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India Accelerates Wind Power

P a n a j i : India is set to host the Global Wind Day 2026 Conference in Goa under the theme “Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration,” highlighting its commitment to expanding renewable energy and achieving ambitious clean power targets. The country currently ranks fourth in the world for installed wind power capacity, which has grown from 21.04 GW in 2014 to 56.09 GW in 2026. An additional 28 GW of projects are under implementation, with the government targeting 100 GW of wind capacity by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036. The conference will focus on key areas such as grid readiness, domestic manufacturing, export opportunities, forecasting technology, and faster capacity addition. It will also see the release of a report on boosting India’s wind turbine exports. India recorded a record 6.05 GW of new wind capacity in 2025-26, with wind energy contributing significantly during peak demand hours.



NICE Talks: Innovation Diplomacy

Nice: The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron at Bharat Innovates 2026 signals a shift in international diplomacy—from traditional statecraft to partnerships built on innovation, startups, and technology. In a rapidly evolving global economy, nations are no longer competing solely through military strength or trade volumes; they are also competing through ideas, research, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. President Macron’s remarks describing Modi’s visit as the beginning of “a new chapter for talent, investment and concrete solutions” underscore the growing strategic depth of the India-France relationship. The focus on incubators, venture capital, and emerging technologies reflects a recognition that the next generation of economic growth will be driven by innovation rather than conventional industries. For India, this engagement is particularly significant. The country’s startup ecosystem has matured into one of the world’s largest, supported by a vast pool of engineers, researchers, and young entrepreneurs. Events such as Bharat Innovates 2026 provide a platform to showcase this talent before global investors while opening doors for cross-border collaborations in artificial intelligence, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, space technology, and digital infrastructure. France also stands to benefit. By partnering with India’s expanding innovation ecosystem, French companies and institutions gain access to a large market, skilled workforce, and collaborative research opportunities. Such cooperation strengthens economic resilience while di-



versify global technology partnerships. However, the promise of innovation diplomacy must extend beyond ceremonial visits and photo opportunities. Sustained success depends on easier regulatory frameworks, stronger intellectual property protections, simplified investment procedures, deeper academic exchanges, and greater mobility for skilled professionals. Startups require not only funding but also policy stability and international market access. Equally important is ensuring that inno-

vation creates broad-based opportunities. Technology partnerships should generate employment, encourage regional development, and support solutions to pressing challenges such as health-care, climate change, agriculture, and urban sustainability. The real measure of success will be the tangible impact on people’s lives rather than the number of memorandums signed. India and France have already cultivated trust through cooperation in defense, space, and strategic affairs. Expanding that relationship into entrepreneurship and research adds a dynamic new dimension that aligns with the aspirations of younger generations. If nurtured carefully, this partnership can become a model of how democracies collaborate to build knowledge economies and shared prosperity. In an era where ideas travel faster than goods, the India-France dialogue at Bharat Innovates 2026 demonstrates that innovation itself has become an instrument of diplomacy. By investing in talent and technology today, both nations are laying the foundation for a partnership designed not merely for the present, but for the future.

Four Dead in Krishna River Boat Capsize Incident



Palnadu: In Andhra Pradesh, four persons lost their lives in the boat capsizing incident in the Krishna River near Konuru village in Palnadu district. Six persons on board were rescued safely. According to officials, the boat overturned after reportedly hitting a sandbank. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed deep grief over the incident. Currently on an official visit to Singapore, Mr. Naidu reviewed the situation with senior officials over the phone. He announced an ex gratia of five lakh rupees each for the families of the deceased. The Chief Minister has ordered a detailed inquiry into the incident and directed authorities to recommend measures to prevent such accidents in future.

Don’t simply sit in AC rooms: CM

Hyderabad, June 14: “Don’t simply sit in AC rooms,” Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reportedly told officials while reviewing Hyderabad’s rain-related disruptions. The remark may have been directed at bureaucrats, but it carries a larger message about the nature of public service: administration cannot be effective from behind office walls alone. Cities like Hyderabad face recurring challenges during the monsoon—waterlogging, traffic congestion, power outages, and civic emergencies. These problems demand officials who are visible on the ground, coordinating responses in real time and understanding local conditions firsthand. Field inspections are not symbolic exercises; they are essential to informed deci-



sion-making. The recent rains exposed gaps in preparedness despite advance weather warnings. If officials had proactively monitored vulnerable locations, cleared drainage systems, deployed personnel, and coordinated with traffic police and utility departments, many hardships faced by citizens could have been reduced. The Chief Minister’s criticism highlights that technology and planning lose value when implemen-

tation is weak. Public administration is measured not by the number of review meetings held but by the quality of service delivered during crises. Senior officers must lead from the front, inspire accountability among field staff, and ensure swift responses when conditions deteriorate. A culture of waiting for problems to escalate before acting only increases public frustration and erodes trust. At the same time, governance should not depend solely on personal intervention by political leaders. Institutions must be strong enough to function efficiently through clear protocols, data-driven planning, and coordinated teamwork. Accountability should be embedded in the system rather than activated only after failures become visible.

El Nino May Push Up Food Prices

New Delhi: India could face renewed inflationary pressure in the coming months as weather forecasts indicate a high probability of an El Nino event, according to a research report by Bank of Baroda. The report estimates an 80% chance of El Nino conditions during June–August, with the likelihood rising above 90% through November. Such weather patterns can disrupt rainfall and agricultural output, potentially driving up food prices. Despite healthy reservoir storage levels and satisfactory vegetable arrivals so far, economists caution that the impact of weather-related disruptions and rising fuel costs could increase inflationary pressures. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is projected to remain in the 5.2%–5.5% range during FY27, assum-



ing crude oil prices average between \$90 and \$100 per barrel. Headline retail inflation rose to 3.9% in May 2026 from 3.5% in April, mainly due to higher food and fuel prices. Food inflation climbed to 4.8%, while transport and hospitality costs also increased follow-

ing fuel price hikes. The report warns that rising freight costs and elevated input expenses could further push up food and core inflation in the months ahead. Analysts say close monitoring of supply conditions and weather developments will be crucial to containing inflationary risks.

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Peace Demands Patience

Tehran: The reports emerging from Tehran on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States underscore a timeless reality in international diplomacy: lasting peace cannot be rushed. While speculation surrounding a possible breakthrough has generated optimism, Iran’s insistence that political, legal, and technical reviews are still underway reflects the complexity of resolving deeply entrenched geopolitical conflicts. Diplomatic negotiations involving Iran, the United States, and regional stakeholders have implications far beyond their immediate participants. Any agreement affecting sanctions, maritime security, or nuclear commitments could reshape trade routes, energy markets,



and strategic alliances across the Middle East and beyond. The reported involvement of Qatar as a mediator highlights the increasingly important role of regional diplomacy in bridging divides where direct engagement remains difficult. Equally revealing is the domestic reaction within Iran. Public protests against senior officials involved in the negotiations

demonstrate that foreign policy decisions are often constrained by internal political pressures. Governments negotiating international agreements must balance national interests abroad with public opinion and political legitimacy at home. A deal that appears acceptable on the global stage may still face resistance domestically. The discussion surrounding the Strait of Hormuz adds another layer of significance. This narrow waterway remains one of the world’s most critical maritime corridors for energy supplies. Any arrangement that ensures its uninterrupted operation would benefit not only regional economies but also global markets that depend on stable energy flows. However, such commitments require trust, ver-

ification, and sustained compliance from all parties. The differing public statements from Washington and Tehran also illustrate the delicate nature of high-level negotiations. Premature announcements or conflicting timelines can create unrealistic expectations and complicate ongoing discussions. Diplomacy often progresses through cautious, incremental steps rather than dramatic declarations. For the international community, the broader objective should remain preventing escalation while encouraging dialogue. Military confrontation carries enormous humanitarian and economic costs, whereas negotiated settlements—however imperfect—offer opportunities for stability and long-term cooperation.



EDITORIAL

Bharat Innovates,
France Collaborates

As the global economy becomes increasingly driven by technology and knowledge, the partnership between India and France is evolving beyond traditional diplomacy into a dynamic alliance for innovation. Once centered on defence, nuclear energy, and strategic cooperation, the relationship is now expanding into artificial intelligence, clean energy, semiconductors, digital infrastructure, and startup ecosystems. This transformation reflects a shared belief that the future will belong to nations that create, collaborate, and innovate together. India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing innovation hubs. With a vibrant startup culture, a large pool of skilled young professionals, and strong digital public infrastructure, the country is producing solutions that address both domestic and global challenges. France, on the other hand, brings decades of excellence in scientific research, aerospace engineering, advanced manufacturing, and sustainable technologies. Together, these complementary strengths create opportunities for meaningful technological partnerships. The collaboration between the two nations is particularly significant at a time when countries are seeking resilient supply chains and trusted technology partners. Joint initiatives in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, green hydrogen, renewable energy, and space research have the potential to generate long-term economic and strategic benefits. By combining India's scale with France's research capabilities, both countries can develop innovations that are competitive in global markets while addressing pressing issues such as climate change and energy security. An equally promising area of cooperation lies in startups and entrepreneurship. Indian startups can benefit from access to European markets, investment opportunities, and research collaborations, while French companies can tap into India's expanding digital economy and talent base. Academic partnerships, student exchanges, and joint research programs can further strengthen this ecosystem by nurturing the next generation of innovators. However, successful collaboration requires more than diplomatic agreements. Governments and industries must invest consistently in research and development, protect intellectual property, simplify regulatory frameworks, and encourage public-private partnerships. Innovation flourishes where ideas can move freely from laboratories to industries and from prototypes to markets. The India-France partnership also carries broader geopolitical significance. In an era of technological competition and economic uncertainty, both democracies are demonstrating that collaboration based on mutual trust and shared values can produce sustainable growth.

When Rain Exposes Reality

Hyderabad has long been celebrated as one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan cities, attracting global investments, technology companies, and ambitious infrastructure projects. Towering skyscrapers, expanding highways, and modern office campuses have become symbols of its transformation. Yet every monsoon tells a different story. A few hours of heavy rainfall are often enough to flood roads, disrupt traffic, inundate residential colonies, and expose the city's fragile urban planning. The damage caused by recurring rain is not limited to waterlogged streets or delayed commutes. It gradually erodes Hyderabad's reputation as a world-class destination for business and investment. International visitors, entrepreneurs, and tourists judge a city not only by its skyline but also by its resilience. Images of submerged vehicles, overflowing drains, stranded commuters, and flooded neighborhoods spread rapidly across social media, raising uncomfortable questions about civic preparedness. Urban flooding is not merely a consequence of heavy rainfall. It is often the result of years of unchecked construction, shrinking lakes, encroachment of natural water channels, inadequate drainage systems, and poor maintenance of stormwater infrastructure. As the city expanded rapidly, ecological balance frequently took a back seat to



real estate growth. The consequences become visible every rainy season. For ordinary citizens, the costs are immense. Families lose household belongings, businesses suffer financial setbacks, students struggle to reach schools, emergency services are delayed, and daily wage earners lose precious income. Public frustration grows when repeated promises of long-term solutions fail to translate into lasting improvements on the ground. The concern extends beyond inconvenience. Hyderabad competes with other global cities to attract investments in information technology, manufacturing, and innovation. Investors seek predictability, reliable infrastructure, and effective governance. Persistent flooding can create doubts about disaster preparedness and urban resilience, factors that increasingly influence economic decisions in an era

of climate uncertainty. Climate change is likely to make extreme rainfall events more frequent and intense. Therefore, temporary pumping operations and emergency responses are insufficient. The city requires a comprehensive strategy that includes restoring lakes and water bodies, protecting natural drainage channels, modernizing stormwater networks, enforcing building regulations, using scientific urban planning, and adopting advanced flood forecasting systems. Regular desilting of drains and strict action against encroachments should become routine rather than seasonal exercises. Citizens also share responsibility. Dumping waste into drains, unauthorized constructions, and disregard for environmental norms contribute significantly to urban flooding. Public participation in maintaining local ecosystems can complement

government initiatives and strengthen resilience. Hyderabad possesses enormous strengths—a thriving technology ecosystem, talented workforce, educational institutions, and entrepreneurial energy. Its aspirations of becoming a leading global city remain achievable. However, prestige is built not only through investment summits and iconic buildings but through the reliability of basic civic infrastructure that functions when tested by nature. The true measure of a modern city is revealed during adversity. If Hyderabad can transform its annual monsoon challenges into an opportunity for sustainable urban reform, it will reinforce rather than diminish its reputation. Otherwise, every spell of heavy rain risks washing away a little more of the confidence that residents and the world place in the city.



- Ranadheer Gundu,
Hyderabad

KTR Accuses Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that he "backstabbed" senior Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan for political reasons. Addressing party workers in Hyderabad's Khairatabad constituency, KTR claimed that Revanth Reddy orchestrated a false case against Natarajan after she reportedly raised concerns about alleged irregularities in land transactions and contract awards before

the Congress high command. He further alleged that details of the case were shared with BJP leaders to obstruct her chances of securing a Rajya Sabha nomination from Madhya Pradesh. Describing Natarajan as an honest and trusted associate of Rahul Gandhi, KTR accused the Chief Minister of targeting leaders within his own party and engaging in vindictive politics. The BRS leader also criticized the Congress government's overall performance, calling it an "utter flop" administration. He alleged that key election promises—in-

cluding providing two lakh jobs, unemployment allowances, and major welfare commitments—remain largely unfulfilled halfway through the government's tenure. KTR questioned the government's claims regarding women's economic empowerment and challenged the Chief Minister's assertion about creating one crore women millionaires, alleging that promised financial assistance had not reached beneficiaries. He further claimed that a by-election in Khairatabad was inevitable due to the political defection of legislator

Danam Nagender and urged party workers to closely monitor the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls from June 25 to July 31. KTR also called for an extensive digital membership drive and asked booth-level workers to remain vigilant against any alleged manipulation of voter lists. The allegations made by KTR are political claims and have not been independently verified. No immediate response from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy or the Congress party was available regarding these accusations.

Cockroach Sparks
Outrage at Basar

Basar, June 14: Students of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies (RGUKT)-Basar have raised fresh concerns over food hygiene after a cockroach was allegedly found in a potato curry served during breakfast at the E1-E2 Shakti mess on Sunday. According to students, the incident reflects the poor quality of food being served on campus. They claimed repeated complaints about unhygienic meals have gone unaddressed, forcing many to avoid eating in the hostel mess. Students also recalled previous cases of food poisoning at the university that reportedly led to hospitalisations, blaming negligence by authorities for recurring issues. They urged the administration to strengthen food safety standards and ensure regular monitoring of mess operations so that such incidents do not recur. Officials were unavailable for comment on the allegations.

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Pooja Clinches High Jump Gold



Pooja continued her impressive form by winning the women's high jump event at the Indian Athletics Series in Trivandrum with a clearance of 1.81 metres. The 19-year-old recently grabbed headlines after setting a national Under-20 record of 1.93 metres at the Asian U20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong, further establishing herself as one of India's brightest athletics prospects.



Deepthi's Five-for Sinks Pakistan

Deepthi Sharma starred with a career-best spell of 5 for 10 as India crushed Pakistan by 64 runs in their opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup at Edgbaston. After being asked to bat, India posted a competitive 170/6, powered by a fluent 68 from Smriti Mandhana and a late cameo of 34 from Richa Ghosh. Harmanpreet Kaur also chipped in with 36 to strengthen the innings. Pakistan made a brisk start and reached 52/1 in the powerplay, with Muneeba Ali leading the charge. However, India's spin attack turned the game around in the middle overs. Deepthi Sharma dismantled the batting line-up with disciplined off-spin, while left-arm spinner N Sree Charani claimed 3 for 21 to trigger a collapse. Pakistan, who were 75/3 at one stage, lost their remaining wickets quickly and were bowled out for 106 in 17 overs. The comprehensive victory handed India two valuable points and a significant boost to their net run rate, reinforcing their dominance over Pakistan in Women's T20 World Cup contests.



Germany Thrash Curacao 7-1



Germany national football team recovered from an early scare to overpower tournament debutants Curacao national football team 7-1 in their FIFA World Cup 2026 Group E clash.

India Stuns Korea for Double Gold

India produced a historic performance at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya by defeating powerhouse South Korea twice in a single day to claim two recurve gold medals. Dhiraj Bommadevara emerged as the star of the tournament, first teaming up with 17-year-old Kumkum Mohod to beat Olympic champions Kim Je-deok and Oh Ye-jin 5-1 in the recurve mixed team final. Just hours later, Dhiraj completed a golden double by defeating Olympic bronze medallist Lee Woo Seok 7-3 to secure his maiden individual World Cup gold medal. The twin victories marked the first time India has won two gold medals at a single Archery World Cup stage by overcoming South Korea, long regarded as the dominant force in recurve archery. Kumkum, competing in only her first World Cup season, continued her remarkable rise after helping India win the women's team title in Shanghai earlier this year. Dhiraj credited his young partner's fearless approach as a key factor behind their success. India finished second in the overall medal standings behind China, underlining the country's growing strength in recurve archery.



SPS Forms New Committee in Mancherial

Mancherial, June 15: SPS Association State President Kurri Saidayya stated that the struggle will continue until the issues of sanitation workers, patient care staff, security supervisors, and bedside workers in government hospitals across Telangana are resolved. A new district committee of the SPS Association was formed on Sunday in Mancherial district. The committee formation event was held under the leadership of State President Kurri Saidayya and General Secretary Chinna Boska Naresh. At the district level, Naresh was appointed as President

and Prashanth as General Secretary, along with a total of 13 members in the district committee. Speaking on the occasion, Kurri Saidayya said that several representations had been submitted to the Health Minister and senior officials regarding identity cards, job security, and minimum wage enhancement for nearly 18,000 workers in government hospitals. However, he expressed disappointment that these issues remain unresolved. He demanded that all workers currently outside the IHFMS system be merged into the IFMS platform and that the prin-

ciple of "equal pay for equal work" be implemented. He warned that if the government fails to take a clear decision by the end of July, the state and district committees will consult and launch large-scale protest programs. The event was attended by State Treasurer Pattipati Srinivas, Vice Presidents Vainala Ravi and Matangi Anil Kumar, Assistant Secretary Gorre Nagaraju, State Committee members Kumar, P. Anjali, Santosh, along with leaders from various districts and hundreds of workers from govt hospitals in Mancherial and Bellampalli.



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VIROSH Fund 180 Rural Students

Actor Vijay Deverakonda and actress Rashmika Mandanna have jointly supported an education initiative that awarded scholarships to 180 students from Telangana's Achampet Mandal under The Deverakonda Foundation. As part of the outreach programme, the duo visited Thummanpet village, the native place of Vijay's father, where they interacted with students and their families. The initiative focused on recognising academic performance among

9th and 10th-grade students from rural backgrounds. Ahead of the visit, Vijay shared details of the scholarship list on social media platform X, calling it a personal milestone and describing the project as a long-cherished dream aimed at encouraging hardworking students. At the village event, Vijay addressed the gathering and said the initiative was a way of giving back to the community that has supported his journey in cinema. Rashmika also spoke at the programme,

congratulating the students and describing the effort as the beginning of a broader social initiative. She highlighted that launching the programme in Thummanpet and Achampet made it more meaningful due to its personal connection to Vijay's family roots. The foundation plans to expand similar educational support activities in the coming years, while the actors are also set to reunite professionally in their upcoming film Ranabaali.

AR Rahman Confirms 'Peddi' OST Is Coming Soon



Music maestro A. R. Rahman has confirmed that the original soundtrack (OST) of the blockbuster film Peddi will be released soon, delighting fans who have been eagerly awaiting its arrival. The update came during an interaction on Instagram, where Rahman responded to a fan's query about the OST with a simple but reassuring "Soon." Although no release date has been announced, the response has heightened anticipation among music lovers. Starring Ram Charan and directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi has earned praise not only for its performances but also for Rahman's background score, which many viewers credit with enhancing the film's emotional impact. The film has enjoyed a strong box-office run, reportedly crossing ₹360 crore worldwide. With Rahman now confirming that the complete background score will be released, fans can expect an official announcement on the OST in the near future.

Cocktail 2 Gets 'A'

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has awarded an 'A' (Adults Only) certificate to Cocktail 2, the upcoming romantic drama directed by Homi Adajania and set for release on June 19. The film stars Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, and Rashmika Mandanna, and serves as a spiritual sequel to the 2012 hit Cocktail. The runtime is reported to be around 150 minutes, slightly longer than the original. The certification marks a first for Kriti Sanon, whose previous films have largely been family-oriented, while Rashmika Mandanna receives her second A-rated Hindi film after Animal. Shahid Kapoor, meanwhile, continues his streak of adult-certified films, adding Cocktail 2 to a list that already includes several A-rated titles. The film explores a modern love triangle and has already generated buzz following speculation about its bold narrative themes. Director Homi Adajania has addressed rumours around the storyline, clarifying that the film focuses on complex relationships and evolving friendships rather than a specific label-driven plot. Cocktail 2 is set to hit theatres on June 19.



Anantha SriRam Defends 'Peddi' Director

The debate over the portrayal of Janhvi Kapoor's character in Peddi has intensified, with lyricist Anantha SriRam publicly questioning director Buchi Babu Sana's decision to apologise amid criticism. Speaking at the film's success event, Anantha SriRam argued that a director should have the freedom to shape characters according to creative vision. He expressed concern that public backlash and social media criticism could discourage artistic expression and limit storytelling in commercial cinema. The controversy stems from criticism over the portrayal of Achiyyamma, played by Janhvi Kapoor, with some viewers alleging that the character was hyper-sexualised. The issue sparked widespread discussion online and prompted Buchi Babu Sana to issue a public apology, stating that changes would be made in response to audience concerns.

Kangana's BBV Tax-Free in Haryana

Kangana Ranaut's latest release Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata has been declared tax-free in Haryana after a special screening attended by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in Chandigarh. The decision follows a similar exemption granted in Delhi, marking the second state to waive entertainment tax for the film during its opening week. After the screening, the Chief Minister said the film carries a strong inspirational message and should reach a wider audience. He added that such stories encourage public awareness and a sense of duty toward the nation. Actor and producer Kangana Ranaut thanked the Haryana government for the support, saying the move would help the film reach more viewers across the state. She also expressed appreciation for the Chief Minister's backing of socially driven cinema. Directed by Manoj Tapadia, the film is based on the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, focusing specifically on events inside Cama and Alless Hospital.



Mouni's 'Bridesmaids' Post Goes Viral on SM

Actor Mouni Roy sparked social media buzz after sharing a playful "bridesmaids" caption while posting photos from Disha Patani's birthday celebration. The Instagram Stories featured Mouni alongside Disha, Sonam Bajwa, and Krishna Shroff, with the caption, "D's bridesmaids whenever that happens," prompting speculation and amusement among fans. Mouni also shared videos from the party, including a live performance by singer Stebin Ben, as guests enjoyed the celebrations. The light-hearted post comes weeks after Mouni and her former husband, Suraj Nambiar, publicly announced their mutual separation, requesting privacy and urging people to avoid speculation about their personal lives. Disha Patani celebrated her birthday with close friends and family, sharing moments from the gathering on social media, while Mouni's humorous caption became one of the highlights of the event online.