside, the pictures are also created by using multiple applications and platforms where they can create a face based on physical attributes like race, national, complexion, features including height and facial features. The creators who create these videos are animators and graphic designers."

Sandeep added that the videos are programmed based and are designed by the experts. He said, "The creators usually are the animators. They already have the knowledge of the designs and graphics and apply programming to it and voila!" Russians, Israelis and Americans have already acquired mastery in using AI platforms and creating AI-generated videos is a cake walk from them. Indians, on the other hand, are catching up, opined Sandeep. "Technology is only being misused. In the near future, the chances of differentiating between an original and fake are almost remote."

STUDENTS EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS

FROM PAGE 1

Sahiti Reddy, another student from Hyderabad, said: "I am slightly vocal on international politics on my X page. If my statements aren't coinciding with the US government's views, it is almost clear my visa would not be accepted."

"Nishanth, a student from Jaipur who is looking to pursue his PhD in US said "This is nothing short of a breach of our privacy. Our personal lives are being judged before we've even landed." They said that their screening does not stop after a visa has been issued and authorities may revoke it if one breaks the law.

"Using illegal drugs or breaking any US laws while on a student/visitor visa can make you ineligible for future US visas. A US visa is a privilege, not a right. US visa screening does not stop after a visa is issued," the US Embassy said.

These horses were brought from Hyderabad by one Sachin Tiwari. In May, eight horses had died on the farm at Raipura village, supposedly due to the hot weather. "A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the district panchayat chief executive officer to find out whether proper care is being taken of horses," Jabalpur collector Deepak Saxena told reporters.

On May 5, the district administration had sent a team of three veterinary doctors to the farm. — PTI

HOW TO SPOT AI FAKES

VISUAL AND AUDIO CLUES

- Face and body inconsistencies.
- Unnatural blinking or eye movement.
- Misaligned facial expressions with emotion or voice.
- Skin texture or lighting inconsistencies.
- Weird head movements or awkward body motion.
- Hands or fingers might look distorted or unnatural.
- Lip sync issues.
- Mouth movements may not match speech precisely.
- Artifacts and glitches.
- Blurring, pixelation, or weird edges, especially around faces.
- Flickering in the background or inconsistent lighting.
- Audio quality
- AI voices may sound slightly robotic or too perfect.
- Ambient sounds might not match the setting (e.g., no echo in a large room).

METADATA ANALYSIS

- Use tools like ExifTool to analyze video metadata.
- AI-generated videos might have missing, manipulated, or inconsistent metadata (like camera model, time/date).

CROSS-VERIFICATION

- Reverse search the video using Google Lens, TinEye, or InVID.
- Check if the video exists on reliable news sites or social platforms.
- Look for the original source, suspicious videos often lack credible origins.

BEHAVIORAL AND CONTEXTUAL RED FLAGS

- Sensational or highly emotional content that lacks source verification.
- Videos shared with vague or no background information.
- Lack of shadows, poor object interaction, or strange reflections.

USE AI-DETECTION TOOLS

Here are some tools that can help detect deep fakes or AI-generated videos:

- Deepware Scanner: Scans videos for deep fake content.
- Hive Moderation: Detects manipulated media.
- InVID (browser plugin): For verifying video sources
- Reality Defender: Real-time media verification.
- Microsoft Video Authenticator: Analyses videos for signs of manipulation.

According to D. Kavitha, DCP Cybercrime, Hyderabad commissionerate, "Videos of high-profile persons like ministers, billionaires and top officials are also being circulated. One should think of the possibility that they can avoid falling prey to such cyber offenses. No ministers will release such videos or promote any profits. We also have an advisory which can act as clues to spot the differences."

Nagalaxmi, DCP Cybercrime, said one has to visit only verified applications, platforms or links. One must avoid fake websites, downloading anything suspicious will avoid being a victim of such cyber offenses. "One minute thinking before acting will also help," said Pakeezha,

Footpath rails removed illegally



Part of a footpath railing was found removed alleged by traders at Moazzam Jahi Market, Hyderabad, on Thursday, for access to customers but has made it easier for motorists to take a short cut. — P. SURENDRA

Panel to check on horses

Jabalpur, June 19: The Jabalpur administration on Thursday set up a committee to examine if proper care was being taken of racehorses on a farm in the district following the death of three animals there in the last few days. These horses were brought from Hyderabad by one Sachin Tiwari. In May, eight horses had died on the farm at Raipura village, supposedly due to the hot weather. "A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the district panchayat chief executive officer to find out whether proper care is being taken of horses," Jabalpur collector Deepak Saxena told reporters.

On May 5, the district administration had sent a team of three veterinary doctors to the farm. — PTI

OMC: CBI reveals Srilakshmi's facts

Hyderabad: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed the Telangana High Court that IAS officer Y. Srilakshmi, sixth accused in the Obulapuram mining case, had allegedly concealed material facts and filed a petition despite earlier dismissals by the court.

According to the CBI's submissions, Srilakshmi filed a revision petition without disclosing the prior dismissals

or relevant facts concerning her earlier petitions. The CBI emphasised that the court had rejected her earlier petitions and noted that there was prima facie evidence indicating her involvement in the misuse of office during the hearing of her initial petitions. The High Court had accordingly directed that she must face trial before the competent lower court.

Subsequently, Srilakshmi challenged the orders passed by the CBI court by filing revision petitions before the High Court. Upon hearing these petitions, the High Court acquitted her.

The CBI challenged this acquittal before the Supreme Court of India. The apex court observed that the High Court's decision to acquit Srilakshmi without hearing the CBI's submissions was procedurally improper.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL EXCELLENT COMMERCIAL property for immediate sale at Kompally, 3500 sq yards, RCC structure G+1, 31000 sq ft ample parking. Call Now 9000913388. (HYHA/2526/C01585)

COMMERCIAL SPACES available for Sale/Lease on 2nd, 4th & 5th floors, sizes 807, 1350, 1596, 1885, 2210, 2723, 3105, 5269, 6249, 24,285 sq.ft. Pre-leased spaces are available on ground, 1st, 2nd & 3rd floor. Size: 2210, 2574, 2723, 3105, 9774 sq.ft. @ Jain's Balaji Big Town, Safilguda, Malkajgiri, Call 9886652700 (W/2526/AT000077)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE THREE & MORE 4 BEDROOM fully furnished House with solar water, inverter, A/Cs, Fridge, Geysers, Pressure Pump, Sofas, Dining table, Beds, Cupboards, Ready for Rent/Lease in Paigah Colony, Secunderabad. Contact Raghu Sreepathi 993311800. (S/2526/C00560)

LEASE COMMERCIAL A SCHOOL in Arunachalam (Tiruvannamalai) ready to run for lease. Vellore Road, Opposite District Collectorate, Tiruvannamalai Call 9443332608. (HYHA/2526/C01649)

FARM HOUSES-SITES CIVIL COMPLETED, near ORR Exit, Shamshabad. Located in a community of 10 Villas. 2130 Sq.Yds. 3500 Sq.Ft built up. Contact: 779474641. (S/2526/C00554)

FLATS DOUBLE BEDROOM TWO BEDROOM Well maintained Deluxe Flat 1100 SqFt For Sale at DK Road, Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Contact 9345910454. 9790974142. (W/2526/AT000168)

FLATS THREE & MORE FLATS FOR Sale in King Kothi 3bhk 2bhk 1bhk. Excellent G+1 G+2 G+3. Approved Bank Loan Available. More Details Ph: 9100185860 (HYHA/2526/C01653)

CHAITANYAPURI, KOTHAPET. 3 BHK New Flat, 1694 sqft., Car Parking, Lift Facility, Power Backup. Price: 93 Lakh. Contact: 9550753033 (HYHA/2526/C01656)

EAST MAREDPALLY, Spacious 3 BHK East facing Well Maintained excellent location. Deluxe Apt in prestigious complex Jaagruhi Residency 1970 sq ft 3rd floor 24 hours water, Parking Ready to move. Serious buyers only Call 7799490909. (HYHA/2526/C01555)

LUXURY 3 BHK Flats. Habsguda/Mallapur, From Rs. 103 Lakhs. Ready To Occupy! Gated Community, Modern Amenities. Hurry up! Last Few Units! Ph: 9700554544. (HYHA/2526/C01650)

DOMALGUDA, HIMAYATNAGAR. 3 BHK New Flat, 1550 sqft., Car Parking, Lift Facility. Price: 1.40 Cr. Contact: 9550753033 (HYHA/2526/C01655)

MULTIPLE FLATS SHAMSHABAD 1BHK 485 Sft & 555Sft. 2BHK 745 Sft Ready To Occupy for sale in Prime Location, Satarnai, Shamshabad with Well Ventilated & Lift Facility Ph.8498958877 (HYMM/2526/C01293)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE HOUSE FOR sale East Facing, Area: 190 sq yards, G+1 (Total 4 bedrooms), Built up area 1350 sq ft first floor and Ground floor 1500 sq ft approx. Vampuguda Kadra, Sainikpuri Contact 9676118032, 7674013043. (GARIMA) (S/2526/C00561)

LAND 1 ACRE of agricultural land facing 30 feet near to main road of thangadipalli & one more acre of yerravuguda village near sankarpalli for sale Ph: 8688011736, 2 pm to 7 pm (HYHA/2526/C01651)

PLOTS MANSOORABAD, 150 SQ yds, West Facing, 40ft Road, South End park Colony, Road No.-9, Plot 2.5 KM From L. E. Nagar, Rs-65,000/-per Sq. yd. Ph:8121056707 (HYMM/2526/C01302)

NOKILA 267 Sq.yds, 534 Sq.yds, 100 Ft road facing layout. HMDA final approved layout west facing. Contact Babu: 9603389567. (A/2526/C00163)

SHADNAGAR HMDA 14,999/- & DTC 7,999/- approved plots ready to construction Adjacent to Villa project bank loans avble. Contact: 7671005990 (HYMM/2526/C01292)

SHADNAGAR TOWN Open Plots Rs. 16,499/- Per sq.yds Villa Plots Offer for grants Gold DTCP & RERA. Bank Loans. Gated Community. 9640954763. (HYMM/2526/C01301)

"SPECIAL OFFER" Plots available in Highway Facing Venture near Wangapalli on Hyderabad - Warangal Highway for only 10,000/- per Sq.yard with DTCP and RERA number. 80% Bank loan facility Available. Fixed price, direct company sale contact: 9390261598 (HYMM/2526/C01289)

RENTALS COMMERCIAL AMEERPET: 1050 Sft 1st floor 104B commercial space for rent. Surekha Chambers, opp. VIP Luggage, Near Laliburglow. Ph: 7032404745. (HYHA/2526/C01654)

1ST FLOOR 3000 Sft, 3rd & 4th Floor, 1000 Sft each floor, Commercial use for Education Institutes, Electronic, Garment Retailers @ Kachiguda X Roads. Ph:9059560123, 9293503580. (B/2526/C00171)

COMMERCIAL SPACE 3rd floor, 5000 Sft, Carpet at Kamalapur Colony, Srinagar Colony Road. Contact: 9849318695, 9000006457. (A/2526/C00174)

READY & well equipped office Setup for Rent at Tolichowki Main Road. Previously used for consultancy & training. Call. 9885761000 (HYHA/2526/C01657)

FLATS

THREE & MORE FULLY FURNISHED 2980 sq ft 3 bhk apt in gated community for rent in white fields kondapur. Acs, cots, washing machine, refrigerator, stove, gas cylinder, oven etc. Rent 1 lakh 25k negotiable only families. Ph: 9866503000 (HYMM/2526/C01308)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE THREE & MORE 4 BEDROOM fully furnished House with solar water, inverter, A/Cs, Fridge, Geysers, Pressure Pump, Sofas, Dining table, Beds, Cupboards, Ready for Rent/Lease in Paigah Colony, Secunderabad. Contact Raghu Sreepathi 993311800. (S/2526/C00560)

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SALARIES | STUCK Contract staff in Suryapet, Nalgonda, Yadadri unpaid for 2 months

Financial woes hit med college teaching staff

RACHEL DAMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Contract teaching staff at government medical colleges in Suryapet, Nalgonda and Yadadri say they have not received salaries for over two months, as the state government has yet to renew their appointments for the new academic year. "We were told every year that contracts would be renewed by March-end. This time, there's complete silence," said Naveen Merugu, an assistant professor. "We can't even plan

our lives because we don't know if we'll have jobs next month." Around 90 professors, associate professors and assistant professors across the three colleges are reportedly waiting for clarity. Their contracts expired in March. "We're still showing up to work because students need us, but we don't know how long we can continue." The delay comes as the National Medical

DECCAN Chronicle

20 JUNE 2025

Will he strike Iran, or not? Trump keeps all guessing

It is not often that US President Donald Trump sits for too long on the horns of any dilemma. It is being reported that he had approved a plan to attack Iran and then hung back only to give Iran time to ponder on whether to end its nuclear programme, or probably he is just timing an American offensive on military advice. But there will be no U-turns once he decides to go into another of the "forever wars" that he promised to avoid while campaigning for the President's job in 2024.

A third US aircraft carrier group is on its way to the Middle East, but it is far from certain Trump will take the United States back to 2003 when his predecessor George W. Bush ordered a full-scale invasion of Iraq. But then, as Trump said, no one knows what he will do, not even Trump. "I mean, you don't know that I'm going to even do it. You don't know. I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do," Trump said. And that explains everything — or nothing.

Trump may be facing resistance from within his inner circle, his Republican party base and the American community in general. His stints in the Situation Room and his comments about the Ayatollahs of Iran have made everyone uneasy about where this is heading. The word is that while he may be reluctant to be drawn into a full-scale war, he might still be considering taking out the nuclear facility in Fordow.

**Apart from angling for the Nobel Peace Prize, which might be worthless in this conflicted world of raging wars, there seems to be no place in Trump's mind about off-ramps for creating negotiating space.**

The potential consequences of a direct US strike on Iran, with heavy bunker-buster bombing that only America can carry out and which will obviously be done only through stealth bombers piloted by Americans, are too grave to contemplate. The repercussions could go far beyond Iran retaliating on US bases in the Middle East. There is a chance that the world itself would be destabilised if the Iran regime is brought down.

Far from not being the era of wars, it would appear this is the era of no-holds-barred bombing, which began with Vladimir Putin dropping bombs on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, while sending in troops on the ground and Israel taking retaliation against the October 7, 2023, Hamas terror strike to disproportionately high levels in carpet bombing of the Gaza Strip, taking on the Hezbollah in Lebanon and now attacking Iran's nuclear facilities.

There is no leader in today's multipolar world whose word may be sufficient to bring adversaries to the negotiating table. Apart from angling for the Nobel Peace Prize, which might be worthless in this conflicted world of raging wars, there seems to be no place in Trump's mind about off-ramps for creating negotiating space. And yet he makes egotistic claims that everyone, including the Iranians, wants to come to the White House to meet him.

Iran has been clear enough in its stand that so long as the aggression continues — along with its retaliation measures that even struck hospitals and schools in Israel — there is no space for engaging with adversaries across the table. At a time when peace is at a premium, there appears to be no room for dialogue and diplomacy. We must fear for the world if the "anything can happen" position continues to define the present.

Pass for faster highway travel

The new FASTag Annual Pass, introduced by Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari on June 18, represents a qualitative improvement to India's existing highway toll collection system. It will save the time and effort of frequent users of national and state highways in the country, and therefore, it is a welcome initiative.

The concept of FASTags, which utilises Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making cashless toll payments, was introduced by the Narendra Modi government in 2016. It allowed the vehicles to pass seamlessly through the toll plazas, making the users save on time as well as fuel. Following the dramatic improvement in the toll collection process, the government made FASTags mandatory from January 1, 2021, giving a big boost to the issuance of RFID cards. The number of FASTags increased phenomenally from 2.49 crores in January 2021 to 10.98 crores in May 2025, which validates people's adoption of the new toll payment system.

Though the people have adopted the RFID toll payments, the requirement to keep wallets adequately funded has created problems for frequent travellers. If they forget to add funds to the wallet, drivers could get stranded at the toll plaza, resulting in traffic congestion and a waste of time. The FASTag Annual Pass is expected to address this problem as it would be valid for 200 trips or for one year, whichever is the earliest. The average toll paid by a person is ₹50 per trip. As the average toll paid for 200 trips would be ₹10,000, the FASTag Annual Pass could also help people to save up to ₹7,000 annually.

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**KAUSHIK MITTER**  
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Do lower fertility, poverty rates improve well-being?



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that India's population will reach its peak by 2050, with the fertility ratio (the average live births per woman between 15 to 49 years of age) already 1.9 — lower than the commonly assumed sustainable level of 2.1. This cheers the hearts of all Indians born before the year 2000 who grew up blaming the growing population for slow economic growth. To put this in context, fertility rates are declining, and the global population is expected to peak before 2100. The global fertility rate in 2025 is 2.2, varying from 1.5 in high-income countries to 3.8 for the least developed countries.

India is ahead in this transition compared to less developed countries, which have an average fertility rate of 2.4. This correlation between development and a lowering of the fertility rate reflects a consensus arrived at since the 1970s.

At the time, explosive population growth created a global "fertility boom", bringing managing population growth front and centre in development policy, including in India. In the second decade of this century, "population anxiety" has captured the public and political imagination, even in low fertility developed countries, manifesting as anti-immigration activism mixed as a front for maintaining the dominant racial identity.

Even America, the poster boy of immigration-led development, sustained economic growth and innovation since the mid-20th century, and the favoured destination for most Indians, has succumbed to this anxiety. "Population anxiety" induced coercive population control was most notable in China, with deleterious outcomes. India's brief copycat attempt was fortuitously terminated in the mid-1970s. Coercive attempts to reduce fertility

have been short-lived. Most such ended within forty years. Declining fertility and populations induce a swing to the other extreme of incentivised birthing, as in China and Singapore, because low fertility results in uncompetitive labour costs and a shrinking domestic market — both are damaging for economic growth. The UNFPA good practice asserts that a normative fertility rate is ephemeral, and it must be contextually determined. Plans to achieve the desired fertility rate must never be coercive because such regulations tend to deprive women of their reproductive rights.

"The Real Fertility Crisis" (UNFPA 2025) personalises the fertility transition in India by tracing three generations of an Indian family. A grandmother who lived under patriarchal control in the 1960s, had no awareness of contraception or voice in the timing or number of children she had. Her daughter in the 1990s had some knowledge of contraception methods but little agency to decide the number of children which catered to the preference for a boy child. Her recently-married granddaughter in the 2020s has already decided with her husband, to have two children (slightly below the replacement rate) so that they can give them their best.

This vignette exemplifies why and how India has transitioned demographically even at low per capita income levels — via extensive government outreach, support for public health and medical facilities for pre- and post-natal care, and by an extension of public and private educational facilities for women. This task is incomplete, and results vary significantly across communities and regions. The trend line for gender-sensitive development policy, however, is drawn. It includes reservation for women of one-third

**Formally adopting the PPP\$4.2 level prescribed for lower middle-income countries seems appropriate for universal coverage of the poor, even though the resulting poverty levels would increase statistically**

of seats in India's Parliament to increase their representation from the existing 14 per cent — an instance where even UNFPA would support a "forced choice" by legal means.

Together with reaching sustainable fertility rates, India has also reduced poverty. The World Bank assesses that the share of the poor in India declined from 27.1 per cent in 2010-11 to 6.25 per cent in 2022 based on \$PPP 3.0 (2021) per day per person poverty line. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) differs from the market-based currency exchange rate. It estimates the income required for a similar quality of consumption across countries. It neutralises high subsidies and lower labour costs (as in India and most developing countries) which boost the real income of households even if they are lower in dollars at the exchange rate. This is a useful guide for equalising pay for employees across countries, as is necessary for multinationals and the World Bank.

PPP in India quadruples notional nominal income and doubles it in China. But anyone would rather earn the equivalent in dollars than enjoy a higher notional (PPP) value of a lower income in INR or yuan. This is why nationalist economists prefer that countries should develop their own poverty line, relating well-being to minimum income levels in local monetary terms. There is a logic to that. One reason this acquires urgency is that even as per World Bank formulations, the appropriate current poverty line level for India is 2021 PPP\$4.20, up from the earlier 2017 PPP\$3.65, corresponding to living conditions across lower middle-income countries, like India.

On this basis, poverty in India declined from 57.8 per cent in 2010-11 to 23.89 per cent in 2022. Economist Surjit Bhalla, earlier a member of the PM's Economic Advisory Council, advocates an upward revision in the poverty line.

About 27 per cent of India's population already benefits now from multiple welfare measures. This incoherence between claimed low poverty levels and much higher subsidy levels is often, erroneously, used to question the earlier reduction in poverty from 16.22 per cent in 2011 to 2.35 per cent in 2022 at the earlier 2017 rate of PPP\$2.15 (in 2021 revised to PPP\$3.0) applicable for low-income economies.

Formally adopting the PPP\$4.2 level prescribed for lower middle-income countries seems appropriate for universal coverage of the poor, even though the resulting poverty levels would increase statistically.

Measuring well-being is far more complicated. The OECD has a "Well-being Framework" to assess social progress. The UNDP's "Human Development Index" evaluates well-being from life expectancy, education, and income metrics. The World Happiness Report ranks countries on social support, freedom, and corruption metrics. India does not fare well on any of these indices, relative to its achievements in reducing fertility, poverty and boosting economic growth. The 2020 partnership between Well Being for Planet Earth, a Japanese charitable foundation, and Gallup, a US polling specialist, generates survey data from 150,000 respondents annually, on how they view well-being. India could collaborate with Japan to develop globally actionable contextual well-being metrics for evaluating national policies on equity and economic growth — that is, if we can first get around Amartya Sen's 1970 paradox of the "Paretian Liberal" floundering to optimise economic efficiency with individual liberty.

*The writer is Distinguished Fellow, Chintan Research Foundation, and was earlier with the IAS and the World Bank*

LETTERS

TRUMP MEETS MUNIR

It is really shocking to see US President Donald Trump hosting a lunch, a prestigious event meant for select heads of government, for Field Marshal Asim Munir of Pakistan, indicating that he wants to have out of the way good relations at any cost with Islamabad (Pak Army Chief meets Trump, June 19).

Sangeeta Inamdar  
Hyderabad

REVANTH, KCR

It is almost two-and-a-half years since A. Revanth Reddy took charge as Chief Minister, but not a single day passes without him blaming his predecessor and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (Revanth blames KCR for state's water woes, June 19). It is high time Revanth Reddy settles down to business and ensures the successful completion of the 6Gs promised by ramping up financial resources

Shivane Datta  
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy must stop playing the blame game and take stock of the performance of the present government. There are many issues at hand including the bad condition of many roads in Hyderabad, which may turn worse when full-fledged monsoon sets in. There will be nobody left to be blamed but his government alone.

Kishore Sitamraju  
Hyderabad

CANTONMENT DUES

The SCB staff is now alert for recovery of water bills and property tax collections perhaps for revenue collection before civil areas merge plans with the GHMC (SCB faces cash crunch, salaries of staff delayed, June 19). Riding or driving in SCB lanes causes spinal injuries as the road conditions are very bad. How long must residents suffer?

Naresh Sohanraj  
Secunderabad

ANIMAL CRUELTY

We thank DC for highlighting animal cruelty issues be it of horses by the Hyderabad Race Club or the shameful treatment of animals by Palampur Biosciences (FIR against Palampur Biosciences, June 19). The incidents show the moral degradation of scientists. Nothing can be too harsh on these people by way of punishment. They should be named and shamed so people dare not carry out such experiments.

Raseel Ahluwalia  
Secunderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com.



Bhopinder Singh

Trump turns US military parade to serve partisan, political agenda

The tradition of military parades dates back to the ancient civilisational empires of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, who undertook them to celebrate victories, invoke gods or simply intimidate rivals. But beyond its political and societal rationale, military parades also bore some functional utility — such as instilling martial discipline with an insistence on total coordination, patriotism and loyalty to the "flag". As the concept of the nation-state started emerging, these spectacles became symbols of national remembrance, cultural coherence and deterrence.

The tenor and accompanying essentialities of military parades obviously differed, depending on the sort of nation or political system it represented. In dictatorial or authoritarian regimes like North Korea, China or the erstwhile Soviet Union, they serve a propagandic purpose. However, some parades serve the vital purpose of reminding a nation of its history — such as the Bastille Day parade in France, to celebrate the French Revolution, the Victory Day parade in Russia, to commemorate the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany in the Second World War, and the Trooping the Colour in Britain, marking the official birthday of the reigning monarch. India's Republic Day parade on January 26 every year marks the adoption of the Constitution and the birth of a proud and sovereign republic.

Now, like all participative democracies where the doctrine of civilian control over the military is constitutionally wired, it is critical to balance such militaristic events with a larger national identity, purpose and conflation. Hence, the Republic Day parade is steeped in the symbolism of "unity in diversity" and federalism. Therefore, when the national mood occasionally gets polarised, it is the glorious march of the Indian soldier belonging to the Naga Regiment, Sikh Regiment, Gorkha Regiment, Rajput Regiment, Madras Regiment or Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry advancing in contingents behind each other that reminds a wary nation of the uselessness of societal "divides" on the basis of religion, ethnicity, caste or region that is possible, given the sort of unhinged politics that has been pandered to by all dispensations (without exception) since Independence. This restrained and measured underpinning to the military parade in the Indian context also had its roots in its colonial past, where the Crown was served by tradition-bound, but loyal military.

In the United States, however, the American narratives and opinions were shaped by their own history, circumstances and understanding of democratic imperatives. Even though the grand review of the armies following the end of the Civil War in 1865 led to a massive military march, or more recently, the National Victory Celebration (to mark

the success of the Gulf War) was held — displays of military might were seen to militate against the American notion of democratic ideals. Such parades were, typically, the standard instruments deployed by the "other side" during the Cold War, and so these were shunned.

Due to relative lack of history, given America's long history of immigration, and with no real danger of impulsive societal "divides" (at least, earlier), Americans never felt the need to hold such spectacles. Importantly, the US military needed no such public valorisation either as it was always a deeply respected institution. The professional and emotional aspects of the "patriotic duty" of the US soldier was uniquely reserved for the men and women in uniform, which could not be usurped by any politician, unlike countries like India where the imagery of the "Indian soldier" is sought and appropriated to build political muscularity for wily politicians. Therefore, there were always good reasons for countries like India to persist with the tradition, and for countries like the US not to start one.

But President Donald Trump went beyond American traditions and objectives, such as Fourth of July or Veterans Day celebrations, to showcase a personal-political spectacle via a military parade in a bid to serve his own "muscular" desperation. Seemingly intent on drowning the societal dissonance owing to hundreds of simultaneous protests

(under the "No Kings" banner) against his illiberal agenda, Trump presided over an unprecedented US military parade on June 14, which tellingly coincided with his own birthday! Despite the draft-dodger Trump's condescending (and inconsistent) homilies to the American soldier as one who drove "bayonets into the heart of sinister empires" and similar theatrics, he has shown the avowedly apolitical and non-partisan institution of the US military towards the dangerous shores of partisanship.

Attempts to politicise the US military have been long in the making under Trump. From removing senior officers under the pretext of diversity, equity and inclusion to reinstating discharged service members (for violating service norms), to creating military zones on Mexico's borders and unleashing Marines on the streets of Los Angeles, the abuse of the armed forces has been unparalleled. Previous American Presidents (both Democrat and Republican) are aghast and see the US military parade as part of the same political project. Whether in the US, France or India, soldiers would only want to celebrate a national or constitutional cause, and not a partisan or personal one. That is the fundamental difference.

*The writer is a retired lieutenant-general and a former lieutenant-governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry*



SHORT TAKES

**JAIDEEP REDDY TO TAKE OVER AS HYD CREDAI CHIEF**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

N. Jaideep Reddy will now take over as president of Credai-Hyderabad for a two-year term on Friday. The names of the other members of the new team, including vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and joint secretary will also be announced, according to a statement from Credai (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India).

The outgoing team comprises V. Rajashekar Reddy as Credai-Hyderabad president, B. Jagannath Rao (general secretary), Aditya Gowra (treasurer), Kothapalli Rambabu (joint secretary) and vice-presidents G. Anand Reddy and Kacham Rajeshwar.

**SHINDE'S SHIV SENA TO FIGHT POLLS IN TG**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Shiv Sena Telangana president Sinkaru Shivaji said the party would contest local elections in the state on its own. He asked party workers to strengthen the party in every village and announced that it would hold a public meeting here soon. Shivani was speaking at meeting with Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at his home in Thane, Maharashtra. The leaders met to celebrate Shiv Sena's Foundation Day. Shivaji said, "Shiv Sena is a party that works for the country and protects dharma. We don't do vote-bank politics. We support Hindutva leadership and invite all those who want to fight for Sanatana Dharma."

**WE-HUB LAUNCHES PRE-INCUBATION MEET FOR WOMEN**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

We-Hub, the government's incubator for empowering women entrepreneurs, launched its pre-incubation programme "We-Reach" on Thursday to support women at the early stages of their start-up journey. The programme has been designed to nurture entrepreneurial potential among 120 selected rural women participants, a statement said.

Inaugurated by Hyderabad collector Harichandana Dasari, the initiative will offer comprehensive support from ideation to enterprise establishment including business skills training, financial and digital literacy, mentorship, exposure visits, and assistance with MSME formalisation.

**MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN JAIL FOR KILLING AUNT**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

The Principal District and Sessions Court at LB Nagar on Wednesday sentenced a 30-year-old man to life imprisonment for murdering his maternal aunt over a financial dispute. According to police, the accused, Madhagoni Raju, a resident of Injapur, was found guilty of murdering Lakshamma on February 17, 2024.

The case was registered with Vanasthalipuram police, who investigated the matter and filed a chargesheet and secured the conviction and sentencing of Raju.

Investigators said Raju had borrowed ₹5.2 lakh from Lakshamma in several instances, including during the Covid-19 lockdown. Unable to repay the money, he reportedly faced repeated verbal abuse and humiliation from her.

On the day of the incident, the police said, an argument broke out between the Lakshamma and Raju near her residence. Raju followed her home, waited until she was alone and attacked her with cement bricks, striking her head and face. She died on the spot.

Based on the investigation and Raju's confession, police filed a chargesheet under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. The court convicted him and sentenced him to life imprisonment, along with a fine of ₹1,000.

The police investigation and prosecution of the case drew praise from the authorities.

**IIT-Hyd secures 664th spot in global rankings**

UoH ranked in 801-850 band, OU falls in 1201-1400 band

RACHEL DAMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Three universities from Hyderabad — IIT Hyderabad, University of Hyderabad, and Osmania University — have featured in the QS World University Rankings 2026.

IIT Hyderabad emerged as the highest-ranked institution from the city. It was placed at 664 in a list of 1,501 institutions across 106 countries, improving from its previous 681-690 band. The institute's official QS profile shows consistent performance across core indicators, including research output and internationalisation. Though category-wise ranks weren't disclosed, IIT-H has maintained its place among the top 700 globally.

According to the insti-

**WHILE OSMANIA University did not score high in research or reputation indicators, officials described the inclusion as an encouragement to build on its academic legacy.**

tute, its rise reflects its focus on research and innovation since its inception in 2008. With strong postgraduate and doctoral enrolments, IIT-H has also been steadily expanding international collaborations and startup support. The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been ranked in the 801-850 band overall — the same rank as last year. However, it ranked 335 globally in 'Citations per Faculty', indicating high research impact relative to faculty size. "We are delighted to

have achieved a notable ranking of 335 in the world in the 'Citations per Faculty' indicator," said UoH Vice Chancellor Prof. B.J. Rao. "This recognition shows the dedication and hard work of our faculty and researchers." He also acknowledged that "there is room for improvement in global visibility and perception."

UoH ranked 692 in academic reputation and 701+ in employer reputation. Its performance in student diversity, faculty ratio, and international research network remained in the lower bands (801+).

Osmania University featured in the 1201-1400 band, one of the few state government-managed public universities in India to be included in the rankings. This is the second consecutive year the

university has appeared in the QS list.

While it did not score high in research or reputation indicators, officials described the inclusion as an important step. "We see this as an encouragement to build on our academic legacy and strengthen our international standing," a university official said.

India had 54 institutions ranked this year. The rankings assessed over 8,400 institutions and featured 1,501 from 106 countries based on academic reputation, employer perception, faculty-student ratio, citations, sustainability, and more.

While IIT-H and UoH showed strength in research metrics, all three universities scored low on international student diversity and employment outcomes.

**IIT-H, Mitsubishi team up for self-driven cars**

RACHEL DAMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

As India explores driver-assist and autonomous vehicle technologies, researchers at IIT Hyderabad say the country still lacks a proper ecosystem to develop and test these systems. Now, through a new collaboration with Japan's Mitsubishi Electric, they hope to bridge that gap.

"There is a void in creating an ecosystem for research and development to deliver services for innovation through industry-academia collaboration," said Nobutoshi Todoroki, general manager at Mitsubishi Electric's Advanced Technology R&D Centre. "We are pleased to enter this collaboration, combining our expertise to contribute to the future of society."

The partnership, signed with TIHAN — IIT Hyderabad's hub for autonomous navigation research — includes joint efforts on testing, skill-building and support for startups working on self-driving or AI-powered vehicle systems. "TIHAN is working towards the vision of becoming the destination for next-generation mobility solutions. This platform offers a collaborative space for industry, R&D labs and academia to work together," said Prof. P. Rajalakshmi, project director. Funded by the department of science and technology, the TIHAN facility houses India's only large-scale



The TIHAN facility houses India's only large-scale testbed for autonomous vehicles.

**THE PARTNERSHIP includes joint efforts on testing, skill-building and support for startups working on self-driving or vehicle systems powered by artificial intelligence.**

The partnership, signed with TIHAN — IIT Hyderabad's hub for autonomous navigation research.

It includes joint efforts on testing, skill-building and support for startups working on self-driving or AI-powered vehicle systems.

mission of developing technologies that serve society. He added that TIHAN's focus on Indian road conditions makes it a unique testbed.

Mitsubishi Electric, which plans to establish an incubation centre in India, views the partnership as a path to practical solutions. "We can ensure products are market-ready, meet international standards, and reduce redundant work," Todo-roki said.

Researchers say the collaboration isn't just about building autonomous vehicles, but about creating a long-term innovation ecosystem — from classroom to test track — that supports India's future mobility landscape.

**Revanth: Tribunal doesn't list Godavari flood, surplus water**

FROM PAGE 1

Mainly to facilitate discussions and arrive at an amicable resolution regarding the Banakacharla project, Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy firmly opposed the Banakacharla project, stating it contravened both the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) award of 1980 and the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. They accused AP of proceeding unilaterally, without securing approvals from the Central Water Commission (CWC), Godavari River Management Board and the Apex Council chaired by the jal shakti minister and the two CMs.

Revanth Reddy pressed serious concern over the Union finance and environment ministries granting clearances to the Banakacharla project, which AP claims was based on flood waters of the Godavari. Revanth Reddy pointed out that the GWDT award does not mention "flood waters" or "surplus waters" as legal categories for allocation.

Revanth Reddy noted that the AP government had taken up projects such as Purushothapatnam, Venkateswaram, Pattiseema and Chintalapudi, under the Polavaram scheme using Godavari floodwaters without approvals from the technical advisory committee of the CWC. He also flagged environmental violations in the redesign and construction of the Polavaram project, urging the Centre to intervene and uphold the regulations.

Revanth Reddy proposed an alternative, linking Ichchampally to Nagarjunasagar with Central funding to divert water to the Penna basin. This plan would benefit both states.

**Harish: CM's NOC plan will favour Banakacharla**

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Former irrigation minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday excoriated Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for "approving" AP's Godavari-Banakacharla irrigation project. "Revanth gave a blanket clearance to AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu by saying Chandrababu should give a NOC to our using 1,000 tmc ft of Godavari water, and 500 tmc ft of Krishna water. Telangana already has hydrological clearances from the Central Water Commission for using 946 tmc ft of Godavari waters. What Revanth did by his NOC offer is nothing but approving the Banakacharla project," Harish Rao said.

"Who is Revanth to give away Telangana's water to Chandrababu? Does he think he is a king? Can do whatever he pleases with the lives of lakhs of people and their water



T. Harish Rao

rights," Harish Rao said at a press conference here.

"With his statements yesterday (Wednesday), Revanth displayed his utter ignorance. Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy sat silently next to him without correcting the CM," Harish Rao said.

The BRS leader said Revanth Reddy showed how clueless he was about vital issues. "He does not have basic knowledge about river basins, all he knows is how to carry bags of cash. He does not know where Devadula project is. Even worse, his

irrigation adviser Adityanath Das, who was AP chief Secretary and irrigation secretary, said Banakacharla was in Prakasam district, while it is in Nandyal district."

Harish Rao slammed Revanth Reddy for alleging that former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had said "KCR said there is 3,000 tmc ft of water in the Godavari flowing into the Bay of Bengal every year," and because of this AP was going ahead with the Banakacharla project.

Harish Rao said the estimation was made by the Central Water Commission, which Chandrashekar Rao had referred to at an Apex Council meeting.

Harish Rao said there was never any agreement with the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government, and that the then AP CM had backed out because "KCR insisted that Telangana's interests must come first. Revanth and Uttam are lying on this just as they lie on every other issue."

**WHAT TELANGANA WANTS**

**CHIEF MINISTER** Revanth Reddy presses for swift verdict from the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II.

**IF TELANGANA'S** concerns were ignored, the state government would approach the Supreme Court.

**CLEARANCES** and water allocations for Palamuru-Rangareddy, Sammakka-Sarakka and Thummidihatti projects.

**CENTRAL FUNDING** for the Musi rejuvenation project at par with the Ganga and Yamuna clean-up initiatives.

**NO-OBJECTION certificate (NOC)** to Telangana from the Centre and AP to utilise 1,500 tmc ft of water — 1,000 tmc ft from the Godavari and 500 tmc from the Krishna, to irrigate 1.5 crore acres.

**MONSOON | FESTIVAL Celebrations to begin from Golconda on June 26, elephant likely for festival in Sec'bad**

**Goddess temples spruce up for grand Bonalu festivities**

NABINDER BOMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

After the state government allocated ₹20 crore for the celebration of the annual Bonalu festival, several temples where Goddess Durga and her forms are worshipped have sped up the activity for celebrating the monsoon festival. The festival will start on June 26 and continue till July 24.

Every year, the members of the temple committees receive financial assistance from the state government, with cheques being distributed 10 days ahead of the festival in that particular area.

Just days to go for June 26, the city temples are getting decked up. The Bonalu festival will be celebrated initially on the first Sunday of the Ashada Masam at Golconda. The temple of the deity Jagadambika Yellamma Talli, also known as

**AFTER GOLCONDA,** the Bonalu festival will be celebrated in Secunderabad on July 13 (Sunday), followed by the festivities in the Old City on July 20.

Oruganti Yellamma by senior citizens of Golconda, inside the fort was recently inspected by transport minister Ponnampallabandula and Hyderabad Collector Hari Chandana Dasari.

At Golconda Fort, the Bonams are traditionally offered every Thursday and Sunday during the entire festive season till July 24.

After Golconda, the Bonalu festival is celebrated in Secunderabad, with the scheduled date being July 13 (Sunday), followed by Rangam on the next day, where the Oracle will give her predictions. After Rangam is performed, a procession is taken out. After the celebrations in

the Secunderabad area and its vicinity, on the next Sunday, the Bonalu festival is celebrated in the Old City — on July 20.

While painting works are underway at Lal Darwaza Temple, and a road leading to the place has also been restored, at the Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Devasthanam in Secunderabad, the elephant from Anantapur will scale up the festive spirit at the Bonalu celebrations at this temple.

A couple of years ago, Gajalakshmi Menaka, featured in the Baahubali movie, was the attraction at the temple procession of Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Devasthanam. "This same elephant will be used at the Akkanna Madanna Mahankali Temple in the Old City and for the Muharram procession too," said an official from the endowments department. After the Old City, the celebrations are held on the following Sunday — July 27.

**Bhadrakali to get Golden Bonam**

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC WARANGAL, JUNE 19

For the first time in the temple's history, the state government will offer a golden Bonam to Goddess Sri Bhadrakali Devi at the Bhadrakali temple in Warangal. This will be the first time that Bonalu will be celebrated in Ashadam at the Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal.

Built during the Kakatiya period, the temple holds great historical and cultural significance. It regularly hosts rituals and special festivities, especially during Navratri.

While the Ashadam Bonalu festival is predominantly celebrated in Hyderabad, similar rituals are observed in villages across various parts of Telangana. In the erst-



The presiding deity Bhadrakali Devi at the historic Bhadrakali Temple situated in Warangal city.

while Warangal district, Bonalu festivities are traditionally held in the month of Shrawana for village deities such as Yellamma, Pochamma, Beeranna, and Mysamma.

With the arrival of Ashadam, Bonalu festivities commence in

Hyderabad and continue for a month.

After the formation of Telangana, Bonalu was declared a state festival. Following this, the Mahankali Temple Trust members took the initiative to spread the tradition of offering the golden

Bonam across the state. As part of this initiative, golden Bonams began to be offered at major temples dedicated to the Goddess in both Telugu states.

Beginning this year, under the orders of the endowments department and the direction of the Telangana government, the temple committee in Warangal will oversee the golden Bonam offering to Goddess Bhadrakali Ammavaru.

In preparation for the historic event, the authorities of the Bhadrakali Devi Temple have begun elaborate arrangements.

Endowments minister Konda Surekha is scheduled to visit the temple on June 22 to present the golden Bonam. The celebration is expected to draw a large number of devotees, including 200 to 300 artists.

**Getting set for Muharram**



Painting underway at the Bibi ka Alawa in Dabeerpura, ahead of the Muharram month on Thursday. The observance of the month of mourning will begin later in June. The 10th day of Muharram could fall on July 6.

— P. SURENDRA

**Khadi panel disburses ₹300-cr**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

Khadi and Village Industries Commission said it had disbursed a margin money subsidy of ₹300 crore to 11,480 service sector beneficiaries across the country under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

This disbursement was done against the loan sanction of ₹906 crore. In Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry a subsidy of ₹116 crore was disbursed, covering 4,565 projects while loans exceeding ₹343 crore were sanctioned for these projects. The amount was

released by Manoj Kumar, KVIC chairman, to the bank accounts of beneficiaries virtually. Kumar said the scheme was not limited to providing only financial assistance but it had become a social movement which was connecting lakhs of youth, women and artisans with self employment and entrepreneurship.

SHORT TAKES

**SONIA GANDHI DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL**

New Delhi, June 19: Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi was discharged from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Thursday, four days after being admitted for a stomach-related issue, the hospital said.

The 78-year-old leader had been under medical care since June 15 for an abdominal infection.

According to Dr Ajay Swaroop, the chairman of the hospital, Gandhi's condition is now stable.

"She has been discharged and will continue to receive treatment on an outpatient basis," he said.

Senior doctors involved in her care, including Dr S Nundy and Dr Amitabh Yadav, said she responded well to the treatment.

"She was admitted for an abdominal infection, which has been managed with medications. Her condition has improved, and she will be closely monitored as an outpatient," the doctors stated in a release. She was admitted to the hospital's gastroenterology department last Sunday.



Rahul Gandhi meets Congress workers and well-wishers on the occasion of his birthday.

**RAHUL GANDHI RELOCATES TO BUNGALOW NO. 5**

New Delhi, June 19: Bungalow No. 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, will be Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's new address and he has started the process of shifting on the occasion of his birthday on Thursday but will start living there before the next Parliament session, party sources said. Gandhi has agreed to have 5, Sunehri Bagh Road as his official residence, they said. He started shifting his belongings from Thursday to the new accommodation, the sources said.

Gandhi will start living in that bungalow in a few days from now before the Monsoon Session of Parliament begins on July 21, they said. Last year, parliamentary sources had said Gandhi had been offered the bungalow and a response is awaited from his end. Since Gandhi became an MP, his residence had been 12, Tughlaq Lane.

However, he had vacated that house after he was disqualified from Lok Sabha in 2023, following his conviction in a defamation case.

**PM CONDOLES 9 DEATHS IN PUNE ROAD ACCIDENT**

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JUNE 19

At least nine people, including a woman and a six-year-old child, were killed and couple of others were injured during a collision between a speeding car and a stationary pick-up truck on the Jejuri-Morgaon Road in Pune district on Wednesday evening. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of people in the accident and announced ex gratia of Rs two lakh from PMNRF to the next of kin of each deceased.

According to Pune Rural Police officials, the owner of Shriram Dhaba, Somnath Wase, was unloading a refrigerator from a delivery pickup vehicle when a Swift Dzire car suddenly rammed into them from behind at high speed. The impact was severe, resulting in nine fatalities on the spot, including seven men, a woman and a child.

The police informed that seven deceased individuals have been identified while one male victim remains unidentified.

Those identified include Somnath Ramchandra Wase and Ramu Sanjivan Yadav from Nazare in Purandar; Ajaykumar Chauhan from Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh; Ajit Ashok Jadhav from Kanjale in Bhor; Kiran Bharat Raut from Pawarwadi in Indapur; Ashwini Santosh Aisar from Nangnapur in Solapur; Akshay Shankar Raut from Zhargadwai in Baramati; Sarthak Kiran Raut and a six-year-old child.

**India begins evacuation of nationals from Israel**

Land borders with Jordan, Egypt being explored for rescue

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

With a beleaguered Iran refusing to back down and stepping up retaliation against Israel, India on Thursday evening decided to evacuate those of its nationals from Israel who wish to leave thereby broadening the scope of Operation Sindhu to include evacuation of Indian nationals from both the warring nations. "Their travel from Israel to India will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India," New Delhi said. Evacuation through Israel's land borders with Jordan and Egypt are being looked at. According to reports, a hospital in the Israeli town of Beersheba has been hit as Iran fired a barrage of missiles at the country which has sent alarm bells ringing in New Delhi.

India had begun Operation Sindhu on Wednesday initially to evacuate Indian nationals only from Iran but this will now include evacuation of Indian nationals from Israel as well. In the early hours of Thursday, 110 Indian students evacuated out of Iran arrived on an evacuation flight from the Armenian Capital Yerevan after having been evacuated first through the Iranian land border into Armenia. Welcoming the Indian students home, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh indicated that more Indian nationals from Iran would also soon be evacuated through Turkmenistan by chartered flights. Iran shares a land border with Central Asian nation Turkmenistan as well.

But the challenge faced by India in evacuating its nationals from Israel may be far greater. According to some reports, there were



Indian students returning from Iran via Armenia, under an evacuation operation facilitated by the Government of India, react as they exit from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, on Thursday.

"We saw missiles in the sky and heard bombs in our neighbourhood... We were petrified", said MBBS student Mir Khalif, his voice still trembling with fear, as he stepped out of the Delhi airport after being evacuated from war-hit Iran under Operation Sindhu. Khalif arrived in the national capital early Thursday.

till recently only about 4,000 Indians in Iran of which about half were students but the number of Indians living and working in Israel is much larger and could exceed even 20,000. The MEA had said in April last year that there were then about 18,000 Indian caregivers in Israel. Apart from this number, there are also Indian professionals living and working in Israel. Also, Indian construction workers have also been going to Israel to work there. Meanwhile, New Delhi said, "In view of the recent developments between Israel and Iran, the Government of India has decided to evacuate from Israel those Indian nationals who wish to leave.

**Trump discusses Iran with Pakistan**

FROM PAGE 1

Despite refutations by India that the ceasefire "understanding" last month was reached "directly" at the behest of Pakistan, Mr Trump persisted with his narrative that it was he who brokered the truce between the two neighbours as recently as Wednesday. However, on Thursday, the US President, in contrast with his often repeated claim, credited the leaders of the two countries with ending the May 7-10 hostilities.

The US President told the media: "... I'm so happy that two smart people, plus you know, people on their staff too, but two smart people, two very smart people, decided not to keep going with that war. That could have been a nuclear war. Those are two nuclear powers, big

ones, big, big nuclear powers, and they decided that."

Mr Trump also confirmed that he had discussed the Israel-Iran conflict at a closed-door lunch at the White House Cabinet Room with the Pakistan Army Chief and said he was "honoured" to meet him. He also said he had invited Gen. Muneer to thank him for ending the military confrontation with India last month and added that the US



wanted to do trade deals with both India and Pakistan. The US President told the media, "Well, they (Pakistan) know Iran very well, better than most, and they're not happy about anything. It's not that they're bad with Israel. They know them both, actually, but they probably, maybe, know Iran better, but they see what's going on."

**Extremists exploit Canada: CSIS**

FROM PAGE 1

"Since the mid-1980s, the politically motivated violent extremism (PMVE) threat in Canada has manifested primarily through Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKEs) seeking to use and support violent means to create an independent nation state called Khalistan, largely within Punjab, India", the CSIS said, according to media reports.

The CSIS report further said: "A small group of individuals are considered Khalistani extremists because they continue to use Canada as a base for the promotion, fundraising or planning of violence, primarily in India."

It added: "In particular,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenkovic.

real and perceived Khalistani extremism emerging from Canada continues to drive Indian foreign interference activities in Canada." According to global media reports, the CSIS report said India is a

perpetrator of foreign interference in Canada but added that China poses the greatest counter-intelligence threat to Canada. The report also named Russia, Iran and Pakistan as countries of concern in this regard. "Indian officials, including their Canada-based proxy agents, engage in a range of activities that seek to influence Canadian communities and politicians," the CSIS report stated. "These activities attempt to steer Canada's positions into alignment with India's interests on key issues, particularly with respect to how the Indian government perceives Canada-based supporters of an independent homeland that they call Khalistan."

**ED raids states in police recruitment scam**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

The ED on Thursday conducted multi-state raids in connection with a money-laundering probe into an alleged scam in the recruitment of police constables in Bihar during 2023. The agency's sleuths searched a dozen locations of private entities like

agents, exam paper leak syndicate members and their associates in Patna and Nalanda, Ranchi, Lucknow, and Kolkata were raided under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), official sources said.

A printing press in Kolkata where the examination papers were printed was also covered,

sources said, adding that the masterminds of this alleged scam are the same as that of the NEET UG paper leak scam of 2024. The Bihar Police Constable 2023 recruitment was aimed to fill 21,391 vacancies across various units of the Bihar police. The said examination

**210 bodies identified, given to 187 families**  
**Air India wreckage awaits recovery still**

Ahmedabad, June 19: A week after the devastating Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad claimed 270 lives, the debris, including the ill-fated aircraft's tail fin, is still lying at the site as investigators looked for clues to establish the exact cause behind the accident, said officials on Thursday.

The London-bound Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 persons on board plunged into a medical hostel complex in Meghanagar moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport at 1.39 pm on June 12. As many as 270 persons, including passengers, crew members and people on the ground, were killed in the crash and subsequent fire, which engulfed the aircraft as well as hostel buildings.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), a division of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is leading the investigation and its members keep visiting the site as part of the probe into one of the worst air disasters in recent times. While the Gujarat government on Thursday clarified that it has no role in the investigation, local firemen are helping forensic and aviation experts in their ongoing probe at the crash site, said Ahmedabad's Additional Chief Fire Officer Jayesh Khadia. After the aircraft smashed into the medical hostel complex, its tail fin got stuck on top of the hostel canteen's damaged building and it was brought to the ground using cranes on June 14, two days after the accident, said Khadia.

"The debris, including the tail fin, is still lying at the site. There are no orders on moving the rubble to some other place," he informed. Inspector DB Basiya of the Meghanagar police station, under whose jurisdiction the crash occurred, maintained that AAIB will decide the fate of the plane wreckage. "Role of the police is limited to protecting the site. AAIB will decide what to do with it. It is possible that in the future, AAIB may take the debris to another spot for investigation," said Basiya. Days after AAIB found the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) of the ill-

CRASH PROBE	
<b>DEBRIS</b> , including tail fin, still at site.	<b>TAIL fin</b> brought down on June 14.
<b>NO ORDERS ISSUED TO MOVE WRECKAGE.</b>	
<b>AAIB</b> to decide fate of debris.	<b>POLICE</b> guarding site, not involved in investigation.
<b>GUJARAT</b> gov't clarified no role in probe.	<b>Local firemen</b> assisting forensic, aviation experts.
<b>CRASH</b> site under Meghanagar police jurisdiction.	
<b>AAIB</b> officials visiting site regularly.	
<b>WRECKAGE</b> may be shifted later for analysis.	
<b>INVESTIGATORS</b> searching debris for vital clues.	
<b>INVESTIGATION</b> follows international aviation protocols	
<b>COCKPIT</b> Voice Recorder found in wreckage	
<b>FLIGHT</b> Data Recorder recovered earlier.	

fated plane, investigators on June 16 confirmed that Cockpit Voice Recorder was also recovered from the debris, a crucial discovery that is expected to help ascertain the cause of the horrific accident. The officials confirmed the recovery of black boxes to P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who on Sunday inspected the site. AAIB has launched a detailed investigation, while the US National Transportation Safety Board is conducting a parallel probe under international protocols as the crashed aircraft was American-made, said an official release.



**Cheaper air tickets until mid-July, starting now**

FROM PAGE 1

The cuts will be implemented between now and June 20 and will continue thereafter until at least mid-July. This effectively adds to our reserve aircraft availability to take care of any unplanned disruptions," Air India said.

The airline added that the DGCA mandated enhanced safety inspection across Air India's Boeing 787-8/9 aircraft fleet was going on and out of total 33 aircraft, inspections have been completed on 26 which had been cleared for service. Inspection of the remainder will be complete in the coming days. "The fact



Mother mourns co-pilot Clive Kunder as remains arrive at Mumbai residence.

that 26 aircraft have been cleared gives reassurance in the safety measures and procedures that we follow," the airline said in a statement. As a matter of added precaution, Air

India will also undertake enhanced safety checks on its Boeing 777 fleet. "Going forward, we will continue to cooperate with the authorities, viz AAIB, DGCA, MoCA to ensure the safety of our passengers, our crew and our aircraft, which remains our highest priority," Air India said. In a personal message to the frequent fliers of Air India, its CEO Campbell Wilson tried to provide clarity about AI171 that crashed in Ahmedabad. He said the flight was led by Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, a highly experienced pilot and trainer with over 10,000 hours flying wide-body aircraft.

**HEIGHT VIOLATIONS MAY INVITE DEMOLITION**

FROM PAGE 1

The plane had crashed on a medical college building that was very close to the airport premises, killing at least five persons.

The draft rules titled 'Aircraft (Demolition of Obstructions) Rules, 2025', empowers the Director General of Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other authorities to take immediate action against the owners of the buildings, trees, and other structures that exceed permissible height limits in designated aerodrome zones. These rules are an improvised version of the The Aircraft (Demolition of Obstruction caused by buildings and trees etc) Act of 1994. The new rules fall under Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024.

Under the proposed rules, any structure exceeding the height restrictions around notified aerodromes will be served a notice by the officer-in-charge.

**MEGHALAYA ALERT | Govt alters tourism policy, makes digital records mandatory for travellers**

**Honeymoon murder sparks ILP demand**

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JUNE 19

The District and Sessions Court in Shillong on Thursday remanded Sonam Raghbanshi and Raj Kushwaha on two days police custody while three other accused have been sent on 14 days judicial custody.

Meghalaya police on Thursday produced all five accused of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi's murder case, including his wife Sonam and her alleged lover Raj Kushwaha before the court and demanded extension of police custody to conclude the

remaining investigation into the sensational murder case.

Earlier police revealed that a new name Sanjay Verma had surfaced during the investigation was none other than Raj Kushwaha, Sonam's lover who hatched the plan for Raja's murder.

Police said that Sonam Raghuvanshi had saved alleged lover and co-conspirator, Raj Kushwaha's number as "Sanjay Verma" possibly to avoid any suspicion. According to police, Sonam saved Raj's phone number as "Sanjay Verma" to conceal their relationship, obviously to avoid suspicion. Police

**INNER LINE PERMIT**

CoMSO renews call for Inner Line Permit.

ILP resolution passed by Assembly in 2019.

POST-MURDER, ILP debate gains momentum again.

CENTRE yet to approve ILP for Meghalaya

accessed call records showing a high volume of calls between Sonam and "Sanjay Verma," revealing a close relationship between Sonam and her

CoMSO says ILP could block criminals' entry.

LEADERS stress ILP ensures better security. ILP seen as tool to regulate outsiders.

alleged accomplice, Raj. Raja Raghuvanshi, a transport businessman from Indore, was found dead on June 2 in Meghalaya, allegedly

killed by three assassins during a honeymoon trip with Sonam. The accused Sonam, Raj Kushwaha, Anand Singh Kurmi, Akash Rajput, and Vishal Singh Chauhan were arrested and remanded to eight days' police custody on June 11.

Police which on Thursday pleaded for extension of police custody of the accused, said that investigation has expanded beyond Meghalaya. Police team was in Indore to examine Sonam's family members and to recover her missing cell phones. Police are also examining her contacts and relationships for the

past several months, looking for connections or co-conspirators.

Meanwhile in the wake of this sensational murder the state government has also introduced certain changes in its tourism policy. The Meghalaya government has mandated that all homestays and resorts now register tourists on its official tourism app, and the information about every traveller is now stored digitally. This new protocol aims to improve tourist tracking and support investigations ensuring better oversight in the wake of the sensational crime.

SHORT TAKES

IIT DELHI TOPS QS WORLD RANKINGS 2026

New Delhi, June 19: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is the best-ranked Indian institution in QS World University Rankings for 2026 by climbing up to the 123rd spot with a record 54 universities and institutions from the country making it to the coveted list.

IIT Delhi has climbed more than 70 places in two years, ranking 123rd this year compared with 197 and 150 in previous two years. This has been down to outstanding results in Employer Reputation (where it now ranks 50th), Citations (86th), Sustainability (172nd), and Academic Reputation (142nd). IIT Delhi has jointly bagged the rank alongside Georgia Institute of Technology, US. While IIT Bombay slipped to 129th this year from its all-time best rank of 118 in 2025, it remains in the global top 130.

SC TRANSFERS JAYARAM KIDNAP PROBE

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Setting aside the directive of the Madras high court asking the police to take ADGP HM Jayaram into custody in connection with the kidnapping case, the Supreme Court on Thursday transferred investigation against him to the CB-CID after the Tamil Nadu government said it wants his suspension to continue till the probe in the case is over.

A two-judge bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan said: "The petitioner would have his remedies to assail the order of suspension. However, given the controversial circumstances in which the impugned order came to be passed, we are of the view that the investigation of this case be handed over to CB-CID. That apart, we request the Chief Justice of Madras High Court to assign and other related matters to another bench."

Gunfire in Patna before PM visit

Tejashwi says NDA protecting Bihar criminals

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Bihar, two motorcycle-borne gunmen on Thursday opened fire in a high-security zone in the state's capital Patna, where official residences of several ministers, the leader of opposition and bureaucrats are located, police said.

No one was injured in the firing incident. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Sachivalay-1) Anu Kumari said.

Leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, criticised the NDA government in Bihar, alleging that the criminals have been "protected" by the administration. "Immediately after receiving the information, a team of Airport Police Station personnel reached the spot and found a spent cartridge there. According to eyewitnesses, two motorcycle-borne miscreants fired at a local



Gunmen open fire near ministers' homes in high security zone in Patna.

person, identified as Rahul, and fled the spot. Rahul was unhurt," she told.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh from Friday. During his visit to poll-bound Bihar on June 20, he will flag off the first locomotive manufactured at the Marhowra factory in the state for export to the Republic of Guinea from an event in Siwan.

THAROOR STIRS STORM IN CONGRESS

DC CORRESPONDENTS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Relations between Congress Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor and his party continue to remain rocky. Tharoor, who is also a Congress Working Committee (CWC) member, on Thursday stated that he has differing opinions with some members of the Congress leadership. He, however, refrained from speaking on the differences in light of the bypolls in the Nilambur constituency.

Interacting with the media in Thiruvananthapuram, Tharoor, who came under attack from some party colleagues for supporting the Modi government's stand following the Pahalgam terror attack, said that the Congress, its values, and its workers are dear to him. "However, I do have differences of opinion with some in the Congress leadership. You know what I am talking about, as some of those issues are there in the public domain and have been reported by you (the media)," he said.

Record poll



People wait in a queue to cast their votes during the Nilambur Assembly by-election, at GMLP School, in Malappuram district, Kerala, on Thursday. — PTI

Karnataka raises minority quota

M.B.GIRISH | DC BENGALURU, JUNE 19

CABINET TO WEIGH CROWD CONTROL BILL

As per the directive from the Union Government, the State cabinet meeting on Thursday decided to hike the reservation/ quota for minorities in various housing schemes of the Housing department in both urban and rural areas from 10 percent to 15 percent.

The Union Government while issuing the directive to the State Government took note of the persons from minority communities faced shortage of houses and accordingly the State Government keeping in mind the figures of homeless and social justice, a hike in reservation/ quota for minorities from 10 percent to 15 percent has been effected. However, the hike in reservation/ quota for minorities came in for criticism from State Bharatiya Janata Party president and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra accused the ruling Congress government in Karnataka of having converted welfare schemes into a marketplace for

Bengaluru: Key Bills including the one on crowd control and management in the wake of the June 4 stampede in Bengaluru that killed 11 people is likely to be discussed in the next cabinet meeting, state Law and Parliamentary affairs minister H.K. Patil said on Thursday.

"Four bills were proposed today - Karnataka crowd control, managing crowd at events and venue of mass gathering Bill, 2025; Karnataka Rohith Vemula Bill, 2025; Karnataka misinformation, fake news prohibition Bill, 2025; Karnataka hate speech and hate crimes prevention Bill, 2025," Patil told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

vote-bank politics and questioned the State Government "Where does this appeasement end?". Vijayendra pointed.

CAPTAIN TATA COMMANDS INS TAMAL

LAXMI PRANATHI | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 19

Captain Sridhar Tata from Srikakulam district has been appointed as the first commissioned captain of INS Tamal, a cutting-edge stealth frigate set to join the Indian Navy fleet next month.

The warship, currently stationed in Russia, is scheduled to arrive in Indian waters on July 1 under Captain Tata's command. Captain Sridhar Tata hails from Chorlangi village in Srikakulam district. Over his 26-year naval career, he has served aboard 12 different warships in various capacities, with the distinction of being the first commissioned captain on three vessels.



Captain Sridhar Tata

British fighter jet still in Kerala

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 19

Royal Navy's F-35 B stealth fighter jet, which made an emergency landing at Thiruvananthapuram airport on Sunday, continues to remain grounded. The jet was part of the Royal Navy's HMS Prince of Wales Carrier Strike Group. Initially, it was reported that the British fighter jet was forced to land in Thiruvananthapuram



British Royal Navy's F-35 B stealth fighter jet remains grounded at Thiruvananthapuram airport. — DC

because of low fuel. However, experts say that fuel may not be the sole reason as it would have flown out after refuelling.

The aircraft had taken off for a training mission from the aircraft carrier, which was anchored 100 nautical miles off the coast.

The F-35B, a fifth-generation fighter jet, was piloted by only one person during the training flight.

Experts do not rule out the possibility of some technical snag that has led to the grounding of the aircraft for the last five days. Efforts are underway to sort out the suspected technical snag.

WORLD

SHORT TAKES

BUDAPEST MAYOR DEFIES BAN ON PRIDE MARCH

Budapest, June 19: Hungarian police on Thursday banned the country's main Pride march from taking place in Budapest on June 28 but the capital's mayor defied them, vowing it would still go ahead.

Since Prime Minister Viktor Orban returned to power in 2010, Hungary has passed a series of laws which have been criticised at home and across the European Union for curtailing the rights of the country's sexual and gender minorities in the name of "child protection".

"The police, acting within their authority over public assemblies, prohibit the holding of the assembly at the aforementioned location and time," the police said on their website.

Police said the ban was necessary under recent legislation that bans the promotion of same-sex relationships to under-18s. They said any appeal against the decision must be lodged within three days.

DR CONGO, RWANDA PEACE PACT ON JUNE 27

Washington, June 19: Representatives of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda have initialed a peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict in eastern DRC — a document to be formally signed on June 27, a joint statement said Wednesday.

The text, which builds on a declaration of principles signed in April, "includes provisions on respect for territorial integrity and a prohibition of hostilities" in eastern DRC, according to the statement released by the two nations, as well as the United States and Qatar, which acted as mediators. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will witness the signing in Washington later this month.

The deal was reached during three days of "constructive dialogue regarding political, security, and economic interests" between DRC and Rwandan officials in US capital.

US okays twice a year injection against HIV

\$28,218 per drug per year in US would be negative factor

Washington, June 19: The US Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved Gilead Sciences' twice-yearly injection to prevent HIV — a move the company hailed as a major breakthrough in the fight against the sexually-transmitted virus.

Drugs to prevent HIV transmission, known as pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, have existed for more than a decade. But because they typically require taking a daily pill, they have yet to make a significant dent in global infections.

"This is a historic day in the decades-long fight against HIV," Gilead chairman and chief executive Daniel O'Day said in a statement.

Lenacapavir, marketed under the brand name Yeztugo, has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV transmission by more than 99.9 percent in adults and adolescents — making it functionally akin to a powerful vaccine.

The company conducted two large clinical trials. The first, involving more than 2,000 women in sub-

MAKING OF A MAGICAL DRUG

LENACAPAVIR, marketed under the brand name Yeztugo, has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV transmission by more than 99.9 per cent in adults and adolescents.



In the 2nd trial, involving over 2,000 men and gender-diverse individuals, only 2 infections were found.

Saharan Africa, resulted in a 100 per cent reduction in infections and demonstrated superiority over the daily oral pill Truvada. In the second trial, involving over 2,000 men and gender-diverse individuals, only two infections were recorded — a 99.9 percent prevention rate, again surpassing Truvada.

Reported side effects included injection site reactions, headache, and nausea. Results from both trials

THIS IS a historic day in the decades-long fight against HIV. — DANIEL O'DAY, Gilead chairman

were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and the journal *Science* named lenacapavir its 2024 "Breakthrough of the Year."

Despite the impressive results, optimism may be tempered by the drug's cost — a list price of \$28,218 per year in the US, Gilead spokeswoman Blair Baumwell said.

An earlier long-acting HIV prevention shot — cabotegravir, which is injected every two months and was approved by the

FDA in 2021 — costs tens of thousands of dollars per year and has yet to make a major global impact.

Lenacapavir's current list price for its previously approved use as a treatment for HIV is \$39,000 annually.

Baumwell said the \$28,000-plus per year cost for Lenacapavir as a preventive drug is "in line with" those of existing PrEP products and that the company inspects insurers to cover it.

"We are working to make Yeztugo accessible for anyone who needs or wants it and expect to see broad insurance coverage," she said in the email.

Activists are urging Gilead to drastically cut the price to help end the HIV pandemic.

"Even high-income countries will not be able to afford widespread use of lenacapavir at prices above US \$20,000 per year," said Andrew Hill of Liverpool University, who led a team of chemists and scientists that found it could be mass-produced and sold for as little as \$25 per person per year. — AFP

HIGH ALERT Report says Earth's surface heat in 2024 breached 1.5°C over pre-industrial levels

1L tonnes COs released every minute in 10 yrs

Paris, June 19: From carbon pollution to sea-level rise to global heating, the pace and level of key climate change indicators are all in uncharted territory, more than 60 top scientists warned on Thursday.

Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels and deforestation hit a new high in 2024 and averaged, over the last decade, a record 53.6 billion tonnes per year — that is 100,000 tonnes per minute — of CO2 or its equivalent in other gases, they reported in a peer-reviewed update. Earth's surface tempera-

ture last year breached 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels for the first time, and the additional CO2 humanity can emit with a two-thirds chance of staying under that threshold long-term — our 1.5C "carbon budget" — will be exhausted in two years, they calculated.

Investment in clean energy outpaced investment in oil, gas and coal last year two-to-one, but fossil fuels account for more than 80 percent of global energy consumption, and growth in renewables still lags behind new demand. Included in the 2015



A file picture of the Gibson Power Plant in Princeton, New Jersey. — AP

Paris climate treaty as an aspirational goal, the 1.5C limit has since been vali-

dated by science as necessary for avoiding a catastrophically

addled world. The hard cap on warming to which nearly 200 nations agreed was "well below" two degrees, commonly interpreted to mean 1.7C to 1.8C.

With the 1.5C level now expected to be breached in the coming years, "we are already in crunch time for these higher levels of warming," co-author Joeri Rogelj, a professor of climate science and policy at Imperial College London, told journalists in a briefing.

Thai crisis grows over PM's audio

Bangkok, June 19: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra apologised on Thursday for a leaked phone call with former Cambodian leader Hun Sen that has provoked widespread anger and put her government on the brink of collapse.

Her main coalition partner has quit and she faces calls to resign or hold an election, throwing the kingdom into a fresh round of political instability as it seeks to boost its spluttering economy and avoid US President Donald Trump's swingeing trade tariffs.

The conservative Bhumjaithai party pulled out on Wednesday, saying Paetongtarn's conduct in the leaked call had wounded the country and the army's dignity. As pressure grew on Thursday, Paetongtarn apologised at a news conference alongside military chiefs and senior figures from her Pheu Thai party. "I would like to apologise for the leaked audio of my conversation with a Cambodian leader which has caused public resentment," Paetongtarn told reporters. The 38-year-old is the daughter of billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra, Thailand's most influential but controversial modern politician. — AFP

FRANCE CLOSER TO DEFINING RAPE AS LACK OF CONSENT

Paris, June 19: The French Senate passed a bill late on Wednesday that includes lack of consent in the country's criminal definition of rape, paving the way for its official adoption in the coming months.

The vote comes several months after a court in Avignon found a French man guilty of drugging his wife so he and strangers could rape her. The case drew renewed attention to the widespread crime of rape and the issue of consent.

The bill passed this week redefines all sexual assaults — including rape — as "any non-consensual act".

France's lower house of Parliament approved a slightly different version of the bill in April.

Wednesday's vote is not the final legislative hurdle. A joint committee of senators and lower-house MPs is expected to draft a joint text prior to the final adoption of the law in both houses. "Consent is not saying no," said Equality Minister Aurore Berge, but "saying yes, without explicit yes, freely, without constraint or ambiguity".

The vote is a "decisive step towards a genuine culture of consent", she added.

The bill passed by both chambers defines consent as "free and informed, specific, prior and revocable", adding that it "cannot be inferred from the victim's silence or lack of reaction alone". France's current legal definition of rape defines it as "any act of sexual penetration... by violence, constraint, threat or surprise" but this bill would specify that there is "no consent" under these conditions. Some lawmakers and activists have expressed concerns about the change. — AFP



**27 JUNE RELEASE**



**చంద్రబాసం**

**LAXMIKALACINEPRIDE**

**VIJAYALAXMILB NAGAR**

**ASIAN CINEMAS** Cinesquare|MCUBE  
JP Cinemas | MJR Square

**PVR** Inorbit Mall | Prestone  
Forum Mall | RK Plex | Central  
Icon | Next Galleria | Atrium Mall

**INOX** GVK Mall|Necklace Sattva  
MP Mall | GSM Mall

**Cinepolis** CCPL | MANTRA MALL | SUDHA MALL  
LULU MALL | DSL MALL


**MIRAJ** MALKAJGIRI | CHANDANAGAR | MIYAPUR  
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**PAPA**

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11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**MAHALAXMI70MM-11.30,2.30PM**

**ASIAN CINEMAS** CINESQUARE-4.40PM

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**RELEASING TODAY**



**కుబేర**

**TAMIL VERSION**

**OAMB** 9.25, 12.50, 7.00, 10.45PM

**ASIAN** 7.10PM | **INOX** 9.00AM, 5.00PM

**INOX** GSM MALL-7.00, 10.40PM

**NEO** APARNA-9.20, 7.20, 10.50PM

**ASIAN CINEMAS** RADHIKA-10.45PM  
CINEPLANET-4.20PM

**Cinepolis** LULU MALL-7.25PM  
CCPL-10.30, 7.35PM  
MANTRA MALL-7.05PM

**SUDHA-7.05PM | TNR-12.45, 7.10PM**

**GLOBAL CINEMAS**

**TIVOLI**

CATCH THE STARS!  
**TODAY SCHEDULE**

**కుబేర**

**KUBERAA(U/A)**  
(182 MIN)  
8.30, 11.00, 12.00, 3.30,  
5.15, 7.10, 10.50PM

**BALLERINA(A)**  
(ENG)(127 MIN)  
10.30PM

**HOUSEFULL5(U/A)**  
(HIN)(165 MIN)  
1.40, 7.20PM

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON(U/A)**  
(ENG 3D)(125 MIN)  
4.50PM


**ELIO(U)(97MIN)**  
2D ENG:8.40PM  
2D ENG:6.20PM

**8 VASANTALU (U/A)(140 MIN)**  
2.30, 10.50PM

**SitaAare Zameen Par**

**SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR(U/A)(159 MIN)**  
11.00, 2.10, 7.40, 10.50PM

**X ROADS(U/A)**  
(114 MIN) 11.15AM



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**ASIAN CINEMAS**

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

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KUBERAA/SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 50/10/15  
KUBERAA(TEL-ZD)UA: 10:45AM, 2:15PM, 5:45, 6:15, 9:15- SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR (HIN-ZD)UA: 11:15AM, 2:25PM, 9:25-

**ASIAN SHA & SHAHENSHA - CHINTAL**  
KUBERAA/SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 10/15  
KUBERAA(TEL-ZD)UA: 11:00AM, 2:30PM, 6:00, 6:15, 9:30- SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR (HIN-ZD)UA: 11:30AM, 2:45PM, 9:45-

**ASIAN MUKTA A2 MJR SQUARE - NARAPALLY**  
KUBERAA Rs. 225/250 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 200/250  
8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/250

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**KUBERAA** (TEL-ZD)UA: 9:55AM, 12:00PM, 1:00, 1:20, 3:30, 4:15, 7:00, 7:10, 7:25, 10:25, 10:35- SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR(HIN-ZD)UA: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50- 8 VASANTALU(TEL-ZD)UA: 4:30PM, 10:55-

**RELEASING TODAY**

**కుబేర**

**SANDHYA35MM**  
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10.30, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

**ASIAN TARAKARAMA70MM**  
KACHIGUDA-2.15, 9.00PM

**MALLIKARJUNA70-KUKATPALLY**  
11.15, 2.45, 6.30, 10.00PM

**ARJUN70MM-11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30**

**ASIAN KONARK-10.45, 2.30, 6.15, 9.45PM**

**VENKATARAMANA/PADMAVATHI**  
KACHIGUDA-11.00, 6.00PM

**RAMAKRISHNA70-11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.15PM**

**SVC SRILAKSHMI/INDRA NAGENDRA70**  
11.30, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM

<b>ASIAN SUPER70</b> 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM	<b>ASIAN JYOTHI70</b> 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM
<b>RAJYALAKSHMI70</b> 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM	<b>ALANKAR70MM</b> 10.45, 2.00, 5.45, 9.00PM
<b>VYJAYANTHI70MM</b> 10.45, 2.00, 5.45, 9.00PM	<b>SREERAMANA70</b> 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM
<b>ASIAN SWAPNA</b> 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.05PM	<b>VIJETHA70MM</b> 11.00, 6.00PM
<b>GANESH70MM</b> 10.30, 2.15, 6.00, 9.30PM	<b>BHUJANGA70MM</b> 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
<b>SRISAIRAM70MM</b> 10.45, 2.30, 6.15, 10.00PM	<b>GOKUL70MM</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM
<b>VLS SRIDEVI70MM</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM	<b>SUSHMA70MM</b> 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.30PM
<b>BR HITECH70MM</b> 10.30, 2.15, 6.00, 9.45PM	<b>ASIAN SENSATION</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.45PM
<b>MYTHRI VIMAL70</b> 11.10, 2.55, 6.45, 10.30PM	<b>MAHALAKSHMI70</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.15, 10.00PM
<b>SVC SANGEETHA</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM	<b>JAGADAMBA70MM</b> 11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.40PM
<b>SAIRANGA70MM</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM	<b>TALLURI70MM</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM
<b>SVC SIVASAKTHI</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM	<b>SRILAKSHMILAMANDIR</b> 11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM
<b>SVC YADAGIRI70</b> 11.00, 2.30PM	<b>SVC EESHWAR</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.45PM
<b>ASIAN MUKUND</b> 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM	<b>SREEPREMA70MM</b> 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM
<b>KRISHNAALIYABAD</b> 10.45, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM	<b>SANTOSHIBPATNAM</b> 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
<b>PRASANTH70MM</b> 11.00, 2.10, 6.00, 9.10PM	<b>SRIRAMULU70MM</b> 7.15, 11.00, 2.30, 6.30, 10.00
<b>RAGHAVENDRA70</b> 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM	<b>VENKATESWARA70</b> GUMMADIDHALA

**సేద వెకుదల**

**కుబేర**

**AMB CINEMAS**

9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 12.30, 1.05, 3.25, 4.35, 6.40, 7.15, 10.10, 10.45PM

8.45, 9.05, 12.15, 3.30, 3.35, 6.50, 7.00, 10.20, 10.30PM

9.00, 9.00, 9.00, 12.20, 12.35, 1.00, 3.40, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 10.00, 10.25PM

**MOOSAPET-10.40, 2.20, 6.00, 9.40PM**

**NEO** 10.20, 12.50, 4.15, 7.45, 11.15PM

**AMR-8.30, 12.10, 3.50, 7.30, 11.10**

**GPR-9.00, 12.30, 4.00, 7.30, 11.00PM**

**MOVIE TIME**

**SKY-8.45, 9.00, 9.30, 12.30, 3.45, 7.15, 10.30PM**

**GACHIBOWLI-8.45, 9.00, 9.30, 12.30, 3.45, 7.15, 10.30**

**Cinepolis**

**TNR-9.10, 10.00, 10.30, 12.30, 2.40, 05, 6.50, 7.10, 7.30, 10.35, 11.10PM**

**LULU-9.20, 11.00, 12.45, 4.05, 7.20, 11.05PM**

**CCPL-9.20, 12.50, 1.50, 4.50, 7.30, 10.45PM**

**DSL-9.20, 10.00, 12.50, 1.55, 4.05, 7.25, 11.10PM**

**MANTRA-9.10, 10.00, 12.20, 2.20, 4.05, 7.30, 11.15**

**SUDHA-9.15, 12.20, 4.10, 7.00, 7.30, 11.20PM**

**TIVOLI**

8.30, 12.00, 3.30, 7.10, 10.50PM

10.30, 2.15, 4.0, 7.10, 10.40

**ASIAN CINEMAS**

9.15PM | SHA-10.45, 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 6.15, 9.30PM | RADHIKA-9.20, 12.30, 1.15, 3.45, 4.00, 7.15, 7.30, 10.55PM | CINEPLANET-9.30, 9.55, 11.45, 1.00, 3.15, 4.00, 4.20, 6.45, 7.25, 9.45, 10.15, 10.50PM

**MCUBE MALL-9.30, 9.55, 12.00, 1.00, 3.30, 3.50, 4.20, 7.00, 7.10, 7.25, 10.30, 10.50PM**

**CINESQUARE-9.35, 9.55, 12.00, 12.15, 1.00, 3.30, 3.45, 4.15, 7.00, 7.15, 7.25, 10.25, 10.35, 10.45PM**

**MJR SQUARE-9.35, 9.55, 12.00, 1.00, 1.20, 3.30, 7.00, 7.10, 7.25, 10.35PM | JP CINEMAS | CINEMART-9.35, 9.55, 12.15, 12.35, 1.00, 3.40, 4.00, 4.15, 7.05, 7.25, 7.30, 10.30, 10.35, 01.50PM**

**INOX**

**IMP MALL-9.20, 12.55, 3.55, 7.00, 10.40PM**

**ASHOKA ONE-9.25, 10.00, 1.05, 4.00, 7.10, 10.20, 10.50PM**

**NECKLACE-9.25, 1.00, 4.15, 6.40, 7.10, 10.20, 10.50PM**

**MIRAJ**

**MIYAPUR-10.00, 1.30, 4.20, 7.25, 11.00PM**

**MALKAJGIRI-10.00, 1.30, 4.20, 7.2, 11.00PM**

**CHANDANAGAR-10.40, 2.20, 4.40, 6.00, 9.40, 10.40PM**

**BALANAGAR-10.40, 12.30, 4.00, 7.30, 11.00PM**

**SHALINI-11.00, 12.30, 4.00, 7.30, 11.00PM**

**PVR**

**PRISM MALL-9.40, 1.20, 3.40, 7.25, 11.05PM**

**ATRIUM MALL-10.35, 1.15, 3.35, 7.15, 10.55PM**

**PRESTONE-10.25, 1.20, 4.05, 7.25, 11.05PM**

**MOOSARAMBAGH-9.30, 11.00, 12.50, 4.10, 7.15, 10.35, 10.55PM | IRRUMMANZIL-9.25, 10.35, 1.05, 4.05, 7.20, 10.40, 11.00PM | L&T METRO-9.30, 11.00, 1.10, 3.30, 7.00, 7.20, 10.40, 11.00PM | HITECH MALL-9.20, 1.00, 4.10, 7.25, 10.40, 11.00PM | RK MALL-9.35, 1.15, 4.20, 7.20, 11.00PM | CENTRAL-9.30, 12.30, 4.05, 4.35, 7.35, 11.10PM | INORBIT-9.25, 10.45, 1.05, 4.20, 7.20, 10.40, 11.00PM | FORUM MALL-9.20, 10.25, 12.30, 1.00, 4.10, 6.50, 7.25, 10.15, 11.05PM**

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**TML 2D (UA)** ₹1205/350  
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**HIN 2D (UA)** ₹1205/350  
07:20 PM, 10:30 PM

**SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR** TEL-ZD (UA) ₹1205/350  
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**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON** ENG 3D (UA) ₹1385/325  
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**8 VASANTALLU** TEL-ZD (A) 04:00 PM, 10:50 PM ₹1250/350

**HOUSEFULL 5** HIN 2D (UA) 01:30 PM ₹1205/350

**20 YEARS LATER** HIN 2D (UA) 04:45 PM, 10:30 PM ₹1205/350

**MATERIALISTS** ENG 2D (UA) 11:35 AM ₹1205/350

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SHORT TAKE

EUROPEAN, IRANIAN FMs TO HOLD N-TALKS

Brussels, June 19: Foreign ministers from Britain, France and Germany together with the EU's top diplomat will hold nuclear talks with their Iranian counterpart in Geneva Friday, officials and diplomats said. The meeting comes as European countries call for de-escalation in the face of Israel's bombing campaign against Iran's nuclear programme — and as US President Donald Trump weighs whether to join the strikes against Tehran.

"We will meet with the European delegation in Geneva on Friday," Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said in a statement carried by state news agency IRNA.

European diplomats separately confirmed the planned talks, set to involve French foreign minister Jean-Noel Barrot, British foreign Secretary David Lammy and German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl, as well as EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. Lammy was in Washington on Thursday, where he was due to meet US secretary of state Marco Rubio for talks focused on Iran, the state department said.

Trump has said he is weighing military action against Iran's nuclear facilities as Israel pummels the country and Tehran responds with missile fire.

France, Germany, Britain and the European Union were all signatories of the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran sunk by Trump during his first term in office.

# Iran holds direct talks with US amid conflict with Israel

Tehran says it won't return to negotiations unless Israel stopped attacks

Dubai, Calgary, June 19: U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi have spoken by phone several times since Israel began its strikes on Iran last week, in a bid to find a diplomatic end to the crisis, three diplomats told Reuters.

According to the diplomats, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter, Araghchi said Tehran would not return to negotiations unless Israel stopped the attacks, which began on June 13.

They said the talks included a brief discussion of a US proposal given to Iran at the end of May that aims to create a regional consortium that would enrich uranium outside of Iran, an offer Tehran has so far rejected. US and Iranian officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the matter.

This week's phone discussions were the most substantive direct talks since the two began negotiations in April. On those occasions, in Oman and Italy, the two men exchanged brief words when they encountered each other after indirect talks were held.

A regional diplomat



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits the Soroka Hospital in the southern city of Beersheba, after it was hit by a missile fired from Iran on Thursday. — AFP

close to Tehran said Araghchi had told Witkoff that Tehran "could show flexibility in the nuclear issue" if Washington pressured Israel to end the war. A European diplomat said: "Araghchi told Witkoff Iran was ready to come back to nuclear talks, but it could not if Israel continued its bombing."

Other than brief encounters after five rounds of indirect talks since April to discuss Iran's decades-old nuclear dispute, Araghchi and Witkoff had not previously held direct

contacts. A second regional diplomat who said "the (first) call was initiated by Washington, which also proposed a new offer" to overcome the deadlock over clashing red lines.

US President Donald Trump wants Tehran to end uranium enrichment on its soil, while Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said Tehran's right to enrichment is non-negotiable.

Trump has been keeping his cards close to his chest over whether he will order US forces to join

Israel's bombing campaign that it says aims to destroy Iran's nuclear programme and ballistic capabilities. But Trump offered a glimmer of hope that diplomacy could resume, saying Iranian officials wanted to come to Washington for a meeting.

He rebuffed President Emmanuel Macron earlier this week when the French leader said Trump had told G7 leaders at a summit in Canada that the United States had made an offer to get a ceasefire. — Reuters

## UKRAINE FEARS BEING SIDELINED BY CONFLICT

Kyiv, June 19: Fighting between Iran and Israel could deflect global attention from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and even bolster Kremlin's war effort, Ukrainian officials say.

Israel launched a massive bombing campaign on Iran last week that prompted Tehran — a close ally of Russia — to strike back with missiles and drones.

The conflict has pushed up the price of oil — a key revenue stream funding Russia's invasion.

"For Ukraine, the challenge is the price of oil, because if prices remain high for a long time, the Russians will earn more," a senior Ukrainian political official said.

However, Kyiv has welcomed Israeli attacks on a country which has directly aided and provided weapons to Moscow for its own strikes on Ukraine. — AFP

## RUSSIA WARNS U.S. OF MILITARY INTERVENTION

Moscow, June 19: Russia's foreign ministry on Thursday warned the US not to take military action against Iran, amid speculation over whether Washington will enter the war alongside Israel.

Moscow issued its warning after Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in a phone call condemned Israeli attacks on Iran and urged a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Israel launched an unprecedented wave of strikes at Iran last week, to which Tehran responded with missile and drone attacks.

US President Donald Trump announced on Wednesday he was considering whether to join Israel's strikes. "I may do it, I may not do it," he said.

Russian foreign ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters: "We would like to particularly warn Washington against military intervention in the situation."

"Any US military action would be an extremely dangerous step with truly unpredictable negative consequences", she added. — AFP

## Crowning styles



Racegoers in colourful outfits and ornate hats pose at the Royal Ascot horse race meeting, traditionally called Ladies Day, at Ascot, England, Thursday. — AP

# Foreign students to unlock social accounts for visa

Washington, June 19: The US state department said on Wednesday it is restarting the suspended process for foreigners applying for student visas but all applicants will now be required to unlock their social media accounts for government review.

The department said consular officers will be on the lookout for posts and messages that could be deemed hostile to the US, its government, culture, institutions or founding principles.

The department said it had rescinded its May suspension of student visa processing but said new applicants who refuse to set their social media accounts to public and allow them to be reviewed may be rejected.

The Trump administration last month temporarily halted the scheduling of new visa interviews for foreign students hoping to study in the US while preparing to expand the screening of their activity on social media, officials said.

## CRACKDOWN

● **CONSULAR** officers will be on the lookout for posts and messages that could be deemed hostile to the US, its government, culture, institutions or founding principles.

● **NEW** applicants who refuse to set their social media accounts to public and allow them to be reviewed may be rejected.

Students around the world have been waiting anxiously for US consulates to reopen appointments for visa interviews, as the window left to book their travel and make housing arrangements narrows ahead of the start of the school year.

A 27-year-old Ph.D. student in Toronto was able to secure an appointment for a visa interview next week. The student, a Chinese national, hopes to travel to the US for a research internship that would start in July. — AFP

# Israeli strikes kill 25 in Gaza

Gaza City, June 19: Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli fire killed at least 25 people on Thursday, including 15 who had gathered near an aid distribution site.

Civil defence official Mohammad Al Mughayyir said 15 people were killed and 60 wounded, while waiting for aid in central Gaza's Netzarim corridor, where thousands of people have gathered daily in the hope of receiving rations.

"The Israeli army said it was 'looking into' the reports. Witness Bassam Abu Shaar said thousands of people had gathered overnight in the hope of receiving aid at the US- and Israeli-backed distribution site when it opened in the morning."

"Around 1.00 am (2200 GMT

Wednesday), they started shooting at us. The gunfire intensified from tanks, aircraft and quadcopter bombs," he said by phone.

He said the size of the crowd had made it impossible for people to escape the Israeli fire near Shuhada Junction, and dead and wounded were left lying on the ground within walking distance of the distribution point run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. "We

couldn't help them or even escape ourselves," he said.

Mughayyir said the casualties had been taken to the Al-Awda and Al-Aqsa hospitals, in north and central Gaza respectively.

Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in recent weeks while trying to reach aid distribution points in Gaza, which is suffering from famine-like conditions, according to UN agencies operating in the territory.

In early March, Israel imposed an aid blockade on the territory amid a deadlock in truce negotiations, only partially easing restrictions in late May. After Israel loosened its blockade, the privately run Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began distributing aid, but its operations have been marred by chaotic scenes. UN agencies and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with the foundation over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli military objectives. — AFP

A plume of smoke billows in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip during an Israel strike on Thursday. — AFP



# Google suffers legal setback on fine

Luxembourg, June 19: Google suffered a legal blow at the European Court of Justice on Thursday, when the body's adviser recommended upholding a record fine imposed on the company for anti-competitive practices.

The US tech giant has been trying to overturn on appeal a \$4.9 billion fine imposed by the European Commission in 2018, which was later

reduced to 4.1 billion euros. But in its opinion, Juliane Kokott, advocate general at the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), said "the legal arguments put forward by Google are ineffective", the court

later said in a statement. The commission, the EU's antitrust regulator, had accused Google

of abusing the popularity of its Android operating system to restrict competition.

It alleged Google pressured phone makers using Android to pre-install its search engine and Google Chrome browser — essentially shutting out rivals.

The findings were upheld in 2022 by the European Union's sec-

ond-highest court, which slightly reduced the fine.

The levy remains the EU's biggest ever. Arguing that the commission's case was unfounded and that the sanction penalised innovation, Google appealed to the EU's top court.

The company had also pushed the case that the EU was unfairly blind to Apple, which gives preference to its own

services, such as Safari on iPhones. Thursday's advice will guide the EU's decision. The court has the final say on the matter.

"Google held a dominant position in several markets of the Android ecosystem and thus benefited from network effects that enabled it to ensure that users used Google Search," the court said, detailing Kokott's opinion. — AFP

## TRAGEDY | AVERTED The rocket was preparing for 10th flight test when it experienced major issue

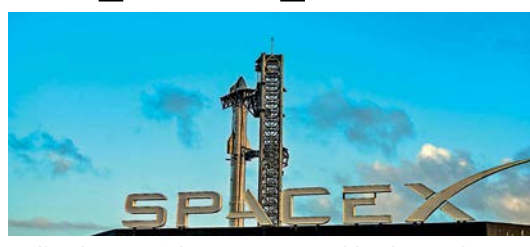
# SpaceX Starship explodes during routine test

Houston, June 19: One of Elon Musk's SpaceX Starships exploded during a routine test late Wednesday in Texas, law enforcement said, in the latest setback to the billionaire's dream of turning humanity into an interplanetary species.

The Starship 36 suffered "catastrophic failure and exploded" at the Starbase launch facility shortly after 11:00 pm (0400 GMT Thursday), a Facebook post by the Cameron County author-

ities said. A video shared with the post showed the megarocket attached to the launch arm, and then a flash and a towering, fiery explosion.

Musk's SpaceX said the rocket was preparing for the tenth flight test when it "experienced a major anomaly while on a test stand at Starbase," without elaborating on the nature of the complication. "A safety clear area around the site was



A file picture of the SpaceX Starship sits on the launch pad. — AFP

maintained throughout the operation and all personnel are safe and accounted for," SpaceX added on social media.

"There are no hazards to residents in surrounding communities, and we ask that individuals do not attempt to approach

the area while safing operations continue." The Starship was not scheduled for launch on Wednesday evening when the explosion occurred during a "routine static fire test," according to the Cameron County authorities.

During a static fire, part of the procedures preceding a launch, the Starship's Super Heavy booster would be anchored to the ground to prevent it from lifting

off during the test-firing. Starbase on the south Texas coast, near the border with Mexico, is the headquarters for Musk's space project.

Standing 123 meters tall, Starship is the world's largest and most powerful rocket and central to Musk's long-term vision of colonizing Mars.

The Starship is billed as a fully reusable rocket with a payload capacity of up to 150 metric tons. The latest setback fol-

lows an explosion of a prototype Starship over the Indian Ocean in late May.

The biggest and most powerful launch vehicle ever built had lifted off on May 27 from the Starbase facility, but the first-stage Super Heavy booster blew up instead of executing its planned splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico. The previous two outings also ended poorly, with the upper stage disintegrating over the Caribbean. — AFP

**ASIAN MURTA CINEMAS**  
MJR SQUARE MALL, NARAPALLY  
**RELEASING TODAY**

**KUBERAA**  
SHOW TIMINGS  
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TAM 2D (UA) ₹250/300  
7:10 PM, 10:25 PM

**SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR** HIN 2D (UA) ₹250/300  
11:05 AM, 12:35 PM, 3:45 PM, 7:05 PM, 10:40 PM

**HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON** ENG 3D (UA) ₹230/330  
4:25 PM

**BALLERINA** ENG 2D (A) ₹200/250  
6:55 PM

8 VASANTALU TEL 2D (UA) 12:50 PM, 10:25 PM

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Pound Sterling (₹)	116.42 -0.009
Euro (₹)	99.54 0.08
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	99,270* -0.27
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	78.13 1.86
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.37 0.05
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.387 0.64

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Walmart to add more MSMEs to supplier network

Walmart will connect one lakh more MSMEs in next 3 years to its supplier development programme in India, Jason Fremstad, senior VP of Supplier Development - Sourcing at Walmart said. The programme, Walmart Vridhhi, has partnered with Ideas to Impact Foundation (i2i), which will enable more MSMEs to expand their access to both national and international markets, helped by Walmart and Flipkart.



## Amazon to spend ₹2,000 cr to scale up operations

Amazon will invest over ₹2,000 crore in 2025 to scale up its all-India operations network. Investments will support network expansion and upgrades to serve customers faster and more reliably, advance technology and innovation, and improve employee and associate well-being, it said. Amazon plans to leverage these investments to launch new sites and upgrade existing facilities across its fulfilment sortation.

## Attero to invest ₹100 crore to add recycling capacity

E-waste recycling company Attero plans to invest ₹100 crore to scale up its rare earth recycling capacity to 30,000 tonnes from 300 tonnes over next 12 to 24 months, its CEO and co-founder Nitin Gupta said. He said that the investment is in line with demand in the market for rare earth magnets, for which industries in India and across world like electronics, auto etc are entirely dependent on supplies from China.

## Uno Minda plans manufacturing unit with ₹210 cr

Uno Minda on Thursday said it will invest about ₹210 crore to set up a manufacturing facility of its casting division at Aurangabad in Maharashtra to meet demands for electric vehicle (EV) casting parts. The committee of board of directors approved the detailed project report for the facility in its meeting held on June 19. The facility will cater to the increasing demands of OEMs for casting parts in EVs, it said.

## Rupee declines to its lowest in 3 months at 86.72 vs dollar

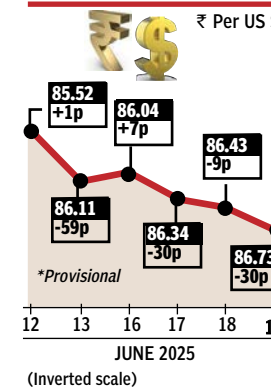
FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, JUNE 19

The Indian rupee fell to its weakest level since mid-March on Thursday, as the Middle East conflict threatened to escalate and the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive time.

Thursday marked the third consecutive day of rupee depreciation, logging a loss of 69 paise. The rupee opened at 86.54 against the greenback, touched an intra-day high of 86.49 and a low of 86.89, before slightly paring losses to close at 86.7225 against the US dollar, down 30 paise from its previous close.

According to Jamal Mecklai, chief executive officer at Mecklai Financial Services, the rupee is possibly on its way to the approximate target of 88. "There are several events in the near future that could cause market trauma and drive the rupee lower — the passage of Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, expected by July 4; the next tariff deadline on July 9; and, of course, the Israel-Iran war, which could result in

### RUPEE VS DOLLAR



\* Provisional

JUNE 2025

(Inverted scale)

SHORT TAKES

**Jemimah retained by Brisbane Heat**

**Melbourne:** India batter Jemimah Rodrigues has been retained by Brisbane Heat, with eight franchises picking up a total of 23 international players during the Women's Big Bash League draft here on Thursday. Cricket Australia informed in a release that middle-order batter Rodrigues, a "fan favourite" in Brisbane, was retained by the Brisbane Heat franchise along with West Indies' Chinelle Henry and South Africa's Nadine de Klerk. A total of 15 Indian women players had registered themselves for the WBBL draft ahead of its 10th season. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, former South African fast bowler Shabnim Ismail and former England captain Heather Knight were picked up by Sydney Thunder. England duo of Sophia Dunkley and Mady Villiers along with New Zealand star Amelia Kerr were roped in by Sydney Sixers, while Adelaide Strikers picked up English spinner Sophie Ecclestone and wicketkeeper-batter Tammy Beaumont along with South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt. — PTI

**Nissanka leads Lanka fightback**

**Galle, Sri Lanka:** Pathum Nissanka's career-best 187 helped Sri Lanka finish the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh in a strong position Thursday, only 127 runs off the Tigers' first innings score. The 27-year-old opener anchored the Sri Lanka innings before they finished on 368/4 at the close of play, behind Bangladesh's 495. He struck several key partnerships before he was bowled by Hasan Mahmud towards the end of the day's play. Nissanka, who had been under pressure before the match with only one half-century in nine innings, hit 23 fours and a six in his marathon 256-ball innings. Nissanka looked set for his maiden double-ton when he was bowled by Mahmud, who was bowling with the second new ball. "This is my first Test hundred at home so I was very happy to get there," Nissanka said after the day's play. — AFP  
**Brief scores:** Bangladesh 495 vs Sri Lanka 368/4 in 93 overs (Pathum Nissanka 187, Dinesh Chandimal 54).

**640 boxers for Junior Nationals**

**New Delhi:** As many as 640 pugilists from across the country will participate in the 6th Junior (U-17) Boys and Girls National Boxing Championships in Rohtak, starting Thursday. Both the junior boys and girls competitions will feature 13 weight categories each, ranging from 44-46 kg to 80+ kg. The Services Sports Control Board will look to defend their title in the Boys' section while Haryana enter as the defending champions in the Girls' category. "The Junior National Championship is a crucial platform for young boxers to showcase their skills in front of national selectors and coaches. It plays a key role in helping BFI identify and nurture future talent. "Many of these young boxers will represent India in the 2032 & 2036 Olympic Games, and therefore, this championship is of great importance," said Ajay Singh, Chairman, Boxing Federation of India Interim Committee. The winners will represent India at the Asian Youth Games, in October. — PTI

**Wimbledon champ Kvitova to retire**

**London:** Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova plans to retire in a few months, the Czech player said Thursday. The announcement on social media came a day after Kvitova was granted a wild card for Wimbledon. "I am excited and very much looking forward to soak in the beauty of playing The Championships, Wimbledon one more time, a place that holds the most cherished memories in my career," Kvitova said. "And while I am not entirely sure yet what my hardcourt swing in the US will look like, I am intending to finish my active playing career at the US Open in New York later this summer." The 35-year-old Kvitova reached a career-high ranking of No. 2 and also helped the Czech Republic to six trophies in the Fed Cup, which is now known as the Billie Jean King Cup. Kvitova last played at Wimbledon in 2023, and became a mother for the first time when her son was born during last year's tournament at the All England Club. — AP

# LITMUS TEST

## Gill set to lead through tough transition in England

**Leeds, June 19:** A new captain, a headstrong coach, a few from the old guard and some fresh faces will be determined to create a compelling narrative during the next 45 days when an in-transition India takes on an equally combustible England in a five-Test series for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy starting here on Friday. That only three Indian teams — Ajit Wadekar's batch of 1971, Kapil's Devils in 1986 and Rahul Dravid's sprightly bunch in 2007 — have won a Test series in Old Blighty in the past nine decades doesn't make for a rosy picture.

Neither does the fact that India's most devoted long-format cricketer of the past decade, Virat Kohli, has walked into Test sunset making the batting line-up look slightly thin on experience.

For the 25-year-old Shubman Gill, this series will be nothing short of baptism by fire against an England side, which has changed the conventions of Test match batting under Brendon McCullum's coaching and Ben Stokes' captaincy. Gill's selection as India's 37th Test captain was more about what

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one could expect of him rather than what he has done as a batter and a leader in the traditional format. The 'Prince' has a lot to prove.

An unusually warm Leeds (maximum temperature on Friday could be 29 degree celsius) and the 8mm grass laden 22-yard surface at the Headingley isn't exactly a paradise for England's proverbial 'Bazballers' but this series will be about which batting unit blinks first under pressure.

England's batting with Joe Root, owner of 13,000 plus Test runs including 36 hundreds, looks superior on paper compared to India as the visiting team's most experienced batter is K. L. Rahul (58 Tests, 3257 runs).

But the presence of a peerless Jasprit Bumrah in the Indian bowling unit puts the visitors on even keel. This despite the pace spearhead being available for only three Tests.

Despite the absence of Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who played his best Test cricket in the 2021 series, this could be India's best chance to put pressure on an English bowling line-up that wouldn't have the quality that James Anderson and Stuart Broad brought for two decades. An attack comprising Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue and Shoaib Bashir with skipper Stokes to complement them doesn't exactly strike fear in the opposition ranks. — PTI

### SHUBMAN SHOULD FOCUS ON HIS DECISIONS: SACHIN

**New Delhi, June 19:** Shubman Gill should be given adequate "time and support" to succeed as he leads India through a tough transition phase, feels the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, whose advice to the new skipper is to focus on his own planning without thinking about opinions outside the dressing room. "I think he (Gill) has to be given time. He has to be supported," Tendulkar said on the eve of the opening Test between India and England in Headingley. Being Indian skipper is a high-pressure job and Tendulkar knows that varied opinions will fly thick and fast. But he expects Gill to have a tunnel vision. "I feel there are going to be a lot of opinions that 'he should do this and he should do that'. And all those kind of things will come into play. But what he should be focused on is, what is the team's plan. What was the discussion in the dressing room. And is it going according to that?" "And all the decisions that are being made, are being made in the interest of the team or not, is what he should be thinking of...not the outside world where someone feels that he is being too attacking or he is being too defensive and all that," Sachin added. — PTI



Indian captain Shubman Gill (from left), Shardul Thakur and Nitish Kumar Reddy in a light mood during a nets session at Headingley in Leeds, England, on Thursday, the eve of their first Test against England. — AP

## Test series win in England bigger prize than IPL: Gill

**London, June 19:** Shubman Gill believes captaining India to a Test series victory in England would be a bigger achievement than winning the Indian Premier League. Gill is set for his first assignment since succeeding Rohit Sharma as Test skipper as he leads a new-look side in the first of five matches against England. Test cricket, for so long the pinnacle of the game, has to compete with T20 franchise leagues around the world and players have multiple commitments. Gill, who won the IPL title with Gujarat Giants in 2022, still views Tests, and especially series wins outside of Asia, as the

ultimate achievement. "You don't get many opportunities as a captain to be able to come to England — maybe two, if you're the best of your generation, maybe three — and you get to have a crack at the IPL every year," Gill said on Thursday. "In my opinion winning a Test series in England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are bigger." India will be without the retired trio of Rohit, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin as they aim for a first Test series win in England since 2007. Gill did not reveal his team for the first Test at Headingley but confirmed

he would step in to Kohli's usual position of four in the batting order. Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Rishabh Pant are big-name players but Gill said less experienced members of the India squad were unburdened by past failures in England. "A lot of people talk about us not having experience but there are positives that we don't really have any baggage coming to England because not all of the players have been to England," he said. "That could be one thing that makes the difference for us because we won't be carrying any baggage. We are all very motivated," he added. — AFP



Retired Test legends Sachin Tendulkar (right) and James Anderson of England pose with the new Anderson-Tendulkar trophy during a photo call at the Lord's Cricket Ground in London on Thursday.

## Tendulkar assured Pataudis that family legacy will stay

**New Delhi, June 19:** Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday said he reached out to the family of late Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi as soon as he got to know that the India-England Test series trophy was being renamed and tried to ensure that the former captain's association with the marquee showdown remained intact. The Pataudi trophy has been replaced by the Anderson-Tendulkar trophy in honour of the Indian batting great and former England pacer James Anderson. The decision to retire the Pataudi trophy was joint-

ly taken by the England and Wales Cricket Board and the BCCI. "I know that the Pataudi Trophy was retired a few months ago by BCCI and ECB. But when I got to know about the trophy being named after me and (James) Anderson, my first phone call was to the Pataudi family," the Mumbai maestro recalled. "Tiger Pataudi played a huge role in inspiring many generations and that should be never forgotten. So I'm glad with this outcome," the 52-year-old, who is still the owner of highest number of Test runs, said. The Pataudi name will

continue to be attached to the series as it has been decided to present a newly-instituted 'Pataudi Medal for Excellence' to the winning captain. This was after Tendulkar had multiple discussions with former BCCI secretary and current ICC chairman Jay Shah as well as bigwigs of ECB on the issue. Tendulkar said he was pleased with the outcome. "I'm very happy that this kind of attention to detail was given to our discussions and eventually came up with the option of having a medal in his honour," he said. — PTI

PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE

## Neeraj eyes top finish of season

**Paris, June 19:** Having breached the 90m mark, two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra would now be eyeing a top finish when he goes up against familiar rivals in the prestigious Paris Diamond League on Friday in a star-studded field here.

Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight competitors vying for top honours in the second DL meeting of the season featuring men's javelin throw on the roster. Five of the listed throwers have hit the 90m mark. Weber had upstaged Chopra in the Doha DL on May 16 after the Indian superstar finally breached the elusive 90m mark. Weber had recorded 91.06m with his last throw to trump Chopra who had sent his spear to a distance of 90.23m in the same event.

The 31-year-old Weber had also beaten Chopra at the Janusz Kusociński Memorial meet on May 23 in Poland where both performed below their best under chilly and overcast conditions. Weber had produced 86.12m while Chopra could only come up 84.14m to finish second.

Peters was there in the field too at both the Doha DL and the Poland event. He had finished third in both. In Paris, Chopra would look to upstage Weber after finishing second in back-to-back competi-

● Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight competitors vying for top honours in the second DL meeting of the season featuring men's javelin throw on the roster. Five of the listed throwers have hit the 90m mark.

tions as he returns to the French capital after eight years for a Diamond League competition.

Chopra had skipped the Paris DL last year in order to focus on the Olympic Games where he took the silver with a throw of 89.45m. He last competed in the Paris DL in 2017 as a junior world champion and finished fifth with a throw of 84.67m.

Chopra began the 2025 season with a title in an invitational meet at Potchefstroom, South Africa, which was a minor — category 'F' event with a throw of 84.52m.

Four days after the Paris DL, Chopra will compete at the Golden Spike athletics meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 24.

After that, the reigning world champion will feature in the inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic on July 5 in Bengaluru, a World Athletics category 'A' event which he is hosting. — PTI

## SHOOTING LEAGUE GREAT CHANCE: OLYMPIC CHAMP

**New Delhi, June 19:** London Olympics gold medalist Giovanni Cernogoraz believes the inaugural Shooting League of India (SLI) will provide an invaluable platform for emerging shooters to learn and grow alongside seasoned veterans.

The league, set to take place from November 20 to December 2 in New Delhi, is expected to feature top-tier shooting talent from India and across the globe. "This league is important for young shooters, for sponsors, and for the media to make shooting more visible and important," Cernogoraz was quoted as saying in a media release. Cernogoraz added that the league could serve as a strong motivation for the next generation.

"Having youngsters shooting with players like me will provide them great motivation for their future ventures as well," he said. The Croatian trap shooting ace, a former world champion, who has enrolled for the league's player auction, is excited to compete in the tournament which has a "unique format."

It is a new format, very interesting and unique, said the shooter, who confirmed it will be his first experience in a fast-paced, team-based league environment. "Never before have I shot in a league-style format — this would be my first time. It will be a new experience for me, and the format seems a very interesting idea for the future," he added. — PTI

## Junior archers are in 5 finals

**Singapore, June 19:** Indian junior archers continued their dominating run by storming into five team finals at the Asia Cup Stage 2 here on Thursday.

The Indian men's recurve team, seeded second, defeated Bangladesh 5-1 in a one-sided semifinal to set up a summit clash with third seeds Japan.

The trio of Vishnu Choudhary, Paras Hooda and Juyel Sarkar dominated from the outset, taking the opening set 55-48. Although the second set was tied at 55-55, the Indians bounced back strongly against their fifth-seeded opponents, dropping just one point in the third set to win it 59-56 and seal the issue.

In the recurve mixed team event, Vaishnavi Pawar and Vishnu Choudhary defeated Singapore's Tabitha Ern Lin Yeo and Yue Long Li 5-3 to enter the final.

The Indian pair won the first set 37-35, tied the second 37-37, and lost the third 36-38 to make it 3-3. But Pawar and Choudhary held their nerves to close out the match with a commanding 38-34 win in the final set.

India also assured themselves of a medal in the compound men's team event after the trio of Kushal Dalal, Ganesh Thirumuru and Mihir Apar edged past fifth-seeded Australia in a tense semifinal decided by a shoot-off (30-29) after both teams were tied at 232 after four sets.

India will take on Kazakhstan in the final. The top-seeded Indian compound women's team comprising Shanmukhi Budde, Tejal Salve and Tanishka Thokal defeated fourth-seeded Kazakhstan 230-229 in a nail-biting semifinal to ensure another medal. They will meet Malaysia in the final.

The top-seeded Indian compound mixed team pairing of Shanmukhi and Kushal also confirmed another medal by defeating Indonesia's Nurisa Dian Ashrifah and Prima Wisnu Wardhana 155-154 in a nail-biting semifinal.

However, there was heartbreak for the Indian women's recurve team. Seeded fifth, the trio of Vaishnavi Pawar, Kirti, and Tamanna lost a thrilling quarterfinal to fourth seeds Japan 4-5 (26-28) in the shoot-off. — PTI

