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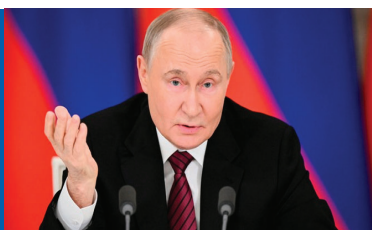


**MINISTER LOKESH**  
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**SALMAN KHAN**  
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SCAN FOR  
E-PAPER



**OM NAMO  
VENKATESAYA**

02-06-2026  
Total pilgrims: 83,858  
Tonsures: 35,941  
Hundi kankaku: 4,38 CR  
Laddu sale: 40 Lac  
Annaprashadam: 217 Lac  
Medical treatment: 3,331  
Waiting Compartments: 22

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam  
(with out SSD Tokens): 12 H

**FIVE CHILDREN DROWN IN  
WATER FILLED EXCAVATION  
PIT IN MADHUBANI**

Patna, Jun 3: A tragic incident in Bihar's Madhubani district claimed the lives of five children after a group of seven youngsters drowned while bathing in a deep water-filled excavation pit on Wednesday. The accident occurred in the Raghepura-Yadupatti Chaur area of Benipatti, near Kerwar village under Patana police station limits, where soil had earli-er been excavated using a JCB machine, leaving behind a large pit that later filled with water. According to police officials, all the children involved were aged between 12 and 15 years. Around noon, they had gone to the site to bathe, unaware of the depth of the stagnant water. Several of them report-edly slipped into deeper sec-tions and began drowning, while attempts by others to res-cue them also turned fatal.

**21 KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED  
IN MAJOR FIRE AT DELHI  
RESTAURANT; PM ANNOUNCES  
EX GRATIA**

New Delhi, Jun 3: At least 21 people lost their lives and several others sustained injuries after a massive fire broke out at a restaurant in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday morning. The blaze engulfed the multi-storied Lemon Green Restaurant located in the Hauz Rani area, triggering a large-scale rescue operation. Officials said many of those who died were foreign nationals, though their identities are yet to be officially confirmed. According to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a distress call was received at around 9.45 am, following which multiple firefighting and rescue teams were rushed to the spot. Officials said the fire is believed to have started around 8.50 am. Firefighters rescued 37 people trapped inside the basement of the building and shifted them to nearby hospitals in CATS ambulances.

## 1 cr people to join Yoga Andhra 2026: CM Naidu



THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES  
VISAKHAPATNAM:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced that the State Government will organize Yoga Andhra 2026 on a massive scale from June 7 to June 20 to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga, with a target of engaging one crore people in yoga activities across the state.

Addressing the media in Amaravati on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said yoga should become a daily habit

in every household and evolve into a people's movement for building a healthier Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized that yoga is India's invaluable gift to the world and remains one of the most effective tools for addressing modern challenges such as stress, anxiety, and lifestyle-related health disorders.

"Yoga is a comprehensive wellness practice that promotes physical fitness, mental peace, and spiritual growth," he said. The Chief Minister announced that the flagship Yoga Andhra

2026 event will be held in Amaravati, where nearly 25,000 participants are expected to perform yoga on the Krishna River West Bypass Bridge. He added that the government is working to integrate yoga into educational institutions to encourage healthy habits among children and create a stronger and healthier future generation. Highlighting the success of Yoga Andhra 2025, organized in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chandrababu Naidu said the programme earned national and international recognition.

## Shivakumar sworn in as Karnataka's 25th CM

BENGALURU (TSIT):

Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar was sworn in as the 25th Chief Minister of Karnataka on Wednesday at a grand ceremony held at the Glass House within the Lok Bhavan premises in Bengaluru.

Amid loud slogans from supporters, Shivakumar walked to the dais and first paid floral tributes to the portrait of Sri Veera Gangadhara Swamiji, popularly known as Ajjaayya, Nonavinakere Ajja, or Veera Gangadhara Ajja. After offering his respects, he proceeded to the podium to take the oath of office and the oath of secrecy.

Shivakumar took the oath while holding a copy of the Constitution and invoked the name of Veera Gangadhara Ajja, the revered seer whom he regards as his spiritual guide. The swearing-in ceremony commenced with the rendition of Vande Mataram. This was followed by the National Anthem performed by the Karnataka State Police Band. The state anthem was also played during the



proceedings.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, Shalini Rajneesh, welcomed the dignitaries and guests attending the ceremony. Before the formal proceedings began, Shivakumar felicitated outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah by draping a shawl over his shoulders.

Several prominent national and state leaders attended the event, including Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court Vibhu Bakhru, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Congress

leader V.D. Satheesan from Kerala, AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala

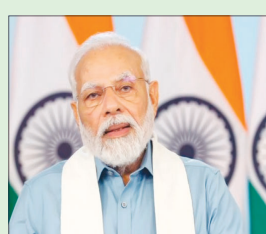
and other senior Congress leaders. At the start of the ceremony, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh sought the permission of Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot to proceed with the swearing-in. Following the Governor's approval, the oath-taking ceremony formally commenced. The event marked the beginning of a new chapter in Karnataka politics, with Shivakumar assuming office as Chief Minister amid the presence of senior Congress leadership, constitutional authorities, and a large gathering of party workers and supporters.

## PM Modi congratulates CM Shivakumar, assures Centre's support

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated D.K. Shivakumar on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

"Congratulations to Shri D.K. Shivakumar Ji on taking oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka. Best wishes for his tenure," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

He also assured full cooperation from the



Centre, stating that it would work closely with the Karnataka government for the welfare and development of the state's people.

## Telangana, South Africa to boost ties in pharma, Skilled workforce; Deputy Prez Mashatile invites Indian firms to invest

HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Deputy President of South Africa Paul Mashatile, meeting Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday, set the stage for deeper cooperation in pharmaceuticals, medical tourism, and skilled workforce development between India and South Africa, with both sides eyeing stronger trade and investment links. Mashatile, who is currently on a working visit in India, met Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad along with a high-level delegation to explore developments in pharma and ICT.

During the meeting, the South African Deputy President emphasised South Africa's interest in having Indian pharmaceutical companies invest in the country, noting that access to affordable medicines is a primary focus under Pretoria's universal healthcare push.

"Chief Minister, universal access to healthcare is a priority for South Africa, and access to affordable medicines is a primary area of focus. The manufacture of affordable pharmaceuticals in the country is important to achieve this goal," Mashatile said.

He added that establishing phar-



ma firms in South Africa also provides "a platform from which Indian companies can enjoy preferential market access into the rest of Africa through the African Continental Free Trade Area."

Both sides agreed to cooperate in education, medical tourism and investments, with an aim to strengthen educational exchanges and attract investments for mutual benefit, according to a release from the Chief Minister's Office.

Reddy highlighted Hyderabad's ecosystem in IT, pharma, defence and aerospace, calling it a leading destination for Global Capability Centers of Fortune 500 companies

and also showcased the city's world-class medical facilities, which attract patients from the Middle East and other regions for cost-effective treatment.

"The government is working on further strengthening Hyderabad's position as a global hub for skilled workforce and medical tourism," the Chief Minister said.

He also invited the South African delegation of industrialists and entrepreneurs to the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026 to be held in December.

Mashatile said he would be "honoured to attend along with a delegation." Reddy also briefed the delegation on plans for Bharat Future City, a net-zero, global-standard greenfield project spread over 30,000 acres near Hyderabad's international airport.

Telangana's IT & Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu invited South African industrialists to explore opportunities for mutual cooperation, while Telangana Health Minister C Damodar Raja Narsimha noted that Hyderabad is globally known for bulk drug and vaccine production.

## TMC SPLIT: Expelled leader Ritabrata Banerjee LoP with support of 58 rebel MLAs, WB Assembly Speaker accepts claim

KOLKATA (TSIT):

The TMC on Wednesday suffered its first split in its 28-year history as 58 rebel MLAs elected expelled leader Ritabrata Banerjee as Leader of Opposition, wresting control of its legislature party, and secured recognition from the Assembly Speaker, plunging Mamata Banerjee's outfit into its gravest internal crisis since its inception.

Within hours, a rattled TMC leadership dissolved all party committees and frontal organisations across West Bengal in what appeared to be an attempt to regain political control amid a fast-esca-



lating power struggle.

The dramatic rebellion, unfolding within two months of the party's crushing defeat in the assembly elections, exposed a deep rupture between the organisation and its elected legislators, raising questions over leadership, succession and the future direction of the party that has dominated Bengal politics for more than a decade. The rebel camp, led by Ritabrata Banerjee and fellow expelled

MLA Sandipan Saha, submitted letters of support from 58 legislators before Speaker Rathindra Bose, comfortably crossing the two-thirds threshold required under the anti-defection law for recognition as a separate bloc.

"Our claim has been accepted by the Speaker," Ritabrata Banerjee told reporters after meeting the Speaker. Claiming legitimacy through numbers, he asserted that the dissidents now represented the real Trinamool Congress in the Assembly. "The TMC legislative party is a team of 58 MLAs who won on the TMC symbol."

## Cabinet approves Rs 10,000-cr ATF price stabilisation fund to shield airlines from fuel cost volatility

New Delhi, Jun 3 (UNI) In a major relief measure for the aviation sector grappling with soaring fuel costs amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, the union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support package of up to Rs 10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to facilitate Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price stabilisation for scheduled Indian airlines. Announcing the decision after a Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the government had approved the creation of a Price Stabilisation Fund that would provide interest-free advances to OMCs, enabling them to offer more predictable fuel prices to Indian carriers operating both domestic and international services. "The union Cabinet has approved one-time budgetary support not exceeding Rs 10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies to provide ATF price stabilisation support to Scheduled Indian Airlines for their domestic and international operations," Vaishnav told reporters.

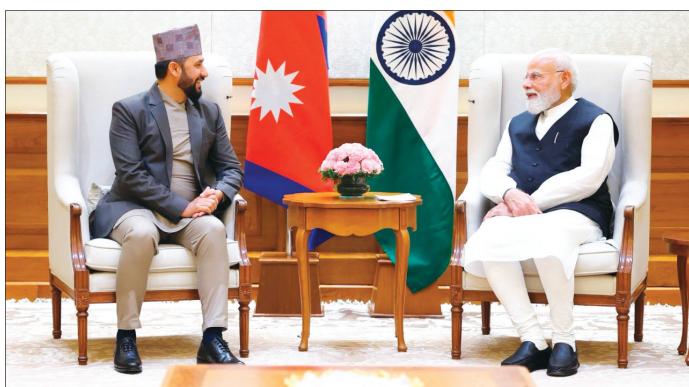
According to the Cabinet decision, the assistance will be routed through the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and will be provided as an interest-free advance to OMCs. The support is aimed at mitigating the impact of extraordinary fuel price volatility triggered by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which have sharply increased global ATF prices and placed severe financial pressure on airlines.

Under the approved mechanism, OMCs will be compensated whenever the prevail-

ing Import Parity Price (IPP) of ATF exceeds a benchmark price fixed under the scheme. The compensation will be drawn from the approved corpus, helping shield both airlines and fuel suppliers from sudden price shocks.

The government said the arrangement includes a recovery and true-up mechanism. Once international ATF prices decline, the differential amount will be recovered from OMCs and returned to the Consolidated Fund of India. The process will continue until the entire support amount is fully recovered and settled. The scheme will be available to all willing scheduled Indian airlines and will cover both domestic and international operations. A key feature of the mechanism is the introduction of a fixed-price arrangement for ATF supplies, giving airlines greater certainty in fuel expenditure and reducing exposure to abrupt price spikes. As part of the arrangement, participating airlines will sign a memorandum of understanding with OMCs, with the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Petroleum and Natural Gas acting as signatories. Airlines opting into the scheme will procure ATF exclusively from OMCs for a period of up to three years, subject to annual review or until the advance amount is fully recovered, whichever is earlier. A monitoring committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Department of Expenditure will oversee implementation, verify claims, conduct reconciliations and supervise settlements.

## PM Modi meets Nepal's RSP chief Rabi Lamichhane, SEEKS CLOSER COOPERATION



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) chief Rabi Lamichhane and welcomed his interest in collaborating closely with

India for a shared and prosperous future for both nations.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Delighted to meet the Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party of Nepal, Mr Rabi Lamichhane. I welcome and fully share his desire to

work closely together for a shared and prosperous future."

"Nepal is a priority partner under our Neighbourhood First policy, and we look forward to collaborating with the new government to elevate the special and multifaceted relationship between our two countries to greater heights," he added. Earlier on Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah interacted with a Nepalese delegation led by RSP chief Rabi Lamichhane, reaffirming the commitment to enhance ties between the two countries. In a post on X, the Union Home Ministry said, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the Nepalese delegation led by Rabi Lamichhane, Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) Chairman, in New Delhi today."

## BRS will win 90 seats if elections held in Telangana now: KTR



HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) alleged that if the Assembly elections in Telangana were held today, his party would win more than 90 seats. Predicting that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would be defeated in Kodangal constituency, KTR dared the for-

mer to seek fresh public approval by going for by-elections in the constituencies represented by the MLAs who defected from BRS to Congress after the 2023 Assembly elections. KTR launched a scathing attack on the Congress government during the "Meet the Press" programme organised by the Press Club Hyderabad on Wednesday, May 3.

# Andhra minister Lokesh in Russia to explore collaboration in AI, quantum computing

Amaravati, June 3 : Andhra Pradesh is exploring opportunities for collaboration with Russia in Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing, and digital innovation as state minister Nara Lokesh began his visit to Russia on Wednesday.

As part of Andhra Pradesh's efforts to build global technology partnerships, Minister for Education, IT and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, held discussions with Albert Yefimov, Senior Vice President of Sberbank, one of Russia's leading financial and technology institutions.

The meeting provided an opportunity to understand Russia's progress in sover-



eign artificial intelligence, digital platforms, advanced computing and technology-led innovation.

Discussions covered emerging areas including generative AI, digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, fintech, quantum computing, workforce skilling and technology applications in public ser-

ambition to emerge as a leading AI and technology hub and expressed interest in exploring areas where global best practices and technological innovations could support the state's digital transformation agenda.

According to an official release here, the discussions also touched upon the growing role of artificial intelligence in healthcare, including early disease detection, diagnostics, medical research, hospital operations and citizen-facing health services. Both sides exchanged views on how AI-driven solutions could improve healthcare accessibility and outcomes at scale. The meeting also explored developments in

quantum computing and advanced research ecosystems. Lokesh noted Andhra Pradesh's interest in emerging technologies and discussed possibilities for future engagement between research institutions, technology companies and innovation ecosystems in areas related to quantum technologies.

The two sides exchanged views on technology education and workforce development models. Discussions included global approaches to coding education, AI skills development and industry-oriented training programmes aimed at preparing young professionals for the digital economy.

The meeting also cov-

ered broader opportunities to strengthen economic engagement between India and Russia, including facilitating business linkages, supporting exporters and leveraging technology to improve cross-border trade ecosystems. Albert Yefimov shared insights into Sberbank's operations in India and its ongoing engagement with Indian businesses and institutions. Both sides agreed to remain in touch and explore areas of mutual interest as opportunities emerge. During his Russia visit, Lokesh will engage global technology leaders, research institutions and industry stakeholders across emerging sectors.

## Alampur Farmers Raise Irrigation Concerns Ahead of CM Revanth Reddy's Gadwal Visit

Jogulamba Gadwal, June 3 (TSIT): Ahead of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to Gadwal to review irrigation projects, farmers from the Alampur constituency have expressed strong dissatisfaction over the continued delay in resolving long-pending irrigation issues.

Addressing a press conference, Telangana Rajyadhikara Party district president Morugu Veeresh alleged that successive governments had failed to address the irrigation needs of Alampur farmers despite repeated promises. He said farmers would symbolically welcome the Chief Minister with a "Garland of Irrigation Problems" to highlight five major unresolved issues — the incomplete Nettempadu Lift Irrigation Scheme, the deteriorating Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme, the non-functional Chinnonipalli Reservoir, the stalled Mallamma Kunta Reservoir, and pending works under the Thummilla Lift Irrigation Scheme.



## Former Minister Harish Rao Celebrated as a People's Leader on Birthday



Sadashivpet, June 3 (TSIT): BRS State leader Shivraj Patil praised former Minister Harish Rao as a visionary leader and an architect of Telangana's development, highlighting his tireless efforts to fulfill the aspirations of the state's people. On the occasion of Harish Rao's birthday, grand celebrations were held in Sadashivpet town, organized under Shivraj Patil's leadership. The programme included a cake-cutting ceremony, special prayers at local temples, distribution of fruits to hospital patients, and Annadanam (community meal) programmes. Youth participated in bike rallies as part of the celebrations. Addressing the gathering at the bus stand, Shivraj Patil described Harish Rao as a leader deeply loved by the public, who has consistently addressed people's concerns with dedication, whether in power or opposition. He noted that Harish Rao's efforts have earned appreciation from former Chief Minister KCR and instilled confidence among the people of Telangana. Shivraj Patil wished Harish Rao a long, healthy life and encouraged him to continue serving the state with wisdom and commitment. Senior leaders including Patnam Manikyam, M.A. Hakeem, Indra Mohan Goud, Koduri Anjaiah, Satani Srisailem, Malla Goud, Manohar Goud, Raju, Prakash, and Mansoor attended the celebrations.

# Sampath Kumar Assures Permanent Solution to RDS Issues in Alampur

Jogulamba Gadwal TSIT : AICC Secretary and former Alampur MLA Dr. S.A. Sampath Kumar on Tuesday assured farmers and residents of the Alampur constituency that a permanent solution to the long-pending Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) issues would be achieved and that unfinished irrigation projects would be completed under the Congress government.

Addressing a gathering during the second day of the Praja Palana Pragathi Nivedika Bus Yatra in Waddepally mandal, organized under the guidance of Nagarkurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi as part of the State Government's 99-day public outreach programme, Sampath Kumar said the Congress government remains committed to the development and welfare of the people of Alampur.

He stated that the Congress gov-



ernment, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is making sincere efforts to address long-pending developmental issues in the constituency. He said projects such as the Vallur and Mallamma Kunta reservoirs, which were allegedly left incomplete by the previous BRS govern-

ment, would be completed to provide a permanent solution to irrigation challenges in the RDS ayacut area.

Sampath Kumar criticized former TRS leaders, alleging that they had secured electoral victories by making promises but failed to address the concerns of the peo-

ple after coming to power. He asserted that despite not holding an elected office, he has been able to pursue developmental works and welfare initiatives in the constituency due to the support of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

He said his entry into politics was driven by a commitment to regional development and improving the living standards of the people rather than personal gain. He pledged to continue working for the welfare of Alampur as long as the Congress government remains in power.

Highlighting welfare initiatives of the State Government, Sampath Kumar said that around 3,500 Indiramma houses have already been sanctioned in the constituency and efforts are underway to secure more housing units in the coming years. He expressed confidence that Alampur could be

transformed into a constituency free from inadequate housing.

He also outlined various welfare measures being implemented by the Congress government, including Indiramma housing, free electricity, LPG subsidy support, Rythu Bharosa assistance, SC Corporation loans, interest-free loans for women, opportunities in petroleum retail dealership, and free bus travel for women. He said the objective of the bus yatra was to create awareness about these schemes and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive government support. Sampath Kumar further stated that he would continue striving for the overall development of Alampur constituency and appealed to party workers to take government welfare programmes to every household.

## Minister Jupalli Reviews Arrangements for CM Revanth Reddy's Mahabubnagar Visit



Mahabubnagar, June 3 (TSIT): State Excise, Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao inspected preparations for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to the joint Mahabubnagar district on June 4 and 5.

The Minister, along with Government Whip Yennam Srinivas Reddy,

Anirudh Reddy, District Collector Khushboo Gupta and SP Darawat Janaki, reviewed arrangements at the public meeting venue in Jadcherla.

Officials were directed to complete stage construction, seating arrangements, tents, drinking water facilities, parking areas, VIP galleries, barricading and security mea-

sures. Police were instructed to ensure smooth traffic management and crowd movement.

The Minister later inspected arrangements at the Udandapur Reservoir and Karivena Reservoir. He reviewed helipad construction, security arrangements, parking facilities, VIP green rooms, drinking water supply, toilets and media facilities.

District Collector Khushboo Gupta directed officials from police, revenue, roads and buildings, fire, forest, medical and health departments to work in coordination to ensure the Chief Minister's visit is conducted smoothly. Fire tenders, backup generators and preventive measures against wildlife disturbances were also arranged as part of the preparations.

## Farmers Urged to Be Vigilant While Purchasing Seeds : District Agriculture Officer Yashwanth Rao



The South India Times // Nagar Kurnool District Agriculture Officer Yashwanth Rao has advised farmers to exercise caution while purchasing seeds and strictly follow the provisions of the Seed Act, 1966. He emphasized that cotton farmers should buy seeds

only from licensed dealers and always obtain a purchase bill.

During inspections of seed shops, including Sairam Traders and Anand Kisan, he instructed farmers to check important details on seed packets such as the company name, hybrid variety, lot

number, germination percentage, packing date, and expiry date. Only properly sealed seed packets should be purchased.

The officer also warned farmers against using unauthorized cotton seed varieties like BG-III/HTBT. He advised them to preserve a seed sample from each packet and conduct a germination test before sowing. Farmers should retain seed packets, tags, and purchase bills until harvest and report any seed quality issues or counterfeit seed sales to the Agriculture Department immediately. He further recommended sowing seeds only after adequate rainfall and sufficient soil moisture is available.

## Warangal Police Commissioner Directs Counseling for Land Dispute Rowdy Sheeters



Warangal, June 3, TSIT: Warangal Police Commissioner Sanpreet Singh has instructed police station officials to provide "counseling" for rowdy sheeters involved in land dispute cases, aiming to curb harassment and promote peaceful settlements.

During his visit to KUC Police Station on Wednesday, Commissioner Singh was welcomed by Central Zone DCP Dara Kavitha, ACP Narsimha Rao, and Inspector Ravikumar. He first inspected the station premises, case property rooms, seized vehicles, and the Balamitra Police Station sports ground.

The Commissioner reviewed records of active rowdy sheeters and suspects, inquiring about their current activities and

behavior. He emphasized that special counseling should be offered to individuals who engage in fights, threats, or intimidate the public, and directed officers to remain vigilant without showing sympathy towards habitual offenders.

He also urged police officials to conduct community awareness programs addressing local social disorders, cyber crimes, drug abuse, and traffic rules in schools and colleges. Station inspectors were instructed to proactively gather information and maintain strict control over crimes in their designated areas.

The programme was attended by SIs Naveen Kumar, Kalyan Kumar, and Rajamouli, who will assist in implementing the counseling and awareness initiatives.

# NGC and Pollution Control Board Conduct Environmental Awareness Programme



Nagar kurnool : As part of the 99 Days Public Governance Programme, a "Pollution-Free Awareness" programme was organized at the Government Science Degree College in the dis-

trict headquarters, informed College Principal Madan Mohan. The awareness seminar was conducted jointly by the Telangana National Green Corps (NGC), Pollution Control Board,

and the College Eco Club. The programme was attended by Pollution Control Board Officer Mahesh and NGC District Coordinator Rajasekhar Rao as chief guests. They educated students on

environmental protection, the benefits of pollution control, and the adverse effects of pollution on society and nature.

As part of the event, essay-writing competitions were conducted for students, and prizes were distributed to those who demonstrated outstanding performance. To encourage the reduction of plastic usage, eco-friendly toothbrushes made from natural materials and cloth bags were distributed to students.

Later, faculty members and students participated in an awareness rally promoting a pollution-free environment and sustainable living practices. Faculty members Anjaiah, Uma Devi, and others participated.

## GTA Utah Chapter Celebrates Telangana Formation Day with Pride and Cultural Festivities



Utah, USA: The Global Telangana Association (GTA) - Utah Chapter hosted a vibrant Telangana Formation Day celebration, bringing together the local Telugu community to honor a decade of Telangana's statehood.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Sathya Batula, with leadership from GTA Utah President Vishal Reddy Patlolla, Vice Presidents Vishnu Mogulla, Shrayya Velide (Cultural), Kartek G.V.A. (Media & PR), and commu-

nity representative Sairam Kompally (SRK), whose efforts ensured a memorable program.

Attendees paid tribute to the brave freedom fighters and martyrs of the Telangana movement, reflecting on their sacrifices that paved the way for the new state. The celebration highlighted Telangana's growth over the past ten years in areas such as infrastructure, technology, agriculture, and cultural revival.

## Telangana Leads Nation in Oil Palm Cultivation



Khammam (TSIT): Telangana has emerged as the leading state in the country in oil palm cultivation, with

Khammam district ranking first in the state, Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing, Handlooms and Textiles Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao said on Wednesday. Addressing a media conference in Khammam, the minister urged farmers to focus on oil palm, horticulture and other alternative crops in view of the likely impact of El Niño and below-normal rainfall during the upcoming kharif season.

# VMRDA to Develop Ramavaram and G.S. Agraharam Layouts with Modern Amenities

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) is committed to developing the Ramavaram and G.S. Agraharam layouts with state-of-the-art infrastructure and modern amenities, while extending full support to the 161 farmers who contributed land for the project, said Metropolitan Commissioner N. Tej Bharat. Addressing a meeting held on Wednesday with farmers and officials from the Engineering, Planning, and Estate Departments,



the Commissioner stated that VMRDA has taken up the development of both layouts as prestigious projects aimed at creating model residential layouts. He said that

100-foot-wide approach roads would be constructed wherever necessary to ensure better connectivity. The layouts will be equipped with parks, entrance arches, children's play

areas, and other advanced civic amenities to provide a high-quality living environment. The Commissioner further assured that the allotment of plots to farmers would be expedited.

He directed officials from the Engineering and Planning Departments to work in close coordination and complete the development works by October 2, coinciding with the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Datla Keerthi, Secretary Muralikrishna, Estate Officer Dayanidhi, Chief Engineer Vinay Kumar, Chief Planning Officer Divya Latha, OSD Krishna Naik, DFO Sirisha, other officials, staff members, and farmers from Ramavaram and G.S. Agraharam.

## DRM Calls for Environment-Friendly Lifestyle Ahead of World Environment Day

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : On the occasion of World Cycling Day, the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Visakhapatnam Division, Lalit Bohra, set an inspiring example by commuting from his residence to the Divisional Office on an e-bicycle, promoting eco-friendly transportation and sustainable living. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lalit Bohra emphasized the importance of adopting environmentally responsible practices in daily life. He stated that reducing carbon emissions is essential to address the growing challenges of global warming and climate change. He urged railway employees and officers to actively participate in green initiatives and embrace sustainable lifestyle practices. Ahead of World Environment Day, he called upon all members of the railway fraternity to contribute towards environmental conservation and work collectively for a greener and more sustainable future.



## Record Sales of 1.21 Crore Laddus in May



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) achieved a record sale of 1.21 crore laddus in the month of May. On average, 4.08 lakh laddus were prepared per day during the month. The TTD Potu Division is making special efforts to ensure the preparation of high-quality laddus.

## AP speeds up road and infrastructure development



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : The Andhra Pradesh Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department has outlined its achievements over the past two years, highlighting significant progress in road restoration, infrastructure modernization, highway expansion, and railway development under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The department stated that

roads are the backbone of social and economic development and play a crucial role in attracting investments, promoting industrial growth, and improving connectivity. Officials noted that when the coalition government assumed office, road infrastructure across the state required urgent attention, prompting the launch of large-scale restoration and development programmes. One of the government's

flagship initiatives, Mission Pothole Free, was launched on November 1, 2024, with an allocation of Rs.861 crore to repair and restore 20,060 kilometres of roads across the state. The programme was completed within nine months, substantially improving road conditions by March 2025. Building on these efforts, the government earmarked Rs.2,500 crore for the second phase of road development.

## Polavaram Project to Be Developed as a Major Tourism Hub Ahead of Godavari Pushkaralu 2027: Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu has said that the State Government is working towards transforming the Polavaram Project into a major tourism hub before the Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled in 2027, in line with the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Reviewing the progress of Polavaram Project works with officials, agency representatives, and design consultants at the State Secretariat on Wednesday, the Minister said comprehensive planning is underway to develop tourism infrastructure around the project and improve regional connectivity. He revealed that a LiDAR survey covering nearly



9,900 acres has already been completed to facilitate the preparation of a detailed layout and master plan for the proposed tourism development around the project area. As part of the initiative, the government is examining proposals to connect the Polavaram Project with Eluru, Kovvur, and Rajamahendravaram through National Highway networks, thereby improving accessibility for tourists and visitors. The Minister directed

officials and executing agencies to prepare and submit a detailed schedule for the construction of a bridge downstream of the spillway, including design approvals and other statutory clearances. He stressed that all works should be carried out strictly according to the approved timeline without delays.

Providing an update on construction activities, Nimmala Rama Naidu said that the crucial Earth-cum-Rock Fill (ECRF) Dam

works have achieved significant progress, with 45 percent completion in Gap-1 and 22 percent completion in Gap-2. He further stated that the Left Main Canal works are expected to be completed by August this year, enabling the supply of Godavari waters up to Anakapalli. The Minister also noted that nearly 90 percent of the connectivity works related to the right and left main canal tunnels have already been completed. The review meeting was attended by Water Resources Department Special Chief Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Water Resources Advisor M. Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief Narasimha Murthy, Polavaram Project Superintending Engineer Ramachandra Rao, Megha Engineering Joint COO Angara Satish Babu, General Manager Murali, and other senior officials.

## Collector Abhishek Kishore Unveils World Environment Day 2026 Awareness Poster in Visakhapatnam

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Emphasizing that environmental protection is a collective responsibility, District Collector M. Abhishek Kishore called upon citizens to actively contribute towards environmental conservation, pollution control, and the protection of natural resources. He stressed that it is the responsibility of every individual to ensure a clean, green, and sustainable environment for future generations. As part of the observance of World Environment Day 2026, an awareness poster designed by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), Visakhapatnam, was unveiled on Wednesday at the Collectorate Conference Hall by the District Collector, along with Shankhabrata Bagchi and other senior officials.



focuses on key environmental challenges, including plastic pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, soil degradation, construction waste management, and water pollution. The awareness campaign also promotes practical measures such as planting more trees, avoiding single-use plastics, segregating waste at source, conserving water, encouraging eco-friendly transportation, and protecting soil resources. The poster further emphasizes that a clean environment contributes to healthier living, greener communities, increased use of renewable energy, and sustainable development. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Abhishek Kishore urged citizens, institutions, and

industries to work together in preserving the environment and adopting sustainable practices in their daily lives. Among those present at the event were APPCB officials led by Mukunda Rao, Immadi Prudhvi Tej, Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidhyadhari, Ketan Garg, Tej Bharat, Deputy Commissioners of Police Latha Madhuri and Manikantha, District Revenue Officer Visveshwara Naidu, Revenue Divisional Officer Shesha Sailaja, and other senior officials. The event reinforced the message that environmental sustainability and climate action require the active participation of governments, institutions, and citizens alike to secure a healthier future for coming generations.

## DSC-2025 conducted transparently, says Anita



Visakhapatnam, June 4 (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Home Minister M. Vangalapudi Anita said DSC-2025 was conducted with complete transparency and fairness by the coalition government. Addressing the media at the Secretariat, she stated that the Mega DSC recruitment drive filled 16,347 teaching posts within 148 days despite facing over 240 court cases. More than

15,000 candidates have already been appointed, she said. Anita noted that over 34,000 grievances were addressed during the recruitment process and clarified that Sports Quota appointments were made strictly as per eligibility and merit. She dismissed allegations against the recruitment process as baseless and politically motivated.

## Parliamentary Exchange Programmes Key to Strengthening India-Norway Relations: MP M. Sriharat

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M. Sriharat has underscored the importance of parliamentary exchange programmes in strengthening the growing bilateral relationship between India and Norway, stating that such initiatives foster deeper understanding, cooperation, and the exchange of democratic best practices. Participating as part of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation on the India-Norway Knowledge Exchange Tour, Sriharat attended a series of engagements in Oslo on the second day of the visit. The delegation visited the Norwegian Parliament (Storting), where he interacted with former Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg. Describing the interaction as a privilege, Sriharat said discussions focused on bilateral relations, democratic governance, and parliamentary best practices. He noted that the exchange of ideas between lawmakers from both countries



contributes significantly to strengthening institutional ties and mutual understanding. The MP also participated in meetings with Members of Parliament and representatives of Norway's Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs. According to him, these interactions provided valuable insights into the country's legislative framework, governance mechanisms, and administrative practices.

As part of a guided tour of the Storting, the Indian delegation observed parliamentary proceedings from the public gallery, gaining first-hand

exposure to Norway's legislative processes and parliamentary functioning. The discussions further covered the implementation of the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, investment opportunities, technological collaboration, maritime trade, and several other areas of mutual interest. Sriharat said the positive response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Norway reflects the growing momentum in bilateral relations and signals a new phase of cooperation between the two nations.

## Dr Nandakishore elected AP Medical Council chairman

Visakhapatnam, June 4 (TSIT): ENT specialist Dr Garlapati Nandakishore from Guntur was elected Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC), while pulmonologist Dr K. Venkata Subba Naidu of Ongole was elected Vice-Chairman in elections held in Vijayawada. Dr Nandakishore won by 16 votes to 9, while Dr Subba Naidu secured victory by 14 votes to 10. Three Executive Committee members were also elected. The elections marked the first democratic exercise in the Council since 2006. The newly elected leaders pledged to strengthen medical standards, ensure effective functioning of the Council, and work for the welfare of the medical profession across Andhra Pradesh.



## ONGC chairman meets AP CM Naidu to discuss energy projects and CSR



Visakhapatnam, June 3 (TSIT): ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh called on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat in Amaravati to review ongoing and future energy projects, particularly in the Krishna-Godavari Basin. The meeting focused on boosting oil and gas exploration, strengthening energy infrastructure, and creating employment

opportunities. CM Naidu urged ONGC to coordinate closely with the government for timely project execution and to use CSR funds for village development and community welfare in exploration areas. Singh confirmed ONGC's support for healthcare initiatives, including advanced cancer treatment equipment for hospitals in Kakinada and Guntur.

## Andhra Pradesh's AI dreams hinge on transmission strength

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh is rapidly positioning itself as a next-generation digital hub. With Google's \$15 billion AI data centre and several domestic investments anchoring major projects near Visakhapatnam, state leaders foresee a tech-led economy. But energy analysts warn there's a catch: these AI and data-center facilities demand 24/7, high-quality power, and that in turn requires a rock-solid transmission network. In the coming years, Andhra's grid will be tested like never before. If the power transmission network falters, even a momentary outage can derail these high-tech ventures. "Data centres require dedicated, uninterrupted power supply with minimal transmission losses," said a data centre infrastructure expert. These facilities operate massive server clusters and cooling systems continuously, leaving no room for voltage fluctuations. Even a momentary dip can shut down operations, leading to losses running



into millions. "In effect, an AI campus functions like a city, with power demand comparable to a large industrial zone," the

expert added. The scale of the challenge is already visible. State officials estimate that Google's proposed facility, along with

an upcoming steel plant, could together consume nearly 6,000 million units of electricity annually. Meanwhile, projections from the Central Electricity Authority indicate that Andhra Pradesh's peak demand could rise from around 17 GW at present to 44.5 GW by 2035-36.

## NCST reviews ST reservation policy implementation at VPA

Visakhapatnam, June 3 (TSIT): The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) reviewed the implementation of reservation policies and safeguards for Scheduled Tribes at the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) during a meeting held in Vijayawada. Chaired by Antar Singh



Arya, the review focused on measures taken to protect the interests and welfare of ST

employees. VPA Chairperson Jasmeet Singh Bindra and other officials presented ini-

tiatives aimed at ensuring equal opportunities and compliance with government guidelines. The Commission appreciated VPA's efforts in addressing employee concerns and promoting social justice, transparency, and effective implementation of reservation safeguards for Scheduled Tribe employees.

EDITORIAL

Can India Find A Way To Shape US-Iran War, Without Actually Playing Mediator?

India's role in the West Asia mediation efforts continues to be discussed in diplomatic circles, sparking debates ranging from claims that Pakistan's presence at the table reflects poorly on India's foreign policy, to the opposite view that India has been right to stay out. The question of whether India should have offered to mediate misses the more important point: New Delhi's choice to stay out was not a sign of fragility; it was a strategic choice. In conflicts of this scale and complexity, mediation is a high-risk, low-reward enterprise that demands, at the very least, credible leverage over all sides. Prudence, however, does not come without costs. As an independent nation, India's foreign policy has been anchored in the idea of strategic autonomy, the principle that decisions must serve national interests rather than those of any alliance. In a world of multilateralism defined by blocs, this approach created room for manoeuvre; it paved the path for India to build relationships across divides and engage competing powers at the same time, without being boxed in. Just as importantly, it kept New Delhi out of conflicts that did not directly serve its interests. In this sense, strategic autonomy was never just passive neutrality; it was an active effort to improve flexibility while reducing constraints.

A New Paradigm

But the world has changed faster than the doctrine of strategic autonomy that has been guiding it. The management of today's crises no longer relies on stable alliances or slow-moving diplomacy. Instead, crises now move quickly, often faster than formal diplomacy can respond to them. Different actors become involved as events unfold, but the actual influence tends to rest with those who are physically present and politically engaged in the spaces where negotiations are taking shape. The global standing of a nation may shape its credibility to lead, but when a crisis erupts, leverage accrues to those whose role becomes operationally necessary to the outcome. Distance, which once created leverage, now risks creating exclusion. Strategic autonomy continues to protect sovereignty, but it may no longer automatically translate into influence, particularly at moments when outcomes are being decided in real time. This approach is also clear in how India defines its role during crises. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently stated that any cross-border "misadventure" would lead to an "unprecedented and decisive" response. He also mentioned that operations like Operation Sindoor are still active. This emphasis is telling; India's role continues to be defined by deterrence and response.

A Paradox For India

However, there is a paradox that India now confronts. Even with its deep investments in West Asia - economical-ly, politically, demographically and strategically - it remains only lightly invoked in the mediation process of West Asia. The decision to avoid mediation has insulated New Delhi from the immediate risks of overreach.

Trump Has New Plans For How America Deals With China

At last week's Shangri-La Dialogue, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth articulated a vision of the Indo-Pacific that reflects the emerging contours of the Trump administration's strategic approach: a combination of hard-edged realism, burden-sharing, and sustained competition with China under the rubric of "peace through strength". While much of the speech reaffirmed long-standing American concerns about the regional balance of power, its emphasis on transactional partnerships and allied responsibility offered important clues about the future direction of US defence policy. On China, Hegseth's remarks underscored Washington's growing alarm over Beijing's rapid military modernisation and expanding regional footprint. Characterising China's buildup as unprecedented in scale, he reiterated the American objective of preserving a favourable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific - one in which no single state can establish regional hegemony. Significantly, however, the speech also reflected a degree of strategic pragmatism. While reaffirming deterrence by denial, particularly along the first island chain, Hegseth acknowledged recent improvements in US-China relations and emphasised the importance of engagement mechanisms designed to reduce the risks of miscalculation. The message was clear: competition with China remains the organising principle of American strategy, but it need not preclude dialogue or crisis management.

India's Role

Perhaps the most consequential aspect of the speech was its treatment of India. Hegseth described India as a "critical anchor" in maintaining strategic equilibrium in South Asia, framing New Delhi's rise as a positive development for regional stability. By highlighting India's military modernisation, expanding industrial base, and growing logistical capabilities in the Indian Ocean, Washington signalled its desire to move the bilateral relationship beyond political symbolism toward greater operational relevance. References to defence co-production, industrial collaboration, and joint exercises such as TIGER TRIUMPH suggest



that the United States increasingly views India as a pivotal contributor to regional security rather than merely a diplomatic partner. More broadly, the speech reaffirmed that the Indo-Pacific remains central to American strategic thinking. Hegseth repeatedly emphasised that the United States is a Pacific power with enduring interests in the region. Yet, this commitment was accompanied by a clear expectation that allies and partners must shoulder a larger share of the burden. The recurring theme that "we need partners, not protectorates" reflects a distinctly Trumpian approach to alliance management. Security partnerships, in this conception, are expected to be reciprocal rather than open-ended commitments. States that invest more in their own defence and contribute meaningfully to collective security can expect greater access to American military technology, intelligence sharing, and defence cooperation.

More Military

The speech also reflected an impatience with declaratory policy unaccompanied by military capa-

bility. Hegseth's call for "more ships, more submarines, and more combat power" underscored a broader shift towards tangible military preparedness as the foundation of deterrence. This focus on capability over rhetoric aligns closely with the strategic priorities likely to shape the forthcoming National Defence Strategy. Taken together, these themes point toward several emerging trends in US defence policy.

Three Shifts In Policy

First, alliance relationships are becoming increasingly conditional and performance-based. The expectation that countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia expand defence spending reflects Washington's growing concern about the sustainability of traditional security arrangements in an era of intensifying great-power competition. Second, China remains the pacing challenge for the US military, but American strategy appears increasingly calibrated to avoid unnecessary escalation. The combination of robust deterrence measures and selective diplomatic engagement suggests an effort to manage competition

without allowing it to spiral into direct confrontation. In this sense, the administration appears to be pursuing a strategy of strategic firmness coupled with tactical flexibility. Third, Hegseth's remarks reinforced the importance of networked security architectures such as the Quad, AUKUS, and a range of bilateral partnerships. Rather than serving as substitutes for American power, these arrangements are intended to multiply its effectiveness and enhance its sustainability. Integrated deterrence is thus increasingly dependent on the capabilities and contributions of regional partners. For India, the implications are particularly significant. Few statements from Trump 2.0 have so explicitly positioned India as a central pillar of the regional balance against China. The emphasis on India's role in the Indian Ocean and its growing logistical and industrial capacities suggests that Washington sees New Delhi as an indispensable contributor to Indo-Pacific stability. Importantly, this evolving partnership remains compatible with India's preference for strategic autonomy, allowing it to deepen cooperation with the

United States without entering into a formal alliance framework.

Shared Responsibility

At a broader level, the speech reflects an American recognition that sustaining regional primacy will require greater burden-sharing and more efficient allocation of resources. The challenge for Washington will be to ensure that transactionalism strengthens rather than weakens alliance cohesion. If allies respond positively by expanding capabilities and assuming greater responsibilities, deterrence could be enhanced. If not, tensions over expectations and commitments may emerge. For Beijing, the message was equally nuanced. The reaffirmation of deterrence and concerns about military expansion conveyed continued American resolve, while the emphasis on improved relations and the rejection of regime-change ambitions signalled a willingness to maintain channels for cooperation where possible. Competition, in other words, remains the defining feature of the relationship, but not necessarily confrontation. Ultimately, Hegseth's address outlined a more hard-nosed and less ideological vision of American strategy in the Indo-Pacific. The objectives remain largely consistent with previous administrations: preventing Chinese hegemony, preserving a favourable balance of power, and sustaining US influence in the region. What distinguishes this approach is its emphasis on reciprocity, burden-sharing, and measurable outcomes. It is strategic continuity in terms of ends, but a distinctly Trumpian departure in terms of means. Yet, there are also potential limitations to this approach. An excessive emphasis on transactionalism risks underestimating the less tangible but equally important foundations of alliance politics-strategic reassurance, long-term credibility, and the normative influence that has traditionally underpinned American leadership. While burden-sharing is a legitimate objective, successful alliances ultimately depend not only on capabilities but also on confidence in sustained commitments.

THE CHINA SHOCK 2.0 MAY ALREADY BE HERE

Across Europe, Latin America, and large parts of the developing world, governments are confronting a new economic dilemma. Chinese electric vehicles are flooding export markets despite tariffs. Solar manufacturers outside China are collapsing under impossible price competition. Steel, batteries, industrial chemicals, and clean-energy components are all beginning to exhibit the same pattern: excess Chinese supply meeting a world economy increasingly unable, and unwilling, to absorb it. At first glance, this resembles a conventional trade conflict. But it is something deeper. What is now surfacing across global markets is the outward spillover of structural pressures building within the Chinese economy for years. For decades, China's growth model rested on a simple but extraordinarily powerful arrangement. Household consumption remained suppressed, while investment and exports carried the burden of economic expansion. That formula delivered one of the fastest industrial transformations in modern history. It built ports, factories, highways, supply chains, and manufacturing ecosystems at a scale no economy had previously achieved. An Unresolved Problem But the same model also produced an imbalance that China never fully resolved. Household consumption in China remains stuck at roughly 35 to 40% of GDP, extraordinarily low for an economy of its size. By comparison, household consumption accounts for roughly 68% of GDP in the United States, close to 60% in India,



and 50-55% in mature East Asian economies such as Japan and South Korea. Even when government consumption is included, total consumption in China accounts for only around 54% of GDP. Investment alone still contributes roughly 43%. These are not ordinary macroeconomic ratios. They describe an economy structurally dependent on capital formation rather than household demand. For years, the imbalance remained manageable because investment itself generated rapid growth. Infrastructure expansion, urbanisation, and property development created employment, rising incomes, and local-government revenues simultaneously. Exports, meanwhile, absorbed excess industrial production externally. Drowning In Debt That arrangement is now weakening on multiple fronts at once. According to the IMF's 2025 Article IV consultation, China's total non-financial sec-

tor debt has climbed to roughly 313% of GDP and is projected to reach 323% by 2026. More revealingly, the IMF's broader measure of "augmented debt", which includes Local Government Financing Vehicles and off-balance-sheet liabilities, is projected to rise to 135.3% of GDP by 2026. The problem is no longer merely the scale of debt. It is the declining efficiency of debt itself. In the early 2000s, China's Incremental Capital Output Ratio remained relatively healthy, meaning investment still generated strong returns in growth. That relationship has deteriorated sharply. The economy now requires vastly larger injections of credit to produce the same unit of output. More investment is generating progressively less demand. Real estate once concealed many of these contradictions. At its peak, the property sector accounted for nearly a quarter of China's GDP when upstream and downstream

sectors were included. More importantly, real estate became the primary store of household wealth, accounting for roughly 70% of household assets. The Growing Property Crisis This is what makes China's property slowdown so economically dangerous. Falling property values are not simply weakening construction activity. They are eroding household balance sheets themselves. The result increasingly resembles the dynamics of a balance-sheet recession where households, firms, and local governments simultaneously become more cautious, indebted, and reluctant to spend. The collapse in land sales has intensified the problem further. For years, local governments relied heavily on land transfers to finance infrastructure spending and service debt linked to Local Government Financing Vehicles. That mechanism has now weakened dramatically, severing one of the central feedback loops that sustained China's investment-heavy growth model. The broader macroeconomic signals are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Core inflation averaged just 0.5% in 2024, while the IMF estimates China continues to operate with a negative output gap of roughly -1%. Producer-price deflation has persisted through prolonged periods, revealing the extent of excess industrial capacity. At the same time, the demographic foundations of the old model are deteriorating rapidly. China's fertility rate now hovers near 1.0, far below replacement levels.

EDUCATION AT THE CROSSROADS OF COACHING CULTURE



PRIYANKA SAURABH

In India, education has been considered a medium of knowledge, culture, and social change for centuries. Teachers have enjoyed special respect in society because they not only impart subject knowledge but also shape the personality and character of students. However, changes in the field of education over the past few decades have significantly impacted this idealistic concept. In particular, the increasing number of competitive examinations, the attraction to government jobs, and the pursuit of better careers have transformed the coaching industry into a huge economic sector. Today, in many cities across the country, coaching institutes have established a parallel system within the education system, the impact of which is visible on schools, students, parents, and even policymakers. In recent years, the proliferation of social media and digital platforms has further accelerated this trend. Many teachers and coaching institutes are reaching millions of students through YouTube, Instagram, and other mediums. This isn't inherently bad. Technology has made education more accessible and played a vital role in providing quality content to students in remote areas. The problem arises when the purpose of education shifts from knowledge acquisition to personal brand building, promotion, and business expansion. Recently, senior journalist Anjana Om Kashyap's jibe at a YouTube teacher during a popular TV debate

sparked widespread discussion on social media. Opinions on this incident may vary. Some consider it a sharp journalistic comment, while others see it as disrespectful to teachers. However, this controversy has raised an important question: has the field of education become increasingly publicized and commercialized? Is an environment being created to influence students and parents in which coaching is presented as a prerequisite for success? The reality is that many parents today believe that their children cannot succeed in any competitive exam without coaching. This belief has gradually become so ingrained that the usefulness of school education is being questioned. Many families, putting a heavy financial burden on their families, send their children to expensive coaching classes. Thousands of students from small towns and rural areas migrate to cities considered coaching hubs. In this process, family savings, children's mental health, and social life are all affected. This situation isn't just a result of students' mindsets. It also reflects some genuine challenges within the education system. There's often a disconnect between the curriculum taught in schools and the requirements of competitive exams. Many competitive exams require topics outside the school curriculum, specialized reasoning skills, or exam-specific strategies. As a result, students and parents feel that school education alone is insufficient. The coaching industry capitalizes on this perception and presents itself as the key to success. However, it must be acknowledged that not all coaching institutes can be viewed with the same prism. Many institutes and teachers are sincerely providing quality guidance to students. They have provided opportunities to students who otherwise would not have access to better resources. Online education has made study materials accessible to millions of young people at low costs. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to portray the entire coaching sector negatively. The problem lies in the trend where publici-

ty, personality cults, and unrealistic claims take center stage over education. In the age of social media, some teachers have established themselves as brands. Their videos, posts, and advertisements are constantly presented to students. Success stories are highlighted, while the number of students who fail is less discussed. It is often given the impression that joining a particular teacher or coaching institute guarantees success. However, the reality is that success in any exam depends on many factors—a student's hard work, family support, mental state, study resources, and time management are among them. Another worrying aspect is the growing personality-centric culture in education. Some teachers seem more focused on self-promotion than on their subject or institution. Huge billboards, constant advertising, social media campaigns, and the resources spent on personal image-building raise the question: is the student the center of education, or the teacher's brand? The goal of education should be the dissemination of knowledge, not the blind imitation of a personality. The comparison of Hindi-medium and English-medium coaching culture has also been a topic of discussion. It's often suggested that some Hindi-medium teachers rely heavily on publicity, while English-medium institutions prioritize institutional recognition. While this distinction isn't entirely accurate, it's clear that the trend toward personal branding through social media is more pronounced in certain areas. This also impacts students, who become more influenced by popularity and follower counts than the quality of content. The role of the government and education regulators is also crucial in this entire scenario. If school education is strong enough to provide basic preparation for competitive exams, excessive reliance on coaching will naturally decrease. The National Education Policy has made efforts to make school education more skill-based and practical, but the impact of these reforms will take time to be felt on a widespread scale.

# Iran’s inflation hits World War II levels, deepening economic pain

Dubai: Year-on-year inflation in Iran reached a level in May unseen since World War II, underlining the economic pain average Iranians face as the Islamic Republic worries about the war with Israel and the United States restarting. A report Monday by Iran’s Central Bank represents the first official acknowledgement of what Iranians shopping, paying for a taxi or visiting a medical clinic already know: The rial currency is battered by the war and uncertainty around it resuming. Meanwhile, longtime problems of economic mismanagement and government corruption also appear to be dragging down Iran’s oil-backed economy as it remains under a US naval blockade. Economic pressure in the past has sparked nationwide protests, something Iran’s theocracy has been trying to avoid since a crackdown on demonstrators in January killed over 7,000 people, according to activists’ estimates. But even as hard-liners hold gun-handling workshops and organise marriages under the shadow of a ballistic missile to bolster spirits, experts note that new



demonstrations could emerge if people find themselves priced out of feeding their families. “I have no doubt that if Trump leaves (Iran without a formal peace deal) ... most probably, we will see something like January by the end of summer because of the economic and social situations,” analyst Mohsen Jalilvand said in a video published by Iran’s Fararu news website. ‘We will definitely have higher prices’ Iran’s Central Bank said the consumer price index, which measures a basket of goods and services, reached 77.2 per cent in May com-

pared to the year before. It added that the rate is 8.5 per cent higher than in April. Inflation in daily and general needs — like medicine, taxi fares, tobacco and communication fees — rose 113.8 per cent from the year before. Iran only saw worse inflation in 1942 during World War II, sparked by the British and Soviets invading the country and taking over its railway, disrupting food supplies. The lack of food, worsened by a poor harvest, sparked hyperinflation and a famine. Hunger and a typhus outbreak killed many. A private economic

think tank in Iran, the Bamdad Institute of Economic Studies, described the current figures as “an unprecedented rate since World War II.” Iran’s Central Bank did not acknowledge the significance of the figures. Airstrikes this year have greatly damaged Iranian businesses and its oil industry. Meanwhile, the US blockade has been targeting Iranian crude oil shipments trying to reach the international market, a key source of hard revenue. Tax revenues have been depressed by businesses

struggling even after the fighting paused. The rial, which traded at 32,000 to USD 1 in 2015, now trades at over 1.7 million to USD 1. “We will definitely have higher prices,” Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian warned in May. “We are fighting, and we must accept this hardship.”

## PAST ECONOMIC WOES HAVE LED TO PROTESTS

In 2017 and 2018, rising food prices sparked demonstrations that killed over 20 people and saw hundreds arrested. An increase in government-subsidised gasoline prices caused protests that saw over 300 people reportedly killed. Then came the protests over the rial at the start of this year, the most intense demonstrations to shake the Islamic Republic since its 1979 revolution and the chaotic years that followed. Tehran-based economist Saeed Leilaz, speaking to The Associated Press, warned that annual inflation in Iran could reach 80 per cent. “Iran’s society cannot tolerate above 25 per cent annual inflation, he said.

# Stock markets tumble in early trade; Sensex tanks 700 points

Mumbai: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Wednesday, June 3, amid uncertainty related to US-Iran negotiations, fresh spike in crude oil prices and persistent foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 699.74 points to 73,959.48 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 177.40 points to 23,302.50. From the 30-Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Tech, ITC and Eternal were among the biggest laggards. IT stocks fell sharply amid profit-taking after rallying in the past few days. Meanwhile, Maruti, Adani Ports, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel were the gainers from the blue-chip pack. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.89 per cent higher at USD 96.85 per barrel. “The mild escalation in the West Asia conflict has again pushed up Brent crude price to close to USD 97 indicating no respite to India from the energy shock,” VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 8,362.92 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. “At present, investor sentiment remains cautious and



highly sensitive to incoming developments. The lack of tangible progress in US-Iran negotiations, elevated crude oil prices and continued foreign fund outflows continue to reinforce a risk-off environment,” Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. Meanwhile, the US Trade Representative has proposed slapping 12.5 per cent additional duties on 54 countries, including India, for failing to prohibit the import of goods produced with forced labour. The action follows investigations launched against 60 countries over what the USTR described as their failure to impose and effectively enforce bans on imports made with forced labour. “The failure of our most important trading partners to address the importation of goods made with forced

labour is unacceptable. This creates a dynamic where American workers are forced to compete globally on an unlevel playing field,” US Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer said in a statement. In Asian markets, Japan’s Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai’s SSE Composite index quoted higher, while Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index traded lower. US markets ended in positive territory on Tuesday. “Overnight, the S&P 500 closed at a fresh record high, while Japan’s Nikkei scaled new lifetime highs, reflecting continued confidence in global growth and technology-led earnings momentum,” Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. Vijayakumar said that the bull run in semiconductor giants South Korea and Taiwan continues unabated.

# INDIA FACES FRESH US TARIFF THREAT OVER FORCED LABOUR VIOLATIONS

Hyderabad: The United States has named India among 54 economies it says have failed to prohibit imports of goods produced using forced labour, proposing additional duties of up to 12.5 per cent, even as trade officials from both countries are meeting in New Delhi to advance a bilateral trade agreement. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released findings from 60 investigations conducted under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974. India figures in a list of economies that, Washington says, lack adequate measures to prevent the entry of goods made through forced labour.

**What the USTR proposed** Under the proposal, countries that already ban such imports, or have committed to doing so under a reciprocal trade arrangement, would face an additional tariff of 10 per cent. Those without such frameworks face a higher rate of 12.5 per cent. A separate



mechanism for textiles and apparel would allow specified import volumes from select economies at a lower Section 301 rate. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the failure of trading partners to act on forced-labour imports was creating an uneven playing field for American workers. The other 53 economies named alongside India include China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), South Korea, Vietnam and Bangladesh, among others. A separate group of

six economies – Canada, Mexico, the European Union, Indonesia, Ecuador and Pakistan – was cited for failing to effectively enforce existing prohibitions. Trade talks continue despite headwinds The USTR action comes as a US trade delegation is in New Delhi for a three-day round of discussions aimed at finalising the first phase of a bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday, June 1, that most of the agreement was in place. “Mostly everything is finalised. As you know, US Ambassador Sergio

Gor said that 99 per cent of the things have been finalised. Discussions are going on about small issues, commas and full stops,” he said, adding that India and the US would sign the first tranche of the BTA “as soon as possible.” However, the deal is unlikely to be concluded before there is clarity on the tariff structure the Trump administration plans to adopt once the temporary 10 per cent levy lapses next month. India faces two ongoing Section 301 probes, one on alleged overcapacity in sectors such as solar modules, steel and aluminium, and the other on forced-labour-linked imports. The two sides had reached an interim arrangement in early February, but a subsequent US court ruling disrupted the tariff plan, slowing progress. India figures in a list of economies that, Washington says, lack adequate measures to prevent the entry of goods made through forced labour.

# King told me Post Office scandal was 'dreadful', says oldest victim

The oldest surviving victim of the Post Office scandal has said the King told her it was a “dreadful thing” and “should never have happened”. Betty Brown said King Charles III made the comment as she received her OBE at Windsor Castle on Tuesday. The 93-year-old said she asked His Majesty to talk to the prime minister about ensuring those responsible for hundreds of sub-postmasters being wrongfully prosecuted would be investigated by the police and brought to justice. She described meeting the monarch and receiving the honour as “lovely”, adding she “never ever dreamt that this would happen”. “The reason that I’m here is very sad and I don’t forget that. All the heart ache of the families that this has destroyed, the heart ache of children left with nothing, that still hurts, it’ll always hurt,” she added. She has dedicated the honour to “all the sub postmasters that we have lost”. Mrs Brown was one of hundreds of sub-postmasters wrongly accused of stealing or false accounting between 1999 and 2015 after a faulty IT system called Horizon made it



look like money was missing from branch accounts. The scandal has been described as one of the widest miscarriages of justice in the British legal history. The pensioner was forced out of her County Durham Post Office in 2003 - despite her late husband Oswald having paid more than £50,000 of their savings to cover non-existent shortfalls. They had run the branch together since 1985. Mrs Brown was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to justice after campaigning for sub-postmasters affected by the scandal. She told the BBC the King was “very knowledgeable all about Horizon”. “I said to

him...would you tell your prime minister and your ministers that justice has no cost... There is no cost to justice. Doesn't matter what it costs, justice must be done,” she added. Last week, police chiefs warned the criminal investigation into the Post Office scandal could be delayed by five years unless they received millions of pounds in extra funding. The commander leading the national police inquiry, Stephen Clayman, said the size of the investigation team would need to double to meet its current timeline of submitting files for potential prosecutions by late next year or early 2028. A government spokesperson said the scandal

was “an appalling injustice” and that it was “considering requests for further funding”. Mrs Brown said she was “honoured and humbled” to be made an OBE, adding she had finally “been heard by the system” and was “pleased that the public are still learning about this”. “A lot of them think we’ve had compensation, we haven’t had a penny compensation. We’ve had what they call redress, which means they’ve given back the money to us that they stole from us,” she said. Mrs Brown was one of the original 555 victims who took part in the landmark group legal action led by Sir Alan against the Post Office. Her branch had been one of the most successful in the region but eventually she had to sell it at a loss. Talking about what happened, she previously said it “absolutely destroyed my whole life”. Both Mrs Brown and Sir Alan Bates were part of the Group Litigation Order compensation scheme, and those claimants were offered the option of taking a fixed sum of £75,000 or pursuing their own settlement.

# Radios offered to shop owners to deter shoplifting

Radios are being offered to shop owners as part of a scheme to deter shoplifters. Premises across Stamford, Bourne and Market Deeping town centres are being encouraged to join the Shopwatch scheme, which is already in place in Grantham. The scheme involves supplying radios to allow businesses to communicate between each other and warn of suspicious activity. Councillor Paul Stokes, deputy leader of South Kesteven District Council, said the scheme would “give retailers the chance to work together in a practical way by quickly passing on intelligence to each other.” The council said it was providing £25,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to expand the scheme. The radios will be linked to the authority’s CCTV control room, where cameras are monitored 24/7, along with being able to link directly to Lincolnshire



## Highlights

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Police. Barbara Mooney, Pubwatch and Shopwatch co-ordinator for Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and Market Deeping, said the licence for the radios would be paid for in the

first year. She said businesses need to be a member of the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce Shopwatch scheme to benefit from the offer.

# RIR POWER ELECTRONICS LIMITED ANNOUNCES Q4 FY26 RESULTS

Mumbai 2026: RIR Power Electronics Limited (BSE: 517035) announced its financial results for the quarter and financial year ended 31st March 2026 (Q4 FY26). \*Adjusted EBITDA is before considering ESOP expenses of ₹ 0.37 crs

■ LATEST STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS: Update on SiC Semiconductor Plant at Bhubaneswar, Odisha: The Cleanroom construction is completed at the Odisha facility, and the plant and machinery installation is under progress and estimated to be completed by July end. Epitaxial wafer production is expected to be commissioned in the 2nd quarter of FY2027, reinforcing the company’s commitment to “Make in India” initiative and to strengthen the country’s semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. New overseas order: RIR

Power Electronics has won its first overseas order to supply 5 kV silicon-controlled rectifier (SCR) thyristors. The order is to be executed in phases with completion expected by the end of 2026, and it involves the supply of 125-mm press-pack SCR devices designed for high-power and high-current applications. Technical innovation: The company announced a major innovative milestone with the development of a 25 kV–120 kA capacitor discharge vertically integrated semiconductor switch, strengthening India’s high-power electronics capabilities. Designed for high-energy pulse power systems, the capacitor discharge switch can be deployed across a wide range of critical applications, including defense systems requiring controlled high-current pulses, advanced medical equipments, precision and selec-

tive directed energy technologies. ■ MANAGEMENT COMMENTS: - Dr. Harshad Mehta, Non-Executive Chairman, RIR Power Electronics Ltd, said: “FY26 has been a transformative year for RIR Power Electronics, marked by focused investments in scale, efficiency, and customer relationships. A key milestone was the development of a 25 kV–120 kA capacitor discharge semiconductor switch, strengthening India’s high-power electronics capabilities. As we enter FY27, our focus remains on execution excellence, technological innovation, and value creation for all stakeholders. We are confident that we are well-positioned to play a leading role in India’s semiconductor ambitions while continuing to deliver

profitable growth.” Mr. N Ramesh Kumar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at RIR Power Electronics Ltd., said “Our strong order backlog of ~ 7.17 crs reflects sustained demand for our products and the continued trust our clients have placed in our execution capabilities. This backlog not only provides us with predictable revenue visibility over the coming quarters but also reinforces the resilience of our business model across the market cycles. With this momentum, we are strategically positioned to convert order backlog into steady cash flows, strengthen operating leverage, and deliver consistent, profitable growth. Looking ahead, we remain focused on scaling responsibly, enhancing efficiencies, and creating sustainable value for all the stakeholders.”

■ ABOUT RIR POWER ELECTRONICS LIMITED : RIR Power Electronics Limited (Bombay Stock Exchange: BSE) is a global pioneer in high-power semiconductor solutions, driving innovation and energy efficiency. Its portfolio of high-performance semiconductor devices, assemblies, and energy management systems enables customers to address the evolving demands of modern energy systems. The company’s innovative products and solutions empower energy performance at the highest level in both existing and emerging applications. Trusted worldwide for reliability and performance, RIR stands at the forefront of sustainable energy innovation—powering progress, one breakthrough at a time. For more information, visit the RIR website at www.rirpowersemi.com.

# US AND IRAN LAUNCH NEW STRIKES, AS KUWAIT SAYS AIRPORT HIT BY IRANIAN DRONES

The US military has said it launched "self-defence" strikes on Iran overnight, and shot down ballistic missiles and drones fired at ships and Gulf countries. The strikes on Qeshm Island, in the Strait of Hormuz, were "in response to attempted attacks by Iran across the Middle East", US Central Command (Centcom) said. Centcom said Iran had fired two missiles at Kuwait and three at Bahrain, all of which broke apart or were intercepted. Iran said it had attacked US bases and helicopters in a "regional country" using missiles and drones in retaliation. One person was killed in Kuwait and more than 60 injured when drones hit buildings including its international airport, officials said. Kuwait's defence ministry spokesman, Brig Gen Saud Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, called the attack "criminal Iranian aggression", while the Kuwaiti foreign min-



istry later said infrastructure including diplomatic missions had been damaged. Centcom said the strike on Qeshm Island had targeted an Iranian military ground control station. It said the US also shot down three attack drones that had been launched by Iran toward "civilian mariners that were rightfully transiting regional waters". Centcom had earlier said it had struck and "disabled" an unladen oil tanker that was sailing

towards Iran, as part of the US naval blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, which began on 13 April. A US aircraft fired a Hellfire missile into the engine room of the Botswana-flagged M/T vessel, after its crew "ignored repeated warnings", it said. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said "disrupting the security of the Strait of Hormuz will carry a heavy price for the aggressive US military". A foreign ministry statement said the leaders of Kuwait

and Bahrain had "direct and unmistakable responsibility" for "last night's acts of aggression", according to the AFP news agency, as it condemned the US for the strikes. Iran has repeatedly attacked targets in Bahrain and Kuwait, where US military bases are located. The attacks happened as ceasefire negotiations between the US and Iran stalled, with a deal to end the war failing to advance over the weekend. US President

Donald Trump this week told his critics to "sit back and relax", saying that Iran "really wants to make a deal, and it will be a good one for the USA". US media earlier reported that Trump had requested edits to the terms of a potential peace deal, after meeting with senior aides to discuss extending the framework of a ceasefire. The changes related to the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of highly enriched uranium from Iran, the BBC's US news partner CBS News reported - as well as a framework to reopen negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. On Monday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei denied this had been on the table, adding that Washington was "constantly changing its views and putting forward new or contradictory demands". In an interview aired on Wednesday, Trump said Iran had "already agreed" to not have a nuclear

weapon. Trump said Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, was "involved" in the talks. "We seem to be getting along quite well," Trump told the Pod Force One podcast. Asked if he would like to meet him, he said: "I'd like to meet him. We probably will meet at some point, depending on how it all works out." US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told Congress on Tuesday that negotiators had not offered Iran sanctions relief in exchange for reopening the strait. "Right now, everything that's been discussed with them is that ... any sanctions relief is condition-based, which means it has to be in return for the reason why those sanctions were put in place in the first place, which is their nuclear programme," he said. "The war is over," he said in another tense exchange with a senator, as lawmakers on the committee questioned the US strategy for ending the conflict.

## Shell pumped oil through Nigeria pipeline for years despite pollution evidence, documents show



British multinational Shell continued operating a major oil pipeline in Nigeria for years even though it knew it was causing widespread pollution - despite a warning from its own staff and its own technical standards, internal documents obtained by the BBC show. The files, including emails and presentations, reveal that a senior Shell executive cautioned as early as 2008 about the risks of continuing to pump millions of barrels of unrefined fuel through one of the company's main pipelines in Africa's biggest oil producer while it was subject to massive and destructive uncontrolled theft and infrastructure fail-

ures. Across Nigeria's oil-rich southern Niger Delta, decades of oil spills have left a landscape deeply scarred, with wetlands increasingly coated in crude and contaminated sediment. The BBC obtained the internal documents after Shell disclosed them as part of ongoing legal proceedings in the UK brought by communities living around the creeks and mangroves of the Niger Delta, who want Shell to be liable for the pollution caused by more than 100 leaks stemming from theft and illegal refining of oil between 2011 and 2013 that have damaged their health, environment and livelihoods.

## Seven killed after drone hits bus in Russia-controlled part of Ukraine



Seven people have been killed and 11 others injured after a drone hit a passenger bus travelling through a Russia-controlled part of Ukraine, an official said. Denis Pushilin, the Kremlin-installed leader of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, said the bus was struck in the early hours of Wednesday as it was travelling between Moscow and Simferopol, in Russian-occupied Crimea. Black smoke could also be seen rising over St Petersburg on Wednesday morning, with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky confirming the city's oil terminal had been hit. The attack comes as the city hosts the annual International Economic Forum, an event designed to showcase Russia to the world. The strikes come a day after a massive Russian assault on cities across Ukraine killed at least 22 people, including several women and children. On the drone which hit the bus in Donetsk, Pushilin said: "In Yenakiyev, a UAV attacked a Moscow-Simferopol coach, according to preliminary

reports, seven civilians were killed." He added the 11 injured people were receiving medical care. Russian investigators said they had opened a criminal case into what they described as a "terrorist attack" on civilians. Svetlana Petrenko, spokesperson for the Russian Investigative Committee, said authorities were working to establish the identities of those responsible for the strike. Fifty-three people had been registered to travel on the bus, Reuters reports, however, none of the victims' identities have been released yet. Andriy Kovalenko, the head of the Ukrainian government's centre for combating disinformation, has talked about a "parallel reality" created by Russian state propaganda, while not explicitly denying claims that the strike took place. "Russia attacks civilians with drones all the time... of course, when everyone is talking about this, when there is evidence of such actions by the Russians, they use their main propaganda tool: creating a parallel reality."

## Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass advances to run-off in race to run California's biggest city

Incumbent Democratic Mayor Karen Bass has advanced to November's run-off election to determine who will run California's largest city, Los Angeles. With votes still being counted late on Tuesday night, Bass was first to go through, according to a projection by the BBC's US partner CBS News, but it remains unclear who she may face. It could be either her fellow Democrat, city council member Nithya Raman, or the Republican newcomer and reality television star Spencer Pratt. The winner will lead the second-largest city in the US, grappling with issues like homelessness and affordable housing as Los Angeles gears up to host the 2028 Olympics. The



election was one of many primaries across California, Iowa, New Jersey and New Mexico on Tuesday that will shape the midterm elections that will happen across the country in November. Meanwhile, votes were still being counted late on Tuesday in the California governor's primary race, where the top two contenders will likewise move forward to the November general election.

## Israel strikes southern Lebanon but partial truce with Hezbollah appears to hold

Israel continued its attacks in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, but did not strike Beirut following a partial ceasefire agreement with the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah. Lebanon said that, under an agreement announced by US President Donald Trump late on Monday, Israeli forces would not bomb the capital in exchange for Hezbollah not attacking Israel. It came after Iran said Israeli action in Lebanon jeopardised talks on a deal to end its war with the US. Following the ceasefire announcement, the Israeli military said it had intercepted two projectiles fired into northern Israel. Hezbollah said it had attacked Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, where officials reported deadly Israeli strikes. The Lebanese health ministry also



said four people had been killed and 127 injured when Israeli air strikes hit buildings next to Jabal Amal hospital in the city of Tyre on Monday afternoon. Thirty-nine hospital staff were among the injured, with four in a critical condition. What remained in the area outside the hospital on Tuesday was utter devastation. Chunks of concrete and twisted metal were scattered across the area. The beeping of

damaged cars and the crackle of downed electrical wires echoed through streets that were otherwise eerily quiet. Apart from a handful of local journalists, almost no-one was outside. A woman stood in tears, staring at an apartment building that was half gone. "I live there," she said, pointing at the wreckage, before adding: "Used to." Dr Wael Mroueh, the hospital's director, had spent the evening

dealing with the aftermath. "We were working with patients and displaced people. Business was as usual, and suddenly, boom," he said. "It happened without any prior warning. Pictures speak volumes." He also denied that there was a military target in the vicinity. "The Israeli enemy targets journalists, ambulance workers, medical staff. It makes no difference, and all it wants is to kick us out of our country," he said. Inside the hospital, corridors were littered with broken glass. Ceiling panels had collapsed onto the floors. A row of incubators stood cracked and damaged by the force of the blast. Just four hours earlier, baby Fares had been born in the maternity ward. He lay swaddled in a blue furry blanket and asleep, while his mother recovered nearby.

## Ukrainian drones hit St Petersburg as Putin's flagship economic forum opens

Ukraine has carried out a strike on the outskirts of Russia's St Petersburg, hours before the opening of a major economic forum designed to attract foreign investment into the country. As dawn broke black plumes of smoke rose over Russia's second city, where Vladimir Putin is due to address the financial event on Friday. Thousands of guests from 130 countries are due to attend, including a low-key US delegation. Local authorities said air defences shot down 59 drones overnight and that three different districts of St Petersburg had been hit, although no one was killed. Kremlin



spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow would respond to the strikes. "Our responses will be systemic in nature," he said on Wednesday. Mobile internet was disrupted and St Petersburg's Pulkovo Airport was temporarily

closed, while some regions of nearby Latvia and Estonia also issued air raid alerts. Hours later, Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed Ukrainian drones had hit several locations in Russia, including the oil terminal and a naval base in the near-

by town of Kronstadt. "The Ukrainian plan of long-range sanctions is being implemented exactly as it is needed to bring peace closer," Zelensky wrote on social media, using a euphemism for long-distance strikes on Russia. Kronstadt is the main outpost of the Russian Navy's Baltic Fleet. Unverified videos posted on social media by Ukrainian military figures showed drones heading for docked military ships, with the video cutting off before impact. Robert Brovdi, the commander of Ukraine's unmanned systems, said on Telegram that the corvette Boikiy was struck.

## Putin remains uncompromising on Ukraine, but is public discourse on war changing in Russia?



If Vladimir Putin's Russia had an official slogan, what would it be? "Russia is what it is, and we're not ashamed of showing it," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov once told me in an interview. That fits. But I recently heard an updated version from veteran pop and folk singer Nadezhda Babkina. After receiving an award from President Putin, Babkina told an audience in the Kremlin: "Russia will never surrender thanks to our remarkable, multi-ethnic genetic code... that holds us all together. "Anyone who doesn't like that," she added, "can go and poison themselves." In many ways, the line "they can go and poison themselves" encapsulates Russia in 2026 - unapologetic, unrepentant and uncompromising. Like Vladimir Putin himself. Since ordering the mass invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin leader has displayed no regret, no remorse over his decision to attack Russia's neighbour - and no intention of ceasing hostilities. This week Russia launched another massive

missile and drone strike across Ukraine. The attack came on the eve of the annual St Petersburg International Economic Forum, an event designed to showcase Russia to the world. High-profile Western investors and politicians have long stopped coming. But the organisers say that delegations from more than 130 countries and territories will attend. For a country seeking foreign investment, more than four years of war with its neighbour doesn't seem the best advertisement. But, as we have established, "Russia is what it is". Forum or no forum, the attacks on Ukraine continue. President Putin's public position on the war is unwavering. He continues to demand that Ukraine cede control to Russia of the entire Donbas region. Vladimir Putin has not changed. But one thing in the Kremlin has. And that is to do with Donald Trump. Last year Russian officials appeared confident that the US president would help deliver a Ukraine peace deal on Moscow's terms.



New Jersey alleges 'unsanitary' conditions at migrant facility rocked by protests

## CELINE DION 'HEARTBROKEN' BY DEATH OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST SINGER PEABO BRYSON



Celine Dion has said she is "heartbroken" by the death of R&B singer Peabo Bryson, with whom she sang the hit theme from 1991 Disney film Beauty and the Beast. "His incredible voice and his kind spirit embodied the beauty of song and performance," Dion said. The pair won a Grammy Award for their duet on the beloved movie's title song, and Bryson repeated that feat the following year for his performance of another classic Disney

theme, A Whole New World from Aladdin with Regina Belle. Bryson died at the age of 75 on Tuesday surrounded by family and loved ones, his family said. A cause of death has not been released publicly, but Bryson suffered a stroke over the weekend and had been receiving medical care. The veteran R&B singer was the voice behind hits that spanned from the 1970s to 2010s, including Feel the Fire, I'm So Into You, Can You Stop the Rain.

# Virat Kohli's Mic-Drop "Ek Bihari" Message To Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Breaks Internet

Virat Kohli, who led Royal Challengers Bengaluru's charge in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 final, had a heartwarming chat with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi-the player who set the entire tournament on fire-after the title clash in Ahmedabad. Kohli, a multiple-time Orange Cap winner himself, watched the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi take home his maiden Orange Cap after amassing an incredible 776 runs this campaign. As a grueling season filled with 200+ team totals and gigantic sixes came to a conclusion, Kohli offered some simple and straightforward advice to the Rajasthan Royals teenager. Sharing a video of the interaction at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, RCB highlighted how the veteran stalwart urged the teenage prodigy not to rest on his laurels but to strive for sustained excel-

lence. Since the start of the IPL season, Sooryavanshi has been the center of social media chatter. His explosive exploits in the 2026 season have even prompted some of India's finest former cricketers to call for his fast-tracked inclusion into the national T20I squad. Kohli, however, wants the young opening batter to block out the noise. "Yaha se upar jaana hai. Jo hua hai vo achi mehnat ki wajah se, belief ki wajah se hua hai. Abhi kaun kya bol raha hai, kaise bol raha hai.. (nahi sunna hai). Ek Bihari sab pe bhari, phir khatam game," Kohli said in the video. The message roughly translates to: "You have to go even higher from here. Whatever you have achieved is because of your hard work and self-belief. Do not pay attention to who is saying what or how they are saying it. One Bihari is heavy

on everyone, then the game is over." While Kohli took home the IPL trophy, as RCB defeated the Gujarat Titans in the final, Sooryavanshi bagged majority of the individual honours. The teenage opener hit 72 maximums, setting a new all-time record for a single IPL season. He struck 776 runs at an average of 48.50 accompanied by a staggering strike rate of 237.30. He became the first batter in any T20 tournament globally to score over 500 runs in the powerplay in a single season. In the 43-second clip, Kohli is seen reminding Sooryavanshi that everything he has achieved so far has come through hard work and belief, before urging the teenager to ignore the outside noise and keep aiming higher. "Yaha se upar jana hai. Jo huya hai woh achi mehnat aur belief ke wajah se huya. Kaun kya bol raha hai, kaise

bol raha hai... Ek Bihari sab pe bhaari. Khatam game (From here, you only go higher. Whatever has happened is because of your hard work and belief. Doesn't matter what people say or how they say it. A Bihari beats them all. End of story)," he said as Sooryavanshi listened to the India legend. RCB captioned the video with a special message for the 15-year-old. The best piece of advice the 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could get! And who better than Virat Kohli to help fuel his fire in the right direction. Onwards and upwards, Vaibhav!" This wasn't the first Kohli-Sooryavanshi moment to grab attention during IPL 2026. The former India captain had met the wonderkid after RCB's match against Rajasthan Royals in

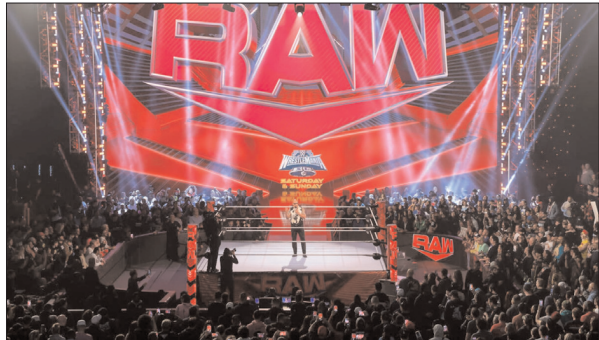


## North Korean Women's Football Team Makes History, Celebration With Kim Jong Un



## Former 39-Year-Old WWE Champion Reportedly Making WWE Comeback After 8 Years

For years, fans have wondered whether former WWE Divas Champion Kaitlyn would ever step back inside a WWE ring. Now, it looks like that possibility is very much on the table. Even though Kaitlyn hasn't competed in a wrestling match in nearly eight years, the former champion recently made it clear that she isn't closing the door on a comeback. In fact, she says she's currently feeling better than ever, both physically and mentally, which has naturally got fans talking about a possible WWE return. Former Divas Champion hints WWE return is still possible Speaking during an appearance on TMZ Sports, Kaitlyn opened up about where she stands when it comes to wrestling again.



While returning to WWE isn't something she described as her top priority, she admitted she's completely open to the idea if the opportunity comes along. The former Divas Champion explained that she is approaching 40 but feels stronger and more confident than she ever has before. According to Kaitlyn, her body feels great, and she has

reached a point in life where she feels comfortable with who she is and what she wants. She also revealed that she is working on a new business project. While she didn't go into full details, Kaitlyn suggested that what she's building outside the ring could connect naturally with a potential wrestling return. The comments immediately

got fans excited because it was one of the clearest indications yet that a comeback could happen someday. Former WWE star explains the struggles she faced during her career Kaitlyn also spent time reflecting on her original WWE run and explained why she struggled internally during that period of her career. She shared that when she first arrived in WWE, she was still very new to professional wrestling. Because of that, there was often a feeling of uncertainty before matches. Looking back, she believes she never fully processed everything that happened during her time with the company. According to Kaitlyn, personal growth and maturity were things she still needed at that stage of her life.

## Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Nearly The IPL: Jos Buttler's Mic-Drop Statement On 15-Year-Old Prodigy

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) might have won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 title, but their success isn't the only story that has had the cricketing fraternity buzzing. Though it was the Bengaluru franchise that put in the most complete performances as a team this season, the individual who stood out the most was Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Winning the Orange Cap at the age of 15, with 776 runs to his name, Sooryavanshi did the unthinkable, so much so that, former Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler feels he was almost the IPL this year. "RCB won the trophy, and they are the story of the IPL. But Vaibhav is nearly the IPL this year. He is the story of the tournament. MVP, 700-plus runs, and at a faster



strike rate than everyone else. It was amazing to watch," he said during a podcast with former England pacer Stuart Broad. As Buttler, who left Rajasthan Royals before he could get the opportunity of playing alongside Sooryavanshi, expressed his astonishment at what Sooryavanshi has managed to do so early in his career, Broad said that he is probably

the only global cricketing star who is yet to make his international debut. "I said in my last podcast that I have not seen a player become an international star without having played international cricket. In England, people are talking about him. They may not even be IPL fans, but they are saying, 'Oh my God, have you seen Sooryavanshi? He's unbelievable.' He has

become a world star. Not like Kohli or anything, but he is probably the first player to become a world star without playing international cricket," Broad said. Buttler also shared the details of a chat he had with former Rajasthan Royals owner Manoj Badale about Sooryavanshi. The England opener was stunned to know that half the Eden Gardens stadium in Kolkata was filled by Sooryavanshi's fans when Rajasthan went to play their this season. "His impact in India is massive. He is the guy everyone is talking about. I was chatting with Rajasthan Royals' former owner Manoj Badale, who told me that in Kolkata, half the stadium had turned up to watch Vaibhav, and they were all wearing his RR jersey.

## SCOTT POISED TO MAKE ENGLAND DEBUT IN WORLD CUP FRIENDLIES



Bournemouth midfielder Alex Scott is poised to make his England debut in the forthcoming World Cup warm-up games in the United States. Scott, Rio Ngunmoh, Josh King, Jason Steele and Ethan Nwaneri have travelled as supplementary members of the England squad for their preparation camp in Florida. This comes as they await the arrivals of

Arsenal quartet Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka, Eberechi Eze and Noni Madueke and Crystal Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson following their involvement in European finals. Henderson is due to arrive in the next 24 hours, with the remaining four expected to report for duty over the weekend. It is understood that all five additional squad selections, despite not being picked in Thomas Tuchel's full squad for the World Cup.



## Magnus Carlsen In Disbelief As R Praggnanadhaa Scripts History By Beating Him Twice In Norway Chess

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa delivered another stunning blow to hometown hero and world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, defeating the Norwegian in classical chess for the second time at Norway Chess 2026 on Tuesday. The result didn't just boost Praggnanandhaa's bid to become the first Indian champion of the prestigious tournament but also made him the first Indian to have beaten Carlsen twice in classical games in the same tournament. He is also the first player to have beaten the World No. 1 twice in classical games this year. Carlsen could do little but accept the young Indian Grandmaster's excellence as he shook his hands and left the table with nothing but disappointment on his face. In the video, Carlsen could be seen shaking his head as he stood up



after losing the game. The Norwegian didn't take long before leaving the area, having seen Praggnanandhaa better him twice in this competition. Check out the incredible final moments of Praggnanandhaa taking down World no.1 Magnus Carlsen with the Black pieces in Round 8 of Norway Chess 2026! The victory lifted the 20-year-old to 12 points

and third place, while simultaneously dealing what could prove to be a fatal blow to Carlsen's hopes of securing an eighth Norway Chess title. With just two rounds remaining, the defending champion's title defence now hangs by a thread. Carlsen has endured an uncharacteristically turbulent campaign, suffering four classical defeats, including two at

the hands of the Indian prodigy, who has emerged as one of the biggest challengers to the Norwegian's long-standing dominance. At the top of the standings, American Grandmaster Wesley So continued his impressive run, defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the Armageddon tie-break to extend his lead to 14 points. France's Alireza Firouzja climbed to sole second on 13 points after outplaying reigning world champion D. Gukesh in their classical encounter. The defeat effectively ended Gukesh's hopes of lifting the Norway Chess crown. Stuck on eight points, the Indian can reach a maximum of only 14 points even if he wins his remaining two games in classical format, a tally unlikely to be enough to challenge for the title.

## Pat Cummins' IPL Shocker, SRH Captain May Skip Entire 2027 Edition

Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins, who is Australia's Test skipper, may skip next year's Indian Premier League due to a tight international schedule. The Cummins-led SRH finished as the fourth-best team in the league after getting knocked out of the IPL 2026 Eliminator by Rajasthan Royals. Australia's next Test series is

against Bangladesh in August. "Something has got to give at some stage next year and it's not going to be Test matches or an ODI World Cup," Cummins told Sydney Morning Herald. "I will make a call a lot closer and work with the franchise to see what makes sense. Things can change. I've had a couple of injuries pop up, so I don't really want to lock in anything. "The priorities for me are always the Test matches and that ODI World Cup. I dare

say if I play all of India, I need some sort of break before a pretty gruelling Ashes series." The workload of star pace trio - Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood is in focus. They could be rested alternatively during the four-Test series against New Zealand in December and January. "Yeah it's possible. I think we're fairly open-minded to anything, as we've seen over the last couple of years," Cummins said. "Whether it's a home Test or an away Test, we don't see them as that different. A Test match is a Test match. We're pretty realistic

that we're going to need more than three fast bowlers. "I see a world where we're potentially winding some bowlers down, even say at the back end of an Indian series if they don't look like they're going to play, to give them an extra rest ahead of the Ashes. "I've played one [Test] in the last 12 months, so I'm feeling a lot fresher than maybe some of the other guys, but these are big series. It's going to be a big push the next 18 months or so, but I think we'll look back on it hopefully and see it as one of the more rewarding periods of our career."

## French Open: Alexander Zverev Powers Into Semi-Finals, Marta Kostyuk To Face Mirra Andreeva



Alexander Zverev breezed past Rafael Jodar to stay on course for an elusive Grand Slam title at the French Open, where Marta Kostyuk and Mirra Andreeva will meet for a place in the women's final. Zverev, the highest-ranked player left in the men's draw, put an end to Spanish teenager Jodar's impressive Roland Garros debut, easing to a 7-6, (7/3), 6-1, 6-3 win on Tuesday. The 29-year-old Zverev is the clear favourite for a maiden Grand Slam title. He has finished runner-up on three occasions, including at the 2024 French Open. "I want to win the matches that are ahead of me, that is my goal, that is my aim," said Zverev, who has only dropped one set en route to the last four. It is the fifth time in six years he has made it to this stage in Paris. "I'm happy to be in the semi-finals, for now," he added. Zverev will play the winner of the

night-time encounter between Brazilian sensation Joao Fonseca and Czech youngster Jakub Mensik. For Jodar, the grind of back-to-back five-setters appeared to take its toll as he struggled to cope after blowing a 5-2 lead in the opening set. The 19-year-old Jodar was featuring at just his second major. He was ranked 707th in the world this time last year, losing in the first and second rounds of second-tier Challenger events in the United States during the 2025 French Open. Both Fonseca and Mensik will be playing in their first Grand Slam quarter-final later on Tuesday. Fonseca, 19, backed up his third-round win over Novak Djokovic by beating two-time Roland Garros finalist Casper Ruud. He is the first Brazilian man to reach the French Open last eight since three-time champion Gustavo Kuerten.

Vijay Antony and Director Sasi’s Emotional Drama Vanda Devullu Set for a Grand Worldwide Release on June 19

Whenever Vijay Antony announces a new project, audiences eagerly anticipate something distinctive and meaningful. Known for choosing unconventional stories and emotionally engaging narratives, the versatile actor-composer has carved out a special place among Telugu movie lovers. His collaboration with director Sasi in Bichagadu turned out to be a landmark success, earning both of them immense recognition and a loyal fan base across Telugu states. Now, after several years, the successful Vijay Antony-Sasi combination is reuniting for an emotionally rich and compelling drama titled Vanda Devullu. Ever since its announcement, the film has generated significant curiosity among movie buffs. The posters, glimpse videos, and songs released so far have received an encouraging response and steadily built excitement around the project. The makers have now officially announced that Vanda Devullu will hit theatres worldwide on June 19. Produced by Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji under the Servanth Ram Creations banner and presented by Fatima Vijay Antony in association with Vijay Antony Film Corporation, the film promises an engaging cinematic experience packed with emotions, relation-



ships, suspense, and drama. The release date poster has further heightened anticipation. Featuring Vijay Antony and Swasika in a simple yet striking rural

emotions and real-life relationships. According to the makers, Vanda Devullu is much more than a conventional drama. The film seamlessly blends family sentiments, emotional conflicts, action, mystery, and suspense, making it a wholesome entertainer designed to appeal to audiences of all age groups. Director Sasi is said to have crafted a heart-touching story that explores the depth of human relationships while delivering several unexpected moments. The film features an impressive ensemble cast including Vijay Antony, Swasika, Ajay, Kavya, Sakthi, Padini, Karnas, Balaji Sakthivel, Divakar, Arul Doss, Bucks, Vinodhini, Munishkanth, and Kodangi Vadivelu in pivotal roles. Technically, the film boasts a talented crew. Cinematography is handled by SB Darshan Kirlosh, while Balaji Sriram has composed the music. Harish Yuvaraj takes care of editing, and Bhashyasree has penned the dialogues. With a strong cast, accomplished technicians, and a promising storyline, Vanda Devullu is gearing up to arrive as one of the notable emotional dramas. While the film is already carrying a strong buzz, the makers are planning to intensify the promotions, as the release date is not far away.

A Story Full Of Heart, A Glimpse Full Of Soul: Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, Shiva Nirvana, Mythri Movie Makers’ Irumudi Heart Touching Glimpse Out Now



Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja is set to surprise with his next outing Irumudi, a film that moves beyond the usual action-driven formula and taps into a more emotionally grounded space. Directed by Shiva Nirvana and backed by the Pan India production house Mythri Movie Makers, the project is steadily taking shape with filming currently underway in Hyderabad. As promised, the makers came up with the film’s glimpse called- The Heart Of Irumudi Glimpse. The Heart Of Irumudi presents a simple

man whose greatest identity is being a father. His daughter is the center of his universe, and every decision he makes seems to stem from her happiness and well-being. The glimpse quietly unfolds their relationship through moments that feel intimate, personal, and deeply rooted in everyday life. A particularly striking aspect is the transformation Ravi Teja’s character undergoes after embracing Ayyappa Deeksha. The decision is not portrayed as a dramatic sacrifice, but as an act of

devotion inspired by his daughter. The closing visuals involving the sacred Irumudi carry emotional weight and leave behind a sense of warmth rather than mere excitement. Shiva Nirvana once again relies on human emotions as his biggest strength. The glimpse avoids melodrama and instead finds power in sincerity, allowing the father-daughter bond to emerge as the film’s emotional anchor. The relationship feels lived-in, making it easy for audiences to connect with the characters instantly. Ravi Teja delivers a refreshing change of pace, shedding his trademark mass swagger for a role that demands vulnerability and restraint. His body language, expressions, and understated performance bring authenticity to

the character. The action sequence indicates, the movie has enough elements to cherish for masses. Baby Nakshathra complements Ravi Teja beautifully, adding innocence and charm that elevate the emotional impact of their scenes together. Visually, Vishnu Sarma lends the film a grounded yet appealing aesthetic, capturing both the spiritual and emotional dimensions of the narrative. GV Prakash Kumar’s background score works as the soul of the glimpse, enhancing the sentiment without overwhelming it. Production design is handled by Sahi Suresh, while editing is by Prawin Pudi. The production values from Mythri Movie Makers ensure the film looks polished while retaining its emotional core.



I have played a very unique character in 'Sing Geetam: Heroine Ahalya Bamru



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 Ahalya Bamru shared the details of the film in a press conference.

Tell us about your background?

I am from Puducherry. I grew up in an international community where I speak languages like English,

French, and Bengali. I never wanted to be an actor. I create content on Instagram. Nag Ashwin saw my content and told me about this film. I also gave my audition through Instagram (laughs). This is a film with a musical background. I love singing and playing guitar. So I thought this would be a good start for me in Telugu. I feel lucky to have been selected for this project. How was it like working with Singeetham Srinivasa Rao? -He is a wonderful director. He has made many great films. His sense of humor is also very good. I feel lucky to work under his direction. All the films made by Singeetham garu are ahead of their time. Singeetham is also one such film. This is a concept that no one has tried in Indian cinema till now. Only he is able to make a film with such a modern idea even at the age of 94.

PRIYANKA MOHAN GETS BIG JOB IN KOREAN GOVERNMENT



Priyanka Mohan, who debuted in Telugu with Nani’s Gangleader, recently released the film Made In Korea. The film has received widespread appreciation for the actress and has also caught the attention of many. Interestingly, now, the Korea Tourism Organization has appointed the actress as the Honorary Ambassador for Korea Tourism. Earlier, Indian actors Hina Khan and Anushka Sen were also made honorary ambassadors. Priyanka Mohan is happy to receive this special recognition from the Korean government, and she also feels honored to be associated with the country. She described the opportunity as very special and said she is excited

about the journey ahead. “Being appointed as the Honorary Ambassador for Korea Tourism is truly very special to me. I’m sincerely thankful to the Korean government and the Korea Tourism Organization for recognizing me as someone who can help bring Korean culture closer to Indian audiences,” she said. Made in Korea was entirely shot in South Korea, with prominent South Korean actors. In the film, Priyanka played a small-town Tamil woman who pursues her dream life in South Korea but finds herself struggling with cultural differences and loneliness, leading her to embark on a journey of self-discovery. On the work front, Priyanka will next be seen in Maari Selvaraj’s Manjanathi.

