

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

SC upholds anti-betting laws

THE Supreme Court's scathing observation that every mobile phone has become a "virtual gambling house" is a stark warning about the menace of online betting and gaming addiction in India. Upholding state laws banning online gambling and betting in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the apex court has highlighted a disturbing truth: what was once considered harmless entertainment has evolved into a widespread social and public health crisis. The rapid expansion of online gaming platforms, aided by smartphones, digital payments and aggressive advertising, has normalised betting among millions, especially the youth and economically vulnerable groups. The fast-growing Indian gaming market was valued at \$3.7 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach \$9.1 billion by 2029.

The Court rightly noted that many players came from rural and lower-income backgrounds, where dreams of instant wealth often outweigh awareness of financial risks. The promise of quick money traps users in cycles of addiction, debt and psychological distress. Online gaming addiction is also linked to rising incidents of depression and suicide. Gaming disorder is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a medical condition under the International Classification of Diseases. Unlike traditional gambling dens, digital betting platforms operate silently within homes, accessible 24x7 through mobile phones. This unrestricted access has blurred the line between recreation and exploitation.

Recent police crackdowns in the National Capital Region have revealed that online betting networks are intertwined with cyber fraud, fake transactions and organised crime. Such activities undermine public trust in the digital economy.



Gali Movie 50th Day Celebration Success Meet will be held at Screen Focus, Chennai with Sri Tamil Thangirajan as the chief guest and the movie's actors and actresses including hero Ram Prasad Gurajada, Anjali, Srikanth Perumandla, Chinni, Roja Rani as Ammavari, B.V. Subba Reddy as Kali Purushudu and other actors and actresses participated. In this, Technicians Camera - Prakash Karne, Editing - Venu Chowdhury, Music - Anil Kumar, Singing - Soumya, "Producer - Chanda Lakshmi Narayana, "Kada Screenplay Dialogues Direction - T Ramu, all of them participated in the program and made it a success.

Telangana State Government Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah visited Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy on his birthday



"(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 6):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah visited Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha on his birthday and performed special pujas. On this occasion, the temple priests welcomed him as per the temple tradition, performed darshan and special pujas. Later, they performed special blessings and offered the laddu prasad of the Swamy.

Municipal Corporation officials accused of inaction over issues in Khammam 3 Town area; Corporator Pasumarthi expresses concern



"Khammam, June 06:(Indian chronicle):""In Khammam town's 3 Town area, particularly on the main road of Potti Sriramulu Road, a person allegedly claiming to be a major ruling party leader has been influencing local affairs for several years. He is reportedly calling business owners and small traders to him by using his political influence, assuring them that he would resolve their

issues."According to allegations, he held multiple discussions with them and, about ten months ago, entered into an agreement with a private contractor for both sides of the road. Following this, municipal drainage systems were allegedly damaged and left in disarray."As a result, business establishments along the road are facing severe difficulties due to sewage overflow, foul smell, and unhygienic conditions, affecting their livelihood and daily operations. Local traders are reportedly suffering due to traffic issues and poor sanitation conditions."Residents and traders question who is responsible for this situation, especially as the monsoon season has now begun, worsening the stench and hardships faced by the public."Criticism has been raised that municipal officials, including the Municipal Commissioner, are merely watching the situation without taking action. It is also alleged that certain ruling party leaders are creating administrative pressure that is causing inconvenience to the district minister."Due to these developments, the local public has been facing hardships for nearly 10 months, including business losses and traffic disruptions."Former Corporator of Division 36, Pasumarthi Rama Mohan Rao, has appealed to the district minister to intervene and resolve the issue immediately.

Uppal BRS Party In-Charge Mushyam Srinivas Meets MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



""UPPAL , JUNE 6 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Mushyam Srinivas, recently appointed as the BRS Party In-Charge for Uppal Division, paid a courtesy visit to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy at his residence in Sainikpuri

on Saturday."The appointment was made under the leadership of MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy with the objective of strengthening the party, improving coordination among party workers, and accelerating the resolution of public issues in the constituency."Speaking on the occasion, the MLA advised Mushyam Srinivas to work with dedication for the growth of the party, remain accessible to party workers at all times, and make sincere efforts to further strengthen the party in the division.

Expressing his gratitude to the party leadership for placing their trust in him, Mushyam Srinivas said he would work tirelessly for the development of the party while serving the people in accordance with the party's ideology and the guidance of its leadership."Several party leaders and workers attended the meeting and extended their congratulations to Mushyam Srinivas on his appointment.

Colony President Vijayender Reddy Submits Memorandum to MLA Lakshma Reddy Seeking Sanction of CC Roads in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony

""UPPAL , JUNE 6 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Seeking the sanction of long-pending CC roads in Venkata Sai Nagar Colony, Bhagayat area of Ramanthapur in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division, Colony President A. Vijayender Reddy, along with honorary members and team members, met Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and submitted a memorandum on Friday."During the meeting, Vijayender Reddy brought several civic issues of the colony to the MLA's attention. He explained that the absence of CC roads would cause severe inconvenience to residents during the upcoming monsoon season, as the existing mud roads would become muddy and difficult to use. He pointed out that children, senior citizens, and women, in particular, face hardships in their daily commute due to the poor road conditions."He further stated that stagnant rainwater could create unhygienic conditions and lead to public health concerns. He urged the MLA to expedite administrative approvals and sanction the necessary funds so that the road works could commence without delay."Responding positively, MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy assured the delegation that he would take the necessary steps for the development of Venkata Sai Nagar Colony. He said he would personally bring the matter to the notice of the Commissioner of the Malkajigiri Municipal Corporation and make special efforts



to speed up the process of sanctioning CC roads and securing the required funds."Among those present were honorary members Ramesh Goud, Ravi Kumar, Sanjeeva, Ailesh Yadav, Ramesh Yadav, Shankar, Ramesh Shetty, Gopal, Sarva Sattaiah Yadav, and team members R. Govind, G. Ashok, C.H. Srinivas Goud, Kolla Naveen Kumar, Bhupathi Narasimha, Vidyasagar, B. Chalapathi Rao, Ramakrishna, Shiva, Bala Komuraiah, Naresh, Swamy, Chandram Chari, Ganesh, Hussain, and others.

Residents Submit Memorandum to MP Eatala Rajender Over Drainage Issues in Uppal Colonies



""UPPAL , JUNE 6 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): Residents of Malikarjun Nagar Colony, S.N. Colony, Shesha Sai Nagar Colony, and Friends Colony in Uppal Division have been facing severe hardships due to persistent drainage problems in their localities."On Saturday, under the leadership of Uppal Division BJP President Marneti Phanindra, representatives of the welfare associations from the affected colonies met Malkajigiri Member of Parliament Eatala Rajender and submitted a memorandum highlighting the issue."The delegation explained the difficulties being faced by residents due to the inadequate drainage system. Responding positively, the MP assured them that he would

take up the matter with the concerned officials and work towards finding a permanent solution to the problem."The residents also brought to his attention the issue of notices being issued to homeowners in the name of nala (drain) expansion, which has caused anxiety among local residents. Addressing their concerns, Rajender stated that the government should not act arbitrarily against middle-class families who have built their homes with bank loans. He assured the residents that every effort would be made to safeguard their rights and ensure that no injustice is done to them."The MP further reassured the colony residents that steps would be taken to prevent any damage to their homes and that their concerns would be addressed responsibly."Among those present were Uppal Division BJP General Secretary Teega Vittal Rao Mudiraj, OBC Morcha President Amarendra, Yuva Morcha President Aadepe Ramesh, SC Morcha President Jayaram, Giriyan Morcha President Raju Naik, Social Media Convener Abhiram, along with colony association presidents and secretaries including Satti Reddy, Ranga Reddy, Nagesh, Obul Reddy, Sammaiah, Narayana Reddy, Venkatesh, Somi Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Sadanand, Bhoopathi, Anjaiah, Thimma Reddy, Sathyam, and a large number of colony residents.

BJP Leaders Attend Birthday Celebrations of Medchal BJP Leader Enugu Sudarshan Reddy

Former Nagaram Chairman and Party Functionaries Extend Greetings""KEESARA, JUNE 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Birthday celebrations of BJP leader and Medchal Assembly contestant Enugu Sudarshan Reddy were held at his residence on Friday, with several party leaders and supporters attending the event and extending their greetings. Among those present were former Nagaram Chairman Chandra Reddy, former Councillor Srinivas Goud, Nakka Kishore Goud, Ravinder Reddy, Mamidi Janga Reddy, Naresh, Krishna Chari, Surrender Reddy, and other senior BJP leaders. The leaders conveyed their best wishes to Enugu Sudarshan Reddy and wished him good health, happiness.



Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Visits PS Colony, Reviews Civic Issues



"UPPAL , JUNE 6 (INDIAN CJRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy visited PS Colony in the Ramanthapur Division on Saturday along with local leaders, officials, and residents to review civic infrastructure and address local concerns."As the elected representative of the Uppal constituency, the MLA conducted an on-site inspection of various issues affecting the colony, including drainage problems, construction of CC roads, park development works, installation of CCTV cameras, and the need for electricity poles."During the visit, he instructed officials to prioritize the development of basic infrastructure in the colony. He emphasized the need to improve the drainage system to prevent inconvenience to residents during the monsoon season and directed officials to expedite the construction of internal CC roads."The MLA also stressed the importance of developing the local park with modern amenities to provide a better recreational environment for residents. To enhance public safety, he recommended the installation of CCTV cameras at key locations across the colony. He further advised officials to prepare a comprehensive plan for the installation of additional electricity poles and street-light infrastructure."Bandari Lakshma Reddy assured residents that resolving public grievances remains his top priority and stated that all necessary measures would be taken for the overall development of PS Colony.BRS State leader Gandham Nageswara Rao, local leaders, government officials, and colony residents participated in the inspection programme.

Governor, Uppal MLA BANDARI LAKSHMA REDDY Invited to Attend Srirangagiri Brahmotsavams



"UPPAL , JUNE 6 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): The organizers of the 11th Annual Srirangagiri Brahmotsavams have announced that Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy are expected to attend the celebrations.The Brahmotsavams will be held from June 16 to June 21. As part of the festivities, the Governor is scheduled to visit the Sriranganatha Swamy Temple on June 18 between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Organizers stated that confirmation of the Governor's visit has been received from the Governor's Office."During the visit, the Governor will offer prayers to Lord Sriranganatha and present the prestigious "Vaidyaratna" Awards to ten distinguished medical professionals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the healthcare sector. The organizers noted that the Sri Ramanuja Seva Trust has been continuing the tradition of honoring experts who have made remarkable contributions to medicine and social service.On this occasion, the organizers personally presented invitation letters to the Governor and the Uppal MLA, inviting them to participate in the Brahmotsavams. They appealed to devotees and members of the public to take part in large numbers and contribute to the success of the event.Among those present were Dr. Dhanunjaya, Dr. Kaushal Govardhan, and others."



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 6):- On the occasion of the birthday of the government-removed Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah, the people of Aleru constituency and the residents of Yadadri and Bhuvanagiri districts welcomed him with a large number of gajamas at his residence and wished him a happy birthday. This is a picture of Pittala Balaraj, the state leader of the Congress Party Seva Dal from Bhuvanagiri town, and Challagurugula Raghu Babu.

CPI Calls for Collectorate Siege on June 10 Against Rising Prices; Wall Poster Released



“UPPAL, JUNE 6(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Allying that the continuous rise in prices of essential commodities, cooking gas, petrol, diesel, electricity charges, education, and healthcare expenses is pushing people into severe financial distress, the Communist Party of India (CPI) has announced a protest march and siege of the Medchal-Malkajigiri District Collectorate on June 10. A wall poster campaign for the proposed agitation was launched during the CPI Medchal District Executive Committee meeting held at Neelam Rajasekhara Reddy Bhavan in ECIL. The meeting was presided over by CPI District Executive Member Thotapalli Shankar. “Addressing the gathering, CPI State Secretariat Member V.S. Bose criticized both the Central and State governments for allegedly prioritizing corporate interests over public welfare. He stated that while unemployment continues to rise, the prices of essential goods are soaring, making it increasingly difficult for ordinary families to manage their monthly expenses. “Bose pointed out that the rising costs of rice, pulses, vegetables, edible oil, LPG cylinders, and milk have placed a heavy burden on

poor and middle-class households. Questioning the government's economic policies, he asked why petrol and diesel prices have not decreased despite falling crude oil prices in the international market, and why LPG cylinder prices have become unaffordable for common people. He also questioned why farmers are not receiving remunerative prices for their produce while consumers continue to pay high prices. “He further stated that CPI believes both the Central and State governments have failed to control inflation and ensure affordable access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and transportation. According to him, while people's living standards are deteriorating, governments are focusing on publicity campaigns and corporate-friendly policies. “Speaking on the occasion, CPI Medchal District Secretary Uma Mahesh demanded immediate measures to control inflation, regulate prices of essential commodities, reduce petrol, diesel, and LPG prices, and provide relief to poor and middle-class families. He announced that a massive protest dharna will be organized under the banner of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in front of the Medchal-Malkajigiri District Collectorate on June 10 at 11:00 AM. He called upon the public, workers, farmers, youth, women, and employees to participate in large numbers and make the protest a success. Among those present at the meeting were CPI District Executive Members G. Damodar Reddy, D.G. Sailu Goud, S. Shankar Rao, Kalluri Dharmendra, K. Swamy, Racha Kishan, Satya Prasad, Yadaiah, Nimmala Narasimha, and others.

CPM Demands Faster Paddy Procurement, Welfare Measures for Hamali Workers



“Call for Identity Cards, Health Insurance and Accident Coverage for Loading Workers” “KEESARA, JUNE 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The CPM Keesara Mandal Committee has urged the government to expedite paddy procurement and address the issues faced by farmers and hamali (loading) workers. CPM Keesara Mandal Secretary Bangaru Narsinga Rao demanded that hamali workers be provided with government-recognized identity cards, health insurance, and accident insurance benefits. During a visit to the IKP Paddy Procurement Centre at Keesara Rythu Vedita, CPM leaders interacted with farmers and hamali workers to understand the challenges they are facing. The delegation also met Primary Agricultural Cooperative Soci-

ety official Narahari and sought details regarding the procurement process. Responding to the concerns, Narahari stated that the government was fully prepared to procure paddy and that there were no major issues from the government's side. He said that around 40,000 gunny bags had already been distributed to farmers, of which only 25,000 had been returned to the procurement centre, while nearly 17,000 bags were still with farmers. He acknowledged that delays by rice millers were causing some inconvenience and assured efforts to resolve the issue. Speaking on the occasion, Bangaru Narsinga Rao said that increased cultivation and favourable weather conditions had led to higher paddy yields this season. However, inadequate planning by the government had resulted in shortages of gunny bags and transport vehicles, causing delays in procurement and hardships for farmers.

He alleged that many farmers are being forced to wait up to 20 days after bringing their produce to procurement centres. He also highlighted the difficult working conditions of hamali workers, who continue to work in extreme summer temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius without adequate welfare support. The CPM leader further demanded strict action against rice millers who allegedly impose excessive deductions on paddy consignments on the grounds of quality issues despite the grain being supplied under prescribed standards. He urged authorities to protect farmers' interests and ensure smooth procurement operations across the region.

Resolving public issues under the ruling Congress party is my duty: Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – June 6): Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravi Kumar stated that undertaking public development programs under the aegis of the ruling Congress party is her duty. As part of the ward-level meetings being conducted across various wards in Bhuvanagiri town—specifically wards 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 28, 30, and 32—Chairperson Srivani Ravi Kumar attended the meetings in wards 15, 28, 30, and 32 as the chief guest. These events were held under the supervision of Municipal Commissioner K. Chandra Prakash Reddy and in the presence of local ward members Nazia Rahman Jahangir, Sudagani Saritha Raju, and M.D. The concluding event of the ‘Praja Palana Pragathi Pranaliika’ (Public Governance and Development Plan) program was held under the chairmanship of Laiq Ahmed and Barre Sanghvi Karunakar. Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar emphasized the need to discuss various issues



in ward meetings to create public awareness. These issues include Solid Waste Management Rules (2026), the construction of soak pits under the ‘Jal Sanchay – Jal Bhagiratha’ scheme, drain cleaning and desilting, monsoon preparedness action plans, drinking water supply management, prevention of water stagnation, sanitation, road and street light maintenance, plantation drives, environmental protection, and grievance redressal. She urged the public to gain awareness of these matters and actively participate in undertaking such works within their wards. She also requested residents to bring local issues to the authorities' attention for immediate resolution.

Furthermore, she announced that ward meetings would continue for another two days according to the schedule, covering 10 wards on one day and 5 wards on the final day. Council members, municipal officials, ward officers, members of women's groups, local residents, and staff participated in the event.

Beerla, who is receiving public praise... should be more at the forefront of public service.

. CM Revanth Reddy congratulates Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on the occasion of Beerla Ilayya's birthday.. Waves of praise“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 6):-“CM Revanth Reddy blesses Minister Komatireddy on the occasion of the government's birthday. “On the occasion of his birthday, Telangana State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Telangana State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy met in Hyderabad on Saturday and received their blessings, said Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya. “ Similarly, in Hyderabad, they met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and took their blessings. On this occasion, they discussed various issues related to the development of the state, the progress of Aleru constituency, and public welfare programs. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy wished Beerla Aylaiah a happy birthday and wished him to



continue serving the people. They also assured that the government would provide full support for the development of Aleru constituency. On this occasion, they appreciated the services of Beerla Aylaiah, who is among the people and working to solve public problems. The people of Aleru constituency wished Beerla Aylaiah a happy birthday.

Andhra Pradesh Hosts First-Ever Creator Economy Summit in Amaravati



Amaravati, June 6: The Creators Zone Digital Summit 2026, organised by Bharat Digital Media Federation (Bharat DMF) in collaboration with Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) and Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS), was successfully held at RTIH, Chinakakani, bringing together creators, innovators, entrepreneurs, policymakers and industry leaders from across the state. “

Positioned as Andhra Pradesh's first major creator-focused summit, the event witnessed participation from over 200 creators, influencers, startup founders, students and ecosystem stakeholders. The summit featured expert-led sessions on content creation, artificial intelligence, creator monetisation, intellectual property rights, brand collaborations and entrepreneurship, alongside networking opportunities and discussions on the future of the creator economy. “A key highlight of the event was the Creators Zone Excellence Awards 2026, which recognised outstanding digital creators for their contributions to content, innovation and community impact. “Speaking on the occasion, Viswa CM, Founder and Chairman of Bharat Digital Media Federation, said, “The creator economy is opening new avenues for innovation, entrepreneurship and employment. Through this summit, we sought to equip creators with knowledge, industry connections and opportunities while laying the foundation for a stronger creator ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.”

Vipin Unni, Co-Founder and Vice President, Bharat DMF, said, “Creators are the new entrepreneurs of the digital age. Through Bharat DMF and Creators Zone, we are building a platform where creativity meets opportunity, helping creators move from content creation to career creation. Our mission is to empower creators, strengthen communities and contribute to India's growing digital economy.” “The future belongs to creators, innovators, and entrepreneurs who can transform ideas into impact. At RTIH, our vision is to build platforms that nurture talent, encourage innovation, and create meaningful opportunities for the next generation. Creator Zone is a step towards empowering young creators with knowledge, technology, networks, and access

to build sustainable careers in the digital economy.”

– Smt. P. Dhatri Reddy, IAS, CEO – APIS and Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) “Sustainability is no longer a choice; it is a responsibility we all share. As India moves towards cleaner and smarter energy solutions, creators have an important role in educating and influencing communities towards a greener future. We are delighted to support initiatives like Creator Zone that bring together innovation, technology, and digital storytelling to inspire positive change and build awareness around sustainable living.”

– Jakkula Srinivas, CEO, Truzon Solar by Suntek

“Consumers today discover products through stories, experiences, and recommendations from people they trust. The creator ecosystem has become an integral part of modern marketing, and we see tremendous value in empowering creators who can authentically influence consumer choices while building their own digital enterprises.”

– Shyam Prasad, Managing Director, Tenali Double Horse.”

Organised under the theme “From Rural Roots to Digital Reach,” the summit highlighted the role of digital platforms in enabling creators from smaller towns and rural communities to access wider opportunities, audiences and markets.”

Guest of honor in today's event were:

- 1) Dr Ashish Kulkarni (IICT DIRECTOR)
- 2) Smt. P. Dhatri Reddy IAS (CEO, RTIH)
- 3) Smt. Krishna Prasanna, badan I.P.S.(Vijayawada Cyber Crime DCP
- 4) Shri K. Pratap Shiva Kishore IPS(SP, Eluru Dist.)
- 5) Manasa Sharma, Director, Rakasa Movie “

The organisers stated that the summit marks the beginning of a larger effort to strengthen the creator economy in Andhra Pradesh by fostering collaboration between creators, startups, brands, institutions and government stakeholders.

SILENCE IS THE SHIELD DURING HUSBAND - WIFE DISPUTES” - DGP C.V. ANAND



BOWENPALLY/JUNE 06/ (INDIAN CHRONICLE) ““DGP C.V. Anand speaking at the ‘Kalasi Unte Kaladu Sukham’ (Happiness Lies in Togetherness) program, flanked by CP Sumathi and Charu Sinha. Coupleings who reunited through counseling also participated in the event. ?Telangana State Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand stated that when disputes arise between a husband and wife, remaining silent instead of abusing each other or giving in to anger is the ultimate shield for a happy married life.” “As part of the ‘Mee Suraksha’ (Your Safety) initiative organized by the Malkajigiri Police Commissionerate, the ‘Kalasi Unte Kaladu Sukham’ program was held on Saturday at the Imperial Gardens within the Bowenpally Police Station limits.” “Chief Guest C.V. Anand (DGP, Telangana State) ?Honorary Guests: Charu Sinha (DGP, Women's Safety Wing / CID) Sumathi (Malkajigiri Police Commissioner) ?Sridevi (Head of Telangana State Judicial Academy)”? DGP C.V. Anand's Speech: Due to changing lifestyles and current societal trends, misunderstandings and differences of opinion are rising among couples. “Police Intervention & Counseling: Apart from resolving conflicts at women's police stations, the department is setting up counseling sessions to help couples restart their marital life together.” “Women's Safety First: Initiatives like dedicated counseling centers, Bharosa



centers, and SHE Teams (a unique initiative in India) have been established to prioritize women's safety and law and order. Under the Safe City project, funded 60% by the Central Government and 40% by the State Government, ?134 crores have been allocated. These funds are also being utilized for constructing mobile and women's toilets. Over the last 10 years, 30 counseling centers across four commissionerates conducted 50,000 counseling sessions, successfully reuniting 6,700 couples.” “?”Today's generation of couples often let ego drive their arguments, pushing them to the brink of separation over trivial issues. When misunderstandings crop up, silence is the best solution.” “?For a harmonious married life, couples must understand each other. If they act with patience and restrain their anger during arguments instead of hurling abuses, the distance between them will naturally reduce. Just staying quiet during a heated moment can peacefully resolve the issue right there. ?The DGP C.V. Anand appreciated the Malkajigiri Police Commissioner, the Women's Safety Wing, and the counseling center organizers for driving this initiative under the slogan ‘Kalasi Unte Kaladu Sukham’. The organizers were specially felicitated during the event.” “?The program was attended by various regional DCPs, ACPs, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, and around 150 families.

Will provide his best to solve the problems in the wards:- 30th Ward Councilor MD Laik Ahmed

“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 6):- Ward meetings organized to solve the problems in the Ward Municipal Commissioner K. Chandra Prakash Reddy and 30th Ward Pahdinagar Councilor Md. Laik Ahmed held a closing ceremony today as part of the 99-day plan of the Public Administration Progress Plan in 30th Ward Pahdinagar on Saturday. Speaking at the event, the Municipal Commissioner said that these meetings were organized to solve the problems in the ward with a 99-day plan. Through this meeting, the problems of the people were known and the ward councilors moved forward to solve them. As per the orders of the state government, as part of the advance planning, keeping in mind the upcoming monsoon season, construction of indus pits, tree plantation, desilting of sewage canals, construction of sewage canals, fresh water facility, leakage of pipelines, etc., these issues will be discussed with the people in the ward assembly with the intention of taking proactive measures. Therefore, they said that their problems can be expressed through these forums. Speaking on this occasion, Ward Councilor Md. Laik Ahmed said that as per the promise given during the inauguration of the ward assembly, areas with a lot of garbage and poisonous plants in the wards have been cleaned. Similarly, for the purpose of fresh water, a borehole was dug in the rural police station gully as per the



orders of MLA Kumbh Anil Kumar Reddy. He said that water was coming from it only 30 feet. He said that in the future, construction of indus pits, planting of plants and more fresh water boreholes will be established and he said that he will provide public administration in the ward as per the wishes of the people. He said that the state government will soon give new pensions and that the second installment of Indiramma Indlu will also be given. He said that it is my duty to take public welfare schemes to the people. Ward Officer Goli Narendar, Supervisor C. Manjula R.P. Brahmanamba, Retired Headmaster Bhuvanagiri Satyanarayana, leaders Md. Jabbar Md. Ahmed Babbu, Md. Siraj, Md. Kamil, M.A. Majid Imran Mahbub Waheeda Begum and others participated in this program.

ATHLETES SHOULD EXCEL AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL MLA SRI GANESH

“BOWENPALLY/JUNE 06/ (INDIAN CHRONICLE)”
“?Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh attended as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the Summer Coaching Camp organized under the auspices of the DYSO at the Gymkhana Grounds.”?Speaking on the occasion, the MLA expressed his desire to see national and international athletes emerge from the Cantonment area. He appreciated the hard work of the children who participated in the summer training camp. He also distributed medals to the students who showed outstanding talent in various sports.”?The event was attended by DYSO Gokul, Arjuna Award recipient Anup Yama, Cantonment Board Vice President Narmada, senior Congress leaders Muppidi Gopal, Vinod, and others.”



Poor Oral Health May Contribute to Skin Problems Health Expert Dr.Sonia Datta



“Hyderabad, June 06 (Indian chronicle): Renowned health expert Dr.Sonia Datta has highlighted the close connection between oral health and skin conditions, stating that poor oral hygiene can contribute to various skin-related issues. According to Dr.Datta, inadequate oral care can lead to the growth of harmful bacteria in the mouth, triggering inflammation in the body. This inflammation may manifest in the form of skin problems such as acne, dullness, and other dermatological concerns. She emphasized that individuals experiencing skin issues should not rely solely on topical treatments but should also pay attention to maintaining good oral health. Regular brushing, proper dental care, and maintaining healthy gums can help improve overall body balance and support healthier skin, she noted. Dr.Datta further stated that scientific studies have indicated that the use of Dabur Red Toothpaste, which contains Ayurvedic herbal ingredients, can help enhance oral hygiene and dental care.

Food Distribution Marking World Hunger Day Malabar Group's 'Hunger Free World' Initiative Brings Hope to the Needy

“Hyderabad, June 06 (Indian Chronicle) : On the occasion of World Hunger Day, Malabar Group highlighted the positive impact of its flagship 'Hunger Free World' initiative, which provides daily meals to homeless individuals and economically disadvantaged communities. Implemented in collaboration with the Thanal organization, the program has gone beyond food distribution by facilitating access to medical assistance, shelter, rehabilitation services, and family reunification opportunities for beneficiaries, according to a report released by the group. Speaking on the occasion, M.P.Ahmed, Chairman of Malabar Group, said that a consistently provided meal can help restore trust and serve as a gateway to rehabilitation, healthcare services, and a life of dignity. He noted that the initiative currently operates across 20 states in India and nine other countries, benefiting more than 143,000 people. The Malabar Group also reaffirmed its commitment to social responsibility initiatives focused



on hunger eradication, healthcare, education, and women's empowerment, aiming to create a lasting positive impact on communities worldwide.

Women Should Approach Police Without Fear: SP Nithika Pant



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 6: District Superintendent of Police (SP) Nithika Pant urged women and girls to approach the police without fear and seek assistance whenever they face any problems.”The SP participated in a Gram Sabha held at Padibanda village on Saturday as part of the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika

programme. Addressing the gathering, she advised women and girls to remain vigilant against harassment, domestic violence, cybercrimes, child marriages, human trafficking, and eve-teasing.”She emphasized that victims should not hesitate to contact the police department under any circumstances and assured that the Telangana Police accords the highest priority to the safety and security of women.”The SP also encouraged the public to make use of various emergency support services, including She Teams, Bharosa Centres, On-Site FIR Services, Dial 100, Dial 112, Hawk Eye, Women's Helpline 181, and Child Helpline 1098 whenever required.”Appealing for public cooperation in maintaining law and order in villages, she urged residents to immediately report any suspicious persons or activities to the police.”During the Gram Sabha, villagers brought several local issues to the notice of the SP. She assured them that appropriate steps would be taken in coordination with the concerned departments to address and resolve the grievances.”Among those present were DSP Ashok, CI Balaji Varaprasad, SB CI Satish, DLPO Umar, Bharosa Centre In-charge SI Divya, and other officials.

What's the Real Story Behind the ADMC Appointment?

“Narsampet/Warangal, June 6 (Indian Chronicle): BRS Town Women's Wing President Vasam Karuna has questioned how an individual allegedly lacking the required qualifications could be appointed as an Assistant District Mission Coordinator (ADMC) in the Narsampet Municipal limits, reportedly without a government notification and in violation of established recruitment norms.”Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Karuna stated that 51 Self-Level Federations (SLFs) are functioning under the Town Level Federation (TLF) to promote the economic empowerment of women through self-help groups. She explained that Resource Persons (RPs) work to guide and strengthen these groups, while DMCs and ADMCs are responsible for monitoring and supervising their activities.”She noted that the previous ADMC was transferred and, subsequently, Vani Sri was transferred from Jangaon to Narsampet Municipality to fill the vacancy. However, she alleged that the Municipal Commissioner and the local governing body prevented her from assuming charge. According to Karuna, Vani Sri is presently stationed at the district headquarters while continuing to receive her salary.”Karuna further alleged that efforts are being made by the Municipal Commissioner and the Chairperson to appoint Neerujana, who until recently served as the TLF President, as the new ADMC, reportedly following the directions of local MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy. She questioned whether a government post was being treated as a nominated position and sought clarification on the rationale behind such a



move.”She pointed out that any new appointment must be made through a formal notification issued by MEPMA through the District Collector. As per the prescribed norms, the ADMC position requires a postgraduate degree in Sociology or an MSW qualification, along with a PGDCA certification and a minimum of five years of experience in working with community groups.”Questioning the proposed appointment, Karuna alleged that the prescribed qualifications and procedures were being overlooked. She asked how a person who resigned from the TLF without informing its office-bearers could be considered for the post. She further stated that a social audit of the TLF's financial transactions over the past two years and a general body meeting should have been conducted before relinquishing responsibilities.”Demanding transparency and adherence to government regulations, Karuna urged the authorities to fill the post strictly through the prescribed notification process and appoint only eligible candidates.

In view of the upcoming monsoon, the paddy procurement process should be completed more quickly

State Government Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 6):- In view of the upcoming monsoon, State Government Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao has directed the collectors to complete the paddy procurement process in the district more quickly. On Saturday, State Government Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao held a review meeting with all district collectors through video conference on the paddy procurement process and the inauguration ceremony of RTC buses to be held on June 9 for the members of the Mandal Mahila Samakhya. The weighed paddy from all the procurement centers in the district should be immediately transported to the mills and godowns in lorries. He advised that the procurement process should be completed in two to three days. RTC buses will be distributed to Mandal Women's Associations at the Parade Ground in Hyderabad on June 9. It was suggested that all the buses in the districts should pick up the members of the women's associations from the respective Mandals and reach the Parade Ground in Hyderabad by 4 pm. They should make plans to provide meals, drinking water and



other basic facilities to the women along the way. Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, Additional Collector of Revenue Venka Reddy, Civil Supply Officer Roja Rani, District Medical Officer Manohar, concerned officials and others participated in this video conference.

Pochampally handloom art has special recognition all over the world

Minister of Irrigation and Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... June 6):- Pochampally handloom art has special recognition all over the world, said Minister of Irrigation and Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy. The minister visited the Thread Pochampally Handloom Exhibition organized at Hitex on Saturday and visited the handloom stalls set up at the exhibition. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the event is being organized at Hitex in Hyderabad till June 7 with the aim of bringing the glory of Pochampally handloom art closer to the world. He said that this program is being organized with the aim of introducing the unparalleled skills of handloom workers to the world and providing them with better market opportunities. “Telangana Legisla-



tive Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy attended the "Pochampally Thread" exhibition program at Madhapur Hitex as the chief guest. He visited all the stalls in the hall and interacted with the traders. “ Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Pochampally textiles are famous all over the world. During his time as an MP, he used to present Pochampally shawls to fellow MPs and Union Ministers in Delhi and explain the greatness of Bhoodan Pochampally textiles. “He explained on this occasion that he has worked a lot for the welfare of handloom workers. “He said that we should preserve our culture and tradition by wearing handloom textiles. He suggested visiting the textile exhibition program held at Hitex and buying quality textiles. District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, Special Deputy Collector Jagannadham, District Handloom Officer Srinivas, and other concerned officials participated in this program.

District Administration Gears Up for Smooth Conduct of NEET 2026

“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, Asifabad, June 6: District Collector Haritha has directed officials to make fool-proof arrangements for the NEET examination scheduled to be held in the district on June 21.”The Collector reviewed the preparations for the examination during a meeting held at the District Collectorate's Video Conference Hall on Saturday. The meeting was attended by District SP Nithika Pant, Additional Collectors Yuvaraj Marmat and M. David, along with other district officials.”Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the NEET examination must be conducted smoothly and in strict adherence to the guidelines of the National Testing Agency (NTA). She informed that examination centres have been established at Janakapur and Social Welfare Gurukul Schools in the district headquarters and instructed officials to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place.”Reviewing the ongoing Yasangi paddy procurement process, the Collector noted that procurement activities are in the final stage and directed officials to immediately transport the weighed paddy to the allotted rice mills. She stressed the need to complete the procurement process without causing any inconvenience to farmers.”The Collector also reviewed arrangements for



the programme scheduled to be held at Parade Grounds, Hyderabad, on June 9, where the Chief Minister will distribute buses to Self-Help Groups (SHGs). She instructed officials to make arrangements for transporting SHG women from the district, with one bus allocated for each mandal, totaling 15 buses.”Officials were directed to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the safe travel and participation of the beneficiaries attending the programme in Hyderabad.

Booth-Level Agents Are the Key Force Behind Congress Victories: Inagala Venkata Ram Reddy



“Nidigonda/Jangaon, June 6 (Indian Chronicle): Booth-Level Agents (BLAs) will play a decisive role in securing Congress Party victories in the upcoming elections and strengthening the party at the grassroots level, said Hanamkonda District Congress Committee President and KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkata Ram Reddy.”A special training programme for Booth-Level Agents from the Station Ghanpur Assembly constituency was held on Saturday at Sathya Sai Convention Hall in Nidigonda village of Raghunathpalli Mandal. The programme was presided over by MLA Kadiyam Srihari and attended by MP Kadiyam Kavya, MLC Ketavat Shankar Naik, constituency observer Duddilla Srinivas, Jangaon District Congress President Lakavath Dhanvanti, State Oilfed Corporation Chairman Janga Raghava Reddy, and trainer Dr. Rajashekhar Reddy, among others.”Speaking on the occasion, Inagala



Venkata Ram Reddy said that Congress workers must ensure that the welfare and development initiatives being implemented by the state government reach every household in line with the vision of the Chief Minister. He urged BLAs to remain vigilant during voter registration and electoral roll revision processes and work diligently to strengthen public confidence in the party.”Later, Dr. Rajashekhar Reddy provided comprehensive training on booth-level management, election procedures, and the effective maintenance of voter lists.”Several senior leaders, mandal presidents, representatives of affiliated organisations, party workers, and a large number of Booth-Level Agents from across the constituency participated in the programme.

Gurgaon-Bijnor sex determination racket busted, 3 held in decoy raid



GNS News Agency, June 6

Continuing its crackdown on Haryana-Uttar Pradesh cross-border illegal prenatal sex determination, a joint team of the Gurgaon and Bijnor health departments busted a racket operating out of Noorpur in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday.Three people, including a Delhi-based woman tout and an unqualified man conducting the ultrasound scans, were detained following a decoy operation.

The operation was initiated after the Gurgaon civil surgeon received intelligence that pregnant women from the district were being transported to Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh for illegal sex determination tests.According to the First Information Report (FIR), a tout named Renu facilitated these tests for sums ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 40,000, and also arranged for the termination of female foetuses.Acting on a tip-off, the Gurgaon District Appropriate Authority (PC-PNDT) authorised nodal officer Dr Devender Singh Solanki and Medical Officer Dr Harish Kumar to lead the probe. A decoy pregnant woman from Faridabad was enlisted to contact Renu.“The decoy contacted Renu, who fixed the deal at Rs 25,000 for the sex determination test,” the FIR stated.Renu demanded an initial online payment of Rs 5,000 and instructed the decoy to bring the remaining Rs 20,000 in cash. After the initial amount was transferred to a specified UPI ID, a meeting was scheduled for 6 am on June 4 at the Punjabi Bagh Metro Station in New Delhi.Upon meeting, Renu collected the marked currency notes and drove

Maharashtra puts proposed Devasthan land law on hold after objections, hearings till Aug 15

GNS News Agency, June 6

Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule Saturday said the Maharashtra government has put on hold its proposed law on Devasthan Inam lands after receiving a large number of objections and suggestions.“The draft law is being withdrawn for now. A large number of objections and suggestions have been received, and hearings on them will be conducted till August 15,” Bawankule said.According to the government, the draft law was aimed at protecting Devasthan lands, removing encroachments, and providing legal protection to temple properties.“A large portion of Devasthan lands cannot be used because of encroachments. The government’s resolve is to make these lands encroachment-free,” Bawankule said.The minister said the government believed Devasthan lands required legal protection to prevent them from gradually passing out of the control of temple institutions.

Gurgaon deploys IIT-backed AI sewer sensors in posh colonies to stop monsoon waterlogging

GNS News Agency, June 6

In an effort to prevent waterlogging and sewer overflows during the upcoming monsoon, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has initiated the installation of advanced monitoring sensors across the city’s critical sewer lines, officers said Friday.The civic body has collaborated with AIResQ, a startup incubated at IIT Gandhinagar, for the project. The sensor-based system is designed to continuously monitor the technical parameters of the sewer network in real-time.According to officers, if water levels exceed predefined limits or if an obstruction is detected, the sensors will automatically trigger alerts to the MCG control room.

“This early-warning mechanism is intended to allow field response teams to address blockages and rising water levels before they escalate into major overflows onto streets. Special priority for the sensor installation is being given to vulnerable locations across Gurugram that historically experience severe waterlogging during the monsoon,” an MCG spokesperson said.MCG Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya termed the project a significant step towards technology-driven proactive monitoring.“It will enable us to identify potential sewer overflow situations in advance and allow our teams to take timely action. Our goal is to provide citizens with better, seamless, and hassle-free sewerage services during the monsoon,” Dahiya said.Apart from providing immediate monsoon relief by keeping roads clear and reducing public health risks associated with stagnant sewer water, the civic body noted that the data collected will also support long-term maintenance planning and better resource allocation.Dahiya said the corporation remains committed to adopting modern technologies to make urban services more effective and citizen-centric.Additional Commissioner Yash Jaluka told The Indian Express that an MoU with IIT-Gandhinagar had been signed last November.“The startup incubated there developed AI simulations of floods. We have hired 50 data entry operators who will convey the information flagged with junior engineers as to where a new drain or civic repairs are needed.”As of now, 20 sewer sen-

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation declares 4 Nigdi RCC structures illegal, demolition planned

GNS News Agency, June 6

Intensifying its action against illegal constructions, the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) Friday put up notices declaring four RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) structures in the Gajanan Housing Society area in Nigdi as unauthorised.“It was observed that these structures were being erected in violation of the PCMC’s building bylaws and development control regulations, and are situated within the Red Zone. Notices have been served to the respective owners, and demolition proceedings are proposed for these structures. They will be demolished after completing the necessary administrative procedures in accordance with the law,” said Atul Patil, zonal officer of ‘F’ division.

the decoy via the Delhi-Meerut Expressway to a State Bank of India branch in Noorpur, where she deposited Rs 19,000. The Gurgaon team, closely tailing the vehicle, alerted the local administration.A Bijnor team led by PC-PNDT Nodal Officer Dr Rajendra Prasad Vishwakarma and Nayab Tehsildar Ajab Singh Rana joined the operation.

According to the complaint, Renu subsequently made a phone call, after which a man identified as Manoj Kumar arrived in a white car carrying a black backpack. He led Renu and the decoy into a nearby house belonging to one Nardev, where he conducted the scan using a portable ultrasound machine.Following a pre-arranged signal from the decoy, the joint team raided the premises.“Investigations revealed that Manoj Kumar, who performed the scan, possessed no medical qualifications and had only studied up to Class 12,” the complaint noted. The house used for the illegal procedure was also unregistered under the PC-PNDT Act.The raiding team recovered a portable ultrasound machine, a probe, and gel, all of which were sealed on the spot. They also recovered marked currency notes from Renu. All three accused, Renu, Manoj, and Nardev, were handed over to the Noorpur police.An FIR was registered Thursday evening at the Noorpur police station under sections 61(2) for criminal conspiracy, 318(4) for cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, and 319 for cheating by personation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), alongside multiple sections of the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act, and section 34(2) of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 that penalizes unauthorized or unregistered individuals practicing medicine.The operation marks another significant breakthrough for the Gurgaon health department’s PC-PNDT team, spearheaded by Dr Solanki.Last month, the same team busted a massive inter-state sex-determination racket operating across Faridabad and Gurgaon. In Faridabad, a tout masquerading as a doctor had allegedly conducted over 1,000 fake tests. The accused charged Rs 36,000, duping pregnant women by pretending to conduct an ultrasound using a foetal doppler instead. The tout routinely claimed the presence of a female foetus to potentially extort further fees for illicit medical terminations.

He also said several misconceptions had been created about the proposed legislation, and the government would use the consultation process to remove confusion surrounding the draft law.The draft law had drawn opposition from several temple organisations, including the Maharashtra Mandir Mahasangh. The groups argued that some provisions of the draft could affect ownership and control of Devasthan lands by granting rights to existing occupants, cultivators, priests, managers, and others associated with such lands. The organisations claimed that the proposed changes could affect around 5.5 lakh hectares of Devasthan land across Maharashtra and demanded that the draft legislation be withdrawn and reworked. They argued that Devasthan lands constitute one of the largest categories of religious land holdings in the state and sought stronger legal protection for temple properties.

sors and twenty flood depth sensors have been placed in around 15 flood-prone areas of the city on a pilot basis, he said.

According to the official project draft, the network comprises a total of 40 practical monitoring candidates: 20 street flood-depth sensors and 20 manhole/sewer-watch sensors.“The stimulation and real-time flagging are very high-end, other such models tend to take 2-3 days to map and identify faults, but this one takes five minutes. For the data to be fed, we used GIS-mapped data of our water and sewer connections, and for elevation, we are coordinating with other departments.”The idea is to flag the potential sewer overflow before it becomes an issue, he stressed.“Besides, a dashboard will give area-specific solutions like recommending rainwater harvesting structures too. Also on the anvil is a model to inform citizens of traffic routes to take based on predictive waterlogging,” he said.The MCG’s monitoring plan prioritises several of Gurgaon’s prominent upscale colonies and key traffic corridors. Multiple flood depth sensors are slated for the Golf Course Extension Road and the Sushant Lok area.Sushant Lok and Golf Course Extension: The civic body will install sensors at Gulab Park Road in Sushant Lok, Sushant Lok Phase 3, and Sushant Lok 2’s F and G Block. The Phase 3 location is a high-priority zone, with model diagnostics projecting flood depths of up to 2.98 meters along the Golf Course Extension Road.Major Residential Hubs: Other posh colonies identified for sensor placement include Ardee City at Gate No. 3, Rosewood City at C Block, and South City A1 Block near the Malibu Town cluster. A sensor is also planned for Sector 46 along Vikas Marg.Sikanderpur Transit Nodes: To monitor critical bottlenecks, sensors will track waterlogging near the Harijan Basti and the Sikanderpur entry from Bristol Chowk. Both points are vital to managing flow around the Sikanderpur Metro Station.To ensure accurate readings and avoid traffic disruption, these street flood-depth sensors are designed to be installed on the nearest safe kerb, pole, or wall face at accessible street low points.

The PCMC has urged citizens to rigorously verify the competent authority’s approval, building permits, and other necessary documentation before purchasing any immovable property, flat, or house.“Citizens are advised to exercise due diligence, as investing in unauthorised construction carries a high risk of financial loss,” the PCMC said in an appeal made to the citizens on Saturday.The PCMC has made it clear that regular action will continue to be taken against unauthorised constructions as per the rules.“The PCMC has adopted a firm stance against unauthorised construction. It is unacceptable for any building in the city to be erected without development control regulation compliance and the approval of the competent authority.

Maharashtra farm loan waiver row: Rohit Pawar to begin hunger strike on June 12

Pawar said his team had flagged a series of “disturbing irregularities” in the operations of the charter companyFile photo of Rohit Pawar.Alegging that the Maharashtra government has duped farmers by announcing a farm loan waiver scheme with stringent conditions, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar Saturday announced that he will go on an indefinite hunger strike from June 12 demanding a blanket farm loan waiver.“Farmers, who have been caught in a severe financial crisis for the last three to four years, were hopeful for a loan waiver. However, due to the stringent conditions imposed by the government in the announced loan waiver scheme, the majority of farmers will remain deprived of its benefits. To demand that the government remove these stringent conditions and grant a blanket loan waiver to all farmers, an indefinite hunger strike will commence on June 12 in the holy city of Pandharpur, inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar, and all other great leaders,” said Pawar in his social media post on X.He said that this was a fight for the liberation of farmers from debt. “I request everyone to support this cause in any way possible and help raise the voice of the farmers. There is a week left before the protest begins, and I hope the government will make a decision in the best interest of the farmers by then,” he added.

1) The condition stipulating that 2019 loan waiver ben-

eficiaries will receive only Rs 50,000 this time should be abolished, and a flat loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh should be granted to all farmers.

2) In the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, too, the Rs 50,000 limit for 2019 loan waiver beneficiaries should be withdrawn, and a flat loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh should be provided to all farmers.

3) For farmers with dues exceeding Rs 2 lakh, the government should provide a blanket loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh without requiring the beneficiaries first to pay the amount exceeding that limit.

4) The condition requiring consecutive repayment of loans for two years to be eligible for the incentive grant should be abolished.

5) The 6.56 lakh farmers who were eligible for the 2017 loan waiver but were deprived of its benefits due to a lack of documentation should be granted the loan waiver immediately.

6) Remove the ‘anti-farmer, oppressive trigger clauses’ in the crop insurance scheme and re-implement the 1-rupee crop insurance scheme.

7) Loan accounts should be restructured before the sowing season, and funds should be deposited into farmers’ accounts, which will be useful to them for sowing operations.

Chembur’s Sindh Pani Puri House is here since 1951 and had star-studded clientele, including late Rishi and Raj Kapoor

GNS News Agency, June 6Raj Kapoor, we have been told, would park his Ambassador right in front of the shop, step out, and eat. A crowd would gather. This was Chembur Camp, sometime in the 1950s or 60s, and Sindh Pani Puri House was already the kind of place that made a film star stop his car.The shop has been here since 1951, started by Laxman Das Wadhwa, a Sindhi who came to Chembur after Partition. He’d tried other things first, including selling ‘barf ka gola’ (ice gola) on a handcart and a few other jobs, before settling on pani puri. It worked. In 1951, he bought a small 15 x 8 feet shop, the only pani puri shop in all of Chembur at the time.

“My father was an expert at making puri, the kind you can’t find elsewhere in Bombay,” said his son Ramesh Wadhwa, 72, who has run the shop for over four decades. The puri is crispy, made from maida and rava, filled with an aloo-boondi mixture before being dipped in the chilled tangy-spicy pani. They also have a mithi chutney if your spice tolerance is not very high.But ask Ramesh what actually sets Sindh Pani Puri House apart and he doesn’t hesitate. “No one can make pani puri the way we do in Bombay. You can get the puri, the aloo, the sev — all of that is available outside. What you cannot get is this pani. That is what sets it apart.”

Along with Raj Kapoor, Ramesh remembers Rishi Kapoor, Rajiv Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor, and villain Goga Kapoor all coming to the shop over the years. The pani puri they ate cost one anna for six pieces. It’s Rs 40 now.Ramesh didn’t always plan to be here. He tried readymade garments,

cassette recording, and even transport, but none of it bore fruit. Then his father said: “Aaja mere sath (Come with me)”. Ramesh was around 30. He joined, and hasn’t left since.The menu has grown from selling a handful of items — pani puri, dahi vada, bhajjiya of aloo and baingan — to nearly two dozen items. On a regular day they dish out over a hundred plates of pani puri, with dahi vada and dahi puri finding particular takers through summer.Over the years, the shop expanded. But about five years ago, the shop split in two. Both retained the name — Sindh Pani Puri House. Both kept similar pricing. Regulars who frequent either stall insist the pani puris taste the same. Ramesh says that is hardly surprising. “Our father taught both of us.”The shop on his left belongs to his younger brother, Prakash Wadhwa, 70. The two ran the business together for decades before eventually parting ways. Just last year, it saw actor Archana Puran Singh and her family stop by for pani puri. Prakash’s son, Hitesh Wadhwa, 37, joined the business around 13 years ago and now manages the shop. Speaking over the phone, he said he has registered the brand name and created social media accounts to promote the business.As for Ramesh’s shop, he has two daughters.

“They don’t come to the shop,” he said, in a tone that seemed to close the conversation when asked whether either of them was interested in joining the business. When asked about the future, he is matter-of-fact. “I will continue till I am 75. Afterwards, we will see what to do.”Even if his stall eventually shuts one day, the family legacy will continue next door through Hitesh’s shop.

Senior IPS officer’s wife dies in elephant attack at family’s coffee estate in Kodagu

Kodagu elephant attackSandhya Achaya, 51, had gone to inspect work at the estate near Titimati along with the estate manager and driver when the elephant attacked them.The wife of a senior IPS officer was killed in an elephant attack at the family’s coffee estate in Karnataka’s Kodagu district on Friday morning, bringing renewed focus on the continuing human-elephant conflict in the region.According to officials, the incident occurred between 10 am and 10.15 am near Konanakatte village when Sandhya Achaya, 51, the wife of Sunil Achaya, had gone to inspect work at the estate near Titimati along with the estate manager and driver.

A wild elephant reportedly emerged unexpectedly and charged at the group. While the manager and driver managed to escape, Sandhya was caught in the attack and suffered severe injuries. She was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital but succumbed to her injuries during treatment, officials said.“A case has been registered and an inquiry has been initiated into the incident. Forest department officials are also investigating the circumstances that led to the attack and the movement of the elephant in the area,” Bindu Mani, Kodagu Superintendent of Police, said.Following the incident, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar tele-

phoned Sunil Achaya, who is serving in a senior position in Delhi, and conveyed his condolences. Describing the incident as deeply tragic, Shivakumar expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and prayed for strength to help them cope with the loss.He also said that he had instructed authorities to take necessary measures to prevent further incidents involving wild elephants in the region. The latest fatality comes amid a series of elephant attacks reported from Kodagu this year. In March, 55-year-old Jalajakshi of Valnoor village in Kodagu was killed in a wild elephant attack near a forest-fringe area.

The district has witnessed several such incidents in recent months, prompting protests by residents and farmers and renewed calls for measures to curb human-elephant conflict.In response, the Forest Department has undertaken a range of mitigation measures, including the installation of rail barricades, construction of elephant-proof trenches, strengthening of solar fencing, deployment of elephant task force personnel, and efforts to capture identified problem elephants.However, residents and plantation owners continue to express concern over the frequent movement of elephants into coffee estates and human settlements bordering forest areas.

CID probing fake Aadhaar card used to procure methanol

GNS News Agency, June 6

Pune hooch deaths probe has widened after the CID began investigating a fake Aadhaar card allegedly used to procure methanol that was later mixed into illicit liquor linked to 20 deaths in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad. (Express Photo)Pune hooch deaths probe has widened after the CID began investigating a fake Aadhaar card allegedly used to procure methanol that was later mixed into illicit liquor linked to 20 deaths in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad.Probing the hooch deaths in Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has questioned a suspect who allegedly prepared the fake Aadhaar card used in procuring the methanol in this case.The consumption of suspected methanol-laced illicit liquor has claimed 20 lives so far — 16 in Phugewadi-Dapodi belt of Pimpri Chinchwad and four in Pune’s Hadapsar area. Separate cases have been registered at Dapodi and Hadapsar police stations under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Maharashtra Prohibition Act against those allegedly involved in the illicit liquor network.CID has so far arrested nine persons in this case. Probe revealed the 23-year-old accused Yogesh Ramchandra Vhankade alias Sikandar Rathod had allegedly procured about 215 litres of methanol from Rex International Company through Avinash Cargo Private Limited firm. CID has recorded statements of the employees of this firm in Bhosari.Police said Rex International Company had asked for Vhankade’s GST number to supply methanol. He did not have a GST number, so the company asked for his Aadhaar card. However, Vhankade submitted a forged



Aadhar card with the name Pradip Sharma, police said. During investigation, the CID detained a suspect, Somnath Tatyaba Gawade, who allegedly made the fake Aadhaar card for Vankhade.A press release issued by the CID on Friday stated Gawade was being questioned in connection with the fake Aadhaar card and further investigation.Along with Vhankhade, the police had initially arrested Kamelsingh Takhtsingh Virka, 73, Gurmangatsingh Kamelsingh Virka, 45, both residing near Deccan Paper Mill, Sanjay Nagar, Phugewadi; Radheshyam Hariram Prajapati, 35, of Urulikanchan and Kalpesh Ashok Agrawal, 29, of Khadki.Probe revealed that before the hooch tragedy, Vhankhade procured liquor from Prajapati in Uruli Kanchan. He allegedly mixed methanol into it at a location in Phursungi area, making it toxic.He then allegedly supplied the toxic liquor to Akash Jadhav at Pandhare Mala in Hadapsar.

PM Modi wants you to work from home. Will your bosses let you?



The psychological and physiological costs of urban commuting remain dramatically under-recognised within Indian policy and corporate discourse. Travel-related stress rarely features meaningfully in urban planning conversations or workplace policy design. The implicit expectation often appears to be that individuals should remain grateful merely to possess employment, irrespective of the broader quality-of-life costs attached to it. If substantial sections of formal corporate India can reduce commuting intensity through flexible work arrangements, it can ease pressure on transport systems, fuel demand, and overstretched urban infrastructure while also improving employee well-being, reducing commute-related stress, and restoring productive time increasingly lost to India's expanding metropolitan sprawl. The resistance to reimagining work also appears increasingly inconsistent with how rapidly Indian society has already adapted to behavioural and technological change in nearly every other sphere of life. Over the past decade, consumers shifted from physical retail to e-commerce, from cash withdrawals to digital payments, from standing in queues to app-based services, and from paper-work-heavy transactions to instant digital interfaces. Indians today comfortably shop, bank, invest, learn, entertain themselves and increasingly access healthcare through distributed digital ecosystems. Yet when it comes to knowledge work, many organisations continue to behave as though productivity remains inseparable from physical proximity and office attendance. The contradiction is becoming harder to defend in an economy that otherwise celebrates digital transformation as a marker of modernisation and efficiency. Corporate India now faces an uncomfortable but necessary question: Is it prepared to reinvent the workplace for the future, or will it continue managing a digital economy

True, the health of many of our institutions does not inspire confidence about fair play and justice now. In 1975, it was possible for the then PM Indira Gandhi to be disqualified from Parliament over electoral malpractices in her 1971

partner globally, 3rd largest export destination and the largest in Europe, with FY 2024-25 trade at USD 27.8 billion. It is India's 4th largest investor with cumulative FDI of USD 55.6 billion, and Indian ODI to the Netherlands stands at USD 28 billion, with over 300 companies present in India and Netherlands. This partnership is expected to get a boost with the India-EU FTA. During the visit, TATA Electronics and ASML Netherlands are expected to sign an agreement to equip a semiconductor fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat. As India battles the crisis on energy supply, energy security and clean energy are expected to be part of the agenda, as PM Modi, along with the PM of Netherlands, will visit the Afsluitdijk Dam as part of India-Dutch collaboration in clean energy, water management and sustainable fisheries. This is an effort towards diversification from fossil fuel. The strategic and geopolitical context is that Sweden invests over 3% of GDP in R&D and ranks consistently among the top performers in the European Innovation Scoreboard. It has taken one of Europe's firmest positions on strategic de-risking from China, having removed Chinese vendors from telecom networks and tightened research-security norms, making India among its most consequential strategic diversification partners in Asia. It also positions itself as a partner in Make in India, Trade, Investment and EU FTA gateway: since bilateral trade in goods and services has reached USD 7.75 billion in 2025, with over 280 Swedish companies operating in India. The visit's centrepiece business event includes engagement with the European Roundtable of Industries, opening up Europe's broader industrial leadership in the post-India-EU FTA era. Defence and critical minerals is an important pillar of engagement, as Saab is building its first Carl-Gustaf manufacturing plant outside Sweden at Jhajjar—India's first 100% FDI-driven defence manufacturing project. Sweden also hosts one of Europe's largest critical mineral deposits, a natural opening for partnership in supply-chain sovereignty for electric vehicles, semiconductors and defence electronics. When it comes to technology, innovation and clean industry, Sweden has expressed a strong desire to collaborate with India in 6G, AI, quantum computing, life sciences, healthcare and Digital India priorities, reflected in the participation of over 80 Swedish companies at the AI Impact Summit 2026. It is the first standalone bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Norway in 43 years. The strategic context is that defence and maritime cooperation are a key pillar of India-Norway ties. Indian shipyards now hold 11% of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association order book. Norwegian tunnelling technology has powered the Char Dham railway project. Norway's GPF, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund with a corpus touching USD 2 trillion, has invested close to USD 30 billion in Indian capital markets, while Norfund remains active in Indian renewables. Bilateral merchandise trade approximately US\$1 billion in 2024-25; India's services exports to Norway US\$876 million in 2024. PM Meloni's first state visit after election was to India in March? she was Chief Guest at the Raisina Dialogue and participated in the G20 Leaders' Summit,

How 48 injuries and a bike named ‘Chinnu’ exposed a shocking crime in Karnataka



February 16, 2016. For a small utensil shop owner in Sringeri, it seemed like any other day. His 18-year-old daughter, a first-year BCom student and his only child, had an internal exam at college. As always, he dropped her off before heading to work. Their routine was simple: after class, she would either return home for lunch or spend the afternoon at his shop before accompanying him home in the evening. But that day, she never returned. When the shop owner came home for lunch, his wife told him their daughter had not arrived. Initially, the family assumed she might have stopped at a friend's house. Calls were made to classmates and relatives. One of her friends told the family that she had walked with her after the exam before the two separated and went their own ways.

The father alerted the Sringeri police. Officers advised him to file a missing persons complaint. What nobody knew then was that the disappearance of the college student from a family surviving on barely Rs 100 a day would soon become one of the most disturbing crimes the region had witnessed. Later that evening, attention shifted to an abandoned well located about 600 metres from a bus stand. Inside lay the body of a young woman, her college bag still strapped to her. Fire and emergency personnel were called to retrieve the body. At first glance, the circumstances appeared confusing. Mud covered much of her body, and there were no immediately visible external injuries. Bloodstains on her clothes led some villagers to speculate that she had died by suicide. Family members pointed to her menstrual health issues, while others suggested she may have been distressed over her examination.

However, the scene raised doubts for Sudhir Hegde, the then inspector and investigating officer at Sringeri police station, and now a deputy superintendent of police with the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission. "The well did not contain enough water for drowning. Her college bag was intact. Several aspects of the scene did not fit the theory of suicide. For an investigating officer, even a small doubt cannot be ignored," Hegde recalled. The police ensured that an Unnatural Death Report was immediately registered and that the body was sent for a detailed forensic examination. That decision would ultimately change the course of the investigation.

Karnataka rape murder Sudhir Hegde DySP Sudhir Hegde, then the investigating officer on the case, noticed that the well did not contain enough water for the student to drown. The forensic evidence that exposed a hidden crime The next 24 hours proved crucial in determining what investigators were dealing with. As rumours of suicide spread through the village, the father informed police that her earrings and nose stud were missing. This prompted investigators to also consider the possibility of robbery, and a case of murder and robbery was registered while police awaited the findings of the post-mortem examination. The body was sent to Mangaluru, where forensic expert Dr Haneil D'Souza, Associate Professor and District Medical-Legal Consultant, conducted the autopsy. The findings dramatically altered the course of the investigation. Although the body showed few obvious signs of violence when it was recovered from the well, the post-mortem documented 48 injuries. Dr D'Souza carefully preserved crucial forensic exhibits, including scalp hair, pubic hair, fingernail clippings and fibre material recovered from the pubic region, for scientific examination. The autopsy established that the 18-year-old had been sexually assaulted before being strangled and smothered to death. It further revealed that the abandoned well was not the scene of the crime but a location used to dispose of the body and conceal the offence.

For investigators, the significance of the post-mortem extended far beyond determining the cause of death. It exposed a violent crime that had not been immediately apparent at the scene and provided the first scientific roadmap for the investigation. The challenge, however, was formidable. There were no eyewitnesses, no CCTV cameras, and no direct evidence identifying the perpetrators. How the accused were tracked The crime occurred in a remote area between the jurisdictions of the Sringeri and Jayapura police stations. With no surveillance footage available, investigators relied almost entirely on fieldwork. Police teams began speaking to students, teachers, shopkeepers, labourers and residents across neighbouring villages. During this exercise, investigators started hearing about earlier incidents involving women that had either gone unreported or received little attention. According to Hegde, investigators later discovered that the accused had allegedly been involved in at least two previous sexual assaults and one attempted assault in the months preceding the murder. None of the victims had formally pursued complaints because of social stigma and fear. "This is why reporting offences is important. When incidents remain unreported, offenders begin to believe they can continue without consequences," Hegde said. One of the most significant breakthroughs came from a schoolteacher who had narrowly escaped an earlier attack. Although she had reported the incident, it had occurred outside the jurisdiction of the local police. After investigators circulated information to neighbouring stations, details of the case surfaced from the Jayapura police limits.

The teacher told investigators that two men had attempted to drag her into a forested area while she was waiting at a bus stand. She escaped only because a relative arrived unexpectedly. Karnataka murder rape accused Santhosh R and Pradeep M were arrested on charges of gang rape, murder, theft, and destruction of evidence. Another lead emerged from a student who had survived a similar encounter. The descriptions provided independently by both women closely matched. More importantly, the teacher remembered a distinctive detail about the motorcycle used by the suspects. The word "Chinnu" was written above the registration plate. Recognising the value of the clue, Hegde personally visited the Regional Transport Office and began tracing motorcycles matching that description. The exercise gradually narrowed the field and brought investigators closer to the suspects.

A second breakthrough came from a local farmer who had met the two men shortly after the crime. He remembered noticing injuries on one of the accused's faces and found the explanation offered for those injuries suspicious. To investigators, those injuries were potentially significant because they supported the possibility that the victim had fought back. Armed with these leads, the police moved quickly. 2 accused arrested One of the two accused,

Santhosh R, was arrested on February 17, less than 24 hours after the crime. During interrogation, he allegedly confessed to the crime. Investigators recovered the victim's earrings and nose stud. Rather than relying solely on the recovery, police independently corroborated the evidence by collecting photographs showing the victim wearing the same ornaments before her death. "I did not want to leave any room for the defence to challenge the investigation. Every recovery had to be independently established and scientifically supported," Hegde said. The search for Pradeep M, another accused, proved more dramatic. When officers located him, he fled. Police personnel chased him across nearly 12 kilometres of rural terrain. At one stage, he boarded a bus and appeared close to escaping.

The police alerted bus stands across the region and deployed personnel to monitor passengers and vehicles. Realising that arrest was becoming inevitable, Pradeep allegedly tried to die by suicide. Investigators rushed him to get medical treatment and ensured he survived. After recovering, he was formally arrested on February 23. With both accused in custody, investigators turned to the most critical phase of the case—scientifically reconstructing the crime and establishing an unbroken chain of evidence. The biological samples preserved during the autopsy were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory along with blood samples collected from the accused. According to forensic reports produced before the court, pubic hair recovered from the victim matched the DNA profile of the first accused, Pradeep. Investigators also found biological material belonging to the second accused, Santhosh, beneath the victim's fingernails, indicating that she had resisted her attackers and physically struggled during the assault.

The scientific evidence was further reinforced by medical examinations conducted by Dr Eldose T Varghese. Injuries were documented on the bodies of both accused, including injuries to their private parts. The doctor opined that the injuries were consistent with violent sexual activity and supported the prosecution's version of events.

Together, the forensic findings enabled investigators to reconstruct what had happened. The police concluded that the 18-year-old was intercepted while returning home after her exam by Pradeep, 28, and Santhosh, 20, both daily-wage labourers from the region. The men were known to the victim and had previously worked for her family. According to the police, the accused dragged her to a secluded location near the abandoned well. Pradeep sexually assaulted her. The evidence indicated that by the time Santhosh attempted to sexually assault her, she was already dead. The forensic findings established that she had been strangled and smothered. Investigators concluded that the motive for the killing was to eliminate the only witness capable of identifying her attackers. The accused then disposed of the body in the well in an attempt to conceal the crime and divert suspicion. For investigators, the case became a striking example of how forensic science could reveal details invisible at a crime scene. The prosecution still had to establish a complete chain of circumstances linking the accused to the crime.

Over the following months, investigators assembled a case built on forensic evidence, DNA analysis, witness testimony, recoveries and circumstantial links. The final chargesheet relied on 38 witnesses, 17 material objects, and 53 documentary exhibits. Among the evidence presented were forensic reports, DNA findings, medical testimony, witness accounts, recovery of stolen jewellery, and other circumstantial material.

Investigators also collected the victim's internal examination records. "We found that she had scored 92 marks in the examination she wrote that day. That helped rule out any theory that she had taken her own life because the exam had gone badly," Hegde said. Piece by piece, investigators constructed a case designed to withstand judicial scrutiny.

The prosecution argued that no single item of evidence stood alone. Instead, each component reinforced the others. Witness statements pointed investigators towards the suspects. Recoveries connected them to the victim. Medical evidence established sexual assault and homicide. DNA evidence physically linked the accused to the crime. Injuries on the accused supported the theory that the victim had resisted. Viewed together, prosecutors argued, the evidence formed an unbroken chain that left little room for any alternative explanation. Conviction and death sentence

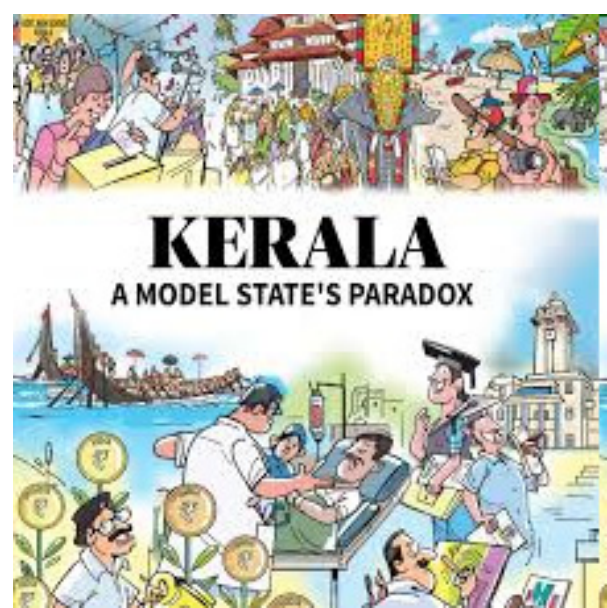
On January 3, 2020, Principal District and Sessions Judge Umesh M Adiga of the Chikkamagaluru Sessions Court convicted Pradeep M and Santhosh R for gang rape, murder, theft, and destruction of evidence. The court held that the prosecution had successfully established a complete chain of circumstantial, medical, and scientific evidence linking both accused to the crime, adding that the investigation had no lapses. In its judgment, the court described the offence as exceptionally brutal. It also observed that the victim, who had attended her college examination that day, had her "colourful dreams" destroyed by the actions of the accused. The judgment noted that she was sexually assaulted, strangled, and smothered before her body was thrown into an abandoned well in an attempt to conceal the crime. "The acts of accused was brutal, shocking, heinous, grotesque, diabolical, revolting or dastardly manner," the court observed. The court further stated that the crime had not only devastated the victim's family but had also generated fear among women and girls travelling through isolated areas. Finding that the possibility of reformation appeared remote and treating the case as falling within the 'rarest of rare' category, the sessions court sentenced both accused to death for murder under Section 302 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code. They were also sentenced to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for gang rape, along with separate sentences for theft and destruction of evidence. As required by law, the death sentence was referred to the Karnataka High Court for confirmation. However, it has remained pending for the past six years. For Hegde, however, the significance of the case lies beyond the sentence. Had investigators accepted the assumptions that emerged on the day the body was found, the truth may never have surfaced.

Bachupally flyover likely to open in second week of June

Hyderabad: The long-delayed Bachupally six-lane bi-directional flyover in Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) limits is likely to be thrown open to commuters in the second week of June. It will become the first flyover to come into operation after CMC was formed as a new civic body.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) Chief Engineer, B Ravinder, told 'Telangana Today' that the flyover will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, A Revanth Reddy, tentatively on June 8. Arrangements accordingly were being made.

The Kerala development model was once looked up to. What went wrong?



A report recently unveiled by new Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan presents a grim picture of the state's financial health, showing that it trails the national average across most crucial parameters. This is a state that once boasted the most sought-after growth model in India. The decline, however, did not happen overnight. Satheesan, a Congress leader who is also the state's Finance Minister, wrote in the report's preface: "The purpose of this report is not to revisit the past in a spirit of criticism, but to understand the challenges before us with clarity and objectivity." Long before Arvind Kejriwal's "Delhi model", Nitish Kumar's "sushashan" (good governance) in Bihar and Narendra Modi's "Gujarat model", there was the Kerala model of economic development. In the 1950s, it had the country's highest population growth rate. By the 1970s, it became one with the lowest. This was not all. Over the next two decades, Kerala achieved levels of social and economic development—better health, education and quality of life—that not only surpassed other states but rivalled influential countries. What's more, Kerala achieved all this with much lower levels of income. In 1996, its per capita income was one-hundredth of the US's. Despite this, it had a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.775, close to the US's 0.925 and well above India's 0.45—and without the kind of coercion that countries such as China employed.

What ails Kerala government finances?

However, over the past several years, Kerala's model has lost its sheen. The telltale sign has been the worsening state of the state government's finances. Simply put, with each passing year, the state has had to borrow more just to meet the gap between its expenses and its revenues. What's worse is that the bulk of this money goes towards paying salaries and pensions. This means very little is left to spend on developmental areas (such as health and education) or building the state's productive capacity (also called capital expenditure). As a result, despite having one of the most educated populations, Kerala has some of the highest levels of unemployment, especially for women. The table below shows how far Kerala's fiscal position has slid relative

What worked for D K Shivakumar, popularly known as DKS, who took oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka Wednesday, seemed to be a calculation made by the Congress high command that he will pull out all stops to spearhead the party to power in 2028 again. Having been a CM aspirant for several years – and worked relentlessly towards achieving this goal – Shivakumar, 64, is unlikely to be satisfied with being the CM for only two years, and could be expected to go into an overdrive. Before becoming the "richest CM", DKS had already shown his mettle as an organiser, fund mobiliser, troubleshooter and a backroom strategist for the party. Now he will be called to put these skills into full use in the run-up to the 2028 Assembly elections to show that he can deliver infrastructure projects in Bengaluru, ensure adequate funds for the party's promised "guarantees", and catch the imagination of Gen Z with good governance.

Shivakumar's predecessor Siddaramaiah, the 78-year-old two-time CM, had earlier maintained that he would not contest the next election. That could have been just a message to the Congress leadership to let him complete his entire tenure in his second term. Rahul Gandhi supported him essentially because as the Congress's tallest OBC leader in the state, his credentials were in sync with the politics the former has sought to pursue nationally around the themes of caste census and social justice.

For the Congress, which has virtually become a party of the South, it has become a make-or-break battle to retain Karnataka. While the party wrested Kerala from the Left Front, and retains Telangana, where CM Revanth Reddy seems to have doubled down on his outreach to the masses – in a manner compared with the late Y S Rajasekhara Reddy's efforts in united Andhra Pradesh – the real challenge for the party lies in retaining Karnataka. Barring Karnataka, the BJP has so far not managed to come to power in other southern states. So the BJP will also try to tap into any "anti-incumbency" in Karnataka to mount its bid to return to the helm two years down the line. Karnataka becomes more important for the BJP in the wake of its debacle in recent Tamil Nadu elections, where the Congress has returned to government after six decades, as a junior partner of Vijay's TVK. The grand old party dumped its old ally and ex-incumbent DMK with which it had fought the elections. The new alignments in state politics that Vijay's win has triggered have yet to crystallise.

While the DMK is distancing itself from the INDIA bloc – there are reports about the Dravidian party's "back channel talks" with the BJP – Vijay has shown no hurry to join the Opposition grouping, even though the Congress is its key ally now. When Vijay recently came to Delhi on his first official visit as the CM, he called on PM Modi besides meeting Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. However, he wrapped up his Delhi visit and returned to Chennai without meeting Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. These were seen as straws in the wind, to indicate that the political newbie, despite his stunning electoral success, may choose to tread with caution now and not upset the Centre in any way. The point remains that Vijay does not have a majority on his own in the Assembly. The Congress, which has only five MLAs, may also have to guard its flock closely – it could be early days for the party to celebrate in Tamil Nadu.

Given the Congress's high stakes in the South, the

to the national average on some of the most important metrics. Kerala metrics Kerala's fiscal position has slid relative to the national average on some of the most important metrics. Outstanding liabilities refers to all the debt that the state government has to pay back. Kerala's outstanding liabilities as a percentage of its total economic output (gross state domestic product, or GSDP) is at 35%. The national average is around 29%. Not surprisingly, Kerala also has a very high interest burden thanks to its past loans. The next three metrics show that despite having high levels of borrowings, the state is stuck in a cycle of using the bulk of its money just to pay salaries and pensions, etc. This is what is called committed expenditure. This leaves it with a much lower amount of money to spend on development – say providing better health, education and welfare. Finally, the state is also unable to spend enough on creating new productive assets. Capital expenditure lags far behind the national average. The state government's report sums this up. "Kerala has been violating the basic tenet of 'borrow to invest, growth will repay' in a big way, weakening the growth generating capacity."

What has the new UDF government's proposed?

Part of the solution is to address the wastage in expenditure and to make the administration more efficient. Some of the solutions discussed in the report include raising the retirement age to the same level as the Union government. This move is expected to cut down on the pension bill. Similarly, it is proposed to have pay commissions only once in ten years, just like the Union government does. Public-sector enterprises (PSE) will also come under stringent review. The report finds that Kerala has the largest number of PSEs among the Indian states and "the majority of them are making losses". This is draining state finances that could otherwise be put to more productive use. One, to shift from production subsidies to consumption subsidies. In other words, instead of subsidising PSEs, let them compete in the market, and let the government directly provide subsidies to those who are too economically weak to consume goods at market prices. The second idea is to privatise the non-strategic PSEs. This is also in line with the thinking of the 1991 economic reforms. Yet another body that has been draining state government finances is the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). It was established in 2016 to raise financial resources from the market through innovative methods.

In reality, it is raising funds at a rate much higher than the state government. Additionally, there are serious question marks over KIIFB's financing priorities. The report finds that just three districts – Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam – account for 50% of all money released. "Neither human development indices nor economic need indices provide an obvious justification for this concentration," notes the report. The report also recognises that "there is a limit to how much we can address the problem by tightening our belts" and states that the "best way forward is to put in place measures to promote growth, investment and employment". This, in turn, "would entail significant reform in laws relating to agriculture, land reforms, building of skills and start-ups in industry, creation of reasonably priced industrial infrastructure, expansion of tourism, services (particularly IT and AI) in collaboration with industry and strongly developing our coastal network".

party high command has lately displayed more prudence in its decision making in the region. As in Kerala, where Rahul Gandhi was initially leaning towards his confidant, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, becoming the CM, he finally agreed on the candidature of V D Satheesan for the top job. It was Satheesan who, as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Kerala Assembly, had been seen by people as the face of the Congress-led UDF's fight against the incumbent Left, even though Venugopal had the support of a majority of MLAs. In Karnataka too, as DKS became increasingly restive for the post he had been promised under a rotational chief ministership deal, months after Siddaramaiah completed his half-way mark, the Congress leadership decided to bell the cat. Rahul and Venugopal had initially been in favour of Siddaramaiah's continuance while Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reportedly supported the need for a change. Eventually, all came on the same page – and it was DKS.

In Karnataka, the changing of guard was a smooth affair, unlike Rajasthan where the Congress leadership could not get its way in 2022. The then Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot upstaged the AICC observers who had been sent to Jaipur to name Sachin Pilot as his successor, who was also promised chief ministership in the second half of the government.

However, Siddaramaiah chose to play his cards differently from the way Gehlot had done. He saw the writing on the wall and made way for his deputy – and that is not an easy thing to do. The senior leader embraced his junior, displaying impeccable optics, and earning public sympathy, along the way. But this did not mean that Siddaramaiah was calling it quits. By accepting the caste census just before his exit, he has left a hot potato for his successor – to implement it and risk the unhappiness of his own Vokkaliga community, or to put it on the backburner and provoke the wrath of the backward classes. Cast in the old school mould, Siddaramaiah chose to make his moves politically. He said he was not interested in a Rajya Sabha seat or moving onto the national stage, making it clear that he would continue as an MLA in the state. However, on the eve of the DKS's swearing in as the CM, he was appointed a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC). Unlike Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar is not considered a mass leader. He also does not enjoy the support of a caste alliance that Siddaramaiah has had in the form of AHINDA, comprising sections of backward classes, dalits and minorities, which has stood the Congress in good stead. The Vokkaliga group makes up more than 10 % of the state's population and is concentrated in the old Mysore region that accounts for 61 Assembly seats. The community has so far looked up to former PM H D Deve Gowda, the JD(S) chief, and his son and Union minister H D Kumaraswamy, as their key leaders.

The elevation of DKS may make the JD (S) vulnerable. There are already reports that a worried Kumaraswamy may consider returning back to state politics to keep his flock together and consolidate the JD(S)'s vote base. The situation is in a flux, but Karnataka may be heading towards a more bipolar politics. It is evident from the ministers inducted in his Cabinet, several of them close to Siddaramaiah, that DKS realises the importance of keeping his predecessor placated for his government's success. Power sharing may well be the name of the game. And the "doer" DKS has his task cut out.

Virat Kohli ruled out of Afghanistan ODI series, replaced by Yashasvi Jaiswal



GNS News Agency, June 6

Virat Kohli was officially ruled out of the upcoming ODI series vs Afghanistan later this month after failing to recover from a hamstring injury and will be replaced by Yashasvi Jaiswal in the squad, chief selector Ajit Agarkar told reporters during a press conference at the BCCI headquarters.

“With Virat, at this point, it’s just been less than a week since he injured himself in the finals. We will assess him (but) we don’t know the timelines yet. Yashasvi will be his replacement. But it looks like he (Kohli) might be fit for that England one-day series (in July) but again, it’s not a definitive answer. So, don’t hold me to it. I haven’t had a clear timeline from the physio yet,” Agarkar said.Kohli had suffered the injury while playing the Indian Premier League final at Ahmedabad vs Gujarat Titans. He had slammed 75 and was adjudged the man of the match as he guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their second IPL title.Jaiswal, meanwhile, has only played four ODIs since making his

debut against England in February 2025. The left-hander had scored a match-winning 116 — his maiden ODI ton — against South Africa at Visakhapatnam.The three ODIs will be played at Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai on June 13, 17 and 20 respectively.

Meanwhile, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said former skipper Rohit Sharma will be heading to the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru where all-rounder Hardik Pandya is nearing completion of his rehabilitation.“Hardik is in COE Bangalore. He is going to a rehabilitation programme and very soon he will go for the final phase (of recuperation) and will be in the process of clearance,” Saikia said.Pandya has been named in the ODI squad to face Afghanistan but he was omitted from squads to tour Ireland and England, and for the Asian Games keeping his workload in the 50-over format in mind.Former skipper Rohit, who also now plays only the one-dayers, too suffered a hamstring injury during the IPL which restricted his appearances for Mumbai Indians just over nine matches this season.“As far as Rohit is concerned, he is also visiting COE in two or three days’ time. We are following a process for each player who is suffering from any kind of injury and what is the rehabilitation programme.“They have to be finally cleared from the COE to our technical team here. So, the process is on and we are awaiting their final fitness clearance,” Saikia added.Updated Indian squad for ODIs against AfghanistanShubman Gill (c), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer (vc), KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey.



India entered a new era in T20I cricket on Saturday with Shreyas Iyer replacing Suryakumar Yadav as captain, with the latter’s reign coming to an end despite having lead the country to a T20 World Cup triumph in his last assignment just over two months ago. In a move that signals a clear shift in direction ahead of the next global cycle, the selectors not only handed Iyer the leadership role but also omitted Surya from all three T20I squads announced on Saturday.

The decision was among the most significant takeaways from the BCCI’s selection meeting, which unveiled squads for the Ireland and England T20I series as well as the Asian Games. While the selection of teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi grabbed plenty of attention, the leadership change marked the beginning of a fresh

chapter for India’s shortest-format side.The chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar, said Iyer had built a compelling case for the role through his leadership record and consistent performances over the last few years.

“With regards to Shreyas, we have seen what he has done over the last few years. Leading different franchises, won finals once and probably had a tougher season this year after a great start. So, we have seen everything that a captain possibly can,” Agarkar said.He also highlighted Iyer’s consistency as a batsman and the fact that he had remained on the selectors’ radar even when he was unable to break into India’s T20 setup regularly.

His own performances have been really good. He was quite close to winning the World Cup squad as well. Obviously, Surya was still there. There was no room for him. He is, in my opinion, a standout candidate with enough experience now having played in the T20 format.”Agarkar repeatedly stressed that Iyer’s appointment was based on merit rather than being a reactionary decision.“Like I said, Shreyas is a well-deserving captain,” he said.Iyer’s elevation comes after a period in which he has not played a T20I in two-and-a-half years despite strong performances in franchise cricket. Agarkar revealed that competition for places had often worked against him.“He was very close to always being in the team over the last couple of years. It’s just that Surya and the spots that he bats were there, and he couldn’t find a spot. So, now that he’s found a spot, I think he’s earned it.”

Shubman Gill, KL Rahul score centuries against Afghanistan in one-off Test



India skipper Shubman Gill slammed his 11th Test century on the opening day of India’s one-off Test against Afghanistan on Saturday at Mullanpur. The India captain took 138 deliveries in an innings studded with 11 fours and 1 sixe to get to his milestone.Meanwhile, KL Rahul also scored his 12th Test ton before falling to Rahman Sharifi in the third session.Earlier, Sai Sudharsan was graceful and edgy in equal measure during an attractive innings of 81 while KL Rahul was a picture of confidence during his unbeaten 81 as India reached 209 for 2 at tea on the opening day of the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

Sudharsan, who enjoys the vote of confidence of head coach Gautam Gambhir, got two reprieves — but missed

out on what would have been his maiden Test hundred.Veteran Rahul, who also led a charmed life, blended caution with aggression to inch towards his 12th Test hundred in his 68th appearance in whites.At the break, skipper Shubman Gill (20 batting) looked in great touch with four boundaries to his credit.The Rahul-Sudharsan duo added 139 runs in 185 balls but credit should go to the Tamil Nadu southpaw for showing a lot of intent during his knock.There were occasional misses and the edges that flew through the vacant zone between the keeper and first slip, which otherwise should have been taken.But Sudharsan showed his mastery with most of his 13 boundaries coming through the mid-wicket region. However, the straight drive off pacer Mohammad Saleem was a treat to watch.Rahul survived what looked like a clear nick in TV replays but the bowling team didn’t appeal for credit behind.Rahul played some gorgeous strokes while defending dourly on a seemingly flat track against an Afghan attack that looked decent without being threatening.His innings had nine boundaries and, save the edge that wasn’t appealed for, Rahul showed great defensive technique and was hardly bothered by the Afghan bowlers.Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal couldn’t capitalise on a good start as India treaded cautiously to reach 96 for 1 at lunch. Jaiswal was dismissed in the most innocuous fashion.Right-arm pacer Saleem’s delivery bounced a shade extra and Jaiswal tried to tuck it off his hips towards fine leg but only managed to tickle it to keeper Afsar Zazai.

Neymar skips Egypt friendly as MRI to decide World Cup fate

GNS News Agency, June 61

Neymar stayed behind in New Jersey on Friday as the rest of the Brazil squad travelled to Cleveland for Saturday’s friendly against Egypt, the last warmup before their World Cup opener.The number 10 is recovering from a grade two calf strain picked up during the preparation camp in Teresópolis on May 27. Coach Carlo Ancelotti confirmed at a press conference that Neymar will undergo an MRI on Monday. “He’s doing a great job individually. If everything is alright, he’ll be able to train with the group next week,” Ancelotti said.

The medical team had projected a two-to-three week recovery window when the injury was first diagnosed. A clean scan on Monday would put him back in group training with time to spare before Brazil’s tournament opener against Morocco on June 13 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Ancelotti has said he expects Neymar fit for that match, but added that if not, he would be ready for the second group game against Haiti on June 18.

The decision not to send him to Cleveland was practical — no training is scheduled there, and a three-hour round trip was considered unnecessary load for a player in active recovery. He will continue physiotherapy and conditioning work while the squad plays.In Cleveland, about 50 fans greeted the arriving delegation at the hotel. Most players



went straight inside, but Endrick, Raphinha, Casemiro, Marquinhos, Matheus Cunha, Fabinho and Danilo stopped to sign shirts and take selfies. Casemiro, speaking to reporters earlier, captured the mood in camp: “The doctor has made it clear his recovery is progressing day by day. We’re all eagerly awaiting his return.”

Brazil face Egypt at Huntington Field on Saturday at 7pm Brasilia time before returning to New Jersey immediately after.On the sidelines, Neymar remained unbothered by outside noise. When a friend flagged that France’s Michael Olise had said he couldn’t name the best Brazilian player, Neymar’s response was short: “I saw that. It’s part of the game.”

pressed on whether Surya’s IPL form had influenced the decision, Agarkar suggested the move was part of a broader review rather than a judgment based on a few months of cricket.“He was a captain who was doing really well, eventually ending up winning the World Cup. It’s not the easiest sort of discussion to have. But I don’t necessarily think IPL form dictated it. There were always a lot of conversations.”

Agarkar reiterated that the decision was ultimately made with the future in mind.

“We know he’s the captain and he just won the World Cup, so it’s not the easiest conversation when you want to tell Surya that. But we’re doing everything in the interest of what the team needs going forward.”

If this signals the end of the line fo SKY in international cricket, it brings the curtains down on one of the greatest ever careers for India in the format. SKY has scored 3272 runs in 113 T20Is at a strike rate of 162.98 and average of 36.35 with four centuries and 25 half-centuries.

He is India’s third highest run scorer in the format, only behind Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.That future will now be shaped by Iyer, who inherits a talented side and the responsibility of leading India into a new T20 World Cup cycle. With the selectors opting for change despite recent success, Indian cricket has made its choice. The Surya era is over; the Iyer era has begun.

‘Well-deserving’: Agarkar on why Shreyas Iyer is India’s new T20I captain



India entered a new era in T20I cricket on Saturday with Shreyas Iyer replacing Suryakumar Yadav as captain, with the latter’s reign coming to an end despite having lead the country to a T20 World Cup triumph in his last assignment just over two months ago. In a move that signals a clear shift in direction ahead of the next global cycle, the selectors not only handed Iyer the leadership role but also omitted Surya from all three T20I squads announced on Saturday.

The decision was among the most significant takeaways from the BCCI’s selection meeting, which unveiled squads for the Ireland and England T20I series as well as the Asian Games. While the selection of teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi grabbed plenty of attention, the leadership change marked the beginning of a fresh

‘Say Ronaldo lacks talent or Messi didn’t work— you never trained’



MbappOn the Messi-Ronaldo debate, Mbappe pushed back on the idea that one represents talent and the other hard work. e on Messi, RonaldoOn the Messi-Ronaldo debate, Mbappe pushed back on the idea that one represents talent and the other hard work. Kylian Mbappe, who scored a hat-trick in the 2022 World Cup final against Argentina, one of the greatest individual performances in the tournament’s history, has revealed he has never watched the match back and has no intention of doing so.

“If I watch it, it can wake demons,” Mbappe said in an interview with Sorare, a fantasy football platform. “We lost. You have to move on.”The France captain said it was probably the best World Cup final ever played. “In terms of entertainment, in terms of the occasion, the scenario, I don’t think there has been anything better. It ended on penalties, which is the most brutal thing possible for a supporter or a player. It was going to be historic either way, whether Leo finally won his World Cup or we did the back-to-back.”

The goal he says he has rewatched most in his career, though, is a relatively obscure one: a toe-poke against Lyon in the Coupe de France early in his career. “The ball was neither to the right nor the left. So I hit it with the pointu [toe-poke] and it went straight in. I loved that goal. I watched it many times.”Mbappe pointed to the Champions League last-16 first leg against Manchester City in 2017 as the mo-

ment his career shifted. “It was my first Champions League start, knockout stage, the competition everyone watches. There was a before and after that match. After that I became a regular starter, got called up for France, and everything moved fast.”At Monaco, he credited two players above all others. Bernardo Silva, he said, was the most gifted he had seen there. “Extraordinary technical quality, game intelligence, always one step ahead, and still raw at that point.” For what he learned, he pointed to Falcao. “He was the captain, the star, the reference point. But he was at a stage in his life where he wanted to pass things on, and I had my ears wide open. For a young striker, starting alongside someone like that, technically and as a human being, is everything.”

On the Messi-Ronaldo debate, Mbappe pushed back on the idea that one represents talent and the other hard work. “That is something said by someone who has never put on boots to train every day. If you can tell me Ronaldo has no talent or Messi hasn’t worked, you have never trained a day in your life.”

Having played alongside Messi at PSG and grown up idolising Ronaldo, he refused to separate them. “They are truly different. Everything opposes them, right foot, left foot, tall, short. That’s what made the rivalry so good.”On pressure, Mbappe said he needs it. “I need to feel the adrenaline, the tension. When you play for a big club, you don’t just have to win, you have to perform every time. There is no right to make mistakes. That stimulates me.”On retirement, Mbappe said the decision must come from the head, not the body. He described watching football with his younger brother and realising that players he had admired were seen as finished by the next generation simply because they stayed too long. “You have to stop when you no longer have the complete motivation to be part of the very best. That’s when you stop.”

Asked which opponent he would most want to face at this World Cup, he named Ronaldo. “I think it will be his last. Or Neymar’s. After this, they won’t be able to play it anymore.”

From banned teenager to England tour: Prince Yadav’s unlikely journey to India cap

GNS News Agency, June 6

“Mayank Yadav ek Indian player hai. Avesh Khan Indian player hai. Mohsin Khan, woh bhi India khel sakta hai. Sachin Tendulkar ka ladka Arjun bhi hai. Tera number kaise padega?”Ram Niwas Yadav had been counting names. He knew what each one meant. His son Prince was somewhere in the Lucknow Super Giants pace pack, trying to find his way past four established names ahead of him. The IPL contract the previous year had not settled the father. He’d seen how these things ended. It has not ended the way he feared. On Saturday, Prince Yadav was named in India’s T20I squad for the tours of Ireland and England, the latest step in a journey that has moved faster than anyone in Dariyapur Khurd could have imagined. He had already earned a maiden ODI call-up for the Afghanistan series last month. Now he is going to England.Ram Niwas, a retired ASI from the Railway Protection Special Force, remembers the afternoon Prince called home before boarding the team bus during the IPL, as he did every match day, to say he had been picked for India for the first time. “Mere samajh main nahin aa raha itni jaldi yeh sab kaise ho gaya,” he said. I cannot believe how this could happen so quickly.

Prince grew up in Dariyapur Khurd, a quiet village on the southwestern edge of Delhi. His cousin Vikram, the first in the family to study at an English medium school, had named him. He wanted something different for his nephew, a name that didn’t fit the village. No academics. No family history in cricket. The only reference point in the area was Virender Sehwag from Najafgarh, 15 kilometres away. Ram Niwas’s salary as a railway security officer was not built for chasing a dream that might never arrive.“He had this junoon for cricket. But we were from Dariyapur Khurd. I couldn’t give him money to chase something that might never come. I told him, force, police, something solid. He passed the Delhi Police physical. He wouldn’t take the written exam.”When Ram Niwas pushed, Prince pushed back. “Agar 145-150 kph main ball daalta, toh kaun mujhe rokega?” If I bowl at 145-150 kph, who is going to stop me? The father had no answer for that. He had only fear.

The phrase that kept coming back to him was the one he’d say to Prince’s mother Santosh: Tum Prince ko bigaad rahi ho. You’re ruining him by letting him play. Santosh said nothing. She kept watching her son cross half the city on public transport before dawn, bowl for hours at Amit Vashisht’s academy near Shastri Nagar, and come home exhausted to go again the next morning. They didn’t have a scooter. Prince went anyway.

Ram Niwas lay awake those years. His son was

twenty, twenty-one, bowling in a village while boys his age were in uniform or climbing bureaucratic ladders. A railway pension, a government structure, the fixed thing. That safety was not available to Prince. Vashisht, whose academy sat walled by jamun trees, saw the talent from the first session. A born talent who just needed to switch mentally from rubber to leather.Then came 2019. Prince, then 18, fudged his age to play Delhi U-19s, cutting four years off his papers. The BCCI found out and handed him a two-year ban. “Bas, iska khel khatam. His cricket is finished. Why would anyone give him another chance?” Ram Niwas thought.The lockdown arrived and swallowed those two years. When Prince came back in 2023, he was a net bowler. That was the ceiling Ram Niwas could now see.

The Delhi Premier League in 2024 changed everything. Representing Purani Dilli-6, the side led by Rishabh Pant, Prince took 13 wickets including the first hat-trick in DPL history. LSG bid Rs 30 lakh at the IPL auction in November. The family sat in front of the television. When the auctioneer called his name, the wrong face appeared on screen, a batter from Ghaziabad. After two phone calls, the confusion lifted. By midnight, the entire village knew.This IPL season, Prince took 11 wickets in six games for LSG, finishing ahead of Mohammad Shami in the franchise wicket-taker list. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar explained the selection simply: “He had a good Vijay Hazare Trophy, backed that with the IPL performance.”But the moment that made him nationally known came earlier, with a single delivery to Virat Kohli. The backstory belongs to Kohli himself. In an earlier meeting during the league, Kohli had advised Prince to develop an inswinger. Prince worked on it. And when they met again in the middle, he used that exact ball to breach Kohli’s defence and bowl him out.“The entire village celebrated,” Ram Niwas said. “Aur woh bhi aise waise nahin, bowled karke liya hai, farak padta hai.” Not just any wicket. He bowled him. That makes a difference.Saturday’s selection for the Ireland and England T20I tour puts Prince in a 15-man squad led by Shreyas Iyer, alongside Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana and Mohammed Siraj. From Dariyapur Khurd to an England tour.Ram Niwas sits quieter these days. The trophies line the living room wall. His wife Santosh moves past him toward the kitchen without saying anything. She does not need to. She had been saying it for years.“I was wrong,” Ram Niwas says. “I told him cricket would leave him with nothing. I didn’t believe the dream was possible from a village like ours.”

He pauses. “An India shirt. That’s what I want for him now.” He has one. And he is taking it to England.

I watched Obsession. The CBFC watched it too and decided what other adults could see

I walked into the theater to watch *Obsession* completely blind. No trailers, no plot synopses, no algorithmic hype. And for two hours, I was utterly transfixed. It is a terrific, deeply unsettling film layered with complex psychological undercurrents. Curry Barker's film, made in 20 days on a \$750,000 budget by a 26-year-old YouTube filmmaker, is a horror film about Bear (Michael Johnston), a music store employee who buys a supernatural toy called the "One Wish Willow" and wishes for his friend and co-worker Nikki (Inde Navarette) to love him. The wish is granted. And then everything goes terribly, horribly wrong. The wish didn't amplify any feeling — it overrode her entirely. The real Nikki remained trapped inside her own body, occasionally breaking through when she could overpower what was controlling her, before being pushed back down again. Her affection curdles into something obsessive, erratic, all-consuming. The film isn't about a supernatural curse. It's about the violence of control — what it means to have your autonomy taken, and to watch someone collect on that theft while calling it love.

My post-film high didn't last long. Scrolling through Instagram on my way home, I came across a reel about a sex scene between Bear and Nikki. People in the comments were disturbed by it; calling it difficult to watch. Saying it was the scene where you first understand — clearly, without room for misreading — that Nikki is not a willing participant. That the wish has not changed her feelings for Bear but it has taken her autonomy and she is trapped inside her own body. *Obsession* A still from *Obsession*

I had no memory of this scene. Then there is another one, later in the film, there is a scene where Sarah is killed by Nikki. Her face is barely recognisable, her features destroyed, her eyes protruding out. I had wondered in the theatre: how did she end up like that? Nikki had only banged her head against a car window. The leap in damage made no sense. I'd filed it away and moved on. The reel told me what I had missed: the scene of Nikki smashing Sarah's face repeatedly into a brick had been cut. I had watched the consequence without the cause, the wound without the weapon. I dug further. The Central Board of Film Certification had deleted 38 seconds from *Obsession* before clearing it for Indian theatres. Fourteen seconds of "graphic sexual activity." Twenty-four seconds of "extreme violence." And they had already rated the film 'A'.

Let's be precise about what was cut and why it matters. The sex scene sits inside a montage — a warm, domestic sequence showing Bear and Nikki's relationship growing in the weeks after the wish. It is supposed to look like love. And then, for just a few seconds, the film cuts to them in bed. Bear is there. And Nikki's face — turned toward the camera, carries a look of traumatic detachment. Hollow. It is a fleeting shot, almost easy to miss. But it reframes everything around it. What looked like a relationship suddenly looks like something else entirely. That is why viewers who saw the uncut version found it so difficult to watch. This is for the first time you understand Nikki's captivity and it also shows you Bear's wilful blindness. That is when the audience stops seeing him as a lovesick fool and starts seeing him for exactly what he is. Though just a few seconds long, without it you spend much longer in the film giving Bear the benefit of the doubt and reading Nikki's entrapment as something else entirely. The scene makes you see both of them clearly, much sooner than the film would otherwise allow. The CBFC did not cut a steamy scene. They cut a scene that was saying something. A scene through which the filmmaker, no matter how briefly,



was making a point — giving you his vision of who these people are and what is really happening between them. And they did it to a film that they had already rated 'A' — meant for adult audiences. They looked at this film and said — yes, this is for grown-ups — and then in the same breath decided that grown-ups cannot be trusted with the grown-up content that makes the film what it is. What exactly is the point of an adult certificate if the adults are still being protected from the film?

Dhurandhar: The Revenge — Ranveer Singh's blockbuster sequel, 'A' certified — came back from the CBFC with 21 cuts. Violence reduced, abusive words half-muted. They were not muted, they were half-muted. As actor-director Deepak Tijori pointed out publicly: what is the logic of muting the first syllable of an abuse but not the second? The same film, fully uncut, was already on OTT. The CBFC policed the theatre while the internet watched the real version.

Then there is Punjab '95. Diljit Dosanjh's film about Jaswant Singh Khrala, drawn from judicial records and CBI findings, has been stuck with the CBFC since December 2022, with 127 cuts demanded. The director said if cuts are implemented, "only the trailer will be left." Among the demands: change Khrala's name, call the Punjab Police just "Police," don't mention Indira Gandhi. It still has no Indian release date. The very people whose history it tells cannot see it.

And then there's Santosh. The Shahana Goswami film has been to the Cannes film festival, it was Britain's official Oscar entry, and was BAFTA nominated, but was blocked entirely because the CBFC's cuts were so sweeping the filmmakers called them impossible to implement without destroying the film. Goswami said it plainly: "The CBFC is meant to be a board of certification, not of censorship." That sentence contains the entire problem. The CBFC was never supposed to be a moral guardian. It was supposed to be an age-classification body. Look at a film, decide who it's appropriate for, stamp it accordingly. That is the whole job. It should not decide what adults can process emotionally, to sand down the sharp edges of difficult art, to snip out the scenes that challenge or confront. And yet that is exactly what it does — year after year, film after film, 14 seconds here, 38 seconds there. *Obsession* is a film about a woman imprisoned inside her own body by a wish someone else made for her. The deleted sex scene was a few seconds tucked inside a montage of what looked like love — and in those few seconds, Nikki's face tells you everything the rest of the montage is trying to hide. The deleted violence scene was the moment that horror becomes physical and irreversible.

Suman Kalyanpur, the gentle voice of Hindi cinema, passes away

There may be no better endorsement for a woman playback singer than being mistaken for Lata Mangeshkar. There possibly cannot be a longer shadow to live under either. For most of her career, playback singer Suman Kalyanpur lugged both. Whether it was the playful 'Na na karte pyar' (Jab Jab Phool Khile, 1965), the longing in 'Ajhun na aaye baalam' (Saanjh aur Savera, 1964), the soft romance of 'Na tum humein jaano' (Baat Ek Raat Ki, 1962) or the exuberance of the utterly delightful 'Aaj kal tere mere pyar ke charche' (Brahmachari, 1968), Kalyanpur came to be known as a singer without any excess and with a clear and clean tone. On May 31, Kalyanpur passed away at her residence in Mumbai's Lokhandwala. She was 89 and had been unwell for a little over a month. She will be cremated at 2 pm in Mumbai's Santa Cruz on Monday.

Mangala Khadilkar, who wrote Kalyanpur's biography in Marathi, confirmed the news to The Indian Express. "It happened around 8 pm. I am going to remember what a gentle person Suman tai was. As for her voice, its sweetness was so different, soft, gentle and touched your heart instantly," said Khadilkar. Back in the 1960s, Mumbai's music industry was producing songs at an astonishing pace and quality, creating what would later be remembered as the golden age of Hindi film music. This was also the time when the world of playback singing was dominated by the Mangeshkar sisters: Lata and Asha. Kalyanpur, somehow, naturally sounded like Mangeshkar and was extremely diligent and sharp in terms of hitting the notes. When Mangeshkar was abroad or unavailable, or if the producers could not afford her rate of Rs 100 per song, or if the song suffered because she refused to sing with Mohammand Rafi over royalty issues, Kalyanpur, 'the other Lata' as she was called, was asked to come in. In fact, Na tum humein jaano was recorded with Kalyanpur because SD Burman was not speaking to Mangeshkar at the time.

In a rare interview with this writer, Kalyanpur once said of the comparison, "In my college days, I used to sing Lata ji's songs. Meri aawaaz nazuk aur patli thi (My voice was fragile and thin). Also, when Radio Ceylon relayed the songs, the names were never announced. Even the records sometimes gave the wrong name. Maybe that caused more confusion. Shreya Ghoshal's voice is also thin, but can people go wrong now? We were living in different times then," she said in 2016. It was a conversation that took months of convincing. Kalyanpur sang two duets with Lata before her own songs became popular. Kabhi aaj kabhi kal in the Balraj Sahni-starrer Chand (1959) was a Hemant Kumar composition. Growing up in a pre-Partition Mumbai, Kalyanpur was the eldest of five sisters. The girls growing up in a conservative house sang because they couldn't play outside. Her parents loved bhajans. But singing could be done at home. She was still a teenager when some neighbours asked her to sing for Ganpati Mahotsav. After listening to her, another one of her neighbours, DB Jog, asked her to sing for his Marathi film Shauchi Chandni



(1953). That got Kalyanpur inside a recording studio. Jog was her father's friend and permission was granted. The film, however, never took off. At 16, when she was a student at Sir JJ School of Art, noted singer Talat Mehmoond heard her sing at a college function and "gave shabaashi". He then put her in touch with the recording company HMV. Despite the equivalents of A & R managers of today calling her voice "amateurish", Kalyanpur bagged a song in Darwaaza (1954) and debuted alongside Mehmoond with the delicate and melodious Ek dil, do hain talabgaar. The film was produced by Ismat Chughtai and people noticed. This was followed by Chhodo chhodo mori baiyaan (Miya Bibi Raazi, 1960), Na tum humein jaano (Baat Ek Raat Ki, 1962), Mere sang ga, gunguna (Janwar, 1965), and Tumne pukaara aur hum chale aaye (Rajkumar, 1964), among others. "Post Independence, everyone was really excited to do something. My father also agreed about me singing but accompanied me to every recording. It was quite conservative at that time as people talked quickly," says Kalyanpur, who, after getting married in 1958, was accompanied by her husband to every recording session. When Kalyanji Anandji's Na na karte pyar came out, Mangeshkar, many people thought, had woven her magic once again. So in the late '80s, when Doordarshan, in its famous show, Chhaya Geet, attributed the song to singers Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammad Rafi, no one batted an eyelid. Kalyanpur's daughter Charul called up the Prasara Bharati office and requested them to rectify the error. "No one believed me. It sounded like Lataji's," said Charul Hemmady to The Indian Express. Her last popular number in the industry was Behna ne bhai ki kalai pe (Resham Ki Dori) in 1974. She sang about 100 songs for composer Usha Khanna. She also sang for composer Anu Malik and Bappi Lahiri in the '80s but soon bowed out of the industry in 1986, after singing for almost 100 films. Her final song, which was for the film Love 86, actor Govinda's debut, was never released. Laxmikant Pyarelal didn't use her version. They rerecorded it in Alka Yagnik's voice.. She did do an HMV album in 1997, rerecording her old numbers, but the album didn't get much attention.

Bobby Deol says 'heartbreak' of being replaced in Jab We Met made him a 'better actor'

Actor Bobby Deol will be seen as a has-been star in Anurag Kashyap's thriller *Bandar*, slated to release in cinemas on June 5. The role has parallels to Bobby's real-life acting career, given he bounced back after years of lows with films like Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 2023 family crime drama *Animal*, and shows like Prakash Jha's Amazon MXPlayer crime drama *Aashram* and Aryan Khan's Netflix India directorial debut *The Ba***ds of Bollywood*. In a recent interview, Bobby reflected on how he used the "hate" and "anger" from a challenging period in his life to become a "better actor."

One of the major setbacks in Bobby's low career phase was when he was replaced by Shahid Kapoor as the male lead in Imtiaz Ali's 2007 seminal romantic comedy *Jab We Met*. Even though Bobby had gotten Imtiaz as well as the leading lady, Kareena Kapoor, on board, and was actively pitching the film to production houses, he realized later that one of those banners made the same film with the same director and the same leading lady, only replacing Bobby as the male lead with Shahid. "That story is done now. We're friends. My heart got broken because I needed a film like this during that phase of my career," Bobby Deol said on Aap Ki Adalat. "I had great confidence in Imtiaz since the time when he was making *Socha Na Tha* with Abhay. When I watched the rough cut, I was so taken in and excited by his work. I thought he's such a good director, I should work with him," he added. Imtiaz Ali made his feature directorial debut with the 2005 rom-com *Socha Na Tha*, starring Bobby's cousin Abhay Deol, in his acting debut, opposite Ayesha Takia. The film was produced by Bobby's father and legendary actor Dharmendra's production house Vijayta Films, and supervised by his elder brother and actor-filmmaker Sunny Deol.

"That's when we first decided we'd make a film together. But when your market position isn't good, nobody backs you. So much time passed trying to get the film started. The production house I pitched it to said Imtiaz is a very expensive director. But the same production house ended up making the film with Imtiaz, and with the same heroine I'd gotten on board," recalled Bobby Deol. "These things do happen. It never happens that only good things happen to someone," reasoned Bobby, adding, "When I began working on myself, I decided the hurt and anger I've gone through



should become my strength. Because you can't just keep crying about it. These things made me a better person and a better actor. I've only learnt from them. I don't have any qualms with anyone." Bobby Deol previously opened up about the *Jab We Met* incident during an appearance on Raj Shamani's podcast *Figuring Out* last year. "I was heartbroken. I was not getting work. I was doing films with certain directors... They were typical Bollywood films. I have nothing against Imtiaz. I love the guy; he's one of the most talented directors we have in the industry. I guess, in that moment in his career, he was also insecure and had to make choices. But it happened in a bad way." However, Imtiaz Ali's side of the story is slightly different. "Socha Na Tha got over, but I still didn't make the film for two years because I wanted Bobby to start it (*Jab We Met*). But he was getting other offers from big directors, so he was waiting for that to happen. He kept postponing my film, but then a time came when I didn't find it correct because a lot of time went by," the filmmaker told The Lallantop in 2023.

Nargis called relationship with Raj Kapoor a 'horrible nightmare': 'Made me feel disgusting'

Nargis was all of 16 when she met Raj Kapoor, a 22-year-old budding filmmaker who was still trying to put together the first film of his newly built RK Studios. As is well documented, they fell in love, even though Raj was married to Krishna Raj Kapoor. Their relationship existed in their utopian world but the bubble burst when Nargis realised that this relationship was a lost cause. For a star of her stature, she found that her opportunities were starting to decrease dramatically in the mid-1950s, and even at RK Studios, she wasn't getting the kind of work that had first gotten her recognition.

Other banners often looked to Raj, as if to seek his permission, before casting Nargis. She had also come to the difficult realisation that Raj was never going to leave his wife, and while this broke her heart, she had snapped out of the lovesick state that she had been locked in for almost a decade. This was right around the time when Mehboob Khan offered her *Mother India*, a role that carved her name in Hindi cinema's history, and it was on this set that she met the love of her life, her future husband, Sunil Dutt. Threat of Raj Kapoor drove Sunil Dutt-Nargis to keep their relationship a secret

In the film, Sunil was playing Nargis' son and the two, along with Rajendra Kumar, would hang out together. When a fire broke out on the set of the film, Sunil rescued Nargis and in the days that followed, Nargis fell in love with him. Sunil's burns were much worse than hers and she sat by his bedside for days to look after him. The kind exchanges between the two made her understand the true meaning of love and within a fortnight, they knew that they wanted to get married.

Raj's bruised ego and the shock that Nargis had cut ties with him were a lot to bear for him. He, too, had been madly in love with her and could not understand what led to her sudden decision. Raj was an influential figure in Bollywood at the time, while Sunil was just a newcomer. With the power play involved in the film industry, which was just as ugly back then, Sunil and Nargis did not want to risk anything. Despite living in the same city, they decided to write letters to each other so no one could spot them together. Nargis was scared of her brother Akhtar Hussain, who had been physically violent with her because of her alliance with Raj. Sunil and Nargis also didn't want to jeopardise his career, as they were playing mother-son in *Mother India*, and any news about their romantic relationship could harm the film even before its release. Many of those letters, and some parts of Nargis' journals, are documented in Kishwar Desai's book *Darlingji: The True Love Story Of Nargis & Sunil Dutt*.

'Relationship with Raj Kapoor was a horrible nightmare' Sunil, in later years of his life, revealed that in these letters, they addressed each other as 'Pia' and 'Hey There', or sometimes as 'Marilyn Monroe' and 'Elvis Presley'. Nargis felt that she could be completely honest with Sunil, even with regard to her failed relationship with Raj. Sunil had created such a safe space for her that she comfortable to open up about her fears. She confessed to him that her relationship with Raj was on "razor's edge" towards the end and she could feel herself "desperately" trying to hold on to it. Describing it as a "horrible nightmare", Nargis said that she was "in hell." She felt like her love was a "beautiful plant which wanted to bloom but could not because there was poison in the soil" and told him that Raj "had started making me feel disgusting even to myself."

After meeting Sunil, Nargis felt she could finally breathe again. Here was a man who was honest and dependable, and even though he was yet to become a successful movie star, it did not matter to her. In one of her letters, she told Sunil that she had found love after "so many years of misery." She had convinced herself that she was in love in the past, but had just realised that it was "just lust and passions from the other side, and I satisfied it at the cost of my life." Sunil was well aware that Nargis was a star, and he was yet to become someone noteworthy. During this phase, he was constantly in awe of her and often wondered how a superstar of her stature was so simple. When Sunil's sister suffered from tuberculosis, Nargis put her life on hold and took care of her. "I knew she was the one I wanted to be



with. She could be with my family. They had been through a lot and she could put a smile on their face," he shared in the 1991 documentary named *Nargis*.

Sunil and Nargis had found each other but many around her were constantly sowing seeds of doubt in her head. Director Mehboob Khan felt that Sunil was using her to get ahead in his career, but Nargis paid no attention to his remarks. After her mother Jaddanbai's passing, Nargis had become the sole earner of the household, where she had to take care of her brothers and their children. In one of her letters, she told Sunil that she was "being forced to work because I need the money. My heart is not in my work anymore. I feel quite fed up... I want to go away from India so badly, but I find no way."

When Nargis broke up with Raj, gossipmongers in the industry started badmouthing her. When one such story reached Sunil, she told him that they would say anything to malign her image. She described Raj as a "bad dream" and said she was "not concerned with him anymore."

Even though Nargis did not wish to work anymore, she had to continue for she wanted to protect the future of her nephews and nieces. During this time, she went to Moscow to shoot for director KA Abbas' *Pardesi*, an Indo-USSR collaboration which starred her with the Soviet actor Oleg Strizhenov. She and Sunil had been together only for a few months and were writing to each other every day. Raj, who was yet to come to terms with this break-up, was still sending her telegrams, trying to claw his way back into her life. While in Russia, the memories of the time she spent with Raj rushed back, but Nargis stood her ground. "All of them were asking about Raj. I am so fed up with answering them," she wrote to Sunil. She had found stable support in Sunil but while in Moscow, he felt that she was surrounded by "Raj's men". Art director Madhu Achrelkar pushed her to work with Raj again and said that they were "destined" to work together. Director KA Abbas also pushed her to work with Raj again, but she ignored his suggestions. Meanwhile, Raj would constantly check with the crew and enquire about Nargis' whereabouts. Sunil was naturally worried as Nargis told him that her work was being delayed, and he had heard rumours that Raj was on his way to Russia, just so he could meet her. "My love, my only worry is that you are alone," he told her. Sometimes, their letters to each other wouldn't reach on time, and Sunil would start panicking. To reassure him, Nargis told him that after her parents died, she "trusted Raj" but he "after exploiting me, did not bother about me." Nargis reaffirmed to Sunil that Raj was history for her, but it was then that Raj left her shocked with an unannounced visit in Germany. Nargis was on her way back to India from the USSR when she had to make a stop in Berlin. Nargis had the "most unexpected" encounter with Raj at the airport, and was told that he was there to attend a film festival. Raj Kapoor and Nargis Raj Kapoor dropped in on Nargis while she was in Berlin. Raj, she said, "behaved like a perfect gentleman" as they spent an afternoon together, followed by dinner. "He said that he knew I am no more for him and that there is no going back for me. The only urge that he wanted to satisfy was to know what is the cause of the separation," she wrote. Nargis was "frank" with Raj, the way she had never been before. "We were like friends or associates, like co-workers and nothing beyond that," she said and felt that this meeting took a "big load off her chest." "Everything was said gracefully, no emotional upsets,"