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Siddaramaiah Steps Down

DK Shivakumar Set to Lead Karnataka

Bengaluru: In a dramatic political development that ends months of speculation over Karnataka's leadership battle, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah resigned from office on Thursday, paving the way for Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar to take charge of the state. The resignation marks the culmination of the Congress party's long-discussed "rotational power-sharing" arrangement, under which Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were expected to share the Chief Minister's post. After sustained pressure from the Shivakumar camp and intervention by the Congress high command, Siddaramaiah finally stepped aside. Accompanied by Shivakumar and senior Cabinet colleagues, Siddaramaiah submitted his resignation at Raj Bhavan to officials representing Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, who was away at the time. Soon after, both leaders flew to New Delhi for consultations with the Congress leadership regarding the formation of the new Cabinet.



Sources indicate that the party is considering appointing multiple Deputy Chief Ministers to balance regional and factional equations within the state unit. The oath-taking ceremony for Shivakumar is expected to take place on Sunday, formally marking a new political chapter in Karnataka. Before stepping down, Siddaramaiah held a breakfast meeting with ministers and supporters, where emotional scenes unfolded as Shivakumar hugged him and sought his blessings. Attempting to project unity, Siddaramaiah declared that there were "no differences" between the two leaders. In an emotional message

shared later, Siddaramaiah described his tenure as a journey rooted in social justice and service to the poor. He thanked Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the state. The veteran leader clarified that his resignation was only from the CM's post and not from active politics. He reiterated that he would continue fighting for secularism, constitutional values and social justice. Siddaramaiah dismissed speculation about moving to national politics, saying intends to remain active in KA politics and continue serving as an MLA.

Heavy Rain, Thunderstorms

Hyderabad, May 28: Several parts of Telangana witnessed heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning on Thursday, causing crop damage and distress among farmers in multiple districts. Districts including Nalgonda, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Nirmal received intense rainfall due to unseasonal weather conditions. Farmers suffered losses as standing crops and harvested produce were damaged by the sudden showers. Paddy and maize stored at procurement centres were soaked, while grain stocks in some areas were reportedly washed away by rainwater. In Nirmal district, heavy rain affected procurement centres in Khanapur and Pembli mandals. Similar damage was reported from Kagaznagar and Koutala mandals in Komaram Bheem district, where maize and paddy stocks were drenched due to the unexpected rainfall. Unseasonal rain has raised concerns among farmers who were preparing harvested produce for procurement.



Rs 237 Cr Per Acre

Hyderabad, May 28: The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation achieved a record-breaking bid of Rs 237 crore per acre during its e-auction of a prime land parcel at Knowledge City in Raidurg, Hyderabad. Officials said the 6.29-acre multi-use plot attracted intense bidding from major national developers, generating a total transaction value of nearly Rs 1,490 crore. The winning bid marked a 70.5 percent jump over the reserve price of Rs 139 crore per acre. The auction surpassed the previous

benchmark set during TGIC's 2025 land auction, where bids had touched Rs 177 crore per acre. Conducted through the MSTC e-auction platform, the process witnessed strong participation and competitive bidding from real estate players. TGIC Vice Chairman and Managing Director K. Shashanka said the record price reflected growing investor confidence in Telangana's investment and real estate ecosystem. Another e-auction for a 5.09-acre land parcel in the same Raidurg area is scheduled for June 1.

NTR as Important as Indiramma

Hyderabad, May 28: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stirred political debate after stating that former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. T. Rama Rao was as important to the Congress government as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Speaking after unveiling NTR's statue at Ameerpet in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy said the Congress government was drawing inspiration from NTR's welfare-oriented governance model. He compared the state government's Indiramma Housing scheme to NTR's housing programme for the poor and linked free power initiatives and fine rice distribution schemes to welfare measures introduced during the TDP founder's tenure. "Like Indiramma, NTR is equally important to us," the



Chief Minister remarked, adding that the spirit of both leaders reflected in the Congress government's "Praja Palana". Revanth Reddy also praised NTR as a leader beyond caste and regional politics and said he was not worried about criticism over the installation of the statue. He further described Indira Gandhi, NTR and B. R. Ambedkar as three great leaders of the country. The remarks gained political significance as they came shortly after Nara Lokesh announced plans to revive and strengthen the Telugu Desam Party in Telangana.

Unified Welfare Card for TG

Hyderabad, May 28: The Telangana government is planning to introduce a Unified Card system to integrate welfare benefits and citizen data across departments for streamlined service delivery. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to develop a multi-purpose card carrying details of benefits availed by individuals under various government schemes and departments. The proposed card will include data linked to schemes and services such as Aarogyasri, Chief Minister's Relief Fund, fee reimbursement, labour welfare and education benefits. Officials were also asked to consider profiling contract and outsourcing employees working in government departments. During a review meeting attended by IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu

and senior officials, the Chief Minister stressed the need for an AI-based profiling system to track welfare delivery and reduce duplication of benefits. The government is also exploring the possibility of creating a state-level unique identity number similar to Aadhaar. Data collected through the Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste survey is expected to be integrated into the Unified Card system. Officials have been instructed to launch a special drive to collect detailed family and individual data across the state. The AI-enabled system is expected to help eliminate delays, reduce human intervention and improve transparency in welfare. CM also asked officials to study Kerala's migration management.

PM Modi Pushes Water Cooperation

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged states to resolve inter-state water disputes through cooperation and coordinated execution, saying the Ken-Betwa river linking project should serve as a model for future initiatives. Chairing the 51st PRAGATI review meeting, Modi assessed major infrastructure projects worth nearly ₹30,000 crore across the railways, power and road sectors spanning nine states. He stressed that delays in project execution lead to rising costs and deprive citizens of timely access to essential services. While reviewing the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project, the Prime Minister encouraged states to adopt



similar cooperative approaches for addressing water-sharing issues. He also called for greater focus on river-linking projects, groundwater recharge, water conservation and efficient irrigation systems to strengthen long-term water security. The Prime Minister reviewed the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and directed states to accelerate development of solid waste management infrastructure.

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Kazipet Unit to Build 200 Intercity Trains

Kazipet/Warangal, May 28: Indian Railways is set to deploy 200 modern intercity trains from the upcoming Kazipet rail manufacturing unit over the next five years to strengthen short-distance connectivity across the country. The Ministry of Railways said the Kazipet manufacturing facility is nearing completion and will emerge as a major production hub for intercity train services. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu recently reviewed the unit's operational plans with senior officials. The trains will primarily serve routes of around 300 kilometres with frequent stops, improving connectivity between nearby towns and cities. Officials said the services are aimed at students, workers, patients and daily commuters seeking affordable and efficient transport options.



Iran Targets US Base

Tehran: Iran launched strikes targeting a US air base in Kuwait after American forces attacked an alleged Iranian drone operation near the Strait of Hormuz, sharply escalating tensions in the Gulf. The latest flare-up has raised fears over the fragile ceasefire efforts and the security of one of the world's most critical oil shipping routes. According to US Central Command, American forces intercepted five Iranian drones and destroyed a drone control station near Bandar Abbas that was preparing another launch. Kuwait later confirmed intercepting a ballistic missile allegedly aimed at the country, which hosts a major US military base. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed responsibility for targeting the base.

India's First Rock Check Dam on Indus

Srinagar: Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated India's first rock check dam on the Indus River in Leh and officially launched the 'Sindhu Jal Samridhi Abhiyan' aimed at improving water security and sustainable agriculture in Ladakh. The eco-friendly project has been designed as a low-cost and sustainable solution to tackle water scarcity faced by farmers in the region. Unlike conventional concrete structures, the rock check dam has been built using interlocked rocks collected from the riverbed to slow water flow and create a water storage area for agricultural use. Officials said the structure is engineered to withstand increased river flow during summer.



EDITORIAL

Deepfakes: India's Digital Nightmare

Artificial Intelligence has opened extraordinary possibilities for innovation, education and communication. But alongside progress, a dangerous shadow has emerged — deepfakes. These AI-generated fake videos, audios and images are becoming one of the biggest threats to truth, democracy and personal dignity in the digital age. India, with its massive internet population and explosive social media usage, is especially vulnerable. Deepfakes are no longer limited to harmless entertainment or cinematic experiments. They are now being weaponised for political propaganda, financial fraud, character assassination and cyber exploitation. A manipulated speech can create communal tension within minutes. A fake video of a public leader can influence elections. Morphed images and videos are increasingly targeting women, celebrities and ordinary citizens alike. In many cases, victims do not even realise they are under attack until the damage becomes irreversible. The danger is amplified because deepfakes exploit the very foundation of society — trust. In the past, seeing was believing. Today, even genuine content is viewed with suspicion. This erosion of trust weakens democratic discourse and creates confusion where truth itself becomes negotiable. During elections or sensitive national events, such misinformation can destabilise public order and inflame social divisions.

India's legal and regulatory framework is struggling to keep pace with this rapidly evolving technology. Existing provisions under the Information Technology Act and cybercrime laws are fragmented and reactive. Platforms often remove harmful content only after it goes viral. By then, millions may already have consumed and shared the misinformation. The absence of a dedicated deepfake law leaves law enforcement agencies inadequately equipped to handle the scale and sophistication of the threat. Technology companies cannot escape responsibility either. Social media platforms profit enormously from user engagement, yet harmful manipulated content spreads freely on their networks. Algorithms designed to maximise reach frequently reward sensationalism over authenticity. Tech giants must invest in stronger detection tools, mandatory labelling of AI-generated content and rapid grievance redressal systems. Freedom of expression cannot become a shield for digital irresponsibility. At the same time, regulation must be balanced and democratic. Excessive state control over digital content can easily slip into censorship and surveillance. The challenge before India is not merely to regulate technology, but to protect constitutional freedoms while safeguarding society from digital deception.

Public awareness is equally critical. Digital literacy should become as essential as traditional literacy. Citizens must learn to verify sources, question suspicious content and avoid becoming carriers of misinformation.

AI Cannot Replace Human Dignity

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming the modern world. From hospitals and classrooms to offices and factories, AI-driven systems are changing the way humans work, communicate and make decisions. Governments and corporations celebrate AI as the engine of future economic growth, productivity and efficiency. Yet amid this technological excitement, a deeper question demands attention: can machines replace human dignity? The answer must be a firm no. Human dignity is not measured by speed, efficiency or data-processing ability. It is rooted in empathy, moral judgment, creativity, emotional understanding and the inherent value of human life. AI may imitate conversation, generate art or automate decisions, but it cannot experience compassion, conscience or responsibility. A machine can analyse suffering, but it cannot truly feel pain. It can produce words of comfort, but it cannot understand human emo-

tions in the way people do. The growing dependence on AI is already creating serious ethical and social concerns. Across industries, automation is replacing human labour in the name of efficiency. Companies increasingly prioritise algorithms over workers, reducing human beings to numbers in a productivity chart. In customer service, journalism, education and even healthcare, there is a visible shift toward machine-led interactions. While technology can improve systems, blind dependence on AI risks dehumanising society itself. The danger becomes even greater when AI begins influencing critical decisions affecting people's lives. Recruitment algorithms decide who deserves a job. Automated systems determine loan approvals. Predictive policing tools influence criminal investigations. In some countries, AI surveillance monitors citizens continuously. Such systems may appear neutral, but they

often carry hidden biases inherited from flawed data and unequal social structures. When machines make decisions without accountability or empathy, injustice can become faster and more invisible. India, with its vast youth population and growing digital economy, faces a unique challenge. AI can undoubtedly strengthen governance, improve public services and accelerate development. However, technological progress cannot come at the cost of human worth. In a country already battling unemployment and inequality, unchecked automation may deepen economic insecurity and widen social divisions. The future cannot belong only to those who control technology while millions are left struggling for relevance. Another alarming trend is the growing emotional dependence on AI. Chatbots and virtual companions are increasingly replacing human interaction for many people. While these tools may provide

temporary convenience, they cannot substitute genuine relationships, community bonds and emotional connection. A society that gradually prefers artificial interaction over real human engagement risks becoming emotionally hollow. This does not mean AI should be rejected. Technology has always shaped human civilisation, and AI can become a powerful tool for progress when used responsibly. But it must remain exactly that — a tool. The moment society begins treating humans as secondary to machines, it crosses a dangerous line. The true measure of progress is not how advanced machines become, but how well humanity protects compassion, justice and dignity in the age of automation. AI may change the world, but it must never replace the value of being human.

- Vinod Kumar, Tech Expert

Cyberabad Police Warn Against Fake Astrology Scams Online

Hyderabad, May 28: Cyberabad Police has issued a public warning over rising cyber frauds involving fake astrology, tantra and 'vashikaran' services targeting social media users. According to police, scammers are using platforms like Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook to lure victims with promises of solving personal, financial and relationship problems. Officials said fraudsters initially demand small payments before pressuring victims to transfer larger amounts. In several cases, victims were allegedly threatened through calls and messages when



they refused to pay further. Cybercrime officials

found that gangs were operating multiple fake accounts using fabricated reviews, stolen photos and different bank accounts to deceive users. Deputy Commissioner of Police T Sai Manohar urged citizens not to trust online advertisements offering instant solutions through astrology or tantra services. Police advised people not to share personal details, photographs, OTPs or banking information with strangers online. Victims have been asked to report cyber frauds immediately through the national helpline 1930 or the official cyber-crime portal.

Gold, Silver Slip Amid US-Iran Tensions

Mumbai: Gold and silver prices declined sharply in global markets on Thursday as a stronger US dollar and escalating tensions between the United States and Iran dampened investor sentiment. Rising crude oil prices and persistent inflation concerns also reduced hopes of an early interest rate cut by major central banks. Spot gold dropped nearly 2 per cent to \$4,368.99 per ounce, while COMEX gold futures slipped 1.80 per cent. Silver prices also remained under pressure, with spot silver falling over 3 per cent to \$71.94 per ounce. Market experts said uncertainty surrounding the ongoing US-Iran conflict and fears of prolonged geopolitical instability pushed investors towards the dollar, weakening precious metals. Reports of fresh US military action against Iran and possible retaliatory measures further intensified concerns in global markets. Analysts noted that rising crude oil prices are adding to inflation worries worldwide, making central banks cautious about reducing interest rates anytime soon. Higher interest rates generally reduce the appeal of non-yielding assets such as gold and silver.

Sonam Wangchuk Says 'I'm an Honorary Cockroach'

Srinagar: Sonam Wangchuk has rejected claims made by VK Saxena regarding his remarks on the online movement known as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), asserting that he still considers himself an "honorary cockroach". Wangchuk said his recent meeting with the Ladakh LG was cordial and friendly, contrary to the tone reflected in Saxena's public post on social media. He claimed there was no warning or reprimand during their discussion. The activist also denied retracting his comparison between Ladakh and Manipur, saying



he never described it as an "error of judgment". According to him, he only said the example may have been "avoidable" in the current context. Responding to allegations that the CJP was linked to foreign influence, Wangchuk said he never distanced himself from the movement and continued to support it. He added that he was open to examining any

evidence regarding the organisation's origins but insisted that this should not be seen as withdrawal of support. The Magsaysay award winner praised the satirical online movement for what he called "creative protests" and urged founder Abhijeet Dipke to publicly share audience data to counter allegations of foreign backing. The controversy comes amid ongoing discussions over Ladakh's political and administrative demands, including recent talks between Ladakh representatives and the Union government.

Another Record-Hot Year Before 2030

New Delhi: World Meteorological Organization has warned there is an 86% chance that at least one year between 2026 and 2030 could become hotter than 2024, currently the warmest year on record. The climate update, prepared with the UK Met Office, said global temperatures are expected to remain near record highs over the next five years. According to the report, there is a 91% probability that at least one year during 2026-2030 will temporarily cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming mark above pre-industrial levels. The agency clarified that temporary annual breaches do not mean the long-term Paris

Agreement target has permanently failed. The report also projected a 75% chance that the average global temperature across the five-year period will exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold. Scientists warned that a possible El Niño event towards the end of 2026 could push temperatures even higher and potentially make 2027 another record-breaking year. The WMO further noted that Arctic warming is accelerating rapidly, with temperatures expected to rise nearly 2.8 degrees Celsius above recent averages over the next few winters — more than three times faster than the global average.



Vaibhav Storm Faces GT Test



2026 with performances that have stunned both fans and experts. His breathtaking 97 off just 29 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator has already entered IPL playoff folklore. The innings, packed with towering sixes and fearless strokeplay, dismantled SRH's bowling attack and powered Rajasthan into Qualifier 2 with authority. Though he missed out on a century by just three runs, the knock confirmed that Indian cricket may have discovered its next superstar. So far this season, Vaibhav has scored 680 runs in 15 matches at a staggering strike rate above 240 - numbers almost unheard of in a tournament known for elite T20 batting. His explosive starts have allowed Rajasthan Royals to dominate powerplays and dictate matches from the outset. But standing in Rajasthan's path now is one of the most balanced teams in the competition. Gujarat Titans, led by Shubman Gill, finished second in the league stage and possess experience across both batting and bowling departments. Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler have formed one of the strongest batting units this season, while bowlers like Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj and Rashid Khan bring proven match-winning ability in pressure games. Despite Gujarat's depth and experience, Rajasthan enter the contest with momentum and confidence. Alongside Vaibhav, players like Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel have strengthened the batting line-up, while Jofra Archer has delivered consistently with the ball. The clash also represents a fascinating battle of narratives. Gujarat Titans symbolize structure, experience and established power. Rajasthan Royals, on the other hand, have embraced fearless cricket built around youthful energy and attacking intent - led by a teenager who has become the heartbeat of the tournament. Historically, Gujarat have enjoyed an edge in head-to-head encounters, but knockout cricket often belongs to the side carrying belief and momentum. And right now, Rajasthan Royals appear to have both. Friday's Qualifier 2 could ultimately hinge on one question: can Gujarat Titans contain the explosive rise of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, or is the teenage phenomenon ready for another unforgettable night under the IPL lights?

A place in the IPL 2026 final is at stake, but the spotlight ahead of Rajasthan Royals' Qualifier 2 clash against Gujarat Titans firmly belongs to one name - Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. At just 15 years of age, the teenage sensation has become the biggest revelation of the tournament and now stands one step away from carrying Rajasthan Royals into the title clash. The young opener has transformed Rajasthan's campaign with fearless batting, relentless aggression and a maturity far beyond his age. In a season dominated by international stars and established names, Vaibhav has emerged as the face of IPL



Neymar Blow for Brazil Ahead of WC

Brazil have suffered a major setback ahead of the FIFA World Cup, with star forward Neymar ruled out of the team's upcoming friendlies and likely to miss the tournament opener after scans confirmed a Grade 2 calf injury. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) confirmed on Thursday that the 34-year-old attacker sustained a partial tear in his calf muscle and will require at least two to three weeks of recovery. Team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar underwent detailed medical tests after reporting discomfort and swelling in his right calf soon after joining the national camp. The injury means Neymar will miss Brazil's friendlies against

Panama and Egypt, and his participation in the World Cup opener against Morocco on June 13 now appears highly doubtful. The development comes as a huge concern for new Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti, who is already dealing with multiple injury issues in the squad. Defenders Gabriel Magalhães and Marquinhos, along with forward Gabriel Martinelli, are unavailable for the Panama clash because of club commitments in the UEFA Champions League final. Neymar had earlier brushed aside concerns over his fitness while attending Santos' Copa Sudamericana match earlier this week. However, fresh scans revealed a more serious problem than initially

expected. Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 79 international goals, Neymar has not played for the national team since suffering an ACL injury in October 2023. Despite recurring fitness struggles, he was included in Brazil's 26-member World Cup squad and was expected to play a key role in the country's pursuit of a record sixth world title. This edition marks Neymar's fourth FIFA World Cup appearance. Brazil finished fourth in 2014 and suffered quarterfinal exits in both 2018 and 2022. With the tournament set to begin in the United States, Canada and Mexico, Brazil now face an anxious wait over the fitness of their biggest star.

Nipam Wins 100m Bronze on Asian Debut



Nipam made a memorable international debut by winning bronze in the women's 100m at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong. The 18-year-old Indian sprinter clocked 11.62 seconds to finish third after recovering strongly from a slow start. Qatar's Dana Noor Salem won gold, while China's Xinxuan Chen claimed silver. India also saw strong performances from Neeru Pathak and Tahura Khatun, who qualified for the women's 400m final, while decathlete Rahul Jakhar impressed on Day One of the competition.

Cerundolo Stuns Sinner



Juan Manuel Cerundolo pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the season by defeating World No. 1 Jannik Sinner in a thrilling five-set clash at the French Open. After losing the opening two sets, Cerundolo staged a stunning comeback to win 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 and reach the third round. The Argentine dominated the closing stages, winning 18 of the final 20 games as Sinner struggled physically. The defeat ended Sinner's hopes of completing a Career Grand Slam and snapped his 30-match winning streak. Cerundolo, ranked World No. 56, is now into the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career.



Praggnanandhaa Stuns Carlsen

Praggnanandhaa defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 3 of Norway Chess, earning three crucial points in Oslo. The victory lifted Praggnanandhaa to second place in the standings with 4.5 points, behind tournament leader Alireza Firouzja, who has 7.5 points. Meanwhile, reigning world champion D Gukesh continued his difficult campaign, losing to Firouzja after a hard-fought classical draw. Gukesh currently sits fourth with 3.5 points.

Sumit Antil Breaks Javelin World Record

Sumit Antil shattered his own world record in the Men's Javelin Throw F64 category at the Indian Open International Para Athletics Championships in Bengaluru. The two-time Paralympic champion produced a massive throw of 74.82m, surpassing his previous world record of 73.29m set at the 2022 Asian Para Games. Antil won gold ahead of Maharashtra's Sandip Sargar and Rajasthan's Sandeep. Other standout performers included Praveen Kumar, who won gold in Men's High Jump T64 with a 2.00m leap, and Deepthi Jeevanji, who clinched gold in the Women's 400m T20 event.



Esha Singh Wins ISSF Gold

Esha Singh created history by breaking the world record in the Women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Munich. The 21-year-old Indian shooter scored 43 points in the final to surpass the previous world record of 42 held by South Korea's Kim Ye-ji and clinch the gold medal. Germany's Doreen Vennekamp won silver with 38 points, while Bulgaria's Miroslava Mincheva took bronze with 31 points.

Sindhu, Lakshya Storm Into Singapore Open Quarters

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the quarterfinals of the Singapore Open with impressive wins on Thursday. Sindhu defeated Japan's Riko Gunji 21-9, 21-12 in just 37 minutes and will next face Olympic champion An Se-young. Lakshya progressed after Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn retired injured early in the match. In doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, along with mixed doubles pair Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, also entered the quarterfinals. However, HS Prannoy bowed out after losing to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in three games.



PM Modi Praises Indian Wrestlers U23 Asian Success

Narendra Modi congratulated Indian wrestlers for their impressive performance at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championships in Vietnam. India's men's freestyle and women's wrestling teams clinched the team titles, while the men's freestyle squad recorded the country's highest-ever medal haul with nine medals, including four golds. The women's team won 10 medals, including six gold medals, while the Greco-Roman contingent achieved its best-ever performance with eight medals overall.





Roshni Walia

NTR Remembered on 103rd Birth Anniversary

Tributes poured in across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on the 103rd birth anniversary of legendary actor and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), as political leaders, family members and fans remembered his towering contribution to Telugu cinema and public life. Actor Jr NTR visited the NTR Ghat in Hyderabad on Thursday to pay homage to his grandfather, whose legacy continues to shape both Telugu culture and regional politics decades after his rise to prominence. Several members of the Nandamuri family, including Lakshmi Parvathi, Daggubati Purandeswari and actor Nandamuri Chaitanya Krishna, also paid floral tributes at the memorial. Speaking to the media, Lakshmi Parvathi described NTR as a timeless symbol of Telugu pride and identity. She said his influence continues to live on through the affection of Telugu people across the world, many of whom mark his birth anniversary through food distribution and blood donation drives. "Even after death, only a few continue to live in the hearts of people. NTR garu remains one such immortal personality," she said, while thanking Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for installing NTR's statue in Hyderabad. BJP leader and NTR's daughter Daggubati Purandeswari said the late leader belonged to the people and remained an inseparable part of



Telugu families. "Lakhs of people still celebrate his birth anniversary like a family occasion," she remarked. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tribute to NTR, praising his contribution to governance, public welfare and Indian cinema. In a message posted on X, Modi described him as an inspiration whose ideals continue to guide future generations. Born on May 28, 1923, NTR emerged as one of the greatest icons in Telugu cinema before entering politics and founding the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He served



multiple terms as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and became synonymous with regional pride and welfare-oriented governance. As an actor, producer and director, NTR delivered several landmark films and earned multiple National Awards during a celebrated cinematic career spanning decades. Even today, his larger-than-life screen presence and political legacy continue to command deep admiration among Telugu people worldwide.

'Vishwanath & Sons' Locks August 14 Release

Vishwanath & Sons starring Suriya is set for a worldwide theatrical release on August 14, 2026. Directed by Venky Atluri, the family entertainer also features Mamitha Baiju in a key role. The film's teaser has generated strong buzz, showcasing Suriya as Sanjay Vishwanath, an international pistol shooter chasing his dreams in his 40s. Makers promise a blend of emotions, humour, romance and family values. Movie also stars Radhika Sarath and Raveena. Music is composed by G. V. Prakash.



Karan Johar's Instagram Cleanup Sparks Bollywood Buzz

Filmmaker Karan Johar has triggered fresh curiosity in Bollywood circles after netizens noticed a dramatic change in his Instagram following list, with several of the industry's biggest stars disappearing from it overnight. The filmmaker, known for his close friendships and powerful industry network, has reportedly unfollowed a long list of celebrities including Shah Rukh Khan, Alia Bhatt, Kareena, Varun Dhawan, Sidharth Malhotra, Malaika Arora, Manish Malhotra and Kartik Aaryan. The move has surprised many, especially because several of these names are closely associated with Karan both personally and professionally. Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan and Sidharth Malhotra were launched by Karan through "Student of the Year", while Kartik Aaryan is currently working with Dharma Productions on the upcoming film "Naagzilla". Interestingly, despite the widespread unfollow spree, Priyanka Chopra continues to remain on Karan Johar's following list — a detail that has fuelled even more online speculation given their previously discussed differences and changing

equations over the years. Apart from Priyanka, only a handful of prominent names reportedly remain on Karan's follow list, including Dharma Productions CEO Apoorva Mehta and businessman Adar Poonawalla. Social media users quickly began debating whether the move signals personal fallout, a digital detox, a PR strategy or simply an attempt to clean up his account. However, Karan Johar has not issued any statement explaining the sudden changes. The filmmaker remains highly active on Instagram, where he regularly shares updates about films, fashion, family moments and industry conversations. His account currently has nearly 17 million followers. Professionally, Karan recently backed "Chand Mera Dil", starring Ananya Panday and Lakshya. The film opened to mixed reviews and a modest box-office response. Notably, Ananya too no longer appears on Karan's following list. With no official clarification yet, the unexpected social media reshuffle has become latest talking point, leaving fans wondering whether it reflects changing relationships behind the scenes or simply a personal social media reset.

'Drishyam 3' Crosses ₹200 Crore



Drishyam 3 starring Mohanlal has crossed the ₹200 crore mark globally within just seven days of release, emerging as a major box office blockbuster. Thanking fans for their support, Mohanlal shared a special post celebrating the journey of Georgekutty and his family across the iconic thriller franchise. Directed by Jeethu Joseph, the film marks the final chapter of the acclaimed 'Drishyam' trilogy. Released worldwide on May 21, 2026, the crime thriller received a strong response from audiences and critics alike. The film also stars Meena, Anisba Hassan, Esther Anil, Siddique and Asha Sarath.

Kangana's 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' Pays Tribute to Unsung Heroes

Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata starring Kangana Ranaut unveiled a powerful motion poster titled The Unseen Heroes, honouring hospital workers and ordinary citizens who displayed extraordinary courage during times of crisis. Directed by Manoj Tapadia, the film salutes nurses, ward boys, cleaners, security staff and administrators who continued serving people despite danger around them. Kangana described the film as a tribute to "invisible souls" who rise as protectors of humanity during disasters. The makers said the story focuses on bravery beyond uniforms and celebrates empathy and sacrifice. Presented by Pen Studios, the film also features Girija Oak, Smita Tambe and others. The movie is scheduled for theatrical release on June 12, 2026.



Ram Charan: Box Office Matters, But Isn't Everything

Ram Charan says box office success is important for actors because it gives them the freedom to experiment with future projects, but stressed that collections alone do not define success. Speaking about the impact of box office results, the actor said good numbers help filmmakers and actors take creative risks in upcoming films. However, he added that commercial success is "not the only thing" in cinema. Ram Charan will next be seen in Peddi directed by Buchi Babu Sana. The film also stars Janhvi Kapoor, Boman Irani and Divyendu Sharma. Fans are also excited about the first-time pairing of Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, drawing comparisons with the iconic on-screen pair of Chiranjeevi and Sridevi in classics like Jagadeka Veerudu Athiloka Sundari.

