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Future City Takes Shape: Revanth

Hyderabad, June 11: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday inaugurated the headquarters of the Future City Development Authority (FCDA) at Meerkanpet, marking a significant milestone in the government's ambitious plan to build Bharat Future City, envisioned as Hyderabad's fourth city and a global economic hub. Constructed on nearly eight acres with modern facilities, the FCDA office was completed within six months. The Chief Minister, who laid the foundation stone in September 2025, formally opened the facility and described the project as a key step towards transforming Telangana into a trillion-dollar economy by 2032. Addressing a public gathering, Revanth Reddy said Bharat Future City would be developed on par with international cities such as Tokyo, Singapore and New York. He stated that the project aims to attract Fortune 500 companies and establish Telangana as a leading destination for in-



vestments in technology, life sciences, artificial intelligence, education and healthcare. The Chief Minister also announced plans to organise another Global Summit later this year to attract investments and create employment opportunities for the state's youth. He said Bharat Future City would become India's first net-zero greenfield city and a model for sustainable urban development. Spread across nearly 765 square kilometres between the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar highways, the project area includes parts of Rangareddy and Nagarkurnool districts. In the first phase, about 30,000 acres will be devel-

oped, with dedicated zones planned for AI City, Health City, Life Sciences, Electric Vehicle manufacturing, Data Centres and residential townships. The government has already initiated infrastructure planning, including major road networks, water supply systems, power connectivity and digital infrastructure. Connectivity corridors linking the ORR and RRR are also under development. Revanth Reddy said he would personally conduct official work from the FCDA office whenever possible and encouraged senior ministers to spend time working from the Future City headquarters regularly.

Hyderabad City Collapse: KTR

Hyderabad: BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday blamed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress government for the widespread disruption witnessed across Hyderabad following heavy rainfall earlier this week. Rama Rao alleged that the administration was ill-prepared to handle the season's first major downpour and accused the government of failing to take adequate preventive measures ahead of the monsoon. In a statement, he said thousands of commuters were stranded for hours as traffic came to a standstill in several parts of the city, causing severe inconvenience to residents, especially working women and daily commuters. The BRS leader criticised the Chief Minister, who also holds the Municipal Administration portfolio, for what he termed a failure in civic management. He said the government had neglected essential pre-monsoon activities such as cleaning drains and stormwater channels, resulting in waterlog-



ging and traffic congestion even after a moderate spell of rain. Rama Rao claimed that the previous BRS government regularly conducted monsoon preparedness reviews and implemented preventive measures well in advance to minimise disruptions during heavy rainfall. He further alleged that key urban infrastructure initiatives launched during the BRS regime, including the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) and Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP), had been neglected under the current administration. The former minister also expressed concern over reports

of power outages and incidents of electrocution during the rains, accusing the government of showing little urgency in addressing public hardships. Stating that Hyderabad was Telangana's economic backbone, Rama Rao said the city was being ignored while the government focused on other priorities. He warned that residents would hold the Congress government accountable in the upcoming municipal elections if civic issues continued to be neglected. The criticism comes after heavy rainfall caused traffic snarls, waterlogging and disruption of normal life across several parts of Hyderabad earlier this week.

Pawan Defends 'Jagir' Remark

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has defended his controversial statement that Telangana is not anyone's "jagir," saying no one has the authority to stop him from entering or contesting elections in any Indian state. Speaking in a recent podcast, Pawan said his remarks were a response to repeated comments from some Telangana leaders and groups questioning his political role in the state. He asserted that, as an Indian citizen, he has every right to travel and participate in politics anywhere in the country. Rejecting speculation that Jana Sena's expansion into Telangana is linked to any succession politics involving Nara Lokesh, Pawan clarified that he is not seeking any political position and that there is no such power struggle in Andhra Pradesh. The Jana Sena chief also dismissed criticism that he promotes the BJP's agenda, stating that his views stem from nationalism rather than party politics.



Congress Growth Rate Ended in 2014

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past 12 years under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), moving from economic stagnation to becoming a globally influential nation. Addressing the NDA Conclave, Modi drew a sharp contrast between the pre-2014 period and the progress achieved during the NDA's tenure. He criticised the Congress for what he described as years of slow economic growth, policy paralysis and corruption, arguing that the country had been trapped in a cycle of low growth and missed opportunities. The Prime Minister said the term "Hindu Growth Rate," once used to describe India's sluggish economic performance, was a reflection of governance failures rather than the country's potential. He asserted that the NDA had replaced that era with a model focused on speed, scale and



effective implementation. Recalling the legacy of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi said the NDA had previously demonstrated how rapid development could be achieved, but that momentum was disrupted after the return of the Congress-led government in 2004. He alleged that the following decade was marked by corruption scandals and administrative failures, weakening public trust and slowing national progress. Highlighting the achievements of his government, Modi said India remained resilient

even during the Covid-19 pandemic and continued to record strong economic growth despite global uncertainty. He pointed to tax relief measures, welfare initiatives and reforms aimed at reducing the financial burden on the middle class. The Prime Minister also cited major policy decisions, including surgical strikes against terrorism, efforts to curb Naxalism, women's reservation legislation and the abolition of Triple Talaq, describing them as examples of decisive governance. "For us, the nation always comes first. When decisions are taken with a 'Nation First' approach, no challenge is too difficult," Modi said. Looking ahead, he said India must now benchmark itself against global standards rather than compare itself with its past. He noted that the world increasingly looks to India for solutions and opportunities, making this a crucial moment in the country's development.

Trump: I Will See Iran's End

Washington: US President Donald Trump has warned that American forces will launch further military strikes against Iran, intensifying tensions in the Middle East following a fresh round of attacks between the two countries. Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said the US had already struck Iranian targets and would continue military action in response to what he described as ongoing aggression from Tehran. Soon after the remarks, US Central Command announced that American forces had begun targeting multiple sites inside Iran. Pentagon said the operation was aimed at responding to continued Iranian actions against US interests in the region. Iranian President Pezeshkian responded by asserting that Iran would stand firm against threats and external pressure. Iranian officials also accused Washington of undermining diplomatic efforts through military actions.



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AI Anxiety Grows in Indian Firms

New Delhi: Rapid adoption of artificial intelligence, widening skill gaps and rising employee benefit costs are emerging as some of the biggest challenges for Indian organisations, according to a new report released on Wednesday. The study found that nearly half of Indian companies are concerned about investing in AI technologies without adequately training their workforce. Around 49 per cent of organisations expressed fears that employees may not be prepared to effectively use AI-driven tools, while 52 per cent identified poor cyber threat awareness among staff as a major business risk. The report, based on responses from more than 4,500 HR and risk management professionals across 26 countries, including 311 partici-



pants from India, highlights growing concerns about workforce readiness in an increasingly technology-driven environment. Employee healthcare and benefit expenses have emerged as the top people-related risk in India. Nearly 65 per cent of respondents expect

healthcare and employee benefit costs to increase over the next one to two years, putting additional pressure on organisations already dealing with economic uncertainty. Despite this, employees continue to place strong trust in their employers. About 96 per cent of workers said they rely on their organisations to provide affordable and quality healthcare, while more than half depend on employer-sponsored medical coverage. However, the report noted that many organisations are making benefit-related decisions without fully assessing their long-term financial impact. Around 41 per cent of respondents admitted that benefit planning often overlooks future cost implications, while 40 per cent said employee health and financial wellbeing are not

adequately considered during decision-making. Labour shortages remain another major concern for Indian businesses. HR professionals ranked workforce availability among their top challenges, reflecting the growing competition for skilled talent. The report also identified weak leadership and supervisory capabilities as a significant risk multiplier. Nearly 62 per cent of respondents said inadequate leadership skills could have a high or catastrophic impact on organisational performance. In addition, concerns related to transparency, fairness and workplace inclusion featured prominently among India's top business risks, indicating that organisations are facing both technological and human capital challenges simultaneously.



EDITORIAL

BJP to Go Alone in Telangana:
A Calculated Political Gamble

The statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) intends to contest elections independently in Telangana marks a significant shift in the state's political landscape. It signals the party's growing confidence and its determination to emerge as a major political force without relying on alliances. For several years, Telangana politics revolved around a triangular contest involving Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the Congress, and the BJP.

While the BJP made notable gains in the 2020 Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections and secured victories in a few crucial by-elections, it has struggled to convert its momentum into a broad statewide electoral base. Despite this, the party appears convinced that its long-term growth depends on strengthening its own organizational structure rather than depending on coalition politics. Amit Shah's assertion reflects the BJP's belief that alliances often limit a party's independent expansion. In Telangana, any partnership with regional players could dilute the BJP's identity and reduce its ability to position itself as a clear alternative to both the Congress government and the BRS opposition. By choosing to go alone, the BJP seeks to project confidence and send a message to its cadre that it is capable of fighting and winning on its own strength.

However, the strategy is not without risks. Telangana remains a state where regional sentiments, local leadership, and caste dynamics play a decisive role. The Congress currently enjoys the advantage of incumbency, while the BRS still retains a substantial support base despite its electoral setbacks. For the BJP, translating national popularity into state-level success will require sustained grassroots engagement, credible local leadership, and a convincing narrative tailored to Telangana's aspirations.

The decision also places greater responsibility on the BJP's state leadership. Without alliance partners, every vote, every constituency, and every organizational weakness becomes the party's own challenge. The BJP must expand beyond urban pockets and establish a stronger presence in rural Telangana, where electoral battles are often decided. Ultimately, Amit Shah's declaration is more than an electoral strategy—it is a statement of intent. The BJP is betting on self-reliance and long-term expansion in Telangana. Whether this confidence translates into electoral success will depend on the party's ability to convert political ambition into grassroots support. The coming elections will reveal whether going solo is a masterstroke or a risky gamble in one of India's most competitive political battlegrounds.

TMC-Congress Merger Buzz
Politics of Survival or Strategic Reunification?

The growing speculation over a possible merger between the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Congress has become one of the most intriguing developments in Indian politics. While there is no official confirmation from either side, the very fact that such discussions are being taken seriously reflects the changing political realities facing both parties. For nearly three decades, Mamata Banerjee's political identity has been built around her break from the Congress. She founded the TMC in 1998, arguing that the Congress leadership had failed to effectively challenge the Left Front in West Bengal.

The TMC subsequently emerged as the dominant political force in the state, eventually ending more than three decades of Left rule in 2011. A merger with the Congress would therefore represent a dramatic political full circle. Yet politics is ultimately about power, relevance, and survival. If the recent electoral setbacks and reports of internal dissent within the TMC are indeed as serious as they appear, Mamata Banerjee may be compelled to explore options that once



seemed unthinkable. In such a scenario, closer ties with the Congress could provide political stability, a national platform, and an opportunity to retain influence within the broader opposition camp.

From the Congress perspective, absorbing regional offshoots that originated from its ranks could strengthen the party's national footprint. Over the years, several powerful regional parties have emerged from Congress splits, weakening the parent organization while fragmenting opposition politics. A reunification of sorts could help the Congress consolidate anti-BJP votes and present a more coherent alternative at the national level. However, the obsta-

cles remain formidable. Political parties are not merely organizations; they are identities built over decades. TMC workers who fought Congress leaders in Bengal for years may find it difficult to accept a merger. Similarly, Congress cadres could resist accommodating a leadership structure dominated by former rivals. Questions of leadership, organizational control, and electoral strategy would further complicate any such move.

Moreover, Mamata Banerjee's political career has been defined by resilience and independence. She has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to fight against overwhelming odds.

For a leader with such a legacy, surrendering the independent identity of the TMC may be viewed as a last resort rather than a preferred option. Therefore, while speculation about a merger has captured political attention, a more practical outcome may be enhanced cooperation within the opposition alliance rather than a complete organizational integration. Strategic partnerships, seat-sharing arrangements, and coordinated parliamentary action appear far more achievable than dissolving one party into another.

Ultimately, the debate itself reveals a larger truth about contemporary Indian politics. Regional parties are facing increasing pressure in an era of nationalized electoral contests. Whether the TMC and Congress merge or merely move closer together, the discussion underscores the evolving dynamics of opposition politics and the search for a viable strategy to challenge the BJP's dominance. The coming months will determine whether the merger talk remains political gossip or becomes a defining moment in India's opposition landscape.

Nepal Clears Indian Mangoes

New Delhi: The Centre has dismissed reports claiming that Nepal has banned or suspended imports of Indian mangoes, calling such reports misleading and factually incorrect. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare said Nepal's Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre has clarified that Indian mango imports continue without any ban. Import permits and release orders are being issued after compliance with prescribed phytosanitary requirements and submission of valid certificates. The Ministry stated that exports to Nepal are continuing smoothly. Since January 2026, India has exported 149 consignments of mangoes, amounting to 2,005 metric tonnes, while 18 consignments totaling 266 metric tonnes were exported in



June alone. Officials noted that Nepal has introduced revised import conditions, including mandatory Hot Water Treatment (HWT) for mango shipments. India is facilitating exports in line with these updated norms while also raising concerns over the introduction of new phytosanitary measures without prior consultation. The issue is being taken up through bilateral channels under the provisions of the World Trade Organisation's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and the International Plant Protection Convention. The Ministry advised exporters, traders and the public to rely only on official information and ignore unverified reports regarding restrictions on Indian mango exports to Nepal.

₹1,235 Cr Amaravati Housing Project Cleared

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,234.91-crore housing project for Central government employees in Andhra Pradesh's capital city Amaravati, marking a major infrastructure boost for the developing administrative hub. The project, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be funded entirely by the Centre through budgetary support and executed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). Spread across 17 acres, the General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPR) campus will comprise 11 residential towers with 1,504 housing units ranging from Type-II to Type-VI categories. The project will also include parking facilities for 1,972 vehicles and a total built-up area of over 31 lakh square feet. This will be the first GPR housing complex in Amaravati and in Andhra Pradesh. The government said the project aims to provide quality residential accommodation for Central government employees, reducing their financial burden and enabling them to stay closer to their workplaces for efficient administration. The campus will feature several civic amenities, including a bank, ATM, post office, crèche, community hall, food court, shopping complex, service centre and guest house. Special emphasis will be placed on accessibility for persons with disabilities. The project has also been designed with sustainability in mind. All buildings will follow green construction norms and are targeted to achieve a minimum GRIHA 4-Star rating, complying with the latest energy conservation and eco-friendly building standards. According to the government, the construction phase is expected to generate nearly seven lakh man-days of employment annually, while the operational phase could create around 50,000 man-days of employment every year.

Gold, Silver Fall

Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp decline on Wednesday amid growing concerns that the US Federal Reserve may continue with a tight monetary policy and even consider further rate hikes. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), August gold futures fell 1.51 per cent to ₹1,50,140 per 10 grams during intraday trade, while July silver futures dropped nearly 1 per cent to ₹2,36,239 per kilogram. According to data from the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold declined to ₹1,48,429 per 10 grams from ₹1,52,519 recorded at the previous session's opening. International markets also reflected weakness. Spot gold slipped 1.8 per cent to \$4,187.59 an ounce, touching an 11-week low, while

US gold futures for August delivery traded at \$4,213.40 an ounce. Market analysts attributed the decline to a stronger US dollar and rising inflation concerns triggered by higher crude oil prices amid renewed tensions in the Middle East. Expectations that the US Federal Reserve could keep interest rates elevated for a longer period also weighed on bullion prices. Traders are currently assigning more than 70 per cent probability of a Fed rate hike by December, according to market estimates. Analysts said gold faces immediate resistance near ₹1,52,000 on MCX, while silver is holding above the key support zone of ₹2.32 lakh-₹2.34 lakh per kilogram. A breach below support levels could trigger further selling pressure in the precious metals market.

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FIFA Opening Ceremonies Across 3 Nations

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will open with an unprecedented celebration spread across three host nations—Mexico, Canada, and the United States—marking the first time in tournament history that multiple opening ceremonies will be held for a single edition. The festivities will begin on June 11, 2026, at Mexico City's iconic Estadio Azteca, ahead of the opening match between Mexico and South Africa. A second ceremony is scheduled in Toronto on June 12, followed by a final opening celebration in Los Angeles at SoFi Stadium before the USA vs Paraguay match. Each ceremony is planned to begin approximately 90 minutes before kickoff and will include live musical performances, cultural showcases, flag presentations, and team introductions. The format aims to highlight the diversity of the host nations while enhancing the global

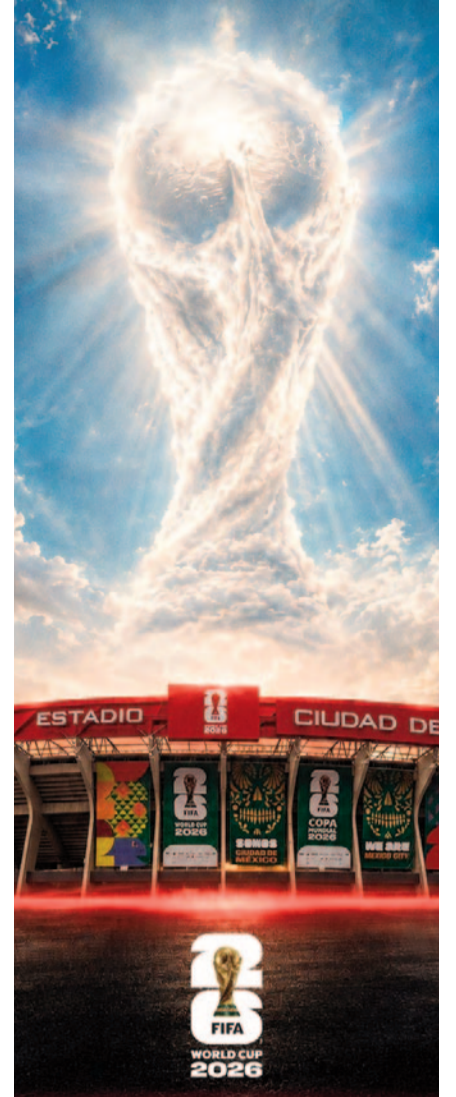
viewing experience. The opening events are expected to feature a star-studded lineup of performers. In Mexico City, artists such as J Balvin, Tyla, Maná, Belinda, and Lila Downs are expected to headline. In Canada and the United States, international stars including Michael Bublé, Katy Perry, and Future are likely to perform. Fans worldwide will be able to watch the ceremonies through official broadcast partners, with Indian audiences expected to view matches via major sports networks and streaming platforms, adjusted for early morning time zones. The 2026 World Cup will be the largest in history, featuring 48 teams and 104 matches across three countries. FIFA's expanded format and multi-city opening ceremonies reflect its vision of turning the tournament into a global cultural festival, blending sport, music, and

international unity on an unprecedented scale.
US Denies Entry to Somali FIFA Referee
A Somali FIFA World Cup referee, Omar Abdulkadir Artan, was reportedly denied entry into the United States over suspected security concerns linked to alleged terror associations. Artan, one of the match officials selected for the upcoming FIFA World Cup, had arrived in Miami to attend a preparatory training camp for referees when he was detained by immigration officials. According to reports, he was held for over 11 hours at Miami International Airport before being deported to Istanbul. Officials stated that during inspection, "derogatory information" was found, making him ineligible for entry under US immigration law. The US administration defended the decision, stating that individuals with

suspected security risks would not be permitted entry into the country. However, no specific details regarding the alleged concerns were disclosed. Artan had reportedly travelled with valid documentation and FIFA accreditation, and was scheduled to participate in official World Cup preparation activities in Florida. The incident has drawn international attention, raising questions over visa processing and security protocols ahead of the global tournament.

AI Predicts Spain To Win FIFA

A machine-learning model developed by Professor Achim Zeileis of the University of Innsbruck has predicted that Spain is the frontrunner to win the FIFA World Cup 2026. The model, which combines statistical analysis, expert betting odds, player performance data, and market valuations, ran 100,000 simulations of the tournament to estimate likely outcomes. According to the results, Spain leads with a 14.5% chance of winning the title, followed closely by England and France at 12.4% each, and Germany at 11.2%. Portugal and Argentina also remain strong contenders with 8.9% and 8.2% probabilities respectively. The algorithm evaluates team strength using past international performances, bookmaker odds, individual player contributions, and estimated market values from Transfermarkt. The study highlights how modern AI and machine learning models are increasingly being used to predict major sporting outcomes, moving beyond traditional forecasting methods like historic trends or symbolic predictions.



Hyd to Host Archery Premier League

Hyderabad is set to become the global hub of archery this October as the Archery Premier League (APL) returns for its second season. The 11-day tournament will be held at People's Plaza on Necklace Road from October 8 to 18, 2026, featuring top Indian and international archers. Organised by the Archery Association of India (AAI) with support from the Government of Telangana, the league builds on the success of its inaugural edition held in New Delhi in 2025. Season 2 aims to further strengthen India's position in world archery through high-intensity franchise-based competition. The tournament will feature six franchise teams — Mighty Marathas, Rajputana Royals, Prithviraj Yodhas, Kakatiya Knights, Chero Archers, and Chola Chiefs — with a total of 48 archers competing across recurve and compound events. Each team will consist of a mixed squad of eight players. Leading Indian archers expected to participate include Deepika Kumari, Atanu Das, Ojas Deotale, Jyoti Surekha, Abhishek Verma, and Ankita Bhakat, alongside several international stars. The league will also feature Olympic champions and world-ranked archers, making it one of the strongest archery competitions globally. APL 2026 will follow a double round-robin format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals before the final on October 18. A key highlight of the league is its unique 15-second shot clock, designed to increase speed, pressure, and decision-making intensity during matches. Officials from AAI said the league is aimed at improving India's Olympic medal prospects by providing regular high-level competition for athletes. The franchise-based model is also intended to make archery more engaging for fans and improve its global appeal. With Hyderabad's sporting culture and infrastructure, organisers believe the city will provide the perfect stage for a world-class event that brings together the best of Indian and international archery.

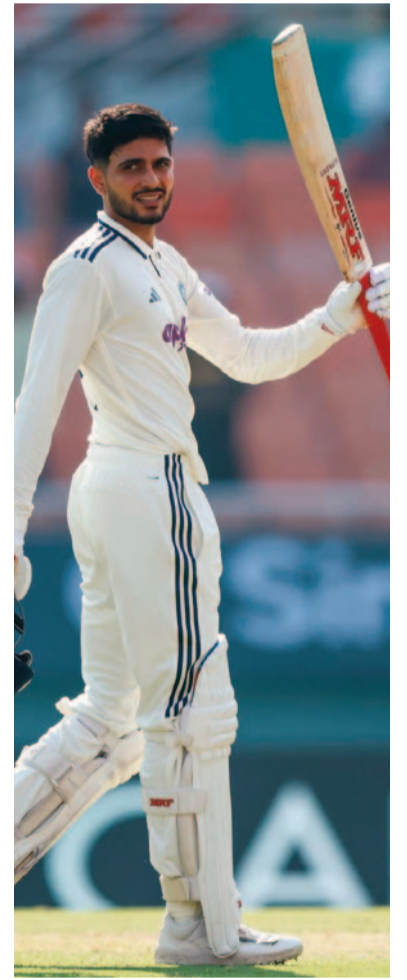
Sindhu Advances, Tanvi Upsets



PV Sindhu and Tanvi Sharma led a strong showing from Indian women at the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament in Sydney, advancing to the round of 16 with impressive performances. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu registered a comfortable win over Peru's Ines Salazar in her opening-round match, continuing her strong run in the tournament. The highlight of the day came from teenager Tanvi Sharma, who produced a major upset by defeating fifth seed Chiu Pin-Chian in straight games, marking one of the biggest wins of her career so far. Malvika Bansod, Isharani Baruah, and Tanya Hemanth also progressed to the next round, adding to India's strong presence in the women's draw. However, it was a disappointing outing for the Indian men, with Kiran George, Tharun Manneppalli, and Saneeth Dayanand exiting in the opening round. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Manisha Kalyan moved ahead, keeping India's campaign alive in the event.

Gill Becomes Top Indian Test Batter

Shubman Gill has become the highest-ranked Indian batter in the latest ICC Test rankings, moving up two places to eighth position after his century in the recent one-off Test against Afghanistan. Gill's 126-run knock in New Chandigarh helped India secure a dominant innings-and-300-run victory and pushed him ahead of teammate Yashasvi Jaiswal, who now sits just below him in the rankings. England's Harry Brook has reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the Test batting rankings, overtaking Joe Root, who dropped to third. Australia's Travis Head is placed second. Several other players also made notable gains in the rankings, including England's Ben Duckett, Jamie Smith, and Glenn Phillips, while Gus Atkinson broke into the top 10 bowlers. In ODIs, Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed rose to second among bowlers after a strong series, with Shaheen Afridi also moving up to ninth place.





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Bharathiraja No More

Veteran filmmaker Bharathiraja passed away in Chennai on Wednesday at the age of 84 after a prolonged illness, marking the end of an era in Indian cinema. Widely regarded as one of the most influential directors in Tamil film history, Bharathiraja revolutionised filmmaking by moving stories out of studio sets and into authentic village landscapes. His distinctive storytelling style and memorable greeting, "Yen Iniya Tamil Makkale," made him a beloved figure among audiences for decades. Fondly known as Iyakkunar Imayam (Pinnacle Among Directors), Bharathiraja received numerous accolades during his illustrious career, including six National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards South, six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards and a Nandi Award. Beyond his cinematic achievements, Bharathiraja played a pivotal role in shaping Tamil cinema by introducing and nurtur-

ing several talented actors. Many leading stars, including Karthik, Napoleon, Pandian, Chandrasekar and Janakaraj, received major career opportunities through his films. He also introduced several prominent actresses such as Radikaa, Revathi, Radha, Ranjitha and Rekha. Tributes poured in from political leaders, film personalities and fans across the country, who remembered him as a visionary filmmaker whose work redefined Tamil cinema. His contribution to bringing realism, rural culture and human emotions to the silver screen continues to inspire generations of filmmakers. The Tamil Nadu government announced that state honours would be accorded to the legendary director. His mortal remains are being taken to his native district of Theni, where family members, colleagues and admirers are expected to pay their final respects before the last rites.



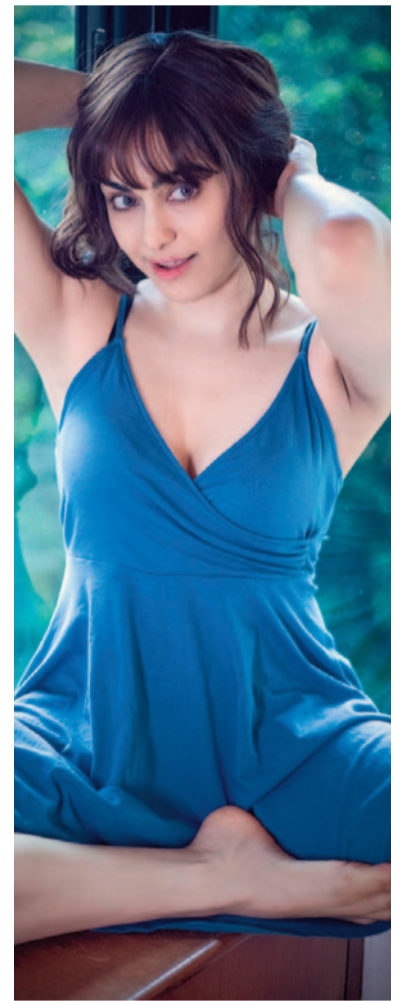
Alia Bhatt Turns Fierce Action Star



The newly released promo of Yash Raj Films' spy thriller Alpha showcases Alia Bhatt in a powerful action-packed role, marking her entry into the YRF Spy Universe. The teaser features Bobby Deol as her mentor and father figure, introducing a secretive "Alpha" programme that trains elite operatives for high-risk missions. The promo begins with an emotional moment between father and daughter on her 18th birthday before quickly shifting into a darker narrative of intense training and espionage. Alia Bhatt is seen performing high-octane action sequences, including hand-to-hand combat, stunts, and fight choreography, presenting a never-seen-before fierce avatar. The film positions her character as a specially trained operative destined for a critical mission. A key highlight of the promo is Bobby Deol's dialogue about a world divided into "wolves and sheep," where he describes his daughter as an "Alpha," the chosen elite of the program. The teaser ends by reinforcing her role as a central figure in the mission. Actor Sharvari Wagh also plays a significant role in the film, though her character details have not yet been revealed. Alpha marks Alia Bhatt's first full-scale action film and is one of the major upcoming projects in YRF's expanding Spy Universe.

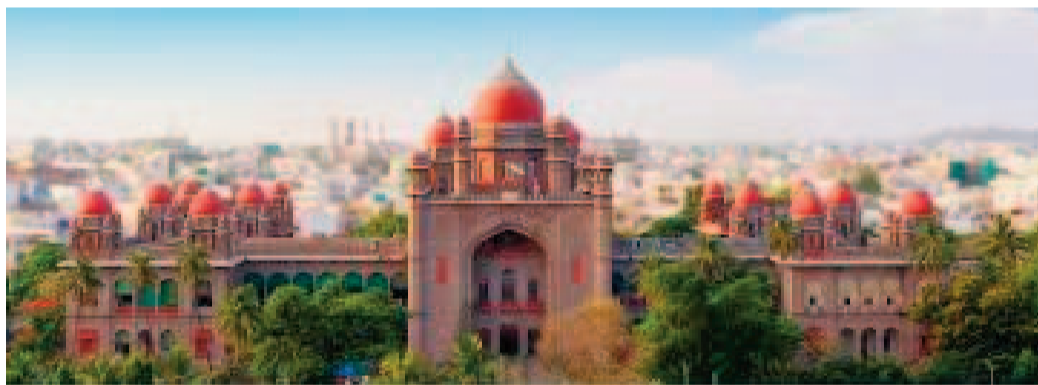
Adah Joins 'Peddi' Debate

Actress Adah Sharma has reacted to the controversy surrounding Peddi, saying the responsibility for the portrayal of women in films should not rest solely on actresses. The debate gained momentum after sections of social media criticised the film for allegedly oversexualising the character played by Janhvi Kapoor. While much of the criticism was directed at the actress and the filmmakers, Adah argued that accountability extends to the entire creative team. Speaking about the issue, Adah said that if a scene involves objectification or inappropriate representation, responsibility should be shared by everyone involved, including male actors, directors and crew members, rather than being placed only on female performers. The actress noted that she has never hesitated to address questions about films she has worked on and believes discussions about representation should involve all stakeholders in the filmmaking process. According to her, conversations about gender portrayal in cinema should focus on collective responsibility rather than targeting a single individual. The controversy around Peddi has sparked wider discussions on the depiction of women in commercial cinema, with several actors and filmmakers expressing varying opinions on artistic freedom, audience expecta-



tions and the need for more meaningful female characters. While director Buchi Babu Sana has reportedly acknowledged concerns raised by some viewers, Janhvi Kapoor has not publicly responded to the criticism so far. Adah's remarks add another voice to the ongoing debate, highlighting the broader role of filmmakers and actors in shaping how women are represented on screen.

TG HC Slams Govt on Peddi Tickets



The Telangana High Court has expressed strong displeasure over the State Government's decision allowing a temporary hike in cinema ticket prices for Ram Charan's film *Peddi*, observing that the move may not be in line with established rules and earlier judicial directions. The issue came up during the hearing of a contempt petition filed against the Principal Secretary of the Home Department, alleging violation of court guidelines related to cinema ticket pricing regulation. According to the petition, a special government memo issued on June 2, 2026 permitted a temporary increase in ticket prices for ten days from the film's release on June 4. The order

allowed an additional hike of ₹100 in single-screen theatres and ₹125 in multiplexes. The petitioner argued that the decision bypassed prescribed procedures under the relevant Government Order and ignored prior court directions mandating transparency in ticket pricing. During the hearing, the court observed that any revision in ticket prices must strictly follow established legal procedures and cannot be implemented through executive memos that bypass statutory norms. The bench noted prima facie irregularities in the issuance of the memo and stressed the need for transparency in such matters. The matter has been adjourned for further hearing to June 15.

Sara Arjun's 'Magic' May Skip Theatres



Sara Arjun's upcoming film Magic, a coming-of-age musical drama, is reportedly likely to skip a theatrical release and premiere directly on an OTT platform. The film follows the story of four teenagers who come together to compose an original song for their college festival, with Sara playing a key role. The project is expected to highlight themes of youth, friendship, and music. Sara, who impressed Telugu audiences with Euphoria, has been looking to strengthen her presence in Tollywood. She also recently drew nationwide attention for her performance in Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar franchise. While

there is no official confirmation from the makers yet, industry buzz suggests the film may opt for a digital release instead of a traditional theatrical run.



Tanu Weds Manu 3 to Begin Shooting

The much-loved romantic comedy franchise Tanu Weds Manu is set to return with its third installment, officially titled Tanu Weds Manu: The Next Chapter. According to reports, the film is expected to go on floors in 2026 under the Eros Universe banner, which is reviving several popular film franchises. While an exact shooting schedule has not yet been announced, production is confirmed to begin next year. The film will be directed by Mitakshara Kumar, known for her work in The Empire and Heeramandi, and will be co-produced by Rudraksh Jyoti Soma Limited. Kangana Ranaut and R Madhavan are expected to reprise their iconic roles, though the makers have not officially confirmed the cast or character details.

Katrina Plans Comeback

Katrina Kaif is reportedly preparing for a return to the screen after her maternity break, with early discussions suggesting she may explore streaming platforms for her comeback project. Katrina was last seen in the 2024 film Merry Christmas, opposite Vijay Sethupathi. She did not sign any new films following its release. In November 2025, she welcomed her first child with husband Vicky Kaushal and has since been on a professional break. According to reports quoting industry sources, the actress has started reading scripts again and is considering a return to sets by the second half of 2027. She is said to be carefully evaluating projects and is particularly interested in OTT content, which offers more flexible and content-driven roles.

