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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

01-06-2026
Total pilgrims - 83,382
Tonsures - 34,083
Hundi kankaku - 387 CR
Laddu sale - 397 Lac
Annaprashadam - 213 Lac
Medical treatment - 2,943
Waiting Compartments - 16

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tonsure) - 8-10 H

FOUR KILLED, THREE MISSING AFTER CAR PLUNGES INTO ALAKNANDA RIVER

Jaipur, Jun 2: A pilgrimage journey turned tragic on Tuesday when an Innova carrying a family from Jaisalmer veered off a mountain road and plunged nearly 200 metres into the Alaknanda River in Uttarakhand's Tehri district, leaving four people dead, three missing and one critically injured. The accident occurred around 10:30 a.m. near Saknidhar in the Devprayag area. CCTV footage of the incident has since emerged, capturing the vehicle's fall into the deep gorge. Among those killed was Dinesh Kumar Mali, 27, who was travelling with family members on a Char Dham pilgrimage. The other deceased have been identified as his mother Kamala Devi, 67, his niece Jahnvi, 18, and the driver Akhilesh.

BJP LEADER FOUND DEAD IN JAIPUR DISTRICT, FAMILY ALLEGES MURDER

Jaipur, Jun 2: A local BJP leader and former Scheduled Caste Morcha Mandal president, Ramavatar Aswal, was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Jaipur district, with family members alleging that he was murdered. The 55-year-old, popularly known as Pappu, was discovered late Monday night inside his scrap warehouse near the Manoharpur bus stand. According to police, he was found lying in a pool of blood, while relatives claimed that his throat had been slit. Personnel from the Manoharpur police station, along with a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory, visited the scene and collected evidence as part of the investigation. The body has been sent to NIMS Hospital for a post-mortem examination. The incident sparked outrage among family members and local residents, who gathered outside the Manoharpur police station on Tuesday and staged a protest demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible for the killing.

Supreme Court nears full strength as five judges take oath



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Five newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court were sworn in on Tuesday, bringing the apex court closer to its sanctioned strength of 38 judges. Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant administered the oath of office to Justices Shree Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, and Arun Palli, along with Senior Advocate V Mohana, at a ceremony held in the Supreme Court.

Their appointments were notified by the Centre a day earlier, following recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium during its meetings on May 22 and May 27. The newly appointed judges include

four serving Chief Justices of High Courts. Justice Shree Sheel Nagu was the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, having been elevated from the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar served as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and hailed from the Jharkhand High Court.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva was the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, with the Delhi High Court as his parent court, while Justice Arun Palli was serving as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, having been elevated from the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The fifth appointee, Senior

Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah meet Cong top brass ahead of new Karnataka cabinet

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Karnataka chief minister-designate D K Shivakumar and his predecessor Siddaramaiah held deliberations with the top brass of the Congress on Tuesday on giving final shape to the new cabinet in the state. Sources said Shivakumar will take oath along with a small new cabinet initially and expand it later. He will be sworn in on June 3 in Bengaluru, where former party chief Rahul Gandhi will be present.



Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah also met Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Gandhi and held talks on the new cabinet formation. Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and AICC general secretary-in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala were also present.

CM Naidu Reviews Preparations for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027, Calls for Coordinated Efforts Across Departments



THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, VISAKHAPATNAM:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday conducted a detailed review meeting at the State Secretariat regarding preparations for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 and the proposed Akhanda Godavari Development Project. The Chief Minister instructed all departments to coordinate closely to ensure the event is organized on a grand scale and provides world-class facilities for pilgrims.

He announced that the Polavaram Project would be completed before the festival

and emphasized that the infrastructure being developed should serve as long-term assets for the entire Godavari river basin, including urban development in cities like Rajamahendravaram.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that 525 ghats will be prepared, including modernization of 288 existing ghats and construction of 237 new ones, across six districts—Polavaram, Eluru, East Godavari, West Godavari, Konaseema, and Kakinada. The ghats' total length will expand from 4.5 km to 9.9 km, with over 150 ghats planned in East Godavari and Konaseema alone.

The government has sanctioned 132 initial works worth

Rs.211.97 crore, and extensive proposals have been prepared for roads, tents, sanitation, toilets, and drinking water facilities to accommodate 9-10 crore pilgrims, including around one crore on peak day.

The Chief Minister directed special focus on traffic management, sanitation, drinking water supply, safety, and pilgrim convenience, urging that arrangements be completed well in advance. The meeting was attended by senior ministers, officials, and department representatives from Endowments, Health, Transport, Tourism, Municipal Administration, Panchayati Raj, Finance, Water Resources, and Police Departments.

CM Revanth unveils Telangana Rising 2047 vision

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday outlined an ambitious vision for Telangana's future while addressing the State Formation Day celebrations, reaffirming his government's commitment to welfare, development, social justice and economic transformation.

Paying tributes to the martyrs and activists of the Telangana movement, Chief Minister said the state was achieved through decades of sacrifices and struggles. He also expressed gratitude to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for their role in the formation of Telangana.

Stating that the people's government has been working with the ideals of freedom, self-respect and social justice since assuming office in December 2023, Revanth Reddy said the administration has successfully balanced welfare and development over the last two-and-a-half years. Highlighting achievements in the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister said the government waived crop loans up to Rs.2 lakh for nearly 25 lakh farmers by spending Rs.20,616 crore. He added that Rs.27,529 crore has been disbursed under Rythu Bharosa and that Telangana recorded foodgrain production of 236.87 lakh metric tonnes during 2025-26.



The Chief Minister said the state has emerged as a national leader in paddy procurement, purchasing 63.65 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the current Yasangi season through 8,575 procurement centres. He noted that Telangana accounts for nearly 60 percent of the country's total Yasangi paddy procurement.

Revanth Reddy highlighted several welfare initiatives for women, including the Mahalakshmi scheme providing free bus travel, Rs.500 LPG cylinders and free electricity up to 200 units for eligible households. He said women self-help groups have received Rs.60,000 crore in interest-free loans and are being encouraged to emerge as entrepreneurs in various sectors. On employment, the Chief Minister said the government filled 67,763 vacancies in

record time while ensuring transparency in recruitment. He announced that fresh recruitment notifications would soon be issued in several departments through the Telangana Public Service Commission.

Emphasising the importance of education, he said the government has introduced wide-ranging reforms in public education, expanded pre-primary education, upgraded ITIs and polytechnic institutions and established the Young India Skill University, where hundreds of students have already secured placements in leading companies. The Chief Minister also highlighted the progress of the Indiramma Housing Scheme, under which 4.5 lakh houses were sanctioned. He said one lakh houses have already been completed and more will be ready

in the coming months.

On social justice, Revanth Reddy pointed to the successful caste survey conducted by the state, implementation of Scheduled Caste sub-classification and the government's efforts to provide enhanced reservations for Backward Classes. He also announced measures to recognise Telangana movement activists and support their families.

Chief Minister said Telangana has become a model in healthcare by expanding AarogyaSri coverage, strengthening medical infrastructure and constructing new medical colleges and hospitals across the state. Reaffirming the government's determination to build a drug-free Telangana, he highlighted the role of the EAGLE anti-drug initiative and strengthened women's safety mechanisms through She Teams and T-Safe services.

A major highlight of the address was the presentation of the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision document. Revanth Reddy said the state aims to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. Under the CURE-PURE-RARE development model, Hyderabad will be transformed into a global services hub, peri-urban regions into manufacturing and infrastructure centres, and rural Telangana into a thriving agriculture-based economy.

Annamalai resigns from BJP, signals new political journey amid Tamil Nadu power shift

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

In a significant political development, former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai has reportedly tendered his resignation from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during a meeting with BJP national president Nitin Nabin in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Annamalai, who is also expected to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah later in the day, is said to have informed the party leadership of his decision to part ways and pursue an independent political path. The meeting was also attended by BJP national organisation secretary B L Santhosh.

According to sources, Annamalai conveyed his desire to leave the party on cordial terms, stating that he now wished to "chart his own course". However, senior BJP leaders are reportedly making efforts to persuade the former IPS officer to remain within the party fold, with discussions underway regarding a possible national-level role for him. Speculation



over Annamalai's future has been growing ever since he was replaced by Nainar Nagendran as the Tamil Nadu BJP chief in 2025. His reduced public appearances and silence on key political developments had fuelled rumours of dissatisfaction within the party. Sources close to Annamalai indicate that he believes Tamil Nadu politics has entered a new phase following the emergence of actor-turned-politician Vijay as a major political force. According to those familiar with the discussions, Annamalai feels that traditional political narratives centred on language and Dravidian identity are losing relevance.

Telangana releases 91 life convicts on special remission

HYDERABAD (TSIT):

The Telangana Prisons and Correctional Services Department on Tuesday released 91 life convicts, who were granted special remission by the state government, on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day.

The department has also extended employment and rehabilitation support to facilitate their reintegration into society. Among those released are 85 male convicts and six female convicts. All of them were identified as eligible for remission based on the guidelines prescribed by the state government. With the aim of enabling the released convicts to lead dignified and meaning-



ful lives in society and to foster their successful reintegration into the community, the Telangana Prisons Department has undertaken several initiatives.

According to Soumya Mishra, Director General of the Telangana Prisons Department, of the 91 individuals released, employment opportunities have been provided to 38 at various fuel outlets operated by the Telangana Prisons Department.

CHENNAI (TSIT)

The unexpected and stunning renaissance of actor-turned-neta and Tamilaga Vettir Kazhagam (TVK) Founder Vijay has not only changed the Tamil Nadu's political scene head-on, but has also diminished the prospects of the two Dravidian majors, especially the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, which has been facing increasing isolation with yet another key ally, the MDMK, mulling quitting the multi-party Front.

Already deserted by long time allies like the Congress, VCK, IUML which had joined the Vijay's cabinet ushering in the first ever coalition governance in this Dravidian heartland, and the two Leftists-CPI and CPI(M)—offering outside support to the Vijay government, another, key partner, perhaps the lone remaining

Vijay's renaissance isolates DMK, another key ally MDMK mulling to quit, final decision at GC on Jun 27

major ally, the MDMK is also mulling with the option of saying goodbye to the DMK.

Enough indications to this effect were dropped by MDMK Principal Secretary and Lok Sabha MP Durai Vaiko, who is also the son of party founder Vaiko—a former DMK man, who later floated his outfit following differences with the DMK High Command in 1994 and since then remained a force to reckon with in the TN political scene, despite riding piggy-back with both the DMK and the AIADMK.

Talking to reporters at Trichy on Monday evening after receiving Vijay at the airport on his first political visit after becoming CM to thank the voters, Durai Vaiko, while



openly expressing his disappointment over not able to support the TVK government of Vijay as it had "unfortunately" contested the recent Assembly elections on the DMK symbol, a final call on whether to remain with the DMK-led alliance or walk out of it would be taken at

the MDMK's General Council meeting on June 27, which would also decide and chalk out the party's future course of action. Responding to a query on whether his party would continue in the alliance, he said the MDMK remained a part of the DMK alliance. "We have convened the General Council meeting, the highest policy-level decision-making and governing body of the party, on June 27. All the issues, including the party's recent political decisions, the seat-sharing arrangement for the just concluded elections (which saw hectic and hard bargaining by various allies), and various issues concerning the state and deciding on the future course of action", he

added. In response to a pointed question on whether Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) would extend support to the TVK regime, Durai Vaiko said it was not in a position to do so, as it had "unfortunately" contested the Assembly polls on the DMK symbol. However, he was quick enough to point out that parties like Congress, VCK, the Leftists, and the IUML have extended support to TVK to prevent imposition of President's rule in the state, saying 'there was nothing wrong in it as we have to respect the people's mandate,' though TVK emerged as the single largest party, sans a majority on its own.

Congress attacks Modi over silence on Lebanon conflict

New Delhi, Jun 2: The Congress on Tuesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining “completely silent” on Israel’s military actions in Lebanon, accusing him of failing to respond to developments that it claimed had worsened the situation in the region and disrupted diplomatic efforts involving the United States and Iran. Congress



general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, referred to ongoing

negotiations between the United States and Iran aimed at reducing tensions in West Asia. He said a possible agreement could lead to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and help bring down global oil prices, developments that he argued were important for India. Ramesh alleged that the negotiations had been affected by Israel’s continued military

operations in Lebanon, which he described as unprecedented incursions. The Congress leader also referred to remarks attributed to US President Donald Trump, claiming that Trump had expressed frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during recent discussions and had intervened to stop a planned Israeli strike on Beirut.

Mehbooba Mufti calls for Kashmiri Pandit-Muslim unity, urges collective engagement with Centre

Srinagar, Jun 2: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has appealed to the Kashmiri Pandit community to join hands with local Muslims in pursuing a shared future built on dignity, security, and mutual respect.

In a letter addressed to Sanjay Tickoo, president of the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, Mufti emphasized the importance of unity and dialogue at a time when Jammu and Kashmir faces growing uncertainty and public discontent. She pointed to the recent progress made by the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance in their discussions with the Government of India, describing their experience as evidence that sincere engagement can produce meaningful results.

Mufti noted that the region is passing through



a challenging phase marked by widespread frustration and a sense of political stagnation. She stressed the need for a broad-based consensus that transcends political affiliations and ideological differences to help address the concerns of the people. According to her, rebuilding public confidence and ensuring the dignity and security of residents requires a constructive and sustained dialogue with the Central government. She called for

a united appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging them to initiate a meaningful and long-term engagement process with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The PDP leader said that political rivalries and competing narratives should be set aside in the larger interest of the region. She underlined that the effort should not be driven by political gains or partisan considerations, but by a collective commitment to the welfare

and future of the people. Appealing directly to Tickoo and the Kashmiri Pandit community, Mufti urged them to move beyond differences and become part of a common initiative aimed at securing peace and stability. She described unity as the most powerful tool available at this critical juncture. Mufti also expressed hope for a future in which the rights, aspirations, and identity of all residents of Jammu and Kashmir are safeguarded within the framework of the Indian Constitution, paving the way for a peaceful and prosperous society. Over the years, Mehbooba Mufti has consistently advocated for the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley and has repeatedly called for renewed harmony between Hindu and Muslim communities. She has often maintained that Kashmir’s social and cultural fabric remains incomplete without the presence of the Pandit community and has encouraged efforts.

Couple held for murder; body chopped, burnt to destroy evidence

Kanpur, Jun 2: Police have arrested a couple for allegedly murdering a man and dismembering his body before burning the remains in a forest area in an attempt to destroy evidence.

The victim, identified as Vijay, had reportedly been missing before investigators began tracing his last known movements. Suspicion soon fell on Kiran Devi, a woman with whom he was allegedly involved in a romantic relationship. Police said surveillance inputs and technical evidence led investigators to Kiran Devi and her husband, Kamta Prasad Nishad, who were taken into custody for questioning. During interrogation, the couple allegedly confessed to the crime. According to police, Vijay and Kiran Devi had been in a relationship for several months. Investigators claimed that Kamta Prasad was aware of the affair and had become increasingly resentful over it.

ED arrests four Earth Infrastructures officials in Rs 2,004 crore fraud case



New Delhi, Jun 2: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four senior officials of Earth Infrastructures Ltd in connection with an alleged Rs 2,004 crore fraud involving more than 19,000 homebuyers, officials said on Tuesday. Those arrested include promoters and directors Avdhesh Kumar Goel, Rajnish Mittal, Atul Gupta, and Vikas Gupta. They were taken into custody by the ED’s Delhi Zonal Office on Monday under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The four accused were later produced before a Special PMLA Court in Delhi, which granted the agency five-day custodial remand for further interrogation. According to an official statement, the investigation stems from multiple

FIRs filed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police against Earth Infrastructures, its directors, and associated entities for alleged cheating, fraud, and criminal conspiracy. The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has also filed a complaint under Section 447 of the Companies Act in the case. The agency alleged that the group collected approximately Rs 2,004 crore from over 19,425 homebuyers and investors by promising timely delivery of residential and commercial units along with assured returns. However, several projects reportedly remained incomplete, and possession was not handed over to buyers. Investigators further stated that around Rs 467 crore was allegedly diverted through multiple group companies and related

entities. The ED claims that funds were siphoned off despite substantial collections, causing significant financial losses to investors and homebuyers. The probe also revealed that proceeds of crime were allegedly used to acquire movable and immovable assets in the names of entities linked to the promoters and directors of the group. Earlier, the ED had carried out searches at multiple premises of the Earth Group across Delhi-NCR in April 2026. Those raids led to the seizure of Rs 6.30 crore in cash, jewellery worth Rs 8.78 crore, and documents related to more than 100 properties valued at over Rs 100 crore. The case remains under investigation as authorities continue to trace assets and examine the flow of funds linked to the alleged fraud.

Centre notifies Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) rules; revamps process

New Delhi, June 2: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing significant changes to the registration process for foreigners, provisions relating to children with Indian parents, emergency registration cases, and the appeals mechanism under the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025. The amendment rules, notified through a Gazette notification dated June 1, 2026, have come into force with immediate effect. One of the key changes pertains to the timeline for registration by foreigners staying in India. The government has amended Rule 12 to allow registration to be completed “any time before the expiry of the said period of one hundred and eighty days”, replacing the earlier provision that required registration “within fourteen days after the expiry of one hundred and eighty days of his arrival in India”. The amend-



ment also tightens norms for delayed registration. The notification states that late registration beyond the prescribed period will be permitted only under exceptional circumstances, inserting the condition that “such registration shall be granted only in emergent circumstances”. The MHA has also introduced an important exemption concerning children who may have claims to both Indian and

foreign citizenship. Under the amended rules, the registration requirement will not apply where either parent is an Indian citizen and wishes to retain the Indian citizenship of the child under Section 3 of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The notification further provides that “if the child acquires citizenship of a foreign country while in India at a later stage, either of the parents shall

intimate the position to the Registration Officer within 30 days of acquiring the citizenship of the foreign country by the child”. In another amendment, the government corrected a provision under Rule 18 relating to reporting timelines, replacing the phrase “but beyond twenty-four hours” with “but not beyond twenty-four hours”. The amendment has also revamped the appeals process available to owners or keepers aggrieved by directions issued by civil authorities under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. Appeals must now be filed before the Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration, within 30 days through the designated online portal. The revised rules mandate that the Commissioner, after providing a reasonable opportunity of hearing, shall pass a reasoned order and “endeavour to complete the proceedings ordinarily within sixty days from the date of receipt of the appeal”.

LPG blast collapses house in Delhi, four injured

New Delhi, Jun 2: At least four people were injured after a single-storey house collapsed following an LPG cylinder blast in north Delhi’s Mukundpur area on Tuesday morning, officials said. The incident occurred at Gali No. 1, Part-2, Ishu Vihar, near the cremation ground. According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call reporting the blast and subsequent house collapse was received at 9.37am. The caller informed authorities that several residents were feared trapped under the debris. “Information was received that a blast had taken place and a building had collapsed, trapping people inside. Rescue teams were immediately rushed to the spot and search and rescue operations were launched,” a DFS official said.

RG RAO Educational Trust Celebrates 20 Years of Educational Service; Telangana Formation Day Also Observed

Bachupally, Hyderabad :RG RAO Educational Trust celebrated its 20th Formation Day at Surya Global School, Bachupally, marking two decades of dedicated service in the field of education. Over the past 20 years, the Trust has positively impacted the lives of more than 1,000 children, particularly from rural and underserved communities. The event was graced by eminent dignitaries including Sri S. Narasingha Rao, Retired IAS Officer, Prof. Ramaiah, Gandra Mohana Rao, High Court Advocate and other distinguished guests from the fields of education and public service. The speakers appreciated the Trust’s sustained efforts in providing quality education and creating opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. The occasion also coincided with Telangana Formation Day, which was

celebrated with enthusiasm, highlighting the State’s journey of growth and development. The combined celebrations reflected the shared values of progress, empowerment, and community development. Students presented colourful cultural performances, while several alumni returned to their alma mater to participate in the celebrations and share their inspiring success stories. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries congratulated RG RAO Educational Trust on its remarkable journey and expressed confidence in its continued contribution to educational and social advancement. The event concluded with a renewed commitment by the Trust to continue its mission of delivering accessible, value-based, and transformative education to future generations.



NATS Unveils New Committee Led by Raj Allada

The North America Telugu Society (NATS) proudly announces its Executive Committee (EC) for the 2026-2028 term. The NATS Board of Directors has elected Raj Allada as President, entrusting him with the responsibility of leading one of North America’s largest Telugu community organizations into its next chapter of growth, service, and community engagement. The newly elected Executive Committee represents a strong blend of experienced leadership and emerging talent. The team includes President Raj Allada, Vice President Programs Rajesh Kandru, Vice President Finance and Marketing Anudeep Arla, Vice President Services Rajyalaxmi Chilukuri, Secretary Sudheer Mikkilineni, Treasurer Ram Naresh Kommanaboyina, Joint Secretary Bhanu Lanka,



and Joint Treasurer Venkata Sakamuri. Together, they bring extensive professional expertise, community involvement, and a shared commitment to advancing NATS’ mission. Raj Allada, a technology executive based in New Jersey, has been an integral part of NATS since 2009. Over the years, he has served the organiza-

tion in several volunteer roles and has been a multiple-time NATS Board Member, actively promoting the organization’s vision and service initiatives. Known for his dedication to community service, Raj has consistently championed programs that create meaningful impact across North America and India. In 2023, Raj Allada played an active role in the position of Deputy Convener, for NATS Sambaralu held at New Jersey. His leadership, fundraising capability, ability to unite volunteers, and unwavering focus on service earned widespread appreciation from members and stakeholders. Recognizing his long-standing contributions and proven leadership, NATS has now elevated Raj Allada to the position of President for the 2026-2028 term. Under his lead-

ership, the organization looks forward to expanding its service initiatives, strengthening member engagement, and continuing its legacy of excellence, unity, and service. The NATS Board of Directors selected the new Executive Committee based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee after a comprehensive evaluation process. NATS Board Chairman Sri Kishore Kancharla congratulated Raj Allada and the newly elected Executive Committee, expressing confidence in their ability to lead the organization with vision, dedication, and a strong commitment to community service. The NATS Board extends its best wishes to President Raj Allada and his entire EC team for a successful and impactful 2026-2028 term

HMDA celebrates Telangana State Formation Day with patriotic fervour



Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) celebrated the 12th Telangana State Formation Day at its Swarnajayanthi Complex office in Ameerpet on Tuesday, marking the formation of Telangana as a separate state in 2014. Following the directions of the Metropolitan Commissioner, the National Flag was unfurled by Sri Sreevatsa Kota, IAS, Joint Metropolitan Commissioner (General

and Secretary (FAC), HMDA. On the occasion, he paid tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the Telangana statehood movement. Addressing the gathering, Sreevatsa Kota called upon citizens to contribute towards the development of the State and work for the welfare of future generations. He urged HMDA employees to discharge their duties with dedication and commitment to fulfill the aspirations and vision of Telangana.

Kerala Police confirm 40-year-old crime after plea

Kozhikode, June 2 : For nearly 40 years, a chilling secret remained locked away in the mind of a man burdened by guilt. Then, in a move that stunned even seasoned investigators, 55-year-old Mohammed of Koodaranji walked into a police station and confessed to a crime that had never been reported, investigated, or solved. “I have killed two people. Arrest me,” he told officers. What initially appeared to be an unbe-



lievable claim has now culminated in one of Kerala’s most extraordinary criminal investigations. After nearly a year of painstaking inquiry, police have confirmed that Mohammed’s confession was not a fabrication.

EDITORIAL

Keeping It 'Cool': What Next For DK Shivakumar?

While the transfer of power in Karnataka from Siddaramaiah to DK Shivakumar was a flawless execution done with clockwork precision and the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting that followed also turned out to be remarkably smooth, Chief Minister-designate Shivakumar's political acumen will be put to a sharp test when he takes the next big step: the Cabinet formation. After the CLP unanimously elected him as its leader, Shivakumar met Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot and staked his claim to form the government. The swearing-in of the new Chief Minister and the other ministers has been scheduled for 4.05 pm on Wednesday, June 3. Shunning any kind of fanfare or, as some people interpret it, avoiding the potential for mismanagement due to the presence of a large number of his supporters, Shivakumar has chosen to have the ceremony at the Lok Bhavan's (formerly Raj Bhavan) glasshouse, which can accommodate no more than 200 people. No Pomp And Pageantry Avoiding the Kanteera stadium, with a capacity of about 25,000 people or the grand steps in front of the majestic Vidhana Soudha - which have acted as venues for some of the recent swearing-in ceremonies - Shivakumar appears to have deliberately opted for a low-key affair limited to a handful of dignitaries. Strangely, though five days have passed since Rahul Gandhi asked Siddaramaiah to quit and Shivakumar has subsequently been invited by the Governor to form the government, Shivakumar has been unusually quiet, not even showing great emotion in public. It is not the Shivakumar we have known for nearly four decades: whenever a Congress government has been installed, he has been in the forefront organising massive crowds, ferrying people on trucks and buses from neighbouring districts and creating a festive atmosphere. That was his organisational capacity to project his leader's popularity. But, for his own coronation, he has decided to adopt extreme caution and moderation. Perhaps there is a reason: the CLP meetings have not always been smooth, especially when internal rivalries have flared up. There have been instances of trading of abuses and fisticuffs among legislators inside the legislature party meetings when S Bangarappa and Veerappa Moily were Chief Ministers. He has also seen how HD Devegowda's election as the legislature party leader was marred when thousands of his supporters who barged into Vidhana Soudha, indulged in hooliganism and manhandled senior leaders like Ramakrishna Hegde and RV Deshpande, suspecting that they were 'opposed' to Gowda's election. It marred the image of the Janata Dal forever. The Shadow Of The Stampede Another unspoken reason for avoiding huge crowds congregating in Bengaluru for the swearing-in ceremony could be that it is almost coinciding with the first anniversary of the ghastly stampede near the cricket stadium on June 4, 2025, during the government-supported RCB's celebration of winning its first IPL trophy that resulted in 11 deaths. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had to take a lot of flak from the public for ignoring the police commissioner's advice to give him two-three days' time for arrangements.

Why Pete Hegseth's Unusual 'Shangri-La' Speech Should Worry India

If anyone has doubts about US intentions in the region, a recent speech by Pete Hegseth, heading the Department of War - the aptly renamed Defence Department - was illuminating. Time for considerable Indo-Pacific musing, and suitable action. US policy changes are already having a domino effect on the Indo-Pacific. Defence budgets are rapidly rising as neighbours confront a highly belligerent China, and greyzone warfare has come to stay. The Defence Secretary, however, went according to a script that might have been very well written for his European allies. The same phrasing, the same expectations, and possibly, therefore, the same results.

The 'Pay More' Debate

Hegseth made his intervention at the Shangri-la Dialogue, hosted annually in Singapore, which brought together some 40-plus Chiefs of Defence, among other officials. Usually, the forum, while offering some interesting insights, is not the stuff of headlines. This year, though, almost every country seemed uneasy, and much of that could be attributed to the 'new' US posture, well in evidence as the US President visited Beijing just a short while ago. Now add to that the provocative speech of his Defence secretary, and you have a real pot-boiler. Hegseth, who is no stranger to controversy given his resignation from the Army and accusations of 'white nationalism', began his speech in the first few seconds by rejecting 'wishful thinking or utopian idealism' for a 'future that will be defined by our collective efforts to safeguard and secure our most vital national interests'. The rest of the speech stressed 'collective' entirely. He declared, 'The era of the United States subsidising the defence of wealthy nations is over. We need partners, not protectorates. We seek alliances built on shared responsibility, not dependency.' That's hard talking. In other words, you want defence, you pay for it yourself. Add to that this quote, 'Allies who refuse to step up and carry their own weight for our collective defence will face a clear shift in how we do business.' That's primarily aimed at Japan and South Korea, but expect pres-



sure on India as well to raise its defence budget.

The Main Threat

That main threat was sitting in the room, though in the form of a markedly lower rank. China didn't send its defence minister to the forum - for the second time in a row - but Major General Mengsui Xiangping, from the People's Liberation Army National Defence University, who is more of a strategic scholar than anyone with political weight. Nonetheless, the impact of Hegseth mentioning "rightful alarm regarding China's historic military buildup and the expansion of its military activities in the region and beyond" would

have resonated with an audience that is now one in recognising the multifaceted Chinese threat. Heghest's promise to preserve the "equilibrium" would have raised eyebrows, since, ironically, what is evident, by and large, is its complete absence. Nothing much to 'preserve' here unless it's an attempt to soothe the nervousness in Beijing. The Chinese use not just their navy, air force, or coast guard but even massive fishing fleets to threaten neighbours. Japanese sources note how thousands of Chinese fishing vessels have repeatedly formed lengthy "walls" in the East China Sea close to Japan's EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone). These "maritime

militia" obstruct shipping routes, forcing international shipping as well to zigzag around them. These "greyzone operations" have been used on at least four occasions since October 2024, with the last in January this year. No, no equilibrium here at all.

The Big Bite

Then came the bite. While observing that Asian allies "do not seek constant escalation, rhetorical theatrics, or a region defined by public confrontation" - he is right there - he promised a "strong denial defence". That is a core concept in America's defence strategy, focused on resisting aggression by making an adversary's objectives

difficult to achieve. It relies on a defensive posture rather than an offensive one. Hegseth's comment in the current context, thus, essentially indicates that the US will not really initiate any change in the present situation and would offer its support just as a 'quiet power'. Ironically, though, that is an aspect entirely missing in the war against Iran, in which America has become as noisy as it gets. Then is the core of this 'strategy', which is that America could not be expected to carry the burden alone, but required "capable allies with real military strength and industrial capacity, and political resolve". Why? Because it is a bad deal for the American taxpayer. To keep that section happy must naturally be the first aim of political leaders in the region, now struggling under massive energy costs and petroleum prices in the wake of an entirely senseless war.

With China In The Room

Meanwhile, anxiety is apparent among major Pacific countries. Australia's defence minister baldly stated that his country faced its "most complex and threatening strategic landscape since the end of the Second World War", pointing to increased cutting of undersea cables, and again, a clear security threat from the 'systematic plunder' by illegal fishing vessels. Australia has increased its defence budget to 3% of GDP by 2033, with a major part of it earmarked for the maritime domain.

Japan's Koizumi was even more resolute, given that his country is the most affected by the escalating threats along its shores and has now virtually turned its pacifist constitution around to allow defence cooperation across the board. It has set aside a record defence budget of some \$58 billion - the twelfth year that this has increased. As the minister noted, Japan faces troubling realities. Participants across the board backed an increase in defence spending, with all acknowledging the threat, but, equally, all calling for dialogue and transparency in Chinese actions. China's national defence ministry spokesman Jiang Bin had warned just days ago that "the grey rhino of a remilitarised Japan is gathering speed". Nobody is buying that.

Mango The Sweet Diplomat, From Mughals To Modern India

He visits my town once a year.

He fills my mouth with kisses and nectar.

I spend all my money on him

Who, girl, your man?

No, a mango.



Sufi poet and scholar Amir Khusro's riddle on mango. We are in that season. The season of mangoes. The king of fruit has inspired some of the most prominent writers, poets and philosophers. Khusro to Ghalib to Tagore, all have written mouth-watering odes to the pulpy fruit. This season, it's the Americans who can't get enough of mangoes. India's iconic Kesar mangoes have now made it to the stores in Seattle and are flying off the shelves. Indians and Americans are posting joyous reels and posts on the new arrival of the season. "Hell Of A Fruit" Mango's American trust began in 2006 during the visit of then President George Bush to India. As he tasted an Alphonso mango at the state dinner, Bush reportedly turned to then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and said, "This is a hell of a fruit." The US next year lifted the long-standing ban on Indian mangoes. In the bargain, India allowed US iconic Harley Davidson bikes into India. In the subsequent year, India-US signed the historic nuclear deal. The importance of mango can never be overstated. But mangoes, apart from being India's favourite

fruit, have always been a great diplomatic sweetener. Mango's love affair with the power has been an old one – going on strong from the Mughal era to the modern days. Read | Kesar Mangos To Pashmina Stole: What PM Modi Gifted Leaders During 5-Nation Tour Mughals' Love For Mangoes 'Mangoes, when good, are very good. They are usually plucked unripe and ripened in the house. Unripe, they make excellent condiments, are also good preserved in syrup. Taking it all together, the mango is the best fruit of Hindustan.' First Mughal emperor Babur wrote in his memoir 'Baburnama'. His son and the next king, Jahangir, had this to say in 'Jahangirnama' "...in spite of the excellence of the fruits of Kabul, not one among them is as delicious as the mango". Akbar got more than a lakh mango trees planted at a garden in Darbhanga and called it Lakhī Bagh. It was during

the Mughal period that mango also turned into a diplomat. Aurangzeb is believed to have offered mangoes to Shah Abbas of Persia to placate the king after he had proclaimed himself Emperor. Later on, the King of Balkan too had offered Aurangzeb 200 camel loads of dry fruits and mangoes as a peace treaty. Mango The Diplomat Modern day rulers in the subcontinent - India, Pakistan and Bangladesh - have carried on the tradition of gifting mangoes and use it as a tool of diplomacy to sweeten ties. Pandit Nehru was known to be a great giver of mangoes to visiting foreign dignitaries. Although his personal favourite was guava from his hometown Allahabad, he knew the potential of mango as a builder of ties. In the mid-1950s, Chinese premier Zhou Enlai gifted Nehru animals, including a spotted deer and a red-crested crane. In return, Nehru sent for Zhou prized

Indian mango saplings. Mangoes till then were unknown to China. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev became a mango lover after Nehru gave him some during the latter's 1955 visit to India. Nehru didn't just gift mangoes, he also offered etiquette lessons to foreign leaders on how to properly eat them. Nehru would instruct them on the best slicing, spooning, and squeezing techniques to enjoy the fruit. Mango Diplomacy In the Neighbourhood In 1981, Pakistan President General Zia ul Haq, who was known for his weakness of mangoes, sent 'Anwar Rataul' variety to Indian PM Indira Gandhi. This variety got its name from a place near Meerut in North India, where it is grown. As a reminder to Zia that it was originally an Indian mango, Indira Gandhi reciprocated the gesture with a gift of Rataul mangoes to Zia, reportedly with a note "enjoy the original Rataul".

The doctor's dilemma between law, morality and life



Modern medical science has achieved unprecedented achievements in the protection, treatment, and promotion of human life. Today, many diseases once considered incurable are treatable. Technologies such as microscopic fetal health testing, the detection of congenital malformations, and maternal health monitoring have taken medicine to new heights. However, this scientific advancement has also raised complex ethical and legal questions, particularly when physicians face situations where the limitations of the law and their fundamental duty to save life appear to conflict. Cases involving late medical terminations of pregnancies with viable fetuses present a similar challenging situation.

The fundamental principle of the medical profession is the preservation of life. From the ancient Hippocratic Oath to modern medical ethics, physicians are taught to put the patient's best interests first. "Do no harm" and "act in the patient's best interest" are fundamental principles of medical ethics. On the other hand, doctors cannot be above the law in a democratic society. They must also comply with legal provisions, court orders, and standards set by the state. Problems arise when legal mandates and medical ethics seem to point in different directions in a particular case. The legal framework regarding abortion in India is primarily based on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act,

It has been amended from time to time to address women's reproductive rights, health protection, and changing medical needs. Despite this, many cases arise where the pregnancy is advanced and the fetus is considered viable, meaning capable of surviving outside the womb. In such situations, if the fetus is found to have serious abnormalities, or the pregnant woman's mental and physical health is seriously affected, the question of abortion becomes not only a legal one but also a subject of profound ethical debate.

The greatest ethical challenge in the context of viable fetuses is that physicians are faced with decisions concerning two lives simultaneously. On one hand, there is the autonomy, health, and dignity of the pregnant woman, and on the other, there is the potential life of the fetus, which, from a medical perspective, may be capable of survival. Even if the law permits abortion, physicians still face the question of whether to participate in a procedure that could end a potential life. Conversely, if the law does not permit it but the woman's life or mental health is in serious danger, physicians may feel ethically compelled to intervene.

Patient autonomy is considered crucial in medical ethics. Every competent adult has the right to make decisions regarding their own body and health. This right is particularly important in cases of pregnancy because conception and childbirth directly impact a woman's body, health, and life. However, this right is not completely absolute in the case of viable fetuses. Both society and the law recognize the potential life of a fetus as a moral value. Consequently, physicians face the difficult responsibility of balancing the woman's wishes with the interests of the fetus. Serious fetal abnormalities often complicate the decision in later-term abortions. Medical tests sometimes reveal a disease or disorder that will make life after birth extremely painful or that the chances of survival

are negligible. In such cases, continuing the pregnancy can pose serious psychological, social, and economic challenges for both the parents and the future child. Doctors who advocate for abortion are acting on the principle of minimizing suffering. However, if the fetus has reached a viable stage, the same decision to end life may also be subject to ethical criticism.

Court orders can also pose a dilemma for physicians. In many cases, courts grant or deny abortions based on the opinions of expert medical boards. While the final order is legally binding, physicians performing the procedure must grapple with their ethical conscience. They may understand that the law permits it, but they may feel uneasy about that decision on a personal and professional level. On the other hand, if the court denies permission and the physician believes the woman's health is in serious danger, they may feel morally compelled.

Another important aspect is medical accountability. Physicians may face not only ethical but also legal consequences. If they make decisions outside the legal framework, they may face criminal or professional action. However, if they make decisions that are not in the patient's best interest, simply for the sake of legal protection, they may violate fundamental principles of medical ethics. Thus, they are caught between dual accountabilities—one to the law and the other to the ethical standards of their profession. In such cases, the role of medical boards becomes crucial. Multidisciplinary expert committees can comprehensively evaluate various medical, ethical, and social aspects. This allows decisions to be based on collective expertise rather than the individual perceptions of individual physicians. However, the ethical burden of the final decision often rests with the physicians who perform the procedure. Therefore, institutional support and clear guidelines remain essential.

Fuel price surge could drive consumer prices higher in coming months: Crisil

AGENCY
New Delhi: Rising petrol and diesel prices are poised to add fresh inflationary pressures to India's economy, with higher transport and manufacturing costs expected to feed through to consumer prices in the coming months, Crisil said in a report on Tuesday, June 2. Petrol and diesel prices have increased by about Rs 7.5 per litre since May 15, and further increases remain likely if global crude oil prices stay elevated. "With oil marketing companies gradually paring their losses (or under-recoveries), cumulative hikes could move closer to Rs 10 per litre in the near term," the rating agency said. "The broader effect will reverberate across the economy through higher transport costs, pushing up both food and core inflation." The direct impact of higher fuel prices on Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is estimated at around 36 basis points for a Rs 7.5-per-litre increase in petrol and diesel prices, rising to nearly 48 basis points if cumulative hikes reach Rs 10 per litre. Beyond the immediate effect, Crisil warned that fuel inflation could spread more broadly through the economy via



higher freight and logistics costs. Road transport, which accounts for roughly 71 per cent of India's freight movement, is particularly exposed, with fuel representing about 42 per cent of operating costs. "The increase in retail fuel prices will directly impact these freight cost structures and feed into prices across supply chains in the coming months," it said. Increasing transport costs might raise food prices. The increase in transport costs is expected to have the strongest impact on food categories that rely heavily on logistics networks, including dairy products, tea, coffee, fruits,

pulses, spices, eggs, meat and fish. Combined with a favourable base effect fading, this could accelerate food inflation in the coming quarters. Crisil said core inflation could also face renewed pressure as manufacturers contend with rising costs for crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas, alongside higher transportation expenses. Sectors such as clothing, consumer electronics, wood products and construction materials, including cement and ceramics, are among the most transport-intensive and could see stronger price pass-through. Manufacturers of chemi-

cals, coal and metal-related products may also face higher input costs. With demand conditions remaining relatively stable, companies are increasingly likely to pass on these costs to consumers or resort to shrinkflation strategies to protect margins. GST reduction to offset inflationary impact. Some of the inflationary impact could be offset by goods and services tax (GST) reductions announced in September 2025, which lowered tax rates on several mass-consumption categories, including electronics, automobiles, clothing, processed foods and fast-moving consumer goods.

The tax cuts are expected to continue exerting downward pressure on prices over the next year, though analysts say they are unlikely to fully neutralise the impact of elevated energy costs. Crude oil prices have averaged about USD 112 a barrel during the first two months of the current fiscal year, significantly above a base-case forecast of around USD 95 a barrel for the full year. While headline inflation remains below the Reserve Bank of India's 4 per cent target, Crisil expect it to trend higher, though still remain within the central bank's 2-6 per cent tolerance band. The Reserve Bank of India is expected to look through the initial supply-side impact of higher fuel prices. However, policymakers are likely to closely monitor risks to household inflation expectations and the possibility that rising transport and input costs trigger broader-based price increases across the economy. The central bank will also be watching weather-related risks, including forecasts for a below-normal monsoon and evolving El Nino conditions, which could further complicate the outlook for food inflation, the report added.

How to Decode Adulteration in Tea: What Every Consumer Should Know

Tea is more than a daily habit; it is a ritual rooted in comfort and tradition. Yet, beneath its familiar aroma and taste lies a growing concern: adulteration in loose tea. With growing awareness around food safety, consumers are increasingly looking to understand how to identify genuine tea and avoid products that may compromise both quality and health.

• UNDERSTANDING ADULTERATION IN TEA

According to advisories issued by the Tea Board of India, adulteration in tea involves the addition of unauthorized substances to enhance the appearance, flavour, or weight of tea leaves. This may include synthetic dyes or foreign materials used to make low-quality or damaged tea leaves look more appealing. The Tea Board has highlighted concerns around the use of colouring agents such as bismarck brown, potassium blue, turmeric, indigo, and plumbago in tea. Such additives are not permitted under food safety regulations and may pose potential health risks. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Regulation 2.10.1 states that tea products "shall be free from extraneous matter, added colouring matter and harmful substances."

• WHY ARE COLOURS

ADDED TO TEA

As noted by the Tea Board of India, colouring agents are sometimes added to tea leaves that have been damaged during processing in order to improve their visual appeal and make them marketable. However, these additives do not improve the quality or nutritional value of tea. The Tea Board has stated that colour adulteration in tea is strictly prohibited from a consumer health perspective and continues to remain a matter of concern.

• RECOGNIZING ADULTERATED TEA THROUGH A SIMPLE COLD WATER TEST

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and Tea Board of India have encouraged consumers to adopt simple at-home methods to identify possible adulteration in tea. One commonly recommended method is the filter paper or cold-water test, where tea leaves are placed on a wet filter paper or added to cold water to observe the release of colour. Genuine tea leaves typically release colour gradually, whereas an instant release of colour or dark stains may indicate the presence of artificial colouring agents or exhausted tea leaves.

FSSAI – Check Adulteration at Home
FSSAI Video – Detecting Exhausted Tea Leaves

Adulteration
FSSAI Video – Detecting Iron Filings Adulteration in Tea Leaves

Tea Board India – Food Laws & Regulations
The Tea Board has urged consumers to remain vigilant and use such easy methods at home to identify signs of adulteration in loose tea. Genuine tea leaves also typically have a natural, earthy colour and a consistent texture, free from excessive dust or foreign particles.

Loose Tea vs. Packaged Tea
The Tea Board of India has repeatedly raised concerns around adulteration in loose tea sold through unverified channels, where quality checks and traceability may be limited.

In contrast, packaged tea from reputed brands is generally subject to stricter quality control processes, standardised packaging, and regulatory compliance measures, offering consumers greater confidence around authenticity and safety.

• RESEARCHING THE SOURCE

Food safety experts and regulatory authorities recommend purchasing tea from trusted and credible sources. Consumers should look for brands that are transparent about sourcing and quality practices and verify authenticity through certifications, packaging details.

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Hyderabad Delivers Outstanding JEE Advanced 2026 Results with AIR 4 and Eight Students in the Top 100 (AIR 17, 35, 42, 52, 59, 63, 86 and 94)

Hyderabad, June 2, 2026: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), India's leading test preparation institute, proudly announces an outstanding performance in JEE Advanced 2026, with students securing top ranks at both the national and state levels. The results further reinforce AESL's position as one of India's most trusted institutions for engineering entrance examination preparation. At the national level, AESL students have secured 9 ranks within the Top 100, including AIR 4, AIR 17, AIR 35, AIR 42, AIR 52, AIR 59, AIR 63, AIR 86 and AIR 94, showcasing the institute's strong academic ecosystem and consistent excellence in competitive examinations. In Telangana, Mohit Shekhar Shukla emerged as the state's top performer by securing AIR 4 with an exceptional score of 319 marks. Telangana students from AESL delivered an impressive performance, with 2 students securing ranks within the Top 100, 3 students within the Top 200,



and 8 students within AIR 1000. Other notable achievers from Telangana include Jayanth Shekhar (AIR 94, 276 marks), Hanzalah Abedeen (AIR 105, 274 marks), Shiva Tejanshu A (AIR 374, 241 marks), Alamuri Chaitanya (AIR 634, 225 marks), Rishit Kytham (AIR 676, 223 marks), Deepak Nikethan Karthick (AIR 799, 218 marks), B. Abhijeet Reddy (AIR 844, 217 marks), and several other students who secured excellent ranks in the examination. The students were enrolled in AESL's classroom programmes, which focus on building conceptual clarity,

analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills required to excel in highly competitive examinations such as JEE Advanced. Expressing their happiness, the students said, "We are grateful to Aakash for its constant guidance, academic support, and mentorship throughout our preparation journey. The study material, classroom sessions, mock tests, and regular assessments helped us strengthen our concepts and improve our performance. This achievement would not have been possible without the support of our teachers and parents." Congratulating the students on their remark-

able achievement, Mr. Dheeraj Kumar Misra, Chief Academic & Business Head, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "We are immensely proud of our students for their outstanding performance in JEE Advanced 2026. Their success is a result of unwavering dedication, disciplined preparation, and a strong desire to excel. At AESL, we remain committed to nurturing talent and empowering students to achieve their academic aspirations. We wish all the successful candidates the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their educational journey." JEE Advanced is the gateway to admission into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and is regarded as one of the most challenging engineering entrance examinations in the world. Candidates become eligible for JEE Advanced after qualifying JEE Main and compete for admission into IITs and other premier engineering institutions across the country.

HERO MOTOCORP UNVEILS SUPER SPLENDOR XTEC 2.0 INDIA'S MOST TRUSTED 125CC MOTORCYCLE, GETS AN UPGRADE!

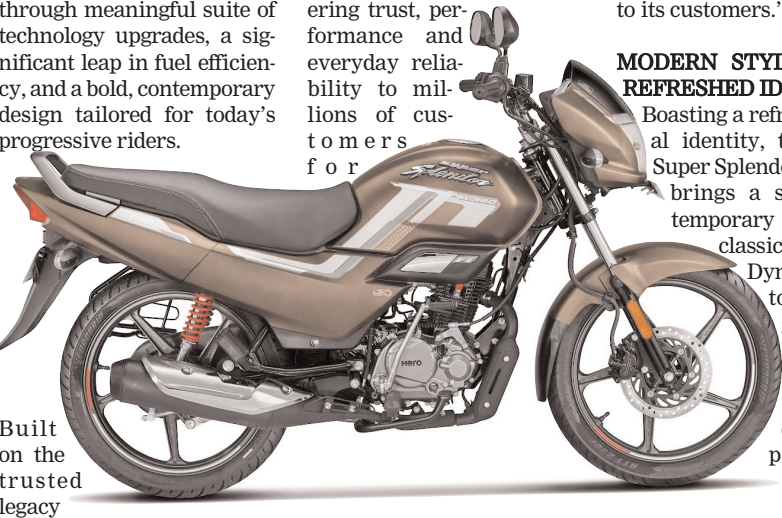
The ultimate commuter motorcycle just got a major upgrade. Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, today launched the all-new Super Splendor XTEC 2.0 – India's most trusted and widely loved commuter motorcycle. Driven by the Company's aggressive product revitalization strategy, the all-new Super Splendor XTEC 2.0 is engineered to elevate everyday commuting experience through meaningful suite of technology upgrades, a significant leap in fuel efficiency, and a bold, contemporary design tailored for today's progressive riders.

of the Splendor that has provided mobility to millions of Indian riders since 1994, the all-new Super Splendor XTEC 2.0 is designed for riders who seek dependable performance with modern-day convenience and next-gen product tech features. Speaking at the launch, Ashutosh Varma, Chief Business Officer, India Business Unit, Hero MotoCorp said, "Hero MotoCorp's Splendor has built a strong legacy of delivering trust, performance and everyday reliability to millions of customers for

over three decades. The new Super Splendor XTEC 2.0 carries this promise forward with a bold and contemporary design, advanced technology and enhanced convenience features. With its trusted performance & reliability, everyday practicality and an elevated riding experience, the Super Splendor XTEC 2.0 further strengthens Hero MotoCorp's leadership in the segment while reaffirming its commitment to delivering superior value to its customers."

MODERN STYLING AND REFRESHED IDENTITY

Boasting a refreshed visual identity, the all-new Super Splendor XTEC 2.0 brings a sharp, contemporary appeal to a classic silhouette. Dynamic dual-tone body graphics paired with a vibrant color palette breathe fresh energy



Built on the trusted legacy

Humanoid robots 'the future' of car making, says BMW

AGENCY
Washington: For the first time, BMW will use humanoid robots for car manufacturing in Europe. Two robots, made by Hexagon Robotics, are planned to work in production from the summer. They're currently in a test deployment at the Leipzig factory. "This will be the future of automotive production," says Michael Nikolaides, head of process management and digitalisation at BMW. Robot arms and other automation have been used by the car industry for decades. So why the move to human-shaped robots? "If you have a humanoid form, you can pretty much set it to any workplace where a human is working today because it has the same size and the same capabilities," says Nikolaides. The cost of robots has fallen while it remains expensive to redesign the assembly line. As a result, it's more cost-effective to use robots that fit in with existing human



processes. "When a robot costs 17 million, you'd reorganise your factory around the robot, but it doesn't anymore," says Bill Ray, distinguished VP analyst at Gartner. "So now you want to fit it into your existing way of working." Named Aeon, the Hexagon robot is shaped like a person and stands 1.65m (5ft 5in) tall, weighing 60kg (9 stone 6lbs). They have a top speed of 2.4m/second and can carry 15kg for short periods, or 8kg continuously. Aeon is equipped with 21 sensors including cameras, radar, a microphone, and force and

torque sensors for manipulation. At BMW the robots were trained using a combination of teleoperation (sensors on humans) and simulation in a digital twin of the factory using software from Nvidia. The robot in the simulation was given a task and repeatedly simulated it to identify the most promising solutions, an approach called reinforcement learning. Teleoperation was used for tasks such as picking up a part, so the physical robot could learn the range of different ways a human carries that out.

The Future of Colour is Here: Sony Introduces its True RGB TVs Powered by RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro™ with BRAVIA 7II Across India

TSIDESK

New Delhi, 2nd June 2026: Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 7II, introducing True RGB technology to redefine home entertainment with richer colour, greater depth and more immersive viewing experiences. Pre-booking for select BRAVIA 7II models starts today. Bringing together Sony's advanced display innovation and intelligent processing technologies, BRAVIA 7II delivers cinema-grade picture quality designed to transform everyday viewing into an extraordinary entertainment experience.

At the heart of BRAVIA 7II is True RGB, powered by RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro™, Sony's proprietary backlight control technology that independently controls red, green and blue light to achieve exceptional colour precision, deeper contrast and remarkable realism.



Combined with Cognitive Processor XR™, BRAVIA 7II reproduces content the way humans naturally see and hear-creating visuals with enhanced depth, vibrant colours and lifelike detail. Key technologies powering the experience include:

Drive Pro™ – Sony's advanced individual RGB backlight control technology delivers precise local dimming with deeper blacks, reduced blooming and stunning contrast.

LED brightness to achieve Sony's richest colour volume and brighter brilliance.

· Smooth Colour Gradation – Reveals every nuance across dark and bright scenes with ultra-fine tonal transitions and enhanced visual depth.

· X-Wide Angle Pro – Maintains consistent colour

and contrast from wider viewing positions for an immersive cinematic experience from every seat in the room, available in select screen sizes. Starting with a 55 (140 cm) model, the series extends across 65 (165 cm), 75 (190 cm) and 85 (215 cm) variants, and will further culminate in a stunning 98 (248 cm) model expected in June, bringing Sony's vision of "Cinema is Coming Home" to more consumers across India. Building on Sony's legacy of innovation, the BRAVIA 7II introduces Sony's first True RGB LED BRAVIA TV technology, using independently driven red, green and blue LEDs for precise colour reproduction in bright living room environments. Powered by RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro™, this advanced backlight control system drives each LED with high precision to improve brightness, reduce blooming.

UKRAINE RESCUERS PULL DEAD FROM RUBBLE AFTER RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 18 PEOPLE



AGENCY
Moscow/ Kyiv : A Russian missile and drone attack killed at least 18 people across Ukraine overnight, including two children, marking one of Moscow's largest assaults in recent months. An eight-year-old boy and a woman pulled from the rubble of an apartment block were among 12 people killed in Dnipro, regional officials said. In the capital Kyiv, six people were killed. President Volodymyr Zelensky said civilian infra-

structure and energy facilities had been targeted across the country, with more than 100 people injured. Russia's defence ministry said the strikes had been a response to previous Ukrainian attacks, saying in a statement that the "strike objectives" had all been achieved. The Kremlin said on Tuesday it was carrying out the "systematic strikes" it had pledged last week after accusing Kyiv of a deadly attack on a student dormitory in an occupied part of



eastern Ukraine. Kyiv said it had hit a Russian military unit. "This practice will continue," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday, claiming the strikes were targeting Ukrainian military infrastructure. Zelensky had warned a "massive strike" was possible in his nightly video address on Monday, and urged residents to pay special attention to air raid alerts. On Tuesday morning, he said Russia had launched 656

strike drones and 73 missiles of various types - ballistic, cruise, and anti-ship - in the overnight attack. "We urgently need help from the United States in supplying missiles for Patriot systems", the Ukrainian president said, referring to interception hardware used to intercept Russian missiles. Patriot missiles have been in short supply, exacerbated by the US and Israeli war against Iran. Since returning to power last year, Trump has also stopped



direct supplies to Ukraine, so Kyiv's European allies have been buying them from the US before sending them to Ukraine. "The main strike was on Kyiv, where dozens of residential buildings and other purely civilian infrastructure were damaged again," Zelensky said. Rescuers searching through the rubble of an apartment building in Dnipro where 12 people were killed recovered the bodies of a boy, 8, and a woman, regional governor Oleksandr Hanzha said,

adding that another child had been killed in the blast. The attack "essentially demolished" part of the building, Zelensky wrote on X. More than 90 people were injured across both cities, while Kharkiv in the north-east - which also saw its energy facilities and civilian infrastructure hit - reported 10 injured, including a child. An industrial facility was also attacked further south in Zaporizhzhia as regions across the country were targeted, the president said.

ITALIANS BEMUSED BY MILAN BULL MOSAIC RESTORATION

AGENCY
Italians have reacted with bemusement to the restoration of a famous bull mosaic in Milan, with some wondering what has happened to the animal's "lucky-charm" testicles. Work to repair the small crater formed by tourists grinding their heels on the bull's private parts began last week and local Milan councillor Marco Granelli said over the weekend that the mosaic had been "completely restored". This sparked much online commentary, with users saying the bull's testicles had been erased - some joking it appeared to have been "castrated". In their defence, Milan's city council said the project - at the city's historic 19th-Century Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II arcade - had not been completed. The beige and blue mosaic of a prancing bull surrounded by a coat of arms is meant to represent the city of Turin, which was the first capital of Italy. The mosaic has become popular among tourists for a tradition in



which people spin their heel clockwise on the bull's testicles three times. The legend says that the practice brings good fortune and a return visit to those who partake in it, but it had also resulted in a small crater forming on the spot. A small enclosure was erected as artisan Gianluca Galli began the restoration - kneeling before the mosaic as he cut new pieces of stone by hand. Councillor Granelli's social media post was mocked by some online. "What happened to the testicles?" asked one user, while another said, "Something's missing." Milan's city council said the work was not yet fully completed.

Why Myanmar president's India visit is being closely watched



AGENCY
New Delhi: Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing, who is in India on a five-day visit, has held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focusing on areas including trade, connectivity, border security and defence. This is his first visit abroad since becoming president earlier this year, and it is being closely watched as a sign of how regional powers intend to engage with Myanmar's military-backed leadership following a widely criticised election and five years of civil war triggered by a coup in 2021. Myanmar and India share a 1,643km (1,021-mile) border and developments on one side often have consequences for the other, particularly in India's north-eastern region where security, migration and cross-border trade is closely intertwined with events in the neighbouring country. In February 2021, Min Aung Hlaing, then the armed forces commander-in-chief, seized power by ousting the elected government of Aung

San Suu Kyi, shortly after her National League for Democracy won a landslide election victory. The military takeover sparked nationwide protests that later evolved into an armed resistance movement and a civil war that has killed thousands of people, displaced millions and left large parts of the country outside military control. Consequences of the conflict also spilled across the border into India, with thousands of people, many from Myanmar's Chin ethnic minority, taking refuge in India's north-eastern states of Mizoram and Manipur. Myanmar held elections between December 2025 and January 2026. The military-backed side secured an overwhelming victory in the polls in which many opposition parties were barred from contesting and large conflicted areas were unable to participate.

Australian ex-minister launches crowd-funded inquiry into Aukus submarine deal



AGENCY
Washington: A former environment minister will head up a crowd-funded review of the multi-billion-dollar Aukus submarine deal, Australia's biggest ever defence project. Peter Garrett, who served as environment minister between 2007 and 2010, said an independent inquiry into the AS\$368bn (\$239bn; £176bn) deal - where Australia will buy second-hand US submarines to replace its ageing fleet - was "long overdue". Garrett, the frontman of rock band Midnight Oil, said Aukus was the "most expensive" defence deal ever in Australia but the chance to "question, debate and decide has been taken out of the hands of the parliament and the people".

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Clashes continue in Lebanon despite Israel and Hezbollah accepting US partial ceasefire plan

AGENCY
Tehran: Clashes have continued in southern Lebanon despite Israel and Hezbollah accepting a US plan for a partial ceasefire. President Donald Trump said on Monday that he had spoken to both sides and "they agreed that all shooting will stop", after Iran warned Israeli military actions in Lebanon were a threat to the US-Iran ceasefire. Lebanon said Hezbollah had accepted the plan for it to halt attacks on Israel and for Israel not to attack the Lebanese capital Beirut. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the agreement. But he said strikes on Beirut would go ahead "if Hezbollah does not stop attacking our cities and civilians", and that Israeli forces would still operate in south Lebanon. While the



ceasefire appears to be largely holding, there was further violence overnight. Hezbollah said its fighters had targeted Israeli tanks in the southern Lebanese towns of Haddatha and Bayada with missiles and shells. The Israeli military said it had intercepted two projectiles that had been fired from Lebanon in the early hours of Tuesday. No injuries have been reported. Lebanon's state-run National News

with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi saying the US-Iran truce was "unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon" and that "its violation on one front is a violation of the ceasefire on all fronts". Separately, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported that Tehran could suspend indirect negotiations with the US over Israeli military actions in Lebanon. The news agency - which is affiliated with Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) - also said Iran and its allies could "activate other fronts, including the Bab al-Mandab Strait" at the entrance of the Red Sea. But in later posts on Truth Social, Trump insisted that talks with Iran were continuing at a "rapid pace" and said he had spoken to both Netanyahu and representatives from Hezbollah.

Sabrina Carpenter gets restraining order against man who showed up at her home



US pop star Sabrina Carpenter has been granted a temporary restraining order against a man following a series of what she called "deeply alarming" incidents at her home. In court documents seen by the BBC's US partner CBS, lawyers for Carpenter said she was seeking a full court order against William Applegate, who she alleges tried to force his way into her house in Los Angeles last month and returned twice more. The singer said the incidents had left her in "significant and ongoing fear"

for her personal safety. She wrote in a signed declaration: "His pattern of stalking, trespassing, and surveillance has caused me severe and ongoing emotional distress." Carpenter, 27, is one of the world's biggest pop stars, having scored top three hits in both the US and UK with Espresso, Please Please Please, Taste and Manchild. Her legal declaration claims that the man appeared at her home uninvited on several occasions in recent weeks, tried to break in and refused to leave when confronted by her security, claiming he knew the star and that she had been expecting him. During one "deeply alarming" incident on 23 May, Carpenter claims that he made his way to her front door - after trespassing onto her neighbour's property - and tried to open it.

Denmark's Mette Frederiksen to form government after months of negotiations



AGENCY
Denmark: Months since Denmark's general election, acting prime minister Mette Frederiksen, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, will form a centre-left coalition minority government. Twelve parties won seats in March's inconclusive election. The Social Democrats won the most votes but saw their weakest performance since 1903. Speaking to reporters after meeting King Frederik X, Frederiksen said the deal was reached following long and fraught negotiations, adding that she would present the new cabinet on Wednesday. The deal gives her a third term as prime minister at a time when US President Donald Trump has said he wants to take over Greenland, a semi-autonomous part of Denmark. With 21.9% of the vote, Frederiksen's party won just 38 seats in the March election - losing 12 and falling well short of the 90 needed to form a majority. The coalition will consist of Frederiksen's Social Democrats, the Socialist People's Party, the centre-left Radikale Venstre and

the centrist Moderates, according to a statement from the palace. "His Majesty the King is expected to receive the new government at Amalienborg on Wednesday 3 June 2026 in the morning," the statement said. Amalienborg is the official residence of the Danish royal family in Copenhagen. Frederiksen informed the King while he was on board the Royal Yacht Dannebrog, the family's residence when they are on summer cruises or official visits overseas. Denmark's public broadcaster DR noted on its website that the country had spent 69 days without a new government. In addition to addressing Trump's calls for the US to acquire Greenland, citing its strategic importance for US national security, Frederiksen will have to address domestic concerns including the cost of living, the state of the economy and welfare worries. Other central issues for voters were animal rights, the high level of pesticides in drinking water because of pig farming, and agriculture's climate footprint overall.



CHINA GOES AFTER 'GHOST KITCHENS' TO REIN IN CUT-THROAT FOOD DELIVERY APPS



AGENCY
Beijing: Chinese authorities have taken aim at a new target as they rein in the country's cut-throat food delivery industry: "ghost kitchens", or restaurants that don't actually exist but appear on apps. The "ghost kitchens" outsource orders to third-party vendors, which fulfill them at lower costs, allowing merchants to push down prices and maximise profits. Authorities have found thousands of these "ghost

kitchens" across China, raising concerns that the cheap prices are coming at the cost of food safety. Starting this week, apps must verify restaurants' licences and addresses, while merchants must ensure the listing online matches the physical business and specify if it offers dine-in services. The scrutiny of "ghost kitchens" began last year, after a man in Beijing lodged a complaint over an unsatisfactory cake topped with inedible flowers.

Two people shot dead amid Kenya protests against US Ebola quarantine centre plan

Aryna Sabalenka Overpowers Naomi Osaka To Reach French Open Quarter-Finals

AGENCY
France: World number one Aryna Sabalenka took down fellow four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in straight sets in Monday's night-session match to reach the French Open quarter-finals. Sabalenka produced an impressive display, hitting 39 winners and 12 aces, against a battling Osaka to win 7-5, 6-3 and reach the last eight for a 14th consecutive major tournament. The Belarusian is the only Grand Slam champion left in either the men's or women's singles draws at Roland Garros. "I was able to kind of separate myself from what's going on this year at the Roland Garros," Sabalenka said of the shock results elsewhere. "I have been around. Anything can happen. That's tennis."

She made it three straight wins against Osaka this year, having lost their only previous meeting at the 2018 US Open. Sabalenka will next take on Russian Diana Shnaider as she continues her bid for a maiden French Open crown and to banish the memories of her painful final defeat last year by Coco Gauff. "(At) this stage every time I'm just trying to focus on myself and making sure when I'm there competing, I'm fighting and doing everything I can with what I have at the moment," she said. "That's my mindset, it's basically that I'm ready to do whatever it takes to get this beautiful trophy." Japanese star Osaka, again sporting the sequined gold dress she likened to the Eiffel Tower at night, has to make do with her best ever run in Paris ending in the last 16. "If I lost this match when I was younger, I'd shut myself in my room or whatever," said the 28-year-old. "But now I feel like obviously I love

tennis, and I'm trying my best to do everything to be the best player I can. "But... it's kind of like a clock in/clock out type of thing. I'm excited to go home and see my daughter."

It was the first women's match to feature in the French Open night session since 2023, after a run of 32 consecutive men's ties which drew repeated criticism of tournament organisers. "I thought it was really cool. Obviously she's really good for tennis. I would hope I'm okay for tennis, too," said Osaka. "I think, honestly, it was really fun to play." Sabalenka has previously criticised the lack of women's matches under the lights, saying last year that the WTA stars "deserve equal treatment" to the men. "I hope that this is the beginning, today's match. It's like we open up that door for woman night sessions," she said Monday.

Power-packed opening

The players traded early breaks in a power-packed opening, before Sabalenka levelled the first set at 2-2 with a service hold featuring three aces, the last with a second serve. The set stayed on serve until the 11th game, when Sabalenka made her move with a blistering backhand winner to bring up two break points, with Osaka netting on the first. The top seed closed it out in style with a ruthless hold to love.



Lionel Messi's 'Unsafe' 70-Foot Statue In Kolkata Removed Six Months After Installation



What Happened to KSI? YouTuber Says He's "Struggling"; and Opens Up About Life After Leaving Sidemen

KSI leaving Sidemen after 13 years was already a huge shock for fans. Even weeks later, people are still talking about it and trying to understand what made him step away from one of the biggest creator groups on the internet. While JJ never directly linked his departure to one specific reason, a recent video has got fans connecting a lot of dots. The discussion started after a

clip from KSI's YouTube video on his KSI+ channel began making rounds on social media. In the video, the creator spoke about how difficult it has become to manage everything happening in his life right now. From content creation and TV projects to music and personal commitments, KSI admitted that his schedule has become overwhelming. Because of that, many fans now think his comments may help explain why he decided to move away from Sidemen. KSI says he is struggling to keep up with everything on his schedule. While talking in the video, KSI explained that there is simply too much happening at the same time. According to him, he is currently juggling his own YouTube channel, Sidemen work, Britain's Got Talent, Baller League, music projects, and several other responsibilities. JJ said he has been "struggling time-wise" and even joked about how bad his calendar looks.

'Soldier' Joshua standing strong for friends' parents

AGENCY
Okhlahoma: Anthony Joshua says he is standing strong "as a soldier" for the parents of two close friends killed in a car crash as the British heavyweight prepares for his return to boxing. The two-time world champion was a passenger in the car when Sina Ghami and Latif 'Lat' Ayodele died in Nigeria in December. In his first fight since the accident, in which Joshua sustained minor injuries, he will face the relatively unknown Albanian Kristian Prenga in Riyadh on 25 July. "You never overcome it but you gain perspective in life," Joshua, 36, told the 5 Live Boxing podcast. "Life is humbling at times. You never know one's fate. As a soldier, I stand strong for their parents first and foremost. "This isn't about me. I feel it's important to put their parents first at the



minute. "I'll have my time to grieve. But right now, my heart and mind tell me their parents are my main priority." The 2012 Olympic gold medalist was speaking before Monday's news conference in London where he came face-to-face with Prenga for the first time. Victory would clear the path for a long-awaited showdown against Tyson Fury later this year. For more than a decade, Joshua and Fury have been

the defining figures of British heavyweight boxing on the global stage, yet have never shared a ring. An agreement is in place and both fighters are expected to earn career-high purses when they finally meet, with October or November the likely target dates. But the fight will only materialise if Joshua takes care of business against Prenga. Fury, meanwhile, is also understood to be planning an interim bout, poten-

tially in Dublin on 1 August against an opponent yet to be named. <Promoter Eddie Hearn told the 5 Live Boxing podcast that Joshua was "happy and excited about 2026" after December's victory against Jake Paul, and that plans had been in place to fight Rico Verhoeven in March before taking on Fury in August. But 10 days later the crash happened. "And then obviously the world came crashing down," Hearn added. When the news conference began, the conversation understandably shifted towards the task ahead. Wearing a tracksuit and sunglasses, Joshua spoke about a renewed sense of focus. "I've still got that fire and I belong here," Joshua added, appearing relaxed and in good spirits. "I don't do this as a joke. I do this because it's what I'm good at.

Gilmour admits struggle as World Cup dream taken away



AGENCY
Scotland: Billy Gilmour admits "it's been a tough one to get my head around" after the Napoli midfielder was forced to drop out of Scotland's World Cup squad through injury. The 24-year-old pulled up with a knee problem during Saturday's 4-1 warm-up friendly win over Curacao at Hampden Park and had to be replaced shortly

before half-time. Gilmour was able to walk off the pitch, but a scan later ruled him out of the tournament and he was pictured being consoled by captain Andy Robertson and other teammates in the team hotel lobby before leaving on crutches and with his knee in a brace. He has since been replaced in the squad with Manchester United 19-year-old Tyler Fletcher. Speaking for the first time publicly, former Rangers, Chelsea and Brighton & Hove Albion midfielder Gilmour said on Instagram: "I haven't got the words to describe how I'm feeling right now. "Being so close to a childhood dream of mine, to play in a World Cup, and now it has been taken away from me with an injury. It's been a tough one to get my head around.

WILL MONACO SUIT FERRARI MORE THAN RIVALS?



AGENCY
London: The European leg of the 2026 Formula 1 season begins with round six at the Monaco Grand Prix this weekend. Teenager Kimi Antonelli holds a 43-point advantage over Mercedes team-mate George Russell at the top of the drivers' championship following his fourth consecutive win of

the campaign in Canada two weeks ago. Before the race in Monte Carlo, BBC Sport F1 correspondent Andrew Benson answers your latest questions. Why is the Monaco Grand Prix expected to suit Ferrari more than McLaren, Mercedes or Red Bull? - Andrew Mercedes have dominated the 2026 season so far, winning all the

grands prix from pole position. The only time they have beaten to either the front of the grid or a victory was in the sprint in Miami, when Lando Norris took pole and the win for McLaren. The reason Monaco has been identified as a place where that run may end,

particularly in favour of Ferrari, is to do with car, engine and driver characteristics. Monaco is the least power-sensitive track on the calendar. In other words, it is the track where cornering performance - particularly at low and medium-speed - is most important, and engine power least.



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi In T20Is vs Ireland? Ex-Selector Sends Big

AGENCY
Mumbai: Former India chief selector MSK Prasad termed Vaibhav Sooryavanshi as a "super talent" and "best in the world in T20 cricket", saying he should immediately be considered for the Ireland series to be held later this month. "He is not just a prodigy or a super talent. He is already among the best in the world in T20 cricket. He should be fast tracked immediately into the Indian side. He should be picked for the Ireland series which happens after

the India A tri series in Sri Lanka," Prasad told PTI in an exclusive interview from his hometown on Monday morning. "I think, it's nicely poised for him to be drafted into the senior Indian team. I think he is going to flourish in the India A tri series in Sri Lanka as well. See, there is no point holding him back. He is going to play for India soon and he is going to play for a long time," the former India wicket-keeper batter predicted. "Playing India A and then playing for India is usually the norm but

playing high pressure IPL among the best in the world is the best way to get into the Indian side. I think the selectors are also thinking on the same line. It's just a matter of time that he will play for India and will play for a long time," he reiterated. The former India cricketer though had a word of caution for him and advised him to improve his fitness. "It's good to see that in a post match interaction he said on Sunday that he needs to improve his fitness. He has been under the tutelage of NCA for quite

some time now. See he is only 15. He should be carefully handled and looked after. He should be carefully monitored. "I feel he should be under the tutelage of (VVS) Laxman or (Rahul) Dravid for some time. They are the guys who can keep him humble. At this stage it's needed to shape his career in the right manner," Prasad said. He stressed on the fact that the 15-year-old boy is already among the best at the highest level and he

should be tried in other formats as well. "Forget India, he is one of the best in the world. He is undoubtedly a big surprise package.

HOW DO ASTON VILLA IMPROVE AFTER MAKING HISTORY?



AGENCY
London: Aston Villa are looking to move into a new era. A Europa League win over Freiburg earned the club's first trophy in 30 years while they also sealed a top-four finish in the Premier League. Manager Unai Emery delivered Champions League qualification for the second time in three seasons as he made good on his promise to bring silverware to Villa Park. They are looking to challenge the established order in the top flight, having worked under strict financial restrictions. After a historic campaign how do Villa move to the next level? It has felt like Villa have gate-crashed a party they have not been invited to. They have finished fourth, sixth and fourth in the past three seasons. How to continue that is the question. Emery's team is getting older but, under him they have disrupted the top order consist-

tently more than others. In order to remain competitive Villa are expected to trade and, before the Europa League win, there was a growing belief the current squad had come to the end of its lifespan. That has been challenged since the triumph in Istanbul and while the plan is to add more depth to be able to compete on all fronts, wholesale changes of the protagonists are not expected. Although, there has been a previous willingness to allow goalkeeper Emi Martinez to leave, with interest in Manchester City's James Trafford. Villa will still need to raise money to comply with Premier League and Uefa financial regulations, with Morgan Rogers the obvious big sale if needed and a top target for Arsenal. Bought from Middlesbrough in a deal worth £16m - Villa have paid all the installments - he would represent a significant profit.

Charan's performance and transformation in 'Peddi' is mind-blowing: Director Buchibabu Sana

Mega Power Star Ram Charan's most awaited action drama 'Peddi' is creating huge buzz across the country. It is mesmerizing the audience with its amazing glimpses, chartbuster songs and powerful theatrical trailer. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings and Vriddhi Cinemas. Peddi is set to release globally on June 4. Special premieres will be held on June 3. In this context, director Buchi Babu Sana shared the highlights of the film at a press conference.

■ TELL ME ABOUT PEDDI'S JOURNEY?
-I am coming with Peddi after almost five years after my first film Uppena blockbuster. Usually in the industry, it doesn't take a director five years after a blockbuster success. But that's what happened in my case (laughs). My mentor Sukumar took me to Charan garu. I told him the story. Charan garu liked it. After Uppena, it took me two and a half years to go to Charan garu. After he approved the story, the entire shooting was completed in almost a year and a half.

■ THIS IS A FILM SET AGAINST A SPORTS BACKDROP. WHAT PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN FOR THIS?
-Cricket is a game that we all know. But we took special care in the matter of wrestling. We brought in the trainer who coached Aamir Khan in the movie Dangal. We also made wrestlers from Telangana part of the team. We gave special training to all the artists. Ram Charan took special wrestler training for about three to four months for this movie.

■ THERE ARE REPORTS THAT



YOU DID THE SAME STORY WITH CHARAN THAT YOU PLANNED WITH NTR. CAN YOU CLARIFY THIS?
-No. The story planned for NTR garu is different. Peddi's story is different. This is a story completely made for Charan garu.

■ HOW DID YOU CONVINCE CHARAN SO EASILY?
-Nothing happened that easily. He agreed because he liked the story. I convinced him with the story. -Charan has always been interested in doing a sports drama. We prepared a long story that he would like.

■ ISN'T A BIG SUCCESS REALLY NECESSARY FOR THE INDUSTRY NOW?
-Any movie's success is necessary for the industry, directors, heroes, and everyone who worked for the movie. But now that need is a bit stronger. My entire career has been like that (laughing). The situation

was the same during the boom. At that time, there was doubt whether the audience would actually come to the theaters or not. Only three days before the movie's release, permission was given for 100% occupancy. People came to the theaters. It gave a big hit.

■ WHAT ABOUT THE ROLES OF SHIVRAJ KUMAR, JAGAPATHI BABU, AND DIVYANDU SHARMA?
-They all fit the roles perfectly. Shivanna garu looks like a teacher. It is the role of someone who brings the game to life. Also, Jagapathi Babu garu's role as Appalasuri is very heavy. It is the most powerful role after the hero. The role of Divyandu is also very crazy.

■ WHAT ABOUT JANHVI KAPOOR'S ROLE?
-Janvi Kapoor has brought a unique color to this film. She is very good in the love track. Janvi is a very intelligent girl. A very dedicated person. She has a lot of passion for cinema. She is very humble.

■ YOUR FIRST FILM HAD A BUDGET OF RS. 25 CRORES AND YOUR SECOND FILM HAD A BUDGET OF RS. 350 CRORES. HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
-This was possible only because of Charan. The way a film is made changes depending on the hero. If you want to make the same story for Rs.20 crores, the desired outcome of the story may not happen.

■ WE HEARD THAT THE SONG 'ABBANI TEEANI DEBBE' WAS RECREATED IN THIS MOVIE?
-No. It only plays on the radio. We muted it too, thinking that the audience might be out of the story when it came on.

■ WHAT ABOUT AR RAHMAN?

I love Rahman's albums like Roja, Bombay, etc. I have always dreamed of working with him. This film gave me that opportunity. I enjoyed listening to him sing his songs myself and I am determined to do films with him for the rest of my life. -There are two more songs in this movie. Both of them are also amazing. After Rahman garu made the song Massa Massa, no one heard it for almost two months. I asked for another option. One day Charan garu heard the song while riding in the car. He liked it a lot. He said, "It's gone." He didn't take another option after that. That was Charan garu's judgment. -Anantha Sriram garu has written very good songs. He has contributed a lot in all the songs.

■ WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT PUSHPA, YOU SAID "IT'S EQUAL TO TEN KGFS." AND WHAT ABOUT PEDDI?
-If Pushparaj is in the mind... Peddi will be in the heart.

■ RAM CHARAN SAID ABOUT YOU THAT YOU ARE AMONG THE TOP 5 DIRECTORS IN INDIA. HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?
-That's Charan's favorite.

■ WE HEARD THAT RAM CHARAN GARU SUFFERED A LOT OF INJURIES IN THIS MOVIE?
Yes. Charan garu got injured a lot during the shooting of this film. He was especially hit in the wrestling scenes. I was very scared when he got an eye injury and started bleeding. I was afraid that Chiranjeevi garu would scold me. It was also recorded on camera. It was accidentally caught in a fight scene. But Chiranjeevi garu said, "Send me the video" (laughing).

LGBT – A Legal Battle Set for Nationwide Release on June 19

Acclaimed filmmaker P. Suneel Kumar Reddy, known for creating socially relevant and thought-provoking cinema, is gearing up for the release of his latest courtroom drama, "LGBT – A Legal Battle." Produced under the Sravya Films banner, with Subhash Chakravarthy Ravada serving as co-producer, the film is based on the lives, struggles, and quest for justice of transgender individuals. The film is scheduled for a nationwide theatrical release on June 19, coinciding with Pride Month celebrations. Speaking during the launch of the film's teaser, director P. Suneel Kumar Reddy stated that the film aims to bring the realities of the transgender community to the forefront through a powerful legal and emotional narrative. He expressed confidence that the film would resonate with audiences and contribute meaningfully to conversations surrounding equality, dignity, and human rights. The film features an accomplished cast including LB Sriram, Esther Noronha, Raju Kher, Anand Chakrapani, and Preeti Nigam. It also showcases the talents of several real-life transgender performers in pivotal roles, adding authenticity and emotional depth to the story. Hima Rathod plays the



female lead, while noted transgender activists Chandramukhi and Laila, along with gay activist Vishnu Teja, deliver impactful performances in key roles. Members of the cast expressed their appreciation for the film's sensitive and heartfelt portrayal of transgender

lives and voiced optimism that audiences would connect deeply with its message and characters. With its compelling courtroom narrative and socially relevant theme, "LGBT – A Legal Battle" promises to be a significant cinematic offering this Pride Month.

Nandamuri Balakrishna, Gopichand Malineni, Venkata Satish Kilaru, Vriddhi Cinemas' Epic Actioner #NBK111 Birthday Special Explosive Reveal On June 10

Following the phenomenal success of their previous collaboration, Veera Simha Reddy, God Of Masses Nandamuri Balakrishna and successful director Gopichand Malineni are once again gearing up to deliver a larger-than-life entertainer packed with intense action, powerful emotions, and mass appeal. Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, the project #NBK111 is being mounted on a grand scale. Meanwhile, the makers have announced that they will unveil a major update on the special occasion of Balakrishna's birthday on June 10th. The announcement poster sets a fierce and rebellious tone with a dark backdrop dominated by massive NBK lettering wrapped in heavy chains, symbolizing strength and power. The tagline, "No More Vintage, Only New Age," signals a bold transformation, while the "Watch Out For" notice builds intrigue. The June 10 date, accompanied by bullet imagery, hints at an explosive reveal that promises a fresh and powerful avatar of NBK. The shoot of NBK111 is currently underway in Mumbai, with the lead cast participating, and the team is canning some crucial sequences. Recently, on the occasion of Manoj Manchu's birthday, the makers unveiled



his inclusion in the film, revealing that he will portray a fiercely impactful character that plays a pivotal role in the story. Known for crafting powerful mass entertainers, Gopichand Malineni is once again assembling a film loaded with high-voltage moments and compelling drama to balance the narrative. Additional details regarding the remaining cast and crew will be announced later.

Hero Raj Tarun Launches the Poster of Film "Pellayindi Kani NO Kahani"

The poster of the upcoming romantic family entertainer "Pellayindi Kani NO Kahani," starring Srihari and Smita in the lead roles, was officially launched by hero Raj Tarun. The film is being produced under the My3 Cinemas banner and directed by Yedukondalu Tadishetti. Having completed its shoot, the movie is currently in post-production and is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. Speaking at the event, Hero Srihari said, "I would like to thank Raj Tarun garu for launching our film's poster and IFX Chairman Padmanabha Reddy garu for attending as the chief guest. Pellayindi Kani NO Kahani has shaped up very well, and we are planning to bring it before audiences within the next month and a half. The film will entertain viewers with hilarious fun from beginning to end. Director Yedukondalu garu has done an excellent job."



Hero Raj Tarun said, "I am happy to launch the poster of 'Pellayindi Kani NO Kahani.' The poster looks

interesting. I know the producers and director of this film personally. Director Yedukondalu has made it into a good family entertainer. Family entertainers are currently trending in Tollywood, and I hope this film also becomes a grand success. My best wishes to the entire team." IFX Chairman Padmanabha Reddy said, "I am delighted to be a part of the poster launch event of Pellayindi Kani NO Kahani.

Shilpa Shinde revisits harassment case she filed: 'Woh jhoot tha'



Actress Shilpa Shinde, who became a household name after playing the gullible character of Angoori Bhabhi, has made a startling revelation about her dispute during her exit from the popular show 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain!'. She said that the sexual harassment allegations she had levelled against the show's producer were false, as she said "woh jhoot tha" during a conversation in Bharti Singh and Harsh Limbachiyaa's podcast. Speaking candidly about the controversy in the podcast, Shilpa said that she had resorted to filing the complaint because she felt she had no other option at the time and was seeking a way out of the situation. "Nobody knows this, I am not scared of saying the truth, and I will

still say that what I am saying is a big thing mainai apne producer ke upar sexual harassment ka case kardiya tha kiyunki mere pass koi rasssta nahi tha aur tab main uss main se nikli hun settle hoke," she said. "(Nobody knows this. I'm not afraid of telling the truth now, and I'll still say it because it's a big revelation. I had filed a sexual harassment case against my producer because I had no other option. Eventually, I came out of that situation after reaching a settlement. At that time, no producer supported him, and I filed the case on that basis)." "Tab kisi producer ne unka saath nahi diya aur mainai case usi basis pe kiya ... police toh seedha FIR karne ke liye yeh bolti hai aapko ganda likhna padega and I am from law background she added.

Salman Khan takes legal action against film inspired by 1998 Blackbuck Case

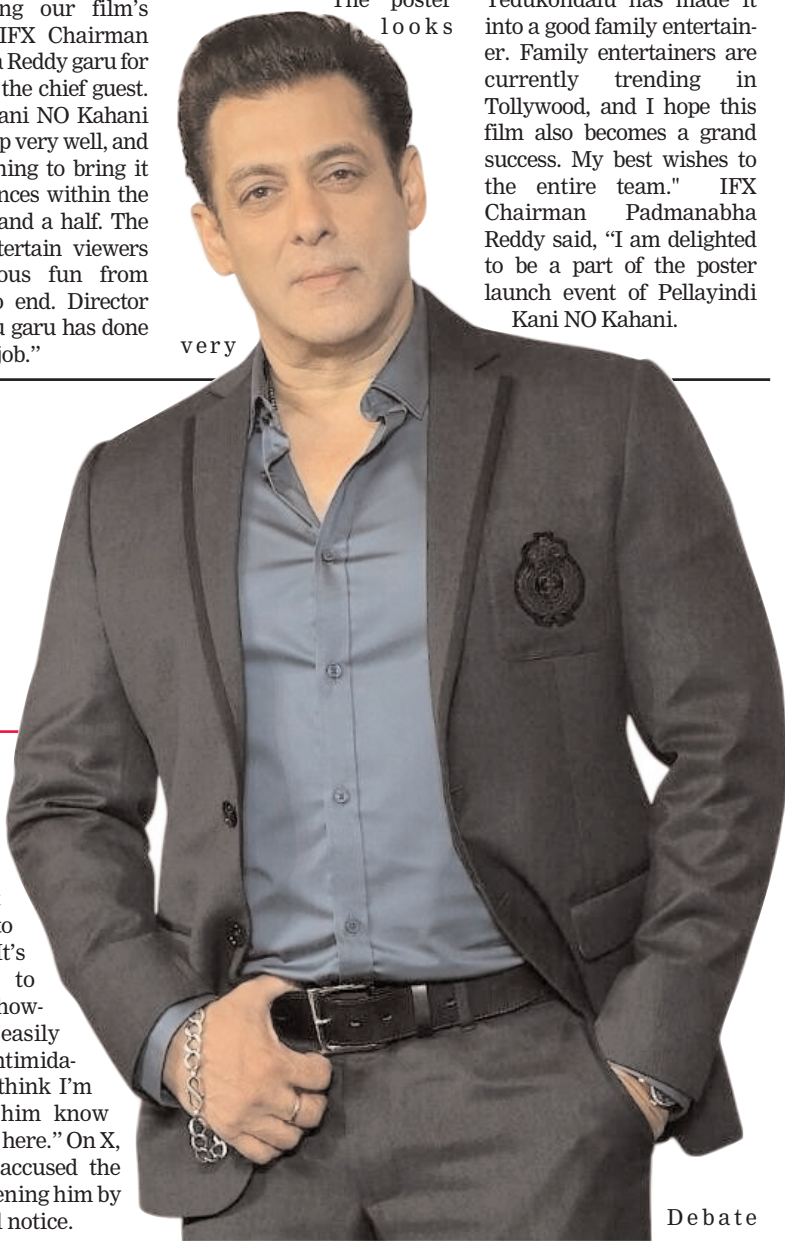
Bollywood actor Salman Khan has sent a legal notice to the makers of Kala Hiran, a film inspired by the 1998 blackbuck case, alleging a "gross violation of personality rights". The actor has sought a halt on the film's release and promotional activities.

■ LEGAL NOTICE RAISES OBJECTIONS
According to reports, the notice was issued to Kala Hiran casting director Akshay Pandey. Salman

Khan's legal team has objected to the alleged use of events linked to the actor's life, arguing that the project is "defamatory in nature" and infringes upon his personality rights. The film is directed by Bharat S. Shrinathe and produced by Amit Jani, whose earlier project Udaipur Files was based on the murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Kumar. Concerns Over Pending Case Salman Khan's lawyer has reportedly stated that the

blackbuck case is still pending consideration before the Rajasthan High Court. The notice argues that developing and releasing the proposed film could interfere with the administration of justice and affect the actor's right to a fair trial. Meanwhile, reports suggest that the producers have alleged intimidation and pressure following the legal notice. Amit Jani, producer of the movie Kala Hiran, has lashed out at Salman Khan for sending him a legal notice. Taking to Facebook,

Amit wrote in Hindi, "The intent of these notices is to instill fear so that people yield to his influence. It's his tendency to intimidate. I, however, do not easily succumb to intimidation. He may think I'm finished. Let him know I'm very much here." On X, the producer accused the actor of threatening him by sending a legal notice.



Debate