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Agriculture, Tech to Drive Growth

Dalian (China): India's economic rise is expected to be powered by a combination of agricultural transformation and technological innovation, according to experts participating in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting of the New Champions, popularly known as the Summer Davos, currently underway in Dalian, China. Global policymakers, business leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs gathered at the three-day event to discuss emerging technologies, sustainable development, and strategies for strengthening economic growth in an increasingly intercon-

ected world. India's expanding economy and its growing influence on the global stage featured prominently in the discussions. Speaking on the sidelines of the forum, Mirek Dusek, Managing Director of the World Economic Forum, described India as one of the world's most dynamic economies and expressed confidence in its long-term growth prospects. "India remains one of the world's most important and fastest-growing economies. It is making a substantial contribution to global economic expansion, and we expect the country to continue its strong growth trajectory in the coming years," Dusek said. He

emphasised that forums such as Summer Davos create opportunities for governments, innovators, and businesses to collaborate on solutions to global challenges while exploring new avenues for economic development. According to him, technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, automation, and digital platforms are expected to significantly improve productivity and accelerate growth across industries. Dusek noted that India's rapidly expanding digital ecosystem, skilled workforce, and entrepreneurial culture position it well to benefit from these technological shifts and

emerge as a major driver of global innovation. Adding an agricultural perspective to the discussion, Padma Shri awardee Professor Rattan Lal, distinguished professor of soil science at The Ohio State University, highlighted the critical role that farming and sustainable land management will play in India's future development. He observed that as India advances toward becoming the world's third-largest economy, agriculture will continue to serve as a key pillar of national growth by supporting livelihoods, ensuring food security, and contributing to rural prosperity. Professor Lal stressed that improving

soil health and adopting sustainable agricultural practices are essential for increasing productivity while protecting natural resources. He advocated scientific approaches to farming that balance economic growth with environmental conservation. The veteran scientist also underscored the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in agriculture. AI-powered tools, he explained, can make soil testing faster, cheaper, and more accessible to farmers, enabling them to assess nutrient levels accurately and make informed decisions about crop management. Such technologies could

help farmers optimise fertiliser use, improve yields, reduce costs, and minimise environmental damage. Digital innovations can also strengthen precision farming practices, weather forecasting, irrigation management, and supply-chain efficiency, thereby enhancing overall agricultural resilience. Experts at forum agreed that integrating technology into agriculture will be crucial for India's long-term economic success. By combining innovation with sustainable development, the country can create new opportunities for farmers, businesses, and consumers while maintaining strong economic momentum.

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Metro Talks Gain Momentum

New Delhi: Discussions between the Telangana government and the Centre on the takeover of Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-I and the implementation of Metro Rail Phase-II have made significant progress, with both sides agreeing to appoint SBICAPS as the consultant for evaluating the project and preparing a roadmap for future action. The breakthrough came after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a series of meetings in New Delhi with Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, and Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy. During the discussions, the Chief Minister highlighted the challenges associated with the proposed takeover of Metro Rail Phase-I

and sought the Centre's support for launching the ambitious Metro Phase-II expansion project. Following extensive deliberations over two days, the State and Union governments reached a consensus to appoint SBICAPS as the official consultant. The agency will undertake a comprehensive assessment of the valuation of Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-I, examine options for raising funds required for its takeover, and identify suitable lending institutions. In addition, the consultant will prepare a detailed report on the proposed Metro Rail Phase-II expansion, including project costs, financing mechanisms, and implementation strategies. Officials said that both governments will decide the future course of action based on the findings and rec-



ommendations submitted by SBICAPS. To ensure smooth coordination during the study, the Centre and the Telangana government have agreed to nominate senior officials as nodal representatives. A senior official from the Union government and the Special Chief Secretary of Telangana's MA&UD

Department will work closely with the consultant to facilitate the timely completion of the evaluation process. The meetings are being viewed as a positive step toward accelerating Hyderabad's metro expansion plans and strengthening cooperation between the State and the Centre.



EDITORIAL

Groundwater Crisis

Groundwater has become the invisible lifeline of Telangana's agriculture, industries, and households. Over the years, thousands of farmers have depended on borewells to irrigate their fields, while rapidly growing towns and cities have increasingly relied on underground water sources to meet rising demand. However, unchecked extraction and changing climatic conditions have pushed groundwater reserves under severe stress. The depletion of this precious resource is emerging as one of the biggest environmental and developmental challenges facing the state. Agriculture accounts for the largest share of groundwater use in Telangana. The expansion of water-intensive crops, coupled with the growing dependence on borewells, has led to excessive pumping in many regions. As a result, groundwater tables have declined, forcing farmers to drill deeper wells at greater cost, often with uncertain results. For small and marginal farmers, repeated borewell failures can lead to heavy financial losses and mounting debt. Urbanization has further intensified the problem. The rapid growth of Hyderabad and other towns has increased demand for drinking water, commercial use, and construction activities. At the same time, the replacement of open spaces with concrete structures has reduced natural groundwater recharge. Rainwater that once seeped into the soil now flows away as surface runoff, limiting the replenishment of underground aquifers.

Climate change has added another layer of uncertainty. Erratic monsoons, prolonged dry spells, and rising temperatures reduce the natural recharge of groundwater while increasing demand for irrigation. In some areas, over-extraction has also affected water quality, making it unsuitable for drinking or farming. Addressing this crisis requires a shift from excessive extraction to sustainable management. Rainwater harvesting must become a priority in both urban and rural areas. Every household, apartment complex, institution, and industry should be encouraged to capture and recharge rainwater. Reviving traditional tanks, ponds, and lakes can significantly improve groundwater levels while strengthening local water security. Agriculture also needs reform. Farmers should be supported in adopting micro-irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler systems, which use water more efficiently than conventional practices. Crop diversification toward less water-intensive varieties can reduce pressure on groundwater while maintaining farm incomes. Timely advisories based on weather forecasts and soil conditions can further optimize water use.

Government policies should strengthen groundwater monitoring through digital mapping and community participation. Local water user associations can play a vital role in promoting responsible extraction and conservation.

Justice Delayed, Justice Denied

A fair and efficient justice system is the cornerstone of any democracy. Courts exist not merely to interpret laws but to protect rights, resolve disputes, punish wrongdoing, and ensure that every citizen has access to justice regardless of wealth or status. Yet in India, the growing judicial backlog has become one of the most pressing institutional challenges. Millions of cases remain pending across various levels of the judiciary, with some disputes taking years—or even decades—to reach a conclusion. This delay undermines public confidence in the legal system and weakens the very principle that justice should be timely as well as fair. The phrase “justice delayed is justice denied” captures the essence of the problem. When legal proceedings stretch endlessly, victims are deprived of closure, innocent individuals may remain under suspicion, businesses face uncertainty, and families become trapped in prolonged disputes. Delayed judgments often impose emotional, social, and financial burdens that can be as damaging as the original conflict itself. Several factors contribute to the mounting backlog. One of the primary reasons is the imbalance between the number of cases filed and the number of judges available to hear them. As India's population and economic activity have grown, litigation has increased significantly, but judicial capacity has not expanded at the same pace. Vacancies in courts often remain unfilled for extended periods, placing additional pressure on serving judges and slowing case disposal. Procedural delays also play a major role. Frequent adjournments, lengthy documentation requirements, repeated appeals, and complex legal formalities can prolong litigation unnecessarily. In many instances, parties exploit procedural loopholes to delay proceedings strategically, particularly in civil disputes involving property or commercial interests. Such practices consume valuable judicial time and postpone resolution for deserving litigants. Infrastructure constraints further compound the problem. Many courts operate

with limited technological resources, inadequate courtroom facilities, and insufficient administrative staff. Although digitization has progressed in recent years, significant disparities remain across jurisdictions. Expanding digital filing systems, virtual hearings where appropriate, and electronic case management can reduce administrative bottlenecks and improve efficiency. The impact of judicial delays extends beyond individual litigants. Businesses depend on predictable contract enforcement and timely dispute resolution to make investment decisions. Lengthy commercial litigation increases transaction costs, discourages entrepreneurship, and may reduce investor confidence. A faster judicial system can strengthen economic growth by creating a more reliable business environment and improving the ease of doing business. Criminal justice is equally affected. Victims seeking accountability often wait years for trials to conclude, while undertrial prisoners may spend extended periods in custody before their guilt or innocence is determined. Such delays raise concerns about fairness, prison overcrowding, and the effective protection of constitutional rights. Timely trials are essential not only for punishing offenders but also for safeguarding the rights of the accused. Family courts, labor tribunals, consumer forums, and land dispute mechanisms face similar challenges. Divorce proceedings, inheritance conflicts, employment disagreements, and compensation claims can remain unresolved for years, affecting livelihoods and personal well-being. In many cases, delayed settlements create deeper divisions that become more difficult to resolve over time. Addressing judicial backlog requires a comprehensive strategy rather than isolated reforms. Increasing the number of judges and filling vacancies promptly is an obvious first step. Equally important is strengthening the supporting workforce, including court clerks, researchers, stenographers, and technical personnel. Efficient

administrative systems enable judges to focus more on adjudication and less on procedural management. Technology offers significant opportunities for improvement. Electronic filing, digital records, automated scheduling, AI-assisted document organization, and online access to court information can streamline operations and reduce delays. Video conferencing has already demonstrated its value in certain proceedings by minimizing logistical challenges and enabling more flexible hearings. Continued investment in secure and accessible judicial technology can improve efficiency while expanding access. Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms should also receive greater emphasis. Mediation, arbitration, conciliation, and Lok Adalats can resolve many disputes without requiring prolonged courtroom litigation. Encouraging parties to settle appropriate cases through these mechanisms reduces the burden on courts while often providing faster and less adversarial outcomes. Commercial disputes, family disagreements, and minor civil matters may particularly benefit from structured mediation processes. Legal reforms should aim to simplify procedures where possible. Excessive paperwork, repetitive hearings, and avoidable adjournments can be minimized through clearer procedural rules and stricter case management. Courts may also prioritize older cases and establish specialized benches for complex subject areas such as taxation, commercial law, environmental matters, or cybercrime, allowing expertise to develop and proceedings to move more efficiently. Public legal awareness is another important component. Many disputes escalate because individuals lack understanding of their rights or available remedies. Early legal counseling and accessible dispute resolution services can prevent unnecessary litigation and encourage negotiated settlements before matters reach the courts. At the same time, reforms must preserve fairness and due process. The pursuit of speed should never come at the expense of accuracy, ju-

dicial independence, or the rights of litigants. A rushed decision that overlooks evidence or procedural safeguards may create new injustices even while reducing backlog statistics. The goal is not merely faster judgments but better and more reliable justice. Coordination among the judiciary, executive, legislature, legal profession, and civil society is essential. Policymakers must allocate adequate resources, bar associations should encourage professional efficiency, and governments should avoid unnecessary litigation where administrative resolution is possible. As one of the largest litigants in the country, public authorities themselves can help reduce court burdens by adopting responsible legal practices and settling disputes when appropriate. The challenge of judicial backlog is not simply an administrative issue—it is a test of democratic governance and the rule of law. Citizens place their trust in courts because they believe justice will ultimately prevail. That trust must be reinforced by systems capable of delivering decisions within a reasonable time frame. A modern economy, a vibrant democracy, and a rights-based society all depend on a judiciary that is accessible, efficient, and credible. Faster justice delivery benefits victims, protects the innocent, strengthens business confidence, reduces social conflict, and upholds constitutional values. India's legal system has earned global respect for its independence and jurisprudence; the next step is ensuring that its efficiency matches its principles. Ultimately, justice should not become a privilege available only to those who can endure years of litigation. It should remain a timely public service that protects rights, resolves disputes, and reinforces confidence in democratic institutions. Reducing judicial backlog is therefore not merely about clearing pending cases—it is about strengthening the promise that the law serves every citizen fairly, effectively, and without undue delay.

- Veereshear Vakkantham,
Advocate, Hyderabad

65 Honoured With Padma Awards



New Delhi, June 23: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred the prestigious Padma Awards 2026 on 65 distinguished personalities during the second Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, recognising exceptional contributions across fields such as arts, public affairs, medicine, literature, sports and social service. The ceremony featured the presentation of two Padma Vibhushan, seven Padma Bhushan and 56 Padma Shri awards, celebrating individuals who have made significant contributions to the nation through their work and dedication. Among the prominent recipients, celebrated playback singer Alka Yagnik received the Padma Bhushan for her remarkable contribution to Indian music

spanning more than three decades. Renowned Assamese sculptor Nuruddin Ahmed was honoured with the Padma Shri for his outstanding achievements in visual arts and stage craftsmanship. Several other eminent personalities were also recognised, including veteran tennis player Vijay Amritraj, acclaimed actor Mammootty, Carnatic percussion maestro Thiruvapur Bakthavathsalam, and Indian cricket star Rohit Sharma. In the field of medicine, noted paediatrician and neonatologist Dr. Armida Fernandez received the Padma Shri for her pioneering work in maternal and child healthcare. Dr. Suresh Hanagavad was also honoured for his distinguished contributions to medicine.

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Vijayawada: SIT Questions Suspended SHO

Vijayawada: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged custodial death of a 25-year-old man in Vijayawada on Tuesday took the suspended Station House Officer (SHO) of Krishna Lanka Police Station into custody for questioning as part of its ongoing investigation. The four-member SIT, constituted by the Andhra Pradesh government earlier this week, brought suspended SHO Nagaraju from his residence in Singh Nagar to a police guest house, where investigators began questioning him regarding the disappearance and alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna. Supporters of the suspended officer gathered outside his residence during the operation, carrying placards and photographs of Nagaraju while demanding that the government withdraw the criminal case registered against him. Police personnel were deployed in large numbers to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incidents. The SIT was formed under the leadership of Inspector General (Law and Order) M. Ravi Prakash and includes senior police officers from several districts. The team has been tasked with investigating allegations of illegal detention, custodial torture, murder, and destruction of evidence. As part of the probe, the SIT has intensified its investigation by recording statements from Sai Krishna's mother, Gade Vijayalakshmi, and other family members. Officials also visited Krishna Lanka Police Station, where Sai Krishna was allegedly brought after being detained, and examined station records while questioning police personnel who were on duty at the time.



AI Drives Oracle Layoffs

New Delhi: Global technology giant Oracle has disclosed that it reduced its workforce by approximately 21,000 employees over the past year, with the company acknowledging that the growing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) played a role in some of the job cuts. According to Oracle's latest annual regulatory filing, the company employed 141,000 full-time workers as of May 31, down from 162,000 during the same period last year. The filing states that the deployment of AI technologies across various business operations has

contributed to workforce reductions and could continue to do so in the future. The restructuring efforts resulted in costs of nearly \$1.8 billion, reflecting the scale of the organisational changes undertaken by the company. Despite the layoffs, Oracle continues to make significant investments in AI infrastructure and cloud computing capabilities. The company is expanding its data centres and AI services to meet rising demand from customers, including leading artificial intelligence firms such as OpenAI, as competition intensifies among

major cloud providers. Of Oracle's current workforce, around 49,000 employees are based in the United States, while approximately 92,000 work in international locations. The latest disclosure also highlights a broader trend within the technology industry, where companies are increasingly using AI to automate processes and improve operational efficiency. Earlier reports indicated that Oracle had initiated multiple rounds of layoffs across global offices, with some employees receiving termination notices via early-morning

emails. Industry observers view Oracle's announcement as one of the clearest examples yet of how artificial intelligence is reshaping employment patterns in the technology sector. While AI is driving innovation and business growth, it is also prompting organisations to reassess workforce requirements and organisational structures. The development underscores the growing impact of AI on corporate strategy, signalling that technological transformation may continue to influence hiring, staffing decisions across the global technology industry.

Theft Hits Basar Temple

Basar, June 23 (Tricolour Estate): A theft was reported at the Mahakali temple located within the premises of the renowned Gnana Saraswathi Temple at Basar in Telangana's Nirmal district, prompting a police investigation and heightened security measures. According to officials, two unidentified masked men allegedly broke open the temple gate late on Monday night and stole a silver crown along with the temple's hundi (offering box). After removing the cash from the hundi, the suspects reportedly abandoned the empty box near the temple before fleeing the scene. The incident came to light on Tuesday morning when priests arrived to perform the daily rituals and discovered signs of forced entry. Temple authorities immediately alerted the police, following which senior officials reached the site and initiated an investigation. CCTV footage from the temple premises captured two masked individuals entering the complex during the night. Police have also deployed a forensic clues team and a dog squad to assist in the investigation and identify those responsible. Temple officials said the stolen silver crown weighs approximately 1.5 kilograms. In the wake of the theft, authorities postponed the scheduled counting of devotees' offerings as investigations continued.

Telegram Returns After Block

New Delhi: Messaging platform Telegram has been restored on the Google Play Store in India after a week-long suspension imposed by the Central government as a precautionary measure during the NEET UG 2026 re-examination period. The government had directed the temporary blocking of Telegram between June 16 and June 22 following a request from the National Testing Agency (NTA). Authorities alleged that organised cheating networks were using the platform to spread misleading information and facilitate malpractice related to the medical entrance examination. While the application has resumed availability on the Google Play Store, it remained unavailable on Apple's App Store as of Tuesday. Additionally, the Centre's decision to disable Telegram's message-editing feature will continue until June 30, even after the restoration of the app.

'Donald Trump Avenue' Unveiled in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A road adjoining the United States Consulate in Hyderabad was ceremonially renamed "Donald Trump Avenue" on Tuesday during a special event marking the 250th anniversary of American Independence. The commemorative plaque was unveiled by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the presence of senior diplomats, government officials, and representatives from the business, aerospace, defence, and technology sectors. The ceremony was organised by the US Consulate General in Hyderabad as part of celebrations commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence. The event highlighted the growing strategic and economic partnership between India and the United States, with a particular focus on Hyderabad's expanding role in bilateral cooperation. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Sergio Gor praised Hyderabad's contribution to the strengthening ties between the two nations, noting the city's emergence as a major hub for information technology, aerospace, and defence industries. "Nowhere is the rapid progress of the India-US partnership more evident than in Hyderabad. From Hitec City to advancements in aerospace and defence, the region continues to play a significant role in driving bilateral cooperation," the ambassador said.



India, US Reset Trade Talks

New Delhi: India and the United States on Tuesday held high-level discussions to revive and recalibrate negotiations for a proposed bilateral trade agreement following recent changes in US tariff policies that altered the original framework agreed upon earlier this year. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in New Delhi as both countries intensified efforts to finalise an interim trade arrangement before July 24, when the United States' temporary 10 per cent tariff on imports from trading partners is scheduled to expire. Welcoming the visiting delegation, Goyal expressed optimism about advancing negotiations and strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. The US Embassy also described the partnership as mutually beneficial, stating that deeper trade ties would create opportunities for both American businesses and India's expanding economy. The latest round of talks follows discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President

Donald Trump during the G7 Summit in France on June 17, where both leaders agreed to accelerate efforts toward a comprehensive trade agreement. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman separately met the visiting US delegation and discussed ways to deepen bilateral trade and commercial engagement. Senior officials from both sides, including Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain, also participated in the negotiations. The negotiations are aimed at revising the trade framework announced in February after changes in US tariff policy disrupted earlier understandings. Initially, India expected preferential tariff treatment compared to several competing exporters, but subsequent legal and policy developments in the United States required both nations to revisit the proposed arrangement. New Delhi is focused on securing favourable tariff for Indian exports in order to maintain competitiveness against economies such as Vietnam, other ASEAN countries.

Kim Pushes Nuclear Expansion

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has called for a significant expansion of the country's nuclear arsenal, urging officials to strengthen strategic capabilities with the goal of surpassing global standards, according to state-run media reports. The announcement came during the second plenary meeting of the ninth Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, held over three days under Kim's leadership. The meeting reviewed the country's policy implementation and reaffirmed that nuclear weapons remain central to North Korea's national defence strategy. The leadership declared that maintaining and expanding its status as a nuclear-armed state is the most effective way to respond to what it described as an increasingly uncertain international security environment. Kim directed officials to continue developing advanced defence assets and accelerate progress in nuclear technology. The meeting also reiterated plans to build a 10,000-tonne-class strategic guided missile cruiser, a project first announced earlier this year, as part of efforts to strengthen the country's military capabilities. North Korea criticised the growing military cooperation between South Korea and the United States, particularly the Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG), accusing it of preparing nuclear conflict scenarios against Pyongyang. State media described the alliance's activities as hostile and claimed they justified further expansion of North Korea's deterrence capabilities. Kim also called for stronger fortification of the border with South Korea and ordered continued development of military infrastructure, including new naval facilities and enhanced frontline deployments. The country has recently increased its emphasis on reinforcing border defences and modernising artillery and strategic assets. The plenary session also brought changes to the ruling party's leadership. Senior official Jo Yong-won was appointed secretary of the party's Central Committee, restoring him to one of the country's most influential positions. Meanwhile, Kim Jae-ryong was removed from several key party posts in a leadership reshuffle. Beyond defence matters, the meeting highlighted economic priorities, particularly the modernisation of the coal industry. Kim described improving coal production and mining infrastructure as essential for achieving long-term economic goals and fulfilling the country's current five-year development plan. The latest declarations underscore North Korea's continued focus on expanding its military strength while pursuing strategic economic reforms amid ongoing regional tensions and international scrutiny.





Kriti Sanon

Deepika Backs ICC Maternity Policy



Actress Deepika Padukone has welcomed the International Cricket Council's (ICC) newly introduced maternity return guidelines for women cricketers, describing the initiative as a "landmark moment for women in sport." Sharing a report on the policy through her Instagram Stories, Deepika expressed support for the ICC's efforts to create a more inclusive environment for female athletes balancing motherhood and professional careers. Under the new framework, women cricketers returning after childbirth will receive structured medical and psychological support, customised recovery plans, flexible training schedules, childcare assistance and facilities for both mothers and their babies. The policy is designed to ensure that athletes are not forced to choose between starting a family and pursuing their sporting

careers. Deepika, who is expecting her second child with actor Ranveer Singh, has consistently advocated for issues related to well-being and workplace reform. Over the years, she has spoken publicly about mental health awareness and the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. The actress and Ranveer announced their second pregnancy earlier this year through a social media post featuring their daughter, Dua. The couple, who married in 2018 after several years of dating, continue to be one of Bollywood's most celebrated pairs. On the professional front, Deepika is set to reunite with Shah Rukh Khan in filmmaker Siddharth Anand's upcoming project King. Recent behind-the-scenes visuals from the film's international schedule have generated significant buzz among fans.

Kamal Opposed Shruti's Piercing

Actress Shruti Haasan has shared a candid memory from her teenage years, revealing that her father, veteran actor and politician Kamal Haasan, was "very, very angry" when she got her belly button pierced at the age of 19. The actress made the revelation during an interactive "Ask Me Anything" session with fans on Instagram. Responding to a question about whether she had a belly-button piercing, Shruti confirmed that she did and described the decision as part of her "teenage rebel" phase. Sharing a screenshot of the piercing, she wrote, "Yes I do. When I was 19. My Appa was very very angry about it," adding the hashtag "#teenagerebel." Shruti, the elder daughter of Kamal Haasan and actress Sarika, has often spoken about the warm and playful bond she shares with her father despite such moments of disagreement. She recently gave fans a glimpse into their relationship by posting a light-hearted behind-the-scenes video in which she jokingly called Kamal Haasan while getting ready for an event and asked, "Hi Appa, you still sleeping?" Known for her candid personality and sense of humour, Shruti frequently shares personal anecdotes and moments from her life on social media, giving fans a closer look at her family dynamics. On the professional front, Shruti Haasan made her debut as a lead actress with the Hindi film Luck in 2009 and has since established herself as a successful performer across Telugu, Tamil and Hindi cinema. Her notable films include Race Gurram, Srimanthudu, Vedalam, Gabbar Is Back and Krack, among others.



Trisha Wishes CM Vijay

Trisha has extended birthday wishes to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and former actor Vijay by sharing a candid photograph from his birthday celebrations, drawing widespread attention on social media. Posting the image on Instagram, Trisha wrote, "To the person who makes it all worth it. HBD," accompanied by heart and evil-eye emojis. The picture captures Vijay preparing to cut his birthday cake while Trisha looks on with a smile, making it one of the most talked-about celebrity posts following the Chief Minister's birthday. The post quickly went viral among fans, with many praising the duo's long-standing association. However, neither Trisha nor Vijay has commented on the speculation sur-

rounding their personal relationship, choosing to remain silent on rumours that have circulated for some time. The speculation intensified after Trisha attended Vijay's swearing-in ceremony as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in May. Earlier this year, the pair also attracted attention when they appeared together at a wedding reception in Chennai wearing coordinated cream-and-gold outfits. Professionally, Trisha and Vijay have shared screen space in several successful Tamil films and continue to enjoy a strong fan following. While their latest public appearance has sparked fresh discussions online, both have refrained from addressing the rumours, maintaining their focus on their respective careers.

Huma Embraces Bold Choices

Huma Qureshi says she is drawn to roles that push her out of her comfort zone, describing her upcoming film Baby Do Die Do as one of the most unique projects of her career. Speaking about the film, Huma revealed that the script immediately caught her attention because of its blend of suspense, emotion and dark humour. She and her brother, actor-producer Saqib Saleem, decided to back the project as producers because they believed it offered something fresh and unconventional. One of the film's biggest highlights is Huma's portrayal of Baby, a deaf and mute hitwoman. Calling it one of the most challenging roles she has undertaken, the actress said the absence of dialogue meant she had to rely entirely on facial expressions, body language and subtle physical cues to convey emotions. "I didn't want the character to be defined solely by her disability. Baby is a complete person with vulnerabilities, fears and strength," Huma explained,

adding that extensive preparation went into ensuring the role was portrayed with authenticity. Reflecting on her career choices, Huma said she has never been interested in repeating herself. From Maharani to Monica, O My Darling, Tarla and now Baby Do Die Do, she has consistently chosen characters that challenge her as an actor. "If a role scares me a little, I usually know I'm on the right track. I want to portray women who are authentic, flawed and memorable," she said. The actress also spoke about introducing newcomer Rachit Singh through the film. According to Huma, talent should be judged by honesty and commitment rather than experience, noting that every established actor was once given an opportunity by someone who believed in them. With its unusual premise and unconventional lead character, Baby Do Die Do promises to offer audiences a fresh cinematic experience while reinforcing Huma Qureshi's reputation for taking bold and distinctive creative risks.

