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KEJRIWAL
CLAIMS 70 PC DRUGS
ENTERING PUNJAB COME
VIA GUJARAT

NATION PAGE

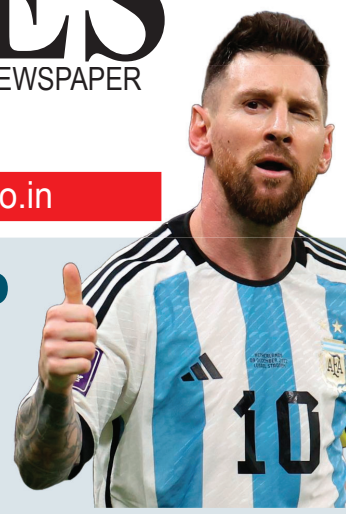
TRUMP SAYS
US-IRAN DEAL TO BE SIGNED
ON SUNDAY AS TEHRAN
CASTS DOUBT ON TIMING

WORLD | NEWS



FIFA WORLD CUP
ICON BACKS MESSI TO BREAK
HIS RECORD IN THIS EDITION:
"HE'S SPECIAL"

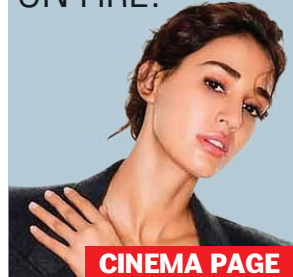
CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

13-06-2026
Total pilgrims: 92,830
Yonnes: 48,987
Hundi (Kamalu): 3,60 CR
Laddu sale: 4.64 Lac
Annaprasadam: 3.37 Lac
Medical treatment: 4,099
Waiting Campments: Out side line at
Octopus Building (Near Gogavaram Dam Circle)

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens): 24-30 H

DISHA PATANI
IS WILD, BOLD
& ABSOLUTELY
ON FIRE!



CINEMA PAGE

CM Revanth govt launches student welfare scheme 2026-27

HYDERABAD, TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed all departments to remain on high alert in view of the ongoing monsoon season and ensure strict adherence to safety and maintenance protocols at irrigation projects and urban infrastructure facilities.

Reviewing the preparedness measures, the Chief Minister instructed that all irrigation projects must be maintained strictly as per the prescribed maintenance manuals. He said project engineers must implement every safety guideline without deviation and directed Chief Engineers (CEs) and Superintending Engineers (SEs) to remain stationed locally throughout the monsoon season.

Warning against negligence, the Chief Minister said strict action would be taken against any engineer who leaves project locations



without prior approval from senior authorities. He also ordered the immediate release of funds required for project maintenance and repair of gates to ensure uninterrupted operations during heavy rains.

Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, Revanth Reddy directed officials from the Irrigation Department, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and Rural Water

Supply (RWS) Department to work in close coordination. He further instructed that Rythu Vedikas be utilised as distribution centres for urea and that responsibility for urea distribution be entrusted to local Agriculture Officers with support from Revenue Department staff. Recalling earlier review meetings, the Chief Minister said he had issued advance instructions regarding monsoon preparedness during a

review held on June 1. However, he expressed dissatisfaction over the response of officials during the rains on June 9, stating that coordination between municipal and police departments in the Hyderabad Core Urban Region (CURE) was inadequate. He directed officials to use data on waterlogging points, black spots, and traffic congestion-prone areas to plan preventive measures and deploy teams in advance. The Chief Minister stressed that the Electricity Department must remain fully prepared to handle rain-related emergencies.

Revanth Reddy made it clear that stringent action would be taken against officials who fail to remain in the field during adverse weather conditions. He instructed that traffic personnel—from senior officers to field-level staff—must remain on roads during heavy rains to ensure smooth traffic movement.

PM Modi invites global investors to partner with India as 'Bharat Innovates 2026' debuts in France

NICE/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday jointly launched "Bharat Innovates 2026" in the French city of Nice, unveiling an ambitious platform aimed at linking India's rapidly growing innovation ecosystem with European investors, research institutions, universities and technology leaders. Addressing an audience of entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, researchers and industry leaders, Modi described the initiative as a reflection of the deepening India-France partnership, saying the relationship between the two countries is anchored not only in shared interests but also in a common vision for the future.

"Different countries engage in trade and build strategic partnerships, but some relationships are driven by both shared



interests and shared vision. The relationship between India and France is one such partnership," Modi said. "There is connection and conviction in this relationship. There is innovation and inspiration. There are shared values and a shared vision."

The event, held as part of the India-France Year of Innovation launched earlier this year, is designed to foster collaboration between startups, investors, academic institutions and technology experts from both nations while expanding opportunities

for Indian innovators in European markets.

Thanking Macron for participating in the programme, Modi recalled the French President's earlier assertion that India and France must work together to address the challenges of the 21st century. "Today, I can proudly say that this initiative is a step in that direction," he said, describing Bharat Innovates as a bridge connecting "India's talent and European capital" and creating opportunities for young innovators to engage with global expertise and investment.

Jairam Ramesh urges PM Modi to raise Seafarers' deaths, trade concerns in meeting with Trump



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strongly raise the issue of the deaths of three Indian sailors in a US attack off the Oman coast and address what he described as threatening language used by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a recent conversation with External Affairs Minister



S Jaishankar, as the Prime Minister prepares to meet US President Donald Trump.

In a post on social media platform X, Ramesh said Indian citizens were closely watching whether Modi would firmly convey India's concerns during his upcoming interaction with the US President, whom he described as the Prime Minister's "self-declared good friend."

"Prime Minister Modi is set to meet his self-declared good friend President

Donald Trump shortly," Ramesh wrote. "The question that is uppermost on the minds of all Indian citizens is whether PM Modi will raise (i) India's strongest condemnation to the killing of three Indian sailors in a US attack on a ship off the Oman Coast; and (ii) the threatening and really unacceptable language used by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in his conversation with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on June 12, 2026."

The Congress leader also targeted the Modi government's handling of ongoing trade negotiations with the United States, noting that US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer is expected to visit India soon to advance discussions on a bilateral trade agreement.

Revanth backstabbed Meenakshi Natarajan, alleges KTR



HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao on Sunday alleged that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy backstabbed Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan. He claimed that Revanth Reddy framed a false case against Natarajan in Hyderabad because she had reported Revanth's corruption—specifically regarding land deals and contracts—to the Congress high command. He further alleged that Revanth Reddy shared details of this fabricated case with the BJP to block Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh.

Rebel TMC MPs announce merger with Nationalist Citizens Party

New Delhi: The rebellion in the Trinamool Congress (TMC) appeared to reach a crescendo on Sunday, June 14, as dissident MPs announced their merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party and met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking a separate seating arrangement in the House. Speaking to reporters after meeting the Speaker, rebel MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar claimed that two-thirds of the TMC's Lok Sabha members had submitted a letter seeking recognition as a separate group. "Two-thirds MPs of TMC have given a letter to the Speaker for a separate seating arrangement. We will merge with the Nationalist Citizens Party and support the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA)," she said.

Rebel TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar addresses the media after a meeting with Union Minister Bhandupadhyay, in New Delhi on Sunday, June 14. The Nationalist Citizens Party is a lesser-known registered, unrecognised party from Tripura. Asked about the competing claim of the Mamata Banerjee-led faction, Bandyopadhyay said the issue of who constitutes the "real TMC" would be decided by the courts, and added that they would claim the party's electoral symbol of two flowers. "Court will decide later who is the real TMC. We met the Speaker and gave him our request," he said.

The development came as TMC leaders Kirti Azad and Sagarika Ghosh also met Speaker Birla on Sunday and submitted a letter by TMC Lok Sabha



REBEL MP KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR CLAIMED THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE TMC'S LOK SABHA MEMBERS HAD SUBMITTED A LETTER SEEKING RECOGNITION AS A SEPARATE GROUP.

leader Abhishek Banerjee, urging him not to accord any recognition to any purported separate faction, arguing that the Constitution does not permit the formation of a separate group within an existing political party. The letter dated June 10, which was sent through email earlier, said that the anti-defection law does not permit such a split.

After the announcement of the merger of rebel MPs, a war of words erupted between the TMC and the BJP, with Mamata Banerjee's party dismissing the move as "ridiculous" while the saffron camp described it as evidence of TMC's

deepening crisis. Senior TMC MP Sougata Roy ridiculed the rebels' decision to merge with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India, questioning both its political relevance and the dissidents' ability to justify the move before voters.

"Once you betray the party on whose symbol you were elected, how will you face your constituents? This merger is ridiculous. Who knows NCPI? Can they go to their constituencies and tell people that they are now part of NCPI? This merger reflects the desperation of the traitors to please their BJP masters," Roy told PTI.

Alleging that the move

had the tacit backing of the BJP, Roy said the dissident MPs had chosen the NCPI route only because parliamentary rules do not permit the recognition of a separate bloc within an existing party. "That is why they took this route with direct support from the BJP. This is ridiculous. The public support will remain with the TMC led by Mamata Banerjee and not with the traitors," he said.

The BJP, however, sought to turn the spotlight back on the TMC leadership, saying the mass defection reflected growing disenchantment within the ruling party.

BJP state spokesperson Sayantan Basu said the development was an internal matter of the TMC and that the party leadership should introspect instead of blaming others. "If they join the NCPI and support the NDA and government bills, it is good for the country. The fact is that no one wants to remain in the TMC. Its leadership should do serious introspection instead of blaming others," he told

Amaravati is on full throttle, no hitting pause: Lokesh



AMARAVATI (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh's Minister for Human Resources Development, Information Technology and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, said on Sunday that works for the development of the state capital Amaravati are in full swing. "Amaravati is on full throttle and there is no hitting pause," posted Lokesh on 'X'. He shared a video, highlighting the rapid pace of work on the ongoing projects in Amaravati. The works in Amaravati are on without a break, claims the voice in the video.

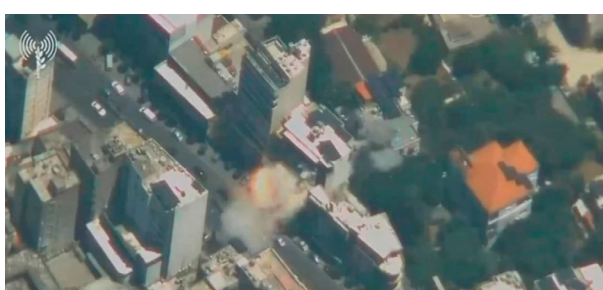
Trump warns Israel, Iran not to 'blow it' after strikes threaten deal

JERUSALEM (TSIT):

US President Donald Trump on Sunday, June 14, urged no further attacks by anyone after Israel's military said it launched strikes on Hezbollah targets in Beirut, potentially complicating efforts to finalise a deal to end the US-Iran war.

Smoke rose over the Lebanese capital, and the Civil Defence said it retrieved three bodies and six wounded people from the rubble. Iran threatened a military response. Trump reacted on social media: "We are very close to a Deal that will bring peace to the region," and "Let's not blow it!"

The deal in its current form is a deep disappointment to Israel's government, which has been sidelined in negotiations led by



Pakistan and others. The last time Israel struck the Beirut suburbs a week ago, it set off the most serious escalation of fighting between Iran and Israel since the tenuous ceasefire took hold April 7. Trump, who had said the deal could be signed Sunday, has pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop hitting Lebanon hard while a deal is near, but the prime minister has defied him.

Netanyahu's office said the strikes were in response

to Hezbollah attacks on northern Israel. Israel's military said Hezbollah launched three projectiles, releasing footage where an audible boom was followed by rising smoke. There was no immediate comment from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

"Israel will not tolerate firing into its territory," Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. The military later said it was preparing for potential incoming fire in the coming hours.



PM MEETS THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE, MR. EMMANUEL MACRON DURING THE BHARAT INNOVATES EVENT, IN NICE, FRANCE.

Kejriwal claims 70 pc drugs entering Punjab come via Gujarat

Jalandhar, Jun 14: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday alleged that 70 per cent of the drugs reaching Punjab were entering through Gujarat and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of failing to curb the menace.

Addressing traders during the 'Sarkar-Vyapar Milni' programme in Jalandhar, Kejriwal claimed Gujarat had become a gateway for drugs under BJP rule. He also accused the Centre of shielding jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, referring to him as the BJP's "damaad" (son-in-law).

Kejriwal said that when the AAP government assumed office in Punjab, around 70 per cent of drugs were allegedly entering from Pakistan and 30 per cent through Gujarat. He claimed stringent policing and anti-drone operations had significantly curbed drug smuggling from across the border, resulting in a larger proportion now coming through Gujarat. To support his allegations, he referred to the seizure of large quantities of



narcotics at Mundra Port in Gujarat and cited reports concerning drug seizures in the state.

The AAP leader also launched a sharp attack on rival political parties in Punjab. Without naming them directly at first, he described the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) as the "Chitta Party", the BJP as the "ED Party" and the Congress as the "Jhagda Party", while portraying AAP as a party of the people. Kejriwal alleged that the BJP had used the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to intimidate traders and industrialists. He claimed the party received substantial donations through fear of ED raids, while AAP received comparatively smaller contributions despite being in power in Punjab. On the issue of law and order, Kejriwal alleged that many gangsters had links with leaders of previ-

ous governments. He claimed that AAP's crackdown had dismantled much of the criminal network operating in the state. Referring to Lawrence Bishnoi, currently lodged in Sabarmati Jail, Kejriwal alleged that central authorities were protecting the gangster and preventing Punjab Police from taking him into custody for interrogation within the state.

The AAP chief also announced several initiatives for Punjab residents, including the expansion of the government's pilgrimage programme to destinations such as Salasar, Khatu Shyam, Mathura and Vrindavan. He further announced plans for the renovation of the Kali Mata Temple in Patiala and the staging of a Ramayana-based play by actor Ashutosh Rana in the state. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who was also present at the event, accused previous governments of exploiting traders and nurturing criminal elements. He assured the business community that the government would address their grievances and examine the demands submitted during the programme.

Mrs. Madhu Mathi Thanugula's 60th Birthday Celebrated with Grandeur at Jubilee Hills

The 60th birthday celebrations of Mrs. Madhu Mathi Thanugula, wife of Dr. T.R.K. Rao, Director General (Mining), Nagpur, were held in a grand and memorable manner at The Bougainvillea, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The elegant celebration brought together family members, relatives, close friends, well-wishers, and distinguished guests, making it a truly remarkable occasion. The beautifully decorated venue was filled with warmth, happiness, and festive spirit as guests gathered to honor Mrs. Madhu Mathi Thanugula on this significant milestone. Known for her gracious personality, kindness, and affectionate nature, she received heartfelt greetings and blessings from everyone present. The celebrations were attended by her son Dr. Sri Karan Udhesh and daughter-in-law Dr. Vyshnavi, along with her



beloved grandchildren Vishwani and Greshmanth. Her daughter Mrinalini, son-in-law Pranav, and grandson Advait also participated in the celebrations, adding to the joy and happiness of the occasion. Among the family members present were her aunt Revathi, sister Anupama and Dr. Ramana, brothers Dr. Srikanth and his wife Anitha, and M.V. Hanumantha Rao, a noted High Court

Advocate. Her brother-in-law Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula, Senior Journalist, President of Telangana Youth Journalists Federation (TYJF), and Senior Correspondent of The South Indian Times, attended the celebrations along with his sons Sarvik and Sriman Udbhav. Several close relatives, family friends, professional associates, and dignitaries graced the occasion, making it a wonderful gathering

filled with affection, warmth, and togetherness. The evening featured a grand cake-cutting ceremony, heartfelt speeches, family interactions, memorable photographs, and joyous celebrations that created lasting memories for everyone present. Guests fondly spoke about Mrs. Madhu Mathi Thanugula's caring nature, generosity, humility, and unwavering commitment to family values. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, happiness, and celebration as family members and friends enjoyed quality time together. The event stood as a beautiful tribute to six decades of a life dedicated to love, compassion, friendship, and family. Every guest appreciated the hospitality and warmth extended by the family, making the celebration truly spectacular, elegant, and unforgettable..

PM Modi thanks Serbian President for 'heartfelt wishes' on becoming longest serving Indian PM

New Delhi, June 14 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday thanked Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic after the latter congratulated him on becoming India's longest-serving elected PM. Taking to X, the Serbian President said: "Heartfelt congratulations to @narendramodi on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in the history of India."

Praising PM Modi's leadership, he mentioned: "Such longevity in the highest office of the state reflects the trust that citizens place in a leader who has dedicated his life to serving the people and advancing his country. The true strength of a statesman is not measured by years in office or the number of mandates won, but by the legacy he leaves behind, the results he delivers, and the vision that endures the politics of the day."

"I particularly cherish the memory of our most recent meeting, marked by



mutual understanding and sincere respect. In my conversation with Prime Minister Modi, I recognized the wisdom of an experienced statesman and a leader who deeply understands the challenges of the modern world and the importance of preserving tradition, identity, and national interests," he added.

President Vucic further said that it is this unique

combination of "experience, foresight, and dedication" to India that has made PM Modi a leader whose "voice is heard and respected around the world".

"I wish Prime Minister @narendramodi good health, continued success, and the strength to keep leading India on the path of progress and prosperity in the years to come," he said.

Responding to it, Prime Minister Modi said: "Thank you President Vucic for your warm and heartfelt wishes."

In a post on X, PM Modi said: "I fondly recall your recent visit to India and our productive discussions. India deeply values its friendship with Serbia and I look forward to working together to further strengthen our partnership in the years ahead."

4 Killed in Krishna River Boat Tragedy Near Konuru; CM Chandrababu Announces Rs.5 Lakh Ex-Gratia



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Four persons lost their lives and six others were rescued after a country boat carrying ten members of a family capsized in the Krishna River near Konuru village in Achampet mandal of Palnadu district on Sunday. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy. Currently on a visit to Singapore, the Chief Minister reviewed the situation over the phone with Palnadu District Collector Kritika Shukla and other senior officials. He directed them to expedite relief measures and ensure all possible assistance to the affected families. He also announced an ex-gratia of Rs.5 lakh each

to the families of the deceased.

According to officials, ten relatives, including children, had gone on a pleasure trip in the river after attending a family function in the village. While returning, the boat reportedly lost balance and overturned. Local fishermen rushed to the spot and rescued six persons, while four others went missing. Search operations launched by NDRF teams, police, and revenue officials later led to the recovery of the bodies. Following the Chief Minister's instructions, District Collector Kritika Shukla immediately reached the Area Hospital and consoled the bereaved families. She, along with MP Sri Krishna Devarayalu

and Pedakurapadu MLA Bhashyam Praveen, assured support to the victims' families and handed over the compensation announced by the government.

The Collector stated that a probe committee comprising officials from the Revenue, Police, and Irrigation departments has been constituted to investigate the incident. She clarified that the remaining six persons involved in the mishap were safe. The bodies would be handed over to the families after post-mortem examinations, she added. District Collector Kritika Shukla urged people to obtain prior permissions for boat journeys to prevent such accidents. She also announced that awareness programmes for fishermen and riverbank residents would be organized on Monday to ensure that such tragedies do not recur. The tragic incident cast a pall of gloom over Konuru village, with local residents, public representatives, and officials paying tributes to the deceased and expressing their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Hyderabad, June 14: DIGAMBAR JAIN SOCIAL GROUP and SHRI DIGAMBAR JAIN SANSHTHA, in association with MNJ Cancer Hospital, organised a Free Breast Cancer Screening Camp at Mahavir Bhavan, Digambar Jain Temple, Aghapura, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

More than 100 women registered and participated in the screening camp. The camp was inaugurated at 10:00 AM by Chief Guest Dr. V.S. Sai Sankalp Naidu,



Specialist Radiation Oncology, MNJ Cancer Hospital, and Guest of Honour Dr. Sweta Agarwal, Gynaecologist, Southern Gem Hospital. Gunmala

Kala, Pramila Patni and Kalpana Jain presented the Manglacharan. Suresh Kala, Vinod Baj, Vinay Gangwal and Sumer Tholia addressed the gathering. Rajesh Patni

FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING CAMP ORGANISED

conducted the proceedings.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. V.S. Sai Sankalp Naidu highlighted that modern sedentary lifestyles, increased dependence on food and smartphones, and lack of exercise are increasing health risks, including cancer. He explained that cancer occurs when cells change in size and shape and can affect anyone, from children to world leaders. He pointed out that new body lumps or unexpected bleeding from any organ are

important warning signs requiring immediate medical attention and advised people to consult a doctor if blood comes from the nose, mouth, ears, stool, urine, or any other part of the body. He also noted that while cancer can be hereditary and detectable through BRCA genetic blood tests, early screening helps detect cancer in Stage I, increasing the cure rate to 99%. He stressed that changing modern lifestyle habits is important in preventing Cancer

Donation of Rs. 1 Crore to TTD



Tirumala, 14 June 2026: Sri Padam Kumar Agarwala of the Krypton Family Trust, Kolkata, donated Rs. 1,00,00,536 (Rupees One Crore Five Hundred and Thirty-Six only) to the TTD-run Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust on Sunday. On behalf of the donor, TTD Board Member Sri Nannapaneni Sadasiva Rao handed over the donation DD to Temple Dy EO Sri Lokanatham at the Ranganayakula Mandapam in Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple.

Fire breaks out at restaurant near South Delhi flyover; elderly woman rescued

New Delhi, June 14 : A fire broke out at a restaurant near the Kalkaji-Govind Puri flyover in South Delhi on Sunday, triggering a major fire-fighting operation by the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), officials said, adding that an elderly woman was saved and there were no casualties.

The blaze was brought under control after nine fire tenders were deployed to the spot, and no casualties have been reported so far. According to DFS, the fire call was received at around 4:45 a.m. regarding a blaze at Panjabi Tadka restaurant located in H-Block near Anjali



Jewellers and Desh Bandhu Gupta College on the Kalkaji-Govind Puri flyover stretch.

The initial response included six firefighting units comprising two water tenders, three water bowzers and one

breathing apparatus support vehicle.

As the fire spread, additional resources were mobilised. At around 5:05 a.m., fire officials issued a "Make-4" message, escalating the response and increasing the total deployment to nine units, including three water tenders, four water bowzers, one breathing apparatus support vehicle and one multipurpose vehicle.

The firefighting operation was supervised by Assistant Divisional Officers Yashwant and Sarabjeet, along with Station Officers Phool Singh, Manish Kumar and Raj Kumar.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy Questions Cm D.K. Shivakumar Over Asset Growth

ALLEGES GOVERNMENT-REAL ESTATE NEXUS IN PROPOSED BIDADI TOWNSHIP PROJECT

Mandya : How did the assets of the Chief Minister of Karnataka, who owned merely three acres of ancestral land in 1999, grow to Rs.1,400 crore by 2018? He should conduct training programmes and provide guidance to the people of the entire State on this matter, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy remarked sarcastically.

Responding to questions from the media in Mandya, the Union Minister said that the proposed Bidadi Township is essentially a government-sponsored real estate project. “Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is a real estate baron. How did his ancestral property of just three acres become worth Rs.1,400 crore? Should he not explain this? How can one accumulate wealth on such a scale? How can someone become so wealthy in such a short period? Let him share this formula with the people of Karnataka. It will be immensely beneficial to them as well,” he said. Kumaraswamy alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka has directly embarked upon a mission to grab the lands of ordinary people. He accused the Chief Minister himself of joining hands with real estate mafia operators to run this enterprise. “A majority of farmers are unwilling to part with their land. Yet, through the use of police and hired musclemen, attempts are being made to intimidate and threaten them into submission,” he charged.

The Chief Minister has claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the Township project. “It is true



that Gujarat has witnessed the development of large industries and townships. However, such projects were not implemented there by taking away fertile agricultural lands from farmers. These large-scale developments were established on dry and non-

irrigable lands. If necessary, they may visit Gujarat and see it for themselves,” the Union Minister said while responding to a question.

Recalling earlier land acquisition efforts, Kumaraswamy said that vast stretches of land were acquired for the Bengaluru-Mysuru road project. “The project was initiated during the tenure of H.D. Deve Gowda as Chief Minister. After he moved to Delhi as Prime Minister, the character and structure of the project gradually changed. Subsequently, under the banner of BMIC, it became a vehicle for large-scale land acquisition. The present Chief Minister himself served as Chairman of the BMIC Authority. What transpired thereafter is known to everyone. Notifications were issued to acquire nearly 1.75 lakh acres of farmers’ land for the road and township project. The people of Karnataka are well aware of what has happened to this project over the past three decades,” he said.

The Union Minister further recalled that when he had proposed five townships during his tenure, the Congress party had launched a massive misinformation campaign against him. “A fact-finding committee was constituted under the chairmanship of H.K. Patil, which toured extensively and conducted inquiries. What happened to that report? What are its findings? What opinions did the people express before that committee? Let them place the report before the public first and then speak about the Bidadi Township project,” he challenged.

Kumaraswamy stated that Karnataka has abundant stretches of dry and non-irrigable land suitable for such projects. “Let them implement these projects in such areas. Bidadi, on the other hand, has excellent irrigation facilities and highly fertile agricultural land. Farmers in the region supply nearly six lakh litres of milk every month to the Bengaluru Dairy. What exactly do they hope to achieve by constructing a township in such a productive agricultural zone?” he asked. The Minister further alleged that the state government is planning to secure a loan of Rs.12,000 crore from HUDCO by citing the proposed acquisition of farmers’ lands. “Loans are being obtained in the name of farmers, yet not a single rupee has reached them. The government proposes to implement the township under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The project will not be developed by the government itself. Instead, valuable land will eventually be handed over to real estate interests. The government is effectively functioning as a real estate agent,” Kumaraswamy alleged.

Karun Nair Named Coastal Kings Mangaluru Captain Ahead of Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 Season 5

FRANCHISE ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP GROUP, LAUNCHES TEAM ANTHEM AND UNVEILS OFFICIAL JERSEY



Mangaluru : Coastal Kings Mangaluru announced Karun Nair as captain ahead of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 Season 5 during a press conference held in Mangaluru on Sunday.

The franchise also unveiled its inaugural squad, announced its leadership group, launched the Coastal Kings Mangaluru anthem and unveiled the team's official jersey as it gears up for its maiden campaign in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

The event was attended by Dr. Srikanth Rai, Chairman, KSCA Mangalore Zone, B.N. Madhukar, Hon. Treasurer, KSCA, Avinash Vaidya, Managing Committee Member, KSCA, Vinod Naidu, Director, Manyata Developers and Owner, Coastal Kings Mangaluru, Indian cricketers Karun Nair and Shreyas Gopal, Kannada and Tulu film actor Roopesh Shetty, KSCA office bearers, Coastal Kings Mangaluru players, and management.

The Coastal Kings Mangaluru Team Jersey was unveiled by B.N. Madhukar, Hon. Treasurer, KSCA, while Avinash Vaidya, Managing Committee Member, KSCA, launched the official Coastal Kings Mangaluru Team Anthem. Karun Nair expressed

his delight at leading the franchise in its maiden season.

“The Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 is a great platform for players across Karnataka to showcase their talent. I'm really privileged to be named captain of Coastal Kings Mangaluru and would like to thank Vinod sir and everyone involved with the franchise for their faith in me. Our focus will be on playing good cricket, giving our best in every game and trying to bring the trophy home to Mangaluru,” he said.

Lauding Maharaja Trophy as a vehicle to inspire players, Shreyas Gopal also spoke about the

players who inspired him during his journey in the game. “Like most players of my generation, I grew up watching Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble. They were the people who really inspired me to pursue cricket in a much more serious way,” he said.

Gopal called on cricket fans in the region to back the team throughout the season.

“To all the Coastal Kings Mangaluru fans, I want you to come out in large numbers, support us and cheer for us. We promise to put our best efforts forward, play good cricket and put on a great show for you,” he added.

Congress continues to sideline dalit leaders, alleges Union Minister Joshi

Bengaluru : The Congress party, which claims to champion the cause of minorities, backward classes and Dalits under its AHINDA ideology, continues to neglect leaders from these communities, alleged Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has alleged, Pralhad Joshi.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he expressed concern over what he described as the repeated sidelining of Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara, a senior Dalit leader in Karnataka, by the state government and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The Minister pointed out that Dr. Parameshwara's photograph was omitted from a government advertisement released on the occasion of former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs' death anniversary. The Deputy Chief Minister was again left out of a recent government advertisement promoting the “Green Bengaluru” initiative.



Questioning the government's priorities, the Union Minister said that while Krishna Byre Gowda has been featured as Bengaluru Development Minister in official advertisements, despite reportedly not having formally assumed the role, the Deputy Chief Minister has been ignored.

He charged that the Congress government was misleading the public and simultaneously marginalising leaders from backward and Dalit communities. According to him, the omission of Dr. Parameshwara's image from official advertisements reflects a deliberate pattern of neglect.

Drawing parallels with the party's past, the Minister claimed that Congress had previously failed to give due respect to leaders such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Babu Jagjivan Ram and Sitaram Kesri. The present treatment of

Dr. Parameshwara, was a continuation of the same political culture.

The Union Minister also noted that during the tenure of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, photographs of deputy chief ministers were routinely included in government advertisements. The current exclusion of Dr. Parameshwara, he added, raises serious questions about the government's commitment to inclusive representation.

BharathCloud Signs MoU with ICSI to Bring Sovereign Cloud Infrastructure to Company Secretaries Across India

Bengaluru : BharathCloud, India's sovereign AI cloud provider, has signed an MoU with The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) in Pune to extend purpose-built cloud solutions to Company Secretaries and ICSI members across the country.

The MoU marks a step toward helping India's corporate governance and compliance professionals move away from ageing, on-premise IT setups and towards cloud environments that are built around the specific compliance, data residency, and security requirements of professional practice.

Under the arrangement,



ICSI members will have access to BharathCloud's cloud infrastructure with tailored pricing structures designed to meet the needs of different practice sizes, whether it is an individual practitioner or a larger pro-

fessional firm. The special pricing arrangement will remain available to ICSI members for a period of two years from the date of the MoU. BharathCloud will also provide onboarding support and training ses-

sions to help firms deploy and use the cloud environment effectively. The broader offering covers reliable remote access to practice applications, encrypted client data storage, automated backups, and a cloud setup that does not require a dedicated IT person to manage. The goal is to make cloud adoption feel like a straightforward operational decision, not a complex infrastructure project.

The partnership also addresses BharathCloud's business continuity, focusing on the combination of 24/7 support, multi-location backups, and India-hosted data residency, which are relevant for professionals.

Guarantee schemes, including Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyoti, will not be discontinued: CM D K Shivakumar



Bengaluru : Chief Minister D K Shivakumar categorically denied discontinuing Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyoti guarantee schemes of the Congress government and appealed to the public not to pay heed to rumours being spread by the Opposition.

“Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyoti are the pride of the Congress government. They will not be stopped under any circumstances. The public should not listen to the false news being spread by Opposition parties in this regard,” the

CM said in a statement.

“Some people have been creating fake records in the names of deceased persons and are availing the benefits of the schemes. Therefore, beneficiaries have been asked to reapply only so that their name, address, and account number can be verified and authenticated for the guarantee schemes.

There is nothing more to it,” he said. The CM categorically stated that all guarantee schemes will continue one hundred percent and that no one need be anxious.

BJP, JD(S) write to Rahul Gandhi: 'Ask your CM to halt Bidadi township project until farmers heard'

Bengaluru: The BJP and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partner JD(S) intensified their opposition to the Karnataka government's proposed Greater Bengaluru township project, on Sunday and sought Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's intervention to stop land acquisition for the project.

While state BJP chief B Y Vijayendra and JD(S) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy separately wrote to Gandhi, who is leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the JD(S) also released documents revealing the finance department's reservations about the project.

Union minister H D Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) told reporters that the township project would benefit land grabbers and the “real estate mafia”. Responding to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's remark that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appreciated the project,

Kumaraswamy said townships in Gujarat came up on dry land, while land around Bidadi was fertile.

Later, Nikhil released a Cabinet note where the finance department raised concerns about implementing the project under the public-private partnership (PPP) model and recommended the engineering, procurement, and construction model instead. The note also raised the issue of loans taken for the project and questioned the purpose behind acquiring all the required land in one go.

In his letter to Gandhi, Nikhil noted that the state government had already issued a notification for acquiring 498.34 acres of land, most of it from marginal and poor farmers. “The state government is planning a massive expansion to forcefully notify and swallow up 9,600 acres of fertile land in the region. If this corporate expansion is not halted right now, thousands more families will be permanently uprooted,” the JD(S) leader said.

CM D.K. Shivakumar's announcement of Rs. 10 lac grant for establishing youth clubs is proof of encouraging all sports: S.E. Sudhindra

Bengaluru: S.E. Sudhindra, Vice President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and President of Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board said that, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is giving special encouragement to sports and recently announced a grant of Rs. 10 lakh to establish youth clubs in the state to encourage cultural, sports and leadership development of the youth of the state in the name of Bharat Jodo, which is a proof for encouraging all sports.Speaking at the inaugural program of the District Kalaripayattu, District Level Sub-Junior, Junior, Senior and Super Senior Kalaripayattu Sports,



which is functioning under the Karnataka Kalaripayattu Association and Kalaripayattu Council of Karnataka in Kada Agharna, Sompura, Anekal, Bangalore.

He said that the state government has been encouraging this sport by giving first, second and third prizes of Rs 5,3,2 lakhs to the winners of this Kalaripayattu tournament

for the last two to three years. The Chief Minister's Special Duty Officer Dr. Vaishnavi Kuppaswamy, who is himself a Kalripayattu athlete and has won a gold medal in the super seniors category, wished all the participating athletes the best of luck.He said that there is a need to introduce the sport of Kalaripayattu to the youth at a young age and formulate a program to create interest in this sport among students.

The Chief Minister's Special Duty Officer Dr. Vaishnavi Kuppaswamy, along with Lieutenant Air Defence Poonthara Soman, Srijith K Surendranath, athletes and sports enthusiasts were present at the program.

EDITORIAL

A CHALLENGING TIME CONFRONTS THE INDIA BLOC

It is a good augury for the Republic that the INDIA opposition bloc with as many as 23 parties in attendance has regrouped, and agreed on a five-point agenda of action to begin with. Among the notable absentees have been the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). One dare speculate that the DMK, which is currently in a lover's quarrel with the Congress for the latter having deserted it to go over to the new successful kid on the block, will think many times before ever aligning with the right-wing, Brahminical Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) if the Union government should such a choice confront it. As to the AAP, its political ambitions clearly stretch beyond any state-level successes, and thus, viewing the Congress as its natural adversary, it is unlikely to change its mind. Then there is the ultra-new Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) around which speculations are rife dime a dozen. And not without cause: how is it, it is asked, that permission to demonstrate in large numbers for a whole day at Jantar Mantar was granted to it when hardly any oppressed group of citizens, be it farmers or any others, are almost never so allowed to gather there; or why while demonstrations mounted by the Indian Youth Congress and the National Students' Union of India in city after city are routinely lathicharged and water-cannoned etc, the CJP event faced no such strong arm measures. Be that as it may, a reliable read of this new breathtaking occurrence may for now come directly from the founder of the CJP as recorded in an elaborate conversation with Frontline, rather than from the many secondary interpretations that now populate the social media etc. Abhijeet Dipke comes across as a truthful and earnest young political aspirant who seeks to lead the millions who have suddenly jumped on to his call to forge a new governance model that caters conscientiously to the problems of India's Generation Z. In the cited interaction, he speaks of the "big lies" of the BJP, (to note, the BJP party president has openly castigated the CJP as a fifth column charged with causing mayhem in the country) and mentions Gandhi, Ambedkar and Nehru as his guides to collective political action – Gandhi for having been the "greatest freedom fighter", Ambedkar for having made it possible for the likes of him to go to Boston and his father to be an engineer, and most instructively, Nehru for having resisted the impulse to become an autocratic ruler of what could have been an authoritarian state, and for having furnished the intellectual and institutional wherewithal of a secular, democratic state. He describes his ideology as 'socialist', and also says that the CJP will not be amenable for any existent political outfits to align with it. Dipke has issued a call to the Modi government to ask the education minister to resign within a week from June 6, failing which a call will go up from him for an all-India protest. It might suffice for now to say that fingers should be crossed for the outcome of the course that the CJP founder has set out, before making any very definitive prognostications about the fortunes of the new youth movement, and about its equation or not with the INDIA bloc. Any thought of aligning with the BJP may not but make nonsense of what we hear Dipke say in the above interview, although what shenanigans the ruling BJP might employ to co-opt or crush the CJP must remain a live curiosity.

12 Years Of Transforming India's Healthcare Under PM Modi

Healthcare accessibility is one of the most important investments a nation can make. A healthy population is not only essential for social well-being but also forms the foundation of economic growth, productivity, and national development. Over the past twelve years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has undertaken one of the most ambitious healthcare transformations in its history. Guided by the vision of affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare for all, the country has strengthened its medical infrastructure, expanded healthcare coverage, advanced disease control programmes, accelerated indigenous innovation, and positioned itself as a global healthcare leader. The story of India's healthcare transformation begins with strengthening the very foundation of the system, medical education and human resources. A robust healthcare ecosystem requires an adequate number of doctors, specialists, nurses, and healthcare professionals. Recognising this need, the Modi government embarked on an unprecedented expansion of medical education infrastructure across the country. In 2014, India had 842 medical colleges. By 2026, that number had crossed 2,100, representing a 2.5-fold increase. This expansion has brought medical education closer to aspiring students, particularly in regions that previously lacked such institutions. The increase in opportunities has been equally remarkable. MBBS seats have risen from 51,348 in 2014 to 1.28 lakh in 2026, while postgraduate medical seats have increased from 31,185 to 85,822 during the same period. This dramatic expansion is creating a larger pool of trained medical professionals capable of serving India's growing healthcare needs and ensuring better access to quality care across urban and rural India. Alongside building capacity, the government has focused on tackling some of India's most persistent public health challenges. Tuberculosis, which has historically imposed a heavy burden on millions of Indian families, has witnessed remarkable progress. Through a combination of early detection, widespread screening, improved treatment access, technological interventions, and communi-



ty participation, India is accelerating its journey towards becoming TB-free. The results have been striking. Missing TB cases have dropped by 93.33 percent, while TB incidence has fallen by 21 percent, twice the global pace of decline. Treatment coverage has increased dramatically from 53 percent in 2015 to 92 percent in 2024. More than 20 crore vulnerable individuals have been screened under TB control initiatives, and over 28 lakh patients have been diagnosed under the Pradhan Mantri Tuberculosis Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan. These achievements demonstrate how sustained public policy, backed by targeted interventions and grassroots outreach, can deliver measurable improvements in public health. India's success extends beyond TB control. Diseases that once posed significant public health challenges are steadily being pushed towards elimination. In 2024, the World Health Organization declared India Trachoma-free, making it only the third country in South-East Asia to achieve this milestone. Malaria cases have declined by more than 80 percent, while malaria-related deaths have fallen by 78 percent. Building on these successes, India is now actively pursuing the elimination of tuberculosis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, measles, rubella, and kala-azar. These achievements reflect the

strengthening of surveillance systems, public health infrastructure, preventive healthcare programmes, and last-mile healthcare delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic presented perhaps the greatest public health challenge of modern times. Faced with protecting one of the world's largest populations, India responded with extraordinary speed, scale, and innovation. The country developed two indigenous COVID-19 vaccines in less than a year, demonstrating its growing scientific and manufacturing capabilities. More than 220 crore vaccine doses were administered nationwide, supported by one of the world's largest vaccination drives. India also achieved a remarkable record by administering more than 2.5 crore vaccine doses in a single day. The success of the vaccination campaign highlighted the power of combining scientific innovation, digital platforms, efficient logistics, and public participation. A defining feature of India's healthcare transformation has been the rise of indigenous innovation. Increasingly, India's healthcare story is being written in its own laboratories, research institutions, and innovation centres. Significant breakthroughs have strengthened the country's ability to develop affordable and accessible healthcare solutions. India introduced NexCAR19, the country's first indigenously

developed CAR-T cell therapy for cancer, which is also among the world's most affordable CAR-T treatments. The development of India's first indigenous MRI machine promises to reduce diagnostic costs and improve access to advanced imaging technology. In 2024, Nafithromycin became India's first indigenous macrolide antibiotic developed to combat pneumonia. The Genome India Project successfully sequenced 10,000 genomes, creating a valuable foundation for precision medicine and genomic research. Furthermore, India resumed Penicillin G production after a gap of three decades, reinforcing pharmaceutical self-reliance and supply chain resilience. Technology is also reshaping healthcare delivery. By integrating artificial intelligence into healthcare systems, India is creating new possibilities for diagnosis, research, disease surveillance, and patient care. The launch of the Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India (SAHI) signalled a commitment to leveraging emerging technologies for better health outcomes. The National Federated Learning Platform is validating AI health models using data generated under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. India is among the first countries in South-East Asia to adopt a national AI strategy for health. Complementing these efforts is BODH, the Benchmarking

Open Data Platform for Health AI, developed by IIT Kanpur and the National Health Authority to test and benchmark AI-driven healthcare solutions. Together, these initiatives are laying the foundation for a smarter, more efficient, and data-driven healthcare ecosystem. India's emergence as a global healthcare powerhouse is also reflected in its growing leadership in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. Long recognised as the "Pharmacy of the World," India is now evolving into a global hub for biopharmaceutical and biotechnology innovation. Strategic investments, supportive policy frameworks, and a thriving startup ecosystem are driving this transformation. The government has committed ₹10,000 crore towards Biopharma SHAKTI (Strengthening Healthcare and Knowledge-based Technology Innovation), aimed at accelerating research, innovation, and commercialisation in life sciences. India's bioeconomy, which stood at approximately \$10 billion in 2014, has expanded to around \$195 billion in 2025 and is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030. The country is now home to more than 11,800 biotech startups, making it one of the world's fastest-growing biotechnology ecosystems. India's contribution to global healthcare remains unparalleled. The country supplies nearly 70 percent of the world's anti-retroviral medicines and between 55 and 60 percent of vaccines procured by UNICEF. Pharmaceutical exports have crossed \$31 billion in FY26, reinforcing India's role as a trusted supplier of affordable medicines to countries around the world. These achievements have been supported by sustained public investment. Recognising that healthcare infrastructure, research, medical education, technology adoption, and healthcare services require long-term commitment, the Modi government has steadily increased healthcare expenditure. The healthcare budget for 2026-27 stands at ₹1,06,530 crore, representing a 203 percent increase from ₹35,163 crore in 2014-15. This substantial increase reflects the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, expanding human resources, improving service delivery, and ensuring healthcare reaches every citizen.

The AI Kill Switch, And Why Sovereign AI Just Became Non-Negotiable



The US government has ordered Anthropic to block access to its most advanced AI models-Claude Fable 5 and Mythos 5-for all foreign nationals worldwide. This restriction applies even to foreign nationals within the US, including Anthropic's own employees. Anthropic couldn't even comply selectively. The only way to follow the order was to shut the models down for everyone, everywhere, including American citizens. Overnight, a model that businesses around the world had built their workflows on simply disappeared. This is the worst fear of geopolitical experts and tech policy watchers, playing out in real time. Sovereign AI proponents have long argued: if you don't own the model, you can't own your access to it. A single directive, in a single jurisdiction, can switch off a capability your business, or your country, has come to depend on. This is no longer a hypothetical situation for a policy paper. It happened. This Friday. And it makes the case for sovereign AI models trained, hosted, and governed within a country's own jurisdiction not a nationalist talking point, but a genuine continuity and security imperative.

Which brings me to something else that happened this week. Anthropic founder Dario wrote a policy paper to highlight the gap between how fast AI moves, and how slowly governments respond. The irony is hard to miss. Dario's essay, "Policy on the AI Exponential," calls for governments to step in with thoughtful, binding regulation, because AI is moving too fast for slow institutions to keep pace. Days later, the US government stepped in. Just not in the way he was asking for. This is exactly the kind of blunt, unilateral, knee-jerk, security-driven intervention that founders and policy watchers alike have feared, the kind that smart regulation is supposed to pre-empt, not become. Still, the essay itself is a seminal moment for all of us in the policy world. Not for what it says about AI, but for who is saying it. The founder himself. Here is a founder building one of the most powerful AI systems on the planet, saying governments must step in with binding, enforceable law. Not self-regulation. When I entered public policy over a decade ago, the doctrine was: innovate first, regulate later. I lived it during the Uber era: technology outruns the regula-

tor, and that's fine, regulations will catch up later. AI has destroyed that philosophy. In four years, AI went from barely writing a line of code to writing most of the code at major tech companies. You cannot afford regulation to be slow when the technology is moving at this pace and rewriting itself every few months. And yet there are no easy answers. I think about this every time I sit across from a policymaker. In conversations with India's IT Secretary S Krishnan, more recently with UK AI Minister Kanishka Narayan, and with regulators across jurisdictions, the sentiment is the same: It is genuinely hard to be a policymaker right now. How do you balance twin objectives: Don't throttle innovation. But don't let a civilisation-altering technology, or your access to it sit in someone else's hands without guardrails. India's position has been considered: pro-AI, legislate when the need is clear. But these events suggest the need is already here on two fronts. Smart, anticipatory regulation of AI capability. And sovereign AI infrastructure, so that no country is one Friday-evening directive away from disruption.

The growing shadow of inflation

— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

In a vast and developing country like India, inflation is not just an economic term, but a reality deeply embedded in the daily lives of millions of families, directly impacting their income, savings, food, education, and future plans. Recent reports and market trends indicate that prices of daily necessities have increased by 15 to 20 percent since March. Essential products like edible oil, soap, detergent, coffee, handwash, snacks, shampoo, and pulses are all steadily rising. Additionally, the increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, and gas cylinders has further exacerbated the hardships of the common consumer. Inflation has the greatest impact on middle- and lower-income groups. These groups have limited incomes, and the bulk of their expenditures are devoted to essential needs such as food, housing, education, and health. When the prices of everyday goods rise, their savings opportunities diminish. As a result, families are forced to cut back on their needs or resort to debt. According to the report, edible oil prices have seen the largest increase. While they increased by 3 to 5 percent in June, the increase has reached 20 to 25 percent since March. India imports a large portion of its edible oil needs. Fluctuations in international crude oil and edible oil prices directly impact the Indian market. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia, supply chain disruptions, and increased transportation costs have made edible oils more expensive. Another sig-

nificant driver of inflation is rising energy prices. Domestic gas cylinder prices have risen by more than 10 percent, while commercial cylinders, petrol, and diesel have also become more expensive. Energy is the backbone of any economy. When fuel prices rise, transportation costs increase. This impact is felt at every level, from farms to markets, from factories to markets, and from warehouses to consumers. Consequently, the price of almost every commodity increases. Today, companies are also under pressure from rising costs. Rising costs of raw materials, electricity, transportation, and packaging have increased production costs. In this situation, companies adopt two approaches: either raising product prices or reducing package sizes. Consumers often don't realize that a product available at the same price is now available in smaller quantities. In economic terms, this is called "shrinkflation." This is also a hidden form of inflation. The most obvious impact of inflation is seen in the kitchen. A middle-class family's monthly kitchen budget, which used to be 15,000 rupees, can now reach 17,000 to 18,000 rupees due to rising prices. This increase may seem small, but over a year, this additional expense adds up to thousands of rupees. This situation becomes even more difficult for families with stable incomes. The situation in rural areas is no less challenging. Rising costs of diesel, fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides have made agricultural production more

expensive. Farmers don't receive fair prices for their crops, while consumers have to purchase the same products at higher prices. Thus, the burden of inflation falls on both producers and consumers, while the intermediary supply chain and market structures reap greater profits. Inflation also has profound social impacts. When essential commodities become more expensive, families first cut back on spending on entertainment, tourism, and luxuries. This then impacts areas such as education, health, and nutrition. Many families are unable to afford nutritious food for their children. This can lead to malnutrition and health problems. On the other hand, reduced spending on education impacts future human capital. Economically, controlled inflation is considered a sign of development, as it indicates increased demand and production. However, when inflation rises faster than income growth, it creates economic imbalances. This is the concern that is emerging in the current situation. Wage and employment growth rates are not as fast as the rising prices of essential commodities. This is reducing real purchasing power. The Reserve Bank of India and the government take steps from time to time to control inflation. Measures such as changing interest rates, reducing import duties, monitoring stockpiles of essential commodities, and increasing market supply are taken. However, due to global conditions, international trade, and geopolitical tensions, these efforts are often

limited in effectiveness. The current situation requires the government to adopt a multi-pronged strategy. Domestic production must be promoted to reduce dependence on imports of edible oils and essential commodities. Expanding modern technologies in the agricultural sector, developing storage facilities, and increasing supply chain efficiency are essential. Hoarding and artificial price increases must be closely monitored. A review of the tax structure on petroleum products could also provide relief to consumers. Consumers also play an important role. Avoiding unnecessary purchases, budgeting, prioritizing local products, and developing a saving habit are essential. Comparing prices digitally to find the best options can also help reduce expenses. Inflation isn't just a matter of economic statistics; it's a question of the living standards, nutrition, education, and future prospects of millions of Indian families. If the prices of essential commodities continue to rise at this rate, the impact will not only be limited to household budgets but will also impact the pace of social and economic development. Therefore, the government, industry, and consumers—all three—must work together to find balanced and long-term solutions. Today, the need is to ensure that the brilliance of development is visible not only in statistics, but also in the common man's plate, kitchen, and pocket. Unless inflation is effectively controlled, the benefits of economic progress will not fully reach the last person in society.



Gadkari approves 100 pc ethanol fuel to cut fossil fuel imports

New Delhi: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, said he has approved the use of 100 per cent ethanol fuel to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels. The move is also aimed at accelerating the shift towards alternative energy sources, he said during a press conference in Nagpur to mark 12 years of the NDA government. "Last night at 8 pm, I signed the file, finalising the regulations to legally authorise the use of 100 per cent ethanol," the minister informed. Ethanol has the potential to emerge as a viable alternative to petrol, helping India reduce its massive fuel import bill. Gadkari said the idea was initially met with scepticism and criticism. "I used to talk about this dream, and people used to laugh. Some friends even used to criticise it," the minister said. Gadkari further stated that several major automakers are preparing to introduce ethanol-compatible vehicles in the coming weeks. Companies such as Toyota, Suzuki, MG and Hyundai will launch 100 per cent ethanol-compatible vehicles within the next month and a half, he said. Last week, the government



introduced E85 fuel for E85-compatible flex-fuel vehicles. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri highlighted India's progress in ethanol blending, stating that the country has surpassed its targets well ahead of schedule. He said ethanol blending in petrol has increased from 1.5 per cent in 2014 to 10 per cent in November 2022, while the target of achieving 20 per cent blending was accomplished ahead of time. "From 2014 until now, we have increased ethanol blending from 1.5 per cent to 10 per



cent, which was achieved in November 2022. Our target was to achieve 20 per cent blending by 2030, but we completed it in 2024 itself," Puri told IANS in an interaction. "At present, we are having very widespread discussions with the industry, including our automobile association, SIAM, and other organisations. Meanwhile, we have introduced E85 fuel. However, E85 has been introduced only for E85-compatible flex-fuel vehicles," the minister added. Automakers prepare for ethanol-ready fleet Major car and two-

wheeler manufacturers are accelerating plans for ethanol-compatible vehicles following the E100 clearance. Maruti Suzuki, Hero MotoCorp, Toyota, Suzuki, and Hyundai are among those set to launch models within months, while infrastructure for E100 dispensing stations is being planned in urban and agricultural hubs. The shift will require new engine calibrations, corrosion-resistant materials, and fresh emissions certification to meet performance and durability standards. The Economic Times + 4

Challenges and next steps for E100 adoption While the policy sets a clear direction, challenges include fuel logistics, vehicle compatibility, and consumer acceptance. Past transitions from E10 to E20 saw mileage drops and engine concerns for older vehicles, prompting calls for phased rollouts and multiple fuel options like in Brazil. Industry voices stress the need for supportive pricing, infrastructure upgrades, and public awareness to ensure smooth adoption and avoid disadvantaging owners of non-compliant vehicles.

UK AND JAPAN AGREE £18BN INVESTMENT DEAL

The UK and Japan have agreed a multi-billion pound investment deal which UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said will build a "new era of co-operation" between the two nations. Japanese firms will spend more than £9bn on UK infrastructure and financial services and up to £9bn on UK offshore wind, creating tens of thousands of jobs, Downing Street said as the PM met his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi in London. The deal comes as the UK's economy struggles to grow, with experts predicting the US-Israel war with Iran will hit the UK particularly hard. It is not clear how much of the investment listed by Downing Street represents new money or previously announced plans. Sir Keir and Takaichi met Japanese business leaders at Downing Street on Sunday, with Starmer describing the talks as "very productive". Separately, Sir Keir said he was "really pleased" the two countries had reaffirmed their commitment to the Gcap fighter jet programme being developed alongside Italy. Meanwhile, it was announced Rolls-Royce would work with Japan's



Atomic Energy Agency to develop next generation nuclear technologies and a technology agreement would link up UK research and development and software expertise with Japanese manufacturing. Speaking through a translator, Japan's prime minister said the UK is "an extremely important partner". Mitsubishi Estate, Mitsui Fudosan, Nomura Real Estate were some of the Japanese firms which Downing Street said had agreed to spend billions over the next five years on infrastructure and real estate projects. The Conservative's shadow business and trade secretary Andrew Griffith said his party welcomed "any deal that brings investment" to the UK. However, he added that Labour's "tax hikes and employer red

tape are doing huge damage, destroying jobs and putting more and more people onto welfare". Economic challenges ahead Though Downing Street has said the deal will boost jobs and long-term growth, experts expect economic pain in the near term. The UK economy grew by 0.6% during the first three months of the year, but analysts think growth will be sluggish in the months ahead. The US-Israel war with Iran will hit the UK the hardest of the world's advanced economies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said last month. Meanwhile, the Bank of England has warned that it expects UK inflation to increase as a result of the war, possibly reaching 6% in the worst-case scenario.

Rahul 'undermining' achievements of India: Nirmala Sitharaman

Bengaluru: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday, June 14, slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of "undermining" the achievements of India and its people while targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Centre. She alleged that Rahul Gandhi "ignores" India's achievements even in the face of major crises like COVID and the conflict in West Asia. Sitharaman clarified that there is no crisis awaiting in the country as is being portrayed by Rahul Gandhi. "Every time the Leader of Opposition speaks in the Lok Sabha, it is only to decry everything, undermine the achievements of the people of India, thinking that he is undermining Prime Minister Modi or the central government," she said in her address to the party functionaries at the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Samavesha here to celebrate 12 years of the BJP rule in the country under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. According to her, Rahul Gandhi constantly



says that everything is going to crumble in the next few weeks. The LoP keeps saying that there is a big disaster awaiting, but there is no disaster awaiting India. "On the contrary, quarter after quarter, year after year, India is the fastest growing economy," she underlined. The union minister said it is not the government, which is saying that India is the fastest growing economy, but the GDP as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sitharaman said that even during the West Asia crisis, the Prime

Minister ensured that there was no disruption in fuel supply. To drive home her point, the Finance Minister explained the challenges in shipping fuel from West Asia. Sitharaman said that even during the West Asia crisis, the Prime Minister ensured that there was no disruption in fuel supply. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has informed that Karnataka has received five times more Central tax devolution as against the allocation during the UPA tenure. She was addressing the Viksit Bharat Sankalp

Samavesha in Bengaluru today. She refuted the allegations of the Congress-led state government in Karnataka that Karnataka is deprived of Central allocations. Providing allocation details, the minister said that the state received four lakh Crore rupees in tax devolutions. The state was allowed 18000 crore interest-free loans for 50 years to invest in capital assets. The finance minister also informed that the state received 63000 crore rupees Central funds to construct 8100 kms National Highways, 7700 crore for railway infrastructure and 7000 crore for Bengaluru Chennai Industrial corridor project. She further said that 1354 crore rupees were granted to take up Renewable energy projects. Koppal and Gadag she said will be green energy hubs by June next year. Nirmala Sitharaman said that Karnataka has also benefited from Jandhan, Mudra loans, Ayushman, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ujjwala, Kisan Sammaan, Janaushadhi Kendras and incentives given to start-ups.

Inflation data, crude oil drivers for stock markets: Analysts

New Delhi: Market investors would keenly track inflation data, the US Fed interest rate decision, and trends in crude oil prices to determine further movement, analysts said. Besides, the status of the US-Iran deal signing on Sunday, trading activity of foreign investors and movement in global markets would also drive sentiments in domestic equities, experts noted. "On the domestic front, investors will monitor the release of May WPI inflation data," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Globally, the US Federal Reserve's policy decision will be the most significant event, he added. US President Donald Trump has said a deal to end the war with Iran would be signed on Sunday and that the strategic Strait of Hormuz would be "open to all" immediately afterwards. At the same time, Trump kept the threat of fresh attacks dangling if the deal failed to pan out as



expected. Markets are likely to remain highly sensitive to developments surrounding the proposed US-Iran agreement, Ponmudi R, CEO, Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. Meanwhile, foreign investors remained sellers in Indian equities, dumping more than Rs 62,853 crore of shares in the first fortnight of June. With the latest outflows, total withdrawals by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)

from Indian equities have surged to Rs 2.87 lakh crore so far in 2026, surpassing the Rs 1.66 lakh crore pulled out during the entire calendar year 2025, according to data from the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL). Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said, on the domestic front, the progress of the monsoon season and inflation trends will remain key areas of focus. "Another

major event on investors' radar is the upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting scheduled for June 16-17, 2026. Market participants will closely monitor the Fed's commentary, inflation outlook, economic growth projections, and indications regarding future rate cuts," he added. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,284.61 points, or 1.73 per cent, and the NSE Nifty surged 256.2 points, or 1 per cent. "Recent geopolitical developments, which everyone expects to lead to a peace deal between the US and Iran, have led to a sharp correction in the price of Brent crude. For a big oil importer like India, this is a huge positive," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Trump has said a deal to end the war with Iran would be signed on Sunday and that the strategic Strait of Hormuz would be 'open to all' immediately afterwards.

LISA RAY IN HYDERABAD TO BRING AWARENESS TO WOMEN'S MID LIFE HEALTH THROUGH HER SCIENCE-BACKED WOMEN'S MIDLIFE CLINIC



Hyderabad, June 2026: On June 18th, actor and women's wellness advocate Lisa Ray will visit Hyderabad to spread awareness of women's mid life health through her science backed clinic, NuHer. Lisa has co-founded NuHer to revolutionize women's healthcare. Lisa has partnered with a distinguished team of experts—including Dr. Reina Punj, Dr. Kajal Parikh, Dr. Priyanka Mehta, Dr. Anuya Manerkar, Priyanka Kapoor, and Parinaz Agha—to bridge the significant gaps in clini-



cal care and awareness surrounding perimenopause and menopause. "For much of our lives we are taught just enough about our bodies to get by. We learn the basics in school, receive some guidance during our reproductive years and then the learning stops," Ray noted. "Midlife follows, which is often the longest and most transformative phase of a woman's body, yet it arrives with little structure, clarity or support." By 2026, India is expected to have more than 100 million women undergo-



ing or post-menopause. Studies suggest that over 80 percent of women aged 40 to 60 experience menopausal symptoms including fatigue, sleep disruption, mood changes and hot flashes. However, many do not seek treatment as these changes are often attributed to stress or ageing rather than hormonal transition. "What struck me most was the silence. Symptoms are minimised, conversations avoided and a profound biological shift is treated as something to endure rather than understand.



NuHer was created to help bring clarity and credible guidance to this stage of life," Ray added. For many women, menopause is a transition that can last more than a decade. The decline in estrogen and progesterone during this period is associated with increased risks of osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disorders and cognitive changes. "Menopause affects multiple aspects of health, from metabolism and bone density to overall wellbeing. Understanding these changes



and approaching them with preventive and holistic care can help women navigate this stage with greater confidence and better long-term health outcomes," explained Dr Reina Punj, a physician specialising in internal medicine, endocrinology and functional health. NuHer offers medical consultations, personalised treatment plans and guidance on nutrition, sleep and hormonal balance for women navigating perimenopause and menopause. "Menopause is a natural transition in a woman's



life, but the symptoms can significantly affect quality of life if they are not recognised and managed early. With the right medical guidance, lifestyle support and personalised hormone care, women can navigate this stage with greater comfort and long-term health," said Dr Priyanka Mehta, obstetrician and gynaecologist, MRCOG and member of the British Menopause Society. Hormonal transitions during midlife can also influence visible aspects of health such as skin and hair. "Hormonal



shifts affect the body in visible and invisible ways. With the right medical approach and personalised care, women can manage these changes effectively while maintaining healthy skin, hair and overall vitality," noted dermatologist and aesthetic physician Dr Anuya Manerkar. NuHer combines medical expertise with wellness support and also includes nutraceutical formulations designed to support women experiencing menopause-related symptoms.

Trump says US-Iran deal to be signed on Sunday as Tehran casts doubt on timing

President Donald Trump has said a deal to end fighting between the US and Iran is scheduled to be signed on Sunday, after Iran cast doubt on the timing. In a post on social media, Trump said the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route, would be "open to all" once the deal is agreed. On Saturday, Pakistan, a key mediator, also said the deal was "likely expected" to be finalised within 24 hours and they were "preparing for the electronic signing". Before Trump's comments, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei expressed caution over the timeline, saying: "We will have to wait and see about the exact date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding, although it will not be tomorrow [Sunday]." A delegation from Qatar, which has also mediated in the talks, arrived in Tehran on Sunday, Iranian media reported. It was not clear if

the visit would affect the timing of Iran's expected signature of the deal. In a post on Truth Social on Saturday, Trump wrote: "The Deal is scheduled to get signed tomorrow, and immediately after it is signed, the Hormuz Strait is OPEN TO ALL." In an apparent reference to Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles, Trump said that "at the appropriate time, when all is calm, we will go in and get the Nuclear Dust", adding it would later be destroyed. For decades, Iran has been accused by Western countries of trying to build a nuclear bomb. It has denied the accusations, saying its programme is for peaceful purposes - to generate electricity and for research purposes. Trump also warned that if things would not "work out quickly, easily and smoothly", Washington had "the ultimate alternative, hopefully never to be used again!" Earlier on Saturday,



Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that "we are closer to a peace deal than ever before". "With finalisation likely expected in the next 24 hours, Pakistan is preparing for the electronic signing of the peace deal immediately after, followed by technical level talks next week," Sharif wrote on X. On Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said that a

deal with the US was close. The agreement envisaged an end to the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, he said. Talks on Iran's nuclear programme would begin later. US officials have confirmed some of the details of the agreement, saying economic benefits for Iran would depend on Tehran meeting its obligations. In recent months, variations of an agreement have

been expected several times but have not been completed in the later stages. The war began with US and Israeli strikes across Iran on 28 February, prompting Iran to attack Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf - as well as effectively closing the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for the world's oil and liquefied natural gas. Despite having agreed a ceasefire in April, the US and Iran have exchanged intermittent fire. Previous reports from the US had suggested that the conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah Lebanon may not be part of this deal - with Iran reportedly insisting on it. Israel is not part of the US-Iran deal and has also insisted it will continue striking Hezbollah, in response to its attacks in northern Israel. Trump has typically been an ardent proponent of Israel during both his terms in the White House - but his attempts to extricate

himself from a potentially drawn-out and increasingly costly conflict in the Middle East have been frustrated by Israel's ongoing operation in Lebanon. On Sunday, Israel carried out an air strike on the southern suburbs of Beirut known as Dahieh, a Hezbollah stronghold in the Lebanese capital. Pictures posted online show a large plume of smoke where the location was hit. Israel confirmed it carried out the attack, saying it was in response to Hezbollah's firing into Israeli territory. Trump has previously stopped Israel from carrying out attacks in Beirut. Earlier this month, Israel bombed sites in Iran for the first time since a ceasefire in April, after Iran fired missiles at Israel, in what Tehran said was retaliation for Israeli strikes on Lebanon's capital. It is not clear if the Israeli strikes will have any impact on Iran's plans to sign the deal with the US.

Teen shot and buses torched in Manhattan after historic NBA win for Knicks



A teenager was shot and buses destroyed during chaotic scenes in New York City that marred jubilant celebrations for the Knicks' historic NBA championship win. The New York Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs 94-90 in game five on Saturday to clinch the title for the first time in more than half a century. The game was in Texas, but New Yorkers took to their hometown streets in droves to toast the milestone for fans and the city. As crowds swelled into the early hours, gunfire rang out near Times Square, a 17-year-old was wounded and school buses that had transported World Cup fans were torched. It is unclear if anyone was hurt in that incident.

Knicks owner James Dolan had called for restraint following his team's victory against the Spurs in San Antonio on Saturday night. "We need to tell everybody in New York that we know that they're celebrating, we want them to have a great time," said Dolan, interrupting Knicks player Josh Hart's news conference. "Please be safe. Don't get hurt, don't hurt anybody." But celebrations turned violent as fans spilling out of bars and viewing parties clashed with officers in Midtown Manhattan. In a statement to the BBC, the NYPD said crowds became "increasingly destructive" with "many incidents of incredibly reckless and dangerous behaviour".

TOURIST TRAIN OVERTURNS AND INJURES 17 DURING CÁRTAMA TAPAS FESTIVAL



Seventeen people have been injured after the wagon of a tourist train overturned in the Spanish town of Cártama. The accident happened just after 21:30 local time (20:30 BST) on Saturday evening, according to local authorities. The cause is unknown. Emergency teams attended to the injured at the scene and four were later evacuated to a nearby hospital, including three children. None of the victims suffered serious injuries, local authorities said. The free train ride was part of an annual event called la Ruta de la Tapa y el Cóctel, where people are encouraged to visit different local businesses to try their food and drink offerings. The road train was carrying around 30 passengers at the time of the incident. Photos shared on social media show several people aboard the wagon

while emergency services attend to a child sat on the floor. The event, happening from the 10 to 14 June, provides a map across the city highlighting several restaurants and bars. The train stops along the route to drop people off at the establishments. Customers can get stamps from trying different food and drinks and later be entered into a raffle for prizes. The accident happened while the train had been turning at a crossing in Santo Cristo road, local authorities said, citing several calls to emergency services. The train service has been suspended for the weekend while investigations are ongoing. The town of Cártama, in southern Spain, is located just 17 km (10.6 mile) from the popular tourist destination of Málaga, and a 44-minute drive to the wealthy resort town of Marbella.

AUTHOR CHIMAMANDA ADICHIE ACCUSES HOSPITAL OF STALLING REVIEW INTO SON'S DEATH



Prominent Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has accused a hospital in Lagos of obstructing an inquest into the circumstances surrounding her baby son's death. A coronial inquest into the death of her 21-month-old son, Nknau, at Euracare hospital in January had been due to start in April, Adichie said. The author now alleges that Euracare

has "stalled and muddled and obfuscated" over the inquest and has requested Nigeria's Federal High Court block the inquiry. The BBC has approached Euracare for comment. An investigation panel set up by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria had previously found a possible case of medical negligence against the hospital. Adichie recently published a letter on social media which she had sent to the hospital's director in April. It was her first public comment since the death of her son, who was one of twin boys born in 2024, using a surrogate. "If Euracare cares about the truth, then why create delays and distractions and now, finally, try to stop an inquest," she wrote in her post.

Royal Marines board Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in English Channel

Royal Marine Commandos have boarded a Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in the English Channel in the early hours of Sunday morning. Marines, joined by National Crime Agency officers, with the support of the RAF, intercepted and boarded the vessel in a six-hour operation - the first operation of its kind by UK armed forces. The vessel, Smyrtos, will be held and monitored off the south coast of England as investigations continue, the MoD said. Sir Keir Starmer said: "This successful operation delivers yet another blow to Russia and reminds those fuelling Putin's war in Ukraine that we will not let them hide." There was no immediate response from Moscow, which has previously described similar intercep-



tions as illegal and "bordering on international piracy". In video footage shared by the MoD, armed personnel can be seen boarding the vessel by fast-roping from a helicopter. Further videos show them conducting searches of cabins aboard the vessel, while officers from the NCA inspect paperwork. Russia

has been operating a "shadow fleet" of tankers to evade international sanctions imposed on its oil exports. Responsible for carrying 75% of Russia's sanctioned oil, the shadow fleet of more than 700 vessels provides a critical lifeline for the Kremlin, the MoD said. The prime minister announced

SWISS VOTERS REJECT 10 MILLION POPULATION CAP, EARLY PROJECTIONS SAY

Voters in Switzerland have rejected a proposal to limit the country's population to 10 million, early projections suggest. Not all votes have been counted, but the current trend suggests 55% of participants voted against, to 45% for. The proposal came from the right-wing Swiss People's Party, which has long campaigned on an anti-immigration platform. The divisive vote risked putting the country's free movement agreement with the European Union in jeopardy. Switzerland's population has grown rapidly since 2002, when it stood at 7.3 million. Now it is 9.1 million, 27% of whom are not Swiss citizens. However, the People Party's argument that capping the



population would reduce pressure on transport, housing and the environment seem not to have persuaded enough voters. Although the Swiss People's Party insisted the population cap was designed to protect Switzerland's public services and its environment, it has a long history of cam-

paigning on an anti immigrant platform, frequently blaming asylum seekers and minorities for societal problems. Some voters were seemingly worried at the prospect of losing much-needed workers in tourism, hospitals, and care homes. Others, in particular Swiss business leaders,

feared losing Switzerland's crucial access to Europe's single market. Over half of all Swiss products are sold into the EU, but their access to Europe's markets depends on Swiss commitment to Europe's free movement of people. Had the population cap been approved, Switzerland would have had to terminate that agreement. It is also likely that some Swiss voters were nervous about a move which could leave their country isolated in what is a very unstable world. Although neutral, Switzerland, like its neighbours in Europe, is spending more on defence, and has been exploring ways to co-ordinate more closely with European on security.

'Boyfriend duties call,' Trudeau says after skipping Canada match to watch Perry



Former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has responded to criticism for skipping his country's first World Cup match to attend a USA game, where his girlfriend, pop superstar Katy Perry, performed. "Sometimes supportive boyfriend duties call. But you know who I'm rooting for to take the Cup," he posted on social media, adding a Canadian flag emoji. The opening matches in Toronto and Los Angeles took place hours apart. Cameras caught Perry running off stage to greet the former Canadian leader with a kiss. Throughout the game, the pair were shown in televised clips sipping beers and canoodling in the stands. But online, some Canadians were not pleased. One X user from Toronto called it a "a slap in the face of this country. Distasteful doesn't begin to cover it".

Others called Trudeau a "traitor" and a "fraud" as clips began to go viral on social media. The former PM missed Canada's 1-1 draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Toronto, which started at 15:00pm EDT on Friday. Instead, he watched the USA beat Paraguay 4-1 in Los Angeles, with kick off at 21:00 EDT. Perry helped open the first World Cup game in the US with a rendition of the little-known song Wonder from her 2024 album 143. She had teased deciding against performing one of the hits in her rather lengthy catalogue of chart-toppers - from California Girls and Teenage Dream to Firework and ET - before the performance, telling People Magazine that she chose the relatively unknown ballad because "it's very fitting for the ceremonial song that I get to sing".



Trump's name removed from Kennedy Center after court order

RUSSIAN FAMILIES USE AI TO 'RESURRECT' LOVED ONES KILLED IN UKRAINE



Rousing orchestral music plays over a video of a snowy Moscow street dotted with billboards celebrating an end to the war in Ukraine. "The Special Military Operation is over," one fictional billboard reads, using the Kremlin-approved term for its war on Ukraine. "Our heroes are coming home." Underneath, a beautiful, airbrushed woman pushing

a stroller turns to see a man in military uniform and throws her arms around his neck in tears. The 15-second AI-generated clip was posted on Instagram by a popular blogger with the online name Katya Jin, and the couple appear to be modelled on her and her husband. In reality, like tens of thousands Russian soldiers, he disappeared at the front.

FIFA World Cup Icon Backs Messi To Break His Record In This Edition: "He's Special"

Legendary German striker Miroslav Klose has admitted that his record for the most goals in FIFA World Cup history is likely to be shattered during this year's expanded tournament, with Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe closing in on the all-time feat. Argentina's World Cup-winning captain Messi, currently embarking on a historic sixth World Cup campaign, has 13 goals under his belt-just three shy of Klose's benchmark of 16. Meanwhile, France skipper Mbappe, who famously scored a hat-trick in the final in Qatar four years ago, breathes down their necks with 12 clinical strikes to his name. Speaking to Süddeutsche Zeitung, Klose suggested that the expansion of the tournament from 32 teams to 48 this year increases the chance of his record being broken. "I expect my record to be broken in this tournament." The 2014

World Cup winner has backed Messi to break his record, calling himself a big fan of the Argentine maestro. "With more teams, there are more matches and therefore more opportunities to score goals. And I expect Argentina and France to go far. That's perfectly fine, the record will be broken eventually anyway, Messi is welcome to do it. I'm a huge Messi fan, always have been." Klose also expressed his admiration towards Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni, having shared the dressing room with him at Lazio. "Messi is a genius. And I also have a lot of respect for the Argentinian coach Scaloni. I played with him at Lazio. He showed me around the city a bit back then. We're good friends," he said. Messi looks all but set to start off against Algeria in his side's World Cup title defence, having expressed

happiness with his performance and fitness after Argentina won their last pre-WC friendly against Iceland on Wednesday. The game against Algeria will be followed by fixtures against Austria and Jordan, respectively. The defending champions are set to face Group J opponents Algeria at the Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium. Argentina will feel confident of beating the African nation after the latest update on Messi and two other key players. What Fabrizio Romano said about Lionel Messi's fitness situation Even though Lionel Messi is now 38 years old and plays for Inter Miami, he remains one of the best players in the world. His only weakness is his body, as it is not as robust as it was when Argentina won the World Cup four years ago.



RADUCANU LOSES QUEEN'S FINAL AS TROPHY WAIT CONTINUES

Emma Raducanu missed the chance to win a first title since her 2021 US Open triumph as she was beaten in the Queen's final by Croatia's Donna Vekic. Raducanu, 23, paid the price for a slow start as she lost 6-0 7-6 (8-6) to Vekic, who was a Wimbledon semi-finalist two years ago. The Briton valiantly fought off three championship points at 6-5 in the second set - and saved a fourth on Vekic's serve in the tie-break - but could not deny her opponent on the fifth as she sprayed a forehand wide. Vekic, 29, was a lucky loser - meaning she was beaten in qualifying and put into the draw when French Open semi-finalist Marta Kostyuk pulled out injured - and has taken full advantage of her fortune to lift the trophy. "Right now it obviously really stings, so I'm just going to try and let myself feel it today - but try and get over it pretty quick," said Raducanu. Watch Queen's doubles final as Britain's Nicholls



seeks to win title Raducanu, ranked 42nd in the world, seemed hampered by a leg issue as Vekic cruised to the first set in less than half an hour. The British number one rallied superbly to move a double break ahead in the second set, but twice failed to serve out victory - and could not convert two set points at 5-4. Vekic, who is ranked 76th but adept on the grass,

is an experienced campaigner and held her nerve to level. Both players looked to be firing in a physical encounter, but Raducanu - backed by a vociferous home crowd - dug deep to force a tie-break. Despite the defeat, Raducanu will take a lot of pride from an encouraging week on the British grass as she builds up towards Wimbledon.

Harmanpreet Kaur Surpasses Mithali Raj To Reach Historic High For India In T20 World Cup

Harmanpreet Kaur surpassed Mithali Raj for a momentous milestone in the Women's T20 World Cup during a Group A match against Pakistan in Birmingham on Sunday. Harmanpreet started the match jointly at the top at 726 with Mithali Raj. She went past the legend with a run on the first ball she faced. Meanwhile, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana struck a graceful 68, leading India to 117 for four after 15 overs in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup opener against Pakistan on Sunday. Mandhana, whose fifty came off 44 balls (9x4, 2x6), and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur helped overcome the early departure of opener Shafali



Verma and one-down Jemimah Rodrigues. Kaur now sits at the top of the charts for India Women in T20 World Cups with 762 runs, followed by Mithali Raj (726), Smriti Mandhana (592), Jemimah Rodrigues (408), and Punam Raut (375).

She achieved this record in 40 matches and 34 innings. She also surpassed Australia's Beth Mooney to become the 9th-highest run scorer in Women's T20 World Cup history. Coming in at a difficult moment with India reduced to 18/2,

Harmanpreet Kaur steadied the innings with a composed 36 off 35 balls, striking four boundaries. She then anchored a crucial 91-run stand off 63 balls with Smriti Mandhana for the third wicket, helping rebuild the innings and shift momentum. Her efforts, combined with a fluent fifty from Smriti Mandhana and a late blitz from Richa Ghosh, powered India to 170/6 in their 20 overs against their arch-rivals in the tournament opener. Pakistan's skipper Fatima Sana returned impressive bowling figures of 2/33 in 4 overs. Sadia Iqbal also claimed two wickets but went for 41 runs as Rameen Shamim and Tasma Rubab took a wicket apiece.

Cleveland's Harden arrested on gun charge



Cleveland Cavaliers guard James Harden has been released from jail in Houston after being arrested on Saturday morning for unlawfully carrying a weapon. Harden was detained by a police officer at 03:41 local time after an un concealed handgun was spotted in the cup holder of his Mercedes, according to court records. The 36-year-old had been travelling through downtown Houston when he was stopped by the police, and the weapon was spotted when Harden drove up behind another vehicle. Harden was arrested and booked at Harris County Jail after confirming the gun was his, and was later released on a \$100 (£75) bond, with a court date scheduled for 22 June. The Cavaliers said they were "aware of the arrest of James Harden this

morning and are in the process of gathering additional information". The statement added: "We are in contact with James and his representation and will continue to monitor developments as they become available. At this time, we will have no further comment." A six-time first-team All-NBA selection and the 2017-18 league MVP (Most Valuable Player), Harden joined the Cavaliers in February as part of a trade with the Los Angeles Clippers. He averaged 20.5 points, 7.7 assists and 4.8 rebounds in 26 starts this season with his new side. Since entering the NBA as the third pick in the 2009 draft, Harden has played for Oklahoma City Thunder, the Houston Rockets, the Brooklyn Nets, the Philadelphia 76ers, the Clippers and the Cavaliers.

Lewis Hamilton Wins Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix, Clinches First Victory For Ferrari



Lewis Hamilton won his first race since joining Ferrari two years ago while Formula 1 leader Kimi Antonelli broke down at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix on Sunday. Hamilton increased his record win haul to 106 career victories with his first since the Belgian GP in July 2024 while he was still with Mercedes. The seven-time world champion took advantage of fresher tires and a superior pitstop strategy by Ferrari to overtake the pole-sitting George Russell, who finished second. Antonelli had passed his Mercedes teammate Russell when

his car came to a stop on the track with just four laps to go. He had won five races in a row. Hamilton broke Mercedes' grip on the top spot of the podium this season, which had lasted six races. "Thank you so much to help me achieve this dream," Hamilton told his team radio. "Thank you for everyone pushing so hard at home, thanks to my family, and to my fans who continue to remind me who I am. I couldn't have done this without you." He then stood on his car, pumped his fist and sprinted to leap into the arms of his thrilled engineers and pit crew members.

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma Under Pressure Due To Vaibhav Sooryavanshi? England Great's Clear Take

India may still have two ODIs remaining against Afghanistan, but conversations about the future are never far away when it comes to Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Former England spinner Graeme Swann believes that is simply the reality facing every great player in the latter stages of their career, arguing that even the most accomplished cricketers cannot escape questions about who comes next. With India set to travel to England in July for a three-match ODI series following the Afghanistan assignment, Swann observed that scrutiny surrounding Rohit and Kohli is only natural as a younger generation begins to emerge. "Absolutely. I think it's

inevitable with any player when you come to the latter stage of your career, the second half of your career, if you like, that people naturally start looking for your successor, no matter how well you do," Swann told PTI Videos in an exclusive interview. "And even if you're at the top of your game, they're still looking like, who will be the next Virat? Who will be the next Rohit when they go? That's very natural. "And the second you have one or two low scores, everyone starts looking over your shoulder and seeing who's next in line. "And obviously, with Sooryavanshi coming through and some of the youngsters, it puts even more onus on the guys, especially at the top of the



order for India." Swann believes the coming weeks could prove significant for Rohit as India continue balancing established stars with emerging talent. "So I think it's a huge six weeks for Rohit. But like I said, in the IPL, he looks in great touch and he's still one of

the best players going, let's face it. "So if I was an English bowler, I wouldn't really want to bowl against a Rohit Sharma who's desperate to prove a point and keep his place." While discussions around India's veterans continue, Swann believes both Rohit and

Kohli remain formidable propositions for opposition bowlers. Asked about India's upcoming ODI assignment in England, the former off-spinner said the series would once again bring the spotlight onto two of the game's biggest names. "Yeah, it's going to be huge. Anytime England play India, it's a massive series, especially recently. "And with all the nonsense going on in England as well, I think they'll really appreciate a bit of spotlight going on the actual cricket rather than off the field stuff." Asked which of the two veterans would attract greater attention heading into the series in light of the ODI World Cup next year in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, Swann point-

ed to Kohli's remarkable 2026 IPL campaign as the 37-year-old scored 675 runs from 16 matches. Swann also stopped short of describing the England series as a make-or-break assignment for India's senior batters ahead of the next ODI World Cup. "From an English point of view, England will hope that Virat and Rohit are side-tracked by a World Cup coming and not thinking about that because that will affect performance. "India have got to make sure they're not sidetracked by that. But this is Rohit and Virat. They know what they're doing and they'll go out there. "It should be, touch wood, should be dry and the ball shouldn't do too much at that time.



Bangladesh avoid upset to edge past Netherlands

Bangladesh avoided a scare in their opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup as they beat the Netherlands by six wickets at Edgbaston. They made a positive start to their chase of 140 as Juairiya Ferdous and Dilara Akter Dola added 67 for the first wicket before a mini collapse to 85-4. The Netherlands' bowlers were in the game until the final over but with only three required, Shorna Akter struck a boundary from the first ball to get over the line. Shorna and Sharmin Akter Supta added 56 for the fifth wicket and the latter fin-

ished unbeaten on 37 after Ferdous' fifty at the top of the order. Netherlands spinner Caroline de Lange, who has given up her job as a doctor to play in the tournament, was the pick of the bowlers with 2-27 as she removed set batter Ferdous and Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty for a golden duck. The Dutch are playing in their first Women's T20 World Cup and came close to an upset but their batting relied too much on captain Babette de Leede. De Leede top-scored with 50 but Heather Siegers' 16 was the next-highest contribution.

RODRIGUEZ BECOMES THREE-WEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION



Nagabandham Begins Grand Rath Yatra Promotion



Anantha Padmanabha Swamy's Rath Yatra is an attempt to introduce our culture and roots to the next generation. We believe that Nagabandham will be a grand success with the blessings of the Swamy: Director Abhishek Nama Nagabandham is a film that took two years of hard work and was made wonderfully. I am very happy that Abhishek garu made me a part of his dream project: Hero Virat Karna Virat Karna is the hero of the epic adventure thriller 'Nagabandham – The Secret Treasure' directed by Abhishek Nama. Kishore Annappureddy and Nishitha Nagi Reddy have produced this film on a huge budget under the banner of Nick Studios. Nabha Natesh, Aishwarya Menen, Jagapathi Babu, Mahesh Manjrekar, Rishabh Sawhney are playing other key roles in this film. The

promotional content that has already been released has created a sensation across the country. The film will be released worldwide on July 3. On this occasion, the makers have created this promotional campaign in line with the treasure hunt concept of the film's story. Today, the chariot procession of Ananta Padmanabha Swamy was grandly inaugurated. People participated in this program in large numbers. Speaking at the Swami Vaari Rath Yatra event, Director Abhishek Nama said.. Greetings to everyone. Thanks to everyone who participated in this program even in this rain. This is not just a film promotion, but an effort to introduce our culture and our roots to the next generation. I hope you all like it. We need your support for this. Thank you to Nishitha garu and Kishore garu for supporting such a big vision. I made Virat

work very hard. Even in a high fever, he worked very hard for this film. After this film, everyone will know what Virat means. Thanks to all our team. Junaid and Abhi have provided wonderful music. You all will like their music. I wish you all a successful Rath Yatra. Om Namo Narayana. Hero Virat Karna said.. Greetings to everyone. Thank you all for participating in the Rath Yatra of Anantha Padmanabha Swamy. Nagabandham is a film that was made with a lot of hard work. We worked hard for two years to make this film. I want you all to go to the theaters on July 3rd and bless our film. We are going to visit many cities as part of the Rath Yatra of Anantha Padmanabha Swamy. Thank you for making this program such a success. I am very happy that our director Abhishek Nama garu made me a part of his dream project.

Peddi' is running great. Charan garu's performance is being praised worldwide. We are adding new scenes from Wednesday: Director Buchibabu Sana at the success meet

Mega Power Star Ram Charan's latest sensational blockbuster 'Peddi'. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, presented by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, Venkata Satish Kilaru has produced it under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas. The film, which was released worldwide on June 4, has received rave reviews from the audience and critics and has achieved sensational success with record-breaking collections. It has become the number one grosser in South India in 2026 and is performing successfully with housefull collections in all regions. On this occasion, the film team organized a success press meet. Director Buchi Babu Sana, producer Satish Kilaru, lyricist Ananth Sriram and Mythri Shashi participated in the press meet. They answered the questions asked by the reporters. Buchibabu garu.. you gave Charan garu a wonderful film like 'Peddi'. We hear that your next film will also be with Charan garu. How true is that? 'Time decides everything. When the time comes, it will come out. I want that to happen too. Anantha Sriram garu has written all kinds of songs in 'Peddi'. However, there is some criticism coming on the item song. What is your reaction to that? 'An item song should be enjoyed as an item song. Whether it is a criticism or an accusation, it should be specific. If someone speaks with a specific agenda, there is no need to answer it. If they speak philosophically and logically, I will be ready to answer honestly any criticism made by anyone. Buchibabu garu.. We heard that new scenes are being added to the movie 'Peddi'. When will they be added? 'We have already edited it. They will be added from this Wednesday. We



have added a total of three scenes. There will be three scenes related to the heroine, as well as one scene for Jagapathi Babu. All the missing elements will be included in it -95 percent of the audience praised the content of the film, the greatness of the story, and Ram Charan's performance. They wanted more stories like this to come. The audience made what we believed come true. We received an amazing response in every theater we went to. 'There are two more scenes related to Janhvi's character. After watching them, the audience will connect even more with the character. We will add those scenes from Wednesday. I believe that with that, Janhvi's character will reach another level. Satish garu..if the ticket prices are reduced, the family audience will

watch it even more. When will they reduce it? 'We have reduced all rates from today. The response has been overwhelming. Break-even is achieved in all areas. 'Peddi' is a wonderful subject. We spent a lot of money without compromising on making it a grand event. Shashi garu, how is the cinema in Nizam? 'A film made with good motivation. This is a film that this generation needs. Never in history has a film like this been so commercially successful. This is the first time. Ram Charan made this film to send a great message to this generation. The audience is increasing day by day. This is a film that shows a solution for everyone. Especially children are enjoying this film a lot. Buchibabu garu, what is the biggest

compliment you have received regarding this film? 'The other day, while I was driving, an auto driver came up to me with his mother and said, "You made a wonderful film, Babu. I came back to the theater after 25 years." That was a compliment that I will remember for the rest of my life. Ram Charan's acting is on another level. What suggestions did you make as a director? 'The audience says Charan did a great job. I didn't do anything special to make him act so great. While eating, I would tell him how the 'big guy' would behave in the next scene. Charan would say, "I'll take care of the rest." 'He brilliantly portrayed the role of 'Peddi' that I had imagined. He took his acting to the next level. It's an understatement to say that he lived up to the role. He did more than that.

‘Devudu Varamandisthe’ Song from Risk Launched by Trinath Rao Nakkina



Devudu Varamandisthe" song from Ghantaadi Krishna's 'Risk' movie launched by blockbuster director Trinath Rao Nakkina – The movie will have a grand release in theaters worldwide on June 26th "Risk," a youthful suspense thriller directed by

Ghantadi Krishna and starring Sandeep Ashwa in the lead, is set to release grandly in theaters worldwide on June 26th under the banner of GK Miracles. The recently released trailer and posters have created good expectations among the audience and are becoming a hit talk in industry circles.

Actor Vijay Deverakonda Provides Scholarships to Meritorious Underprivileged Students Through The Deverakonda Foundation

Actor Vijay Deverakonda has fulfilled the promise he made to his hometown. Following his marriage to Rashmika Mandanna, Vijay visited his native village, Thummanpet in Balmur Mandal of Nagarkurnool district, along with his wife and hosted a reception there. During that visit, he announced that scholarships would be provided to meritorious students studying in Classes 9 and 10 across 45 government schools in the Achampet Division. Honoring that commitment, scholarships were awarded today to 180 economically disadvantaged students who secured first and second ranks in Classes 9 and 10 across the Achampet Division. The event was attended by Rashmika Mandanna, Vijay Deverakonda's mother Madhavi, Achampet MLA Vamsi Krishna, District

Educational Officer Ramesh, other education department officials, local leaders, students, parents, and teachers. Speaking on the occasion, Achampet MLA Vamsi Krishna said, "No matter how successful he becomes, Vijay Deverakonda has never forgotten his roots. That reflects his remarkable character. His parents, Govardhan and Madhavi, also have deep affection for their native place. We are proud that Vijay belongs to Achampet. I wish him even greater success in the film industry. Most students studying in government schools come from economically weaker backgrounds, and providing scholarships through The Deverakonda Foundation is truly commendable. No effort made for children's education is ever too much. I am delighted that Vijay has committed to continuing this initiative every year. I also extend my appre-



ciation to Rashmika for being part of this program. I hope all these students achieve great success in life." Actress Rashmika Mandanna said, "When we decided to provide scholarships to deserving students through The Deverakonda Foundation, we felt that the first initiative should begin in

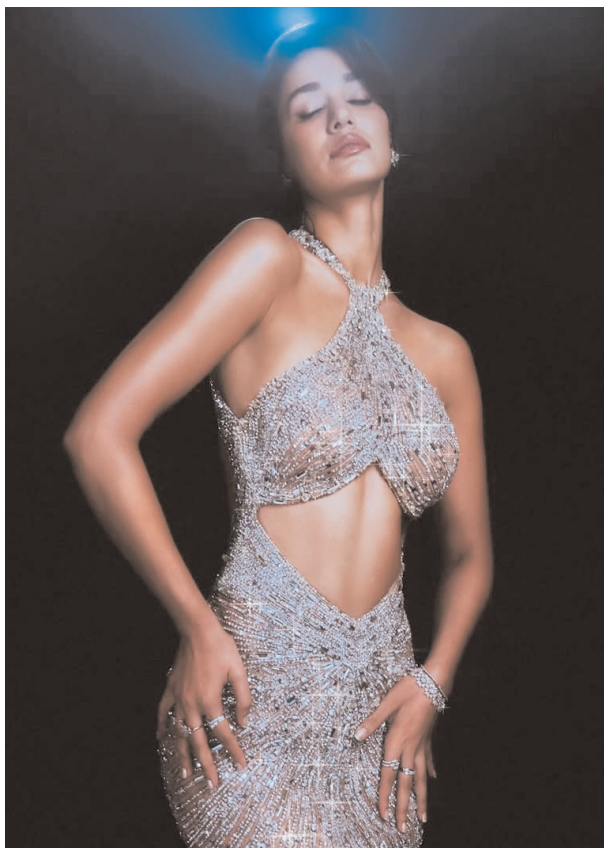
Thummanpet and Achampet, the birthplace of Vijay's family. It is wonderful to see so many students gathered here today. When I was in school, I was not as academically accomplished as many of you. You have surpassed me in studies. Through your hard work, you have earned first and second ranks and made

your parents and teachers proud. In life, there will be times when we win and times when we lose, but we must never stop learning. Learn from your teachers, respect your parents, and strive to become successful and responsible individuals." Vijay Deverakonda's mother, Madhavi, said, "We started

this initiative out of our love for our native place and our affection for children. We understand how difficult it can be for parents to pay educational expenses. Children should recognize the sacrifices their parents make for their education, and parents should do their best to help their children achieve their dreams. Hard work always brings results. I encourage all students to follow the five Ds in life: Duty, Discipline, Devotion, Dedication, and Determination. I wish each of you great success and fulfillment in life." Addressing the gathering, Vijay Deverakonda said, "My congratulations to all the students who secured first and second ranks in Classes 9 and 10. We are here today to celebrate and recognize your achievements. This program has been made possible with the support of MLA Vamsi Krishna and the district education authorities.

Regina’s Saree Game Just Reached A Whole New Level!

Regina Cassandra has always loved being the charming, girl-next-door heroine, but the actress has been making bold and fearless choices lately, stepping into powerful negative roles and completely owning them. Known for her versatile performances across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi, Regina has proven time and again that she is far more than just a pretty face on screen. Meanwhile, these stunning new pictures of her in a breathtaking red silk saree with a hand-painted corset blouse are stopping the internet in its tracks! The off-shoulder drape, heavy gold jhumkas, and that fierce unapologetic gaze, Regina looks absolutely regal and dangerously gorgeous! On the work front, she is absolutely unstoppable with an exciting lineup ahead. Ananthan Kaadu (Malayalam/Tamil bilingual), Flashback and Mookuthi Amman 2 in Tamil, The Wives in Hindi, and Section 108 where she plays Shikha Saxena, all currently filming or in post-production.



DISHA PATANI IS WILD, BOLD & ABSOLUTELY ON FIRE!

Disha Patani just turned 33, and she celebrated in the most heartwarming way, starting her special day with a spiritual temple visit alongside her BFF Mouni Roy, followed by a cozy birthday brunch with close friends including Krishna Shroff. Singer Stebin Ben performed live, with Disha joyfully singing along, a moment that melted everyone's hearts. But while the celebrations were intimate and sweet, these brand new pictures tell a completely different story! Disha stepped out in a stunning leopard-print halter dress, bold, fierce, and absolutely breathtaking. The deep neckline, effortless pose, gold bangles, and that million-dollar smile made

sure every eye was on her. This is Disha at her most raw and powerful best! On the work front, she's all set to set the screens on fire with Welcome to the Jungle, releasing June 26, 2026, and we simply cannot wait! June 13 marks the birthday of Disha Patani, one of Bollywood's most recognizable stars known for her roles in films such as M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story, Kanguva and Yodha. Over the years, the actor has built a reputation for her dedication to fitness, action-packed performances and unwavering commitment to charting her own path in the entertainment industry. In an October 2023 interview with Cosmopolitan India, the 33-

year-old actor reflected on her early life, the dramatic changes she has experienced since entering the film industry and how she has become more intentional about the projects she chooses. During the conversation, she also shared a powerful insight about self-belief, authenticity and letting go of the need for external validation. Speaking about a significant personal shift she experienced, Disha revealed how she has become more comfortable embracing her authentic self rather than trying to meet other people's expectations. She said: "On social media it's just so easy to judge someone from a distance without understanding their experiences.