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Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation's celebrations for the 12th International Day of Yoga on Sunday, joining thousands of participants at Kolkata's iconic Red Road for a mass yoga session. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said yoga has evolved into the world's largest community movement, bringing together people across nations in pursuit of better health and well-being.

Modi Moments

World Unites Through Yoga



Moscow: Millions of people across the world marked the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 with large public gatherings, reaffirming yoga's growing global appeal and its role in promoting health, harmony and well-being. This year's celebrations, themed "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," witnessed enthusiastic participation in countries including Russia, Germany, Denmark, Spain and Hungary. In Russia, the Embassy of India in Moscow and the Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, in collaboration with Moscow city authorities, organised the 12th International Day of Yoga at Universitetskaya Square near Lomonosov Moscow State University, attracting yoga enthusiasts and wellness advocates. In Germany, more than 500 participants gathered at the iconic Brandenburg Gate for celebrations organised by the Indian Embassy and local partners. Despite thunderstorms, participants continued practising yoga, demonstrating remarkable

enthusiasm and commitment. Denmark also observed the occasion with events organised in Aarhus, where local leaders joined participants to highlight the importance of yoga for healthy ageing and overall wellness. In Spain, hundreds assembled at Plaza de Oriente, with officials emphasising yoga's role in fostering global unity, physical fitness and mental well-being. Meanwhile, Hungary hosted celebrations at the Sports University Stadium in Budapest, where members of the Indian diaspora and local residents participated in large numbers. Across venues worldwide, organisers highlighted the message that yoga is not merely a form of exercise but a holistic practice promoting healthier lifestyles, mindfulness and longevity. The widespread participation reflected the continuing international embrace of yoga as a bridge between cultures and a tool for physical and mental wellness.



TG20 Begins in Grand Style

Hyderabad, June 21: The inaugural edition of the Sreenidhi University TG20 League, organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), got off to a dazzling start with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal on Sunday. The event witnessed the presence of prominent personalities from cricket, cinema, and public life, including actor and league

brand ambassador Vijay Deverakonda, former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu, India pacer Mohammed Siraj, Telangana DGP CV Anand, and HCA officials. Adding to the festive atmosphere, music composer Thaman S entertained the packed crowd with a lively performance, turning the stadium into a celebration of cricket and entertainment. Addressing the gathering, Vijay Deverakonda expressed hope that the league would nurture talented youngsters from Telangana and produce future Indian stars. "I want to see more cricketers from Telangana representing Team India through this platform," he said. Head of Cricket Operations Ambati Rayudu highlighted the abundance of cricketing talent in the state and encouraged young players to make the most of the opportunity. "The number of players from Hyderabad and Telangana should continue

to grow at the national level," he remarked. Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj also motivated participants, urging them to enjoy the tournament and showcase their abilities. "This is a huge platform. Play freely, express yourself, and make the most of it," he said. With enthusiastic fan support and a grand launch, the TG20 aims to become a major platform for identifying and promoting emerging cricket talent from across TG.

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NEET Aspirant Caught Cheating

Hyderabad, June 22: An 18-year-old student appearing for the NEET-UG re-examination was caught allegedly using a concealed mobile phone to cheat at an examination centre in Ragannaguda on the outskirts of Hyderabad. According to police, the candidate, a resident of Achampet, arrived at the Zilla Parishad High School examination centre early in the morning and allegedly hid a mobile phone in the washroom area before the test began. Later, he reportedly concealed the device inside a flush tank using a zip-lock cover. Despite multiple security inspections and frisking of candidates before the examination, the hidden phone remained undetected. During the test, the student sought permission to use the restroom, citing stomach pain. His prolonged stay in the washroom raised suspicion among invigilators, who alerted staff members to check on him. He was al-



legedly found using the concealed mobile phone to search for answers on Google. Police seized the device and, during questioning, the student reportedly admitted to the malpractice. Authorities have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. The incident occurred during the nationwide NEET re-examination, which was conducted under heightened security measures following the cancellation of the earlier test over alleged paper leak concerns.

Lok Adalat Returns ₹45 Crore

Hyderabad, June 21: In a major boost to cybercrime victim assistance, more than 6,300 victims of online fraud across Telangana received refunds amounting to ₹45.21 crore through a special Lok Adalat conducted on Saturday. The initiative was jointly organised by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB), the Telangana State Legal Services Authority, banks, digital payment service providers, police commissionerates and district police units. The programme aimed to expedite the return of money lost in cyber fraud cases. A total of 6,303 victims benefited from the latest Lok Adalat, a significant increase from the previous session, in which 4,627 victims recovered ₹24.91

crore. The latest exercise recorded an 81% rise in the amount refunded and a 36% increase in the number of beneficiaries. Among the participating agencies, the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate recorded the highest recovery, facilitating refunds of ₹21.91 crore to 2,232 victims. The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau secured ₹6.83 crore for 77 victims, while the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate helped 779 victims recover ₹4.04 crore. Hyd Police facilitated refunds of ₹3.22 crore to 755 victims, and Sangareddy Police assisted 167 victims in recovering ₹1.69 crore. Since the introduction of the Lok Adalat-based recovery mechanism, authorities have successfully returned 445.41 crores.

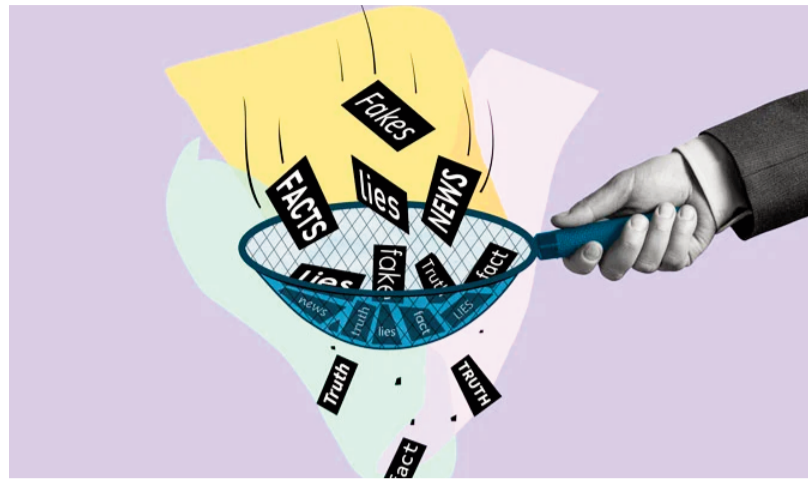
EDITORIAL

Monsoon Under Stress

The Indian monsoon has always been the life-line of the nation's economy, agriculture, and water security. For centuries, farmers have relied on seasonal rains to sow crops, replenish reservoirs, and sustain livelihoods. However, climate change is altering the character of the monsoon in ways that are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Instead of predictable rainfall patterns, India is witnessing delayed onsets, prolonged dry spells, sudden cloudbursts, and extreme flooding. These shifts pose serious challenges not only to agriculture but also to urban planning, disaster management, and economic stability. One of the most visible impacts of climate change is the increasing unpredictability of rainfall. Some regions receive excessive rain within a short period, causing floods and landslides, while neighboring areas struggle with drought-like conditions. Such uneven distribution reduces crop yields, damages infrastructure, and disrupts rural incomes. Farmers, particularly smallholders, often bear the brunt of these fluctuations as they have limited resources to recover from repeated losses. The consequences extend beyond agriculture. Cities across India have experienced severe urban flooding due to intense rainfall events overwhelming outdated drainage systems. At the same time, reservoirs in other regions remain underfilled because rainfall is concentrated in fewer days rather than spread across the season. This paradox of floods and water scarcity underscores the growing complexity of climate-related challenges.

Climate change also affects food security and inflation. Poor harvests caused by erratic rains can reduce the supply of essential commodities, pushing up prices and placing additional pressure on household budgets. Rural employment suffers when agricultural activity declines, leading to migration and increased economic uncertainty. Addressing these challenges requires more than emergency responses after disasters occur. Governments must invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, improve weather forecasting, modernize irrigation systems, and strengthen flood management. Equally important is promoting sustainable farming practices, crop diversification, and water conservation techniques that reduce dependence on uncertain rainfall patterns. Scientific research and data-driven policymaking should guide long-term adaptation strategies. Early warning systems, better insurance coverage for farmers, and resilient urban planning can significantly reduce losses from extreme weather events. Public awareness about climate risks and responsible resource management must also become a national priority. The Indian monsoon is more than a weather phenomenon—it is the foundation of millions of livelihoods and a pillar of the country's economic stability.

Truth in the Age of Misinformation



The digital revolution has transformed the way people consume information. With a smartphone and an internet connection, anyone can access breaking news, share opinions, or broadcast events to a global audience within seconds. Social media platforms, messaging applications, and video-sharing websites have democratized communication like never before. Yet this unprecedented access to information has come with an equally serious challenge: the rapid spread of misinformation. In the digital age, falsehoods can travel faster than facts, creating confusion, eroding trust, and influencing public opinion in ways that have profound social, political, and economic consequences. Unlike traditional media, where information generally passes through editorial checks and professional scrutiny, digital platforms allow virtually anyone to publish content instantly. While this openness encourages free expression, it also enables rumors, manipulated images, misleading headlines, and fabricated stories to circulate widely. Sophisticated editing tools and artificial intelligence have made it easier than ever to create convincing but false content, making it increasingly difficult for ordinary users to distinguish truth from deception. The consequences of misinformation extend far beyond harmless misunderstandings. During public health emergencies,



false claims about medicines or diseases can discourage people from seeking proper treatment or following scientific advice. In times of natural disasters, inaccurate information can create panic and hinder rescue efforts. Politically charged misinformation can deepen polarization, weaken democratic discourse, and reduce public confidence in institutions. Financial markets, businesses, and individual reputations can also suffer when false narratives spread unchecked. One reason misinformation spreads so effectively is human psychology. People are naturally inclined to believe information that confirms their existing opinions or emotions. Sensational headlines, shocking videos, or emotionally charged posts often receive more attention than balanced reporting. Social media algorithms, designed to maximize engagement, may amplify such content because it generates clicks, shares, and comments. As a result, misleading information can reach millions before fact-checkers or credible sources have an opportunity to respond. The rise of artificial intelligence has introduced another layer of complexity. AI-powered tools can generate realistic images, audio recordings, and videos that closely resemble genuine content. Deepfakes, in particular, have the potential to impersonate public figures, fabricate speeches, or manipulate events in ways that can mislead audiences. While AI also offers valuable tools for detecting false information, the technology has created an ongoing race

between those producing misinformation and those attempting to expose it. Addressing this challenge requires shared responsibility. Technology companies must strengthen content moderation systems, improve transparency in recommendation algorithms, and invest in tools that identify coordinated disinformation campaigns. At the same time, they must carefully balance efforts to reduce harmful misinformation with the protection of free expression and legitimate public debate.

Governments also have an important role, but regulation must be approached cautiously. Laws aimed at combating misinformation should be narrowly tailored, transparent, and subject to appropriate oversight to avoid suppressing lawful speech or investigative journalism. Policies should focus on accountability, digital literacy, and institutional resilience rather than broad restrictions that could have unintended consequences. Traditional media organizations, too, must uphold the highest standards of accuracy and ethical reporting. In an era where public trust is fragile, responsible journalism becomes even more valuable. Newsrooms should prioritize verification over speed, clearly correct errors, and distinguish factual reporting from opinion. Their credibility depends not on being first but on being reliable. Perhaps the most important defense against misinformation is an informed and critical public. Digital literacy should become a core life skill taught in schools, colleges, and community programs.

Citizens should learn how to verify sources, recognize manipulated content, distinguish between news and opinion, and evaluate claims before sharing them. Simple habits—checking multiple credible sources, reading beyond headlines, examining publication dates, and questioning extraordinary claims—can significantly reduce the spread of false information. Families and communities also have a role to play. Many misleading messages

circulate through private messaging groups because recipients trust the sender without verifying the content. Encouraging respectful skepticism and promoting fact-checking habits within social circles can help slow the viral spread of misinformation. The business community is not immune either. False reports about companies, products, or markets can damage investor confidence and consumer trust. Organizations must communicate transparently, respond quickly to false claims, and build long-term credibility through consistent engagement with stakeholders. Ultimately, misinformation is not merely a technological problem—it is a societal challenge that tests the resilience of democratic institutions, scientific understanding, and public trust. The solution cannot rely solely on algorithms, regulations, or fact-checkers. It requires a culture that values evidence over emotion, verification over virality, and accountability over convenience. The digital age has given humanity unprecedented access to knowledge and unprecedented power to communicate. Whether that power strengthens society or undermines it depends on how responsibly it is used. Truth may not always travel as fast as misinformation, but with informed citizens, ethical journalism, responsible technology platforms, and thoughtful public policy, it can still prevail. In the end, protecting facts is not just the responsibility of governments or media organizations—it is a civic duty shared by every individual who clicks, shares, or posts online.



- Ranadheer Gundu,
Tech Expert

NEET Re-Exam Held Under Tight Security

New Delhi: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) 2026 re-examination was conducted smoothly across India and overseas on Sunday under unprecedented security arrangements, following the cancellation of the original test over alleged question paper leak concerns. More than 22 lakh candidates appeared for the examination, which was held at 5,440 centres across 551 cities in India and 14 international locations. The test was conducted from 2 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., with additional time provided for eligible candidates with disabilities. To ensure transparency and prevent malpractice, authorities deployed nearly seven lakh personnel, including examination staff, police, and observers. Over 95,000 examination rooms were monitored through 1.38 lakh CCTV cameras, while more than 51,000 signal jammers were installed to block electronic communication devices. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan monitored the arrangements from the National Testing Agency (NTA) headquarters and encouraged students to appear for the examination with confidence. Candidates across several states reported that Biology was relatively straightforward, Chemistry was of moderate difficulty, while Physics emerged as the toughest section, featuring analytical and numerical questions that required additional time. In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, over 1.37 lakh students appeared at nearly 400 centres, with many describing the Physics paper as challenging. Similar feedback came from candidates in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Authorities also made special arrangements for candidates facing extraordinary circumstances. In Kolkata, an injured student was provided a separate examination room along with medical supervision and ambulance support.

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India Clinch Nations Cup

Rotterdam, June 22: The Indian women's hockey team produced a dominant performance to defeat hosts New Zealand 2-0 in the final and lift the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2026, earning promotion back to the FIH Women's Pro League. India made a dream start as Navneet Kaur converted a penalty corner in the fourth

minute to open the scoring. Sunelita Toppo doubled the lead in the 15th minute with a fine deflection from another set-piece, giving India a comfortable cushion early in the contest. The team then showcased exceptional defensive discipline, denying New Zealand any clear scoring opportunities. Goalkeeper Savita made a crucial

save from a penalty corner in the final quarter as India held firm to seal the title. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, recording victories over the USA, Japan and Uruguay in the group stage before thrashing Chile 6-0 in the semi-finals. Lalremsiami was named Player of the Match in the final, while

Deepika finished as the tournament's joint-highest scorer with six goals. The triumph marks India's second FIH Women's Nations Cup title, having previously won the inaugural edition in 2022. Hockey India announced a cash reward of ₹3 lakh for each player and ₹1.5 lakh for support staff member.



India Stun Dutch 3-2

Rotterdam, June 22: The Indian men's hockey team signed off from the Rotterdam leg of the FIH Pro League on a high, defeating hosts the Netherlands 3-2 in a thrilling contest at Hockey Club Rotterdam. India took the lead in the second quarter when Jugraj Singh converted a penalty corner in the 18th minute. The Dutch equalised almost immediately through Pepijn van der Heijden, but Abhishek restored India's advantage with a brilliant backhand strike before half-time. The third quarter saw relentless pressure from the Netherlands, but India's disciplined defence, led by crucial interventions from Amit Rohidas, kept the hosts at bay. In the final quarter, Rajinder Singh extended India's lead to 3-1 by converting another penalty corner following a swift counterattack. Although Koen Bijen reduced the deficit to 3-2 late in the match, India held their nerve to secure a memorable victory. Stand-in captain Hardik Singh was named Player of the Match for his outstanding leadership.

Spain Crush Saudi 4-0



Atlanta, June 22: Spain bounced back in emphatic fashion at the FIFA World Cup 2026, thrashing Saudi Arabia 4-0 in their Group H clash to register their first victory of the tournament and move to the top of the standings. Teenage sensation Lamine Yamal opened the scoring in the 10th minute, netting his maiden World Cup goal after finishing a fine cross from Mikel Oyarzabal. Oyarzabal then stole the spotlight by scoring twice in quick succession, giving Spain a commanding 3-0 lead within the opening 24 minutes. The fourth goal came early in the second half when a shot from Marc Cucurella deflected off Saudi defender Hassan Al-Tambakti into his own net, effectively ending the contest. Spain dominated possession and created numerous chances throughout the match, producing a much-improved display after their goalless draw against Cape Verde in the tournament opener. The victory leaves the European champions in a strong position to qualify for the knockout stage. Yamal's goal marked a memorable milestone in his young career, while Oyarzabal's all-round performance—including two goals and an assist—played a decisive role in Spain's comprehensive win.

Kohli Returns for England ODIs

New Delhi: Star batter Virat Kohli has been named in India's 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against England, subject to clearance from a fitness assessment at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. Kohli, who missed the recent ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury sustained during the IPL, is expected to undergo a final fitness test before joining the squad. If declared fit, he will return to his preferred No. 3 position in the batting order. The ODI squad will continue to be led by Shubman Gill, with Rohit Sharma partnering him at the top of the order. Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, despite scoring two centuries against Afghanistan, has been left out following Kohli's return. India have also welcomed back pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for workload management, and all-rounder Axar Patel, replacing left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey. Dubey will instead join the India A squad for the multi-day series against Sri Lanka A. Meanwhile, spinner Varun has been ruled out of the Ireland T20I series as he continues to recover from a foot injury.

Sooryavanshi Powers India A Triumph

Dambulla: Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi produced a breathtaking innings of 94 runs off just 29 balls to lead India A to a convincing 66-run victory over Sri Lanka A in the tri-series final and lift the title on Sunday. The 15-year-old opener unleashed an extraordinary assault, smashing his maiden India A half-century in just 11 deliveries to set a new List A record for the fastest fifty. He narrowly missed a century but laid the foundation for India A's imposing total of 377/9 in 50 overs. Captain Tilak Varma contributed a composed 67, while Ruturaj Gaikwad (40),

Priyansh Arya (39), and Kumar Kushagra (36) added valuable runs to strengthen the innings. In reply, Sri Lanka A managed 311 all out in 47.1 overs despite fighting knocks from Wanuja Sahan (62) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (52). India A pacer Yash Thakur starred with the ball, claiming 3 wickets for 45 runs and striking early to derail the chase. The comprehensive win ensured India A remained dominant throughout the tournament and capped off the campaign with the tri-series trophy, while Sooryavanshi's explosive innings emerged as the defining highlight of the final.





Shubhi Joshi

Malaika Embraces Yoga Lifestyle

Actress and fitness enthusiast Malaika Arora has shared how yoga has transformed from a regular fitness routine into a lifelong passion and way of living. Marking the occasion of International Yoga Day, Malaika posted a series of photographs of herself performing different yoga asanas and reflected on the impact the practice has had on her life. She said yoga has helped her reconnect with herself, find balance, and cultivate mindfulness over the years. Calling it more than just a workout, the actress described yoga as a journey of “breath, balance, and showing up,” adding that she remains grateful for the lessons it continues to teach her every day. Widely regarded as one of the fittest celebrities in the industry, Malaika is known for promoting a disciplined lifestyle and frequently shares glimpses of her yoga and fitness routines on social media. Joining the International Yoga Day celebrations, several Bollywood stars also highlighted the importance of yoga for physical and mental well-being. Actor Shahid Kapoor said yoga is an integral part of India’s cultural heritage and praised its ability to align the mind, body, and soul while improving overall health and flexibility.



Priyanka Confirms Jolie Project

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has confirmed that she will soon collaborate with Hollywood star Angelina Jolie on an upcoming international project, further strengthening her presence on the global stage. While she did not reveal details about the venture, Priyanka also disclosed that she is working on another project with actor Orlando Bloom. Speaking about the personalities who inspire her, she named Penlope Cruz, Salma Hayek and Angelina Jolie among her role models. The actress is simultaneously involved in director S. S. Rajamouli’s ambitious new film alongside Mahesh Babu, tentatively titled Varanasi. Priyanka described the project as one of the biggest and most ambitious productions she has ever been part of, expressing confidence that it will have a major global impact. With high-profile international collaborations and a marquee Indian film in the pipeline, Priyanka continues to reinforce her position as one of India’s leading global entertainment icons.



Kangana Thanks Dad for Looks

Actress and politician Kangana Ranaut shared a heartfelt Father’s Day tribute, expressing gratitude to her father for passing on his striking features, including her curly hair, baby face, and “blazing eyes.” Posting a black-and-white photograph of her father on social media, Kangana wrote that she was proud to resemble him and thanked him “for everything,” especially for the traits she inherited from him. On the professional front, Kangana was recently seen in Bharat Bhagya Vidhaata, a drama based on the courage and dedication of medical workers during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The film also stars Girija Oak, Smita Tambe, Sayaji Shinde and others. Speaking about working on the film, Kangana said she enjoyed being part of a female-led set where conversations ranged from politics and art to family, cooking and personal experiences. Although the film received positive reviews after its June 12 release, it did not perform well at the box office.



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