

# KING

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## Chandrababu Naidu says Andhra Pradesh overcame challenges to deliver governance in NDA's two years

**(king Reporter)** Amaravat: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday that the coalition government in the state during the last two years overcame challenges and crises left behind by the YSRCP government to deliver welfare, development, and good governance. The Chief Minister took to 'X' to share his thoughts on the completion of two years of Telugu Desam Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the state. "Today marks exactly two years since this people's government assumed office, backed by the immense trust of five crore people. While the previous administration left behind a



legacy of challenges, crises, and unresolved issues, we have overcome them all to deliver welfare, development, and good governance," he said. "We operate with the conviction that power is a responsibility and that those in governance are, in fact, servants of the people.

Our agenda is centered on the success and well-being of every citizen, every family, and every section of society; by fulfilling their hopes and aspirations, we are paving the way for the state's future," the Chief Minister said. The TDP national president thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central government. "As we complete two years of governance, I extend my gratitude – on behalf of the people – to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Central Government for their unwavering support at every step of the state's development. With the cooperation of the Central Government and the partnership of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan, we are marching towards a 'Swarnandhra' (Golden Andhra)," CM Naidu said. "I express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the people of the state for standing by us throughout this two-year journey. Seeking the continued support and cooperation of the people as we undertake many more development and welfare initiatives in the days ahead – Jai Andhra Pradesh!," he added. Civil Avia-

tion Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu said that two years ago, the people of Andhra Pradesh placed their faith in the NDA with the hope of a fresh start. "The challenges before us were immense and rebuilding confidence in the state's future was never going to be an easy task," he said in a post on 'X'. The Central minister claimed that over the last two years, under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, there has been a sincere and determined effort to put Andhra Pradesh back on the path of growth, opportunity and development through a strong Centre-State partnership. "While there is still much work ahead, what is most encouraging today is the renewed sense of optimism among our people and the confidence that Andhra Pradesh is once again moving in the right direction. As we mark two years of the NDA Government in Andhra Pradesh, I remain grateful for the trust of the people and excited about the future that we are building together," he added.

## Mission Rayalaseema to be a national model, says Nara Lokesh

**(king Reporter)** TIRUPATI: Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh said the NDA government's goal is to transform Rayalaseema into a 'Royal Seema' through large-scale investments and development initiatives. Addressing a public meeting in Tirupati on Friday, held to mark the completion of two years of the NDA government in the state, he said the proposed Mission Rayalaseema project, with an estimated outlay of Rs 1 lakh crore, would become a model for the country. Lokesh said major industries such as Royal Enfield, Carrier, LG and Reliance have chosen to invest in Rayalaseema, reflecting the government's commitment to the region. He called upon leaders and workers of the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP to work together as one family for the development of the State and welfare of the people. Stating that people have regained peace and freedom after the formation of the coalition government, Lokesh credited Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for bringing industries and development projects to the State. Comparing the Chief Minister to star cricketer Virat Kohli, he said Naidu had consistently delivered results despite political challenges. Politics The minister highlighted irrigation projects such as Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi and said the government was focusing on ensuring water availability and agricultural growth in Rayalaseema. He added that the upcoming Mission Rayalaseema would further accelerate the region's development. Lokesh claimed that the state had attracted a significant share of investments entering the country and said companies such as Google and Arcelor Mittal were investing in the State. He also referred to the proposed Quantum Valley project in the capital region as a prestigious initiative aimed at promoting advanced technology and innovation. Launching a sharp attack on YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Lokesh accused him of taking credit for projects initiated by others and criticised his government's handling of various issues. "Jagan is having 'Credit Chori Disorder' (CCD). With that disorder he claims credit in every



positive development though he did nothing during his tenure", he commented. Attempts were made by the YSRCP to obstruct the Mega DSC recruitment process, but the coalition government successfully conducted the recruitment and filled 16,347 teaching posts within 150 days. The minister also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying India's global reputation had grown under his leadership. Referring to the alliance between Naidu and Modi, he described the Andhra Pradesh government as a 'double-engine bullet train government' working towards rapid development and progress.

## Pawan Kalyan remembers victory of coalition govt in 2024, says it is historic

**(king Reporter)** Janasena President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan stated that the people are the ultimate arbiters in a democracy. He described the verdict delivered by the people in the 2024 elections as a historic decision that charted a new course for the state's future. Speaking on the occasion of the alliance government completing two years in office, Pawan Kalyan noted that two years ago, the people had entrusted them not merely with power, but with responsibility. He added that the NDA alliance partners are working collectively to fulfill that responsibility. Pawan mentioned that the collective efforts of the NDA alliance partners succeeded in stalling the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He stated that they are making decisions aligned with the people's aspirations while coordinating with the Central government on matters concerning the state's interests. He remarked that the



public mandate instilled confidence regarding the future of a generation and affirmed that the alliance government is committed to working towards the state's development, the youth's future, and employment opportunities. He observed that the 2024 elections once again proved that even when the public remains silent, they can alter the course of history through their verdict at the right moment. Pawan opined that the 2024 election results represent a victory for democracy over arrogance and destructive politics. He clarified that the alliance government's goal is not merely to share power, but to share responsibility and work together for the state's development. Politics On this occasion, Pawan Kalyan also made significant remarks regarding 'Gram Swaraj' (village self-governance), the strengthening of local bodies, and democratic decentralization. He noted that while critics pointed out that the Jana Sena Party was limited to just 21 seats, the political sacrifice they made for the state's interests laid the foundation for the alliance's victory. Describing the village as the focal point of national development, Pawan stated that decisions affecting the futures of everyone—from children to the elderly—should be made at the Gram Panchayat level. He emphasized the need to resolve local issues within the village itself, rather than escalating them to the Mandal, District, or MLA levels. He remarked that currently, even minor issues are being taken to MLAs; he argued that it is improper to weaken the authority of the state's hundreds of local public representatives by centralizing the entire system around MLAs.

## APSDMA predicts rains in AP on Friday amid extension of southwest monsoon

**(king Reporter)** Vizianagaram: Light to moderate rains accompanied by lightning are likely on Friday in the Polavaram, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Palnadu, Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore, and Rayalaseema districts. Amidst a mix of heat and rainfall across the Telugu states, the Meteorological Department has issued a key update regarding the weather conditions in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Prakhar Jain, Managing Director of the Disaster Management Authority, stated that the Southwest Monsoon has advanced into more areas of Andhra Pradesh as of June 11. He noted that weather conditions are favorable for its further expansion into additional parts of the Alluri, Manyam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam districts over the next two to three days. He also mentioned that a cyclonic circulation persists over the west-central Bay of



Bengal and the North Andhra coast, while another cyclonic circulation extends over South Coastal Andhra and its surrounding areas. Due to these conditions, light to moderate rains accompanied by lightning are likely on Friday in the Polavaram, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Palnadu, Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore, and Rayalaseema districts. Light rains accompanied by lightning are also expected in isolated areas of the remaining districts.



## Path to peace... no one knows...

Delve into the complexities of today's volatile geopolitical landscape. Explore how major powers are navigating regional disputes, the breakdown of traditional diplomacy, and the resulting challenges for global stability and national development in the 21st century. For those who examine problems closely, it's hard not to wonder whether the great powers' routine of pretending to be pulled to the brink while keeping the rope intact and merely playing a dangerous game isn't the recipe for many of today's crises. We might regard this as a shrewd political manoeuvre. Politics Whether it's the Hormuz maritime dispute or the US blockade of Iranian ports, both countries are conducting themselves cautiously—neither willing to break the stick nor let the snake die. As the saying goes, one person's wedding can mean another's death: the actions of those two states are causing economic distress in other countries. Similar manoeuvres have long been used by powers like Russia and the United States. During the Cold War, leading nations drew smaller states into their orbit, pursuing policies of confrontation to gain economic and strategic advantage. Events such as the Berlin blockade (1948–49), the Cuban missile crisis, demonstrations of nuclear might, and thinly veiled threats about when weapons might be used became routine. Major powers turned lesser countries and even other large allied states into pawns, treating global problems like a chess game to be played for their own benefit. Countries like Pakistan use terrorism as a political tool to gain the upper hand over India, while China befriends the U.S. to grow economically—and bringing Kashmir and border issues into the open for political advantage is the same kind of tactic. Political analysts say Pakistan and Iran have long worked together for centuries to try to shape major powers, especially Pakistan, to suit their interests. Both countries have used terrorism as an instrument of policy. The Hamas attack on Israel on October 23, 2023, was that kind of move. Israel, in turn, launched a major offensive in Gaza to crush Hamas. Everyone knows about Pakistan's use of militants against India and the ensuing cross-border attacks. After India struck hard and dismantled many operations, Pakistan tried covertly to court Iran and publicly to act friendly with the U.S., mediating behind the scenes—efforts that failed, as everyone knows. While publicly saying it seeks an accord with Iran, the U.S. has pushed Israel to carry out strikes against West Asian countries—warning that if Iran does not relent, it will be swept away. Now the U.S. finds itself facing unexpected Iranian counterattacks. Still, by issuing blustery statements and creating alarm, it sows doubts about whether the leading power is on the brink of collapse—a narrative that those who admire the U.S. are also being made to worry about and that is plain to see. National Politics Updates China has taken to its expansionist doctrine as easily and openly as water flowing from a tap. Since 2006 it has been claiming parts of the South China Sea and the East China Sea as its own, bullying and intimidating weaker neighboring states—and preparing, if those countries resist or try to defend themselves, to push them aside and establish maritime dominance in the region.

## Youth trapped in skywalk lift for nearly two hours in Uppal

Hyderabad: A 20-year-old man was rescued after allegedly being trapped inside a lift at the Uppal Skywalk on Thursday late night. The youth, identified as Rahul from Mahabubnagar district, works at a private firm and stays in a men's hostel in Uppal. According to information available, after finishing his work shift, he was returning to his hostel when he used a lift at the skywalk near Uppal Metro Station at around 11 pm. The lift reportedly stopped midway, leaving him stranded inside. Following an alert, police, fire personnel and

other officials reached the spot and took up rescue efforts. It is learnt that difficulties in opening the lift doors delayed the operation. Rahul was eventually brought out safely with the help of a technician at around 1.15 am, which is about nearly two hours after he got trapped. Speaking to media after the rescue, Rahul said he experienced severe distress during the ordeal and urged authorities to ensure such incidents do not recur. Meanwhile, it is alleged that similar issues had been reported in the past. Citizens have requested au-



thorities for stricter monitoring and regular maintenance of the skywalk lifts.

## Man, his two children feared drowned in Nizam Sagar

Sangareddy: A man and his two children were feared drowned in Nizam Sagar project on Thursday. The trio left their home in Nizampet mandal headquarters to Nizam Sagar project on a two-wheeler. However, they failed to return home even by evening. They were G Krishna (32), his son Rakshith (9) and daughter Ananya (6). Krishna had settled down in Patancheru a few years ago. However, he came to Nizampet to spend the summer holidays with his parents. Krishna took his children on a ride to Nizam Sagar on Thursday morning. He had lunch with his kids under the shade of a tree and clicked pictures with him. Later, he also took selfies with his kids while they were playing along the shores of the reservoir. He even sent the pictures to his wife and other family members. As he failed to return home even after evening, the family members reached the place and searched along the shores of the project and found the chappal, bike and other things close to the project. The family members



immediately called the police who launched a search for them in the water body.

## Telangana HC directs govt to respond to 97-year-old freedom fighter's PIL on road widening irregularities

Hyderabad: Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Thursday have directed the State Government to explain allegations that unauthorized structures and statues erected along the Miryalaguda–Huzurnagar main road have not been removed despite repeated representations. The Division Bench was hearing a public interest litigation filed by 97-year-old freedom fighter Bandla Pulla Reddy of Garidepalli village in Suryapet district, alleging irregularities in the road widening project from the Miryalaguda–Huzurnagar main road up to Ayyappa Swamy Temple and onwards to Alangipur village. Counsel for the petitioner contended that instead of widening the road uniformly from the existing centre line, the



authorities were expanding the road only on one side by about 10 feet under the guise of protecting certain institutions, thereby causing loss to a section of landowners. It was argued that the authorities had deviated from the approved alignment and were implementing the project in a unilateral manner. The petitioner sought directions to widen the road equally by five feet on either side of the existing cen-

tre line so as to maintain uniform road width. It was further contended that several unauthorized statues and structures had been erected on government land abutting the road and that despite representations, the authorities had failed to remove them. According to the petitioner, such structures were contrary to the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and earlier orders of the High Court. After hearing the submissions, the Bench directed the Government Pleader for Roads and Buildings to obtain instructions from the competent authorities and place before the Court details regarding the allegations relating to unauthorized structures and statues on public roads. The matter was adjourned by two weeks for further hearing.

## Sex worker's customer cannot be prosecuted for trafficking merely for availing services: Telangana High Court

Hyderabad: A Division Bench of Justice K Lakshman and Justice BR Madhusudhan Rao of the Telangana High Court have held that a customer of a sex worker cannot be prosecuted for the offence of trafficking under Section 370 IPC merely for availing sexual services. However, such a customer can be prosecuted under Section 370A(2) IPC if it is established that the sex worker was a trafficked person and the customer had knowledge or reason to believe the same. The Division Bench rendered the ruling while answering a reference arising from a batch of criminal petitions involving persons accused of being customers during raids conducted at brothels and premises allegedly used for prostitution. The Bench clarified that Section 370 IPC, which deals with trafficking of persons, is intended to punish traffickers and not customers.

A person who merely seeks sexual services from a sex worker cannot be treated as a trafficker, the Court held. However, the Court observed that Section 370A(2) IPC targets the exploitation of trafficked persons and is aimed at penalising those who create demand for trafficking. The Court further held that prosecution under Section 370A(2) IPC would be maintainable only where there is material to show that the sex worker was a victim of traf-

ficking and that the customer knew or had reason to believe that fact. The existence of such knowledge would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. On the issue of customers found during brothel raids, the Bench ruled that mere presence in the vicinity of a brothel or at premises where prostitution is allegedly carried on is insufficient to attract Section 370A(2) IPC. The Court held that there must be material indicating engage-

ment of a trafficked person for sexual exploitation coupled with the requisite knowledge or reason to believe that the person had been trafficked. Referring to the Supreme Court's decision in Budhadev Karmaskar, the Bench reiterated that voluntary sex work by consenting adults is not illegal and that voluntary sex workers and their clients cannot be harassed by law enforcement agencies merely on that basis.

## Regional parties which originated from Cong should reunite with party, says Ashok Gehlot

Jaipur: Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has endorsed Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's suggestion that regional parties, which originated from Congress, should reunite with the party and collectively rally behind Rahul Gandhi's leadership. Speaking on the need for greater opposition unity, Gehlot said the current political moment demands a united fight to protect democracy. "There is substance in what Sanjay Raut has said. The time has come to fight to save democracy. When all of us are on the battlefield to protect democratic values, I support his view that those parties

which emerged after separating from the Congress should consider rejoining and wholeheartedly accept Rahul Gandhi as their leader," Gehlot said. He argued that the INDIA bloc must project a clear and unambiguous leadership face before the country. "There should be a clear message across the nation that Rahul Gandhi is the leader of the INDIA bloc. People see a direct political contest between Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. If all opposition parties jointly and unequivocally accept Rahul Gandhi's leadership, the voting pattern in the country can change significantly," he said.

## SC to hear Meenakshi Natarajan's plea against Rajya Sabha nomination rejection today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is set to hear on Friday a plea by Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan challenging the rejection of her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh. A vacation Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S. Chandurkar on Thursday assured an early hearing on Friday after senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Natarajan, sought urgent listing of the matter. During the mentioning, Singhvi contended that Thursday was the last date for withdrawal of nominations and argued that if the matter was not heard urgently, the petitioner would have to wait for six years to seek effective relief. The senior counsel also urged the apex court to stay the declaration of the election result pending adjudication of the dispute. However, the Justice Mishra-led Bench declined to pass any interim order at this stage and said that the matter would be taken up for hearing on Friday. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing on behalf of the Returning Officer, and senior advocate DS Naidu, appearing for the Election Commission, opposed the plea for urgent intervention. The Congress leader has moved the apex court against the rejection of her nomination papers by the Returning Officer following objections raised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). According to the objection, Natarajan allegedly failed to disclose details of a case pending before a Telangana



court in the affidavit filed along with her nomination papers.

The BJP's objection was based on a petition filed by former corporate executive A. Srilatha before the Fourth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Hyderabad. The petition alleged that Natarajan had extended political patronage to Kumbham Shivakumar Reddy, against whom Srilatha had levelled allegations, including molestation and criminal intimidation. Natarajan has denied the allegations, describing them as part of a "political conspiracy", and has opposed Srilatha's petition before a Hyderabad court. Earlier, the Congress leader had alleged that the Returning Officers were "compromised" and acting at the behest of the government. The Congress leader, who was the party's lone Rajya Sabha candidate from Madhya Pradesh, claimed that efforts were being made to "subvert democracy" through the rejection of her nomination. She had also launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Centre, alleging that the Returning Officers were functioning as "spokespersons" of the ruling dispensation rather than as independent constitutional authorities.

## Bangladesh halts construction of massive Lord Ram statue amid alleged extremist pressure

Dhaka: Bangladesh authorities have ordered the suspension of the construction of the world's largest statue of Lord Ram at the Sri Sri Radha Govinda and Kali Temple in Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha district, according to local media reports. The announcement was made by temple advisor Shyamal Kumar Mahant during a press conference held at the temple auditorium on Thursday evening, Bangladeshi media reported. The decision has sparked strong reactions, with critics alleging that the suspension came under pressure from Islamist groups opposed to the project. Exiled Bangladeshi author and human rights activist Taslima Nasreen strongly condemned the threats, incitement, and hostile rhetoric surrounding the construction of the Ram temple, questioning why a single Hindu place of worship is being targeted in a country where several hundred thousand mosques exist and continue to be built. Taking to her social media platform X, Nasreen said: "There are several hundred thousand mosques in Bangladesh, and new mosques continue to be built across the country. So why is there so much opposition to the construction of a single Ram temple or a statue of Lord Rama? If religious freedom is truly for everyone, then it should apply equally to minorities, not only to the majority." "The threats, incitement, and hateful rhetoric directed against the Ram temple currently under construction in Palashbari, Gaibandha, are deeply concerning. No individual or group acquires the right to demolish another community's place of worship simply because they dislike it. In a state governed by the rule of law, religious disagreements are not resolved through violence or barbarism," she added. Nasreen stressed that the situation is particularly troubling given Palashbari's history of at-



tacks on Hindu temples and idol vandalism, which has left the Hindi minority community feeling vulnerable. "Many Muslim-majority countries around the world—including Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Oman—have large Hindu temples. In those countries, the existence of temples is not viewed as a threat to the state.

Why, then, is the construction of a single temple in Bangladesh being portrayed by some Muslims as an existential crisis?" Nasreen questioned.

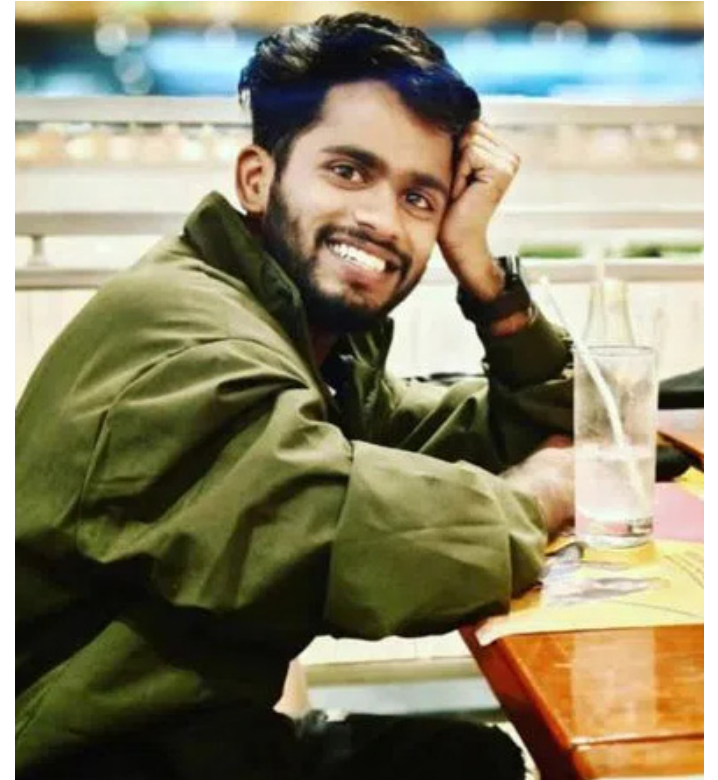
Meanwhile, Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury, editor of the Bangladeshi newspaper 'Blitz' also expressed grave concern over the halt of temple construction amid pressure from Islamist extremist groups. "Amid massive protests of local jihadist and Islamist groups, authorities of the ongoing Sanatan Complex in Gaibandha district in Bangladesh have announced suspending all activities and stop building the idol of Lord Ram," Choudhury posted on X.1

## Former Mukhra (K) Sarpanch harvests Miyazaki mango fruits in Adilabad

Adilabad: Former Sarpanch Gadge Meenakshi successfully harvested Japan's exotic Miyazaki mango crop at Mukhra (K) village in Echoda mandal on Friday. She had planted saplings of the rare variety to mark the birthday of BRS working president KT Rama Rao in the district four years ago. Meenakshi, in a statement, said that she harvested fruits from the five Miyazaki plants that she had planted alongside 500 native mango saplings on

## Industrial worker succumbs to injuries, kin demands compensation

Sangareddy: A factory worker, who sustained serious injuries in an industrial accident three days ago, died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Hyderabad, on Friday. The worker Praveen Kumar (26), a native of Kasala in Adilabad district, had been working at Mythri Drugs in Bonthapally industrial area. He succumbed to injuries in the early hours of Friday. The workers and kin of the deceased have staged a protest at the industry demanding compensation to the victim's family. They also demanded the government to take action against the management. The Gummadala police registered a case and the probe was on.



## Telangana CM calls upon everyone to work for eradication of child labour

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy mark World Day Against Child Labour by calling for a collective social movement to eradicate child labour and ensure every child has access to education and a dignified future. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday called upon people to take up the eradication of the child labour system in society as their social responsibility. The Chief Minister gave the call on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour. "Childhood is the birthright of every child. The right to study, play, grow joyfully, and have opportunities to realize their dreams is a natural right of every child. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the child labour system, which robs them of these rights, has no place in society," the Chief Minister said in his message. He stated that the government is committed to providing every child with quality education, security, a healthy environment, and equal opportunities. At the same time, he urged families, teachers, voluntary organisations, public representatives, and every citizen in society to become partners in achieving this goal. The CM said that the child labour system should not be encouraged under any circumstances, and if children are seen engaged in work anywhere, it is the responsibility of ev-



ery citizen to bring it to the attention of the relevant authorities. Rescuing a child from child labour is akin to providing them with a new future, he noted. "In the hands of children should be books, not tools. On their shoulders should be hopes for the future, not burdens. It is our collective responsibility to build a Telangana where every child grows up laughing, learning, and dreaming," the Chief Minister said. Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy has also called for renewing resolve to protect the rights of every child. "Childhood is meant for learning, dreaming, and growing - not labour. On World Day Against Child Labour, let us renew our resolve to protect the rights of every child and build an India where opportunity reaches every household. Through sustained efforts in education, welfare, and social empowerment, we continue to work towards a future where every child can thrive with dignity and hope," the Central minister said in a post on 'X'

## SCR RPF rescues 512 vulnerable children under Operation Nanhe Farishte

Hyderabad: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South Central Railway (SCR) rescued 512 children found in vulnerable circumstances at railway stations and aboard trains between January and May this year, under 'Operation Nanhe Farishte' initiative. According to officials, the rescued children included 421 boys and 91 girls. All were handed over to Child Welfare Committees for care, protection and rehabilitation. The initiative focuses on identifying runaway, missing and separated children and reuniting them with their families whenever possible. RPF personnel conduct regu-

lar surveillance at railway stations and on trains, while coordinating with child protection agencies to ensure timely intervention.

The force also conducts training programmes to help personnel identify children in distress and respond effectively. Officials said RPF rescued 1,622 children during 2025 and 1,390 children in 2024, highlighting the scale of the ongoing child protection drive. Railway authorities requested rail passengers to report any child found alone or in distress at railway stations or on trains on the railway helpline number - 139.



weather conditions. She was congratulated by locals for accomplishing her pioneering attempt and inspiring others.

## Environmental clearance for Sitarama Sagar to be pursued on priority: Uttam

Hyderabad: Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday directed officials to vigorously pursue and fast-track the environmental clearance process for the Sitarama Sagar Lift Irrigation Scheme. He chaired a review meeting on major irrigation projects in the erstwhile Khammam district at Jalasoudha. Reviewing the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, the Minister stressed the need to expedite all pending environmental clearances. The project had already secured Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) clearance, also

known as Techno-Economic Clearance, from the Central Water Commission (CWC), officials informed the Minister. They also informed the Minister that land acquisition had been largely completed in some project stretches, while certain forest clearances were still in process. He said that diverting Godavari waters from the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project to the Paleru Balancing Reservoir through the NSP Left Canal system should be accorded top priority. The Irrigation Minister gave in-principle approval



to a proposal made by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy to lift water from Sitarama Lift Package-I to the Bayyaram upland tribal areas in Yellandu Assembly constituency.

Addressing the issue of submergence in Bhadrachalam Division due to Polavaram project backwaters, the Irrigation Minister assured that the matter would

be taken up shortly with the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA). A dedicated review meeting would be convened to find solutions, he said. The Minister also announced that he would undertake a comprehensive tour of irrigation projects in the erstwhile Khammam district within a fortnight to review progress on the ground.

## Renowned Mand folk singer Gavri Devi dies

Jaipur: Renowned Mand folk singer Gavri Devi, who earned nationwide recognition for her contribution to traditional music, has died at the age of 98. The musician breathed her last at her residence in Pali on Thursday evening. She had re-



mained active in Mand singing for several decades and captivated audiences across the country with her performances. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma expressed grief over Devi's death, calling it an irreparable loss to Rajasthan's cultural heritage and the folk music. "The news of the demise of Pali's renowned Mand singer Gavri Devi is extremely sad. Her passing is an irreparable loss to the folk music world and the cultural heritage of Rajasthan," Sharma said. Sharma said Devi gave Rajasthan's rich cultural traditions a new identity through her melodious voice and dedication to folk music. "Her invaluable contribution to the preservation and promotion of folk art will always be remembered. Her musical

legacy will continue to inspire future generations," he added. Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot also condoled her death, saying Devi played a significant role in popularising Mand singing across the world. "Gavri Devi performed Mand singing for several decades and became synonymous with this folk art. Her demise is an irreparable loss to Rajasthan's art and culture sector," he said. One of Devi's most popular songs is "More Bole Re". Mand singing, one of the oldest music traditions to originate from Rajasthan, blends melodious notes, storytelling and folk music traditions. The most recalled song in the Mand style is the ever popular "Kesariya Baalam".

## Revanth Reddy seeks PM's intervention on key Telangana projects, softens stand on Maharashtra

Hyderabad: Days after launching a sharp attack on Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis over Tummidihatti project, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy adopted a more conciliatory approach and sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to facilitate discussions with the Maharashtra government on the utilisation of River Godavari waters. During a meeting with the Prime Minister in New Delhi on Thursday, he stressed that access to Godavari waters was vital for Telangana's future irrigation and drinking water requirements. The Chief Minister's request comes against the backdrop of his recent criticism of the Maharashtra government. Over the past few days, he had accused Fadnavis of failing to respond to Telangana's requests for talks on the Tummidihatti project. Addressing a public meeting at Jadcherla last week, Revanth Reddy had alleged that the Maharashtra Chief Minister was avoiding discussions on the project. "If required, pressure will be exerted on him, his neck will be bent and the project will be constructed," Revanth Reddy had said. However, during his meeting with the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister focused on seeking the Centre's support for a range of infrastructure and development projects in Telangana. He urged the Centre to approve the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project and informed the Prime Minister that proposals worth Rs. 38,595 crore had been submitted for the development of 122.9 kilometres of metro connectivity across seven corridors. Revanth Reddy re-



quested that the Metro Phase-II project be sanctioned as a joint venture between the Centre and the State government. He also sought immediate approval for the Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR) project. The Chief Minister pointed out that the State government had agreed to bear 50 per cent of the land acquisition cost for the northern section and had already released Rs. 626 crore to the National Highways Authority of India.

According to him, the southern section of the RRR was equally important for strengthening Hyderabad's transport infrastructure. The proposed corridor connecting Choutuppal and Sangareddy would improve regional connectivity and support future urban expansion, he said. Revanth Reddy informed the Prime Minister that alignment maps and HMDA Master Plan notifications related to the southern section had already been submitted to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. He urged the Centre to approve and implement both the northern and southern corridors simultaneously to ensure the project's timely completion. He also raised issues pertaining to a few other projects.

## I was used to malign Dharmasthala, says 'mask man' Chinnayya in plea to K'taka HC

Bengaluru: In a major twist in the ongoing Dharmasthala skull case, Chinnayya, popularly known as the "mask man", who had earlier made allegations in the mass grave case, has claimed that he was used as part of a conspiracy to malign Dharmasthala, the prominent Hindu pilgrimage centre in Karnataka. Following these sensational allegations, action is likely against the activists who spearheaded the agitation and legal battle demanding action against the temple management, police sources said on Friday. Chinnayya has also alleged that he was told that Rs 200 crore had been set aside to ensure that Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade was sent to jail. In his petition, he has further mentioned the name of actor Prakash Raj and claimed that the activists had promised him Rs 50 lakh if their plan succeeded. A writ petition in this regard was filed before the Karnataka High Court on Thursday. The bench headed by Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued notices to the Home Department, the Superintendent of Police of Mangaluru, the Special Investigation Team (SIT), and the Station House Officer of the Dharmasthala Police Station, directing them to submit a status report on the investigation by June 29.

Chinnayya approached the Karnataka High Court claiming that he was used as part of a larger conspiracy to malign Dharmasthala. He has sought directions to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to complete its probe and take action against those allegedly involved. In his writ petition, Chinnayya has named activist Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, Vitthal Gowda, Jayant, and YouTubers Sameer MD, Ajay and Dinesh, among others, alleging that they orchestrated a campaign against Dharmasthala. The petition also mentions multilingual actor Prakash Raj. In an explosive allegation, Chinnayya claimed that after filing a complaint with the police regarding the skull, he was taken to a resort in Kerala. There, he alleged, he was handed a phone during a call with actor Prakash Raj. The petition further states that Mahesh Shetty Timarodi and Girish Mattannavar allegedly instructed him to identify locations at Banglegudda for excavation so that government funds would be spent on the exercise.

Chinnayya claimed that he was told the overall plan involved a budget of Rs 200 crore and that he would receive Rs 50 lakh if he cooperated in efforts to have Veerendra Heggade imprisoned. According to the petition, Prakash Raj spoke to him in Tamil and allegedly told him to make statements as instructed by Girish Mattannavar. Chinnayya further claimed that he was told the actor would meet him on the 29th and embrace him. He also alleged that after the Karnataka government constituted an SIT, those involved celebrated, saying the time had come to send Dharmadhikari Veerendra



Heggade to jail. He alleged that Timarodi, Mattannavar, Vitthal Gowda, Jayant and the YouTubers directed him to point out specific locations to the SIT and threatened to kill his wife if he failed to comply. However, he stated that no human remains were found at those sites. According to the petition, Vitthal Gowda introduced Chinnayya to Mahesh Shetty Timarodi. He alleged that he was instructed to claim that numerous bodies had been buried in Dharmasthala and that thousands of corpses were hidden there. Chinnayya further stated that Girish Mattannavar, Vitthal Gowda, Ganesh and others took him to several places, including locations in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and periodically paid him amounts ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000.

He alleged that he was later taken to Jayant's residence in Bengaluru, where he was handed a human skull, asked to hold it, and photographed. He claimed that he was subsequently taken to a lawyer's office and made to sign documents. Chinnayya further stated that Girish Mattannavar and advocate Sujatha Bhat took him to the Supreme Court in New Delhi. According to the petition, he was later taken to Ujire and kept at the residence of Mahesh Shetty Timarodi. He alleged that he was compelled to perform domestic and agricultural work, including massaging Timarodi and Mattannavar, and working on their farmland. Chinnayya claimed that he was threatened with death and burial if he failed to make statements in court as instructed by lawyers.

The petitioner also alleged that videos were recorded on the YouTube channels run by Sameer MD and Ajay, where he was made to repeat statements dictated to him. He claimed that he was promised a cheque of Rs 5 lakh for the construction of a house. Claiming that he became fearful due to what he described as a conspiracy against Dharmasthala, Chinnayya said he eventually decided to reveal the truth and gave a statement before the SIT detailing the alleged plot. The petitioner has contended that despite his statement to the SIT, no action has been taken against those he accused of orchestrating the conspiracy. He has therefore sought directions from the High Court to the state government and the SIT to take appropriate action.

## Raghava Lawrence announces potential political entry, asks fans to decide his path

Chennai: Expressing his desire to enter politics, actor, choreographer, and filmmaker Raghava Lawrence on Friday asked his fans and the general public for their input on whether he should take the political plunge. Taking to his social media handles to post a video detailing his political aspirations, Lawrence said, "Do your duty sincerely, without expecting anything in return. I need your advice and guidance. I never imagined entering politics, nor do I have any intention of earning money or seeking power. My only thought was that if someone I believed in and was close to entered politics, I would stand by them and work alongside them to serve society on a larger scale than I was already doing as an individual." He went on to add, "Today, circumstances have brought me to a point where I need to enter politics." The actor explained that in the video, he spoke directly from the heart with complete honesty and transparency about his understanding of politics, how it entered his life, his mother's perspective on public service, and a few key incidents that shaped his journey. "I request you to watch the video till the end and share your thoughts with me. Your advice and guidance mean a lot to me as I take this important step with all your blessings," he said. In the 18-minute clip, Lawrence emphasized his core philosophy: "Do your duty sincerely, without expecting its reward." To illustrate this, he narrated a story about a wealthy man who had two servants to clean his room. While one focused entirely on performing his duty diligently, the other constantly flattered the boss. Lawrence concluded the story by highlighting how the servant who simply did his work was the one rewarded handsomely.

He then detailed his extensive philanthropic activities before revealing that he



had initially prepared to enter politics alongside Rajinikanth, when the superstar first announced his political ambitions. However, Lawrence decided against it at the time because his mother was opposed to the move. "When I pointed out to her that I could help more children if I entered politics, my mother said, 'You help with the money you have now. We don't need to enter politics.'" Lawrence then recalled that Rajinikanth's health subsequently suffered, leading to the veteran actor's exit from the political arena. The filmmaker added that he reconsidered entering politics when actor Vijay announced his political entry. Explaining that when he pointed out to his mother on the assembly election results day that people had voted overwhelmingly for Vijay—proving they would trust good people entering public life—he saw a smile on her face for the first time. The actor stated that his mother has now given him her blessings to enter politics. He concluded the video by asking, "I am asking my fans, whom I consider equal to my mother: You tell me, can I enter politics? Do I have the qualifications? Comment and let me know."

## Amol Parashar shares 'Gram Chikitsalay Season 2' highlights real and concerning issues in rural healthcare

Mumbai: Actor Amol Parashar has revealed that the new season of his popular show "Gram Chikitsalay" highlights real and concerning issues within rural healthcare. Amol, who plays the lead protagonist Dr. Prabhat in the series, said in a statement, "In the latest chapter, my character's journey in Bhatkandi moves forward in unexpected ways. He has experienced some good wins, but a whole new set of challenges comes his way." "What I love about this series is how it highlights some of the very real and concerning issues within rural healthcare, and how these are tackled with humour, warmth, humour and emotions, making the narrative relatable for audiences across all ages and regions." On Friday, the makers released the trailer of the second season on social media and wrote, "Bhatkandi jaane ke liye phirse taiyaar ho jaiye. #GramChikitsalayOnPrime, New Season, June 23." The trailer gives a glimpse of Dr. Prabhat (played by Amol Parashar) and his continued effort to revive the under-resourced Primary Health Centre in Bhatkandi. Also Read - Khader reviews health services in Dakshina Kannada Advertisement Discover more Hyderabad City News Health News Tips political Vinay Pathak, who plays the role of Chetan Kumar in the show, shared, "In the new season, the relationships grow deeper, the challenges become more layered, and the journey of these characters becomes even more engaging. I'm excited for audiences to return to this world and reconnect with the entire village." Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, as Dr. Gargi, mentioned, "The latest season gives a fresh look at rural healthcare, village poli-

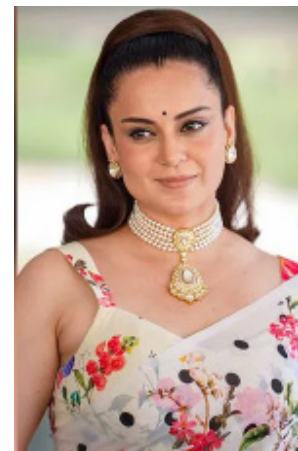


tics, and the everyday challenges people face. My character is grounded and ambitious, but she also understands what is possible and what is not in the situations she deals with. What I like most about my character is that she is bold and not afraid to speak her mind. It was wonderful to be part of a story once again that feels so real while still being entertaining and inspiring." Politics Also Read - Amol Parashar says 'strong theatre culture' is London's crown jewel Dinesh Lal Yadav, who plays the character of Babu Saheb, shared, "I had watched Gram Chikitsalay's season one when it had launched and really admired how beautifully it was made. The rural setting with the daily struggles, the close-knit community dynamics, lack of trust towards outsiders, was shown honestly but in a light-hearted manner. What I love most about this series is that it highlights real challenges, but in a way that makes you smile, laugh and also think." Directed by Lalitam Tiwari and written by Vaibhav Suman and Shreya Srivastava, "Gram Chikitsalay Season Two" features Amol Parashar, Akash Makhija, Anandeshwar Dwivedi, Vinay Pathak, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, Garima Vikrant Singh, and Dinesh Lal Yadav in lead roles. The show will premiere exclusively on Prime Video in Hindi across India and over 240 countries and territories worldwide on June 23.

## Kangana Ranaut on if high fee by actors adds to film losses

Mumbai: Actress and politician Kangana Ranaut shared her views on whether the high fees charged by lead actors contribute to film losses. During an exclusive conversation with IANS, Kangana said that when a film fails to perform commercially, every expense associated with the project comes under scrutiny. The 'Queen' actress compared it to a common household that tends to reduce their spending when income falls. Kangana was also of the view that the film industry needs to evolve, keeping up with the volatile audience expectations and market realities. She told IANS, "When a film does not do well, the stakes will be very high. The way you used to spend money, if you don't have that much income, how much will you spend? So, having said that, I think films need to evolve. And the way society is evolving, the movies also need to keep evolving themselves." Meanwhile, Kangana's 'Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata' co-star Smita Tambe stressed the importance of relevance in

storytelling. She said that the stronger the connection between cinema and the common audience, the greater the attraction and impact a film can have. Pitching in, Smita added, "I always feel that every person looks for some relevance. In any story, anywhere. We seek relevance. Some place where we are visible. I feel that this exchange of relevance between the stories of cinema and the common audience, the more it evolves, it will become an attraction point for them." Citing an example of her upcoming drama, "Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata", she went on to add, "In the film, we see that every common woman, our mothers, nurses, or any other working class person, will be able to relate to it. So I feel that the more this relation evolves, the more the audience will come to us."



## Ryan Reynolds recalls being hit by a drunk driver at 18, says he broke every bone on his left side

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds recalled and shared new details of his experience being hit by a drunk driver when he was 18. "When I was 18, I left a bar and I'd had a beer," Reynolds shared in a GQ video with Welcome to Wrexham costar Rob Mac. hat "even if it's four blocks home, absolutely not" would he drive home after drinking. Despite that "firmly positive and wise decision," the star was still struck by a drunk driver while walking home, reports people.com. "I spent four weeks in the hospital," Reynolds recalled. "What? That's the first time I've heard that," Mac said with surprise. Reynolds said: "Oh, yeah, broke every bone in my left side. He hit me so hard, his car was not operational." Reynolds thanked the doctor at the Canadian hospital where he was treated "for putting me back together so kindly." The actor had previously discussed the accident in a 2011 interview with CTV News. Despite the injuries, Reynolds has taken on physically demanding roles, most notably in the Deadpool movies. In 2022,



he opened up about performing fewer stunts as he ages. "I think it's important to do as much of [the stunt work] yourself as you can, but I'll step aside when there's something that's just too gnarly and there's a trained professional ready to go," Reynolds told Variety at the time. The actor went on to joke, "You're not allowed to eat Advil like cereal." "Things start to hurt," Reynolds told Variety. "After I turned 35, being thrown onto cement wasn't hilarious anymore. It had been upgraded to hell." Reynolds' next movie, Mayday, opens on September 4. He also plays Deadpool again in the upcoming Avengers: Doomsday, which is set to open on December 18.

## Harshvardhan Rane on exam day nervousness: 'Five questions, 300 words each'

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Harshvardhan Rane is having pre-exam jitters as he shared that he has to answer five questions in two hours in a hot examination hall, with each response requiring a minimum of 300 words. Harshvardhan, who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (Honours), shared a time-lapse video of himself where he is seen studying and making notes. For the caption, he wrote: "kal 2 hours mein 5 questions answer karna hai in the hot exam hall, 300 words per answer, heart rate 49 beats per minute." The 42-year-old actor, who began his career with a stint on the small screen with the show Left Right Left, shot to stardom after his 2016 film Sanam Teri Kasam was re-released in 2025. The film, which was directed by Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, was a modern retelling of the legends of Shiva-Sati and novel Love Story by Eric Segal. The film featured Pakistani star Mawra Hocane with Anurag Sinha, Manish Chaudhari, Murli Sharma and Sudesh



Berry. The film told the story of Inder, an ex convict and a Telugu librarian, Saru. They fall in love and get married but a tragedy changes their lives forever. He gained major fandom after he was seen in playing an obsessive and emotionally unstable politician in Milap Zaveri's Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, which also stars Sonam Bajwa. The film told the story of a powerful politician who falls for a strong-willed superstar, their passionate romance quickly spirals into a dangerous game of obsession.

# Sindhu storms into semis; Tanvi crashes out



Sydney: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu stormed into the women's singles semi-finals of the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a commanding straight-game victory, here on Friday. The third-seeded Indian outclassed Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu 21-6, 21-9 in a one-sided quarter-final contest that lasted just 27 minutes. The former world champion Sindhu will next face top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, who ended the impressive run of Indian teenager Tanvi Sharma with a 21-14, 21-14 victory in 32 minutes. Sindhu incidentally holds a narrow 15-13 head-to-head advantage over the world No. 3 Japanese. Sindhu dominated proceedings from the outset, using her superior reach and court coverage to keep her opponent under

constant pressure. She raced through the opening game before maintaining the momentum in the second to seal her place in the last-four. The semi-final appearance marks a significant boost for Sindhu, who has endured an inconsistent season and has been searching for rhythm on the BWF World Tour and is in search for her first title since Syed Modi International in December 2024.

Earlier, Sindhu had defeated compatriot Isharani Baruah in the pre-quarterfinals to advance to the last-eight. But the Indian men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun exited in the quarterfinals after conceding their match while trailing 19-21 9-16 against Chen Cheng Kuan and Liu Kuang Heng of Chinese Taipei.

# Kane Williamson announces retirement from international cricket

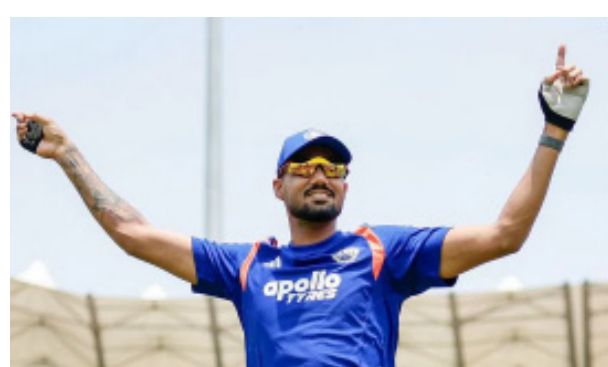
Christchurch/London: New Zealand's batting maestro Kane Williamson on Friday announced his retirement from international cricket after a glorious career spanning more than 15 years. This move marks the end of an era in New Zealand cricket across all three formats of the game, following his earlier decision to step away from T20 Internationals in 2025. "I've thought about it for a while, but over the last few days it's become clear now is the right time. I've always felt a strong drive and hunger for international cricket, and I take pride in knowing I've given it my all in every match I've played for New Zealand," Williamson said in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket. "Continuing with anything less wouldn't be right and I feel fortunate to step away on my own terms," he added. The 35-year finishes as New Zealand's all-time leading international run-scorer across all formats with 19,346 runs, including over



9500 runs in Test cricket with 33 centuries and six double tons. "One of our greatest ever, signing off. Kane Williamson has announced his retirement from international cricket effective immediately," the NZC said. Williamson is currently in England for an ongoing Test series and the Kiwis lost the opening match by 115 runs.

# Pathan Backs Brar's Height and Kishan's Utility for 2027 World Cup Campaign

New Delhi: Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan believes the selectors have already started planning for the Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 in South Africa, with the inclusion of players capable of thriving in conditions that offer pace, bounce and movement. Speaking ahead of India's first ODI against Afghanistan, Pathan said the selection of tall left-arm pacer Gurnoor Brar reflects the team's long-term vision for the World Cup in South Africa. "Gurnoor Brar has been selected because the Indian management wants a bowler who can exploit the pace and bounce expected on South African pitches in the 2027 World Cup," Pathan told Jio Hotstar. "Standing at 6 feet 5 inches, he gets natural extra bounce. That will be a big advantage in those conditions," he added. Pathan also highlighted



the importance of having batters who can counter steep bounce and identified Ishan Kishan as a valuable multi-dimensional option in the ODI setup. "Along with good bowlers, you also need batters who can handle bounce. Ishan Kishan fits that role perfectly. He plays the short ball well, scores square of the wicket, and can serve as a backup opener, a backup at number three behind Virat, and a backup wicketkeeper," he said.

# Rugby Premier League season 2 kicks off in Hyderabad with star-studded Hyderabad Heroes

Hyderabad: Rugby India President and League Commissioner Rahul Bose says the second edition of the Rugby Premier League, to be held here from June 16 at Gachibowli Stadium, will be a game-changer, giving a new direction and fillip to the sport in India. Speaking at the unveiling of the Hyderabad Heroes jersey here on Thursday, Rahul said this is for a simple reason: the League features some of the legends of the sport, including Spanish superstar Manuel Moreno (Heroes captain), Heroes head coach and World Rugby Hall of Famer DJ Forbes, India's vice-captain Sumit Kumar Roy, Kevin Wekesa, Regan Ware, Maurice Longbottom, Francisco Cosculluela, Wolfram Hacker, Ravuama Seruvakula, Diego Ardao, Taitaifono Senio Tavita, Sambit Pradhan, Shivam Shukla, Rajan Rawat, and K. Muhammed Anes. "To be



honest, some of these legends have the stature of Ronaldos and Messis of football. It's a great platform for Indian players to keep looking ahead, and the sport itself has been gaining immense popularity, especially in second-tier cities," Rahul Bose said. "This is not a League featuring faded stars but some of the finest players the sport has seen worldwide. The whole world is looking at India because of this RPL, which is not just for die-hard fans but for newcomers to the sport too," the Rugby India chief added.

# Warangal Warriors unveil grassroots cricket vision and talent development roadmap



Hyderabad: Warangal Warriors, a franchise in the TG20 League organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association, has unveiled an ambitious long-term vision and grassroots sports development roadmap. Mr. Naini Rajender Reddy, MLA, Warangal West; Mrs. Chahat Bajpai, IAS, Collector, Hanumakonda, and Commissioner, GWMC; Karnati Varun Reddy, IAS, CMD, TGNPDCL; Sunpreet Singh, IPS, Commissioner, Hanumakonda; and co-owners of Warangal Warriors — Varun Jupally, Phani Chitneni and Dheeraj Induru — graced the occasion. Backed by M/s Bain Global Resources Pvt. Ltd., Warangal Warriors is one of the eight founding franchises of the TG20 Cricket League.

The franchise unveiled a bold vision anchored in creating the ultimate talent pipeline, building a seamless pathway from grassroots cricket to the highest level by scouting, mentoring and developing young talent from Telangana, with the ul-

time goal of producing future IPL and India players. The Warriors also announced plans to invest in world-class sporting facilities and training ecosystems in Warangal to provide local athletes with opportunities that rival the best in the country. The franchise outlined its competitive TG20 campaign strategy and highlighted its formidable squad, led by marquee signing Mohammed Siraj, alongside Aman Rao Perala and other promising cricketers, ahead of the much-anticipated TG20 League season. "While securing a player of Mohammed Siraj's stature demonstrates our intent to compete at the highest level, our larger mission is to leave a lasting legacy. We aspire to build a sustainable talent pipeline and world-class sporting infrastructure that will inspire and enable generations of young athletes from Warangal and Telangana to dream bigger, compete stronger, and one day wear the Indian jersey with pride," the franchise said in a media release.

# Telangana para athletes demand recognition, infrastructure, and sports quota inclusion



Hyderabad: The Para Sports Association of Telangana (PSAT) expressed concern that, despite Telangana's para athletes bringing pride to the state and the nation through outstanding performances and medal-winning achievements at national and international levels, they continue to face inadequate recognition, encouragement, and institutional support. In this regard, PSAT urged the Government of Telangana to immediately include para sports in the two per cent sports quota under GO Ms No. 74, create dedicated infrastructure for para athletes, ensure equal support and benefits, and ensure that all stadia have separate rooms and office facilities for the para sports wing. PSAT also suggested that TGpsc refrain from issuing new recruitment notifications

until the quota and infrastructure measures are in place. The association called on the government, sports authorities, media, and the public to recognize and celebrate para athletes' accomplishments. "With proper opportunities, encouragement, and support, para athletes can achieve even greater success at national and international levels and bring further glory to Telangana and India," it stated.

The meeting was attended by Singarapu Babu (President), Gadipalli Prashanth (General Secretary), Talari Sanjeevaiah (Advisor), Thalla Srinivas Reddy (Vice President), Amararapu Saidulu, Uppunut hula Raju, Ramavath Koti, Usakamalla Kalyan, Dheeravath Mahesh, Macherla Krishnaveni, Mounika, Shameer, Ramakrishna, and several other para athletes.

## Sensex, Nifty gain over 1 pc on lower crude prices and global optimism



Mumbai: Indian equity markets rose in morning session on Friday, following positive global market cues amid a fall in oil prices and reports that US President Donald Trump had cancelled plans to strike Iran, citing progress in talks. Sensex surged as much as 1.35 per cent or 1,000 points to touch an intraday high of 74,834 in early trade. Similarly, Nifty rose 1.26 per cent or about 300 points to 23,455. Sectorally, all indices traded in green. Nifty Realty emerged as the top performer, rising 2.51 per cent, followed by Nifty Auto, which gained 1.79 per cent. Nifty Private Bank and Nifty PSU Bank indices advanced 1.29 per cent and 1.45 per cent, respectively.

Other strong gainers included media, chemicals, consumer durables, oil & gas and cement. Nifty Metals also traded higher, gaining 0.92 per cent, while Nifty FMCG was up 0.71 per cent and pharma and broader healthcare indices gained up to 0.86 per cent. According to analysts, the near-term setup remains constructive, supported by strong global cues, sus-

tained domestic institutional buying, and improving sectoral breadth. However, they cautioned that the sustainability of the rally will depend on whether indices can hold above key resistance zones in the coming sessions. On the technical front, analysts noted the formation of an inverted hammer-like candlestick pattern, suggesting buying support at lower levels, though resistance continued to persist at higher zones. The RSI stood at 37.86. "Key support is seen in the 23,000–23,100 zone, while resistance is placed around 23,600–23,650," the experts said. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell roughly 3 per cent to \$85 per barrel, while international benchmark Brent crude declined 1.59 per cent to \$88.94 per barrel. Meanwhile, Asian markets extended gains, with the Nikkei rising more than 3 per cent, the Hang Seng surging 2 per cent, and the KOSPI advancing more than 8 per cent. Wall Street closed higher overnight, with the Nasdaq rising 2.54 per cent and the S&P 500 gaining 1.75 per cent.

## India restricts bulk sale of diesel, petrol at retail outlets for 90 days



New Delhi: India has imposed restrictions on the sale of motor spirit (petrol) and high-speed diesel (HSD) at retail fuel outlets, limiting bulk purchases and directing institutional and commercial users to source fuel through their dedicated consumer or captive pumps, according to an official government notification. The directive, aimed at curbing diversion of subsidised or retail-priced fuel, will remain in force for an initial period of up to 90 days unless withdrawn or modified by a separate order. Under the new rules, retail outlet dealers have been instructed not to sell more than 200 litres of high-speed diesel to any single customer or vehicle in a day. The order also bars the resale of diesel purchased from retail fuel stations, tightening oversight on bulk fuel movement. The government said the move is intended to ensure that fuel sold at retail pumps is primarily used by individual consumers, while large institutional and commercial buyers are required to procure their requirements through authorised channels. The restriction is expected to impact bulk fuel buyers and could influence demand patterns for oil marketing companies, including Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, which may see increased scrutiny of retail fuel distribution. Shares of

oil marketing companies are likely to remain in focus in the wake of the development. The move comes amid heightened volatility in global energy markets, as India continues to navigate supply-side pressures linked to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Fuel prices in the country have seen multiple upward revisions in recent weeks. Meanwhile, fuel prices have continued to rise. Petrol prices in Delhi have increased by Rs 4.75 per litre (around 5 per cent) since May 15, while diesel prices have risen by Rs 4.82 per litre (about 5.49 per cent), reflecting sustained pressure from global crude oil trends. The recent price increases follow an ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which has disrupted global shipping routes and tightened supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint handling nearly one-fifth of global oil trade.

The disruption has pushed crude oil prices higher in international markets. While most economies have quickly passed on rising costs to consumers, India has kept domestic fuel prices stable for an extended period. According to government officials, India remained the only major economy to hold fuel prices steady for the first 76 days of the Hormuz disruption before initiating adjustments.

## Tata Motors to increase prices of cars, SUVs by up to 1.5 pc from July 1

New Delhi: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd on Friday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicle portfolio, including both internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EV), by up to 1.5 per cent from July 1. "This price revision is being undertaken to partially offset the impact of rising input costs and sustained inflationary pressures," the company said in a regulatory filing. While Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles continues to absorb a significant portion of these increases, a part of the impact is being passed on to customers through this ad-



justment, the company stated. "The extent of the price increase will vary across models and variants, ensuring that the overall value proposition of each offering is maintained," it added.

## Rupee jumps 65 paise against US dollar as crude oil prices retreat

Mumbai: The rupee surged 65 paise to 95.20 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday as global crude oil prices retreated after US President Donald Trump indicated an imminent deal with Iran. A weaker greenback and positive sentiment at the domestic equity markets provided further boost to the local unit, according to forex traders. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.40 before rising further to 95.20 against the greenback. The rupee had plunged 60 paise to settle at 95.85 against the US dollar on Thursday.

"The rupee opened stronger on Friday, fuelled by a sharp retreat in global crude oil prices. This relief comes in the wake of statements from US President Donald Trump indicating an imminent deal with Iran and the cancellation of planned military strikes," Aamir Makda, Commodity & Currency Analyst, Commodity Technical Research, Choice Broking, said. "We expect the rupee... to maintain a positive bias between 95 and 95.30 throughout the day. While the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently rolled out a series of



aggressive measures to stimulate dollar inflows and defend the local currency, Thursday's slide below pre-intervention levels underscores the relentless pressure on the rupee," Makda said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.75, down 0.11 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.07 per cent at USD 89.41 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 921.30 points to 74,753.85, while Nifty surged 254.20 points to 23,417.25. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,987.09 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

## SpaceX IPO pricing lifts Elon Musk's net worth to around \$970 billion



New Delhi: Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX) — the Elon Musk-led rocket and satellite company — has priced its blockbuster initial public offering (IPO), pushing Musk's net worth to nearly \$970 billion and bringing him closer to becoming the world's first trillionaire, as per multiple reports. Reports claim that SpaceX priced its shares at \$135 apiece, raising about \$75 billion in what is being billed as the largest IPO in history and valuing the company at around \$1.77 trillion. The company is expected to begin trading on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol 'SPCX'. The IPO pricing is estimated to add roughly \$275 billion to Musk's wealth, taking his net worth to around \$970 billion. Musk's SpaceX holdings, including options, are valued at approximately \$688 billion at the IPO price. Regulatory filings showed that Musk beneficially owns 849.49 million Class A shares and 5.57 billion Class

B shares as of May 1, representing a combined holding of around 6.42 billion shares across both classes. Before completion of the offering, Musk controls about 85 per cent of the company's voting power through SpaceX's dual-class structure, under which Class B shares carry ten votes each compared with one vote for each Class A share. The filing also disclosed major insider holdings across the company's leadership and board. Founded by Musk in 2002, SpaceX has become one of the world's most prominent aerospace companies through its Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy reusable rockets, Dragon spacecraft and Starship launch programme. The company has also expanded through its satellite internet business, Starlink. The listing is expected to mark a watershed moment for public markets and could trigger a fresh wave of mega technology IPOs in the coming months.

## CM calls for 'My Nation, My Responsibility' as NDA marks two years in AP

TIRUPATI: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called upon people to work with the spirit of 'My Nation – My Responsibility' and reaffirm their commitment to welfare, development and good governance. Addressing a massive public meeting titled 'Two Years of Trust – Welfare and Development' in Tirupati on Friday, organised to mark the completion of two years of the NDA government in the state, he said the government had worked relentlessly to rebuild the state despite inheriting a severe crisis. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, BJP State president PVN Madhav, Union Ministers K Rammohan Naidu and Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, State Minister Nara Lokesh, other ministers, MPs, MLAs and NDA leaders. Naidu said the people had given a historic mandate to the NDA alliance in 2024 with a 57 per cent vote share and 164 Assembly seats. He said the alliance treated the victory not as a political achievement but as a responsibility entrusted by the people for the reconstruction of Andhra Pradesh. **Politics Also Read - Mission Rayalaseema to be a national model, says Nara Lokesh Advertisement** "We neither became complacent after the victory nor got discouraged by the condition of the

state. We chose to serve the people as public servants, not rulers," Naidu said. The Chief Minister alleged that the previous government had left the state burdened with debts and weakened institutions. He said the NDA government released seven white papers after assuming office to place facts before the public and took steps to restore governance, law and order, and investor confidence. Highlighting the support extended by the Centre, Naidu said the Union government had stood by Andhra Pradesh on key issues such as Polavaram, Amaravati, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the Railway Zone. He congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 12 years in office and credited him with accelerating national development through infrastructure expansion, poverty alleviation and landmark projects such as Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan. Listing the achievements of his government, Naidu said welfare schemes and manifesto promises were being implemented steadily. Pensions worth Rs 65,000 crore had been distributed under NTR Bharosa, while schemes such as Talliki Vandanam, free bus travel for women and Annadata Sukhibhava had benefited lakhs of families. The government was also providing support to various occu-



pational groups, including toddy tappers, temple priests, imams and other traditional workers.

The Chief Minister said the government had filled 15,941 teacher posts through the Mega DSC and recruited 5,757 police constables. He added that pending dues of Rs.21,000 crore to employees had been cleared within 23 months. On development, Naidu said the state was regaining investor confidence through industry-friendly policies and faster approvals. He announced that large-scale investments were being attracted to sectors such as defence, aerospace, drones, information technology and manufacturing. He said Rayalaseema would be

transformed into a horticulture hub through projects worth Rs.1 lakh crore and would emerge as a centre for mineral-based industries. Naidu also outlined plans to strengthen irrigation infrastructure, improve land records, reduce administrative hurdles and maintain affordable electricity. He said the NDA government was working with a clear blueprint for Andhra Pradesh's future and urged all elected representatives to remember that they were servants of the people. The Chief Minister concluded saying that the government remained committed to achieving the goals of welfare, development and transparent governance while moving towards the vision of 'Swarna Andhra Pradesh 2047'.

## Police detains Kethireddy Pedda Reddy in Tadipatri, tension grips

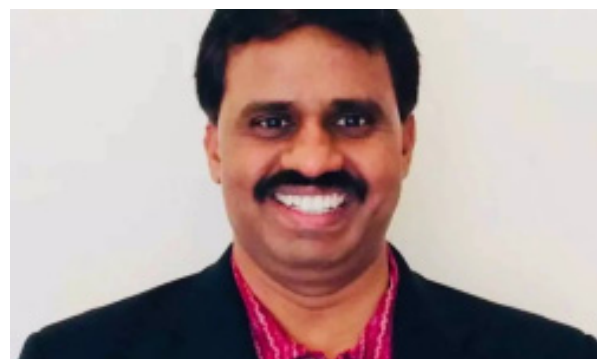
Police took Kethireddy Pedda Reddy into custody. A tense atmosphere has prevailed in Tadipatri, Anantapur district, since this morning as Kethireddy Pedda Reddy arrived at his residence in Tadipatri today after a year-long absence to attend YSRCP protest programs. Upon learning of his arrival, the police asked him not to stay at his home. Tensions escalated as TDP activists and former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy headed towards Kethireddy's residence. Anticipating a potential confrontation, the police took Kethireddy Pedda Reddy into custody. Kethireddy Pedda Reddy had made controversial remarks during the Assembly elections. Consequently, TDP



leaders have been preventing him from visiting Tadipatri for some time. The police detained Kethireddy Pedda Reddy at his Tadipatri residence. They stated that the move was a precautionary measure to prevent any law-and-order issues in the district.

## Raghava Reddy of NATA in legal soup in US

If the reports are to be believed, NATA leader Raghava Reddy Ghosala is facing serious legal issues in the United States as federal court documents reveal that a criminal case has been filed against him in the Northern District of California (San Jose Division). According to court records, the case is registered as United States of America v. Raghava Reddy Ghosala under case number 5:26-cr-00212-NW. It was filed on May 5, 2026. The documents state that Ghosala has been charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, which are serious federal charges. Another significant detail is that prosecutors have informed the court of a connection between Ghosala's case and a previously filed criminal case against Venkateswara Kalluri. Kalluri also faced charges of wire fraud and conspiracy to defraud the United States in that case. According to a notice filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office, both cases are alleged to involve the same conspiracy related to wire fraud. The documents indicate that this conspiracy began as early as January 2018 and continued until January 2024. The prosecution informed the court that these cases involve the same individuals and similar incidents. It was further noted that assigning all these cases to a single judge would be beneficial—



particularly during the sentencing phase—to avoid duplication of work and conserve judicial resources. Ghosala is scheduled to appear in court next on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 1:00 PM. This upcoming court appearance has sparked intense discussion within the Telugu community. While some speculate that Ghosala could face arrest depending on the court proceedings, others believe a settlement or legal agreement might have already been reached. However, there is currently no official confirmation regarding any of these speculations. At this stage, available court documents merely confirm the filing of the criminal case, the charges involved, and the link established by prosecutors to the previously filed Kalluri case. Given Ghosala's association with 'NATA', the matter has drawn the attention of the Telugu community in the United States. As this involves a promi-

## Vizag marine engineer among 3 Indians killed off Oman coast

Visakhapatnam: Just days before his 15th wedding anniversary, a 44-year-old marine Chief Engineer Patnala Suresh was killed in the US strike on the merchant vessel MT Settebello off Oman coast. Based in Sriharipuram, Visakhapatnam, he was among the three Indian crew members killed in the attack on June 10. National Politics Updates Suresh was serving as Chief Engineer aboard the vessel. And the ship reportedly came under attack while carrying 24 Indian crew members. Of the 24 crew members, 21 were rescued, while three were reported missing. Officials at Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi said they are in touch with the Embassy of India in Muscat and other authorities to facilitate assistance to the bereaved families and expedite the repatriation process. In Visakhapatnam, Suresh's wife Bhargavi is in a state of shock and inconsolable while she has recounted the anxious moments when she received a message informing that her husband went missing along with two other crew members. "Last night, they called and informed me that a drone attack had taken place on the ship where my husband was working and that three Indian crew members were missing. My husband was among them," distraught Bhargavi recalled, mentioning that their wedding anniversary falls on June 24th. When she managed to contact the officials concerned, she was informed that a rescue operation was in progress. "They told me that 21 crew members had been rescued but three were missing. Later, I learned that the bodies of the other two crew members had been recovered and identified, while my husband was still missing," Bhargavi in-



formed. Search operations continued through the night before the family was informed on Thursday afternoon that Suresh's body had been recovered. "I have requested them to complete all necessary formalities and coordinate with the embassy as early as possible. More than 24 hours have passed since the incident," Bhargavi lamented. Recalling her final conversation with her husband on June 9, a day before the devastating attack occurred, she said, "We spoke for about five minutes. He sounded distressed and told me that the situation was not good and was eagerly looking forward to coming home. It was only with sheer passion that Suresh was into marine engineering. Since he died on duty, the shipping company he worked for the past 13 years should take the responsibility of my two sons" According to family members, Suresh had spent nearly five months at sea and was preparing to return home. He had already received his relieving letter and was awaiting the arrival of a replacement crew member before disembarking and reuniting with his family. The Embassy of India in Muscat is coordinating with local authorities, the shipping company and the Ministry of External Affairs regarding identification procedures, documentation and repatriation. Taking to 'X', Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal expressed condolences and stated that the mortal remains of the three deceased Indian sailors would be brought back to India at the earliest.