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Minister Rama Naidu reviews water crisis



Bhimavaram: With Palakollu town facing an acute drinking water shortage over the past two days, State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu conducted a surprise inspection at the municipal water works early on Sunday and directed officials to take immediate corrective measures. The minister arrived at the water works around 5 am, riding an electric motorcycle himself and inspected the water levels in the drinking water ponds. He reviewed the present storage position and discussed with officials how many days the available water could be supplied to the public. Expressing displeasure over the lack of planning, the minister questioned officials on why alternative arrangements had not been made earlier despite the worsening situation. He directed authorities to initiate emergency measures to prevent inconvenience to residents in the coming days. Rama Naidu instructed officials to take up borewell drilling works on a war footing and remained at the water reservoir site for several hours, guiding municipal officials and water works staff on immediate action plans to ensure an uninterrupted water supply. Later, he visited the municipal office and held a review meeting with officials and coalition leaders on ward-wise drinking water requirements. He also brought the issue to the attention of Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana. Addressing the media, the minister appealed to residents not to panic and advised people to use water carefully and avoid wastage. He said arrangements were being made to draw water through two borewells in the Junnuru area and two more near L&T for public supply. He also directed officials to immediately repair damaged hand pumps in the town. As a permanent solution to future drinking water problems, he said the government was planning a Rs 760 crore project to supply safe Godavari water from Vijeswaram to Palakollu. He alleged that neglect of canal maintenance works during the previous five years had worsened the situation, adding that the coalition government was now allocating substantial funds for canal development. Municipal Commissioner Vijaya Saradhi, Public Health Chief Engineer Sudhakar Rao, SE Ratnakar Reddy and DE RV Vijay were present during the inspection and review meeting.

CM Revanth invited to Yadagirigutta Vedic School ceremony

Hyderabad: Endowments Minister Konda Surekha alongside priests of the Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy temple met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence to invite him to the groundbreaking ceremony of the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Vedic School. This event alongside other developmental works at the temple complex will be held at Yadagirigutta on May 23. Those present included MPs Vem Narendra Reddy and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah, Endowments Principal Secretary Sailaja Ramaiyyer, Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, and Temple Executive Officer Bhavani Shankar. In a separate meeting, Minister Konda Surekha and priests of the Sri Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy Devasthanam invited Revanth Reddy to the Saraswati Antya Pushkarams. This religious festival will be conducted from May 21 to June 1 at Kaleshwaram in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district. Attendees included MP Vem Narendra Reddy, Sailaja Ramaiyer, Hanumantha Rao, and Devasthanam Executive Officer Mahesh. These invitations underscore the active involvement of the state government in promoting cultural heritage and boosting spiritual tourism infrastructure across prominent regional destinations.



PM Modi receives warm welcome from Indian community in Norway

The Indian community in Norway gave a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrived in Oslo for a State visit. PM Modi greeted the members of the Indian diaspora as people gathered to welcome him, carrying Indian flags, with the chants of 'Modi Modi'. The Prime Minister witnessed a cultural and musical performance and also interacted with girls who performed Bharatnatyam to welcome him. Earlier in the day, PM Modi was welcomed by his Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Store at the airport. PM Modi expressed confidence that his visit would strengthen the friendship between the two nations. During this visit, the Prime Minister will attend the third India-Nordic Summit and hold bilateral engagements. He will call on King Harald V and Queen Sonja and hold bilateral talks with PM Jonas Gahr Store. He will also address the India-Norway Business and Research Summit along with the Norwegian counterpart, Jonas Gahr Store.



"I have landed in Oslo, Norway. I am grateful for the warm welcome from Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store at the airport. This is the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Norway in over 40 years. I am confident that the visit will strengthen the friendship between India and Norway," PM Modi posted on X. "I will meet Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja, and hold talks with Prime Minister Store. Tomorrow, the 19th, the third India-Nordic Summit will be held in Oslo. It will be a good opportunity to meet my Nordic colleagues," he added. Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) called Norway a "valued partner" for India and stated that PM Modi's visit will add fresh vigour to the partnership between the two nations. "God morgen Norge! Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Oslo, Norway. In a special gesture, he was received by PM Jonas Gahr Store at the airport. This is PM Modi's first visit to Norway and a Prime Ministerial visit from India to Norway in 43 years," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X. "Norway is a valued partner for India. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral engagements, and tomorrow, he will par-

ticipate in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit. The visit is set to add fresh vigour to the India-Norway partnership," he added. PM Modi arrived in Norway for a two-day official visit after concluding his visit to Sweden. This is PM Modi's first visit to Norway and will also mark the first Prime Ministerial visit from India to Norway in 43 years. In an earlier statement, the MEA stated, "The visit will provide an opportunity to review the progress made in India-Norway relations and explore avenues to further strengthen them, with a focus on trade and investment, capitalising on the India - EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, as well as on clean and green tech and blue economy." "The visit will also be an opportunity to induce momentum in bilateral trade worth around USD 2.73 billion (2024), and investments by Norway's Government Pension Fund (GPF) of close to USD 28 billion in the Indian capital market," it added.

Bandi Bageerath arrested during police naka bandi



Hyderabad: Bandi Sai Bageerath, the accused in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences case, was arrested during security checks at Manchirevula in Narsingi, Cyberabad police confirmed. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh stated that based on reliable information, the Special Operations Team apprehended Bageerath near Tech Park under Narsingi police station limits at 8.15 pm on May 16. The suspect was taken into custody and shifted to Petbasheerabad police station. The accused was produced before the investigation officer, who examined him in the presence of panch witnesses. Bageerath admitted to the offence, leading to his formal arrest. Following a medical examination at a primary health centre in Medchal, he was produced before the Medchal court, which remanded him to 14 days of judicial custody until May 29. He was subsequently shifted to Cherlapally Central Prison. Prior to the arrest, special investigation teams had issued two notices, searched locations frequented by the suspect, and published a Lookout Circular. Meanwhile, Petbasheerabad police have registered cases against 27 social media accounts for allegedly revealing the identity of the minor victim. The cases were booked under various sections of the POCSO Act and IT Act, and an investigation has commenced. Allegations suggest these digital channels collected money from certain individuals and intentionally broadcast personal details of the victim. This action directly violates statutory provisions that strictly guard the privacy of minors affected by sexual crimes. This decisive double action by the police marks a critical turning point in the high-profile case, ensuring legal processing for the primary offence while actively penalising social media platforms that compromise victim anonymity.

India's exports to scale \$1 trillion mark in FY27: Piyush Goyal

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that India is targeting exports worth \$2 trillion over the next five years, while pegging the overall exports target for FY27 at \$1 trillion. India's total exports of goods and services increased to an all-time high of \$863 billion in FY26 despite the uncertainties in global markets triggered by the US tariff turmoil and geopolitical tensions. The minister said India continues to remain a bright spot amid global geopolitical and economic uncertainty caused by the war in Ukraine and tensions in West Asia due to the Iran war. Addressing an event here, the minister said that India's FTAs now cover over two-thirds of global trade. The minister also said that India's free trade agreement with Oman is expected to come into effect from June 1, while the FTAs signed with other countries are also likely to be implemented this year after the legal process is completed. India and Oman signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on December 18, 2025, giving most Indian exports, including textiles, duty-free access. The CEPA gives India zero-duty access on 98.08 per cent of Oman's tariff lines, covering 99.38 per cent of Indian exports by value. India will cut duties on about 78 per cent of its tariff lines, covering nearly 95 per cent of imports from Oman, with sensitive products given access mainly through tariff-rate quotas. Talks for the free trade agreement began in November 2023 and were successfully wrapped up in August 2025 after five rounds of negotiations. The total volume of trade between India and Oman touched \$10.61 billion in 2024-25, which represented a growth of 18.6 per cent over the previous year. India has also operationalised trade agreements with the UAE, Australia, and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) bloc, among others, while pacts with the European Union and the United Kingdom are expected to come into force this year. "Other FTAs, which are going through legal ratification, will also start kicking in," Goyal said. The minister also released the seventh Logistics Ease Across Different States LEADS-2025 report and the 4th ceremony for Logistics Excellence, Advancements, and Perform Shield- LEAPS 2025. He said that the government has taken reducing logistics costs as an urgent national mission to make India globally competitive. He added that heavy investments are being made in infrastructure and delivery systems to ensure seamless logistics across the country. Goyal highlighted that the country's growth remains strong, driven by continuous investments across sectors, rapid innovation by startups, and competitive labour costs backed by India's skilled workforce.



Cong's appeasement politics led to partition: Adityanath

Gorakhpur

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday claimed that Congress began its "appeasement politics" long before the Constitution came into force or the country had its first election, and this led to the country's Partition.

"India's Constitution was framed on November 26, 1949 and adopted on January 26, 1950, when parliamentary democracy came into force in the country. However, even before the first general election, Congress started doing appeasement politics, which led to the Partition of the country," Adityanath said.

"The Constitution had not even been properly implemented when Congress began appeasement politics," he said, addressing the inaugural session of BJP's district training camp at a resort near Tenua Toll Plaza in Gorakhpur.

According to a UP government statement, Adityanath said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at the time felt the need for a political party that could contribute towards India's nationalism and a better future.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee who resigned from the Union Cabinet became the founding president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, he said. Mookerjee also opposed



Article 370 in Kashmir which was brought by the Congress government at the time, he said. Deen Dayal Upadhyay carried forward the ideals and values of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the chief minister added.

Adityanath said that during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-L K Advani era,

Jana Sangh merged into the Janata Party "to save democracy in the country" but the Janata Party experiment was not fully successful for many reasons.

In the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-L K Advani era, the BJP was formed in 1980, but it won only two seats in the first general elections.

"In 1986, the BJP decided to support the construction of a grand temple at Shri Ram's birthplace in Ayodhya to establish cultural nationalism in the country. When the BJP double-engine government came to power, the Ram temple was constructed in Ayodhya," Adityanath said.

The Ram temple is a 'Rashtra Mandir' and it marks the beginning of a new era, giving hope to people whose civilisation and culture had been suppressed and crushed by invaders. "If India can fulfil this dream after 500 years, then oppressed communities across the world can also achieve their goals. India has lit a new lamp of hope and has honoured faith," he said.

K'taka introduces AIB-based excise system, revises liquor prices

Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has implemented an Alcohol-in-Beverage (AIB)-based excise duty structure in the state and revised the rates of liquor. In a press note issued on Sunday, the State Excise Department said the new taxation structure, which has been done for the first time in India in line with the 2026-27 Budget announcement of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, was aimed at rationalising liquor pricing, making alcoholic beverages available at cheaper rates for consumers in Karnataka and aligning prices with neighbouring states, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Kerala.

"For the first time in India, the AIB-based excise duty structure has been implemented in Karnataka from



May 11, 2026. It is globally recognised as the gold standard for alcohol taxation," the department said.

Under the new policy, the government-administered price fixation has been completely deregulated, it said, and added that product placement within slabs has been left to the producers based on market considerations. According to the government notification dated May 8, 2026, Indian Made

Liquor (IML) slabs have been rationalised and reduced from the earlier 16 slabs to eight slabs.

The Excise Department said the restructuring had been carried out keeping in mind the availability of liquor at cheaper rates to the consumers of the state and ensuring that it is lower and relatively equal to that of the neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Kerala.

Rajasthan BJP leader found hanging from a tree; probe underway

Jaipur

A BJP leader was found hanging from a tree in Rajasthan's Banswara district, police said on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Arjun Singh Maida (47), a district secretary of the BJP and a resident of Junakheda village.

According to ASI Ramesh Chand of Danpur police station, an argument reportedly took place between Maida and his wife on Saturday night, after which he left home.

He was later found hanging from a tree in the district. A case was registered based on a complaint filed by his son Abhimanyu, he said. Police said injury marks were found on the body and the exact cause of death would be ascertained after the post-mortem report is received.

Ten killed in separate road accidents in Rajasthan

Jaipur

Three separate road accidents in Rajasthan's Nagaur, Balotra and Pratapgarh districts claimed 10 lives, police said on Sunday.

A Rajasthan roadways bus collided head-on with a car in Nagaur district on Sunday, killing four people and injuring four others, police said.

Kuchera SHO Habib Khan said the collision, which occurred on the Merta-Kuchera road, was so severe that the car was completely mangled, killing all four occupants on the spot. The deceased have been identified as Amrith Puri (28), a constable posted with Pali police, Umesh Puri alias Akash (26), Rukma Devi (50) and Neetu (22), all residents of Borunda area in Jodhpur district.

Four passengers travelling in the bus were injured and are undergoing treatment



control and overturned.

Ajmal (35), his brother Namoolam (32) and Hitesh Bhai (32) died on the spot, while three others, including a child, were admitted to the district hospital in Balotra.

In Pratapgarh district, three men were killed after a speeding trailer truck rammied into two motorcycles on National Highway-56 near Sevra village under Dhamotar police station limits late Saturday night.

Those killed have been identified as Raju (35) from Pratapgarh, and Akalakh (29) and Abbas (30) from Rajsamand district. The trailer truck driver fled the scene but was later apprehended by police.

Police said preliminary investigations in all three cases point to speeding and negligent driving as the primary causes of the accidents.

Adhere to NCERT's school bag weight guidelines

Bihar Education dept asks schools

Patna

The Bihar Education Department has asked all private and government-aided schools to adhere to the NCERT's guidelines to ensure that the gross weight of a school bag does not exceed 10 per cent of the child's body weight.

The department has also directed schools to ensure that weighing scales are installed on campus to regularly check the weight of bags. Any private schools found to be in violation will face action, officials said.

Speaking to PTI on Sunday, Bihar Education Minister Mithlesh Tiwari said, "All private and government-aided schools in the state will have to follow the NCERT School Bag Policy, 2020 and ensure that the weight of a school bag does not exceed 10 per cent of the child's body weight. The move is aimed at reducing the phys-



ical burden on students."

The weight of the bag needs to be monitored on a regular basis in the school, the minister said. He said the institutions must design suitable timetables to prevent students from carrying unnecessary materials to school. "The decision has been taken following the instructions of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. The NDA government is taking steps to make the education system in the state more transpar-

ent, equitable and accessible, keeping the interest of parents and students in mind. "The CM recently warned private schools against arbitrary and unjustified fee hikes and said strict action will be taken against those found violating the rules," Tiwari said. The minister said good health and a stress-free mind of school students contribute to nation building. "Therefore, it needs to be made mandatory that every school, irrespective of

its management, ensures the implementation of the school bag policy for the betterment of our children. Health, physical education and arts education are the areas which help in the all-round development of children. These need to be given adequate space in the timetable," he said.

As per NCERT guidelines, checking the weight of school bags needs to be made a regular practice in the institutions by keeping a weighing machine functional on the premises. "For classes 1-5, teachers must take the responsibility of randomly checking the weight of school bags every three months on a day selected for the whole class. Information about heavy bags needs to be communicated to the parents of the child, and the bag needs to be monitored for a week or two to ensure that the child starts carrying a lighter bag," according to the guidelines.

Temples gear up for 30-day 'Purshottam Maas' festivities

Mathura/Varanasi (UP)

Temples in major holy cities in Uttar Pradesh have made arrangements for special events related to the 30-day Adhik Maas beginning Sunday, also called Purshottam Maas, with prayers devoted to Lord Vishnu. The Hindu calendar alternates between lunar and solar calculations, and the 'Adhik Maas' or "extra month" is added to align the seasons, ensuring each month retains its seasonal significance, astrologer Keshav Acharya explained.

"The lunar-based calendar consists of 12 months totalling 354 or 355 days, whereas a Sun-based calendar has 365 days. Therefore, there is a gap of around 10 or 11 days at the end of the year. At the end of the 32-month, 16-days period (2 years, 8 months, and 16 days), this gap is around 30 days, and an



extra month is added then in a lunar-based calendar," Acharya said. Religious scholar Amit Bhardwaj said that Purshottam Maas is traditionally associated with Lord Vishnu's Narasimha avatar, who killed the demon Hiranyakashyap, and was earlier known as 'Mal Maas.'

In Mathura, large crowds are expected to do 'parikramas' and 'mahabhishek' of Girrajji Hill, Daan Ghati temple sevayat G K Purohit said. "The temple will be decked up with a 'phool

bangla'. Panakam will be added to the prasad offered to Thakurji," Purohit said.

Mathura's Dwarikadish Temple has planned special events daily. Nandotsava, Holi, Deepawali, Byahula Utsav, hindola, phool bangla will be part of the celebrations that conclude on June 15, said Rakesh Tiwari, media in-charge of Dwarikadish Temple. ISKCON Vrindavan expects around 500 foreign devotees from 40 countries. Recitation of 15 chapters of Srimad

Bhagavad Gita, Jagannath Ashtakam, Chauraganyam Gadyam Ashtakam and bhajan programmes will be held, said Pavan Dubey, media in-charge of the temple.

Officials and police are deployed across the city, with CCTV surveillance at various places and patrolling along ghats. Authorities have also set up medical camps, emergency services and a detailed traffic plan. "Police personnel are told to conduct patrolling on the ghats of the river and drains," Mathura SSP Shlok Kumar said. Lakhs of devotees are expected to perform 'parikrama' of the Govardhan hills, which is divided into different zones and sectors, with six health centres operational during this time, SP (Rural) Suresh Chandra Rawat said. In Varanasi, too, preparations are underway for the Purshottam Maas.

Mehbooba Mufti backs Hosabale on people-to-people contact with Pakistan

Srinagar

Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday endorsed RSS functionary Dattatreya Hosabale's recent remark that people-to-people contact is key to breaking the deadlock with Pakistan and there should always be a window for dialogue.

"The solution to Kashmir lies in dialogue and within the framework of the Constitution. Whatever we have to achieve needs to be done from Delhi and here (Jammu and Kashmir). We believe in engagement and talks. We seek peace with dignity," Mehbooba said at a party workers' convention here.

The former J-K chief minister welcomed Hosabale's



statement on the need for dialogue and people-to-people contact with Pakistan, which was endorsed by former Army chief M M Naravane.

In an interview recently, the RSS general secretary said Pakistan's military and political leadership have lost India's confidence, and it is time for civil society to lead the way, "because we have a cultural relation and we have been one nation".

"What Hosabale has said now is what (PDP founder) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

advocated till his last breath. Open our roads leading to the other side of Kashmir... Pakistan, China and Central Asia. If (Narendra) Modi ji wants to carve a name for himself, he should resolve the Kashmir issue and involve Pakistan in the process," Mehbooba said.

Noting that the prime minister should initiate a dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir for a resolution to the Kashmir issue and involve Pakistan in the process, Mehbooba said, "I am not saying that Narendra Modi has done nothing for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He visited Lahore in 2016, but it was followed by the Pathankot attack. Pakistan will have to respond positively to any efforts of outreach from India."

Anand Marriage Act to come into force in Sikkim from June 1

New Delhi

The Anand Marriage Act, which enables Sikh couples to register their traditional marriages under their own specific legal framework, will come into force in Sikkim from June 1, the Union law ministry said.

This will allow members of the Sikh community in Sikkim to register their marriages solemnised under the traditional 'Anand Karaj' ceremony directly.

For registration purpose, several Sikh couples register their marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955.

According to a law ministry notification issued on May 14, "the central government hereby appoints the 1st day of June, 2026, as the date on which the provisions of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 shall come into the force in the State of Sikkim".

The law ministry notified the appointed date after Sikkim framed and notified the official Sikkim Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026 to outline localised registration mechanisms.

The rules were notified after a landmark Supreme Court ruling in the September 2025 Amanjot Singh Chadha Vs Union of India case, which plugged administrative loopholes in the law. A 2012 amendment in the law had introduced state level mechanisms to register marriages under the Anand Marriage Act of 1909. Several states, including Sikkim, had not framed rules. The top court had asked these states to come out with rules.

Absence of rules in these states meant either not to register their marriage or do so under the broader Hindu Marriage Act.

Panun Kashmir demands 'genocide victim' status for displaced Kashmiri Pandits

Srinagar

As the self-enumeration process for Census 2027 begins in Jammu and Kashmir, Panun Kashmir, an organisation representing displaced Kashmiri Pandits, has raised serious concerns over classification criteria of the government, stressing that describing them as "migrants" makes their forced displacement voluntary.

The new chairman of Panun Kashmir, TITO Ganju, also criticised the Centre's policy on Kashmiri Pandits and said the demand for separate homeland in the Kashmir Valley is "non-negotiable", stressing that the decades of "flexible"

policies have only made the community's displacement "acceptable".

Talking to PTI recently, Ganju, when asked why his organisation is demanding genocide classification in the 2027 Census, said, "Because everything begins there. If we are recorded as 'migrants', forced displacement is legally reframed as voluntary movement. That single distortion weakens every claim that follows."

"We expect classification as internally displaced genocide victims and survivors, linkage to original place of residence in the Kashmir Valley, distinct enumeration, and recording of duration and cause. Anything less is not error, it is dilution," he said. Ganju



observed that following the existing administrative practices is nothing but a "repetition of failure" and said the demand for creation of Panun Kashmir, a

separate homeland in Kashmir with Union Territory status for Kashmiri Pandits, was not the "maximalist demand" but the "minimum frame-

work" needed for constitutional safeguards.

According to the Relief and Rehabilitation Department of Jammu and Kashmir, 59,764 Kashmiri Pandit families left the valley because of terrorism in 1990, out of which the majority found new homes in Jammu and nearby places, whereas 23,313 families relocated to areas outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The outbreak of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in Kashmir Valley in 1989-90, resulted in the mass migration of Kashmiri Hindus, along with some Sikhs and Muslims. According to the recent report issued by the Relief Office set up in 1990, a

total of 44,167 displaced Kashmiri families are registered, including 39,782 displaced Hindu families from Kashmir Valley.

Ganju took over the command of Panun Kashmir in March this year after the organisation expelled Ajay Chungoo with immediate effect and ordered an inquiry into his alleged foreign links, including a reported interaction with US-based Pakistani ISI agent Ghulam Nabi Fai. Asked by declaring demand for a Panun Kashmir as "non-negotiable" sounds less like constitutional reasoning and more like refusal to engage, he reasoned, "No. It sounds like the end of illusion. Engagement has already

happened, repeatedly, across years, across governments, across frameworks. What you call rigidity is actually the conclusion drawn from experience."

"When every 'flexible' approach produces the same outcome -- uncertainty, vulnerability, non-return, then continuing that cycle is not pragmatism, it is denial," he said. Invoking the historical concept of 'Jatidhwan' (genocide), Ganju pushed back against allegations of narrative overreach and pointed out that while India is a signatory to the UN Convention on Genocide, Parliament has not yet enacted corresponding domestic legislation under its Article 5 obligations.

Should I take vitamin D now when there's less sun, or for bone or immune health?

It can be easy to think you get plenty of vitamin D when you live in a country bathed in sunshine, but the reality is more complicated. Almost one in four Australian adults have vitamin D deficiency. Vitamin D supplements are now one of the most commonly used complementary medicines.

So what is vitamin D? And do you need to take it as a supplement?

It functions like a hormone

Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin that plays a crucial role in maintaining overall health. Unlike most vitamins, it functions more like a hormone in the body, and nearly every cell has a receptor for it.

It exists in several forms, but vitamin D3, also known as cholecalciferol, is the most important. Once in the body, D3 undergoes changes – first in the liver and then in the kidneys – to become its fully active form called calcitriol.

Your body is capable of producing its own vitamin D by converting a cholesterol precursor into it, but that requires exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVB) on your skin.

You can also get it through diet from a few foods including eggs, oily fish and mushrooms – but it's unlikely to be as much as you need.

What happens when you don't get enough vitamin D?

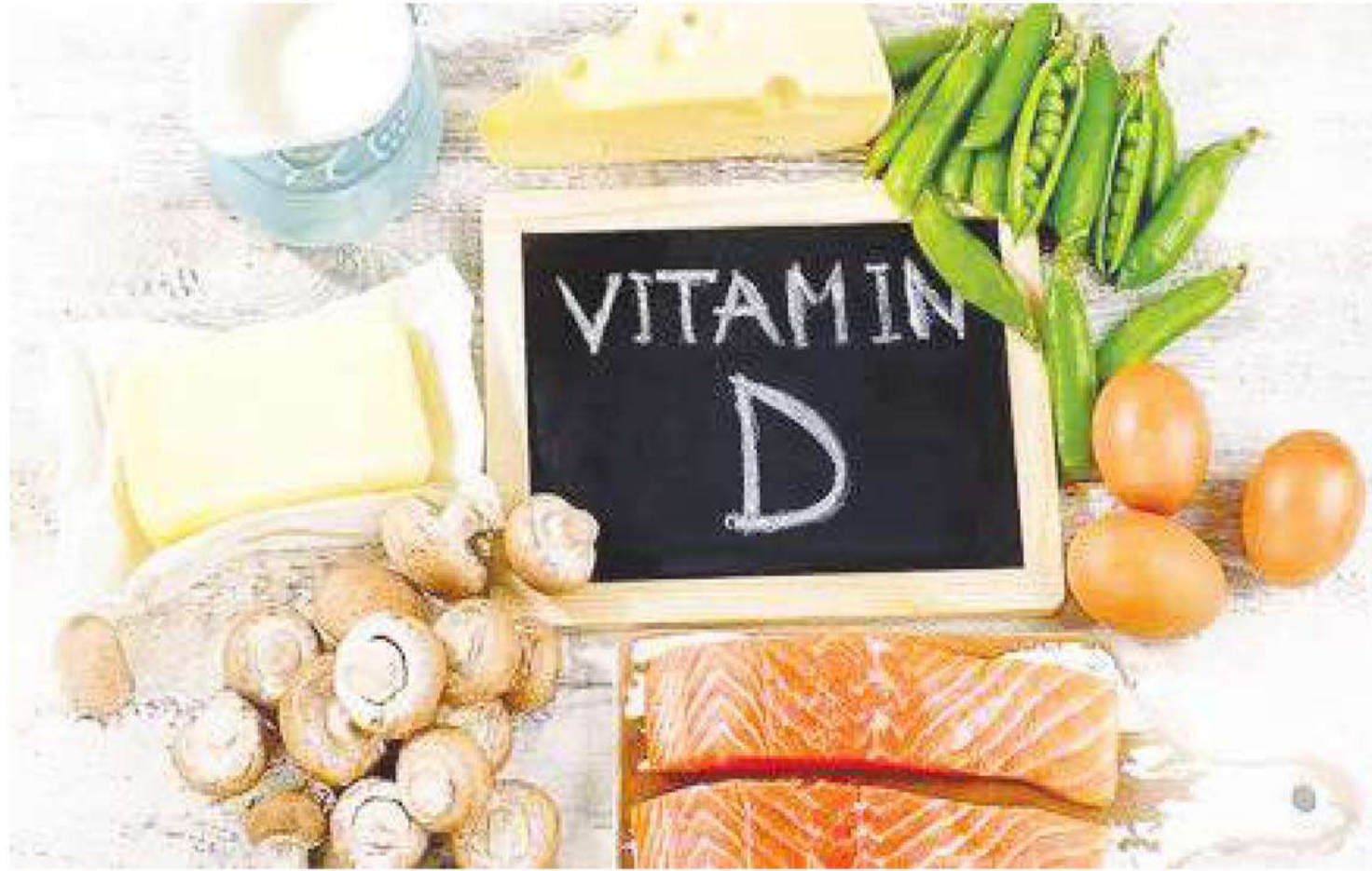
Vitamin D's best-known role is helping the body use calcium. It promotes the absorption of calcium from the gut, ensuring an adequate level in the blood for building strong bones.

Without sufficient vitamin D, your body can't absorb calcium effectively, which can lead to bone health problems.

In children, severe deficiency causes rickets, a condition where bones become soft. This leads to delayed growth, bone pain, and skeletal conditions, such as bowed legs.

In adults, deficiency can cause a condition called osteomalacia. This results in bone pain, bone tenderness and a higher risk of fractures.

In the long term, low vitamin D contributes to osteoporosis by reducing bone density and increasing the risk of fractures, especially in older people.



Deficiency is also linked to muscle weakness and cramps, and impaired immune function, which results in a higher susceptibility to respiratory infections.

What can cause a vitamin D deficiency?

Insufficient sunlight exposure typically causes vitamin D deficiency.

If you spend all your time indoors, or you work night shifts and sleep during the day, you will get less sunlight exposure and make less vitamin D.

While we get generally get lots of sunlight in mainland Australia, there are regions that for

long periods have very low sunlight which can also cause vitamin D deficiency. In very northern and southern latitudes, such as Tasmania, there are only a few hours of sunlight in winter.

For people living at these latitudes, they can not only have a vitamin D deficiency, but they may also suffer from a type of depression called seasonal affective disorder which has been linked to low vitamin D.

Melanin, or skin pigmentation, affects vitamin D production. People with darker skin and people with significant skin disorders, such as psoriasis or severe burns and scarring, can also

be at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Prescription vs over-the-counter supplements

There are various vitamin D supplements in Australia. There are low-dose (20 microgram) and higher-dose (175 microgram) formulations of vitamin D3. There is also a 0.25 microgram formulation of calcitriol, the active form of vitamin D.

Both of the vitamin D3 products are used for treating vitamin D deficiency, while the calcitriol product is used for treating hypocalcaemia (low calcium level) in people with chronic

kidney disease.

The low dose vitamin D3 is taken daily, whereas the higher dose formulation is taken once a week.

The higher-dose formulation is sold as a pharmacist-only medicine, meaning you'll need to speak to a pharmacist before they are able to supply it to you.

The calcitriol vitamin D product is only available as a prescription medicine.

Vitamin D3 is also available in multivitamins at lower doses and in products that are combined with calcium or vitamin K.

Are there any dangers in taking vitamin D?

Vitamin D3 is generally well-tolerated. When taken daily, the upper tolerable intake level is 100 microgram.

A regular dose higher than 100 microgram for prolonged periods can cause excessive calcium absorption. This can result in nausea, vomiting, muscle weakness, loss of appetite, dehydration, excessive thirst and kidney stones.

On the flip side, excessive sunlight exposure will not cause vitamin D toxicity, but may increase your risk of skin cancer.

Vitamin D3 supplements may also interact with some cholesterol medications (statins) and alter those medicines' level in your body.

There are also reports that suggest a potential interaction between vitamin D and a weight-loss medicine orlistat, interactions with steroids, and with the diuretic thiazide.

So do you need a supplement?

Most people only need five to 30 minutes of direct sunlight exposure, several times a week for their body to produce adequate vitamin D.

So unless there is a reason why you are not getting enough sunlight, or you have a skin condition, then you don't need a supplement.

If you think you might need a supplement, your GP can order a blood test. There are also at-home test kits for vitamin D that have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

If you are deficient, consult your local pharmacist who can recommend the right product and quantity for you based on your needs.

Modi Is the firework, BJP Is the nuclear reactor: The booth-level machine that manufactures victories



ARJA SRIKANTH
SENIOR BUREAUCRAT



RECENT VICTORIES IN WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM REVEAL THIS DEEPER TRANSFORMATION. THESE WINS WERE NOT ACHIEVED THROUGH MODI'S CHARISMA ALONE BUT THROUGH LOCAL LEADERSHIP ECOSYSTEMS THAT BJP HAS DELIBERATELY CULTIVATED. ASSAM WAS DRIVEN BY CHIEF MINISTER HIMANTA BISWA SARMA'S AGGRESSIVE STATE-LEVEL COMMAND AND NARRATIVE CRAFTING

The biggest political misunderstanding in India today is the lazy assumption that the Bharatiya Janata Party's dominance is simply the by-product of Narendra Modi's personal popularity. Modi is undeniably a towering political brand, perhaps the most potent electoral personality India has produced in decades. But reducing BJP's rise to one charismatic face is not just intellectually shallow—it is politically suicidal for those who oppose it. The BJP of 2026 is not merely a leader-driven party; it is a multi-layered electoral corporation engineered with ideological cement, operational discipline, and a grassroots engine that works like a permanent election-time government. Modi is the headline. The BJP is the newsroom, the printing press, and the distribution network. The real story is not Modi's speeches; it is the silent machinery beneath him.

Recent victories in West Bengal and Assam reveal this deeper transformation. These wins were not achieved through Modi's charisma alone but through local leadership ecosystems that BJP has deliberately cultivated. Assam was driven by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's aggressive state-level command and narrative crafting. West Bengal saw Amit Shah's tactical management and a coordinated "Team BJP" style execution. Haryana offered an even clearer signal of strategic evolution: the party consciously projected collective leadership and local credibility under Nayab Singh Saini. Maharashtra, too, reflected a campaign where the state unit carried much of the weight. These patterns are not accidental. They represent a structural shift where BJP is decentralising electoral performance while maintaining centralised ideological control.

This is precisely where BJP's uniqueness lies: it is centralised in command but decentralised in execution. It functions like a military hierarchy where the national leadership sets the mission and the local units win the terrain. One senior leader's phrase captures this philosophy with uncomfortable clarity: "We have an army of soldiers led by a commander-in-chief." That is not poetic exaggeration; it is the BJP's organisational doctrine. Unlike parties that wake up six months before elections, BJP operates in permanent campaign mode. Its workers remain active year-round, maintaining networks, tracking public sentiment, managing community-level influence, and embedding party presence into everyday civic life. Their political calendar does not begin with election notification; it begins the morning after the previous election results.

The BJP's sharpest innovation is its booth-level

engineering, a system that turns elections into disciplined mathematics rather than emotional improvisation. While other parties still depend heavily on rallies, caste arithmetic, and last-minute candidate bargaining, BJP treats every polling booth like a battlefield unit. Booth committees, panna pramukhs, and micro-level coordinators create an architecture where voter lists are audited, households are mapped, grievances are recorded, and turnout is engineered with near-industrial precision. This is where BJP defeats its opponents: not on television debates, but in voter mobilisation and micro-targeting. The voter is not treated as a crowd; the voter is treated as a data point with a social identity, a local complaint, and a predictable probability of voting.

This machinery becomes even more lethal when combined with narrative discipline. BJP does not run random messaging driven by emotional outbursts or leader-centric slogans alone. It runs synchronised storytelling where local pride, regional identity, welfare schemes, and anti-incumbency are woven into one umbrella of "development plus nationalism." Odisha demonstrated this model vividly. The campaign leaned heavily on "Odia Asmita" (regional pride) and anti-incumbency against the long-ruling BJD, with Modi as an amplifier rather than the sole anchor. Tripura followed a similar template. In both cases, the Centre's development narrative played like background music while the foreground was local identity politics, leadership deployment, and targeted social coalition building.

Another uncomfortable truth for the opposition is that BJP has institutionalised the science of selecting states as targets. The party

does not contest elections as isolated events; it treats them as phases in a long-term expansion project. It identifies a state, diagnoses local political conditions, builds cadre capacity, deploys leaders with region-specific credibility, and gradually creates an ecosystem capable of competing. This is why Bengal 2026 looked structurally different from Bengal 2021. In 2021, Modi's face existed, but the organisational depth was insufficient. By 2026, groundwork had matured: cadre expansion, alliance calibration, narrative penetration, and booth-level consolidation. Modi became a multiplier, not the only pillar.

Technology has further strengthened this political engine. BJP began with social media dominance but has now upgraded into the era of digital war rooms, micro-targeted communication, and AI-assisted feedback loops. This is not simply "modern campaigning." It is an operational upgrade where the party collects public mood signals faster, shifts slogans quicker, amplifies selective narratives more effectively, and maintains real-time campaign intelligence.

In short, BJP behaves less like a traditional party and more like an organisation with corporate-grade operational discipline. It understands that elections are not just about persuasion; they are about controlling information speed, narrative saturation, and mobilisation efficiency.

Yet it would be dishonest to suggest Modi is irrelevant. Modi remains BJP's emotional glue and symbolic superpower. Even small gestures—eating street food, taking a boat ride, meeting beneficiaries—become national narrative events.

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

US teen Buddhist lama now a monk studying in the Himalayan foothills

At a monastery in the Himalayan foothills, a teenage Buddhist lama blesses thousands. One by one, he taps bowed heads with a ritual vase and a peacock feather, sprinkling holy water for protection, purification, wisdom.

He stops to smile at children who eye him with curiosity, reverence and awe. He tries to keep pace with others who, like him, are among the few chosen to give the final blessing.

Just six months earlier, thousands of miles away, this same young man was pulling all-nighters to play Madden NFL on his Xbox at his home near Minneapolis.

Sometimes he'd pause to snack on pizza rolls and Diet Coke, or check his texts for the next hangout at TopGolf or Buffalo Wild Wings.

Two separate worlds. Both are home to Jalue Dorje.

A typical American teen, he grew up loving rap music, video games and football. He is also an aspiring spiritual leader who, from an early age, was recognised by the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders as a reincarnated lama.

Now he's 19. He graduated from high school last year and moved to northern India to join the Mindrolling Monastery, about 7,200 miles (11,500 kilometers) from his home in Columbia Heights.

Recently, he came to Nepal to meet his parents, who flew from Minneapolis, and attended sacred rituals and teachings conducted by the abbot of Shechen Monastery.

Maroon and golden monastic robes had replaced his usual hoodies and sweatpants. But he still quoted from Drake (the rapper) and Shantidewa (the 8th-century Indian monastic). And beneath his robes, he wore white Crocs decorated with jibbitz charms of "The Simpsons".

He wore them often at Shechen Monastery, near the 1,500-year-old Boudhanath stupa, one of Tibetan Buddhism's most sacred sites.

Each morning, he'd awake at dawn. After prayers, he walked from his hotel through crowded Kathmandu streets lined with fruits, incense and spices, dodging mopeds near the soaring white dome and spire of Boudhanath with its colorful Tibetan prayer flags and the painted, ever-watching eyes of the Buddha.

On a recent day, he strode to the monastery

and took off his Crocs before entering a prayer hall reserved for monks with doctorates and lamas like himself. Incense wafted. The sound of ancient instruments - cymbals, bells and drums - punctuated the monastic chants.

Standing before three huge gold statues of the Buddha, Dorje bowed to Shechen Rabjam Rinpoche, the monastery's spiritual head, and presented him with a golden plate that symbolizes the entire universe, and a "khata" - a white Tibetan ceremonial scarf.

It was the first mandala, or offering, Dorje had made since his long journey to follow his pre-destined spiritual path. It was a moment, he says, when he realised how far he'd come.

"This is the real one, you know? We're here and this is really happening," he says. "I'm doing what the prophecy fulfilled."

Since the Dalai Lama recognized him at age 2, Dorje had spent much of his life training to become a monk, memorizing sacred scriptures, practicing calligraphy, learning the Buddha's teachings.

The process of identifying a lama is based on spiritual signs and visions. Dorje was four months old when he was identified by Kyabje Trulshik Rinpoche, a venerated master of Tibetan Buddhism. He was later confirmed by several lamas as the eighth Terchen Taksham Rinpoche - the first was born in 1655.

Jalue Dorje's parents took him to meet the Dalai Lama in 2010 when Tibetan Buddhism's spiritual leader visited Wisconsin. The Dalai Lama cut a lock of Dorje's hair in a ceremony. He advised the parents to let their son stay in the US to perfect his English and then send him to a monastery.

"From my parents' end, educating me was a really big one," Dorje says. "They followed the words of his holiness; he laid the foundation, and they took that gamble."

As a child, he often wondered why he couldn't sleep later on weekends and watch cartoons like other kids. One day, it would pay off, his dad would tell him, "like planting a seed that one day would sprout". He remembered the early mornings of recitation and memorisation. He recalled people who posted messages online doubting that he was a reincarnated lama, and how that troubled his parents.



Inauguration of 'Country First' poster under the leadership of Colonel Dr. Macherla Bikshapathi



With national development and public welfare as the main objective, a poster titled 'Country First' was unveiled under the leadership of eminent public doctors Colonel Dr. Macherla Bikshapathi. The program was held in a grand manner at Ayushman Hospital in Janagama on Monday. For the economic development of the country and for the protection of the environment, many important points are being brought to the public through this poster. The important points of the poster are giving priority to 'work from home' policy as much as possible. Stop buying gold, refrain from buying gold for one year in view of the country's economy, reduce the use of petrol and diesel, use the public transport system as much as possible, significantly reduce the use of cooking oil, chemical fertilisers. The implementation poster included reducing consumption and moving towards nature/natural cultivation, reducing the use of foreign branded products, favoring indigenous products, and avoiding foreign trips for one year unless absolutely necessary.

Speaking on the occasion, Colonel Dr. Macherla Bikshapathi said that the progress of the country requires the participation of every citizen, that is why we have undertaken this awareness program with the slogan 'Country First'. He disclosed that in the coming days, meetings will be held at the field level to create awareness among people. It is followed by the Poets, artists, intellectuals G. Krishna, Ayla Somanarsimhachari, Mangalampalli Raju, Pottabattini Bhaskar, Thallapalli Laxman Goud, Chilumoji Saikiran, Rangaraju Prasad participated in this program.

Indian-origin golfer Aaron Rai captures maiden PGA Championship title

Aaron Rai produced the defining moment of his career at the 2026 PGA Championship, sealing his maiden major crown with a sensational late flourish at Aronimink Golf Club. The Englishman entered the closing stretch of Sunday's final round with a narrow advantage, but it was his remarkable birdie putt on the par-3 17th that effectively settled the tournament. Facing a daunting 68-foot attempt with the pressure of a major title hanging over him, Rai rolled the putt in to spark huge celebrations from the galleries and move three shots clear of the chasing pack. That moment gave the Wolverhampton-born golfer enough breathing room heading to the 18th, where a composed par finish secured both the championship and the iconic Wanamaker Trophy. In doing so, Rai became the first English winner of the PGA Championship since Jim Barnes lifted the title more than a century ago in 1919. Rai closed the week at nine-under-par, finishing three strokes ahead of a group tied for second place. Alex Smalley, who had held the overnight clubhouse lead after the third round, carded an even-par final round to end at six under alongside Jon Rahm, who posted a two-under 68 on Sunday. Matti Schmid, who began the final day as Rai's closest challenger, slipped back after the decisive stretch and eventually shared third place at five under with Ludvig Åberg and Justin Thomas. For Rai, whose 2026 campaign had largely been filled with inconsistency and missed opportunities, the victory marked a dramatic turnaround on one of golf's biggest stages. "It's very surreal. It's been a frustrating season, so to be stood here is outside of my wildest imagination," Rai said after the win. The 31-year-old also reflected on the deeper lessons the sport has taught him throughout his journey to major success. "Golf is an amazing game. It teaches you so many things, and it teaches you so much humility, discipline and absolute hard work, because nothing is ever given in this game. No matter what level you're playing, no matter what course you're playing on.

Seshachalam hills thrive under TTD's green protection measures

Tirupati: Balancing spiritual activity with environmental conservation, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Forest Department has emerged as a key protector of the ecologically sensitive Seshachalam Hills. It has been safeguarding vast stretches of greenery and wildlife while supporting millions of pilgrims visiting Tirumala every year. Established in 1980, the department has been managing and preserving the sacred forest ecosystem spread across the Eastern Ghats. The forests under TTD jurisdiction extend over nearly 2,719 hectares, of which around 2,431 hectares remain under forest vegetation. According to the latest India State of Forest Report, forest cover within TTD limits stands at 89.40 percent, placing the institution among the leading organisations in the country in terms of green cover management. The dense forests play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation, carbon storage and climate regulation. To strengthen forest protection, the department has



deployed round-the-clock flying squad teams to patrol vulnerable areas and prevent illegal tree felling and poaching. Fire prevention remains another major focus, with about 26.5 kilometres of fire lines maintained every year to check the spread of summer forest fires. The department has also launched a major ecological restoration initiative by replacing exotic Acacia plantations with indigenous tree species across 576 hectares. Native varieties such as peepal, banyan, red sanders, sandalwood, mango, gooseberry, jamun and champak are being planted in phases, with plantation works already completed in 22 hectares. Special nurs-

eries functioning in all four forest ranges under TTD are raising medicinal, ornamental and native plant species to support afforestation and greenery development projects in Tirumala and Tirupati. The Forest Department functions under the supervision of the Deputy Conservator of Forests through four forest ranges — two each in Tirumala and Tirupati. The Seshachalam forests are home to rich wildlife, including elephants, leopards, bears and snakes. To minimise human-animal conflict during summer, the department has been creating water-filled saucer pits in forest areas so that animals do not venture into human habi-

tations in search of water. Three dedicated snake rescue teams remain on alert in queue line areas to respond swiftly to snake sightings and ensure pilgrim safety. The department also undertakes trimming of roadside branches, removal of dangerous trees and clearance of fallen trees after heavy rains and storms. Besides conservation, the department supports temple rituals by supplying sandalwood logs, firewood, darbha grass and other materials required for religious ceremonies. It also maintains greenery projects, including 24 kilometres of road dividers and 25 gardens in Tirumala and Tirupati. The TTD reveals that several initiatives, including Pavitra Vanam, Divya Oushadha Vanam and the Palamaneru Timber Plantation programme in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, are currently underway to enhance greenery and reduce wildlife conflict while preserving the sacred natural heritage of the Seshachalam Hills for future generations.

International Museum Day 2026: Joydeep's Unique Bengal Museum Preserves India's Lost Musical Heritage

On International Museum Day 2026, discover how Bengal's Joydeep is preserving India's lost musical heritage through a unique museum dedicated to extinct traditional instruments. By Staff Correspondent, Kolkata? As the world celebrates International Museum Day today, highlighting the power of museums to educate, preserve, and inspire, a quiet revolution is playing out inside a residential home in Bengal. Multi-instrumentalist and researcher Pandit Joydeep Mukherjee has transformed his personal space into a sanctum sanctorum of India's forgotten musical heritage. Hosting an extraordinary collection of rare, historical, and once-extinct instruments spanning from the 17th century to the modern era, this unique archive functions not as a silent graveyard of wood and strings, but as a living, breathing laboratory of sound. At the heart of Mukherjee's curated home-museum is an unparalleled assembly of stringed instruments that charts the evolution of the Senia Shahjehanpur Gharana. The private collection boasts 11 historic Sarods charting the technological and acoustic changes of the last 200 years, alongside four majestic Sursingars tracking the last century and a half of Dhruvad heritage.?

Guarding the Legacy of a Maestro? Beyond the

sheer antiquity of the instruments, the museum serves as the ultimate repository for the genius of Mukherjee's Dadaguru (grand-guru), the legendary Sarod maestro Pandit Radhika Mohan Maitra. Among the crown jewels of the archive are three revolutionary hybrid instruments originally conceptualized by Maitra mid-century to bridge the gap between historical resonance and modern playability: The Mohanveena: Invented by Maitra in 1948 and officially named by All India Radio's Thakur Jaidev Singh, this 100% indigenous stringed instrument fuses the deep, meditative tonality of the Veena and Sursingar with the swift execution of the Sarod. The Dilbahar: A fascinating 1956 creation that masterfully amalgamates the structural brilliance of the Sarod and the Surbahar, featuring frets and a goatskin resonator.

The Nabadeepa: Designed between 1962 and 1967 as a minimized, child-friendly adaptation of the humongous Sursingar, allowing younger disciples to grasp the heavy demands of classical music. Rounding out this historical sanctuary are traditional Veena Tanpuras and centuries-old ancestral precursors that trace how the Middle Eastern Rabab evolved into the contemporary Indian Sarod. From Artifacts to Living



Patents? What sets Mukherjee's repository apart from conventional institutional museums is its operational philosophy. "These instruments are the echoes of our ancestors," says Mukherjee, an engineer and MBA who used his technical background in acoustics to master instrument restoration. "A conventional museum keeps heritage locked under glass. My goal was to bring these forgotten tunes back to the global stage.?"

Mukherjee's four decade-long crusade has yielded spectacular results. Working alongside rural master-craftsmen in Bengal, he didn't just preserve these items; he modernized their ergonomics. By replacing archaic components like animal gut strings with advanced bronze alloys and optimizing structural engineering, Mukherjee has successfully patented

the designs for seven of these instruments—including the Sursingar, Mohanveena, Dilbahar, and Nabadeepa. His monumental efforts to revive these extinct voices even earned high praise from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a national Mann Ki Baat address. The True Spirit of Preservation? On International Museum Day 2026, as global cultural institutions discuss digitization and accessibility, this private archive in Bengal offers a masterclass in active preservation. It stands as a reminder that the true soul of an ancient musical instrument does not lie in its visual form, but in the air it vibrates and the stories it sings. Through this home museum, the historic sounds of the 17th century are no longer a lost chapter of history—they are the soundtrack of the future.

Telangana Cabinet expansion on high command's radar

Hyderabad: With the process of government formation in Kerala expected to conclude on Monday, the Congress high command is likely to shift its focus towards the much-awaited Cabinet reshuffle and expansion in Telangana state. Local Job Listings The recent meeting of Parigi MLA T Rammohan Reddy with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi, along with his family members, seeking a berth in the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, has fuelled speculations that the Cabinet expansion may take place either before June 2 - Telangana Formation Day - or shortly thereafter. Political circles are abuzz with reports that Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy may be inducted into the Cabinet during the proposed expansion. According to Congress leaders, the party leadership is keen on honouring assurances given



to several senior leaders ahead of the Assembly elections. Party insiders point out that the Congress has already fulfilled some of its pre-poll commitments with regard to the Cabinet and appointing former GHMC mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi as chairperson of the Telangana State Women's Commission. On similar lines, the party leadership is reportedly considering a

ministerial berth for Rajgopal Reddy this time. Observers pointed out that the Munugode MLA, who used to be vocal in criticising the party and the government, has noticeably remained silent in recent weeks, suggesting that he may have received positive signals from the Congress high command. Election Coverage Hub Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy reacted cautiously to speculations concerning Cabinet expansion. During his interaction with media persons on Saturday, he remarked in a lighter vein that there was no immediate need for Cabinet expansion or reshuffle as the government was functioning smoothly. On speculation that he might lose some of his present portfolios and that he could be assigned the Municipal Administration Department, Ponguleti laughed it off, saying the media appeared to possess information that neither he nor the Chief Minister had. There are two vacant positions in the Telangana Cabinet. The party may fill these vacancies, while reshuffling the portfolios of existing ministers. In the process, there is a possibility that one or two sitting ministers may lose their posts to accommodate new leaders in the Cabinet.

Suspected cattle transportation sparks tension at Gudimalkapur

Hyderabad: AIMIM Nampally MLA Mohammed Majid Hussain sharply criticised cow vigilantes for allegedly creating chaos over a vehicle carrying plywood by falsely claiming that it was transporting cows. The MLA termed the police handling of the situation as "cowardly" and demanded that communal history sheets be opened against those involved in stone-pelting. Tension prevailed in Gudimalkapur on Saturday night after stone pelting broke out between two groups over suspicion that a lorry was transporting cattle. According to the police, lorry carrying plywood was stopped by a group of cow vigilantes, who suspected that cattle were being transported in the vehicle. An argument reportedly broke

out between the occupants of the lorry and the group that intercepted it. On receiving the information, the police rushed to the spot and tried to disperse the mob. At least two policemen sustained injuries in the stone pelting, several persons suffered injuries and many vehicles damaged during stone pelting.

Senior police officials rushed additional forces to assist the local police. Majid Hussain also reached the spot and pacified the people. The MLA himself boarded the lorry and travelled in the vehicle for some distance. He alleged that the police failed to handle the situation. He demanded stringent action, including the opening of communal sheets against those involved in the attack on the lorry. Majid Hussain alleged



that Gau Rakshaks were trying to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the city by resorting to such attacks. He demanded that the police act with an iron hand against the miscreants to prevent any law-and-order problem. "The police have done the worst possible control. When there was a

complaint and sloganeering by people those cattle were being transported, where was the police," he asked. Later, Joint Commissioner of Police Tafseer Iqbal reached the spot and held talks with the MLA and assured to investigate the case thoroughly.

'World sees PM Modi as ray of hope': NDA leaders hail Sweden's highest honour conferred on Prime Minister

NDA leaders on Monday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred Sweden's highest civilian honour, the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star' Commander Grand Cross, calling it a moment of pride and recognition for the entire nation.

Reacting to the honour, BJP leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said Prime Minister Modi is recognised as a global leader by other countries and seen as a ray of hope during times of crisis. "Every country sees PM Modi as the world's leader, and in a global crisis, PM Modi is seen as a ray of hope. This is not just the honour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but the honour of the people of the country," Hussain told IANS.

BJP spokesperson R.P. Singh described the recognition as a reflection of India's growing stature on the global stage.

"That this is the 31st international honour received by the Prime Minister. He is being recognised for his work towards peace, and that India's global stature is now being acknowledged worldwide," Singh said.



Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak also congratulated the Prime Minister on receiving the prestigious honour. "...I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Prime Minister," Pathak said. JD(U) Chief Spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said the honour brought pride to every Indian citizen. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the democratically elected leader chosen by 140 crore people of this country. It is a matter of pride for the nation that he has been honoured with Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star. The leader of 140 crore Indians becoming a shining star

for other nations is a matter of self-respect and pride for every citizen of India, irrespective of religion or caste," he told IANS.

Prime Minister Modi received the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star' Commander Grand Cross during his official visit to Sweden on Sunday.

The honour, considered Sweden's highest recognition that can be conferred upon a Head of Government, was presented to PM Modi by Crown Princess Victoria during a ceremony held at the County Governor's residence in the presence of Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

This marks the 31st international honour conferred upon PM Modi.

According to the Swedish Prime Minister's Office, Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf decided to confer the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star' Commander Grand Cross upon the Indian Prime Minister.

Instituted in 1748, the Order of the Polar Star is awarded to individuals for their personal endeavours for Sweden or Swedish interests, the Swedish PM's office stated.

Bring BRS back to power to put Hyd on path of devpt: KTR

Hyderabad: BRS Working President KTR on Sunday stated that returning the BRS government to



power under the leadership of KCR is the only way to put Hyderabad back on the path of development. Speaking at the Mana Booth - Mana Badhyata programme in LB Nagar constituency alongside local MLA Sudheer Reddy, KTR asserted that since the Congress party assumed office, the capital city has plunged into a complete crisis. He remarked that the city has fallen into a dire state where basic civic amenities are completely neglected by the current administration. Rao lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of making futile attempts to create a Future City while entirely neglecting the existing city. KTR criticised the Chief Minister, alleging he is incapable of managing the current urban infrastructure and is attempting to engage in real estate business under the guise of building a Fourth City. He expressed deep anguish over the Congress administration, stating that over a period of two and a half years, it deployed bulldozers against the homes of the poor on weekends and holidays, demolishing thousands of houses. In contrast, he commended the transformation of LB Nagar, achieved through thousands of crores of Rs allocated under KCR and the local legislator. He stressed the need to remind the public of these welfare initiatives. KTR highlighted that construction of the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences hospital in Gaddiannaram has ground to a complete standstill, warning of massive protests against these delays. Finally, regarding the Special Intensive Revision, he instructed booth agents to work diligently, visiting every household to ensure no voter is unjustly deleted from the rolls before elections.

Welfare residential schools get Rs 221.24 cr fund push



Hyderabad: In a major relief for Welfare Residential Educational Institutions across Telangana, the State Government has decided to ensure timely release of funds towards diet charges, cosmetic charges, and building rents for Gurukul and Residential Schools functioning under SC, ST, BC, Minority Welfare, and Education Departments. Tourist Destinations The decision has been taken to strengthen welfare residential institutions and improve the living and learning conditions of students belonging to marginalised and vulnerable communities. Earlier, payments towards these components were reportedly delayed by nearly eight to nine months, leading to difficulties in the smooth functioning of residential schools and hostels. To address the issue, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister took special initiative to streamline the payment process. -The government initially shifted to a quarterly release system and has now further reduced the cycle to monthly payments. The initiative was also announced by the Deputy Chief Minister during the 2026-27 Budget presentation. Officials stated that timely release of funds would ensure uninterrupted supply of nutritious food, proper maintenance of hostel facilities, payment of building rents, and provision of essential amenities to students studying in welfare institutions. The move is expected to improve student welfare, academic atmosphere, and learning outcomes significantly. The government reiterated that Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka are committed to providing quality education and better residential facilities for students from marginalized communities, enabling their holistic development and empowerment.

APNGGOs demand immediate appointment of PRC chairman



Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Non-Gazetted and Gazetted Officers (APNGGOs) Association State president A Vidyasagar has urged the State government to immediately appoint Pay Revision Commission (PRC) chairman and announce Interim Relief (IR) for employees awaiting wage revision since 2023. Addressing the State executive meeting of the association at NGO Home in Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, on Sunday, Vidyasagar said the delay in constituting the PRC had created uncertainty among employees regarding revised pay scales. He noted that Telangana had already constituted a PRC in 2023, while the Centre had initiated the process for the 2026 pay revision.

The State executive unanimously resolved to press the government for immediate appointment of the PRC chairman and early implementation of wage revision benefits. The association welcomed the government's positive approach towards clearing pending employee dues and appreciated the release of nearly Rs 21,000 crore towards arrears. The meeting also discussed several pending demands, including implementation of Memo-57 by bringing pre-2004 notified candidates under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), enhancement of retirement age for contract and outsourcing employees from 60 to 62 years, regularisation of contract staff, notional increments and promotions for village and ward secretariat employees and additional pension benefits for pensioners. The executive opposed disciplinary action against employees based on IVRS calls and said punitive measures like suspensions solely based on the system were not justified. Members urged the government to improve transparency and efficiency in the IVRS mechanism instead of imposing harsh action on employees. Concerns were also raised regarding deficiencies in the employees' health card system. State general secretary DV Ramana expressed hope that the government would soon issue favourable orders on pending employee-related issues. State vice-president V Dastagiri Reddy, organising secretary K Jagadeeswara Rao, treasurer Bharathi Prasad and other executive members participated in the meeting.

Awareness run on childhood eye cancer organised

Vijayawada: Krishna district collector DK Balaji participated in the 'Whitathon' awareness run organised by LV Prasad Eye Institute at its Kode Venkatadri Campus in Vijayawada on Sunday to create awareness on retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer affecting children. The event was conducted at Anumolu Grounds in Tadigadapa near Vijayawada, where the Collector flagged off the run as the chief guest. He also personally registered for the marathon and took part in the run, encouraging participants and highlighting the importance of public awareness on childhood eye cancer. Around 600 people participated in the programme, including LVPEI Vijayawada

campus head Dr Anasuya Ganguly, Network Associate Director Venkata Kiran Penneru, Assistant Director (Administration) Mohammed Jani, representatives of the institute and members of the public. Anumolu Prabhakar, who provided the venue for the event, also participated in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Balaji underlined the significance of early diagnosis and proper treatment of eye cancer in children. He called upon people to spread awareness so that no child loses vision or life due to lack of timely treatment and urged everyone to work collectively towards increasing awareness about childhood eye cancer. Dr Anasuya Ganguly said



the annual Whitathon is aimed at spreading awareness about retinoblastoma and mobilising support for children suffering from the disease. She emphasised that retinoblastoma can be cured if detected early and

treated promptly. Later, collector Balaji, Dr Anasuya Ganguly, and other distinguished guests presented prizes to the winners who performed well in the Whitathon.

Chandrababu plotting RTC privatisation, alleges Perni Nani

Machilipatnam: YSRCP leader and former Minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) has criticised Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of once again conspiring to privatise APSRTC by using electric buses and the free bus scheme for women as excuse. Speaking to the media here on Sunday, Perni Nani said Chandrababu has always been a threat to RTC whenever he comes to power and alleged that the coalition government is now preparing the ground to hand over RTC operations to private players. He said Chandrababu had already attempted to privatise RTC in 2004, but could not succeed because Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy came to power and protected the corporation. Today, the same Chandrababu is again trying to weaken RTC and blame women's free bus travel scheme for the financial crisis. Perni Nani questioned why the coalition government claims it cannot operate electric buses when the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government successfully purchased and operated 100 electric buses, including 50 buses for Tirumala services, after giving proper training to RTC drivers. He said those buses are still running successfully even today. He stated that Chandrababu left RTC in a disas-



trous condition in 2019 with nearly Rs 9,000 crore liabilities, including Rs 6,300 crore operational debt and over Rs 3,300 crore pending dues to employees. The YSRCP leader said YS Jagan Mohan Reddy not only merged 55,000 RTC employees into the government system but also reduced RTC debt burden drastically to around Rs 2,000 – Rs 2,500 crore by the end of his tenure. He questioned why banks are now unwilling to lend to RTC if the coalition government claims the corporation is financially stable. He stated that instead of reimbursing RTC properly for zero-ticket travel issued under the women's free bus scheme, the government is deliberately starving the

corporation financially to justify privatisation later. He accused Chandrababu of treating RTC like TDP's private property while never genuinely strengthening the organisation.

Perni Nani also took sharp exception to the remarks made by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan regarding harassment of Jana Sena cadre by TDP leaders. He questioned why Pawan remained silent for nearly two years despite repeatedly admitting that Jana Sena workers were facing humiliation, attacks, and political harassment from TDP leaders. Referring to incidents in Machilipatnam and elsewhere, he said Jana Sena activists were suffering while Pawan Kalyan continued to remain in the coalition government without taking action. He further reminded that the plan to form an anti-YSRCP alliance was not new and had already been openly declared during the Ippatam meeting itself. Perni Nani said Pawan Kalyan's latest comments about 'contesting alone' sounded hollow and politically inconsistent, as the coalition strategy against YSRCP had been decided long ago.

Suvendu Adhikari govt taps clean-image officers for key cabinet support roles

In a major step towards providing a clean and corruption-free administration in the state, the West Bengal government on Monday appointed a set of West Bengal Civil Service (WBCS) officers as "executive assistants" to ministers in the newly formed cabinet led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari.

The selections were reportedly made from among bureaucrats known for clean, transparent, and politically neutral service records.

The State Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department issued a notification announcing the appointments and directed the officers to assume their new responsibilities at the earliest.



Biswanath Chowdhury, a 2013-batch WBCS officer, has been appointed executive assistant to Panchayat Affairs and Rural Development Minister Dilip Ghosh. Chowdhury is currently

serving as deputy secretary to the Hooghly Zilla Parishad.

Krishna Chandra Munda, a 2016-batch WBCS officer, has been appointed executive assis-

tant to Backward Classes Development Minister Khudiram Tudu. He is presently posted as deputy magistrate-cum-deputy collector in Bankura district.

Another 2016-batch officer, Kaushik Kumar Maiti, has been appointed executive assistant to Food & Supplies and Cooperation Minister Ashok Kirtaniya. Maiti is currently serving as the district planning officer of South 24 Parganas.

A senior official at Nabanna said that the officers were selected after a review of their service records, with priority given to those known for integrity, transparency and an impartial administrative image.

Since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) formed its first govern-

ment in West Bengal after Independence, the new administration has initiated wide-ranging changes in the state's bureaucratic structure.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has already begun reorganising both the Chief Minister's Office and the state secretariat, with multiple transfers and administrative reshuffles carried out over the past few weeks.

The government has also ended the extended tenure of as many as 243 bureaucrats above the age of 60 who had continued in service during the previous regime led by Mamata Banerjee. In addition, two IAS officers were recently appointed to the Chief Minister's Office.

Satwik-Chirag pull out of Malaysia Masters after Thailand Open silver

India's leading men's doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will skip the upcoming Malaysia Masters as the pair continues to carefully manage their schedule following an encouraging run to the Thailand Open final.

After settling for silver on Sunday, the Indian duo confirmed they will not compete in Malaysia and will instead return for the Singapore, Indonesia and Australia legs of the tour.

"No, we are not playing Malaysia. We are playing Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia," Reddy mentioned after the contest.

The decision comes after Satwik and Chirag showed signs of rediscovering rhythm and confidence during their campaign in Thailand, where they reached their first final in recent weeks before losing 21-12, 25-23 to Indonesia's Leo Rolly Camando and Daniel Marthin in a high-speed contest at Nimibutr Stadium.

While the opening game slipped away quickly, the Indian duo mounted a spirited fightback in the second, saving four champi-



onship points before narrowly falling short. Reflecting on the match, Shetty admitted the pace of the conditions made it difficult for the pair to settle early.

"Yeah, I think we didn't start off that well. Shuttles were quite fast and we were trying to keep it low as much as possible. But we were always on the back foot. But second game we were taking the shuttle a lot higher and mixing it up with some flicks as well. But in the end, it wasn't enough," Shetty said.

The Indians initially struggled to adapt to both the shuttle's speed

and the aggressive style imposed by the Indonesian pair, particularly on the faster side of the court.

"Yeah, on the first side we played on the faster side. It was a little difficult for us to control. They took us into their game style and it was tough. But it took time for us to adjust. The way we played the second game, I think a little bit sharper in those few points, maybe we could have won the third game," Reddy said.

Much of the final unfolded at blistering pace around the net, with

very few lifted exchanges as both pairs attempted to maintain attacking control throughout the rallies.

"Hardly. The shuttles were also quite fast. When the shuttles were new, it was really really fast and it was very difficult to adjust. And the rallies were so fast that you didn't really know how hard you need to hit to control it. But it was quite fast today compared to the rest of the game," Shetty said.

Despite the disappointment of missing out on the title, the Indian pair viewed the week as another important step in regaining the sharpness and belief that had previously made them one of the world's most dangerous doubles teams.

Reddy acknowledged that confidence had dipped over recent months, but felt the partnership was steadily moving back towards its best level.

"Except today, the way we played, I think we are getting back that touch. I think we should believe more and be confident on court rather than playing 50-50. I feel like from the starting onward, we are 50 when

we enter on the court. But before, one year back, we were always 90% confident. But we are getting back that confidence. So happy with how we played this weekend. It's more about mental rather than physical I think. But things have started working to ourselves. I think maybe sooner or later, very soon, we will be on the winning side rather than second. But happy," Reddy said.

Shetty echoed that assessment and pointed to India's recent Thomas Cup campaign as a turning point in helping the pair regain trust in their game.

"Yeah, I think in the start of the year, we played well like I said before. But slowly we are getting back the confidence I feel. Especially after the Thomas Cup, we felt a lot more confident in our game. Although we lost today, but I think we could go on," Shetty said. Although the Thailand Open ended with another runners-up finish, the week offered encouraging signs for the Indian duo ahead of a demanding stretch of tournaments later in the season.

Vaughan questions ECB over Archer's stay ahead of England's Test summer

New Delhi: Former England captain Michael Vaughan has raised concerns over England's handling of Jofra Archer ahead of the home Test series against New Zealand, arguing that centrally contracted players should not remain committed to franchise cricket when international duty is around the corner. England begin their summer campaign with the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's on June 4, but Archer was not included in the squad announced by the ECB. The fast bowler continues to be managed carefully after a long spell on the sidelines due to injuries, even as he remains involved in the IPL. Vaughan believes the issue extends beyond Archer himself and reflects a broader scheduling and contractual dilemma within English cricket as he questioned the understanding between the ECB and BCCI that has enabled England players to stay for the full IPL season despite the overlap with the Test calendar.

"I'm sure he'll be in the squad (for the second Test). It comes midway through June. I think we have a problem in English cricket at the moment because Jofra was obviously staying for the full IPL. There's some contract that the ECB have done with the BCCI that's



allowing all our players to stay for the duration," Vaughan told Cricbuzz. Archer's absence has attracted attention, given his record in red-ball cricket, particularly at Lord's, where he has previously delivered some of his most memorable performances for England. Vaughan argued that central contracts should carry more weight when national commitments are involved. "If that's the case, I have a problem with England's contracts because Jofra has been looked after by them for a few years now on a very handsome contract. So who holds the key to that? I believe the international contract outweighs any franchise," Vaughan added.

The former skipper stressed that he is not against franchise leagues, acknowledging the opportunities they cre-

ate for players around the world. However, he warned that international cricket risks losing its priority if boards continue allowing scheduling conflicts of this nature. "Look, all these franchise leagues are fantastic. I love them for the players. But I do feel that if we start to put domestic leagues over and above a Test match, I think there's a real problem now," he stated. Vaughan also pointed to the difficult balancing act players face when bilateral schedules collide with lucrative T20 competitions. According to him, the ECB must establish clearer priorities regarding player availability. "England have got to make a decision because many have spoken out about it in the last week, rightfully so, because we feel that if you're playing for England in your Test match, players should be

back home playing for England. That's what your central contract says you should be doing," he noted.

He suggested that if the ECB intends to consistently permit players to complete IPL commitments, England's domestic international calendar may need to be adjusted accordingly, saying, "If there is an agreement that the ECB have done with the BCCI, well, I think you've got to start your Test summer somewhere a little bit later then." Vaughan also framed the debate from the perspective of England's leadership group, insisting the team should want its strongest attack available from the opening game of the series. "If I was Rob Key, the director of cricket, or Brendon McCullum, the coach, I would want my best bowler playing in that first Test against New Zealand at Lord's. Not here," Vaughan opined. For Vaughan, the wider concern lies in preserving the value and standing of Test cricket amid the growing influence of franchise leagues across the calendar, as he said, "We want to see our best players playing Test match cricket. Those staying, they're continuing to play the longest format of the game. I want to see them playing for their country."

'If Dhoni doesn't play against SRH, he'll come back next year,' says Harbhajan

Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh made a passionate appeal to MS Dhoni ahead of Chennai Super Kings' final home match of the IPL 2026 season, and has urged him to play, saying that he'll be fulfilling his promise to the fans by playing his career's final game at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Harbhajan also noted that if the former CSK skipper doesn't play on Monday could also mean that he'd come back



for the 2027 season to keep up his promise. Dhoni has not played a single game this season due to a calf injury, but with CSK set to face Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai on Monday, speculation around a possible farewell appearance has intensified once again. Local Job Listings Speaking before the game, Harbhajan reflected on Dhoni's long-standing connection with Chennai and admitted the occasion feels significant given the uncertainty surrounding the former India captain's future. "Look, he had said earlier that he would like to play his final match against Chennai, at Chennai's ground. And now that time has come — this is the last match in Chennai. It's possible that we may see Thala playing on Monday for the last time, and maybe this Chennai crowd will also be watching him play for the final time. And if he doesn't play, then it means he'll come back again next year. Then he'll say, 'Next year, you'll see me playing my last match.' You never know with him, but hopefully he will play," Harbhajan said on JioHotstar. Harbhajan then delivered a humorous yet heartfelt message directly aimed at his former teammate, urging him to take the field one more time for the fans. "Brother, just play tomorrow, Dhoni, please play. Otherwise I'll come to your Chennai, and if needed, I'll drag you onto the ground myself and ask you to play," he said. The comments have added further emotion to an already highly anticipated evening at Chepauk, where supporters are expected to turn up in huge numbers, hoping to catch a glimpse of "Thala" in CSK colours again. Dhoni himself had spoken about the possibility of ending his T20 career in Chennai during the franchise's IPL title celebrations back in 2021. At the time, he suggested he wanted his final appearance in the format to be at Chepauk, although he remained uncertain when that moment would arrive. "I have always planned my cricket. The last game I played was in Ranchi. The last home game in ODI was at my hometown in Ranchi. So, hopefully, my last T20 will be in Chennai. Whether it's next year or in five years' time, we don't really know," Dhoni had said.

Shiva Rajkumar's powerful look from 'Peddi' unveiled

Ram Charan is gearing up to create a massive box office impact with his much-awaited rustic sports drama Peddi. Following the strong response to the film's glimpses, the makers have now kickstarted large-scale pan-India promotions, taking anticipation for the project to the next level. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana and produced by Venkat Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, Peddi is being mounted as a grand visual spectacle with world-class production values. The makers have officially announced that the theatrical trailer will be unveiled at a grand launch event in Mumbai on May 18. Ahead of the trailer release, the team dropped a powerful introduction video featuring Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar as "Gournaidu." The video showcases the veteran actor in an intense wrestling arena sequence,



highlighting the commanding presence and strength of his character. His rugged look and powerful screen presence have already created a strong buzz among fans. The film stars Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, while Jagapathi Babu and Divyendu Sharma play key supporting roles. Backed by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, the film boasts an impressive technical crew, including cinematographer R. Rathnavelu, production designer Avinash Kolla, and National Award-winning editor Navin Nooli. The makers revealed that the film's final edit has already been locked, with post-production progressing rapidly. Peddi is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on June 4, 2026, while premiere shows will begin a day earlier on June 3.

Kamal Haasan urges Vijay govt to launch OTT platform, submits 6-point push for Tamil cinema

Chennai: Actor-politician and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) chief Kamal Haasan has submitted a six-point memorandum to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, seeking major policy interventions aimed at revitalising the Tamil film industry. The proposals include the launch of a state-owned OTT platform, tax relief measures, stronger anti-piracy enforcement, and incentives to support film production and theatre owners. Haasan met the Chief Minister late Saturday and detailed his demands through a post on X on Sunday, describing the recommendations as measures intended to strengthen the future of Tamil cinema and protect the interests of all stakeholders connected to the industry. One of the key proposals put forward by the actor was the creation of a government-backed OTT platform that would provide Tamil audiences with affordable access to Tamil films, inde-



pendent productions and documentaries. "I request the Tamil Nadu government to launch a state-owned OTT platform where Tamil audiences could access Tamil cinema, independent films and documentaries at affordable and subsidised rates," Haasan said. He also called for the abolition of the existing four per cent local body entertainment tax, arguing that the burden of rising production expenses and increasing operational costs for the-

atres and distributors has significantly impacted the industry. According to Haasan, removing the tax would provide much-needed financial relief to filmmakers and exhibitors struggling with increasing costs. The MNM chief further stressed the need for stronger action against digital piracy, which he said continues to cause heavy losses to the film industry. He urged the government to establish a dedicated

anti-piracy enforcement wing within the Tamil Nadu Police Cyber Crime Department with powers to enable real-time takedowns of pirated content. To improve theatre revenues, Haasan also requested permission for theatres across Tamil Nadu to screen five shows daily for all films. He additionally proposed making an eight-week mandatory OTT release window for films released in the state to protect theatre owners and distributors from losing revenue due to early digital releases. Haasan's final recommendation was the introduction of a film production incentive scheme aimed at restoring Tamil Nadu as a leading film production hub, while also generating employment opportunities and promoting tourism across the state. MNM, which is an ally of the DMK, did not contest the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Chinmayi reveals why she was 'afraid' to admit she dubbed for Trisha in 'Karuppu'

Mumbai: Singer Chinmayi Sripaada garnered a lot of praise for her dubbing for Trisha's character, Preethi, in "Karuppu". However, through her latest social media post, the singer went on to admit that she was actually 'afraid' to talk about it. Taking to her official X (Formerly known as Twitter) account, Chinmayi wrote, "Strange I am readying myself saying this... I was genuinely afraid this time, of sharing that I dubbed in Karuppu (sic)." Chinmayi shared that she has known the director of "Karuppu", Balaji, and his wife, Divya Nagarajan, for a long time, and hence did not wish for them to face any backlash, like the team of "Leo", when also she had dubbed for Trisha. Expressing herself, she went on to write, "I have known R J Balaji a long time - he and his wife,

are such lovely people and RJB himself, is someone whose entire life is such a story of grit, determination and a man working so, very hard to make his dreams come true. Maybe because I knew him and his family so well, that I was scared for him of what pushbacks he will get based on the experience last time with Leo." Chinmayi further stated that a few of the scenes from "Karuppu" even worked as a trigger for her.

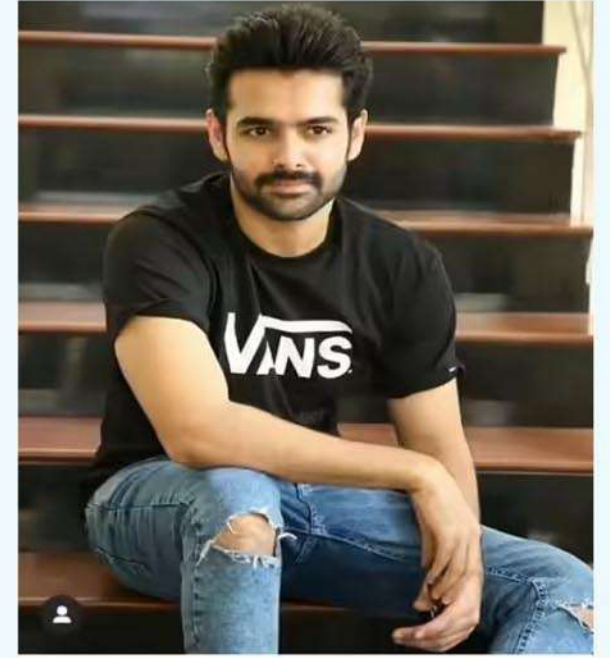
Her post read, "I remember crying buckets dubbing a couple of scenes in the film - it was a massive trigger, almost like I saw everything play out from the past, on the big screen." Towards the end, Chinmayi expressed her gratitude to Balaji for giving her the opportunity to dub for



Trisha. "And I hope Karuppu saami will help me work in my home ground, without fear and work without having to be scared of what will happen next. May God help Unban me and the others who have been banned from working, for years. #Karuppu Blockbuster," she concluded. Refreshing your memory, Chinmayi was expelled

from the Tamil Dubbing Union back in 2018 after she raised her voice against sexual harassment in the industry during the #MeToo movement. However, despite the ban, filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj and producer Lalit Kumar asked Chinmayi to dub for Trisha in "Leo".

Ram Pothineni turns director; comes with a psychological action thriller



Ram Pothineni has taken a major leap in his career by stepping into the director's chair for his upcoming film #RAPO23. The Energetic Star, known for constantly experimenting with his craft, officially announced the ambitious project on the occasion of his birthday, creating huge excitement among fans and movie lovers. After impressing audiences as a lyricist and singer in his previous film Andhra King Taluka, Ram is now set to explore filmmaking with a stylish psychological action thriller, a genre rarely attempted in Telugu cinema. The actor has reportedly conceived the story himself and will also headline the film in a completely new avatar as "Veera." Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the newly launched Rapo Cinematics banner, #RAPO23 marks a significant milestone in Ram's career. With this move, he joins the list of Telugu stars who turned directors, including legendary names like N. T. Rama Rao, Krishna, and Pawan Kalyan. The makers also unveiled an intense birthday special poster featuring Ram from the back in a rugged leather jacket. The bold red "V" in the backdrop symbolizes Veera's rebellious and dangerous personality, while the tagline "The Story of a Lone Wolf" hints at a dark psychological narrative set in a crime-ridden urban world. The film's regular shooting is expected to begin in June, with the team targeting a theatrical release in December this year. Details regarding the supporting cast and technical crew will be announced soon.

Another Mythri deal for Vijay Deverakonda?

Looks like Vijay Deverakonda and Mythri Movie Makers are not done with each other yet. Even while the actor is juggling his upcoming films Ranabaali and Rowdy Janardhan, strong industry gossip suggests that another interesting collaboration is



already brewing behind the scenes. Vijay has shared a long association with Mythri Movie Makers over the years. Their earlier outing Dear Comrade failed to make the expected impact at the box office, while their ambitious bike-racing project Hero was shelved midway, leaving fans disappointed. However, the duo reunited for Ranabaali, a big-budget period drama directed by Rahul Sankrityan, and insiders say the bond between the actor and the banner has only become stronger. Now, the latest Tollywood buzz is that sensational filmmaker Sai Rajesh, who shot to fame with Baby, is in advanced talks to direct Vijay Deverakonda in a fresh project under the Mythri banner. Though nothing has been officially confirmed yet, discussions are reportedly progressing quickly. Sai Rajesh is currently occupied with the Hindi remake of Baby, but sources claim the Vijay project could be formally announced before the end of this year. If the combo materializes, it is expected to be one of the most talked-about collaborations in Tollywood circles.