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Telangana Governor, CM Revanth Reddy urge people to join fight against drug abuse

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy appealed to people to help eliminate drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Telangana. They urged citizens, especially the youth, to adopt healthy lifestyles and support efforts to build a drug-free society.

Hyderabad: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday called upon people to join hands in preventing drug abuse and to promote a healthy society.

In a message on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Shukla said drug abuse is extremely harmful to individuals, families and society, and urged people, especially youth, to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

He said all citizens should join the endeavour to realise 'Drug-free Telangana - Drug-free India'.

Observing that narcotics not only destroy individuals and families but also cause law and order problems, the chief minister stressed on social responsibility and alertness of citizens



to check drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

He called upon people to make efforts to promote positive thoughts among youth and to join the mission to make Telangana drug-free. Telangana Legislative Assembly

Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar flagged off a 2k run in the district headquarters town of Vikarabad to mark the occasion.

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Sanjay Jaju Appointed Telangana Chief Secretary

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has appointed Sanjay Jaju as the new Chief Secretary to the state.

According to G.O.Rt. No. 911 issued by the General Administration (Spl-A) Department on June 26, 2026, the 1992-batch IAS officer will take over from K. Ramakrishna Rao, who is set to retire from service on June 30.

The appointment will come into effect following the retirement of the incumbent Chief Secretary.

On Tuesday, Jaju was relieved from Central deputation and repatriated



to his parent cadre.

Jaju has had one of the longest stints in Central services among Telangana cadre officers, lasting nearly 13 years. During this period, he held several key assignments, including secretary in the Union ministry of information and broadcasting. Ahead of his repatriation, he as secretary, ministry of development of north-eastern region (DoNER).

Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre serves as model for Meghalaya: CM Conrad Sangma

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma praised the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre after visiting the Hyderabad facility, calling it an excellent model for technology-driven governance and efficient public service delivery that other states, including Meghalaya, can emulate.

Shillong: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre serves as an excellent model for the northeastern state amid efforts to leverage technology to improve governance and citizen service delivery.

Sangma, who visited the facility in Hyderabad on Thursday, said he was impressed by the systems in place and the seamless coordination among various departments.

"Impressed by the systems and seamless coordination at the Telangana Integrated Command & Control Centre in Hyderabad. Among the country's leading IC&CCs, it demonstrates how technology, data, and inter-departmental collaboration can come together to deliver more efficient and responsive public ser-



vices," he said in a social media post.

"The Centre serves as an excellent model for states across India, including Meghalaya, as we work towards leveraging technology to improve governance and citizen service delivery. Glad to have witnessed its functioning firsthand and to learn from its best practices," Sangma added.

No US Deal Sans Benefits: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: India and the United States reviewed the progress of the interim bilateral trade agreement (BTA) during a two-day ministerial meeting, discussing issues, including market access, digital trade and non-tariff barriers. While the two countries appear closer than ever to sealing the first phase of the trade deal, neither side gave any indication whether all differences have been resolved ahead of a key tariff deadline next month.

Multiple rounds of discussions were held on both Tuesday and Wednesday between commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and



US trade representative Jamieson Greer. Both India and the US aim to conclude the trade pact before the expiry of the 10 per cent temporary tariffs imposed by the US on all its trading partners on February 24. The tariffs will expire on July 24.

The commerce ministry, in an official statement, said that "recognising the growing significance of the India-US economic partnership amid evolving global trade dynamics, both sides reiterated their shared goal of expanding bilateral trade, fostering innovation, and building resilient, trusted supply chains".

"The discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone towards a comprehensive BTA. The two leaders conducted a comprehensive review of core elements, including enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors," the ministry said.

As per the ministry, the two sides expressed confidence that ongoing negotiations will further deepen economic ties and strengthen the comprehensive global strategic partnership between India and the US. "Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to an agreement that is balanced, commercially meaningful, and delivers tangible benefits for businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers in both countries," the ministry said.

Soon after the meeting, Mr Goyal, in a post on X, said that he reviewed the progress of the ongoing India-US trade discussions and explored avenues to further deepen our economic partnership. "I appreciate Mr Greer's leadership and the sustained efforts of both teams in advancing our discussions in a constructive and forward-looking manner," he said.

Amidst the bilateral trade talks, a senior US official also said that the United States and India are "very, very close" to concluding a historic bilateral trade deal that will open the 1.4 billion-strong Indian markets to American goods on reciprocal and mutually beneficial terms. "We're not measuring the relationship by meeting. We're measuring it by results..." US deputy assistant secretary of state Bethany Poulos Morrison said in a social media post.

Industrialists will have a dedicated day every week, assures Bhatti

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced that he would dedicate every Friday to meeting MSME associations and representatives of the industrial sector to discuss their issues and suggestions. Geographic Reference

He said industrial growth was about improving people's livelihoods rather than just attracting investments. The State government's vision was to ensure that Ease of Doing Business benefits not only large companies but also small industries, women entrepreneurs and rural entrepreneurs.

"To achieve this, meetings will be conducted every Friday with industry representatives," he



said.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo 2026 at HITECH on Friday.

He stated that Telangana had earned the confidence of investors and witnessed robust industrial growth since the formation of the State. Hyderabad has gained global recognition in the IT, phar-

maceuticals and life sciences sectors. However, he emphasised that the State's growth should not remain confined to the services sector.

"There is a need to increase the contribution of industry, particularly MSMEs, to the State's GDP. Manufacturing plays a vital role in employment generation and strengthening the rural economy," Bhatti Vikramarka said.

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that the government has set a target of generating 34 GW of solar power by 2035. Despite the State's peak power demand rising from 15,000 MW to 18,500 MW over the past two and a half years, Telangana has ensured uninterrupted, quality power supply without any power cuts, he added.

AP Begins New Chapter in Mining With Jonnagiri Gold Biscuits

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh has opened a new chapter in its mining and industrial history with the first commercially available gold produced from Jonnagiri Gold Fields in Kurnool district making its way to the bullion market.

The launch of the indigenous 24-carat gold biscuits, produced by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd. from the ore extracted at Jonnagiri, is being hailed as a landmark achievement for the state and a significant step towards strengthening India's domestic gold production.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu formally handed over the first batch of Geomysore's gold biscuits to prominent busi-

nessmen from the Kurnool region on June 24. Jonnagiri gold biscuits are currently available at select jewellery outlets in Kurnool's renowned Sharaf Bazaar near the historic Kondareddy Buruju.

The gold biscuits have been introduced in three denominations — 50 grams, 100 grams, and 500 grams. The larger 500-gram biscuit has attracted particular attention for its distinctive design featuring the map of Andhra Pradesh, along with the inscription "Jonnagiri Gold Mine" and the hallmark "999", signifying 99.9 per cent purity.

Certified as 24-carat gold, the biscuit is currently valued at over ₹75 lakh.



Jewellery traders say the smaller denominations got sold out within days of reaching the market, reflecting their strong demand and AP investors eager to own gold sourced from the state's own soil.

Industry representatives reveal that nearly 100 kilograms of gold has already been produced, although supplies are yet to be streamlined for large-scale distribution.

Local jewellers described the launch of

Jonnagiri gold as a historic moment, underlining that its quality matches imported bullion of international standards. They point out that India has traditionally depended heavily on imported gold. Increased domestic pro-

duction could help reduce import dependence, conserve valuable foreign exchange reserves, and contribute to the national economy.

Despite being mined and processed within the country, Jonnagiri gold, however, attracts the same duties, taxes, and GST applicable to imported bullion. As a result, there is no immediate price advantage for buyers. Yet, industry experts believe its long-term significance lies in strengthening domestic sourcing and enhancing self-reliance in the precious metals' sector.

The development has revived the demand for a Special Economic Zone or dedicated jewellery cluster in Kurnool district.

Business leaders point out that Kurnool region is uniquely positioned to emerge as a major gems and jewellery manufacturing hub, with gold sourced from Jonnagiri and diamonds from the nearby Vajrakarur belt.

The SEZ or cluster could create large-scale employment opportunities for goldsmiths, artisans, and workers, while accelerating economic growth across Rayalaseema.

Traders estimate that between 3,000 and 4,000 families in Kurnool depend directly or indirectly on the jewellery trade. With Andhra Pradesh now producing its own gold, Jonnagiri could become a catalyst for industrial expansion and a symbol of economic aspirations of the state being fulfilled.

AP CM Naidu To Inspect Veligonda Works, Launch Sanjeevani Drive

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will undertake a day-long visit to Markapuram district on Saturday to inspect the Veligonda Project, interact with beneficiaries and launch the Sanjeevani digital healthcare programme in Giddalur constituency. The visit comes as the government is targeting completion of the first phase of the Veligonda Project by July.

Naidu will inspect project works in Yerragondapalem constituency before attending programmes in Giddalur. The Veligonda Project is expected to provide irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres and drinking water to nearly 15.25 lakh people across 30 mandals in Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts. It is also expected to help address the region's long-standing fluoride contamination problem. Under Stage I, the project will provide irrigation to 1.19 lakh acres and drinking water to four lakh people, while Stage II will extend irrigation to 3.28 lakh acres and drinking water to 11.25 lakh people. More than Rs 5,000 crore has been spent on Stage I works.

Excavation of the nearly 19-km Tunnel-I, the exit channel and the link channel has been completed, while work on head regulators, tunnel lining, the approach channel and the eastern main canal is nearing completion. The government has also spent Rs 190 crore



on rehabilitation and resettlement for families displaced from 11 villages affected by the project. Naidu will interact with beneficiaries after inspecting the works. Later, the Chief Minister will launch the Sanjeevani programme at the Krishnamsettipalli Primary Health Centre in Giddalur constituency. Developed under the

Healthy Andhra Pradesh mission, Sanjeevani is an integrated digital healthcare platform linking sub-centres, primary health centres, district hospitals and super-specialty hospitals.

The platform will integrate services including non-communicable disease screening, maternal and child healthcare, 108 emergency services, 104

mobile medical units and e-Aushadhi. It also offers online appointments, digital health records, virtual consultations, follow-up care and AI-enabled health monitoring.

The programme was piloted in Kuppam in July 2025 and later expanded to Chittoor district. Following its rollout in Giddalur, the government plans to implement it across the state from August 15. According to the official schedule, Naidu will arrive at Ghantavanipalle in Dornala mandal at 10.45 am, inspect the Veligonda Project until 12.20 pm, and later visit Krishnamsettipalli to interact with beneficiaries, address a public meeting and review party organisational matters before returning to Amaravati.

Teachers Must Lead Educational Transformation: Lokesh

Vijayawada: Calling teachers the 'true leaders of social transformation', education minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday urged educators to emerge as "change-makers" and help build an Andhra Pradesh Model of Education that can compete with global standards. Addressing 37 outstanding teachers who recently returned from a study tour of Singapore, Lokesh said the state government viewed teachers as leaders and would extend special recognition to those who achieve exceptional results through dedication and hard work. The interaction was held at his residence in Undavalli, where the teachers shared insights gained during the Singapore visit and dis-



ussed possibilities of AP adapting the best practices of the Singapore system. Education commissioner Tameem Ansariya, SCERT director Venkata Krishna Reddy and other officials attended the meeting. Lokesh said education was the most powerful instrument for bringing about societal change and explained that he had chosen to head the education portfolio with a commitment and determination to build a world-class education system.

He noted that the department would play a crucial role in achieving the state's Swarna Andhra vision and in introducing advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing into mainstream education. Recalling his own academic experience at Stanford University, Lokesh said exposure to students from more than 100 countries had helped him appreciate the value of sharing ideas, knowledge and cultures. He urged teachers trained abroad to take the lead in implementing innovative practices at school, cluster and mandal levels and to mentor fellow educators.

Emphasising the importance of the teacher-student-subject relationship, the minister said education reforms required patience and sustained effort. While the government had focused significantly on infrastructure, equal attention must now be paid to academic quality and learning outcomes, he said. Highlighting the impact of recent reforms, Lokesh revealed that more than one lakh students had shifted from private schools to government schools this academic year. He described the trend as a strong endorsement of the public education system and asserted that government school teachers were second to none.

The entire country, he claimed, is discussing AP's education reforms. "We should no longer compare ourselves with other states alone but compete with the best education systems in the world." Lokesh also pointed to the introduction of a Teacher Transfer Act, which ensured transparent promotions based on seniority and eliminated the scope for recommendations and lobbying.

Minister Anitha Urges Youth To Stay Away From Drugs

Vijayawada: Home and disaster management minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Friday said protecting young people from the growing drug menace was vital to safeguarding the future of the state and the country.

Addressing a programme organised at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, she reaffirmed the government's commitment to building a drug-free Andhra Pradesh through strict enforcement and public awareness.

Anitha said nearly 3.5 to 4 crore people across the country were addicted to ganja and other narcotic substances, with adolescents aged 13 to 18 increasingly falling prey to addiction. She said 60 to 70 per cent of drug users were introduced to drugs through peer influence and urged students to stay away from such associations.

Warning that possession, consumption or transportation of narcotic substances attracts stringent punishment under the NDPS Act, including imprisonment, the Minister said the Centre and the state government were jointly implementing anti-drug campaigns to prevent addiction among youth.

Highlighting the work of the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE), she said the 450-member force had curbed ganja cultivation and trafficking, eradicated large-scale cultivation in agency areas and acted against



hash oil manufacturing units.

Women, child welfare, differently-abled and senior citizens welfare secretary A. Suryakumari described drug abuse as a growing threat and urged people to report drug-related activities through EAGLE, its toll-free helplines or the emergency number 112.

Twenty-Point programme implementation committee chairman Lanka Dinakar and EAGLE SP K. Nagesh Kumar also addressed the programme. The Minister later visited awareness stalls and took part in a "Say No to Drugs" signature campaign.

VIJAYAWADA DIVISION EYES HIGHER FREIGHT GROWTH

Vijayawada: The Vijayawada division of South Coast Railway organised a Business Development Meet with major freight customers on Friday to strengthen industry partnerships, improve logistics efficiency and explore new freight opportunities.

The meeting was chaired by divisional railway manager Mohit Sonakiya in the presence of principal chief operations Manager Vineet Kumar and principal chief commercial manager K. Sambasiva Rao. Representatives of 34 industries dealing in coal, fertilisers, cement, foodgrains, alumina powder, laterite and other bulk commodities attended the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Sonakiya urged customers to identify new freight streams and make use of the division's expanding freight infra-



structure. He stressed innovation, stakeholder engagement and stronger public-private partnerships to sustain freight growth.

Senior divisional commercial manager B. Prasantha Kumar pre-

sented the division's freight performance and highlighted customer-centric initiatives, including dynamic freight pricing, lean-season concessions, terminal upgrades, the GatiShakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal Policy-2026, TEFD rebate schemes and expansion of Electronic In-Motion Weighbridges.

Vineet Kumar assured customers of adequate wagon and locomotive availability while emphasising faster wagon turnaround and improved terminal productivity. Sambasiva Rao stressed the need for regular interaction between railway officials and customers to resolve operational issues.

Customers were also advised to install CCTV surveillance systems at freight terminals and integrate them with railway monitoring platforms to enhance safety.

India's First Hydrogen Train Clears Final Trial

New Delhi: India's first hydrogen-powered train successfully completed its final high-speed trial on the Jind-Sonapat section in Haryana on Friday, marking a key step towards cleaner rail transport.



The train was tested at a top speed of 120 kmph on the Northern Railway route, with the successful run seen as a precursor to its entry into passenger service after completion of regulatory and operational formalities.

Developed as part of Indian Railways' strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, the train uses hydrogen fuel-cell technology, which generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water vapour.

The Jind-Sonapat section was selected as the pilot route for testing under real operating conditions. Supporting infrastructure, including hydrogen production, storage and refuelling facilities, has been set up at Jind.

Railways officials said the train is equipped with safety systems such as hydrogen leak detectors, flame detection equipment and continuous monitoring mechanisms to ensure safe operations.

The successful trial places India among a group of countries working on hydrogen-powered trains, as part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable transport.

Developed as part of Indian Railways' strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, the train uses hydrogen fuel-cell technology, which generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, emitting only water vapour.

New Police Station Construction Progresses Rapidly in Manuguru

DSP V. Ravinder Reddy Inspects Ongoing Works Directs Officials to Ensure Quality and Timely Completion

Manuguru | June 26: Construction of the new police station building in Manuguru is progressing at a rapid pace. On Friday, DSP V. Ravinder Reddy conducted an on-site inspection to review the progress, quality, and overall development of the project.

During the inspection, CI Pati Nagababu briefed the DSP on the status of the construction, the works completed so far, the remaining tasks, and other technical aspects of the project. The DSP instructed the officials to ensure that the construction is carried out as per quality standards and completed within the stipulated deadline.

Speaking on the occasion, DSP Ravinder Reddy said that the new police station is being built with modern facilities to provide better and more efficient policing services to the public. He emphasized that there should be no compromise on quality and directed the concerned officials to maintain high construction standards throughout the project.



Officials stated that once the new police station becomes operational, it will significantly enhance policing services and provide improved facilities for the people of Manuguru.

District SP Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS Reviews Prajavani Petitions Through Video Conference

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Superintendent of Police Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS, conducted a review meeting through video conference to assess the action taken on complaints received under the Prajavani grievance redressal programme and to monitor the progress of pending petitions across the district.

During the review, the SP directed officials to treat every complaint received from the public with utmost priority and ensure its prompt resolution. She instructed officers to conduct a special review of long-pending petitions and expedite the investigation and disposal process.

The SP emphasized the need for regular follow-up on every Prajavani petition to ensure justice for the complainants and directed officials to avoid unnecessary delays in resolving public grievances.

She stated that the Prajavani programme



plays a vital role in addressing the problems of the public and stressed that all officers should work in coordination to provide efficient and citizen-friendly services.

Over 40.9 Lakh Telangana Children To Receive Pulse Polio Drops From June 28

Hyderabad: More than 40.97 lakh children below the age of five will receive polio drops under Telangana's Pulse Polio programme beginning Sunday, with the health department setting up nearly 23,000 vaccination booths and planning door-to-door visits to ensure no child is left out.



immunisation status.

A statement said 22,979 booths will function from 7 am to 6 pm across the state on the first day. This will be followed by house-to-house visits on June 29 and 30 to vaccinate children who miss the booth day. Owing to their large urban population, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajgiri and Sangareddy districts will continue the drive on July 1.

The health department said it has planned 903 mobile teams, 903 transit points and 2,298 route supervisors. It said 8,754 auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), 28,160 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), 35,700 Anganwadi workers, volunteers, Mahila Mandali members, MEPMA, SERP personnel, nursing students and teachers will participate. A total of 52.04 lakh doses of bOPV have been supplied to districts. Awareness campaigns through print and electronic media,

banners, cinema slides and audio-visual messages have also been planned.

Health department data show that the number of children covered under the programme has increased from 36.55 lakh in 2018 to over 40.97 lakh in 2024. During the 2024 round, 40.97 lakh children were vaccinated against an estimated target of 40.57 lakh, reflecting efforts to reach children who might otherwise have been missed and helping sustain the polio-free status of Telangana and the country.

BRS MLC slams CM Revanth's call for longer office hours

Hyderabad: BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's suggestion that government employees should work an extra hour to improve State revenues and curb leakages. He said Telangana required better governance rather than longer working hours.



"It is high time you learn that clocks measure time, but vision measures impact," he said, arguing that true leadership depends on administrative wisdom, sound policies and efficient execution, rather than extended office hours.

In a statement, Sravan accused the Chief Minister of destroying the State and failing the Congress party due to corruption, lopsided priorities, illegal demolitions, police raj, negativity, feudal and abusive mindsets. He stated that immature governance has created confusion within the Cabinet and bureaucracy.

Questioning the State government's economic management, the BRS MLC asked whether the Chief Minister had seriously examined the reasons behind the State's worsening revenue deficit and rising debt. He advised the Chief Minister to stop hollow slogans of "Rising Telangana" and focus on governance.

"Telangana does not need a stopwatch; it needs an honest vision, coherent policies and effective execution," he said. He reminded that the Congress is left with just two years and it should either perform or get ready to perish.

ANGANWADI WORKERS ASKED TO PREPARE FOR STATEWIDE AGITATION FOR THEIR RIGHTS

Fight Will Continue Until Government Implements ₹18,000 Salary Promise AITUC State Vice General Secretary Seetha Mahalakshmi Calls for Unity at Manuguru Meeting

Manuguru | June 26: AITUC State Vice General Secretary Seetha Mahalakshmi called upon Anganwadi Teachers and Helpers to unite and prepare for intensified agitations to secure their legitimate rights. She was addressing a meeting of Anganwadi workers from the Manuguru Project held at the AITUC office in Manuguru on Friday.

She asserted that the government must immediately fulfil its election promise of implementing a ₹18,000 monthly salary for Anganwadi Teachers and warned that the agitation would continue until the commitment is honoured.

Highlighting the workers' key demands, she urged the government to implement the promised salary without delay, grant promotions to eligible Anganwadi Helpers, and reduce the additional workload being imposed on Anganwadi staff.

She also demanded exemption from BLO,



SIR, and election duties for Anganwadi Teachers above 50 years of age, those suffering from health issues, and teachers working in centres without Helpers.

Mahalakshmi stressed that the regular functioning of Anganwadi centres should not be disrupted, ensuring uninterrupted services to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children. She appealed to the government to take appropriate measures to protect these essential welfare services.

She declared that AITUC would strengthen its agitation until all issues faced by Anganwadi employees are resolved and urged every worker to participate unitedly in the movement.

The meeting was attended by AITUC District General Secretary Narati Prasad, Farmers' Association District Honorary President Sarendi Pulla Reddy, Mahila Samaikhya District Secretary Munna Lakshmikumari, AITUC leaders Verupula Mallikarjun, Durgala Sudhakar, Jakkula Rajababu, Rayala Biksham, Thota Ramesh, Edari, S.K. Sarvar, B. Sampath, R. Ramulu, and Anganwadi leaders Podam Vijayakumari, Madakam Arunakumari, Bhukhya Vijayakumari, KVM Rani, Chanda Mangamma, and Mumtaz, among others.

On the occasion, Jogu Kumari, Ganneboyina Sujatha, Sode Venkataramana, Nakka Eswaramma, and Madi Leelavathi joined AITUC. Seetha Mahalakshmi welcomed the new members by draping them with party scarves.

Saturday 27, June, 2026

STUDENT SUICIDES, SYSTEMIC TRAGEDIES

Attributing student suicides on campuses solely to mental health problems is to ignore the larger structural issues responsible for the alarming trend. These tragedies should not be viewed in isolation as problems of individuals but rather as the culmination of institutional, social, and cultural breakdown. Every death is a cry in the wilderness; a silent scream that should haunt us collectively as a nation. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, over 13,000 student suicides are reported every year across the country. The Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) on student suicides, headed by former judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat, has rightly concluded that there is now an urgent need to move beyond reactive measures towards structural, preventive, and sustainable solutions. Despite years of reports, University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations, and government strategies, India has no direct statutory framework for suicide prevention in higher education. The most glaring gap is the complete absence of any direct statutory, regulatory or institutional framework to address and prevent suicides. Most interventions so far have been generic and reactive. The NTF surveyed over 2.43 lakh students and 2,119 higher educational institutions across the country, but despite several deadline extensions, only 3.5% of the institutes submitted their responses to the survey. This shows their callousness towards the problem.

Last year, the apex court held that mental well-being is inseparable from the right to life under Article 21 and noted that there was a legislative and regulatory vacuum in the country with respect to a unified, enforceable framework for suicide prevention. An exacting examination system, parental expectations, an individual's limitations, and the debilitating fear of failure can take a heavy toll on young minds. What is more appalling is that student suicides are reduced to cold statistics, and society is becoming increasingly numb to these tragedies. The entire education ecosystem that puts a premium on success and shuts the doors on alternative career avenues is to blame for the sorry state of affairs. A mismatch between rising aspirations and shrinking opportunities has created enormous stress — a pressure-cooker kind of situation for the youth. This must be treated as a public health crisis requiring urgent attention. Parents, too, must candidly discuss career choices and the aptitude of their children and not push them into difficult corners. The government needs to enact a robust oversight mechanism and invest in creating some support structures to lessen anxiety among students. The Task Force identified "extensive delays, inconsistencies and inequities in scholarship disbursement" as a primary factor, compounding stress for students from poorer backgrounds, alongside steep fee hikes across public universities that have repeatedly pushed students to desperation. Institutional failures include extremely rigid attendance policies, poorly planned academic curricula, faculty shortages, and excessive reliance on inexperienced guest faculty.

Ram Temple Donation Row: All Eight Accused Named in FIR Arrested

Ayodhya: Eight persons named in an FIR over the alleged embezzlement of donations received at the Ram temple in Ayodhya have been arrested, senior officials said on Friday. The FIR, lodged at the instance of Krishna Mohan, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, follows recommendations made in the preliminary report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe the allegations.

Senior officials said all eight persons named in the FIR have been arrested and are being questioned as part of the investigation.

Those named in the FIR were associated with the process of counting cash and valuables received as donations at the temple.



"All the accused were in Ayodhya itself and were arrested late Thursday night. Further questioning is underway. Police are preparing to present them before a magistrate," a senior official told PTI here.

The case has been registered under sections 306 (theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master), 316 (criminal breach of trust), 317 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and 61 (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, among other provisions.

Bhadrachalam Temple Revamp Works to Begin Tomorrow

Hyderabad: The state government will formally launch the redevelopment and expansion works of the famed Bhadrachalam Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy temple on June 27. The project is being taken up with an allocation of ₹351 crore announced by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during his visit to the temple for Sri Rama Navami celebrations two months ago.

Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy chaired a review meeting at Secretariat on Thursday with officials of the endowments department and the Bhadrachalam temple administration on launching renovation works. He said all development works should be undertaken in strict adherence to Agama Shastra principles and in accordance with the sentiments and beliefs of devotees.



Srinivas Reddy directed officials to ensure that the temple's spiritual significance, heritage and grandeur remain intact during the redevelopment process. He stressed the need to give priority to stone structures and traditional architectural styles that reflect the temple's rich cultural and religious legacy.

The minister said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had envisioned a comprehensive development plan that would cater to the needs of devotees for the next two centuries while preserving the temple's historic and spiritual character for future generations.

The minister also directed authorities to divide the works into multiple components and execute them simultaneously so that the key projects could be completed on a war footing before the next Sri Rama Navami celebrations in April 2027.

Form Shortage Hits SIR in City

Hyderabad: The distribution of enumeration forms for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll was stalled in four Assembly constituencies in Hyderabad on the first day owing to non-availability of the forms in English. Elsewhere in the state, booth level officers distributed close to nine lakh forms.

In the city, voters in Bahadurpura, Yakutpura, Musheerabad and Jubilee Hills Assembly segments failed to receive the forms, while in Chandrayangutta the work began at 4 pm. Acknowledging the delay, officials said that voters in these constituencies would receive the forms from Friday.

"The only two constituencies which are yet to receive forms at the ERO level are Bahadurpura and Yakutpura because of a printing delay. At the Musheerabad and Jubilee Hills constituencies, officials received the forms and the BLOs may distribute from Friday," an official told Deccan Chronicle.

A BLO from Bahadurpura constituency said that he waited all day for the forms to arrive at the GHMC deputy commissioner's office. "As they did not arrive till the evening we returned home after spending all day attending meetings related to SIR," said P. Arjun, a BLO of Doodhbowli.

Information received from the districts indicated that the enumeration phase began across all the Assembly constituencies, with the forms being distributed in Telugu. A small number of BLOs could not reach voters in a few booths, sources said.

Those who felt filling physical forms was a needless exercise found the option of filling the enumeration form online handy. "If your name appears in 2002 SIR list, your mobile number is registered with ECI and if your name is on the voter ID and matches with your name on Aadhaar card, online mapping can be done," said Farooq Hussain, a former Saudi expat who uploaded his details online on ECI website on Thursday.

There were complaints of mismatch of BLO numbers uploaded on the website <https://ceotelangana.nic.in/>. "Our party activists have complained to us about the BLO mobile number mismatch in Kukatpally and in some other areas. When the number was called on the website, the individual denied that he was a BLO," alleged P. Rajesh Kumar, chairman of the state Congress' Election Commission Coordination Committee. In most of the places, booth level agents (BLAs) of various political parties began active coordination with the BLOs.

Despite the election authorities remaining confident that the distribution of forms would be completed by July 1, Friday's holiday for the 10th Muharram (Yum-e-Ashura) and the National Pulse Polio immunisation drive between June 28 and July 1 are likely to delay the process. Close to 40,000 ASHA and Anganwadi workers have been engaged as BLOs, are also expected to work for the Pulse Polio drive.

An ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) worker said they had decided to avoid SIR work until the Pulse Polio drive is completed. "Since there are clear directions, we have decided to place complete focus on Pulse Polio. ASHA and Anganwadi workers are already made to take up laborious duties particularly in populated districts like Hyderabad. How can they be expected to work for both the SIR and Pulse Polio drives?," asked K. Revathi, ASHA Workers Union, general secretary (Medchal).

CM Revanth Asks Staff To Work Longer

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday called upon government employees to work for an additional hour every day to help strengthen finances, increase revenue generation and improve the delivery of public services. He urged employees and officials to focus on curbing illegal activities, plugging revenue leakages, identifying tax evaders and ensuring strict collection of tax arrears so that the state could mobilise more resources for welfare of employees and people.

Addressing a meeting after the signing of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with 16 banks for providing accident insurance coverage of up to ₹1.5 crore to government employees, contract workers and outsourcing staff, the Chief Minister said the success of every welfare scheme depended on the dedication and efficiency of government employees. He said additional revenue generated through better enforcement and administrative efficiency would be utilised for both employee welfare and public welfare.

Revanth Reddy noted that the accident insurance initiative was first introduced in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), where the families of 45 workers who died in



accidents were provided insurance assistance of ₹1 crore each, he said the government had decided to extend the benefit. The Chief Minister appealed to employees to directly bring their grievances and demands to his attention, assuring them that the government was ready to resolve issues through dialogue. He said the Congress government viewed employees with respect and recognised their role in ensuring welfare benefits reached people at the grassroots level.

Criticising the previous BRS government, Revanth Reddy said that Telangana had been burdened with debts of ₹8.11 lakh crore during the past decade, pushing the state into severe financial distress. He said the previous government had borrowed heavily at interest rates exceeding 11 per cent and had disrupted administrative systems, resulting in delayed salary payments and instalment-based disbursements to employees. He said the Congress government had worked with the Centre to reduce borrowing costs to around 7.5 per cent and had spent nearly ₹2 lakh crore on debt servicing during the 30 months since assuming office.

The Chief Minister said the government had restored financial

discipline and ensured that salaries were credited to employees on the first day of every month from January 1, 2024, despite fiscal challenges. He added that nearly ₹2,000 crore was being released every month towards retirement benefits and other pending employee dues, fulfilling promises made to the workforce in a phased manner. The Chief Minister also criticised the Opposition for obstructing major development projects such as the Musi River rejuvenation programme, Metro Rail expansion and the Regional Ring Road. Accusing BRS leader K. Chandrashekar Rao, K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao of acting against public interests, he alleged that the Opposition was attempting to stall initiatives designed to benefit the people. Stating that he had not taken a single day of leave in the last 30 months, Revanth Reddy said every visit to Delhi was aimed at safeguarding Telangana's interests and securing support for the state's growth agenda. He maintained that all major plans conceived by the government were gradually taking shape and reiterated that his sole objective was to resolve public issues, accelerate development and make Telangana the leading state in the country.

Brutal Murder in Nagarkurnool: Wife, Daughter, and Son-in-law Arrested

Nagarkurnool : Police have solved a shocking murder case reported from Avancha village in Thimmajipet mandal of Nagarkurnool district. According to investigators, the murder was allegedly carried out by the victim's wife with the help of her daughter and son-in-law over a land dispute and expectations of receiving government Rythu Bandhu benefits. Addressing the media, Nagarkurnool DSP Burri Srinivas, CI Ashok Reddy, and Thimmajipet SI Srinivas stated that the deceased, Ammapalli Yadaiah (54), was working as a daily wage labourer. He owned around 1.5 acres of agricultural land. Police said his



wife Alivelu had been pressuring him to transfer the land in the name of their son-in-law, Bandari Anjaneyulu, but Yadaiah reportedly refused. Investigators stated that due to ongoing family disputes, Alivelu, along with her daughter Padma and son-in-law Anjaneyulu, allegedly planned the murder believing the land would not come under their control while Yadaiah was alive. During an argument at home, the three allegedly attacked him, resulting in fatal injuries. After the incident, the accused allegedly attempted to portray the death as a natural one caused by illness. However, relatives reportedly noticed injury marks on the body during funeral arrangements and informed the police. Based on the complaint, Thimmajipet police launched an investigation and uncovered the alleged conspiracy. Police stated that the accused confessed during questioning. Alivelu, Padma, and Anjaneyulu were arrested and later remanded to judicial custody.

Pre-Monsoon Measures Begin: Desilting Works Launched in Karakagudem

Permanent Solution to Public Problems is Our Goal: Sarpanch Poleboyina Sujatha Mandal Congress President Syed Iqbal Hussain Inspects Drain Desilting Works

Karakagudem | June 26: As part of proactive measures ahead of the monsoon season, the Karakagudem Gram Panchayat has launched an extensive desilting drive to prevent flooding and protect residents and farmers from rain-related hardships. The desilting works began on Friday from the area near Manneam Naresh's house up to Pedda Vagu, where large amounts of silt had accumulated due to heavy rains in previous years. The works are being carried out using a JCB excavator. Under the leadership of Sarpanch Poleboyina Sujatha



and Deputy Sarpanch Budagam Ramu, a drainage channel approximately four feet wide is being cleaned to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater during the monsoon. The ongoing works were inspected by Mandal Congress Party President Syed Iqbal Hussain, who said the initiative was taken with the objective of providing a permanent solution to the flooding problems faced by villagers and farmers in the past. He stated that improving the drainage system before the onset of heavy rains would help prevent waterlogging and ensure that residents do not face unnecessary difficulties. He also emphasized that addressing public issues promptly and developing essential infrastructure remain the top priorities of the Karakagudem Gram Panchayat. The programme was attended by Panchayat Secretary Ramakrishna, Ward Member Goggali Narsaiah, village residents, and Panchayat staff. Villagers welcomed the initiative, stating that "Prevention is the best protection against floods," and appreciated the Gram Panchayat for taking another significant step towards sustainable village development.

State Government is Committed to the Welfare of Journalists: MLA Payam Venkateswarlu

Bhadradi Kothagudem District | June 26: MLA Payam Venkateswarlu attended the Constituency-Level Journalists' Meeting organized by the Telangana Working Journalists Union (TUWJU-IJU) on Friday at DV Grand Function Hall, Ambedkar Center, Manuguru. Addressing the gathering, the MLA stated that the Telangana Government is giving top priority to the welfare of journalists. He said that the government provides ex gratia assistance to the families of journalists who pass away while on duty or due to other reasons and extends necessary support to journalists who meet with accidents. He acknowledged the delay in issuing journalist accreditation cards but assured that the government, under the guidance of Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, is committed to issuing accreditation cards



transparently to all eligible journalists. The MLA further said that the government is working to provide house sites and housing facilities for eligible journalists from the village level to the state level. He also stated that efforts are underway to expand the Health Card Scheme, enabling journalists to receive treatment in corporate hospitals on par with government employees. Reaffirming the government's commitment to journalists' welfare, Payam Venkateswarlu urged media professionals to bring their issues to his attention and assured them of his full support in resolving their problems. The meeting was attended by union leaders, district and mandal office bearers, town presidents, public representatives, sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, ward members, Congress Party leaders, journalists, and party workers.

Bhadrachalam Temple Expansion Works to Begin Tomorrow at 7:30 AM

Bhadrachalam | June 26: The much-awaited expansion works at the sacred Bhadrachalam Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple are set to commence on Saturday at 7:30 AM.



Temple authorities have completed all necessary arrangements for the inauguration. The construction work will begin under the supervision of the appointed contractor, following special religious rituals and in strict accordance with Agama Shastra traditions. Officials assured devotees that the expansion project will be

executed in phases to ensure there is no inconvenience to pilgrims. Regular temple darshan, daily rituals, and all religious services will continue without interruption. A press conference will be held on Saturday morning, during which temple authorities

will announce the complete details of the expansion project, construction phases, and the special arrangements being made for devotees throughout the execution of the works. The commencement of the temple expansion project has

brought great joy to devotees. Once completed, the project is expected to provide more spacious facilities, improved infrastructure, and a more comfortable pilgrimage experience for the thousands of devotees visiting Bhadrachalam every year.

Nizamabad Gears Up for Mega Olympic Run to Promote Fitness and Sports Culture

Students from 28 Institutions to Join District-Wide Sporting Initiative on June 29 :

Nizamabad, June 26, 2026 : Nizamabad city is all set to witness a vibrant celebration of fitness and Olympic spirit as the Nizamabad Olympic Association prepares to organize a grand Olympic Run on June 29, 2026. The event is being conducted with the aim of encouraging youth participation in sports and creating awareness about healthy lifestyles and unity through athletics.



The prestigious program will be inaugurated in the presence of TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta, and several distinguished guests from various sectors. According to the organizers, nearly 28 schools and educational institutions from across the district are expected to participate enthusiastically in the Olympic Run, making it one of the largest student sporting awareness events in recent times. The run will begin from Raja Rajendra Chowrasta and culminate at the DSA Ground in Nizamabad. Participants have been instructed to report at the

venue by 10:00 AM for registration verification and event coordination. Officials of the Association stated that the Olympic Run is not merely a sporting activity but also a social message promoting discipline, teamwork, peace, and the importance of physical fitness among students and youth. For the convenience of participants, online registration has been made mandatory through the official portal: run.psports.cloud. After submitting their name and institution details online, participants will receive a unique six-digit reference number, which will later be required to download the official participation certificate. The Association appealed to educational institutions, parents, and sports enthusiasts to extend full cooperation and encourage students to take part in the event in large numbers. District Olympic Association Treasurer Bhoom Reddy, Vice President Bhaktavatsalam, Joint Secretary Venkatesh, Javed, and other office bearers are actively supervising the arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of the Olympic Run. Praveen Reddy, In-Charge President, and Dr. Bobbili Narsaiah, General Secretary of the Nizamabad Olympic Association, expressed hope that the event would inspire a new generation of youth towards sports, fitness, and Olympic values.

Allegations against Tehsildar Iqbal are false Lok Satta NGO District Secretary Fermala Ramesh denies



Warangal Bureau : Lok Satta NGO has clarified that the allegations against Qila Warangal Tehsildar Iqbal are false. Qila Warangal Tehsildar Mohammed Iqbal is an officer who is easily accessible to the poor, farmers and the common

people and is serving them selflessly by administering justice. The allegations made against him in some media outlets and media reports recently are completely false and misleading, said Lok Satta NGO District Secretary Fermala Ramesh. Land grabbers and some real estate traders who are trying to grab lands through land deals are making false allegations with the intention of getting Tehsildar Iqbal, who is standing in the way of their illegal activities, transferred. We believe that such allegations are a conspiracy for selfish interests. He advised that it is not good for the society to unnecessarily discredit an officer who is performing his duties properly, not only in terms of his job but also personally, and who is providing many services to the people. Lok Satta NGO hopes that Iqbal will continue to be committed to the administration of justice and solving the problems of the poor as always. On behalf of the Warangal District Unit of Lok Satta NGO, we express our full support to Qila Warangal Tehsildar Iqbal, especially condemning the unfair allegations against him, and we request the authorities to examine the facts and take appropriate action.

GMR Group Takes Over Nagpur Airport's Operations



Hyderabad: GMR Airports Limited has taken over the operations of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur under a 30-year concession agreement, increasing its airport portfolio to seven.

According to the concession agreement, GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited (GNIAL) will have to enhance the airport's capacity to serve up to 30 million passengers annually while creating a future-ready aviation ecosystem.

The GNIAL will undertake a phased modernisation and expansion programme, including development of a modern integrated terminal, expansion of airside infrastructure, enhanced cargo facilities, digital technologies and sustainability-led initiatives.

Commenting on the development, G.B.S. Raju, the chairman of GMR Airports, said: "The handover of Nagpur Airport marks a significant milestone in its transformation into a world-class aviation hub."

Nagpur's central location offers a natural advantage to evolve into a key domestic and international transfer hub, improving connectivity across the country while supporting cargo movement, logistics, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), trade and industrial growth.

The GMR Group currently operates seven airports in India and abroad, including Delhi, Hyderabad, Goa (Mopa), Nagpur, Bidar, Medan (Indonesia), and extends technical support to Mactan Cebu (Philippines). It is also developing two greenfield airports in Bhogapuram (Andhra Pradesh) and Crete (Greece).

MLCs and former corporators participated in the Moharram celebrations



Warangal Mandal : MLC Baswaraju Saraiah, Warangal District DCC President Mohammed President Ayub 20th Division Former Corporator Gundeti Narendra Kumar arrived as the chief guests for the Moharram Peer festival celebrations organized by Muslim religious leaders and organizers in Qila Warangal and inaugurated the puja programs.

Youth District President Korivi Parameshwar, Congress Senior Leader Nalgonda Ramesh, Former Corporators Billa Srikanth, Dhupam Sampath, Senior Leaders Gorantla Raju Veldandi Laxman Thota Balaraju Martha Anjaneyulu Singarapu Chiranjeevi Naragoni Swapna Murali along with Congress leaders and activists and others participated in the program.

Collector Couple Receives Blessings at Historic Sangameswara Shrine



Nagar kurnool : Nagarkurnool District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil and his spouse visited the Sangameswara Temple located on the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh and offered special prayers to Lord Sangameswara.

The Collector couple participated in the temple rituals amid Vedic chanting and received the blessings of the deity. As part of the visit, temple priest Telakapalli Raghurama Sharma explained the history and spiritual significance of the Sangameswara Temple.

District Tourism Officer Kalvarala Narasimha, Kollapur MRO Madhavi, Somashila village Sarpanch Katam Venkatalakshmi, and village GPO Kurumayya also took part in the programme.

Solving the Longevity Paradox



We are living longer. Across the globe, and particularly in India, advances in healthcare, improved sanitation, and greater health awareness have steadily pushed life expectancy upward. This is undeniably a triumph of modern medicine and public policy. However, living longer presents a unique, deeply personal challenge that economists and financial planners call the "Longevity Paradox."

Simply put, while we have successfully extended our lifespans, we are now facing the very real and terrifying risk of outliving our retirement savings. Indians are living longer, healthier lives. Yet, our collective financial planning has fundamentally failed to keep pace with our longevity. The traditional safety nets that once defined Indian society are rapidly fading. The rise of nuclear families, driven by rapid urbanization and corporate migration, is structurally separating generations. The historic unspoken social contract, where children served as the ultimate retirement plan, is dissolving. This leaves an aging population financially and emotionally vulnerable. To survive this shift, we must ur-

gently move our financial focus from mere short-term wealth accumulation to guaranteed, long-term financial security.

The scale of this challenge is brought into sharp focus by the fifth edition of the Axis Max Life India Retirement Index Study (IRIS 5.0), conducted in partnership with Kantar. The study reveals a sobering reality: India's national retirement readiness score stands at a meagre 48 out of 100. While this represents a marginal improvement from previous years, it highlights a profound state of unreadiness. Beneath the surface of this average score lie the deep-seated anxieties of urban Indians who are staring into a financially uncertain future. Consider our "Empty Nesters", parents whose children have moved out of the household for education or work, leaving them on the very cusp of retirement. The IRIS 5.0 survey reveals a striking contradiction within this demographic: a staggering 86% of this group know the exact corpus required to maintain their current lifestyle. They have done the math. Yet, despite this high level of aware-

ness, only 33% actually believe their savings will last more than a decade post-retirement. This massive chasm between theoretical awareness and actual financial preparedness exposes a systemic failure to convert knowledge into sustainable action.

Even more pressured is the "Sandwich Generation." These are middle-aged individuals caught in a financial vise, simultaneously supporting aging parents and financing the education and upbringing of dependent children. They bear a double burden of responsibility, and their own future is often sacrificed to meet immediate family needs. IRIS 5.0 shows that only 38% of this cohort believe their retirement fund will survive past 10 years. This emotional anxiety is directly tied to flawed financial behaviour, creating a cycle of worry and under-preparation.

Perhaps the most dangerous revelation from the IRIS 5.0 survey is a widespread psychological blind spot: the "₹1 Crore Retirement Illusion." A massive 77% of urban Indians believe that a corpus of ₹1 Crore or less is entirely sufficient for a peaceful, lifelong retirement.

This milestone figure of ₹1 Crore, while psychologically comforting, grossly under-



estimates the devastating impact of inflation. Over a twenty or thirty-year retirement horizon, ordinary lifestyle inflation, and more importantly, medical inflation, which typically runs in the double digits, will erode the purchasing power of a static ₹1 Crore very quickly. What feels like a fortune today will likely resemble a modest emergency fund two decades from now.

So, how do we solve this paradox? The answer lies in early intervention and, crucially, making the right choice of financial instruments.

Currently, 61% of Empty Nesters rely heavily on traditional fixed deposits (FDs) and recurring deposits. While these instruments offer psychological safety and capital preservation, they are structurally incapable of beating inflation after accounting for taxes. On a positive note, a healthy behavioural shift is un-

derway: 44% of urban Indians are now investing in mutual funds and Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) to capture equity-led growth.

Alongside mutual funds, a growing segment of disciplined investors is allocating significant income into the National Pension System (NPS), driven by tax incentives and structured planning. By embracing market exposure early, this cohort is on track to accumulate substantial retirement corpus.

However, converting this nest egg into sustainable future income remains a challenge. Variable Annuities offer an ideal solution for these market-acustomed savers. Unlike rigid, fixed annuities, they provide a flexible, market-linked retirement income that has the potential to grow over time, effectively outpacing inflation and matching the sophisticated needs of modern retirees.

IIM Bangalore-CRE Matrix GCC Rental Index Q1 CY'26: Hyderabad Emerges as India's Highest-Priced GCC Office Market

Hyderabad, 26th June 2026: The IIMB-CRE Matrix GCC Commercial Property Rental Index (GCC-CPRI) for Q1 CY'26 highlights the continued strength of India's GCC-led office market, with leading office destinations recording healthy rental premiums and sustained occupier demand across the country's expanding GCC ecosystem.

The Pan-India GCC CPRI stood at 165 in Q1 CY'26 (Base: Q1 CY'14 = 100), while the three-year CAGR stood at 0.9%, signalling a stable growth trajectory for India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) office market. While the national index remained stable, the report noted that city-level performance continues to vary significantly, reflecting distinct occupier demand patterns and market maturity across India's office hubs.

Among major office markets, Hyderabad emerged as the highest-ranked GCC destination with a GCC-CPRI of 212.1, supported by strong occupier demand and a 15% market rental premium over non-GCC occupiers. Pune continued to demonstrate strong pricing power, with GCC occupiers paying approximately 21% higher rentals than non-GCC tenants and a GCC-CPRI of 210.7. Bengaluru retained its position as India's largest and most established GCC office market, recording a GCC-CPRI of 190 and a three-year growth rate of 1.6%.

Abhishek Kiran Gupta, Co-founder & CEO, CRE Matrix & IndexTap said "At CRE Matrix, we sit on top of the richest transaction-



level dataset on Indian commercial office leasing, and for years we've watched GCC occupiers behave differently from the rest of the market - bigger deals, longer tenures, sharper specifications requirements, and a willingness to anchor entire macro-markets. This index is our attempt to put numbers behind that intuition. The first edition alone throws up findings that should reshape how developers and investors think about GCC-readiness: a 15% rental premium in Hyderabad, and early signs that Bengaluru, Pune and NCR's GCC demand are driving price-efficient decisions. We're increasingly investing in broader country-of-origin and supply-adequacy research and look forward to deepening both over coming editions."

The report also highlighted the growing momentum in western India, with Navi Mumbai recording the highest three-year GCC rental CAGR among major markets at 13.4%. Mumbai and Thane continued to witness healthy rental growth, reinforcing the region's emergence as an increasingly important hub for GCC expansion.

Among micro-markets, Mumbai's Central Suburbs and Chennai's Northern Suburbs emerged as the strongest performers over the past three years, each recording GCC rental CAGR of over 22%, highlighting the growing preference for well-connected, Grade A office clusters.

Despite Chennai's headline GCC index declining year-on-year, the report noted that effective rents for comparable office stock have remained largely stable, indicating that the movement reflects changes in transacted asset mix

rather than a broad-based correction in rental values.

The report also found that Delhi-NCR's softer combined GCC index was primarily driven by shifts in regional composition rather than weakening occupier demand, suggesting continued resilience in the capital region's GCC office market.

The index is based on one of the industry's most comprehensive transaction-level datasets, with CRE Matrix mapping approximately 1 billion sq. ft. of office stock, over 2,000 commercial assets and more than 19,000 lease transactions across India's leading office markets. Venkatesh Panchapagesan, Professor of Finance & Chairperson, Real Estate Research Initiative, IIM Bangalore said, "Global Capability Centres have quietly become one of the most consequential forces in Indian commercial real estate - yet until now, no rigorous, transaction-based index has isolated their rental behaviour from the broader market. With this first edition of the GCC CPRI, we extend the same spatio-temporal modelling discipline that underpins our parent CPRI to a segment whose demand trail increasingly sets the pace for Grade A+ office development in India. What we find is nuanced. GCCs are not simply paying more everywhere, nor moving in lockstep with the wider market. A Pure Premium, a Pan-India cooling that diverges from the broader market, pockets of mini-segment volatility we are careful to flag rather than overstate - these are exactly the kind of texture that aggregate indices miss. We hope this index becomes a standing reference for how India's GCC office market actually moves, quarter on quarter."

Wimbledon draw: Serena Williams to learn her first-round opponent in a comeback at age 44

Serena Williams awaits her first-round opponent at Wimbledon on Friday, marking her first singles match in nearly four years. The 44-year-old wild card will also play doubles with sister Venus, while Carlos Alcaraz misses out due to injury

London: Serena Williams will find out who she's facing in the first round at Wimbledon — for her first singles match in nearly four years, and at age 44 — when the draw is held Friday.

The seven-time Wimbledon singles champion accepted a wild-card entry to the grass-court Grand Slam, where she'll also compete in doubles with her older sister Venus, who turned 46 last week.

It's all part of a tennis comeback that started with two doubles warmup matches but kicked into high gear Sunday when All England Club announced Serena would play singles.

Because she has no ranking, the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion could poten-



tially face a highly ranked player such as defending champion Iga Swiatek or No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka.

Williams hasn't played a singles match since a third-round loss to Ajla Tomljanovic at the 2022 U.S. Open. At the time, she said she didn't want to use the word "retiring" and instead declared she was "evolving" away from tennis. Her second daughter was born in 2023.

Williams' most-recent appearance at Wimbledon was in 2022 when she lost in the opening round to then-115th-ranked Harmony Tan.

No. 1 Jannik Sinner, the defending singles champion, is the top-seeded men's player. Sabalenka is the women's top seed. Wimbledon seedings follow the ATP and WTA rankings.

Novak Djokovic, a seven-time champion at the All England Club, is the No. 7 seed. Two-time champion Carlos Alcaraz, who lost to Sinner in the 2025 final, will miss this year's tournament because of a wrist injury.

Wimbledon starts on Monday.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Türkiye Beat USA 3-2 in With Last-Gasp Goal

Inglewood: Kaan Ayhan scored on the final kick of the match, and Turkey beat the United States 3-2 Thursday night for its only win of the World Cup.

Auston Trusty scored in the third minute and Sebastian Berhalter got a tying goal early in the second half for the Americans, who had already won Group D with victories over Paraguay and Australia. Coach Mauricio Pochettino's team will meet Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32 on Wednesday.

Pochettino fielded nine new starters for



this low-stakes game, but Christian Pulisic entered in the 58th minute. He hadn't played since the first half of the Americans' opener due to a calf injury.

Arda Güler and Orkun Kökçü scored in the first half of a resilient performance by Turkey, which had already been eliminated.

Turkey won in the eighth minute of stoppage time when Can Uzun got the ball in space on the back post and pushed it past sprawling goalkeeper Matt Turner to Ayhan, who slid to knock it home.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Japan, Sweden Advance To Last 32 After 1-1 Draw



Arlington: Daizen Maeda gave Japan the lead and Anthony Elanga took it away six minutes later, giving Sweden a 1-1 draw Thursday night that sent both teams to the knockout round of the World Cup.

Japan is advancing out of the group stage for the third consecutive World Cup and fifth time in seven tries since first reaching the round of 16 as co-hosts in 2002. The Japanese team finished second in Group F behind the Netherlands and will play Brazil in Houston on Monday.

The Swedes have advanced to the knockout round the past four times they've qualified for the World Cup going back to 1994 — when they reached the semifinals the last time the U.S. hosted soccer's biggest event.

Maeda scored Japan's seventh goal of the tournament, the country's most for an entire World Cup. That topped the six the Japanese scored while reaching the round of 16 in Russia eight years ago.

SPORTS



Ecuador stun Germany to book Round of 32 spot at FIFA World Cup

Ecuador came from behind to defeat Germany 2-1 and secure a place in the FIFA World Cup Round of 32. Gonzalo Plata scored the decisive late goal as Ecuador qualified for the knockouts for only the second time in their history



New Jersey: Ecuador came from behind to beat four-time champions Germany 2-1 through Gonzalo Plata's late strike to secure their spot in the Round of 32, only the second time in their history after a similar achievement in 2006.

The victory has confirmed Ecuador's place in the knockouts as one of the best eight third-placed teams.

Germany, despite the defeat, still top the section thanks to their superior goal difference over Ivory Coast, who also finished with six points.

Germany took the lead after just two minutes through Leroy Sane, although the goal was surrounded by controversy.

Sane's second-minute strike was Germany's second-fastest World Cup goal, behind only Ernst Lehner's first-minute effort in the 1934 third-place match against Austria, a 3-2 German victory.

Ecuador took just seven minutes to respond as they finally broke their duck at the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The source was not Enner Valencia, making a record ninth World Cup appearance for his country.

Rather, it was midfielder Nilson Angulo, who was handed his first start here in North America.

Pablo Vite picked up a loose ball in Germany's half and fed Angulo, who found space to shoot just outside the D and fired through the legs of Aleksandar Pavlovic and beyond the dive of Manuel Neuer.

The second half began with Germany being awarded a penalty, but referee Tori Penso overturned the decision after a VAR review owing to an earlier foul by Sane on Vite.

It took until the last quarter, though, for the real drama to unfold.

After a mix-up between Neuer and Jonathan Tah, Plata turned a Moises Caicedo cross over the bar from close range.

Sane then shot straight at Galindez after racing through at the other end, yet Ecuador would not be denied.

Moments after substitute Kevin Rodriguez had seen his shot deflected over, he flicked on a corner at the near post for Plata to get his foot to the ball ahead of Neuer and steer it into the roof of the net.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Australia into Last 16 With 0-0 Draw Against Paraguay

Santa Clara: Australia and Paraguay played to a 0-0 draw Thursday night in a result that clinched a spot in the knockout round of the World Cup for the Socceroos and will likely be enough for the Paraguayans to advance. The expanded tournament to 48 teams that provides a spot in the knockout round for eight of the 12 third-place teams in the group stage led to the cautious approach for both teams in their final Group D match after they each entered with three points thanks to wins over Turkey.

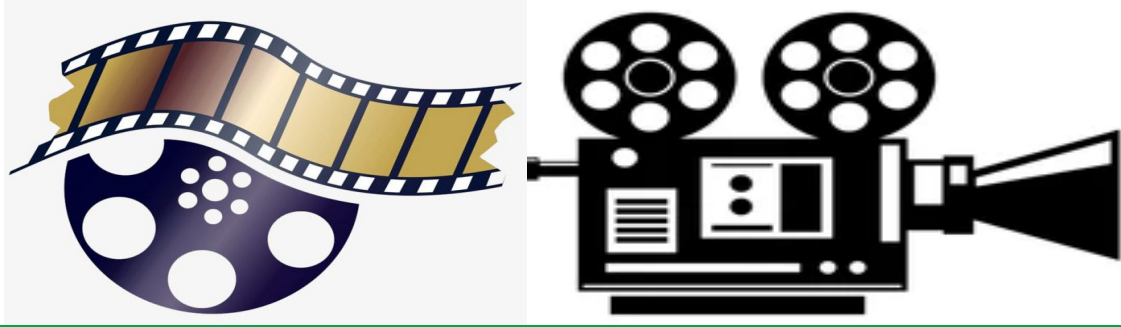
The winner of this game was assured second place behind the United States in the group with Australia also clinching that spot with a draw thanks to a better goal differential than Paraguay. But the draw that gave Paraguay four points in the group also was likely to be enough barring a string of bad results in the final two



days of group play. This marks the third time that Australia has advanced to the knockout round after losing in the round of 16 in 2006 and 2022. The Socceroos will play in the round of 32 on July 3 in Arlington, Texas, against the second-place finisher from Group G that will be determined Friday night.

Paraguay must wait to learn its fate, but is in good position to advance to the knockout round for the fifth time. The Socceroos had the best chances in the first half, but Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill stopped an early attempt from Jackson Irvine and then made another save in stoppage time against Cristian Volpato. The cautious play continued in the second half when Paraguay did have more possession than in the opening 45 minutes but neither team came close to scoring. Jordan Bos had the best chance for Australia in the 90th minute, but his shot went wide from the right side of the box.

Patrick Beach then made a save for Australia on a low shot by Mauricio that lacked power in stoppage time. Australia coach Tony Popovic made six changes to his lineup for the game, including giving 18-year-old Lucas Herrington his first World Cup appearance. Herrington, who plays for the Colorado Rapids in the MLS, became the youngest Aussie to appear in a World Cup game. Paraguay midfielder Diego Gomez got his second yellow card of group play and will miss the round of 32 if the team advances.



CINEMA

KHUSHBU SUNDAR'S DAUGHTER AVANTIKA MARRIES SHRAVAN SREENIVASAN; CHIRANJEEVI, NAGARJUNA, TRISHA ATTEND GOA WEDDING

Mumbai: It was a starry night in the Pearl of the Orient as stars from Tamil, Hindi, and Telugu gathered to give their blessings to Avantika Sundar, the elder daughter of actor-politician Khushbu Sundar and filmmaker Sundar C, on her wedding.

Avantika tied the knot with Shraavan Sreenivasan in Goa on Thursday. Telugu actors Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, Venkatesh, Tamil and Telugu actress Trisha Krishnan, Hindi cinema actors Anil Kapoor and Jackie Shroff attended the event at a resort in Goa.

The theme of the wedding ceremony appeared to be beige with textures of gold as majority of the guests donned the shade in traditional wear. However, Anil Kapoor opted for a white outfit, and Nagarjuna donned a teal coloured ethnic wear. Dressed in traditional South Indian attire, including vesti and mundu, the actors caught the attention of fans, with their elegant looks quickly becoming a talking point on social media. One of the viral videos showed Trisha sitting in the front row and talking to Chiranjeevi and his wife. It looked like CM Vijay skipped the celebrations.

Incidentally, Kushboo Sundar, along with her family, paid a visit to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Vijay at his residence earlier this month.



Kushboo Sundar met Vijay, who is rumoured to be dating Trisha Krishnan, to invite him to her daughter Avantika's wedding on June 3.

She wrote on her social media, "A truly special and memorable day for our family as we met my dearest brother, our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri @actorvijay avl, at his residence and extended the invitation for our daughter's wedding with Shri Shraavan Sreenivasan. Seeing him always fills our hearts with pride and happiness".

"The children were absolutely thrilled and couldn't take their eyes off him. Despite his demanding schedule, he welcomed us with the same warmth, affection, and beautiful smile that we have always cherished. Thank you, my brother, for your precious time, love, and blessings. It means more than words can express. Love you always", she added.

Earlier, Khushbu and Sundar C had travelled to New Delhi last month to personally invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the wedding, sharing photos of the meeting on social media and thanking him for his blessings for the couple.

Kayadu Lohar The New Pan-Indian Sensation Ruling South Cinema

Kayadu Lohar is quickly cementing her status as one of South Indian cinema's most versatile and captivating talents.



Kayadu Lohar is quickly cementing her status as one of South Indian cinema's most versatile and captivating talents. Originating from Pune, the model-turned-actress made her initial mark with the Kannada film Mugilpete and earned massive critical acclaim for her powerful portrayal of Nangeli in the Malayalam epic Pathonpatham Noottandu. Armed with a striking screen presence and exceptional acting range, she has seamlessly transitioned across multiple film industries.

Her filmography continues to expand exponentially, capturing the attention of major filmmakers. Following her breakout lead role in the Tamil hit Dragon, Kayadu's slate showcases her immense demand in Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam cinema.

Her recent projects include the Telugu comedy-drama Funky, sharing screen space with Vishwak Sen, and the romantic drama Idhayam Murali. With highly anticipated films like Pallichattambi, The Paradise, and the star-studded STR 49 on the horizon, Kayadu Lohar is rapidly evolving from a promising newcomer into a true powerhouse of contemporary Indian cinema.

Sukumar, Bunny Vas Back Telugu Talent Naga Durga's Silver Screen Debut

The Telugu film industry is all set to welcome a promising new talent. Popular Telangana folk singer Naga Durga will be making her acting debut in an upcoming comedy entertainer starring Priyadarshi.

The project is being jointly produced by acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar and successful producer Bunny Vas under the banners of Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works. Even before its official launch, the film has generated considerable interest thanks to its unique casting and strong creative team.

Naga Durga has earned immense popularity through her soulful folk songs and energetic stage performances across Telangana. Her authentic connection with local culture and audiences has made her a recognizable name, and now she is ready to take the next big step in her career by entering cinema.

The makers were reportedly looking for a fresh Telugu face who could bring authenticity and natural charm to the character. After several discussions and auditions, they finalized Naga Durga for a pivotal role opposite Priyadarshi.

Directed by Vamsi Reddy, the film is said to be a rooted Telangana family entertainer packed with humor, emotions, and relatable characters. The story will showcase the flavor, culture, and lifestyle of Telangana while delivering wholesome entertainment for family audiences.

Priyadarshi, who has consistently impressed audiences with his versatile performances, will headline the film. The actor's strong comic timing and natural acting style are expected to perfectly complement the film's rural Telangana backdrop.

The movie will be formally launched on June 25, with regular shooting scheduled to commence next month. With Sukumar and Bunny Vas introducing a talented Telugu girl to the big screen and Priyadarshi leading the cast, the project has already become one of the most eagerly awaited upcoming Telugu films.



Kiran Abbavaram's 'Chennai Love Story' set for worldwide release on July 24

The makers of Chennai Love Story, starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya, have announced that the romantic entertainer will release worldwide on July 24. Directed by Ravi Namburii, the film explores themes of love, relationships and second chances.

Hyderabad: The makers of director Ravi Namburii's eagerly awaited Telugu romantic entertainer 'Chennai Love Story', featuring actors Kiran Abbavaram, and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead, have now announced that the film will hit screens on July 24 this year. History

Mass Movie Makers, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, "The wait is over. #ChennaiLoveStory - A timeless tale of love is ready to touch hearts across the world. Arriving in cinemas, Worldwide on July 24th. A Magical Love Story from the makers of #ColourPhoto & #Baby, with mesmerizing Music by Mani Sharma."

Sri Gouri Priya, for her part, took to Instagram to share the date announcement poster. She wrote, "July 24!!! Chennai Love Story releasing worldwide! Come fall in love!"

For the unaware, Sri Gouri Priya shot to fame with her performance in the Tamil romantic drama 'Lover', which went on to emerge not just a superhit film. Lover not only set the cash registers ringing at the box office, it was also hailed by the critics for its content that dealt with toxic relationships.

While Kiran Abbavaram plays a character called Steven Sankar in Chennai Love Story, Sri Gouri Priya plays a character called Nivi in the film.

A teaser released by the makers earlier shows Steven Sankar and Nivi having a conversation at a beach. Nivi asks Steven Sankar if he has watched the film 'Baby' and praises the way they have portrayed first love in it. She says that if one's first love fails, life turns into hell. She says an individual's first love is pure and that there is an element of truth in it, seeking to suggest that all other love affairs that happen after it aren't as honest or pure.

Steven Sankar responds to her argument saying, "If first love is the only one that is pure and honest, shouldn't all our love stories stop with our mothers. For isn't every individual's first love his/her mother?" Stating that there are several iconic love stories in history, Steven Sankar points out that for the protagonists of such stories, the love story for which they became famous wasn't their first love. He says that if one's first love fails for some reason, one's best love is about to start somewhere else.

Apart from directing the film, Ravi Namburii has also penned its screenplay. The film's story is by Sai Rajesh, who is also one of the producers of the film.



The film is being produced by SKN under the banners of Mass Movie Makers and Amrutha Productions. The film is being co-produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni.

On the technical front, the film has music by Mani Sharma. Cinematography for the film is by the very capable Viswas Daniel while lyrics for the songs in the film are by Anantha Sriram. Bhaskar Mudavat is in charge of art direction while Santhosh Naidu has been assigned the responsibility of editing the film. Costumes are by Devi Parchuri and the film is being co-directed by Lucky Bezawada