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PM Modi Leads International Yoga Day Celebrations

Kolkata, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the national celebrations of the 12th International Day of Yoga at Kolkata's historic Red Road on Sunday...

Addressing a large gathering, the Prime Minister extended greetings to people across India and the world, describing Yoga as a powerful force that connects individuals, societies, and nations...

Highlighting this year's theme, Modi said Yoga is far more than a physical exercise and serves as a comprehensive



approach to life. He emphasized that regular practice helps people remain healthy, active, and energetic as they age while promoting mental balance, emotional strength, and overall wellness.

The Prime Minister said modern lifestyles often create imbalance and stress, and Yoga offers a practical path to harmony, discipline, and inner peace. He added that Yoga con-

tributes not only to personal health but also to global understanding, cooperation, and peace.

Urging citizens to adopt Yoga as a daily habit, Modi encouraged people not to restrict the practice to a single day each year. Referring to the "Yoga 365" initiative and a 100-day online Yoga programme, he noted that more than 30 lakh people from 130 countries had partici-

pated, reflecting Yoga's growing global appeal.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari welcomed the Prime Minister and highlighted the enthusiastic participation of people across the state, from Darjeeling to Digha and Cooch Behar. He said the event showcased Yoga's growing acceptance as a way of life.

Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav said Yoga has evolved into a global movement under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. He noted that Yoga is now celebrated in more than 180 countries and that the Ministry's "Yoga 365" initiative aims to make the practice a year-round habit.

This year's celebrations witnessed massive participation across India and abroad, with more than six lakh organisations registering on the Yoga Sangam Portal and over 210 Indian missions organizing events at nearly 2,500 locations worldwide.



Yoga Key to Building a Healthy and Prosperous Andhra Pradesh: CM

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday called upon people to embrace yoga as a way of life and contribute towards building a healthy and prosperous Andhra Pradesh. He was addressing the International Yoga Day celebrations organized under the "Yogandhra" initiative at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada.

The Chief Minister participated in yoga sessions conducted under the guidance of renowned yoga guru Baba Ramdev. Wearing a special Yogandhra T-shirt, Chandrababu Naidu performed pranayama and various yoga asanas, including Anulom-Vilom breathing exercises, alongside thousands of students, youth, and yoga enthusiasts who gathered at the venue.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Chief Minister described the experience of practicing yoga with Baba Ramdev as memorable and inspiring. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking yoga to the global stage and enhancing India's international reputation through the ancient wellness tradition.

Chandrababu Naidu said the state government has been organizing yoga programs across Andhra Pradesh with district-specific themes to encourage wider participation. He noted that Yogandhra activities were also being conducted at major pilgrimage and tourist destinations to promote awareness about physical and mental well-being.

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, Minister Nara Lokesh, A. T. Channaidu, Kandula Durgesh, and several other public representatives participated in the celebrations.

PM Modi Pushes India's Defence Manufacturing Vision



Kolkata, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that India is rapidly transforming from a major importer of defence equipment into a global defence manufacturing hub, emphasizing that the country will no longer remain merely a buyer in the international defence market.

Several ministers, including Payyavula Keshav, Ponguru Narayana, Anagani Satya Prasad, Vangalapudi Anitha, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Nimmla Ramanaidu, and Kollu Ravindra, participated in the review meeting along with DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, and other senior officials.

place for foreign products. He stressed that true strategic influence comes from self-reliance and domestic manufacturing capabilities.

"India wants to be a manufacturer. The day we become manufacturers, we will also become decisive," Modi said, highlighting the government's push towards strengthening indigenous defence production.

The Prime Minister noted that India's defence production has increased significantly over the past decade, rising from around ₹40,000 crore in 2014 to nearly ₹1.8 lakh crore. Defence exports have

CM Chandrababu Naidu to Unveil Two-Year Governance Report

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed ministers and senior officials to prepare and release a series of "Progress Reports 2024-26" highlighting the achievements of the government during its first two years in office.

Reviewing the initiative with ministers and officials at the Camp Office, the Chief Minister said the reports should serve as Action Taken Reports on the seven white papers released after the government assumed office. Those white papers focused on key sectors



including state finances, the Polavaram project, Amaravati capital development, power, law and order, mining, and excise.

Chandrababu Naidu said the reports should clearly explain how the government revived the state from the challenges inherited from the previous ad-

ministration and placed it on a path of development. He noted that significant reforms had been introduced in governance, welfare, infrastructure, and public services over the past two years.

A total of ten reports are being prepared, including three new reports covering Development, Good Governance, and Welfare-Empowerment. The Development report will focus on agriculture, industries, infrastructure, and tourism, while the Good Governance report will outline policy reforms and administrative initiatives. The Welfare-Empowerment report will highlight welfare schemes and programs such as P4.

The Chief Minister will personally release four key reports on Finance, Develop-

ment, Welfare, and Governance, while ministers will unveil the remaining six reports. The first report, focusing on the power sector, will be released on Monday. Chandrababu directed officials to complete and release all reports by July 18 and later compile them into a comprehensive book. He also emphasized that annual progress reports should become a regular feature of governance.

Several ministers, including Payyavula Keshav, Ponguru Narayana, Anagani Satya Prasad, Vangalapudi Anitha, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Nimmla Ramanaidu, and Kollu Ravindra, participated in the review meeting along with DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, and other senior officials.

CM Receives World Book of Records Recognition for 'Yogandhra 2026'

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh's ambitious mass wellness initiative, Yogandhra 2026, has earned international recognition by securing a place in the prestigious World Book of Records, London. The large-scale yoga movement, launched by the Andhra Pradesh government to promote health and well-being across the state, achieved the distinction through unprecedented public



participation and extensive grassroots mobilisation.

The official World Book of Records certificate was presented to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu by Dr. Ullaji Eliazer, Joint Secretary, South Region, World Book of Records - London. The Chief Minister congratulated the AYUSH Department and all stakeholders involved in making the programme a grand success. State Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the achievement was the result of collective efforts by government

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Calls Yoga a Way of Life on International Yoga Day

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

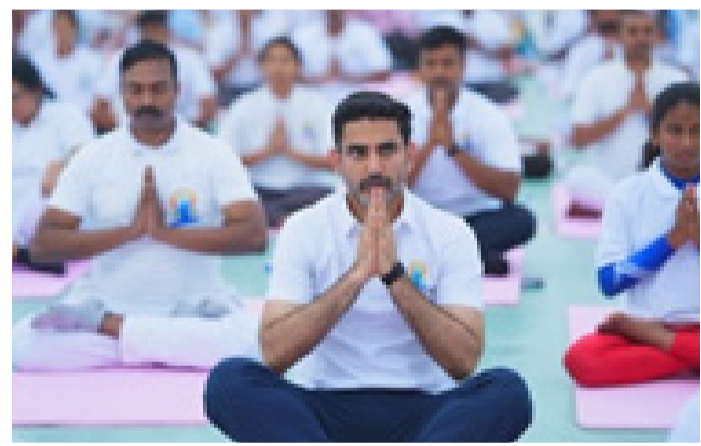
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his greetings on the occasion of International Yoga Day, describing yoga as an inseparable part of Bharat's civilisational heritage and a timeless gift to the world.

In a message shared on social media, Pawan Kalyan said yoga promotes physical well-being, mental clarity, emotional balance, and a healthier lifestyle. He encouraged people to embrace yoga as a daily practice and make it an integral



part of their lives.

Reflecting on his personal journey, the Deputy Chief Minister revealed that he began practicing yoga



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh participate in the 12th International Yoga Day celebrations at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada on Saturday. The leaders performed yoga exercises alongside renowned yoga guru Baba Ramdev during the grand event.

Former AP Sainik Welfare Director T. Swarna Kumari Passes Away

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

T. Swarna Kumari, the first Director of the Andhra Pradesh Sainik Welfare Department after the state's bifurcation, passed away in Vijayawada on Sunday. She was 66. A respected administrator, Swarna Kumari played a key role in strengthening the Sainik Welfare Department in Andhra Pradesh following the division of the erstwhile united state. After the bifurcation, she headed the Andhra Pradesh wing of the department and served as its Head of Department (HoD) for nearly a decade, working for the welfare of ex-servicemen and



their families. Following her retirement, she resided in Guntupalli near Vijayawada. Family members said that she had been suffering from health issues for some time and was undergoing medical treatment locally. Swarna Kumari is survived by her husband, a retired bank officer, a son and a daughter. Her passing has saddened many former colleagues and members of the ex-servicemen community, who remembered her dedication and service to the department. Family members informed that the last rites will be performed on Monday.

Minister Nara Lokesh Holds Talks with Century Plyboards on Expansion and Skill Development

Kolkata, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh held a meeting with the leadership of Century Plyboards in Kolkata to discuss the company's expansion plans and opportunities for strengthening its presence in Andhra Pradesh.

The meeting was attended by Century Plyboards Chairman Sajjan Bhajanka, Executive Director Keshav Bhajanka, and Director Nikita Bansal. Discussions focused on the company's ongoing operations in the state and its future investment plans.

According to Lokesh, Century Plyboards is exploring avenues to expand its footprint in Andhra Pradesh, which could lead to a significant increase in employment generation. The



company currently provides around 2,500 jobs in the state, and the proposed expansion has the potential to raise that number to more than 5,000.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of skill development to meet the evolving needs of industry. Both sides discussed the possibility of establishing a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)-based Skill Development Centre to equip youth with industry-relevant skills and improve workforce readiness.

CM on EAGLE Initiatives at Yogandhra Event

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the posters of EAGLE 1972 during the state-level Yogandhra celebrations held at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada on the occasion of International Yoga Day.

The grand event witnessed the participation of thousands of yoga practitioners, youth, public representatives and government officials. Renowned yoga guru Baba Ramdev and Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh also attended the programme, adding prominence to the celebrations.

Following the yoga session, the Chief Minister flagged off a campaign vehicle as part of the Vyasnamukta Bharat Abhiyan being conducted under

the auspices of the Brahma Kumaris. He later formally launched the EAGLE 1972 posters in the presence of senior officials and EAGLE representatives.

On the occasion, EAGLE Andhra Pradesh chief IGP A.K. Ravi Krishna, IPS, briefed the Chief Minister on the organisation's activities across the state. He highlighted EAGLE's efforts in public safety, social service, awareness campaigns and community outreach programmes aimed at improving public welfare and strengthening citizen engagement.

Appreciating the organisation's contributions, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu lauded the EAGLE team for its commitment to public service. He congratulated IGP Ravi Krishna and encouraged the organisation to further ex-

pand its activities and reach more people through innovative awareness and welfare initiatives. The event was attended by NTR District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha, IAS, Vijayawada Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, legislators, senior government officials and public representatives. EAGLE officials, including SP G. Swaroopa Rani, Headquarters DSP K. Singaiah, Vijayawada EAGLE Inspector M. Ravindra and other team members, were also present. The unveiling of the EAGLE 1972 posters at one of the state's largest public events is expected to enhance the organisation's visibility and support its mission of promoting social responsibility, public awareness and community service across Andhra Pradesh.



Machilipatnam Youth Shines at National Level

Machilipatnam, June 21 | TPN Bureau

A young sportsperson from Machilipatnam has brought laurels to the region by securing the runner-up position in the prestigious national-level Heartfulness Premier League. The achievement has drawn praise from public representatives and sports enthusiasts alike.

Minister Kollu Ravindra congratulated Sri Teja Pramoda Ramachandra, grandson of senior TDP leader Kandi Shyamala Devi, for his impressive performance in the tournament. The Minister expressed happiness over Ramachandra's success and described it as a matter of pride for Machilipatnam and the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Kollu Ravindra noted that the Heartfulness Premier League, organized under the guidance of renowned badminton coach Pulella Gopichand, is a highly competitive national platform that attracts talented athletes from across the country. Securing the runner-up position in such a tournament reflects Ra-

machandra's dedication, discipline, and sporting excellence, he said.

The Minister felicitated the young athlete and encouraged him to continue striving for greater achievements in the future. He emphasized that the state government is committed to promoting sports and extending all possible support to talented players. Special attention is being given to nurturing young athletes and creating opportunities for them to excel at state, national, and international levels. Kollu Ravindra remarked that it was particularly commendable for a youth from an ordinary family background in Machilipatnam to emerge as a national-level achiever. He assured Ramachandra of his support in facilitating advanced training opportunities and helping him further develop his sporting potential.

The achievement has been widely appreciated by local residents, who expressed confidence that Ramachandra would continue to make the state proud through future accomplishments in sports.



Yoga a Priceless Gift from India to the World: Subhash

Ramachandrapuram, June 21 | TPN Bureau

State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash extended greetings to the people on the occasion of International Yoga Day, describing yoga as one of India's greatest contributions to the world and a powerful tool for achieving physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

In a statement released on Sunday, the Minister said yoga is much more than a form of exercise, as it helps individuals maintain a healthy body, a calm mind, and a balanced lifestyle. He noted that the growing global acceptance of yoga reflects the richness of Indian culture and traditions.

Subhash stated that the declaration of June 21 as International Yoga Day by the United Nations, following the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has elevated India's image on the global stage. He expressed pride that

millions of people across the world now practice yoga and recognize its benefits.

Highlighting the challenges posed by modern lifestyles, the Minister observed that stress-related health issues are increasing rapidly. He said regular yoga practice helps reduce stress, improve concentration, strengthen the body, and promote positive thinking.

The Minister urged people from all sections of society, including students, youth, women, employees, and senior citizens, to make yoga a part of their daily routine. He also encouraged the public to actively participate in Yoga Day celebrations and adopt healthy habits.

Emphasizing that yoga contributes not only to personal wellness but also to the well-being of society, Subhash expressed hope that the movement would inspire more people to lead healthy and disciplined lives.

Yoga Key to Healthy Living: BC Janardhan Reddy

Banaganapalle, June 21 | TPN Bureau

International Yoga Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in Banaganapalle on Saturday as Minister BC Janardhan Reddy participated in the 'Yogandhra 2026' program organized at the camp office. A large number of residents, students, youth, government officials, and alliance party leaders and activists attended the event and took part in the yoga session.

The Minister joined participants in performing various yoga asanas and highlighted the importance of yoga in achieving physical fitness and mental well-being. He stated that yoga is a powerful tool that helps people lead healthier and more balanced lives.

Addressing the gathering, BC Janardhan Reddy said yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise but a way of life that promotes harmony between the body, mind, and spirit. He noted that regular practice of yoga helps reduce stress, improve concentration, and strengthen overall health.

The Minister called upon people of all age groups to



make yoga a part of their daily routine and draw inspiration from the 'Yogandhra' initiative. He emphasized that widespread adoption of yoga can contribute significantly to building a healthier and happier society.

He further stated that both the Central and State governments are actively encouraging yoga practice through var-

ious awareness and participation programs. Such initiatives, he said, aim to promote wellness and create a culture of healthy living across the state.

The event concluded with participants pledging to incorporate yoga into their daily lives and spread awareness about its benefits among others.

Farmers Awareness Drive to Reach 46.8 Lakh Households Across AP

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Department will launch the six-day "Rythanna-Meekosam" Farmers Awareness Campaign across the state from June 22 to 27, aiming to educate farmers on climate resilience, crop diversification, and the online fertilizer distribution system.

Announcing the programme, Agriculture Director Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon, IAS, said the campaign is being organized under the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to create awareness among farmers on key agricultural challenges and modern farming solutions.

The campaign will focus on the impact of the El Niño phenomenon on agriculture and

livestock, measures to mitigate climate-related risks, promotion of crop diversification, and the use of digital platforms for fertilizer distribution. Farmers will be encouraged to shift from water-intensive and less profitable crops such as paddy and tobacco to climate-resilient crops including millets and pulses.

A large-scale house-to-house outreach programme will be undertaken through 8,451 Rythu Seva Kendralu (RSKs) across 666 mandals. Functional Assistants of RSKs, supported by officials from agriculture and allied departments, will interact directly with farmers in village clusters. Each team is expected to cover around 90 households daily.

Officials will distribute technical literature, demonstrate

the use of the Farmer App, assist farmers in downloading digital applications, and collect suggestions and feedback from the farming community.

The campaign will also promote the APAIMS and FFS online fertilizer distribution systems, enabling farmers to register digitally, select fertilizer outlets, obtain QR codes, and purchase fertilizers based on scientific crop-wise recommendations, ensuring transparency and preventing misuse.

The Agriculture Department aims to reach 46.85 lakh farmer households through the campaign. District Agriculture Officers have been directed to ensure effective implementation, while a digital monitoring mechanism has been established to track participation and document field activities across the state.

Yoga Spirit Sweeps Godavari Banks in Rajamahendravaram

Rajamahendravaram, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The 12th International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and participation in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday, with thousands gathering at the historic Kotilingala Ghat on the banks of the Godavari River for the district-level 'Yogandhra' programme.

Organized jointly by the AYUSH Department, Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation, and district administration, the event witnessed the participation of yoga practitioners, students, government employees, and representatives of voluntary organizations. The riverfront venue transformed into a vibrant center of wellness and spirituality as participants performed yoga asanas in unison.

Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari, who attended as the chief guest, actively participated in the yoga session. She said yoga is a powerful tool for building a healthy society and noted that International Yoga Day has helped spread India's ancient wellness tradition across the world. She recalled that the United Nations recognized June 21 as International Yoga Day following the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

District Collector Keerthi Chekuri emphasized the im-



portance of yoga, pranayama, and meditation in reducing stress and improving concentration, memory, and overall well-being. MLC Somu Veeraju and Urban MLA Adireddy Srinivas also highlighted yoga's role in promoting healthy living and mental resilience.

Under the guidance of Yoga Guru Pariya Ramachandra Rao, participants were introduced to five different yoga techniques. A meditation session conducted by Brahma Kumaris representatives added a spiritual dimension to the celebrations. Outstanding yoga practitioners and children who

excelling at the state level were felicitated during the event.

International Yoga Day was also observed at the District Court complex, where judges, advocates, and court staff participated in yoga sessions. Meanwhile, inmates and staff at Rajamahendravaram Central Prison enthusiastically took part in yoga activities, with prison authorities noting its positive impact on discipline, mental peace, and personal transformation.

The programme concluded with a peace chant and a collective pledge to make yoga a part of daily life.



AP Leads Clean Cooking Drive in Anganwadis

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a model state in promoting clean cooking technologies, with the government and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) accelerating the roll-out of induction-based cooking systems in Anganwadi centres across the state.

At a programme attended by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, Women Development and Child Welfare Secretary A. Surya Kumari, and Director M. Venugopal Reddy, induction cooktops and utensil kits were distributed to beneficiaries. The initiative is being implemented under the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP).

EESL lauded the Andhra Pradesh Government for adopting clean cooking solutions in more than 55,000 Anganwadi Centres, describing it as a bold and progressive step that could serve as a model for other states. The agency said it plans to expand similar programmes across the country as part of India's transition to energy-efficient and envi-

ronmentally sustainable cooking practices.

Officials highlighted that induction-based cooking creates cleaner, safer, and cooler working environments for Anganwadi workers. Compared to conventional LPG cooking, induction systems are around 30 percent more energy-efficient and can generate nearly 35 percent savings in cooking costs. The programme is also expected to significantly reduce indoor air pollution and prevent approximately 28,327 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Under Phase-I, induction cooktops and utensil kits were distributed to 11,400 Anganwadi Centres, while nearly 20,000 centres have already been covered under Phase-II. The government aims to complete distribution across all 55,746 Anganwadi Centres by the end of June.

EESL officials said the initiative strengthens women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, and energy security while contributing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building an energy-efficient and climate-resilient India.



Yoga Day Celebrated at APCRDA Headquarters

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

International Yoga Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) headquarters in Rayapudi on Sunday, with officials and employees participating in a special yoga session aimed at promoting health and well-being.

Staff members from various APCRDA departments performed yoga asanas as part of the celebrations organized on the premises of the authority's headquarters. The programme highlighted the importance of adopting yoga as a daily practice for maintaining physical fitness, mental peace, and overall wellness.

Addressing the participants, V. Ramulu, Group Director of the Social Development Department, explained the significance of yoga in modern life. He urged employees to incorporate yoga into their daily routines and

cultivate a healthy and balanced lifestyle. He emphasized that yoga is much more than physical exercise, describing it as a discipline that creates harmony between the body, mind, and soul.

As part of the International Yoga Day observances, contractor agencies also organized yoga sessions at labour camps across the Amaravati capital region. Workers and staff at these camps actively participated in the programme and performed various yoga exercises under guidance.

Officials noted that the enthusiastic response from employees and workers reflected the growing awareness of yoga's benefits. They expressed hope that such initiatives would encourage more people to embrace yoga regularly and contribute to building a healthier society.

The celebrations concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to making yoga an integral part of their daily lives.

Minister Nara Lokesh Holds Talks with Century Plyboards on Expansion and Skill Development

continued

Another key proposal involved the adoption of local Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) by the company. The initiative aims to enhance vocational education, align training programmes with industry requirements, and create a skilled talent pool for future industrial growth. Lokesh described the

discussions as productive and said such collaborations would support Andhra Pradesh's vision of attracting investments, creating employment opportunities, and building a future-ready workforce. The meeting was held on the sidelines of engagements associated with the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Kolkata.



MLC Duvvada Srinivas Served Police Notice

Hiramandalam, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The Hiramandalam police have issued a notice to MLC Duvvada Srinivas, directing him to appear before the police station on June 22 in connection with a case registered over alleged objectionable remarks made on social media against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

According to police sources, the case originated from a complaint lodged by Jana Sena leader Pinni Chinna Rao of Gotta village in Hiramandalam mandal. In his complaint, Chinna Rao alleged that inappropriate and offensive comments targeting Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan were circulated through social media platforms.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered in March

2025 under relevant legal provisions. The investigation has been progressing under the supervision of police officials.

As part of the inquiry, Kotkur Circle Inspector C.H. Prasada Rao issued a notice to MLC Duvvada Srinivas on June 20, asking him to appear before investigators and cooperate with the ongoing probe. The notice reportedly seeks clarification regarding the content under investigation and related allegations.

Police officials stated that further action would be taken based on the findings of the inquiry and the statements recorded during the investigation. The case has attracted political attention in the region, with developments being closely watched by leaders and supporters of various political parties.

CM Receives World Book of Records Recognition for 'Yogandhra 2026'

continued

departments, yoga trainers, volunteers and citizens.

One of the most remarkable achievements of Yogandhra 2026 was the overwhelming public response. While the government had initially targeted the participation of 1.05 crore yoga enthusiasts, the campaign surpassed expectations by registering an impressive 1.07 crore participants, creating a new benchmark for mass yoga engagement in the country.

To ensure the programme reached every corner of the state, a massive human resource network was established. According to AYUSH Director Ronanki Gopalakrishna, as many as 7,745 Master

Yoga Trainers, 2.61 lakh General Yoga Trainers, and 511 Yoga Gurus were deployed to conduct awareness programmes and training sessions at the grassroots level.

The initiative was supported by extensive infrastructure arrangements. A total of 1,32,183 yoga centres were identified across Andhra Pradesh, with the capacity to accommodate nearly 1.45 crore people for simultaneous yoga practice sessions.

Tourism and cultural outreach also formed a key part of the campaign. Around 35,603 participants took part in 26 thematic yoga demonstrations, while 59,458 people joined yoga events organised at 55 prominent tourist destinations across the state.

The programme further encouraged participation through a multi-tier competition structure. Beginning at the village and ward secretariats level with 1,20,696 competitions, the contests progressed through mandal, district and state levels. At the state finals, 372 talented participants competed, with 66 winners emerging as Yoga Brand Ambassadors, strengthening Andhra Pradesh's growing yoga ecosystem.

The World Book of Records recognition marks a significant milestone for Yogandhra 2026, highlighting Andhra Pradesh's commitment to promoting holistic health and making yoga a people's movement.

PM Modi Pushes India's Defence Manufacturing Vision

also witnessed remarkable growth, jumping from 700 crore to 40,000 crore, with more than 80 countries now purchasing Indian-made defence products.

Referring to the newly commissioned naval vessels, Modi said they symbolize India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing. He pointed out that the ships were designed, developed and built entirely in India with the expertise of Indian industries, engineers and workers.

Highlighting India's maritime ambitions, the Prime Minister said no nation can become a global power without strong maritime capabilities. He observed that trade, security, communications, energy resources and future economic opportunities are increasingly linked to the oceans, making maritime strength a strategic necessity. Modi revealed that more than 40 indigenous war-

ships and submarines have been inducted into the Indian Navy in recent years, while another 45 major naval platforms are currently under construction. He said India has entered a new phase of maritime development with a renewed focus on shipbuilding and naval modernization.

The Prime Minister also underlined the employment potential of the maritime sector, describing it as an "employment engine" for a developed India. Modern shipbuilding, he said, supports thousands of companies involved in steel, electronics, machinery and component manufacturing, generating large-scale job opportunities for the country's youth. The event was attended by Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and senior defence officials.

YSRCP Demands Justice for Kranthi Kumar

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of YSR Congress Party leaders on Sunday visited the family of Perupogu Kranthi Kumar and expressed condolences, alleging that the youth had died by suicide due to police harassment. The delegation included NTR District YSRCP President Devineni Avinash, former Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, Trade Union State President Poonuru Gautam Reddy, State General Secretary Shaik Asif, Parliamentary Observer Pothina Mahesh, and other party leaders.

Addressing the media after meeting the family, Devineni Avinash alleged that Kranthi Kumar's death was linked to harassment by police officials and demanded a fair investigation into the incident. He claimed that justice had not yet been delivered to the family and called for accountability from senior police officials.

Party leaders also demanded an independent probe into both the Kranthi Kumar and Sai Krishna cases, stating that the truth behind the incidents



should be brought before the public. They urged the government to ensure justice for the affected families and take appropriate action against those found responsible.

Former Mayor Bhagyalakshmi described the incident as tragic and called for immediate support to the bereaved family. Other YSRCP leaders alleged that law and order concerns

were increasing and sought a transparent inquiry into the allegations raised by the victims' families.

The YSRCP leaders assured Kranthi Kumar's family of continued support and stated that the party would continue its efforts to seek justice in the matter. Several party activists and local leaders also participated in the visit.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Calls Yoga a Way of Life on International Yoga Day

continued

at a young age during a period when he was searching for answers to many questions in life. He said yoga provided him not only with clarity but also with a deeper sense of inner maturity that significantly influenced his personal growth and outlook.

Pawan Kalyan noted that practices such as Kriya Yoga, Ashtanga Yoga, and the Art of Living's Sudarshan Kriya continue to play an important role in his daily routine. According

to him, these disciplines have helped him maintain mental focus, inner peace, and overall well-being.

On the occasion, he also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts in securing global recognition for yoga. He credited the Prime Minister's vision and leadership for the worldwide observance of June 21 as International Yoga Day, which has helped spread the benefits of yoga across nations and cultures.



Jagan Alleges Betrayal of Farmers Under State Government

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Andhra Pradesh government, alleging that promises made to farmers during the elections have not been fulfilled and that the farming community has been left disappointed. In a statement posted on social media, Jagan claimed that the government's professed concern for farmers was merely a "deception" and alleged that several key assurances, including those related to farmer welfare schemes, remain unimplemented. He said that during the previous YSR government, despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and financial constraints, assistance was provided consistently to farmer families through the Rythu Bharosa programme.

The former Chief Minister alleged that the promise of providing 20,000 annually to farmers in addition to PM-KISAN assistance had not been honoured. He claimed that financial assistance released in recent years was significantly lower than the amounts promised and stated that nearly seven lakh farmers had been ex-

cluded from beneficiary lists, including tenant farmers and tribal landholders.

Jagan also criticized the government's handling of agricultural issues, alleging that farmers were not receiving remunerative prices for their produce. He expressed concern over the condition of paddy, mango, tobacco and aquaculture farmers, claiming that the administration had failed to intervene effectively when market prices declined.

Further, he accused the government of neglecting the Price Stabilisation Fund and discontinuing the free crop insurance system introduced during the YSRCP regime. According to Jagan, substantial funds had been spent on crop insurance and price support mechanisms during his tenure to protect farmers from losses. The remarks come amid an ongoing political debate between the ruling coalition and the opposition over agricultural welfare policies and the implementation of farmer-centric schemes in the state. Government representatives have previously maintained that welfare programmes are being implemented effectively and that support to farmers continues through various initiatives.

Another Case Filed Against Former MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu

Vinukonda, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Former Vinukonda MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu has been booked in another case after allegedly organizing a political rally without prior police permission in Palnadu district.

According to police sources, Brahmanaidu, accompanied by YSRCP leaders and party workers, conducted a rally from Narasaraopet to Vinukonda on June 20. The procession reportedly led to traf-

fic disruptions along the route, prompting police intervention.

Officials stated that Vinukonda Town Circle Inspector Prabhakar Rao and police personnel stopped the convoy during its movement. A brief tense situation prevailed following an argument between YSRCP activists and police officials. To prevent further disruption, police diverted the convoy towards the Brahmanapalli road route.

Despite the diversion, Brahmanaidu later attended a public meeting organized in Vinukonda. Following an inquiry into the incident, Vinukonda police registered a case against him for conducting the rally without obtaining the required permissions from authorities.

The latest case comes shortly after another legal case was registered against Brahmanaidu by the Gandipet police in Telangana in connection with

alleged land-grabbing charges. He was arrested and remanded to judicial custody in that case before securing bail from the Rangareddy District Court.

Police officials said the Vinukonda case is being investigated and further action will be taken based on the findings. The developments have drawn political attention in the region, with leaders from different parties closely monitoring the situation.



Kapu Leaders Meet, Botsa Targets Government and Pawan Kalyan

Kakinada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana launched a sharp attack on the Alliance government and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan during a meeting of Kapu community leaders held at Venkatapuram in Kakinada district on Saturday.

The meeting, organized under the leadership of MLC Garden Trimurthulu, focused on current political developments, welfare measures for the Kapu community, and alleged incidents affecting members of the community. Addressing the media after the meeting, Botsa said the gathering was intended to discuss community concerns and not to pursue political power.

He alleged that the Alliance government had failed to fulfill promises made to the Kapu community and demanded the immediate release of funds to the Kapu Corporation. Botsa also highlighted welfare initiatives implemented during the previous YSRCP government,



including the Kapu Nestham scheme.

Referring to the deaths of Sai Krishna and Kranthi Kumar, Botsa demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into both cases. He questioned whether suspending a few police officials was sufficient and expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to probe the incidents. He also announced financial support from YSRCP Kapu leaders to Sai Krishna's family.

Botsa strongly criticized Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan over his recent remarks in Kakinada, questioning the appropriateness of such comments from a constitutional functionary. He urged

the government to respond to the concerns being raised by the community.

Several resolutions were adopted during the meeting, including demands for the release of Kapu Corporation funds, withdrawal of what YSRCP termed as false cases against Kapu community members, and a CBI inquiry into the Sai Krishna and Kranthi Kumar cases. Party leaders also resolved to form special task force teams to support Kapu families facing difficulties across the state.

Several YSRCP leaders and community representatives attended the meeting and reiterated their commitment to addressing issues affecting the Kapu community.

TJR Targets Pawan Kalyan Over Remarks

Tadepalli, June 21 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) SC Cell President and former MLA TJR Sudhakar Babu on Sunday strongly criticized Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for his recent comments against political opponents, alleging that his language and conduct were unbecoming of a leader holding a constitutional post.

Speaking to the media in Tadepalli, Sudhakar Babu said Pawan Kalyan's remarks against the YSRCP were objectionable and lacked the dignity expected from a Deputy Chief Minister. He demanded that Pawan withdraw his comments and maintain decorum while addressing public gatherings.

The former MLA questioned Pawan Kalyan's silence over YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to the family of Sai Krishna, stating that supporting affected families was part of the opposition's re-

sponsibility and that the Deputy Chief Minister should clarify his stand on the issue.

Sudhakar Babu also objected to what he described as repeated attacks on the YSRCP and alleged that Pawan Kalyan often used inappropriate language while targeting political rivals. He further accused the Deputy Chief Minister of making remarks in the past that hurt Dalit sentiments and called for legal action against such statements.

Urging Pawan Kalyan to exercise restraint in public discourse, Sudhakar Babu said leaders occupying high offices must uphold democratic values and respectful political dialogue. He also alleged that many of Pawan Kalyan's statements appeared to echo the views of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The YSRCP leader asserted that the party would continue to challenge what it views as irresponsible and offensive political rhetoric.



SAAP, Tata Steel Join Hands to Develop Football Talent

Vijayawada, June 20 | TPN Bureau

In a major boost to football development in Andhra Pradesh, the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), in collaboration with Tata Steel Limited, has launched a special initiative aimed at nurturing young football talent across the state.

As part of the programme, 80 promising football players, including boys and girls from the Under-21 and Under-15 categories, have been selected from various districts of Andhra Pradesh to participate in a Special Exposure Visit to the prestigious Tata Football Academy in Jamshedpur from June 22 to 28.

The initiative is designed to provide young players with firsthand exposure to world-class sports infrastructure, advanced coaching techniques, and professional skill development programmes. Officials stated that talented players identified during the exposure visit will be offered further opportunities for high-performance training, accommodation, and nutritional support free of cost at the academy.

A send-off ceremony for the

selected teams was organized at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada. Addressing the players, SAAP Vice Chairperson and Managing Director Smt. S. Bharani extended her best wishes and encouraged them to make the most of the opportunity. She said the partnership would help Andhra Pradesh footballers gain valuable national-level exposure and strengthen the sport's growth in the state.

SAAP Administrative Officer R. Venkata Ramana Naik, section officers, and staff members also attended the programme and congratulated the players.

Officials noted that the collaboration reflects SAAP's commitment to creating pathways for young sportspersons to excel at higher levels of competition. The teams will be accompanied by experienced coaches and managers from different districts, ensuring proper guidance throughout the training and exposure programme.

The initiative is expected to play a key role in identifying and grooming future football stars from Andhra Pradesh while enhancing the state's presence in national football.

Ramesh Hospitals MD Marks International Yoga Day



Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The Managing Director of Ramesh Hospitals participated in the celebrations of the 12th International Yoga Day, joining thousands of yoga enthusiasts in a large-scale event that highlighted the importance of health and wellness.

A dedicated practitioner of yoga for more than three decades, the Managing Director emphasized the role of yoga in maintaining physical fitness, mental clarity, and emotional balance. He believes that regular yoga practice is one of the

most effective ways to achieve overall well-being and lead a healthier life.

As a leader in the healthcare sector, he has consistently encouraged patients to include yoga in their daily routines as a preventive and supportive measure for better health. According to him, yoga not only improves flexibility and strength but also helps reduce stress and promotes a positive lifestyle.

His participation in the event reflected Ramesh Hospitals' commitment to promoting holistic healthcare and preventive wellness. By setting a personal example, he continues to inspire patients, healthcare professionals, and the wider community to embrace yoga as a way of life.

The occasion served as a reminder of the growing significance of yoga in modern healthcare and its long-term benefits in fostering a healthier and more balanced society.



Yoga Day Celebrations Held at NTR Health University

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

International Yoga Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Andhra Pradesh, as part of the state government's Yoga Day initiatives.

The event was conducted under the leadership of University Registrar Dr. Sai Sudhir and supervised by Dr. Sri Trimurthy, Secretary of the Physical Education Board. A major highlight of the programme was the impressive yoga performance by Chiranjeevi Naganjali, a university student from Narasaraopet, who showcased a series of advanced yoga postures and a unique yoga dance presentation that captivated the

audience. The performance added a special charm to the celebrations and drew appreciation from participants and officials alike. University employees and retired staff members actively took part in the programme, contributing to its grand success.

The event emphasized the importance of yoga in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and a healthy lifestyle. Participants expressed their commitment to incorporating yoga into their daily routines and spreading awareness about its benefits.

The university community hailed the programme as a meaningful and inspiring celebration of India's ancient wellness tradition.

Endowments Commissioner Sets July 15 Deadline for Durga Temple Facilities

Indrakeeladri, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan has directed officials to ensure that the new Annadanam Bhavan and Prasadam Production Centre at the famous Kanaka Durga Temple on Indrakeeladri are inaugurated before July 15, ahead of the upcoming Ashada festivities.

During a surprise inspection of the temple premises on Sunday, the Commissioner reviewed ongoing development works along with temple Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi), Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik and engineering officials. He inspected the newly renovated Ashirvachana Mandanam and expressed



Advances in Pediatric Orthopedic Care Highlighted at IFICS Express-2026

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The latest innovations in pediatric orthopedic treatment and fracture management were showcased at the IFICS Express-2026 (International Fractures in Children Symposium) held at a city hotel in Vijayawada on Sunday. More than 400 delegates, including orthopedic surgeons and postgraduate medical students from across Andhra Pradesh, participated in the conference.

Addressing the gathering, renowned pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. K. Durga Nagaraju said the symposium was organized to familiarize doctors with modern treatment techniques for childhood bone injuries and improve patient outcomes. He stressed the importance of continuous learning and adapting to emerging technologies in pediatric orthopedic care. Dr. Sandeep Patwardhan, Director



satisfaction over the completed flooring works.

The Commissioner also conducted a detailed review of the nearly completed Annadanam Bhavan and Prasadam preparation facility at the foothill of the temple. Stressing the need for enhanced pilgrim convenience, he instructed engineering officials to carry out essential modifications and additions to the buildings. Ramachandra Mohan directed the Executive Officer to consult the temple's Vedic Committee and finalize an auspicious inauguration date by Monday evening. He emphasized that all remaining works must be

completed on a war footing to facilitate the launch of both facilities in the second week of July. The Commissioner noted that the new facilities would significantly benefit devotees during the Ashada Sare Samarpana and Shakambari festivals, which attract huge crowds every year.

He also instructed officials to expedite land acquisition required for the proposed queue complex. Reiterating the government's commitment to temple development, he said efforts were underway to provide world-class infrastructure and improved amenities for devotees visiting the Durga temple.

of the IFICS Foundation, highlighted that treating fractures in children requires specialized expertise because their bone structure and healing processes differ significantly from adults. He urged doctors to stay updated with international standards and best practices.

Experts discussed advanced surgical techniques for managing complex fractures in children. Dr. Saikrishna noted that timely treatment and modern surgical interventions can significantly improve recovery rates, while Dr. Premal Naik emphasized that accurate diagnosis and prompt management of conditions such as physeal injuries and femoral neck fractures can prevent long-term disabilities.

Professor Dr. Binoti Seth observed that scientific conferences provide valuable opportunities for doctors to exchange experiences and learn from challenging cases encountered



across the country.

The conference featured scientific sessions on supracondylar fractures, lateral condyle fractures, forearm injuries, and physal trauma. Live demonstrations of TENS nailing and hip spica application drew significant interest from participants.

Organized under the auspices of the Vijayawada Orthopaedic Society and OSSAP, the symposium received positive feedback from attendees, who described it as an important platform for enhancing knowledge and improving pediatric orthopedic treatment standards.

Bonda Uma Distributes PM-Kisan Aid to Farmers

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Reiterating the Alliance Government's commitment to farmer welfare, Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao distributed cheques representing the first installment of financial assistance under the Annadatha Sukhibhava-PM Kisan Scheme for the 2026-27 financial year at his office on BRTS Road on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Bonda Uma said both the Central and State governments are giving top priority to the welfare of farmers and are implementing measures to strengthen the agricultural sector. He announced that financial assistance amounting to 3.92 lakh had been distributed to 56

farmers in the Central constituency under the scheme.

The MLA stated that the upliftment of farmers remains one of the primary objectives of the Alliance Government. He noted that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is implementing several welfare initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of farming families.

Bonda Uma said direct benefit transfers into farmers' bank accounts have brought transparency and confidence among beneficiaries. He added that the government is working to ensure that farmers receive timely support and that agriculture becomes a sustainable and profitable occupation.

Emphasizing that every eligible farmer should receive the



benefits of government schemes, he assured the farming community of continued support from the government.

Agriculture Department officials, local leaders, representatives of alliance parties, women leaders, and farmers participated in the programme. The beneficiaries expressed satisfaction over receiving financial assistance under the scheme and thanked the government for extending support to the agricultural sector.

Government to Release Two-Year Progress Report

Amaravati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed ministers and officials to release a comprehensive progress report highlighting the achievements of the state government during its first two years in office.

During a review meeting held at the Chief Minister's camp office, Naidu said the "Progress Report 2024-26" should serve as an action-taken report showcasing the government's efforts to address issues highlighted in the white papers released after the formation of the present administration in 2024. Officials informed the Chief Minister that reports have been prepared on ten ma-

major subjects. In addition to the seven sectors covered through earlier white papers—including state finances, Amaravati, Polavaram, power, law and order, mining, and excise—the government has decided to release three additional reports focusing on development, governance, and welfare. The Chief Minister emphasized that the reports should clearly explain how the state has progressed over the past two years, the reforms introduced in governance, and the welfare and development initiatives implemented for the benefit of the people. He said the objective is to provide transparency, counter misinformation, and keep citizens informed about government performance.

According to officials, the

"Development" report will cover agriculture, industries, infrastructure, and tourism, while the "Good Governance" report will focus on policy reforms and administrative initiatives. A separate "Welfare and Empowerment" report will detail schemes aimed at improving the lives of various sections of society.

Naidu instructed officials to complete the release of all reports by July 18 and later compile them into a comprehensive publication. He also suggested that progress reports be prepared and released annually. The first report, focusing on the power sector, is scheduled to be released on Monday, marking the beginning of the government's two-year performance documentation exercise.



Justice Lakshmana Rao Visits Temple, Receives Traditional Honours

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge Justice Lakshmana Rao visited the temple along with his spouse on Sunday night to offer prayers to the presiding deity. The dignitary was accorded a warm and traditional welcome by temple authorities upon arrival.

Temple Chairman Radhakrishna and Deputy Chief Priest Shankar Shandilya received the judge and his wife

and facilitated their special darshan. Following the prayers, the temple priests arranged Vedic blessings and offered sacred honours as per temple customs.

The visit was conducted in a serene and devotional atmosphere, with temple officials ensuring all arrangements for the distinguished guests. Justice Lakshmana Rao expressed his reverence and participated in the religious rituals conducted at the shrine.



VMC to Hold Public Grievance Forum on Monday

Vijayawada, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) will conduct its weekly Public Grievance Redressal Forum on Monday to address civic issues and ensure prompt resolution of public complaints, Commissioner Dhyana Chandra announced.

The forum, organized every Monday, aims to identify public grievances and provide immediate solutions through direct interaction between citizens and municipal officials. The Commissioner said residents can submit complaints and requests related to municipal services at either the VMC Head Office or the respective Zonal Offices. Grievances will be received from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., during which officials will be available to hear concerns and take necessary action. The initiative is designed to improve public service delivery and strengthen communication be-

tween citizens and the municipal administration.

Dhyana Chandra stated that issues relating to sanitation, drainage, roads, street lighting, property tax, water supply, and other civic services can be brought before the forum. He emphasized that the program has been helping the corporation identify local problems quickly and resolve them in a time-bound manner.

The Commissioner urged residents to make full use of the opportunity by approaching the nearest municipal office with their grievances and relevant documents. He reiterated the corporation's commitment to ensuring that every complaint receives proper attention and that civic issues are addressed efficiently.

VMC officials and department representatives will be present at both the Head Office and Zonal Offices to receive petitions and provide necessary assistance to citizens during the grievance redressal program.



Tiruvuru Marks International Yoga Day with Enthusiasm

Tiruvuru, June 21 | TPN Bureau

International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Girls' High School premises in Tiruvuru town on Sunday, with Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao participating in the programme and encouraging people to adopt yoga as a part of their daily lives.

The MLA joined students, teachers, officials, and members of the public in performing various yoga asanas. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the importance of yoga in maintaining physical fitness and mental well-being. He said regular yoga practice helps reduce stress, improves concentration, and promotes a healthy lifestyle. Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao stated that the Alliance Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is giving special importance to public health and wellness. He noted that building a

healthy society is one of the government's key objectives and that initiatives are being undertaken to encourage healthy habits among people, particularly the younger generation.

The MLA also observed that the worldwide celebration of International Yoga Day following the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflects the growing global recognition of India's rich cultural heritage and the value of yoga. He urged citizens of all age groups to dedicate time every day to yoga for a healthier and more balanced life.

Revenue Divisional Officer Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Manoj, Deputy Educational Officer Shyam Sundar, Dr. Ramakoteswara Rao, officials from various departments, teachers, students, public representatives, and local residents participated in the programme. The event concluded with a collective pledge to promote yoga and healthy living.

Corporate-Level Infrastructure for 15 Nellore Government Schools : Minister

Nellore, June 21 | TPN Bureau

State Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana announced that 15 government schools in Nellore district are being developed to match corporate standards. Speaking after inspecting the Devi Reddy Sharada Government School in Moolapet, Narayana stated that the facility was transformed from a dilapidated condition. DSR Construction head Sudhakar Reddy and his brothers took up the development project with an estimated cost of 20 crore rupees. They planned a six-storey building covering 24,000 square feet, and a two-storey structure was inaugurated on Sunday. The remaining blocks will follow soon. The



school will provide quality education from nursery to class 10. Narayana added that the companies like VPR, Dr. Reddy's Lab, and TVS, along with former students, are funding the development of 15 high schools. He emphasized that the initiative aligns with the government's P4 policy to benefit the poor and weaker sections. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Nandan, District Education Officer Balaji Rao, and SarvasikshaAbhiyan Project Director Venkatappaiah participated in the program.

Tirupati Collector S. Venkateswar, SP L. Subbaraidu Oversee Peaceful NEET Re-Examination

Tirupati, June 21 | TPN Bureau

The NEET 2026 re-examination was conducted peacefully across Tirupati district on Sunday under tight security and extensive administrative arrangements. District Collector S. Venkateswar and District SP L. Subbaraidu personally inspected examination centres to ensure the smooth conduct of the national-level entrance test. SP Subbaraidu carried out surprise inspections at several centres, reviewing security measures, traffic management, and facilities provided to candidates. He instructed police personnel to remain highly vigilant and maintain strict surveillance around the premises. Special attention was directed toward identifying suspicious persons or objects, while traffic control measures were strengthened to prevent inconvenience to students and parents. Meanwhile, Collector Venkateswar visited PM Kendriya Vidyalaya and SVU Campus School in Balaji Colony to monitor arrangements. He stated that comprehensive measures



had been implemented to ensure the examination was conducted without disruption. Essential facilities, including drinking water, ORS packets, and medical assistance teams, were made available at all centres. According to official figures, out of 4,556 registered candidates, 4,099 appeared for the examination across nine designated centres in the district headquarters, recording an attendance rate of 89.97 percent. A total of 457 candidates were absent. The Collector emphasized that coordination among various departments played a

crucial role in the successful conduct of the examination. SP Subbaraidu, Joint Collector Govinda Rao, and DRO Narasimhulu also inspected the centres and operational arrangements. Officials expressed satisfaction over the smooth completion of the examination, with no untoward incidents reported from any centre in the district. The administration credited the seamless conduct to meticulous planning, effective security deployment, and coordinated efforts by all departments involved.

International Yoga Day Celebrated Successfully At Sullurpet High School Ground

Sullurpet June 21 | TPN Bureau

The International Yoga Day celebrations organized at the Sullurpet High School Ground achieved great success. MLA Nelavala Vijayasri participated actively in the event and performed various yoga asanas alongside the gathered public. Speaking during the celebration Nelavala Vijayasri stated that yoga represents a magnificent spiritual and health asset that India has gifted to the entire world. She



emphasized that practicing yoga on a regular basis enhances physical fitness while simultaneously boosting mental peace and focus. She urged all citizens to

incorporate yoga into their daily lifestyles. A large gathering consisting of various department officials' public representatives students youth women coalition leaders and activists attended the event.

The MLA concluded the program by extending her congratulations to everyone who contributed to making the International Yoga Day celebrations a grand success. Officers, Alliance leaders and activists participated in the program

NEET 2026 Re Examination Concludes Peacefully District Collector Himanshu Shukla

Nellore June 21 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla issued a statement confirming that the NEET 2026 re examination ended successfully and peacefully across Nellore district on Sunday. The district administration established robust arrangements across all designated

venues ensuring the competitive test concluded smoothly without any untoward incidents. The turnout details revealed that 2758 students out of 3005 registered candidates appeared for the examination across 9 specialized centres located within Nellore city. Similarly in Gudur town 437 students out of the scheduled

499 candidates attended the exam at 3 separate centres. Himanshu Shukla expressed his appreciation for the seamless coordination exhibited by the various department officials and security teams involved. District Collector Himanshu Shukla police officers and staff participated in the program.

RAPPS 2026 Launched At AIMS R For Improved Medical Services Through Continuous Study

Chittoor June 21 | TPN Bureau

Apollo University Vice Chancellor H Vinod Bhatt inaugurated the RAPPS 2026 Rapid Apollo Psychiatry Preparation for Post Graduates program organized by the Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research AIMS R Department of Psychiatry on Sunday. Bhatt emphasized that continuous study of advancements in psychiatry allows future doctors to provide superior patient care. AIMS R Associate Dean Ramya Ramakrishnan stated that the institute prioritizes modern training to enhance medical education. APMC



Observer Chinthala Niranjan Reddy noted that continuous medical education programs improve professional skills. ACSR Government Medical College Nellore Associate Professor Subhani Sheikh spoke on recent psychiatric trends. Former AIMS R Professor T P Sudhakar conducted a long case discussion. Narayana Medical College Nellore Associate Professor Anusha D discussed EEG interpretation and neurology. Apollo University Senior Professor Bhaskar Naidu spoke on psy-

chometric principles. AIMS R Senior Consultant Radiologist Uma Maheshwar Reddy explained clinical neuro imaging. Kurnool Medical College Department of Psychiatry Head N Nageswara Rao led short case discussions. Department of Psychiatry Head and Organizing Chairman Dinesh welcomed participants and explained the objectives of the program. Apollo University Vice Chancellor H Vinod Bhatt AIMS R Associate Dean Ramya Ramakrishnan and APMC Observer Chinthala Niranjan Reddy participated in the program

Nellore Rural Telugu Desam Party Strong hold Stronger As New Members Join

Nellore June 21 | TPN Bureau

Nakka Ramaiah Leburu Venkateswarlu and their friends officially joined the Telugu Desam Party at the Nellore Rural MLA office. Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy and Telugu Desam Party State Spokesperson Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy welcomed them into the party with traditional shawls. Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy urged the new members to work for public benefit and promised constant support as the local leader. He stated that steps are underway to further strengthen the Telugu Desam Party alliance in the Nellore Rural constituency. He assured absolute support to everyone who trusts his leadership



and enters the party fold. Kotamreddy Giridhar Reddy added that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu runs the administration with an absolute focus on development and welfare across the state. He urged all party workers to stand together and remain accessible to the citizens at all times. MPP Bhullu Vijay Kumar Cluster Incharge Sarangam Gunnaiah and Bynaboya Sudhakar participated in the program

Practice Yoga For A Healthy Andhra Pradesh MLA Paritala Sunitha



Anantapur June 21 | TPN Bureau

MLA Paritala Sunitha urged citizens to incorporate yoga into their lives to build a healthy Andhra Pradesh. On the occasion of the 12th International Yoga Day Sunitha practiced various yoga asanas during sunrise at her residence in Anantapur. Sunitha stated that individuals must make yoga a mandatory daily habit to remain alert and healthy. She emphasized that dedicating one hour each day to yoga meditation and pranayama completely eliminates the necessity of visiting hospitals. She highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi actively promotes yoga as an essential part of the heritage of the nation. Furthermore Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu continuously works to make yoga accessible to the general public.

District Collector Performs Yoga Asanas At YogaAndhra Program In

Tirupati June 21 | TPN Bureau

The YogaAndhra program was organized grandly at the Tarakarama Stadium of SV University on Sunday. District Collector S Venkateswar led the session by actively performing various yoga asanas during the grand healthcare event.

The program saw a vast gathering of key administrative and academic leaders including District SP L Subbaraidu Joint Collector R Govinda Rao SV University Vice Chancellor Narasimha Rao and Padmavati Women University Vice Chancellor Uma. Prominent board leaders also



took part including State Greenery and Beautification Chairperson Sugunamma State Yadava Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav and State Handicrafts Development Organization Chairman Pasupuleti Hari Prasad. Additional participants included District BJP President Samanchi Srinivas

DRO G Narasimhulu Tirupati RDO Rammohan AR Additional SP A Srinivasulu AR Additional SP Srinivasa Rao THUDA Secretary Srikanth Tirupati Municipal Corporation Deputy Commissioner Amariah and Tourism Department RD Ramana Prasad. A massive crowd consisting of other district officials students from various universities and local citizens joined the mass layout to perform synchronized exercises. District Collector S Venkateswar District SP L Subbaraidu and Joint Collector R Govinda Rao participated in the program

Two Youths Drown To Death In Illegal Sand Quarry Pit In Kadapa District

Kadapa June 21 | TPN Bureau

A tragic incident occurred in Chakravyapeta mandal on Sunday when two brothers drowned in a sand quarry pit dug in the Papagni river at Addalamarri village. The victims identified as Jayavardhan Reddy aged 18 and Rajavardhan Reddy aged 16 were the sons of Lokeshwar Reddy who resides in Karapuram. The bodies were recovered from the deep pit. Residents and relatives alleged that illegal sand traf-



ficking operated by certain ruling party leaders led to unregulated digging despite specific prohibitive orders issued by the district collector. Defying orders sand is reportedly being moved illegally to cities like Bangalore and Chennai. The grieving relatives and villagers staged a protest directly at the sand reach refusing to move the bodies of the deceased youths until the district collector arrives at the spot to address the illegal mining.

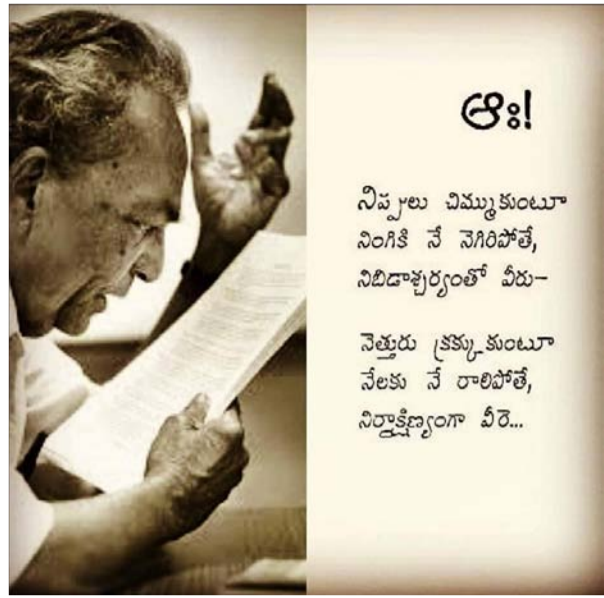
12th International Yoga Day Celebrated Grandly At Anantapur Police Parade Ground

Anantapur June 21 | TPN Bureau

The YogaAndhra 2026 program was organized at the Police Parade Ground in Anantapur city on Sunday morning to celebrate the 12th International Yoga Day. The event witnessed the participation of District Collector O Anand District SP P Jagadish Urban MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad and Joint Collector C Vishnu charan. Other key attendees included AP Veera Saiva Lingayat Welfare Development Chairman Swapna Nai Brahmin Corporation Director Kondanna Dudekula Federation Director Imam Hussain Market Yard Chair Person Balla pallavi In charge RDO



Rammohan and Forest Settlement Officer Ramakrishna Reddy. Furthermore Municipal Corporation Commissioner Jaswanth Rao DMHO EB Devi Yoga Andhra District AYUSH Nodal Officer Lalya Nayak DPO Nagarajunaidu Deputy DEO Srinivasa Rao DWAMA PD Salim Bhasha RIO Venkataramana Nayak DRDA PD Shailaja BC Welfare DD Khushboo Kothari Endowment AC Mallikarjuna Prasad and MEPMA PD Vishwajyothi joined the session. A large number of officials from respective departments non officials citizens and students actively participated in performing yoga asanas during this special health initiative. District Collector O Anand District SP P Jagadish and Urban MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad participated in the program



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నిష్ఠలు చిమ్ముకుంటూ
నింగికి నే నెగిరిపోతే,
నిడిరాశ్చర్యంతో వీరు-

నెత్తురు క్రమ్ముకుంటూ
నేలకు నే రాలిపోతే,
నిర్వాణ్యంగా వీరె...

Unending long march of prolific fireball poetry: Sri Sri



Dr.T.Radhakrishna macharyulu 9849305871

Sri Sri is a doyen of Indian literature by virtue of creating poetry in which words flare like fireballs. In Telugu literature, he left an indelible signature. He remained a leftist and rendered poetry and prose. A daring and celebrated poet, he said, "This century is mine," thereby breaking the constraints of then-prevailing poetry, which was bound by meter. Poetry at that time was largely encaged, and music was played only on beats, without resonance or endurance. The rendering of poetry was not within the reach of the common man and remained the preserve of the upper strata.

He is one poet who believed that poetry is not a play of semantics and zigzag verse of phonetics. It must be a meaningful medium that uplifts the poor and revitalizes society, like a fresh breath of CPR, a life-saving cardiopulmonary technique.

Sri Sri is a great poet of all time and a literary giant in the annals of history. He was the first true modern Telugu poet to write about contemporary issues affecting the day-to-day life of the common man in a style and metre not used in classical Telugu poetry. He moved poetry forward from traditional mythological themes to more contemporary issues.

The essence of his personality was captured by Gudipati Venkatachalam, who compared him with the great romantic Telugu poet Devulapalli Krishnasastri. There was a saying in literary circles: "While Krishna Sastry made his anguish known to the whole world, Sri Sri spoke in his voice about the anguish of the whole world. Krishna Sastry's pain was the pain of the world, while the world's pain became Sri Sri's pain."

His book Maha Prasthanam (The Great Journey), an anthology of poems, is one of his major works. In one of the poems, Jagannathuni Ratha Chakralu, Sri Sri addressed those suffering due to social injustice and said: "Don't cry, don't cry. The wheels of the chariot of Jagannath are coming, they are coming! The apocalyptic chant of the chariot wheels! Come, realize your dreams. Rule your new world!"

His other major works include Siprali and Khadga Srushti ("Creation of the Sword"). He penned more than 1,000 lyrical poems in the film industry.

His literary style, as reflected in his body of work, establishes him as a major radical poet, as seen in the Prabhava volume and the novel Veerasimha Vijayasimhulu. He introduced free verse into socially conscious poetry through Maha Prasthanam. He wrote visionary poems in a style and metre not used earlier in Telugu classical poetry. He was also a playwright for the play Amma. He was described by veteran poets as a scientist, a radical thinker, and a great philosopher. He not only wrote poetry but also practiced what he preached.

Popularly known as Sri Sri, Srirangam Srinivasa Rao was an Indian poet and lyricist known for his works in Telugu literature and films. He is well known for his anthology Maha Prasthanam and is a recipient of a National Film Award, a Nandi Award, and a Sahitya Akademi Award.

Such a tall and towering beacon in literature was applauded in university classrooms by poets and professors, who said, "We as poets are enjoying the laurels, and that credit goes to Sri Sri, a popular Telugu writer, because we all quenched our literary thirst under his guidance."

Srirangam Srinivasa Rao was born on April 30, 1910, in Visakhapatnam and died on June 15, 1983, leaving behind a vast treasury of poetry and lyrics.

My translation to a sri sri Telugu poem 'Aah!'

'Aah!'
By spilling the fire
If me were flying to the sky
At deep astonishment were they...

By emitting blood
If me were fell on the earth
Just Ruthlessly were they only...

Lok Kabi Padma Shri Haldhar Nag: The Coronation of Kosli Poetry

Varala Anand



Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award

"I am writing a letter to you, Haldhar. The evening light is in labour, Give birth to a poem of creation. Look I am writing a letter to you, Haldhar"

The poetry of Haldhar Nag walks upon the earth just as he does. The words in his poems are the words ordinary people speak every day, yet they shimmer with the truths of lived experience. Through poetry he converses with nature. His verses greet us with the familiarity of daily life, but beneath their simplicity resonates a profound philosophy. Their effortless style captures readers instantly.

Haldhar Nag is lovingly known as Lok Kabi—the People's Poet. He writes in Kosli, also known as Sambalpur. For him, the greatest joy is not receiving the Padma Shri, but seeing his mother tongue attain constitutional recognition. Such is his devotion to language.

In Odisha, he is often compared to the celebrated nature poet Gangadhar Meher. Yet, in truth, there is no parallel to either his life or his poetry. His journey began amidst extraordinary hardship.

Born in 1950 in Ghens, a small village in Bargarh district of western Odisha, Haldhar Nag was the youngest child in a family that had migrated there after a cholera outbreak in their native village. His father, a cobbler, died from a snakebite when Haldhar was only ten years old. Forced by circumstances, he dropped out of school in the third grade.

As his elder siblings married and moved away, he became the sole support of the family. He found work washing utensils in a sweet shop and later learned cooking there. A village elder secured him a job as a cook in a school, where he worked for nearly sixteen years. Observing the growing number of students and schools in the area, he borrowed a thousand rupees and opened a small stationery and snack shop opposite the school.

From childhood, folk songs fascinated him. He sang traditional forms such as Krishna Guru Bhajans, Dalkhai, Rasarekeli, and Mayela Jada. He later acknowledged the influence of poet Binod Nayak, particularly a poem titled Gram Pada, which inspired him to write poetry. Subsequently, the works of Gangadhar Meher and Radhanath Ray left a lasting impression on him.

Gradually, emotions and observations accumulated within him and burst forth as poetry. He began composing spontaneously in Kosli. Since he had little formal education, he initially dictated his poems to others who wrote them down. Around this time, he came into contact with a literary group called Abhimanyu Sahitya Sansad, which introduced him to Odia literature. He taught himself to read and write Odia and eventually became proficient in writing Kosli as well.

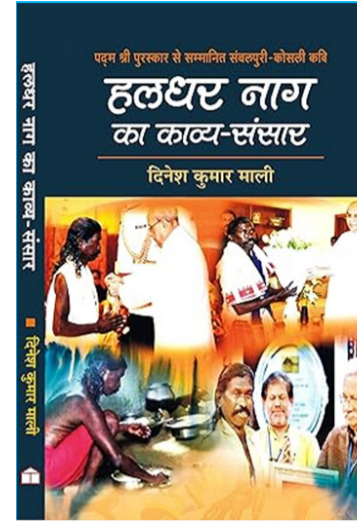
While reading Odia literature, he continued creating poetry in his mother tongue. In 1990, his first poem, Dhodo Baghcha (The Old Banyan Tree), was published in a local newspaper. Blessed with a remarkable memory, Haldhar could recite poems he had merely heard or read once. He could also effortlessly recite his own compositions without referring to written texts. This earned him titles such as Ashu Kabi (Spontaneous Poet) and Lok Kabi Ratna (Jewel among People's Poets).

His first published poem drew widespread attention, and many of his subsequent poems appeared in newspapers and magazines. Recognition followed.

"The appreciation and honours I received encouraged me to write even more" Haldhar later recalled.

Travelling from village to village, he read his poetry to audiences. Much of his work focused on the lives, struggles, and oppression of marginalized communities.

Haldhar Nag holds clear views on language and literature. He believes that while languages may be many, literature



is one. In his view, literature profoundly shapes human thought and emotion. His poems have been translated into Hindi and English, and after receiving the Padma Shri in 2016, translations into numerous other languages accelerated. His first poetry collection, Kavyanjali, brought together twenty-four selected poems from his Kosli writings. The collection was translated into English by Surendranath, and the renowned Odia writer Manoj Das wrote its foreword. The poems explore regional culture, mythology, pantheistic traditions, humanity's relationship with nature, and social inequalities.

One of the collection's most notable works is the long poem Great Sati Urmila, which reimagines the neglected Ramayana character Urmila. While many Ramayana traditions overlook her, Haldhar elevates her to a position equal to Sita and Mandodari. Drawing inspiration from regional Ramayana traditions, particularly Odisha's celebrated fifteenth-century Vilanka Ramayana by Sarala Das, he portrays Urmila's sacrifice, wisdom, and purity with deep admiration.

"In seven Ramayanas she is scarcely mentioned yet to the poet within me she is a great woman, purer even than Sita"

Another celebrated poem, The Old Banyan Tree, gives voice to an ancient tree that has silently witnessed generations of village life. It has sheltered travellers, watched children grow into adults, seen weddings and funerals, observed thieves dividing their spoils, and witnessed secret meetings between lovers.

"It sees, it hears,

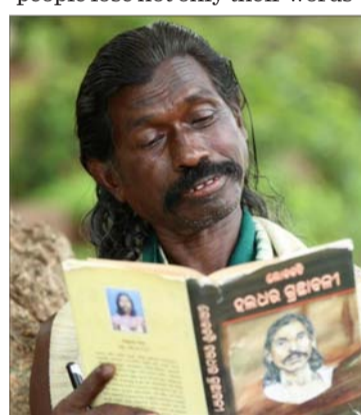
it knows, it understands yet speaks not a word. With its arms spread wide, it stands as a silent witness" The poem becomes a living chronicle of rural existence, transforming the tree into a storyteller.

Similarly, Ghensali River employs the river's journey to the sea as a metaphor for the human spiritual journey from birth to death and ultimately to union with the divine.

Another memorable poem, The Minister and the Beggar, is a sharp political satire presented as a dialogue. When a minister advises a beggar to stop begging and earn through hard work, the beggar responds by suggesting that the minister stop looting public wealth and use it for the people's welfare.

"I beg because my stomach is hungry, not because I am selfish. But you are selfish perhaps begging would suit you better"

In the brief but powerful poem Light and the Earthen Lamp, Haldhar expresses his anguish over the disappearance of regional languages. When a language dies, he argues, its people lose not only their words



but eventually their identity itself. The poem is a heartfelt plea for love and preservation of one's mother tongue.

Another striking poem, Why Did He Leave Home? exposes society's tendency to blame the weak while excusing the powerful.

"On every lip the same argument victory is not for the weak. Water always flows downhill blame always falls upon the powerless"

Kavyanjali won admiration from scholars and common readers alike. His second volume, Kavyanjali II, was prescribed as a textbook at Sambalpur University. Several of his

poems are now part of school curricula. Rooted in folk traditions, mythological symbolism, unadorned language, and natural spontaneity, his poetry possesses both vitality and enduring appeal.

To date, Haldhar Nag has authored around twenty-two books and numerous songs. Sambalpur University honoured him with a doctoral degree. In 2020, Pondicherry University organized a two-day international seminar on his poetry, during which the book Haldhar Nag Ka Kavya Sansar was released. His works continue to be studied and researched in universities, including the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

The man who once waited for cooking contracts is today one of Odisha's most respected literary figures, invited regularly to literary gatherings across India. Beyond literature, he appeared in the 2015 film Kaun Kitne Paani Mein alongside actors Radhika Apte and Saurabh Shukla.

The celebrated poet and lyricist Gulzar greatly admired Haldhar Nag's poetry and reportedly gifted him 50,000 from his own pocket after reading his work. Filmmaker Bharat Bala also featured him in a short film under the Virtual Bharat project. Today, Haldhar's poetry is being translated extensively into English and other languages, and more than 350 organizations have honoured him.

Yet despite his fame, Haldhar Nag continues to walk barefoot. Even when receiving the Padma Shri from Pranab Mukherjee, he chose not to wear shoes.

He says: "When you walk upon this soil,

feel as though you are walking upon the entire earth"

For Haldhar Nag, the world belongs equally to all humanity. His poetry urges us to live not as isolated individuals but as part of a collective "we" He reminds us that while flaws and weaknesses reside in every human being, voices like his are needed to awaken us from time to time. Haldhar Nag often tells young people that literature is more enduring than other art forms, including cinema. It is, he says, a torchlight that illuminates society and guides humanity forward. That is why he urges the younger generation to read literature deeply and passionately.

Love as a Universal Epic

A Review of Dr. Vinod Asudani's To My Last Love

Dr. K. Sarojadevi



HOD and Professor of English NBKR IST Vidyanaagar, Nellore

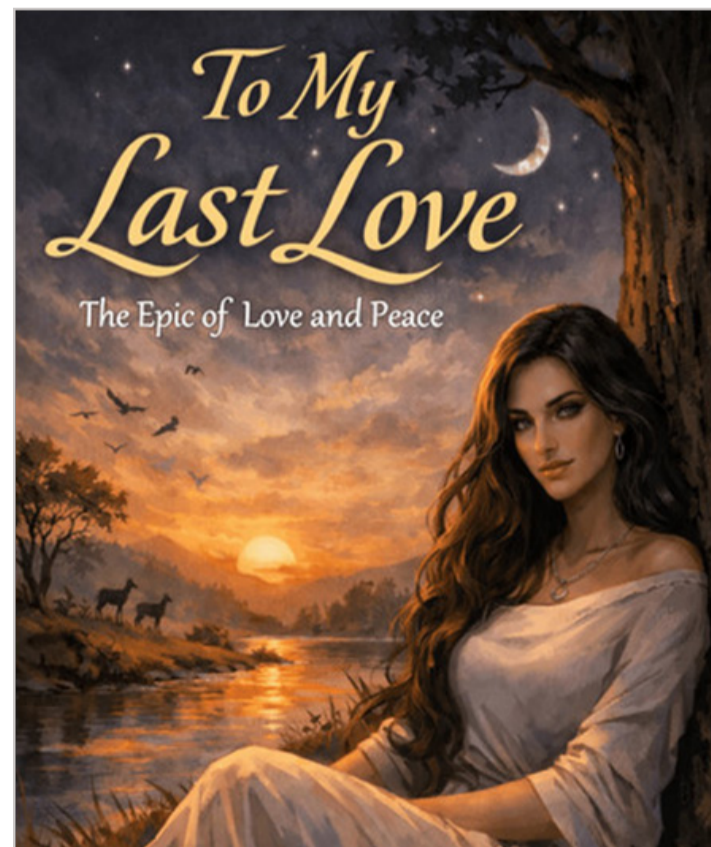
Dr. Vinod Asudani's 'To My Last Love: The Epic of Love and Peace' is a remarkable poetic work that explores the profound relationship between personal love and universal peace. The book presents the thought-provoking idea that genuine human love has the power to transform society and help create a peaceful world order. Structured as a modern epic, the work unfolds through seven cantos that trace a journey from personal emotions to broader philosophical and civilizational concerns. The poet addresses an enigmatic figure called "Oasis," who symbolizes ideal love, spiritual fulfillment, artistic inspiration, and emotional harmony.

One of the most striking features of the book is its fusion of autobiography and philosophy. Drawing from personal experiences and reflections on life, Dr. Asudani creates a poetic narra-

tive that is intimate yet universal. The poem moves between individual longing and collective human aspirations, encouraging readers to reflect on the interconnectedness of personal happiness and social harmony.

The language of the poem is lyrical, expressive, and rich in imagery. The poet employs symbolism, metaphor, and allusion to enrich the texture of the work. References to mythology, spirituality, literature, and world history provide a broad intellectual canvas.

Another significant aspect of the book is its humanitarian vision. The poet reflects on historical tragedies, wars, and human suffering, emphasizing the urgent need for compassion, empathy, and peaceful coexistence. Love is presented not merely as an individual emotion but as a transformative force capable of healing divisions and promoting mutual



Title: To My Last Love: The Epic of Love and Peace
Author: Dr. Vinod Asudani
Publisher: Lions Publications, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
ISBN: 978-93-7782-291-0

In conclusion, To My Last Love: The Epic of Love and Peace is a significant contribution to contemporary poetic literature. It is not merely a love poem but a visionary work that advocates harmony, compassion, and human unity. The book succeeds in elevating personal experience into a universal message and leaves the reader with a renewed faith in the enduring power of love and peace. (Author/Reviewer Dr. K. Sarojadevi is a poet, writer, columnist, and academician. She writes on social issues, ethics, communication skills, soft skills, and related themes. She has three books to her credit, along with several articles and poems. She has received national and international awards and was invited to the IATEFL International Conference in the United Kingdom in 2008. She also presented her poems at the SAARC Literature Festival in Agra in 2009.)

understanding.

The thematic range of the book is impressive. It explores love, spirituality, art, morality, civilization, memory, and hu-

man destiny. Readers interested in philosophical poetry, spiritual literature, and humanistic thought will find the work intellectually stimulating and emotionally moving.

Kharge Targets Modi, Trump; Demands Probe Into Ram Temple Fund Allegations



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on Sunday, accusing them of causing harm to their respective spheres of influence and criticizing the BJP-led government over issues ranging from inflation and unemployment to alleged ir-

regularities in the NEET examination and Ram Temple donations.

Addressing a mega convention in Bengaluru, where B K Hariprasad formally assumed charge as Karnataka Congress chief, Kharge claimed that Modi was "destroying the country" while Trump was "destroying the world." Referring to the two

leaders as close friends, he alleged that their policies were causing hardship for people.

Kharge also blamed global developments and foreign policy decisions for rising fuel prices, arguing that India had moved away from its traditional non-aligned approach. He urged Congress workers to educate the public about issues affecting the country and strengthen the party while remaining committed to its ideology and constitutional values. The Congress chief raised concerns over allegations of financial irregularities linked to donations at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Calling for a thorough investigation, he questioned why authorities needed additional time to complete inquiries if sufficient evidence was available. He alleged that religion was being misused for political purposes and demanded strict action against anyone found guilty of misappropriating temple funds.

Kharge also renewed the opposition's criticism of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), accusing the Centre of failing to

conduct examinations properly and harming the interests of students and parents. Echoing demands made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he called for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. He suggested that Karnataka's Common Entrance Test (CET) model be studied and that Class 12 marks be considered alongside NEET scores to ensure greater fairness. Targeting the BJP government over inflation, unemployment and education policies, Kharge alleged that power was being concentrated in the hands of a few while the concerns of ordinary citizens were being ignored. He further accused the government of altering educational curricula for political reasons and claimed that individuals linked to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh were being appointed to key academic positions.

Emphasizing the importance of the Constitution, Kharge said it remained a vital safeguard for the poor and marginalized sections of society and called on Congress workers to defend constitutional values.

Yoga Is a Science for Inner Well-Being, Not a Religion: Sadhguru



Marking the 12th International Day of Yoga, spiritual leader and founder of Isha Foundation, Sadhguru emphasized that yoga is neither a philosophy nor a religion, but a scientific approach to achieving inner well-being. Addressing participants during the International Yoga Day celebrations, he said the world has now completed one full cycle of observing Yoga Day and must continue expanding awareness about the transformative possibilities of yoga.

"You know, twelve years is roughly one solar cycle. We have completed one cycle of the International Day of Yoga. It is time to take this movement further so that every human being becomes aware that there are methods to transform themselves," Sadhguru said.

Highlighting the true essence of yoga, he noted that yoga is not based on belief systems, ideologies, or physical postures alone. According to him, just as science and technology exist to

improve external well-being, yoga offers a complete science and technology for enhancing inner well-being. He stressed that many of humanity's challenges arise from a lack of understanding of the fundamental nature of human experience.

"Human experience happens from within. If we want to elevate it to its fullest potential, turning inward is the only way. This is the basic purpose of yoga," he said.

To commemorate International Yoga Day 2026, Isha Foundation organized nearly 1,000 free yoga and meditation programs across India. Around 50,000 people from corporate organizations, educational institutions, hospitals, government departments, defense establishments, and community groups participated in these initiatives. The sessions introduced simple yogic practices and meditation techniques aimed at improving physical health, mental well-being, and overall quality

of life.

At the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore, more than 700 people took part in the celebrations, including 500 students from the Young Indians Coimbatore Chapter and 200 personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force. Special yoga sessions were also conducted for CRPF personnel at the iconic Adiyogi. Meanwhile, at Sadhguru Sannidhi, over 2,500 participants, including NCC cadets, personnel from the Border Security Force, students, villagers, volunteers, and members of the public, attended yoga and meditation sessions.

As part of the celebrations, Isha Foundation also expanded its free guided meditation application, "Miracle of Mind," by adding six new languages—Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Italian, and Nepali. With this addition, the app is now available in 12 languages, enabling more people worldwide to access its seven-minute guided meditation practice.

SIT Bars Ram Temple Trust Officials From Leaving Ayodhya Amid Donation Probe

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing allegations of misappropriation of donations at the Ram Mandir has directed office-bearers of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and temple functionaries not to leave Ayodhya while the investigation is underway, according to temple sources.

The three-member SIT issued the instruction before departing for Lucknow on Sunday. Sources said the investigation reports, including records of questioning conducted with trust officials and others linked to the case, have been digitally compiled and are being finalized for submission to Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Daily updates are also reportedly being sent to the Chief Minister's Office.

The probe, which began on June 13 following allegations of theft and misappropriation of temple donations, has expanded beyond donation-related issues. Investigators are also examining land purchases made by the trust and procurement of construction materials for the temple. Allegations have surfaced that certain land parcels were acquired at rates higher than prevailing market prices, an issue previously raised by opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party and the Aam Aadmi Party.

The SIT comprises Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Inspector General of Police Kiran S, and Finance Department Special Secretary Neel Ratan.

Investigators are also facing challenges due to the limited retention period of CCTV footage installed at the temple complex. Sources said video recordings are automatically deleted after 45 days, restricting access to older footage that could aid the investigation. However, officials believe forensic analysis may help recover deleted data and detect any attempts to alter or tamper with recordings.

According to sources, the SIT has identified several inconsis-

encies in statements provided by temple staff and other individuals questioned during the inquiry. Investigators are examining these discrepancies as part of their efforts to establish the facts.

The investigation was launched after allegations raised by Akhilesh Yadav regarding possible theft of donation funds. The trust has maintained that internal audits are ongoing and has stated that no evidence supporting the allegations has been found so far.

The SIT is expected to continue its inquiry in the coming days before submitting its final report to the state government.

CJP Continues Jantar Mantar Protest, Seeks Pradhan's Resignation Over NEET Row

The protest led by Abhijeet Dipke over the alleged NEET paper leak controversy entered its second day on Sunday, with demonstrators continuing an overnight sit-in at Jantar Mantar and demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Dipke, founder of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), appealed to supporters and the general public to join the agitation, saying the movement required wider participation to succeed. He also urged NEET aspirants appearing for re-examinations to join the protest after completing their tests. The demonstration continued despite the Delhi Police stating that permission for the gathering had expired at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Police directed the protesters to vacate the venue, warning that continuing beyond the approved hours would violate the conditions of permission and could invite legal action.

However, protesters re-



mained at the site overnight, turning the event into a continuous sit-in. Dipke requested authorities to provide an alternative venue for the protest, saying participants would continue at Jantar Mantar until such arrangements were made.

Through a series of social media posts, Dipke appealed to police not to prevent people from reaching the protest site. He said the demonstrators were seeking justice for students al-

legedly affected by examination irregularities and demanded accountability from the government. He also claimed that access to water, food, lighting and restroom facilities had been restricted during the protest, though participants later reported that drinking water and lighting had been restored.

Hundreds of supporters, many of them young people, gathered at the venue carrying placards and raising slogans

against the education ministry. Protesters followed Dipke's call to bring plates and spoons, creating a noisy demonstration to draw attention to their demands.

Among those expressing support for the agitation was environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk, who announced that he would begin a hunger strike on June 27 if the education minister did not step down.

Dipke has demanded compensation of Rs 1 crore for families of students who allegedly died by suicide following examination-related controversies. He reiterated that the protest would remain peaceful and said dialogue with the central government remained possible if accountability was fixed and appropriate action was taken.

The ongoing demonstration is the second major protest organized by CJP at Jantar Mantar over alleged examination paper leaks and concerns regarding transparency in competitive examinations.

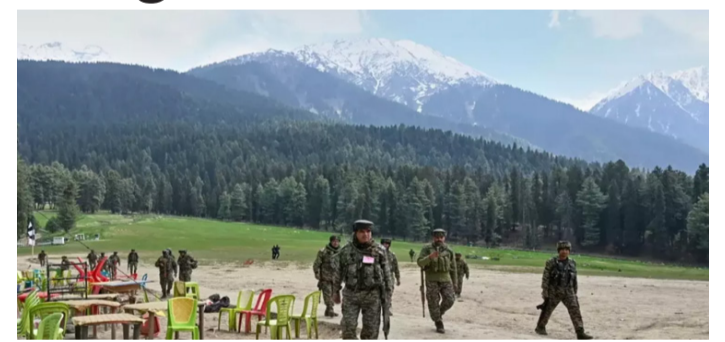
NIA Chargesheet Reveals Drone Supply Route in Pahalgam Terror Attack

The chargesheet filed by the National Investigation Agency in the Pahalgam terror attack case has revealed that cross-border drones were used to deliver arms, ammunition and cash deep inside Kashmir, highlighting a major shift in the logistics network of terrorist groups operating in the region.

According to the investigation, drones originating from across the border successfully dropped weapons and funds in the Gogal Dara forests of Baramulla, bypassing multiple layers of security. The supplies reportedly included 20 pistols, Rs 15 lakh in cash and triangular-shaped explosive devices, commonly referred to as Chinese grenades.

The NIA's probe traced the movements of the terrorists involved in the deadly attack on the Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam in April last year. The attack claimed 26 lives, most of them tourists, and triggered a major security response from India. Following the incident, Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor, targeting terror infrastructure across the border.

Security experts reviewing the chargesheet have pointed to



a decline in human intelligence (HUMINT) networks between 2022 and 2024 as a key factor that allowed the terror module to operate undetected. They argue that an increased dependence on technical surveillance created gaps in ground-level intelligence, enabling militants to move through mountainous and urban areas without attracting attention. Investigators believe the Gogal Dara forest area became a preferred drone-drop location due to its geographical position and direct line of sight from across the border. The chargesheet indicates that terrorists were able to receive aerial deliveries, scout targets and prepare for the attack without triggering early warning mechanisms.

Experts have also urged secu-

ity agencies to rebuild ties with the nomadic Gujjar and Bakewal communities, long regarded as vital sources of information in the region. These communities, known for their extensive knowledge of the rugged terrain, have historically assisted security forces in tracking militant activity across the Pir Panjal ranges and other remote areas.

Analysts contend that the weakening of local intelligence networks and reduced engagement with traditional sources created operational blind spots. The NIA's findings have renewed calls for a balanced security strategy that combines advanced technology with strong human intelligence networks to counter evolving terror tactics in Jammu and Kashmir.

ED Uncovers Medical Tourism Front in Kerala Organ Trafficking Case

The Enforcement Directorate has uncovered details of a large-scale organ trafficking racket in Kerala that allegedly operated under the guise of a medical tourism company, exploiting financially vulnerable individuals and facilitating illegal organ transplants for profit.

The investigation, conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), was launched based on multiple

FIRs registered by the Kerala Police. As part of the probe, the ED recently carried out searches at nine locations across Kerala, including hospitals and premises linked to the accused.

According to the agency, the racket was allegedly masterminded by Muhammed Najeeb K and his associate Rasheeda A A through their company, Kallatharas Medical Tourism Pvt Ltd. Investigators claim the network op-

erated between 2021 and 2026, recruiting financially distressed individuals as organ donors through agents and intermediaries.

The ED alleged that donors were promised payments ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, while recipients were charged between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 35 lakh or more for transplant procedures. Authorities believe the syndicate generated substantial illegal profits through the

arrangement.

Investigators also uncovered evidence of extensive document forgery. The accused allegedly created fake altruism certificates, forged recommendation letters from public representatives, and fabricated identity documents, including Aadhaar cards and ration cards, to secure approvals for organ transplants. The forged records were reportedly prepared at two establishments

in Ernakulam district.

The agency further alleged that illegal transplant surgeries were facilitated at major hospitals in Ernakulam after obtaining approvals using forged documentation. During the searches, officials seized records related to transplant procedures, donor and recipient details, and documents submitted before district-level authorization committees.

The ED has also begun

tracing the financial trail linked to the alleged racket. Authorities have frozen several bank accounts belonging to agents and intermediaries suspected of facilitating the illegal trade and are examining banking transactions to identify the flow of funds and possible laundering of proceeds.

In addition, investigators are scrutinizing immovable properties owned by the accused and their associates to

determine whether they were acquired using proceeds of crime.

So far, Kerala Police have registered six cases related to the racket and arrested multiple accused, including alleged kingpin Muhammed Najeeb, who was apprehended in Uttar Pradesh last month. The ED said further investigation is underway to identify additional beneficiaries and establish the full extent of the network.

Poll Shows Americans Disapprove of Trump's Handling of Iran



A new poll conducted by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research has found that a majority of Americans disapprove of President Donald Trump's handling of Iran, even as his overall job approval rating remains unchanged.

According to the survey conducted between June 11 and 17, about 65 percent of U.S. adults disapprove of Trump's approach to issues involving Iran. The findings reveal a sharp partisan divide, with most Democrats and independents expressing dissatisfaction, while only 28 percent of Republicans said they were unhappy with his handling of the issue.

Trump's overall approval rating stands at 37 percent, the same level recorded in a similar poll conducted in May. The sur-

vey was carried out during a period when the president shifted from threatening escalation against Iran to pursuing renewed negotiations and eventually announcing an agreement with Tehran.

The deal reportedly allows Iran to resume unrestricted oil exports, reopens the Strait of Hormuz without tolls for two months, and revives discussions over Iran's nuclear programme. However, the agreement has drawn criticism from both political opponents and some of Trump's supporters, who argue it does not sufficiently address concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The poll also suggests that many Americans believe U.S. military involvement concerning Iran has gone too far. Fifty-three percent of respondents

expressed that view, although the figure has declined slightly from 59 percent recorded in March. Among Republicans, opinions were more divided, with some believing the actions were appropriate and others saying the administration should have taken a tougher stance.

Public opinion on other major issues remains challenging for the president. Only 34 percent of Americans approve of Trump's handling of Israel-related matters, reflecting concerns over tensions between the White House and Israeli leadership amid ongoing regional conflicts. Economic issues continue to be another area of concern. About one-third of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the economy, a figure largely unchanged from recent months. While some respondents credited his policies for positive economic conditions, others complained about persistently high prices and rising living costs.

The survey highlights continuing divisions among Americans over foreign policy and domestic economic management, with Trump's strongest support still coming from Republican voters despite growing concerns among some within his own political base.

JD Vance Calls US-Iran Talks Chance to 'Turn Over a New Leaf'

US Vice President JD Vance said the Middle East stands at a critical crossroads as American and Iranian negotiators began high-level discussions in Switzerland aimed at securing a lasting peace agreement following months of conflict.

Speaking ahead of the talks, dubbed the "Lake Lucerne Summit," Vance described the negotiations as an opportunity to reshape regional relations and move away from decades of instability.

"The question before us now is how much more can we accomplish together? Can we turn over a new leaf?" Vance said. "Can we change relations in the Middle East permanently, or do we go back to doing things the old way?"

The US delegation includes Vance, Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, while Iran is represented by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Pakistani and Qatari mediators are also participating in the discussions. The talks are focused on implementing an interim agreement reached between Washington and Tehran that seeks to end hostilities and create conditions for a broader settlement. The agreement includes provisions for reopening negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme, easing restrictions on Iranian oil exports, and ensuring uninterrupted navigation through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. Iranian officials, however, have



emphasized that implementation of the agreement must begin with a complete cessation of fighting, particularly in Lebanon. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tehran would prioritize discussions related to the Israel-Hezbollah conflict and stressed that honoring commitments was more important than signing agreements. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated that Iran would not

abandon its right to enrich uranium, signaling that the nuclear issue remains a key point of contention in negotiations.

Meanwhile, a temporary lull in fighting has been reported in southern Lebanon, where recent clashes between Israeli forces and Hezbollah had intensified regional tensions. Diplomatic efforts are aimed at preserving the ceasefire and preventing further escalation. Pakistan has also played a

prominent mediating role, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir holding separate meetings with both US and Iranian delegations.

The negotiations are expected to determine whether the interim agreement can evolve into a broader framework for regional stability, with both sides facing a 60-day window to pursue a comprehensive settlement.

Three Indian Oil Tankers Safely Cross Strait of Hormuz

Three Indian-flagged crude oil tankers carrying more than 8.6 lakh metric tonnes of cargo and 94 Indian crew members have successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz and are on their way to India, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced on Sunday.

The vessels, Desh Vaibhav, Desh Vibhor and Sanmar Herald, crossed the strategically important waterway on Saturday and are expected to reach Indian ports over the next several days.

According to the minister, Desh Vaibhav is scheduled to arrive at Vadinar Port on June 24, while Desh Vibhor is expected to dock at Sikka Port the same day. Sanmar Herald is likely to reach Paradip Port on July 1.

In a post on social media, Sonowal said the safe passage of the vessels reflected the government's efforts to safeguard India's maritime interests and energy supply chains. He added that the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is closely



coordinating with relevant agencies to ensure the safety of Indian seafarers and the uninterrupted movement of critical cargo.

The development comes amid improving conditions in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil transit routes. Shipping activity has gradually resumed following recent diplomatic developments involving the United States and Iran.

The United States recently eased restrictions affecting Iranian oil exports as part of a broader interim agreement aimed at reducing regional tensions. The arrangement has ena-

bled commercial shipping traffic to move more freely through the Strait of Hormuz after months of uncertainty.

The safe transit of the three Indian tankers is considered significant for India's energy security, as a substantial portion of the country's crude oil imports passes through the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with global markets.

Officials said the government continues to closely monitor developments in the region and remains focused on ensuring the safety of Indian vessels, crew members and vital energy supply routes.

Iran Open to Nuclear Assurances, Rejects End to Uranium Enrichment: Pezeshkian

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday said Iran is prepared to provide assurances that it is not seeking to develop nuclear weapons, but firmly ruled out abandoning its uranium enrichment programme.

Speaking ahead of a new round of negotiations between Iranian and US officials in Switzerland, Pezeshkian said Tehran was willing to formally commit to the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities.

"What the United States demands is that Iran not build an atomic bomb. This is nothing new, and we can also state in writing that we have no intention of building a bomb," he said, according to remarks published on the president's official website.

However, the Iranian leader stressed that uranium enrichment remains a sovereign right that Tehran will not surrender under any circumstances.

"We will not relinquish our right to enrichment, and the other side will have no choice but to accept this right," Pezeshkian said.

The comments come as Iranian and American negotiators prepare for high-level talks in Switzerland aimed at advancing a broader agreement following an interim understanding reached earlier between the two countries. The discussions are expected to focus on Iran's nuclear programme, regional security issues and the implementation of confidence-building measures designed to reduce tensions.

Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes, including energy production and scientific research. Western nations, particularly the United States, have long expressed concerns that uranium enrichment activities could potentially be



used to develop nuclear weapons.

Tehran's position reflects one of the central issues in the ongoing negotiations. While Iranian officials have indicated a willingness to increase transparency and provide guarantees regarding the non-military nature of their programme, they continue to insist on retaining domestic enrichment capabilities.

The latest talks are seen as a significant diplomatic effort to

bridge differences between the two sides and prevent further escalation in regional tensions. Observers say the outcome of the negotiations could play a crucial role in shaping future relations between Washington and Tehran, as well as broader stability in the Middle East.

Both sides are expected to continue discussions over the coming weeks as they seek common ground on nuclear safeguards, sanctions relief and regional security concerns.

Starmer Exit Speculation Grows as Trump Predicts UK PM's Resignation

Speculation over the political future of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has intensified following reports that he could announce his resignation and outline an orderly transition plan as early as Monday. While no official confirmation has been issued by Downing Street, the reports have sparked widespread debate within British political circles and raised questions about the future leadership of the Labour Party.

The rumors come at a time when Starmer is facing mounting pressure from within his own party amid concerns over declining public support, policy challenges, and internal divisions. Political observers say dissatisfaction among some Labour lawmakers has grown in recent months, prompting discussions about whether a change in leadership could help revive the party's fortunes. Adding to the speculation, US President Donald Trump weighed in on the issue, publicly predicting that Starmer would resign. Trump criticized the British prime minister's handling of key issues, including immigration and energy policy, and suggested that his leadership had failed to meet public expectations. The comments drew significant attention on both sides of the Atlantic and further fueled discussions about Starmer's



political future. The reports have also renewed focus on potential successors within the Labour Party. Among the names frequently mentioned is Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, whose recent return to Parliament has elevated his profile nationally. Burnham's economic vision, known as "Manchesterism," has gained attention as a possible blueprint for a future Labour government. Other senior Labour figures are also believed to be considering their options should a leadership contest become necessary.

Despite the growing speculation, allies of Starmer have insisted that the prime minister remains committed to his role and continues to focus on governing the country. They argue that reports of an imminent resignation may be premature and point out that Starmer has previously indicated he would contest any challenge to his

leadership rather than step aside voluntarily.

The uncertainty comes during a period of economic and political challenges for the United Kingdom, with the government facing pressure over public services, living costs, and broader economic performance. Any change in leadership at this stage could have significant implications for both the Labour Party and the country's political landscape.

If Starmer does decide to step down, Labour would be expected to launch a leadership election to choose his successor. Such a contest could reshape the party's direction and determine who leads it into the next phase of British politics.

For now, attention remains focused on Westminster as politicians, party members and the public await clarity on whether Starmer intends to continue in office or begin the process of handing over leadership.

Andy Burnham Unveils 'Manchesterism' Vision for Britain

The return of Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham to Parliament has intensified speculation that he could emerge as a future contender to succeed Prime Minister Keir Starmer, with his economic and political philosophy, dubbed "Manchesterism," attracting growing attention.

Burnham, 56, recently returned to Westminster after winning a by-election in the Makerfield constituency. He has positioned "Manchesterism" as a model for national renewal, describing it as "business-friendly socialism" that combines economic growth with stronger public services and greater local control.

A central pillar of Burnham's vision is devolution. He argues that too much economic and political power remains concentrated in London and wants to transfer greater authority over housing, transport, education and infrastructure spending to local communities. He often points to Greater Manchester's Bee Network, an integrated public transport system, as an example of



how local decision-making can improve public services and boost economic activity.

Burnham believes Britain's highly centralised financial structure has contributed to regional inequalities and slower economic growth. His proposals seek to give local governments more influence over investment decisions and public services.

On economic policy, Burnham has pledged to maintain fiscal discipline while pursuing reforms aimed at stimulating growth. He supports existing fiscal rules that require day-to-day government spending to be balanced with revenues and has ruled out increas-

ing taxes on working people, including income tax, National Insurance and VAT.

At the same time, he has criticised decades of privatisation and deregulation, arguing that they have reduced government control over essential services and increased inefficiencies. He has advocated greater public oversight of utilities and suggested public ownership could be considered in specific cases, such as financially troubled water companies. Burnham also supports retaining the "triple lock" system for state pensions, ensuring annual increases based on inflation, wage growth or 2.5 percent,

whichever is higher.

On immigration, he backs tougher measures to address illegal migration while also supporting safe and legal routes for refugees. He has argued that migrants already residing in Britain should be allowed to work while awaiting decisions on their status. A former health secretary under former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Burnham has identified social care reform as a priority. He believes improving care services for older people could reduce pressure on the National Health Service.

Although Burnham supported remaining in the European Union during the Brexit referendum and has previously expressed support for rejoining the bloc, he has recently stated that returning to EU membership is not currently a priority, emphasizing respect for the 2016 referendum result.

His supporters view Manchesterism as a blueprint for a more balanced and inclusive economy, while critics question whether policies successful at a regional level can be effectively applied across the entire country.

Park Medi World in Spotlight as Emkay Sees 37% Upside

Shares of healthcare services provider Park Medi World are expected to remain in focus when markets reopen on Monday after brokerage firm Emkay Research projected significant upside potential for the stock. The company's shares ended Friday's trading session at 278.90 on the NSE, registering a strong gain of 9.27 percent over the previous close. The rally followed a positive outlook from Emkay Research, which assigned a target price of 350 per share, indicating a potential upside of more than 37 percent from current levels.



Effective healthcare delivery has positioned it well within India's growing healthcare sector. By keeping operational expenses under control and maximizing utilization of medical infrastructure, Park Medi World has been able to improve returns while expanding access to healthcare services. The brokerage also pointed to favorable industry trends, including rising healthcare awareness, increasing demand for organized healthcare facilities, and greater spending on

medical services. These factors are expected to support the company's growth trajectory over the coming years. Market participants will closely watch the stock's movement this week, particularly after Friday's sharp rally. Investors are likely to assess whether the positive brokerage outlook translates into sustained buying interest. The healthcare sector has remained a key area of focus for investors amid growing demand for medical services and ongoing investments in

healthcare infrastructure across the country. Small-cap healthcare companies have also attracted attention as investors search for growth opportunities beyond large pharmaceutical and hospital chains. Analysts believe that companies with scalable business models, efficient operations, and strong execution capabilities are likely to benefit from long-term structural growth in the sector. Park Medi World's emphasis on affordable healthcare and efficient asset utilization has been cited as one of its key strengths.

While the brokerage's optimistic target has boosted sentiment around the stock, market experts advise investors to consider factors such as earnings growth, valuation levels, industry competition, and overall market conditions before making investment decisions.

With a strong endorsement from Emkay Research and growing interest in healthcare-related stocks, Park Medi World is expected to remain on investors' radar in the coming trading sessions.

Markets Eye US-Iran Talks, Oil Prices in Holiday-Shortened Week

Indian equity markets are expected to take cues from global geopolitical developments, crude oil price movements, foreign investor activity, and domestic economic indicators in the holiday-shortened trading week ahead. Market participants will closely track the outcome of high-level talks between the United States and Iran, which could significantly influence global sentiment and energy markets. Trading on Indian exchanges will remain closed on Friday on account of Muharram, reducing the number of trading sessions during the week.



its energy requirements. Lower oil prices could help ease inflationary pressures and improve investor confidence, while renewed tensions may trigger market volatility.

Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) activity will also remain under scrutiny after overseas investors turned net buyers in the previous week. Continued inflows could provide support to domestic equities, particularly amid improving global risk sentiment.

Apart from geopolitical developments, investors will monitor movements in the Indian rupee against the US dollar, global market trends, and updates from the primary market. Several upcoming initial public offerings (IPOs) and listings are expected to attract attention from retail and institutional investors. The progress of the southwest

monsoon will be another important factor. A healthy monsoon is crucial for agricultural output, rural demand, and inflation management, making it a key indicator for market participants.

Analysts believe that despite concerns over global economic growth and technology sector weakness, positive domestic fundamentals, steady institutional support, and easing commodity prices could help sustain market momentum. After posting gains for two consecutive weeks, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty enter the new week with optimism. However, experts caution that geopolitical developments, particularly in West Asia, could determine the market's direction in the near term.

Investors are therefore expected to remain watchful as global events continue to shape sentiment on Dalal Street.

Smallcaps Extend Rally as Broader Markets Outperform for Second Week

Indian equity markets witnessed strong participation from broader market segments for the second consecutive week, with midcap and smallcap stocks outperforming benchmark indices amid sustained domestic buying, easing crude oil prices, and improving investor sentiment.

ing their winning streak for a second straight week.

Benchmark indices also posted healthy gains. The BSE Sensex rose 1,274.95 points, or 1.68 percent, to close at 76,802.90, while the Nifty 50 climbed 390.20 points, or 1.65 percent, to settle at 24,013.10.

The Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices ended all five trading sessions of the week in positive territory, reflecting broad-based strength across sectors. The Nifty Midcap 100 gained 2.8 percent during the week, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 advanced 3.2 percent, extend-

Market sentiment was supported by easing crude oil prices and continued inflows from institutional investors. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net buyers during the week, purchasing equities worth 3,386.33 crore. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) remained strong supporters of the market,

investing 7,107.89 crore in equities.

Analysts attributed the rally in broader markets to strong buying in domestically focused sectors, including real estate, consumer durables, capital goods, defence, and industrial companies. Investors showed increased confidence in sectors expected to benefit from rising domestic demand and government-led infrastructure spending.

Among sectoral indices, the Nifty India Defence Index emerged as the top performer, surging 6.5 percent during the week. The Nifty Consumer Du-

rables Index followed closely with a gain of 6.4 percent, while the Nifty Realty Index jumped 5.5 percent. The Nifty Capital Markets Index also posted a solid rise of 4.2 percent.

In contrast, the technology sector remained under pressure. The Nifty IT Index declined 1.3 percent for the week, weighed down by concerns over global technology spending and weak guidance from international IT services major Accenture. Heavy selling in leading IT stocks limited gains in the broader market on the final trading day of the week.

Market experts noted that the

combination of lower oil prices, a strengthening rupee, and renewed foreign investor interest has created a favorable environment for equities. The strong performance of midcap and smallcap stocks indicates growing risk appetite among investors.

With domestic economic indicators remaining supportive and institutional flows continuing, analysts expect broader market segments to remain in focus, though global geopolitical developments and crude oil price movements will continue to influence market direction in the coming weeks.



Hawkish Fed, Uncertain Iran Truce Keep Commodity Markets on Edge

Global commodity markets remained volatile during the week ended June 18 as investors grappled with a more hawkish-than-expected US Federal Reserve and uncertainty surrounding a fragile peace process between the United States and Iran.

Market sentiment shifted sharply after the Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged at 3.50-3.75 percent but signaled a tougher stance on inflation under new Chair Kevin Warsh. The central bank's latest projections indicated that policymakers now expect interest rates to remain higher for longer, with several officials forecasting one or more rate hikes in 2026.

The Fed also raised its inflation outlook, projecting headline Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation at 3.6 percent and core PCE inflation at 3.3 percent next year. The revised forecasts reinforced concerns that inflationary pressures remain persistent despite previous monetary tightening efforts.

Following the policy announcement, the US dollar strengthened significantly, with the Dollar Index climbing to a 13-month high of 101.1. A stronger dollar typically weighs on commodity prices by making dollar-denominated assets more expensive for international buyers.

Investors are now assigning a much higher probability to another rate increase later this year. According to market expectations, the likelihood of a December rate hike has risen sharply, reflecting growing confidence that the Fed will prioritize inflation control over eco-



nomical stimulus.

At the same time, geopolitical developments in West Asia continued to influence commodity markets. Although diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran have shown signs of progress, the proposed peace framework remains incomplete and subject to significant political and security challenges. Traders remain cautious about the possibility of renewed tensions that could disrupt energy supplies and trigger sharp movements in oil prices.

Despite the hawkish monetary policy signals, US equity markets ended the holiday-shortened week on a positive note. The S&P 500 gained nearly 1 percent, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.7 percent. Technology stocks led the rally, helping the Nasdaq Composite advance 2.4 percent.

Market participants will now focus on a series of key economic indicators, including the US PCE inflation report and the revised first-quarter GDP data. Comments from Federal Re-

serve officials are also expected to be closely monitored for clues about the future path of interest rates.

Analysts believe stronger-than-expected economic data could further strengthen the dollar and pressure commodities, while any setback in US-Iran negotiations may reignite volatility across energy markets. As a result, commodity traders are expected to remain cautious amid a complex mix of monetary and geopolitical risks.

Global Monetary Tightening Raises New Challenges for India

A shift in global monetary policy by major central banks is reshaping the investment landscape, with experts warning that a prolonged period of higher interest rates could have significant implications for emerging economies, including India.

According to market experts, the era of ultra-low interest rates and abundant liquidity that dominated the past decade is gradually coming to an end. Recent policy signals from the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan indicate a move toward a "higher-for-longer" interest rate environment, raising the global cost of capital and influencing investment flows worldwide.

The US Federal Reserve has maintained a cautious stance on interest rates amid concerns over persistent inflation, while the Bank of Japan has resumed policy tightening after years of accommodative measures. These developments have prompted investors to reassess risk exposure, particularly in emerging markets that have traditionally benefited from abundant global liquidity.

Analysts note that tighter monetary conditions in advanced economies often lead to increased volatility in foreign portfolio investment flows. Higher returns available in developed markets can attract capital away from emerging economies, creating challenges for countries dependent on external investments.

For India, however, experts believe the situation presents both risks and opportunities. While foreign institutional investment flows may remain unpredictable, India's strong domestic demand, expanding manufacturing base, and ongoing infrastructure development continue to support its long-term growth prospects.

Market observers point out that India's economy is now more resilient than in previous cycles, supported by healthy corporate balance sheets, improved banking sector stability, and increased participation by domestic investors. These factors are expected to cushion the impact of global financial tightening.

Nevertheless, sectors heavily dependent on external funding may face pressure as borrowing costs remain elevated

Companies planning expansion projects could encounter higher financing expenses, potentially affecting investment decisions and profitability.

Experts also emphasize that investors should closely monitor global economic indicators, central bank policy decisions, inflation trends, and currency movements in the coming months. These factors will play a critical role in determining the direction of global capital flows and overall market sentiment.

Despite near-term uncertainties, analysts remain optimistic about India's long-term economic outlook. Structural growth drivers, including digital transformation, manufacturing expansion, rising consumption, and government-led infrastructure spending, are expected to continue supporting economic growth.

As global monetary conditions evolve, market participants are likely to focus increasingly on quality businesses with strong balance sheets, sustainable earnings growth, and the ability to withstand higher borrowing costs in a changing financial environment.



Delivery Job Fuels Woman's Dream of Becoming a Police Officer

A 23-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh has won widespread admiration on social media after her inspiring journey of balancing a food delivery job in Mumbai with preparations for a police recruitment examination came to light.

Khushboo, a native of Ghazipur district, moved to Mumbai in pursuit of opportunities that would help her achieve a long-term goal—serving society as a police officer. While many young migrants arrive in the financial capital seeking permanent careers, Khushboo views the city as a stepping stone toward fulfilling her dream of returning to her village in uniform.

Her story gained attention after it was featured by Swiggy Food Marketplace CEO Rohit Kapoor as part of the company's "Chai Biskoot" series, which highlights the lives and experiences of delivery partners. Kapoor shared a video showcasing Khushboo's determination and resilience, drawing praise from thousands of viewers online.

According to the video, Khushboo is one of five siblings and left her hometown for Mumbai without initially informing her parents. To support herself financially, she began working as a Swiggy delivery partner while continuing her studies and preparing for the Uttar Pradesh Police recruitment examination.

Her daily routine involves delivering food orders across the city during the day and dedicating her evenings to



studying. Despite the challenges of balancing work and exam preparation, she remains focused on her ambition of joining the police force.

Speaking in the video, Khushboo said her ultimate goal is to wear the police uniform and serve the people of her village. Her determination to improve her future while remaining committed to giving back to her community has resonated strongly with viewers.

Kapoor noted that what impressed him most was not only Khushboo's courage in leaving home but also the clarity of purpose behind her decision. He observed that while many people migrate to cities in search of a better life, Khushboo's objective is to

turn home one day equipped to serve society in a meaningful way. In a gesture of encouragement, Kapoor presented Khushboo with a laptop to assist her preparation for the police examination.

The story quickly gained traction on social media, where users praised her perseverance, work ethic, and dedication. Many described her as an example of determination and self-belief, while others said her journey demonstrated that ambition is not merely about personal success but also about creating a positive impact on one's community.

Khushboo's story continues to inspire countless young people striving to overcome obstacles in pursuit of their dreams.

Yoga Amid Elephants Highlights Harmony Between Nature and Wellness

International Yoga Day was celebrated in a unique and inspiring manner in West Bengal's Jaldapara Wildlife Division, where Forest Department officials performed yoga in the midst of nature while elephants observed from nearby grasslands. The event beautifully showcased the connection between human well-being, wildlife conservation, and environmental harmony.

A video shared by the West Bengal Department of Health and Family Welfare captured the special celebration, drawing widespread attention on social media. The footage showed Forest Department personnel practicing various yoga asanas on mats spread across open grasslands, surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the forest landscape.

The department described the event as a symbolic gathering where "elephants walk with wisdom and we breathe with balance," emphasizing the deep relationship between nature and mindful living. The yoga session was conducted



under the theme "IDY 2026: Yoga for One Earth, One Health, One Herd," reflecting the broader message of environmental sustainability and collective well-being.

Participants performed yoga against the backdrop of the serene Torsa River and the natural sounds of the forest. Nearby elephants calmly watched the session from a respectful distance, creating a rare and memorable scene that highlighted coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Officials noted that the event was intended not only to mark

International Yoga Day but also to promote awareness about conservation and the importance of maintaining ecological balance. The presence of the elephants served as a powerful reminder of the need to protect wildlife habitats and preserve biodiversity for future generations.

According to the department, the yoga practitioners were guided by the spirit of nature itself, drawing inspiration from the calmness, strength, and resilience often associated with elephants. The session symbolized the values of pa-

trience, balance, and harmony that yoga seeks to cultivate.

The department further stated that conservation efforts are closely linked to the health of the planet, describing environmental protection as "breathwork for the Earth." By combining yoga with a wildlife setting, the event conveyed a message that personal wellness and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

The celebration received appreciation from environmentalists, wildlife enthusiasts, and yoga practitioners alike, who praised the innovative approach to promoting both health and conservation. The event stood out as a powerful example of how International Yoga Day can be used to spread awareness about sustainable living while celebrating the bond between humans and nature.

The unique gathering in Jaldapara underscored the idea that true well-being extends beyond individual health to include the protection and preservation of the natural world.

World Music Day Strikes Different Notes Across the Globe

World Music Day 2026 brought together millions of music lovers across continents, but this year's celebrations reflected contrasting realities as climate concerns shaped events in France while India witnessed a vibrant resurgence of independent music and cultural expression.

Observed annually on June 21, World Music Day, also known as Fête de la Musique, coincides with the summer solstice and promotes the idea of making music accessible to everyone. Streets, parks, concert halls, and public spaces across the world came alive with performances ranging from classical and folk traditions to contemporary and experimental sounds.

In France, where the global celebration originated in 1982, festivities unfolded under challenging circumstances. A severe heatwave affected large parts of the country, prompting authorities to implement strict safety measures. Public alcohol consumption was prohibited in several high-risk areas as officials sought to minimize health risks associated with extreme temperatures.

Despite the restrictions, musicians continued to perform in public spaces, maintaining the spirit of the festival while adapting to safety protocols.

The contrast was striking in India, where World Music Day became a showcase for the country's growing independent music movement. Large-scale concerts, community performances, and cultural gatherings attracted enthusiastic audiences across major cities. The spotlight fell on a landmark concert in Kolkata, where celebrated musicians and artists came together for a special event dedicated to original compositions inspired by India's rich folk traditions.

Music enthusiasts in cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Kolkata participated in flash mobs, live performances, open-mic sessions, and collaborative musical gatherings. The celebrations highlighted a growing interest in independent artists, regional sounds, and innovative storytelling rooted in local culture.

The day also sparked broader discussions about the evolution of music in modern society. Mental wellness emerged as a key theme, with many performers and organizers emphasizing music's ability to reduce stress, foster emotional connections, and promote community engagement.

At the same time, conversations around artificial intelligence in music production gained prominence as technology continues to reshape creative processes within the industry.

Originally conceived by former French Culture Minister Jack Lang, World Music Day was founded on the principle that music should be freely accessible, encouraging both amateur and professional musicians to perform without charge.

While many contemporary events now feature ticketed concerts and commercial sponsorships, the festival's core message of inclusivity and cultural exchange remains intact.

From intimate street performances and social media livestreams to grand concerts featuring renowned artists, World Music Day 2026 demonstrated the enduring power of music to unite people across borders, languages, and cultures.

Even amid changing technologies and global challenges, the celebration reaffirmed music's unique ability to inspire, heal, and bring communities together.

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AI-Powered Scams Becoming More Sophisticated, Experts Warn

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence is transforming the digital landscape, but cybersecurity experts warn that the technology is also giving cybercriminals powerful new tools to make online scams more convincing and difficult to detect.

According to recent cybersecurity assessments, fraudsters are increasingly using artificial intelligence to create highly personalized messages, realistic deepfake videos, cloned voices, and professional-looking emails designed to deceive unsuspecting victims. While the objective remains the same—stealing money, personal information, or digital credentials—the methods have become far more sophisticated.

Experts say modern scam campaigns rely heavily on psychological manipulation. Criminals often exploit emotions such as fear, urgency, curiosity, or trust to pressure victims into taking immediate action. Artificial intelligence enables scammers to quickly generate customized content, making fraudulent messages appear more authentic than ever before.

One emerging tactic involves using publicly available information from websites, social media platforms, and online databases to craft messages tailored to individual targets. By incorporating real details into emails or messages, scammers create a false sense of familiarity and credibility.

Cybersecurity analysts note that many AI-assisted scams



no longer display the traditional warning signs associated with online fraud. Instead of sending suspicious attachments or immediately requesting money, criminals often begin with seemingly harmless conversations. Once a victim responds and becomes emotionally invested, scammers gradually introduce malicious links, requests for payments, or demands for sensitive personal information.

Another growing concern is the use of trusted online platforms to host malicious content. Fraudsters frequently utilize widely recognized services such as cloud storage platforms and productivity tools to disguise harmful links and bypass security filters. Because these platforms are commonly used by businesses and individuals, victims may be less likely to suspect foul play.

Deepfake technology has further increased the threat. Artificial intelligence can now generate convincing audio and video recordings that imitate the voices and appearances of real people. Experts warn that scammers may use these tools

to impersonate family members, colleagues, company executives, or public figures in an attempt to gain trust or demand urgent financial assistance.

The consequences of falling victim to such scams can be severe, ranging from financial losses and identity theft to compromised devices and extortion attempts.

To protect themselves, cybersecurity professionals recommend that individuals remain cautious when receiving unexpected messages, verify the identity of senders through independent communication channels, and avoid sharing personal or financial information under pressure. Experts also advise users to carefully examine links, question unusual requests, and take time to verify claims before responding.

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, experts emphasize that awareness, vigilance, and critical thinking remain the most effective defenses against increasingly sophisticated online scams.

Google Celebrates Father's Day with Heartwarming Gardening-Themed Doodle

Google marked Father's Day 2026 with a touching and creative Doodle that pays tribute to fathers and father figures across the world. The special artwork, displayed on the company's homepage, highlights the values of love, strength, care, and guidance that fathers bring to their families.

This year's Doodle features a handcrafted pop-up card design with a warm and rustic appearance. The colorful illustration transforms the Google logo into a series of paper-cut letters arranged on folding cards. At the center of the design is a vibrant garden scene showcasing vegetables such as radishes and carrots, along with a small harvest basket, a gardening trowel, and handprint cutouts decorated with heart shapes.

According to Google, the gardening theme was chosen to symbolize the qualities often associated with fathers. The vegetables growing from the soil represent

rooted strength, unwavering support, protection, and the nurturing role fathers play in helping children grow and flourish. The imagery reflects the idea that, much like a gardener cares for plants, fathers provide guidance, encouragement, and stability throughout life. The Doodle's handcrafted aesthetic adds a personal touch, resembling a homemade greeting card created with affection and gratitude. Its design captures the spirit of Father's Day by emphasizing family bonds and heartfelt appreciation rather than grand gestures.

Father's Day is observed in many countries around the world, although the date varies from nation to nation. In countries including India, the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, the occasion is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. The day serves as an opportunity for families to recognize the contributions of fa-



thers, grandfathers, mentors, and other father figures who have positively influenced their lives.

People celebrate Father's Day in different ways, ranging from giving gifts and greeting cards to spending quality time with family members. The occasion also serves as a reminder of the emotional support, sacrifices, and dedication shown by fathers in raising and supporting their children. Google's latest Doodle has been widely appreciated for its simple yet meaningful mes-

sage. By using the symbolism of gardening and growth, the artwork highlights the enduring role fathers play in shaping lives and nurturing future generations.

As families around the world celebrate the occasion, the special Doodle offers a visual reminder of the gratitude, respect, and affection that Father's Day seeks to express, honoring fathers whose care and support continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of their loved ones.

Balcony Escape System Offers New Safety Option for High-Rise Emergencies

As high-rise fires continue to expose the challenges of emergency evacuations in densely populated urban areas, an Indian startup has introduced a technology aimed at providing residents with an alternative escape route when conventional exits become inaccessible.

Delhi-based startup Safe Skydrop has developed what it describes as India's first CE-certified personal vertical egress device, designed specifically for emergency evacuation from multi-storey residential buildings.

The innovation addresses a critical concern faced by residents of high-rise apartments. During major

fires, elevators are typically shut down to prevent accidents, while stairwells can quickly fill with smoke, making evacuation difficult or even impossible. In such situations, residents often have limited options while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.

The Safe Skydrop system is designed to function independently of electricity and batteries. Installed permanently on a reinforced balcony wall, the device consists of an aluminum hydraulic frame equipped with an automatic speed-control descender mechanism. Because it operates mechanically, it remains functional during power

outages and blackouts, conditions commonly associated with building fires. According to the company, the evacuation process can be completed within minutes. During an emergency, users wear a safety harness, connect themselves to industrial-grade steel carabiners, and descend from the balcony using the system. An internal braking mechanism automatically controls the rate of descent, allowing users to reach the ground at a steady speed of approximately 0.8 to 1 metre per second without requiring manual control.

The system has also been designed with families in mind. Specialized child safety harnesses are

available, and multiple occupants can evacuate sequentially using a single customized galvanized steel cable. Depending on building requirements, the cable can support evacuations from heights of up to 99 metres.

High-rise fires in India and around the world have repeatedly highlighted the importance of effective evacuation planning and emergency preparedness. While fire alarms, sprinklers, and emergency staircases remain the primary safety measures in buildings, technologies such as personal evacuation devices are emerging as supplementary tools that could provide addi-

tional options during extreme situations. Beyond the equipment itself, the company emphasizes user preparedness through mandatory hands-on training sessions and annual inspections. The approach aims to ensure that residents are familiar with the system before an emergency occurs.

As urban skylines continue to grow vertically, innovations focused on emergency evacuation and resident safety are attracting increased attention from housing societies, safety experts, and urban planners seeking to reduce risks and improve disaster preparedness in high-rise living environments.



Kohli Returns to India ODI Squad for England Series, Awaiting Fitness Clearance



India's star batter Virat Kohli has been named in the squad for the upcoming three-match One-Day International series against England, subject to a fitness clearance from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The 15-member squad was announced on Sunday, with selectors recalling several experienced players as India gears up for a crucial white-ball assignment next month.

Kohli, who missed the recent ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury sustained during Indian Premier League action, is scheduled to report to the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for a fitness assessment. His availability for the England series will depend on the outcome of the evaluation.

The return of Kohli

strengthens India's batting lineup, which will continue to be led by captain Shubman Gill. Veteran opener Rohit Sharma retains his place at the top of the order, while vice-captain Shreyas Iyer is expected to play a key role in the middle order.

One notable omission from the squad is young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who had impressed with two centuries against Afghanistan. Selectors opted to restore the regular combination following Kohli's return, while wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has been retained as a backup opening option.

India have also welcomed back pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah after workload management, adding significant strength to the bowling attack. Experienced all-rounder Axar Patel returns as well, replacing emerging

left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey, who will join the India A squad for its red-ball assignment against Sri Lanka A. The ODI series against England will be played at Edgbaston on July 14, Sophia Gardens on July 16, and Lord's on July 19.

Meanwhile, spinner Varun Chakravarty has been ruled out of the T20I series against Ireland as he continues rehabilitation for a foot injury. Shreyas Iyer will captain the T20I side, with Tilak Varma serving as vice-captain.

With senior players returning and preparations intensifying, the England ODI series is expected to provide India with an important opportunity to fine-tune combinations ahead of future international tournaments and major white-ball challenges.



Spain, Belgium and Uruguay Face Crucial Tests on Exciting World Cup Match Day

Football fans are set for an action-packed day at the FIFA World Cup as several top teams take the field in crucial Group G and Group H encounters. With knockout qualification scenarios beginning to take shape, title contenders Spain, Belgium, and Uruguay will all be aiming to secure valuable points, while underdogs Saudi Arabia, Iran, Cabo Verde, and New Zealand look to spring surprises.

The spotlight will first fall on Spain national football team as they seek to bounce back from a disappointing goalless draw against Cabo Verde national football team in their opening match. Considered among the tournament favourites, Spain struggled to break down the World Cup debutants and now face added pressure against Saudi Arabia national football team.

Doku due to illness, a setback after the Red Devils were held to a draw by Egypt in their opening game. Iran, who shared points with New Zealand in a thrilling 2-2 encounter, remain firmly in contention for a place in the next round.

One of the most intriguing matches features Uruguay national football team against Cabo Verde. The African newcomers captured global attention by frustrating Spain and earning a memorable draw. Coach Pedro Leitao Brito, known as Bubi, has vowed that his side will continue to play fearlessly against one of South America's traditional powerhouses.

Uruguay, featuring several Europe-based stars, were surprisingly held by Saudi Arabia and cannot afford another slip-up. The South Americans are expected to push aggressively for their first victory of the tournament. The day's final fixture sees Egypt national football team face New Zealand national football team. Egypt will rely heavily on captain Mohamed Salah and forward Omar Marmoush, while New Zealand hope experienced striker Chris Wood can lead them to a crucial win.

With heavyweight teams under pressure and ambitious underdogs eager to make history, Match Day 12 promises drama, excitement, and potentially defining moments in the race for World Cup glory.

Coach Luis de la Fuente has backed his players to respond strongly, insisting that Spain will show their true quality. The return to fitness of young star Lamine Yamal could provide the attacking spark Spain lacked in their opening fixture. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, earned a draw against Uruguay and know that a positive result could significantly boost their hopes of reaching the knockout stage. Later in the day, Belgium national football team take on Iran national football team in a match that could prove decisive in Group G. Belgium will again be without winger Jérémie



Championship Leader Bezzecchi Banned from Czech MotoGP After Steward Incident

MotoGP championship leader Marco Bezzecchi has been ruled out of the Czech Grand Prix after being handed a race ban for striking a track steward following a crash during Saturday's sprint race. The incident occurred at the Czech Grand Prix in Brno when the Italian rider, competing for Aprilia Racing, crashed out with just two laps remaining. Television footage showed Bezzecchi running toward a steward who was standing near his motorcycle in the gravel trap. The rider appeared to push the official before slapping him in the face.

significant setback for Bezzecchi's championship ambitions. The 27-year-old has enjoyed a strong season and currently leads the MotoGP standings with 180 points. However, the missed race could prove costly as his rivals close the gap in the title battle.

MotoGP officials acted swiftly, announcing that Bezzecchi would be excluded from Sunday's main race. The decision was later confirmed by the FIM MotoGP Stewards, who stated that the rider's actions constituted conduct "prejudicial to the interests of the sport."

The latest controversy comes just two weeks after another frustrating weekend for Bezzecchi at the Hungarian Grand Prix, where teammate Jorge Martin took him out in the opening corner, forcing him to retire from the race. Martin, who sits second in the standings with 165 points, will also face penalties at Brno after being handed two long-lap penalties for causing that collision. Following the announcement of his ban, Bezzecchi issued a public apology to the MotoGP community, Aprilia Racing, and his supporters.

According to the stewards, the marshal was attempting to recover the damaged motorcycle when the confrontation occurred. The governing body determined that Bezzecchi's behavior violated sporting regulations and warranted immediate disciplinary action.

The Italian acknowledged that his actions were unacceptable and expressed regret toward the track marshals who work to ensure rider safety during race weekends. He admitted there was no justification for his behavior and accepted responsibility for the incident.

Aprilia Racing lodged an appeal against the penalty, hoping to overturn the ban. However, the appeal stewards upheld the original ruling, leaving the Italian rider unable to participate in the Czech Grand Prix. The team subsequently confirmed it would not pursue any further appeals.

With Bezzecchi absent from Sunday's race, the championship battle could tighten considerably. Fabio Di Giannantonio currently occupies third place in the standings with 146 points and will be among those hoping to capitalize on the championship leader's costly mistake as the 2026 MotoGP season enters a crucial phase.

Sooryavanshi Smashes Record 11-Ball Fifty, Falls Agonisingly Short of Century



Teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi produced a breathtaking display of power-hitting to rewrite the record books, smashing the fastest fifty in List A cricket history during the tri-series final between India A and Sri Lanka A on Sunday.

The 15-year-old prodigy

from Bihar reached his half-century in just 11 balls, surpassing the previous record of 12 balls set by Sri Lanka's Kaushalya Weeraratne in 2005. Sooryavanshi's explosive knock of 94 runs from only 29 deliveries left cricket fans and experts in awe, as he single-handedly dismantled the Sri

Lanka A bowling attack. Opening the innings with remarkable intent, the young batter launched an immediate assault, striking two sixes and three fours in his first five deliveries. His fearless approach and exceptional timing enabled him to dominate bowlers in all areas of the ground. He

mixed powerful leg-side shots with elegant drives through extra cover, showcasing a maturity beyond his years. Sooryavanshi's innings featured 10 boundaries and eight towering sixes. His ability to dispatch even well-pitched deliveries over the ropes highlighted the extraordinary tal-

ent that has already earned him national attention. Particularly impressive were his effortless sixes over extra cover, a stroke that became the hallmark of his innings.

The youngster appeared destined for a historic century and was within touching distance of equalling the fastest List A hundred record of 29 balls held by Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk. However, his dream innings ended dramatically when he was caught at mid-off in the ninth over with India's score reading 132.

Despite falling six runs short of a century, Sooryavanshi's innings will be remembered as one of the most explosive knocks in List A cricket. His performance came at the perfect time after relatively modest scores during the league phase of the tournament.

The knock further strengthened his reputation as one of India's brightest cricketing prospects. Sooryavanshi is already set to make his international debut later this month following a series of impressive performances, including memorable displays during the IPL playoffs.

His record-breaking innings in the final served as yet another reminder that Indian cricket may have discovered a truly special talent for the future.

Mithali Backs India for World Cup Semis, Calls Richa Team's 'Trump Card'



Former Indian captain Mithali Raj has expressed confidence in India's chances of reaching the knockout stage of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, despite the injury setback suffered by all-rounder Shreyanka Patil. Speaking during the JioStar Media Day, Mithali said India possess the depth and bal-

ance needed to remain strong contenders in the tournament. The former skipper acknowledged that Shreyanka's absence would require the team management to rethink its combination, with spinner Radha Yadav emerging as a likely replacement option. She noted that adapting quickly to injuries is

an essential part of success in major tournaments and backed the Indian squad to handle the challenge effectively.

Assessing the race for the semi-finals, Mithali predicted that India and Australia would advance from Group A. From the other group, she tipped England and West Indies to secure

knockout berths. According to her, India's victories in their opening two matches have significantly strengthened their position heading into crucial encounters against South Africa and Australia. While praising India's start, Mithali also highlighted areas requiring improvement. She expressed concern about the inconsistency of the middle order and stressed the need for stronger contributions from batters occupying the No. 3 to No. 5 positions. Building partnerships in the middle overs, she said, would reduce pressure on the lower order and provide a stronger platform for big totals.

Mithali reserved special praise for wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh, describing her as India's "trump card" in the tournament. She pointed to Richa's ability to accelerate the scoring rate during the death overs and deliver match-winning performances under pressure. Such qualities, Mithali noted, make her one of India's

most valuable assets in the competition.

The batting legend also spoke about Jemimah Rodrigues, observing that the batter looked more composed in her second outing after appearing rushed in the opening game. Mithali believes Jemimah is gradually regaining rhythm and could play a decisive role in India's campaign as the tournament progresses.

Looking ahead, Mithali expressed confidence that star opener Smriti Mandhana has the potential to surpass her record for the most international runs scored by an Indian woman cricketer. She also praised the consistency and leadership qualities of Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma, describing them as key pillars of the current Indian team.

With India enjoying a positive start to the tournament, Mithali's backing adds further belief that the team can mount a serious challenge for the Women's T20 World Cup title.



Mahima Gupta



RISING STAR

Sukumar Blesses Priyadarshi-Naga Durga Film



The upcoming collaboration between Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works is rapidly emerging as one of the most anticipated projects in Telugu cinema. Featuring talented actor Priyadarshi in the lead role, the yet-to-be-titled family entertainer has already generated considerable buzz among movie lovers and industry insiders.

The film brings together acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar and successful producer Bunny Vas, both of whom are known for backing distinctive and content-rich cinema. Their association has naturally raised expectations, with audiences eager to see what this promising combination has in store.

Anil Ravipudi's Funny 'Blood Tilak' Video Creates Buzz

Promotions for the much-awaited multistarrer starring Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram have begun on a highly entertaining note. Director Anil Ravipudi, known for his innovative and humorous promotional campaigns, has once again grabbed attention with a fun video released ahead of the film's regular shoot.

The promotional video, titled "Katti Lanti Idea," was shared by the makers and has quickly become a talking point on social media. In the video, Anil Ravipudi is seen holding a knife and jokingly complaining that he is always the one who comes up with ideas for promotions. What follows is a hilarious sequence in which Venkatesh playfully pretends to cut the director's hand and uses the "blood" to apply a victory tilak on his forehead.

The fun continues as Kalyan Ram, Keerthy Suresh, and Krithi Shetty join in, following the same ritual. The director's humorous reaction adds to the entertainment value of the video. Through the playful promo, Anil Ravipudi also made it clear that although the film is set against a Rayalaseema backdrop, it should not be mistaken for a faction-based action drama. Instead, he emphasized that the movie is a wholesome family entertainer packed with comedy, emotions, and entertainment.

Kajal Calls NBK111 a Dream Project



Actress Kajal Aggarwal has expressed her excitement about being part of NBK111, the upcoming film starring Nandamuri Balakrishna in the lead role. The actress described the opportunity to share screen space with Balakrishna and portray a powerful character as a dream come true moment in her career.

The film is being directed by Gopichand Malineni, who is reuniting with Balakrishna after delivering the blockbuster Veera Simha Reddy. Their successful combination has already created strong expectations among fans and industry circles, making NBK111 one of the most eagerly awaited projects in Telugu cinema. Kajal's inclusion in the film has further heightened the buzz surrounding the project. The actress is making a full-fledged return as a leading heroine and is said to be delighted with the role offered to her. According to industry reports, her character has been designed with significant depth and impor-

Source: The film's shooting is already underway, and the makers are progressing with key schedules. While details regarding the storyline are being kept under wraps, the combination of Balakrishna, Gopichand Malineni, and Kajal Aggarwal has generated considerable excitement among movie lovers.

Gunasekhar Excited as Okkadu Returns in 4K

One of Telugu cinema's most celebrated blockbusters, Okkadu, is gearing up for a grand return to theatres in a stunning 4K version on June 26. Starring Superstar Mahesh Babu in the lead role, the film remains a landmark achievement in Telugu cinema and continues to enjoy immense popularity even decades after its original release.

Produced by M.S. Raju under the Sumanth Art Productions banner and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Gunasekhar, Okkadu first hit screens in 2003 and emerged as one of the biggest commercial successes of its time. The film played a crucial role in elevating Mahesh Babu's stardom and is widely regarded as one of the defining movies of his career.

The re-release, presented by Radha Madhavi Film Distributors and being brought back to theatres worldwide by Ramakrishna, will allow audiences

across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and other regions of India to relive the cinematic experience on the big screen with enhanced visual quality.

The film features Bhumika Chawla as the female lead, while Prakash Raj delivered a powerful performance as the antagonist, a role that continues to be remembered as one of the finest villain portrayals in Telugu cinema. The ensemble cast also includes Mukesh Rishi, Telangana Shakuntala, Ajay, Geetha, Dharmavarapu Subramanyam, Rajan P. Dev and Achyuth in key roles.

Expressing his excitement about the re-release, director Gunasekhar said that Okkadu continues to gain admiration with each passing year. He noted that although the film has been re-released on several occasions, watching it in 4K on the big screen is a special experience. The filmmaker added that he is as excited as the fans to revisit the classic and hopes audiences will once again shower the film with immense love and appreciation.

With nostalgia running high and anticipation building among fans, Okkadu is set to create another memorable theatrical moment when it returns to cinemas on June 26.



pected to bring a unique charm to the screen. Industry observers believe the combination could offer a refreshing dynamic, especially within the film's rural Telangana backdrop.

The occasion became even more special as the team celebrated Naga Durga's birthday in the presence of Sukumar and other members of the production. The heartfelt celebration marked a memorable milestone for the actress as she begins her journey in the Telugu film industry.

Directed by young filmmaker Vamsi Reddy Dondapati, the

movie is set against the backdrop of a Telangana family and promises a wholesome mix of comedy, emotions, and drama. With Sukumar's creative support, Bunny Vas's production expertise, Priyadarshi's proven versatility, and Naga Durga's much-awaited debut, the film has all the ingredients of a compelling entertainer.

As pre-production activities gather momentum and shooting preparations move forward, anticipation continues to grow around what could be one of the most interesting Telugu films currently in development.



Ramam Opens Doors for Fresh Talent with Special Casting Call

The makers of the upcoming pan-India film Ramam have announced an exciting opportunity for aspiring actors and actresses to step into the world of cinema. Backed by Chitralayam Studios, the film is presented by Donepudi Chakrapani and produced by Venu Donepudi, while filmmaker Lokamanya is helming the project.

Carrying the intriguing tagline "The Rise of Akira," Ramam is being mounted on a grand scale with international production standards and high-end technical values. The film has already generated curiosity among movie enthusiasts, and the latest casting announcement has further heightened interest around the project. In a move aimed at discovering fresh talent, the makers have issued a special casting call inviting individuals from all age groups to participate in the audition process. Whether they are newcomers looking for their first break or passionate performers eager to showcase their skills, the auditions offer a platform for aspiring artists to pursue their cinematic dreams.

According to the production team, auditions will be conducted over four days, from June 25 to June 28, between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Participants are encouraged to prepare a brief self-introduction and demonstrate their acting abilities during the selection

process. To apply, interested candidates must submit a recent photograph, biodata, and a one-to-two-minute self-introduction video. Applications can be sent via WhatsApp to 9949814280 or through email at connect@chitralayam.com. The makers have also provided an additional option for registration through a QR code, making the process more accessible for applicants.

Industry observers note that casting calls of this nature have become an important avenue for identifying new talent, especially in large-scale projects seeking fresh faces and diverse performers. By opening auditions to a broad range of participants, the Ramam team aims to bring authenticity and new energy to the film. With its ambitious vision, pan-India appeal, and commitment to discovering emerging artists, Ramam is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated projects from Chitralayam Studios. The casting initiative reflects the makers' confidence in nurturing talent and providing opportunities for individuals who aspire to make a mark in the entertainment industry.

As auditions draw near, hopeful performers are preparing to seize what could be a career-defining opportunity in a film that promises scale, innovation, and a fresh cinematic experience.



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