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Telangana government has a big plan for grain storage

Hyderabad:AUGUST; 28; The government is preparing a plan to set up a modern storage system in line with the increasing paddy production and grain procurement in Telangana. As part of this, modern grain silos will be constructed on a large scale across the state, said Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy.The Minister discussed these issues in a review meeting with officials of the Civil Supplies Department. He said that it is not possible to rely solely on traditional godowns to meet the grain storage needs in the future. He said that the target is to make available an additional 5 to 10 lakh metric tonnes of scientific storage capacity through the construction of new silos.

Preparations underway to procure 90 lakh tonnes of grain in Rabi season

The Minister said that there is a possibility of procuring up to 90 lakh metric tonnes of grain in the state in the upcoming Rabi season. He instructed the officials to make advance storage arrangements accordingly. He suggested that arrangements should be made to store about 12 lakh metric tonnes of grain for immediate needs. The officials explained to the Minister that currently the Telangana State Warehousing Corporation has a storage capacity of only about 6 lakh metric tonnes.



Silos with modern technology

Modern technology will be used in the newly constructed silos. Automated handling systems and mechanical transport facilities will be installed for loading and unloading of grain. Digital monitoring systems will also be made available to monitor storage conditions from time to time. The government hopes that this will significantly reduce losses in grain due to moisture, insects and other factors.

Harish Rao demands release of six pending DAs, implementation of PRC

Warangal: AUGUST; 28;BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao demanded immediate release of six pending Dearness Allowances (DAs), implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), and settlement of retirement benefits for government employees. He accused the Congress government of neglecting its employees for 33 months and failing to implement its electoral promises, including scrapping the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and implementing the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).Addressing a protest by Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers (TNGOs) at the Hanamkonda District Collectorate, Harish Rao targeted the Revanth government over the Employees Health Scheme (EHS), stating that employees were being made to pay a higher contribution even though the scheme was not being implemented effectively. The State government increased its contribution from 1 per cent under the previous BRS government to 1.5 per cent, he claimed.Download Interactive MapsHe alleged that several hospitals were refusing EHS beneficiaries as



the government did not enter into agreements with them. He questioned the government's decision to deduct money from employees' salaries without ensuring access to the scheme. "Is the Congress running a government or a circus?" he asked, demanding that the Chief Minister explain the delay in implementing EHS. The BRS deputy leader pointed out that six DAs were pending and employees were forced to repeatedly approach the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister for their dues. He also referred to an allegation that a 15 per cent commission was being sought for the release of retirement benefits and demanded an immediate inquiry.Comparing the present situation with the previous BRS regime, Harish Rao said employees had been given a 73 per cent fitment under the K Chandrashekhhar Rao government, while employees had greater access to Ministers and officials. He stated that employees now faced restrictions even while entering the State Secretariat and said their grievances were not being addressed.The former Minister also cited the pending demands of model school teachers and Samagra Shiksha employees, besides protests by students, unemployed youth and others, alleging that the Congress government had forced several sections onto the streets. He warned the government against ignoring employees and teachers, asserting that the BRS would continue to support their legitimate demands.

23 Telangana residents stranded in Nepal identified: Minister Ponguleti



Hyderabad:AUGUST; 28; Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that 23 people from Telangana who are stuck in Nepal have been identified. He revealed that their details have been sent to the Union Ministry of External Affairs. The minister said that the state government is continuously coordinating with the central government regarding the safety of the people of Telangana in Nepal. He said that the situation is being monitored from time to time and necessary steps are being taken.Contact with the Indian Embassy

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that the state government is in contact with the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, as well as Nepalese officials. He said that they are constantly monitoring the situation and safety of the Telangana residents trapped there. **Special helpline, control room**

The Minister announced that a special helpline and coordination center have been set up in Telangana Bhavan. He said that a special control room has also been set up in the State Secretariat and the situation is being monitored. The Minister appealed to the family members of those stranded in Nepal not to worry. He said that the government is working in every way to provide necessary information to the families of the victims and coordinate relief efforts. The Minister asked the state government to inform the details of any other people from Telangana who are still stranded in Nepal.

Telangana government gives good news to auto drivers

Hyderabad, August 27: The Telangana government has good news for auto drivers. The state government has taken a key decision to benefit autorickshaw drivers. It has decided to implement the 'Telangana Autorickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme-2026' to convert petrol and diesel-powered autorickshaws into electric vehicles. Under this scheme, the government will take steps to convert 18,766 petrol and diesel autos across the state into electric autos. For this, the government has issued a GO allocating a budget of Rs. 200 crore. This scheme is likely to provide some relief to auto drivers who are facing difficulties due to fuel prices and vehicle maintenance costs.This scheme will increase the use of electric autos in place of conventional fuel vehicles. Auto drivers will benefit in the long run as the cost of running electric vehicles is likely to be reduced compared to the daily cost of petrol and diesel. It is now interesting to see how the government will implement the process of converting 18,766 autos to electric with a fund of Rs 200 crore.



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Gazette notification for census in Telangana

Hyderabad: August 27 The government has issued key orders regarding Census 2027 in Telangana. It has ordered the publication of the gazette notification regarding the census once again. To this extent, a notification will be published in the Telangana Gazette on August 29. The Center has issued orders for the collection of a total of 40 types of details related to the people as part of Census 2027.Registration of personal details

As part of the census, basic details of each person will be collected. This will include details like name, age, gender, marital status. Also, instructions have been given to record details like caste, religion, SC, ST etc. Educational qualifications, job, profession etc. will also be recorded in the census. In which field does a person work? What is their profession? Things like this will also be collected.**Special focus on migration details**



Information related to people's migration will also be recorded in Census 2027. Details like the person's place of birth, where they currently live, and where they have lived in the past will be collected. Details like bank accounts and mobile numbers have also been provided. Similarly, the gazette states that there will be an option to record details of identity documents like Aadhaar, voter ID, and passport. Details like whether a person has a driving license or not will also be collected, the gazette states.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge writes a letter to Prime Minister Modi



Internet Desk: August 27:In the wake of reports that the amended Delimitation Bill will be reintroduced in Parliament, Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has requested that an all-party meeting be held to discuss the delimitation proposals and that political parties be given sufficient time to thoroughly examine the proposals. He said that the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 2026.He asked that such a policy should not be repeated again. He made it clear that 33 percent reservation for women should be implemented from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Kharge made it clear that the Congress and the opposition alliance will not support any decision to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from the current 543. He alleged that the Center is trying to increase the Lok Sabha seats, but this is only for political purposes.

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Telangana may hold remaining urban local body elections in December

Hyderabad: : August 27With the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls expected to be completed by October, the Congress government is mulling holding elections to the remaining urban local bodies (ULBs), including five municipal corporations, in December. The terms of several municipal bodies have already expired and the government risks losing Finance Commission funds if elections are delayed further.The government is also considering elections to the Zilla Parishads and Mandal Parishads soon after the urban local body polls. The move is aimed at completing the pending local body election cycle without further delay.The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is expected to be completed by October 19. Even if the deadline for claims, objections and their disposal is extended, the exercise is likely to conclude by October 31. The government is planning to use the revised electoral rolls for the civic polls, sources said.



Congress leaders have reportedly asked party cadres to start preparing at the ground level, anticipating notification for the second phase of municipal elections in December. The government is expected to use November for election preparations.Elections to 116 municipalities and seven corporations whose terms had ended were held in February this year. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), however, was not included as its elected body still had time left. Elections to the Warangal and Khammam corporations were also not held. Polls were deferred in Manuguru, Mandamarri, Atchampet, Nakrekal, Kothur and Siddipet municipalities owing to a combination of pending terms, court cases and other reasons. Elections are also due in some divisions.The GHMC has since been reorganised by the Congress government into three corporations, i.e. Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri. The restructuring, along with the SIR exercise, has further delayed the polls.Geographic ReferenceHowever, the State government is wary of the financial consequences of further postponement. The delay in panchayat elections had already left rural local bodies facing fund shortages, and the government does not want urban bodies, especially those in Hyderabad, to face a similar situation.The government is simultaneously preparing for the next round of rural local body elections. Sources said polls to 31 Zilla Parishads, excluding Hyderabad and Medchal, and 565 Mandal Parishads could be held in a single phase after the municipal elections.The government is also considering following the pattern adopted for the panchayat elections and proceeding without providing 42 per cent reservation for backward classes. Congress leaders have reportedly asked party workers to prepare for parishad elections on similar lines.

Hyderabad: KBR Park one-way system begins to ease traffic flow



Hyderabad: : August 27The one-way traffic system introduced around KBR Park has begun showing signs of improvement, with motorists gradually adapting to the new arrangements, said Kajal Singh, DCP (Traffic-II).Law EnforcementNearly 10 days after its implementation on August 18, traffic officials said travel time on the route has improved compared to the first day. The police monitored traffic volume, movement patterns and commuter concerns during the initial phase and found Tuesdays witnessing heavier traffic flow.According to the DCP, regular commuters are now becoming familiar with the lane changes required to reach different exits. "Traffic personnel have been deployed at key points and are using public address systems to guide motorists and announce necessary changes," she said.City & Local GuidesThe traffic police are coordinating with Google to update route information on Maps, including road-related changes and congestion alerts. The department is also planning better guidance for gig workers through regular updates on the Maps India app.

regular commuters are now becoming familiar with the lane changes required to reach different exits. "Traffic personnel have been deployed at key points and are using public address systems to guide motorists and announce necessary changes," she said.City & Local GuidesThe traffic police are coordinating with Google to update route information on Maps, including road-related changes and congestion alerts. The department is also planning better guidance for gig workers through regular updates on the Maps India app. Further measures, as and when required, would be taken based on ground conditions and observations of traffic movement, Kajal Singh added.

EDITORIAL

Only Unity Can Bring Strength and Success to Communists

Well-wishers, sympathizers and supporters of the Communist movement, along with democratic intellectuals, want all Communist parties to unite. They say that Communist unity can make it possible to resist the alleged fascist policies of the Modi government and the RSS. Conferences are being organized calling for unity, thereby expressing this aspiration. Only if all Indian Communists come together as a single Marxist-Leninist party will it be possible to build a strong revolutionary movement and transform the present exploitative system. Unity should not be limited merely to opposing the policies of the Modi government and the RSS or combating religious hatred. There must be a common understanding, strategy and programme aimed at fundamentally transforming the existing system, and these must be implemented. Today, the Communist movement in India is divided into several Communist parties. These include revolutionary parties as well as parliamentary parties. They have developed their respective strategies and programmes and are working to implement them. There are serious differences between revolutionary Communist parties and parliamentary Communist parties regarding the nature of the present system, how it should be transformed, the character of the ruling classes, the nature of the feudal system and the character of the big bourgeoisie. Their positions are incompatible with one another. How can unity be achieved without a common understanding of Indian society and how it should be transformed? All those who seek Communist unity should understand this reality. How can unity survive if it is formed without a common understanding of the system and the means of changing it? Revolutionary Communist parties have broadly the same understanding of the existing system and its transformation. (A few revolutionary parties have moved away from their earlier positions.) However, there are differences in the tactics they follow. Some parties adopted extremist approaches, with serious consequences. If revolutionary parties critically review their actions and learn lessons from the results through a process of self-criticism, their differences can be overcome. Revolutionary parties that speak about the unity of revolutionaries should not allow prejudice or subjective thinking to stand in the way of such unity. If this happens, unity among revolutionary parties can be achieved. Revolutionary parties committed to transforming the system should undertake such reviews both independently and collectively. The lessons learned should be communicated to the revolutionary ranks. The parties following the parliamentary path speak about socialism. While claiming that socialism can be achieved through parliamentary methods, these parties are not following an independent approach even within the parliamentary framework. Their present policies resemble those of social democrats.

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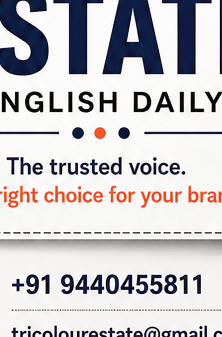
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Mahakali: Shukracharya's War Cry Gives Goosebumps



The world of the PVCU just got considerably bigger and darker. #Mahakali, the highly anticipated flick from Prasanth Varma and RKD Studios, has finally revealed its first glimpse, putting the spotlight on Akshaye Khanna as Shukracharya. Alongside the glimpse, the makers have announced the film's grand worldwide theatrical release for Sankranthi on January 8, 2027.

The project starring Bhoomi Shetty in the lead carries forward the larger ambition established by Hanu-Man, the film that laid the groundwork for Prasanth Varma's PVCU (Purana Veera Chitra Udyam). With Mahakali, that universe appears to be moving towards a more expansive mythology and a much grander storytelling

canvas. The glimpse-Shukracharya's War Cry, establishes the magnitude of the conflict at the heart of Mahakali. What initially appears to be a battle between good and bad soon takes on a much larger dimension, with Shukracharya seemingly leading the forces of the Asuras into a confrontation that could have consequences far beyond the battlefield. The mood is intense from the outset. Dark, atmospheric frames, imposing character introduction and glimpses of a vast world combine to create an unsettling sense of impending destruction. The line between a battle and an inevitable catastrophe appears increasingly blurred, with the glimpse ending on the ominous suggestion that the end begins. Akshaye Khanna's transformation into Shukracharya is easily one of the most striking elements of the presentation. His piercing expression and authoritative

demeanour give the character an aura of menace and intelligence, while his controlled performance hints at a powerful antagonist who could become one of the most memorable figures in the PVCU. The glimpse also provides a broader understanding of the scale that director Puja Aparna Kolluru and the team are attempting. From expansive visual compositions to detailed sets and ambitious visual effects, Mahakali appears to be constructing an entirely new cinematic realm. Sriya Reddy's appearance adds further intrigue. Particularly, the last sequence featuring Sriya as the goddess feeding the baby inside the temple, with a fierce intensity in her eyes, sends shivers down the spine. Presented by RK Duggal and produced by Riwarz Ramesh Duggal for RKD Studios, Shukracharya's War Cry indicates an epic of monumental scale in the making, and sets the bar high for Mahakali.

Tollywood's New Trend: Vintage Titles Are Back?



In the pan-India era, Telugu stars are once again showing interest in strong, simple and mass-oriented Telugu titles. Senior stars like Chiranjeevi and Nandamuri Balakrishna are leading this trend. Chiranjeevi's upcoming film with director Bobby is officially titled Kaaka, marking a return to a traditional

mass title. Now, Balakrishna's upcoming film with director Gopichand Malineni is also considering two interesting titles, God and Dada. Among the two, Dada looks like a strong choice for Balakrishna. The title suits his powerful screen persona and has the potential to connect strongly with the masses. However, the final title will depend on the story and the team's decision. Allu Arjun and Atlee's movie was titled Raaka, which also has a mass touch with stylish zone. Interestingly, Nagarjuna's upcoming film King 100 may also opt for a mass-oriented title. The trend is also visible in other upcoming films, especially those starring established heroes. Ravi

Teja's Irumudi is another recent example. The film has performed phenomenally at the box office, and its vintage-style family friendly title has also created a strong impact among audiences. With the pan-India trend pushing filmmakers towards universal and English-friendly titles such as Toxic, Dragon, Spirit, The Paradise, the return of traditional Telugu mass titles is an interesting change. For star heroes, these titles not only bring a nostalgic feel but also help create an instant connection with the core Telugu audience especially in B and C centres. Vintage mass titles are clearly making a comeback in Tollywood, and this trend could become even bigger in the coming days.

ROM Trailer: Allari Naresh Returns In Hilarious Role



The fantasy comedy Ramba Oorvasi Menaka, starring Allari Naresh in the lead, is slated for release in less than two weeks on September 4th. Directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada, the film is produced by Razes Danda and Nimmakayala Prasad under Annapurna Studios and Hasya Movies banner. King Nagarjuna launched the film's trailer. What happens when three apsaras land on

Earth without their supernatural powers? The trailer begins with an unusual premise. Suri's prayers are answered when apsaras descend from the heavens to Bhulokam. Suri consequently becomes responsible for a situation that rapidly spirals out of control. The trailer works primarily because of its comedy. Chandra Mohan Chintada presents the story in a light-hearted and accessible

manner. The technical departments also contribute to the colourful presentation. Raam Reddy's cinematography keeps the visuals bright and lively, while Brahma Kadali's production design gives the fantasy elements a convincing setting. Chaitan Bharadwaj's energetic music elevates the fun elements. Allari Naresh once again shows what he is truly capable of. His performance has the spontaneity

and timing that made him a popular name in comedy, and he brings considerable charm to the character he portrayed. The OG sequence works well. Surabhi is the leading lady, while Vennela Kishore adds further entertainment as Indra. Rashi Singh, Vishnupriya and Prisha Singh appear as the three apsaras. The trailer promises hilarious ride and sets the expectations high for the movie.

Nabha Natesh Proves She's More Than Glam



Nabha Natesh is giving fans a peek into her many moods with her latest photoshoot, and it's an absolute delight to watch. In one set of pictures, she keeps it casual yet stylish in a brown bralette paired with oversized denim shorts, white socks, and sneakers, flaunting her toned midriff with an effortlessly cool vibe. In a fun black-and-white grid, Nabha goes all out with playful expressions, winking, sticking her tongue out, making funny faces, and striking cheeky poses, proving she doesn't take herself too seriously. The mix of casual styling and candid, expressive shots shows a more relaxed and spontaneous side of the actress, something fans have been loving on social media. On the work front, while a couple of Nabha's recent releases haven't performed as expected at the box office, she has an exciting project lined up with Swayambhu, co-starring Nikhil Siddharth and Samyuktha Menon, which fans hope will mark a strong comeback for her.



Pant, Jurel hit fifties as India take control against Sri Lanka



Colombo: Wicketkeeper-batters Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel hit rollicking half-centuries in an unbroken 112-run stand to help India cross the 400-run mark and wrest control back from Sri Lanka on day two of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club, where Jurel, who is on 59 not out off 107 balls. The duo left Sri Lanka searching for answers after a sweltering open-

ing session. The highlight of the session was Pant, who retired hurt on three after coping a blow on left wrist, coming back and batting in his usual style to take the game forward alongside a rock-solid Jurel. In the morning, Sri Lanka made an early breakthrough with the second new ball when fast bowler Asitha Fernando surprised debutant Saransh Jain with a sharp

bouncer from round the wicket and the leading edge was safely taken by gully. The early wicket brought Pant to the crease, who was immediately targeted with a barrage of short-pitched bowling by the Sri Lankan seamers. A short ball down leg from Lahiru Kumara was pulled by Pant over the stadium roof and even damaged a solar panel, as a replace-

ment ball was sought. With Jurel pristine in his drives and flicks, Pant was tested thoroughly by Lahiru Kumara and Fernando, and took two painful hits to his right shoulder that required medical treatment. Though Sri Lanka turned to the spin duo of Prabath Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha, Jurel relied on the pull to send them to the boundary rope. Pant, on the other hand, used paddle sweep and decisive footwork, apart from edges rolling along the ground, to keep the scoreboard moving. Subsequently, both batters got their fifties easily – Pant thumped a pull to square leg to get his 21st fifty, while Jurel pulled through mid-wicket to bring up his third half-century. As Sri Lanka persisted with spin from both ends ahead of the lunch break, but didn't get consistency, Pant and Jurel raised a 100-run partnership for the seventh wicket and put India in the driver's seat of the match. Brief Scores: India 419/6 in 112 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 117, Rishabh Pant 63 not out; Asitha Fernando 4-60, Lahiru Kumara 1-61) against Sri Lanka

Rishabh Pant breaks MS Dhoni's record for away Test runs by Indian wicketkeeper



Colombo: India star batter Rishabh Pant shattered MS Dhoni's record for most Test runs scored by an Indian wicketkeeper away from home. The swashbuckling batter Pant went past Dhoni's feat during Day 2 of the second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday. Pant scored a stroke-filled 63 in the first innings of the Test to go past the former skipper. Coming into the Test, the 28-year-old Roorkee man had scored 2471 runs in Tests away from home and at neutral venues. He needed to score 26 runs to get past the 2011 World Cup-winning captain, and he did so in style when he hit off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha for back-to-back fours in the 97th over of the first innings in the opening session on Day 2.

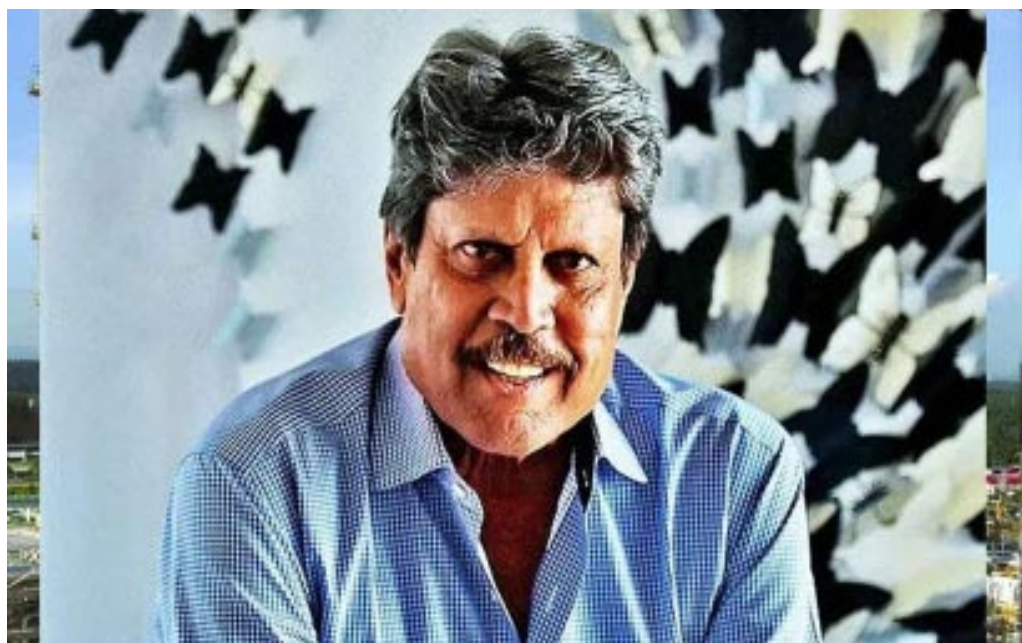
Pant went on to complete his 21st Test half-century and a successive one after he had hit one in the second innings of the first Test in Galle. The Southpaw's impressive stay came to an end on the first ball of the second session when he drilled one straight to deep mid-off Nuwantha. However, he has now scored 2534 runs as wicketkeeper away from home in Test cricket, with Dhoni now pushed back to second. Former cricketer Farokh Engineer had 1209 runs in away Tests as wicketkeeper, while Syed Kirmani made 1109 runs as wicketkeeper. In the process, Pant has also surpassed former South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher in the same record list and has the third-most runs away from home by wicketkeepers overall. The list

is led by former Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed, who made 2696 runs away from home in 52 Tests. Australia legend Adam Gilchrist is second with 2634 runs in 41 Tests away from home or at neutral venues. Pant's knock also saw him close in on 3000 World Test Championship runs as he aims to become the first Indian to get there. Following his 63, the Southpaw now has 2948 runs in 42 Tests in WTC history as he stands 52 shy of the 3000-run margin. Coming to the ongoing Test, India batted at a strong rate in the first session of the second day and amassed 119 runs and lost only Saransh Jain's wicket. Pant and Dhruv Jurel were the stars with the bat as they both crossed half-centuries with India piling the pressure on the hosts.

‘Want to support a friend’: Kapil Dev backs Imran Khan, seeks humane treatment

New Delhi: Former India captain Kapil Dev has reiterated his support for former Pakistan captain and Prime Minister Imran Khan, calling for humane treatment and adequate facilities for his long-time friend after 21 former international cricketers wrote to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif seeking better conditions for the imprisoned former leader.

Kapil, who shared the field with Imran during an era when the two were among the leading all-rounders in world cricket, said he understood why Pakistani players may be reluctant to speak publicly about the matter but felt those outside the country could voice their concern. “I think I don't blame them because they have to live there in Pakistan, the Pakistani cricketers. But for us, we are looking from outside. Yes, I like to support our friend, whom we played with and admired for his cricketing skill. And we keep saying again and again, we don't know the law of the country; that's fine. “But humanity and simply giving the facilities to a prisoner, whoever may be, and he was a former prime minister of the country and a top cricketer of the world, we want him to get the best treatment. What else are we asking for? We are not asking for anything else,” Kapil told reporters at the launch of the ‘Race to DP World India Championship’. The remarks



came a day after the group of former international cricketers appealed to Sharif over Khan's treatment. It was the second collective appeal of its kind in six months, following a February letter in which 14 former captains had raised concerns about the former Pakistan skipper's health. Khan's family had previously alleged that he had suffered a serious deterioration in his eyesight, claiming that he had lost almost all vision in one eye because of alleged medical negligence. The earlier appeal had sought medical attention for Khan and called for the restoration of family visits. Kapil's comments also highlighted the unusual relationship shared by the two former captains, who were part of a generation that included New Zealand's

Richard Hadlee and England's Ian Botham as the four outstanding all-rounders of the era. Their rivalry on the cricket field was accompanied by a friendship away from it, at a time when players from India and Pakistan regularly interacted, exchanged banter and maintained close personal ties despite the intense sporting rivalry between the neighbouring countries. That camaraderie has endured over the decades, with Kapil continuing to refer to Khan as a friend while maintaining that his appeal is centred on basic humane treatment rather than the legal proceedings against him. Kapil also acknowledged the limited public response from Pakistan's cricket fraternity, with Wasim Akram and a handful of others from Khan's

playing generation among those who have spoken out. “I think I don't blame them because they have to live there in Pakistan, the Pakistani cricketers,” Kapil said, explaining why he did not want to criticise those who had chosen to remain silent. For Kapil, the issue transcends cricket and political affiliations. While he said he was not in a position to comment on Pakistan's laws, he stressed that his appeal was simply for Khan to receive proper facilities and treatment while in prison. “But humanity and simply giving the facilities to a prisoner, whoever may be, and he was a former prime minister of the country and a top cricketer of the world, we want him to get the best treatment. What else are we asking for? We are not asking for anything else,” he said.

Sahithi Varshini secures second WGM norm at Kanizsa Open

Hyderabad: International Master Sahithi Varshini has moved a step closer to achieving the prestigious Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title by securing her second WGM norm at the Kanizsa Open 2026 in Hungary. Sahithi scored five points from nine rounds, producing an impressive 2429 performance rating and gaining 37 FIDE rating points. Her live classical rating has now risen to 2313, taking her above the 2300 Elo mark.

The Visakhapatnam player delivered an impressive performance defeating GM Yeshaayahu Tzidkiya (2492) and IM Sahib Singh (2354). Her final-round victory against Sahib Singh was particularly memorable, as she showed tremendous fighting spirit and excellent technique in a long queen-versus-rook endgame.

With two WGM norms now secured, Sahithi needs just one more WGM norm with a 2400-plus performance to complete the requirements for the Woman Grandmaster title.

The achievement follows another strong international performance in France. At the Juraflor International Chess Tournament in Les Rousses, Sahithi was adjudged the ‘Best



Woman Player’ scoring 5/9 in a strong field and gaining 30 rating points. Sahithi is the first woman player from Visakhapatnam to earn the International Master title. She has represented India at the Chess Olympiad and has won nine international medals, including Asian Championship titles in the Under-10 and Under-12 categories and a Commonwealth Championship gold

medal in Under-10. Sahithi's remarkable chess journey has been guided by her father and coach, M. Lokeshwara Rao, who has trained her since her early years. With her live rating at 2313 and only one WGM norm remaining, Sahithi is now firmly on the path towards becoming a Woman Grandmaster, with her sights set on achieving even greater heights in international chess.

Morgan Rogers says Xabi Alonso's philosophy and freedom on pitch convinced him to join Chelsea

New Delhi: Morgan Rogers has revealed that Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso's footballing philosophy and willingness to give him freedom on the pitch played a major role in his decision to join the Premier League club, as the England international begins a new chapter at Stamford Bridge. Rogers, who has returned to a club he knew from his childhood, spoke about his move, his early impressions of Chelsea's training facilities, and his conversations with Alonso as he prepares to work under the new head

coach. The attacking midfielder said Alonso's approach closely matches his own understanding of the game, particularly his desire to express himself and play with freedom. “I've had a few conversations with Xabi Alonso, and it was important for me to understand how he works and what he expects. His style fits perfectly with how I see the game and how I want to play. I want to express myself freely on the pitch, and knowing that he supports that was a big reason for me to come here,” Rogers told JioStar. Rogers'

return to Chelsea also carries a personal connection. Having spent time at the club as a youngster, he is familiar with Cobham, the training base that will now become part of his daily routine as a first-team player. “I played here at Chelsea's Cobham Training Ground as a kid, and every time I come back, it feels great to be here. It's a fantastic place to train. It has everything a player needs to improve and get the most out of their game. So yeah, it's really nice,” he added. The 22-year-old said the club's scale and ambitions were also important factors as he

considered his future. Rather than viewing the move simply as the next step in his career, Rogers sees an opportunity to contribute to Chelsea's broader project. “I don't think I need to say much about Chelsea. Everyone knows the club's size and stature. I'm excited about the direction the club is heading in, and I want to be part of that journey. I feel I can fit in well here, and I hope it will be a positive experience for both the club moving forward and me,” he stated. For Rogers, the move represents both a return to familiar

surroundings and the beginning of a fresh challenge under Alonso. The midfielder said he is eager to translate his excitement into performances on the pitch. “I'm really excited and happy to be here. I'm grateful for this opportunity, and I can't wait to get started on the pitch,” Rogers said. With his understanding of the club dating back to his childhood and Alonso's philosophy offering him the freedom he is seeking, Rogers will now look to establish himself as an important part of Chelsea's new-look attacking setup.

