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Andhra Pradesh stands for zero tolerance for drug trafficking: CM Chandrababu Naidu

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, June 26
Andhra Pradesh stands for zero tolerance for drug trafficking, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. He stated that the state government was committed to cracking down on drug trafficking and bringing the offenders to justice. "On this International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we are reminded



that the fight against drugs is ultimately a fight for our young people, their dreams, their health, and their future," the Chief Minister said in a social media post. "In Andhra Pradesh, we are committed to relentlessly cracking down on drug trafficking and bringing those responsible to justice. At the same time, we will extend every possible support to those battling addiction, helping them recover with dignity and rebuild their lives," he said.

"The days when drugs were allowed to gain a foothold in our state are behind us. Today, Andhra Pradesh stands for zero tolerance for drug trafficking, hope for those seeking recovery, and a safer future for every family," CM Chandrababu added. State Minister for Human Resources Development Nara Lokesh stated that on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Government of Andhra Pradesh firmly reiterates its (Contd. on pg.2)

Check on fertilizer black market with APAIMS 2.0: Atchannaidu

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, June 26
AP Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu has clarified that the illegal diversion of fertilizers and the black market are being completely curbed through the APAIMS 2.0 (Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Inputs Management System) portal, which aims to make fertilizer distribution in the state completely transparent. Speaking to the media today, he said that so far, fertilizers have been distributed directly to 2.97 lakh genuine farmers through the new system. According to field reports, 48,588 metric tons of urea and 12,874 metric tons of DAP have been distributed so far. He said that



fertilizers are being supplied online only as per the requirement of the farmers based on the crop cultivated and their land area. Atchannaidu said that real-time monitoring is being done on the issues of where and how much fertilizer is being stored? How is the supply being (Contd. on pg.2)

Sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain continues to inspire many people: PM Modi on Muharram

New Delhi, June 26 : On the occasion of Muharram, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) continues to inspire people across the world to remain steadfast in the pursuit of truth and justice. PM Modi took to social media 'X' and said, "The sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) continues to inspire many people to remain steadfast in the pursuit of truth and justice. It is also a reminder of the enduring power of courage and conviction."



Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and is regarded as one of the holiest periods in Islam. The observance is closely associated with Ashura, which commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of Prophet

Muhammad (SAW), in the Battle of Karbala. Religious gatherings, mourning processions and prayer meetings are organised across many parts of India and the world during this period. The word "Muharram" (Contd. on pg.2)

Piyush Goyal honoured with UK-India award for strengthening bilateral ties

London/New Delhi, June 26 : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has been conferred the special award for exceptional leadership in elevating UK-India relations at the Annual UK-India Awards 2026 in London, recognising his contribution to strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. Addressing a gathering of more than 300 policymakers and industry leaders, Goyal said that the best innings of the India-UK partnership are yet to come, highlighting the growing strategic, eco-



conomic and technological ties between the two countries as the India-UK Comprehensive Economic

and Trade Agreement (CETA) is set to take effect from July 15. (Contd. on pg.2)

Attempt to seize Raghurama Krishna Raju's land with forged signatures.. case registered

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 26
Leaving aside the issue of common people's lands, a gang of crooks is creating a sensation by registering and occupying a land worth over Rs. 2 crore belonging to Andhra Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishna Raju with fake documents. It has recently come to light that fake registrations were made with forged signatures in relation to this land located in Madhurawada, a prominent area of Visakhapatnam. Raghuramakrishna Raju had legally purchased a 333.33-square-meter plot of land in Madhurawada, a prime area of (Contd. on pg.2)



1989. Its current market value is over Rs. 2 crore. However, some land mafia thugs, noticing that this expensive plot was lying vacant, forged Raghuramakrishna Raju's signature and created fake documents. Moreover, they also transferred the ownership of the plot from one person to (Contd. on pg.2)

Ram Temple donation case: Champat Rai, Anil Mishra resign; 8 arrested in widening probe

Ayodhya, June 26: The alleged embezzlement of donations collected at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya took a significant turn on Friday after Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust General Secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra resigned, taking what sources described as moral responsibility in the case. The development comes as police arrested all eight people named in the FIR linked to the alleged theft of devotees' offerings. The investigation began after allegations that crores of rupees donated by devotees had been mis-



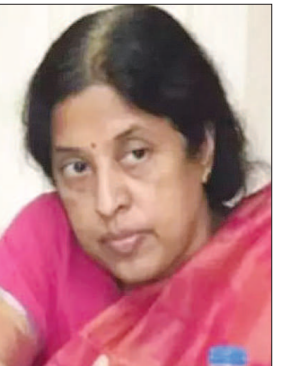
appropriated. Acting on the Trust's request, the Uttar Pradesh government formed a Special Investigation Team, whose preliminary findings led to the registration of the first FIR. FIR registered after SIT probe into alleged dona-

tion theft The FIR was lodged under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Sections 306, 316(5), 317(4), 317(5), 61 and 3(5). Former Samajwadi Party MLA Pawan Pandey had alleged that between Rs 7

crore and Rs 7.5 crore from donations made by devotees at the Ram Temple had been misappropriated. Following the allegations and a request from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the Uttar Pradesh government constituted a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) on June 14. The FIR was later registered on the basis of the SIT's preliminary findings. Eight accused arrested Police have arrested all eight accused named in the FIR. They are Avinash (Contd. on pg.2)

AP govt gives posting to senior IAS Sreelakshmi

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, June 26
The AP government has taken a key decision in the case of senior IAS officer Srilakshmi. She, who is due to retire in four days, has been appointed as Special Chief Secretary. The government has given her relief with this appointment, who has been waiting without any posting for the last two years. With this decision, the way has been paved for her to end her service with dignity. According to the All India Service Rules, if an officer is not under suspension, he has to be given some posting before retirement and sent as an honor. Following this rule, the government has given Srilakshmi a posting. Thus, it has sent a



clear signal to the officers that their government will not indulge in partisan activities and will act according to the rules. This decision is likely to increase the positive attitude towards the government in the ruling circles. Why is it important to retire with a posting? There is a big difference between an officer retiring with a post and retiring (Contd. on pg.2)

Centre launches India's 1st 'Easy Connect' flight from Varanasi

New Delhi, June 26 : Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Friday launched India's first 'Easy Connect' flight from Varanasi, marking the rollout of the government's new hub-and-spoke aviation model aimed at providing seamless international connectivity to passengers from Tier-II and Tier-III cities. The initiative is expected to strengthen India's ambitions of becoming a global aviation hub while making overseas travel easier for passengers beginning their journeys from smaller cities. The inaugural service was launched from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi, marking a significant milestone in the government's efforts to



transform air travel accessibility for passengers residing in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. Speaking at the launch event, Naidu said the initiative represents a major step towards building a future-ready and globally competitive aviation ecosystem. He said the new model would enable passengers from smaller cities to begin their (Contd. on pg.2)

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DRiV™ APPOINTS MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI AS BRAND AMBASSADOR IN A LANDMARK FIRST FOR THE GLOBAL AFTERMARKET GIANT

Visakhapatnam, June 26, 2026: In a watershed moment for the Indian automotive aftermarket industry, DRiV™— the dedicated aftermarket business group of Tenneco, that has brought together some of the industry’s most trusted brands under one powerful aftermarket identity announced the appointment of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India’s most celebrated cricketing icon, as its National Brand Ambassador. The partnership represents the company’s inaugural association with a celebrity ambassador — reflecting the strategic importance of India while reinforcing DRiV’s commitment to shaping the future of the country’s automotive aftermarket as the industry’s most comprehensive and trusted House of Brands.

The announcement was made at an exclusive, high-profile Meet & Greet event held at Taj Lands’ End, Mumbai, attended by the company’s executive and commercial leadership, key Channel Partners and select automotive stakeholders — bringing together trusted partners and industry leaders from across India’s automotive aftermarket ecosystem. At the heart of this association lies a powerful alignment of values. Both DRiV™ and MS Dhoni embody trust earned over time, reliability demonstrated through consistent performance, and the confidence that comes from making the right decisions when they matter most.

In a country where vehicle owners and mechanics alike seek familiarity

and assurance before choosing a spare part, DRiV’s decision to build its master brand identity around the figure of MS Dhoni is a calculated, strategic masterstroke. Dhoni — renowned across India and the world as Captain Cool — embodies the very qualities that consumers demand from their auto parts: performance without failure, consistency without compromise, and trust without question.

Chintan Sopariwala, President – DRiV, added: "Many of DRiV’s brands have been serving customers for more than 100 years globally, and we are just as excited about the next century as we were about the first. MS Dhoni represents the same enduring values that define our brands: leadership, consistency, humility, and the ability to perform when it matters most. We are thrilled to partner with him as we continue to grow and strengthen our presence across the Indian subcontinent."

Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Vice President & General Manager – DRiV South Asia, said: "India's aftermarket is one of the most dynamic automotive sectors globally. DRiV™ brings a portfolio of over 30 globally trusted brands, backed by original equipment engineering and decades of heritage. Our partnership with MS Dhoni, a symbol of trust, consistency, and excellence, reflects the values that define DRiV. Backed by a robust nationwide distribution network, deep engagement with mechanics, a comprehensive portfolio spanning passenger vehicles, two-

wheelers, and commercial vehicles, and a strong OE heritage, DRiV continues to raise the benchmark for quality, reliability, and performance in India's automotive aftermarket."

Sharing his thoughts on the association Mr. Mahendra Singh Dhoni added: "I am pleased to be associated with DRiV and its portfolio of well-known products. As someone who is passionate about motorcycles and their spare parts, and enjoys working on my bikes & cars myself, I understand the importance of high-quality components and reliable performance. I look forward to this partnership."

DRiV’s House of Brands: A Portfolio Built on a Century of Excellence

Long before the Indian aftermarket began attracting the attention it commands today, DRiV™ and its portfolio of globally renowned brands were already deeply embedded in the fabric of Indian mobility. Through the formidable legacies of Federal-Mogul and Tenneco — two names that have been synonymous with automotive engineering excellence for over a century — DRiV™ has been supplying Indian workshops, garages, fleet operators, and vehicle owners with world-class components spanning ride performance, sealing, filtration, and beyond.

Brands such as Monroe®, Champion®, Goetze, GTP, Ferodo, FP Diesel, AE, Wagner have not merely participated in the Indian market — they have helped define its standards.

Pfizer Healthcare India sponsors free eye screening camp at Tanam in Anakapalle Dist

True to its spirit of serving the society, Pfizer Healthcare India Pvt Ltd, a leading multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company, organized a comprehensive free eye screening camp today, 26th June 2026, at Tanam village, Parawada Mandal, Anakapalle District, under its CSR initiative. The camp was conducted in collaboration with Sankar FoundationEye Hospital, renowned for its commitment to quality eye care services.

The camp was inaugurated by Sri Ravi Chander Katta, Site Head, Pfizer, in the presence of senior Pfizer officials:Sri Ravi Kiran (HR Head), Sri Vijaya Mahajan (Manufacturing Head), Sri Arvind Jayaraman (EHS Head), Sri M.V. Rama Raju (Public Affairs & CSR Head), Sri Vijay Bhaskar (Supply Chain Head), Dr Eswara Rao, Sri N Hanumanth Tao, Sri Nageswar Rao (CSR Team) andK Bangar Raju, DGM (PR, Liaison & Corporate Relations) Sankar Foundation.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Ravi Chander encouraged patients to make full use of the camp facilities and reaffirmed Pfizer's commitment to conducting similar camps



in surrounding villages to help eliminate avoidable blindness. He expressed delight at partnering with Sankar Foundation and commended its dedication to delivering impactful eye care. Pfizer officials visited the camp facilities and congratulated Sankar Foundation for the impressive organization of the event. Local leaders Sri Pyla Jagannathm and Sri Venkata Ramana extended their support, further strengthening community participation.

Medical Team & Support

Patient screenings were conducted by Dr. Y.Sai and Dr. Joseph from Sankar Foundation. The camp was supported by a dedicated team of employees and paramed-

ical staff led by Sri N. Appala Raju (Senior Manager - Outreach), Sri Arun Kumar,Manager (Outreach), Sri Eswar Rao (Senior Manager), Sri Ramu (Sr Manager - Optical Management), Sri Ratan Raju (Manager - Optometry Department) and others.

The camp received an overwhelming response from nearby villages, with significant participation from the community. Camp Highlights:

- " 391outpatients screened
- " 305 glasses prescribed
- " 280Spot delivery of glasses
- " 25 glasses to be delivered
- " 33 patients selected for eye surgeries
- " 70 patients provided with medicines

Andhra Pradesh stands for zero tolerance for drug trafficking: CM Chandrababu Naidu

unwavering commitment to completely eradicating the menace of drugs.

“Through aggressive law enforcement operations, strict border and transit monitoring, and comprehensive community rehabilitation programs, Andhra Pradesh is actively dismantling drug networks while creating viable, legal livelihoods for vulnerable communities. The state calls upon every citizen, educational institution, and civil society group to join hands in this vital mission to ensure a safe, healthy, and drug-free future,” said Lokesh.

The minister, through his post on ‘X’, highlighted the key initiatives and achievements of the government during the last few years. These include Operation Chaitanyam, under which the state achieved zero cannabis (Ganja) cultivation in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district. Alternative crops have been introduced across 29,840 acres. The government rehabilitated 325 families involved in cannabis cultivation.

The Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE), Vigilance Enforcement, Drug Control Administration and local police launched joint initiatives called 'Operation Garuda' to regulate the sale of narcotics and psychotropic substances in medical shops. The EAGLE conducted over 800 cordon-and-search operations. It inspected 1.93 lakh people and seized 61.8 kg of cannabis, 10 kg of cannabis seeds and 9,346 vehicles.

Sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain continues to inspire many people: PM Modi on Muharram

means “forbidden”, signifying that it is one of the four sacred months in Islam during which warfare is traditionally prohibited. Muslims are encouraged to engage in increased worship, prayer and reflection during this holy month.

Muharram also marks the beginning of the Islamic or Hijri New Year. The Islamic calendar is based on 12 lunar months, with the sighting of the new moon determining the start of each month.

The first day of Muharram marks the beginning of the new Islamic year. Although there are no specific acts of worship prescribed for this day, many Muslims use the occasion to reflect on the life, struggles and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the early Muslim community.

The 10th day of Muharram, known as Ashura, is considered one of the most significant and spiritually important days in the Islamic calendar. It commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at the Battle of Karbala, an event that symbolises sacrifice, steadfastness, faith and resistance against injustice.

Muharram holds immense religious and historical significance for Muslims, not only because it is one of Islam's four sacred months but also because several important events in Islamic history are associated with it.

While both Shia and Sunni Muslims observe Muharram, their traditions differ. For Shia Muslims, the first 10 days of Muharram are marked by mourning to honour the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS). Many wear black,

attend special prayer gatherings and majlis, refrain from celebratory activities such as weddings and music, and participate in mourning processions on Ashura. In some communities, devotees engage in chest-beating as an expression of grief and remembrance.

Sunni Muslims, on the other hand, often observe voluntary fasting on the 9th and 10th of Muharram or the 10th and 11th, following Islamic traditions. Fasting on Ashura is considered a virtuous act, and those who observe it are believed to receive spiritual rewards from Allah.

Piyush Goyal honoured with UK-India award for strengthening bilateral ties

"Truly honoured to have received the Special Award for Exceptional Leadership in Elevating UK-India Relations at the Annual UK-India Awards 2026 in London," Goyal added.

This recognition belongs to the many bridge-builders across governments, businesses, academia, culture, and our vibrant diaspora who continue to strengthen India-UK ties, he added.

"The best innings of the India-UK partnership are yet to come," Goyal said, while emphasising the vast opportunities for collaboration between the two countries.

The minister also said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's growth story is creating unprecedented opportunities for deeper engagement between India and the United Kingdom across several sectors.

He also congratulated the other award recipients for their contributions towards further enriching the India-UK partnership.

The minister noted that the evolving partnership between the two countries is being supported by stronger economic engagement, expanding business ties and growing people-to-people connections, setting the stage for a new chapter in bilateral relations.

"Under the decisive leadership of PM Narendra Modi, India's growth story offers unprecedented opportunities for collaboration across trade, innovation, technology, education, and emerging sectors," he stated.

"The best innings of the India-UK partnership are yet to come!" Goyal emphasised.

Ram Temple donation case: Champat Rai, Anil Mishra resign; 8 arrested in widening probe

Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava and Ramshankar Yadav alias Tinnu. According to investigators, all of them were associated with counting cash donations and valuables offered by devotees at the temple. They have been accused of diverting temple funds and valuables. Authorities also claimed that the alleged acts were captured on CCTV cameras.

Among those arrested, Tinnu Yadav has emerged as the key accused. Sources claimed he was a former driver of Champat Rai and enjoyed considerable access to donation boxes and cash handling.

Ramashankar Mishra allegedly involved his son Anukalp Mishra and son-in-law Lavkush Mishra in the cash-counting process. Investigators said cash was recovered from Lavkush Mishra’s residence during the probe.

Police also alleged that Rs 5 lakh was found in the

account of Avinash Shukla. Manish Yadav, who is related to Tinnu Yadav, has also been accused of participating in the counting process.

Subhash Srivastava, a former bank employee, allegedly supervised the cash-counting team, while Karunesh Pandey is accused of manipulating donation receipts.

The State Bank of India had been authorised to count cash and valuables received at the temple.

Yogi Adityanath defends probe, attacks Opposition

Addressing a public meeting in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the government would maintain a zero-tolerance approach in the matter and assured that the investigation would uncover the truth.

“The government’s intention is clear..., everything will come before everyone. But I will appeal once again: do not test Ram devotees, stop tampering with their faith. If there are no facts or evidence, then stop the accusations and counter-accusations, and if there is evidence, then present it before the SIT,” he said.

He added that action would continue in accordance with the SIT’s recommendations.

The Chief Minister also accused opposition parties of politicising the issue and alleged that those questioning the Ram Temple had earlier opposed its construction.

‘Don’t put Ram devotees to the test’: Yogi urges restraint as Ayodhya Mandir donation probe gathers pace after FIR

Political reactions

Bihar minister Ram Kripal Yadav said strict action should be taken against anyone found guilty.

“If theft has taken place, it is unfortunate. The administration is taking action on the matter. Those found to be involved have been arrested, and anyone else found to be involved will also face action,” he said.

JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said misuse of donations made by devotees could not be justified under any circumstances.

Congress MP Jebi Mather questioned the pace of the investigation and alleged that attempts were being made to shield those responsible.

“It is a shock that even Ram Mandir is being looted, but the double-engine government is also trying to protect all those who have done it... even SIT is in question,” she said.

The investigation is continuing and the SIT is expected to examine the evidence submitted in the case.

Check on fertilizer black market with APAIMS 2.0: Atchannaidu

done? He said that equal opportunities are being provided to every eligible farmer, including tenant farmers, and that if there are any problems in the supply of fertilizer, they can immediately call the toll-free number 155251 and file a complaint.

The minister dismissed the opposition’s propaganda that tomato prices have completely fallen in the state as untrue. He said that according to market yard statistics, tomato rates have remained stable. He also said that the propaganda that the ‘Jain Mango Pulp Unit’ has closed is also a blatant lie, and appealed to farmers not to be misled by such propaganda and to trust only official government information.

Attempt to seize Raghurama Krishna Raju’s land with forged

another using those fake documents.

Although the entire affair of fraudulent registrations went on silently, when it reached the field level, the real matter came to light. On May 25 and 26 this year, some people entered the place and tried to build a compound

wall around it. Raghuramakrishna Raju's friend, who noticed this, informed him. When Raghurama got the original documents and the fake papers being shown by the gang legally verified... the affair of forging his signature and trying to press the land was revealed.

Raghuramakrishna Raju's representatives have filed a complaint with the Vizag PMPalem police demanding legal action against those who tried to encroach on his land and all those who were behind this forgery story. Based on this complaint, the PMPalem police officially registered a case on June 20. The police have intensified the investigation.

AP govt gives posting to senior IAS Sreelakshmi

without a posting. If you retire with a post, it will be easier to get the benefits, pension, and no-due certificates available after retirement. If one retires without the same posting, one has to go around the offices for months for these documents even if there is no major financial loss. This is professionally humiliating for the officer.

If an officer is facing serious corruption or criminal charges and retires while under suspension, the situation is even more complicated. They will not get full pension, only a temporary pension. Retirement benefits will stop until they are acquitted in a departmental inquiry or court verdict.

Similar incidents have happened in the past. In the past, several senior officers have fought legal battles for postings before retirement. Retired IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao also got posting a day before retirement. However, he had to approach the court for it. Similarly, senior IASs like KS Jawahar Reddy and Poonam Malakondaiah also got postings before retirement in the past.

Overall, analysts believe that this decision taken by the government regarding Srilakshmi not only respects the terms of service but also increases confidence in the new government among officials.

Centre launches India’s 1st ‘Easy’ Connect’ flight from Varanasi

international journeys from their home airports, making overseas travel more convenient and efficient.

“Today we take a major step forward towards realising our vision of making air travel more accessible and building a future-ready, self-reliant Indian aviation industry that is efficient, inclusive and globally competitive,” the minister said.

Under the newly introduced hub-and-spoke model, international passengers can complete check-in, immigration and customs formalities at their originating airport itself. Passengers departing from Varanasi, for instance, will complete all departure procedures before boarding a domestic flight to a designated hub airport such as Delhi, from where they will connect to international services without repeating the formalities.

The government said the ‘Easy Connect’ initiative is designed to make India the preferred aviation hub for Indian travellers by 2030 and a global aviation hub by 2047. The strategy is also expected to boost trade, tourism, investment and regional economic growth by improving international connectivity from non-metro cities.

According to estimates by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, aviation hub development could generate nearly 0.4 million direct and indirect jobs and contribute an additional \$30 billion to India’s GDP by 2030. By 2047, the cumulative economic impact is projected to support around 16 million jobs and add nearly \$1.4 trillion to the economy.

Telangana CM Reddy, Guv urge people to stay away from drugs

Hyderabad: June 26 (Skyline daily): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday appealed to people to stay away from drugs and strive towards building a healthy society. On the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Chief Minister and the Governor, in their messages, called upon people to say no to drugs. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy urged everyone to strive towards building a healthy society by staying away from drugs. In a message to mark the 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking,' he called upon everyone to work towards creating a drug-free society by fostering positive thinking and values among the youth. He noted that drugs not only ruin individual lives but also shatter families, thereby negatively impacting society and leading to law-and-order issues. He emphasised that awareness, vigilance, and a sense of social responsibility are crucial for controlling drug abuse and curbing illicit trafficking. The Chief Minister appealed to everyone to participate and cooperate in achieving the goal of a "Drug-Free Telangana."

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla called upon everyone to join hands in preventing drug abuse and promoting a healthy lifestyle for a drug-free society.



Director General of Police C.V. Anand, in his message, stated that drug abuse not only harms individuals but also affects families and society. "Let us join hands to spread awareness, support prevention, and encourage a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Together, we can build a safer and stronger Telangana," he posted on 'X'. In another post, the DGP stated that drug eradication is not merely the responsibility of the police alone. He said that it is a movement that requires the collective effort of the entire society to move forward unitedly. "In the fight against drugs... I urge everyone to increase awareness... and call upon all citizens to stay vigilant and become partners in building a drug-free Telangana. The fight against drugs is not the responsibility of the police alone it is a collective movement that requires the active participation of every section of society," he said.

Indigenous 'Netra' surveillance aircraft system gets final clearance from IAF



Kolkata, June 26 : The Indian Air Force (IAF) received the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate for the indigenous 'Netra' Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system that has been developed through close collaboration among the Indian Air Force (IAF), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Ministry of Defence said. The system has been indigenously developed through close collaboration among the IAF, DRDO, and associated industries to significantly enhance airborne surveillance, situational awareness and battle management capabilities, the Ministry added on Thursday. This was a landmark achievement in India's journey towards self-reliance in advanced aerospace and defence technologies. The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) was given in 2017. The successful induction of the Netra AEW&C system into operational service reflects DRDO's commitment to indigenisation, innovation, and capability enhancement of the defence services. The ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti in Karnataka's Bengaluru. Former Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria (Retd), former DRDO Chairman S. Christopher, serving and retired senior officers of IAF, Centre for Air Borne System (CABS) Director and Outstanding Scientist P. Santhya, Outstanding Scientist and Chief Executive (Airworthiness) APVS

Prasad, Scientist 'G' and NETRA FOC Head, A S Kumaran, other senior officials of DRDO, and industry partners attended the event. Deputy Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Bharti spoke about the operational utilisation and reliability of the system during Operation Sindoor and Balakot strikes. He reiterated the importance of indigenous technologies which offer the services the flexibility to adapt the system to the evolving war scenario by undertaking modifications. He lauded the synergy among DRDO, IAF and the industry which has defined the success of the programme. Distinguished Scientist and DRDO Director General of Aeronautics Cluster, K Rajalakshmi Menon, narrated the successful journey of Netra. She brought out the challenges faced and the decisions taken that enabled to achieve the programme objectives and deliver the operationally capable system to IAF. She emphasised the importance of system engineering and how it helped in the planning and execution of flight-tests. Distinguished Scientist and DRDO Director General of Electronics Cluster, B K Das, said that the synergy among the stakeholders has been the cornerstone of success of this programme. He termed Netra AEW&C as a defining testimony to self-reliance and attaining 'Viksit Bharat'. Special appreciation and felicitations were extended to organisations and units that played a pivotal role in the successful realisation and operationalisation of the Netra AEW&C system as part of the event. The contributions of all stakeholders were acknowledged as instrumental in transforming the system from concept to operational reality.

Hyderabad police book fake 'Gold Man' for alleged fraud

Hyderabad, June 26 : Cases have been filed against P. Suresh Kumar alias Surya Bhai, popularly known as the 'Gold Man' for alleged gold investment fraud, the Hyderabad police said on Friday. Claiming to be a close aide of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, Surya Bhai allegedly duped people by promising to supply imported gold at prices significantly lower than the market rate. However, after receiving the money, he allegedly failed to deliver the promised gold. Police registered two separate cases following complaints by the victims. There are allegations that he had collected Rs 32 lakh from one of the victims, promising to supply them with imported gold. The victim said that when he failed to provide them with gold or return their money, they went to his house. He gave them three iPhones and a cheque for Rs 20 lakh, but later allegedly took back the phones by threatening them. On a complaint, a zero FIR was registered at Attapur Police Station, and the



case was subsequently transferred to Narayanguda Police Station. A separate case was registered against Surya Bhai for lodging a false complaint. The police initiated the action after they found that he provided false information. Police were conducting an investigation to determine the full extent of the alleged fraud and to identify whether more victims were cheated by the accused. Surya Bhai, 34, a resident of the Attapur area, became popular on social media for flaunting gold jewellery. Wearing heavy jewellery with white attire and temple visits, he cultivated an image on social media platforms and came to be known as the 'Gold Man'. e came under the income tax scanner in March this year. However, during the investigation, the officials found that most of his ornaments were cheap imitation metals and not real gold. He had claimed to be wearing jewellery items worth around Rs 1 crore, but during the investigation, he revised the estimate downward. The jewellery was finally valued at about Rs 3 lakh.

Police Deny Protest Permission in Tadipatri; Former MLA Kethireddy Placed Under House Arrest



Tadiparthi, June 26 ension prevailed once again in Tadipatri on Friday after police denied permission for a proposed mass protest by leaders of the YSR Congress Party in front of the Gandhi statue. As a preventive measure, former MLA Kethireddy Pedda Reddy was placed under house arrest at his residence in Bhagat Singh Nagar. Protesting the police action, Kethireddy, along with his supporters, staged a sit-in outside his residence after being prevented from participating in the planned demonstration. The protesters alleged that the denial of permission was undemocratic and raised slogans against the police, demanding that democracy be protected in Tadipatri. The police maintained a strong security presence in the area to prevent any untoward incidents. The situation remained tense but under control, with authorities closely monitoring developments.

Tomato Prices Fall as Arrivals Surge at Mulakalacheruvu Market



Mulakalacheruvu (Annamayya), June 26: Tomato prices have declined sharply at the Mulakalacheruvu market in Annamayya district due to a significant increase in arrivals from the region. With harvesting in full swing across the six mandals of the Tamballapalle constituency and adjoining villages on the border of Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district, large quantities of tomatoes are reaching the market, resulting in downward pressure on prices. On Thursday, premium-quality tomatoes fetched a maximum price of Rs. 470 per 23-kg box, while most other lots were sold between Rs. 300 and Rs. 400, depending on quality. Just a day earlier, tomatoes were selling for around Rs. 530 per box. Market arrivals have more than doubled over the past week. While only 10,000 to 20,000 boxes were arriving daily a week ago, the current inflow has increased to 30,000 to 45,000 boxes a day. Despite the price decline, the Mulakalacheruvu market continues to serve as a key trading hub, with tomatoes being transported to several northern states, including Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Traders expect prices to remain under pressure if arrivals continue at the current pace.

'I End Up Switching Off the TV': Former AP CM Kiran Kumar Reddy Laments Declining Political Decorum



Tirupati, June 26: Former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy, has expressed concern over the deteriorating standards of the deteriorating standards of political discourse, saying he often has to switch off the television because he finds it difficult to watch political debates. Speaking at a public programme in Chinnagottigallu in Tirupati district, Kiran Kumar Reddy made a strong appeal for restoring dignity and mutual respect in politics. He observed that political discussions, particularly on television and social media, have increasingly become personal and abusive rather than constructive. The former

Road accident in Konaseema.. TDP leader dies

Konaseema District, June 26: TDP leader Moka Lovaraju died in a road accident in the district. Lovaraju, a resident of Katrenikona village, died after falling off his bike last night, police said. Police reached the spot after receiving information that a man had fallen off his bike on the main road near Geddanapalli village at night. Lovaraju, who was lying with head injuries, was rushed to the hospital where doctors declared him dead. Police believe that the TDP leader's death was due to an accident caused by a two-wheeler going out of control. The body was taken to M u m m i d i v a r a m



Government Hospital for postmortem. The police have registered a case and are investigating the accident. Locals say that the deceased, Lovaraju, used to run a biryani business in Katrenikona and was an active participant in TDP

activities. The deceased is survived by a wife and two children. The family is in mourning due to Lovaraju's death. The TDP party ranks have expressed condolences over the death of the TDP leader.

SIT Intensifies Probe in Sai Krishna Lockup Death Case; Hunt On for Three Absconding Accused



Vijayawada, June 26: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sensational Sai Krishna lockup death case has uncovered significant developments, revealing the alleged involvement of three more individuals in the disposal of the victim's body after his custodial death. The fresh findings have intensified the investigation. According to officials, the SIT has identified former Circle Inspector (CI) Nagaraju as the prime accused in the case. Investigators allege that after Sai Krishna died in police custody, Nagaraju, along with head constables Ashok and Jangam Nani and his close associate Suresh, allegedly conspired to dispose of the body in an attempt to destroy evidence and conceal the circumstances surrounding the custodial death. Following the arrest of CI Nagaraju, the three other accused—head constables Ashok, Jangam Nani and Suresh—reportedly went into hiding. The SIT has now launched an extensive search operation across multiple locations to trace and apprehend the absconding suspects. Police teams have reportedly been deployed in several districts, while surveillance has been intensified to monitor their possible movements. The SIT's investigation has been strengthened by technical evidence, including Call Detail Records (CDRs) and CCTV footage. Investigators say these pieces of evidence indicate that the three accused played a crucial role in assisting

Nagaraju after Sai Krishna's death. The evidence allegedly places them at key locations during the period when the body was transported and disposed of, making them central figures in the ongoing investigation. The probe has also brought to light the service history of head constable Jangam Nani. According to investigators, Nani had earlier served at Gannavaram, where he was suspended over alleged irregularities. He was later transferred to the Vacancy Reserve (VR) following complaints related to his tenure at Patamata Police Station. Despite the earlier disciplinary action, he was recently posted as a head constable at Krishnalanka Police Station. Investigators are also examining allegations that Nani conducted private dealings using the name and influence of CI Nagaraju. The SIT is verifying these claims as part of its broader investigation into the conduct of the accused and any possible misuse of official authority. Officials said the investigation remains active and that additional evidence is being collected through forensic analysis, witness statements and digital records. The SIT is expected to question more police personnel and other individuals who may have had knowledge of the events surrounding the alleged custodial death and the subsequent disposal of the body. The Sai Krishna lockup death case has sparked widespread public concern over custodial violence and police accountability in Andhra Pradesh. With the arrest of the main accused and the ongoing manhunt for the remaining suspects, the SIT is continuing its efforts to establish the complete sequence of events and ensure that all those found responsible are brought to justice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) / Mortgagor (s), in particular, that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts ("ARCL"), (pursuant to the assignment of financial asset vide registered Assignment Agreements), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" by way of online e-auction, for recovery of outstanding dues of together with further interest, charges and costs etc., as detailed below in terms of the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor/s / Mortgagor/s	LAN No. & Selling Bank	Trust Name	Outstanding amount as per SARFAESI Notice dated 15/Dec/22	Possession type and date	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
				Date of Inspection	Reserve Price
				Type of Property and Area	Date & Time of E-Auction
Borrower: Mr/Mrs. Kiran Kumar Srungarapu Co-Borrower: Mr/Mrs. Venkatasantamani Lakkoji Guarantor: Mr/Mrs.	LP0000000094142 Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited (VHFC)	Arcil – Trust – 2025 – 018	Rs. 2494618/- as on 10-12-2022. + further Interest thereon + Legal Expenses.	Physical on 30/10/2025 Will be arranged on request area measuring 1210 sft, and undivided share of land admeasuring 67 1/4 Sq.Yds out of 134 1/2 %	Rs.225000 /- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only) Rs.2250000 /- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) 28-07-2026 at 5:30 PM

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: Entire Ground Floor of the house bearing D.No.5-4-46 with plinth area measuring 1210 sft, and undivided share of land admeasuring 67 1/4 Sq.Yds out of 134 1/2 % covered by Survey No.62/3, 4, situated at Saradhi Village, Rajam Nagar Panchayat, Mandal and SRO, Srikakulam District, Door No.5-4-46, Asst.No. 1133007506, Andhra Pradesh, 532127
As Follows:
East – Joint wall between this house and dabbha house of Srungarapu Muralidhar Rao
West – Sheets Shed in the site of Alla Boina Ramayya
North – 1 1/2 ft kalwa
South – Road

Pending Litigations known to ARCL	Encumbrances/Dues known to Nil ARCL
Nil	Nil

Last Date for submission of Bid	Same day 2 hours before Auction	Bid Increment amount:	As mentioned in the BID document

Demand Draft to be made in name of:	Arcil – Trust – 2025 – 018	Payable at Par
RTGS details	Arcil – Trust – 2025 – 018, Trust Account No: 57500001745590, HDFC Bank Limited, Branch: Kamla Mill Extn Ctr, Mumbai, IFSC Code: HDFC0000542	
Name of Contact person & number	Arpit Choudhary arpit.choudhary@vastuhfc.com;	

Terms and Conditions:
1. The Auction Sale is being conducted through e-auction through the website <https://auction.arcil.co.in> and as per the Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document, and as per the procedure set out therein.
2. The Authorised Officer ("AO")/ ARCL shall not be held responsible for internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, power failure etc.
3. At any stage of the auction, the AO may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the Auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice.
4. The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, applicable GST on the purchase consideration, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the secured asset conveyed/delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law.
5. The intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries/ due diligence regarding encumbrances, title of secured asset and claims/rights/dues affecting the secured assets, including statutory dues, etc., prior to submitting their bid. The auction advertisement does not constitute and will not constitute any commitment or any representation of ARCL. The Authorized Officer of ARCL shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues.
6. The particulars specified in the auction notice published in the newspaper have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned; however undersigned shall not be responsible / liable for any error, misstatement or omission.
7. The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of the above mentioned auction sale.
8. In the event, the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, ARCL has the right to sell the secured asset by any other methods under the provisions of Rule 8(5) of the Rules and the Act.

Place: Srikakulam
Date: 27.06.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
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Saturday 27.6.2026

Strait Lessons

The reopening of shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz may have calmed oil markets, but it would be a mistake to confuse the return of traffic with the return of certainty. The recent crisis has underlined a reality that energy-importing nations have long known but often ignored: a narrow stretch of water between Iran and Oman continues to wield disproportionate influence over the global economy. For decades, the Strait of Hormuz has been viewed primarily through the lens of military deterrence. The assumption was that the presence of the United States Navy and the strategic interests of major powers would prevent any prolonged disruption to the flow of oil and gas. Yet the latest confrontation demonstrates that leverage in the 21st century need not take the form of a formal blockade. Even the perception of danger can alter shipping patterns, delay cargoes, raise insurance costs and inject volatility into global markets. The episode has revealed the limits of military power as a guarantor of commercial confidence.

Tankers may be moving again, but many shipowners remain cautious. Markets respond not merely to the absence of conflict but to the presence of predictability. When navigation routes become contested, regulations uncertain and security risks difficult to assess, commerce slows without a single shot being fired. The crisis has also highlighted Iran’s enduring strategic relevance. For years, sanctions and diplomatic isolation were intended to constrain Tehran’s influence. Yet geography remains an asset no sanctions regime can erase. Any arrangement affecting the management or security of the Strait inevitably gives Iran a seat at the table.

That does not represent a triumph for Tehran so much as a reminder that geopolitical realities cannot be wished away. Durable stability in the Gulf will require engagement with regional stakeholders, not merely pressure on them. For the wider world, the episode should reinforce the urgency of diversification. Europe learned painful lessons from its dependence on Russian energy. Asian economies, including India, face a similar challenge in their reliance on Gulf hydrocarbons. Strategic petroleum reserves, diversified sourcing and investment in alternative energy are no longer simply environmental or economic choices; they are instruments of national security.

The broader lesson extends beyond energy. Globalisation has created extraordinary efficiencies, but it has also concentrated risk. Whether it is a shipping lane, a semiconductor hub or a rare-earth supply chain, the world remains vulnerable to disruptions at critical chokepoints. The Strait of Hormuz is merely the latest reminder of how quickly local tensions can acquire global consequences. The immediate crisis may be receding. Yet the events of recent weeks have exposed the fragility of assumptions that have governed international commerce for decades. Stability cannot be measured solely by whether ships are moving. It must be judged by whether the conditions that allow trade to flourish are genuinely secure. On that test, the world still has reason to worry.

Ocean will make this India’s maritime century

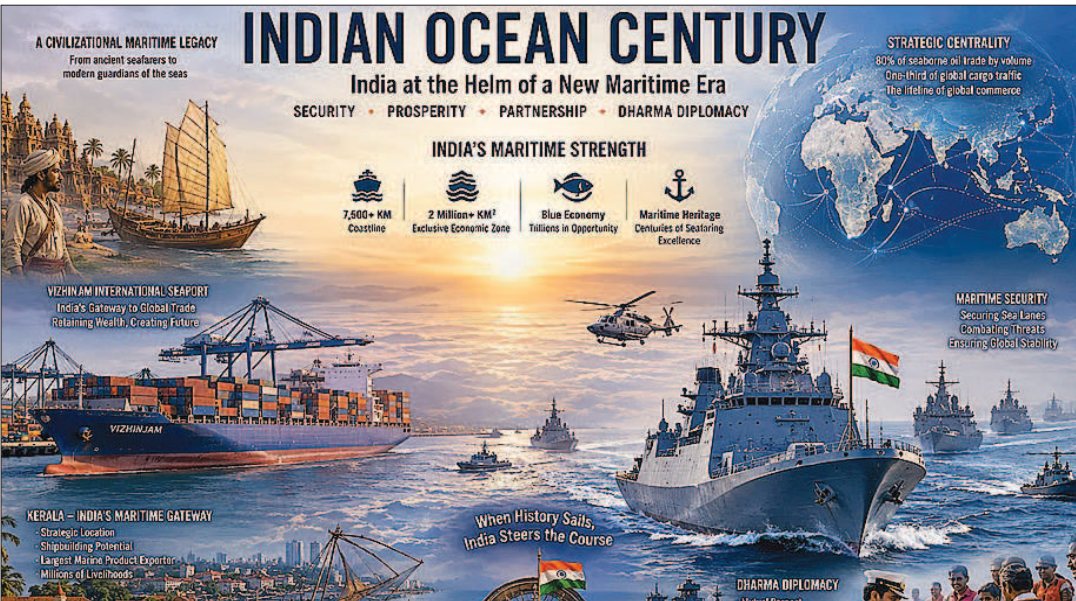
The 21st century is increasingly being described as the Indian Ocean Century. As the global economic centre of gravity shifts from the Atlantic to Asia, the vast maritime region stretching from the eastern coast of Africa to the western Pacific has emerged as the world’s busiest and most strategically important sea space. More than 80 per cent of the world’s seaborne oil trade by volume and a significant share of global merchandise trade pass through the Indian Ocean.

It is home to some of the fastest-growing economies and serves as the life-line of international commerce. For India, the Indian Ocean is not merely a geographical expression. It is the foundation of the country’s economic security, energy security and strategic influence. India’s destiny has always been intertwined with the sea. From the days of the ancient Cholas, Cheras and the maritime traders of Kerala to the modern Indian Navy, the oceans have connected India to the wider world through commerce, culture and civilization. India possesses enormous maritime advantages. With a coastline of more than 7,500 kilometres and an Exclusive Economic Zone of over two million square kilometres, the country is blessed with abundant marine resources.

The rapidly expanding Blue Economy – covering fisheries, aquaculture, marine biotechnology, offshore renewable energy and coastal tourism – is expected to contribute trillions of dollars to the global economy in the coming decades. India is well positioned to become one of its leading beneficiaries. Kerala occupies a unique place in this maritime vision. Situated at the heart of the Indian Ocean trade routes, the state has historically been India’s gateway to the

Arabian Sea. Its strategic geography, natural harbours, shipbuilding potential and centuries-old seafaring traditions make Kerala a vital pillar of India’s maritime ambitions. The state is among India’s largest exporters of marine products and supports millions of livelihoods through fisheries, seafood processing, aquaculture and coastal tourism. One of India’s greatest maritime opportunities today is the development of world-class transshipment infrastructure. At present, nearly three-fourths of India’s transshipment cargo is handled by foreign ports such as Colombo, Singapore and Dubai. This dependence increases logistics costs and leaves India reliant on foreign strategic infrastructure. The emergence of Vizhinjam International Seaport has the potential to transform this situation. Located close to one of the world’s busiest east-west shipping lanes, Vizhinjam can become India’s gateway to global maritime trade while retaining billions of dollars of business within the country. Maritime security has also assumed unprecedented importance.

Nearly 60 per cent of global oil shipments and one-third of international cargo traffic pass through the Indian Ocean. The region faces multiple challenges, including piracy, maritime terrorism, illegal fishing, trafficking and geopolitical rivalry. Securing these sea lanes has become essential not only for India but for the stability of the global economy. India has steadily strengthened its maritime capabilities. Kochi, the headquarters of the Southern Naval Command, is widely regarded as the cradle of Indian naval training. Thousands of naval personnel receive advanced training here every year. India’s naval modernization, coastal surveillance



systems and humanitarian assistance missions have significantly enhanced its reputation as a responsible maritime power. Some strategic observers have recently expressed concern over the occasional omission of the word “Indo” in certain international references to the “Indo-Pacific,” with some discussions increasingly emphasizing only the “Pacific.” Such semantic changes should not cause unnecessary anxiety in New Delhi. Geography cannot be rewritten. The Indian Ocean bears India’s name for a reason, and its strategic centrality remains unchanged. No alternative terminology can erase India’s indispensable role in securing one of the world’s most important maritime regions. India’s greatest strength lies beyond military capabilities.

It lies in what may be called Dharma Diplomacy – a civilizational approach rooted in mutual respect, peaceful

coexistence, inclusiveness and humanitarian engagement. Unlike many great powers that historically expanded through conquest and colonization, India spread its influence across the oceans through trade, culture, spirituality and knowledge. Indian merchants, monks and scholars carried Buddhism, Hindu philosophy, Ayurveda, mathematics and art across Southeast Asia, East Africa and the Indian Ocean islands without the force of arms. This civilizational legacy continues to shape India’s global image. Whether through humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, vaccine diplomacy, development partnerships or initiatives such as *Security and Growth for All in the Region, India projects itself as a trust-worthy and responsible maritime partner. This soft power complements India’s growing naval capabilities and reinforces its leadership in the Indian

Ocean. The future maritime order will not be determined solely by aircraft carriers and naval bases. It will also be shaped by trust, connectivity, sustainable development and cooperative security. India’s democratic values, technological capabilities and civilizational wisdom provide it with unique advantages that cannot be measured merely in military terms. As the Indian Ocean becomes the epicentre of global geopolitics and economic activity, India’s maritime renaissance is gathering momentum. With ports such as Vizhinjam, a vibrant Blue Economy, a professional navy and a rich civilizational heritage, India is well placed to emerge as one of the defining maritime powers of the 21st century. The tides of history are once again turning towards the Indian Ocean. And when history sails through these waters, India will not merely witness the journey – it will help steer it.

The four-pillar warning

When Home Minister Amit Shah directed the commission formed on “Demographic Change” to study the phenomenon in India’s borderlands, he did not speak in the cautious language of policy briefs. Demographic change, he declared, threatens India’s “sovereignty, national security, law and order, and brings about profound changes in social structure”. The four-pillar crisis framework has landed like a political grenade and rightly so. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has echoed the warning in sharper register: demographic change, he said, “sows seeds of social tension”, with infiltrators “snatching the bread and butter of the youth” and “targeting the country’s daughters and sisters”.

The unmistakable rise in political temperatures was expected. But behind the rhetoric lies a set of empirical questions that demand honest examination: What does demographic data actually show? Where is illegal immigration documented and at what scale? And what is the verifiable connection between demographic shifts and the law-and-order strain that Shah’s framework posits? India’s Muslim population stood at approximately 14.2 per cent according to the 2011 Census – the last fully published census – up from 13.4 per cent in 2001. The 2021 Census remains unpublished as of mid-2026, making current demographic claims reliant on projections rather than hard counts.

The Pew Research Center’s 2015 projections estimated India’s Muslim population would reach approximately 18-19 per cent by 2050 – a significant shift, though one driven primarily by differential fertility rates that have been narrowing steadily if seen in terms of absolute numbers. The fertility gap is real but shrinking. The National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5, 2019-21) recorded a Total Fertility Rate of 2.36 for Muslims compared to 1.94 for Hindus – a gap of 0.42 children per woman, down substantially from the gap of 1.1 recorded in NFHS-1 in 1992-93. The convergence trend is consistent and documented. Demographic economists across institutions including the International Institute for Population Sciences note that Muslim TFR declines have been fastest in states with higher female literacy and economic inclusion – the standard socioeconomic pattern seen global-

ly. The fact remains, however, that the gap exists and the projected outcomes are hard to ignore. This is the domestic demographic picture. It is distinct – analytically and legally – from the question of illegal cross-border migration, which is where Shah’s national security framework is primarily directed. The illegal immigration question centres almost entirely on the India-Bangladesh border – a 4,156-kilometre frontier that is among the most complex in the world, running through riverine terrain, dense habitation, and areas of longstanding economic interdependence. The Border Security Force (BSF) reported apprehending 27,827 Bangladeshi nationals illegally crossing into India in 2022 alone, up from 17,478 in 2021. These are detections – the actual number of successful crossings is unquantifiable, though intelligence assessments cited in parliamentary standing committee reports have historically suggested a multiple of four to six times the detected figures.

The Supreme Court addressed this directly in its landmark 2005 judgment in Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India, describing illegal immigration from Bangladesh as an “external aggression” under Article 355 of the Constitution – strong language from the highest court based on evidence presented by the state. The judgment struck down the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act, finding it made deportation effectively impossible and had enabled large-scale settlement in Assam. Assam remains the epicentre of the documented crisis.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) process, completed in 2019 after years of litigation, excluded approximately 1.9 million people from the final list – with both Bengali Hindus and Muslims among the excluded, and subsequent legal challenges complicating finality. The NRC’s credibility as a clean demographic instrument was questioned by courts, civil society, and even nationalist political figures in Assam who found the outcomes politically inconvenient. So, what does HM Shah’s Four-Pillar Framework based on evidence audit look like? The first pillar is predicated on sovereignty arising out of legal grounding. The Supreme Court’s 2005 judgment explicitly

invoked sovereignty concerns.

The Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 was partly designed to address the documentation status of religious minorities from neighbouring countries while the NRC addressed illegal migration. Pillar II invokes concerns of national security. Intelligence assessments have long flagged border districts as areas of predicament for document-fraud networks, smuggling routes, and, in cited cases, linkages to Islamist networks. The National Investigation Agency has filed charge sheets in cases involving forged Aadhaar cards and voter IDs in West Bengal and Assam. However, while the scale of security threat attributable specifically to Bangladeshi illegal immigration – as distinct from other security challenges – is difficult to disaggregate from classified intelligence assessments, recent reports of global jihadist groups like Hamas taking keen interest in India’s neighbourhood have complicated matters.

The conundrum regarding law and order remains the third pillar of HM Shah’s strategy. It is also the site where the evidentiary picture is most granular and contested. The BJP and allied nationalist organisations have cited specific communally motivated cases as illustrative – among them the Tarun Khatic case in Delhi and the Surya Pratap Chauhan case in Ghaziabad – where unchecked demographic change was alleged to intersect with violent crime. Since the verification of the documentary status of accused individuals in such cases runs through judicial processes that are often slow and complex; treating individual criminal cases as demographic data points might be methodologically unreliable but unmistakably indicative.

What is more robustly documented is the strain on law enforcement in high-infiltration districts: a 2019 report by the Assam Police cited significantly elevated caseloads in border districts of Dhubri and South Salmara-Mankachar, with constabularies operating at 60-70 per cent of sanctioned strength relative to population. The argument around demographic change driving the deterioration of social relations (Pillar IV) might appear facetious at first but as layers of criminality surrounding more recent cases of well-oiled and foreign-funded con-



version rackets founde d on cross-religious romantic relationships, coercion, and in a few cases abject physical and mental torture of the victims, unravelled, they underscored the urgent need for an unbiased assessment of demographic change impacting social relations.

PM Modi’s framing – infiltrators “targeting daughters and sisters” – is therefore not unfounded but the claron call of a culture striving to protect its ethos. The Chhangur case in UP and the TCS “love jihad” case in Nashik point towards a more consequential malaise, one that requires a keener view of the manner in which demography, criminality and international terror funding networks operate. Border district data reveals genuine administrative strain. West Bengal’s Murshidabad, Malda, and North 24 Parganas districts – all along the Bangladesh border – show population densities and infrastructure pressures that development economists have tracked for decades.

Murshidabad, with a population exceeding 7 million and a Muslim majority of approximately 66 per cent, has per capita income significantly below the state average and has appeared repeatedly in reports on job competition and economic migration. The political economy of border districts creates conditions where economic migration, identity document fraud, and electoral registration irregularities can intersect – and where political actors of all parties have incentives to exploit or ignore the problem. The Enforcement Directorate and the Election Commission have both documented voter-roll irregularities in border constituencies. BSF detections of illegal crossings rose from 17,478 in 2021 to 27,827 in 2022. Intelligence assessments have suggested crossings may be four to six times higher than detected figures. Shah’s four-pillar framework, however, cannot be read outside

its core focus – national security. While illegal immigration from Bangladesh – particularly Muslim infiltration – has become a cornerstone of electoral strategy in Assam, West Bengal, and in states like Jharkhand, the concerns related to security, demography, and cultural change are real. The analytical challenge lies in distinguishing legitimate documented concerns about illegal immigration and its administrative consequences supported by court judgments, BSF data, and parliamentary committee findings and the negation of such legitimacy by voices politically opposed to the BJP, turning the issue into an electoral boxing match.

The sovereignty and administrative strain arguments made by HM Shah rest on a foundation of documented fact. The Supreme Court, the BSF, and parliamentary oversight mechanisms have all validated core concerns about the scale and consequences of illegal immigration. PM Modi’s warning that demographic change “sows seeds of social tension” is also empirically supportable in terms of population pressure, resource competition, and rapid ethnic change where they do intersect to heighten social tension. Significant modifications have been ushered into the policy responses – border management, document verification infrastructure, development investment in border districts – borne out clearly by the immediate post-poll measures taken by the BJP governments in West Bengal and Assam and the centripetal energy that they derive from the PM Modi-HM Shah combine at the Centre.

Since India’s demographic challenges are uncontestedly real, documented, and deserve serious policy engagement, the four-pillar framework promulgated by Shah demands serious empirical study, a politics-agnostic approach, and policy reformulation on a massive scale.

Parwal is the vegetable ayurveda says can fix skin disease, fever and constipation at the same time

Acharya Balkrishna posted a note on Facebook about parwal, also known as pointed gourd. He explained that this vegetable carries several nutrients important for health. According to his post, parwal strengthens the body’s disease fighting power and reduces stomach swelling. He also pointed to Ayurveda, which credits parwal with healing properties for skin disease, fever, and constipation. He added that people dealing with jaundice should include parwal in their diet too. This small green vegetable is often overlooked in Indian kitchens. But its presence in Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha medicine goes back centuries. Here is what research and traditional knowledge say about each of these claims. Parwal is rich in vitamin A and vita-



min C. Ayurveda credits this vegetable with the ability to boost immunity, partly due to its high vitamin C content. This makes the body less prone to common infections like cold and flu.

than occasional use. **Reducing stomach swelling and aiding digestion**

Parwal carries a good amount of dietary fiber. This fiber supports digestion and helps relieve constipation, with the seeds in particular helping to soften stools. The fiber content helps regulate bowel movements, making parwal useful for overall gastrointestinal health. A small amount of fresh parwal juice is also said to support digestive fire. This matches Balkrishna’s point about parwal easing stomach swelling. A lighter, better functioning gut often shows up as reduced bloating.

Skin disease, fever and constipation

Ayurveda has long used parwal for these three conditions together.

Traditional practice uses pointed gourd for the treatment of skin diseases, fever, and constipation. This is one of the oldest and most repeated uses of the vegetable across Ayurvedic texts. Ayurveda classifies parwal as a Pitta pacifier, which is why it helps with gastric issues, skin infections, and fever, alongside lowering bad cholesterol. Pitta, in Ayurvedic thought, governs heat and inflammation in the body. A vegetable that pacifies Pitta is generally considered cooling and soothing. The juice from parwal leaves is also used for conditions like edema, hair loss, and early stage liver enlargement. This shows the plant’s use goes beyond the fruit itself. Leaves carry their own place in traditional remedies.

UN expert urges Pakistan judiciary to overturn Baloch leaders' 'unjust convictions'

Quetta, June 26 : UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Andrea Bolanos Vargas expressed serious concern over the life sentences handed down to Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shah Ji, calling on Pakistan's judiciary to overturn what she described as "unjust convictions." She cited multiple alleged violations during the proceedings, including denial of fair trial and due process, abuse of antiterrorism laws, criminalisation of peaceful assembly, and double punishment for the same act. The remarks came after a Pakistani Anti-Terrorism Court on Monday sentenced four activists, including Mahrang Baloch, to life imprisonment in connection with a case relating to the killing of a Frontier Corps official, local media reported. Alongside Mahrang Baloch, the court also handed life sentences to Baloch Students



Organisation (BSO) Chairman Balach Qadir, central leader Abu Bakr Kalanchi, and BYC leader Sibghatullah Shahji. "I express grave concern regarding life sentences imposed on WHRD Mahrang Baloch & Sibghatullah Shah, leaders of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, by the Anti-Terrorism Court in Quetta in a secret trial. Violations Identified: denial of fair trial, abuse of antiterrorism laws, criminalisation of peaceful assembly, due process, and double punishment

for the same act. I urge the superior judiciary to overturn manifestly unjust convictions," Vargas posted on X. Earlier on Tuesday, Tara Chand, President of the Baloch American Congress, wrote to US President Donald Trump expressing grave concern over the life imprisonment of Mahrang Baloch, saying the verdict undermines due process and the rights of peaceful political activists. In his letter addressed to President Trump, the Baloch activist said,

"Mahrang Baloch has dedicated her life to peacefully raising awareness about enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and human rights violations in Balochistan. For more than a year, she has remained imprisoned, and she has now been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Pakistani court. We believe this decision raises serious concerns regarding due process, freedom of expression, and the rights of peaceful political activists." "The people of Balochistan continue to suffer from poverty, political repression, and human rights abuses despite the region's vast natural resources. Many families are still searching for loved ones who have disappeared, while those who peacefully demand justice often face intimidation and imprisonment," he added. Several leading human rights organisations also condemned the ruling, describing it as an "affront to fair trial" and a "blatant miscarriage of justice."

450,000 migrant children unaccounted for: US Homeland Security



Washington, June 26 : US Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said that his department was expanding efforts to locate 450,000 migrant children he said were unaccounted for after being released to sponsors during the previous administration, adding that authorities had so far traced 147,000 of them. Testifying before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Mullin described the effort to locate vulnerable migrant children as the Department of Homeland Security's top priority. "This is probably one of the most disgusting and disturbing things that we've dealt with," Mullin told lawmakers. "It is my biggest passion that I have." Mullin said not every child who had been traced was found in danger. "All of them didn't have to be

recovered," he said. "Some of them were where they were supposed to be. They were with a family member and they appeared to be doing OK. But we've had some horrific cases." He said investigations had uncovered trafficking rings in which migrant children were subjected to severe abuse. "There's one that's kind of been out in the media a little bit, where there was a ring of several adults that were keeping kids in an underground bunker in a dungeon," he said. Mullin also described cases involving young girls who, he said, had been repeatedly sexually abused after falling into the hands of traffickers. "You can't make a horror story that bad," he said. Calling the situation preventable, Mullin said DHS was establishing a larger task force to continue searching for migrant children. "It is our mission... to go and find all 450,000 kids," he said. "What frustrates me the most is that this was preventable. And no one can argue that. This was 100 percent preventable." Congressman Juan Ciscomani of Arizona said the issue had remained one of his biggest concerns during

the previous administration. "I can only imagine what you've actually seen," Ciscomani told Mullin. "The biggest victims here are those kids." Mullin said authorities were also seeing an increase in boys becoming victims of trafficking and elderly people being exploited by criminal organisations. The issue resurfaced later during a heated exchange with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, who criticised the Trump administration's family separation policy during its first term. Mullin countered that lawmakers should also focus on the migrant children he said had gone unaccounted for during the previous administration, prompting repeated interventions from the committee chairman as the exchange grew increasingly confrontational. Human trafficking remains a major focus of US federal law enforcement agencies, particularly along migration routes linking Central America, Mexico and the United States. Federal authorities work with state and local agencies to dismantle trafficking networks involved in the sexual exploitation of children and forced labour. Combating human trafficking has been a priority for successive US administrations, although they have sharply differed over immigration and border policies. The welfare of migrant children, detention practices and border enforcement continue to be among the most politically contentious issues in the US immigration debate.

Vegetable Prices Soar in Dharmavaram as Heat Damages Crops

Dharmavaram , June 26: (Skyline Daily) : Vegetable prices have risen sharply across Ananthapuram district over the past two weeks, causing severe hardship for households already burdened by rising prices of essential commodities and cooking oils. The sudden spike in prices is being attributed to damage caused to pre-summer vegetable crops by the intense heat this year. With local production falling short of demand, traders are now sourcing vegetables from other areas, pushing prices higher in markets across the district. Market sources said the situation is likely to continue until the new crop arrives. Usually, vegetable prices remain high during summer and begin to ease with the onset of the monsoon. This year, however, the trend has been reversed, with prices climbing steeply within just two weeks. The ongoing conflict in West Asia has already led to an increase in the prices of essential goods and cooking oils, and the rise in vegetable prices has added to the distress of ordinary families. Vegetable cultivation is



spread across several mandals in the district, including Dharmavaram, B u k k a p a t n a m , Puttaparthi, Mudigubba, Battalapalli, N.P. Kunta, Talupala, Tadimarri, ODC and Gorantla. Farmers say they are being paid low prices at the farm level, while the same produce is being sold in markets at nearly double the rate. Prices of several vegetables have increased significantly in the last fortnight. A kilogram of carrots, which was priced at Rs. 60 two weeks ago, is now selling for Rs. 80. Brinjals have gone up from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, cucumbers from Rs. 60 to Rs. 90, and green chillies from Rs. 40 to Rs. 80. Beetroot prices have also risen, with some varieties increasing from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 and others from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60. In some

markets, cucumber prices have climbed from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, while beetroot has also been sold at Rs. 63 per kilogram in certain lots. Tomatoes, however, have seen a slight decline from Rs. 50 to Rs. 40, and okra has come down from Rs. 50 to Rs. 40. Housewives said the steep rise in prices has made daily cooking difficult. "Recently, we are facing a severe financial burden due to the significant increase in vegetable prices. We are already suffering because of the rise in the prices of essential commodities. Now vegetables have also doubled in price. If this continues, we will not be able to cook the way we want. The government should take immediate steps and control the prices," said Sarojamma, a housewife

from Dharmavaram. Another resident, Gautami, said the rising prices have left families confused about what to buy each day. "Currently, vegetable prices have increased drastically. Earlier, if we went to the market with Rs. 300, we could bring home a bag full of vegetables. Now, even four or five types of vegetables are not available for that amount. It is costing up to Rs. 600. People are now confused about what vegetables to buy every day. The government should take steps to reduce prices," she said. With supply remaining tight and demand continuing to rise, traders fear that vegetable prices may remain elevated for some more time unless fresh arrivals increase in the coming weeks.

India holds first-ever mango promotion events in Iceland to boost exports

New Delhi, June 26 : India has stepped up efforts to expand exports of its premium mangoes by organising its first-ever mango promotion events in Iceland, showcasing leading varieties and highlighting opportunities to strengthen agricultural trade between the two countries, the government said on Friday. The events -- organised by the Embassy of India in Reykjavik in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) -- were held in Reykjavik and Akureyri, North Iceland, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said. On the occasion, Indian Ambassador to Iceland R. Ravindra highlighted the unique qualities of India's globally renowned mango varieties and underscored the significant potential for

increasing exports to the Icelandic market. Meanwhile, Director of Trade Agreements at Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sveinn K. Einarsson, said the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) could create new opportunities for greater imports of Indian mangoes into Iceland. Olafur Stephensen, Secretary General of the Icelandic Federation of Trade has noted that the growing interest among Icelandic businesses in India and expressed optimism about expanding imports of Indian agricultural products, particularly mangoes. Second Secretary at the Indian Embassy, Anisha Tomar, highlighted India's position as the world's largest producer of mangoes and outlined the government's initiatives to promote exports



through quality assurance, improved market access and international outreach. The government further stated that the events brought together importers, representatives of the diplomatic community, Icelandic businesses and officials from the country's Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Guests sampled four premium Indian mango varieties -- Dasheri, Chausa,

Langra and Kesar -- which received an enthusiastic response for their flavour, aroma and quality. The events also served as a platform to strengthen commercial linkages and promote Indian agricultural exports, it added. Moreover, Iceland imported mangoes worth around \$3.3 million in 2025, with Thailand accounting for nearly \$1 million of the shipments.

India ranks 4th in Hurun global list with 61 unicorns



New Delhi, June 26 : India retained its position among the world's leading startup ecosystems with 61 unicorns, ranking fourth globally in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026. The country continued to be one of the world's largest startup hubs, with Bengaluru retaining its status as India's unicorn capital with 25 unicorns, followed by Mumbai with

13. India's highest-valued unicorns represented sectors such as brokerage, quick commerce and fintech. Meanwhile, six Indian unicorns also debuted on the public markets during the year, reflecting an improving IPO environment. The report also highlighted the growing global influence of Indian entrepreneurs.

Indians have co-founded 217 unicorns worldwide of which 156 are based outside India, including 142 in the United States, while the remaining 61 operate within the country. Collectively, these companies are valued at nearly \$600 billion. According to the report, Indian founders are increasingly shaping the global AI and fintech landscape through several companies. In addition, artificial intelligence emerged as the biggest driver of wealth creation in the global startup ecosystem, with AI unicorns accounting for 36 per cent of the total value of all unicorns worldwide. Although AI unicorns numbered 215 -- almost the same as fintech's 216 -

- they commanded significantly higher valuations. Hurun Chairman Rupert Hoogewerf said 2026 marked the year AI evolved from theme to engine, with the race to develop advanced AI models creating the next generation of global technology giants. Globally, a record 308 startups attained unicorn status during the year -- almost one every day -- while 75 unicorns went public and 64 exited through mergers and acquisitions. At the same time, 88 companies lost their unicorn status after their valuations fell below the \$1 billion mark. The United States remained the world's largest unicorn ecosystem with 806 unicorns.

Italy denies role in US strikes on Iran, urges Tehran to reopen Strait of Hormuz

Italy has denied participating in any military action against Iran after Tehran raised objections over the alleged use of Italian territory during recent US operations. At the same time, Rome has urged Iran to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz to allow commercial shipping, including Italian cargo vessels, to resume normal movement. The diplomatic exchange comes after remarks attributed to NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte triggered political and diplomatic reactions in both Italy and Iran. Italian leaders have rejected suggestions that the country supported military operations against Iran through its military bases. Italy tells Iran its bases were not used for attacks



Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said he conveyed Italy's position directly to his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi during a telephone conversation. In a post on X, Tajani said, "I spoke with the Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi. Italy has never taken part in any military initiative and has never authorized the use of bases for war actions against Iran, in the strictest respect of the treaties with the United States." He added that Italy had requested the "return to full opening of the Strait of Hormuz," saying the move would help cargo ships that remain stranded in the waterway. Tajani also described the reopening of the Italian Embassy in Tehran as "a strong signal of dialogue," saying it could support the revival of economic and cultural relations between the two countries. Defence minister cites official flight data Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto also disputed suggestions that Italian bases had played an expanded operational role during what was referred to as the "Epic

Fury" period. In a post on X, Crosetto said the number of aircraft transiting through Sigonella and Aviano during that period was lower than the figures recorded every year between 2019 and 2025. "For informational purposes, the number of flights in transit at Sigonella and Aviano during the Epic Fury period was far lower than the number of flights in transit in the years: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019," he wrote, adding that the figures were based on official Defence Ministry data. Iran cites international law after NATO remarks Iran, however, maintained that countries allowing their territory to be used for attacks could bear international responsibility. Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said on X that providing territory for another state to carry out aggression constitutes an act of aggression under UN General Assembly Resolution 3314. "The statements of the NATO Secretary General regarding the use by the United States of Italian and Romanian bases in an attack on Iran give rise to the international responsibility of these coun-

tries," he said. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei also said Italy and Romania had been explicitly named by NATO's secretary-general as participants in the aggression against Iran. **NATO chief's remarks trigger controversy** According to Politico, the controversy followed comments made by NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte during an interview with Fox News before his meeting with US President Donald Trump in Washington. Rutte said Rome had allowed around 500 US military aircraft to operate from American bases in Italy during US and Israeli strikes on Iran. He also said that European allies had collectively made military bases available for operations, resulting in between 4,000 and 5,000 aircraft departures linked to "Epic Fury." Politico reported that the Italian government, led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, had earlier maintained that only logistical and technical flights permitted under the bilateral agreement governing US military bases in Italy would be allowed to use the country's facilities for operations connected to the Middle East.

Rajamouli confirms major Varanasi shoot is complete

S S Rajamouli has finally dropped a big update on Varanasi, and it is enough to send Mahesh Babu fans into a frenzy.

The filmmaker revealed that a major portion of the shoot has already been completed, including all the big spectacle action sequences.

The team is now working on smaller connecting scenes, and Rajamouli hopes to wrap up the shoot by September or early October.

“What I can say is we have completed a major portion of the shoot. All the important big spectacle action sequences are done,” Rajamouli said in an interview with Variety.

That one line has now become the biggest talking point around the film.

Varanasi, starring Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra, is already being described as Rajamouli’s most ambitious film yet.

The story is reportedly set across thousands of years and multiple locations, including Antarctica, with the holy city of Varanasi facing an asteroid threat.

The film is also being partly shot on 70mm IMAX film, making it one of the biggest visual experi-



ments in Indian cinema.

Rajamouli said the film was not changed just to suit the IMAX format.

According to him, the sequences were designed in such a grand way from the beginning that IMAX naturally became the right choice.

He admitted that framing scenes for both IMAX and regular CinemaScope took some adjustment in the first few days, but the team soon found its rhythm.

While Varanasi is moving forward at full speed, Rajamouli is also involved with Baahubali: The Eternal War, the animated

expansion of the Baahubali universe.

The project is directed by Ishan Shukla and aims to take the franchise into a much bigger mythological space.

Rajamouli said the world of Baahubali is already well developed, which makes it easier to expand. Once he was convinced that Ishan understood the characters and the spirit of the franchise, he stepped back and allowed the team to take charge.

The director also strongly believes that animation is the right medium to take Baahubali to the next level.

According to him, Indian stories are full of colour, emotion and scale, and animation allows those elements to be explored more freely than live action.

Rajamouli said emotion is always the seed of spectacle in his cinema. For him, the big visual moments are not separate from emotion; they grow out of it.

Meanwhile, Varanasi is also expected to get a major boost from the return of IMAX to Hyderabad.

Rajamouli said it was high time Hyderabad had an IMAX theatre again, adding that Telugu audiences are among the biggest film lovers in the world.

He recalled that Hyderabad once had one of the best IMAX 70mm projectors at Prasads IMAX, but the city lost that advantage after IMAX moved into the digital era. Now, with Varanasi aiming for a 2027 release and IMAX returning to Hyderabad, the timing could not be better.

Rajamouli has already conquered India and shocked the world with Baahubali and RRR. With Varanasi, he seems ready to push Indian cinema into an even bigger, wilder and more global zone



Allu Arjun's AA23 Look Test Set In Mumbai

While Allu Arjun is currently busy shooting for Raaka under Atlee’s direction, preparations for his next film with director Lokesh Kanagaraj are quietly gaining momentum.

Although the shooting of the project, tentatively referred to as AA23, is not expected to begin anytime soon, Lokesh Kanagaraj has already initiated work on the film. The director is reportedly planning look tests for Allu Arjun.

Since Allu Arjun has been spending most of his time in Mumbai for the filming of Raaka, he is said to have requested Lokesh to conduct the look tests there itself. As a result, Mumbai has become the base for the initial pre-production activities of AA23.

Meanwhile, industry circles are abuzz with specu-



lation that Pooja Hegde’s recent short-hair makeover could be linked to this project.

However, there is no official confirmation yet regarding her involvement or whether she will play the female lead.

Sources say Lokesh Kanagaraj is keen on utilising the waiting period productively. Rather than waiting for

Allu Arjun to complete Raaka, he plans to finish most of the pre-production work, including script development, music sittings, character designs and look tests.

The filmmaker is reportedly aiming to have everything ready so that the project can move into production without delay once Allu Arjun becomes available.

Overseas rights battle begins for Chennai Love Story

Chennai Love Story is steadily building momentum ahead of its release.

The makers have been regularly unveiling songs and promotional content, and the response so far has generated decent traction among audiences, especially on social media.

The latest buzz surrounding the film is about its overseas business.

Industry sources reveal that the film has received a fancy offer of around Rs 4 crore for its overseas rights. However, the producers are reportedly holding out for a better deal and are said to be quoting Rs 4.5 crore.

Whether buyers agree to that valuation remains to be seen, but the negotiations indicate a fair level



of confidence in the project.

Part of that confidence comes from the presence of Kiran Abbavaram in the lead role.

The actor has managed to build a

reasonable following in the overseas market, particularly in the USA, thanks to the success and visibility of films like KA and K-Ramp.

Adding to the film’s appeal is producer Sai Rajesh, who continues to enjoy goodwill following the blockbuster success of his directorial venture Baby.

As a result, trade circles believe the film is entering the market with healthy expectations. However, everything ultimately depends on audience reception.

If Chennai Love Story manages to generate positive word of mouth after release, it could enjoy a strong and sustained box office run.

That remains the biggest hope for both the makers and prospective buyers. For now, all eyes are on how the film performs when it finally hits theatres.

Kalki 2898AD webseries is coming

One of the most stunning films made with Prabhas post the Baahubali era is none other than “Kalki 2898 AD” which is directed by Nag Ashwin. Though made with a stupendous budget, invested by Ashwini Dutt’s Vyjayanthi Movies, the film did very well at the box office. As the shooting of Kalki 2 is going on at the moment, here comes exclusive information about the next steps of the director.

Like how Rajamouli is taking Baahubali to the next level by bringing a spin-off story from the Mahishmathi Universe, by bringing the animated Baahubali The Eternals, now Nag Ashwin is also doing a similar experiment. He’s



said to be coming up with a special web series that is woven around Dulquer Salman’s character

in the film, who is the commander of a ship and father of Prabhas’ character in the film.

Whether Dulquer plays the lead or not is yet to be known, but Nag Ashwin is said to have developed a 90-minute story for the same. Similarly, the character of Sumathi, played by Deepika Padukone earlier, and Sai Pallavi now in Kalki 2, will also feature a similar 90 mins story developed for SonyLiv. Whether these will be animated series or live action is also not known, but Nag Ashwin is seriously developing them at the moment.

On the other hand, many are wondering and looking forward to the triangular fight of Prabhas, Kamal Haasan and Amitabh Bachchan in Kalki 2, which is likely to hit cinemas next year.

OG2: Pawan Is More Excited Than Fans

Pawan Kalyan fans are flying over the moon. The reason is simple. The much anticipated sequel/prequel to his gangster drama OG is likely to go on floors much earlier than expected as per the recent developments.

After the disappointment of Ustaad Bhagat Singh, it appeared like Pawan Kalyan will take a brief sabbatical from movies because of his political commitments in the NDA government of Andhra Pradesh and as the head of Janasena party. Even fans also believed that the wait is going to be so long as Pawan is not much keen to take up new projects. Though this sequel was promised at the time when OG hit the screens, many expected that it is not going to happen any time sooner because of Pawan Kalyan’s busy involvement in politics and also due to Sujeeth’s obligations with other actors. However, this speculation turned out to be wrong.

All of a sudden, much to the excitement of fans, dropped an unexpected update from Pawan Kalyan’s production house last week about his potential reunion with director Sujeeth for none other than the second



installment of OG. It was announced that the discussions between the actor and director will take place very soon.

In no time, both Pawan Kalyan and Sujeeth met earlier this week and had a brief discussion about the highly awaited collaboration. The story sittings triggered a massive buzz because Pawan Kalyan seemed so elated with Sujeeth’s narration and also deeply involved in the character arc during this meeting.

Taking the excitement to a whole new level, Pawan Kalyan has now posted about this earth-shattering combination through his official X handle just a while ago. He quoted the video of his production house and wrote “ You asked, We heard... Welcome to OG

Universe.” This post has sent fans into an unprecedented range of enthusiasm because Pawan Kalyan hardly talks about his movies except for the promotional events. He never posted anything about his films on his social media account despite having millions of followers. So, his intense involvement in OG sequel has come as a big shock to his fans as well.

Pawan Kalyan’s mood and mannerisms during the promotions of OG were of a different level. He displayed great energy levels and involved thoroughly in the making of OG because of the vintage character penned by Sujeeth. Undoubtedly, OG has given him utmost satisfaction as an actor in recent times.

Mokshagna’s Debut: Back To Square One!!

A decade ago, it was reported that none other than Sukumar would launch Mokshagna, and later, the name of the usual suspect, YVS Chowdhary, was also heard in this connection.

Usually, star kids make their debut at just 20 years of age and then go on to become the top stars by 30 years of age. However, despite hitting his 30th birthday, Nandanmuri Balakrishna’s only son, Mokshagna, hasn’t made his debut on the silver screen. While fans have been looking for the ‘Varasudu’ entry on the silver screen for almost a decade, to date, that hasn’t happened.

A decade ago, it was reported that none other than Sukumar would launch Mokshagna, and later, the name of the usual suspect, YVS Chowdhary, was also heard in this connection. Later, it has come out that none of that is true, and Boyapati Sreenu will launch him. Then names like Anil Ravipudi and others are also heard, but nothing materialised. However, Mokshagna also put on weight and never looked like a hero, but later he shed pounds and turned in like a hero.

And then came the name of Prashanth Varma, with Sudhakar Cherukuri as the producer, but that too didn’t take off. Now, the producer has become a co-investor for Balakrishna’s 112th film, thus clearing that he’s no longer connected to Mokshagna’s movie. So what’s next for the young chap?

Needless to say, whether that is Balakrishna’s directorial for his son, Aditya 999 or any other film, currently, nothing is in the pipeline for Mokshagna in terms of a film launch. Everything came to square one



Despite rumours, Trivikram working hard to complete ‘Adarsha Kutumbam’

“Adarsha Kutumbam” (AK), starring Venkatesh and directed by Trivikram, has been the subject of several rumors in recent weeks.

While speculation suggests that the film has been delayed significantly and may not release until next year, sources indicate that the project remains very much on track.

Initially, the film was planned to be completed within six months.

However, the production encountered a few hurdles along the way, including a change in the music department. Harshavardhan Rameshwar, who was originally on board, was replaced by Thaman.

The project faced another challenge when a recently released Tamil film reportedly featured scenes



and situations that resembled some of the episodes Trivikram had planned for “Adarsha Kutumbam.”

To avoid similarities, the director is said to have reworked portions of the script and rewritten several sequences, resulting in further delays.

These developments fueled rumors that the film had been pushed to 2027. However, sources close to the production

dismiss such speculation. They say Trivikram is working intensively to complete the remaining portions and that the entire production is expected to be wrapped up by August.

As of now, there is no indication that “Adarsha Kutumbam” will be postponed to 2027. The team remains focused on finishing the film and preparing it for release.

Tella Kaagitha: Chila song makes your hearts flutter

Thella Kaagitham is a refreshing romantic tale starring Harsh Roshan and Nakshatra.

Produced by Krishna Kommalapati under the Arunachala creations banner, the film promises an engaging blend of romance, emotions, and music.

Positioned as a musical romantic drama, the film delves into the beauty of young love, heartfelt emotions, and the bonds that shape meaningful relationships.

Adding depth to the narrative, music director Vijai Bulganin crafts a captivating musical backdrop with his melodious compositions.

Kicking off the film’s musical journey, the makers have unveiled the first single, “Chilaka,” today. Composed by Vijai Bulganin, the song is a charming melody filled with warmth, freshness, and uplifting vibes that



instantly resonate with listeners.

Acclaimed singer Anurag Kulkarni brings the track to life with his expressive rendition, perfectly capturing its romantic essence.

Complementing the tune, Purna Chary’s lyrical lines are both memorable and poetic, making the song instantly appealing.

The visuals further highlight the sweet and innocent romance shared by Harsh Roshan and Nakshatra during their

school years, adding to the song’s emotional appeal. Creative responsibilities are being handled by an experienced team.

Writer Nandu Savirigana has crafted the story, screenplay, and dialogues, while debut director Ramesh Bandreddi takes charge of direction. Music composer Vijai Bulganin, cinematographer K. V. Guhan, and editor Karthika Srinivas form part of the talented technical crew backing the film.

Being world No. 1 is not my priority at the moment: Shree Charani

New Delhi, June 26 : India spinner Shree Charani reflected on becoming the No. 1 T20I bowler in the world and said being top-ranked is not her priority at the moment; instead, she is completely focusing on the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup, where she became India's highest wicket-taker in single edition. The left-arm spinner also became the highest wicket-taker for India in a single edition of the tournament during the clash against Bangladesh at Old Trafford. The 21-year-old achieved the milestone in the 20th over of Bangladesh's innings when she dismissed Shorna Akter to claim her 11th wicket of the tournament, surpassing Poonam Yadav's previous Indian record of 10 wickets set during the 2020 edition. "To be honest, right now my focus is completely on the World Cup. We are in the middle of the tournament, and that is all that matters to me. I'm not thinking about being the number one ranked T20I bowler or any individual rankings. "Those things are nice to have, but they are not my priority at the moment. I just want to focus on my bowling, stick to my



plans, perform well for the team and win the World Cup. If I keep doing that, everything else will take care of itself," Charani said on JioStar. Reflecting on her performance against Bangladesh, she added, "I just kept things simple; I didn't try to do anything extra and focused on what I had practiced. My line, length, and variations and I knew that if I kept hitting the right areas, the wickets would come. The pitch had a little bit of help, so I just stuck to my strengths and let the ball do the rest." India dropped Juairiya Ferdous three times as she top-scored with 33 in the Tigresses' 136/8. "I didn't get frustrated by the catches dropped off

my bowling. Dropped catches are part of the game. It happens to every bowler at some point. You can't control what happens after the ball leaves your hand. "All you can do is keep bowling in the right areas and trust your teammates. I don't let it affect my focus. I believe that if you keep doing the right things, the rewards will come. At the end of the day, whatever is written for me, it will come," she added. Shafali Verma produced a player-of-the-match performance as India beat Bangladesh by five wickets to boost their semi-final hopes. The result leaves India second in Group A with three wins from four

matches ahead of a mouth-watering clash with leaders Australia. Speaking about India's mindset going into the must-win game against Australia, the spinner said, "Yes, the Australia game is going to be an important one. We want to win and finish on top of the group stage. But we are not going to treat it any differently. We are going to keep things simple."There's no need to overthink. We have played against them before, and we know what to expect. It's about executing our skills on the day. One game at a time. That has been our approach throughout this tournament, and we will continue with the same mindset."

Vaibhav impresses with huge shots in the nets.. BCCI shares video



New Delhi, June 26 : Team India is ready for the first T20 match against Ireland. As this match is going to be played today in Belfast, the Indian players have been practicing hard. However, 15-year-old young player Vaibhav Suryavanshi stood out as a special attraction in this practice session. He worked hard in the nets along with the senior players. Although it is not known whether he will get a place in the final team or not, Vaibhav has attracted everyone's attention with his practice. He batted

strongly without any fear in the bowling of the Indian bowlers. He showed his power by playing big shots in the nets. The BCCI has shared a video of Vaibhav's practice on its official 'X' (Twitter) account. In this video, he is seen hitting boundaries casually. Vaibhav, a teenage opener, was seen practicing various shots for the match against Ireland. His batting style and confidence are being praised by sports fans. It is a privilege to get the opportunity to practice in the nets with the Indian team at such a young age.

Ashwin's key advice to 15-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi!



Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has given key advice to 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who is set to make his debut in international cricket. He advised him to enjoy the game to the fullest without thinking about pressure at this age. In an interview with BBC, Ashwin said, "Vaibhav is now a 15-year-old boy. Just like he played gully cricket in his village, he should enjoy this game as well. There will be pressure in the future. At some point, cricket will become a profession. But right now, he should play without any burden and entertain the audience." Ashwin praised Vaibhav as a player with extraordi-

nary talent. "You can immediately recognize special players when you see them. I saw the same in Vaibhav. Not only his batting, but the way he changes his game to suit experienced bowlers was also impressive," he said. Recently, Vaibhav scored a half-century in just 11 balls for India-A against Sri Lanka-A in the final of the Tri-Nation Series. He set a record for the fastest half-century in List-A cricket. He scored 94 runs in 29 balls and gave the team the title. He already has many records to his name, such as being the youngest to win the Orange Cap in the IPL, the fastest to complete 1000 runs, and the youngest to score a century in T20Is.

You can't undermine any team: SL batter Samarawickrama believes Women's T20 WC semis still within reach

Manchester, June 26 : Top-order batter Harshitha Samarawickrama has said Sri Lanka still have belief they can qualify for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 semi-finals ahead of their final Group B game against Scotland at Old Trafford. While Sri Lanka currently sit in fourth place in Group B ahead of their fixture against Scotland in Manchester on Friday, there is still an outside chance the island nation can qualify for the knockout stages should results fall their way over the next few days. Sri Lanka need to win on Friday and hope the West Indies and New Zealand falter against Ireland and England, respectively, the following day. They also require a net run-rate swing, a factor Samarawickrama says has been incorporated into their game plan. Samarawickrama feels it has been a tournament of progress for the ICC's seventh-ranked nation, following their winless campaign in 2024. Their final assignment is against Scotland, who have impressed in their second ICC Women's T20 World Cup appearance, claiming their first win against Ireland and pushing the West Indies and New Zealand close. "In the 2024 World Cup, we didn't play good cricket. This year, we have played really good cricket. We won against New Zealand, which was a great achievement in Sri Lankan cricket. Scotland are one of the best upcoming teams, so it's a great challenge for us. "You can't undermine any team in this World Cup, everybody's play-

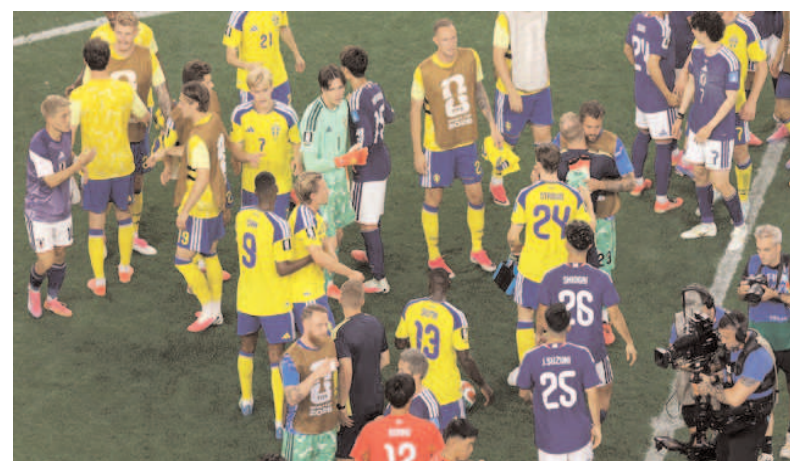


ing good cricket. We are going to take it one step at a time, make sure we win first, and then think about the net run-rate, but we believe we can do it," Samarawickrama was quoted by the ICC. Sri Lanka be hoping for another big performance from their captain Chamari Athapaththu, after she fired an emphatic unbeaten century to steer her side past Ireland on Tuesday. Athapaththu hit an unbeaten 106 from just 61 deliveries in a Player of the Match performance as Sri Lanka kept their semi-final hopes alive at the T20 World Cup. "She's a legend, a living legend in Sri Lankan cricket. She plays really good cricket, and she's a role model for us. She always shares her own knowledge and it's a great honour to play with her," Samarawickrama said of her skipper. While Sri Lanka are gunning for qualification to the semi-

finals, Scotland are hoping to sew up a place in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2028. With the top four sides in each group securing a spot, a win would take them side above Sri Lanka and into fourth spot. Scottish all-rounder Priyanaz Chatterji said, "We are going into the game to try and win it; we probably haven't played a complete game of cricket. There have been periods across games where we have been very good, whether that be with the bat, with the ball or in the field. But we still feel like we have got more to give. "The implications of the win mean we would qualify for the next World Cup without having to go through the qualification process, so there is a lot at stake in that game." Chatterji won her 150th Scotland cap against England at Headingley, with the huge crowd a far cry from her debut in 2008.

FIFA WC: Battling draw sends Japan and Sweden through to knockouts

Arlington, June 26 : Daizen Maeda and Anthony Elanga traded quick-fire goals as a hard-fought 1-1 draw has taken Japan and Sweden through to the FIFA World Cup 2026 knockout stage. Japan arrived at Dallas Stadium knowing a draw would secure a top-two finish, while Sweden needed all three points to leapfrog their opponents into second place. Japan, who qualified as Group F runners-up, will now face Brazil in Houston on June 30, while Sweden must wait to see who they will take on as secure rupd of 32 spot as one of the eight best third-placed teams. Daizen Maeda opened the scoring in the second half, putting the finishing touch on a flowing Japan move 11 minutes after the break. Sweden didn't take that hit lying down, though, and hit back just six minutes later. Anthony Elanga picked the ball up on the right wing, cut inside and curled a sumptuous left-footed effort into the corner. Graham Potter's side came closest to winning it when Alexander Isak had a



header tipped on to the bar by Zion Suzuki late on. Japan soon began to assert control, dictating the tempo and forcing Graham Potter's charges deep inside their own half. Daizen Maeda headed narrowly wide early on, before Yukinari Sugawara tested Jacob Zetterstrom for the first time. Keito Nakamura went even closer to breaking the deadlock, but his cleverly disguised effort was brilliantly tipped around the post, reports FIFA.

Japan broke the deadlock ten minutes after the restart when Maeda latched on to a superb Ritsu Doan through ball and finished smartly into the corner. Their lead lasted just a few minutes, though, with Anthony Elanga firing in a ferocious 20-yard shot to restore parity. With Sweden in the ascendancy, Zion Suzuki denied Alexander Isak and Elanga goals that would have sent Sweden through in second place as a gripping contest ended all square.

Radha and other international stars hail ICC Player Protection Programme in fight against online abuse

London, June 26 : India spinner Radha Yadav and host international stars have praised the ICC's Player Protection Programme, saying it offers a much-needed solution to the growing toxicity on social media, as more than 100 women cricketers signed up for the initiative during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The program, in partnership with Freedom2hear, helps protect international cricketers from abusive content by filtering harmful comments and limiting repeat offenders on social media platforms. "Social media can be an incredible way for me to connect with friends, family, and fans worldwide, but it has also become a more toxic space, especially for female athletes," Radha said. "It's important to discuss this openly and find solutions, which is why I signed up for the ICC Player Protection Programme." There were over 50 new sign-ups before the start of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, while the service provides additional protection across official ICC social media accounts. Seven of the 12 teams competing



at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 are protected, with umpires and broadcasters also registered. The ICC said that after the first week of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, the tool had reviewed nearly 250,000 comments and removed almost 60,000 harmful pieces of content. More than 2,000 repeat offenders had temporary restrictions put on their interactions, and 370 users were blocked. England wicketkeeper-batter Amy Jones said the program helps players handle the negative side of social media. "It's something we sadly have to face as international athletes in the public eye, and it can affect you negatively when you are just trying to play the game

your best. We have a great relationship with most of our fans, and we enjoy interacting with them in person and online, where we can show what we do. "But the downside is that some people choose to abuse you instead. It's great that companies are working to clean things up and offer us some protection. For the ICC to fully support this kind of service is fantastic. This program prioritises our wellbeing, and that's a good thing." The ICC first launched the Player Protection Programme ahead of the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup a key component of the ICC's wider approach to player wellbeing and safeguarding. It has been operated across all ICC events

since then, helping participants engage confidently with fans while reducing exposure to harmful online content. Scotland wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Bryce, one of the program's early participants, said it has changed the online experience for players. "It's nice to have that peace of mind because many players, especially young ones, use social media a lot," Bryce said. "It's important we find ways to make social media as safe as possible, especially for young athletes who are likely more active online and more vulnerable to negative comments. I think it's extremely important, and it's great the ICC is on board, giving all players the chance to have this protection," she added.

A new phase in Quick Commerce.. The real fight is not for speed, but for survival!

India's fastest growing e-commerce sector is entering a new phase. From delivering in just 10-15 minutes, companies are now focusing on sustainable profitability, operational efficiency and unit economics. Strategies in the sector are changing rapidly as major players like Blinkit, Zepto and Swiggy Instamart face stiff competition from Flipkart and Amazon. So far, the sector has seen unprecedented growth driven by consumer demand in urban areas. Blinkit, owned by Etemal (formerly Zomato), currently leads the e-commerce market with a share of around 45-50%. It has the largest network of 2,243 dark stores in over 200 cities across the country. Zepto and Swiggy Instamart are in the next position with a share of 20-25% each. Swiggy Instamart operated 1,143 dark stores and Zepto 1,139 at the end of FY26. Adding to the competition, Flipkart has ramped up its 'Flipkart Minutes' operations. It has already set up 1,000 micro-fulfillment centres and is targeting 1,500 dark stores across 180 cities. On the other hand, Amazon is also making big plans to expand its 'Amazon Now' services to 300 cities. Amazon has taken this sector seriously as part of its \$48 billion investment plan in India. According to analysts, the future of the companies will depend not only on fast delivery but also on factors like customer retention, improving the supply chain and generating profits. The main reason for this strategic shift is also the shift in investor expectations from 'rapid growth' to 'sustainable business models'. In this context, companies are expanding their revenue streams by delivering electronics, beauty, and lifestyle products in addition to essential goods.



FIFA World Cup is breaking records.. All-time record in goals and audience attendance!



FIFA World Cup 2026 has created a new history. It has set rare records as the edition with the highest number of goals in the history of the tournament, and at the same time, as the tournament with the highest number of spectators. This tournament is unique in that it has reached these historical milestones before the knockout stage has even begun. The tournament with the highest number of goals in history! Today's Group D match between the co-hosts, the United States and Turkey, was the stage for this historic event. In this match, the total number of goals in this tournament reached 173. With this, the record of 172 goals recorded in a total of 64 matches at the Qatar venue in 2022 has been broken. What is remarkable is that this milestone was reached in just the 59th match. In this thrilling match, Turkey

won 3-2, taking the total number of goals scored in the tournament to 177. The main reason for this flood of goals is the expansion of the World Cup, which was previously held with 32 teams, to 48 teams this time. This increased the total number of matches from 64 to 104. As a result, there were more opportunities to score goals and set new records. Breaking the audience record! Not only in goals, the FIFA World Cup 2026 has created history in terms of audience attendance. So far, a total of 36,05,357 fans have flocked to the stadiums to watch the matches. This is the highest in the history of the World Cup. This tournament has surpassed the attendance record of 3.5 million registered in the 1994 edition held in the United States. Moreover, on June 17, a total of 2,81,223 people attended four matches in a single day, setting the highest daily attendance record.

Former PM PV's birth anniversary to be celebrated in Visakhapatnam on 28th



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 26
The PV Narasimha Rao Jayanti Utsav Committee has announced that the birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister, multilingual scholar and Telugu national darling Bharat Ratna Pamulaparthi Venkata Narasimha Rao will be celebrated on the 28th of this month in Visakhapatnam. Committee President Keshapragada Narasimha Murthy and Convener Cheruvu Ramakotayya revealed the details of the program at a media conference held at Shankara Math on Friday. He praised PV Narasimha Rao, who took charge as Prime Minister at a time when India was facing a severe economic crisis, for leading the country on the path of development with his foresight and political acumen. He said that he will forever be remembered as a

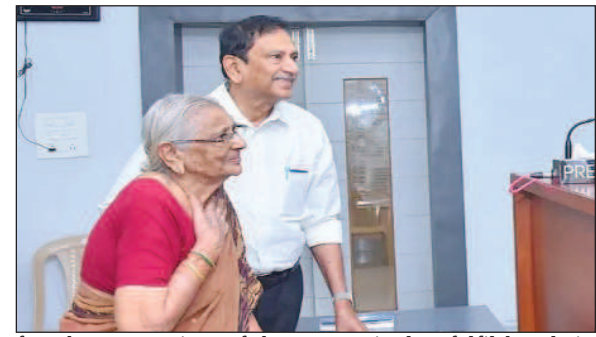
great leader who initiated economic reforms and enhanced India's prestige on the world stage. He said that this program is being organized irrespective of politics, parties, caste and religion, and arrangements have been made for people from all sections of the society to participate. He said that after garlanding the statue of P.V. Narasimha Rao at 9.30 am and paying homage, a main meeting will be held at Dasapalla Hotel at 10 am. He said that former Rajya Sabha member GVL Narasimha Rao will preside over the program, and Visakh MP M. Sribharat, TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao, BJP state president PVN Madhav, leaders of Congress, Jana Sena, BJP, TDP and other parties, public representatives and celebrities will be present. Narasimha Murthy expressed his regret that despite repeated requests to the government to undertake

appropriate repairs to the first PV Narasimha Rao statue installed in Visakhapatnam, there has been no response. He said that it has been decided to have the statue repaired under the auspices of the committee and organize the Jayanti program on a grander scale. The main objective of the Jayanti celebrations is to introduce the aspirations of PV Narasimha Rao and his services for the development of the country to the youth, and he urged the people, intellectuals and public representatives to attend in large numbers to make the program a success. Vedula Hanumanth Rao, Rachakonda Dasharatha Ramaiah, Ganti Ravikumar, Charan Kumar, Ganti Murali, Shiva Ganesh Sharma, Gadepalli Prabhakara Sastry, Vedula Ramakrishna, Nerella Kameswara Sharma, Koligatla Subramaniam and others participated in this meeting.

94-Year-Old Andhra Woman Gives Up US Passport, Wants To Die As Indian

Guntur, June 26: For many Indians, moving to countries like the United States or Canada is seen as a matter of pride, success and social status. But a 94-year-old woman from Andhra Pradesh has shown that for some, nothing is more precious than being called an Indian. Konda Mahalakshamma, a 94-year-old US citizen, has appealed for the restoration of her Indian citizenship, saying she wishes to "die as an Indian" in her native village in Andhra Pradesh. The matter came up for hearing before Bapatla District Collector V Vinod Kumar at

the PGRS Hall in the Collectorate Mahalakshamma originally belongs to Chinthagumpala village in Chinaganjam mandal. According to officials, she moved to the United States after the death of her husband, Nagabhushanam. She lived with her son, oncologist Dr K Buchaiah Choudhary, and acquired US citizenship in July 2000. After spending nearly two decades abroad, she returned to India in 2018 and settled in her native village. Since returning, Mahalakshamma has voluntarily given up her US citizenship and applied online



for the restoration of her Indian citizenship. As part of the process, she recited the oath of allegiance in Telugu with the help of an official. She pledged true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and

promised to fulfil her duties as a citizen. "Following the oath, district staff presented official documents for verification. She was carefully guided to sign at the designated places as part of the legal formalities.

The process concluded with a district official announcing in English that the oath of allegiance had been successfully taken in the presence of the Collector and District Magistrate," Collector Vinod Kumar said. During the proceedings, Mahalakshamma told officials that she wants to spend the rest of her life in her homeland and have her last rites performed in India. The Collector assured that all steps are being taken in accordance with citizenship laws and that the final decision now rests with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Commendable opening of the first sports orthopaedic clinic at Visakhapatnam KIMS

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 26
The state's first sports orthopaedic clinic opened on Friday at KIMS Hospitals, Seethamadhara, a boon for athletes and fitness enthusiasts. Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Dr. Shankhabrata Bagchi was the chief guest and inaugurated the clinic. Speaking on the occasion, CP said that injuries sustained in daily life during sports can have a serious impact on the future. He said that recently, there has been a great increase in interest among the youth in sports and fitness in Visakhapatnam, and it is a great thing that all services are available at one place with state-of-the-art technology for unexpected injuries. Consultant Sports Orthopaedic Surgeon and Arthroscopic Specialist Dr. Srinivas



Gollangi, while explaining the specialties of the clinic, said that the hospital offers expert advice on diagnosis and treatment of sports injuries, arthroscopic surgeries, physiotherapy, and rehabilitation services all in one place. He said that due to cricket, badminton, trekking, hiking, running,

marathon, cycling, and gym exercises, injuries to knees, shoulders, muscles, and ligaments are increasing in young as well as middle-aged people. He said that in the past, recovery took a long time with open surgeries, but now with arthroscopic technology, we can see the injury in 360 degrees through a camera and perform sur-

gery with a small incision, which allows the patient to recover quickly. If the injury is caught early, in many cases it can be resolved without the need for surgery. KIMS Hospitals Seethamadhara Regional CEO Dr. Nagesh said that they are already providing several multi-specialty services as per the needs of the people and with this Sports Orthopaedic Clinic, athletes and fitness enthusiasts will get better medical care. He said that this clinic will be a new hope for victims of sports injuries. Doctors from the KIMS Orthopaedic Department, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Reddy, Dr. Santosh Ram, Dr. Ramaraju, Dr. Vasantha Babu, Dr. Ashish Kumar, and hospital staff participated in this program.

Ambati elected president of AU Theatre Department Alumni Assn



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, June 26
Ambati Vijaya Raghavan was elected as the President of the Andhra Vishwa Kala Parishad Theatre Department Alumni Association and Dr. Bhaskara Rao Marapatla was elected as the Honorary President of the Department. The new executive committee was elected at the Andhra Vishwa Kala Parishad Theatre Alumni Association held at the Dwarnkanagar Public Library. Acharya Narasimha Rao, former Principal of AU Arts and Commerce College, participated as the chief guest

and congratulated the new executive committee. P. Venkata Ramanamurthy, an alumnus of the department and former Principal of BVK College, acted as the election officer. Eminent theatre artist Chalasani Krishna Prasad acted as the observers. Prominent theatre actor Sriramurthy was present as a special invitee. The new executive committee was unanimously elected in this meeting. Honorary President Dr. Bhaskara Rao Marapatla, President Ambati Vijaya Raghavan, Vice President Senapati Mahesh, General Secretary B.S. Chandrasekhar, Assistant

Secretary Dr. D. Deenabandhu, Treasurer S.V.V. Satyamurthy, Executive Committee members D. Hema Venkateswari, M. Sivajothi, Dr. Apoorva, T. Anuradha, Navarasa Murthy, Akiri Suresh, Chodiseti Srinivasa Rao, P. Giridhar, T. Ramesh, S. Venkata Teja were elected. Alumni, lawyers K.V. Jayachandra Varma and Vijaya Lakshmi were appointed as legal advisors. Prominent theatre artists who are alumni will act as honorary advisors. Nageswara Rao, who was elected as the negotiator for the election process.

TDP MP Vijay Chinthakayala's Oath Echoes Mangalagiri Weavers Legacy

Visakhapatnam, June 26, 2026: On a historic day for Andhra Pradesh in the nation's capital, newly elected Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Vijay Chinthakayala Ayyannapatru took oath as a Member of the Rajya Sabha on June 25. He was joined by fellow TDP MPs Sana Satish Babu and Bhashyam Rama Krishna, alongside Jana Sena Party's Lingamaneni Ramesh, marking a significant sweep for NDA in Rajya Sabha. Elected under the leadership of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and TDP Minister Nara Lokesh, MP Vijay marked the occasion by wearing a traditional Mangalagiri cotton shawl, bringing national attention to

one of Andhra Pradesh's most cherished handloom traditions. The shawl carries a significance far beyond ceremonial attire. Every thread of that shawl traces its origins to Mangalagiri, the historic temple town in Guntur district and the Assembly constituency represented by Andhra Pradesh IT, Electronics and Human Resources Minister Nara Lokesh. Mangalagiri cotton carries over 500 years of recorded history. During the Qutub Shahi period in 1593, heavy taxes on handloom products forced many weavers to leave the region, dealing a severe blow to the industry. Yet the craft endured. It adapted, recovered and continued to be passed down through genera-



tions. Today, Mangalagiri cotton enjoys Geographical Indication (GI) status, recognised for its distinctive weave and craftsmanship. Yet behind this celebrated legacy lies a painful reality. In the early 1990s, Mangalagiri was home to nearly 20,000 weavers. Today, only about 6,000 active handloom weavers remain. Rising costs, shrink-

ing margins and competition from machine-made imitations have steadily reduced the community that once made Mangalagiri one of India's most vibrant weaving centres. That is why Vijay Chinthakayala Ayyanna patrudu's choice resonated far beyond symbolism. The gesture reflects the vision of TDP Minister Nara Lokesh

who has been unambiguous about his commitment to this community. "Weavers are not workers. They are craftsmen. It is a God-given skill," Nara Lokesh once remarked, announcing a Rs. 250 crore market intervention fund for international branding of Mangalagiri cotton back in 2019. "It will be my responsibility to attend the grievances of each and every weaver," he pledged. When Vijay Chinthakayala Ayyanna patrudu took oath in the Rajya Sabha, the shawl on his shoulders carried the hopes of thousands of weaving families, the pride of a centuries-old tradition and the promise that the voice of Mangalagiri's artisans would be heard in the highest forums of the nation.

Cheepurupalli Police Intensify Anti-Drug Awareness Drive to Build a Drug-Free Society

Vizianagaram (Cheepurupalli) June 26 (Skyline): Observing the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Cheepurupalli Police organised a large-scale awareness programme at Three Roads Junction to educate the public on the dangers of narcotic substances. The campaign was conducted under the leadership of SDPO S. Raghavulu, following the directions of the Vizianagaram District Superintendent of Police. Addressing the gathering, SDPO Raghavulu said drug abuse poses a serious threat to the future of young people and has devastating effects on families and society. He urged students and youth to stay away from drugs and instead focus on education, employment, sports, and healthy



lifestyles. He also appealed to parents and the public to remain vigilant and support police efforts in eliminating the drug menace. Police officials encouraged citizens to immediately report any information related to the sale, storage, or consumption of drugs and ganja, assuring that the identity of informants would be kept strictly confidential. Slogans such as "Say No

to Drugs - Save Youth, Save Future" were displayed to reinforce the message. Cheepurupalli Circle Inspector G. Sankara Rao, Garividi SI, Budarayavalasa SI, other police personnel, and a large number of local residents actively participated in the awareness campaign, reaffirming their commitment to creating a drug-free society.

Indian MedTech Company SS Innovations International Beats Global Surgical Robotics Giants to win outstanding company award in surgical robotics technology awards 2026

Visakhapatnam, June 26, 2026: In a defining moment for India's medical technology sector, SS Innovations International has been honoured with the Outstanding Company award at the Surgical Robotics Technology (SRT) Industry Awards 2026, one of the world's most prestigious recognitions dedicated exclusively to surgical robotics and the first Indian company to receive so.. The achievement marks a significant milestone for the company, which was selected from an exceptional field of globally renowned surgical robotics innovators and medical technology leaders, including Intuitive, Medtronic, Johnson & Johnson MedTech, Distalmotion, Meril, MicroPort, THINK Surgical, FUTEK and Precision IO Group, reaffirming its emergence as a leading force in the global surgical robotics landscape. Now in its fourth edition, the Surgical Robotics Technology (SRT) Industry Awards are regarded as one of the world's most respected honours celebrating excellence in surgical robotics. Organised by Surgical Robotics Technology (SRT), the leading global news and intelligence platform dedicated exclusively to the surgical robotics ecosystem, in partnership with QNX, the awards recognise



organisations, technologies and industry leaders driving transformative advancements in robotic assisted surgery. The annual awards celebrate excellence in innovation, clinical impact, technological leadership and commercial achievement across the global surgical robotics landscape. The 2026 winners represent some of the most influential organisations and leaders shaping the future of robotic surgery. Steve Bell received the Industry Leadership award for his outstanding contribution to MedTech and surgical robotics. Microbot Medical was recognised as the Innovative Start-up. Sentante won the Groundbreaking Technology award for the Sentante Robotic System. Moon Surgical received the Software Innovation award

for Maestro Insights, while Dr. Brian Cohen of Cohen Orthopedic was honoured as the Outstanding Healthcare Provider. Together, the winners reflect the highest standards of innovation and excellence across the global surgical robotics ecosystem, with SS Innovations International earning the coveted Outstanding Company title. Commenting on the recognition, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder Chairman and CEO of SS Innovations International, said, "Winning the Outstanding Company award at the SRT Industry Awards is a proud milestone for SS Innovations International and for India. This recognition validates our commitment to developing world class surgical robotic technologies that are innovative, accessi-

ble and affordable. It inspires us to continue advancing our mission of transforming surgical care through cutting edge technology and expanding access to robotic surgery across the world." Over the past few years, SS Innovations International has rapidly established itself as one of the fastest growing innovators in surgical robotics through its flagship SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System. Developed in India with a vision to democratise robotic surgery, the system has enabled advanced minimally invasive procedures while expanding access to robotic surgery through affordability, technological innovation and pioneering advancements in telesurgery. The company continues to strengthen its global presence through growing clinical adoption, regulatory milestones and continued investment in next generation surgical technologies. The Outstanding Company recognition marks another defining milestone in SS Innovations International's journey and reinforces India's growing stature as a global hub for advanced medical technology innovation. It reflects the confidence of the international surgical robotics community in the company's technological capabilities, vision and commitment to shaping the future of surgery.