

# TRICOLOUR ESTATE

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## Ansari Backs Cow National Animal Demand

New Delhi: Former Vice-President Mohammad Hamid Ansari has supported the demand to declare the cow as India's national animal, saying such a move could help maintain peace and harmony in the country. Speaking ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, Ansari said if declaring the cow as the national animal could help end conflicts over cow slaughter, "then that should be done." He added that maintaining peace in the country was more important than fighting over the issue. Ansari's remarks come after several Muslim organisations backed a similar demand made by Maulana Arshad Madani, who called for strict laws against cow slaughter and illegal cattle trade. Senior Muslim clerics, including Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali and Maulana Yasooob Abbas, also supported the proposal, saying it would respect religious sentiments and help reduce political tensions surrounding the issue.

## Siddaramaiah May Quit

New Delhi: Political uncertainty intensified in Karnataka on Tuesday amid strong indications that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may soon step down, with Congress sources suggesting that a leadership transition is being actively considered by the party high command. According to sources, Siddaramaiah could submit his resignation within the next two days, while a crucial Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting is likely to be held on Saturday to discuss the future leadership of the state. The developments come after Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar were summoned to New Delhi by the Congress leadership amid continuing speculation and internal tensions over the chief minister's post. Sources within the party said the Congress high command has conveyed to Siddaramaiah that it is evaluating a leadership change as part of a larger political and organisational restructuring exercise ahead of upcoming electoral challenges. The leadership transition, if it takes place, is expected to be handled carefully to avoid internal conflict and maintain stability within the Karnataka government. Party



leaders are reportedly trying to ensure that any change happens smoothly and with consensus. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has long been considered the frontrunner to replace Siddaramaiah and has reportedly been seeking clarity from the party leadership regarding the succession issue for several months. Despite growing speculation, the Congress officially maintained that the meetings in Delhi focused primarily on selecting candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections. However, party insiders said discussions on Karnataka leadership had intensified in recent days, especially after senior leaders including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge,

Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal reportedly reviewed the political situation in the state. Sources indicated that Siddaramaiah favoured a Cabinet reshuffle to address internal dissatisfaction, while Shivakumar pushed for a final decision on the leadership issue. The Congress leadership is also believed to be cautious because Karnataka is heading into several important political contests, including elections to five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, besides Rajya Sabha and MLC polls. A senior Congress leader said no final decision has yet been announced and that the party leadership wanted to hear both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar before moving forward.

## Bhageerath Sent To Custody

Hyderabad, May 26: A court in Hyderabad on Tuesday sent Bandi Bhageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, to three days of police custody in connection with a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The trial court in Malkajgiri passed the orders after hearing arguments on a petition filed by the Pet Basheerabad police seeking Bhageerath's custody for further interrogation. While the police requested seven days of custody, the court granted permission for three days. Bhageerath, who is currently lodged in Cherlapalli Central Jail under judicial remand, will now be taken into custody by the investigating officers for questioning. During the hearing, Bhageerath's counsel opposed the police custody petition and requested the court to impose safeguards during interrogation. The defence sought directions that questioning be conducted only between 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. and that medical examinations be carried out before and

after the interrogation process. The counsel also urged the court to ensure that no coercive methods were used by the police. The case was initially registered on May 8 at Pet Basheerabad Police Station following allegations that Bhageerath sexually assaulted a minor girl. Police first booked the case under Section 11 read with Section 12 of the POCSO Act along with Sections 74 and 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). However, after recording the victim's statement and conducting further inquiry, investigators added more serious provisions under the POCSO Act, including Section 5(1) read with Section 6, which deal with aggravated sexual assault. Police had earlier served a notice asking Bhageerath to appear before the investigating officer on May 13. Though he did not appear on the scheduled date, he reportedly sent a letter seeking two additional days. After the Telangana High Court declined to grant him interim protection from arrest, police arrested him on the night of May 16.

## Revanth Boosts Panchayats

Hyderabad, May 26: Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced key reforms aimed at strengthening gram panchayats and improving the functioning of rural local bodies across Telangana. The State government has decided to amend Section 70(3) of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, allowing gram panchayats to directly deposit their own source revenue into separate bank accounts instead of routing the funds through the treasury system. The Chief Minister said the move would restore the financial independence of village panchayats, which he claimed had weakened under the previous government. Officials stated that the reform is expected to improve local governance, speed up developmental works and give village bodies greater control over their finances. Re-

vanth Reddy also directed officials to ensure that salaries of over 50,000 gram panchayat employees are credited on the first day of every month without delay. Stressing the importance of timely payments, he remarked that village-level staff should receive salaries just like IAS officers. To support this initiative, the State government will release ₹50 crore every month to the Panchayat Raj Department for salary payments. The Chief Minister instructed authorities to ensure that all employees, including contract and outsourcing staff, receive salaries promptly and warned that delays would not be tolerated. The Chief Minister also suggested reforms in the pension distribution system. He directed offi-



cial to explore direct transfer of pension amounts into beneficiaries' bank accounts instead of routing payments through the postal department. He further instructed departments to streamline pension verification using voter ID and other official databases to ensure only eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits. With the government planning to sanction nearly two lakh new pensions, Revanth Reddy said priority should be given to single women and other deserving beneficiaries.

## Harish Alleges ₹1,000 Cr Scam

Hyderabad, May 26: BRS senior leader and former minister T Harish Rao on Tuesday alleged a massive ₹1,000 crore land scam in Shamshabad involving nearly 179 acres of government land and demanded a high-level investigation through either a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or the Crime Investigation Department (CID). Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, Harish Rao accused officials of illegally converting government land into private property within a matter of days. He claimed the controversy revolves around land located in survey numbers 173 to 183 in Pedda Shapoor village of Shamshabad mandal. According to Harish Rao, revenue authorities had earlier officially identified the land as government property. He said the Revenue



Divisional Officer (RDO) had directed the Tahsildar to ensure that the land remained free from encroachments and be included under the prohibited list through Section 22-A provisions. The BRS leader stated that the same position was also communicated to the High Court through an affidavit submitted on January 30, 2026. He further said that on February 24, the Tahsildar again confirmed in official records that the land belonged to the government. However, Harish Rao alleged that within just four days, the same Tahsildar issued another order declar-

ing the land as private property. Questioning the sudden reversal, he asked how government land could legally transform into patta land in such a short span. He also alleged that the land was subsequently entered into the Bhu Bharathi online portal as private property despite earlier official records confirming government ownership. Harish Rao questioned the role of senior revenue officials and sought clarification on how contradictory reports were submitted before the High Court. The former minister alleged that influential political figures were attempting to shield those involved in the scam. He claimed that despite the seriousness of the issue and the huge value of the land, no strict disciplinary action had been taken against the concerned officials.

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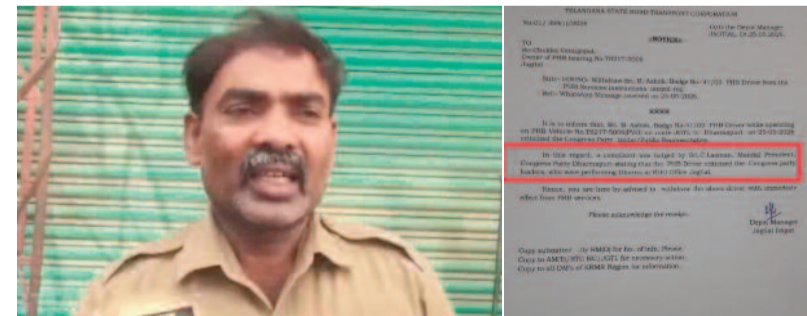
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## Tahsildar Held Taking Rs 2 Lakh Bribe



Medchal, May 26: T. Suchitra, Tahsildar of Shamirpet mandal in Medchal-Malkajgiri district, was caught red-handed by the Telangana ACB while allegedly accepting a Rs 2 lakh bribe for clearing land conversion files. According to the ACB, she had allegedly demanded Rs 30 lakh for approving NALA conversion of 30 acres of agricultural land. The Rs 2 lakh was reportedly taken as part payment through her private driver V. Nagesh. Both were arrested and produced before the special ACB court in Hyderabad. In a separate case, ACB officials also caught Kammari Brahmaiah, a surveyor from Jogulamba Gadwal district, while allegedly taking a Rs 10,000 bribe for conducting a land survey.



## RTC Driver Removed After Remarks On Congress Protest

Jagtial, May 26: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) removed private hire bus driver Ashok from duty after he allegedly criticised Congress leaders during a protest over fuel price hikes in Jagtial district. According to reports, Ashok advised protestors to focus on procurement of cotton and maize from farmers instead of staging demonstrations over petrol and diesel prices. State minister Adhuri Laxman and local Congress leaders were participating in the protest. TGSRTC directed the private bus owner to withdraw the driver from services following a complaint by local Congress leaders. Ashok later clarified that he did not target any political party and only spoke about farmers' issues. Opposition leaders, including T. Harish Rao and K. Kavitha, condemned the action and demanded that the driver be reinstated immediately.

## TRS Chief Kavitha Meets Governor

Hyderabad, May 26: K. Kavitha met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla seeking justice for people affected by land acquisition and house demolitions in different parts of the state. Along with representatives of affected families and Visharadan Maharaj, Kavitha submitted a petition demanding house sites for displaced families in Velugumatla, cancellation of land acquisition notices for an industrial park in Kadlapur, and resolution of issues linked to the Regional Ring Road (RRR) alignment. Kavitha alleged that the Congress government was acting against poor families and warned of fresh protests if justice was not delivered to the affected people.



## EDITORIAL

India's  
Manufacturing  
Moment

India today stands at a decisive turning point in its economic journey. As global supply chains undergo major restructuring after the pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and rising production costs in several countries, India has a historic opportunity to emerge as a global manufacturing powerhouse. The coming decade could determine whether the country transforms into a developed economy or continues to struggle with uneven growth and unemployment. For India, manufacturing is no longer just an economic sector; it is the foundation for long-term growth, employment generation, and national resilience. Over the last few years, the government has launched several initiatives such as "Make in India", "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and infrastructure expansion projects aimed at strengthening domestic manufacturing. These policies have begun to show positive signs in sectors like electronics, mobile phone production, defence equipment, renewable energy, and automobiles. India has gradually become one of the world's leading mobile manufacturing hubs, while exports in several sectors have witnessed steady growth. However, achieving sustainable economic growth requires more than policy announcements. India must build an ecosystem where industries can thrive competitively on a global scale. One of the biggest challenges remains employment generation. Every year, millions of young Indians enter the workforce, but job creation has not kept pace with demand. A strong manufacturing sector can absorb large numbers of semi-skilled and skilled workers, unlike capital-intensive sectors that generate limited employment. Countries such as China, South Korea, and Vietnam demonstrated that industrial growth can dramatically reduce poverty and improve living standards.

Infrastructure development is equally critical. Efficient roads, ports, logistics networks, uninterrupted electricity supply, and industrial corridors reduce production costs and improve competitiveness. Although India has made progress through projects like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and dedicated freight corridors, gaps still remain compared to major global manufacturing economies. Bureaucratic delays, regulatory uncertainty, and land acquisition issues continue to discourage investors in several regions. Skill development is another area demanding urgent attention. The future manufacturing economy will depend heavily on automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and advanced technology. India's demographic advantage can become a liability if the workforce is not trained for modern industrial demands. Educational institutions, industries, and governments must work together to create industry-oriented training programs that prepare youth for future jobs.

## Khadi Achieves Record Turnover

Rs.1.87 Lakh Crore  
Turnover in FY 2025-26

New Delhi, May 26: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has achieved a historic milestone by recording a turnover of Rs.1.87 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking the highest-ever performance in the history of the Khadi and Village Industries sector. The provisional figures were released by KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar during an event held at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi. He credited the achievement to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dedication of rural artisans, and the impact of flagship initiatives such as Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, and Local to Global.

Massive Growth in  
Sales and Production

According to KVIC data, sales of Khadi and Village Industries products surged from Rs.31,154 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.1,87,105 crore in FY 2025-

26, registering a remarkable growth of 501 percent over the last 12 years. Production also witnessed substantial growth, increasing from Rs.26,109 crore to Rs.1,25,296 crore during the same period, reflecting a 380 percent rise. Employment generation in the sector saw significant expansion as well. The number of people employed increased from 1.30 crore in 2013-14 to 2.04 crore in FY 2025-26, recording a growth of 56 percent.

Khadi Textiles Sector  
Sees Strong Expansion

The Khadi textiles segment also posted impressive growth figures. Production rose from Rs.811 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.3,974 crore in FY 2025-26. Sales increased from Rs.1,081 crore to Rs.7,869 crore, marking a sharp growth of 628 percent. KVIC officials stated that the sector is now emerging not only as a symbol of India's traditional heritage but also as a key driver of rural economic



development and self-reliance.

PMEGP Generates  
Over 7.31 Lakh Jobs

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a total of 66,494 new units were established during FY 2025-26, creating employment opportunities for more than 7.31 lakh people across the country. The commission also highlighted its continued focus on women empowerment. Women constituted nearly 59 percent of trainees in various KVIC training programmes

conducted during the year. **Artisans' Earnings Witness Sharp Increase**

The remuneration paid to Khadi artisans has also seen a major increase over the years. The wage per hank, which stood at Rs.4 in 2013-14, has now increased to Rs.15, reflecting an overall rise of nearly 275 percent. KVIC stated that the sector's sustained growth reflects the increasing acceptance of indigenous products and its growing contribution toward building a self-reliant and developed India.

## Six Die In Septic Tank

Kalahandi: A tragic accident in Odisha's Kalahandi district claimed six lives on Tuesday after a group of men reportedly suffocated inside an under-construction septic tank during a rescue attempt gone wrong. The incident occurred at Gaud Kar-lakhunta village when workers entered the septic tank to remove centring materials used during construction. According to police, toxic gases are suspected to have accumulated inside the enclosed structure, leading to the deadly incident. Among the deceased were a father-son duo, Nimai Pal (48) and his son Akash (27), at whose house the septic tank was being built. Three masons and another worker also lost their lives in the accident. Officials said one worker initially entered the tank but did not return, possibly after collapsing due to breathing difficulties caused by poisonous gases. In an attempt to rescue him, six others entered the tank one after another but also lost consciousness inside the confined space. Locals immediately alerted police and fire service



personnel, who launched a rescue operation and recovered the victims from the tank. All were shifted to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared six of them dead. Another person who was rescued is currently undergoing treatment and is said to be in critical condition. Preliminary investigations suggest that toxic gases may have built up inside the septic tank, which had re-

portedly been constructed around three weeks ago. Police officials said extreme heat conditions may have contributed to the accumulation of hazardous gases inside the structure. Authorities are also examining whether the collapse of centring material inside the tank worsened the situation and trapped the victims. Police have registered an unnatural death case and launched a detailed investigation. "We are waiting for the post-mortem reports to determine the exact cause of death," a police officer said. The incident has triggered shock and grief in the village, with residents gathering near the victims' homes as news of the tragedy spread. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed condolences over the incident and announced an ex gratia compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of those who died in the accident.

CBSE Clarifies  
OSM Portal Safe

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has clarified that its On-Screen Marking (OSM) portal used for evaluation of answer sheets was not compromised and no security breach was found in the system. The clarification came after claims surfaced on social media alleging that the OSM portal had been hacked earlier this year. According to CBSE, the portal mentioned in the viral post was only a testing platform containing sample data for internal review and did not include any real student marks or evaluation records. The Board stated that the actual evaluation portal used for answer sheet assessment remained secure and free from the vulnerabilities highlighted online. CBSE also reiterated that the OSM system was introduced to improve transparency in the evaluation process and includes strong grievance redressal mechanisms. However, officials admitted that vulnerabilities were detected in the post-result services portal, which is used for verification and re-evaluation applications.

## Ebola Scare in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Amid growing global concern over the Ebola outbreak, a 28-year-old woman from Uganda has been isolated in Bengaluru after developing Ebola-like symptoms, prompting Karnataka health authorities to step up surveillance and precautionary measures. According to officials, the woman had recently arrived from an Ebola-affected region in Africa. After she complained of mild symptoms such as body ache, she was shifted from a hotel to the state-run Epidemic Diseases Hospital as a precautionary measure. Doctors have collected her samples and sent them to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for testing. Officials said a repeat test will also be conducted as per protocol. Her condition is currently reported to be stable. The development comes days after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the ongo-

ing Ebola outbreak in countries including Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" on May 17. Following the alert, the Karnataka Health Department advised travellers arriving from affected African nations to monitor their health for 21 days and immediately report any symptoms to nearby health facilities. Authorities have also activated Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) for surveillance and preparedness. In Bengaluru, the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases has been designated as the isolation centre, while the Epidemic Diseases Hospital has been identified as the quarantine and treatment facility. Health officials said they are closely monitoring the situation and urged the public not to panic while following health advisories.

SCBA condemns  
Hyd Lawyer murder

New Delhi: Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has strongly condemned the killing of senior advocate Khaja Moizuddin in Hyderabad, describing it as a "planned, brutal and shocking murder" and an attack on the justice system. In a statement issued by SCBA Honorary Secretary Pragya Baghel, the association said the incident had deeply disturbed the legal fraternity and raised serious concerns over the safety of advocates. Moizuddin, who had practised in the Telangana High Court and City Civil Court for nearly 35 years, was allegedly targeted near his residence at Masab Tank on May 23. Police said an SUV rammed into him while he was getting into his car around 4.45 a.m., causing fatal injuries. Investigators initially suspected a hit-and-run case, but later treated it as murder after reviewing CCTV footage and receiving complaints from the family. Police suspect the killing may be linked to disputes over Waqf land encroachments. According to police, the accused allegedly conducted surveillance near the advocate's residence for three days before carrying out the attack using an SUV without a number plate. Special teams have been formed to trace the suspects. Moizuddin's son Farhan alleged that his father had previously received threats from people linked to Waqf land disputes and had faced multiple attacks earlier. The Telangana High Court Advocates' Association also condemned the incident and demanded a special investigation team, while Asaduddin Owaisi called for the arrest of the alleged masterminds behind the killing.



# RCB March Into Final

Dharamshala, May 27: Royal Challengers Bengaluru delivered one of the most dominant performances of the season to storm into the final of Indian Premier League 2026 with a massive 92-run victory over Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1 at Dharamshala on Tuesday. Led by a sensational unbeaten innings from captain Rajat Patidar, RCB outclassed Gujarat in every department and moved one step closer to winning their maiden IPL title. After winning the toss, Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill opted to bowl first, hoping to take advantage of the conditions. However, RCB's batting line-up produced

a batting masterclass and piled up a gigantic total of 254 for 5 in 20 overs — one of the highest totals in IPL playoff history. RCB got off to a strong start through Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal. Kohli played a fluent innings of 43 runs, striking elegant boundaries and rotating the strike effectively, while Padikkal contributed a quickfire 30 to maintain momentum during the powerplay. The match completely turned in RCB's favour once Rajat Patidar walked to the crease. The RCB captain unleashed a breathtaking assault on Gujarat's bowlers, smashing an unbeaten 93 runs off just 33 deliveries at a staggering strike

rate of 281.81. He dominated both pace and spin with fearless strokeplay, clearing the boundary repeatedly and dismantling Gujarat's bowling attack in the death overs. All-rounder Krunal Pandya provided the perfect finishing touch with a powerful 43-run cameo, ensuring RCB crossed the 250-run mark. The Bengaluru side scored more than 80 runs in the final five overs alone, completely shifting the pressure onto Gujarat Titans.

## GT Collapse Under Pressure

Chasing a mammoth target of 255, Gujarat Titans needed a flying start but suffered early set-

backs against RCB's disciplined bowling attack. Sai Sudharsan was dismissed for 14, while captain Shubman Gill managed only 2 runs before departing cheaply. Star batter Jos Buttler attempted to counterattack with 29 runs, but wickets kept falling regularly at the other end. At one stage, Gujarat Titans were struggling at 51 for 5, virtually ending hopes of a successful chase inside the powerplay itself. Despite the collapse, Rahul Tewatia produced a fighting innings under pressure. Tewatia tried to rebuild the innings and kept Gujarat alive briefly with aggressive hitting, but the lack of partnerships proved costly. No

other batter managed to convert their starts into a substantial score. Gujarat Titans were eventually bowled out for 162 in 19.3 overs, handing RCB a huge 92-run victory.

## RCB Bowlers Shine

RCB's bowlers executed their plans brilliantly and maintained relentless pressure throughout the innings. New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy starred with the ball, claiming 3 crucial wickets and breaking the backbone of Gujarat's middle order. RCB's bowlers received widespread praise for their disciplined line and length, especially during the powerplay and middle overs

where they completely dismantled Gujarat's batting line-up. With this emphatic victory, Royal Challengers Bengaluru became the first team to qualify for the IPL 2026 final. The franchise, which has come close several times in previous seasons, now stands just one win away from lifting its maiden IPL trophy. Meanwhile, Gujarat Titans still remain alive in the tournament despite the heavy defeat. They will now face the winner of the Eliminator between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2 scheduled for May 29. The winner of that clash will meet RCB in the grand finale of IPL 2026.



## Who Will Eliminate?

An electrifying contest awaits cricket fans at the Mullanpur Stadium in New Chandigarh on Wednesday as Sunrisers Hyderabad lock horns with Rajasthan Royals in the IPL 2026 Eliminator. With a place in Qualifier 2 at stake, two of the tournament's most aggressive batting units are ready to unleash fireworks in a high-pressure knockout battle. SRH head into the contest with momentum and confidence on their side. The Hyderabad franchise has dominated recent meetings against Rajasthan, winning the last five encounters and holding a superior overall head-to-head record. More importantly, their batting lineup has looked unstoppable in re-

cent games. The opening pair of Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head remains one of the most dangerous combinations in the tournament. Abhishek has been in sensational form this season, scoring 563 runs at a blistering strike rate above 200, consistently giving SRH explosive starts. Head, despite not being at his absolute best, remains a proven big-match player capable of changing games within a few overs. Adding further strength to SRH's batting is Ishan Kishan, who has rediscovered his best form this season with several crucial knocks under pressure. South African power-hitter Heinrich Klaasen has also enjoyed a dream cam-

paign, emerging as one of the most destructive middle-order batters in IPL 2026. Contributions from finishers like Nitish Kumar Reddy and Salil Arora have only made SRH's batting unit even more dangerous. However, Rajasthan Royals possess a game-changer of their own in teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The 15-year-old prodigy has stunned the cricketing world with fearless batting throughout the season. Scoring 583 runs at a staggering strike rate above 230, Sooryavanshi has dismantled bowling attacks with remarkable confidence and maturity beyond his age. His ability to dominate even high-pace short-ball bowl-

ing has made him one of the biggest attractions of the tournament. RR's concern, though, is their heavy dependence on the youngster. Yashasvi Jaiswal has shown flashes of brilliance but struggled for consistency, while wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel has been one of the few reliable performers in the batting lineup. Captain Riyan Parag and Donovan Ferreira will need to deliver under pressure if Rajasthan hopes to outgun SRH. On the bowling front too, Hyderabad appear slightly better balanced. Skipper Pat Cummins has strengthened the attack since returning from injury, while Eshan Malinga has emerged as a key wicket-taking option. Rajasthan, meanwhile, will bank heavily on express pacer Jofra Archer to produce breakthroughs at crucial moments.



## Markets fall on Iran tensions

Indian benchmark indices ended lower on Tuesday as fresh reports of US strikes in southern Iran triggered caution among investors and weakened market sentiment. BSE Sensex closed 479 points lower at 76,009.7, while NIFTY 50 fell 118 points to settle at 23,913.7. Market experts said rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East reduced hopes of a near-term peace agreement and increased concerns over global crude oil prices and overall risk sentiment. Among Sensex stocks, Trent, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel were among the major losers, while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Tech Mahindra and Eternal gained. Sector-wise, consumer durable and financial stocks witnessed strong



selling pressure. However, broader markets remained relatively resilient, with midcap and smallcap indices ending in positive territory. Analysts noted that

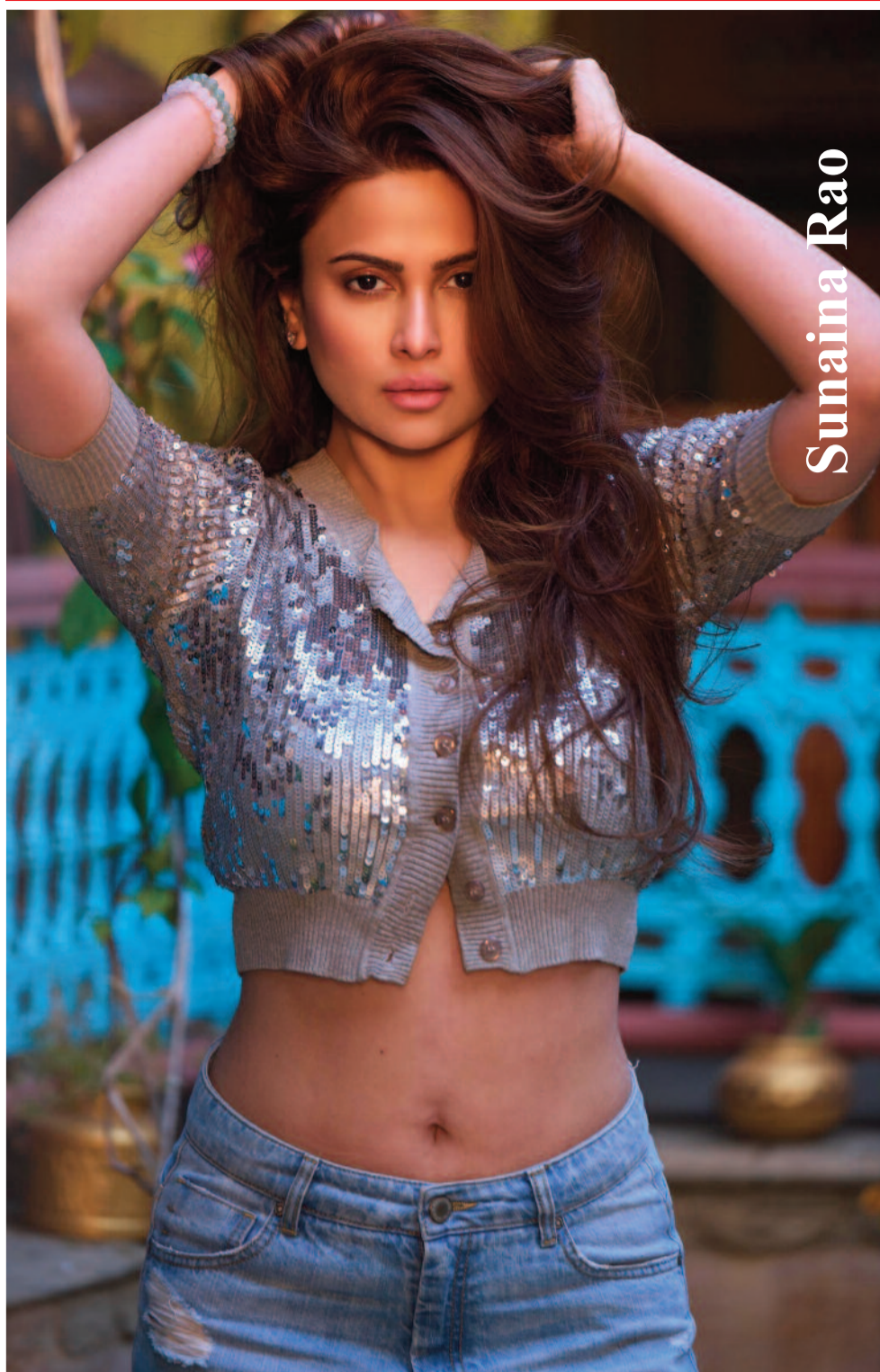
24,000 has now emerged as an immediate resistance level for Nifty, while the 23,500-23,600 zone is expected to act as a key support area in the near term.

## Nishad, Rakshitha Shine

The opening day of the 8th Indian Open International Para Athletics Championships 2026 witnessed impressive performances from several top para athletes as competitors from across India and overseas delivered thrilling contests in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Tokyo Paralympics silver medalist Nishad Kumar emerged as one of the biggest stars of the day by clinching gold in the Men's Long Jump T47 event. Representing Himachal Pradesh, Nishad produced a superb jump of 7.34 metres to comfortably finish ahead of the competition. Rajasthan's Arjun Singh claimed silver with a best effort of 6.81m, while Sri Lanka's Safran Mohamadu secured bronze with 6.72m. Karnataka athlete Rakshitha Raju also stole the spotlight with a dominant performance in the Women's 1500m T11 category. Competing in front of the home crowd, Rakshitha

comfortably won the gold medal after clocking 5:17.54. Rajasthan's Shalini Chaudhary finished second with a timing of 6:07.55, while Kyrgyzstan's Gulnaz Zhuzbaeva took bronze in 6:19.58. The Men's 100m T12 race produced one of the closest sprint finishes of the day. Maharashtra's Chaitanya Pathak sprinted to gold with a timing of 11.39 seconds, narrowly edging Haryana's Vishu Vishu, who settled for silver after clocking 11.42 seconds. Andhra Pradesh's Gowtham Karanam secured bronze with 11.75 seconds. Kerala sprinter Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath delivered a brilliant performance in the Men's 100m T47 event, winning gold with a timing of 10.63 seconds. Maharashtra's Dilip Gavit finished just fractions behind with 10.64 seconds to claim silver, while Karnataka's Babu Janu Pan-

daramise secured bronze in 11.19 seconds. Punjab's Vivek Sharma emerged victorious in the Men's 100m T63 category after clocking 12.92 seconds. Haryana's Arpit bagged silver with a timing of 13.00 seconds, while Uttar Pradesh's Sandeep Kumar took bronze in 13.40 seconds. The Men's Discus Throw F64 event witnessed intense competition till the very end. Pardeep Kumar of S.S.C.B. clinched gold with a best throw of 50.47 metres, narrowly defeating Haryana's Devender Kumar, who finished just behind at 50.44 metres. Rakesh of S.S.C.B. secured bronze with a throw of 49.67 metres. In the Women's Shot Put F57 category, Haryana's Sharmila claimed gold with an impressive throw of 9.86 metres. Karnataka's Kanchugarakoppa Shyla Shilpa won silver with 6.67 metres, while Haryana's Poonam secured bronze.



## Ranveer visits Chamundeshwari Temple

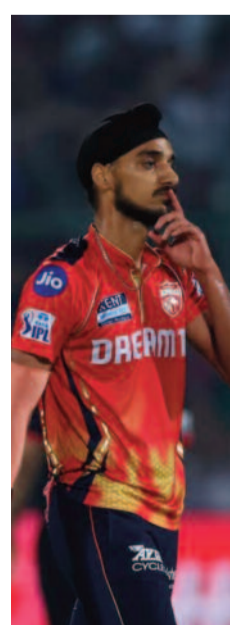
Ranveer Singh visited the revered Chamundeshwari Temple amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the Kantara mimicry case. The visit comes after the Karnataka High Court directed the actor following his unconditional apology and revised affidavit submitted in April. Ranveer clarified that his intention was only to appreciate Rishab Shetty's performance in the film and not to disrespect any culture or faith. Speaking about the issue, the actor said he deeply respects India's cultural and spiritual traditions and regretted if anyone's sentiments were unintentionally hurt. Known as one of the country's prominent Shaktipeeths, the temple holds immense spiritual significance for devotees, many of whom believe a visit happens only through the Goddess' blessings. Ranveer Singh has often spoken about faith and gratitude in public appearances. His temple visit also comes at a time when he is in the spotlight for the reported success of Dhurandhar Part 2, which reportedly entered the Rs 1000-crore club.

## Janhvi jokes about Charan

Janhvi Kapoor shared a light-hearted moment during the press meet of Peddi in Bengaluru, joking that dancing with Ram Charan is the "best weight loss tip". Speaking about shooting energetic song sequences for the film, Janhvi said, "Try doing a song with Ram Charan sir. You will become skinny in half a day," adding that even background dancers appeared to lose weight after a few days of shooting with the actor. The actress also spoke about her limited connection with sports, revealing that she learnt some cricket basics while preparing for Mr. & Mrs. Mahi alongside Rajkumar Rao. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the upcoming sports action drama has been generating buzz for bringing Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor together on screen for the first time.



## Arshdeep's Social Media Reset



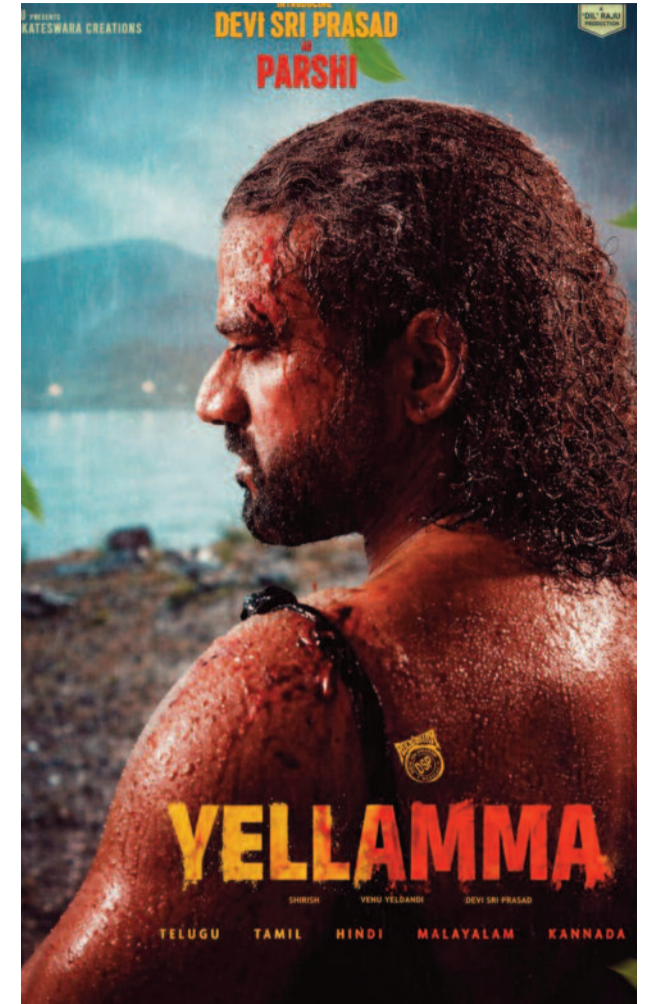
Arshdeep Singh has sparked widespread discussion after deleting nearly 200 posts and reels from his Instagram account in what many fans are calling a "digital reset." The India and Punjab Kings pacer now has only around 44 posts remaining on his profile, most of them related to advertisements, endorsements, family moments and select cricket memories. Among the deleted content was reportedly a popular reel featuring Virat Kohli

from India's Champions Trophy 2025 celebrations. However, Arshdeep has not removed all traces of Punjab Kings, with one of his latest cricket-related posts still featuring the team photograph captioned "Sabar. Shukar. Punjab." The sudden clean-up has triggered speculation online about whether the fast bowler is attempting a personal rebranding or distancing himself from recent controversies following a difficult IPL 2026 season. Arshdeep finished

as Punjab Kings' leading wicket-taker with 14 wickets in 14 matches, but the franchise narrowly missed the playoffs after a poor run late in the tournament. The left-arm pacer also faced criticism recently after alleged racial remarks involving Tilak Varma surfaced online ahead of a Punjab Kings clash against Mumbai Indians. In addition, one of Arshdeep's vlogs drew attention after viewers claimed it showed Chahal using an e-cigarette in the background.

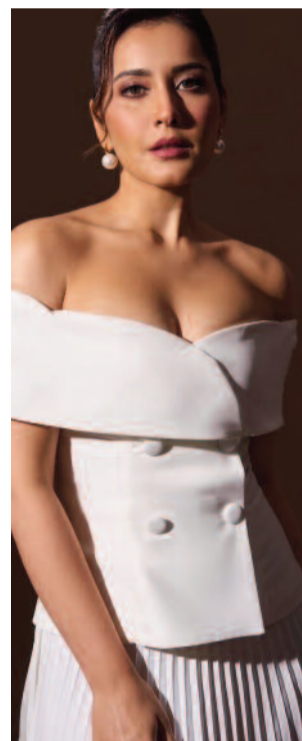
## DSP reveals reason behind 'Yellamma' Debut

Popular music composer Devi Sri Prasad has opened up about the emotional connection that made him accept director Venu Yeldandi's upcoming film 'Yellamma', which marks his acting debut. Sharing a special video on social media, DSP revealed that his decision to act in the film was deeply rooted in his childhood memories and the cultural traditions of his native village Vedurupaka. He said his father used to bring the family from Chennai to the village regularly so they could stay connected to nature, people and traditions. The music director said the village celebrations, especially the "Ammoru Jaathara", played a huge role in shaping his love for folk arts and music. According to him, the spiritual atmosphere and cultural richness of the village inspired him strongly and eventually convinced him to say "yes" to 'Yellamma'. DSP also shared visuals of his family home in the village and described Vedurupaka as the place that kept him connected to his roots. He said the traditions, divinity and folk culture he experienced there became the biggest reason behind taking up the project. The film has already generated curiosity among fans as it introduces DSP in a completely new avatar as an actor. Interestingly, he is not only playing the lead role in the movie but is also composing the music. In the film, he will be seen portraying a character named Parshi.



## Raashii Khanna calls workouts her therapy

Raashii Khanna says fitness has become much more than physical appearance for her, calling workouts a form of therapy that helps her stay mentally positive and emotionally balanced. In her latest YouTube vlog, the actress shared that exercise, along with prayer and meditation, helps her deal with negativity and maintain inner peace. She said fitness is about overall well-being and how a person feels in everyday life. Raashii also advised women not to compare themselves with others or follow unrealistic trends. She admitted that she initially focused only on becoming thin, but later realised the importance of becoming the healthiest and strongest version of oneself. On the work front, Raashii will next be seen in season two of Farzi alongside Shahid Kapoor and Vijay Sethupathi.



## 'The Kerala Story 2' TV premiere on May 28

The Kerala Story 2 is set for its world television premiere on May 28 at 8 pm on Zee Cinema after generating widespread discussion for its intense and thought-provoking storyline. Directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah, the film features performances by Ulka Gupta, Aishwarya Ojha, Aditi Bhatia, Sumit Gehlawat, Arjan Singh Aujla, Yuktam Khosla and Alka Amin. Inspired by true events, the film explores how love and manipulation can trap young individuals in dangerous circumstances. The story follows three girls from different states who rebel against their families in search of love, only to find themselves caught in a web of deceit, conspiracy and oppression. The makers say the film also carries a strong cautionary message for families and society while highlighting sensitive social issues through an emotional narrative.



## Fresh turmoil rocks AMMA

Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) is facing renewed internal turmoil as several actors publicly questioned the organisation's leadership, financial transparency and administrative functioning. The controversy intensified after actor Mala Parvathy demanded that AMMA's income and expenditure accounts be made public, stating that the association earned money using the popularity of leading actors and therefore owed accountability to its members. Parvathy alleged that members had not received satisfactory clarification regarding financial details despite treasurer Unni Sivapal being tasked with explaining the accounts. Veteran actress Mallika Sukumaran further escalated the issue by calling for the dissolution of the executive committee and fresh elections. She described the

ongoing situation as embarrassing for the Malayalam film industry and urged senior stars Mammooty and Mohanlal to step in and restore stability within the organisation. Mallika also criticised AMMA General Secretary Kukku Parameswaran, alleging a lack of transparency and questioning activities inside the association's office. She additionally took aim at actress Swetha Menon and actor Ansiba Hassan amid the growing internal dispute. The latest controversy comes months after the fallout triggered by the Hema Committee report, which had already shaken the Malayalam film industry and led to leadership changes within AMMA. With tensions now spilling into the public domain once again, pressure is mounting on the organisation to address concerns over both governance and finances.

## Ananya dance scene sparks backlash

A Bharatanatyam sequence featuring Ananya Panday from Chand Mera Dil has triggered heavy criticism on social media, with several users questioning the actor's classical dance performance in the film. The viral clip shows Ananya performing on stage, but many netizens criticised the choreography and execution, claiming the dance lacked the grace and technical precision associated with Bharatanatyam. Some users also reignited the debate around nepotism in Bollywood, pointing to Ananya's background as the daughter of Chunky Panday. While critics accused the actress of being underprepared for the role.

## Gukesh, Pragm stumble in Norway Chess

Norway Chess witnessed a dramatic second round as reigning world champion D Gukesh and fellow Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa suffered setbacks, while Magnus Carlsen bounced back strongly after his opening-round defeat. Gukesh played out a draw against Wesley So in the classical game but lost in the Armageddon tie-break, handing Wesley the extra point. Meanwhile, Carlsen recovered from his shock loss in Round 1 by defeating Vincent Keymer in Armageddon after an intense classical battle. Tournament leader Alireza Firouzja continued his domi-



nant run with a victory over Praggnanandhaa to maintain a perfect score of 6/6 after two rounds. Following the latest results, Firouzja leads the standings, while Wesley So

and Gukesh occupy the next spots with 2.5 points each. In Round 3, Gukesh will face Firouzja, while Carlsen takes on Praggnanandhaa in another high-profile clash.