

EYE SECRETS

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Spy in every blink

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Like Indiramma, NTR is equally important to us, says Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy appears to have put the Congress party in a spot by stating that the Congress government was drawing inspiration from former Chief Minister late NT Rama Rao in implementing welfare-oriented governance in Telangana. He conveniently ignored the fact that NT Rama Rao had established Telugu Desam Party (TDP) to fight against the Congress party's attack on Telugu pride and self-respect. Interestingly, the Chief Minister drew parallels between the Congress government's schemes and initiatives introduced during NTR's tenure.

Speaking after unveiling NTR's statue at Ameerpet on Thursday, he said the Congress government's Indiramma Housing scheme resembled NTR's pucca housing programme for the poor. Similarly, the inspiration behind the Congress government's free power initiative came from NTR's Rs 50 Horse Power scheme introduced for the benefit of farmers. Likewise, the fine rice distribution to the poor was inspired from his Rs 2-a-kg rice scheme, he stated. "Indira Gandhi and NTR government's spirit reflects in our Congress government's Praja Palana. Like Indiramma, NTR is also equally important to us," the Chief Minister stated. Incidentally, he made these comments after TDP working president Nara Lokesh announced that efforts would be intensified to strengthen the party in Telangana. He vowed to retain the TDP's past glory in the State. Describing the occasion of unveiling NTR's statue as memorable, Revanth Reddy said the TDP founder was beyond regional and caste politics. "I will not fear anyone in

this issue and will not mind the criticism surrounding setting up of NTR statue here," he said. He further stressed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao and freedom fighter BR Ambedkar were three great leaders of the country. The Chief Minister also credited public support in the region for the Congress party's victories in Jubilee Hills and Secunderabad Cantonment by-elections. "In future too, you should continue the same support," he urged. Referring to Hyderabad's development, Revanth Reddy said united Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had developed Hitec City and the Financial District with proper planning. The present Congress government was similarly developing Bharat Future City across 30,000 acres and attracting global companies to Hyderabad, he added.

RBI balance sheet expands 20.6 per cent to Rs 91.97 lakh crore in FY26



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) balance sheet expanded by a robust 20.6 per cent to Rs 91.97 lakh crore (as of March 31, 2026) compared to the corresponding figure of the previous year, on the back of a high growth in domestic investments, gold holdings and foreign investments, according to the RBI's annual report released on Friday. In absolute terms, the balance sheet expanded by Rs 15.72 lakh crore during the year, taking the total assets to Rs 91.97 lakh crore from Rs 76.25 lakh crore a year earlier. The increase marked an acceleration from the 8.2 per cent growth recorded in FY25, taking the size of the RBI's balance sheet to 26.4 per cent of gross domestic product. The expansion reflected the impact of liquidity operations, reserve management and changes in the composition of the RBI's assets. Domestic investments rose 44.9 per cent during FY26, while gold holdings increased 63.8 and foreign investments grew 7.9 per cent, the report stated. Domestic assets accounted for 29.1 per cent of total assets as of March 31, 2026, compared with 25.7 per cent a year earlier.

Foreign currency assets, gold holdings, loans and advances to financial institutions outside India accounted for the remaining 70.9 per cent of total assets, down from 74.3 per cent a year earlier. The shift indicates that domestic assets increased at a faster pace than foreign assets during the year. On the liabilities side, revaluation accounts, notes issued, deposits and other liabilities all increased during FY26. The RBI said revaluation accounts rose 63.4 per cent, while notes issued increased 11.8 per cent. Deposits grew 11.6 per cent and other liabilities increased 21.1 per

cent. The report also showed that the central bank's balance sheet has expanded steadily in recent years. It stood at Rs 63.45 lakh crore at the end of FY23, increased to Rs 70.47 lakh crore in FY24 and rose further to Rs 76.25 lakh crore in FY25, before reaching Rs 91.97 lakh crore in FY26. The RBI transferred Rs 1.09 lakh crore to the Contingency Fund during FY26. The central bank said the provision was made under its Economic Capital Framework. No transfer was made to the Asset Development Fund during the year. A provision of Rs 1,09,379.64 crore was made and transferred to the Contingency Fund," the RBI said. The RBI's Economic Capital Framework allows the contingent risk buffer to remain within a range of 4.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent of the balance sheet, the report added. The RBI declared a record dividend of around Rs 2.87 lakh crore to Centre for FY26, that would help the government address challenges arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis.

IMD warns of below-normal monsoon for Telangana; slow start and heatwave risk in June



Hyderabad: The upcoming monsoon season could prove challenging for Telangana, with indications that the state may likely witness an average or below-normal rainy season. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, which released its second-stage long-range forecast for the 2026 Southwest Monsoon on Friday, indicates a below-normal monsoon for the South Peninsular region, which includes Telangana.

What is more concerning is the IMD's forecast for June, which predicts that certain isolated pockets of Telangana will continue to experience more heatwave days than normal, even after the monsoon season officially commences. Unlike previous years, when the Southwest Monsoon typically became active across the state in the initial part of June, this year's onset is expected to be significantly sluggish.

The IMD national forecast projects seasonal rainfall at 90 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA), placing the country, and specifically Southern states including Telangana, in the 'below normal' category, with a 45 percent probability of receiving less than 94 percent of the LPA. The IMD, New Delhi monsoon forecast also indicates a slow start to the season, with June rainfall expected to remain below the 92 percent threshold. A month ago, several senior meteorologists had hoped that the phenomenon of

the Indian Ocean Dipole would strengthen monsoon winds and help bring more rainfall to the Indian subcontinent. However, complicating the monsoon forecast, the IMD on Friday confirmed that the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remains in a neutral state, with no current signs of shifting to a positive phase to offset the influence of the developing El Niño. The IMD, New Delhi will release its specific July rainfall forecast in the last week of June. As the season progresses, state-level monitoring by agencies like the TSDPS will be essential to track how these erratic patterns affect individual districts.

Five Nepali men sentenced to seven days jail for harassing woman in Hyd

Hyderabad: A local court on Friday has sentenced five Nepali men to seven days in jail for harassing a woman near the Nizam College PG Hostel earlier this week.

The incident occurred on May 27, when the convicted men identified as Sunil, Umesh, Laxman, Purushotham and Ram, all Nepal nationals working as catering workers and residing in King Koti, in a drunken state misbehaved with a woman who was travelling with her husband on a motorcycle.

Based on the couple's complaint, the Abid Road police registered a case and arrested them. On Friday, they were produced before the court in Nampally, which convicted and sentenced them to jail.



SC of India stresses accountability in NEET leak case, says students should not be disappointed



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday stressed on accountability for the lapses in the NEET paper leak issue and said it was "actually very traumatic" not only for the students but for their families as well if something like this happened. "We should not disappoint our youngsters," a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said while hearing pleas on the matter, including one seeking a direction to replace or restructure the National Testing Agency (NTA) with a robust and autonomous body to conduct the medical entrance examination.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that the government is seriously concerned about the concerns of the youths and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally supervising the situation so that there is no lacunae. "The real problem won't stop till actual accountability arises," the bench observed. "It is actually very traumatic if something like this happens, not just for the students, but also their families and everybody," the bench said, adding, "They invest so much emotion." Mehta told the bench that some new mechanisms have been put in place for the NEET-UG re-test scheduled for June 21. Asked the Centre to file an affidavit in the matter, the bench posted the matter for hearing in the second week of July. On May 12, the NTA can-

celled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET, held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak. A re-examination has been scheduled for June 21. The paper leak allegations are under investigation by the CBI. To recall, after the questions of NEET-UG were allegedly leaked in 2024, the top court had refused to cancel the test but passed various directions aimed at tackling paper leaks and also a criterion for cancelling public exams.

Unified Card for every citizen of Telangana to track welfare benefits

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ordered officials to initiate measures for creating a multi-purpose Unified Card with details of all welfare benefits and other government touchpoints across departments embedded. The card would be designed in such a way that it carries details of every individual's benefits drawn across schemes and government departments. The Unified Card shall comprise the overall profile of the individuals with data points across welfare-centric departments, including AarogyaSri, Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), Fees Reimbursement, Labour and Education. In addition to the beneficiary details, profiling of contract and outsourcing employees in the government should also be considered.

He asked to explore, if needed, creating a State-level unique identity number on the lines of Aadhaar. The data from the Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) survey should also be merged with the Unified Card profile, he instructed officials. The Chief Minister, along with IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, had held a meeting with senior officials on Wednesday. During the meeting, he laid out a detailed plan to implement the project to create a Unified Card that serves as a one-stop solution to track the welfare delivery profile of every individual. He instructed to initiate a special drive to collect individual and



family-oriented data of all citizens in the State. The data collection drive shall act as a precursor to the creation of the first-ever AI-based profiling system for dynamic tracking of 360-degree beneficiary data. The Chief Minister emphasised the need to make full use of artificial intelligence (AI) for eliminating duplication of benefits to individuals, to reduce bureaucratic delay in extending benefits, and to eliminate human interface. Officials were asked to study best practices in handling the migration of citizens to the Middle East, from States like Kerala.

Kerala govt plans three-day menstrual leave for schoolgirls



Thiruvananthapuram: Three days of monthly menstrual leave for schoolgirls is among the women and child-friendly initiatives planned by the UDF government in Kerala, along with ensuring that all workplaces with more than 50 employees provide safe, high-quality daycare centres and creches. The women and child-friendly initiatives were part of the policy address of the new V D Sathesnan-led government, read out by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar in the State Assembly on Friday. "Our commitment to girl students is reflected in Project 'Menstrual Dignity', under which we intend to make educational institutions and public

spaces friendly for girls and women.

"My Government also plans to announce upto three days of monthly menstrual leave for school students, along with weekend catch-up classes, so that these girls do not fall behind in their studies," said the Governor in the address. He said the government proposes to put in place Child Care Rules, as mandated under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 ensuring that all public offices, industrial establishments, IT parks and all establishments with more than 50 employees run safe, high-quality daycare centres and creches. The governor said that under the Destitute and Orphan-Free Kerala Initiative, the government plans to promote adoption campaigns and build a network of trained, well-paid foster families based on the Juvenile Justice Act, aiming to make Kerala India's first "orphan-free" state. "My Government will transform Kerala into the most woman-friendly State in the country. Steps will be taken to implement equal pay for women in workplaces. Public restroom facilities will be arranged in all major towns across Kerala," he said. The governor said special benefits will be extended to women working in the unorganised sector, and six months of maternity leave will be granted to women employed in the unorganised sector. "Steps will be taken to make sanitary napkins, footwear and other necessities available to women," he said.

World Champion Gukesh loses to Carlsen; Divya, Humpy also suffer losses

Oslo: Round 4 of delivered another exciting day of world-class chess in Oslo, featuring a decisive result in the highly anticipated encounter between World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju. Playing with the black pieces, Carlsen gradually outplayed Gukesh in a complex game. The position remained balanced for much of the struggle before the Norwegian star seized his opportunity in the middlegame. Under increasing pressure and time trouble, Gukesh was unable to hold the position, allowing Carlsen to convert his advantage and secure an important classical victory.

The win gives Carlsen valuable points in the tournament standings as he seeks to recover from a slow start on home soil. The remaining two games in the open tournament end in draws after hard-fought battles. Wesley So and Alireza Firouzja played a strategic encounter that neither player was able to break open, with the game eventually

concluding peacefully. So later prevailed in the Armageddon game, securing the additional points. Vincent Keymer and Pragnanandhaa fought a balanced contest that saw chances for both sides but ultimately ended in a draw. Pragnanandhaa went on to win the Armageddon game, earning valuable additional points. Following round four, Firouzja remains in the tournament lead, while Carlsen's victory significantly strengthens his position in the standings. The Norway Chess Women tournament featured three closely contested classical games, all of which ended in draws before being decided in Armageddon. Koneru Humpy and Zhu Jiner drew their game after a tense struggle in which neither player could establish a lasting advantage. Zhu Jiner later won the Armageddon game to collect the additional points. World Champion Ju Wenjun and Bibisara Assaubayeva also ended their classical encounter in a draw. Assaubayeva enjoyed a slight advantage in several positions, but Ju defended accurately to hold the balance.

'He died saving others': Op Sindoor aircraft crash victim's family in Bathinda awaits job one year after death



Raj Kumar Singh, a daily wage labourer who died from injuries sustained in the explosion in Operation Sindoor. Raj Kumar Singh, a daily wage labourer who died from injuries sustained in the explosion in Operation Sindoor. A year after a military aircraft crashed in fields near Akalia Kalan village in Bathinda during Operation Sindoor, the family of Raj Kumar Singh — a daily wage labourer who died from injuries sustained in the explosion — is still waiting for a government job that could give them a stable footing. The Punjab Government provided only Rs 2 lakh compensation to the victim's family, against Rs 10 lakh given for a similar death in Ferozpur.

Raj Kumar Singh, a resident of Kothe Natha Singh Wale in Mehma Sawai, was injured on May 7 last year when the aircraft came down in nearby fields. He had rushed to the site along with other villagers and was helping to extinguish the fire when the aircraft exploded. He died later at AIIMS, Bathinda, from severe head injuries. In the months that followed, his wife Paramjit Kaur formally applied for govern-

ment compensation. The family eventually received Rs 2 lakh, divided equally among four members — Kaur, their two children, and Singh's mother. However, in a similar case, the state government has given Rs 10 lakh in compensation to the family of an individual who died in a drone attack in the border district of Ferozpur on May 9, 2025. Paramjit Kaur, afflicted with a chronic knee condition, cannot work. Their elder child, Jagmeet Singh, now in Class 11, leaves for school each morning and heads to work in the evening to keep the household going. Their younger child, Gagandeep Kaur, is still in school. The family survives on the widow's pension that Kaur and the children receive.

The family had demanded a government job for one family member. That demand has not been met. "He died helping others. We are not asking for charity, we are asking for a chance to stand on our feet," said Paramjit Kaur. A General Diary Detail police report of May 11, 2025, corroborates the incident. According to a statement recorded in the report by the victim's younger brother Virval, the deceased had stayed overnight at the fields where he worked and was among the villagers who rushed to assist after the aircraft crashed and caught fire. He was reportedly helping others extinguish the flames when the aircraft exploded, injuring several people, including Singh and his son Jagmeet. The Diary Detail further notes that the explosion occurred accidentally. No foul play has been reported, and the family has declined to pursue legal action against anyone involved. Based on a statement from the deceased's brother, officers had initiated proceedings under Section 194 (investigating death) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS).

Raj Kumar Singh's death was one of two civilian fatalities recorded in the Bathinda district linked to the aircraft crash. Govind Kumar, 32, a farm labourer from Haryana who had come to Bathinda for seasonal work, died at the crash site. He is survived by his wife, Mamta, and two young children. "We are not aware if Govind's family received any compensation. The government must give a job to my brother's family. We are daily wagers. We had to do leg-work to get Rs 2 lakh compensation. The government itself should have provided the compensation and a job, as it was not a mistake of my brother that he was killed on that day," said Virval, brother of the victim.

Amit Shah 'call' to AAP's Raj Kumar Chabbewal sparks police probe in Punjab



A phone call allegedly made by a person impersonating Union Home Minister Amit Shah to AAP MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal on his birthday Friday sparked political buzz in Punjab, with the first-time parliamentarian saying he was "surprised" and that he had informed the Hoshiarpur police. According to Hoshiarpur police, Chabbewal lodged a complaint, stating that he received a phone call from an unknown number, during which a person said that Amit Shah wanted to speak to him. Later, someone spoke to him and claimed to be Amit Shah, the MP said in his complaint. Chabbewal, who represents Hoshiarpur in Lok Sabha, said he received the call around 8.45 am. "A person first asked if I was Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal. When I said yes, he said the 'Home Minister' wanted to speak to me. Another person then came on the line, wished me a happy birthday and asked where I was. I said Hoshiarpur. He then told me to meet him in Delhi whenever I come. I said okay," he said. He added that while the voice did not match Amit Shah's, he suspected it was a fake call. "It came from a mobile number, not a hidden or official line. I immediately informed the SSP, and the matter is being investigated," he said.

Chabbewal said it was unclear whether it was a prank or had another motive, but stressed that it should be probed. Speaking to The Indian Express, Sandeep Kumar Malik, SSP, Hoshiarpur, said they received a complaint from the MP in the morning regarding the phone call he received. "We are examining the complaint and will get technical inputs regarding the phone number which has been mentioned

by the MP. Further action on the complaint will be taken as per the results of the investigation," said Malik. The incident has sparked discussion in political circles, especially amid ongoing political churn and speculation about shifting loyalties ahead of the Punjab Assembly election due next year.

Soon after the defection of six Rajya Sabha MPs of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, there has been widespread speculation on whether its three Lok Sabha members — Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal (Hoshiarpur), Malwinder Singh Kang (Anandpur Sahib), and Gurmeet Singh 'Meet' Hayer (Sangrur) — will also jump ship. Dr Chabbewal is a former two-time MLA of the Congress party and a radiologist. He joined the Congress in 2009, quit the party in 2024 ahead of the general elections and joined the AAP. He was appointed chairperson of the Congress party's Scheduled Caste (SC) Department in Punjab in 2015 and served until 2024. He was also a member of the All India Congress Committee. In the 2012 Punjab Assembly elections, he contested from Chabbewal Assembly constituency but lost. He won his first term as MLA from the Chabbewal (Reserved) constituency in 2017. In the 2019 general elections, Congress fielded him from the Hoshiarpur (Reserved) constituency, but he lost to the BJP's Som Parkash by about 48,530 votes. In the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls, he secured re-election from Chabbewal, emerging as the only Congress winner in Hoshiarpur district, which has seven assembly segments.

On April 10, 2022, he was appointed Deputy Leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in the Punjab Assembly. As an Opposition leader, he was known for his vocal criticism of the AAP government, particularly on issues like law and order, education, healthcare, drug abuse, and state debt. He made symbolic protests in the Assembly, such as carrying a chain to highlight governance failures. On March 15, 2024, Chabbewal resigned from the Congress party, the Punjab Assembly, and his position as Deputy CLP Leader. He joined the Aam Aadmi Party the same day, inducted by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. The AAP fielded him from the Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha seat, which he won with 303,859 votes, defeating Congress candidate Yamini Gomar by a margin of 44,111 votes. His son, Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbewal, was fielded by the AAP in the bypoll for the Assembly seat vacated by his father and won it by a margin of 28,690 votes.

'Denied house for being SC/ST': Karnataka Police orders urgent housing for officers facing caste bias



Several lower-rank Karnataka police personnel belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Bengaluru and other parts of the state have alleged caste-based discrimination in the rental housing market, claiming that landlords often refuse accommodation after learning about their caste identity. The issue has now prompted the state police headquarters to direct authorities to prioritise allotment of police quarters for personnel facing such difficulties.

In a circular issued on Monday, Additional Director General of Police (Grievances and Human Rights) Devajyoti Ray, on behalf of the director general and inspector general of police (DGP and IGP), said concerns over caste-based discrimination in rental housing were raised during a government assurance committee meeting held at the Vidhana Soudha on April 28. The committee noted that several SC/ST personnel were allegedly denied rental accommodation on caste grounds, leaving them with limited housing options. This, the circular said, was affecting punctuality and causing hardship, particularly for lower-rank personnel posted across the state. These personnel were reportedly forced to stay on the outskirts, making it difficult for them to report for duty on time. "In this regard, if police officers/staff working in the respective units submit representations stating that they are being denied rental accommodation on the basis of caste, such applications shall be examined/reviewed and action shall be taken on priority to allot vacant government quarters," the circular stated.

Sources said the issue is also linked to mutual distrust between landlords and tenants. Some landlords re-

portedly fear legal action under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the event of disputes related to rent or eviction, leading to reluctance in renting out houses to SC/ST tenants. "As a result, many SC/ST tenants face difficulties in securing rental accommodation and resolving tenancy disputes, while landlords remain apprehensive about possible legal consequences if conflicts escalate," a senior official from the State Human Rights Commission said. A senior police official, however, clarified that suggesting SC/ST police personnel are confined only to lower ranks would be incorrect. The official noted that officers from these communities are represented across all levels in the department in line with constitutional provisions and reservation policies. At the same time, he acknowledged that personnel in lower ranks are more likely to face practical difficulties securing rented accommodation due to social constraints. He said allotment of police quarters has so far been carried out on a seniority and first-come, first-served basis, and the same system will continue even after the recent circular.

However, he added that if genuine cases of housing discrimination are brought to the department's notice, they will examine them case-by-case and extend support, including efforts to provide police quarters wherever feasible. Officers also said that such cases had not been reported or formally noticed so far, but following the issuance of the circular, the issue has now been brought to the department's attention. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Home Minister G Parameshwara said nearly 40 per cent of the department's staff had already been allotted quarters and that the remaining personnel would be accommodated in a phased manner under the Police Gruha scheme. "We are allocating funds every year for the construction of new buildings, and once the proposal comes from the department, we will take it up on priority. Many police quarters still exist in buildings constructed during the British era, and several of them are now in a dilapidated condition in Bengaluru. We are gradually vacating such old structures and will begin constructing new buildings in their place," he said. "At present, around 40 per cent of our police personnel are getting quarters, and we will continue to increase that number through various police housing programmes. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that nearly 90 per cent of police personnel get housing facilities. Once the proposal is submitted, we will consider it on priority and take it forward accordingly," the minister added.

ED action against close aides of AAP top guns: 2 Mohali FIRs, multiple police inquiries form basis of raids

Two FIRs registered by the Punjab Police in Mohali after a series of inquiries between 2020 and 2024 have become the basis for Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids conducted across 12 locations on Thursday, including the residences of close aides of AAP's Punjab president Aman Arora. The raids relate to alleged real-estate fraud, forged Change of Land Use (CLU) approvals, cheating of landowners and homebuyers, and suspected money laundering linked to the 'Suntec City' project of the Indian Cooperative Housing Building Society and Altus Space Builders Pvt Ltd. In a statement issued after the raids, the ED said it had conducted "search and seizure operations on two real-estate groups involved in fraudulent Change of Land Use and duping of customers and land owners." The agency's action was based on two FIRs registered in Mohali — FIR No. 123 dated November 19, 2022, at Police Station Mullanpur, SAS Nagar, and FIR No. 7 dated February 1, 2024, at Police Station Phase-11, SAS Nagar. According to the ED, raids led to the seizure of around Rs 1 crore in cash along with incriminating documents and digital devices. The agency also alleged that at the start of the raids, Rs 21 lakh in cash was thrown from a balcony before being recovered by officials. The probe concerns alleged forgery of landowner documents, illegal procurement of CLU approvals, unauthorized sale of plots, diversion of funds, and generation of proceeds of crime.

The first FIR originated from complaints filed in 2020 by Karamjit Singh of village Palheri, SAS Nagar, against office-bearers of the Indian Cooperative Housing Building Society and notary public Manvinder Singh. Complaint No. 709/P/SSP dated February 26, 2020, was followed by another complaint dated November 24, 2020, jointly filed by other landowners. The complainants alleged that the society prepared forged consent letters and fabricated documents related to their land to secure CLU approvals for the 'Suntec City' mega project. They claimed forged signatures and thumb impressions were used. The first inquiry was conducted by IPS officer Harmandeep Hans, then SP (Investigation), SAS Nagar. In Report No. 180/5S/SP (Investigation) dated November 25, 2020, Hans found that 53 kanals and 18 marlas of land belonging to Karamjit Singh had allegedly been included in forged consent documents.

The report stated that forged consent letters carrying fake signatures of the complainant and forged signatures and thumb impressions of 14 others were allegedly prepared in 2014 as part of a conspiracy to obtain CLU approvals without genuine consent. The inquiry noted that the accused failed to produce supporting records or witnesses, and discrepancies in witness details appeared deliberate. Hans recommended registration of a criminal case under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B IPC against society office-bearers Suresh Kumar Bajaj (President), Ashish Kamra (Vice President), Ajay Sehgal (Secretary), and Rajesh Girdhar (Treasurer).

However, the DDA Legal branch, in a letter dated January 9, 2021, advised further investigation before registration of an FIR. It directed the police to verify the authority before whom the forged documents were allegedly used, obtain copies of the disputed documents, conduct an FSL examination of signatures, and examine witnesses. A fresh inquiry was then assigned to PPS officer Vikram Brar, then DSP Kharar-2, Mullanpur. During this inquiry, neither the complainants nor the accused could produce the original consent letters allegedly used to obtain CLU approvals. Police records also noted that GMADA lacked original copies of the documents, making forensic comparison impossible. The matter was again referred for legal opinion. District Attorney (Prosecution) Sanjeev Batra, in his opinion dated December 15, 2021, observed that no prima facie dishonest intention to usurp land or cheat had surfaced against the society and its office-bearers. He also noted the society was willing to pay market value for the land. Based on this opinion, the complaints were closed on December 23, 2021. The matter resurfaced in 2022 after proceedings in CRWP No. 9767 of 2022 titled 'Bahadur Singh and another versus State of Punjab and another'. Following

directions from the Director, Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, a fresh review was conducted. SP (Investigation) Amandeep, in a report dated November 19, 2022, noted that original consent letters allegedly submitted before GMADA and RERA remained unavailable, and even society office-bearers failed to produce them. The disappearance of the documents was described as suspicious. The inquiry concluded that office-bearers had prima facie prepared forged consent letters in conspiracy to obtain CLU approvals and allegedly usurp complainants' land. It recommended registration of a case under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 472, and 120-B of IPC against Suresh Kumar Bajaj, Ashish Kamra, Ajay Sehgal, and Rajesh Girdhar. Citing the Supreme Court judgment in 'Lalita Kumari vs Government of Uttar Pradesh' (2013), the report recommended mandatory FIR registration. FIR No. 123 was subsequently registered on November 19, 2022.

In its May 2026 statement, the ED alleged that Suresh Kumar Bajaj and Ajay Sehgal prepared fake consent letters relating to 30.5 acres belonging to 15 landowners. The agency claimed forged signatures and thumb impressions were used to secure CLU approval for the Suntec City project, after which more than Rs 150 crore was collected by admitting members without executing sale deeds. The ED further alleged that Ajay Sehgal developed the 'La Canela' residential complex and 'District 7' commercial complex using CLU permissions obtained through forged consent letters. According to the agency, all units in these projects were sold, generating proceeds of crime. The ED also said GMADA later cancelled the society's licence following litigation before the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The second FIR stemmed from complaints filed on October 5, 2023, by Gurpreet Kaur of Chandigarh, Sukhpreet Singh of Ludhiana, and Harbans Kaur of Chandigarh. The complainants alleged that Altus Space Builders Pvt Ltd sold residential plots in its 'Millennium Court' project at village Nagiari, Mohali, falsely claiming final CLU approval from GMADA had already been obtained, while concealing that the approval was conditional and later cancelled. The inquiry, conducted by SP (Rural), SAS Nagar, found that the company planned the project in 2011 and applied for CLU approval only on December 12, 2011, despite plots allegedly being sold before approval. Investigators concluded the company lacked sufficient land required for CLU approval and that the project was never developed. Police records showed Gurpreet Kaur allegedly paid Rs 5 lakh through bank transfer and Rs 7.5 lakh in cash on June 4, 2011. Amarjit Kaur, mother of Sukhpreet Singh, allegedly paid Rs 34 lakh, including Rs 32 lakh in cash, while Harbans Kaur allegedly paid Rs 14 lakh, including Rs 12 lakh in cash. Receipts allegedly issued by CEO Harpreet Singh acknowledging cash payments were also examined. Investigators found that despite receiving money, the company neither executed sale deeds nor handed over possession, even after nearly 13 years. The inquiry concluded that company directors and officials had prima facie committed criminal breach of trust and cheating. Following approval by SSP SAS Nagar on January 27, 2024, FIR No. 7 was registered on February 1, 2024, under Sections 406, 420, and 120-B of IPC against Mohinder Singh, Harpreet Singh, Gurtej Singh Saran, Jaswinder Singh, Hardev Kaur Saran, and Narinder Singh Sidhu. The ED further alleged that Gaurav Dhir of Dhir Constructions, through M/S Suncity Projects, purchased the Altus project for Rs 130 crore by undervaluing it by more than Rs 170 crore. The agency claimed Dhir is a close associate of senior AAP leader Aman Arora. It also alleged that middlemen Nitin Goyal and Pritpal Singh Dhindsa facilitated political patronage and protection. According to the ED, documents seized during the raids indicate interference by private individuals in Punjab government functioning. AAP Punjab President Aman Arora rejected the allegations, accusing the BJP of using central agencies to target Opposition leaders. He said AAP leaders were not afraid of the ED or CBI and described the action as political intimidation aimed at silencing Opposition voices. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, too, had denied any association with any of those under ED's ongoing investigation.

AIMIM corporator Mateen Patel named accused in Nashik TCS conversion case

TCS Nashik case: Cops allege accused Nida Khan gave victim burqa, religious books, planned to send her to Malaysia. Nida Khan, who is one of the eight accused in the alleged TCS sexual harassment and conversion case, was arrested by the Nashik City police. A day after arresting Nida Khan, an accused in the alleged TCS sexual harassment and conversion case, the Nashik City police Friday named AIMIM corporator Mateen Patel as an accused. Sources said he will be charged for allegedly harbouring an offender. Nashik City Police Commissioner Sandeep Karnik said, "Naregao (located in Sambhaji Nagar) Corporator Mateen Patel has also been made an accused in the case. We will investigate and identify all who have harboured them and hindered legal process."

He added that Patel was not arrested, but a notice was issued to him, following which he was allowed to go. The officer said that Nida Khan will be produced before a Nashik court, where they will seek her custody for custodial interrogation. Earlier, the prosecution, while opposing Nida Khan's bail plea, had said that she had played a role in the 'religious conversion' of a victim by giving her a burqa, religious books, and installing religious apps on her phone. Khan, who worked at TCS's BPO office in Nashik, is one of eight accused named across nine FIRs registered by the Nashik City police between March 26 and April 3 in connection with the alleged sexual harassment and con-



version case. Seven others — Danish Sheikh, Shafi Shaikh, Asif Ansari, Tausif Attar, Shahrukh Qureshi, Raza Memon, and Ashwini Chainani — have already been arrested. The case came to light in February when a local political party worker approached the Nashik police, alleging that a Hindu woman working at the BPO had been influenced to follow Islamic practices at her workplace. The police deployed constables as undercover housekeeping staff inside the 147-employee BPO for several days, which, the police claimed, provided the grounds for action. TCS had stated that it has a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and coercion of any form, and that the employees allegedly involved in sexual harassment have been suspended.

Record land prices in 'Future City'

Land fetches Rs 83,500 per square yard in Raviryal

Within the limits of the capital region, there is a surging demand for land parcels suitable for undertaking large-scale real estate ventures. In particular, the demand is exceptionally high for government-owned Housing Board plots, which come with clear titles and are free from any legal disputes. In Raviryal-located near the airport at the entrance to 'Future City' in Maheshwaram mandal, Ranga Reddy district-numerous parties competed fiercely to acquire land. An e-auction was conducted on Thursday for the Housing Board lands situated in this area. Housing Board Vice Chairman V.P. Gautham stated that during the auction, which covered a total of four land parcels, one square yard of land fetched a maximum price of Rs 83,500. He further informed that the auction of these four land parcels-ranging in size from 1,000 to 13,500 square yards-generated a total revenue of approximately Rs 140 crore.



The Housing Board had issued a notification last month announcing that these lands would be sold through an e-auction process. Approximately 17 organisations competed to purchase these land parcels. Among them, bidders competed intensely to acquire a specific plot measuring 1,113 square yards. While a minimum price of Rs 26,000 was fixed, a developer firm successfully secured the land at a rate of Rs 83,500 per square yard amidst fierce bidding. Similarly, during the auction for a parcel of land spanning approximately 6,000 square yards in the same locality, the property was sold at a price of Rs 62,500 per square yard.

Furthermore, bidders also competed to acquire a land parcel covering an area of approximately 13,500 square yards. Through the auction of these four land parcels, the Housing Board generated a revenue of approximately Rs 140 crore. An e-auction will be conducted on Friday for four additional plots (land parcels) located in the KPHB Colony, Quthbullapur, and Chintal areas. The land parcels-comprising 5,898 square yards and Plot No. 2 (2,420 square yards) in KPHB Colony Phase 1-2, as well as 10,890 square yards and 3,388 square yards in Quthbullapur-Chintal-are set to be sold through this auction.

'Future City' to be a world-class hub: Minister Sridhar Babu

IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Thursday said the state government was developing 'Future City' on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

He said the project was being envisioned as a "world-class global city". Sridhar Babu, along with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, inspected the under-construction office building of the Future City Development Authority (FCDA). He said every decision and activity undertaken as part of the 'Future City' project was in line with global standards.



A strong foundation was currently being laid for modern infrastructure, he

said, asserting that the government would complete the 'Future City' project

rapidly during its tenure, according to a release. Sridhar Babu said a deci-

sion would soon be taken on whether Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would inaugurate the FCDA office on June 2 or June 3.

He further said a police commissionerate and key government offices were being established in 'Future City'. Srinivasa Reddy said it was emerging as a landmark project not only for Telangana but for the entire country. "The primary objective of the project is to provide employment opportunities to lakhs of youth," he said. Later, the ministers inspected the construction works of the state government's Young India Skills University.

Unable to cope with mother's death, man dies by suicide

A 27-year-old man allegedly died by suicide in the Mailardevpally area of Hyderabad after reportedly being unable to cope with the death of his mother. The deceased was identified as Komura Reddy, a resident of Markandeya Nagar. According to police, he had been mentally disturbed since his mother passed away around two months ago. Family members reportedly told officials that he had also started consuming alcohol after the tragedy. Police said the man allegedly hanged himself at his residence in Hyderabad during the early hours of Wednesday. After being alerted about the incident, the Mailardevpally Police visited the spot and began an investigation. A case has been registered and further inquiry is underway.

Constable saves electrocuted power worker with CPR

A police constable attached to Tappachabutra Police Station rescued a power department contract worker after he suffered an electric shock and collapsed while carrying out repair work in the Karwan area on Wednesday. According to police, Raju Naik, 44, an assistant lineman attached to the Karwan electricity office, was carrying out line repair work near Kummawadi Hanuman Temple when he accidentally came into contact with a live high-tension wire. He sustained a severe electric shock and fell from the electric pole, losing consciousness. Police Constable B Suresh, who was on Blue Colt-I patrolling duty nearby, noticed the incident and rushed to the spot. Finding the worker unconscious and not breathing, the constable immediately administered



cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Police said the constable performed continuous chest compressions, which helped revive the victim's pulse and restore breathing before he was shifted to the hospital with the assistance of local residents. The injured worker is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital and is stated to be stable and out of danger. According to doctors, the immediate administration of CPR played a crucial role in saving his life.

Eid-ul-Adha celebrated with religious fervour across TG

Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice, was celebrated across Telangana on Thursday with religious fervour by Muslims.

Large numbers of Muslims offered prayers at the Mir Alam Eidgah and other Eidgahs in Hyderabad, as well as in various districts of the state. Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and other leaders extended greetings to the Muslim community on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha (Bakrid).

Bakrid holds profound significance in the Islamic faith and is observed with deep devotion, obedience, charity and special prayers in a spirit of reverence and sacrifice, the governor said. "May this auspicious festival strengthen the values of peace, compassion, harmony and brotherhood in society," he said. Chief Minister Revanth



Reddy said he hoped the spirit of sacrifice, compassion and togetherness would bring peace, happiness and prosperity to every home.

BRS working president K T Rama Rao also wished that the festival would bring peace, happiness, prosperity and compassion to all.



Gandhi Nagar PS gets ISO tag after major revamp

A renovated Gandhi Nagar Police Station in Secunderabad, with the latest infrastructure and eco-friendly upgrades, was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rashita Krishnamurthy on Thursday. The police station recently received the ISO 9001:2015 certification for workplace management, public service delivery and overall infrastructure. The renovation work was carried out under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO) N Bose Kiran. The police station underwent interior

and exterior painting, installation of LED lighting, a dedicated reception area with seating for visitors, repairs to drainage and leakage issues, reorganisation of official records and case files, and modernisation of staff rest areas and barracks. Seized and abandoned vehicles that had occupied large portions of the station were cleared to make more space. The station premises were further upgraded with greenery and landscaping initiatives, including vertical planter installations and pruning of overgrown trees to improve ventilation and sunlight.

City police reunite missing woman with family

Goshamahal Police reunited a woman with mental health challenges and physical disabilities with her family after tracing her relatives through inter-district police coordination. According to police, constables G Shambu Lingam and Thakur Ashish Singh were on patrol duty on the night of May 27 when they received a Dial-100 call at around 9.30 pm from a resident of the Nagarkhana area reporting that an unidentified woman was wandering in the locality. The police personnel rushed to the spot and shifted the woman to the Goshamahal Police Station after finding that she was unable to provide details about her identity or residence. During the inquiry, the woman identified herself as Padma, aged around 45 years, and mentioned



Nagasanpally village as her native place. Based on her dialect, police suspected that the village was located in the Wanaparthy district and contacted the Wanaparthy Police Control Room for assistance. The control room connected Goshamahal police with Srirangapuram Police Station, where local police conducted inquiries in Nagasanpally village and confirmed that a woman matching her description had been missing for the past five days. Police later received a call

from Boravelli Narender, who informed them that his mother had gone missing from the LB Nagar area and that the family had been searching for her. He subsequently arrived at the police station. After verification, the woman, identified as Boravelli Padma, was handed over to her son. Inspector B. Sravan Kumar, Station House Officer of Goshamahal Police Station, appreciated the efforts of PC G. Shambu Lingam, PC Thakur Ashish Singh and ASI Srinivas in tracing the family and resolving the case.

Woman submits fake certificate in teacher recruitment, to lose job

Submitting fake certificates has cost a Secondary Grade Teacher (SGT) recruited through the District Selection Committee (DSC) her job in Medak district, after those certificates were cancelled by Medak Collector Prathima Singh. As per reports, in the DSC notification given in 2024, there were five SGT posts notified in the district. A candidate named Sana Begum, a resident of Tampoor village in Tekmal mandal, submitted caste certificate and non-creamy layer certificates. Upon verifying the facts, officials found that Sana Begum had indeed produced fake caste certificates. On May 26, the Collector cancelled those certificates. With the certificates cancelled, Sana Begum's prospects in her present government job looks bleak.



Weeks before wedding, Telugu man dies of heart attack in US



In a tragic incident, a young non-resident Indian living in the United States died of heart attack, just weeks before his marriage. Gopireddy Nithin Reddy (27), who was living in Burlington, Vermont, was supposed to come home in June, as his marriage was fixed. Unfortunately, he recently got laid-off. He was caught between the societal pressures back home about not having a secure job in the US, coupled with the mobilisation of finances for his impending

wedding, and the risk of returning back to the US without any immigration hurdles. On May 27, he suffered a massive cardiac arrest. Though he was taken to the hospital, he couldn't survive. Hailing from Eluru in Andhra Pradesh, his parents have been living in Hyderabad. The tragic end to Nithin life keeps reminding those in India, that the grass is not always green on the other side, and living the American dream is not what it used to be a couple of decades ago.

Five Nepalis arrested for eve-teasing in Basheer Bagh

Five Nepalis were arrested for allegedly eve-teasing a woman while she was walking with her husband opposite Basheerbagh Central Crime Police Station on Wednesday evening. The arrested - Sunil, Umesh, Lakshman, Purushottam, and Ram - are employees of a catering company. A video of the incident emerged on social media. The woman claimed they were in a vehicle and tried to hold her arm. "The area is dark. One of them suddenly tried to hold my hand, and a comment," she said. She raised an alarm, alerting nearby locals who caught hold of them and handed them to the police. According to Abids Station House Officer (SHO), K Parushram, the couple were walking when one of the five accused passed a comment on the woman. "A case has been registered for eve teasing under Section 70 (b) and 70 (c) of the City Police Act.

Minister Rajanarasimha inspects TIMS Hospital

Minister for Medical and Health Damodar Rajanarasimha inspected the preparatory arrangements for the upcoming inauguration of the TIMS Hospital in Sanath Nagar. He conducted a ground-level inspection of all departments within the hospital. The Minister personally examined the modern equipment, medical facilities, infrastructure, laboratories, and blood bank at TIMS Hospital, which has been established to international standards. Minister Rajanarasimha directed engineering officials to expedite the completion of all ongoing civil works within



the hospital premises. The Minister ordered the establishment of separate hostel blocks for male and female doctors within the hospital complex. He directed that

adequate toilet blocks be provided to cater to the needs of both outpatients and inpatients visiting the hospital. To prevent traffic congestion

within the hospital premises, the Minister ordered the development of a multi-level parking system. He directed that a Dharmashala (rest house) be set up for the attendants of patients, along with the establishment of two canteens within the hospital. The Minister emphasised the need to swiftly complete the construction of the administrative building and the TB Hospital Board office located within the premises. He directed officials to establish a police outpost at the main entrance of the hospital. The Minister issued instructions to ensure the uninterrupted provision of essen-

tial services such as drainage, sanitation management, and water supply at this world-class hospital facility. Finally, he directed that the hospital be equipped with modern interiors and lounge areas. The Minister instructed officials to prioritize the provision of modern amenities in the blocks designated for international patients within the hospital. The Minister constituted a committee comprising the DME, the HOD, and engineering officials from the Telangana Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation to oversee the establishment of a world-class laboratory within the

hospital. The Minister directed officials to formulate cost estimates for completing the pending works necessary to ensure the full-scale operationalization of the TIMS hospital. Participating in the visit to the TIMS hospital were Dr Christina Z. Chongthu (Principal Secretary, Medical and Health Department), Dr Narendra Kumar (Director of Medical Education), Hanumanth (MD, Telangana Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation), Dr Beerappa (Director, NIMS), Rajeshwar Reddy (Engineering Official, R&B Department), and other officials from the State Medical and Health Department.

After 14 years on the run, rowdy sheeter held in city

Hyderabad. In 2010, Kishan Das appeared before a Nampally court and was released on bail in May 2012. After that, we went absconding for 14 years, the police said. After receiving intel, a special team was formed to nab the rowdy sheeter. Investigations revealed he had changed his name from Vaishnav Kishan Das to Vaishnav Ganesh Maharaj and ID documents to hide his criminal background and evade police surveillance.

The Sultan Bazar police, on Wednesday arrested a rowdy sheeter from Malakpet, who had been absconding for the last 14 years. Vaishnav Kishan Das alias V Ganesh Maharaj hails from Uttar Pradesh. A rowdy sheet has been pending against him at the Sultan Bazar police station since 1999. He has criminal offences, including murder, attempt to murder, theft, extortion and violations under the Arms Act, across the three commissionerates of

BENGAL'S ILLEGALS

The BJP government in West Bengal, headed by seasoned Suvendu Adhikari, is working on several fronts to "clean up the mess" there, where a mix of populism and pragmatism kept tempers cool for many years. The rule by the Left for over three decades, followed by the Trinamool Congress of Mamata Banerjee for 15 years, had been a period when the poor felt a degree of comfort. The governments gave the impression that they were on the side of the poor. They were given lollipops, but these governments mostly failed to empower state and the people in strong financial terms. The ordinary people were yet able to carry on. The entire scenario could see a significant shift with the installation of the BJP government. The minorities in special, who enjoyed some kind of patronage under the Left and the TMC, too feel being orphaned. The most significant governmental push now is to drive away the "illegals," the infiltrators from Bangladesh, who mostly comprised the poor, and large sections of them Muslims. The Hindus, who felt being uncomfortable in Bangladesh, too had come in and made Bengal their home.

"Jaldi, Jaldi Bhago," is what Adhikari has told the millions of illegals, with a warning that the government would otherwise "do the needful." Notably, some 10 million names had been deleted from the state's electoral rolls before the assembly polls this year. Large segments of them were the Bangladeshi Muslims living and working in West Bengal for many years. Large numbers of them were born here after their parents crossed over to the state - as also to Assam - along the unfenced borders. Adhikari has allotted over 140 acres to the BSF for fencing the border. The Centre had fenced large segments of the eastern border in recent years. This is a good step for the future. As the government unveiled its plan to "detect, delete, deport" the Bangladeshis - with the exclusion of Hindus and a few other communities - holding centres have been set up in border districts to keep them as also the Burmese Rohingyas. Hundreds of families are filling these centres; their future uncertain. Involved in these could be three generations of people.

The Adhikari government's zealotry in deporting the illegals fits in with the policy of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre to deport those who have no valid identity cards back to Bangladesh. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Population Registry (NPR) were specifically targeted against these people, but these moves had been stalled by the TMC government. Fact is, no nation can afford to turn a Nelson's Eye to illegal migrations from outside. It affects the social equilibrium and could turn a burden on the nation. They pose an additional burden on welfare schemes like free/subsidized rations. In the case of Muslims, fears are also that their population size increases rapidly as they are against birth-control. However, this is going to create a unique problem for West Bengal. With a sudden, sharp reduction in the workforce as a result of the present deportations, the wages are bound to go up. Bengal is among the states where wages as also the per capita income remain low. How the Bhadrachal, which patronized the BJP, would face this scenario is worth a watch.

Self-respect of NTR is a phenomenon: Vijay yet to learn



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Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) was not just a politician; he was an absolute phenomenon. Entering the political arena at the ripe age of 60, he founded the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and, within a mere nine months, galvanized the marginalized sections of society to capture power. His political universe was massive. He was a cinematic hero-turned-producer of a new government, building an administration filled with entirely fresh faces-people who abandoned their secure jobs to dive into an uncertain political future without knowing if they would even win.

NTR was a warrior who awakened the dormant self-respect (AtmaGauravam) of the Telugu people and infused them with fiery courage. In a historic anomaly, hundreds of ordinary citizens suddenly found themselves transformed into MLAs, ministers, and administrators. It was a spectacular marvel. A youthful government completely upended the monolithic Congress party, which had ruled since 1947 through various splits and internal re-engineering, forcing veteran political titans to bite the dust. The public breathed an entirely new air.

The Congress Bloodline inside TDP Standing atop his iconic Chaitanya Ratham, NTR openly mocked the fragmented Congress ecosystem, which was sprouting alphabet-soup factions like Congress (I), Congress (U), and Congress (S) like mushrooms after rain. Disgusted by this chaos, the people chose 'Telugu Desam,' injecting fresh, vibrant blood into the region's veins.

Irony, however, has a wicked sense of play in politics. The present Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, was a Congress minister back then who contested against his father-in-law NTR and suffered a crushing defeat. Yet, within a few years, he took over the reins and continues as the TDP Chief Minister to this day.

History, however, turned ironic. This raises an uncomfortable question: how much of NTR's original political soul survives in the present structure?

The TDP of 1982 was anti-Congress, grassroots-oriented, and strongly supported by Backward Classes. The turning point came in 1995 with the internal revolt that removed NTR from power. What fol-



NTR WAS A WARRIOR WHO AWAKENED THE DORMANT SELF-RESPECT (ATMAGAUAVAM) OF THE TELUGU PEOPLE AND INFUSED THEM WITH FIERY COURAGE. IN A HISTORIC ANOMALY, HUNDREDS OF ORDINARY CITIZENS SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES TRANSFORMED INTO MLAS, MINISTERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS. IT WAS A SPECTACULAR MARVEL. A YOUTHFUL GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY UPENDED THE MONOLITHIC CONGRESS PARTY, WHICH HAD RULED SINCE 1947 THROUGH VARIOUS SPLITS AND INTERNAL RE-ENGINEERING, FORCING VETERAN POLITICAL TITANS TO BITE THE DUST. THE PUBLIC BREATHED AN ENTIRELY NEW AIR

lowed was the transformation of the party into a highly centralized, managerial, corporate-style political machine. Today's 'Mahanadu' still displays NTR's Statues and colours.

The Backward Classes (BCs), who once formed the unyielding backbone of the Telugu Desam, now find themselves caught and crushed in a political Kurukshetra dominated by one or two powerful communities. Senior TDP loyalists who marched with NTR find themselves entirely sidelined, left without a voice or a destination. The youth of 1982

are today's veteran political pundits. Kept at arm's length by the current ruling clique, these pioneers look at the state of affairs and wonder in quiet anguish: "Is this truly the Telugu Desam that we birthed alongside NTR?"

Which family truly controls power? On the surface, the party appears to remain within the NTR family legacy. Yet deeper questions persist: Which family truly controls power? Which social groups dominate political and economic influence across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, regardless of party labels? Can

representative democracy survive if political authority circulates within a narrow network of elite families and entrenched interests?

Many of the principled leaders who once built the movement now face an existential dilemma: "Which party do we belong to anymore?"

Like NTR, Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and his Tamilaga VettriKazhagam used cinema, charisma, and regional sentiment to challenge an entrenched political order. NTR disrupted Congress's monopoly in Andhra Pradesh; Vijay has challenged the long-standing Dravidian duopoly of the DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. But history teaches that charisma alone cannot sustain a political movement.

NTR successfully transformed fan associations into a disciplined cadre network through village committees, membership drives, welfare delivery systems, and leadership opportunities for backward classes and youth. That institutional strength gave the TDP extraordinary durability.

Yet the party also carried structural vulnerabilities. NTR's highly centralized leadership style created insecurity within the organization. The Lakshmi Parvathi, by others brought into the fray, and certain opportunistic factions exploited the situation in the famous 1995 Viceroy Hotel revolt led by Chandrababu Naidu. In one swift political operation, the party, government, and organizational machinery shifted into new hands.

Naidu with managerial efficiency, technological systems, and apparently development-oriented politics. His political skills are undeniable.

But the transformation also altered the character of the party, from an emotional mass movement into a tightly controlled corporate-style organization. Do not know how long this style helps the survival of the party?

For Vijay and TVK, the lessons are clear. A fan base must evolve into an ideologically disciplined cadre. Personal friendships and family influence must remain separate from party institutions. A strong second line of leadership is essential for long-term stability. Ideals like secularism and social justice must be translated into concrete policies and organizational discipline.

Cinema can carry a leader to power, but only institutions can preserve that power. NTR built a magnificent political house. But without internal safeguards, the keys eventually slipped from his or others' hands. That remains one of the greatest lessons, but for every party built around charisma rather than a durable democratic structure.

Humanoids dance and thread needles as Japanese robotics developers look to outdo Chinese

Mechanical hands dexterous enough to thread a needle, childlike dancing robots and adult-sized ones to help with deliveries were on display Thursday as the Humanoids Summit Tokyo opened.

Among the dozens of companies taking part, including well-known players like Boston Dynamics and Toyota Motor Corp., the big stars now were clearly the Chinese.

Chinese newcomers, like Booster Robotics and LimX Dynamics, took the technology initially developed in Japan and the US and fine-tuned it, often for cheaper mass production.

It's a repeat of what happened in other Japanese industries, from consumer electronics to cellphones and electric vehicles. In humanoids, Japan was initially ahead but then failed to produce major commercial solutions.

Tim Hornyk, author of "Loving the Machine: The Art and Science of Japanese Robots," who was at the event, categorised it as the so-called "Galapagos syndrome," referring to how innovative Japanese products evolve in isolation and end up not translating for the international market.

"I really hope that Japan can come up with a Ford Model T version of humanoid roots. But I think China has already stolen their lunch. It's a bit too little too late," he said.

The dancing and wiggling Mini Pi Plus robot from High Torque of China, for instance, still can't help at an auto plant or do your dishes. But it's cute. And it doesn't come with an eye-popping price tag, starting at USD 5,500.

Chinese robots are dominating

One telling example of Chinese robotics use in Japan was GMO, a Tokyo-based AI and robotics company working on a humanoid with camera eyes that will help with Japan Airlines cargo and other chores at an airport.

The key is to have the robot do the



work in the same way as people so they would be interchangeable, an initiative meant to tackle the labour shortage problem that is increasingly serious in Japan.

The inner robotics workings were all courtesy of Uniree, a Chinese outfit, which is also working on a four-legged dog-like "stellar explorer."

Experts say Japan, with its finesse in manufacturing, proved a good breeding ground for robotics development. The sociological backdrop of a public receptive to robotics also helped.

A recent Pew global survey showed that people in Japan are highly aware of AI but are less anxious about it, at about 28 per cent, than people in the US at 50 per cent.

Japanese automaker Honda Motor Co., a leader in robotics with its walking humanoid Asimo, first

shown in 2000, was demonstrating a motorised four-fingered robotic hand that could screw on and off tiny bolts, or thread a needle.

It didn't seem to bother Keisuke Tsuta, assistant chief engineer, that similar mechanical hands were on display galore near his booth, many of them from Chinese makers.

Japanese robotics show their prowess

The technology Honda had developed is more durable and powerful than rival offerings, and the Japanese have historically shown they can excel at quality mass production, according to Tsuta.

The looming threat of a Chinese robotics domination didn't seem to phase Osaka University Professor Hiroshi Ishiguro, who has worked on humanoids for decades, including one that's his clone.

"What's significant is that Japan

has a culture that's receptive to robotics. If we're going to really start using robots in society, Japan is the ideal place," he said, stressing that Japanese don't discriminate against robots.

His robotic counterpart, dressed all in black like the professor, did as good a job, if not better, of answering a key existentialist question on the meaning of robots.

"I think robots will coexist with people. Robots are the mirror of human beings," the robot replied in a slightly monotonous but human-like voice. Earlier, the professor had answered a similar question, but a bit differently.

"No one is interested in me. All everyone cares about is my robot," he said, sitting next to his twin-like humanoid.

"As long as people identify with what I have produced, I am a success," he added.

Caffeine in evening may affect quality of night-time sleep, study finds

A study has found that consuming caffeine in the evening may not always lead to less sleep or difficulty falling asleep, but can often affect the quality of sleep during the night.

Researchers, including those from Poland's Wroclaw Medical University, said electroencephalography (EEG), by which brain's electrical activity is recorded, makes it possible to observe sleep duration or moments of awakening, as well as the biological quality of sleep itself.

"EEG allows us to see not only whether a person is sleeping, but also how the brain is sleeping," Donata Kurpas from the department of nursing, Wroclaw Medical University and author of the study published in the journal *Nutrients*, said.

"Classical sleep assessment assesses sleep duration and its stages, whereas quantitative EEG analysis reveals more subtle changes, such as reduced slow-wave activity, which is an important marker of sleep depth and its restorative character," Kurpas said.

Slow waves are a key component of deep sleep - the phase responsible for bodily regeneration, restoration of energy resources, and proper brain function.

"Caffeine may shorten sleep or make it more difficult to fall asleep; however, even when sleep duration appears normal, it may reduce slow-wave activity and shift the EEG pattern toward a more 'wakeful' brain," Kurpas said.

Thirty-two studies that looked at caffeine exposure and sleep-related EEG outcomes were analysed. The authors wrote, "Caffeine

"EEG ALLOWS US TO SEE NOT ONLY WHETHER A PERSON IS SLEEPING, BUT ALSO HOW THE BRAIN IS SLEEPING," DONATA KURPAS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING, WROCLAW MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AND AUTHOR OF THE STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL NUTRIENTS, SAID

reliably alters the neurophysiological architecture of human sleep in a direction consistent with reduced sleep depth and weakened homeostatic recovery."

"Emerging evidence further suggests that caffeine increases EEG complexity and shifts sleep dynamics toward a more excitation-dominant state," they said.

This means the body may spend eight hours in bed, but the brain may fail to fully regenerate, the researchers said.

"The subjective feeling of having slept well does not always correspond to what we observe in neurophysiological recordings. A person may fall asleep without major difficulty and not remember awakenings, while the brain may display fewer features of deep sleep," Kurpas said.

Kurpas added that caffeine is neither 'good' nor 'bad' - it is a biologically active substance, the effects of which depend on dosage, time of day, age, lifestyle, sleep quality, stress burden, and individual sensitivity.



Gujarat: Eight Gir lion cubs die in suspected babesiosis cases; no new deaths in 48 hours

Gandhinagar: Eight lion cubs in Gujarat's Gir landscape have died in suspected cases of babesiosis, though no fresh deaths linked to the suspected infection have been reported in the last two days, State Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia said on Friday as authorities intensified surveillance and treatment measures across the region. The suspected cases have been reported from revenue areas outside the protected Gir sanctuary, particularly in Gir Gadhada taluka and the Babarkot area of Amreli district. Samples collected from the dead cubs have been sent to the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, with reports expected within three to four days. "In the suspected Babesia-related cases, eight cub deaths have come to light. Whether these deaths occurred due to Babesia or some other reason can only be confirmed after the medical report is received," Modhwadia said.

He said no new incident had been reported in the last two days and described



the situation as "under control". "Forest department teams have been formed at the site and at other places, and all preventive measures that should be taken are being implemented," he asserted. According to the minister, teams from the forest department and veterinarians from Junagadh Veterinary College were deployed immediately after the deaths were reported. Lions within a 10-kilometre radius of the affected areas have been isolated and are under observation while de-ticking operations are being carried out in Gir and surrounding regions. Babesiosis is a tick-borne parasitic disease that infects

red blood cells and can cause weakness, coughing, nasal discharge and severe anaemia in animals. Forest department sources said intensified disease-control and treatment measures were initiated following a high-level meeting chaired by Patel.

"The current operations include vaccination, treatment and de-ticking drives aimed at preventing further spread of the suspected infection," officials said. Modhwadia said other lion deaths reported in recent days were linked to causes such as infighting, old age or unrelated illnesses. "Deaths due to infighting

and old age do occur from time to time," he said, while reiterating that no fresh suspected Babesia-linked deaths had emerged over the past two days. The minister added that expert assistance would be sought if required, including from the Union government and wildlife specialists such as those associated with Vantara. "Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and the Chief Minister's Office were personally monitoring the situation," he noted. The suspected outbreak has revived concerns over wildlife disease management in the Gir ecosystem, the world's only natural habitat of the Asiatic lion. In 2018, more than 20 lions in the Gir region died following an outbreak linked to canine distemper virus (CVD) and babesiosis.

Officials have intensified round-the-clock surveillance in vulnerable forest ranges and adjoining revenue areas. The 2025 lion census recorded 891 Asiatic lions in Gujarat, with a significant number now living outside protected forest areas in the Greater Gir landscape.

MoS Bandi Sanjay's son Bhageerath to be produced before trial court at Malkajgiri today in POCSO case

Cyberabad police continued questioning Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bhageerath in a POCSO case for the third day on Friday. MoS Bandi Sanjay's son will be produced before a trial court at Malkajgiri later in the day today. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was questioning him at Pet Basheerabad Police Station, where the case was registered against him on May 8. The SIT, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Ritiraj, is reported to be questioning Bandi Bhageerath based on statements recorded during the course of investigation and digital evidence. Bandi Bhageerath's three-day police custody is ending on Friday. The police will produce him before the trial court at Malkajgiri in the evening. Bandi Bhageerath was taken into police custody at Cherlapally Central Prison, where he was



lodged since his arrest on May 16. Police began questioning Bandi Bhageerath after his medical examination at Osmania General Hospital. He was reportedly taken to a farmhouse in Moinabad on the city outskirts as part of scene recreation and verification of facts linked to the investigation. After recording Bandi Bhageerath's statement, the SIT is understood to be examining him based on the victim's statement and statements gathered from persons linked to the case.

The Investigating Officers were also retrieving and analysing data from Bandi Bhageerath's seized mobile phone. Based on the findings during the three-day interrogation, the police are likely to seek extension of the judicial custody of the accused. A case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered against Bandi Bhageerath on May 8 following allegations that he sexually assaulted a minor girl. The case was booked under Section 11 read with 12

of the POCSO Act and Sections 74 and 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). After the DCP spoke to the victim, police invoked Section 5(1) read with 6 of the POCSO Act. Bandi Bhageerath was served a notice by the police directing him to appear before the investigating officer on May 13. He did not appear but sent a letter to the Investigating Officer seeking two days' time to appear. After the High Court refused to grant him interim protection, Bandi Bhageerath was arrested by the police on the night of May 16. Though MoS Bandi Sanjay claimed that his son surrendered before the police, the Cyberabad police stated that he admitted to having committed the offence of sexually assaulting a minor girl, after which he was arrested. Bandi Bhageerath was produced before a magistrate the same night and was remanded to judicial custody for 14 days.

Olivia Rodrigo breaks her silence on her Babydoll dress criticism

Los Angeles: Singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo has addressed the controversy around her recent outfit. The singer spoke about her choice to wear a babydoll dress, stating that the logic behind the criticism showed how "we really normalize pedophilia in our culture". She shared that she was actually inspired by music icons like Kathleen Hanna and Courtney Love to wear them, reports 'Variety'. Rodrigo recently donned the dresses in her "Drop Dead" music video and at her recent Spotify's Billions Club Live concert, eliciting online criticism that the look infantilized and sexualized her. "That's been making me so upset", she said in a clip from the New York Times Popcast, which will release the

full episode tomorrow. "Not even for me. People can say whatever they want. What's really disturbing is I have worn outfits that are maybe revealing on stage. I've been on stage in a sparkly bra and little shorts, which is my right, that's fun, I felt cool and comfortable in that. And that wasn't inappropriate, but me fully covered up in a dress that people deemed to be childlike was inappropriate".

The singer explained that the reactionary response shows "how we really normalize pedophilia in our culture. Also it's just this rhetoric we're fed as girls since we're so little, which is, don't wear that because then a man is going to sexualize your body and it's your fault. It's

so weird". As per 'Variety', she clarified that she didn't think wearing a babydoll dress sexualized her, and that it was intended as an homage to the '90s rock icons who inspired her. "I didn't think that I looked sexy in that at all. I was like, this is so cool. I feel I look like Kathleen Hanna or Courtney Love, all these people who are my heroes, and I felt cool and comfortable in it. I just think if we start dressing in a way that's like, 'I don't want some fucking freak to think that I'm sexy like a baby' or some crazy thing like that, I think it's losing the plot a little bit. I'm just very protective of younger women, girls, and I don't ever want them to be fed that rhetoric", she added.

NTR belongs to all Telugu people: Mahesh Kumar Goud



TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday said that the unveiling of the NTR statue reflected the Congress party's commitment to its promises. Speaking on the occasion, he said the party had promised to install a statue of former Chief Minister and actor N T Rama Rao in the heart of the city and had fulfilled it with the unveiling by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. He said NTR, affectionately called Anna by Telugu people, should not be confined to any single political party or caste, and should be remembered for his contributions to welfare programmes for the poor, weaker sections and downtrodden.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said that like former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, NTR also worked for the welfare of the poor, and added that honouring NTR was equivalent to honouring the Telugu community.

He said it was part of Congress culture to respect art and artists, and praised NTR's legacy in public life. Comparing leadership styles, he said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was also working for the upliftment of weaker sections and the poor in the state. The TPCC chief said the Congress had secured a strong victory in Jubilee Hills under Revanth Reddy's leadership and expressed confidence that the party would win more than 100 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections. He added that once the party comes to power with a larger mandate, it would further enhance welfare schemes and double the benefits being provided to the people.

'Vadhalane' from 'Chennai Love Story' strikes emotional chord

The makers of Chennai Love Story have unveiled the film's second single "Vadhalane," and the melody is already creating a strong buzz among music lovers. Featuring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles, the song was launched at a grand event attended by several noted Telugu music directors, marking the celebrated comeback of veteran composer Mani Sharma. The track opens on a soulful note with the expressive vocals of Javed Ali, instantly setting an emotional mood. With its soothing tune and nostalgic feel, "Vadhalane" stands out for its refreshing composition and lengthy runtime of over five minutes, allowing the emotions to unfold beautifully throughout the song. Lyricist Anantha Sriram adds depth to the melody with poetic lines that capture the promises and emotions of love. On screen, Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya impress audiences with their natural chemistry and heartfelt performances, especially during the emotionally intense rain sequences.

The film's story is penned by blockbuster filmmaker Sai Rajesh, who is also producing the project alongside S. K. N. under the banners of Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers. Directed by Ravi Namburri, the film also has Dheeraj Mogilineni as co-producer. With the first two songs receiving a positive response, expectations are rising for the film's music album and youthful romantic drama.

Ali Fazal Sonali Bendre-starrer haunting investigative thriller 'Raakh' to stream from June 12



Mumbai: Filmmaker Prosit Roy's upcoming haunting investigative thriller "Raakh" starring Ali Fazal, Sonali Bendre and Aamir Bashir is all set to stream from June 12 on Prime Video. The director said that the project was the opportunity to merge the thrill of a gripping manhunt with an unflinching exploration of trauma. Raakh is an investigative drama that unfolds as a visceral study of the criminal mind and the darkness that lingers beneath the surface of everyday life. It tells the story of two teenagers who vanish without a trace, a close-knit family is shattered and an entire city is left on edge. Prosit Roy, Director and Executive Producer, Raakh, said in a statement: "Raakh has been one of the most creatively fulfilling and emotionally intense projects I have worked on, because at its heart, it goes far beyond being a crime thriller."

"What excited me most about Raakh was the opportunity to merge the thrill of a gripping manhunt with an unflinching exploration of trauma and the darker impulses of human nature. Anusha and Sandeep have created a world that is meticulously researched, intricately layered, and rich with moral ambiguity." Prosit said that Ali brings a quiet ferocity that anchors the entire narrative, while Sonali and Aamir inhabit their characters with an intensity that makes every moment feel real. Rishi Negi, Group Chief Operating Officer, Banijay Asia & Endemol Shine India, said: "In a landscape filled with crime thrillers, Raakh stood out for its refusal to offer easy answers and its richly textured storytelling that treats characters with as much complexity as its plot." India news analysis "Prosit, Anusha and Sandeep have woven a story that sustains the tension of a relentless investigation while exploring the psychological toll of justice, morality, and duty. The exceptional talent of our cast in Ali, Sonali and Aamir have brought unprecedented depth to their characters." The series is created, written, and co-directed by Anusha Nandakumar and Sandeep Saket, with dialogues by Ayush Trivedi. It is produced by Deepak Dhar, Rishi Negi, Mrinalini Jain, and Shyam Rathi under the banner of Endemol Shine India in association with BhaDiPa.

Hyderabad Pickleball League Emerging as Platform for Women Athletes

Through the CCPL Club League (previously called Hyderabad Pickleball League (HPL) Club League), organisers are attempting to build not just a tournament Hyderabad: Through the CCPL Club League (previously called Hyderabad Pickleball League (HPL) Club League), organisers are attempting to build not just a tournament, but a long-term player pipeline – one that is increasingly creating opportunities for women athletes across the city. This season alone, the Club League saw participation from over 92 women players, with more than 40 women getting the opportunity to compete across clubs from areas including Jubilee Hills, Kukatpally, Kondapur, Tellapur, Habsiguda and Abids. For a developing sport in India, those numbers are significant. India news analysis "Pickleball's biggest strength is accessibility. We wanted the Club League to become a platform where players – especially women and younger athletes – could move from casual games into structured competition and team environments. The long-term vision is to build a genuine talent pipeline for Hyderabad," said Yashwanth Biyyala, Co-founder of Centre Court Sports & Entertainment.

Unlike standalone tournaments that often prioritise experienced players, the Club League format gives emerging athletes consistent exposure to structured competition, team environments, crowd pressure, and match experience over an extended period of time. That exposure is exactly what organisers believe will help identify and develop the next generation of HPL talent. "One of the most exciting outcomes of the Club League has been discovering how much untapped talent already exists across the city. When you create consistent playing opportunities across clubs and neighbourhoods, you naturally



widen the talent pool — especially among younger players and women who may not otherwise enter a traditional competitive pathway. That grassroots depth is critical for the long-term future of the sport," said Vikrant Rao, Co-founder, Centre Court Sports and Entertainment.

The accessibility of pickleball has also helped expand participation. Players from different fitness levels and sporting backgrounds – including working professionals, former athletes, beginners, and mothers returning to sport – have all found a place within the league structure. "A few months ago, I didn't really know much about the sport, but my team owner encouraged me to give it a try. The people, the atmosphere during matches, and the overall vibe have been amazing," said Abhaya, a former international tennis player now competing for Vikings PC. "Pickleball has already become so popular, and I feel like it's only going to keep growing." "The transition (from tennis) wasn't that hard because the game is very much like tennis. I'm just playing

because it's a fun environment and hitting near the net is incredibly satisfying," said Apurva Vemuri, a former National and ITF tennis player who joined the league this season.

The decentralised club model has further reduced barriers to entry. With clubs and venues spread across Hyderabad, players are able to train and compete within their own local communities rather than travel long distances to participate. Organisers believe this community-first structure is key to sustaining women's participation in the sport long-term. Geographic Reference Title sponsors, Praneeth Group, also shares the same vision, "We believe in the league's vision of making pickleball a sport for everyone, not just elite athletes. The Club League model, where teams represent clubs and neighborhoods rather than franchises, aligns directly with our commitment to building connected, and engaged communities. We hope this partnership inspires the homebuyers, residents, and families who are part of the Praneeth Group community to

Gymnast Pranati Nayak reveals how her coach motivated her to Tashkent World Challenge Cup silver after a bout of viral fever

New Delhi: Ace Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak, who won the silver medal at the recently concluded FIG World Challenge Cup in Tashkent, revealed that she battled physical setbacks and overriding mental blocks ahead of the competition, and she almost lost hope, but her coach motivated her to give her best. India news analysis Returning to the international arena after a seven-month hiatus due to a severe ankle injury, three-time Asian Championship medallist Pranati's campaign was almost derailed at the last minute by a bout of viral fever. Reflecting on the turbulent phase leading up to the competition, Pranati confessed she had begun losing hope just as she was getting back into her rhythm after an injury setback. "To be honest, I had a viral fever before the competition. I was getting zero on my training. Just two weeks before the competition, my preparation was going well. After getting sick, I was losing hope. My coach kept pushing me, asking, 'Why are you giving up? You can do it'. He gave me quality training," Pranati replied to IANS query during the media interactions felicitated by Sports Authority of India on Friday.

"Because my body was weak from the fever, we cut down on repetitions. I did what I was supposed to do at the competition. Normally, my repetition goes up to 17, 18, or 20 vaults. But before this competition, I only took eight chances to save my energy. I



just wanted to build my confidence, land well, and make the most of the exposure. I was very happy to get the result. I just wanted to increase my confidence and land well. I wanted to use all the exposure I got," she added. Pranati's coach Ashok Kumar Mishra revealed that the path to Tashkent was riddled with obstacles, starting with a major ligament tear in her ankle last October. Competing in the women's vault qualification for the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships at the Indonesia Arena last October, Pranati landed awkwardly while attempting a Tsukahara 720 Twist and withdrew from the competition before her second vault.

"She had a ligament break in her ankle, but she is a senior player with immense experience and recovered incredibly fast. She worked closely with a physiotherapist, planned her diet with a nutritionist, and consulted

a mental trainer to stay sharp," Mishra said. The coach revealed that the injury, however, forced a complete overhaul of Pranati's competitive calendar, ruling her out of multiple high-profile events. "Our original target was for her to play in four World Cups, but the injury made it impossible. The next plan was the Senior Nationals, but she contracted viral fever and tonsillitis just before that, forcing her to sit out. We then requested the gymnastics federation, and keeping her caliber in mind, they cleared her to compete directly in the World Cup," he explained. Entering an international tournament without competitive match practice for over half a year is a daunting task for any Pranati, but Mishra remained confident in his ward's mindset. He said, "Normally, for an athlete who hasn't competed for six to seven months, performance is never guaranteed. But I was absolutely certain that once she was physically fit, she would give 100 per cent." Keeping the upcoming Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in mind, coach said the approach in Tashkent was to safeguard Pranati's long-term fitness. "Her injury is still only about 90 per cent healed. Because the impact of a vault landing is exceptionally high, our main goal was to protect her. We kept the training load low, avoided heavy difficulty elements, and focused entirely on clean execution and a fixed landing," Mishra revealed.

The Health Insurance Mistakes Most Indians Discover Too Late

Choosing health insurance based only on low premiums can lead to denied claims, long waiting periods, and inadequate coverage. Here is what to check before buying a policy in India. Insurance Health insurance is chosen the way most Indians book a budget flight. Sort by price, pick the first hit and move on. It feels efficient. Insurance is a safety cushion after all. You pay the premium, something goes wrong, and the health insurance policy kicks in. Most health insurance policies fall through the cracks when you need to use them. Denied claims, generous waiting periods and reimbursements that only cover half your bill are common experiences when people buy a health insurance policy without a full understanding of what a health insurance policy does. You can be assured that your health insurance works for you if you first understand what to look

for when you are choosing a health insurance policy. The One Number that Gives You a Full Picture About the Health Insurer We spend most of our time comparing phone features rather than picking an insurer that backs your health policy. We should change that. One of the most important factors in judging the reliability of a health insurer is its claim settlement ratio. The ratio indicates the proportion of claims paid by the health insurance company over a year.

If a health insurance company has a claim settlement ratio of 95% or above, it's a safe bet. This implies that the chances are good that a health insurance company pays the promised amount when a policyholder gets sick. A low ratio, no matter how low the health premium is, should alarm you. This one number will help you avoid the most common mistake of choosing a health insurance policy that

sounds perfect on paper. India news analysis Sum Insured: Do Not Underestimate Healthcare Inflation Medical costs in India are increasing at twice the rate of general inflation. What cost one lakh rupees at a hospital five years ago may cost three to four lakhs today in metro cities. You may discover this only when you end up paying the difference from your own savings because your sum insured was simply not enough. To reduce stress when deciding on the right health insurance policy, you can first compare the best health insurance plans in India. A five-lakh cover may have been enough when you were in your twenties, but it may be hardly able to cover a cardiac procedure or a prolonged ICU stay now.

Know what to expect. Think ahead when selecting a sum insured. Think about where healthcare costs are headed, not where they are now. Waiting

Periods and Pre-Existing Conditions: Read Before You Sign One of the easiest-to-miss clauses when buying a health insurance policy is the waiting period clause. Most health plans have a thirty-day waiting period, during which no claims are honoured unless you are in an accident. There can be a waiting period of two to four years for pre-existing conditions, including diabetes, hypertension and thyroid disorders. If you had a health condition and decided to buy an insurance plan without reading these clauses, you may be left marred when you need it the most. Health Always ask what is and is not covered, how long until coverage kicks in, and discuss this with your insurance agent or consultant. Choosing the Plan: So Where Do You Start? The sheer number of health plans available today in India can seem truly overwhelming at times. They vary in sum

insured limits, premium schedules, room rent caps, co-payment clauses, sub-limits on treatment, etc. There is no way to compare them. That makes it all too easy to pick something that appears comprehensive on paper but is actually restricted in many ways. Taking the time to compare researched competitors can help break through that noise and focus on the important aspects such as coverage, claim settlement record, hospital network, price for value and anything else that is important for you. This might take an hour. But wishing you had taken your time rather than making a hasty decision will make you regret it in the long term. Network Hospitals: Cashless or Out of Pocket In emergencies, having to pay out and wait for weeks to get reimbursed is unthinkable. That is why the cashless hospitalisation network is equally important.

'Okka Adugu' title and first look unveiled

The title and first look of Okka Adugu were officially unveiled at a grand launch event attended by several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry. Produced under the Siri Creations banner, the film is being written, directed, produced, and headlined by Shekhar Model. The launch event witnessed the presence of noted filmmakers and industry veterans including V. N. Aditya, Samudra, Ashok Kumar, Padmini Nagulapalli, Rama Satyanarayana, and Satya Master, who extended their support and best wishes to the team. Speaking during the event, V.N. Aditya praised Shekhar Model for taking up multiple responsibilities as an actor, producer, and director. He expressed confidence that the film would successfully connect with audiences and bring recognition to the team. Director Samudra revealed that legendary actor Krishnam Raju had once considered using the title "Okka Adugu," calling it a powerful and memorable title. Film Chamber Secretary Ashok Kumar appreciat-



ed Shekhar Model's efforts in independently handling various aspects of filmmaking and emphasized the importance of strong content in today's cinema landscape. Producer Padmini Nagulapalli said that fresh and unique stories always attract audiences and hoped the film would become a major milestone in Shekhar Model's career. Satya Master also praised the filmmaker's intention to encourage

newcomers through the project. Speaking about the film, Shekhar Model said he worked extensively on understanding filmmaking and conducted auditions to introduce talented newcomers. He thanked the film industry seniors and media for their encouragement and support. The film features music composed by Subhash Anand, cinematography by Satish Muthyala, and editing by Raghavender.

NTR 103rd birth anniversary celebrated with grand tributes

The 103rd birth anniversary of legendary actor, former Chief Minister, and Telugu icon N. T. Rama Rao was celebrated with great respect and devotion at Film Nagar in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Several film personalities, political leaders, family members, admirers, and fans gathered to pay floral tributes to NTR Garu's statue and remember his immense contribution to Telugu cinema and politics. Geographic Reference The tribute event was attended by Andhra Pradesh Film Development Corporation Chairman Bharath Bhushan, Paruchuri Gopala Krishna, actor and former minister Babu Mohan, Telugu Film Producers Council



Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar, producer Bharadwaj, and members of the Nandamuri family including Mohana Krishna, Mohana Roopa, Seemanthini, and Deepika. Speaking at the event, Paruchuri Gopala Krishna described NTR

as a leader who brought global recognition to Telugu people through both cinema and politics. Nandamuri Mohana Krishna said NTR Garu worked tirelessly for the welfare of the poor and supported women's rights long before it became a larger social movement. Former minister Babu Mohan emotionally recalled how NTR guided him into public life and inspired generations with his leadership and dedication to society. Tummala Prasanna Kumar stated that NTR had achieved "Pan-India" popularity long before the term became common in Indian cinema. Several speakers also thanked the Telangana Government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for unveiling a new NTR statue at Ameerpet in Hyderabad. As part of the celebrations, food was distributed to more than 1,000 people, turning the occasion into a memorable gathering honoring the legendary Nandamuri legacy.

Kangana Ranaut's 'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' pays a stirring ode to our unseen heroes

Mumbai: The makers of Kangana Ranaut-starrer "Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata" dropped a powerful motion poster from the drama on Thursday. Titled "The Unseen Heroes", the poster is a tribute to the unsung heroes of the country, who are always around us but are rarely acknowledged. It goes on to honour the nurses, ward boys, cleaners, lift operators, security staff, and administrators, who showed immense courage during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. Shedding light on her next, Kangana said, "Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata is a salutation to those invisible souls who, when pushed into crisis, rise to stand as the ultimate shield of humanity and harmony. When disaster strikes, our collective instinct is to look toward armed uniforms or state authorities for salvation. But this film tributes the uniforms nobody notices until the world is burning—the blood-stained aprons, the sterile hospital scrubs, the frayed civilian clothes. True courage does not wait for a badge, permission, or the promise of a medal."

Talking about the motion poster, the 'Queen' actress went on to add, "Every single frame of this motion poster compels us to look into the eyes of people who surrendered everything they had without ever demanding an audience. I feel a profound honour in being part of a film that carries their truth to the world." The writer and director, Manoj Tapadia, shared, "In contemporary cinema, the easiest thing to capture on camera is the explosive loudness of the gunfire, the destruction, and the panic. From day one, I challenged our creative team to capture something infinitely more complex: the silence of bravery. We wanted to document that microscopic, split-second window where a common civilian looks at mortal danger, subdues their own survival instinct, and decides to become a human shield." Along with Kangana, the ensemble cast of the project includes Girija Oak, Smita Tambe, Amrutha Namdev, Esha Dey, Priya Berde, Asha Shelar, Suhita Thatte, Rasika Aghase, Aditya Mishra, and Zahid Khan in key roles, along with others. Produced by Pen Studios, Manikarnika Films, Paramhans Creations, in collaboration with Eunoia Films LLP, and Floating Rocks Entertainment Pvt. Ltd "Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata" is set for a theatrical release on June 12.



Vinesh Phogat Cleared For Asian Games Trials as Supreme Court Questions Delhi HC Order

The Supreme Court allowed Vinesh Phogat to compete in Asian Games trials but raised concerns over the Delhi High Court's reasoning and anti-doping compliance issues. The Supreme Court on Friday allowed wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the upcoming Asian Games selection trials after refusing to stay a Delhi High Court order granting her permission. However, the apex court also raised strong concerns over the reasoning adopted by the High Court and stressed that eligibility rules and anti-doping compliance cannot be ignored. A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe heard the Wrestling Federation of India's plea challenging the High Court verdict. Since the trials are scheduled to begin on May 30, the court decided not to disrupt the process at the last moment, effectively

clearing the way for Phogat to compete. India news analysis During the hearing, the Supreme Court repeatedly questioned the Delhi High Court's observations, especially its remarks related to motherhood and gender discrimination. The bench noted that the federation's eligibility criteria applied equally to all wrestlers and asked how the policy could be termed exclusionary. Discover more Breaking news alerts Womenia section features The court also flagged concerns regarding Vinesh Phogat's anti-doping compliance, including missed doping tests and issues linked to whereabouts filings. Judges observed that such matters are serious under international anti-doping rules and cannot be overlooked for athletes representing the country. The dispute began after the Wrestling Federation of India revised



its selection policy and declared Phogat ineligible following her return from maternity leave. Phogat argued that the rules unfairly prevented accomplished athletes from making a comeback after childbirth, while WFI maintained that the same standards applied to every wrestler. Although the Supreme Court allowed her to participate in the trials, it made clear that the

decision should not be treated as approval of the High Court's reasoning. The bench also stressed the need for stronger institutional mechanisms in sports administration to avoid such disputes reaching courts repeatedly. With the legal hurdle removed for now, all eyes will be on the Asian Games trials as Vinesh Phogat attempts to secure her place in the national squad.

Chinnappa among four Indians in the top 10 at IGPL Morocco Rising Stars

El Jadida (Morocco): Trishul Chinnappa staged a great recovery on his second nine with five birdies in the last six holes to move into the top 10 in the first round of the USD 160,000 IGPL Morocco Rising Stars. He was Tied-eighth with three other Indians, Sudhir Sharma, Raghav Chugh and Syed Saqib Ahmed. They were three shots behind the leader Hoho Yue of Hong Kong, who shot 6-under 66. Like Chinnappa, Saqib also had a fine second nine with three birdies, while Sharma, who started the round in the very last group of the day, had an eagle on his first nine. Chugh, who teed off in the second group in the morning, had five birdies against two bogeys. The four Indians, all prominent players on the IGPL Tour, are still searching for their maiden success on the IGPL and the ADT Tours. Giving Chugh, Sharma, Saqib and Chinnappa company at Tied-8th were five others, including former Indian Open champion Siddikur Rehman of Bangladesh, Henry Chung of the US, Xu Andi of China and the Thai duo of Nopparat Panichphol and Thanapol Charoensuk. They shot 69 each.

Chinnappa after a patchy start with three bogeys against two birdies on the front nine. An early bogey on the tenth saw him fall to two-over. Then he flourished as he birdied five times in last six holes. It included four in a row from the 13th. He putted very well, needing just 25 for his entire round. Chinnappa said, "I played in the afternoon. It was a good start. I made a birdie on the third hole of the day. However, I made bogey on the next three holes soon



after. Yet, it was very important that I made the putt on the sixth for a bogey. It was about a 15-footer that I made for bogey. I was losing momentum but that was a very important putt for me. "I birdied the eighth which was crucial. It was playing right to left into the wind and it was playing long. I hit a driver and then I made a 15-20 footer. I parred the ninth and turned in one over. Then on the back nine I bogeyed the tenth hole. I missed a five footer, so I became two over after ten. Then came a really good up-and-down on 11 to save par. "After that, things changed for me. I had a good stretch of four birdies which was brilliant. It was 13-14-15-16. I parred 17 with a very good up-and-down from the bunker and I made a good putt for birdie on 18th. In general I'd say that I put myself in good positions." Sudhir Sharma had a fine start from the tenth as he eagled Par-5 14th and birdied the 17th to turn in 3-under and it became 4-under with a birdie on the first. Then followed a roller-coaster with two birdies against three bogeys for a 69. Saqib Ahmed had a great back

nine with three birdies and no bogeys, after one birdie and one bogey on the front side of the Mazagan Beach Resort course. Chugh had five birdies against two bogeys. Two other Indians stars, Samarth Dwivedi and Shaurya Bhattacharya were also inside Top-20 at Tied-17th with cards of 2-under 70 each. Also tied with them was Indian American Varun Chopra, who also plays on the IGPL Tour.

Hong Kong's Hoho Yue birdie his final hole to edge ahead in the first round, that included a sensational eagle on the par-5 seventh hole, where his second shot from 260 yards almost went in for an albatross. It lipped out but an eagle was duly converted. He also had six birdies for a six-under par 66. One behind Hoho at five-under par were American Nathan Han and Thailand's Runchanapong Youprayong. Four players Sven Maurits of the Netherlands, Argentina's Franco Scorzato, Hong Kong's Matthew Cheung and Spaniard Agusti Quinquilla Madalena were tied for fourth place at 68. The local challenge was spearheaded by Ayoub Id-Omar, who was the best among the local Moroccan players, tied 17th at two-

under 70. It was not the best of days for Pukhraj Gill, recent winner of the ADT Order of Merit, started on the tenth and had three birdies on the 12th, 14th and the 18th in his first nine holes. He followed that up with yet another one on the first, at which point he was 4-under and contending for the lead. Then came a crippling triple bogey on the third, a Par-5, which he would have normally tried to birdie. A double bogey followed on the Par-4 sixth and his challenge took a big hit. He had a birdie-bogey finish but pulled back by the loss of five shots on just two holes, he carded 73 and was seven behind the leader Hoho Yue, who is looking to get his first win as a professional. Karandeep Kochhar had a frustrating round with 17 pars and just one bogey and was also Tied-56th alongside Gill. With birdie putts not dropping it was a rough day for Kochhar. This week is the fifth stop on the IGPL Tour for 2026 and it is also the fifth event of the 2026 season on the ADT.

SRH's style of play is a brand to admire but comes at a cost, says Moody

New Delhi: Former Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Tom Moody said the team's batting-heavy approach and their overall style of playing is 'a brand to admire. Still, it comes at a cost, adding that the franchise must invest more in its bowling unit to achieve balance. Geographic Reference Moody's comments come after SRH suffered a 47-run loss to Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 Eliminator clash. The side entered the playoffs as the third-best side on the points table. SRH relied heavily on their batters Heinrich Klaasen (624 runs), Ishan Kishan (602 runs), Abhishek Sharma (563 runs), and Travis Head (410 runs) to get big runs. With the ball, Eshan Malinga (20 wickets) and Sakib Hussain (15 wickets) were the standout performers, while Praful Hinge and Shivang Kumar showed lots of promise. But Moody pointed to the lack of marquee names in the bowling line-up, aside from Pat Cummins, who was bought for INR 20.50 crore in 2024.

"It is a brand to admire, but it comes at a cost. They're yet to lift the trophy with this brand. Yes, they're giving themselves a window of opportunity. But the cost is also the fact that you need to invest in that brand. "And that investment is lost when it comes to the bowling side. So you're pouring a lot of money into the way you play as a batting unit. You're left short of the finances to be able to build a strong bowling unit to be able to support that. "It's (about) trying to find that balance, and I think that's what RCB (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) have got. They've got that balance right. So, I'm not against the brand, but you've got to try to balance it out when you're talking about the salary cap and everything," said Moody on ESPNcricinfo. Former India batter Ambati Rayudu also echoed Moody's concerns. "They can be brilliant like this. They're very, very good on the eye. They're very exciting (prospects). But still, to win an IPL, you need to be smart as well as be powerful. I think that can only improve if you get that kind of personnel, and also get the balance and be able to play in different conditions. That's one area where they need to improve." India news analysis

'Partnership with Yastika was crucial, she took a load off me,' says Jemimah after win over England

Chelmsford: Player of the Match Jemimah Rodrigues credited Yastika Bhatia for sharing the pressure during their match-winning partnership after her brilliant knock of 69 runs helped India defeat England by 38 runs in the opening T20I of the three-match series at the County Ground. India news analysis Coming in to bat after India were reduced to 7/2 in the opening over, Rodrigues anchored the innings superbly with a fluent 69 off 40 balls while Yastika struck 54 off 40 deliveries as the duo added 126 runs for the third wicket. Their partnership helped India recover from the early blows inflicted by Lauren Bell and eventually post 188/7 in 19.5 overs. Rodrigues said the stand with Yastika proved decisive in shaping India's innings. "Lot of credit to Yastika. She took a load off me. That partnership was crucial," Rodrigues said after receiving the Player of the Match award.

The India batter added that understanding the conditions and adapting quickly played a key role after the difficult start. "We assessed the conditions well. I think it was about playing the situation. T20 is all about momentum. It was important to be positive and patient," she said. Rodrigues noted that Bell generated movement early in the innings and said India had to adjust accordingly on a surface that offered some grip. "Initially, Bell got some movement. For an English pitch, there was some hold. Playing square off the wicket helped. My game is more about picking gaps. I trust my instincts and play my game," she added. Apart from her batting, Rodrigues was also lively in the field during England's chase and said she thoroughly enjoys contributing on the field. "I enjoy fielding. Today felt like a yo-yo session. I love fielding in the hot spots," she added. India later restricted England to 150/8 despite Amy Jones' fighting 67, with debutant pacer Nandni Sharma starring with figures of 3/34. The victory gave India a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and marked their second-biggest win over England in Women's T20Is.