

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 21 JUNE 2025

WEATHER

Max: 34.7°C
Min: 24.6°C
RH: 53%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Lightrain
Max/Min temp. 35/24 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Vishwawasur; Uttarayana
Tithi: Jyestha Bahula Dasami till 7.17 am ; then Jyestha Bahula Ekadasi till 4.27am
Star: Ashwini till 7.47 pm
Varjyam: 4.06 pm to 5.34 pm then from 4.30am (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 5.46 pm to 7.30 pm
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Zulhijjah 24,1446 H
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.33 am
Zohar: 12.27 pm
Asar: 4.54 pm
Maghrib: 6.58 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 05.43 AM
SUNSET TODAY 18.52 PM
MOONRISE 01.37 PM
MOONSET 14.40 AM

COUNTER POINT



Be optimistic... they're now going to deposit triple the amount of money into every citizen's account!

IN BRIEF

33 pilgrims leave for Kailash yatra

Gangtok: The first batch of 33 pilgrims and two liaison officers left for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathula in Sikkim on Friday, officials said. Governor Om Prakash Mathur flagged off the yatra at a function held at the Sino-Indian frontier in East Sikkim, they said. The function was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs. Tourism and civil aviation dept. additional chief secretary C.S. Rao welcomed the pilgrims on behalf of the state government and the people of Sikkim. He said that the first batch comprised 33 pilgrims and two liaison officers, one each from the MEA and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

Report on 13

Axiom-4 launch put off yet again

New Delhi: Nasa has put off Sunday's launch of the Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to the International Space Station, saying it required additional time to evaluate operations on the orbital lab after the recent repairs in its Russian section. The Axiom-4 mission was targeting a June 22 launch after being put off multiple times due to a leak in the boosters of SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket, inclement weather in the ascent trajectory and leaks in the aft-most section of Zvezda service module.

Report on Page 13

UAE deports man in fake note scam

New Delhi: Moideenabba Ummer Beary, an accused in a high-quality fake currency racket and the subject of a 2013 Interpol Red Notice, was deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday in an operation coordinated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Escorted on Air India flight AI 920 from Dubai, Beary landed at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, he was taken into custody by a National Investigation Agency team from Kochi. The CBI originally secured the Red Notice on December 30, 2013, at the NIA's request.

Report on Page 13

WORLD | 15

Pakistan committed to regional peace: Munir

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, X.com/deccanchronicle

TG wants to settle issues with AP amicably Revanth open for talks with AP on river water

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said that the Telangana government is ready to engage in a dialogue with the Andhra Pradesh government to find an amicable solution for the contentious Banakacharla project.

In an informal conversation with media persons in Delhi on Friday before concluding his two-day trip to the national capital, Revanth Reddy expressed his readiness to resolve the issue amicably and announced plans to convene a meeting of the State Cabinet on June 23 to decide the course of action.



A. Revanth Reddy

Revanth Reddy said that he will also extend an invitation to AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for a discussion on the matter. "We don't want unnecessary disputes. Discussions are the

only way forward," the Chief Minister remarked. He noted that his government had no objections to the diversion of surplus flood waters but stressed that any action should wait until the completion of Telangana irrigation projects.

Revanth Reddy referred to the issue as an "unnecessary controversy" and pointed out that Telangana's projects needed to be finished before such water diversion plans could be considered. He found fault with AP CM for bypassing discussions with the state on Banakacharla.

Page 3: G-B project issues due to AP actions: CM

BRS: Ranjith got Leonia with ₹10,000-cr land for ₹200 cr

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The BRS on Friday alleged that a serious financial fraud had taken place in the transfer of ownership rights of Leonia Resorts, saying Congress leader and former MP G. Ranjith Reddy was at the centre of a scam running into thousands of crores of rupees.

Addressing a press meet at the BRS headquarters, former MLA A. Jeevan Reddy alleged that the resort properties, spread



G. Ranjith Reddy

over 180 acres, for which the original promoters had accumulated loan totalling ₹2,221 crore, was obtained for a throwaway

price of ₹327 crore by Jalavihar Entertainment Consortium, a front company for Ranjith Reddy.

Jeevan Reddy alleged that Ranjith Reddy using his political influence and contacts ensured that there were no other bidders for taking over the property after the NCLT put it on sale, as part of the insolvency proceedings of against Leo Meridian Infra Projects & Hotels.

Page 3: Want ED, CBI probe to the scam: Jeevan Reddy

Maran brothers fall out big time over Sun Group's stake

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JUNE 20

This may be the end of a beautiful relationship. The fratricidal dispute between Kalanidhi and Dayanidhi Maran has ended the decades of good times in which the brothers were seen to be together, always in tune with each other's ambitions while separating their professional areas of interest. Kalanidhi looked after the media business while Dayanidhi pursued politics as a career and became a Union minister. But now, Dayanidhi is pointing fingers at his elder brother, accusing him of taking over the whole of Sun TV while denying relatives their rightful share in the ₹24,000-crore empire that he built at Sun TV. All business families may go through this phase of internecine quarrels. The case of the Marans seems an extreme from which the chance of any patch-up appears distant now.

Page 12: Issues purely personal in nature: Sun



Kalanidhi Maran (left) and Dayanidhi Maran

Sun TV dismisses feud as 'old family matter'

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JUNE 20

Sun TV Network Ltd on Friday dismissed reports over DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran sending a legal notice to the company chairman Kalanidhi Maran as 'certain matters between the promoter of Sun TV Network Ltd and his family member' and described it as something that transpired 22 years

back when the company was a closely held private limited company.

The feud between the Maran brothers was all over the media on Friday as Dayanidhi Maran had reportedly charged his billionaire brother with engaging in 'fraudulent practices' like 'cheating and money laundering.'

Page 12: Maran rift report creates flutter in TN

SPORT | 17

Captain Gill, Jaiswal slam centuries on first day

TABLOID

How Indian cricketers channel Yoga spirit



Vol. 88 No. 171 Established 1938 | 28 PAGES | ₹6.00

Don't allow jungle raj to return in Bihar, says PM

Asserts NDA lifted 25 cr from poverty; slams Oppn over Ambedkar

SHASHI BHUSHAN | DC
NEW DELHI, SIWAN, JUNE 20

In a scathing attack on the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday cautioned the people of Bihar that the same elements responsible for the state's past lawlessness, often referred to as "Jungle Raj", are now seeking to return to power and regain control over government and resources.

Addressing a public rally in Siwan after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹5,200 crore, Modi launched a pointed attack on RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav over the alleged disrespect shown to Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar during the latter's birthday celebrations earlier this month.

Without directly naming Lalu, Modi accused Opposition leaders of attempting to portray themselves as greater than Ambedkar by disrespecting him. "The people of Bihar will never forget this insult to Babasaheb," he said. "Ambedkar stood firmly against dynastic politics, but they dislike this. That's why they place his portrait at their feet. I saw posters along the route demanding an apology for this insult, but none has been issued. This shows their contempt for Dalits," he added. While the previous regimes disrespected Ambedkar, Modi said, "I carry Babasaheb in my heart."

Highlighting Bihar's development under the NDA,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary greet supporters during a roadshow in Siwan of Bihar on Friday. - PTI

Modi warned that those who once pushed the state into backwardness are now using various tactics to return to power. "They are eyeing the government and Bihar's resources. I urge the people of Bihar to remain vigilant and keep such forces far from power," he said.

He also emphasised the NDA government's success in poverty alleviation. "For decades, we heard slogans about poverty eradication. But in the last 10 years, a record 25 crore Indians have escaped poverty. This has been acknowledged by global institutions like the World Bank," he stated.

Page 12: Modi slams past regimes, hails NDA progress

PM: Declined US invite for Odisha

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening revealed that he had respectfully declined an invitation from United States President Donald Trump for a meeting and meal at the White House earlier this week, citing a prior commitment to visit the sacred Jagannath Temple in Odisha, referred to by him as "God's land."

The disclosure comes days after foreign secretary Vikram Misri, in a video address, mentioned that President Trump had called Modi while the latter was in Canada attending the G7 Outreach Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta. During the call, Trump reportedly invited Modi to travel to Washington from Canada.

Page 12: PM avoids new rumours, say experts

Iran agrees to India's mediation, asks Delhi to condemn Israel's bombings

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

India can play the role of a mediator in the Israel-Iran conflict and contribute to regional peace, but it must first condemn Israeli aggression against Iran, Iranian deputy chief of mission (DCM) in New Delhi, Javad Hosseini, said on Friday.

He also revealed that Iran had reopened its previously closed airspace to facilitate the evacuation of around 1,000 Indian nationals from Mashhad.

Hosseini stated that Iranian private carrier Mahan Air would operate one flight from Mashhad to Delhi on Friday, with two additional flights scheduled for Saturday, and possibly more on Sunday.

According to Indian government sources, these are evacuation flights organised under Operation Sindhu. Another evacuation flight from Ashgabat,



An MBBS student Mehak Hussain with her father after returning home following her evacuation from Iran under Operation Sindhu, in Srinagar on Friday. -PTI

Turkmenistan, a neighbouring country to Iran, was also scheduled to arrive in Delhi on Friday night. Indian nationals on that flight had earlier crossed into Turkmenistan through the Iranian land border with assistance from the Indian Embassy in Iran.

The Iranian DCM said that approximately 1,000

Many Indians fly back home from Israel

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, JUNE 20

With the West Asia getting embroiled in a crisis following the Israel-Iran war, many Indian migrant workers in Israel are planning to return home.

There are 30,000 Indians working in Israel now. The Indian embassy in Israel has begun the registration process for migrant workers. As part of Operation Sindhu initiated by the Indian government, the Indian embassy will shift the migrant workers by road from Israel to neighbouring Egypt and Jordan for flights.

Page 12: Iran airspace reopens for India

Page 2: Indian embassy seeks safe return of workers

ROTE | FACTORIES

Nine-member panel to look into coaching practice, dummy schools

Coaching comes under Centre's scanner

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

With top rankers in almost all competitive entrance examinations giving credit to coaching institutions for their success, the Union education ministry has set up a nine-member panel to examine issues relating to coaching, emergence of 'dummy schools' as well as the effectiveness and fairness of entrance examinations.

According to a senior official, higher education sec-

retary Vineet Joshi-led panel would suggest measures to reduce the dependency of students on coaching centres for transition to higher education.

"The committee will examine the gaps in the current schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres, particularly the limited focus on critical thinking, logical reasoning, analytical skills and innovation, and the prevalence of rote learning practices," official said. Scores of stu-

● THE COMMITTEE will examine the gaps in the current schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres.

dents preparing for engineering and medical entrance exams prefer to take admission in dummy schools which do not insist on students attending the college every day so that they can focus solely on their preparations for competitive exams. Aspirants also

choose dummy schools to take advantage of state-specific quotas for admissions to medical and engineering colleges.

For example, candidates who complete their senior secondary education in Delhi will become eligible for the state quota in medical colleges, giving them an additional incentive to enrol in dummy schools in the capital. According to a PTI report, the panel will also understand the effectiveness of competitive entrance examinations in

the context of the school education system and their influence on the growth of the coaching industry.

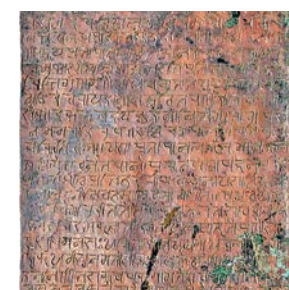
"The role and impact of formative assessments at school and higher education levels will be assessed and how their absence affects students' conceptual understanding and preparedness for competitive examinations. Most students lack awareness about multiple career options, leading to over-dependence on a few elite institutions.

600-yr-old inscription talks of Halley's Comet

SAMPAT G. SAMARITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 20

The first Indian epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet has been found in Andhra Pradesh, whose origins could be traced back to nearly 600 years.

The inscription was written in Sanskrit during the reign of Vijayanagara king Mallikarjuna. According to Srisailam Copper Plate Charter recorded the appearance of Halley's Comet and the resultant meteor shower.



A copper plate charter with reference to Halley's Comet in 1456 CE found at Kadapa in AP.

Full report on Page 3

EVENTS TODAY

Kuchipudi & Bharatanatyam by Nriyamala Natyakala

Time: 9 am

Venue: Ravindra Bharathi

World Music Day Celebration By SRR Charitable Trust

Time: 9 am

Venue: Ravindra Bharathi

COMING UP NEXT:

Sri Veturi Sundararama Murthy's Sirikakolanu 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

IN BRIEF

DSC 2024 teachers' salaries approved

Hyderabad: After months of appeals from teacher unions, the Telangana finance department has directed treasury officials to process salary bills for DSC 2024 teachers. The department instructed officials to treat October 10 as the effective date for salary drawal and process bills accordingly. The order, issued through Memo No. 530/210/TFR/2024 by principal finance secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultan on June 19, brings clarity to thousands of newly appointed teachers awaiting salary approval. "This is the outcome of eight months of continuous efforts with the DSE and finance department," said TSUTF representatives. "It provides much-needed relief to the affected teachers." The memo is expected to benefit thousands of DSC 2024 teachers whose appointments were formalised last October.

JURALA STARTS RELEASING 75,000 CUSECS OF WATER

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The Jurala project in Mahabubnagar district on Friday began releasing more than 75,000 cusecs of water with heavy inflows reaching the project following release of water from the upstream Narayanpur, and Almatli dams on River Krishna in Karnataka.

This is the first time this season that such a large volume of water was released from Jurala. Consequently, the inflows into the downstream Srisaillam dam touched 61,000 cusecs by Friday evening and in the next couple of days, the flows at Jurala are expected to continue to be heavy and then taper off. Consequently, the inflows at Srisaillam are expected to rise to around 80,000 cusecs on Saturday and then begin tapering off. On Friday, the storage at Srisaillam touched 78.2 tmc ft against its full reservoir capacity of 215.8 tmc ft, up from 66.5 tmc ft on June 16.

At Jurala, against its capacity of 9.66 tmc ft, on Friday it had 7.68 tmc ft of water.

INDIAN EMBASSY SEEKS SAFE RETURN OF WORKERS

FROM PAGE 1

Of around 3,000 Telugu people in Israel, around 700 belong to Nizamabad and Jagtial districts. In search of livelihood, they went to Israel and worked as caretakers.

On the other hand, few youths work as software professionals, medical field.

A majority of Indians are in a confident mood to stay in Israel only as their working conditions and safety are perfect. Compared with previous war situation, now Indians in Israel have been taking extra care due to ferocious attacks from Iran.

Bunkers in houses, educational institutions, hospitals and metro rail stations became safe places. The Indian embassy in Israel approached migrant workers for safe return to India under Operation Sindhu programme.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle from Tel Aviv in Israel over mobile phone, Israel Telangana association president Soma Ravi said that so far no untoward incident occurred to Indian workers.

He said Israel authorities alert them regularly for safety, and only the newcomers to Israel want to return to India. Following the closure of the airport in Israel, the travelling to other countries has stopped.

However, the Indian government is making arrangements for the safe return of Indian workers from Israel. If anyone returns home from Israel, it will take a long time for them to come back.

Delay in stipend hits poor jr doctors hard

Minority, SC, ST and BC categories students worst hit

SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

While the junior doctors in government colleges are still waiting for the hikes in stipends which they were promised last year, the interns of private medical colleges have not got a single paisa.

The junior doctors were told that the GO 59 that was released in 2023 and ordered for a hike in stipends, was supposed to come into force from January this year. However, the doctors have not received their promised hikes and the stipend for May have also not been credited till now.

Moreover, the doctors highlighted the difficulties faced by students belonging to minority, SC, ST and BC categories as they have not received their scholarships and fee reimbursements. "The

STIPEND WOES

THE JUNIOR doctors were told that the GO 59 that was released in 2023 and ordered for a hike in stipends, was supposed to come into force from January this year.

HOWEVER, the doctors have not received their promised hikes and the stipend for May have also not been credited till now.

HEALTH minister Damodar Rajanarsimha assured that a formal report along with recommendations would be placed before the State Cabinet during the meeting scheduled on June 24, 2025.

scholarships have been irregular, partial and in many cases, absent. Educational institutions are withholding essential certificates, forcing students to make out-of-pocket payments, adding financial burden on their families," said Dr Isaac Newton, TJUDA president. They

also mentioned that the GO for increase in the honorarium of senior residents has also not been enforced yet. Immediate need for stipend hike in line with inflation and increased workload.

The TJUDA team met health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha on

Thursday and presented these issues along with others such as strengthening of faculty positions in government medical colleges, improvement of infrastructure and equipment in colleges and hospitals for better working conditions. The minister further committed to convening a follow-up meeting with TJUDA representatives on June 25, 2025, during which the outcomes of cabinet meeting and a detailed action plan would be shared. He assured that a formal report along with recommendations would be placed before the State Cabinet during the meeting scheduled on June 24, 2025. He further committed to convening a follow-up meeting with TJUDA representatives on June 25, during which the outcomes of cabinet meeting and a detailed action plan would be shared.

Bonalu festival keeps Thottelu makers busy

V. SHIVANI REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

As the Ashada Bonalu festivities draw closer, not just people in the narrow lanes of the Old City are busy decking up the temples for grand celebrations but also artisans who are gearing up to meet the increasing demand for 'thottelu'.

In areas such as Charminar, Mehdiptnam, Jiyaguda, Dhoolpet, Lal Darwaza and Begum Bazaar, skilled personnel are working overtime for making 'Thottelas', decorative bamboo structures that are integral part of festivities commencing at Sri Jagadamba Mahakali Temple located on the historic Golconda Fort on June 26.

The Thottela is a small multi-storeyed swing, typically made of flowers and dried leaves. Devotees also offer large Thottelu, often adorned in hues of red and green, along with traditional 'Bonam' (cooked rice, jaggery, curd, and neem leaves) to Goddess Mahakali. They are also part of 'Palaram Bandi' processions along with 'Potharajus' and 'Ghatam'.

These structures come in various sizes and designs. While devotees generally present it in sizes of three to five feet tall, the temple committees and endowments department offer a giant 'Thottela' reaching up to 30 feet high. Some people also offer silver thottelas.

Making of 'Thottela' has been an ancestral practice in the Medara community, which is passing the tradi-



Workers paint Balkampet Yellamma Pochamma temple in view of Bonalu festival. — P. SURENDRA



Left: A woman pot seller draws figures of Goddess on pots. Right: Thottela makers in the Old City get ready to Thottela at the cost of ₹600 to ₹25,000. — R. PAVAN

tion to next generations. Pyarasi Srisaillam, an artisan from Jiyaguda, who weaves Thottela, said given the demand for Thottelas, they purchased the raw material, including bamboo sticks, two months prior to the festivities. This time, so far, he received 20 orders from different temples and 30-40 orders from individuals. "The process making of 'Thottela' comprises thinning bamboo sticks, and a thread and jaggery paste to tie the structure. We make 2 feet to 25 feet

Thottelas using gelatin paper and polyester cloth. The prices range from ₹250 to ₹30,000 depending on the size," he said.

N. Rajendar Yadav, from Lal Darwaza said the demand for Thottelas surges for Hyderabad Bonalu in comparison with Golconda and Secunderabad Bonalu.

"We start the work well before the Ashada month begins. Some Thottelas are customised like adding Bonam, peacocks and Goddess photos," he added.

BHADRAKALI ASHADAM BONALU FEST PUT OFF AMID ROW

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC WANGAL, JUNE 20

Endowments minister Konda Surekha on Friday announced the temporary postponement of the Ashadam Bonalu festival, which was scheduled to begin on Sunday, June 22, with the offering of a golden Bonam for the first time to Goddess Bhadrakali Devi at Bhadrakali Temple.

The decision, she said, was taken in view of concerns that certain people might deliberately attempt to create disturbances by linking local political differences to the sacred religious occasion. There were apprehensions that anti-social elements could exploit the situation and disrupt the event.

Surekha clarified that the programme was not cancelled but only postponed temporarily, following objections raised by some individuals and the spread of misinformation on social media regarding the conduct of the Bonalu festival.

Despite repeated assurances from temple authorities, priests, and the government that the Bonalu celebrations would be conducted in strict adherence to Agama Shashtra and entirely in a vegetarian manner, without any animal sacrifice (Janthu Bali), some people allegedly circulated false information suggesting that non-vegetarian offerings would be made during rituals.

"We want students to see that AI isn't magic. It's a system built by people, for people," said Sai

7 flights from Hyd put off due to strict DGCA checks

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

With aviation regulator DGCA tightening safety checks on all aircraft fleet in the wake of the June 12 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash at Ahmedabad, carriers are forced to keep multiple aircraft in their hangars disrupting services across the country.

At Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) on Friday, Air India cancelled four international and three domestic services, airport officials confirmed.

Flight AI 2204 from Dubai and AI 2872 to Mumbai were affected; passengers were notified in advance under standard protocol, RGIA said.

Former Air India Captain S.P. Anil Kumar, who logged more than 22,000 flying hours over a

34-year career, told Deccan Chronicle that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) "has always been strict, but post-6/12 the inspection regime is even tougher."

Phase checks — classified as A, B, C and D depending on whether it is a Boeing or Airbus — can sideline a jet for up to four days, he noted.

A full C-check, normally carried out every two years, takes roughly 45 days and requires DGCA sign-off before the aircraft can return to service.

According to DGCA data, 66 flights operated by the Dreamliner aircraft have been scrubbed since the crash at Ahmedabad, that killed at least 271 people in the aircraft and re-accommodated on AI 2445, which left at 2.10 am.

On June 12 alone, six of the 50 planned

Dreamliner operations were grounded.

By June 18, 24 of Air India's 33 Dreamliners had completed mandatory inspections, with the remainder scheduled in the coming days; two jets remain listed as Aircraft on Ground (AOG) in Delhi for maintenance.

Airlines and RGIA officials said further cancellations are possible until the intensified inspection programme is completed. Meanwhile, Air India's Hyderabad-Mumbai Flight AI 2534 was cancelled in the early hours of Friday after a technical issue was detected moments before its departure from Shamshabad. The Airbus, carrying 92 passengers, was slated to take off at 12.10 am. All passengers were deboarded and re-accommodated on AI 2445, which left at 2.10 am.

Experts caution against partiality in work by AI

RACHEL DAMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

What happens when AI isn't just answering prompts, but making decisions, completing tasks, and acting independently? At St Francis College for Women, students from across Hyderabad got hands-on with agentic AI, a model that shifts AI from passive automation to intelligent, goal-driven systems that can perform complex functions like drafting job applications, responding to emails, summarising news, or conducting research.

"This isn't just about technology, it's about choices, who builds it, how it's used, and what values are embedded in it," said Melissa Nandula, American Spaces Program Coordinator at Hyderabad. "Agentic AI is going to shape how people work, communicate, and solve problems. But that means we also have to ask tough questions about trust, responsibility and ethics." Organised in collaboration with American Corner Hyderabad and Centle, the two-day workshop showed students how no-code platforms could be used to build working AI agents, with no programming background required. But alongside the technical, the focus remained firmly on context and consequence.

"We want students to see that AI isn't magic. It's a system built by people, for people," said Sai

Krishna, co-founder of Centle. "If we're giving AI goals, we have to understand whose goals those are, and what happens if they're wrong."

During a panel discussion on AI in Command: Ethics, Autonomy, and Accountability, Rakesh Dubbudi, the founder of Factly, warned against the temptation to treat AI systems as neutral tools. "If a system denies someone benefits or makes a life-impacting decision, who answers for that?" he asked. "We can't let the AI do it 'become the new excuse.'" Padmashree, assistant professor at St Francis, said students must learn to question not just what AI does, but what it shouldn't do.

"Bias isn't a bug, it's a design choice we often fail to notice. We have to be intentional about what we're building into these agents." Prof. T. Uma Joseph, principal, said the real goal is to shape informed creators, not just users. "Agentic AI marks a turning point, we're moving from tools that serve instructions to agents that interpret, decide, and act. And that comes with civic responsibility."

The event concluded with remarks by Veena Thangavelu, political-economic officer, who urged students to step into leadership roles in emerging tech.

"Workshops like this are about more than skills. They're about shaping the values that guide how AI evolves, and you don't need to be a coder to do that."

At a review meeting, education secretary Dr Yogita Rana stressed the need for providing focused academic support to students. The new initiative will be conducted in online mode in Telugu and English with live and recorded interactive classes, daily practice tests, one-on-one mentoring via the Mitra platform and access to previous 10 years question papers of JEE and NEET.

User IDs will be provided for each institution to enable smooth access and assess the students progress. The meeting was attended by TGBIE secretary S. Krishna Aditya, Secretary school education director Dr Naveen Nicholas, and representatives of Physics Wallah.

GOVT STUDENTS TO GET QUALITY COACHING FOR NATIONAL TESTS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Intermediate students of government junior colleges, model schools and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are to get high quality coaching for JEE Main, NEET and CLAT starting from July, under a programme titled Telangana Achievers. The programme will be implemented in collaboration with Physics Wallah, an edtech platform. The government said this was part of its commitment to support students from underprivileged backgrounds to get ranks in national entrance tests.

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"Workshops like this are about more than skills. They're about shaping the values that guide how AI evolves, and you don't need to be a coder to do that."

ANTI-MOSQUITO FOGGING OPS IN PARKS ORDERED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

GHMC commissioner R.V. Karnan has appealed to citizens to maintain cleanliness to prevent mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria. On Friday, he inspected areas in Musheerabad circle including Gandhinagar, Arundhati Colony, Kawadiguda School and Indira Park areas.

At Kawadiguda School, he spoke to students about mosquito prevention. At Indira Park, he interacted with morning walkers, reviewed grievances and ordered actions including clearing plastic and iron waste, fixing water leaks, pruning unsafe trees, and repairing fountains. He also instructed officials to improve the butterfly park and enforce a plastic ban inside parks.

Separately, Karnan asked GHMC officials to meet property tax targets and warned of action against underperforming bill collectors. He reviewed fogging and desilting works. Every ward must have a fogging supervisor, while zonal entomologists will oversee operations. Fogging in parks and notices to negligent engineers were mandated.

CREDAI-HYD NEW MANAGING PANEL ANNOUNCED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Credai-Hyderabad on Friday announced its new managing committee for 2025-27 term, with N. Jaideep Reddy as its president and B. Jagannath Rao as president-elect. Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Kurra Srinath, K. Anil Reddy, and Y. Ravi Prasad are the new vice-presidents, according to a statement. Credai-Hyderabad also named its first woman elected as EC member, Kavya Kavuri. Kranti Kiran Reddy K. will serve as general secretary, Nitish Reddy Gudoor as treasurer and Sanjay Kumar Bansal and Sriram Musunuru as joint secretaries. The executive committee members include Addula Gopal Reddy, Alugubelli Venkat Reddy, B. Jaipal Reddy, B. Vinod Reddy, C. Amarendra Reddy, Kavya Kavuri, N. Venugopal, and Susheel Kumar Jain. The statement said with the theme 'Embracing Growth and Innovation', the team would focus on using technology for smarter construction.

MISUSE OF FUNDS Misappropriation comes to light after complaint from officer

Ex-sarpanch held for swindling ₹2-cr funds

MANVI VYAS | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The Narsingi police on Friday arrested Maheshwaram Sunitha, former sarpanch of Puppalguda, for allegedly swindling ₹2.02 crore of the grama panchayat funds.

According to Narsingi inspector Hari Krishna Reddy, the misappropriation had come to light after a complaint from the divisional panchayat officer, Rajendranagar.

Although she later repaid ₹23.68 lakh following orders from the Telangana Gram Panchayat Tribunal, officials said the misappropriation amounted to criminal breach of trust and cheating.

A case has been registered against her under Sections 409 and 420 of the IPC. During the investigation, police said they found sufficient documentary evidence, including Tribunal orders, challans, and the accused's admission of liability.

The accused was produced before court, police said further investigation



The old police quarters in Begumpet, which was in a dilapidated condition, is being demolished. The quarters was located on the main road. — P. SURENDRA

● DURING THE probe, police said they found sufficient documentary evidence, including Tribunal orders, challans, and the accused's admission of liability.

is underway to trace other possible beneficiaries and the remaining diverted funds. Investigation officer

Munindar said that she had withdrawn funds for road construction and water works.

"The documents for funds require signatures from the secretary and the ward members, which weren't taken. Further DPO was asked to investigate and submit a report to the tribunal, who had directed her to pay ₹23 lakh. The repayment is a

symbol of admission of committing the offense, hence she was arrested."

DRIVER DIES BY SUICIDE AT HOME

A cab driver, Chandrashekar, died by suicide at his residence in Haidernagar in Rajendranagar, on Thursday night. Investigating officer A. Bhanumati said the vic-

tim's uncle found Chandrashekar in the hall of the apartment at 4.30 am on Friday. The cause of the suicide is yet to be ascertained.

COPS NAB 3, SEIZE GANJA, HASH OIL

The Kukatpally police arrested Koppineedi Sriramanjaneyulu alias Ramu of Moosapet for carrying 3.8 kg of ganja and 460 grams of hashish oil and seized them from his possession.

The contraband was found hidden in a private vehicle during a routine vehicle checking drive at IDL Lake Road.

During questioning, the accused revealed that he had procured the drugs along with an associate named Sai from Vizag. In another case, the Kukatpally police arrested Shaikh Haji Baba and Shaikh Mohammad and seized 596 grams of ganja from them, sub-inspector J. Srinivas Babu said.

They were arrested near Kaithlapur grounds. They had secured the ganja from unidentified persons in Parli, Maharashtra.

SHORT TAKES

BJP SEEKS GHMC SUPPORT FOR MUHARRAM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

In a significant step to strengthen ties with the Shia Muslim community, which forms a substantial portion of Hyderabad's population, BJP Telangana president and Union minister G. Kishan Reddy has initiated measures to ensure the smooth conduct of Muharram in the GHMC area. He submitted representations to GHMC commissioner R.V. Karnan and authorities concerned, urging comprehensive civic arrangements to support Muharram observances.

Following up on the initiative, BJP senior leader and former state spokesperson Mir Firasath Ali Baqri met Karnan at the GHMC head office and submitted a copy of the representation to the zonal commissioner of the south zone (Charminar) to reinforce the requests. The representation calls for the installation of temporary sheds at key ashookhanas such as Bibi ka Alawa and Dabeerpura, along with essential civic services including LED lighting, regular sanitation, mosquito fogging and timely garbage removal between June 26 and September 3.

The commissioner acknowledged the request and assured that all necessary arrangements would be reviewed and made as per GHMC guidelines. Further coordination with Ashoor Khanas in-charges will help ensure that community-specific needs are fully addressed, Baqri said, thanking Kishan Reddy for his efforts. Hyderabad is home to the largest Shia population outside Lucknow and Mumbai.

SC/ST CASE: HC RESERVES ORDERS ON REVANTH'S PLEA

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The Telangana High Court on Friday reserved orders in the criminal petition filed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, seeking quashing of a case registered against him under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2016.

This case was registered against Revanth Reddy, his brother Kondal Reddy and another person for allegedly abusing N. Peddi Raju, director, Razole Constituency SC Mutually Aided Cooperative Housing Society Limited, by his caste.

Nimma Narayana, counsel for complainant Peddi Raju, concluded his arguments on the vacate stay petition filed by him after five years. Palle Nageshwar Rao, public prosecutor, appearing for the state government, informed the court that the IO had examined eight witnesses and recorded their statements. None of them had stated that Revanth Reddy was present at the scene.

The case is pending trial before the Special Sessions Judge for Trial of Cases under SCs/STs POA Act cum VII Additional District Sessions Judge, Rangareddy district.

Ponguleti: Indiramma Phase-II houses soon

Says 3,500 houses sanctioned for each Assembly in Ph-I

P. SRINIVAS | DC NALGONDA, JUNE 20

Revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Friday announced that the sanctioning of the second phase of Indiramma housing would begin soon.

Srinivas Reddy stated that 3,500 Indiramma houses were sanctioned for each Assembly constituency in the first phase, and beneficiaries have already begun construction. Funds for the Indiramma housing scheme are being released every Monday, with payments issued in phases based on the level of construction progress. He assured that the second phase of housing sanctions would commence soon. The minister, along with Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghunath Reddy and Ashwaraopet MLA Jare Adhinarayana, participated



Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy speaks after laying foundation stone for reconstruction of Vengal Rao Project at Chundrugonda in Bhadrachalam district on Friday.

in Bhoomi Puja (ground-breaking ceremony) events at Chundrugonda and Annapurdyppally villages in Ashwaraopet mandal of Bhadrachalam district. He said the state government aims to provide 20 lakh houses to eligible poor families over the next three and a half years. Criticising the previous BRS government, the minister alleged that the earlier double-

bedroom housing scheme had crushed the dreams of many poor families who aspired to own a home. He accused the previous administration of diluting housing initiatives under the pretext of implementing the double-bedroom scheme. Srinivas Reddy emphasised that the Congress government is not only launching new welfare programmes promised during the elections but

is also continuing beneficial schemes introduced by the previous regime. "Despite the state's financial burden of a,8.19 lakh crore, the Congress government is committed to fulfilling all its poll promises," he said, reiterating the government's unwavering support for the poor. He laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of the Vengal Rao Sagar Project at Chundrugonda. He said the state government has sanctioned 333 crore for its revival. The project, which was severely damaged during the 2019 floods, was neglected by the previous government, he claimed.

He added that reconstruction work on the irrigation project and circular bund would be carried out on a war footing. The revitalised project is expected to benefit tribal farmers in the surrounding areas.

Cong. hopes to wrest JH seat; appoints 3 in-charges for bypoll

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The Congress has ramped up its efforts to secure a second Assembly seat under the GHMC limits by appointing three ministers as in-charges for the upcoming Jubilee Hills byelection. This move comes in the wake of the untimely death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath due to a heart attack on June 8, necessitating the bypoll.

Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponnamp Prabhakar and Gaddam Vivek have been entrusted with the responsibility of strategising for the Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll, ensuring party unity and mobilising party cadre support for the election, party sources said. The new committee has been tasked with organising party leaders and workers for the bypoll while gathering feedback on the selection of a suitable candidate. They are expected to recommend three names for the party's final selection.

The Congress leadership is viewing the Jubilee Hills byelection as a prestige issue, stressing the need to win this seat to solidify its position in the GHMC limits, particularly as the party gears up for the crucial civic body elections scheduled for early 2026. The committee will identify pending works in the constituency, which will be completed on a war-footing by



Tummala Nageswara Rao



Ponnamp Prabhakar



Gaddam Vivek

releasing funds on a priority basis.

The Congress had a disappointing performance in the December 2023 Assembly elections, failing to win a single seat in the 24 constituencies under the GHMC jurisdiction. This poor showing continued into the May 2024 Lok Sabha elections, where the party failed to secure any of the four seats in Greater Hyderabad, including Secunderabad, Secunderabad, Chevella, and Malkajgiri.

The party found a silver lining in the bypoll for Secunderabad Cantonment in May 2024, where the Congress wrested the seat from the BRS after the untimely death of BRS MLA Lasya Nanditha in a road accident.

The Congress is keen to wrestle the Jubilee Hills seat from the BRS, with the bypoll seen as an early indicator of the public's mood ahead of the GHMC elections.

The bypoll is expected to be a litmus test for the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, which assumed power in

December 2023. The Congress is hoping a victory will uplift the morale of party leaders and cadres not only in the GHMC limits but across the state, particularly with opposition parties BRS and BJP criticising the Congress government for failing to implement its Six Guarantees and other poll promises and claiming severe anti-incumbency against Revanth government.

The Congress sees this byelection as an opportunity to gauge voter sentiment before the crucial GHMC elections. In the 2023 Assembly polls, the party fielded former cricketer Mohd Azharuddin, who lost to BRS candidate Maganti Gopinath, despite securing a strong second place.

Azharuddin, who lost by a margin of 16,337 votes, has already signalled his intent to contest the bypoll again, expressing confidence that he would be given another chance by the party high command.

He has also claimed that he has the backing of key AICC leaders,

including Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi.

In addition to Azharuddin, V. Naveen Yadav, who contested as an independent against Azharuddin in 2023 and later joined the Congress, is also vying for the ticket. The Congress is hoping for the AIMIM's support in this bypoll, with an estimated 30 per cent of the Jubilee Hills electorate being Muslims.

The Congress believes that securing the AIMIM's backing could significantly boost their chances of victory. In 2023, AIMIM candidate Rasheed Farazuddin finished fourth with 7,848 votes, a split that benefited the BRS. If the AIMIM opts out of the bypoll, it is expected to be a three-way contest between the Congress, BRS and the BJP.

In the 2023 Assembly polls, Gopinath triumphed with 80,549 votes, while Azharuddin secured 64,212 votes. The BJP's Lanka Deepak Reddy bagged over 25,866 votes and AIMIM's Farazuddin took 7,848 votes.

G-B project issues due to AP actions: CM

FROM PAGE 1

"Telangana has always been open to talks, but some are trying to make this a political issue," said Revanth Reddy. The Chief Minister said that the Banakacharla issue escalated due to the AP government's unilateral actions, such as submitting a pre-feasibility report to the Centre and Chandrababu Naidu directly seeking approvals and funds from the Centre without consulting or without considering the objections of the Telangana government. Revanth Reddy defended his government's position on the Krishna and Godavari waters, insisting that while Telangana remains open to negotiations, it would not relinquish its rightful share of water. "The people of Telangana deserve their fair share. We will not allow anyone to undermine that," he asserted. Revanth Reddy blamed the previous BRS government for the ongoing controversy, stating that it was the previous chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and previous irrigation minister T. Harish Rao, who

agreed to the diversion of Godavari water to AP in the Apex Council meetings as well as in the meetings of Union Jal Shakti Ministry. Revanth Reddy specifically referred to a 2016 agreement, under which the Andhra Pradesh government was granted permission to carry out surveys for the Banakacharla project. The Chief Minister pointed out that the BRS government had not approached the courts in the past regarding the diversion of Godavari water by AP. He also reminded that the BRS government had participated in discussions with both the Chandrababu Naidu government during 2014-19 and with the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government during 2019-24 on the diversion of Godavari waters.

Revanth Reddy accused Union minister G. Kishan Reddy and BRS leaders of misleading the people of the state. He alleged that the BRS leader was acting as a mere puppet of BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao, and dubbed him as a "tutor" to KTR. He accused him of functioning as a "liaison officer" for KTR. "Harish Rao and other BRS leaders

Match-fixing on Banakacharla project: Harish blames Revanth

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Former irrigation minister T. Harish Rao on Friday said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had yet again proved his loyalty to his former leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu "through match-fixing on AP's Godavari-Banakacharla project."

Harish Rao said that Revanth Reddy, speaking to mediapersons in New Delhi on Friday, had yet again made it clear that he was ready to settle for 1,000 tmc ft from the Godavari and 500 tmc ft from the Krishna river. "This will cause irreparable harm to Telangana's rightful share of the water," Harish Rao said.

are spreading lies so absurd that even God would be shocked. God will wonder if I created these people myself with such audacity to lie," Revanth Reddy



T. Harish Rao

The former irrigation minister said, "Revanth's comments today have made it amply clear that the proposal to hold Cabinet discussions and talks with Chandrababu are part of a match-fixing arrangement decided in advance."

Harish Rao said former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao had demanded a rightful share of 968 tmc ft from the Godavari based on existing GOs, in addition to 1,950

tmc ft out of 3,000 tmc ft that flows into the sea. This totals to a demand of 2,918 tmc ft. "In contrast, Revanth Reddy's approach to limit Telangana's share to just 1,000 tmc ft is nothing short of a conspiracy. KCR also fought before the Krishna Waters Disputes Tribunal staking claim to 763 tmc ft of Krishna waters. Revanth Reddy's willingness to settle for only 500 tmc ft shows a complete betrayal of Telangana's interests," Harish Rao said. "Why has Revanth Reddy not demanded an Apex Council meeting when he met Jal Shakti minister C.R. Patil in Delhi on Thursday? Why is he instead of this approach, proposing talks with Chandrababu? Harish Rao asked.

was using the Banakacharla project as a political weapon for its revival. He said the BRS was 'politically dead' after the LS polls in which it drew a blank.

WANT ED, CBI TO PROBE SCAM: JEEVAN REDDY

FROM PAGE 1

"Two others who wanted to place bids for the resorts whose market price could be around ₹10,000 crore, were forced to withdraw their bids after the NCLT called for tenders leaving only Ranjith Reddy's front company in the fray, which ultimately got the property. This is a huge financial scam that caused losses to several public sector banks including SBI, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Overseas Bank among others," Jeevan Reddy alleged.

Jeevan Reddy said the property was right next to the Outer Ring Road in Shamirpet for which the banks gave loans totalling ₹2,221 crore, would be at least worth ₹10,000 crore if the market value were to be taken into consideration. "We demand that the ED and CBI probe this scam. This is public money from the banks that is at stake," Jeevan Reddy said.

BJP TARGETS CONGRESS ON BC QUOTA DELAY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

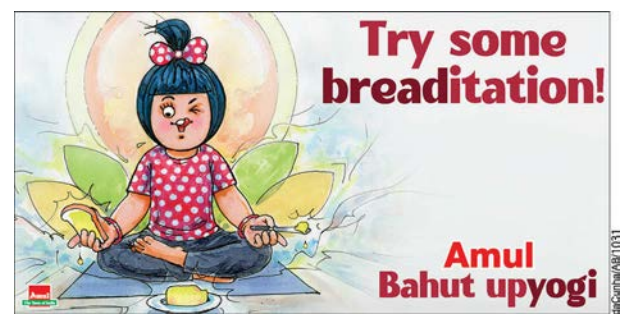
The Telangana BJP has started preparations for the upcoming local body polls by organising workshops aimed at energising booth-level workers, mandal committees and Shakti Kendras to strengthen grassroots mobilisation and outreach. At the heart of the party's campaign is the Congress government's failure to fulfil its promise of providing 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. Despite repeated assurances, the reservation remains unimplemented, a move the BJP is portraying as a betrayal of BC communities.

The BJP is also building its narrative around the alleged Congress's failure to deliver on its six election guarantees and the controversial caste census, which reportedly showed a decline in BC population figures.

The census outcome has triggered discontent among BC voters and the BJP is working to consolidate support within these communities by highlighting what it calls Congress's manipulation of BC interests. In addition to this, the party is addressing local concerns such as farmers' rights and unemployment, aiming to position itself as the alternative to Congress and BRS dominance in local governance.

The BJP's strategy is rooted in a multi-layered, bottom-up approach. Booth committees have been tasked with door-to-door outreach and voter support, while mandal and assembly-level in-charges are coordinating efforts to engage neutral and dissatisfied voters.

Regular workshops and review meetings are being held to assess ground-level feedback, refine campaign strategies and boost voter turnout.



Cong., BRS united against BJP's rise, asserts Kishan

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20



G. Kishan Reddy

Telangana BJP chief and Union minister G. Kishan Reddy accused the Congress government of projecting selective issues to divert public attention from its failures on all fronts, including its inability to deliver on the six guarantees and 420 promises made to the people, its inaction in the phone tapping case, and large-scale corruption in the Kaleshwaram project.

Addressing BJP leaders at a state-level workshop on local body elections at the party headquarters on Friday, Kishan Reddy criticised both the Congress and BRS for conspiring to block the BJP's rise in the state. He said Revanth Reddy, who once demanded a CBI probe while in the opposition, now speaks differently after coming to power.

Calling the phone tapping case extremely serious, Kishan Reddy alleged that the phones of BJP office staff, leaders and social media teams were tapped under the previous BRS government, along with the phones of judges, businessmen, film actors, opposition leaders and elected representatives.

He urged the party cadre to raise awareness among the public about how Congress is not fulfilling its promises and shielding BRS leaders in corruption cases.

He said Revanth Reddy's frequent claim that he is unable to bring in new funds for development is a result of the financial mismanagement and inefficiency of both the Congress and BRS governments. Due to their faulty policies and corruption, the state has been pushed into deep debt and is unable to implement welfare programmes for the poor, he said.

Talking about the party's organisational progress,

Kishan Reddy said that new district presidents have taken charge and committees have been formed at the mandal level. He asked party leaders to prepare a special action plan to expose what he called the "dark days" and anti-democratic actions of the Congress, particularly its imposition of Emergency on June 25.

"The public must be reminded how Congress violated the Constitution and undermined democracy. Today, they pretend to be protectors of the Constitution, but history shows otherwise. Congress has never had true faith in the Constitution or democratic values. Whenever it has been in power, it has acted with authoritarian tendencies," he said.

"Such a party has no moral right to talk about the Constitution today."

Listing out the welfare initiatives of the Narendra Modi government, Kishan Reddy cited the distribution of 5 kg of free rice to the poor, financial assistance to village panchayats, employment guarantee schemes for rural workers and the development of national highways. He said that 42 railway stations are currently being modernised across Telangana and challenged Congress to match such development. "Congress has never achieved this scale of progress. People must hold them accountable," he averred.

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India, June 2025 - Joyalukkas, the world's favourite jeweller, is hosting the 'Biggest Jewellery Sale of the Year' in showrooms across India since the campaign launched earlier this month. The limited-period sale runs till July 13th 2025 and offers an exceptional flat 50% off on making charges (V/A) across a wide selection of gold, diamond (cut and uncut), platinum, silver, and precious stone jewellery.

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NEREMDET NEAR Ramakrishna Durum MTTS Railway Station, 2&3 BHK Deluxe Flats Ready to Occupy...

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DOUBLE BEDROOM

NEW INDEPENDENT Row Houses for sale G+1 @ Bhudevi Nagar...

BESSE MAHESHWAR Electronic Vastu, HMDA & REIRA Sq.Yds, 35' Mayfly Group Community 2BHK & Duplex...

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INDEPENDENT HOUSE 380 sqyds ground and first, 6 bedrooms covered car park...

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY for Lease - Alkapour Newly constructed building opposite Dollar Hills on 80 ft main road...

AMERPET: 1050 Sft 1st floor 104B commercial space for rent, Surekha Chambers...

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL Rental purpose Ground+3 Floors & Parking (Hostel/PG Space Available)...

10,000 SFT Total Commercial Space (1st & 2nd Floor) Opp BSNL Exchange, near carpeted in 2&7 Sq.Yds...

AIR CONDITIONED Office Space available with ample parking, approx 15,000 Sft (2 floors)...

AMEERPET SRINAGAR Colony Independent 2 Storied Commercial Building 8000 Sq.Yds...

COMMERCIAL SPACE available for Rent/Lease at prime location 3320 sft, 3rd floor Pratima shallas...

2LAKH Sq ft space is available for lease at prime location near Shamipet...

COMMERCIAL SPACE 3rd floor, 5000 Sft, Carpet at Kamalapur Colony, Srinagar...

READY & well equipped office Setup for rent at Tolchowki Main Road...

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

AMRUTHA VALLEY Apartments Banjara Hills, Rd.No 12 2 Bdr, 2 Bath...

2 BHK, G-Block - H4, E/F 1275 SFT, Semi Furnished Flat With 3 ACs...

THREE & MORE

GACHIBOWLI, KONDAPUR, 3 BHK East Facing Super Deluxe Flat for Rent...

GANDHINAGAR, NEAR Harharashetram, 3 BHK, 1400 Sft, South Facing...

KONDAPUR 3 BHK New Flats 2250 Sft for Rent, 2 Car parking 4 & 5 Floors...

FULLY FURNISHED 2980 sft 3 bhk apt in gated community for rent in white floris Road...

MIYAPUR IN RV Aneendra Gated Community 3 BHK Deluxe Flat for Rent Only for Family...

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

DOUBLE BEDROOM

2 BHK With Terrace 2nd Floor Independent House in Jubilee Hills...

2 BHK Dining Covered & Open car Parkings for office/Commercial Flats...

THREE & MORE

5 BHK villa Attapur Semi-furnished Spacious East facing 100% Vaastu Plot size 480 Sq.Yds...

DTCP: RS.6LAKHS Per 100 sqyds Free 100sqms Gold Coins, Plots Located in Ramana Village...

KODICHERLA, KOTHUR, Ranga Reddy dist 750 Sqyds Plot for Sale...

MANSOORABAD, 150 SQ yds, West Facing, 40ft Road, South End car parking...

PREMIUM 274.86 Sq.Yds @ Corjole's Meghana Golden Woods, Yellampet (Medchal)...

FOUR FARMHOUSE plots of 1000 sq yds each, facing BT road, with covered car parking...

MOKILA 267- 300 sqyds Premium villa Plots are available in Ashoka Central Park...

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HOWARD LAKEVIEW School, street no-19, Telecom nagar requires 100 Graduate teachers for high school, English, Social, Mathematics, physics, Hindi...

URGENTLY REQUIRED Mother Teachers, Primary & High School Teachers for All Subjects, M/ F Coordinator, Office Bazar, Zurich Alpha High School Salary No Bar For Deserving Candidates...

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COMPLETE CATERING/ Restaurant Kitchen setup with all stainless steel equipment, Burners, working counters, Storage racks, crockery, Utensils for Sale...

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT for sale in prime location, Kondapur, Hyd. open for rooftop fine dining & cafe for all occasions...

RUNNING 100% Veg Chaap/ North Indian QSR for Sale Himayatnagar Profitable, well established vegetable restaurant in a prime Himayatnagar location...

FOR SALE

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I, KOTISWARA MANOJ Kumar, S/o, Shasira Koteswara Ramu, R/o: HNo: 111, Gopalinagar, Flat: 301, Road no: 15B, 3rd Floor, Kukatpally, Medchal-Mangalagiri Dist, TS. I have changed my name from Kotsiwara Manoj Kumar to Koteswara Manoj Kumar...

I, JANHVI Sunil Kumar Lalwani D/o, Sunil Kumar Lalwani R/o. Flat No.109, Ramnivas Apartments, Phase-1, Old Bowenpally, Secunderabad- 500011. Have changed my name to Janhvi for all future record purposes...

I, SHAIK Bebi John, W/o Shaik Abdul Shariff, R/o P.No: 1373, Ramnivas, Auroorapeta Township, Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad -90, have changed my Name from Bebi Sharief Shaik to Shaik Bebi John for all record purpose...

I, SHAIK Abdul Shariff, S/o Mastan Saheb Shaik, R/o: P.No: 1373, Ramnivas, Auroorapeta Township, Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad -90,

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DECCAN Chronicle

21 JUNE 2025

Work closely with Canada to tackle 'Khalistan' threat

The big positive Prime Minister Narendra Modi came away with from India after attending the G-7 summit in Kananaskis was the resetting of ties in his meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mike Carney. The agreement, however, needs to be worked on further if the change in ties since the rancour of the time Justin Trudeau was heading the Conservative Party and the country as Prime Minister is to be made permanent.

A Canadian Security and Intelligence Service report has been candid in admitting that what India has been saying all along is right and that has to do with the Khalistan sympathising elements resident in Canada not only being promoting the cause of a separate Sikh state in India but also funding violence in the country. This is a huge declaration that validates India's legitimate concerns over the activities of Khalistani extremists operating from Canadian soil.

Carney had been statesmanlike in not taking up the case of the Hardeep Singh Nijjar killing that has been a big bone of contention between the two nations and which Justin Trudeau converted into a lifeline for his own political ends. He merely stated that the case was ongoing unlike Trudeau who had made the explosive charge openly on the floor of Parliament.

Every nation is duty bound to observe a rules-based global order, a duty that devolves upon both Canada and India in this vexatious matter of a diaspora calling for a 'new' homeland in India while living abroad

At this point, India may have to work closely with the Carney regime on the probe and judicial process into the Nijjar killing. Canadian intelligence sources keep repeating about seeing an Indian hand behind the assassination, but irrefutable proof of any involvement has been found wanting in the legal process that is ongoing in Canada.

Even so, it is up to the Indian external affairs ministry to reach out to Canada and clear its name and absolve the Government of India of ordering or funding any targeted killing on foreign soil. For the sake of taking the resetting of ties to an old normal forward from the meeting of the Prime Ministers, India must be more forthcoming in discussing the issue with Canada.

Accused of an attempt to kill a dual Canadian-American citizen in New York, the Indian government showed intent by setting up a probe committee and sharing its findings with the US rather than just harping on a denial. Of course, things had changed politically with Joe Biden's Democrats, who made a song and dance about it, losing the presidential poll to Donald Trump and his Republicans. The docket on that case may have been thrown away altogether now.

We would like to believe that India would, despite the anti-India propaganda that goes on, not put out contracts on characters who may even be obnoxiously propagandist. There is no country that does not play espionage games, but all these extraterritorial killings were the monopoly of certain First World countries and naming them is not going to get anyone anywhere.

The point is there are many ways a nation can take on opposing forces but not by deceitful targeted killings. India must be open about this instead of always playing the injured innocent when allegations surface. Every nation is duty bound to observe a rules-based global order, a duty that devolves upon both Canada and India in this vexatious matter of a diaspora calling for a 'new' homeland in India while living abroad.

Social media & visas: Fears rise

Three weeks after suspending the grant of student visas, the United States has resumed visa interviews, which is a welcome development for thousands of youngsters who seek to access some of the world's best universities. However, the demand to verify the social media interactions of visa applicants is a troubling trend. It is beyond dispute that US authorities have a sovereign right to determine who to enter their country. However, the demand for unfettered access to private social media accounts raises serious concerns as it goes well beyond the scope of legitimate security interests.

On the face of it, the argument made by US authorities appears sound — social media interactions of a visa candidate might help them to understand his personality and identify potential threats. However, the reality is far more complex. Social media is mostly an imperfect mirror of one's beliefs and intentions. Sarcasm, irony, or even a heated exchange in the spur of the moment can easily be misinterpreted, especially for a person coming from outside one's cultural or linguistic contexts. This could lead to a clouded judgment on the part of the visa counsellor and not an interpretation of actual behaviour.

The demand for access to social media accounts of candidates is tantamount to compelling them to open up their private lives to US authorities, which in effect would enforce censorship by proxy. People may begin to self-censor or sanitise their online selves as even a stray comment or so-called controversial post could be used against them in a visa decision. This process sets a dangerous precedent for other countries, especially those ruled by authoritarian authorities.

No one disputes that the safety of citizens must always be the first duty of any government, including that of the United States. However, this responsibility must be balanced with respect for personal freedoms and the principles of privacy and dignity, by either reviewing the social media mandate or putting in guardrails against the US officials abusing their newfound power to peek into others' lives.

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Trump exits G-7 amid Iran war; Modi in Canada reset



K.C. Singh

The Group of Seven summit in Canada had been expected to draw a considerable amount of global attention, being the first summit of the world's richest economies after Donald Trump's re-election as US President and the global trade war he had set in motion from the first day.

Among other invitees were India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the leaders of Mexico, Brazil and South Africa. But the premature exit of President Trump from the summit venue in Canada left these leaders adrift with their appointments with the US leader cancelled or not fixed.

For India, only two meetings were critical. One with the host Prime Minister, Mark Carney of Canada, to reset diplomatic relations, strained for well over a year. The other with President Trump to settle the issue of his repeated claims of having mediated the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. Mr Modi and President Trump spoke later on the phone. Mr Modi was invited to stop over in Washington DC on his return journey to India. But he declined, as a serious complication had emerged.

President Trump had scheduled a private lunch at the White House for Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir. Considering the terrible optics of the Indian Prime Minister's presence in Washington, as the Pakistan Army chief was being warmly hosted, Mr Modi used his commitment to visit Croatia on the trip home to excuse himself.

The Indian official read-out of the Modi-Trump conversation is that India strongly rejected any third-party mediation for the India-Pakistan disputes. This indirectly countered President Trump's repeated claims of successful mediation. But Mr Trump voiced

it again, soon thereafter, adding that he "loved" Pakistan, besides having great regard for Prime Minister Modi.

With this strange scenario developing, Prime Minister Modi had no other option but to use the G-7 platform to air his thoughts on counter-terrorism. He argued that to succeed at countering terror, nations must not pander to countries which abet terror. Without naming Pakistan, he underscored the irony of the US President hosting the Pakistan Army chief, whose complicity in the Pahalgam terror attacks could not be ruled out.

The American outreach to Pakistan, since the four-day military encounter between India and Pakistan, becomes easier to understand after seeing President Trump's bonhomie towards the Pakistan Army chief. Clearly, the US has been coordinating closely with Israel over the attacks on Iranian military and nuclear installations as well as scientists and senior military personnel. Some European nations are also on board, as evident in German Chancellor Frederick Merz's remark that Israel was doing their "dirty work".

However, despite the lethal damage caused by Israel's surprise attacks on Iran which started June 13, catching Tehran off-guard as it awaited the fifth round of talks with the Americans two days later, Israel has not yet browbeaten Iran. In retaliation, despite extensive damage to their missile launch-capability, Iran's hypersonic missiles have successfully penetrated Israel's Iron Dome. That is why Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking US help to finish what he started. The objective of destroying the Iranian nuclear programme remains unachieved. Unless the US jumps in, the Fordow uranium enrichment facility is escaping destruction,

being embedded in the mountains. Israel is urging the US to emerge from the shadows and join the battle. The US has shifted midair refuellers to the region, in case required.

President Trump's lunch with Field Marshal Asim Munir is a culmination of the American outreach, underway since the India-Pakistan ceasefire. Thus, the military option for destroying the Iranian nuclear programme proceeded alongside the Iran-US talks in Oman. When the US couldn't convince Iran to completely abandon its nuclear programme, Israel got the green light to attack on June 13.

President Donald Trump's MAGA base in the US is split over foreign military intervention. Some US senators are also arguing that the US government cannot undertake military action abroad without their approval. However, the Republican majority in both Houses is so completely under Mr Trump's influence that it is unlikely any such resolution will be passed. The question that the whole world is asking is whether the US will join Israel in attacking the remaining Iranian nuclear facilities, or whether President Trump is merely using the threat to force Iran back to the negotiating table, with curtailed nuclear ambitions. Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei rebuffed the US demand for "unconditional surrender".

The Iran-Israel faceoff endangers not only the region but the entire world, as it can lead to disruption of oil supply. Its shadow lingered over the G-7 summit, where Ukraine was expected to be discussed. But President Trump rejected any statement extending support to it. In fact, based on wrong facts, he

bemoaned the ejection of Russia from the group and even wondered why China was not included. His geo-strategic vision contradicts the raison d'être for the creation of the G-7. Thus, no G-7 joint communique got issued. Only the chairman's summary is available, though a number of resolutions were passed on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, migrant smuggling and critical minerals. The US insisted on weaker language over Ukraine, but Canada extended \$4.3 billion aid to Ukraine, with nearly half for defence equipment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks with Canadian PM Mark Carney had some success. Diplomatic relations are being restored with new high commissioners to be appointed. While mentioning combating terrorism, a new phrase, "transnational repression" was introduced. This covers any activity by one nation to try intimidating or influencing the citizens of another nation or its democratic processes. This indirectly refers to the Hardeep Singh Nijjar killing. Mr Carney refused to answer any further questions on the Nijjar issue, on the grounds that it was sub judice. With global trade disrupted by Mr Trump, India and Canada have an opportunity to boost their trade and investment relations. A pending agreement on that needs accelerating.

But the world anxiously awaits how Mr Trump deals with Iran next. A nuclear deal is possible if Iran is offered a face-saver. That means allowing Iran limited uranium enrichment at facilities perhaps run jointly with regional or international collaboration, and under strict IAEA supervision. Iran must certainly abandon embedding its facilities underground or in the mountains, as it must display transparency to regain trust. The ambitious Israeli objective of "regime change" in Tehran has few supporters, even in Europe. If ceasefire overtures fail, the region and the world stare at a dangerous and uncertain outcome.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkastingh

LETTERS

TRUMP'S STRATEGY

The US makes money selling weapons (*Trump in U-turn says India, Pak talks secured ceasefire, June 19*).

First, it creates a situation where a country feels insecure with its neighbours. Then it creates demand and an ecosystem for selling arms. Innocent people dying is not their concern. Is this a strategy? **Amit Agrawal** Hyderabad

Since Operation Sindhoor, the BJP has consistently maintained that the ceasefire was a bilateral decision between India and Pakistan. The Opposition, however, continues to challenge this claim, citing Donald Trump. How will Rahul Gandhi now respond to his earlier remark: "Narender... Surrender." **Sivakumar Narayanlal** Kuntloor

STUDENTS SAFETY

I am shocked that school bus drivers were drunk when ferrying children (*Parents alarmed as drivers found drunk during checks, June 20*). This is not acceptable. The management of schools are responsible for careless attitude. **Amul Mulgundkar** Hyderabad

PM'S CONCERN

I commend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swift response (*PM condoles 9 deaths in Pune road accident, June 20*). It shows his concern for the welfare of citizens in times of distress. Enhancing emergency response systems and medical facilities in rural areas can help reduce fatalities. **Bushra Shareef** Hyderabad

WORK PRESSURE

People dying by suicide due to work is a concern (*CA dies by suicide, June 18*). We request government to fix the problem of toxic work culture in private firms and corporate firms though it cannot do anything directly. Some policies can be made for the betterment of youth. **Sudhansu N. Raman** Hyderabad

GOOD INITIATIVE

It is an excellent measure by the OU VC (*Future teachers to learn to nurture minds, June 20*). It will make the students mentally strong and a good mindset will create wonders. **Chandra Kanta** Hyderabad

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

"Life, love and talent are all extinguished by time — That relentless bastard pursues the sublime Yes, all go to oblivion and mostly leave no trace And all we can do, Bachchoo, is laugh in his face!" — From A Kela — **The Lonely Banana**, by Bachchoo

Britain's Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has, after publicly rejecting the idea for several months, instituted a national inquiry into "grooming gangs". This has caused the Opposition to crow about government U-turns, implying that Keir Starmer and his government stand for nothing but are blown by the winds of public and other opinion. The "other" in this case is the intervention in January of Elon Musk, a citizen of some country across an ocean, who feels emboldened (because he's very rich?) to dictate policy to all and sundry in the world. In this case of grooming gangs, he demanded that a national inquiry be held into their cause, progress and prevention.

Why did Musk feel he should fan that particular British flame? Because all or 99 per cent of the perpetrators of this crime, some tried, convicted and serving severe sentences, are of Pakistani origin and Donald Trump as central arse-licker adopts his master's voice which pronounces, in attitude and policy, against immigrants and Muslims.

Let me tell you, gentle reader, what this grooming gangs' phenomenon is: In several UK cities — Oxford,

Rotherham, Rochdale, Oldham and Derby, among them — gangs of British-Pakistani men picked on vulnerable teenage, mainly white, girls from broken families who lived in what are government social-care homes, "groomed" them with drugs and gifts and even the pretence of beginning a loving and protective relationship with a single young man, and then subjected them to sex through persuasion and rape with several of the members of his "gang".

The time-line of this heinous criminal activity is now public knowledge. The earliest record of it is complaints from girl victims from care homes to the police and the local council in Rotherham in 2001. They said they were picked up by Pakistani taxi-drivers and were, in any legal sense, raped. The police did nothing.

The first conviction resulted in 2010 (!), nine years later, from these and other complaints, despite Channel Four-TV transmitting a documentary in 2004 which interviewed several victims of this grooming phenomenon in which vulnerable, mostly underage, girls were serially, systematically raped by members of these grooming gangs.

The documentary's transmission was delayed by several months as the police, council members and perhaps executives at Channel Four (I used to work there, but this happened six years after my time) thought that it could inflame racial tensions.

And that, gentle readers, has been the constant, supposed caution in the investigation, exposure and pros-

ecution of these gangs of men.

In 2010 eleven men were convicted of this serious, socially significant crime. A few months later Andrew Norfolk, a *Times* journalist, pursued the story and insisted on it being published despite being accused of "racism" and providing factual ammunition to far-right Islamophobes.

Nevertheless, the *Times* did publish the truth and publication in the nation's "prestigious" daily instigated the first national inquiry into the grooming gangs.

From 2011 to 2025, in several city courts — Oxford, Huddersfield, Rotherham, Rochdale and Huddersfield — 61 men have been convicted of these particular sexual offences. In 2018, for instance, twenty men, mainly of Pakistani origin, were convicted in Huddersfield of rape and sexual abuse offences against 15 girls and sentenced to a total of 221 years.

But enough statistics! There have been ten inquiries into this disgraceful phenomenon and it now emerges that none, or very few, of the recommendations made by those holding the inquiry in conclusion have been acted upon.

Sir Keir Starmer and Jess Phillips, the safeguarding minister in this government, claim that they changed their minds and are instituting a national inquiry not remotely because of some American billionaire's urging, but because they have been convinced by the leaders of previous inquiries that a fresh brief be designed to specifically ensure that the government

agencies or institutions such as the police, the social services and the judiciary are given specific guidance to ensure these crimes never happen again.

The national inquiry's brief has yet to be defined. Of course, it will look into the inhibitory factors that prevented the social services and the police from acting more swiftly in past cases. It will recommend closing gaps and combating inhibitions.

In my humble opinion, it should certainly examine, in some detail, the mentality of the groomers and even the local cultural traditions or attitudes that enable the groomers to feel they can victimise young white vulnerable girls in this undoubtedly criminal, cruel way. This examination will prove, beyond questionability, that their actions have nothing to do with being Muslim and nothing indeed to do with being Pakistani. Billions of Muslims and millions of Pakistanis don't behave in this way. Al Capone and his gang may have been Christians but that didn't make them mafiosos! It's nothing to do with being Christian!

This element of the enquiry report should convince Britain that Muskovich and the far-right are pushing their own prejudices. Despite the Brexit vote, my conviction is that British democracy can see through their manipulative contentions.

(PS: Just as the United Nations does ludicrous surveys classifying the "happiest" nations, they should do one on the most and least mature democracies. I would provide the criteria — for a fee of course!)

Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings

Rising 'grooming gang' menace in UK: Will a probe expose coverup?



SHORT TAKES

GMC's APATHY
BLAMED FOR
STUDENTS MISHAPDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The apathy of college administration led to five students of Government Medical College, Bhadradri Kothagudem being injured in a road accident on Friday evening.

Five female students from MBBS third year were returning to their hostel from the college in an autorickshaw when it overturned, trying to avoid a biker coming from the opposite direction. They suffered serious injuries including broken bones, torn muscles, and head injuries.

All the girls have been admitted to Government General Hospital Bhadradri Kothagudem. "Their wounds have been dressed and they are safe," a doctor said. The accident took near the collector office at around 4.30 PM. The college is seven kilometres away from the girls hostel.

The accident has sparked outrage among the college students and doctors at the associated general hospital exposing the grim reality of daily student commute.

"Despite several representations and written complaints submitted to the principal over the last two years regarding the transport issues, there has been no action taken. Instead, the principal reportedly warned students not to approach him on this matter again and instructed them to speak directly with private contractors. Students even got threatened to completely remove the bus facility so that all students would be forced to make their own transport arrangements," said a member of the TJUDA.

According to JUDA members, despite being hostel students, no member from the hostel or college administration came forward to check on the victims admitted in emergency wards. "They only checked on them through calls. The hostel warden informed the parents over calls but didn't come to check on the students," a junior doctor said.

College principal in-charge Dr K. Raja Kumar also did not make any physical visit to the hospital to check on the students.

HC RAPS DELAY
IN ALAMPUR GOVT
HOSPITALVUJJINI VAMSHIDHAR | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

A division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara expressed deep concern over the inordinate delay in operationalising the 100-bed Alampur Government Hospital which is fully constructed and equipped. The court sought the government's contentions within two weeks, duly enumerating reasons for not giving hospital the go-ahead.

Social activist Ramchandra Reddy from Aija town of Jogulamba Gadwal district filed a PIL questioning the delay of the government in not taking action, despite repeated representations, to open the hospital, thereby depriving the people of Alampur constituency of access to medical aid.

The petitioner said that work on the hospital was completed 18 months ago.

The petitioner contended that the state government was indifferent towards the people of Alampur constituency, which is reserved for the Scheduled Caste communities and inhabited by marginalised communities. This action of the state government violated the fundamental right of citizens with regard to health and medical care.

Petitioner Ramchandra Reddy said that except for this 100-bed hospital, there was no other hospital available in and around the Alampur constituency due to which residents were forced to travel to Kurnool, Gadwal or Hyderabad to get medical aid.

The division bench issued notices to the health principal secretary, director, Telangana Medical Sciences Infrastructure Development Corporation, director of public health, the collector and district medical and health officer of Jogulamba Gadwal district, directing them to respond within two weeks.

● **THE PETITIONER** contended that the state government was indifferent towards the people of Alampur constituency, which is reserved for the Scheduled Caste communities and inhabited by marginalised communities.

Kadiyam trying to get me sacked, claims Surekha

Accused MLA Naini of blocking works in Warangal tri-cities

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
WARANGAL, JUNE 20

Endowments minister Konda Surekha launched a scathing attack on her party colleagues on Friday, targeting former minister and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari and Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy. She accused them of weakening her position by claiming that she would be removed from the Cabinet.

She alleged that Srihari has been unable to tolerate her elevation to the ministerial post from the beginning. "He has repeatedly tried to insult me and mislead Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and in-charge minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. He is spreading rumours that I will lose my ministerial position, just like the manipulative tactics he used during in the TD and TRS. These tricks won't work here," she said.

The minister also remarked that during the BRS regime, Srihari had become a minister due to his luck. "I have become a minister by the same stroke of luck. It is unfair for him to speak ill of me and conspire to see me removed," she said. Referring to their children, she added, "My daughter wasn't lucky enough to become an MLA."

Surekha criticised MLA Rajender Reddy, saying it was inappropriate for him to target her in a press conference. She accused him of obstructing development efforts in the tri-cities.



Congress MLAs led by the Warangal West MLA Naini Rajendar Reddy speaks to the media at his residence here in Hanamkonda on Friday. — BY ARRANGEMENT

Cannot tolerate Konda couple, says Cong. MLA

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, JUNE 20

Warangal West MLA Naini Rajendar Reddy and other local Congress MLAs strongly condemned minister Konda Surekha's comments against them and said it not only spoiled the party's image but gave the wrong message to the public and said that it was not acceptable.

"We have tolerated the Konda couple, but we can no longer bear it," he said. Speaking to the media, Rajendar Reddy said that he along with all local MLAs including Kadiyam Srihari, Revuri Prakash Reddy, K.R. Nagaraju,

Gandra Satyanarayana, MLC Baswaraju Saraiiah, Kuda chairman Engala Venkatram Reddy and Warangal DCC president Errabelli Swarna along with other Congress leaders are going to lodge a complaint with party in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan.

The MLAs present at the meeting accused the Konda couple for encouraging the caste-based politics in their respective constituencies and by forming their groups trying to disturb the harmony that existed in the party which is causing damage to the party. They urged the party leadership to take immediate action against the Konda couple who are harming the party.

On Thursday, Murali had criticised Srihari, MLC Saraiiah and Parkala MLA Prakash Reddy at a party event. He said they had joined the Congress without resigning from their previous parties.

Indirectly referring to Srihari, he stated that the "leader with no eyebrows" had backstabbed TD chief Chandrababu Naidu and BRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao. "Be careful Revanthanna," Murali had added.

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600-year-old inscription of Halley's Comet in AP

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 20

The first Indian epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet has been found in Andhra Pradesh, whose origins could be traced back to nearly 600 years.

According to the Archaeological Survey of India, Srisaillam Copper Plate Charter - for the first time in the Indian context - recorded the appearance of Halley's Comet and the resultant meteor shower.

The inscription recorded that on Monday on June 28, 1456 CE, in order to pacify the great calamity that is believed to arise due to the appearance of a comet and its meteoric shower, on a day which had the king's birth nakshatra, the king had donated a village named Simgapura, located in Kelajhasima of Hastinavati Vemthe as an agrahara to a Brahmin named Limnganarya from Kadiyalapura, which is currently known as Kadiyapulanka of Galividu mandal in Kadapa district in AP.

It is traditionally believed that the appearance of a comet and meteoric



A copper plate charter with reference to Halley's Comet of 1456 CE found at Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh. — BY ARRANGEMENT

shower would bring misfortune and calamities and a 'Shanti Puja' was performed to nullify the evil effects.

The inscription mentions the appearance of a comet and its associated beliefs as 'Prakasyaya mahotkata santaryatham dattavan vibhuh' and recorded the giving of the grant. From several his-

torical records across the world, it is known that the appearance of Halley's Comet in 1456 CE was dreaded and created widespread fear and was interpreted as a bad omen in various parts of the world.

Halley's Comet is the only known short-period comet that is consistently visible to the naked eye from the earth, appearing for every 72-90 years and due to its intrinsic brightness, about one eighth of all comet sightings mentioned in the historic records belong to Halley's Comet.

ASI director (epigraphy) K. Muniathnam Reddy said, "We have got literary evidence of the appearance of Halley's Comet and its meteor shower found in China, Egypt and also from a Kashmiri pandit. We have also got data from NASA about the meteor shower in 1456 CE."

However, we have got the epigraphical evidence in the form of an inscription found and it serves as a record for such a celestial event occurred in that period.

7-yr-old sets record in 155-ft blindfolded rappelling stunt

SHRIMANSI
KAUSHIK | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

A seven-year-old boy from Hyderabad is being hailed as 'fearless' in mountaineering circles after completing a blindfolded 155-foot rappelling descent at Malaihattu Mountain in Tamil Nadu, a venue noted for such events.

Advik Bhammarkar earned a Nobel World Record title for his feat earlier this week. It is a hill located in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, and a popular destination for mountain climbers and rappellers. In September 2021, S. Jishnuvardhan and D. Shanmughapriya set world records by shooting arrows while rappelling down the mountain.

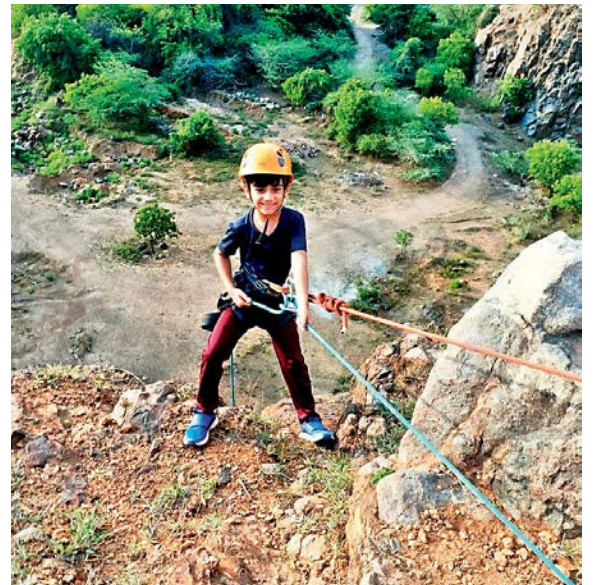
A Class 2 student of Gitanjali Primary School, Begumpet, Advik showed an early passion for adventure. "Even in malls or play zones, he instinctively climbed and talked about rock climbing and skydiving," said his father Dr Umesh Bhammarkar, ophthalmologist and marathon runner who completed the Pangong Frozen Lake Marathon, the world's highest, last year.

Dr Bhammarkar enrolled Advik in a two-day basic rock climbing course in Chennai. At the camp, his coach R. Thirulogachandran, general secretary of the Tamil Nadu Mountaineering Association (TNMA), noticed something exceptional. "He showed no fear. Most kids are scared during a descent, but he laughed all the way down. In 15 years of training, I've never seen such courage," said the coach, who trains both children and adults in climbing.

During rappelling, two ropes are used - an active rope and a belay rope for safety, with teams stationed both at the top and base to coordinate the descent.

Full safety protocols, including medical aid, trained professionals, and equipment, were present. For world record attempts, parental and child consent is mandatory. "While others need at least five sessions to attempt a descent, Advik managed it in just eight hours. That's when I suggested he try it blindfolded. He did a trial run, and then completed the record attempt in 4 minutes and 48 seconds. With more practice, he could've done it in three," said Thirulogachandran.

On June 15, 2025, at 8.37 am, under the supervision of TNMA president S.V. Ramana and Nobel World Records officials, Advik completed the 155-ft blindfolded descent with remarkable composure and technique. The event was witnessed by the media, police, moun-



Advik Bhammarkar earns a Nobel World Record title.

taineering dignitaries, and the local community. His coaches now recommend him for the Everest Base Camp Expedition in September 2025, provided he receives continued training and support.

"With structured guidance, he could shine in international competitions, including Olympic climbing events," said his coach. According to Dr Prashant Utage, a pediatric neurologist, "Advik was slightly hyperactive earlier but is now more focused. He has exceptional mental and physical strength. He's also a strong swimmer and runner. His lightweight build suits climbing well. I haven't seen signs of parental pressure."

Addressing safety concerns, Dr Bhammarkar said, "Relatives often ask if it's safe for a child this young. As his father, I'm the most concerned. I test everything myself before letting him try. His interests matter - but his safety comes first."

instructed officials to hear Vardhini Industries' grievance and pass a speaking order within six weeks.

SBH OFFICERS WRIT PLEA DISMISSED

Justice Nagesh Bheemapaka of the Telangana High Court dismissed a writ plea filed by officers of the erstwhile State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH) for certain service benefits. The petitioner contended that a package of service-related benefits was extended to similarly situated employees when the State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Indore merged with the State Bank of India (SBI). It was argued unsuccessfully that such action amounted to hostile discrimination.

Full report on deccanchronicle.com

NRIs' crimes cast shadow on Indian reputation in US

PRATHYUSH
NALLELLA | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

A few Indians are landing up in trouble for crimes in the United States, affecting the credibility of the whole community. While some face minor charges like traffic violations, littering and misdemeanour, others are booked for serious crimes like theft, immigration fraud, cyber-crimes, physical assault and even murder.

Recently, Kiran Rapa-rathi, a Telugu man, was arrested by the Houston Texas police for shoplifting \$563 worth sunglasses from an outlet in Houston. Police arrested him and booked him to Harris County Jail.

Students Kiran Rajesh-kumar Patel and Rajesh-bhai Mangukiyara ran an elaborate phishing scams and stole \$2.7 million from more than 25 people. In another similar incident, another student Moinu-ddin Mohammed stole nearly \$6 million from people through online phishing scams.

In March 2025, Saritha Ramaraju, a 48-year-old Indian-origin woman bru-

● **WHILE** the mistake might seem small and insignificant, the repercussions of the mistake will cast a shadow over the dreams of many other aspirants.

tally killed her 11 year old son in a hotel in California. After getting custodial visitation of her son, she took him to a three-day visit to Disneyland and killed him. She was arrested, and is facing 26 years to lifetime imprisonment.

Indian students and immigrants abroad say such crimes add a lot of pressure and unnecessary blame on them. K. Dinesh, a student from Hyderabad who is now pursuing his master's degree in Chicago, said: "Even though I have nothing to do with these crimes, we all get blamed. The moment we tell people we are from India, we get stares."

"About a month ago, my roommate was questioned by the police because someone called the police saying my friend was seen

hanging around near a convenience store for too long. He didn't steal anything, neither did he attempt to. But, people assume we are here to create trouble, and it is painful," Dinesh added.

Sumet Kumar, a Hyderabad-based IT-employee at a major corporation in Dallas, said "Sometimes, the judgment is subtle. For instance, my former employers cross-verified my documents four times before offering a job, and upon asking, they said that a previous Indian employee joined with fake certificates.

But many times, the judgment is forthright. But, the scrutiny is almost always there." This behaviour is not just limited to the United States. Indian students, workers and immigrants who move all across the world face bias.

Santosh Reddy, a Kadapa-based worker in Australia's Sydney, said "Recently, a few Indian students were caught shoplifting, and now all of us are seen with suspicion. They call us names, give us looks and treat us differently."

Consultancy officers, who help students with admissions and visas, also raised concerns. Rajeshwar Rao, who runs a consultancy service in Hyderabad, said "We seriously warn students and people who want to settle abroad not to commit any crimes. If anyone gets arrested once, it's a permanent scar on their careers and lives."

"A student I sent to the US stole some items in a mall there. He was quickly arrested, and his parents contacted us and begged us to help. Since it was a minor crime, we paid the bail amount and got him released. But the incident was taken seriously by his university, and he was expelled", Rajeshwar Rao said. As countries increase background checks and paperwork, consultants, embassies and even authorities are warning immigrants not to commit crimes. While the mistake might seem small and insignificant, the repercussions of the mistake will cast a shadow over the dreams of many other aspirants.

Police protection to wife of honour killing victim

L. RAVICHANDER
HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The Telangana High Court on Friday directed state police to provide immediate protection to Kotla Bhargavi, 21, whose husband was murdered in an alleged caste-based honour killing. Justice T. Vinod Kumar issued the interim order while hearing Bhargavi's writ petition that accused local police of failing to act on her repeated pleas for security. According to the petition, Bhargavi's husband, an SC man, was killed after he married her, a member of the BC-Goud community. Police registered a murder case and arrested several of Bhargavi's relatives, who have since threatened to kill her when released on bail, she told the court.

Senior advocate V. Raghunath, representing Bhargavi, argued that Section 15A (1) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act obliges the state to safeguard victims, their dependents and witnesses from intimidation or violence. Justice Vinod Kumar criticised the police for two months of "lethargic" inaction after Bhargavi first requested protection. Granting relief, he ordered authorities to ensure her safety. The case will be heard next month for further orders.

CENTRALISED UNDERGRAD
ADMISSIONS QUESTIONED

Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Friday admitted a writ petition contesting the state's decision to introduce centralised online counselling for undergraduate admissions in the



LEGAL STORIES

2025-26 academic year. The petition, filed by the Ashok Sallaja Educational Society, which runs Ashoka College of Business Management, asserts that the government's May 1 notification mandating centralised counselling is "arbitrary, unconstitutional, and contrary to Supreme Court precedents."

The society argues that the measure infringes on the autonomy of private institutions to manage their own admissions. Counsel for the petitioner told the court the notification was issued

without proper jurisdiction and violates earlier SC rulings that protect the right of private colleges to conduct independent admissions. The petition seeks an interim order restraining the state from interfering with Ashoka College's admission process and a final declaration allowing the institution to admit students independently. Government pleader requested time to seek instructions. Justice Lakshman granted it and adjourned the matter for a later hearing.

HC FOR TRANSPARENCY IN PROCUREMENT

The Telangana High Court on Friday directed the state's Home and Prisons departments to draft clear, transparent guidelines for buying hospital furniture through the jail industries

programme and to factor in the interests of local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy issued the order while disposing of a writ petition filed by Vardhini Industries, a 27-year-old Secunderabad-based MSME. The firm had challenged the award of more than ₹2.3 crore in furniture contracts to SS Industries via the prisons department without a public tender. Vardhini argued that the prisons department signed a 2018 memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SS Industries under a public-private-partnership model, bypassing open bidding and undermining the Centre's rule reserving 20 per cent of government procurement for MSMEs. The company said its own price quote was lower than

the jail programme's private partner, costing the exchequer extra money. The Telangana State Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSMISIDC) defended the purchase, saying it was an emergency Covid-19 procurement permitted under relaxed financial norms. Prison officials told the court the MoU was properly tendered, trains inmates in manufacturing, and brings in rent, royalties and wages that benefit prisoners.

Although the court noted SS Industries was not made a respondent and declined a deep probe into the 2018 MoU, Justice Reddy stressed that future deals must be transparent and open to scrutiny. He ordered the Home and Prisons departments to frame a clear policy and

IN BRIEF

GHMC inspects 57 bakeries

Hyderabad: The GHMC said on Friday that its teams had inspected 57 bakeries in different parts of the city, from where 32 samples were sent to the State Food Laboratory, Nacharam, for analysis. The GHMC directed those in the food business to maintain standards related to hygiene, quality and labelling of products with emphasis on date of preparation and shelf life.

NITA AMBANI DONATES ₹1 CR TO BALKAMPET SHRINE

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Balkampet Yellamma Temple has received a ₹1-crore donation from Mumbai Indians owner Nita Ambani to fund the temple's Annaprasadam (daily free-meal) programme, temple officials confirmed on Friday.

The contribution follows Mumbai Indians' victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad here on April 23. According to temple executive officer Bolampally Krishna, Ambani's mother and sister visited the shrine on match day, to pray for the team's success. After the win, the temple committee formally requested support for development projects.

"We later received a call from Mrs Ambani's office confirming a donation specifically for Annaprasadam," Krishna told *Deccan Chronicle*. "The amount has been deposited, and the interest will sustain the free-meal service."

Nita Ambani, who often visits the temple while in Hyderabad, has been seen praying at the shrine on several match days. Temple sources said she regularly seeks blessings for her franchise.

The donation comes as the temple prepares for the annual Renukadevi Ammavaru Kalyanamahotsavam, which draws more than 10 lakh devotees. Officials say the new endowment will help serve the influx of worshippers during the festival and throughout the year.

GHMC TO START EVICTION DRIVE IN HYDERABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

The GHMC on Friday said it would start enforcement drive to remove encroachments from footpaths and road margins across the city. A circular issued by the GHMC's town planning section said that several structures such as stalls, steps, booths, and boards were being set up illegally on footpaths, causing obstructions for pedestrians and affecting traffic flow.

Citing Sections 401 and 405 of the GHMC Act, the circular said that such structures were not allowed without permission from the commissioner. The commissioner also has the authority to remove them without notice. The GHMC said it would carry out regular encroachment-removal drives, preferably every Saturday, in all circles. Each circle is expected to cover at least one road during the weekly drive.

These actions will be taken with the help of the traffic police and the enforcement wing under the Operation ROPE initiative.

VENKAIHAH: YOGA HAS NO CASTE OR RELIGION

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Foreign attackers not only took away India's wealth "but also tried to take away our dreams and shastras," said former vice-president Venkaiah Naidu. Many temples were demolished at that time, and India was recovering from such a situation and becoming a powerful country again. He was speaking at the 'One Day Countdown' event organised ahead of the International Yoga Day at LB Stadium on Friday. Union ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma, BJP leader and actress Khushbu Sundar and others participated in the event.

He said that the world is shocked by Operation Sindoor, a wonderful feat by the Indian Army who with great patience completed the operation in 22 minutes by targeting terrorist camps. Speaking about Sunday's event, he said that yoga had no caste or religion.

Helpline for Icet, Eapcet students

To prevent issues in docu verification

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

With confusion surrounding certificate verification and web counselling for various entrance exams in Telangana, a group of student volunteers has launched a helpline to assist candidates. Members of the Students Protection Forum announced the initiative at a student meeting held at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) on Friday.

The helpline is aimed at first-generation and rural students appearing for Icet, Ecet, Polycet, PGECet, Icet and other entrance counselling processes. "Many students miss out on good colleges simply due to lack of awareness," said Rahul Naik and Shiva Krishna Reddy from the Forum. "Some don't realise they are eligible for full fee reimbursement. Others bring the wrong documents or miss deadlines." To address these

issues, the volunteers have shared their mobile numbers, inviting students across the state to reach out with queries. Common doubts include: which certificates to carry, how to lock web options properly and who qualifies for reimbursement under which category. The helpline numbers are: 7801009838, 9392868221, 9392325790, 8897546509, 8885109017 and 7981838835. The Forum said it would continue the effort until the counselling rounds are completed.

Exam time



Candidates ready to appear for TET exam at the Vignan Jyothi College, Bachupally, on Friday. — K. DURGA RAO

Govt schools in state to assess learning gaps

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

All government, local bodies, TGMS, TGREIS, KGBV, and urban residential schools in Telangana have been directed to conduct baseline tests for Classes I to IX between June 25 and June 30. The tests will be conducted under the

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) programme for Classes I to V, and the Learning Improvement Programme (LIP) for Classes VI to IX. These are part of the academic quality enhancement drive for the 2025-26 academic year. The director of SCERT has sent soft copies of test papers and evaluation guide-

lines to district educational officers (DEOs), who must ensure timely distribution to school heads. Progress data must be uploaded to the Telangana School Education App by July 15. DEOs have been asked to personally oversee implementation, ensure proper evaluation, and identify learning gaps.

85-acre park to open soon

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao on Friday inspected the Kothalguda Eco Park, including the boardwalks, aviary and arrival plaza. The HMDA's 85-acre ₹75-crore park is expected to be opened to the public within two months.

The Chief Secretary also visited the Budvel and Neopolis layouts and the trumpet interchange near giving access from Neopolis to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The interchange will give access to the ORR for traffic from Shankarpally and Mokila. The Eco Park and interchange are likely to be inaugurated by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Ramakrishna Rao along with HMDA and Rangareddy district officials conducted a review meeting at



Chief Secretary, Ramakrishna Rao and Secretary to Govt, Metropolitan Area & Urban Development (HMDA limits) inspects Kothalguda Ecopark on Friday. — BY ARRANGEMENT

Shamshabad municipality. He also reviewed the services being extended by municipality and stressed on effective collection of property taxes. He stressed on the importance of planning in view of the exponential growth of the city, in order to provide basic amenities efficiently.

MLA: PLAN TO LINK RUDRAMA DEVI CHERUVU WITH SRSP CANAL

P. SRINIVAS I DC NALGONDA, JUNE 20

Thungathurthy MLA Madula Samuel on Friday directed irrigation department officials to examine the feasibility of linking the Rudrama Devi irrigation tank at Velugupally in Suryapet district with the SRSP Stage-II canal.

The move aims to provide irrigation facilities to thousands of acres of agricultural land. During a visit to the

Rudrama Devi tank along with irrigation officials, the MLA said that constructing a 1.5-km canal to connect it with the SRSP canal would allow the ancient reservoir to be filled with Godavari waters. He noted that the tank has a substantial storage capacity of 1.5 TMC ft. He also recalled that the previous BRS government had promised to construct a dam and develop the tank into a reservoir, but the plan was never implemented.

Give a day notice on power cuts: CMD to officials

DC IMPACT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Chairman and managing director (CMD) of the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TSSPDCL), Musharrarf Faruqi, has instructed electricity officials to ensure that consumers are informed at least one day in advance about power maintenance schedules. *Deccan Chronicle* had reported on the matter in these columns on June 18, with the headline 'Power cuts surge, sale of battery soars in Hyd'.

The CMD said consumers must receive prior notice about power supply interruptions caused by line clearances for network maintenance and repairs. He noted that the absence of timely communication has been causing inconvenience to the public.

Addressing chief engineers and superintending engineers during a teleconference on Thursday morning, Faruqi stressed the importance of ensuring that maintenance schedule information reaches consumers effectively.

He said the ongoing repair works are aimed at providing uninterrupted and quality power supply during the rainy season. To improve communication, he directed officials to send maintenance alerts through SMS to consumers' mobile phones. In addition to SMS alerts, he advised that announce-



Musharrarf Faruqi

FARUQI SAID the ongoing repair works are aimed at providing uninterrupted and quality power supply during the rainy season. To improve communication, he directed officials to send maintenance alerts through SMS to consumers' mobile phones.

ments be made using loudspeakers mounted on autos or bikes, especially in slums and residential colonies. He also suggested that updates be shared via dedicated WhatsApp groups created for gated communities, residential welfare associations and apartment associations.

Faruqi further directed chief engineers and superintending engineers to personally review and inspect maintenance schedules within their respective jurisdictions. He instructed them to ensure field staff follow all safety protocols and complete repairs as per the notified schedule, with strict adherence to timelines.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 3520252026 Date: 18.06.2025

Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager/North Central Railway, Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites online open tenders (E-tender) as detailed below:-

E-Tender Notice No.: 3520252026-114

Name of Work: Combined Tender for :- (A) Prayagraj- Upgradation & Modernization of Central Hospital (Phase-II). (B) Prayagraj-Development of Parking, Circulating area, Internal Roads and associated work in Central Hospital Campus.

Approx Cost (In ₹): ₹ 6,72,38,881.4; **Earnest Money (In ₹):** ₹ 4,86,200.00;
Date & Time Closing of tender: 11.07.2025 at 12.00 PM; **Completion Period:** 12 Months. **Nature of Work:** Construction of Building.

NOTE: For full details and submission of tenders, please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. 1057/25 FA

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

Chhattisgarh Rural Roads Development Agency
VIKASH BHAVAN, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No. 1023 & 1024 /TC-T/CGRRDA/2025 Dated: 20/06/2025

Chief Engineer, CGRRDA, Raipur on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites package wise bids in electronic tendering system for Cement concrete MMGGPY, Providing Services for Security of office & Office Premises, sanctioned for districts of the state as per B.O.Q. from the eligible contractors / Firms registered with unified registration system (e-registration) for the works mentioned below. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:

| S. No. | NIT No. | Work Name | Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) | Districts | Rate invited |
|--------|---------|---|---|-------------------|--|
| 01 | 1023 | MMGGPY | Total Cost 413.61 Lakhs (Including GST) | Jashpur, Surajpur | Percentage Rate of PMGSY SOR 22.02.2018 issued by CE, CGRRDA, Raipur |
| 02 | 1024 | Providing Services for Security of office & Office Premises | | | Item Rate Tender |

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on Our website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 23.06.2025 from 5:30 PM & onwards. In future any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of this website.

Sd/- Chief Engineer
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency
Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.)
E-mail : pmsgsync4@yahoo.co.in

S-44271/2

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) Executive Director (Civil-Project-I)
Shed No. 2, Vidyut Seva Bhawan Parisar, Dangania, Raipur, Chhattisgarh India - 492013
email: cspgcl.coal@gmail.com; Phone:- 0771-2574561

04-02/GP-III/231/1022 Raipur, dated 19.06.2025

Notice Inviting Tender

Online bids are invited from the experienced parties for the following:

| Name of Work | EMD | Period of Contract |
|--|--|---|
| Selection of Transportation agency for road transportation of coal from stockyard/CHP at Gare Pelma Sector-III Coal Mines in Raigarh District, Chhattisgarh, India to designated Railway Sidings | a. INR 1,00,00,000 (One Crore only) for MSMEs. In case of JV/Consortium- Lead Partner should be registered as MSME, then only JV/Consortium shall be considered for deposition of EMD of Rs. 1,00,00,000 (One Crore). b. INR 2,00,00,000 (TwoCrore) for all other type of bidders. | 12 months (extendable for further period of 12 months). |

The tender document can be purchased, viewed and downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd namely < <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc> > from 25.06.2025 to 04.07.2025 upon online payment of non-refundable cost of Rs 50,000/- + Rs. 9,000/- (18% GST). E-tender Event Number on MSTC portal is: **MLS/Raipur/Operations/1/25-26/ET/2/Transportation Agency CSPGCL**. Last Date for submission of bid is up to 15.00 Hours on 18.07.2025 The detailed NIT can also be downloaded from our website using link <https://cspec.co.in> / cspgcl_tendernotices → Central office.

Amendment/ Corrigendum /Extension, if any, will only be uploaded on CSPGCL & MSTC's website and shall not be published in newspaper.

For any further information please contact Executive Director (Civil-Project-I), CSPGCL Raipur at (cspgcl.coal@gmail.com; 0771-2574561).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CIVIL-PROJECT-I)
CSPGCL: RAIPUR

SAVE ELECTRICITY 8-442653

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
OPERATION: SIDDIPET CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice for Tender Specification No: T-78/24-25, T-12/25-26 (Extended) & T-14/25-26 (Recall), T-16/25-26 (Recall) and T-17 to T-29/2025-26 (New) of SE/Op/Siddipet for various electrical & Civil works in Siddipet Circle. For open tenders, sale of Bids starts from 20.06.2025 and ends on 28.06.2025 at 17:00 Hrs. Last date for Submission of bids is 30.06.2025 at 14:00 Hrs. and opened on 30.06.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. For E-Tenders, bid downloading starts from date: 20.06.2025. Bid downloading end date 28.06.2025 at 17:00 Hrs and last date for submission of bids is 30.06.2025 at 14:00 Hrs. and opened on 30.06.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. Tender details can be viewed in www.tssouthernpower.com and <http://tender.telangana.gov.in> Phone: 8712471034.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Operation Circle: Siddipet, TGSPDCL

DIPR No.: 3867-PP/CL/Adv/1/2526

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA STATE LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE No.: 03/2025-26 OF DEE/OP/HABSIGUDA

Sealed Tenders are invited from registered contractors for Tender 1. SP.No.05/25-26 (General) Annual Preventive Maintenance, Breakdown maintenance and Factory Repair of 3-Way, 5-Way or any other configuration (RMU) (Per unit value of proprietary spares (Annexure-I) & labour with consumables/Minor spares (Annexure-II) Various Sections of Habsiguda & Uppal Bagayath Section of Habsiguda & Uppal Sub Division in Habsiguda Division Habsiguda Circle. The last date of sale of above tenders is 28.06.2025 up to 17:00 Hrs. Further information can be obtained from the O/o the Divisional Engineer/OP/Habsiguda.

Contact Person: Sd/- DEE/OP/Habsiguda: 9440813131.
Email ID: dehabsiguda131@gmail.com

Sd/-
DEE/OP/HABSIGUDA

DIPR No.: 3902-PP/CL/Adv/1/2025-26

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram 695 014 for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender for the under mentioned work. For other details, the tenders are advised to refer the detailed tender on the below mentioned website.

| Sl.No. | DETAILS | DESCRIPTION |
|--------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Tender Notice No. & Date | GEM/2025/B/6343523 Dated: 13.06.2025 |
| 2 | Name of work | On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) in running trains based at Coaching depots Thiruvananthapuram (TVC) & Nagorel (NCJ) for a period of 4 years |
| 3 | Advertised value | ₹ 50,26,52,995.26 |
| 4 | EMD | ₹ 26,63,300/- |
| 5 | Tender closing date & time | 04.07.2025 20:00:00 Hrs. |
| 6 | Web site particulars | http://www.gem.gov.in |

The firms registered in GEM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. For details of bid submission, please refer website portal "<http://www.gem.gov.in>". For details of scope of work, value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "<http://www.gem.gov.in>".

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenders to check any corrigendum issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "<http://www.gem.gov.in>".

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 11/2025 Dated: 19.06.2025

E-Procurement Tender Notice

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

Tender No. : 19256333 Qty. : 04 Nos.

Description : Design, Supply installation testing and commissioning of electrically operated passenger lifts, 13 persons machine room less as per RDSO specification No. RDSO/2013/EM/SPEC/0016 (Rev 1) - 2019 and travelling speed of 1.0m/s at station over the PRYJ division as per specification.

EMD Rs. : 2.31.020/- Tender Opening Date : 15-JUL-25

Note : 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.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 entry 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. 1063/25 (C)

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

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 12/2025 Date: 19.06.2025

E-Procurement Tender Notice

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

| Tender No. | Description | Qty. |
|------------|---|---------|
| 19256124 | Design, Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of (G+2) electrically operated passenger lifts, 13 persons with machine room as per RDSO specification No. RDSO/2013/EM/SPEC/0016 (Rev 1)-2019 and travelling speed of 1.0m/sec | 04 Nos. |

EMD (₹) : ₹ 2,29,820/- Tender Opening Date : 15 JUL-25

Note: (1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.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 entry 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. 1062/25 (MG)

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

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)
4th Floor, Seva Bhawan, P.K.R. Park, New Delhi - 110006
Website: www.beeindia.gov.in, Ph: 011-26766700

25th NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION FOR ENERGY MANAGERS AND ENERGY AUDITORS

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency will conduct the 25th National Certification Examination for Energy Managers and Energy Auditors on **27th and 28th Sept. 2025 (Saturday and Sunday)**. The interested candidates can register for the exam ON-LINE at www.nceexam.in

The "Prospectus" is available at "Downloads" tab on the website. Link to the above website is also available at www.beeindia.gov.in

Commencement of Online Registration: 27th June 2025 at 11:00 hrs
Closure of Online Registration: 28th July 2025 at 11:00 hrs

CBC 34106/12/0009/2526 (Secretary)

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION,
MANENDRAGARH, DISTT. M.C.B. (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st CALL)

System Tender No: 170073 NIT No.: 04/SAC/2025-26 Dated: 16.06.2025

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.07.2025, (17.30 hours IST).

Name Of Work: RENOVATION OF CANALS WORK OF KHARRI DIVERSION SCHEME.

Probable Amount Of Contract : Rs. 295.31 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from **Date : 23.06.2025 at 1731 Hours. (IST) onwards.**

NOTE:- 1. All eligible/Intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

2. Probable Amount of Contract (P.A.C.) is as per S.O.R. 01.08.2010. (As Amendments 01.08.2022).

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division
Manendragarh, Distt. M.C.B. (C.G.)
For Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Ganga Basin Ambikapur (C.G.)

G-252601640/1

SHORT TAKES

ENDOWMENTS DEPT SUPPORTS FOR ARCHAKAS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Priests and employees who have served for years in the endowments department have found new hope, as many of them have begun receiving financial aid under a special welfare initiative launched by endowments minister Konda Surekha. As part of the initiative, the minister distributed cheques worth ₹32 lakh in gratuity and medical assistance to 18 priests and temple staff through the Archaka Welfare Fund Trust.

The gratuity amount for regular priests and other employees has been increased from ₹4 lakh to ₹8 lakh, effective from May 28. The amount will be deposited directly into the bank account of eligible employees based on their years of service.

Speaking at the event, the minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare of priests and temple workers. She said the welfare trust is designed to benefit approximately 13,700 priests and employees working in temples up to the level of the assistant commissioner under the endowments department. The gratuity is specifically fixed for priests serving in smaller temples who perform daily rituals such as Dhooapa, Deepa and Naivedyam.

Surekha added that the fund provides benefits such as medical reimbursement, marriage assistance, Upanayanam (sacred thread ceremony) aid, housing support for construction, purchase or repairs, education assistance and financial help for disabled employees who are unable to continue their duties and financial assistance of ₹30,000 for last rites in the event of a priest's death.

WOMEN EXCEL IN HANDLING PADDY PROCUREMENT

P. SRINIVAS | DC NALGONDA, JUNE 20

Clearing all doubts about their efficiency, women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) successfully procured 21.21 lakh quintals of paddy through 142 allocated procurement centres in Nalgonda district, earning a commission of ₹6.78 crore for their efforts.

Out of a total of 375 paddy procurement centres in the district, 142 were assigned to SHG women for procuring paddy from farmers during the Yasangi crop season. Demonstrating their capability, SHG members smoothly procured paddy from 28,416 farmers. Of the total commission earned, 40 per cent will be deposited in Sthree Nidhi Banks. The remaining amount will be split as follows: 30 per cent for the maintenance of procurement centres, 20 per cent for SHG groups, and 10 per cent for the District Mahila Samakhyas. The interest accrued from deposits in Sthree Nidhi Bank will be disbursed to SHGs annually.

Their contribution played a significant role in positioning Nalgonda district second in the state for paddy procurement. SHG group leader K. Mallamma said that five to six members were assigned to each procurement centre, and they achieved their targets through effective work division.

"Due to our better service, many farmers preferred our centres over those managed by Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Market Committees," she noted. Mallamma expressed hope that the state government would allocate more procurement centres to SHGs in the upcoming crop season.

Farmer Siga Ramachandru shared a positive experience, saying that SHG-run centres provided all necessary facilities and ensured smooth, fast-paced procurement operations.

District rural development officer K. Shaker Reddy confirmed that 750 SHG women participated in paddy procurement through the 142 centres, earning the highest commission in the state. "Once again, SHG women have proved that they are not just equal to men but can exceed expectations. Their success is a result of effective planning, coordination, and teamwork," he said.

● **THEIR CONTRIBUTION** played a significant role in positioning Nalgonda district second in the state for paddy procurement.

● **SHG GROUP** leader K. Mallamma said that five to six members were assigned to each procurement centre.

Buddhist inscription in Hyd still undeciphered

Dates back to 4th Century AD during Govindavarman's rule

V. SHIVANI REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

A Buddhist inscription found on a boulder at the Sri Kosagundla Phanigiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Chaitanyapuri, Hyderabad, remains undeciphered even after 40 years of its discovery.

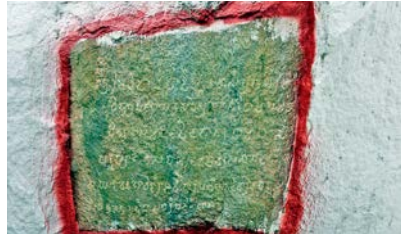
While an inscription, dating back to the rule of Govindavarman from the Vishnukundi Dynasty between 398 CE to 440 CE, mentions the place as a Buddhist centre, which used to send scented materials and silk clothes to Govindaraja Vihara, the undeciphered inscription is placed just 10 feet above the studied inscription on the boulder.

As per the decoded inscription, which happens to be an ancient inscription found in Hyderabad, in 1984, Chaitanyapuri was once a hub for Buddhism.

Recalling his experience of discovering the temple in 1980, Komanduru Sheshacharyulu (92), professor of Sanskrit and principal of Oriental College, also priest of the temple, said that the temple is believed to have a Swayambhu idol of Narasimha Swamy.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Sheshacharyulu said, "One evening while I was coming out from the temple cave, I found an inscription in an unfamiliar script. I informed my friend P.V. Parabrahma Sastry, an epigraphist from the state archaeology department. He took the estampage of the inscription and studied it."

He said the Buddhist centre was called Phudagiri meaning the hood of a snake, now known as Phanigiri. He



Above: The Brahmi inscription. Left: The boulder where the inscription belonging to king Govindavarman of Vishnukundi dynasty (4th century A.D.), was found at Sri Sri Kosagundla Phanigiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam, Chaitanyapuri, in Hyderabad. — S. SURENDER REDDY

said he also found microliths material of Buddhists and handed it over to the Archeology department, requesting to examine and decode details on the other inscription.

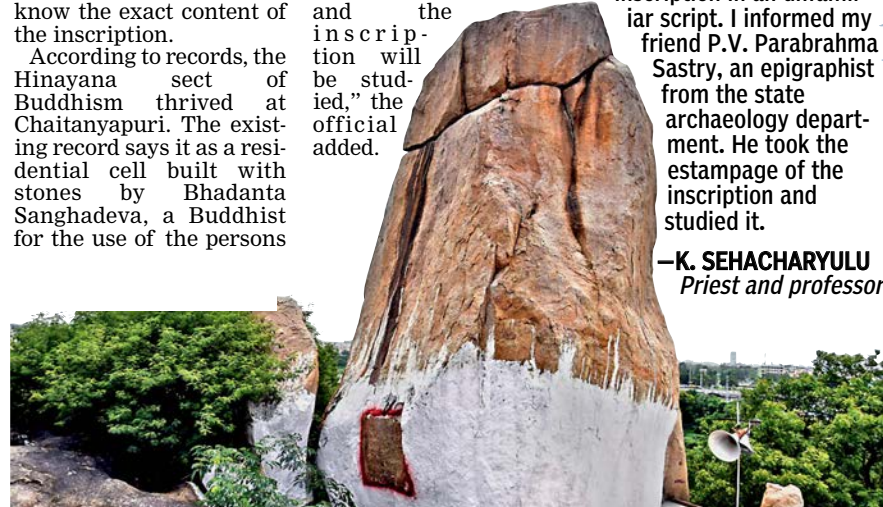
When Parabrahma Sastry studied the lower inscription, archaeologist, Dr E Siva Nagi Reddy said that he noticed the inscription lying in the upper part and identified it as Brahmi script based on design.

He said scaffolding has to be built to estampage the upper inscription, following which one can know the exact content of the inscription.

According to records, the Hinayana sect of Buddhism thrived at Chaitanyapuri. The existing record says it as a residential cell built with stones by Bhadanta Sanghadeva, a Buddhist for the use of the persons

in-charge of who would be offering sandal and clothes to Govindaraja Vihara. The six-line Prakrit inscription, which was deciphered, happens to be the most ancient inscription found in Hyderabad.

A senior official from the department of heritage, Telangana (formerly known as Telangana department of archaeology and museums) said the department received a letter about the inscription. "A committee with two experts has to be formed and the site has to be protected, and the inscription will be studied," the official added.



ONE EVENING while I was coming out from the temple cave, I found an inscription in an unfamiliar script. I informed my friend P.V. Parabrahma Sastry, an epigraphist from the state archaeology department. He took the estampage of the inscription and studied it. —K. SEHACHARYULU Priest and professor

Buddhist site excavated at Phanigiri faces neglect

P. SRINIVAS | DC NALGONDA, JUNE 20

A 2,100-year-old Buddhist site, located on a hilltop at Phanigiri about 110 km from Hyderabad, faces an existential threat, due to negligence shown by successive governments. It is one of the key locations that has yielded significant Buddhist relics during excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India, which were exhibited at several museums around the world.

These relics also became attractions at the State Museum in Hyderabad and the museum at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh. Buddhist sculptures found during excavations at Phanigiri were also displayed at a special exhibition titled "Tree and Serpent - Early Buddhist Art in India 200 BCE-400 CE", at the Metropolitan Museum in New York in 2023.

However, successive governments have shown little interest in protecting the structures — the mahastupa, apsidal



A view of 2,100-year-old Buddhist site, located on a hilltop at Phanigiri, about 110 km from Hyderabad.



Chaitya Griha, votive stupas, and congregation hall viharas located on the hilltop at Phanigiri. An archaeological museum was set up at the foot of the hill shrine to preserve the Buddhist relics, but they have been kept in a rented old building at Phanigiri for over a decade.

Even though Buddhist monks from across the world have been visiting



the Buddhist site at Phanigiri, neither ghat roads nor steps have been constructed to provide access to the site on the hilltop. Visitors have no option but to reach the Buddhist site at their own risk. The Buddhist site does not even have drinking water facilities for tourists.

Dhammapada Buddha Vihar Charitable Trust convener S a d h a R a k i t h a B h a n t h e j i said that the structures at Phanigiri were being damaged due to rains.



New AI HR modules create hurdles in hiring

RACHEL DAMMALA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 19

As artificial intelligence continues to reshape the job market, both employers and job seekers are racing to adapt, often with mixed experiences. While AI tools promise speed, efficiency, and creativity, not everyone is convinced that automation is making hiring more human. In recent months, job seekers have turned to generative AI to craft standout resumes and portfolios, hoping to get noticed in a competitive landscape.

A job market survey by Canva found that 87 per cent of Indian applicants now use AI tools to write or refine their CVs, with most saying it saves time and makes them feel more creative. Customisation is also on the rise — 63 per cent of the candidates personalise their applications for each role, well above the global average. While the digital polish helps candidates shine, the systems reviewing those applications are also powered by AI, and not always forgiving.

Madan Mohan K.S., a finance professional from Hyderabad, withdrew from a promising role three months ago after the company's HR software repeatedly flagged his salary account documents as insufficient proof. "I had submitted my account statement and salary slips, but the system-generated prompt insisted on a specific document format. The HR team told me the AI tool couldn't validate what I shared, even though a person could see it was legit," he said. "It felt like I was proving myself to a bot."

Canva's survey also shows the tension on the employer side. While 95 per cent of hiring managers in India say AI has made onboarding smoother, 65 per cent admit AI makes it harder for candidates to stand out, and many feel applicants should disclose if AI was used to generate their resume. The pressure to match AI-optimised expectations is being felt across organisations.

According to a separate CRI (Client Research Initiative) report on AI in business operations, 79 per cent of Indian executives have increased their investment in generative AI this year, and nearly half the workforce already has access to AI or GenAI tools. AI agents are being deployed at scale too, with 23 per cent of Indian companies already using them, and another 25 per cent planning to within two to three years.

The rise of visual resumes, interactive portfolios, and digital storytelling is also shifting how candidates are evaluated. Canva's report found that 77 per cent of Indian hiring managers now prefer resumes with visual elements, and 83 per cent favour digital portfolios over plain-text CVs.

Not everyone, however, feels included in this new AI-era job market. "I've been in admin roles for over 15 years. I don't have a digital portfolio or know how to use AI tools. I'm not sure I can compete with younger candidates who can make their CV look like a website," said Nalini Naidu, 43, who has been job-hunting for four

TECH DEVELOPMENT

THE TEAM is also working on predicting driver and rider behaviour through datasets such as DAAD (Driving Action Anticipation Dataset) and two-wheeler intention models submitted to global competitions.



IIIT-Hyderabad has applied AI to other critical road tasks — pothole detection, tree cover mapping and traffic violation monitoring — using mobile cameras mounted on public vehicles.

AI spots potholes, predicts crashes

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Artificial intelligence may not be able to fix India's potholes yet, but it can now spot them — along with distracted drivers, rule-breakers and erratic two-wheelers. That's the vision researchers at IIIT-Hyderabad are working toward with a suite of low-cost AI tools designed specifically for Indian roads.

At the recent TechForward seminar, Prof. C.V. Jawahar showcased how the Centre for Visual Information Technology (CVIT) at IIIT-Hyderabad is developing AI not just to detect, but to anticipate road risks. "Most global models are trained on neat, rule-following traffic. That doesn't help much in India. Our goal is to build systems that work amid uncertainty, and on a phone, not just in a lab," he explained.

Among their latest innovations is Dashgaze, a tool that estimates driver attention using a regular dashcam or mobile phone camera. Unlike expensive eye-tracking hardware, Dashgaze uses naturalistic driving data — nearly one million frames — collected from real-world conditions in Hyderabad. "Distraction is a major cause of road accidents, but the tech to measure it has been out of reach. We're trying to change that," Prof. Jawahar said.

The team is also working on predicting driver and rider behaviour through datasets such as DAAD (Driving Action Anticipation Dataset) and two-wheeler intention models submitted to global competitions. "If a rider is about to make a sharp turn without warning, the AI should catch



DISTRACTION IS a major cause of road accidents, but the tech to measure it has been out of reach. We're trying to change that. —PROF. C.V. JAWAHAR Centre for Visual Information Technology, IIIT-Hyderabad

the cues before the manoeuvre begins," said a researcher on the project. "These few seconds can be the difference between a near miss and a crash."

IIIT-Hyderabad has applied AI to other critical road tasks — pothole detection, tree cover mapping and traffic violation monitoring — using mobile cameras mounted on public vehicles. The goal is to shift from bulky or visible surveillance systems to ambient, real-time monitoring. "People behave differently when they know a CCTV is watching. But roads need safer behaviour all the time," Prof. Jawahar noted.

The tools are powered by the India Driving Dataset (IDD), a publicly available dataset of Indian road footage created in collaboration with Intel. "We wanted startups and researchers to stop building on foreign data. The idea was: here's how Indian roads actually look," said a member of the team.

Social media has also become a key part of hiring. Canva's findings show that 96 per cent of Indian job seekers use platforms like LinkedIn to build professional visibility, and 85 per cent of hiring managers check LinkedIn profiles before shortlisting candidates. Yet as the line between human and machine blurs, concerns about fairness, nuance, and accessibility remain. CRI's

report reveals that 43 per cent of the workforce is already trained in GenAI, a number expected to reach 68 per cent by 2028, but many workers, especially those from non-tech backgrounds, are still catching up. AI may be speeding up hiring and streamlining recruitment, but it's also introducing new friction points. As Mohan puts it, "It's efficient, but it doesn't always understand nuance. We're still people behind the paperwork."

ART | WORK Lambadas, once salt traders, travelled from Rajasthan to Maharashtra and finally to Telangana & AP

Khoda: Vanishing tattoo tradition of Lambadas

KATRAVATH RAHUL HYDERABAD, JUNE 20

Across Telangana, women from the Lambada tribes carry history on their bodies. Their red skirts stitched with mirrors and silver jewellery reflect tradition. But it's their skin that holds the deepest record. Tattoos cover their arms, foreheads and ankles — not as fashion, but as tradition. These marks are not trends. They are identity. Every symbol is a reminder of where they come from, what they belong to and what they will not forget.

Among the Lambadas — a once-nomadic tribe that originated in Rajasthan — these tattoos are called khoda. But as cities pull

youth away and modern fashion replaces old meanings, the khoda tradition is fading. "My tattoos were done when I was ten," says Jarupla Vijaya Bai, 60, a Lambada elder from Maktavenkatapur village near Vikarabad. She holds out her forearms — faded blue lines curve into lotus petals and dots cluster like constellations. "It was painful," she recalls.

For generations, khoda marked rites of passage for girls aged eight to fourteen as they entered womanhood. Each design had meaning — flowers for purity, dots and lines for identity. Tools were simple needles dipped in black ash and mustard oil. "This design symbolises the sun, the god of life and power.

It's believed to protect the woman and give her strength," she explains.

The Lambadas were once salt merchants, travelling from Rajasthan to Maharashtra and finally to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Colonial rule ended their mobility and dignity. The British, under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, labelled them "hereditarily criminal," reducing an entire community to a stereotype of suspicion. "In that time, tattoos became more than identity," says Golla Sai Teja, an anthropology student at the University of Hyderabad, documenting khoda patterns. "They became quiet acts of resistance. A way of saying, 'You may criminalise



Each design had meaning — flowers for purity, dots and lines for identity. Tools were simple needles dipped in black ash and mustard oil.



us, but you will not erase us."



Mahabubnagar, regrets the loss of local tattoo artists. "No one here knows how to do it any

more. The last tattooist died years ago." She lifts her sari to show the tattoos on her legs. "Soon only photographs will remain." Even those are rare. Researchers like Sai Teja are racing against time. "We are like cartographers of vanishing landscapes," he says. "Once these elders are gone, their stories might go with them." Saroja, 21, is a college student in Hyderabad. Unlike her mother and grandmother, her skin is unmarked. "In the city, people stare or laugh," she says. "They think we are uneducated if we have tattoos." She hesitates. "I want a government job — these marks could get in the way." Sai Teja reflects on this contradiction. "We are in a transition. Modernisation is pushing people away from traditional practices."

SHORT TAKES



Awadh Assam Express crashes into patrol trolley.

TROLLEY CRASH IN BIHAR KILLS RAIL WORKER

Katihar, June 20: One railway worker was killed and four others injured on Friday when the Awadh Assam Express (Train No. 15910) coming from Delhi hit a push trolley in Katihar district of Bihar, a senior railway official said. The incident took place during the day near Maharam Kudia, on the Katihar-Barauni down line. According to Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM), Katihar, the trolley had been deployed for routine track patrolling when the train ploughed into it. "The trolleyman died on the spot, while the other injured personnel were quickly taken to a hospital for treatment," Singh said. The injured included track and maintenance staff. Their condition is reported to be serious but stable.

WOMAN NAXALITE KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Kanker, June 20: A woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Friday morning, a police official said. The gunfight broke out on a forested hill within the jurisdiction of Chhotebethiya police station when a joint team of District Reserve Guard and Border Security Force was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Kanker SP Indira Kalyan Ele-sela said. The operation was launched between Amatola and Kalpar villages on inputs about the presence of the members of the banned Maoist organisation on the other side of the Kotri river, he said.

BJP QUESTIONS UDDHAV'S CONTRIBUTIONS

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 20

Maharashtra BJP on Friday slammed Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's speech calling it an outcome of "fear of defeat" in upcoming civic body elections including Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporations. Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said when public support wanes, noise increases. Without naming Uddhav, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis said that he would not respond to "Bol Bachchan".

Accusing the BJP for trying to scuttle the possibility of his party's alliance with the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Shiv Sena (UBT) chief on Thursday warned the ruling parties of dire consequences if it hurt the "Thackeray brand".

Referring to last week's meeting between the CM and Raj at a five star hotel in Mumbai, Uddhav said that meetings are being held in hotels and other places in order to scuttle the possibility of alliance of "Marathi parties". The Shiv Sena (UBT) chief went on saying that if the BJP dared to finish the Thackeray brand, he would finish off the BJP.

Taking a dig at Uddhav's speech, Bawankule said, "His speech was actually a helpless rant uttered out of fear of defeat. When the mass support is lost, the noise increases. He did exactly the same."

Iran reopens airspace for India, seeks support

Iran seeks mediation but rejects direct talks with Israel

FROM PAGE 1

Addressing reporters, Hosseini said Iran expected India, as a voice of the Global South, to condemn the Israeli airstrikes. He acknowledged India's balanced relationship with both Iran and Israel and its desire to maintain neutrality. However, he asserted, "This is a matter of aggression by Israel against a sovereign nation. It should be condemned. That is our expectation from India." When asked whether India could play a mediator's role, Hosseini said, "India has already expressed willingness to contribute to peace in the region, but first they should condemn the Israeli actions. We will not sit with Israel for any negotiations. We will engage with countries that act as mediators."

He added that countries like Russia and China were already prepared to mediate and that Iran would also be holding talks with some European nations on the issue. Responding to India's decision to distance itself from a Shanghai



Shia Muslim cleric Maulana Kalbe Jawad and others stage a protest against US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, at the Bara Imambara, in Lucknow, on Friday.

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) statement condemning Israeli actions, a resolution that required consensus, Hosseini noted, "India did not break the consensus, which we see as a positive development. However, we still expected India to openly condemn Israel's actions." Sounding a stern warning about the ongoing conflict, Hosseini declared, "We will never surrender. We will die, but surrender will never happen. We are on the right

side of history. Iran will write the end of this story. We are ready for peace, but not for an imposed peace."

He also clarified that Iran does not possess any nuclear weapons. Commenting on reports that Iran had attacked a medical centre in Israel, the diplomat said Iran had targeted a military headquarters located near the centre.

"The explosion may have caused some damage to

the medical facility, but our intention was never to strike it," he said.

He contrasted this with Israel's actions, alleging that "Israel has deliberately attacked hospitals in Gaza."

Criticising Israeli policies, Hosseini said, "Israel always plays the victim, although it is the aggressor. It has nuclear weapons and has attacked five neighboring countries, something Iran has never done."

Air India CEO: Probe may take months; updates soon

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson on Friday said that the final investigation report into the AI 171 crash in Ahmedabad would take some time, although the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) may release an interim report before that. He assured that if the investigation uncovers any urgent safety issues requiring action by airlines or suppliers, such information would be shared promptly.

Speaking to Air India employees, Wilson acknowledged that many staff members had questions regarding the cause of the crash and the timeline for the release of the investigation report.

"There are many theories about what happened, but since the accident is under official investigation by the AAIB, it would be inappropriate for us to comment or speculate. We are fully cooperating with the AAIB and providing all requested information. It is critical that the facts, whatever they may be, are established so that we and the wider aviation industry can learn from them," Wilson said.

Regarding the report's timeline, he added, "That decision rests entirely with the AAIB. The final report could take several months, although interim updates or reports may be

CRASH INQUIRY

AAIB may give updates before final report. ANY urgent safety issues will be shared quickly. AIR INDIA is helping fully with the investigation.

ALL Air India planes are safe to fly. EXTRA checks are being done on Boeing 787s. MORE checks will continue before flights.

TATA CHAIRMAN led silence for crash victims at AGM.

AIR INDIA staff did attend crew funerals. STAFF FROM Ahmedabad are getting rest and support. SOME FLIGHTS reduced due to safety checks and closed airspace.

Bookings dropped by around 20% after the crash.

issued. If anything is discovered that requires immediate action, we are confident that it will be shared swiftly. On our part, we will be transparent with anything shared with us."

Wilson confirmed that all Air India aircraft, including the Boeing 787 fleet, have been deemed safe. "We have completed additional precautionary checks on our operating Boeing 787 aircraft as directed by the DGCA, which has publicly confirmed they meet required standards. As an extra measure, we will continue additional pre-flight

checks for the time being. If there is any doubt, we will not release any aircraft, of any type, for service," he said.

Addressing criticism over the alleged absence of Air India top management at the funerals of crew members, Wilson clarified, "You may have seen social media posts questioning the presence of Air India representatives at the services. I assure you, senior representatives attended every one. However, we are mindful of not disrupting such deeply personal moments for families and loved ones."

Sun TV Network says feud purely personal in nature

FROM PAGE 1

The charges Maran makes are serious and cover a gamut of operations like Sun TV, SpiceJet and the Sunrisers IPL team in which Kalanidhi has been the dominant figure. As a media mogul, Kalanidhi ran his businesses with an imperious touch, while Dayanidhi was the public figure with an empathy for the people at large. Kalanidhi's growth with the setting up of Sun TV in the early 1990s and forays into aviation and showbiz has been phenomenal. It is apparent now that certain steps he may have taken may have helped consolidate his business empire if there is any truth to the serious allegations that Dayanidhi is making. A lot of dust did kick up at the time he got the IPL franchise for a song, thanks to a senior BCCI figure who was one of his father's closest friends. Kalanidhi has been charged with manipulation of company shareholding done to promote

his interests while denying close kin, including his mother Mallika Maran and the DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi's wife Dayalu Ammal. "The offences committed by you are continuous in nature and continue as on date," Dayanidhi said in the explosive legal notice he sent early this month to his elder brother. The crux of the charges was the transfer of shares and enjoying the dividends over a couple of decades, and the control of vast amounts that accrued to him.

The sentence best conveys what Dayanidhi says happened at Sun TV at a time their father, 'Murasoli' Maran, a nephew of Karunanidhi, was critically ill and unlikely to survive - "Till September 15, 2003, you did not hold a single share in the company. Suddenly, overnight, you have become a majority shareholder with controlling interest." This was in Dayanidhi's legal notice to Kalanidhi. The DMK first family may have seen

fratricidal disputes, but they were usually settled without coming into the public domain. This is the first feud that has exploded into the open with Dayanidhi going all out to challenge the family's history as well as its most successful business like Sun TV, that had begun with Dayalu Ammal and Mallika Maran as shareholders. There may be no immediate political fallout from this bust-up as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had taken control of that part of the family's interests from his ailing father soon after the 2016 Assembly elections. And yet, for the sake of unity and the family name, the Chief Minister might be inclined to intervene in a dispute that could become a protracted legal battle between brothers. Kalanidhi, as a promoter, owns 75 per cent shareholding in Sun TV Network. Sun TV Network said, "The alleged matter dates back to 22 years, when the company was a closely held private limited company".

MANIPUR TENSE AFTER KUKI WOMAN KILLING

Imphal, June 20: Normal life was affected in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Friday as activists of a tribal organisation enforced an indefinite shutdown in the district in protest against the killing of an elderly Kuki woman.

Markets and business establishments remained closed, while vehicular movement was disrupted as Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum activists, including women, blocked several roads in the district.

The protesters with sticks demonstrated on the roads to protest against the killing of Hoikhoing Haokip in a crossfire between security forces and unknown armed miscreants. Attendance at government offices was poor even as educational establishments remained closed for the day, an official said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, Union Minister Giriraj Singh and others during a public meeting, in Siwan.

Modi slams UPA, hails NDA progress

FROM PAGE 1

Modi added that Bihar, particularly under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, had significantly contributed to this success. "Previously, over half of Bihar's population lived in extreme poverty. In the last decade, nearly 4 crore people have risen above the poverty line," he noted.

Modi criticised past governments for keeping the country poor through the license-permit raj and for allowing systemic corruption. "Even basic services were subjected to quota systems. Housing for the poor was denied, and middlemen looted ration supplies," he said. He asserted that the worst affected by such policies were Dalits, Mahadalits, backward, and extremely backward communities.

"While these communities were shown dreams of upliftment, only a few families became millionaires and billionaires," he said.

Taking aim at the Opposition's development record, Modi said, "Whenever these parties speak of development, people recall closed shops, shuttered factories, and crippled industries. That is why they've never earned the trust of Bihar's youth." Pointing to the NDA's commitment to industrial growth, Modi highlighted the Marhrowra Locomotive Factory in Bihar: "The first engine manufactured at Marhrowra is now being exported to Africa, a proud moment for Bihar."

Munir for a lunch meeting at the White House, which eventually took place on Wednesday. Had Modi visited Washington at the same time, it could have fueled perceptions of "equivalence" between India and Pakistan-an impression New Delhi is keen to avoid.

This context follows recent claims by President Trump, who stated he had "brokered a ceasefire" between India and Pakistan after last month's brief military confrontation. India, however, has firmly denied this, insisting that the understanding to de-escalate was reached bilaterally without third-party mediation. On Thursday, Trump reiterated his involvement, telling the media: "They (Modi and the Pakistani Army Chief) were both here. I was with Modi a few weeks ago. He was here actually, but now we speak to him."

Holiday crowd



Tourists in large numbers stroll Manali's Mall Road on Friday.

CANAL CONFLICT CM criticises Centre's plan to divert Chenab waters to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan

Omar vows to protect J&K river water rights

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JUNE 20

Firmly opposing the Centre's plan to divert surplus water from Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab to Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan via a proposed 113 km-long canal following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir has the first right to its river waters. "Let us use our water for ourselves first," he said, underscoring J&K's claim to prioritize local needs for irrigation, drinking water, and power generation, including through projects like the Tulbul Navigation Project, previously stalled due to Pakistan's objections under the IWT.

Citing a drought-like situation in Jammu, the Chief Minister argued that Punjab, which already benefits from the IWT, did not assist J&K during its water scarcity. "Why send our water to Punjab? I won't allow it. Did they give us water when we needed it?", he asked while



Omar Abdullah

speaking to reporters in Jammu. Replying to a question on the Central government's proposed construction of a 113-km canal to

transfer surplus water from J&K to Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan to prevent it from flowing to neighbouring Pakistan, Abdullah said, "Right now, Jammu is facing water scarcity... There is no water in the taps. Why should I send water to Punjab? Punjab already has three rivers as per the Indus Water Treaty". Elaborating, he said that when J&K was desperate for water, Punjab did not share water from the Ujh multipurpose project and Shahpur Kandi barrage. "They made us suffer for

years, and only after a prolonged struggle did they take some steps," he said, adding, "We will use it (water) first, and only then consider others' needs." The Chief Minister said that after New Delhi put the IWT at abeyance in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack the government is working on two key projects - The Tulbul Barrage, work on which should resume soon, and the pumping of water from the Chenab River at Akhnoor to supply drinking water to Jammu

city. Abdullah said that permission will not be given as of now for any proposal to build a canal to divert J&K's surplus water to other states. "Nobody will give it (approval). As of now, I am not going to give approval to it. Let us be allowed to use our water first, then we will talk about others," he said. The IWT, brokered by the World Bank which is also its guarantor, divides up control between India and Pakistan of several rivers draining into the Indus River basin.

FROM PAGE 1

The Prime Minister declined, citing pre-scheduled commitments, which at the time were understood to refer to his planned visit to Croatia. Modi proceeded to Croatia after the G7 meeting before returning to India.

Observers noted that Modi's decision to skip a Washington visit was strategically sound. President Trump was, at that time, set to host Pakistan Army Chief "Field Marshal" Asim

SHORT TAKES

CBI ENDS PROBE IN AYESHA MEERA MURDER CASE

Vijayawada, June 20: The CBI has informed the Andhra Pradesh High Court that it has completed the investigation into the murder of 17-year-old pharmacy student Ayesha Meera and submitted a report to it in a sealed cover here on Friday. Notably, the case and the investigations continued for the last 18 years.

The central agency said it has prepared the final report in the case and sought HC's permission to submit it in the Vijayawada CBI court. A single-judge bench of Justice Subba Reddy immediately gave its nod. However, the court rejected a plea from parents of Ayesha Meera seeking a copy of the CBI report. It asked them to file a request with the lower court. Ayesha Meera pursuing B. Pharmacy in a city college was found murdered in her hostel.

KERALA TEXTBOOKS ADD GOVERNOR DUTIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 20: Kerala General Education Minister V.Sivankutty on Friday announced that school textbooks will soon include content explaining the constitutional powers and duties of state Governors, saying schools are the ideal place to learn the values of democracy. The announcement comes a day after Sivankutty made headlines for walking out of an official event at the Raj Bhavan, the Governor's residence, in protest against the display of a Bharat Mata image -- widely used in RSS events -- during the programme.

In a statement on Friday, the minister said the curriculum reforms are aimed at promoting constitutional principles, and schools play a vital role in helping children learn how democracy works. "In recent times, there has been a rise in efforts to destabilise elected governments by mistusing Governors," Sivankutty said.



Visakhapatnam glows pink at sunset as lampposts and Beach Road shine bright on the eve of International Yoga Day celebrations, on Friday evening. — K. MURALI KRISHNA



PM to lead International Yoga Day from Vizag

Yoga Day aims for 2 Guinness, 22 global records

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the International Yoga Day from Visakhapatnam, performing the Common Yoga Protocol alongside over 3.19 lakh participants at the main venue of RK Beach in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. The PM will be joined by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM K. Pawan Kalyan, IT minister Nara Lokesh and Health and Family Welfare union minister of state Pristaprao Jadhav in a massive demonstration of India's global wellness vision. The event, themed - Yoga for One Earth and One Health - is likely to set two Guinness World Records and achieve a total of 22 global records, according to organisers.

The Prime Minister arrived at the Indian Naval Air Station Dega on Friday evening. Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan and Lokesh received him. The PM will stay overnight on the



Women perform yoga at Dussehra Ghat behind the Taj Mahal, ahead of the 'International Day of Yoga', in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday. — PTI

Eastern Naval Command premises. Narendra Modi will arrive at the RK Beach at 6:15 a.m. and participate in yoga till 7:55 a.m. Elaborate security and traffic arrangements have been made to accommodate 3.19 lakh people on the Beach Road, stretching from Kalimatha Temple, the main venue, to the Bheemili Beach. Around 30,000 people, half of them students, are expected to participate

from Vizianagaram district and 20,000 from Srikakulam district. For people from outside Visakhapatnam city, the government has arranged over 9,000 buses for participating in the International Yoga Day. Security arrangements have been beefed up with deployment of 8,500 police personnel, 30 dog squads and installation of over 3,000 CCTV cameras at strategic locations.

VIZAG PREPARES 26-KM STRETCH TO WELCOME MODI

LAXMI PRANATHI | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 20

The port city of Visakhapatnam has prepared a spectacularly illuminated 26-kilometre stretch with decorative displays to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he arrives for what promises to be a record-breaking International Yoga Day demonstration on Saturday, June 21.

Around 25,000 workers have worked in eight-hour shifts daily to transform the city into a glittering showpiece of lights and artistic installations. Every major junction, road median and public space has been adorned with illuminated decorations to welcome the PM. The entire coastal stretch is sparkling with decorative lighting. LED screens have been strategically placed.

Quota hike unfair to other communities, says BJP

M.B. GIRISH | DC BENGALURU, JUNE 20

The State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is all set to intensify its fight against the Congress ruled State Government after its leader and Union Minister of Home Amit Shah directed the State leaders offering them with guidance and suggestions, stated the State BJP president and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra.

Vijayendra told reporters in Bengaluru on Friday that Union Minister of Home Amit Shah was in Bengaluru and said he, along with former Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai, Leader of Opposition in Assembly R. Ashoka among others. During the course of discussions with him, Vijayendra said, Amit Shah offered the leaders guidance and suggestions taking into consideration the political scenario and current developments in



Union home minister Amit Shah during the inauguration of BGS Medical College & Hospital, in Bengaluru. — PTI

Karnataka. While stating to intensify its fight against the State Government, Vijayendra said the party leaders are striving to resolve some minor internal issues within the party. Even, former Chief Minister

and BJP Central Parliamentary Board member B.S. Yediyurappa said he welcomed Union Minister Prahlad Joshi's efforts to engage with dissatisfied leaders and resolve the issues. Yediyurappa said "I too am ready to speak with anyone who is unhappy."

The State BJP Chief pointed to the cabinet decision to hike quota from 10 percent to 15 for Minorities in allotment of houses in urban and rural areas and alleged the Congress ruled State Government is making decisions solely to appease minority communities and stated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabha Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' ensures justice for all communities be it Hindus and minorities alike.

He criticised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's charge against BJP that BJP's fight is one sided

Audio clip on housing scam triggers uproar in Karnataka

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURUM JUNE 20

Ruling Congress party MLA and Deputy Chief of State Planning Commission B.R. Patil alleged 'bribery' in allotment of houses to beneficiaries under Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme in a leaked audio conversation between him and Secretary to Minister of Housing Zameer Ahmed Khan, Sarfaraz.

The conversation between the ruling party MLA and the Secretary to the Minister of Housing took place on Thursday evening while the conver-

sation between the two was widely circulated in public on Friday. B.R. Patil, represents Aland Assembly seat in Kalaburagi district.

In the conversation, Patil told Sarfaraz that a Gram Panchayat chairman of his assembly seat got houses allotted for the beneficiaries by allegedly 'bribing' officials of Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation while his letter to the Corporation asking for allocation of houses for the beneficiaries did not elicit a positive response. Patil told Sarfaraz "If this was the situation then what about the image

of me being an MLA?" Patil questioned Sarfaraz "What the business going on in the Corporation?" and stated "In my experience, those who bribed (Corporation officials) got houses allotted to them?" Responding to the MLA, Sarfaraz told Patil "No such things are happening in the Corporation" assured to initiate action against erring persons if names of the names of the officials demanding 'bribe' were revealed. Asked about the allegations levelled by B.R. Patil, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar declined to comment.

NATION

SHORT TAKE

NASA POSTPONES AXIOM-4 ROCKET LAUNCH

New Delhi, June 20: NASA has put off Sunday's launch of the Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to the International Space Station, saying it required additional time to evaluate operations on the orbital lab after the recent repairs in its Russian section.

The Axiom-4 mission was targeting a June 22 launch after being put off multiple times due to a leak in the boosters of SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket, inclement weather in the ascent trajectory and leaks in the aft-most section of Zvezda service module.

The space agency needs additional time to continue evaluating the International Space Station operations after recent repair work in the aft (back) most segment of the orbital laboratory's Zvezda service module, it said.

Because of the space station's interconnected and interdependent systems, NASA wants to ensure the station is ready for additional crew members, and the agency is taking the time necessary to review data, the Axiom Space statement said.

Former NASA astronaut and director of human spaceflight at Axiom Space, Peggy Whitson, will command the commercial mission, while Shukla will serve as the pilot. The two mission specialists are European Space Agency (ESA) project astronaut Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary. The 14-day mission will "realise the return" to human spaceflight for India, Poland and Hungary. The astronauts were originally scheduled for lift-off on May 29, which was put off to June 8, June 10, and June 11, when SpaceX, the providers of the launch rocket and the space capsule, detected a liquid oxygen leak in the Falcon-9 rocket. At a pre-launch press conference on June 10, SpaceX Vice President William Gerstenmaier said engineers had detected a liquid oxygen (LOX) leak on the Falcon-9 booster during the re-entry phase of its previous mission that was not fully repaired during refurbishment.

Flooded crossing



A man crosses the flooded Mankanali bridge over the Gandheshwari river following heavy rainfall, in Bankura, West Bengal, on Friday. — PTI

HC bars WB govt to pay ex gratia to SSC joblosers

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JUNE 20

In a major blow to West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, the Calcutta High Court on Friday barred her government from paying the Group C and D joblosers in the 2016 School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam a temporary monthly allowance till September 26. Justice

Amrita Sinha, who passed the order, earlier reserved it on June 9 after hearing the petitions that had opposed the state government to pay a monthly amount of ₹25,000 each to Group C and ₹20,000 each to Group D employees who lost their jobs following a Supreme Court verdict on April 3.

On April 26, Ms Banerjee announced that her government would provide a temporary relief to the

joblosers as part of a scheme of "limited livelihood, support and social security on humanitarian ground".

In her interim order, Justice Sinha also directed the state government meanwhile to file its affidavit in opposition to the contentions of the petitioners in four weeks and reply by the petitioners within a fortnight thereafter. BJP welcomed the HC order.

ED drops notice to senior lawyer

CJI B.R. Gavai urges to protect lawyers

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday withdrew its summons to a senior lawyer for reportedly giving legal advice in a case after the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association (SCAORA) wrote to the chief justice of India for taking note of the action.

In a written communication, the central financial agency intimated to the senior advocate Pratap Venugopal that the summons issued to him were withdrawn with "immediate effect".

SCAORA president Vipin Nair had earlier written to CJI B. R. Gavai on the "deeply disquieting development" having "serious ramifications for the independence of the legal profession and the foundational principle of lawyer-client confidentiality".

The letter came after ED summoned senior counsel Pratap Venugopal. "It has come to our notice that senior advocate Pratap Venugopal, has received on June 19, a summons dated June 18, by ED under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money



Laundering Act (PMLA) in its investigation into the Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP) granted by M/s Care Health Insurance Ltd for a purported legal opinion rendered by senior advocate Arvind Datar, wherein Pratap Venugopal, was the advocate-on-record, supporting the grant of stock options to former Religare enterprises chairperson Rashmi Saluja," the letter said.

Section 50 of the PMLA deals with "powers of authorities regarding summons, production of documents and to give evidence, etc." Venugopal was directed to appear before the ED on June 24. "It would be imperative to mention that a similar notice was earlier issued by the ED to senior advocate Arvind Datar, albeit withdrawn subsequently," it added. "These actions, by the ED, we believe,

amount to an impermissible transgression of the sacrosanct lawyer-client privilege, and pose a serious threat to the autonomy and fearless functioning of advocates. Such unwarranted and coercive measures against senior members of the bar for discharge of professional duties set a dangerous precedent, potentially resulting in a chilling effect across the legal community," the letter underscored.

The SCAORA said a lawyer's role to offer legal advice was privileged and protected and the interference of investigative agencies into this relationship without just cause and contrary to established legal norms, struck at the heart of the rule of law.

Such interventions could dissuade advocates from rendering honest, independent opinions in the discharge of their duties, the bar body said.

The letter, as a result, urged the CJI to take suo motu cognisance of the matter and examine the issue of "the legality and propriety of such summons issued to legal professionals for opinions rendered in good faith".

UAE DEPORTS MAN IN FAKE NOTE SCAM

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

Moideenabba Ummer Beary, an accused in a high-quality fake-currency racket and the subject of a 2013 Interpol Red Notice, was deported from the United Arab Emirates on Friday in an operation coordinated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Escorted on Air India flight AI 920 from Dubai, Beary landed at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, where he was taken into custody by a National Investigation Agency (NIA) team from Kochi.

According to a CBI statement, the agency had pinpointed Beary's location in the UAE "through close follow-up via Interpol with the National Central Bureau in Abu Dhabi."

The CBI originally secured the Red Notice on December 30, 2013, at the NIA's request.

ED UNCOVERS ₹2,000-CR SCHOOL SCAM

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday said that it has seized some original departmental files belonging to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, as well as rubber stamps bearing the names and designations of officials from the Public Works Department along with 322 pass-books, linked to mule bank accounts opened in the names of labourers through which Delhi government funds sourced from the classroom-construction scam were allegedly diverted during the AAP regime.

33 devotees begin sacred Kailash Mansarovar Yatra amid spiritual fervour

Sikkim flags off 1st batch of Kailash Mansarovar

Gangtok, Jun 20: The first batch of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2025 via the Nathu La route was flagged off on Friday by Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur at the Nathu La Border Gate. The ceremony was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The inaugural batch comprises 33 pilgrims and two liaison officers from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indo-

Tibetan Border Police. Additional Chief Secretary of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, CS Rao, welcomed the pilgrims and said the state government, along with relevant departments and paramilitary forces, had ensured all arrangements for a safe and smooth journey.

In his address, Governor Mathur said the resumption of the pilgrimage after six years was a result of consistent efforts by the

central government. He noted the deep religious and cultural significance of the yatra and appreciated the people of Sikkim for extending warm hospitality to the pilgrims.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Tshering Thendup Bhutia said the reopening of the route would promote pilgrimage and tourism in Sikkim. He thanked the central government for choosing the Nathu La route and highlighted the coordinated

efforts behind the arrangements. Pilgrims expressed gratitude to both the central and state governments for their support in food, lodging, acclimatisation, and medical care. Following all required formalities and security checks, the pilgrims proceeded towards the Indo-China border to begin their spiritual journey. The event was attended by several state ministers, MLAs, senior government officials.



Sikkim governor flags off Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from Nathu La. — DC

27 JUNE RELEASE

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ASIAN CINEMAS RADHIKA-10.45PM
 CINEPLANET-4.20PM
Cinepolis LULU MALL-7.25PM
 CCPL-9.30, 7.25PM
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 SUDHA-7.15PM | TNR-12.35PM
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KUBERAA(U/A)
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 8.30, 12.00, 3.30,
 5.00, 7.10, 10.30PM

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)
 3D ENG
 12.00, 8.30PM

8 VASANTALU (U/A)(140 MIN)
 2.15, 10.40PM

SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR

SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR(U/A)(159 MIN)
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SANDHYA35MM
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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

ASIAN SUPER70 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM
ASIAN JYOTHI70 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM

RAJYALAKSHMI70 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM
ALANKAR70MM 10.45, 2.00, 5.45, 9.00PM

VYJAYANTHI70MM 10.45, 2.00, 5.45, 9.00PM
SREERAMANA70 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM

ASIAN SWAPNA 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.05PM
VIJETHA70MM 11.00, 6.00PM

GANESH70MM 10.30, 2.15, 6.00, 9.30PM
BHUJANGA70MM 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

SRSAIRAM70MM 10.45, 2.30, 6.15, 10.00PM
GOKUL70MM 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM

VLS SRIDEVI70MM 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM
SUSHMA70MM 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.30PM

BR HITECH70MM 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.45PM
ASIAN SENSATION 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.45PM

MYTHRI VIMAL70 11.10, 2.55, 6.45, 10.30PM
MAHALAKSHMI70 11.00, 2.30, 6.15, 10.00PM

SVC SANGEETHA 11.00, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM
JAGADAMBAA70MM 11.30, 2.45, 6.30, 9.40PM

SAIRANGA70MM 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM
TALLURI70MM 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM

SVC SIVASAKTHI 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.30PM
SRILAKSHMICALAMANDIR 11.15, 2.30, 6.15, 9.30PM

SVC YADAGIRI70 11.00, 2.30PM
SVC EESHWAR 11.00, 2.30, 6.00, 9.45PM

ASIAN MUKUND 10.45, 2.15, 5.45, 9.15PM
SREEPREMA70MM 11.00, 2.00, 6.00, 9.00PM

KRISHNAALYABAD 10.45, 2.15, 6.15, 9.15PM
SANTOSHIPATNAM 11.00, 2.15, 6.00, 9.15PM

PRASANTH70MM 11.00, 2.10, 6.00, 9.10PM
SRIRAMULU70MM 11.00, 2.30, 6.30, 10.0

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 10:15 PM, 10:25 PM

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 01:15 PM, 04:45 PM, 07:20 PM, 10:40 PM

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 09:20 AM, 12:55 PM

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 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR HIN 2D (U/A) 11:00AM, 1:00AM, 1:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:15, 4:25, 7:10, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40, 10:50

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 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

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 7:30, 10:55- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 10:05AM, 12:45PM, 12:45PM, 4:40, 7:40,
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 (TAM 2D (U/A) 10:45PM-

ASIAN CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY
 KUBERAA Rs. 250/350 8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:05AM, 11:45, 1:00PM, 3:15, 4:00, 4:20,
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 (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM, 1:25PM, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00- 8 VASANTALU
 (TEL 2D (U/A) 4:30PM, 10:50-

ASIAN LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE - MOOSAPET
 KUBERAA/SITAARE Rs. 50/100
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KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:50AM, 11:00, 2:00PM, 2:30, 5:45, 6:15,
 9:15, 9:45- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:10AM, 2:30PM, 6:20, 9:40- 8
 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 11:20AM, 2:30PM, 6:20, 9:40- HOW TO
 TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (TEL 2D (U/A) 6:30PM-
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KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:00AM, 12:15PM, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 3:45,
 4:15, 4:25, 7:10, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40- SITAARE
 (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM, 1:25PM, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00- 8 VASANTALU
 (TEL 2D (U/A) 4:30PM, 10:50-

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KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:20AM, 12:30PM, 1:15, 3:45, 4:00, 7:15,
 7:30, 10:55- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 10:05AM, 12:45PM, 12:45PM, 4:40, 7:40,
 10:40- 8 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 1:45PM, 7:20- KUBERAA
 (TAM 2D (U/A) 10:45PM-

ASIAN CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY
 KUBERAA Rs. 250/350 8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:05AM, 11:45, 1:00PM, 3:15, 4:00, 4:20,
 6:45, 7:25, 9:45, 10:15, 10:50- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 10:05AM,
 1:25PM, 4:25, 7:45, 10:40- 8 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 1:05PM,
 7:20-

ASIAN M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR
 KUBERAA Rs. 250/350 8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:30AM, 12:00PM, 1:00, 3:30, 3:50, 4:20,
 7:10, 7:25, 10:30, 10:40:10:50- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM,
 1:25PM, 4:25, 7:10, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40- SITAARE
 (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM, 1:25PM, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00- 8 VASANTALU
 (TEL 2D (U/A) 4:30PM, 10:50-

ASIAN LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE - MOOSAPET
 KUBERAA/SITAARE Rs. 50/100
 8 VASANTALU/HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON Rs. 50/100

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:50AM, 11:00, 2:00PM, 2:30, 5:45, 6:15,
 9:15, 9:45- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:10AM, 2:30PM, 6:20, 9:40- 8
 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 11:20AM, 2:30PM, 6:20, 9:40- HOW TO
 TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (TEL 2D (U/A) 6:30PM-
 ASIAN CINEMART - RC PURAM
 KUBERAA Rs. 225/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR/8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:00AM, 12:15PM, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 3:45,
 4:15, 4:25, 7:10, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40- SITAARE
 (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM, 1:25PM, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00- 8 VASANTALU
 (TEL 2D (U/A) 4:30PM, 10:50-

UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS
 RELEASING ON 27TH JUNE (FRIDAY)

ASIAN CINEMAS

ASIAN CINEMAS

SCHEDULE FOR TODAY

UNANIMOUS MEGA BLOCKBUSTER

SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR

ASIAN RADHIKA - AS RAO NAGAR
 KUBERAA Rs. 200/350 8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:20AM, 12:30PM, 1:15, 3:45, 4:00, 7:15,
 7:30, 10:55- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 10:05AM, 12:45PM, 12:45PM, 4:40, 7:40,
 10:40- 8 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 1:45PM, 7:20- KUBERAA
 (TAM 2D (U/A) 10:45PM-

ASIAN CINEPLANET - KOMPALLY
 KUBERAA Rs. 250/350 8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:05AM, 11:45, 1:00PM, 3:15, 4:00, 4:20,
 6:45, 7:25, 9:45, 10:15, 10:50- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 10:05AM,
 1:25PM, 4:25, 7:45, 10:40- 8 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 1:05PM,
 7:20-

ASIAN M CUBE MALL - ATTAPUR
 KUBERAA Rs. 250/350 8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR Rs. 250/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:30AM, 12:00PM, 1:00, 3:30, 3:50, 4:20,
 7:10, 7:25, 10:30, 10:40:10:50- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM,
 1:25PM, 4:25, 7:10, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40- SITAARE
 (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM, 1:25PM, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00- 8 VASANTALU
 (TEL 2D (U/A) 4:30PM, 10:50-

ASIAN LAXMIKALA CINEPRIDE - MOOSAPET
 KUBERAA/SITAARE Rs. 50/100
 8 VASANTALU/HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON Rs. 50/100

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:50AM, 11:00, 2:00PM, 2:30, 5:45, 6:15,
 9:15, 9:45- SITAARE (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:10AM, 2:30PM, 6:20, 9:40- 8
 VASANTALU (TEL 2D (U/A) 11:20AM, 2:30PM, 6:20, 9:40- HOW TO
 TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (TEL 2D (U/A) 6:30PM-
 ASIAN CINEMART - RC PURAM
 KUBERAA Rs. 225/350
 SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR/8 VASANTALU Rs. 200/350

KUBERAA TEL 2D (U/A) 10:00AM, 12:15PM, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 3:45,
 4:15, 4:25, 7:10, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40- SITAARE
 (HIN 2D (U/A) 11:05AM, 1:25PM, 4:30, 7:50, 11:00- 8 VASANTALU
 (TEL 2D (U/A) 4:30PM, 10:50-

UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS
 RELEASING ON 27TH JUNE (FRIDAY)

ASIAN CINEMAS

GRAND 2nd WEEK

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