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CM Naidu reiterates commitment to
balanced regional development

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES,

VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to the balanced development of all regions. He said the government is implementing a regional development strategy by developing the Visakha Region from Srikakulam to the erstwhile East Godavari district, the Amaravati Region from West Godavari to Prakasam district, and the Rayalaseema Region with Tirupati as its growth hub. The Chief Minister noted that the ongoing conflict in West Asia has led to a shortage of gas supplies and rising petrol and diesel prices. He also pointed out that commercial crops grown in the State are facing export-related challenges



and assured that the government is taking steps to address these issues.

Referring to climatic conditions, Chandrababu Naidu said that temperatures have risen sharply due to the El Niño phenomenon and rainfall is expected to be below normal. However, through efficient water management, reservoir storage levels have been maintained at around 65 percent. He

added that irrigation water was released into canals well in advance to support agriculture and ensure better preparedness for the coming year. The Chief Minister announced that the State is making elaborate arrangements for the Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 and expressed confidence that the Polavaram Project would be completed and dedicated to the nation before the festival.

Abhishek Banerjee skips CID summons, sends
letter seeking time citing health condition

KOLKATA (TSIT):

Abhishek Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress General Secretary and Lok Sabha member, has sought time to appear before the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in the signature mismatch case.

An insider of the party said that Banerjee has sent a letter to the CID seeking time to appear before its officers, as he is still recovering from the health issues which he encountered on May 30 when he was heckled and harassed while on his way to meet the family of a party worker in South 24 Parganas district's Sonarpur.

According to the party insider, his physical condition is still bad due to Saturday's



attack. Banerjee was summoned to the CID on Monday afternoon after being sent a notice to join the investigation into the Trinamool MLAs' signature forgery case. Ahead of this development, the CID

"THERE IS PAIN IN HIS JAW AND SORENESS ALL OVER HIS BODY. THAT IS WHY ABHISHEK BANERJEE IS NOT GOING TO BHABANI BHAWAN IN RESPONSE TO THE CID SUMMONS," THE SOURCE SAID. THE PARTY INSIDER FURTHER SAID THAT ABHISHEK STILL HAS SEVERAL MEDICAL TESTS PENDING, WHICH WILL TAKE SOME TIME. "OVERALL, ABHISHEK BANERJEE WANTS TO TAKE SOME MORE TIME TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CID," THE SOURCE ADDED.

formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate allegations of forged signatures of Trinamool Congress MLAs. It was learnt that an officer of the rank of DIG is leading it. Apart from this, a DSP and two inspectors are also in the team.

This appearance of Abhishek Banerjee is in connection with an interrogation concerning discrepancies in the signatures of the party's MLAs related to nominations for specific important positions in the West Bengal Assembly.

This comes soon after the incident of heckling and physical assault that occurred in Sonarpur. The CID issued him a notice for interrogation on May 30. Initially, the agency's investigators visited his home located on the Harish Mukherjee Road to deliver the notice. Subsequently, upon discovering that Banerjee was at his other residence in Kalighat, the CID officers proceeded there and personally presented him the notice.

K'taka cabinet exercise shifts to Delhi; Shivakumar,
Siddaramaiah to meet Cong high command

BENGALURU (TSIT):

Karnataka Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar and caretaker CM Siddaramaiah reached New Delhi on Monday to hold discussions with the Congress high command on the formation of the new state cabinet.

The two senior leaders travelled to the national capital on the same flight as the exercise to finalise the composition of the cabinet shifted to Delhi. AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge also left for Delhi earlier from his residence in Bengaluru.

Siddaramaiah's son MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah and several senior Congress leaders, including former Minister



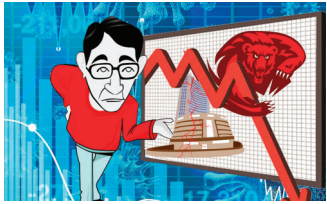
H.C. Mahadevappa, a close associate of Siddaramaiah, also reached the national capital. According to party sources, Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar, AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala have already held consultations and finalised the initial list of ministers.

Sensex sheds 508 pts as FMCG, PSU
bank stocks drag markets lower

MUMBAI (TSIT):

Benchmark equity indices ended sharply lower on Monday, dragged down by losses in FMCG, PSU banking, auto and realty stocks, even as investors monitored developments surrounding a potential diplomatic breakthrough between the United States and Iran. The Nifty settled at 23,382.60, declining 165.15 points, or 0.7 per cent, while the Sensex fell 508.40 points, or 0.68 per cent, to close at 74,267.34.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 23,500 level is likely to act as immediate resistance after the



breakdown, followed by a stronger resistance zone near 23,600-23,750. "On the downside, the breakdown below 23,500 has weakened the near-term structure and opened the possibility of further downside toward the 23,300-23,250 support zone, which now becomes the next important area to watch," an analyst stated.

Selling pressure was visible

across broader markets as well, with Nifty Midcap 100 dropped 1.45 per cent and Nifty Smallcap ended 0.88 per cent lower. Among the Nifty constituents, Hindustan Unilever, Shriram Finance and Tata Consumer Products emerged as the biggest losers.

Other major laggards included ITC and NTPC, contributing to the weakness in frontline indices. Tech Mahindra, Infosys, TCS and HCL Tech was among the top gainer on Sensex stocks. On the downside, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, NTPC, Mahindra Bank and Bajaj Finance dropped up to 2.83 per cent.

India-US tech partnership in semiconductors,
AI enters industrial phase

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The India-US partnership in semiconductors and artificial intelligence (AI), which got a fresh push during US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's recent visit to India, has rapidly evolved from strategic dialogue to industrial execution. Anchored by the US-India TRUST Initiative and the PAX Silica Declaration, both nations are collaborating to build trusted tech supply chains, expand computational capacity, and establish joint R&D projects.

The vision which was outlined in February 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump under the 'Transforming



the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technologies initiative' (TRUST), to inject a new dynamism of AI opportunity to promote innovation and deploy it for human prosperity, has taken rapid strides, according to senior officials.

The partnerships focus on defence and commercial semiconductor manufacturing, such as the Shakti Semiconductor Fab, which is developing compound semiconductors for electric vehicles and aerospace applications.

Alert Telangana farmers about
potential drought-like conditions:

CM Reddy warns officials of El Nino impact



HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, on Monday directed officials to sensitise farmers regarding potential drought-like conditions. At a meeting held to review monsoon preparedness of the various departments, he said farmers should be educated on the cultivation of crops that require minimal water consumption.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also emphasised the need for apprising farmers of the importance of crop rotation and crop diversification.

It was also decided that a letter will be sent to the Central Government requesting that the entire urea output from the Ramagundam Fertilizers Factory be allocated exclusively to Telangana. The review meeting held at the State Secretariat was

attended by officials from the Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation, Urban Development, Panchayat Raj, Health, Home, HYDRAS, Disaster Management, and Fire Services. Officials from the Meteorological Department delivered a PowerPoint Presentation covering rainfall patterns associated with the Southwest monsoon, the impact of El Niño, and other relevant factors. CM Revanth Reddy also enquired about the status of maintenance works for irrigation projects.

He directed officials to complete the maintenance of project gates and other related works on a war footing.

The Chief Minister ordered the immediate release of funds required for the maintenance of irrigation projects. He directed that the Rs.1,000 crore corpus available with the Disaster Management

Department be utilised strictly in accordance with established regulations. CM Revanth Reddy ordered the immediate release of funds necessary for the repair of damaged roads and the reconstruction of collapsed bridges.

The Chief Minister said officials must respond immediately in the event of any loss of life, property, or livestock during natural disasters. Operations at the district level must proceed in coordination between the Collector and the Superintendent of Police (SP).

Within the jurisdiction of Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), the Commissioners of the three corporations and the Police Commissioners must work together in coordination. CM Revanth Reddy said meetings must be held at scheduled intervals to resolve public grievances.

Cong demands Education
Minister's resignation over CBSE
OSM cybersecurity row

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

The Congress on Monday intensified its attack on the Centre over the alleged cybersecurity breach in the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) On Screen Marking (OSM) system, demanding accountability from the Ministry of Education and calling for the resignation of union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh alleged that CBSE had initially denied vulnerabilities in its digital evaluation platform before eventually acknowledging that the system had been compromised.

He also questioned the role of the contractor, COEMPT, and accused the authorities of shielding the company despite concerns over its performance. "After denying the cybersecurity vulnerabilities in its On Screen Marking (OSM) system for weeks, the CBSE has finally acknowledged that the system has been compromised," Ramesh said in a post on X.

The Congress leader questioned whether any action would be taken against the contractor responsible for operating the system. "But what action is it planning to take against its contractor COEMPT? Not much," he alleged. Ramesh further

claimed that changes made to the tender conditions before the contract was awarded indicated an attempt to protect the vendor.

According to him, CBSE's Request for Proposal (RFP) issued in August 2025 had retained provisions allowing the board to blacklist vendors that failed to deliver effectively. However, he alleged that a corrigendum issued the following month removed the board's power to blacklist such firms.

"It appears that COEMPT's benefactors in the CBSE and the Ministry of Education anticipated that COEMPT would not be fit to the task," he said, describing the change as "an inexplicable, government-backed attempt to save COEMPT" that allegedly began even before the company formally secured the contract.

The controversy relates to the OSM system used by CBSE for the digital evaluation of answer scripts, a critical component of the examination process affecting lakhs of students across the country. Concerns over cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the integrity of the evaluation process have triggered political criticism, with opposition parties seeking greater transparency regarding the management of the system and the awarding of related contracts.

BJP is now
trying to break
Trinamool:
Mamata

KOLKATA (TSIT):

After winning the recently concluded West Bengal elections through various unfair means, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is using the state police to break the Trinamool Congress from inside, alleged Mamata Banerjee on Monday.

She claimed that many MLAs were first receiving threat calls from the police, warning them to refrain from party-related activities or face cases under the Arms Act and the Narcotics Act. "After that, the same MLAs are receiving calls from different BJP offices and are asked to break Trinamool Congress from inside," Mamata Banerjee alleged in a live social message on Monday. She went live on social media soon after Trinamool Congress announced the expulsion of two legislators, Sandipan Saha from Entally constituency in North Kolkata and Ritabrata Banerjee from Uluberia (Purba) in Howrah district, on charges of anti-party activities. Although she did not name Saha and Banerjee directly, she said those lacking moral ethics had no place in the Trinamool Congress.

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

30-05-2026

Total pilgrims : 92,010
Tonsures : 52,346
Hundi kankulu : 3,76 CR
Laddu sale : 14,43 Lac
Ammopradams : 2,85 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,631
Waiting Compartments : Outside line at Sathrahnam

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out S3D Tokens) : 15-18 H

GST COLLECTIONS CLOCK
NEARLY RS 2 LAKH CRORE IN
MAY AFTER ROBUST APRIL

New Delhi, June 1 : The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 3.2 per cent year-on-year to around Rs 2 lakh crore in May, despite geopolitical tensions in West Asia, according to government data released on Monday. As per data, gross GST revenue stood at Rs 1,94,184 crore in May, compared to Rs 1,88,172 crore in the same month last year. Meanwhile, net GST collections reached Rs 1,66,904 crore, a growth of 3.3 per cent over the corresponding period last year. Total refunds during the month increased 2.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 27,281 crore. Adjusted for this, gross GST revenue growth for May 2026 stood at around 9 per cent, while adjusted domestic gross GST growth was estimated at about 5 per cent. Gross domestic GST revenue stood at Rs 1,34,530 crore during the month, down 2.6 per cent from a year ago.

Over 10 lakh Pink Saheli card distributed in Delhi in less than 90 days: Transport minister

NEW DELHI: In the past three months over 10 lakh Pink Saheli Cards have been distributed in the national capital, Transport minister Pankaj Singh said on Monday. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has also roped in Airawat Research Foundation-IIT Kanpur, which specialises in AI technology, to strengthen its ‘One Delhi’ application and work on other data analytics projects. “Within less than 90 days, over 10 lakh Pink Saheli Cards have reached our mothers and sisters. What once seemed like a vision has become a reality. This is not merely a travel card, it is a step towards convenience, empowerment and integrated mobility,” Singh said. Minister stated that around 73 distribution centres across Delhi are currently issuing the cards, with nearly 11,000 cards being issued daily. He added that the government is prepared to expand outreach and ca-



capacity further if demand increases. “Our priority is clear - every eligible woman who wishes to avail this facility should be able to receive the card. If demand exceeds projections, we are fully prepared to scale up. DTC has adequate staff, systems and operational readiness to support wider cover-

age,” he said. Alongside this achievement, our partnership with IIT Kanpur marks an important step towards building a smarter, technology-driven and commuter-centric public transport system for Delhi, he added. “The collaboration will strengthen Delhi’s digital public transport ecosystem by supporting key platforms

such as the One Delhi App, ONDC-based bus ticketing and other commuter services through advanced technology, artificial intelligence and data analytics,” the transport minister said in a statement. He further said that the digital transition will support better public transport planning and governance.

Fadnavis defends bulldozer action, says it will continue against those breaking the law

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday defended the use of bulldozers against illegal construction, asserting the state government follows due legal process during such action. Strict action against lawbreakers will continue, he said at an event organised by a news channel here, his remarks coming amid political debate over what is often referred to as “bulldozer justice” against illegal structures generally linked to those accused of crimes. “I do not speak for any other state. Maharashtra is governed by the rule of law and action is taken only after following prescribed procedures. In Maharashtra, if somebody acts beyond the law or does something wrong, bulldozer action is taken against them,” the CM asserted.



The government has not targeted any individual or community in such cases and notices are issued before any demolition is carried out, he added. “Whoever does wrong will face action, and the bulldozer will continue to operate,” Fadnavis warned. The CM also expressed confidence that women’s reservation in legis-

latures would be implemented by 2029, adding that political participation of women cannot increase substantially without reservation. The Narendra Modi government took the initiative to introduce Women’s Reservation Bill, also known as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, to increase women’s representation in politics, he said.

“Women’s participation will not increase unless reservation is provided. Just as reservation has helped increase participation in education and employment, it is necessary in politics as well,” Fadnavis said. Opposition parties did not back the legislation despite the Centre providing a practical solution for its implementation, he said. “The Opposition did not want the bill to be passed. However, political parties are now realising women cannot be ignored. Many parties are preparing to support the bill. The legislation will secure wider support in the coming years,” the CM said. The bill will be passed and women’s reservation will be implemented in 2029, he said. “I hope Opposition parties in Maharashtra will also support the initiative,” he added.

BJP chief Nabin holds meeting to discuss party’s expansion

NEW DELHI: Ahead of assembly polls in several states, BJP president Nitin Nabin on Monday held a meeting with party’s senior office bearers and leaders to discuss its further expansion in the country. The meeting, which lasted for more than five hours at the BJP office here, discussed bringing more youth into the party fold. It also discussed party’s plans for expanding its reach to women, Dalits, tribals and other sections of society across the country. Speaking to reporters, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra said, “A

long meeting of senior party workers was held today. The meeting was presided over by BJP national president Nitin Nabin.” While India is progressing under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party has grown stronger and expanded its footprints across the country under his leadership, Patra said. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the BJP-NDA has got also opportunity to “serve the people through its government in 22 states”, he said, adding that party’s further expansion was the prime

agenda of the meeting. The brainstorming session at the BJP office assumes significance as the party has already kicked off its preparations for the assembly polls in seven states due to be held next year. Assembly polls in Goa, Gujarat, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are due to be held in 2027. Except Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the BJP is in power in the remaining five states. Patra said the meeting underlined the importance of getting continuous feedback

from the party workers for further expansion of the organisation across the country. “The Bharatiya Janata Party firmly believes that, under the guidance of its dedicated, indeed truly exceptional, cadres, it must gather suggestions from all of them, consolidate their various inputs, and determine how best to further expand and strengthen the party’s work at the grassroots level,” Patra said. “Therefore, a detailed discussion is currently underway covering all dimensions,” he said.

TN CM Vijay reveals ‘secret’ behind black

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday asked if a blazer could be used only by ‘dominant forces’ and said that his choice of black in his dress had a symbolic value. In his maiden rally here -- after winning the April 23 Assembly polls-- to thank the people of Tiruchi-East Assembly segment from where he won and resigned the seat to retain Perambur, Vijay referred to him wearing a blazer and white and black clothes in his public appearances. He also referred to comments

being made about it. Politicians in Tamil Nadu usually wear a white shirt and a dhoti. Vijay asked: “Why? Shouldn’t we all wear a coat and a suit? Is it only for those in power, or is it only for dominant forces? The black (blazer) and white (shirt) is only to show that Vijay will be “black and white” in everything, he said. Without elaborating, he also said that people also understood what black meant. In Tamil Nadu, coinciding with the rise of the Dravidian movement about a century ago,

black had stood for resistance to oppression, loyalty to self-respect, social justice and lofty principles under the egalitarian goals. Rejecting DMK’s accusation that he was in ‘mute’ mode, the CM said he does not give an explanation for everything and also does not go on talking. “In all (public) meetings, I have spoken only within a maximum of 20 minutes.” The TVK chief said people are telling him to focus only on his work for the sake of people’s welfare. They have told him that they would

take care of those criticising him. That does not mean that he had no political rivals, the CM said and reiterated that the political fight in Tamil Nadu was only between the TVK and the DMK, and other parties had no space before and after polls. The meeting was organised by the TVK here, and the ‘Tamil Thai Vaazhthu’ (Tamil invocation song) was sung first amid controversy that the Tamil invocation was accorded only the third place in the state functions attended by Governor Arlekar.

Naga apex body cancels release of 14 Kuki civilians

IMPHAL: The apex body of Naga tribes in Manipur on Monday cancelled the scheduled release of 14 Kuki civilians following disagreements with certain youth leaders and stakeholders of the tribal community. In a statement, the United Naga Council said, “Considering the prevailing sentiments of the Naga public, the proposed release of the 14 Kuki detainees, earlier scheduled at 2 pm on June 1, hereby stands cancelled. The 14 Kuki civilians were detained and taken hostage on May 13 and were scheduled to be released on Monday afternoon before being taken to Kangpokpi district for a reception programme. The decision to facilitate their release triggered resentment among some Naga youth groups and civil so-

ciety organisations, which alleged that the move had been taken without adequate consultation with stakeholders in the Naga-majority district, officials said. Multiple meetings were held among the Naga civil society organisations and student bodies at Senapati for hours, where it was pointed out that the fate of six Naga civilians abducted by Kuki armed groups remains unknown, officials added. The Naga groups pointed out that the whereabouts and condition of the six youths held hostage must be first revealed by Kuki armed groups before finalising the release of the Kuki hostages. In an earlier statement, the UNC had said that it, along with the Naga People’s Organisation (NPO), Senapati, had intervened for the re-

lease of the 14 Kuki detainees held by the Naga Village Guard-Northern Command after consultations with stakeholders. The council said the decision was influenced by appeals from the Baptist community, Naga churches, tribal bodies and organisations, as well as an assurance given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio that the Ministry of Home Affairs would trace the abducted Naga civilians, identify those responsible and ensure legal action. The UNC also referred to an appeal by the Manipur government and its assurance that the Suspension of Operations (SoO) ground rules would be strictly enforced, including rationalisation and relocation of camps.

ED arrests ‘mastermind’ in Rs 145-crore municipal corporation-bank nexus fraud case

NEW DELHI: The ED on Monday said it has arrested a former Kotak Mahindra Bank executive alleged to be the mastermind of a Rs 145-crore fraud in which Panchkula municipal corporation officials, bank employees and private persons allegedly conspired to siphon off government funds. Pushpinder Singh, a former deputy vice president of the private sector lender, was arrested by the Chandigarh Zonal Unit of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on June 1, the agency said in a statement. A special PMLA court in Panchkula has sent Singh to ED custody till June 9, the statement said. The money laundering case stems from an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Panchkula, under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Corruption Act against unidentified bank officials. According to the ED, the FIR al-



leged embezzlement of the funds of the Municipal Corporation, Panchkula, worth Rs 145 crore through a “deep-rooted, well-organised criminal conspiracy” involving bank officials. The federal agency said its investigation has so far revealed a “closed criminal nexus of municipal corporation officials, bank officials and private persons” that

allegedly hatched a conspiracy to siphon off government funds. The ED alleged that Dileep Kumar Raghav, a former customer relationship manager at Kotak Mahindra Bank, along with Singh and Vikas Kaushik, former senior accounts officer of MC Panchkula, opened two bank accounts in the name of the civic body using forged and fake authorisation docu-

ments. “The funds of MC, Panchkula available in genuine accounts were transferred to unauthorised and illegal accounts using forged and fake fund migration authorisation letters in the name of MC, Panchkula,” the agency said. The investigation found that funds transferred to the unauthorised accounts were subsequently routed to financiers, including Rajat Dahra, Swati Tomar, Kapil Kumar and Vinod Kumar, the ED alleged. “Investigation has revealed that these financiers were working under the control and directions of Pushpinder Singh,” the agency said. The ED further alleged that bank accounts belonging to Dahra and Tomar, which were used for siphoning off a major portion of the municipal corporation funds, were also controlled by Singh. According to the agency, the money received by these financiers from the fake MC Panchkula accounts was routed back.

Amrinder says party ‘completely united’, will win assembly polls

LUDHIANA: Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Monday asserted that the party was fully united and was set to return to power in the state in the next assembly elections. Ludhiana MP Warring met his party colleague and former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi who is leading a delegation to the Punjab Agricultural University. In a statement, Warring asserted that the entire leadership, which includes him, Partap Singh Bajwa, Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and others are together and will ensure Congress victory in Punjab in 2027. Warring accompanied by senior local leaders received Channi at the PAU campus. The PCC president submitted a detailed memorandum to Channi, who is also the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, demanding a special one-time grant of Rs 1,000 crore for research to



the PAU, besides a recurring annual grant of Rs 50 to Rs 60 crore. He said the PAU has been starved of funds and at times, it did not have enough money to pay salaries to the employees and scientists. Warring said the Green Revolution was scripted in PAU and had an important role in ensuring food security. Replying to a question about the Aam Aadmi Par-

ty’s claims over winning the Municipal Council elections, Warring said, for the last twenty years it has been the ruling party, which has always won these elections and subsequently lost the assembly elections. In fact, the AAP performance has been poor as compared to that of the ruling parties earlier, he said. Warring said the opposition performance has been far better under the AAP regime. Replying to another question, he said the AAP had completely failed on law and order, drugs, employment and finances having turned the state bankrupt. He alleged that killings of innocent people had become a new norm under the AAP regime. “The AAP government is neck deep in corruption and every Punjabi is feeling the pinch”, he further charged. On Union minister of state in railways Ravneet Singh Bittu’s recent heated exchanges with the cops, Warring de-

scribed him as a “dim-wit” and asked what the BJP leader had done for the state while being a minister for two years. “Has he provided any jobs to youth or laid down any additional rail lines in Punjab?” he asked. The matter stems from a May 26 incident in which Bittu had heated exchanges with some police officers in Dhuri while demanding the release of BJP leader Onkar Singh, who was detained by the police for allegedly campaigning during the “silent period” in the civic elections. Bittu has since apologised to the Scheduled Caste community for the remarks. Asked to comment on ex-CM and former Congress leader Amarinder Singh’s remarks that the Congress, unlike the BJP, took everyone into confidence, Warring asked him why did he leave the party. Amarinder Singh must have realised how liberal the Congress was and how suffocating the BJP is, the PCC chief said.

Woman killed in celebratory firing at son's b'day bash; cops foil secret cremation bid

GWALIOR: A 32-year-old woman was allegedly killed in celebratory firing during her son’s birthday party in Madhya Pradesh’s Gwalior city, after which her family kept her body in a deep freezer instead of informing police and fled, an officer said on Monday. The incident occurred in Tripti Nagar under the Thatipur police station limits on Sunday, Additional Superintendent of Police Jayaraj Kubera told reporters. He said Manoj Kushwah’s son was celebrating his birthday when Manoj’s younger brother, Yogesh Kushwah, allegedly started firing from a country-made pistol. During the celebratory firing, a bullet allegedly struck Manoj’s wife Jyoti Kushwah in

the head, killing her on the spot, the officer said. Kubera said the family allegedly tried to conceal the incident without informing the police. He said Manoj Kushwah arranged a deep freezer and kept Jyoti’s body in it. The family later started preparing for her last rites in the thick of the night. Police rushed to the house of the Kushwahs after receiving information, Kubera said, adding that Manoj Kushwah and other family members fled from the spot, leaving the body behind. The body has been sent for postmortem examination, while a search is on to trace the absconding family members. Police are also investigating the source of the country-made pistol allegedly used in the firing.

Elephant calf found dead at confluence of Mand, Kurkut rivers in Raigarh

RAIGARH: An elephant calf was found dead at the confluence of two rivers in Chhattisgarh’s Raigarh district on Monday, a forest official said. The carcass was spotted at the confluence of Mand and Kurkut rivers in Kharsia forest range this morning, the official added. “Preliminary findings from the post-mortem suggest the calf died due to internal injuries. A fractured pelvic bone was also detected during the examination,” he said. Samples have been sent for further analysis and investigation to ascertain the exact cause of death, the official added. The latest incident comes amid growing concern over elephant mortality in Raigarh district. More than 10 elephant calves have died in Dharamjaigarh forest division in the district over the past year due to various reasons. On the night of May 23, an elephant calf died after getting trapped in a pond in a village under Dharamjaigarh forest division. Two other calf deaths were reported in the same division on May 8 and May 11, officials said. Following the series of elephant calf deaths, experts from Dehradun and Bareilly visited Dharamjaigarh last week to assess habitat conditions and train local staff in managing elephant habitats and reducing mortality. According to forest department, more than 45 elephants have died from various causes across Chhattisgarh over the last 28 months.

MEI President S Manohar calls on Congress workers and office bearers to work actively in delivering every scheme of the government to the people

Bengaluru: MEI President S Manohar calls on Congress workers and office bearers to work actively in function of Congress stalwart D.K. Shivakumar, who is going to take charge as the new Chief Minister.

He stated that the efforts of the Shivakumar's new dream to be built Karnataka and to work actively in delivering every scheme of the government to the people.

Speaking at a meeting organized at the Maurya Hotel in Bengaluru to remember and express gratitude for the services of Siddaramaiah, who provided a pro-people, corruption-free and socialist administration as the



Chief Minister for a long time, he thanked him for the pro-people schemes implemented during Siddaramaiah's tenure, the welfare of the down-trodden and Dalits, women empowerment, youth

development and the concepts of social justice.

On this occasion, he said that we should all engage in the work of supporting and implementing the visionary leadership of Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi in the issues of building an equal society, protecting constitutional values, and empowering women and youth.

In this meeting, which was attended by KPCC office bearers, leaders and

workers, a preliminary meeting was held to discuss the successful organization of the oath-taking program of D.K. Shivakumar, the voice of Congress workers, who will take office as the 25th new Chief Minister of the state.

In this context, it was decided to celebrate a gratitude and felicitation program with the public on Wednesday, June 3rd. As part of the program, the party workers were requested to celebrate in a simple way by distributing breakfast and sweets to the public at various important places.

The program will start with light refreshments

and sweets distribution at Modi Hospital Circle and conclude with Basavanna Statue, Navarang Junction, Kuvempu Statue, Malleshwaram, Rajiv Gandhi Statue (near Mantri Mall), Nehru Circle, Seshadripuram, Maurya Circle, and Gandhi Statue. Former Mayor and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Chairman Sampath Raj, M.S. Salim, A. Anand, Pasira Ramakrishna, Bangalore Central Campaign Committee Chairman Prakash, spokespersons Anand Kumar M.S., Kushal Haruvegowda, Naveen, Puttaraju, Sanjay Sasimatha, Ranjith, Umesh and many other leaders and activists participated in this program.

Ice Make posts record Q4 revenue of Rs.256 crore, FY26 revenue rises 39%

Hyderabad : Ice Make Refrigeration Limited reported its highest-ever quarterly revenue of Rs.255.85 crore in the fourth quarter of FY26, registering a robust 41.8% year-on-year growth, driven by strong demand across refrigeration segments and expansion of its cold chain solutions portfolio.

For the full financial year FY26, the company's consolidated revenue surged 39.3% to Rs.668.20 crore, compared to Rs.479.52 crore in FY25. Growth was supported by strong order inflows and increasing traction for products such as Continuous Panels, Chest Freezers, and Visi Coolers.

The Board of Directors has recommended a final



dividend of Rs.2.25 per equity share, subject to shareholder approval at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Despite record revenues, profitability was impacted by strategic investments in capacity expansion, leadership strengthening, warehouse network growth, brand-building initiatives, and regulatory compliance. FY26 net profit stood at Rs.12.13 crore, compared to Rs.22.90 crore in the previous year.

For the development of the area, all the obstacles should be tolerated for a while: C.K. Ramamurthy

Bengaluru: For the development of the area, all the obstacles should be tolerated for a while and then you can move on the road without any problem, said MLA C.K. Ramamurthy.

Speaking after performing a puja for the cement road work of Jayanagar 4th Block, 30th, 33rd, diagonal cross roads at a cost of Rs. 20 crores in the Jayanagar assembly constituency, he said that all these roads are also being made into model roads and the pedestrian paths are also being made as models. Since the work will take four to five months to complete, he appealed to the people of this place to cooperate and join hands in the development. Former BBMP members B. Somashankar, Chandrashekhar Raju,



Govinda Naidu, Chinnagiriappa, Ramesh Raju, leaders Manjunath Reddy, officials and local leaders were present on the occasion.

ODISSI, OPERA AND ODES TO SURVIVAL: THE CENTRE FOR PEACE & PERFORMING ARTS PREMIERES RHYTHMS OF LIFE IN BENGALURU

Bengaluru : The Centre for Peace & Performing Arts (CPPA) is set to present "Rhythms of Life", a captivating cultural evening that celebrates the many emotions, memories, and experiences that shape our lives through the powerful mediums of music and classical dance.

The event promises a rich artistic experience featuring an inspiring blend of Opera, Odissi, Bharatanatyam, and beyond, bringing together accomplished performers from diverse artistic traditions on a single stage.

The evening will feature performances by: Aastha Mohapatra – Opera Vocalist, Baisali Mohanty – Odissi Dancer, Dr. Smt. Raksha, Karthik – Bharatanatyam Exponent, Rinjini Mitra – Classical Dancer.

Under the theme "An Evening of Moments, Memories & the Many Lives

We Live," the programme aims to take audiences on an artistic journey through stories, emotions, and reflections expressed through rhythm, movement, and melody.

The event highlights CPPA's commitment to promoting cultural dialogue, artistic excellence, and the preservation of India's rich performing arts heritage while encouraging innovative collaborations across disciplines. Event will commence on 5 June at 7:30 PM at Jagriti Theatre, Jagriti Renaissance, 5/2A, Varthur Main Road, near Palm Meadows, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru Art lovers, students, families, and patrons of the performing arts are invited to witness this unique confluence of music and dance that celebrates the rhythm of human experiences and the beauty of artistic expression.



Allen Bengaluru's Aryan Raghupathy Becomes Karnataka State Topper with AIR 12 in JEE Advanced 2026

Bengaluru. Allen Bengaluru students have once again proven their excellence in the JEE-Advanced 2026 results released by IIT Roorkee. Allen Bengaluru classroom student Aryan Raghupathy secured All India Rank 12. The results were announced with joyous celebrations at Allen. Teachers congratulated all the successful students and their parents and distributed sweets.

Allen South Zone Head, Mahesh Yadav that Allen is known for its excellent results, and maintaining this reputation, Allen has achieved excellent results this year as well. He informed that Aryan Raghupathy, a student of the institute, also topped



Bengaluru in JEE Advanced 2026 result. He stated that the excellent results are a testament to the trust bestowed on them by all students and parents. Allen Bengaluru is moving forward with this confidence. Additionally, 37 Allen

Bengaluru students have secured All India Ranks ranging from the top 100 AIR ranks to the top 1000 AIR Ranks.

National Results Allen Career Institute, Kota, has established a new record by securing All India Rank 1 for the

third consecutive year in the JEE-Advanced 2026 results announced by IIT Roorkee today. With these results, Allen has now bagged an All India Rank 1 in IIT-JEE seven times, and has repeated All India Ranks 1, 2, and 3 in JEE Advanced for the second time in its history. Allen previously

achieved this feat in 2016. Allen students secured six of the top 10 AIR ranks nationally, 24 classroom students in the top 50, and 41 in the top 100. This performance once again proves Allen's most successful and consistent institution in producing

top national rankers. Allen's nationwide success was led by Shubham Kumar, a Kota classroom student of Allen. Shubham achieved an All India Rank 1 by scoring 330 out of 360. Continuing the streak of excellence, Allen classroom student Kabir Chhillar secured All India Rank 2 with 329 marks out of 360, and Jatin Chahar secured All India Rank 3 with 319 marks. All India Girls Topper Aarohi Deshpande is also from Allen Kota classroom. Aarohi secured All India Rank 77 with 280 marks. Yashvardhan, who took the Allen Online Live Course, achieved the best online result by securing All India Rank 52.

Siddaramaiah leaves behind debt-ridden administration, alleges R. Ashok



Bengaluru, May 29:Leader of Opposition R. Ashok on Friday alleged that outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had handed over a financially burdened administration to his successor, D.K. Shivakumar, amid mounting debt and pending payments.

Addressing a press conference, Ashok claimed that the Congress government was functioning like a "broken-down lorry" and that merely changing the Chief Minister would not resolve the State's financial challenges. He alleged that Karnataka's total debt had risen to Rs.7.64 lakh crore and that the State was facing a significant budget deficit.

The BJP leader further claimed that several

payments remained pending, including dues to contractors, power distribution companies, welfare schemes and transport employees. According to him, the financial burden would make governance difficult for the incoming administration.

Ashok also criticised the Congress leadership over the change in leadership and alleged that internal differences within the party would continue even after the transition. He asserted that the BJP would continue to raise issues related to pending welfare payments and financial management. The Congress party has not officially responded to Ashok's remarks.

Best wishes to students for the new academic year: CLP leader D K Shivakumar

Bengaluru : Congress Legislature Party leader D K Shivakumar extended his wishes to school students as the new academic year commenced for government schools.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he said, "The new academic year begins today. On behalf of the government and personally, I wish my dear students all the best and success."

"Students educated in the state have made invaluable contributions at the global level, and the entire world is witness to this. Our wealth of knowledge is attracting the whole world. Our students have studied in most of the world's universities and



achieved many accomplishments," he said.

"We have precious human resources. That is why the world sees India through Karnataka. For this very reason, our elders established institu-

tions like IIT, IIM, National Law School, ISRO, HAL, and other major institutions right here. Children must pursue their education with the aim of carrying these forward," he added.

Must not lose self-confidence

"We are moving into the age of Artificial Intelligence, and education must be aligned with it. Our education policy will be announced in the coming days. Wishing you all success this year. Government school children must not lose self-confidence. Our government schools have good teachers. You are just as talented as children studying in private schools," he said. When asked about calls to provide saffron shawls as an alternative to the hijab, he said, "Whether it should be a saffron shawl or a national flag shawl – let us discuss that later."

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Registers 33,128 Units Sales in May 2026

Bangalore : Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced its sales performance for the month of May 2026 with 33,128 units, reflecting a growth of 7% compared to 30,864 units sold in May 2025. This includes 30,574 units sold in the domestic market and 2,554 units exported. Commenting on the sales performance, Mr. Sabari Manohar, Executive Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Our sales performance in May 2026 reflects the positive market acceptance of Toyota's offerings and overall ownership experience.

ICICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: Shop No. 34/514, 1st floor, Chollampattu Building, Edappally Toll Junction, Kochi - 682024
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Sudheesh (Borrower) Velayudhan (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHCLT00001335555/ LHCLT00001335840/ LHCLT00001343307	Re Sy No 14/17(14/5) Atholi Koyilandy Calicut Kerala- 673315	Rs. 20,37,109/- May 22, 2026	Rs. 26,79,500/- To Rs. 2,67,950/-	June 12, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 19, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 18, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgages/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till June 18, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 18, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 18, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifc.com/>
Date: June 02, 2026
Place: Calicut
Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

EDITORIAL

A Quiet Lifestyle Shift In Urban India Is Powering A \$12 Billion Market

"My home is an extension of my identity." Surely, someone you know must have said this to you. Or maybe you have said it to someone. The line, originated in elite circles (probably), is now a common phrase in urban Indian households. But this line now has a market value too – \$12 billion. How? A few years ago, buying a house was the finish line for most people. Now, it is only the beginning. "My home is an extension of my identity." Surely, someone you know must have said this to you. Or maybe you have said it to someone. The line, originated in elite circles (probably), is now a common phrase in urban Indian households. But this line now has a market value too – \$12 billion. How? A few years ago, buying a house was the finish line for most people. Now, it is only the beginning. Advertisement - Scroll to continue Across India's cities, homeowners are spending aggressively on interiors, decor, modular kitchens, smart lighting, luxury wardrobes, wellness corners, and customised living spaces. The shift is changing not just homes, but also the business of real estate, furniture, decor, and interior design. Interior Design, Decor India Market: Numbers Tell The Story Industry estimates suggest Indian homeowners are now spending anywhere between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of a property's value on interiors alone. That means a buyer purchasing a Rs 1 crore apartment could easily spend another Rs 10-20 lakh after getting the keys. In premium homes priced between Rs 2 crore and Rs 3 crore, interior budgets are stretching to Rs 20-40 lakh. And this is no longer restricted to ultra-rich buyers in Mumbai or Delhi. The appetite is spreading rapidly across Tier-2 cities like Jaipur, Lucknow, Indore, Chandigarh, and Coimbatore. India's home interiors market, currently estimated at more than \$12 billion, is growing at 8-13 per cent annually. Residential demand alone now accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the overall interior design market. Homes Are Becoming Identity Statements "Residential homes are no longer defined by scale alone, they are defined by the amenities and level of experience they offer," said Amar Sarin, MD & CEO of TARC Ltd. He said buyers today are looking for homes that reflect "identity, aspiration and a deeper sense of belongingness", while the lines between luxury housing and hospitality are increasingly blurring. That mindset shift is becoming visible across India's housing market. Developers, interior brands, and decor companies say millennials and dual-income households are driving the biggest transformation the sector has seen in years. Unlike previous generations that treated interiors as optional upgrades, younger buyers now see them as essential. "The Indian residential market is witnessing a major lifestyle transformation," said Pyush Lohia, Managing Director of Lohia Worldspace. "Homes today are no longer viewed as just physical spaces – they have become deeply personal reflections of comfort, aspiration, and identity." This aspiration is reshaping spending behaviour. Social media platforms, design influencers, Pinterest-inspired aesthetics, celebrity home tours, and hybrid work culture have fundamentally altered what Indian buyers want from their homes.

Indian Student On Falling Rupee And The Reality Of Life Abroad

I first travelled to London three years ago to visit my sister and celebrate my birthday. It was my first solo international trip, so naturally, I was excited about everything - getting my visa, booking my tickets, planning the journey, and finally exchanging rupees for pounds before landing in what felt like the most cosmopolitan city in the world.

In March 2023, one pound cost me around Rs 100 - simple enough for mental maths every time I bought coffee or took the tube. A year later, around the same time, I was back in London and went through the same routine again. Except this time, one pound was closer to Rs 105. Still manageable for quick conversions, but enough to make me realise how much exchange rates quietly shape the experience of studying, travelling, and living abroad. I experienced all of this a year later when I moved to London for my Master's degree at King's College. Now, I was converting a lot of money for visa and college fees. And as the rupee slipped against the pound every day, monthly expenses and stress levels started to climb. As of May 2026, you need Rs 128 to get a pound. It is good for you if you are regularly earning, but for students, it's a nightmare to have daily. Since last year, every financial decision I made in Delhi was shaped by the rupee-pound currency conversion rate. From booking tickets for a concert to applying for a loan and a visa to replacing my old phone, I could feel what thousands of Indian students go through every year. Despite the weakening of the rupee, students still choose the UK over India because it offers high-quality education and a better standard of living.

It Keeps Getting Bad'

In October 2025, I paid the first instalment of my tuition fee. It was 15,800 pounds, and the conversion rate was Rs 118 for a pound. By January, it further slipped to Rs 125 as I paid the second instalment. A Rs 7 slip seems small, but it had an impact on my mental well-being. By the time my second instalment was due, I had already started cutting down on expenses. I spent less on food, skipped casual



meetups at the college pub, and became more conscious even while buying basic groceries. I am fortunate to have family in London, which makes life easier in many ways, but the smaller daily costs still add up quickly.

For my 9 am lectures, I often had no choice but to take the tube, paying nearly 3.90 GBP one-way just to make it on time. But on days when I could, I switched to buses that cost 1.75 GBP instead. It meant spending almost two hours stuck in London traffic. But it was worth it if it would help me save a little money. According to the latest data from the Office of National Statistics, UK, in the year ending December 2025, Indians accounted for the largest number of non-EU nationals immigrating to the UK. Around 89,000 Indian students moved to the UK, and around 40,000 for work. South Asians, especially British Indians and Indians, form the largest diaspora of non-whites in Britain; Indians are also the highest among those emigrating from the country. Around 51,000 Indian students and around 21,000 professionals went back to India. I am among the 89,000 who came to London last year, but I know several people who are among the 51,000

who moved back. With a falling rupee and stricter immigration rules, a slow job market, the UK is becoming less attractive, but it remains a popular choice.

Across the Atlantic, the situation is as bad as in the UK. The rupee is at its lowest against the US dollar and keeps breaking its record every day. Coupled with the war in West Asia, Trump's tariff rules, conservative immigration policies, and a slow job market, Indian students are facing a tough time - probably worse because higher education costs more in the US than in the UK.

'Meal Deals and Chocolate Bars To The Rescue'

I never imagined I could go from writing articles on defence to pouring pints of Ciders and Guinness for a living. Every month, the rupee kept falling, and I started losing money on currency conversion to fund my monthly expenses. I chose part-time work at events to sustain myself. From pouring drinks at Twickenham Stadium and street parties to waiting tables at a restaurant, I earned pounds to buy groceries, meals, hang out with friends and live a little. The first thing I did after landing in London was to find the cheapest

route from my house to the campus, and the cheapest food options. The five-pound meal deals from Greggs and Tesco, surprise food baskets from 'Too Good To Go' and chocolate bars were saviours when I was tempted to spend a tenner on pizza. I learnt the hard way how to resist the temptation for fancy meals.

What feels particularly frustrating is seeing people online casually defend the weakening of the rupee against the dollar or pound as something that is simply "good for the economy". I am not an economist, and I understand that currencies move for complex reasons tied to trade, exports, and global markets. But what often gets ignored is the human side of currency depreciation - how it directly affects the lives of thousands of Indians studying, working, or living abroad. Even a small fall in the rupee changes daily life in ways that statistics cannot fully capture. Tuition fees become more expensive overnight, rent feels heavier, and ordinary expenses like transport or groceries suddenly require constant calculation. An article in The Economist argued that the weakening rupee reflects deeper structural and global pressures. Events like the American bombing

campaign in Iran disrupted oil flows and affected countries like India that rely heavily on imports, putting additional pressure on the currency. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that a modest depreciation against the dollar is normal for a growing economy.

Perhaps that is true at the macro-economic level. But from the perspective of an Indian abroad, a "modest depreciation" does not feel modest at all. It quietly reshapes everyday choices, mental well-being, and the ability to simply live comfortably in another country.

It's Tough, But I Am Not Alone'

During one of my tube rides back home, a friend from Texas was talking about how she loses \$4 every time she converts the currency. I told her I lose Rs 128 every time I do that, and she felt bad for me. Another friend from Italy, who is doing her PhD, is experiencing the same thing, but she said one more thing - whenever it feels heavy, just go for a walk, and if you see a student, you'll realise that you are not alone. I guess that is what makes London, or any other city in the UK, cosmopolitan. You go through things, and you grow with them.

FROM A MOVEMENT'S DREAM TO A PEOPLE'S TELANGANA



AMARAVAJI NAGARAJU

As Telangana completes twelve years of its formation, the occasion offers more than an opportunity for celebration. It is also a moment for reflection on the aspirations that shaped the statehood movement, the achievements of the past decade, and the challenges that lie ahead. Born out of decades of struggle, sacrifices, and the collective aspirations of millions, Telangana today stands at a crucial juncture in its developmental journey.

The creation of Telangana was not merely a political or administrative exercise. It represented the culmination of a long-standing demand rooted in questions of regional identity, equitable development, social justice, and self-governance. While the initial years after statehood were largely focused on administrative restructuring and infrastructure development, the discourse has gradually shifted toward inclusive growth, welfare, economic empowerment, and equal opportunities for all sections of society.

The Telangana movement witnessed contributions from various political and social

forces. However, the role played by the Congress leadership in taking the final political decision that led to state formation remains a significant chapter in the state's history. Telangana's emergence as India's 29th state was the result of a complex interplay between popular mobilisation, political negotiations, and democratic aspirations.

Yet, the formation of a state was only the beginning. The true measure of success lies in how effectively the aspirations of the people are translated into tangible improvements in their lives. Citizens expected statehood to bring employment opportunities, agricultural prosperity, balanced regional development, and greater social justice. These expectations continue to serve as benchmarks against which governments are evaluated.

Following the 2023 Assembly elections, the new government has sought to advance the concept of "Praja Palana" or people-centric governance. Several welfare initiatives aimed at reducing the financial burden on households have been introduced. Free bus travel for women, subsidised domestic electricity, affordable cooking gas cylinders, and expanded healthcare coverage are among the measures intended to improve the quality of life of ordinary citizens.

Women's empowerment has emerged as a central pillar of Telangana's welfare agenda. Across rural and urban regions, there are indications that targeted interventions are positively influencing the economic participation of women. Strengthening women's role within household economies

has the potential to generate long-term social transformation and contribute to broader developmental goals. Housing remains another critical area of public policy. For many families, owning a home continues to be a distant aspiration. Housing programmes, therefore, must be viewed not merely as welfare measures but as instruments of social security and human dignity. When integrated with access to drinking water, sanitation, roads, and other basic infrastructure, such initiatives can significantly improve living standards, particularly in rural areas.

Agriculture, the backbone of Telangana's economy and society, continues to occupy a central place in policy discussions. Farmers played an important role both in the statehood movement and in the state's subsequent development. Measures such as farm loan waivers, investment support, incentives for cultivation, and efforts to resolve land-related issues have provided some degree of relief. However, sustainable agricultural growth requires deeper reforms, including stronger market linkages, storage facilities, value-addition industries, and efficient water management systems.

Employment generation remains one of the most pressing challenges before the state. While recruitment drives for government jobs have created optimism among the youth, the long-term solution lies in expanding opportunities within the private sector. Industrial growth, investment promotion, skill development, and the expansion of technology-driven industries will be critical

in shaping Telangana's economic future. Hyderabad's emergence as a global innovation and investment hub offers considerable promise in this regard.

Major urban development initiatives, including the proposed Future City, metro rail expansion, and the rejuvenation of the Musi River, represent ambitious attempts to redefine the state's urban landscape. However, development projects of this scale must balance economic aspirations with environmental sustainability, social equity, and the concerns of affected communities. Inclusive planning remains essential to ensuring that growth benefits all sections of society.

Social justice has increasingly become a defining theme in Telangana's political and policy landscape. Efforts aimed at expanding opportunities for backward classes, strengthening representation, and enhancing affirmative action have generated discussions far beyond the state's borders. The true success of such initiatives will depend on whether social justice evolves from a political slogan into a foundational principle of governance.

At the same time, Telangana faces several significant challenges. Rising public debt, the need for sustainable revenue generation, rapid urbanisation, water resource management, and strengthening the education and healthcare sectors remain key concerns. Striking a balance between welfare commitments and fiscal responsibility will be crucial for long-term stability and growth.

WHEN PUBLIC OPINION STARTED SETTING THE TREND



The greatest strength of democracy is public opinion. This public opinion is not formed on a single day or during an election, but is shaped by a long process of ongoing dialogue, debate, discussion, social experiences, political consciousness, and citizen participation in society. In a democratic system, informed judgment by citizens, the exchange of diverse views, and respect for dissent are considered crucial. For a long time, the basis for shaping public opinion in India was direct dialogue, public meetings, social organizations, newspapers, books, educational institutions, and mass movements. However, this landscape has rapidly changed since the digital revolution. Today, social media is no longer merely a medium of communication, but has emerged as the most influential force in shaping public opinion. At such a time, the question becomes crucial: is public opinion now being determined more by social media trends and algorithms than by the independent thinking of citizens?

India is the world's largest democracy and also one of the world's largest digital consumer groups. Billions of people use Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, WhatsApp, and other digital platforms every day. From news to political views, a large segment of society now obtains their primary information from these platforms. This change is not only technological but also extremely significant from a social and political perspective. While previously, citizens formed opinions on an issue by reading newspapers, listening to debates, or discussing them locally, the process of opinion formation has now become largely dependent on digital platforms. Social media algorithms have become central to this process. Algorithms are technical mechanisms that determine which content a user will see and which will not. They select content by analyzing a user's preferences, activities, search history, and online behavior. Technically, their purpose is to keep users on the platform longer, as the economic model of digital companies is based on this. However, from a democratic perspective, this process raises serious questions. If citizens are only shown content that matches their preconceived beliefs, will they be able to become aware of diverse views? If algorithms begin to decide which issues are important, will democratic

debate remain free?

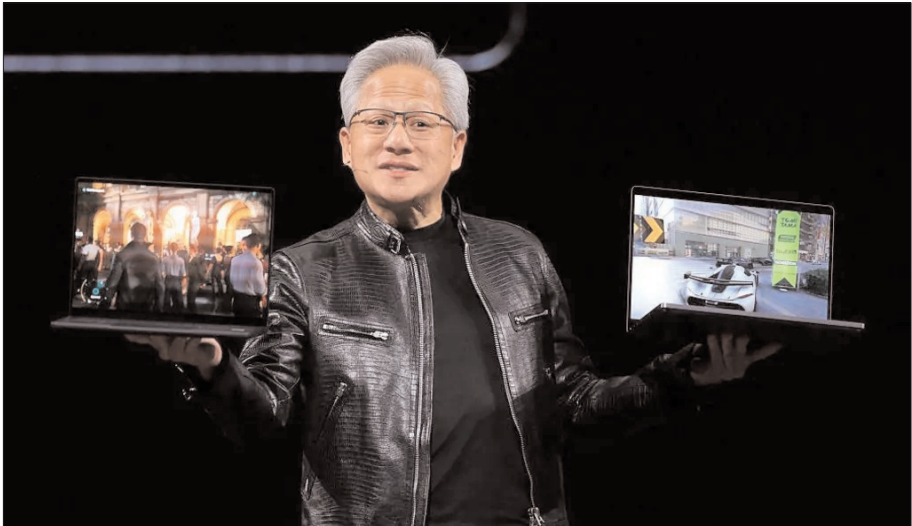
Today, trending on social media is considered a key indicator of a topic's popularity. Once a hashtag is shared millions of times, it becomes a topic of national discussion. Sometimes, it appears that what's trending represents public sentiment. However, trends don't necessarily reflect the broader public opinion. Trends are often created by organized digital campaigns, political propaganda, paid promotional strategies, or even bot networks. Therefore, it's important to understand that digital visibility and genuine public support aren't always synonymous. The distinction between grassroots political participation and digital activism is also important in this context. India's democratic history is replete with numerous examples of direct public participation. During the freedom movement, people went to jail, engaged in satyagraha, and took personal risks for social change. In subsequent decades, numerous movements also directly organized citizens. These movements built dialogue, trust, and collectivism among people. In contrast, digital activism is often limited to symbolic participation. Sharing a post, supporting a hashtag, or changing a profile photo is easy, but it does not always translate into real social intervention. As a result, a new form of political participation has evolved,

characterized by greater visibility and relatively less direct social commitment. A significant impact of social media algorithms is the creation of so-called "echo chambers" and "filter bubbles." When a person views or likes a particular type of content, algorithms begin to show them more of that type of content. Gradually, that person finds themselves in a digital environment where they primarily see views they already agree with. This reduces ideological diversity and increases intolerance toward opposing views. The success of democracy depends on citizens' willingness to listen to and understand different viewpoints. However, if algorithms divide citizens into ideologically distinct camps, the quality of democratic discourse is bound to suffer.

The growing trend of political polarization in India can also be seen in this context. Various political groups are active in their own digital communities on social media. Content shared within these communities often reinforces a particular viewpoint and presents opposing views with suspicion, ridicule, or hostility. This can lead to a tendency toward conflict rather than dialogue in society. Disagreement is natural and necessary in a democracy, but when disagreement takes the form of hostility rather than dialogue, democratic culture begins to weaken.

Nvidia announces new AI chip for personal computers

Nvidia has announced a new chip for PCs as it moves into the consumer market for devices integrated with AI technology. "This reinvention of the computer is as big of a deal as the reinvention of the phone into what we now know as the smartphone," Nvidia's chief executive Jensen Huang said as he unveiled the RTX Spark chip. Huang made the announcement on Monday as he delivered a keynote speech ahead of the opening of the Computex technology show in Taipei, Taiwan. Separately on Sunday, the US tightened its rules on selling Nvidia's most advanced chips to Chinese firms. The RTX Spark is "a new superchip... for the era of personal AI agents - offering a new class of computer that moves from tool to teammate," Nvidia said on its website. It will be included in a new line of Windows PCs made by Lenovo, HP, Dell, Microsoft Surface, Asus, and MSI. They are due to be available in the autumn, with models from Acer and Gigabyte to follow. The move marks a



challenge to high-profile names in the PC market like Apple and Intel. Lenovo, HP, Dell and Apple accounted for almost 75% of the world's PC market in the first three months of this year, according to research firm Gartner. A 'paradigm shift' Nvidia has traditionally focused on creating Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) – specialised chips originally designed to rapidly process computer graphics for video games, but now also widely used to power artificial intelligence systems. Charlie

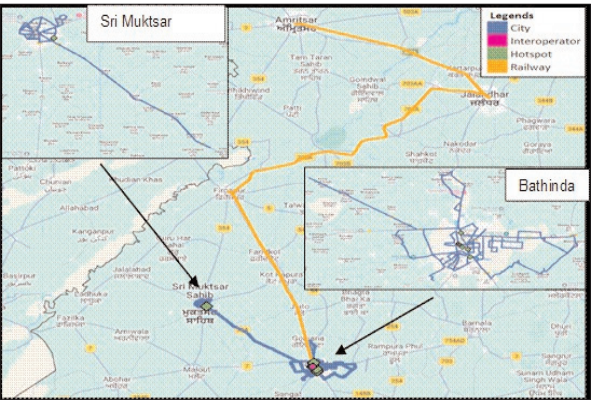
Dai, vice president and principal analyst at technology research firm Forrester said the announcement showed Nvidia making a "paradigm shift" from "component supplier" to "architecture owner in the PC market". "This will directly challenge Intel, AMD, and Qualcomm and raise competitive pressure on performance, efficiency, and AI integration," he said. However, Ian Fogg, Research Director at industry analyst firm FDM CCS Insight said the change was "likely to come

with a significant price tag" and Nvidia would be targeting "those looking for workstation-class performance". Part of the announcement has focused on a partnership with Microsoft to provide what Nvidia claims will be a "robust secure Windows platform" powered by the RTX Spark chip for AI agents - autonomous software programs such as OpenClaw driven by artificial intelligence. "Our goal is to deliver unmetted intelligence to every home and every desk with Windows," said Satya

Nadella, chairman and head of Microsoft. "RTX Spark marks a real breakthrough towards that vision." Semiconductor analyst Dr Ian Cutress said by offering a Windows notebook with Nvidia hardware inside, Nvidia was giving developers, particularly those working with AI, "a reason to stay within its own software and hardware orbit". The boom in data centres that power AI has helped Nvidia become the world's most valuable company, with a stock market valuation of more than \$5tn (£3.7tn). On Sunday, the US ?moved to close a potential loophole for shipping chips like Nvidia's Blackwell processors. Guidance published by Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) clarified that a licence is needed to export of the most advanced AI chips to subsidiaries of Chinese companies based outside China. Washington has been trying to stop Chinese firms buying the high-end computer chips needed to develop key AI technology.

TRAI Assesses Mobile Network Quality across Bathinda, Sri Muktsar Sahib Cities & Amritsar to Bathinda Rail Route (in Punjab LSA)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Bathinda, Sri Muktsar Sahib Cities & Amritsar to Bathinda Rail Route (in Punjab LSA), during the month of March 2026, for information of general telecom consumers. The purpose of this drive test is to assess and verify real time quality of mobile network services (both voice & data) provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). During the IDT, TRAI captures performance of TSPs for key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters like Coverage, Call Drop Rate (CDR), Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), data Download (DL) and Upload (UL) throughput etc., which are then published to inform Consumers and encourage TSPs to improve their services. These IDTs have been designed to capture on ground mobile network performance of all TSPs across diverse usage environments like cities, hotspots, public transport hubs, etc. In this type of drive testing, live data and voice sessions are established using SIM



cards from all TSPs over 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G networks. Multiple advanced test handsets are used, and the sessions are monitored and analysed in real-time using advanced Software Systems. TRAI, through its appointed agency, conducted drive tests across City drive - 276.8 KMs, Hotspot locations - 06, Railway - 282.8 Kms during 16th March 2026 to 19th March 2026 in Punjab LSA. These tests were conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office Jaipur. The observations presented in drive test reports represent the performance of the TSPs on the area/ route under test on the day/ time of conducting the drive test. Drive Test Route Map: The following map pro-

vides overview of drive test routes indicating City drive, Inter-operator calling, Hotspots and Walk tests, as per the legends shown on the map:-

Key Parameters Assessed
Coverage Gap: Percentage of samples, for which signal strength observed less than the minimum prescribed signal strength for respective technology (2G/ 3G/ 4G/ 5G).
Voice Services: Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), Drop Call Rate (DCR), Call Setup Time, Call Silence Rate, Speech Quality (MOS).
Call Silence Instance: Number of call silence instances occurred during the calls.
Data Services: Download/ Upload Throughput, Latency, Jitter, Packet Drop Rate.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Nationwide ‘Khet Bachao Abhiyan’ from Raisen, Madhya Pradesh

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from Ramasiya village in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, delivering a clear message to farmers that if the soil is protected, agriculture will thrive, farmers will become stronger, and the nation will prosper. He called for the promotion of balanced fertilizer use, soil testing, Soil Health Cards, natural farming, water conservation, and scientific agricultural practices. Launching the month-long campaign, which will run across the country from June 1 to June 30, Shri Chouhan said that the Earth is our mother and protecting its health is a collective responsibility. He appealed to farmers to avoid the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and instead apply fertilizers only according to the actual requirements of the soil based on scientific testing. He noted that excessive use of chemicals reduces soil fertility and



destroys beneficial micro organisms present in the soil, directly affecting agricultural productivity and increasing cultivation costs. The Union Minister said that the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' is a national resolve to protect Mother Earth. Under the campaign, agricultural scientists, experts from agricultural universities, officials of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, agriculture department teams, and public representatives will visit villages across the country to create awareness among farmers. Farmers will be educated about soil

testing, balanced nutrient management, natural farming, modern sowing techniques, water conservation, and advanced agricultural practices. He emphasized that every farmer must have a Soil Health Card so that fertilizer application can be based on the actual needs of the land. This, he said, will reduce cultivation costs, enhance productivity, and help maintain soil fertility over the long term. Shri Chouhan clarified that while the government provides fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rates, this should not encourage exces-

sive use. Sustainable agriculture, he stressed, depends on the judicious and balanced application of fertilizers. Shri Chouhan stated that making agriculture more profitable remains a key priority of the Government of India. He informed that special field demonstrations would be organized in the region for soybean, paddy, and pulse crops. Farmers will be trained in the use of improved seeds, scientific sowing methods, modern technologies such as laser levellers, and water-efficient farming practices.

India and Oman energize a new Trade Gateway through a landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Today, the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force marking a defining milestone in bilateral economic relations and opening a transformative new chapter in strategic trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. The India-Oman CEPA was signed on 18th December, 2025 in Muscat in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said. After completion of internal processes by both sides, the Agreement has entered into force on 1st June, 2026. The Agreement was operationalized in the presence of Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Issa Saleh Al Shibani, Ambassador of Oman to India. To mark the entry into force the first consignments availing preferential tariff benefits under the Agreement included agriculture and gems and jewellery

exports from Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai were flagged off. Oman is India's second-largest trading partner in the Gulf region and serves as a strategic gateway to the wider GCC market through its advanced port infrastructure. Bilateral trade between India and Oman reached USD 11.18 billion in FY 2025-26, registering a positive trend from USD 10.61 billion in FY 2024-25. Successfully concluded through a structured negotiation process, the Agreement reinforces India's growing economic and trade footprint and strategic presence across GCC economies, encompassing goods, services, professional mobility, regulatory cooperation, Non-Tariff barrier safeguards, and cooperation chapters, going well beyond tariff reduction to build a long-term economic architecture. Oman is India's second-largest trading partner in the Gulf region and serves as a strategic gateway to the wider GCC and East African markets through its

advanced logistics and port infrastructure. Bilateral trade between India and Oman reached USD 11.18 billion in FY 2025-26, registering continued growth from USD 10.61 billion in FY 2024-25. The India-Oman CEPA represents another major milestone in India's deepening engagement with the Gulf region and reflects India's broader strategy of building resilient, trusted and diversified trade partnerships that support manufacturing competitiveness, employment generation, services exports and integration into global value chains. Speaking on the operationalization of the CEPA, Shri Piyush Goyal said: "The India-Oman CEPA marks a defining milestone in India's engagement with Oman and reflects Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of forging trade partnerships that deliver gains for farmers, fishermen, youth, women, entrepreneurs and MSMEs. This Agreement will be a force multiplier in the Gulf region. With 99.38% of India's

exports receiving duty-free access, the Agreement unlocks new opportunities for our exporters and professionals gain opportunities. Oman is our trusted partner, a bridge for our people and a gateway to the Gulf and East Africa. Our opportunities will be elevated and CECA will strengthen India's integration into regional and global value chains. By delivering significant benefits to labor-intensive sectors, it will support job creation, drive investment and enable Indian enterprises to compete on an equal footing with suppliers from countries enjoying preferential market access" Commerce Secretary, Shri Rajesh Agrawal said "At a time when global trade patterns are being reconfigured by supply-chain diversification, shifting production networks and the emergence of new economic corridors, the CEPA positions India and Oman to leverage these structural changes. By fostering closer integration across trade, services, investment, and logistics.

Ministry of Education observes World No Tobacco Day, felicitates winners of "Towards a Tobacco Free Generation: School Challenge 2025"

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, organized a National Meet of officials, School Heads, teacher representatives from States/UTs, and officials from NCERT, NVS and KVS on 29 May 2026 in New Delhi on the eve of World No Tobacco Day. The event was held to commemorate the winning schools of the MyGov Innovate Campaign, "Towards a Tobacco-Free Generation: School Challenge 2025". Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), graced the occasion and presented awards to the winning schools, lauding their proactive efforts in cultivating healthy, substance-free educational environments. The event was attended by Ms. A. Srija, Economic Advisor, DoSE&L; Shri Ram Singh, Joint Director, DoSE&L; Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director, NCERT;

and senior officials from the Ministry of Education. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sanjay Kumar congratulated the award-winning schools and appreciated the participation of over 17,000 schools from across the country. He urged all educational institutions to strive towards becoming tobacco-free. Highlighting the importance of sustained tobacco control efforts, he emphasised the need to strengthen demand reduction through continued awareness, sensitisation, and behavioural change initiatives, particularly among children and adolescents. Shri Kumar further underscored the pivotal role of teachers in identifying early behavioural changes among students and safeguarding their mental and emotional well-being. He highlighted the important role of schools in promoting healthy behaviours, fostering well-being, and supporting early preventive interventions. Emphasising the transfor-

mative reach of the school education system, he highlighted that schools connect with nearly 24.69 crore children and can influence 15-20 crore households, enabling the tobacco-free movement to evolve into a nationwide social campaign. He also called for strengthening tobacco-free environments around educational institutions and encouraged schools and families to actively support the campaign's long-term action plan, which aligns with the vision of building a healthier and more developed India. The event also witnessed the launch of DoSEL's Three-Year Action Plan (2026-2029) under the Nasha Mukh Bharat initiative, as well as the Nasha Mukh Vidyalaya (NMV) Portal (<https://tofei.education.gov.in/>). The portal will serve as a key platform for monitoring and documenting the progress of educational institutions in implementing the Nasha Mukh Vidyalaya Abhiyan.

AI ‘VOICE CLONING’ SCAMS ARE ON THE RISE. HERE’S HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

New York — A California mom says she was scammed out of thousands of dollars this month after receiving a call that sounded like her daughter in distress. She now suspects it was an artificial intelligence-generated hoax. She's one of many who have been targeted by so-called "voice cloning" scams as AI tools allow anyone to create a convincing replica of someone's voice with only a few seconds of real audio. Americans lost more than \$893 million to AI-related scams last year, including voice cloning attacks along with AI-generated phishing emails, romance scams and other hoaxes, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Scammers can mimic anyone from family members and friends to coworkers or professional services workers. Banks including the United Kingdom's Starling and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia have warned customers to watch out for voice cloning scams. Experts say



AI voice replicas have gotten so realistic that most people can no longer reliably distinguish them from real human voices. "For the everyday person, it is just not fair to expect them to be able to spot this stuff," said Henry Ajder, an expert on AI-generated media who consults for governments and companies. "I struggle with it. Most people do." How do AI voice scams work? Scammers can create an AI replica of someone's voice using a short recording of their speech — often pulled from social media or an earlier scam call that was surreptitiously recorded. Social media can also pro-

vide a trove of information about family members and close friends who could be targeted. Fraudsters will typically make it sound like the loved one they're mimicking is in distress, purportedly having been kidnapped or in jail. Then they'll urgently demand money in exchange for their loved one's release. "There was no time to think," Gary Schildhorn, a Philadelphia attorney who was targeted by an AI voice scam mimicking his son, told CNN last year. "It was all, 'I have to react to help my son. He's in trouble.'" In some cases, the AI voice may be more than just a single

recording. Sophisticated attackers could use text-to-speech tools or "voice skinning," which manipulate a scammer's voice so they sound like the person they're imitating in real time. Those techniques facilitate back-and-forth conversations between the target and the AI clone voice, potentially making the scam more convincing. Ajder said. Hackers can also make it appear as if a call is coming from a known number through a tactic known as caller ID spoofing — so you can't necessarily trust that a call that appears to be coming from your mom is indeed her. How to avoid falling victim to AI voice scams Strange pauses or vocal fluctuations were previously considered red flags that a caller's voice might be AI-generated. But those signals may no longer be present now that AI has advanced. Instead of trying to determine whether a voice is authentic, look for other general scam warning signs, Hany Farid, a professor at

UC Berkeley and chief science officer at GetReal Security, told CNN last year. Is the person on the other end giving a deadline or introducing a sense of urgency? Are they encouraging you not to tell anyone else what's happening? Are they asking you to move large sums of money in unusual ways? Those are the types of questions experts say to keep in mind. Targets who receive these types of calls should try contacting their loved one through other means, such as via a text message, calling them on another person's phone or reaching out to someone who would know where they are. Deborah Del Mastro, the California mom recently targeted, told ABC7 News that she called her daughter only after sending money to the scammers. Her daughter answered right away and was at work. Families or coworkers can also establish a precautionary "code word" that can be used to verify each other's identity.

VIRAT KOHLI GIVES MIC DROP STATEMENT AFTER IPL 2026 WIN

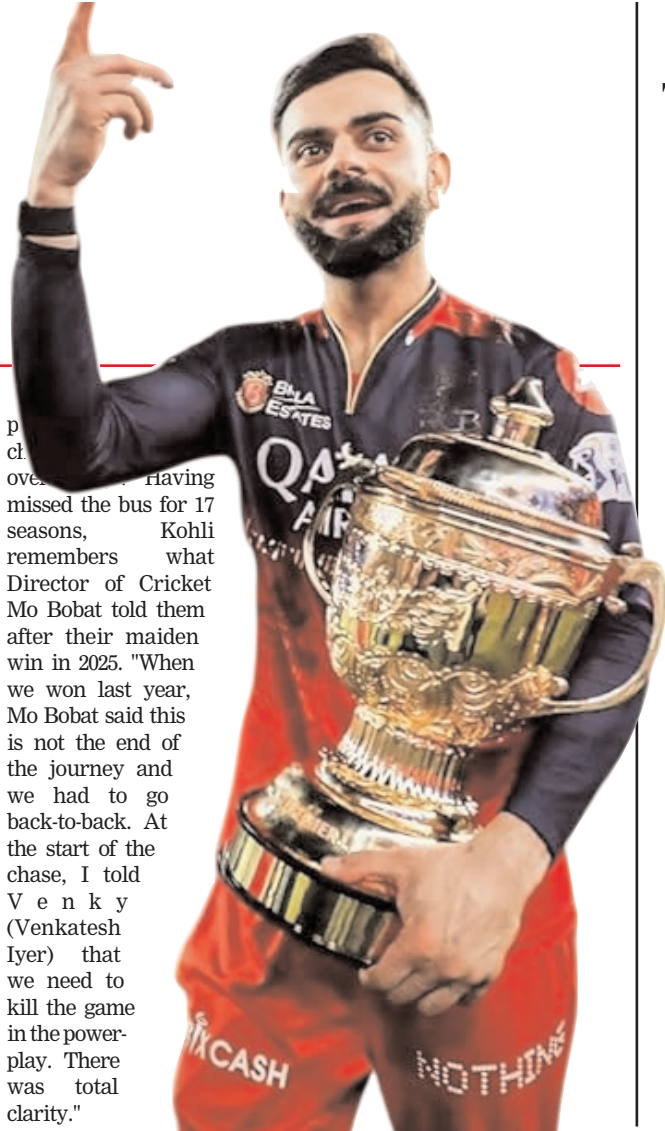
For 18 years, Virat Kohli waited for his first IPL title. Now, he has two. At 37 and a half, he still believes in working on his game as he smashed the fastest T20 half-century of his career while fulfilling his long-cherished dream of hitting the winning runs in RCB's IPL-winning chase. Kohli's unbeaten 75 was the cornerstone of RCB's second IPL title, and the legend couldn't be more pleased with a dominant effort throughout the season. "(It is the) stuff you dream of. (I) thought of this moment many times, wanting to hit the winning run," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony. Later, there was also an indirect mention of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, and how he pushed him to alter his game over the

course of this season. Asked about his 25-ball half-century, Kohli showed why he eternally remains a student of the game. "Such is the demand (that) super young players (are) pushing you to up the ante," he said in jest, but the seriousness of his statement wasn't lost on anyone. "I had to change my mindset, not my game so much, take on bowlers and get extra runs," he added, summing up how 'super young' players like Sooryavanshi pushed him to change his mindset and his approach towards the game at the age of 37.

Everybody Stepped Up
What has pleased Kohli this season is the fact that in the first 10 games, there were eight different cricketers who won the Player of the Match award.

It is no longer a case of the campaign resting on his shoulders. "We've had to wait for so long and then, just to have a group of guys where you feel like you're stepping onto the ground, you don't need to be the one to step up every time," Kohli said. "These guys are behind you (and) around you, who can win games of cricket for you. We have so many Man of the Match awards spread throughout the group as well. You look at the world-class bowling of Hoff (Josh Hazlewood), Bhuv (Bhuvneshwar Kumar), Duff (Jacob Duffy), and Krunal Pandya - you can bank on him as good as ever - Rasikh (Salam) Dar was brilliant this season," Kohli said. The kind of team that the RCB management put on the park during the last two seasons has been a

clinch, feels Kohli. "I felt really relaxed coming in. The team we have gives confidence to see any kind of situation through. (We) knew exactly what to do in the chase." RCB Don't Poke Any Team Very carefully, he also spoke about how they didn't care which team was in the opposition, but at the same time, there was respect for each and every other opponent. "Our first target was to go top of the table. We didn't care what jersey was in front of us thereon. We're respectful, don't poke any team. We have mature professionals, and experience shines through." For him, on big days, it is the duty of the stars to pull the team through. "Come the big situation, you need the big boys to step up. I know it's a chase and they'll look to get me out early, but I knew we



ZEE SECURES RIGHTS TO FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 AND 38 OTHER EVENTS

Zee Entertainment announced on Monday that it has acquired the media rights to 39 FIFA events, including the FIFA World Cup 2026, FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 and FIFA World Cup 2030. The deal will see Zee broadcast FIFA tournaments in India from 2026 through 2034, adding some of football's biggest competitions to its growing sports lineup. Zee's FIFA coverage will begin on June 11, 2026, when the FIFA World Cup kicks off in the United States, Mexico and Canada. The tournament will be shown across Zee's Uni8 Sports channels and streamed on Zee5. Along with live matches, viewers will have access to highlights, analysis programmes, special features and FIFA documentary content throughout the tournament cycle. Betting Big on Football The FIFA rights



deal comes as Zee expands its presence in sports broadcasting with the launch of its Uni8 Sports network. "We are excited to bring one of the world's biggest sporting spectacles to Indian audiences," said ZEEL CEO Punit Goenka. "Football cuts across regions and demographics, and the investments in garnering the media rights and launching dedicated sports channels reflect our clear belief in its long-term potential.



Former England international James Milner has announced his retirement after a 24-year Premier League career. The versatile 40-year-old was out of contract after spending the past three seasons with Brighton. Milner played for six teams in England's

Record-holder Milner retires after 24-year career

top flight and broke the record for most Premier League appearances in February. He started his career with Leeds and went on to win three Premier League titles - two with Manchester City and one with Liverpool - and also helped the Reds win the Champions League in 2019. Milner made his England debut while with Aston Villa in 2009 and ended his international career with 61 caps. "I've been fortunate enough to experience some unforgettable moments, from fighting for survival to winning trophies, playing in Europe, and representing my country at two European Championships and two World Cups," read a state-

ment by Milner, external on social media. "But more than anything, it's the people and friendships I've made throughout the game that I'll cherish forever." Milner made his Leeds debut at 16 in November 2002 and at the time was the second-youngest player to play in the Premier League. The following month he became the youngest player to score in the Premier League and is now third on that list, behind Max Dowman and James Vaughan. Milner missed most of the 2024-25 season through injury but played 22 games in all competitions in 2025-26, making his 658th and final Premier League appearance during Brighton's last game of the season.

BCCI Ends Suspense On Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's India Debut Debate, Makes Stance Clear

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia congratulated Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for their consecutive IPL titles following their five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans (GT) in the 2026 final in Ahmedabad. The BCCI Secretary also praised teenage sensation 15-year-old Sooryavanshi for his exceptional performances throughout the season. The 15-year-old Bihar-born batter had an extraordinary tournament for Rajasthan Royals, finishing as the highest run-scorer with 776 runs at an exceptional strike rate of 237.30. At just 15 years and 65 days old, Sooryavanshi also set a new IPL record as the youngest Orange Cap winner. The previous record was held by



Gujarat Titans opener Sudharsan, who won it at 23 years and 231 days in 2025, while Shubman Gill had set the record in 2023 at 23 years and 263 days. Speaking to reporters, Saikia said, "It was a wonderful season... I hope all the fans have a lovely time during this IPL, and congrat-

ulations to RCB for winning the tournament consecutively twice. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is a wonderful player coming up, and he has a bright future. BCCI will do everything to get him to the highest level of cricket." Additionally, on the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World

Cup later this month, the BCCI Secretary said, "That is the most challenging thing coming up in the coming days. They (Women in Blue) are already doing well... and I hope they will repeat the same performance they did last year by winning the ODI title." BJP MP Anurag Thakur also congratulated the Rajat Patidar-led Bengaluru for winning the grand finale against the Titans on Sunday night. Speaking to reporters, Thakur said, "I congratulate RCB for winning the IPL for the second consecutive time. The match was happening in Ahmedabad, but many RCB fans had come to watch the match. This was a great victory in cricket... IPL is the biggest league of cricket.

Why Did The UK Revoke HasanAbi's Visa? Streamer Says He Can No Longer Enter The UK

Controversial Twitch streamer and political commentator HasanAbi has recently gotten his UK visa revoked. The streamer shared the update during a livestream on May 31, 2026, and said he currently cannot enter the United Kingdom. The news surprised many viewers because HasanAbi had several events and appearances planned in the country in the coming days. The situation started getting even more attention after HasanAbi spoke about it both on livestream and on X. According to the streamer, he only recently found out about the visa issue and now does not think he will be able to travel to the UK next week. As clips from the stream started spreading online, many fans began discussing what happened and why the decision was made.



HasanAbi says several UK events may not happen anymore. While talking to viewers, HasanAbi explained that he had multiple plans lined up in the United Kingdom before learning about the visa situation. The streamer said he was supposed to take part in events involving Yanis Varoufakis, Zack Polanski, Jeremy Corbyn, and the Oxford Union.

Christian Pulisic Finds Form Before FIFA World Cup As US Beat Senegal 3-2

Christian Pulisic ended his goal drought and Folarin Balogun rifled in the winner as a much-improved United States beat Senegal 3-2 in a pre-World Cup friendly in Charlotte on Sunday. The win - and a slick first-half offensive performance powered by Pulisic and Ricardo Pepi - provided a welcome lift for coach Mauricio Pochettino's co-hosts. The US had entered the clash with African powerhouse Senegal off the back of disappointing losses to Belgium and Portugal, and got the performance they needed to justify high expectations ahead of the World Cup in less than two weeks. Sergino Dest opened the scoring, while Senegal's veteran ex-Liverpool forward Sadio Mane scored a brace in a disappointing loss for the



Africa Cup of Nations finalists, which nonetheless exposed some enduring frailties in the US defense. It was a dream start for the US, with a goal on six minutes. Pepi, making his first start since 2024, turned away from goal and played a blind through ball down the left for Pulisic, who crossed for Dest to blast in from close range. Pulisic was a constant

menace, looking restored from his recent struggles at AC Milan. And it soon got even better for "Captain America", as he ended his five-month goal drought for club or country. Pepi collected a

Freeman's

forward ball and playing a perfectly weighted through ball to Pulisic. Pulisic rounded the keeper and steered it inside the near post, to wild scenes of celebration and relief. He had not scored for Milan since December, and the US since 2024. "I mean it's just great to score again. Hopefully people can stop talking about it. I feel great," said Pulisic. Though the US were pressing and tackling with high intensity, Senegal had their chances. Keeper Matt Turner, in an audition to reclaim the starting position from Matt Freese, escaped a penalty shout as he reached the ball with his fingertips just ahead of an onrushing Mane.

WILLIAMSON TO MISS WORLD CUP QUALIFIER AGAINST SPAIN



England captain Leah Williamson has been ruled out of the Women's World Cup qualifying matches against Spain and Ukraine. The Arsenal defender, 29, will be absent with a hamstring injury, despite having followed a rehabilitation programme that she hoped would enable her to play. Sarina Wiegman's side can qualify for next year's World Cup in Brazil if they avoid defeat in Spain on Friday (20:00 BST). They sit top of their group with four wins from four matches and have a three-point advantage over world champions Spain. England take on Ukraine at Everton's Hill Dickinson Stadium on Tuesday, 9 June (20:00 BST). Williamson, who led England to back-to-back European Championship victories in 2022 and 2025, has started just two Women's Super League games this season. She had

knee surgery following England's Euro 2025 victory and has played only three games for her country since. Liverpool captain Grace Fisk has been called up to the squad to replace Williamson, while Brighton goalkeeper Sophie Baggaley also joins the Lionesses. Baggaley will provide cover as Manchester City's Khiara Keating will miss the Spain game as she follows the return-to-play concussion protocols. Keating missed Sunday's victory over Brighton in the FA Cup final, at which Baggaley was on the bench for the opposition. A further assessment will determine whether Keating can be available for the Ukraine game, though regular number one Hannah Hampton is expected to start. The squad arrive at St George's Park on Monday before travelling to Spain later in the week.

Iga Swiatek Exits French Open, Alexander Zverev Eases Into Quarters

Four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek exited Roland Garros on Sunday as the top seeds continued to fall at the start of the second week, while Alexander Zverev booked his spot in the quarter-finals. The Polish third seed endured a miserable 25th birthday as she went down 7-5, 6-1 to Madrid Open winner Marta Kostyuk. Since winning Roland Garros in her second appearance at the tournament in 2020, Swiatek had never gone more than two years with-

out hoisting aloft the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen, but after Aryna Sabalenka ended her bid to win a fourth consecutive French Open in the semi-finals last year, she has lost her unbeatable status on clay. Indeed since last winning in Paris in 2024, Swiatek has only lifted three titles in the two subsequent seasons. "It is harder a bit to handle stress for me in, like, (the) last year," she said. "So I feel like today I felt off, you know, and I did mistakes that I didn't want to do, and I wanted to play safe, but the ball flew every-

where. "Suddenly these feelings came back, and I tried to work on it with my dialogue inside, but it was tough today. Yeah, so it all kind of went drastically down, and I played worse and worse." After breaking Kostyuk in the first set to edge 4-3 ahead, Swiatek's serve totally deserted her and she failed to hold again as the Ukrainian hit back to claim the opener and then raced through the second frame. For Kostyuk, reaching a first quarter-final at

Roland Garros was just the latest high mark in a fine clay-court season, in which she claimed the 250-level event in Rouen, as well as a first WTA 1000 title in the Spanish capital. Elina Svitolina next stands between her compatriot and the last four after she fought back to beat Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.



LEGENDARY DIRECTOR SV KRISHNA REDDY'S 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED GRANDLY IN THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL FILM CELEBRITIES

Director SV Krishna Reddy receives a World Record recognition from Telugu Book of Records International for composing music for 38 films he directed

Making video of SV Krishna Reddy's 43rd directorial venture "Vedavyas" launched Director SV Krishna Reddy, who delivered numerous memorable family entertainers to Telugu cinema, is currently working on his 43rd film, "Vedavyas." The film is being presented by noted producer K. Achchi Reddy and produced by Kommuri Pratap Reddy under the banner Sai Pragati Films. The movie marks the debut of Pidugu Vishwanath as a hero, while Korean actress Joon Hyun Ji and Mongolian actor Sharan Bold Segment are being introduced to Telugu audiences. Having completed shooting, "Vedavyas" is currently in post-production. On the occasion of SV Krishna Reddy's 75th birthday, grand celebrations were held today at the Film Nagar Cultural Center in Hyderabad, along with the launch of the film's making video. During the event, SV Krishna Reddy was honored with a World Record recognition certificate from Telugu Book of Records International for composing music for 38 films he directed. Several



Tollywood celebrities attended the event as special guests. Senior Actor Murali Mohan said: "The atmosphere today feels like a festival. I wish SV Krishna Reddy garu a long and healthy life. He should direct 100 films. The friendship between Achchi Reddy and Krishna Reddy should continue forever. It is commendable that Krishna Reddy garu is making 'Vedavyas,' a film that highlights the greatness of our Vedas and culture." Director SV Krishna Reddy said: "This celebration became grand because

so many producers, directors, actors, and well-wishers joined us. Receiving a World Record recognition for my music on my birthday is a blessing. I thank everyone who made this event successful and request your support for my upcoming film 'Vedavyas' as well." Producer Achchi Reddy said: "We celebrated SV Krishna Reddy garu's birthday, the launch of the 'Vedavyas' making video, and the World Record recognition ceremony in the presence of many close friends and industry colleagues. Our journey across 43 films has been

possible because of the support of actors, technicians, producers, and friends. Producer Kommuri Pratap Reddy has been the backbone behind our confidence and enthusiasm. His trust and affection for Krishna Reddy garu gave us the freedom and support needed to make 'Vedavyas.' We believe this film will be a comeback project for all of us. For the past four to five years, we have been working on this script with a strong desire to showcase SV Krishna Reddy garu's vision and creative power. Esteemed writers like Paruchuri Gopala Krishna and Satyanand encouraged

and supported us during script development. Now that the shoot is complete, we can confidently say that Krishna Reddy garu's vision has come alive on screen. The film features extensive graphics work, with Phantom's CG team contributing significantly. Our cinematographer Sharath, production designer Brahma Kadali, editor Chota K. Prasad, choreographer Suchitra, fight master Prithvi, Anji Master, and many other technicians have done outstanding work. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this project.

M4M (Motive For Murder) Set for OTT Release from June 19, 2026 directed by Mohan Vadlapatla, starring Jo Sharma USA

The suspense thriller M4M (Motive For Murder), which was released worldwide in theaters on May 8 directed/produced by Mohan Vadlapatla starring American Actress Jo Sharma and Sambeet Acharya, received an excellent response from audiences, media and critics alike. The film earned impressive ratings, including 9.1/10 on IMDb and 9.6/10 on BookMyShow, along with positive reviews from several leading newspapers, news channels and entertainment websites, with ratings ranging from 3.5 out of 5. Audience from both India and USA, celebrated the movie success marking it as one of best suspense thrillers watched in recent times. Following its successful theatrical run, M4M is now gearing up for its digital premiere. The movie will be available for streaming from June 19 onwards across multiple OTT platforms, including Lionsgate Play, Amazon Prime, Airtel Xstream, JioTV, Tata Play Binge and other partner platforms. A film by Mohan Vadlapatla, M4M (Motive For Murder) successfully combines suspense, mystery, drama and entertainment, delivering an edge-of-the-seat experience that keeps viewers captivated from beginning to end.



The film is particularly well-suited for OTT audiences and is expected to attract viewers who enjoy intelligent thrillers and murder mysteries. Mohan Vadlapatla has done an exceptional job in crafting this suspense thriller. With a gripping screenplay packed with unexpected twists and turns, he keeps the audience guessing about the identity of the killer until the very last minute. The film's engaging narrative, suspenseful storytelling and surprising climax make it a must-watch for fans of mystery and thriller genres. One of the major highlights of the

film is the outstanding performance by Jo Sharma, heroine of the movie who plays the role of an investigative journalist Radha. She has delivered a remarkable performance with natural acting bringing depth, confidence and authenticity to her character. Her screen presence, expressions and powerful acting have been widely appreciated and stand out as one of the strongest elements of the movie. Movie lovers can now experience the mystery, suspense and excitement of M4M (Motive For Murder) from the comfort of their homes starting June 19.

Happy Birthday Nikhil: Swayambhu Making Video Reveals His Stunning Transformation And Intense Preparation

Nikhil Siddhartha's upcoming spectacle Swayambhu is emerging as one of the most technically ambitious films. Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari and produced by Bhuvan and Sreekar under Pixel Studios, with Tagore Madhu presenting the project, the film is being crafted on an epic scale for audiences across the country. The makers of Swayambhu marked Nikhil Siddhartha's birthday with a captivating making video that throws light on the immense effort invested by the actor for the ambitious period spectacle. Rather than focusing solely on the film, the newly released video highlights the demanding journey that shaped Nikhil into the fierce warrior seen in Swayambhu.



'KOTHA MALUPU' SET FOR GRAND RELEASE ON JUNE 12

Trailer Unveiled by Bhanu Chander, Sunitha and C. Kalyan A Romantic Love-Suspense Entertainer Starring Akash and Bhairavi Arthya Kotha Malupu, the latest film starring Akash, son of renowned singer Sunitha Upadrashta, is all set to hit theatres on June 12. The film features Bhairavi Arthya as the female lead and is directed by Shiva Varaprasad Kesanakurthi. Produced by Tati Balakrishna under the Tathastu Creations banner, the movie will be released by Mythri Movie Distributors. The trailer launch event was held grandly at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad in the presence of senior actor Bhanu Chander, singer Sunitha Upadrashta, producer C. Kalyan, actor Raghu Babu and other distinguished guests. Set against a rural backdrop, Kotha Malupu is a romantic love story blended with suspense and entertainment. Akash and Bhairavi Arthya will be seen in the



roles of cousins (bava-maradalu), while Raghu Babu, Prudhvi Raj Prabhavathi and others play key roles. The film's music is composed by

Yashwanth. Speaking at the event, director Shiva Varaprasad Kesanakurthi said, "We have crafted Kotha Malupu as a romantic love-suspense entertainer. Akash and Bhairavi share excellent chemistry on screen. Along with showcasing the scenic beauty of Konaseema, the film offers a compelling story packed with comedy and emotions."

"Audience Will Experience Something New with 'Sing Geetam': Shalini Kondepudi"



I played a strong villain character in 'Sing Geetam'. I have never seen a film in this genre before. The audience will definitely be entertained in a new way: Heroine Shalini Kondepudi. Legendary director Singeetham Srinivasa Rao is coming forward with his most ambitious project 'Sing Geetam'. Nag Ashwin has produced the film under the prestigious banners Vyjayanthi Movies and Swapna Cinema. Ayaan, Ahalya Bamru and Shalini Kondepudi have played key roles in the film. Rock star Devi Sri Prasad has composed the music. The teaser and songs of 'Sing Geetam', which have already been released, have received a good response. 'Sing Geetam' is set to

release in theaters worldwide on June 11. On this occasion, heroine Shalini Kondepudi shared the features of the film in a press conference. **How did the journey of Singh Geeta begin?** -Earlier, I had done films like Jayamma Panchayathi, Shubham, and My Dear Donga. I came to know through people I know that there was a character with negative shades in this film. I decided to do any role in Singeetham's film. I went for the audition. I got the okay a month after the audition. -There has never been a film in this genre before. Everything in this film is musical. Every artist needs to be able to sing in a certain rhythm.

Rashmika Gets Career's Highest Remuneration In Bollywood?

Rashmika Mandanna is the National crush, and she needs no introduction to the Bollywood audiences. Although Rashmika made her debut in Hindi even before Pushpa was released, the film altogether took her craze to the next level. Rashmika has done a few films in Hindi, out of which Chhaava stood out in the recent past, apart from the pan-India films. Now, she seems to have hiked her remuneration. If the reports are true, Rashmika will receive 15 Cr rupees in remuneration for the film, which is the highest ever in her career. The proj-

ect in the discussions is Cocktail 2, the sequel of the super successful film in Hindi. In the second part, Rashmika will share the screen space along with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon. Shahdi gets a big paycheck worth 35 Cr rupees reportedly, and Kriti also equals her remuneration with Rashmika. Rashmika is relatively junior to Kriti Sanon, but both are getting the same amount, which is interesting. Meanwhile, Rashmika is not in a hurry to sign back-to-back films in Hindi, even though she is enjoying stardom in the North. She is making sure to win the

hearts of audiences with characters that remain with audiences forever. Even in Telugu, Rashmika has not charged as much as she is reportedly charging in Hindi. However, the fact is that Rashmika would be a value addition for whatever the project is! Rashmika Mandanna is once again proving why she is one of the most dedicated actresses in the Indian film industry. For her upcoming heroine oriented Pan India film Mysaa, the actress has reportedly fallen in love with the script and is ready to go all out for the role. The project is set to present her in a never-seen-before action-packed avatar,

marking a striking new phase in her career.

The film's next action-packed schedule will begin soon in Kerala and will continue for 16 days. To prepare for this physically demanding segment, Rashmika is currently undergoing rigorous training in Bangkok. Sources say she is training for nearly eight hours every



day, a routine that reflects both her commitment and her excitement for the role.