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PM MODI

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

20-06-2026

Total pilgrims: 93,303
Tonnages: 4,688
Hoarders: 4,49 CR
Lodges: 4,58 Lac
Annaprasadam: 2,80 Lac
Medical treatment: 3,607
Waiting Compartments: Out side line at station

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 15-18 H

Hyderabad NEET aspirant dies by suicide a day before retest

HYDERABAD (TSIT)

A 19-year-old NEET aspirant, Sheikh Sana, allegedly died by suicide at her residence in Miyapur, Hyderabad, a day before the NEET (UG) re-examination. Police suspect academic pressure, family expectations, and anxiety over previous exam setbacks may have contributed to the incident. Sana, who was preparing for the re-exam after failing to qualify last year, was staying with her two younger sisters. She reportedly left a note stating that no one was responsible for her death. Police have registered a case and shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem. This is believed to be the first reported suicide of a NEET aspirant in Telangana following the controversy surrounding the examination.



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Over 20 lakh medical aspirants took a second shot at the NEET (UG) examination on Sunday, June 21, after the original test was cancelled due to paper leaks, an issue that became a hot potato for the government and also triggered a popular protest movement.

Abhishek Singh, the Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which has been receiving flak following the paper leak row, said the whole-of-government approach helped it to conduct the mammoth exercise in record time.

In a statement, NTA said more than 20 lakh candidates appeared for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination across 5,440 centres in India and 14 centres abroad. The exam was conducted in 13 languages, including Hindi and English. "This was not the NTA acting alone. It was Team Bharat – a chain of people across the country who showed up so that, for each candidate, the only thing that mattered that morning was the paper in front of them," the agency said. "In all, around 7 lakh officials – police teams, observers and examina-



NEET-UG candidates gather at Babu Pariksha Bhawan after appearing for the Re-NEET UG 2026 exam, in Patna, Bihar, Sunday..

tion staff – were mobilised across India to conduct this examination, and it was done in a record 37 days. NTA is especially grateful to the experts from academic institutions across the country who gave their personal time to help prepare multiple sets of question papers," the NTA said.

Extensive arrangements made for NEET

The NTA said extensive arrangements were made for all candidates, including more than 10,000 Persons with Disabilities. "Special arrangements

were put in place for around 81 candidates with medical conditions, among them a child who had been in a road accident, and a child undergoing chemotherapy, who were determined not to miss an exam they had prepared for years," it said.

The agency said Aadhaar-based biometric and face authentication, CCTV surveillance, jammers and two-layer frisking with the support of a state police were deployed at examination centres. "Command and control centres for CCTV moni-

toring were established at the national level – at the NTA and at the Ministry of Education, at 34 Centrally Funded Institutions of the Department of Higher Education, in every State, and at District Collectorates," it said. "There were some minor reports regarding people coming with wrong admit cards, people coming with some forged admit cards at a few places; impersonation cases were also found out," NTA DG Abhishek Singh said.

India's maritime strength key to economic & strategic power: Modi

PM commissions three indigenous naval vessels, highlights self-reliance in defence.

KOLKATA (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that strong maritime capabilities are crucial for a nation's economic growth, security, and strategic influence, emphasizing that India is steadily transforming from a defence equipment buyer into a global builder. Speaking after commissioning three indigenously built Indian Navy platforms at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata, the Prime Minister said no country can emerge as a major power without maritime strength.

"Development, security and prosperity are linked to the seas. A nation with strong maritime capabilities enjoys greater economic and strategic influence. India understands this reality and is preparing itself accordingly," he said.

The Prime Minister commissioned the stealth frigate INS Dunagiri, survey vessel INS Sanshodhak, and anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft INS Agray. He described the vessels as symbols of India's growing self-reliance and technological capability in maritime defence. Modi noted that India's journey from the commissioning of the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in 2022 to the latest naval platforms reflects the



PM attends Tri-Commissioning Ceremony of Dunagiri, Sanshodhak & Agray at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, in West Bengal..

country's determination to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

"These ships were designed and built in India and represent the talent, innovation, and capabilities of our people. India is rapidly transforming from a buyer nation into a builder nation," he said.

Highlighting the growth of the domestic defence industry, the Prime Minister said more than 40 warships and submarines have been commissioned in recent years, while 45 major naval platforms are currently under construction. He added that over 200 MSMEs contributed to the construction of the three vessels, each having more

than 75 percent indigenous content. Modi said the maritime sector is being developed as a major employment generator with the potential to create lakhs of jobs. He emphasized that shipbuilding, ship repair, recycling, and maintenance have been identified as key national priorities.

Referring to the Centre's Rs.70,000-crore package announced for the shipping sector, the Prime Minister said it represents a long-term investment in India's maritime future and industrial expansion. He added that the government is also modernising ports and strengthening the overall maritime ecosystem to support economic growth.

CM Unveils 'EAGLE 1972' Posters

• CM Naidu Appreciates EAGLE Services at Yogandhra Event

VISAKHAPATNAM (TSIT)

The state-level "Yogandhra" program organized at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada on the occasion of International Yoga Day was held in a grand manner. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu attended the event as the chief guest. Renowned Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev and State Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Sri Nara Lokesh participated in the program, adding special significance to the occasion. Following the event, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu flagged off the "Vyasnamukta Bharat Abhiyan" campaign vehicle being conducted under the auspices of the Brahma Kumaris. Subsequently, he formally unveiled the "EAGLE 1972"



posters.

On this occasion, EAGLE Andhra Pradesh Wing IGP A.K. Ravikrishna briefed the Chief Minister about the social service activities, public safety initiatives, and awareness programs being undertaken by EAGLE across the state. After learning about the public-oriented programs and services being carried out by the organization, the Chief Minister conveyed his special appreciation. Encouraging the EAGLE team, he suggested that the organization further expand its service activi-

ties in the future to reach more people. NTR District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha, Vijayawada Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, several legislators, senior officials, and public representatives were also present at the event. The unveiling of the "EAGLE 1972" posters, held after the successful conclusion of the "Yogandhra" program that witnessed the participation of thousands of people, youth, and yoga practitioners, brought further recognition to the EAGLE organization.

International Day of Yoga



PM Modi participates in the 12th International Day of Yoga - 2026 celebrations at Kolkata, in West Bengal.... PIB PHOTO

6 killed in ammonia leak at Tiruvallur seafood unit, CM orders probe

CHENNAI (TSIT):

At least six workers were killed and several others hospitalised after a suspected ammonia gas leak at a seafood export processing unit near Periyapalayam in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district on Sunday, officials said. The Tamil Nadu government has ordered an immediate investigation into the incident.

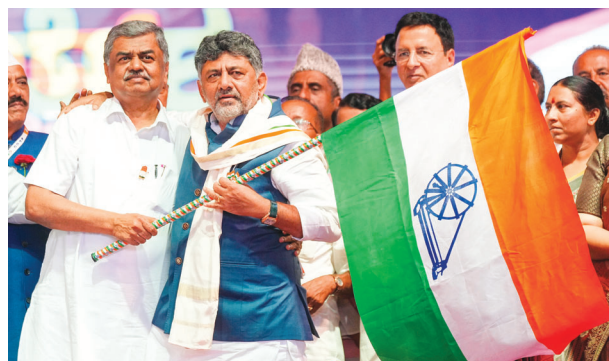


According to police and official sources, the leak occurred at a seafood processing and export facility where a large number of migrant workers were employed. Around 120 workers, including women from Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand, were reportedly within the factory premises when the incident took place. Authorities said the suspected ammonia leak originated from the unit's refrigeration or processing system and quickly spread across parts of the facility. Workers exposed to the gas began experiencing severe breathing difficulties, dizziness and irritation. Some reportedly suffered bleeding from the mouth and nose, indicating the intensity of the exposure. Panic gripped the premises as workers rushed out in search of safety, while others collapsed after inhaling the gas.

Guarantee committees at every panchayat and ward: CM Shivakumar

BENGALURU (TSIT)

Outgoing Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar announced on Sunday that five-member guarantee committees will be formed at every panchayat and ward across the state. Speaking at the Sankalpa Samavesh at Palace Grounds, where he handed over the KPCC president's post to B.K. Hariprasad, Shivakumar said the committees would review records of guarantee scheme beneficiaries.



"A guarantee committee of five people will be formed in each ward and panchayat—7,000 pan-

chayats and 4,000 wards. Think for yourselves how many leaders we are preparing through this," he

said, stressing that the Congress party is committed to developing leaders, not followers. All sections of society will receive equal representation in these committees, he added.

In a firm pledge to party workers, Shivakumar declared, "Even if I become the Chief Minister, I will work with you as an activist." He reiterated the party's vision to return to power in 2028 and make Rahul Gandhi Prime Minister in 2029. Taking a

dig at the BJP, he said, "The BJP is wringing its hands saying they did not get the opportunity we got. Your own government will come to power in 2028 and 2029 too."

Shivakumar also announced that student leader elections in colleges would be held from this year, following Rahul Gandhi's guidance, to prepare leaders from panchayats to Parliament. He called for strengthening the party's student and women's units.

SIT asks trust & Ram temple functionaries not to leave Ayodhya

AYODHYA (TSIT):

The SIT probing the alleged embezzlement of funds in the Ram Temple here has instructed its trust and temple functionaries not to leave Ayodhya, according to temple sources who claimed that investigators found discrepancies in documentation of offerings like gold, silver and precious stones. The instruction by the three-member

Investigation Team (SIT) was issued before they left for Lucknow on Sunday. The sources said one of the key findings of the SIT pertains to the records of gold and silver jewellery and other precious stones, including diamonds, offered by devotees to Lord Ram. According to them, investigators found discrepancies in the documentation and accounting of such offerings.



PM Modi says yoga can pave way for world peace, calls for making it part of daily life

Kolkata, Jun 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted the role of yoga beyond personal health, saying the ancient Indian practice can act as a catalyst for global peace and harmony amid growing conflicts and tensions across the world. Addressing the 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations at the iconic Red Road in Kolkata, where thousands participated, Modi said yoga teaches the importance of balance in life and helps individuals achieve physical and mental well-being. Quoting the Bhagavad Gita, the Prime Minister said a balanced lifestyle involving work, food and sleep is essential to overcome suffering, and yoga guides people towards achieving that balance.

“Most people are struggling to maintain that balance in their modern lifestyle. Yoga teaches us the art of living our lives in a balanced manner,” Modi said, adding that when people learn to manage their bodies correctly, health becomes a habit. Emphasising that yoga is not limited to physical exercise, Modi said it connects mental well-being with physical fitness and helps build inner peace. “The con-



sciousness of identifying the dos and don'ts not only brings inner peace, it opens up the path to world peace. That's why yoga is not only required for our personal lifestyles, it is essential for a better future of this world,” he said. The Prime Minister urged people not to restrict yoga to a single day or event but make it a part of daily life for themselves, their families and future generations. He said June 21, which marks the longest day of the year, has now become the world's largest community celebration because of yoga, bringing together people across countries and cultures.

Highlighting this year's theme, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” Modi said yoga plays an important role in improving physical health, mental well-being and quality of life across all age groups. “Yoga is not just physical exercise. It is not restricted to any age group. It is an expression of the human spirit,” he said. Modi stressed that healthy ageing should focus on ensuring that increasing age does not reduce human potential.

“Our target is to be more flexible at 40 than we were at 20. We aim to be more

energetic at 50 than we were at 30. Our target must be to be more resistant to lifestyle-related diseases at 70 than we were at 50. This is where yoga can help us,” he added. The Prime Minister said a healthy society makes a nation more capable, powerful and confident.

Referring to Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Modi said the true essence of humanity lies in connecting with the world around us. He added that the fundamental idea of yoga is connectivity and when it becomes part of life, it becomes a symbol of human unity. West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, addressing the gathering, credited Modi for taking yoga to the global stage and said the tradition has been practised in Bengal for more than a century. Adhikari said organisations and institutions across the state registered around 2.57 lakh participants for the event. He expressed confidence that more than one crore people across West Bengal would participate in yoga celebrations. The event marked the first large-scale International Day of Yoga programme in Kolkata, with participation from thousands of yoga enthusiasts.

International Yoga Day Observed at Nellore Central Jail

Over 1,000 inmates and prison staff participate; AYUSH Department launches yoga training initiative



Nellore, June 21: The 12th International Yoga Day was celebrated at Central Jail, Nellore, on Saturday in collaboration with the AYUSH Department, with enthusiastic participation from prison staff and inmates. The programme witnessed the participation of 150 prison staff, 400 convicted prisoners, 500 remand prisoners and 18 female convicts. The event was inaugurated by Guntur Range Jail Deputy Inspector General Dr. Varaprasad, who attended as the chief guest and lit the ceremonial lamp.

During the programme, AYUSH Department yoga

expert Penchalaya explained the importance of various yoga asanas, pranayama techniques and meditation practices. Participants actively performed yoga exercises under his guidance. He highlighted the role of yoga in improving physical fitness, mental peace and concentration.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Varaprasad described yoga as a priceless gift from India to the world. He emphasized that regular yoga practice helps improve health, resilience, concentration, self-confidence and emotional balance. He urged inmates to adopt yoga as a

daily habit to lead healthier and happier lives.

He also announced that the AYUSH Department, in association with Central Jail Nellore, has launched a three-month yoga training programme for selected inmates. The trained participants will, in turn, help spread yoga practices in district jails across the state. Central Jail Superintendent Dr. V. Sanyasi Rao highlighted the unique benefits of yoga and said it has been effectively used to reduce stress among prisoners. He noted that regular yoga practice would now become an integral part of the jail's daily routine to promote both physical and mental well-being.

Iran-US peace talks begin in Switzerland amid Strait of Hormuz tensions

Geneva, Jun 21: A high-level Iranian delegation arrived in Switzerland on Saturday for peace talks with the United States, even as tensions increased after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian team, led by chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, includes Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi along with senior security, central bank and oil officials, Iranian state media reported. The talks follow a 60-day ceasefire agreement between Washington and Tehran, aimed at negotiating an interim deal to end their nearly four-month-long conflict. The agreement was brokered by Pakistan and signed on Wednesday by US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

However, Iran's decision to shut the Strait of Hormuz has raised concerns over the future of the negotiations. The IRGC warned that ships approaching the strategic waterway, which carries a major share of global oil and gas supplies, could face risks.

Iran cited Israeli strikes in Lebanon and what it described as a US violation of ceasefire commitments as reasons behind the move.

US Central Command said 55 merchant vessels crossed the strait on Saturday, transporting



large amounts of cargo and more than 17 million barrels of oil to global markets. It added that US forces would continue ensuring the movement of ships. Trump, in a social media post, said no toll would be imposed on vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz during or after the 60-day ceasefire unless the US introduced one if peace talks failed.

He said a possible toll could be charged by the United States for “services rendered” as a protector of Middle East countries if a final agreement was not reached.

Mohammad Mokhber, an adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, accused Washington of failing to implement the first clause of the 14-point interim agreement, which includes a ceasefire on all fronts, including Lebanon.

He said energy supplies from the region would remain disrupt-

ed as long as the agreement remained only on paper.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran would push for guarantees that commitments are fulfilled during the Switzerland talks, citing previous instances where agreements were not honoured.

US Vice President JD Vance, who travelled to Switzerland for the discussions, said he was confident the ceasefire would hold and claimed he had not seen evidence confirming the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Vance said negotiations could continue for a few days and expressed hope of progress on Iran's nuclear programme and the Lebanon ceasefire.

The talks are also linked to efforts to halt fighting in Lebanon, one of the conditions for continuing the 60-day negotiations. However, the ceasefire remained

fragile as Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah exchanged attacks. Lebanon's Civil Defence reported that 20 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Saturday, hours after the truce came into effect.

Israel said it was responding to Hezbollah attacks, while the group said it would not allow Israel “freedom of movement” in Lebanon. Israel has maintained that it is not part of the Iran-US agreement and will keep forces in areas it occupies in Lebanon.

Lebanon's state news agency reported Israeli airstrikes and drone attacks in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, both Hezbollah strongholds.

An Israeli military official said Hezbollah fired more than 50 projectiles at Israeli forces overnight, following which Israel targeted what it described as Hezbollah positions. Israel said it remained committed to the ceasefire but would continue responding to threats against its forces. Lebanon's Health Ministry said 4,057 people have been killed in Israeli attacks since March 2, including women, children and medical workers, though it did not specify the number of combatant deaths. Israeli authorities said at least 32 soldiers and four civilians have been killed during fighting with Hezbollah.

Yoga Key to Healthy Living, Says Tirupati Collector

THOUSANDS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT SV UNIVERSITY STADIUM

Tirupati, June 21: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar emphasized that yoga is the most effective path to a healthy lifestyle and an important tool for preventing lifestyle-related diseases caused by changing food habits and stress.

Addressing the district-level Yoga Andhra programme organized as part of the 12th International Yoga Day celebrations at Sri Venkateswara University's Tarakarama Rao Stadium on Saturday, the Collector urged people to make yoga an integral part of their daily routine.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by District SP L. Subbarayudu, Joint Collector R. Govindarao, SV University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Narasimha Rao, Sri Padmavathi Mahila University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Uma, State Yadav Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, District BJP President Saamanchi Srinivas, and DRO G. Narasimhulu.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Venkateswar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been promoting International Yoga Day globally to



showcase India's cultural heritage and the benefits of yoga. He noted that the state-wide Yoga Andhra initiative, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has successfully created awareness and encouraged people from all walks of life to adopt yoga.

The Collector highlighted that this year's theme, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” focuses on promoting long-term physical and mental well-being. He advised citizens to practice yoga for at least an hour every day and encouraged students to adopt yoga from an early age. District SP L. Subbarayudu stressed that yoga fosters discipline, positivity and a healthy outlook on life. He called upon youth to stay away from addictions and contribute to building a better society through regular yoga practice. Under the guidance of Art of Living Yoga instructor V. Kumari Kranthi, participants enthusiastically performed various yoga asanas for nearly an hour. Cultural performances by girl students at the beginning of the event added colour to the celebrations. Several dignitaries, university officials, district officers,

Sandhya Ravali 2026 Makes Grand Hyderabad Debut

OVER 130 PERFORMERS SHOWCASE CLASSICAL DANCE FORMS AT CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA



Hyderabad, June 21: Sandhya Ravali 2026, a prestigious annual classical dance festival traditionally held in Anantapur, was organized for the first time in Hyderabad in collaboration with Ananta Anand Trust and Saral. The event featured 35 outstanding performances by more than 130 artists, drawing enthusiastic par-

ticipation from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The cultural extravaganza showcased a wide range of Indian dance forms, including Kuchipudi, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Folk and other traditional styles, highlighting the richness and diversity of India's artistic heritage.

The programme was

attended by former Union Minister and former MP Samudrala Venugopala Chary as the chief guest. BJP Telangana State Council Member Royyuru Seshasai participated as the guest of honour. Also present were Dr. Anita Rao, Founder Director of Dakshinathya Arts Academy, and renowned Kuchipudi dancer Mrutyunjay Sharma.

The dignitaries encouraged students to preserve India's rich cultural traditions and appreciated the organizers for conducting the event consistently for several decades. Ms. Anuradha Murthy, daughter of noted dance guru Sandhya Murthy, thanked the guests for their support and inspiration to young artists.

EDITORIAL

Safe...For Now: Rohit Sharma And The Curious Art Of Delaying The Inevitable

By the time Rohit Sharma had walked out to bat in Chennai on Saturday evening, he would have known about the conversations surrounding him. Modern cricketers do not need to doom-scroll through their social media handles to know the buzz. Stars like Rohit Sharma move with an entourage, and they often act as the eyes and ears of the superstar. They are the 'F&Fs', or friends and family, cheering them on. The F&Fs know about the speculation, they know which way the wind is blowing, and they know the prevailing opinion.

But a character like Sharma does not mind that. He has lived with these questions for close to three years now. Except this time, the question was more immediate. Was the ODI against Afghanistan in Chennai his swansong? For now, it seems those conversations have been settled. As things stand, Rohit Sharma will board that flight to England next month. There are three ODIs scheduled in Birmingham, Cardiff and London between July 14 and 19, and India's old guard isn't being pushed aside just yet. It is unlikely he will go while there are still runs left in his bat. On Saturday against Afghanistan, the Hitman showed that there were plenty.

When you want to put a batter to the test, pit him against the No. 1 bowler. And that is what the BCCI did. Against him on the hot, sultry Chennai evening was Rashid Khan. Rohit treated him with the kind of disdain that only supreme confidence and years of muscle memory can produce. Eleven runs came off the 14th over — a six and a four — and suddenly social media had found its next highlight package.

The former captain may be in the winter of his career, but it did not look like the end was near. If anything, he resembled an actor reminding everyone that the stage belongs to him and that he belongs on it. That class doesn't disappear overnight. The pulls he brought out were crisp, the flicks were effortless, and his touches against spin carried the same kind of authority with which he has ruled white-ball cricket for over a decade.

Rohit started slowly but at one stage overtook Jaiswal, whom he kept guiding during the youngster's century in the final ODI. For 102 minutes, Rohit batted like a man who had heard every question over the last two days and chosen to answer them with the sound emanating from the middle of his bat.

He made 79 from 69 balls, a strike rate of 114. It was Rohit's 62nd ODI half-century — a fine innings, but not the hundred everyone had been waiting for.

That was surely enough to quieten the doubters for the evening, but not enough to end the debate. It almost felt as though he had been struck by the commentator's curse. As soon as the man on the microphone said, "He needs a hundred here," fate intervened.

Mohammad Nabi induced one pull shot too many, and substitute fielder Sediqullah Atal held on.

Rohit Sharma still sits among the elite but is constantly being judged against his own past. The fifties have been coming, and the elegance remains too. He is the ICC's No. 4-ranked ODI batter, with only Virat Kohli ahead of him among Indians. Yet what everyone points to is how the centuries have dried up. His last ODI hundred was that unbeaten 121 in Sydney in 2025.

WHY IS CASTEISM MIXED IN THE WATER FIGHT?



The demand for water is justified, but an officer should be judged by his actions, not his caste. The ongoing protest over the water crisis in Chainat village, in the Hansi region of Haryana, raises an important social and administrative issue. In any civil society, the fact that people are forced to take to the streets for a basic necessity like drinking water is a matter of concern for the government. Water is not just a resource, but the very foundation of life. Therefore, the villagers of Chainat raising their voices about their problems is completely justified and in accordance with democratic rights. However, during this protest, some comments surfaced in which personal and caste-based derogatory terms were used against a senior administrative officer. This situation forces us to wonder whether the limits of social decorum and constitutional values can be crossed to secure a legitimate demand? The Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to live a life with dignity. The Supreme Court has also clarified on numerous occasions that the right to life includes access to clean drinking water. If people in a village are deprived of adequate water, it is not merely a local problem but a matter of civil rights and administrative responsibility. The suffering of villagers is real, and addressing it is the primary responsibility of the government and administration. Water scarcity not only

causes inconvenience but also adversely impacts health, education, employment, and social life. Women and children often have to work extra hard to secure water, disrupting their daily routine and opportunities. The problem of water scarcity is not new in a country like India. Rising population, overexploitation of groundwater, uneven distribution of rainfall, lack of conservation of water sources, and unplanned urbanization have exacerbated the water crisis in many areas. In an agricultural state like Haryana, this challenge becomes even greater, as water resources are under increasing pressure due to agriculture, domestic use, and industrial needs. In such a situation, if the people of a village are protesting their problems, it is the responsibility of the administration to listen to them and find a solution. In a democracy, protest and agitation are legitimate rights of citizens. When the public feels that their problems are not being addressed, they submit memorandums, hold demonstrations, and draw the attention of the administration. This is a healthy process in a democratic system. But democracy is not just about rights; it is also about responsibilities. The right to protest is as important as maintaining social decorum and mutual respect. If the dignity of language is lost during a protest and personal or caste-based comments are made, the moral basis of the movement is weakened. Criticizing an official, public representative, or public figure is part of democracy. However, criticism should be based on their decisions, actions, and policies. When criticism focuses on a person's caste, clothing, language, or social background, it ceases to be a democratic debate but



instead takes the form of prejudice and discrimination. This situation not only hurts the individual but also fosters division and distrust in society. The fundamental spirit of the Indian Constitution is based on equality. The framers of the Constitution envisioned a society where a person would be judged not by their caste, religion, language, or birth, but by their abilities and actions. To this end, the Constitution guaranteed the right to equality and made special provisions to eliminate untouchability and caste discrimination. Despite this, caste-based thinking and prejudice still persist in many parts of society. When comments are made about an official or individual based on their caste, it not only insults the individual but also disrespects the fundamental spirit of the Constitution. It is important to understand that reaching any administrative position involves years of hard work and struggle. Officers selected for the Indian Administrative Service, State Administrative Service, or other high-ranking positions undergo a lengthy competitive process.

They pass rigorous examinations, undergo training, and prepare themselves for public service. Therefore, an officer should be evaluated not by their social or caste affiliation, but by their work and performance. Dignity is of paramount importance in public life. If a tendency to criticize individuals based on their birth status grows in society, it impacts the quality of democratic discourse. In such a situation, even capable and talented individuals may hesitate to enter public life. This could also undermine public trust in the administrative system and democratic institutions. It is equally true that the administration must be sensitive to the public's feelings and concerns. Often, delays in resolving problems or a lack of communication contribute to public discontent. Therefore, the administration's responsibility should not be limited to issuing orders. It must communicate with the public, listen to their complaints, and make transparent efforts toward resolution. If villagers feel heard and that sincere efforts are being made to find solutions, tensions and conflicts will be reduced. In the case of Chainat, it's

essential that the administration and villagers strengthen their dialogue, rather than confronting each other. Solving a water crisis cannot be achieved through mere blame game. It requires administrative will, technical planning, and community participation. Immediate relief can include the provision of water tankers, additional water supplies, and temporary solutions. However, long-term solutions require measures such as water resource conservation, rainwater harvesting, pipeline network expansion, increased water storage capacity, and groundwater recharge. The role of rural communities is also crucial. Water conservation is not solely the government's responsibility. Society must also play an active role in judicious water use, rainwater harvesting, and the conservation of local water sources. If communities and the administration work together, permanent solutions to problems like water scarcity are possible. Education and social awareness also play a crucial role in this regard. Schools, colleges, social organizations, and the media must foster a mindset

that promotes equality, respect, and constitutional values. Laws alone are not enough to eliminate caste prejudices; the development of social consciousness is also essential. Unless there is a mental transformation within society, the constitutional ideals of equality will not be fully realized. If casteist or derogatory remarks are made on a public platform, they must be addressed within constitutional and legal frameworks. In a democracy, the rule of law is paramount. Any discriminatory or derogatory behavior is unacceptable. It must also be ensured that such incidents are not used to divert attention from the underlying problem. The water crisis is real and must be addressed on a priority basis. Today, the need is to reconnect the Chainat movement to its original purpose. The movement's goal should be to ensure water availability, not to foster an atmosphere of hatred against any individual or community. The villagers' demands are legitimate, and they deserve justice. At the same time, upholding social decorum and constitutional values is equally important. Ultimately, the Chainat incident offers us an important message. In a democracy, the protection of rights and social respect go hand in hand. Citizens have every right to raise their voices to address their problems, but this voice should pave the way for dialogue and resolution, not division and hostility. Water is every citizen's right, and respect is the foundation of every person's dignity. Only if we can protect both these values will we be able to build a society that is just, sensitive, and truly democratic. Solving the water problem is the responsibility of the administration, but addressing casteism is the responsibility of society as a whole.

BUILDING SAFER FUTURES:

REIMAGINING CHILD PROTECTION WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In January 2026, two young sisters went missing from Ranchi, Jharkhand, triggering an urgent search. With limited leads and vast geographies to cover, Ranchi Police sought support from Just Rights for Children's Raksha AI tools. Drawing on years of child protection data, trafficking patterns, migration trends, GIS mapping and machine learning, Raksha AI responds to the critical question If the children had been trafficked, where were they most likely to be found? The tool identified a high-risk trafficking corridor spanning Lohardaga, Khunti and Gumla. Despite massive manhunt, the girls were not in these hotspot districts. It appeared that the prediction had failed. The tech experts of Raksha ai urged, "The model is not predicting a single village or building. It is identifying the most likely operational geography. Continue searching within the surrounding radius." The police expanded their efforts to nearby locations within the same movement corridor highlighted by the analysis. Then came the breakthrough. On 14 January 2026, the two sisters were safely rescued from the Chitarpur area of Ramgarh district, Jharkhand, within the radius identified by Raksha AI. The information generated through technology aided search and rescue operation, further led to the rescue of another 52 missing and kidnapped children, the



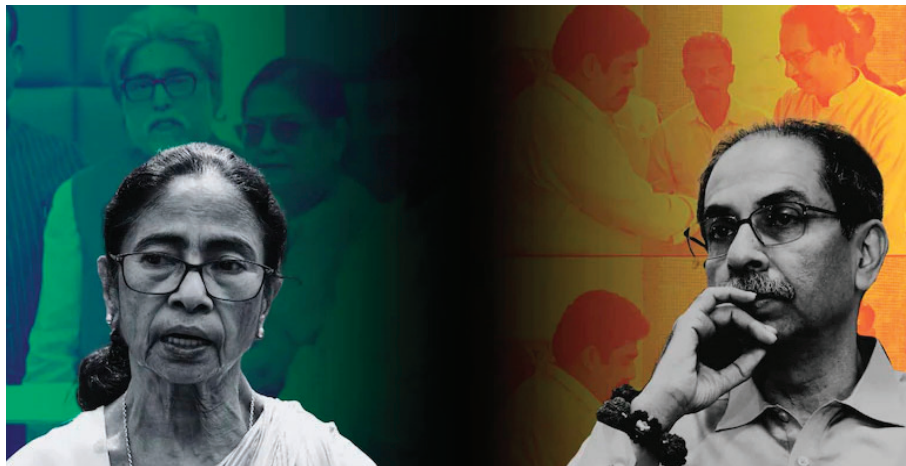
arrest of 21 traffickers/kidnappers, and the dismantling an organised crime network. This technology aided police and civil society intervention demonstrates how technology, data and partnerships can make child protection systems smarter, faster and more effective. Technology is the amplifier in timely interventions to prevent crimes against children and ensure their protection. However, more often than we would like, we are only able to reach the child after harm has occurred. According to the Crime in India 2024 report by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the crimes against children increased by 5.85 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year. Today, the real and the virtual world are intertwined in unprecedented ways. Criminal networks operate across states and countries, online platforms create new avenues

for exploitation, and millions of data points are generated every day. Yet much of this information remains fragmented across departments, institutions, and jurisdictions, limiting its potential to inform swift response. Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM) is being created, shared, and circulated at unprecedented speed across online platforms, encrypted channels, and digital networks. AI-generated deepfakes and synthetic CSEAM, sometimes based on images of real children, compound real harms at scale. Meanwhile, offenders increasingly use technology to operate across jurisdictions and conceal their identities in ways unimaginable a decade ago. Artificial intelligence presents a paradox, a Pandora's box of boons and harms. The same technology misused by offenders can also help protect children by enabling prevention

rather than merely improving response mechanisms. At its best, AI can uncover trafficking routes by analysing historical data and movement patterns, identify emerging and dominant hotspots of child labour, child marriage, and exploitation. It can monitor online environments for indicators of child sexual abuse and can predict vulnerabilities and risks before they escalate into crimes. This reality makes it imperative that AI be developed and deployed responsibly, with child rights, safety, transparency, and accountability at its core. From Reaction to Prevention The global child protection ecosystem has traditionally been structured around rescue, rehabilitation, and justice. Every rescue represents a child who has already suffered. Prevention, the most important pillar of all, remains least developed.

Uddhav Sena, Trinamool Crises: A Grim Reminder And Mockery Of Voter Choices

The parallel defection dramas playing out in West Bengal and Maharashtra should worry us as voters. They not only serve as a grim reminder of the growing crisis in an electoral democracy but also make a mockery of our choices in the polling booth. Defections are not new. But the rate at which political parties have been splitting and regrouping in recent years – as MPs and MLAs scurry around like headless chickens looking for new sanctuaries – turns the spotlight on the anti-defection law. There are too many loopholes in the law, having been mutilated to further the interests of a self-seeking political class. Beyond the law, however, shenanigans of resort politics and horse trading that accompany every defection episode pose a deeper and more fundamental question: should defections be allowed at all? Can we, in all conscience, as a democracy that is supposed to reflect the will of the people, sanctify the movement of MPs or MLAs from one party to a rival party after showering it with abuse the other day? Consider the sordid saga unfolding in West Bengal. Within days of the defeat of Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress, 20 of her 28 MPs elected to the Lok Sabha just two years ago under her name and on her party symbol are preparing to jump ship. The BJP doesn't want them in the party, but is ready to accommodate them in the NDA. The defection formula that has been worked out for them is a master class in creative interpretation of a supposedly law.



The MPs will merge into a little-known party born in 2023, the Nationalist Citizens Party of India. It is registered with the Election Commission as an 'unrecognized' party, does not have a symbol of its own, and has fought only one election, the Tripura assembly polls in 2023, in which it bagged just 0.03 percent of the votes. The NCPI neither contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections nor the recent assembly polls in West Bengal, despite being registered in Howrah. With the merger of 20 Trinamool rebels, the party will transform overnight from anonymity into one of the largest blocs in the Lok Sabha. This is unprecedented in parliamentary history. On the other side of the country in Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena is splintering. Two years after they fought a bitter battle with Eknath Shinde's faction in 2024 to determine which Sena is the real inheritor of Balasaheb Thackeray's mantle, six of Thackeray's nine

MPs are in the process of crossing the floor to merge with the rival Sena. The danger to electoral democracy from unprincipled about-turns is two-fold. One is the debasement of the mandate MPs and MLAs receive. Every defection invalidates the choice of voters. We vote for one party only to wake up one morning and find that our elected representative has decided to shift to a party we did not vote for. This is not just betrayal. It is the erasure of our choices as voters. The other is the breakdown of the party system. Political parties are fundamental building blocks of our parliamentary model of democracy. When leaders sent by recognized parties to Parliament or state assemblies switch horses mid-stream for personal gains or whatever other reasons they offer to justify their decision, they pave the way for institutional erosion. In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool received 41% of the popular vote and won 80 seats. Today, 60 MLAs are

poised to flee. If the Trinamool is reduced to nothing but a rump, that vote share becomes a meaningless number as the party faces extinction, not through the ballot but because of the narrow interests of a few. The irony is that the anti-defection law was passed in Parliament in 1985 through a constitutional amendment. The purpose was to protect and stabilize the party system which had become vulnerable to erosion through defections. Studies have shown that between 1967 and 1983, there were more than 2,700 defections in state assemblies, leading to chaos as parties disintegrated overnight and many simply disappeared from the political map. The most famous defection was that of a Haryana MLA named Gaya Singh in 1967. He switched parties three times in two weeks, leading to the coinage of the notorious phrase 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram'. By 2003, it was evident that the anti-defection law needed further tightening.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 PRIZE MONEY:

How Much More Will The Champions Earn Than Argentina In 2022?

FIFA has confirmed the prize money structure for the 2026 World Cup, and the number attached to the trophy itself tells the clearest story: \$50 million for the champion, up from the \$42 million Argentina collected after beating France on penalties in the 2022 final. The \$8 million increase is the largest dollar jump between any two editions in World Cup history. How the Total Pool Has Grown FIFA initially announced a prize pool of \$727 million for the 2026 tournament in December 2025, a 65 percent increase on the \$440 million distributed at Qatar 2022. The figure was revised upward again at the FIFA Council meeting in May 2026, where stronger-than-expected broadcasting, sponsorship and ticketing revenue across the three host nations pushed the total financial distribution to \$871 million, including prepara-



tion fees and the Club Benefits Programme. The performance-based prize pool specifically, the money tied directly to how far a team progresses, sits at \$655 million, compared to the \$440 million teams shared in Qatar. With 48 nations now competing instead of 32,

more federations are sharing in the growth, but the increase at every single stage of the competition is real. What Every Stage Is Worth Every one of the 48 teams receives a \$2.5 million preparation grant regardless of performance, plus a \$10 million qualification payment,

guaranteeing a minimum of \$12.5 million even for a team that loses every group match. From there, the figures climb fast. A group stage exit pays \$9 million. The Round of 32, a stage that did not exist in previous tournaments, pays \$11 million. The Round of 16 pays

\$15 million, and the quarter-finals pay \$19 million. Fourth place earns \$27 million, third place \$29 million, the runner-up \$33 million, and the champion takes the headline \$50 million. Why the Growth Curve Keeps Accelerating The champion's prize has grown every single edition since FIFA began publicly disclosing the figures in 1982, when Italy won \$2.2 million. The biggest jumps came between 2002 and 2006, when the payout more than doubled from \$9 million to \$20 million, and now again between 2022 and 2026. Prize money is paid to national federations rather than directly to players, with typical player shares ranging between 20 and 30 percent depending on each federation's own bonus structure. Whoever wins on July 19 will collect more than any champion in the tournament's history.

Mumbai Indians Eye Mega IPL Trade Deal Involving Hardik Pandya, Identify Huge Target: Report

The Mumbai Indians are looking to part ways with Hardik Pandya, and Rajasthan Royals opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has emerged as the top pick for the trade deal, according to a report by Revsportz. There has been a lot of chatter over Hardik's future with the franchise after they finished ninth in IPL 2026, following an extremely disappointing campaign for the all-rounder.

The report claimed that MI team management is scheduled to hold a critical review meeting next week, where the futures of several senior players as well as coaches could be decided. It added that Hardik's entourage is already in advanced talks with the RR. Jaiswal provides a lucrative option for the Mumbai Indians, who are reportedly looking for a long-term prospect to take Rohit Sharma's place. The report also claimed that the five-time champions may look to release Suryakumar Yadav



as well. Coming to the captaincy options, the Mumbai Indians are looking to appoint a new leader with the future in focus, and Tilak Varma has emerged as a clear frontrunner. Pandya was at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in

Bengaluru to get clearance for his back spasm injury which he sustained in the IPL while playing for the Mumbai Indians. It is learnt that the new injury could be a result of him bowling the full quota of 10 overs at the CoE during the assessment.

Harmanpreet Kaur Achieves Stunning Feat. Not Even Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli Have Done It

ndia skipper Harmanpreet Kaur became the first cricketer (male or female) ever to play 200 T20Is as she took the field during the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 encounter against South Africa on Sunday. New Zealand's Suzie Bates is second in the list with 184, Danni Wyatt-Hodge third with 183 followed by Ellyse Perry with 177 appearances. For India, Smriti Mandhana has played 169 T20Is. When it comes to men's T20Is, Ireland's Paul Sterling (163) leads the way, followed by Rohit Sharma (159). Meanwhile, Harmanpreet Kaur won the toss and opted to bat first against South Africa in their Women's T20 World Cup match. "We want to bat. I think it's a good pitch and if we bat first, we could get a result that will help us to win the game. [On the pitch at Old Trafford] I think it's a very good pitch. The only thing is we have to give some time in the middle and then we can take the game ahead. [On becoming the first player to play 200 T20 Internationals] 200 games, I think, honestly, it's been an amazing

journey. I never thought I'll come that far, but I think God has been kind and I'm really thankful to him and to my family, friends, BCCI, all my teammates. They've been really supportive." [On playing in front of a sellout crowd] I think they've been our biggest support. Hopefully we'll entertain them. [On team changes] Shreyanka is missing because of her injury. In place of her, Prema is going to make her debut. And we have one more change. Kranti is resting today. Arundhati is playing. [On her message to debutant Prema] Just to enjoy. I think I'm more nervous playing 200th game and she is someone who looks very calm and hopefully she'll enjoy the game," Harmanpreet said at toss. In the Indian XI, Prema Rawat came in for the injured Shreyanka Patil, while Kranti Gaud has been rested and Arundhati Reddy is playing in her place. Dane van Niekerk and Tazmin Brits are playing in place of Sune Luis and Kayla Reyneke respectively in the South African side.



Who Is Jordan Spieth Wife Annie Verret? Her Career, Presence On The PGA Tour And Family Foundation Role

Jordan Spieth and Annie Verret met as high schoolers in Dallas, Texas, attending different campuses: Spieth at Jesuit College Preparatory School, Verret at Ursuline Academy, an all-girls school across town. The relationship survived college, where Spieth played golf at the University of Texas while Verret studied business at Texas Tech, and survived the early years of his rise to the top of the PGA Tour. He proposed on Christmas Eve in 2017. They married in a private ceremony in Dallas in November 2018. Her Career Before and Alongside Spieth Verret was born in 1994 and grew up in Coppell, Texas, graduating from Texas Tech's Rawls College of Business with a degree in business, earning



a spot on the President's List for a perfect GPA along the way. Her early career was built in nonprofit and event management. She worked with First Tee Greater Dallas, an organisation that uses golf to teach life skills to young people, and later served as director of development for The Birthday Party Project, a Dallas non-

lies, and pediatric cancer research. The foundation's focus on special needs was shaped in part by Spieth's younger sister Ellie, who was born with a neurological condition. A Steady Presence Through the Hard Stretches Verret has become a familiar, if private, figure at major championships, occasionally stepping in as a stand-in caddie during practice rounds and family events. She was credited directly by Spieth for helping him through a 1,351-day winless drought that ended at the 2021 Valero Texas Open. "She's just been that person that said, 'Whatever you need to do, I'm here to support you,'" Spieth said afterwards, adding that it was his first win since they had been married.

JYOTI STRIKES GOLD, INDIA WIN THREE MORE SILVER MEDALS AT WORLD BOXING CUP

Jyoti delivered a standout performance to clinch India's lone gold medal at the World Boxing Cup 2, defeating Uzbekistan's Farzona Fozilova in the 48kg final on Sunday. Jyoti outclassed Fozilova, the reigning World Boxing Cup Brazil gold medallist, with a 5-0 unanimous decision. India added three silver medals through strong final appearances. Minakshi (51kg), the World No. 1 in 48kg competing in a higher weight category, settled for silver after going down 0-5 against China's Wu Yu in the final. Prachi (57kg) also finished with a silver medal, losing 0-5 to Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova in her title bout, following an otherwise impressive run in the tournament. In the men's category, Deepak (70kg) secured a silver medal after a 0-5 loss to Kazakhstan's Abilaikhan Zhussupov in the final. Earlier, India had already confirmed two bronze medals through Jugnoo (85kg) and Nikhil (55kg), taking the country's overall tally to six medals (1 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze).



Asian Relays Championships: India Wins Women's 4x100m Team Gold - Video



The Indian quartet of Srabani Nanda, SS Sneha, Sudeshna Shivankar and Tamanna clinched the gold medal in the women's 4x100m relay on the final day of the second edition of the Asian Relays Championships on Sunday. The Indian gold medal women's 4x100m relay team clocked 43.85 seconds, a season best. The Indian contingent also won silver in mixed 4x400m and bronze in mixed 4x100m relay. The

mixed 4x400m relay team added silver to the medal tally with Theerthesh Shetty, Poovamma MR, Bharath Sridhar and Neeru Pathak clocking 3:17.06 seconds. Earlier, the Indian mixed 4x100m team won bronze (41.27 seconds). The members of the Indian team were Pranav Gaurav, Tamanna, Animesh Kujur and SS Sneha. Thailand won gold (41.14 seconds) while silver went to China (41.29 seconds). The men's 4x400m

relay finished fifth with a time of 3:05.33 seconds. The team members were Theerthesh Shetty, Avinash Krishna Kumar, Suraj A Raja, Barath Sridhar. Vietnam (3:02.60 secs), China (3:03.23 secs) and Sri Lanka (3:03.33 secs) finished in that order. The women's 4x400m relay team finished fourth with a time of 3:34.88 seconds. Team members were Saloni Nagar, Poovamma MR, Ansa Babu and Rashdeep Kaur.

Suspense Ends On Lamine Yamal Ahead Of Spain's Match Against Saudi Arabia - Latest Injury Update



Lamine Yamal is starting for Spain in their FIFA World Cup 2026 match against Saudi Arabia on Sunday, with his side still searching for their first win of the tournament. The 18-year-old is seemingly yet to complete 100% recovery from his hamstring injury, and may not play the full 90 minutes. Ahead of the Saudi Arabia game, Yamal had said that it is "not necessary" for him to play the whole match, but that he will be ready to play whatever minutes Spain manager Luis de la Fuente asks of him. De la Fuente had hinted that Yamal could play for an hour. "It's very early, it's unnecessary," Lamine Yamal had told Spanish public broadcaster RTVE about his readiness to play an entire game. "It's not the time to play a whole match, but I can play whatever minutes the coach wants," he had added. Yamal came on after the 70th-minute mark but was unable to help Spain break the dead-

lock in a 0-0 draw against underdogs Cape Verde in their opening Group H game. Manager Luis de la Fuente had hinted ahead of the match that Lamine Yamal could start and play close to an hour. "We're seeing the real Lamine Yamal, his fitness. Playing time is just a number, 55, 58, 63 (minutes), we'll see," he had said in a news conference on Saturday. "He is fine, it is the best news. We will observe his conditions, the best plan will be made before the match. We always prioritise players' health. Lamine should bring positive impact if he takes the field. Our goal is to win as a team." De la Fuente had further said. Along with Yamal, there is also uncertainty over wing partner Nico Williams' fitness and how long he may play. After a draw in their previous match, Spain are eyeing wins in their remaining two group games against Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.

India Beat Netherlands 3-2 In Men's FIH Pro League Encounter

Indian men's hockey team produced another superb show to notch up a 3-2 win over the Netherlands in their last match of the FIH Pro League Rotterdam leg on Sunday. Goals from Jugraj Singh (18'), Abhishek (27'), and Rajinder Singh (56') helped India secure their second outright victory of the leg against the Dutch side at Hockey Club Rotterdam. Pepijn van der Heijden (19') and Koen Bijen (59') scored for the hosts. Stand-in captain Hardik Singh was named Player of the Match for his exceptional leadership and midfield display. The Netherlands started the match strongly in the first quarter, showcasing



impressive passing and putting the Indian backline under early pressure. Though India had a slightly shaky start, the defenders quickly found their rhythm and contained the Dutch

attackers. India created a few entries into the opposition circle but could not find the final pass, leaving the first quarter goalless. India increased the intensity in the second quarter and

immediately won their first penalty corner. Three minutes into the second quarter, Jugraj fired a powerful drag-flick to the left of Dutch goalkeeper Derk Meijer to open the account for India. The

Netherlands responded instantly, equalising through a penalty corner goal by van der Heijden. The hosts continued to press, testing the Indian goalkeeper, but the Indian defence held firm. Jarmanpreet Singh set up a brilliant pass for Abhishek, who smashed a backhand shot into the net to restore India's lead at 2-1 before halftime. In the second half, India looked to control the game through neat passing, while a determined Dutch side kept making inroads into the Indian circle. The Netherlands won a penalty corner in the 41st minute, but Amit Rohidas comfortably deflected van der Heijden's shot. Another

penalty corner opportunity for the hosts was wasted due to a mistake by the stopper, allowing a composed Indian side to sustain their 2-1 lead at the end of the third quarter. The final quarter saw the Netherlands pushing hard for an equaliser, but errors in the penalty corner setup continued to frustrate the hosts. India remained composed, avoiding unnecessary risks. In the 56th minute, a quick counter-attack by Dilpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh created a dangerous two-on-one situation. While Dutch player Joppe Wolbert made an extraordinary save, he was handed a yellow card for a foul during the play.

Father's Day special poster release from Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, Shiva Nirvana, Mythri Movie Makers' 'Irumudi'

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja and director Shiva Nirvana have teamed up for the film 'Irumudi', which is being produced by the famous pan-India production house 'Mythri Movie Makers'. With the excellent response to the glimpses of this film 'The Heart of Irumudi', huge expectations have already been set on the film. This film, which is being made as a blend of devotion, family emotions and action elements, is going to impress the audience of all sections. The glimpses that have already been released have received an excellent response. On the occasion of Father's Day, the team of 'Irumudi' has released a beautiful special poster. In this poster, Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja is seen kissing his daughter's forehead lovingly. This poster, which has revealed the bond, love and affection between a father and daughter in a very heartfelt way, has touched the audience emotionally. This Father's Day special poster is going viral on social media and is particularly impressive. Ravi Teja, who has entertained the audience with energetic commercial entertainers, will be seen in a completely different and emotional role in 'Irumudi'. His performance as a man from a middle-class family will give the audience a great experience. Shiva Nirvana has crafted this story in a way that is appealing to the mind against the backdrop



of family emotions. At the same time, he has also balanced commercial aspects. Saikumar, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, Swasika, and Baby Nakshatra will be seen in key roles in this film. Producers Naveen Erneni and Y. Ravi Shankar are producing this film on a grand scale and GV Prakash Kumar is providing music. Vishnu Sharma is the cinematographer, Sahi Suresh is the production designer,

Praveen Pudi is the editor. Shiva Nirvana has provided the story, screenplay, and dialogues, while Naresh Babu P is acting as the script coordinator. 'Irumudi', which is being made by coordinating action, devotion, family bonds, and emotions, is going to be one of the most unique films in Ravi Teja's career. Irumudi will have a grand worldwide release on August 21st, on the auspicious occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam.

SHRUTI HAASAN GOES BOLD IN BLACK RUFFLES



Shruti Haasan has had a strong run on the big screen lately. Her Telugu film Peddi, alongside Ram Charan, released earlier this month; she has amazed in the special song, adding to a string of successful projects that includes Coolie and Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire. The actress now has Salaar 2 in the pipeline, keeping her firmly in the spotlight across South Indian cinema. In her latest pictures,

Shruti embraced a bold, edgy look. She wore a green corset top with subtle printed detailing, paired with black ruffled flared pants and chunky platform boots. Layered choker necklaces and statement bracelets added to the rocker-chic vibe, while her loose curled hair completed the dramatic styling. From back-to-back hits to fearless fashion choices, Shruti Haasan continues to carve her own space in the industry.

Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's Veera Thilakam To Anil Ravipudi, #VenkyAnil5 #NkrAR2 Regular Shoot From Tomorrow



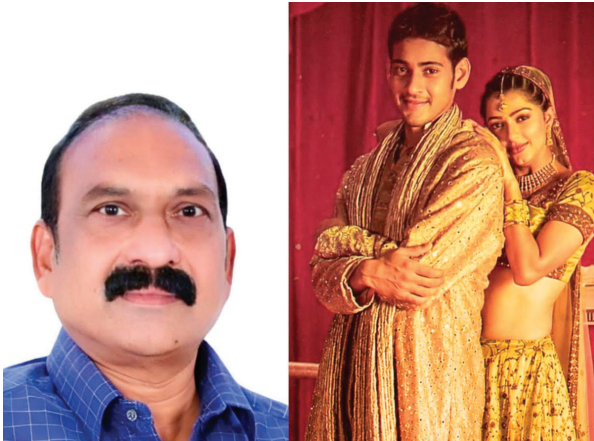
Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, and blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi collaborate for the much-awaited entertainer, tentatively referred to as #VenkyAnil5 and #NkrAR2. Backed by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner, the film enjoys the support of some of the biggest names in the industry. Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana, and Zee Studios are presenting the project, while has partnered as a co-producer. Keerthy Suresh and Krithi Shetty have been cast as the leading ladies opposite Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram respectively. The project was formally launched amid much fanfare with a grand pooja ceremony a couple of days ago. Meanwhile, the team announced to commence the film's regular shoot from tomorrow in Hyderabad. The announcement came

through a fun-filled video. In an era where film promotions have become increasingly competitive, Anil Ravipudi continues to set new benchmarks with his inventive marketing approach. Every announcement from the filmmaker comes wrapped in creativity, humor, and a sense of anticipation, ensuring that even regular updates become talking points among audiences. The new video features Anil Ravipudi interacting with his team and humorously recalling how fans often praise his promotional skills. According to him, they even presented him with a sword and a ceremonial turban as tokens of appreciation, acknowledging his reputation as a master promoter. The humorous narrative takes an unexpected turn when Venkatesh uses the sword to make a tiny cut on Anil's thumb and applies a Veera Tilakam.

Kalyan Ram repeats the act, followed by Keerthy Suresh, Krithi Shetty, and music composer GV Prakash Kumar. The promotional video is executed with a light-hearted tone and serves as an entertaining metaphor for the team officially embarking on the film's journey. Perhaps the most significant takeaway from the video is the confirmation regarding the film's back-drop. While the story is set in Rayalaseema, the makers stressed that the movie will be thoroughly entertaining. On the technical front, the film brings together an accomplished crew. GV Prakash Kumar will score the music, Sameer Reddy will crank the camera, Tammiraju will oversee editing responsibilities, and AS Prakash will handle production design. S Krishna serves as the executive producer. The movie is scheduled for Sankranthi release, 2027.

Excited to Watch Okkadu in 4K Again” – Director Gunasekhar on the Re-Release

Produced by M.S. Raju under the Sumanth Art Productions banner and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Gunasekhar, Okkadu starring Superstar Mahesh Babu was originally released in 2003 and went on to become one of the biggest blockbusters in Telugu cinema. Nearly 23 years later, the iconic film is all set to return to theatres in stunning 4K quality across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and other parts of India. Widely regarded as a landmark film in Mahesh Babu's career, Okkadu created a massive impact at the box office and established a unique place in Telugu cinema history. The



film's association with the famous Kurnool Kondareddy Buruju remains unforgettable among movie lovers. Presented by Radha Madhavi Film Distributors, the film will be re-released worldwide on June 26 by Ramakrishna. The film features Bhumika Chawla as the female lead, while Prakash Raj delivered one of the most memorable antagonist performances in

Telugu cinema. The cast also includes Mukesh Rishi, Telangana Shakuntala, Ajay, Geetha, D h a r m a v a r a p u Subramanyam, Rajan P. Dev, Achyuth and others in pivotal roles. Speaking on the occasion, Director Gunasekhar said: "Okkadu continues to grow in popularity with every passing year. Though the film has been re-released several times, it is now coming back once again in 4K quality on June 26.

High Expectations Surround Sukumar Writings–Bunny Vas Works Film as Team Meets Sukumar and Seeks His Blessings



The much-talked-about collaboration between ace filmmaker Sukumar and successful producer Bunny Vas has already become one of the most exciting announcements in Telugu cinema. With their banners, Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works, coming together for a family drama with all the elements starring Priyadarshi, expectations have naturally soared among

audiences and industry circles alike. Both Sukumar and Bunny Vas have earned a reputation for backing unique and content-driven films, making this project one to watch closely. Adding to the excitement, the entire team recently met Sukumar and sought his blessings as the film prepares to go on floors. The interaction turned into a memorable occasion, reflecting the positive energy surrounding the

project. Sukumar, known for encouraging fresh talent and innovative storytelling, extended his best wishes to the cast and crew, further boosting confidence in the venture. The film marks the Tollywood debut of popular Telangana folk dancer Naga Durga as the female lead opposite Priyadarshi. Having won widespread recognition through her folk songs and commanding presence and dance in music videos.

Ranveer Beats Vijay, Shah Rukh, Rajini & Allu Arjun?



Ranveer Singh is the toast of the town in Bollywood after his spy thriller Dhurandhar ripped apart numerous box office records and set a new benchmark for Indian box office. Both parts of this Aditya Dhar directional emerged as huge money spinners for the producer and turned out to be one of the biggest hits of all time. While Ranveer's commendable performance earned him worldwide plaudits, his staggering take home salary for this entire project has now become a talking point in the industry and the media circles. Trade estimates indicate that Ranveer walked away with an unprecedented ₹325 crore, making it one of the most lucrative single-film earnings in the history of Indian

cinema. Unlike the traditional flat-fee model preferred by most of the Bollywood stars, Ranveer chose to bet on the film's ultimate box-office potential and entered into a backend profit-sharing agreement with the producer. Reportedly, he even invested his own capital into the project to share the burden of rising production costs. This gamble has ultimately paid off in the form of massive profits. Bollywood sources now claim that Ranveer Singh's total revenue combines a cut of the direct theatrical ticket sales alongside lucrative payouts from the movie's digital streaming, satellite television, and music rights. While the figure that is being circulated is speculative in nature.



Disha Patani Shines Brighter Than Ever

Disha Patani is gearing up for one of her busiest phases yet. Her ensemble comedy Welcome To The Jungle, featuring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, and Jackie Shroff, is set to release on June 26. She also has Awarapan 2 with Emraan Hashmi arriving in August, and is making her Hollywood debut in the supernatural

thriller Holiguards, directed by Kevin Spacey. In her latest pictures, Disha kept things sleek and party ready. She wore a sparkly silver and black animal print halter top, paired with a black satin micro skirt. Strappy black heels and tousled, wind blown hair completed the bold, glamorous look. With two big releases lined up and an international project on the horizon, Disha Patani is having her biggest year in recent memory. Her style game continues to match her growing career momentum. Disha Patani just turned 33, and she celebrated in the most heartwarming way, starting her special day with a spiritual temple visit alongside her BFF Mouni Roy, followed by a cozy birthday brunch with close friends including Krishna Shroff. Singer Stebin Ben performed live, with Disha joyfully singing along, a moment that melted everyone's

hearts. But while the celebrations were intimate and sweet, these brand new pictures tell a completely different story! Disha stepped out in a stunning leopard-print halter dress, bold, fierce, and absolutely breathtaking. The deep neckline, effortless pose, gold bangles, and that million-dollar smile made sure every eye was on her. This is Disha at her most raw and powerful best! On the work front, she's all set to set the screens on fire with Welcome to the Jungle, releasing June 26, 2026, and we simply cannot wait! Mouni Roy has finally addressed ongoing media speculation surrounding her close friendship with fellow actress Disha Patani. Recent reports and social media discussions had sparked rumors suggesting that the two stars were involved in a romantic relationship. However, Mouni has firmly

dismissed such claims and clarified the nature of their bond. According to Mouni, the rumors are completely unfounded and stem from misunderstandings about their strong friendship. She emphasized that Disha is simply a close friend who has stood by her through various phases of life. "Disha Patani is simply just a girl-friend who supports me in good, bad, and ugly times," Mouni reportedly stated while addressing the speculation. The actress expressed disappointment over how certain sections of the media interpreted their public appearances and social media interactions. She noted that close friendships should not automatically become the subject of sensational headlines or assumptions. Mouni further clarified that she is not gay and urged people not to draw conclusions based on photographs, videos, or public outings.