

TRICOLOUR ESTATE

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

Saturday
6.6.2026

Pages: 4
Price: Rs.2

Volume: 1
Issue: 18

Published from Jagtial
Circulated to Telangana

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

Overqualification Is a Disadvantage: SC

New Delhi, June 5: The Supreme Court has ruled that candidates possessing higher qualifications cannot secure government jobs specifically reserved for applicants with lower educational qualifications, stating that such appointments deprive genuinely eligible candidates of employment opportunities. A Bench comprising Justices Ahnuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan made the observation while setting aside a Madras High Court order that had reinstated a temporary bank attendant. The court noted that the employee had obtained the job by concealing the fact that he was a graduate, despite the post being reserved for candidates with educational qualifications

up to Class 10. The Bench observed that public employment must be offered strictly according to prescribed eligibility criteria and allowing overqualified candidates to occupy such posts would unfairly deny opportunities to deserving applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Supreme Court said the policy of fixing an upper educational qualification limit is reasonable and intended to create employment opportunities for individuals who could not pursue higher studies due to economic or social circumstances. Describing the State as a model employer, the court held that reserving certain categories of jobs for less-qualified candidates is legally valid and



has consistently been upheld by courts. Upholding the bank's decision to dismiss the employee, the apex court reaffirmed that transparency and adherence to recruitment norms are essential in public employment.

Madras HC Rap On SC Delay

Chennai, June 5: The Madras High Court has sharply criticised the delay in resolving a 2016 election dispute involving former Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker M. Appavu, observing that prolonged pendency of election cases undermines the spirit of democracy. Justice G. Jayachandran expressed concern that the Supreme Court kept the matter pending for over six years before sending it back to the High Court without deciding a key legal question related to the validity of postal votes attested by government middle school headmasters. The dispute arose from the 2016 Radhapuram Assembly election, in which Appavu lost by 49 votes to I.

S. Inbadurai after 203 postal ballots were rejected. Most of those rejected votes had reportedly been cast in Appavu's favour. The judge noted that the High Court had already ruled in 2019 that the postal ballots were valid and ordered a recount. However, the recount process was stalled after an appeal reached the Supreme Court. Following the Supreme Court's recent decision to leave the legal question open and permit further proceedings, the High Court declared Appavu as the duly elected candidate from Radhapuram in the 2016 election, with a revised victory margin of 103 votes. Justice Jayachandran described the decade-long delay as a



"grave mockery of justice" for voters and emphasised that election petitions should be disposed of expeditiously as mandated under the Representation of the People Act. The court observed that failure to adhere to statutory timelines for election disputes could weaken democratic institutions and erode public faith in the electoral process.

Won't Burden Leadership: Annamalai

Chennai, June 6: Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai has resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party, announcing plans to launch a new political movement aimed at bringing what he described as a growth-oriented and culturally rooted political alternative in the state. In his resignation letter addressed to BJP state president Nainar Nagendran, Annamalai said he did not want to "burden the top leadership" with his views on the future political direction of Tamil Nadu. The former IPS officer, popularly known as "Singham" for his aggressive political style, said he entered politics six years ago with the objective of bringing positive change to Tamil Nadu, inspired by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Annamalai argued that the people of Tamil Nadu had become weary of traditional political discourse dominated for decades by the state's major Dravidian parties. He said public demand for an alternative political culture motivated his entry into public life. In his letter, he emphasized the need to end what he termed "cult and dynastic politics" and called for a new model that reflects regional aspirations while re-



maintaining committed to national unity. He also appeared to criticize the approach of national parties in Tamil Nadu, stating that they often failed to communicate in a language that resonated with the people of the state. "I firmly believe that a strong and united India is built upon the strength, dignity and aspirations of its many regions and communities," he said. Annamalai's resignation comes weeks after the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, where actor-turned-politician Vijay emerged as a significant political force, outperforming expectations

and making notable inroads against established parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Despite Annamalai's departure, BJP leaders sought to downplay its impact. State BJP chief Nainar Nagendran said the resignation would not be a major setback for the party and expressed confidence in the organisation's future prospects in Tamil Nadu. Political observers believe Annamalai's next move could significantly influence the evolving political landscape of Tamil Nadu ahead of future elections.

Revanth 'Aur Ek Baar' Call

Jedcharla, June 6: TG Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has set the stage for the 2029 Assembly elections by unveiling the slogan "Aur Ek Baar, Congress Sarkar", expressing confidence that the Congress would secure a second consecutive term in Telangana. Addressing a public meeting in Jedcherla on Friday, Revanth Reddy led the crowd in chanting the slogan and said Telangana voters have consistently given governments two consecutive terms since 1994. He noted that the Telugu Desam Party ruled from 1994 to 2004, Congress from 2004 to 2014, and the BRS from 2014 to 2024. The Chief Minister asserted that the Congress government, which came to power in 2023, would continue in office until 2034. Launching a sharp attack on BRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao,



Revanth Reddy challenged him to a public debate on the performance of the BRS government's 10-year rule and the Congress government's 30 months in office. Highlighting welfare initiatives, he said the government had issued 15 lakh ration cards, sanctioned 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses, provided 200 units of free electricity to 50 lakh families and spent nearly ₹10,000 crore on free bus travel for

women. The Chief Minister also vowed to secure Telangana's share of Krishna and Godavari waters and promised accelerated funding for irrigation projects, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. Revanth Reddy accused the BRS of misleading people during its tenure and declared that the Congress would politically weaken the party in the Palamuru region in the coming years.

Repo Rate Unchanged

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent for the third consecutive policy meeting, citing rising inflation risks and concerns over slowing economic growth

amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to maintain the current rate and continue with its neutral policy stance. While the central

bank revised its FY27 inflation forecast upward to 5.1 per cent from 4.6 per cent, it lowered the GDP growth projection to 6.6 per cent from 6.9 per cent.



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.

CJP Calls Protest

New Delhi, June 5: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a social media-driven youth movement with millions of followers, has released a detailed advisory ahead of its planned protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on June 6. The organisation, which gained popularity through satirical online content, is calling for a peaceful demonstration against alleged irregularities in examinations including NEET, CBSE, CUET and SSC-GD. The group has also demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging repeated failures to prevent question paper leaks. In a video message, CJP leaders urged par-

ticipants to maintain discipline and ensure that the protest remains peaceful and democratic. The organisation advised protesters to carry the national flag and books, document events through videos and photographs, report any suspicious activity, and take precautions against the summer heat by carrying water, wearing caps and applying sunscreen. At the same time, participants were urged not to engage with provocateurs, avoid attending alone where possible, refrain from any disruptive activities and maintain a peaceful atmosphere during the demonstration. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, who is travelling to India ahead of the protest,

appealed to supporters not to gather at Delhi Airport, citing security concerns and inconvenience to the public. The group claims that growing frustration among students over examination related controversies has fueled support for the movement.

Organisers said the protest aims to draw attention to demands for greater transparency and accountability in the country's education and recruitment systems. Authorities are expected to monitor the gathering closely, while organisers have repeatedly emphasised that the demonstration will be conducted through peaceful and lawful means.

Pragg Creates History

Oslo, June 6: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title after defeating Vincent Keymer in the final round on Friday. Starting the day in third place with 15 points, the 20-year-old Chennai prodigy secured a crucial classical victory worth three points to finish on 18 points and claim the championship. With the triumph, Praggnanandhaa achieved a milestone that had eluded Indian chess great Viswanathan Anand and reigning world champion D Gukesh since the tournament began in 2013. Praggnanandhaa's campaign gained momentum in the second half of the tournament and was highlighted



by two classical victories over world No.1 Magnus Carlsen. The title race swung in his favour after leader Wesley So failed to secure a classical win against Alireza Firouzja in the final round. Capitalising on the opportunity, Praggnanandhaa defeated Keymer to seal a landmark victory and add another golden chapter to Indian chess history.



EDITORIAL

Annamalai's Exit: A Warning for BJP's North-South Divide?

The resignation of K. Annamalai from the BJP has triggered intense political debate across the country. More than the departure of a prominent leader, it raises a larger question about the BJP's ability to accommodate strong regional voices within a highly centralized political structure. For a party seeking deeper roots in southern India, Annamalai's exit could prove to be a significant moment of introspection. Annamalai emerged as one of the BJP's most recognizable faces in Tamil Nadu, a state where Dravidian parties have dominated politics for decades. His aggressive campaigning, grassroots outreach, and ability to connect with young voters gave the BJP visibility in a politically challenging landscape. He was widely seen as a leader capable of expanding the party's footprint in a region where it has traditionally struggled. However, his departure has reignited concerns about the relationship between the party's central leadership and its regional leaders. Critics argue that while the BJP promotes strong local faces to gain electoral traction, key decisions continue to be shaped primarily by the leadership in New Delhi. This often leaves state leaders with limited autonomy, particularly in regions where political realities differ significantly from those in northern India. The issue is especially relevant in southern states, where regional identity, language, and local political dynamics play a decisive role in electoral outcomes. Strategies that work in northern India cannot always be replicated successfully in the South. Regional leaders frequently require greater flexibility to address local aspirations and concerns. Annamalai's resignation therefore symbolizes more than an individual political decision. It reflects the growing challenge faced by national parties in balancing centralized leadership with regional empowerment. If influential leaders feel constrained or sidelined, the party risks alienating precisely those figures who can help it expand in politically difficult territories. For the BJP, the episode should serve as an opportunity for reflection. The party's ambitions of becoming a truly pan-Indian force depend not only on electoral strategies but also on its willingness to trust and empower regional leadership. Whether Annamalai's exit will have a lasting electoral impact remains to be seen. Yet the message is unmistakable. A national party cannot thrive across a diverse country solely through centralized decision-making. Sustainable growth requires respect for regional aspirations, local leadership, and state-specific political realities. If the BJP fails to address these concerns, Annamalai's departure may be remembered not as an isolated event, but as a warning signal of a deeper North-South disconnect within the party.

Regional Parties Under Siege

Indian democracy has long been celebrated for its diversity. Unlike many countries where politics revolves around two dominant parties, India's political landscape has historically accommodated national parties, regional movements, caste-based organizations, linguistic aspirations, and state-specific political formations. This diversity has strengthened the federal structure and ensured that local voices found representation in national decision-making. Today, however, that balance appears to be under increasing strain. The rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the country's dominant political force and the Congress party's efforts to reclaim lost ground have created a political environment where regional parties are increasingly finding themselves squeezed from both sides. In this battle between national giants, many regional parties are struggling to retain their relevance, influence, and organizational strength. The experience of several parties illustrates this trend. The decline of the Aam Aadmi Party in key regions, the fragmentation of Shiv Sena, the setbacks faced by Bharat Rashtra Samithi, the challenges confronting Trinamool Congress, and the weakening position of parties



such as Janata Dal (United) and Rashtriya Janata Dal reveal a larger pattern. While each case has its own local dynamics, the broader reality is that regional formations are finding it increasingly difficult to survive in a political system becoming more centralized and polarized. Ironically, the pressure comes from both sides. Within the INDIA alliance, several regional parties fear that Congress seeks to expand its footprint at their expense. Whenever Congress regains organizational strength in a state, alliance partners often view it as a direct challenge to their political space. Cooperation during elections frequently turns into competition once the votes are counted. The BJP's approach presents a

different but equally significant challenge. Through alliances, political realignments, and organizational expansion, the party has demonstrated an ability to grow rapidly in states once dominated by regional players. Critics argue that these alliances often evolve into arrangements where smaller partners gradually lose their independent identity and become politically dependent on the larger national force. Over time, regional parties risk being reduced to junior partners with limited influence. This trend carries serious implications for Indian democracy. Regional parties emerged because national parties could not fully represent every linguistic, cultural, economic, and regional aspiration. They be-

came the voice of states, local communities, and specific social groups. Weakening these forces may lead to greater political centralization and reduce the diversity of viewpoints that enrich democratic debate. A healthy democracy requires competition, plurality, and decentralization of political power. When politics becomes a contest dominated by only a few national players, the space for regional aspirations inevitably shrinks. Such concentration of power may provide short-term political stability, but it can weaken the federal spirit that forms the foundation of the Indian Union.

The future of Indian democracy should not be measured solely by the strength of national parties. It should also be judged by the ability of regional voices to survive, grow, and influence governance. If regional parties continue to become casualties in the political chessboard of the BJP and Congress, India risks losing one of its greatest democratic strengths—its political diversity. In the long run, that would be a loss not merely for individual parties, but for the very character of Indian democracy itself.

- Veeranna Sundhilla,
Karimnagar

Water Rights At Risk: Harish Rao

Hyderabad, June 5: BRS senior leader and former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao accused the Congress government of jeopardising Telangana's water security through alleged negligence in the operation and maintenance of major lift irrigation projects. In an open letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao claimed that inadequate maintenance had resulted in damage to pumps and motors at key projects, including the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and Devalula Lift Irrigation Scheme. He alleged that repeated switching on and off of pumping systems had damaged criti-



cal infrastructure and questioned the reported policy of operating lift irrigation pumps mainly during daylight hours to utilise solar power. Harish Rao also opposed the proposed Telangana Rythu Power Distribution Company, stat-

ing that restricting pumping operations could adversely affect the utilisation of Krishna and Godavari river waters, besides impacting agriculture and drinking water needs. Citing official data, he claimed Telangana's utilisation of Krishna river

waters had declined in recent years while neighbouring Andhra Pradesh increased its usage. He warned that failure to fully utilise the State's allocated river waters could affect farmers, industries, groundwater recharge and drinking water security. The former minister demanded adequate budget allocations for irrigation projects, withdrawal of the proposed Rythu DISCOM and uninterrupted 24-hour power supply for lift irrigation schemes during the pumping season. He urged the govt to take immediate corrective measures to safeguard TG's water rights and irrigation infrastructure.

How Many More Deaths Must We Witness?

- Healthcare Support Workers Cry Out for Justice
- SPS Workers Prepare for Statewide Agitation
- New Committee Formed in Peddapalli

Peddapalli, June 5: Demanding fair wages, job security, and dignity at work, sanitation workers, patient care assistants, and security personnel employed in government hospitals have raised serious concerns over their working conditions and the continued exploitation under the contract system. Expressing deep anguish, healthcare support workers questioned how long governments would continue to ignore their plight despite the critical role they play in maintaining public health. Working daily in environments exposed to infectious diseases, hazardous medical waste, and life-threatening conditions, they said they are being forced to survive on meager salaries that are insufficient to support their families. 'We are not asking for luxuries. We are demanding justice for our labour, a living wage, and protection for our lives,' the workers stated. They

pointed out that many staff members have suffered serious illnesses, workplace accidents, and even lost their lives while performing their duties, yet their families are left without adequate support. The workers demanded a minimum monthly salary of ₹26,000, ₹10 lakh accident insurance coverage, and the abolition of the contract system, which they allege enables middlemen to exploit employees by siphoning off a portion of their wages. They urged the government to recruit workers directly instead of relying on contractors. The workers warned that if their demands are not addressed immediately, they would intensify their agitation and launch a statewide movement that could disrupt healthcare support services. As part of their preparations, district-level committees are being formed across Telangana to mobilize workers and strengthen campaign.



New SPS Committee Elected in Peddapalli

In this context, the Sanitation, Patient Care and Security Supervisors Medical and Health Workers Association (SPS) elected a new committee at the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Peddapalli on Friday. The meeting was presided over by Ashok and attended by SPS State President Kurri Saidayya and State General Secretary Chinna Boska Naresh as chief guests. The newly elected Peddapalli GGH committee includes Ponnam

Raju as President, Rakesh as General Secretary, and Shiva as Treasurer, along with 19 committee members assigned various responsibilities. Among those present were State Vice Presidents Vainala Ravi and Matangi Anil Kumar, State Assistant Secretary Gorre Nagaraju, State Secretary P. Anjali, Santosh, Jangaon District President Enugula Raghu, District General Secretary Gandhi Ajay Kumar, District Vice President Swami, and numerous sanitation, patient care, and security staff working at the hospital.

SC Seeks AI Guardrails



New Delhi, June 6 The Supreme Court's Artificial Intelligence Committee has proposed a complete ban on using AI to determine judicial outcomes, stressing that technology must remain only an assistive tool and never replace judicial decision-making. In its draft "Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026," the committee stated

that AI systems must remain strictly subordinate to human judgment and judicial authority. The panel, chaired by P. S. Narasimha, proposed that the final authority on questions of law, facts and justice should rest exclusively with judges. The draft regulations also prohibit AI tools that predict, profile or assess litigants, witnesses or parties involved in court proceedings. Courts would also be barred from using undisclosed or non-explainable AI systems. The committee further recommended safeguards against algorithmic bias, directing that AI systems must not discriminate on grounds such as caste, religion, gender, disability, language or economic status. At the same time, the draft allows AI for administrative and support functions, including case management, scheduling, legal research, transcription of proceedings, translation of judgments, record management and accessibility services for persons with disabilities.

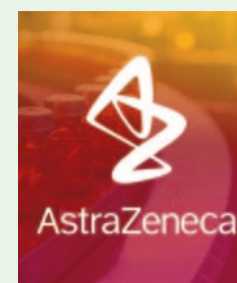
AI Vaccine Reaches Humans



London, June 6: Scientists have tested the world's first vaccine whose active ingredient was designed entirely using artificial intelligence, marking a major milestone in vaccine development. Researchers at University of Cambridge said the experimental vaccine is designed as a "universal vaccine" capable of protecting against a broad range of coronaviruses, including those responsible for SARS, MERS and Covid-19. The vaccine's antigen was created using a machine-learning algorithm trained on genetic data from Sarbeco coronaviruses collected worldwide. Researchers believe the technology could eventually help prevent future pandemics by targeting virus families rather than individual strains. The Phase-1 clinical trial involved nearly 40 participants between 2021 and 2023 and primarily focused on safety. No serious side effects were reported. However, the study, published in the Journal of Infection, found that the vaccine produced only a modest immune response and did not generate a strong increase in antibody levels beyond existing immunity. Despite the limited early results, researchers remain optimistic. Study co-author Jonathan Heeney said AI-driven vaccine design could transform how the world prepares for emerging diseases. A larger Phase-2 trial is expected to further evaluate the vaccine's effectiveness.

naviruses, including those responsible for SARS, MERS and Covid-19. The vaccine's antigen was created using a machine-learning algorithm trained on genetic data from Sarbeco coronaviruses collected worldwide. Researchers believe the technology could eventually help prevent future pandemics by targeting virus families rather than individual strains. The Phase-1 clinical trial involved nearly 40 participants between 2021 and 2023 and primarily focused on safety. No serious side effects were reported. However, the study, published in the Journal of Infection, found that the vaccine produced only a modest immune response and did not generate a strong increase in antibody levels beyond existing immunity. Despite the limited early results, researchers remain optimistic. Study co-author Jonathan Heeney said AI-driven vaccine design could transform how the world prepares for emerging diseases. A larger Phase-2 trial is expected to further evaluate the vaccine's effectiveness.

AI Speeds Drug Discovery



New York, June 6: Artificial intelligence is reshaping pharmaceutical research by helping companies develop medicines faster, smarter and with higher chances of success, according to Pascal Soriot, chief executive of AstraZeneca. Speaking to CNBC, Soriot said AI is enhancing productivity across the drug-development process, from identifying

disease targets to designing safer and more effective medicines. According to him, AI can help researchers optimise drug molecules and identify potential side effects early, reducing development time and improving decision-making. AstraZeneca is also using AI to determine which medicines should advance through costly clinical trials. Through its partnership with Tempus AI, the company has developed AI models that analyse clinical and laboratory data to predict the likelihood of success in Phase 3 trials. Soriot said such predictive tools could significantly improve efficiency, given that a single late-stage clinical trial can cost between \$300 million and \$500 million. He noted that even a small improvement in trial success rates could generate substantial savings and accelerate the delivery of new treatments to patients. The remarks come as pharmaceutical companies increasingly invest in AI technologies to reduce costs, shorten development timelines and improve outcomes in drug research.



RBI Fines Canara Bank

Mumbai, June 6: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹41.80 lakh on Canara Bank for violating regulatory norms related to Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance and the handling of inoperative accounts. The penalty was imposed after an RBI inspection of the bank's financial position as of March 31, 2025, revealed multiple compliance deficiencies. According to the central bank, Canara Bank failed to upload KYC records of certain customers to the Central KYC Registry (CKYCR) within the prescribed timeframe. The inspection also found that some customer accounts were classified as inoperative even though the last customer-induced transaction had taken place less than a year earlier.

Putin Offers Su-57 Stealth Fighter

St. Petersburg, June 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin has renewed Moscow's offer to jointly produce the fifth-generation Sukhoi Su-57 stealth fighter aircraft with India, highlighting the enduring strategic and defence partnership between the two countries. During an interaction with heads of leading global news agencies, including PTI, Putin said Russia remains keen to collaborate with India on advanced defence technologies and is prepared to offer unrestricted cooperation in the development and production of the Su-57 fighter jet. "As for the Su-57, we offered our friends from India to jointly develop this fifth-generation aircraft. I believe it is the best of its kind today. We are ready to work with India without any restrictions whatsoever," Putin said. The proposal comes at a time when India is pursuing its ambitious Advanced Multirole Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, a flagship indigenous project aimed at developing a homegrown fifth-generation fighter jet. However, the AMCA is not expected to enter service before 2035, prompting discussions on interim solutions to



strengthen the Indian Air Force's combat capabilities. According to reports, state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) remains in contact with Russia's Sukhoi Design Bureau regarding possible collaboration on the Su-57 programme. India is also evaluating the option of acquiring at least two squadrons of the aircraft, subject to operational and technical requirements. India and Russia had earlier explored a joint Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) project for nearly

15 years. However, New Delhi withdrew from the programme in 2021, citing concerns over cost and technological requirements. The project was estimated to cost nearly USD 30 billion. Putin also expressed Russia's willingness to cooperate with India in developing advanced air defence systems and related military technologies. He said Moscow was prepared to support New Delhi in strengthening its air defence capabilities. India currently operates the Russian-made S-400 air de-

fence missile system, which forms a crucial component of the country's layered air defence network. New Delhi signed a USD 5 billion agreement with Russia in 2018 for five S-400 units, with the final squadron yet to be delivered. The Russian leader's remarks come amid continuing efforts by India to modernise its armed forces while balancing indigenous development with strategic defence partnerships. Despite India's growing diversification of military imports, Russia remains one of its most significant defence partners, supplying a substantial share of the country's military hardware. Responding to Putin's comments, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that India-Russia defence relations remain strong, adding that specific details regarding the Su-57 programme would be addressed by the Ministry of Defence. The latest offer is expected to reignite discussions on India's future fighter aircraft requirements as the country seeks to bridge capability gaps while advancing its long-term self-reliance goals in defence manufacturing.

Railway Board Says No to Free

Hyderabad, June 5: The Railway Board has rejected the Telangana government's proposal to introduce free travel on Hyderabad's MMTS services, citing heavy operational losses and unresolved financial liabilities. The Board informed the State government that MMTS operations are already running at a substantial deficit and that providing free travel would further increase the financial burden on Indian Railways. According to the communication, any proposal for free passenger travel can be considered only if the Telangana government agrees to bear both the existing operational losses and any additional expenditure arising from the scheme. The Railway Board also urged the State to clear pending dues of more than ₹490 crore related to the MMTS project. The Telangana government had proposed reimbursing the revenue earned through ticket sales and planned to introduce free MMTS travel from June 2. An MoU was submitted to the Railway Board seeking approval for the initiative.

Khammam MP Pushes for Better BSNL Connectivity



Khammam, June 5: Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy has urged Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to improve service quality in rural areas and strengthen mobile connectivity across villages. Speaking at the District Telecom Advisory Committee meeting held at BSNL Bhavan in Khammam on Friday, the MP stressed the need for techno-

logical upgrades to meet growing communication demands. He said BSNL, as a public sector telecom provider, should focus on delivering quality services that inspire public confidence. He emphasized that broadband connectivity must be extended to remote villages and that customer complaints should be resolved promptly. After reviewing suggestions from committee members, Raghuram Reddy directed officials to identify areas facing poor signal coverage and take immediate steps to install new mobile towers. He assured full support in resolving issues related to network expansion and infrastructure development. The MP said BSNL should focus on providing reliable services at affordable prices and work towards competing effectively with private telecom operators. Telecom Advisory Committee members and BSNL officials attended the meeting and discussed measures to improve connectivity and customer service in the district.

Need to Prepare Better for Tests: Gambhir

Mullanpur, June 6: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has stressed the need for better preparation in red-ball cricket, admitting that the team's approach in recent Test assignments was not up to the mark. India will return to the longest format just days after the conclusion of the IPL, taking on Afghanistan in a one-off Test at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium in Mullanpur on Saturday. Despite the quick transition from T20 cricket to Tests, Gambhir said the team management is determined to ensure more focused and extensive preparation for future red-ball series. India's performances in Test cricket have declined over the past two years. After suffering a home whitewash against New Zealand in 2024, the team endured another series defeat against South Africa last year. Led by Shubman Gill, India currently sits sixth in the World Test Championship standings. Looking ahead to challenging away tours of Sri Lanka and New Zealand later this year, Gambhir said scheduling will play a key role in preparation. "We are fortun-



nate to have around 15 days between the white-ball tour of England and the Test series in Sri Lanka, which should be enough time to prepare. However, for New Zealand, there is only a three-day gap between the final ODI and the first Test, so we may need to release some ODI players early if they are part of the Test squad," Gambhir said. The former India opener acknowledged that inadequate preparation had hurt the team's performances in re-

cent Test series. "One thing we realised is that we need to start preparing better in red-ball cricket. That was lacking against the West Indies and South Africa, and it is something we are going to address going forward," he added. While India will start as overwhelming favourites against Afghanistan in the one-off Test, the upcoming overseas assignments are expected to provide a sterner examination of the team's resurgence in the longest format.

Operation Kavach Crackdown

Hyderabad, June 5: Hyderabad police seized 2,149 vehicles during a citywide enforcement drive under 'Operation Kavach', launched to curb number plate tampering and the use of fake vehicle registrations. The special operation was conducted between 10 p.m. and midnight on Thursday, with police teams inspecting 12,098 vehicles, including two-wheelers, cars and autorickshaws. Officials identified 1,406 vehicles with irregular number plates, 1,132 without number plates and 69 vehicles using fake registrations. Among the seized vehicles were 2,046 two-wheelers, 52 cars and 51 autorickshaws. V. C. Sajjanar personally inspected checkpoints across the city and interacted with motorists during the operation. The Police Commissioner warned that deliberate tampering of number plates would not be treated as a routine traffic offence and that violators could face criminal charges.





Nidhi Agerwal

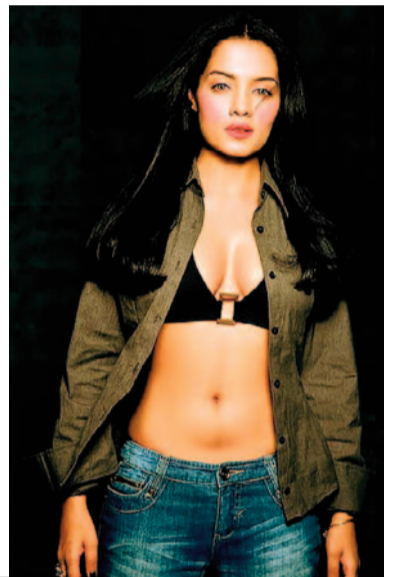
Peddi Roars at Box Office.. ₹135 Crore Opening

Hyderabad, June 5: Ram Charan-starrer Peddi has opened to a blockbuster response at the global box office, grossing more than ₹135.36 crore worldwide on its first day, according to the makers. The sports action drama, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, hit theatres on Thursday and has received positive reviews from audiences and critics alike. Production house Vriddhi Cinemas announced the opening-day figures on social media, describing the film as a box-office champion. Set in rural Andhra Pradesh during the 1980s, the film follows the journey of a lower-caste villager who takes up wrestling to earn dignity and recognition for his community. Ram Charan plays the lead role, while Shiva Rajkumar appears as mentor Gournaidu. The film also stars Janhvi Kapoor, Jagapathi Babu, Divyenndu and Boman Irani in key roles. Music for the film has been composed by A. R. Rahman, while cinematography is handled by R. Rathnavelu. The strong opening is being seen as a major comeback for Ram Charan following the underperformance of Game Changer.

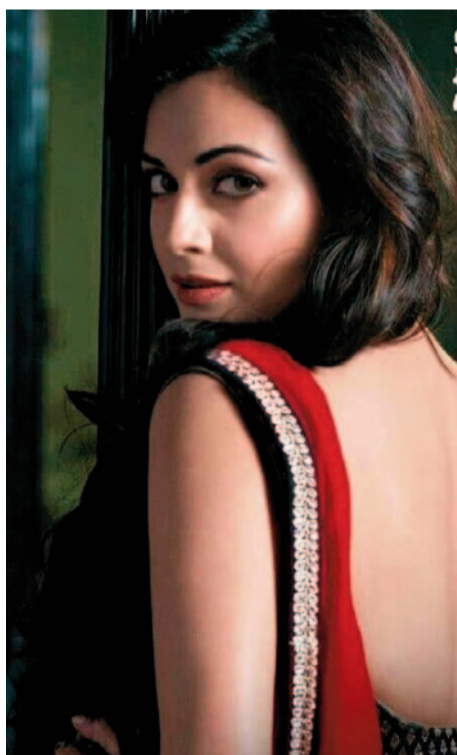


Celina Jaitly Refuses to Back Down

Mumbai, June 5: Actress Celina Jaitly has responded to defamation notices issued by her estranged husband Peter Haag and father-in-law Wolfgang Haag, asserting that she will continue her legal fight in courts in India and Austria. In a statement shared on social media, Jaitly said she had submitted formal replies through her legal representatives and would not be intimidated into silence. The actress, who has filed for divorce citing domestic violence and cruelty, stated that she has consistently supported joint custody and an amicable separation. However, she alleged that she has been denied contact with her children despite court orders and accused efforts to marginalise her role as a mother. Jaitly said her public statements were prompted by concerns over the relocation of her children and the possibility of them being moved outside the jurisdiction of Indian and Austrian courts without her knowledge. She further alleged that she had faced intimidation and pressure while living in Austria and maintained that all relevant evidence had been submitted before competent authorities and courts. The legal notices issued by Peter Haag and Wolfgang Haag reportedly accused the actress of making defamatory public statements and expressed concern over the impact of the ongoing dispute on the couple's three minor children.



Dia Mirza on Career Break



Actress Dia Mirza has revealed that she took a two-year break from films at the peak of her career because success and financial independence were not bringing her happiness. Speaking on a podcast hosted by Soha Ali Khan, Dia said she stepped away from the industry in 2005 at the age of 24 after feeling disconnected from the work she was doing. The actress described the decision as a "homecoming," saying she wanted to rediscover herself and understand what truly mattered in life. Despite enjoying professional success and financial security, she felt unfulfilled and chose to pause her career. Dia said the break allowed her to reconnect with her values and find a stronger sense of purpose beyond fame and commercial success. The actress made her Bollywood debut with Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein and later featured in films such as Lage Raho Munna Bhai, Shootout at Lokhandwala, Sanju and Thappad.

Naga Chaitanya Turns Producer

The second season of the supernatural thriller series Dhootha officially commenced production with a pooja ceremony attended by Nagarjuna, who clapped the board and blessed the cast and crew. Actor Naga Chaitanya, who made his OTT debut with the series in 2023, will not only reprise his role as journalist Sagar Varma Avuduri but will also make his debut as a producer with the new season. Sharing the update on social media, Chaitanya expressed excitement about the project and posted photographs from the launch event alongside creator-director Vikram Kumar and the cast. The makers have kept the storyline of the second season under wraps. However, Parvathy Thiruvothu will return as DCP Kranthi Shenoy, while Priya Bhavani Shankar reprises her role as Priya Avudhuri. Composer Ishaan Chhabra returns for the sequel, while cinematography will be handled by Mukes V. The first season followed investigative journalist Sagar as he encountered a mysterious newspaper that predicted a series of deaths around him, leading to a chilling supernatural mystery intertwined with questions of journalistic ethics. After the success of Thandel, Naga Chaitanya is also preparing for Vrushakarma, directed by Karthik Varma Dandu, and another project with director Shiva Nirvana.



SC Denies Bail to Jyoti Malhotra



The Supreme Court on Friday declined to grant bail to YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who is facing espionage charges for allegedly passing sensitive information to Pakistani intelligence operatives. A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma refused to interfere, meaning Malhotra will continue to remain in custody. Investigators allege that the YouTuber, who ran the channel "Travel with Jo", established contacts with Pakistani officials and intelligence operatives during her visits to Pakistan. The probe claims she shared information, photographs and videos of strategic locations through online platforms. The case was registered by Haryana Police in May 2025 under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. A chargesheet running nearly 2,500 pages was filed last year, with investigators claiming to have gathered substantial digital evidence supporting the allegations. Malhotra has denied the charges and argued that she was falsely implicated, but both the Punjab and Haryana High Court and now the Supreme Court have refused to grant her bail.

Anaswara Joins Mega158

Malayalam actress Anaswara Rajan has joined the cast of Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming action entertainer, tentatively titled Mega158. The film, directed by Bobby Kolli, has entered a new shooting schedule in Polilachi, Tamil Nadu. Key scenes featuring Chiranjeevi and the principal cast are currently being filmed. The makers recently welcomed Anaswara Rajan to the project, marking her Telugu film debut. The actress is known for her performances in several successful Malayalam films. Produced by KVN Productions, the film marks the second collaboration between Chiranjeevi and Bobby Kolli after the success of Waltair Veerayya. The project boasts a strong technical team, with S. Thaman composing the music, while cinematography is handled by Vijay Kartik Kannan. Art direction is by Kolla Avinash and editing by Antony Ruben. The film has generated considerable buzz since its announcement on Chiranjeevi's birthday last year. Recently, the actor shared a workout video showcasing his preparation for the role, hinting at a physically demanding character in the high-octane entertainer. The first-look announcement poster featured a blood-stained axe with the tagline "The blade that set the bloody benchmark," indicating an intense action-packed narrative. The film is being produced by Venkat K. Narayana under KVN Productions.



Hindi 'Drishyam 3' Gets New Twist

Mumbai, June 5: The Hindi version of Drishyam 3 will take a different narrative path from its Malayalam counterpart, with the makers reportedly introducing major changes to the storyline and plot twists while retaining the essence of the franchise. According to industry sources, unlike the first two Hindi adaptations that closely followed the original Malayalam films, Drishyam 3 has been significantly reworked to suit Hindi audiences. The film reunites Ajay Devgn with franchise regulars Tabu and Shriya Saran. The cast has been strengthened with the addition of Jaideep Ahlawat and Prakash Raj in key roles. Director Abhishek Pathak earlier said that while the Malayalam film functions primarily as an emotional family drama, the Hindi adaptation has been developed as a family thriller. Another notable change is in the music department, with acclaimed composer Ravi Basur, known for films such as KGF, Salaar and Toxic, composing the soundtrack. Produced by Panorama Studios and presented by Star Studios, the film is written by Abhishek Pathak, Aamil Keeyan Khan and Parveen Shaikh. Drishyam 3 is scheduled for a theatrical release on October 2, 2026.

