

TRICOLOUR ESTATE

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

Wednesday
3.6.2026

Pages: 4
Price: Rs.2

Volume: 1
Issue: 15

Published from Jagtial
Circulated to Telangana

PRGI Regd: TGENG/26/A3325
www.tricolourestate.com

Advocates Protection Act Enforced

Hyderabad, June 2: The Telangana government has brought the Telangana Advocates Protection Act, 2026 into force, providing legal safeguards and protection for advocates while discharging their professional duties. The Law Department issued G.O. No. 41 on Tuesday, officially implementing the legislation across the state. The Act was passed by the Telangana Assembly in March this year and later received the Governor's assent. It aims to ensure the safety and security of advocates by providing police protection, safeguards against false cases and harassment, a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism, and protection from threats or retaliatory attacks linked to their professional responsibilities. The state government described the legislation as a significant step towards strengthening the legal profession. Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu had earlier stated that the law was framed after consultations with the Bar Council of Telangana.

Pawan Eyes Telangana Polls

Hyderabad, June 2: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan has announced that his party will contest the 2029 Telangana Assembly elections, signalling Jana Sena's intention to expand its political footprint beyond Andhra Pradesh. Addressing party workers and supporters outside his residence in Hyderabad after police denied permission for a proposed public meeting, Pawan Kalyan asserted that Jana Sena would remain active in Telangana and participate in the state's political process. While confirming the party's electoral plans, he clarified that he currently has no intention of personally contesting from Telangana. The actor-turned-politician strongly reacted to statements made by some political leaders who allegedly warned him against holding meetings or moving freely in the state. He maintained that Telangana is an integral part of India and questioned attempts to restrict his movement. "Telangana is not anyone's private property. As an Indian citizen, I have every right to

travel anywhere in the country," he said, adding that he would not be intimidated by threats or political pressure. Pawan Kalyan said public debate should focus on employment opportunities, governance, and the implementation of welfare promises rather than divisive politics. He argued that political discourse should address issues affecting ordinary people instead of creating regional tensions. The Jana Sena leader also dismissed fears that his party's entry into Telangana politics would destabilise the political landscape. He remarked that he was not driven by a desire for power but by the need for political change and public awareness. Referring to allegations regarding land encroachment, Pawan stated that if any property linked to him was found to have been illegally occupied, he would willingly hand it over to the government. He also warned that any attempt to attack him or his residence would invite legal action. Emphasising national unity, he said regional hatred was more dangerous than terrorism and cautioned against creat-



ing divisions among Telugu-speaking people. According to him, rulers and political parties may differ, but people across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh continue to share strong cultural and social ties. Pawan Kalyan also reiterated that Jana Sena had never opposed the formation of Telangana as a separate state. However, he maintained that his party had objected to the manner in which the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh was carried out in Parliament. Highlighting his long-standing connection with Telangana, he said he has always admired

the state's culture, literature, traditions and history of struggle. He added that his respect for Telangana was not politically motivated and had existed long before he entered active politics. With the 2029 Assembly elections still several years away, Jana Sena's announcement is expected to add a new dimension to Telangana's political landscape, where the Congress, BRS and BJP are currently the principal players. Whether the party contests independently or as part of an alliance will be decided closer to the elections, Pawan Kalyan said.

91 Lifers Released

Hyderabad, June 2: The Telangana Prisons and Correctional Services Department released 91 life convicts on Tuesday after the state government granted them special remission on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day. The beneficiaries include 85 male convicts and six female convicts who were found eligible under the remission guidelines prescribed by the government. To ensure their smooth reintegration into society, the Prisons Department has launched rehabilitation and employment initiatives. According to Soumya Mishra, 38 of the released prisoners have been provided employment opportunities at fuel outlets operated by the department, helping them secure an immediate source of livelihood. The remaining 53 released convicts expressed interest in self-employment, agriculture, family businesses and other independent professions. In a move aimed at promoting women's empowerment, four female convicts were provided sewing machines.

TG Progress Undermined: KTR

Hyderabad, June 2: BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao on Tuesday accused the Congress government of reversing Telangana's progress within two-and-a-half years of coming to power. Speaking during Telangana Formation Day celebrations at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, he alleged that governance had collapsed across several sectors and vowed that the BRS would intensify its efforts to protect the State's interests. KTR claimed that farmers, who earlier benefited from welfare initiatives such as Rythu Bandhu, are now facing severe difficulties due to fertiliser shortages, inadequate crop procurement and lack of government support. He alleged that the Con-



gress came to power through false promises and misinformation and has pushed Telangana backward by nearly 25 years. The BRS leader also accused the government of attempting to discredit former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao by undermining irrigation projects. He criticised the handling of Krishna and Godavari river waters and questioned the government's performance on employment, claiming it had failed to provide even 4,000 jobs so far. He challenged CM Revanth to meet unemployed youth without police protection at public locations. Alleging rising public dissatisfaction, KTR said TG had turned into a "dharna chowk".

TG Leads Paddy Procurement: Revanth

Hyderabad, June 2: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said the state accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the total paddy procured across the country during the current Yasangi (Rabi) season. Addressing the Telangana Formation Day celebrations, he said the government had procured 63.65 lakh metric tonnes of paddy and directly transferred ₹11,903 crore into farmers' bank accounts. The Chief Minister said Telangana had emerged as the leading state in paddy procurement, with no other state currently matching its performance. He noted that the government also purchased nearly 10,000 metric tonnes of wet paddy to protect farmers from losses caused by unseasonal rains. According to estimates for 2025-26, Telangana



recorded a historic food grain output of 236.87 lakh metric tonnes, driven by strong production of paddy, maize and cotton. Revanth Reddy said the government was focusing on strengthening irrigation and agricultural infrastructure. He revealed that efforts were underway to construct a barrage at Tummidihetti on the Godavari River with the co-operation of the Maharash-

tra government. He also criticised the Kaleshwaram project built during the previous regime, alleging structural failures in the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages and stating that restoration works had already begun. Highlighting achievements in employment and education, the Chief Minister said the government had filled 67,763 vacancies in various departments and would soon issue fresh recruitment notifications for engineering, forest, pollution control, town planning and education sectors. He also announced the expansion of pre-primary classes in government schools and reiterated his vision of transforming Telangana into a global gateway and a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047.

DKS Takes Charge

Bengaluru: D. K. Shivakumar is set to be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka, marking a major leadership transition in the state. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will administer the oath of office at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan, with around 13 ministers expected to join the first phase of the new cabinet. The swearing-in follows the resignation of outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after directions from the Congress high command. An eight-time MLA and influential Vokkaliga leader, Shivakumar's elevation comes after years of political struggle and organisational leadership within the Congress. He described his rise as a result of dedication and hard work, saying his long-standing commitment to the party leadership.

Book Your Ad Space

Reach thousands of readers daily. Place your advertisement in

TRICOLOUR ESTATE

English Daily.

Call: +91 9440455811

tricolourestate@gmail.com

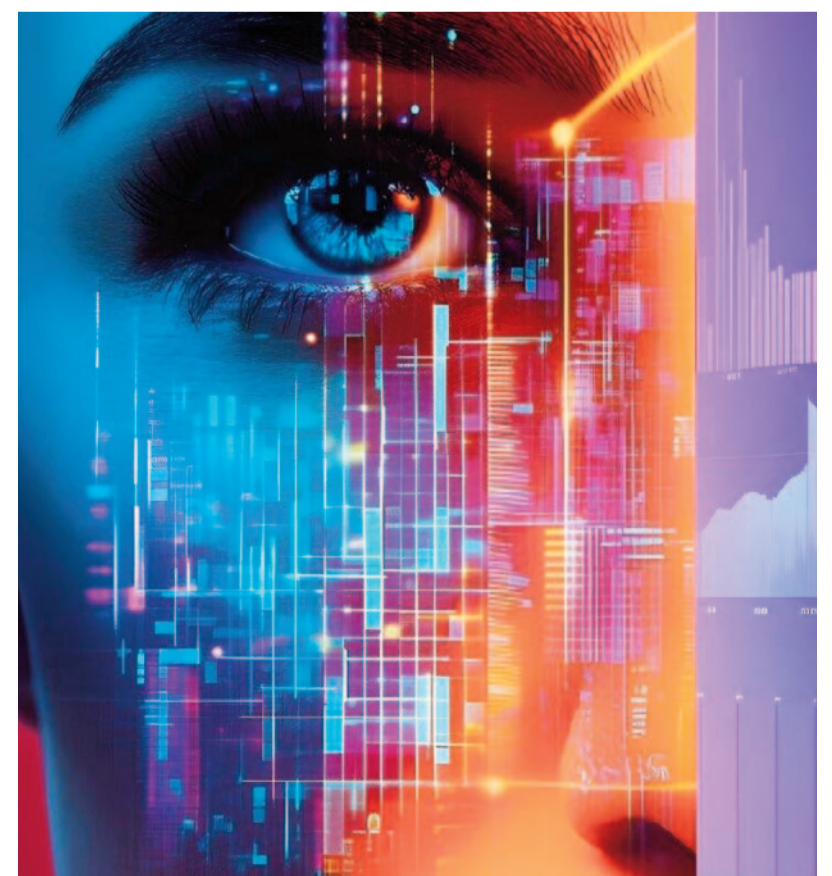
Contact our marketing team for rates and offers.

AI Drives Ad Revolution

New Delhi, June 2: India is emerging as a major global AdTech hub as artificial intelligence transforms the advertising industry, according to a report by Redseer Strategy Consultants. The report said AI is reshaping every aspect of advertising, including media buying, content creation, customer targeting, measurement and commerce, leading to more automated and data-driven marketing models. India's strong technology ecosystem, supported by millions of engineering graduates, a vast developer community and nearly 1,900 Global Capability Centres, provides a solid foundation for AI-led innovation. These centres generate exports worth \$65-

75 billion annually. As global advertising spending crossed the \$1 trillion mark, India is expected to play a key role in developing next-generation advertising technologies. The country's digital advertising market is projected to grow from about \$21 billion in 2025 to between \$33 billion and \$42 billion by 2030. According to the report, digital platforms now account for nearly 80% of global advertising expenditure, with most digital advertising transactions already being conducted through automated programmatic systems. Redseer Associate Partner Mukesh Kumar said AI is not merely enhancing advertising but fundamen-

tally rewriting how the industry operates. He noted that India's decades-long investment in engineering talent positions it well to build advanced AI-driven advertising infrastructure. The report also highlighted that Indian-origin AdTech firms are increasingly evolving into global product companies, capturing higher-value software and platform revenues instead of relying solely on traditional outsourcing services. With AI adoption accelerating worldwide, companies with strong data ecosystems, publisher networks and AI capabilities are expected to gain a competitive advantage in the global advertising market.



EDITORIAL

Water Wars:
Next Big Challenge

Water is fast emerging as India's most precious and contested resource. While political debates often revolve around elections, welfare schemes, and economic growth, a far more serious challenge is quietly unfolding across the country — the growing conflict over water. River disputes between states, rapid groundwater depletion, and the effects of climate change are turning water into a major governance and development issue. India has witnessed several interstate river disputes over the years, including conflicts involving the Cauvery, Krishna, and Ravi-Beas river systems. As water demand increases due to population growth, urbanization, and industrial expansion, these disputes are becoming more intense.

States are increasingly viewing water as a strategic resource, often prioritizing regional interests over cooperative solutions. Such confrontations not only strain federal relations but also delay long-term planning and infrastructure development. Equally alarming is the silent crisis beneath the ground. Groundwater has become the backbone of Indian agriculture, yet excessive extraction has pushed many regions toward severe depletion. Farmers, industries, and growing cities continue to draw water faster than nature can replenish it. In several parts of the country, falling water tables have already become a reality. If this trend continues, future generations may inherit a landscape marked by water scarcity and declining agricultural productivity.

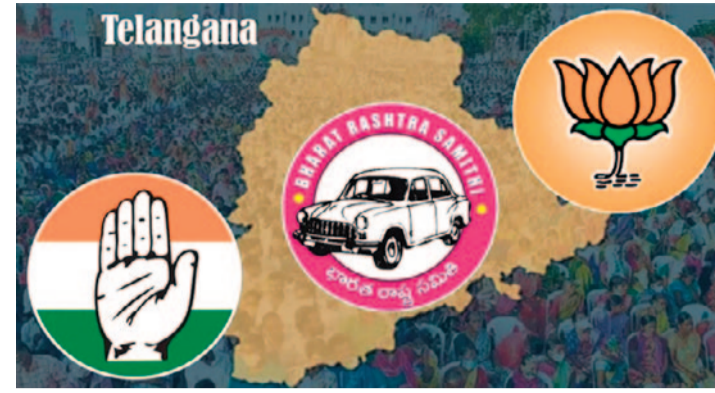
Climate change is further complicating the situation. Erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events are making water management increasingly difficult. Traditional assumptions about monsoons and water availability are no longer reliable. A single year of poor rainfall can trigger economic distress, affect food production, and intensify competition for limited resources. The solution lies not in political confrontation but in cooperative management. States must move beyond short-term political calculations and adopt a shared approach to water governance.

Scientific river basin planning, rainwater harvesting, watershed development, efficient irrigation methods, and groundwater regulation must become national priorities. Urban areas must also focus on wastewater recycling and sustainable consumption practices. Water is not merely an environmental issue; it is an economic, social, and national security concern. The next major conflict in India may not be over territory or ideology but over access to water. The time to act is now. Unless governments, and citizens collectively embrace sustainable water management, today's water disputes could become tomorrow's water wars.

Telangana Sentiment Resurfacing

More than a decade after the formation of Telangana, a question that many believed had been settled is once again finding space in public discourse: Why is Telangana sentiment resurfacing? The creation of Telangana in 2014 was not merely an administrative exercise or a political compromise. It was the culmination of decades of struggle, sacrifice, and collective aspiration. For millions of people, Telangana was never just about geographical boundaries. It was about identity, dignity, self-rule, and the belief that a region long perceived to have been neglected would finally gain the power to shape its own destiny. When statehood was achieved, many assumed that the emotional and political force behind the movement would gradually fade. After all, the principal demand had been fulfilled. A separate state had become a reality. Yet recent political developments, public debates, cultural discussions, and social media conversations suggest that Telangana sentiment remains alive and, in some contexts, is becoming stronger once again. This resurgence is not accidental. It reflects a deeper reality about regional identity politics in India. Identities built through historical experiences do not disappear simply because administrative goals are achieved. They continue to influence political behavior, public expectations, and collective memory. The renewed discussion around Telangana sentiment therefore deserves careful examination. Is it being revived artificially by political actors? Is it a natural response to contemporary developments? Or does it indicate that the aspirations that fueled the movement remain only partially fulfilled? The answer lies somewhere in the intersection of politics, history, culture, and public perception. Telangana Was Never Just About Geography

One of the biggest misconceptions about the Telangana movement is that it was solely about development disparities. Certainly, issues such as water allocation, employment opportunities, irrigation projects, educational access, and public investment played important roles. But reducing the movement to economics alone misses its emotional core. The Telangana struggle was fundamentally rooted in a demand for recognition. For decades, many people in the region felt that their dialect, culture, traditions, and social experiences were treated as secondary within the larger political framework. Whether entirely accurate or not, this perception became deeply embedded in the public consciousness. The movement gained strength because it transformed economic grievances into a broader narrative of self-respect. The slogan was not merely "we need more funds." It became "we deserve to govern ourselves." That distinction is crucial. Economic problems can be solved through policy interventions. Questions of identity, however, operate at a much deeper level. They become part of collective memory and are transmitted across generations. This is why Telangana sentiment continues to resonate even among young people who never directly experienced the earlier phases of the movement. They inherit stories of struggle, sacrifice, and aspiration. They grow



up with narratives that emphasize regional pride and historical injustice. As a result, Telangana identity remains a powerful political and cultural force. Political Narratives Keep Sentiment Alive Regional identities do not survive on history alone. They require continuous reinforcement through political narratives. Across the world, political leaders often invoke history to shape contemporary public opinion. Telangana is no exception. Whenever political competition intensifies, references to the movement tend to reappear. Political parties recognize that the Telangana movement remains one of the most emotionally powerful events in the state's history. Invoking its memory helps establish legitimacy, mobilize supporters, and frame current political debates. For some parties, the movement represents a source of political capital. For others, it serves as a reminder that regional aspirations must continue to be respected. As a result, the language of Telangana pride frequently resurfaces during elections, legislative debates, public meetings, and policy controversies. This does not necessarily mean the sentiment is manufactured. Rather, political actors often amplify emotions that already exist within society. The relationship works both ways. Public sentiment influences political discourse, and political discourse reinforces public sentiment. Consequently, Telangana identity remains relevant not because politicians talk about it, but because people continue to find meaning in it.

The Power of Collective Memory

Every successful mass movement leaves behind a collective memory. India's freedom struggle continues to influence national identity decades after independence. Similarly, Telangana's statehood movement remains central to the state's political consciousness. Collective memory is powerful because it transforms historical events into symbols. Students who participated in protests become symbols of sacrifice. Cultural activists become symbols of resistance. Public intellectuals become symbols of ideological commitment. Ordinary citizens who supported the movement become symbols of collective determination. These symbols create a shared emotional framework that extends beyond political cycles. Whenever people perceive threats to their identity, culture, or aspirations, they instinctively draw upon these memories. The past becomes a lens through which the present is interpreted. This explains why discussions about Telangana sentiment often evoke strong emotions even years after state formation. The movement is not remembered simply as a political campaign. It is remembered as a defining chapter in regional history. Development Has Not Eliminated Identity One argument frequently

made is that development should replace identity politics. According to this view, once a state achieves economic progress, questions of regional identity should naturally lose importance. Reality, however, is more complex. Development and identity are not mutually exclusive. People can simultaneously desire better roads, stronger industries, improved education, and recognition of their cultural identity. In fact, economic success often strengthens regional pride. When people see progress within their state, they become more invested in its identity and achievements. Telangana's rapid urban growth, expanding infrastructure, and increasing national visibility have contributed to a stronger sense of regional confidence. Rather than weakening Telangana identity, development has in some ways reinforced it. Citizens increasingly see Telangana as a distinct success story with its own trajectory and aspirations. This does not mean every developmental challenge has been resolved. It means that economic progress and regional identity often reinforce each other rather than compete.

Cultural Assertion as Political Expression

Language, festivals, folk traditions, literature, and historical narratives play important roles in sustaining regional identity. The Telangana movement led to renewed interest in local cultural expressions. Traditional festivals gained greater visibility. Regional dialects received increased recognition. Local historical figures were celebrated more prominently. Folk arts experienced a revival. These developments were not merely cultural phenomena. They carried political significance. Cultural assertion became a way of affirming regional identity. In many societies, culture serves as the most accessible expression of political belonging. People may not participate in political movements every day, but they celebrate festivals, speak local dialects, and engage with regional traditions. Through these everyday practices, identity remains alive. As long as Telangana culture continues to be actively celebrated, Telangana sentiment is likely to retain its relevance.

The Role of Social Media

Unlike earlier generations, today's political narratives spread through digital platforms. Social media has dramatically altered how regional identities are discussed and reinforced. Historical speeches, movement photographs, protest songs, and political messages can now reach millions within hours. Digital platforms create spaces where collective memories are constantly revisited. A single anniversary, controversy, or political statement can trigger widespread discussions about Telangana's history and future. Social media also encourages emotional engagement. Content emphasizing pride, injustice,

achievement, or cultural uniqueness often gains significant traction. As a result, regional identity politics has found a powerful new medium. The Telangana sentiment that once spread through public meetings and protests now travels through smartphones and online communities.

Are Unfulfilled Aspirations Playing a Role?

The resurgence of Telangana sentiment may also reflect a gap between expectations and outcomes. Statehood created enormous hopes. People expected improvements in employment, agriculture, education, healthcare, and governance. While progress has occurred in many areas, public expectations have continued to rise. This is a natural consequence of political success. When people achieve a major goal, they often set higher standards for the future. Any perceived shortcoming can therefore generate renewed discussions about the original objectives of the movement.

Citizens begin asking difficult questions:

Have all promises been fulfilled? Have the benefits reached every section of society? Are regional aspirations being adequately represented? These questions do not necessarily indicate dissatisfaction with statehood itself. Rather, they reflect an ongoing effort to evaluate whether the spirit of the movement is being realized in practice.

Identity Politics: Strength or Risk?

The resurgence of Telangana sentiment raises an important democratic question. Can regional identity politics be constructive? The answer depends on how it is expressed. At its best, regional identity politics promotes cultural preservation, political participation, and accountability. It reminds governments that development must respect local aspirations. It strengthens democratic engagement by encouraging citizens to take ownership of their state's future. However, identity politics can also become problematic when it relies excessively on division or exclusion. A healthy regional identity celebrates uniqueness without creating hostility. It promotes self-respect without fostering resentment. It recognizes historical experiences without becoming trapped by them. The challenge for Telangana—and indeed for every region—is to strike this balance.

The Future of Telangana Sentiment

The most important question is not whether Telangana sentiment will continue. It almost certainly will. The more important question is how it will evolve. Will it remain focused primarily on historical grievances? Or will it transform into a forward-looking vision centered on development, innovation, social justice, and cultural confidence? Mature regional identities do not survive by constantly revisiting old conflicts. They survive by converting historical struggles into future aspirations.

- Ranadheer Gundu
Hyderabad

Dreams Beyond IPL



After taking the TATA IPL 2026 by storm, Rajasthan Royals sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi has now set his sights on an even bigger goal — representing India in Test cricket. The young opener enjoyed a dream season, finishing as the tournament's highest run-scorer and claiming the prestigious Orange Cap. His remarkable consistency also earned him the Most Valuable Player award, capping off a breakthrough campaign that established him as one of Indian cricket's brightest emerging stars. Reflecting on his achievements, Vaibhav revealed that his success was the result of meticulous planning. Before the tournament began, he had set himself a target of scoring 700 runs and regularly tracked his progress throughout the season. Winning individual honours was special, he admitted, but the season also taught him valuable lessons about handling pressure and adapting to different match situations. According to the youngster, success in top-level cricket requires flexibility rather than relying on a single approach. One of the biggest misconceptions about his batting, Vaibhav said, is that he tries to attack every delivery. While he enjoys playing aggressive cricket in the T20 format, he believes shot selection and understanding match conditions are equally important. Beyond the glamour of franchise

cricket, however, his ultimate ambition lies in the traditional format of the game. Vaibhav said he has spent considerable time working with the red ball and hopes to showcase those skills in the future. Inspired by his father's advice that Test cricket remains the purest form of the sport, he is determined to strengthen his technique and temperament for the longer format. Having already experienced the challenges of first-class cricket through a handful of Ranji Trophy matches, the youngster acknowledged that red-ball cricket demands a different level of discipline and patience. He believes there is still plenty of room for improvement and is committed to working hard on that aspect of his game. Vaibhav also reflected on Rajasthan Royals' narrow defeat to Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2, admitting that his side may have fallen short by around a dozen runs. Looking back, he felt he could have managed the middle overs better by retaining more of the strike on a challenging surface where new batters struggled to settle. Despite the disappointment of missing out on the final, the season marked a major milestone in Vaibhav's career. Having conquered the IPL stage, the fearless youngster is now focused on the next chapter — proving that he can succeed not only in T20 cricket but also in the demanding world of Test cricket.



From Exile To Glory

Wellington: Five years after fleeing their homeland following the Taliban's return to power, members of Afghanistan's women's football team are finally seeing their dream of representing their country come alive once again. Now based largely in Australia, the players have spent years training and competing while campaigning for international recognition. Their efforts received a major boost when FIFA recently granted the Afghan women's team eligibility to

participate in international competitions. This week, 23 players are attending a training camp in Auckland, New Zealand, where they are preparing for matches against a Cook Islands side. For many of them, the camp represents much more than football—it is a symbol of resilience, survival and hope. Goalkeeper Fatima Yousufi and midfielder Mona Amini are among those who escaped Afghanistan after women's sports were banned under Taliban rule in 2021. Forced

to leave behind families, careers and dreams, they rebuilt their lives abroad while refusing to give up on football. The players say the opportunity to once again wear their national colours is deeply emotional. Beyond sporting success, they hope to become a voice for women and girls in Afghanistan who continue to face severe restrictions on education, employment and public life. Their journey from uncertainty to international recognition stands as one of the most inspiring stories.

Sindhu's Top-10 Return

Indonesia: India's badminton star PV Sindhu marked her return to the world's top 10 with an impressive opening-round victory at the Indonesia Open 2026, defeating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in straight games on Tuesday. Playing at the iconic Istora Senayan Stadium, Sindhu overcame a stiff challenge in the opening game before sealing a 25-23, 21-16 victory to advance to the second round. The win extended her remarkable dominance over the Thai shuttler, improving her head-to-head record to 21-1 and marking her 11th consecutive victory against Busanan. The two-time Olympic medallist recently re-entered the top 10 of the world rankings for the first time since 2023, and her latest performance offered further evidence that she is

rediscovering her best form on the international circuit. Sindhu will now face a much tougher challenge in the next round, where she is likely to come up against top seed An Se Young of South Korea, provided the Korean star clears her opening hurdle against Turkey's Neslihan Arin. India also had reason to celebrate in the men's doubles competition, with the pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun progressing to the next stage. The Indian duo produced a dominant display to defeat Malaysia's experienced combination of Tan Wee Kiong and Nur Mohd Azriyan 21-18, 21-10 in just 33 minutes. However, it was not a successful day for all Indian shuttlers. Lakshya Sen suffered an early exit after losing 21-19, 21-16 to Indonesia's rising star Alwi Farhan. The Indone-



sian entered the tournament with confidence after stunning World No. 1 Shi Yu Qi at the Singapore Open last week and carried that momentum into his victory over the Indian. With Sindhu and the men's doubles pair moving forward, India's hopes remain alive at one of the most prestigious tournaments on the BWF World Tour calendar.

Harmanpreet Creates History

India women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur scripted history by becoming the most-capped player in women's international cricket, surpassing New Zealand star Suzie Bates during the third and deciding T20I against England. The landmark match was Harmanpreet's 368th international appearance for India, taking her past Bates' tally of 367 games. The achievement adds another glorious chapter.

India's Road To 2027



Team India is set for an intense international schedule ahead of the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, with the Men in Blue expected to play 53 matches across formats between June 2026 and the start of the 2027 Indian Premier League season. According to the proposed Future Tours Programme, India will feature in 10 Test matches, 20 One-Day Internationals and 23 T20 Internationals during the nine-month period. The packed calendar is designed to provide crucial preparation across formats, particularly in the lead-up to the next ODI World Cup. India's campaign is expected to begin with a home series against Afghanistan featuring Test and ODI matches. The team will then embark on overseas tours to Ireland, England, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, facing a variety of conditions and challenges. Several teams, including West Indies, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, are also scheduled to visit India for white-ball assignments, ensuring a steady flow of international cricket throughout the season. A three-match T20I series involving Afghanistan as the host nation is also expected to be played at a neutral venue in New Delhi. The highlight of the schedule will be a five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia, slated to begin in late January 2027 and extend into early March. The marquee series is likely to serve as the final major assignment before attention shifts to the IPL and the World Cup preparations. With 20 ODIs lined up before the global event, the schedule offers India ample opportunities to fine-tune combinations, test bench strength and build momentum ahead of one of cricket's biggest tournaments. The demanding itinerary has already sparked discussion among fans, with many pointing to the physical and mental challenges of balancing all three formats within such a compressed timeframe. Nevertheless, it presents India with a valuable opportunity to prepare comprehensively for the road to the 2027 World Cup.

India Adds Net Bowlers

The Indian cricket team has strengthened its preparations for the upcoming Test against Afghanistan by bringing six promising bowlers into the camp as net bowlers ahead of the match scheduled later this week. According to a BCCI release, Gurjapneet Singh, Auqib Nabi, Prince Yadav, Saransh Jain, Zeeshan Ansari and Shivang Kumar have joined the national squad to assist the players during training sessions. The inclusion of the six bowlers is aimed at ensuring the Indian batters get quality match-like practice before the start of the Test. The group offers a mix of pace and spin options, allowing the team management to simulate different bowling conditions and strategies during net sessions.

Zverev Storms Into Semis

Paris: Germany's Alexander Zverev moved a step closer to his long-awaited Grand Slam breakthrough after cruising into the French Open semifinals with a commanding straight-sets victory over Spanish teenager Rafael Nadal on Tuesday. The second seed overcame a brief challenge in the opening set before taking complete control of the contest, sealing a 7-6 (7/3), 6-1, 6-3 win at Roland Garros. The victory sends Zverev into his fifth French Open semifinal in the last six editions, underlining his consistency on the Paris clay. Nadal, 19, showed flashes of brilliance and even threatened an

upset after breaking Zverev in the opening set. However, the experienced German responded immediately, forcing a tie-break and eventually shifting the momentum firmly in his favour. With top contenders Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic already out of the tournament, Zverev has emerged as one of the leading favourites for the title. The 29-year-old, who has finished runner-up in three Grand Slam finals, is now eyeing a maiden major crown. Zverev will next face either Joao Fonseca or Jakub Mensik for a place in the final. Having dropped just one set throughout the tournament.

Kostyuk Scripts History

Paris: Marta Kostyuk continued her dream run at the French Open, defeating fellow Ukrainian Elina Svitolina in a hard-fought quarterfinal to reach the first Grand Slam semifinal of her career. The 23-year-old prevailed 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 in an emotional all-Ukrainian clash on Tuesday, adding another impressive victory to a remarkable campaign that has already seen her eliminate four-time champion Iga Swiatek. Kostyuk started strongly, claiming the opening set with aggressive baseline play. Svitolina responded in the second set, forcing the con-

test into a decider. However, Kostyuk raised her level when it mattered most, dominating the final set to secure a historic victory. The win extended Kostyuk's unbeaten run on clay this season to 17 matches and reinforced her status as one of the most in-form players on the tour. Having already lifted titles in Madrid and Rouen this year, she is now just one step away from a maiden Grand Slam final. Kostyuk will face Russian teenager Mirra Andrejeva in the semifinals, with a place in Saturday's championship match at stake.

Bahutule Gets Key Role

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has appointed former India all-rounder Sairaj Bahutule as the spin bowling coach of the Indian men's cricket team, entrusting the seasoned coach with the responsibility of shaping the country's next generation of spin talent. Bahutule's appointment comes after years of distinguished service across Indian cricket's coaching structure, where he earned a reputation for developing young bowlers and strengthening spin departments at various levels of the game. A former India international, Bahutule represented the national team



in two Test matches and eight One-Day Internationals. Though his international career was brief, he enjoyed an outstanding domestic career spanning nearly two decades. He amassed 6,176 runs and captured 630 wickets in first-class cricket, establishing himself as one of the most accomplished all-rounders on the domestic circuit.



Kajal Aggarwal

Kriti's Strict Transformation

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon revealed that preparing for her glamorous role as Ally in *Cocktail 2* required one of the toughest fitness routines of her career. Speaking at the film's trailer launch, Kriti said she followed a strict diet regimen while shooting in Italy, admitting that the discipline often left her feeling "cranky and hungry." The actress, who has drawn praise for her toned appearance and stylish look in the film, said the effort was necessary to fully embody the character. Despite the challenges, she described the transformation as worthwhile. Directed by Homi Adajania, *Cocktail 2* stars Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon. The film, a standalone spiritual sequel to the 2012 hit *Cocktail*, revolves around friendship, romance and emotional conflict. Produced by Maddock Films, the movie is scheduled to hit theatres on June 19.



'Nagabandham' Unveils New Poster

Hyderabad: The makers of *Nagabandham: The Secret Treasure* have released a new poster ahead of the film's theatrical release on July 3. The latest artwork features actor Virat Karra in a striking depiction inspired by Lord Shiva, reinforcing the film's mythological and adventure-driven narrative. The makers say the project blends India's rich cultural heritage with modern visual effects and large-scale storytelling. Directed by Abhishek Nama, the film also stars Nabha Natesh, Ishwarya Menon, Mahesh Manjrekar and Jagapathi Babu in key roles. The movie is being produced by NIK Studios and Abhishek Pictures.



'Raakh' Trailer.. Intense Thriller

Mumbai: Prime Video has unveiled the gripping trailer of its upcoming investigative crime thriller series *Raakh*, set to premiere on June 12. The series stars Sonali Bendre, Ali Fazal and Aamir Bashir in lead roles. Created by Anusha Nandkumar and Sandeep Saketh and directed by Prosit Roy, the show blends crime investigation with emotional drama and psychological depth. Ali Fazal, who plays a police officer, described the series as more than a conventional thriller.

Jewellery Theft Shocks Tandon Family

Mumbai: A 47-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly stealing jewellery and luxury watches worth around Rs 25 lakh from the family of actress Raveena Tandon. According to Mumbai Police, the accused, Rashi Chhabria, allegedly gained the trust of the family while helping care for the actress's elderly mother, Veena Tandon. Investigators said she had access to the family residence and allegedly stole heirloom gold and diamond ornaments along with expensive wristwatches kept in a secure locker. The theft came to light when the valuables were found missing ahead of a family celebration. Police said the accused initially denied involvement but later allegedly confessed and returned some of the stolen items. The remaining jewellery is yet to be recovered. Authorities have registered a case and are investigating the role of the accused's associates while efforts continue to trace the missing valuables.



Kangana Backs Ranveer in Don 3 Row

Mumbai: Actress and politician Kangana Ranaut has come out in support of actor Ranveer Singh amid the controversy surrounding his exit from *Don 3*. Speaking at a film event, Kangana said that successful people inevitably attract criticism and opposition. She urged Ranveer to focus on his achievements rather than controversies. The dispute escalated after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees issued a non-cooperation directive against the actor following allegations related to the project. Ranveer has maintained silence on the matter publicly, stating through his representatives that professional issues should be handled with dignity and mutual respect. Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma also criticised the move, arguing that the federation's action was excessive and that industry disputes should be resolved through dialogue rather than public confrontation.



Charli XCX Announces New Album

Washington: Grammy-winning singer Charli XCX has announced her new album, *Music, Fashion, Film*, which is scheduled for release on July 24. The album's cover features music legend John Cale, fashion designer Marc Jacobs and acclaimed filmmaker Martin Scorsese. The 11-track project includes previously released songs "Rock Music" and "SS26" and signals a creative shift toward a more guitar-driven sound. Charli said she deliberately chose not to replicate the style of her previous album *Brat*, preferring to experiment with new influences and musical directions.



Kohli, Anushka Visit Premanand Maharaj

Vrindavan: Star cricketer Virat Kohli and actress Anushka Sharma visited spiritual leader Premanand Maharaj in Vrindavan on Tuesday. The couple was seen leaving the ashram after seeking blessings from the guru, whom they have reportedly visited regularly over the past few years. Their latest visit comes shortly after Kohli guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a second consecutive IPL title. Following the spiritual visit, the couple returned to Mumbai. Kohli recently reflected on RCB's successful title defence, describing it as a result of the team's determination to repeat last year's achievement.

Singer Alleges Career Ban

Kolkata: Bengali singer Riddhi Bandyopadhyay has claimed that she was denied opportunities in West Bengal during the previous government's tenure and raised the issue during a public grievance programme conducted by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. Speaking after attending the 'Janta Darbar' event in Kolkata, the singer alleged that she had effectively been barred from receiving work in her home state. She said the Chief Minister assured her that the matter would be looked into. The grievance hearing was organised to allow citizens to directly present complaints and concerns before the state administration.

