

EYE SECRETS

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Revanth Reddy Rattled by BJP's Growing Strength, Says Ramchander Rao

"Eyesecrets Hyderabad, July 1:

Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of reacting out of "fear and frustration" over the Bharatiya Janata Party's growing political influence in the state. "Speaking to the media on the completion of his first year as Telangana BJP president, Rao strongly defended the recent visit of BJP National President Nitin Nabin and dismissed the Chief Minister's criticism as a reflection of political insecurity.

Rao alleged that Revanth Reddy was uncomfortable with the BJP leadership exposing what he described as the alleged "RR Tax" system and raising concerns over the utilisation of public funds, particularly in connection with the proposed Musi Riverfront Development Project. According to him, the BJP's allegations regarding revenue collection and diversion of public money had unsettled the Congress government.

The BJP leader further said that Nitin Nabin's call for a "Congress-Mukt Telangana" had struck a chord with the people and deeply unsettled Congress leaders. He claimed that despite repeated electoral setbacks across the country, the Congress leadership continued to display arrogance instead of introspection. "Asserting that Telangana's voters would reject what he termed the Congress

government's "arrogant attitude," Rao drew parallels with the defeat of the previous BRS regime led by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. He expressed confidence that the Congress government too would face a similar political fate in the next Assembly elections. "Taking a swipe at the Congress, Rao invoked the BJP slogan, "Jitna Keechad Uchaaloge, Utna Kamal Khilega" (the more mud you sling, the more the lotus will bloom), saying criticism would only strengthen the BJP's resolve and public support.

Reflecting on his one-year tenure as state BJP president, Rao thanked party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, office-bearers, morchha leaders and grassroots workers for their support in expanding the party's organisational strength across Telangana. He called upon the cadre to intensify their efforts and work unitedly to bring the BJP to power in the next Assembly elections.

"BJP State official spokesperson and media in-charge N.V. Subhash, along with several senior party leaders, attended the interaction. "The BJP has intensified its campaign against the Congress government in Telangana, with both parties exchanging sharp political attacks ahead of the next electoral battle. Rao maintained that the BJP would continue highlighting issues of governance, accountability and alleged corruption while presenting itself as the principal alternative in the state.



People Ready for 'Congress-Mukt Telangana';: Ramchander Rao

"Eyesecrets "Hyderabad, July 1: Claiming that the BJP has emerged as the principal political force challenging the Congress government in Telangana, BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao on Tuesday asserted that the overwhelming public response to BJP National President Nitin Nabin during his recent three-day visit has unnerved the ruling Congress and triggered panic within the state leadership. "Addressing mediapersons at the BJP state headquarters after completing one year as the party's state president, Ramchander Rao alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was visibly shaken by the unprecedented reception accorded to Nitin Nabin across Telangana. He remarked that the Chief Minister's recent statements reflected fear, frustration and political insecurity rather than confidence. "The BJP leader criticized Revanth Reddy for making what he termed "arrogant" remarks against Nitin Nabin, saying the BJP national president has earned recognition for his electoral strategy and organisational capabilities. According to Rao, the Chief Minister's comments suggesting that no one could politically challenge him only exposed his anxiety following the success of the BJP leader's Telangana tour. "Rao asserted that the slogan of "Congress-Mukt Telangana", raised by Nitin Nabin, has struck a chord with the people. He alleged that the Congress government has lost public confidence due to corruption and the alleged collection of "RR Tax," claiming that citizens are now looking towards the BJP as a credible alternative. "Throwing an open challenge to the Chief Minister, Ramchander Rao said he was prepared for a public debate comparing the developmental achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government in Telangana with the performance of the Congress government in the state. He



said the debate could even be held outside the Secretariat, adding that the BJP would "bring umbrellas if it rains," underscoring his confidence in the party's record. "Highlighting the BJP's growing organisational strength, Rao said the party had witnessed remarkable participation in its internal programmes, including meetings attended by nearly 10,000 booth presidents in Hyderabad, 5,000 workers in Warangal, 3,000 party functionaries during a district office inauguration, and 450 delegates at the State Executive Meeting. He claimed that if such organisational events had already unsettled the Congress leadership, the ruling party would face an even bigger political challenge when Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses future public meetings in Telangana. "Responding to a question on the INDIA bloc leaders writing to the Chief Justice of India regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Rao said involving the Chief Justice in political controversies was inappropriate. He maintained that there are established legal mechanisms to address such concerns and cautioned against politicising constitutional institutions.

Government Ensures Timely Salary Disbursal to Outsourcing and Contract Employees

Eye secrets Hyderabad, July 1: "Acting on the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Finance Department on Wednesday released salaries on the first day of the month to outsourcing, contract, and honorarium employees serving in various government departments, corporations, societies, universities, and other state government institutions. "The Chief Minister had recently directed officials to ensure that salary disbursement is not delayed for any category of employees, observing that prolonged delays were causing financial hardship. He emphasized that, alongside regular employees, personnel engaged on contract, outsourcing, and honorarium basis should also receive their remuneration in a timely and systematic manner. "In compliance with these directions, the Finance Department issued a comprehensive circular to all departments and administrative units, mandating strict adherence to the salary processing schedule. The circular instructed departments to submit salary and remuneration bills to the Treasury, Pay and Accounts Office, and other designated accounting authorities by the 25th of ev-

ery month, while ensuring that scrutiny, audit, and authorization procedures are completed before the last working day of the month. "Reviewing the implementation on Wednesday, the Chief Minister sought a status report from Finance Department officials regarding salary disbursement to outsourcing and contract employees. Officials informed him that salaries had been successfully credited to all eligible employees in departments that had submitted their bills within the stipulated timeframe. "The initiative reflects the State Government's commitment to strengthening administrative efficiency, ensuring fiscal discipline, and safeguarding the financial well-being of employees through the timely release of salaries.



Telangana Govt Ensures First-Day Salary Credit for Contract, Outsourcing Staff

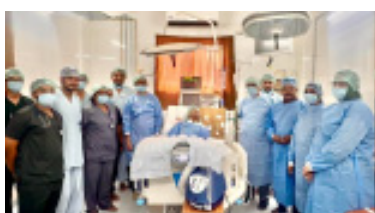
"Eyesecrets: "Hyderabad, July 1: "In a major relief for thousands of employees, the Telangana Government, under the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has ensured that salaries for outsourcing, contract, and honorarium employees are credited on the very first day of every month. "Following the Chief Minister's instructions, the Finance Department streamlined the salary disbursal process by directing all government departments, corporations, universities, and state institutions to sub-

mit salary bills by the 25th of each month, enabling payments to be processed before month-end. "Reviewing the implementation on Wednesday, the Chief Minister was informed that salaries had been successfully credited to all eligible employees in departments that complied with the prescribed schedule. "The initiative underscores the government's commitment to timely salary payments, improved administrative efficiency, fiscal discipline, and the financial security of contract and outsourcing employees.

CM Congratulates Osmania Doctors on Historic Five-Organ Transplant

Hyderabad, July 1: "Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has congratulated the doctors and medical staff of Osmania General Hospital for successfully performing a rare and highly complex five-organ transplant after a continuous 36-hour surgery. "The procedure involved the simultaneous transplantation of the stomach, duodenum, pancreas, small intestine and large intestine into a 30-year-old engineer from Sircilla, marking a first-of-its-kind achievement in India. The surgery is being hailed as a major milestone for Telangana's public healthcare system. "The

Chief Minister noted that accomplishing such a landmark feat on National Doctors' Day reflects the exceptional expertise, dedication and teamwork of the Osmania medical team. He lauded the doctors, anaesthesiologists, nurses and supporting staff for setting a new benchmark in advanced medical care and bringing national recognition to the state's government healthcare services.



BJP's N.V. Subash Slams CM Revanth Reddy's 'Arrogance', Exposes Congress' Double Standards on Electoral Reforms

"Eyesecrets "Hyderabad, July 1: Telangana BJP Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subash launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of political arrogance while also exposing what he termed the Congress party's "double standards" on the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. "Addressing the media, N.V. Subash strongly condemned the Chief Minister's reported remarks mocking BJP National President Nitin Nabin, stating that such comments reflected insecurity and a disregard for democratic values. He said it was unbecoming of a Chief Minister to claim ignorance about the leader of the world's largest political party. "Subash asserted that political confidence should never be mistaken for arrogance and noted that Nitin Nabin's optimism about the BJP forming the next government in Telangana was a legitimate expression of confidence in the party's growing support. He highlighted that the BJP has consistently promoted leaders through dedication, merit and organisational commitment, describing Nitin Nabin as a young, experienced and clean-image leader who rose through public service. "Taking a direct swipe at Revanth Reddy, Subash said leaders who display arrogance ultimately face public rejection, recalling the political setbacks suffered by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and other leaders across the country. He fur-

ther remarked that before ridiculing political opponents, the Chief Minister should introspect about the growing dissatisfaction with his own leadership. "According to Subash, the Congress government is facing increasing public anger over its failure to fulfil key election promises and guarantees, resulting in visible anti-incumbency. He expressed confidence that the BJP is steadily emerging as Telangana's most credible political alternative, offering accountable, transparent and people-centric governance. "On the issue of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, N.V. Subash accused the Congress of practising blatant hypocrisy. While INDIA bloc partners, including the DMK and AAP, have questioned the SIR process, the Congress continues to showcase Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar as a champion of the very same electoral exercise in Karnataka. "Subash emphasized that the Supreme Court has already recognised the Election Commission's constitutional authority to conduct Special Intensive Revision. He described the opposition's attempt to challenge the exercise through a letter to the Chief Justice of India as a politically motivated publicity stunt lacking legal merit. "Reaffirming the BJP's commitment to democratic institutions, N.V. Subash said the people of Telangana are looking for honest, transparent and accountable governance and expressed confidence that the BJP will emerge as the preferred choice in the state.

EYE SECRETS Editorial

Europe bears the brunt of climate crisis

The scorching heat sweeping across Europe, claiming over 1,300 lives this season, is a stark reminder of the deepening climate crisis and the broken promises of nations to meet emission targets.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that Europe has lost over 2 lakh people to heat in the past four years. Climate breakdown is heating Europe faster than any other continent because of local weather patterns and proximity to the rapidly melting Arctic.

BJP leader seeks Centre's intervention in Buggapadu Food Park land row

Khammam: Taking alleged irregularities in land allocations at Buggapadu Mega Food Park, Sathupalli, in the district to the notice of the Centre, senior BJP leader Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy has sought Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan's intervention in the matter.

In a letter to the Union Minister recently, he said the allegations had led to widespread public concern, raised questions regarding transparency in the implementation of the project and urged the Minister to safeguard the objectives of the Food Park.

Sudhakar Reddy also met BJP national president Nitin Nabin during the recent party meeting in Warangal and brought the Food Park issue to his notice, explaining the details.

It may be noted that there were allegations of allotting 72 acres of land to Andhra Pradesh-based Deepak Nexgen Feeds Pvt Ltd at Rs 25 lakh per acre though the price fixed per acre was Rs 51 lakh. The TGILC district zonal manager, Ajmeera Swamy, maintained that the allotment process was transparent and, at the company's request, the price was rationalised to Rs 25 lakh per acre.

Referring to the matter, Sudhakar Reddy wanted the Union Minister to call for a comprehensive status report on the progress of the Food Park, review the utilisation of Central assistance and ensure that the project remains dedicated to the welfare of farmers and employment generation.

Sudhakar Reddy stated that according to official responses provided by the Centre in the Lok Sabha on February 5, 2026, and the Rajya Sabha on March 27, 2026, the number of jobs created at the Khammam Mega Food Park was recorded as zero even though the project was approved in 2016.

He pointed out that Ministers D Sridhar Babu and Tummala Nageswara Rao, in December 2025, announced that Deepak Nexgen Feeds Pvt Ltd would invest around Rs 615 crore and that the public has the right to know the current status of the investment, when the company applied for land, when the land was allocated and whether financial and technical evaluations were conducted.

Sudhakar Reddy further sought to know the rationale behind establishing a shrimp and fish food processing industry, a sector with limited local cultivation, instead of focusing on industries based on crops like cotton and chilli, which are largely grown by farmers in Khammam district. He demanded that the Telangana Government immediately release a White Paper containing details such as Central funds, State government contribution, allotment of plots to industries, investments realised, employment generated and other information.

Foreign Student Admissions at Lalitha Bagh College Under Scanner; Inquiry Sparks Political Row

Delegation Alleges Illegal Admissions, Missing Refugee Documents; Former Corporator Accused of Obstructing Inspection

"Eyesecrets "Hyderabad | July 1""Serious allegations have surfaced against Morale's Junior College, functioning under the Nooriya Cooperative Society in the Kummariwadi locality of Lalitha Bagh Division, after a delegation claimed that foreign nationals, including individuals allegedly from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the Rohingya community, were studying at the institution without proper legal documentation.



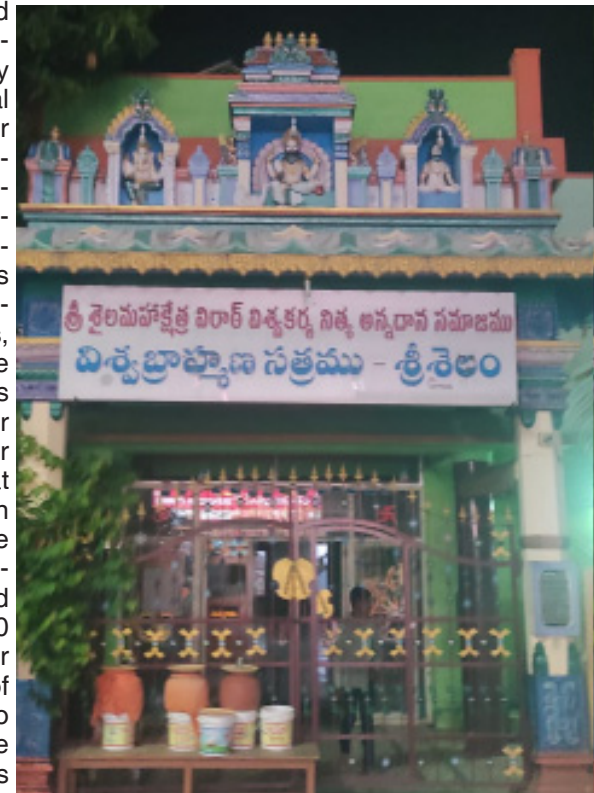
available in the college records to substantiate the claim. "The delegation also raised concerns over the institution allegedly operating both a school and a junior college from the same premises, calling for authorities to examine whether the institution complies with the prescribed educational norms.

sales in the division. The delegation alleged that such remarks indicated prior knowledge of these alleged unlawful activities. "The delegation has demanded an immediate investigation by the concerned authorities into the citizenship status of the students, the legality of the admissions process, the institution's compliance with educational regulations, and the role of all individuals allegedly involved.



Devotees Humiliated at Srisailam Viswabrahmin Satram, Alleges Community Leader Demand for Better Facilities, Fair Wages for Workers

"Eye secrets Srisailam | July 1""Serious allegations have been raised against the Srisailam Mallanna Viswabrahmin Virat Viswakarma Annadana Satram, with Hyderabad Uppuguda Viswabrahmin Viswakarma Sangham Vice-President Poloju Dakshinamurthy claiming that devotees are being subjected to humiliation and that workers are being denied fair wages and basic employment benefits.



Prominent spiritual guru Dr Suresh Kumar receives Bharat Book of World Records Award

Prominent spiritual guru Dr Kochcharla Suresh Kumar from Kothagudem has been honoured with the Bharat Book of World Records Award for his contributions to spirituality, traditional knowledge, education, social service, Indian cultural heritage and the promotion of Sanatana Dharma.

Kothagudem: Kothagudem-based prominent spiritual guru Dr Kochcharla Suresh Kumar, a follower of the sacred Sri Shankaracharya Guru Parampara, has been honoured with the prestigious Bharat Book of World Records Award.

The award was presented to him by Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale, former Minister and MP Anoop Pradhan Valmiki, National Commission for Backward Classes member Kiran Umesh Mahalle and Bharat Book of World Records president Dr Avinash D Sakhunde at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, recently.

The award stands as recognition of Dr Suresh Kumar's exceptional contributions to spirituality, traditional knowledge, education, social service and Indian cultural heritage, speakers at the ceremony stated.

Having received initiation into the sacred Sri Vidya Maha Mantra Shastra, Dr Suresh Kumar has dedicated over 24 years to the promotion of Sri Vidya worship and Sanatana Dharma and has offered spiritual guidance to hundreds of disciples and devotees.

He is also a renowned scholar in Traditional Vastu



Shastra and Vedic Astrology. Certified by Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, he is a distinguished music teacher trained in Indian Classical Vocal Music and Veena.

Dr Suresh Kumar has studied important aspects of traditional Ayurveda, conducted research on naturally available medicinal herbs and developed a traditional herbal approach for fertility support. He has received numerous honours and awards at the State and national levels, including an Honorary Doctorate.

Khammam cyber crime police arrests two cyber criminals in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram

Khammam: The district cyber crime police have arrested two persons in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in connection with an online fraud case involving approximately Rs 94 lakh. In a statement here on Wednesday, Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt informed that the accused had deceived a Khammam-based employee by promising high returns on online trading and investments through a company called 'Dolat Capital Investment



Club'. The victim was contacted through WhatsApp and lured into investing money using specific links and applications. Of the total Rs 94 lakh lost, Rs 13 lakh has been traced to the bank accounts of the two arrested individuals, Ashina and Nisamuddin. After arresting them in Thiruvananthapuram, they were brought to Khammam on a transit warrant, produced before the cyber crime court and subsequently remanded to judicial custody, the CP noted. Sunil Dutt commended DSP (Cyber Crime) Ch R V Phaninder, Inspector Ravi Kumar, SIs Ranjith Kumar and Vijay Kumar, head constable Srinivasa Rao, constables Venkata Krishna Rao, Nagendra, Krishna Prasad and Swapna, along with the cyber crime police station staff, for nabbing the accused.

Custody procedures under scrutiny after Narsingi drug peddler escape

HYDERABAD: The alleged escape of drug peddler Muzaffar from Narsingi police station has once again brought into focus the practices governing the custody of suspects in police stations and those brought on remand. Senior police officers say these Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are meant not only to prevent escapes but also to safeguard detainees.

Not following prescribed procedures could create serious legal and administrative consequences for the officers concerned, a senior police officer said. Some suspects resort to self-harm in an attempt to avoid interrogation or the legal process, making constant supervision vital.

According to an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), after a suspect is brought to a police station, his physical build, agility, and behaviour are assessed before deciding whether to lodge him in a lock-up or keep him under separate supervision. "If he can reach the ventilator, electrical wiring or light fittings, alternative arrangements are made. Every suspect is handled according to the risk involved," he said.

Police officials said lock-ups are inspected before a detainee is confined. Broken glass, metal objects, utensils, and other materials that could be used for self-harm are removed, while ventilator grills, doors, and other fixtures are checked for possible escape routes. A senior Detective Inspector said every suspect is frisked before entering the lock-up.

"Footwear, belts, chains, mobile phones and similar items are taken away. If there is a risk that detainees may attack each other or try to strangle someone using their clothes, they are kept only in undergarments as a precaution," the officer said.

Washrooms are one of the most vulnerable areas during custody. An official of the Central Crime Station (CCS) said there have been instances where suspects attempted to consume phenyl or acid kept in washrooms or used razor blades left behind after shaving to injure themselves. "There have been instances of suspects attempting suicide in washrooms, leading to inquiries against the personnel concerned," the CCS official said. Another police official said at least two policemen escort a detainee to the washroom. Depending on the risk involved, the suspect is handcuffed, kept under watch with the washroom door partially open, or restrained using a long chain held by an escorting policeman outside.

Dr. Vishal Akula selected for prestigious national IMA award

Hyderabad: Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Government Medical College, Nizamabad, Dr. Vishal Akula, has been selected for the prestigious Dr. Ketan Desai Aao Gaon Chalen Award (Rural Services) by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the country's largest professional organization of doctors.

The senior neuropsychiatrist and drug de-addiction specialist has been selected for the award for his outstanding contributions to rural healthcare, community mental health services, de-addiction initiatives, public health awareness, and his dedicated service to society over the years.



Dr. Vishal will receive the prestigious award during the National Doctors' Day awards ceremony on July 18 at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, in the presence of the IMA national leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vishal dedicated the honour to his patients, colleagues, students, and all healthcare professionals working tirelessly to improve mental healthcare and rural health services. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving society with compassion, scientific excellence, and community-oriented healthcare initiatives.

The senior mental health specialist, who is also president-elect of the IPS (Indian Psychiatric Society) Telangana State Branch, expressed his gratitude to all the state and national-level members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for conferring the prestigious national honour.

Asifabad police burn 414 kg of ganja worth Rs 1.70 crore

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: The district police disposed of 414 kg of ganja seized over the last two years. The value of the ganja was assessed at Rs 1.70 crore.

SP Nitika Pant, in a press statement, said that the ganja recovered in 57 cases registered in

Uncertainty looms over Rythu Bharosa disbursement

Hyderabad: Even as the Congress government launched the disbursement of Rythu Bharosa financial assistance to farmers on Tuesday, uncertainty persists over how many beneficiaries the scheme will eventually cover in the ongoing Vaanakalam (Kharif) season. Though the government announced that the first phase will cover 41.37 lakh farmers owning up to two acres, with an outlay of Rs 2,482.02 crore, it did not specify a timeline for subsequent phases or confirm whether farmers with larger holdings will receive their due.

Nearly two-and-a-half years after coming to power on a promise of enhanced investment support for farmers, the government continues to face criticism over the scheme's implementation, with unpaid dues, delayed disbursements and the absence of a clear policy framework remaining unresolved.

The Congress had promised Rs 15,000 per acre annually, which works out to Rs 7,500 per acre per season, but later restricted this to Rs 12,000 annually. However, even the revised commitment has not been implemented uniformly across seasons. As per official records, the previous BRS government provided Rythu Bandhu investment support to around 1.48

crore acres of land per season. But after the Congress came to power, it has never been extended in full in any season, excluding Vaanakalam 2025.

Based on the original manifesto promise, farmers should have received about Rs 55,800 crore over the five cropping seasons since the Congress took office. Only around Rs 27,080 crore has reportedly been disbursed, leaving a shortfall of Rs 28,720 crore. Even when calculated at the revised rate of Rs 6,000 per acre per season, the outstanding amount works out to Rs 17,560 crore.

Beyond the funding gap, the scheme has suffered from the absence of comprehensive guidelines and a transparent eligibility framework. The government has changed its mode of disbursement across seasons and restricted payments to farmers owning up to two or three acres during a couple of seasons, without clearly articulating the basis for such exclusions.

Unlike the earlier Rythu Bandhu scheme, under which investment support was released to all eligible landowners at the start of every cropping season, Rythu Bharosa has not been implemented uni-



formly in any of the five seasons since the Congress assumed office. The 2024 Vaanakalam season reportedly saw no disbursement at all, while subsequent seasons saw phased payments with acreage limits, leaving a section of farmers outside the scheme's ambit.

With investment support continuing to arrive in instalments rather than as a predictable seasonal benefit, questions remain over whether the government can fully deliver on one of its flagship electoral promises.

Harish Rao says Congress owes farmers Rs 29,300 crore under Rythu Bharosa

Mahabubnagar: Mounting a sharp attack on the Congress government over the implementation of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao said it had defaulted on Rs 29,300 crore in investment support promised to farmers. He demanded a clear timeline for clearing the dues.

Addressing a meeting of BRS cadre as part of the party's membership enrolment and SIR awareness programme in Jachcherla on Tuesday, Harish Rao said the proposed Rythu Ashirvada Sabha organised by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad should instead be called a "Rythu Vanchana Sabha" (farmers' betrayal meeting). He said the Congress government had failed to honour its election promise of providing Rs 15,000 per acre annually under Rythu Bharosa and had instead reduced the benefit to Rs 12,000.

He said even that amount was not paid uniformly, with assistance restricted to a limited extent of land during successive cropping seasons. "By the government's own calculations, Rs 29,300 crore remains due to Telangana farmers under Rythu Bharosa," he said, demanding that the Chief Minister announce when the pending amount would be credited to beneficiaries.

Comparing it with the previous BRS government, Harish Rao said the K Chandrashekhara Rao government transferred Rs 73,000 crore to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme in 11 consecutive instalments without interruption, even during the COVID-19 pandemic and drought years. In contrast, the Congress government skipped assistance for three cropping seasons after assuming office, he observed.

The senior BRS leader also accused the government of failing to complete its promised farm loan waiver, ensure timely fertiliser availability and procure paddy adequately. He questioned the State government's decision to restrict paddy procurement to the quantity procured by the Centre, asking about the fate of the remaining produce.



Harish Rao criticised the Congress government for diluting its promise of a bonus for all paddy varieties and criticised the proposed Rythu DISCOM, stating that it could eventually phase out 24-hour free power supply to the agriculture sector. He also alleged that the Rythu Bima insurance scheme had remained non-functional for several months, leaving over 7,600 bereaved farming families awaiting benefits.

The former Minister accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil commitments on fee reimbursement, pensions and welfare programmes, while spending lavishly on beauty pageants, football exhibition matches and helicopter rides. He said that while major irrigation projects completed during the BRS regime had transformed Palamuru from a migration-prone region into an irrigated agricultural belt, the present Congress regime had failed to create fresh ayacut of even an acre.

"While neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are constructing new projects and threatening our river water rights, Revanth Reddy has remained silent," he said. Calling upon party workers to take the government's unfulfilled promises and alleged scams to every village, he exuded confidence that the BRS would return to power and win all 14 Assembly seats in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district.

June monsoon stable across Greater Hyderabad even as 15 Telangana districts face deficit

Hyderabad: A month into the onset of southwest monsoon, Telangana has registered a normal but slightly deficit rainfall. While Hyderabad has received normal rainfall, there are a total of 15 districts that are in deficit criteria between June 1 and June 29.

Overall, according to the rainfall data from



Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), the State actually received 113 mm (11.3 cm) of rainfall against the normal of 124.6 mm (12.46 cm), which comes under the normal category.

Hyderabad, in the last one month, received

actual rainfall of 103.0 mm (10.3 cm) against the normal rainfall of 104.4 mm while Medchal-Malkajgiri district was not that lucky, as it actually received 63 mm of rainfall against the normal of 104 mm (10.4 cm).

However, the standout performer for the Greater Hyderabad region has been Rangareddy district, which has experienced excellent monsoon activity by receiving 141.3 mm (14.13 cm) of rainfall while its normal rainfall is 93.3 mm.

According to TSDPS data, the Rangareddy district holds the highest number of rainy days (14 days) in the entire Greater Hyderabad zone, which means it rained every other day in the district.

Similarly, Vikarabad recorded 105.9 mm (10.59 cm) of rainfall against its normal of 110.1 mm (11.01 cm), while Sangareddy witnessed 124.5 mm (12.45 cm) against its normal average of 115.5 mm (11.55 cm), both within the normal category.

Despite a slow start to the monsoon in some areas, the cumulative statewide volume marks a substantial recovery, when compared to last year. The current June figure of 113 mm (11.3 cm) is a solid 21 percent improvement over the 93.7 mm (9.37 cm) registered during the exact same period in the 2025-26 financial year.

Mulugu, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Hyderabad, Vikarabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Narayanpet, Peddapalli, Nirmal, Kumuram Bheem, Mahabubabad, and Jayashankar

Kamareddy, Wanaparthy, Rajanna Sircilla, Medak, Jangaon, Jagtial, Mancherla, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Karimnagar, Jogulamba Gadwal, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Siddipet, Warangal and Hanumakonda (large deficit).

Cyberabad police issue traffic advisory for Rythu Bharosa event

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad Traffic Police have issued a traffic advisory ahead of the 'Rythu Bharosa Nidhula Pampini Karyakramam' to be held at Shilpakala Vedika on Tuesday evening.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is scheduled to launch the programme, which is expected to draw



around 5,000 farmers.

Traffic congestion is expected between 3 pm and 9 pm along the Cable Bridge, IKEA Junction, Trident Hotel, Shilpakala Vedika, Shilparamam and Metal Charminar Junction under the Madhapur Traffic Police limits

Motorists have been advised to plan their journeys in advance, use alternate routes wherever possible and cooperate with the traffic police to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Traffic officials also urged commuters to follow traffic rules, wear seat belts, avoid overspeeding and refrain from using mobile phones while driving.

Telangana tops India in students seeking mental health support

Hyderabad: Telangana emerged as the national topper in students seeking mental health support, highlighting growing concerns over students' psychological well-being while also reflecting the increased demand for counselling services in the State.

The interim report of the Supreme Court-constituted National Task Force (NTF) on Mental Health of Students and Prevention of Suicides in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country, released on Tuesday, pegged the number of Telangana students seeking mental health support at over one lakh, the highest in the country, in 2024.

As per the report, which cited information provided by the Ministry of Health, more than 3.6 lakh students from across the country sought mental health support. Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra reported between 30,000 and 40,000 students seeking counselling services. Similarly, figures between 1,000 and 15,000 were reported from 15 other States. Some States such as Kerala and Sikkim and Union Territories such as Lakshadweep and Ladakh reported fewer than 200 students seeking such services. Interestingly, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland reported zero students seeking government mental health services. "Since the manner in which such data is being captured is unclear, it is difficult to draw any inference from the same," the report said. The NTF conducted field visits to 30 HEIs across 10 States since May 2025 to enable engagement with regional and institutional contexts. It also conducted 25 stakeholder consultations to ensure an interdisciplinary and equity-oriented approach. Since January 2026, the NTF has completed additional consultations on students and faculty with disabilities, caste discrimination in higher education, gender, mental health and suicides, students from ST and OBC communities, mental health and decriminalisation of suicide, the gender question in student suicides in higher education, consultations with mental health NGOs and consultations with law students. During its survey, the NTF found that there were no mechanisms or in-house professional mental health services in some of the institutions visited. Students relied on external help or peer support.

Ram Temple donation theft case: VHP backs UP SIT probe extension, terms CBI demand political stunt

New Delhi: Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) President, Alok Kumar, on Wednesday expressed confidence in the ongoing police investigation into the alleged irregularities linked to Ram Temple donations, saying there is nothing inappropriate about granting the Special Investigation Team (SIT) an additional 15 days to complete its probe.

Speaking to IANS, Kumar said that if investigators have sought more time to ensure the probe is conducted thoroughly and reaches a logical conclusion, the request



should not be viewed negatively. He said the investigation is progressing and should be allowed to continue without unnecessary interference.

Rejecting demands from some quarters for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) enquiry, Kumar said the investigation is already being conducted by the police and, according to the information available, is being carried out efficiently and impartially. He urged people to have faith in the country's established investigative mechanisms instead of questioning their credibility.

"Police are conducting the investigation. We have heard that it is being done efficiently and thoroughly. So, we should have faith in the normal channels of investigation. Some people say the BJP government will not allow a fair probe, so it should be handed over to the CBI. But the Central government is also led by the BJP. I believe we should not distrust our agencies. The investigation is being watched by the media and the entire Hindu society. If anything goes wrong, it will be brought to notice," Kumar told IANS.

Commenting on the extension granted to the SIT in the alleged Ram Temple donation theft case, Kumar said the team's responsibility extends beyond merely investigating the crime.

"It's not just about investigating the crime. Suggesting remedies to ensure this does not happen in the future is also part of the work. If they have asked for time to

ensure this work is done well and thoroughly, and they have only asked for 15 days, I think there is nothing inappropriate about it," he said.

Addressing criticism that the investigation may not be impartial because the Uttar Pradesh government is led by the BJP, Kumar argued that the same Opposition parties questioning the state police have also repeatedly questioned the CBI.

He said replacing one investigative agency with another would not resolve politically motivated allegations and stressed that public confidence in investigative institutions should not be undermined.

Kumar further said that the ongoing probe is under close public scrutiny, with both the media and the wider Hindu community monitoring developments. If any wrongdoing or lapses occur during the investigation, he said, they would inevitably come to light. Therefore, he maintained that there is no justification for changing the investigating agency at this stage.

Responding to a question on whether Gopal Rao continues to serve as the manager of the Ram Temple or has been removed from the post, Kumar said he was not aware whether Rao had any formal appointment.

"I am not even aware if he had any formal appointment. But those whose names are coming up will themselves consider whether they should continue in their positions. When it was said that Champat ji remaining as General Secretary could affect the investigation, that witnesses could be pressured or evidence tampered with, he resigned within two days of the FIR being filed. This should be appreciated," Kumar said.

He also dismissed suggestions that an all-party committee should be constituted to investigate the matter, saying such a proposal would effectively mean handing over the probe to political leaders.

Referring to the political atmosphere ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Kumar said political parties were engaged in competitive rhetoric, making increasingly serious allegations against one another for electoral gains rather than addressing the issue objectively.

Reacting to reports that details of the police investigation were being leaked to the media, Kumar questioned the authenticity of such claims.

"Someone is fabricating and reporting these leaks. It's a 24-hour news cycle; what else can they do? If there is news, they report it. If there is no news, they imagine it. How much of what is being leaked is true and how much is political, I do not know," he said.

11 years of Digital India: How PM Modi championed e-governance for two decades before national launch

New Delhi: As the country marks 11 years of the 'Digital India' initiative, the Modi Archive highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's long-standing advocacy for technology and innovation, explaining how his vision for digital governance and espousal of the idea for two decades before its national launch in 2015, proved instrumental in grassroots empowerment across the country.

Sharing archival footage of Prime Minister's speeches from as early as 2003, Modi Archive traces his emphasis on technology-driven governance, showcasing addresses delivered at a 2003 event at Nirma University and the 2011 e-India ICT Conference, where he described e-governance as "effective, easy and economical".

"Long before the launch of the Digital India mission on July 1, 2015, PM Narendra Modi viewed technology as a tool of absolute empowerment for the grassroots, rather than a luxury for the few," Modi Archive wrote in a post.

The archival video also documents PM Modi's consistent focus over two decades on using technology for grassroots empowerment and mobile governance. It features moments from the launch of the Digital India initiative on July 1, 2015, as well as his address in Silicon Valley later that year.

According to the Modi archive, the Prime Minister's emphasis on information technology during his tenure in Gujarat laid the foundation for India's subsequent expansion of digital infrastructure and large-scale digitisation of public services.

"The roots of India's unmatched digital transfor-



mation go back over two decades. On 11 Years of Digital India, watch how a decades-long digital blueprint laid the foundation for the governance model of tomorrow," it added.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi said the successful completion of 11 years of the Digital India initiative had given the country a new identity on the global stage and reflected the determination of Indians to embrace innovation and technology to take the nation to greater heights. "Digital India is the strong foundation of a developed and self-reliant India. Over the past 11 years, it has played a crucial role in empowering the poor and deprived, while making the lives of citizens easier," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

"When over a billion people embrace technology, the impact is transformative," PM Modi added.

From the expansion of optical fibre networks to digital transactions, the unprecedented success of this campaign has drawn the attention of the entire world towards India. "Today, we mark 11

years since the Digital India initiative was launched. This initiative has redefined governance, empowered citizens, and accelerated all-round development. It has touched every aspect

of life," PM Modi emphasised. From seamless digital payments and direct benefit transfers reaching beneficiaries with transparency to the expanding digital public infrastructure,

Court issues fresh notice to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee for voice sample collection on July 8

Kolkata: A district court in North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, on Wednesday issued a notice to Trinamool Congress general secretary and the party's Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee, to be present at the court so that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) sleuths can collect his voice samples in a case where he is accused of making violence-inciting statements and threatening Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a campaign rally.

In the fresh summons issued on Wednesday, Abhishek, the nephew of former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was asked to present at the same district court on July 8, so that the CID sleuths could collect his voice samples in the presence of the judicial magistrate and forensic experts.

On Wednesday, the Judicial Magistrate of Bidhannagar Court at Salt Lake in North 24 Parganas district directed the Diamond Harbour MP to be present at the court by 10 a.m. on July 8.

Abhishek was scheduled to be present before the district court on Tuesday for the same purpose. However, he did not turn up at the district court on Tuesday because of a parallel hearing in a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court on his petition challenging the district court's earlier order relating to the collection of his voice samples.

CM Yogi Adityanath launches School Chalo Abhiyan phase 2 from Saharanpur as dropout rate dips to 3 percent

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the second phase of the state-wide 'School Chalo Abhiyan-2026' from Saharanpur on Wednesday, emphasising how education remains the strongest cornerstone of nation-building.

The Chief Minister, addressing a public gathering, underscored the importance of quality education, explaining how it shapes good citizens, teachers, doctors, officials, and public representatives. He urged everyone to ensure enrolment of every child in school within the next 15 days and called upon teachers, civil society and public representatives to turn the campaign into a mass movement.

"Quality education not only instils good values and fosters self-reliance in children but also prepares them to play an effective role in the development of society and the country," CM Yogi said.

The Chief Minister also told the crowd that Uttar Pradesh has achieved remarkably good progress in the school dropout rate.

"The drop-out rate, which stood at 19-20 per cent in previous regimes, has now been reduced to 3-4 per cent because of improved amenities and services," he stated.

The 'School Chalo Abhiyan,' launched in 2017, seeks to bring every child into the mainstream of education. He attributed the campaign's success to the government's clear policy and firm resolve towards educational reform.

Highlighting the state gov't's persistent efforts for wider enrolment of students, particularly from backward and marginalised classes, the CM informed that in 2017, only 36 per cent of schools under the Basic Education Council were equipped with basic amenities, which saw an enormous rise over the years.

"Most schools lacked fundamental facilities such as toilets, clean drinking water, furniture, libraries, kitchens, and boundary walls. To address these shortcomings, the state government launched 'Operation Kayakalp,' under which government schools underwent a comprehensive transformation with the cooperation of public representatives, the administration, and society," he said.

He stated that essential facilities—including sepa-



rate toilets for boys and girls, clean drinking water, furniture, libraries, and proper arrangements for mid-day meals—are now being developed in schools. The government's goal is to provide a superior educational environment for every child. CM Yogi stated that a child deprived of education represents a loss not only to their family but to the entire society and nation. Therefore, ensuring every child attends school is a collective responsibility.

He mentioned that scholarships have been provided to approximately 23,000 differently-abled girls for the 2025-26 academic year.

The state government has already increased the honorarium for Shiksha Mitras (part-time teachers) from Rs 10,000 to Rs 18,000 and for instructors from Rs 9,000 to Rs 17,000.

The Chief Minister added that the host of part-time teachers, instructors, cooks, and those associated with the 'school chalo' programme will be secured with an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh.

Former Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran meets Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala amid Sabarimala probe heat

Thiruvananthapuram: A surprise visit by former Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran to the official residence of Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Wednesday has triggered political speculation, with the purpose of the meeting remaining unclear.

Surendran, one of the tallest CPI(M) leaders in the state capital city, who arrived riding a scooter accompanied by another person, told waiting reporters that he had come to meet the minister with a recommendation on behalf of his companion.

However, he did not disclose the nature of the recommendation.

The absence of any official clarification has fuelled discussion in political circles, particularly in the backdrop of developments in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged Sabarimala gold scam.

The timing of the meeting has attracted attention as the SIT is understood to be in the final stages of submitting its chargesheet in the cases registered in connection with the alleged scam. Surendran had served as Devaswom Minister during the period covered by one of the two cases under investigation.

While there is no suggestion that Wednesday's meeting was connected to the investigation, the unexpected visit to the Home Minister's official residence has inevitably raised political eyebrows.

Surendran was until recently the MLA representing Kazhakoottam but lost the constituency in the April Assembly election to BJP leader V. Muraleedharan.

The visit also drew attention for an unrelated reason.

After the meeting, Surendran was seen riding away on his scooter without wearing a helmet.

The visuals have prompted questions over whether the apparent violation of traffic rules would attract action under the Motor Vehicles Act, including through Kerala's AI-enabled traffic camera enforcement system.

The episode has also revived a wider debate over the uniform enforcement of traffic laws and whether the



law would be applied in the same manner as it is to ordinary citizens if a violation had indeed occurred.

With no official explanation forthcoming from either the Home Minister's office or Surendran, the meeting has become the subject of intense political discussion, even as speculation continues over the circumstances that led to the unexpected interaction.



However, on Tuesday, the single-judge bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh refused to entertain his plea for relief from the collection of voice samples and also ob-

served that when Abhishek had already been granted interim protection from coercive police action, including arrest in the main case by another single-judge bench of the same court, there was no need for fresh protection from submitting voice samples in this case.

Justice Ghosh also observed that the court could not dictate to any investigating agency which line of investigation the latter should follow. Thereafter, Justice Ghosh announced his decision to recuse himself from further hearing in the matter.

The matter was then referred to the Calcutta High Court's Acting Chief Justice, Tapabrata Chakraborty, who will now decide which new bench will hear it.

Abhishek was earlier granted interim protection against coercive police action, including arrest, by the Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Saugata Bhattacharya.

Iran rules out US talks unless MoU's certain provisions fulfilled: Qalibaf

Tehran: Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran will not enter negotiations with the United States on a final agreement unless certain paragraphs of a recently signed peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two sides are implemented.

Qalibaf, also the head of Iran's negotiating team, made the remarks in an interview with state-run IRIB TV while elaborating on the latest developments pertaining to the implementation of the peace MoU and talks with the United States.

He said Iran's recent trip to Switzerland sought to implement the MoU provisions for ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, lifting the US naval blockade, reopening the Strait of Hormuz, issuing US waivers for Iranian crude oil exports, and releasing frozen Iranian assets. Xinhua news agency reported.

Unless these five preliminary paragraphs are fulfilled, the other paragraphs' implementation will not begin, Qalibaf said.

He said Iran, the United States and Lebanon agreed to form a joint com-



mittee to enforce the ceasefire, ensure the war's end in Lebanon, and uphold Lebanese sovereignty, adding that Iran and the United States, two of the three parties, already named their representatives.

Iran both pursues the path of dialogue and responds with force wherever necessary, he added.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said Iran has agreed not to acquire a nuclear weapon ahead of fresh negotiations in Doha, expressing confidence that the US was mak-

ing progress both diplomatically and militarily while insisting Tehran would not be allowed to develop nuclear arms.

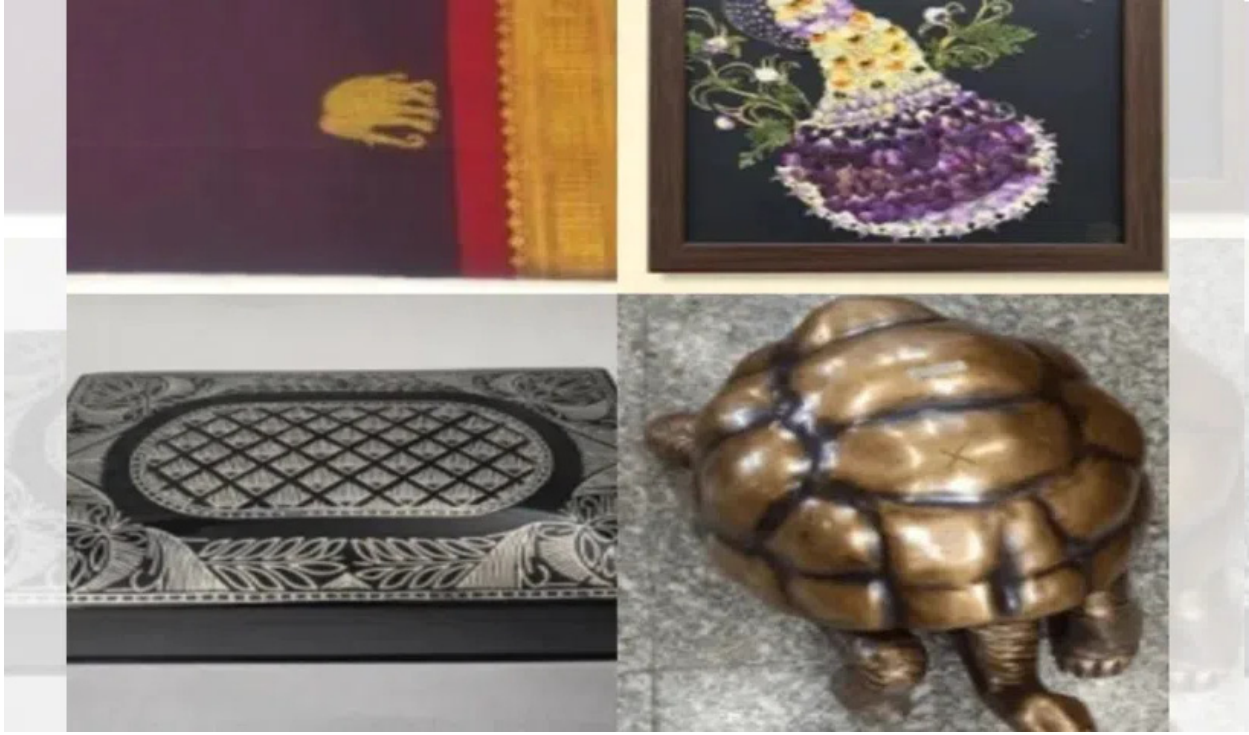
Speaking in the Oval Office before signing a presidential memorandum on vehicle repairs, Trump said officials were already travelling to Qatar for talks scheduled on Tuesday.

"There'll be a meeting on that tomorrow, in Doha... we'll see how that goes," Trump said. "The meeting in Doha is going to be perhaps important, perhaps not. We're going to find out."

The President struck an optimistic tone about the negotiations, saying the US had gained the upper hand after recent military action against Iran's nuclear programme.

On June 18, Iran and the United States signed the MoU on ending the war in the region. On June 22, technical negotiations between Iran and the United States began in Switzerland following high-level consultations between Iranian and US delegations the previous day with the mediation of Pakistan and Qatar.

Modi presents iconic Indian handicrafts, textiles to Seychelles leadership



New Delhi: Kanchivaram silk fabric, Maheshwari silk stole and Toda embroidered shawl were some of the gifts that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave to the top leadership of Seychelles and their spouses during his just-concluded visit to the island nation.

Modi was in Seychelles on a three-day visit from June 27 to 29, during which he attended the golden jubilee celebrations of the national day of that country, and held bilateral discussions with President Patrick Herminie, further strengthening the friendship between the two countries.

The prime minister gifted the Seychelles president a Muradabadi brass tortoise, an example of the renowned brassware tradition of Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. Handcrafted by skilled artisans of Moradabad, which is celebrated globally as India's 'brass city', the gift showcased the region's exceptional expertise in metal casting, engraving and finishing.

Its finely detailed shell and lustrous finish reflect generations of craftsmanship. In Indian philosophy, the tortoise is a timeless symbol of wisdom, stability, resilience and longevity. These ideals resonate deeply with Seychelles, whose natural heritage is inseparable from the iconic Aldabra giant tortoise, one of the world's largest and longest-living tortoise species.

Modi also visited the enclosure of the giant tortoise at the Seychelles National Botanical Garden during his visit. The prime minister gifted Veronique Herminie, the First Lady of Seychelles, a Maheshwari silk stole and a Bidriware box.

The Maheshwari silk stole is a graceful expression of India's handloom heritage, renowned for its lightweight texture, elegant drape and distinctive woven patterns.

Originating in Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh, this textile tradition is celebrated for its fine craftsmanship and harmonious blend of silk and cotton yarns.

Characterised by geometric motifs, striped borders, and subtle colour combinations, Maheshwari weaves reflect a refined aesthetic that has been preserved for generations.

The Bidriware box is an exquisite example of India's celebrated metalcraft tradition, renowned for its distinctive contrast of lustrous silver inlay against a deep black metallic surface.

Bidriware originated in Bidar, Karnataka, from which

it derives its name. The craft involves casting an alloy of zinc and copper, engraving intricate patterns onto the surface, and inlaying them with silver.

Modi presented Sebastian Pillay, the Vice President of Seychelles, an orchid painting from Sikkim. The painting combines Sikkim's rich floral heritage with its vibrant artistic traditions. The artwork depicts India's national bird, the peacock, adorned with delicate orchid blooms amid intricate floral vines, celebrating the harmony of nature and artistic expression.

The artwork holds special significance due to its connection with both India and Seychelles. While the peacock symbolises India's natural and cultural heritage, the orchid is the national flower of Seychelles, a nation known for its unique island biodiversity and commitment to environmental conservation.

Modi gifted Lina Pillay, the Second Lady of Seychelles, a Kanchivaram silk fabric, which is one of India's most celebrated handloom traditions, renowned for its luxurious texture, vibrant colours, and craftsmanship.

Originating in the historic temple town of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, the textile is woven from fine mulberry silk and distinguished by its durability, lustrous finish and intricate 'zari' work.

This fabric features a rich maroon field embellished with elegant gold 'zari' motifs, complemented by a striking border in red, green and gold. The ornate weaving, intricate detailing, and harmonious colour palette reflect the distinctive aesthetic traditions of Kanchipuram.

Modi also gifted the speaker of the Seychelles national assembly, Azarel Ernesta, a Toda embroidered shawl, a distinguished textile tradition of the Toda community, the indigenous pastoral people of the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu. The embroidery technique, known as Pukhro, is unique to the Toda people and is executed entirely by hand.

Traditionally worn during ceremonies and important social occasions, the shawl is a symbol of identity, continuity and preservation of indigenous knowledge.

It reflects India's rich cultural diversity and the enduring creativity of its artisan communities values that resonate with Seychelles' commitment to preserving its unique cultural heritage and traditions.

Ford recalls more than 741,000 vehicles in US over park system issue

New York: Ford is recalling more than 741,000 vehicles in the US because a transmission issue may damage the park system, which could increase the risk of a crash or injury.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a report that the recall includes certain Ford F-150, Lincoln Aviator, Ford Explorer, Lincoln Navigator and Ford Expedition vehicles from model years 2018 to 2021.

The report states that the affected vehicles may experience temporary engagement of the transmission parking pawl while the vehicle is in motion when certain shifts are commanded by the transmission, potentially damaging park system components.

If transmission park system damage occurs, the ability of the transmission's park feature to hold the vehicle when the parking brake is not applied may be affected. Unintended movement while in "park" increases the risk of a crash or injury, according to the report.

The NHTSA said Ford is aware of 24 reports of property damage and nine reported injuries, two of which in-



volve allegations of emotional injuries, related to the issue.

Vehicle owners will be notified by mail and advised to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer to have the vehicle's Powertrain Control Module updated to the latest software version. Dealers will also inspect the vehicle's transmission for park system damage and replace damaged transmission components, if needed. There will be no charge for the service.

US Supreme Court upholds birthright citizenship, bringing relief to Indians on H1B visas

New York: The US Supreme Court ruling upholding citizenship for all children born in the US protects the rights of babies born to or will be born to the nearly 300,000 Indians on H1B work visas who are trapped in an immigration quagmire.

It deals a blow to President Donald Trump, who wanted to deny citizenship rights to those whose parents are legitimately in the US on temporary visas.

The decision handed down by a majority of the justices will bring a sigh of relief to the Indians on H1B visas, who themselves may have to wait decades for citizenship, and others on temporary visas like students and visitors, whose children born in the US will now be automatically guaranteed citizenship and a lifetime right to live here.

"Today's ruling is a profound affirmation of who belongs in America. Indians and South Asian immigrant families are among those most directly threatened by Trump's executive order," said Chintan Patel, the executive director of Indian American Impact, an organisation promoting political involvement by the community.

Referring to the decades-long Green Card backlog for Indians on H1B visas, he said their "children are often born here long before their parents have a clear path to permanency".

"Today the Supreme Court looked at those families and said: 'Your children are American. They belong here,'" Patel wrote.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion, "We keep that promise" made in the Constitution's 14th Amendment to give citizenship to all those born in the US.

"Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights — to freely participate in our political community", he said.

Indian American member of Congress Premila Jayapal welcomed the Supreme Court verdict and wrote on X, "I am an immigrant. I know what this country's promises mean when they are kept, and I know what it costs

when they are broken".

"Our Constitution does not have asterisks. It does not have exceptions for who deserves to belong. Birthright citizenship is the law of this land, and today the Court reaffirmed that," she said.

In one of Trump's first actions after he became President for the second time, he issued the order to strip babies born to people living in the US on temporary visas or who are illegal migrants, trying to overturn more than a century of laws guaranteeing birthright citizenship.

Decrying the verdict as "too bad for our Country", Trump called for legislative action by Congress to reverse it.

"We can easily make it up in Congress through legislation," and "no long and unwieldy Constitutional Amendment is necessary," he wrote on Truth Social.

It was not clear how legislation would withstand the clear ruling by the Supreme Court upholding the interpretation of the 14th Amendment.

The move against birthright citizenship was ostensibly meant to target the organised system of "birth tourism" — people coming to the US on tourist visas — by arranging for them to give birth here and return after claiming citizenship for the babies to establish a foothold for the family, but Trump extended it to those legitimately working here on H1B and other similar visas.

The case turned on the interpretation of the 14th Amendment, passed in 1866 and ratified two years later in the aftermath of the US Civil War, primarily to ensure that the children of freed slaves and their progeny had the right to full citizenship.

The Amendment also had the sweeping effect of offering citizenship to all, declaring, "All persons born or naturalised in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside". Further guaranteeing their rights, it said, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States".

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Iran has agreed not to acquire a nuclear weapon ahead of fresh negotiations in Doha, expressing confidence that the US was making progress both diplomatically and militarily while insisting Tehran would not be allowed to develop nuclear arms.

Speaking in the Oval Office before signing a presidential memorandum on vehicle repairs, Trump said officials were already travelling to Qatar for talks scheduled on Tuesday.

"There'll be a meeting on that tomorrow, in Doha... we'll see how that goes," Trump said. "The meeting in Doha is going to be perhaps important, perhaps not. We're going to find out."

The President struck an optimistic tone about the negotiations, saying the US had gained the upper hand after recent military action against Iran's nuclear programme.

"We're winning militarily. It's almost won militarily, I would say," Trump said.



He described Washington's objective as straightforward.

"It's really very simple; it's the denuclearization of Iran. We don't want them to have a nuclear weapon, and they're not going to have a nuclear weapon, and they've agreed to that, in all fairness," Trump said.

Trump did not elaborate on the nature of Iran's reported agreement or provide details of any understanding reached between the two sides. Nor did he specify what issues would be discussed during the Doha

meeting. Before taking questions from reporters, Trump also referred to lower global oil prices, linking them to developments surrounding Iran.

"Oil prices are way down. We hit \$69 today. It was higher than that prior to the denuclearization of Iran," he said.

His remarks came as he signed a presidential memorandum directing the Environmental Protection Agency to support consumers' ability to repair their own vehicles and to expand competition in the market for aftermarket automobile

parts. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the memorandum would support "the freedom to fix", prevent action against Americans repairing their own vehicles and end what he described as California's monopoly over third-party certification of aftermarket parts.

The White House appearance quickly shifted to foreign policy and national security, with reporters asking Trump about Iran before moving on to domestic issues including election laws, Supreme Court rulings and immigration.

India plans 30-day LPG storage buffer after Iran war exposes Hormuz supply risk

New Delhi, July 1

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is preparing to invest about Rs 5,000 crore to almost double its LPG storage capacity to 340 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) from around 200 TMT, according to three OMC executives. Similar expansion plans by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are still being worked out.

State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) are working on a plan to build a 30-day strategic LPG reserve as the Centre looks to strengthen the country's energy security after the Middle East conflict exposed India's vulnerability to disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, ET reported. As part of the exercise, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is preparing to invest about Rs 5,000 crore to almost double its LPG storage capacity to 340 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) from around 200 TMT, according to three OMC executives. Similar expansion plans by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are still being worked out.

"The Centre is broadly considering a 30-day LPG inventory requirement, but the methodology for calculating the stockpile is yet to be finalised," a senior industry executive told ET on condition of anonymity. "The key question is whether the buffer should be based on total LPG consumption, total imports, or the country's residual supply risk after diversification of sourcing," the executive added.

According to The Economic Times, the proposed strategy could combine expanded onshore storage, underground caverns and floating storage in Indian waters.

At the same time, OMCs are looking to diversify imports through long-term contracts with suppliers in the US, while increasing purchases from Europe and Russia.

Industry executives said greater diversification of imports could reduce the amount of storage eventually required, thereby lowering capital expenditure. "We have presented three options and one of them has to be worked out before investments move forward," another senior executive said. "If only half of imports continue to come from the Middle East after diversification, storage needs would be created only for that portion which remains exposed."

The push for larger LPG storage gained urgency after the Iran conflict highlighted India's dependence on Middle Eastern supplies. India imports nearly 60% of its LPG, with about 90% of those imports passing through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest energy shipping routes. Following the outbreak of the conflict on February 28, the government directed domestic refineries to maximise LPG production and imposed booking restrictions to manage supplies.

Restrictions were also placed on commercial and industrial consumers. Last week, normal LPG supplies to non-household users resumed and the caps on commercial supplies were withdrawn as availability improved. According to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India currently has 214 LPG bottling plants with a rated bottling capacity of about 23.04 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

LPG storage at bottling plants provides 4-7 days of



cover, with the all-India average at five days. Across all storage facilities, including import terminals and other sources, LPG stocks provide an average 18 days of cover, though this ranges between 8 and 30 days. LPG is marketed in India by state-run OMCs as well as private refin-

ers under the Parallel Marketing System (PMS). Private players can import and sell LPG at market-determined prices, but government subsidies are not available for their domestic sales.

'Long queues at petrol stations': How Ukraine's drone strikes are hitting Russia's fuel supply

Moscow, July 1

Russia is facing an unprecedented fuel shortage after months of Ukrainian drone strikes damaged oil refineries and disrupted supplies, leading to fuel rationing, long queues at petrol stations and rising prices across several regions. Fuel rationing has been introduced in

fell 25 per cent year-on-year to 3.95 million barrels per day, the lowest level in more than two decades.

Gasoline production dropped 17 per cent to about 850,000 barrels per day from 1.03 million barrels a year earlier. "The outages are extraordinary," Peach said. Chris Weafer, CEO of Macro-Advisory Ltd., estimated that about one-third of Russia's refining capacity is currently offline, citing industry sources. "It comes at a very critical time for the Russian economy," Weafer said, noting that the agricultural harvest season is increasing fuel demand. Ukrainian officials said the strikes were intended to weaken Russia's military logistics and pressure Moscow to end the war. By late June, some form of fuel rationing had been reported in more than half of Russia's regions. The government has restricted exports of gasoline and aviation fuel and is considering limiting diesel exports as well. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was also exploring fuel imports from other countries to help "stabilise the market" and reduce panic-buying. The shortages have also spread to Siberian regions, although refineries there have not been directly attacked. Local authorities in Irkutsk introduced measures to manage long queues, while public transport fares were raised due to higher fuel costs. Despite the shortages, Putin said Russia's gasoline reserves are only 4 per cent lower than a year ago. Weafer said fuel stocks remain available but are unevenly distributed.

"There should be enough, but it will take several weeks to get it from where it is to where it's needed," he said. Analysts also warned repairs to damaged refineries will be slow because many specialised components are imported and difficult to replace under Western sanctions. "They won't get back to winter levels of refining this summer," Peach said, adding that some facilities may not be fully repaired until there is a ceasefire because they risk being targeted again.



many parts of the country, with authorities limiting purchases and, in some cities, providing temporary facilities for motorists waiting in long queues. The shortages have brought the impact of the war closer to ordinary Russians, prompting a rare public acknowledgement from President Vladimir Putin. "Problems persist for both motorists and businesses," Putin said, adding that "there are still queues at petrol stations, and finding the right grade of petrol isn't always easy."

He maintained the shortages were "not critical" and "temporary." An analysis by The Associated Press found Ukraine has carried out more than 50 reported attacks on Russian oil refineries, depots, terminals and other energy infrastructure since late March, with several facilities struck multiple times. According to Energy Intelligence analyst Gary Peach, Russia's crude processing in June

Tata Motors widens lead in India's ePV market as competition heats up

New Delhi July 1

Tata Motors has widened its lead in India's fast-growing electric passenger vehicle (ePV) market even as competition intensified with a series of new model launches. At the same time, the company increased its share in the overall passenger vehicle market, reinforcing its position as the country's second-largest carmaker.

According to Vahan registration data for the first quar-

Kia and BYD continued expanding their electric vehicle offerings.

Despite the influx of rivals, Tata.ev not only retained its leadership but widened its lead. Mahindra's market share increased to 24.3 per cent in Q1FY27 from 23.2 per cent a year earlier, while JSW MG's share declined to 20 per cent from 30.9 per cent despite the popularity of the Windsor EV.

New entrants Maruti Suzuki and VinFast captured 5.9 per cent and 4.8 per cent of the market, respectively, in their first full quarter. Hyundai's share declined to 1.7 per cent from 4.9 per cent, while BYD's slipped to 2.6 per cent from 3.8 per cent, according to Vahan data.

In volume terms, Tata.ev retailed 32,283 electric passenger vehicles during the April-June quarter, more than doubling from 15,794 units a year earlier. Mahindra followed with 20,112 registrations, while JSW MG retailed 16,502 vehicles. Maruti Suzuki and VinFast sold 4,894 and 3,973 units, respectively. BYD retailed 2,173 vehicles, Hyundai 1,386 and Kia 1,304 during the quarter.

The overall electric passenger vehicle market nearly doubled during the period, with registrations increasing to about 82,700 units from around 43,700 a year earlier, indicating that competition is being driven by rapid market expansion rather than a redistribution of existing demand.

The company's performance coincided with a refresh of its electric vehicle portfolio. Tata Motors recently launched the Harrier.ev and continued to see strong demand for the Punch.ev, Nexon.ev, Tiago.ev and Curvv.ev. The upcoming Sierra.ev is expected to strengthen its presence in the premium electric SUV segment.



ter of FY27, Tata.ev's share of the electric passenger vehicle market increased to 39 per cent from 36.1 per cent a year earlier. In the overall passenger vehicle market, Tata Motors' share rose to 14.2 per cent from 12.5 per cent, strengthening its position in both retail registrations and wholesale dispatches.

The gains come amid a significant shift in the competitive landscape. Mahindra expanded its electric portfolio with the BE 6 and XEV 9e, while JSW MG Motor India strengthened its line-up with the Windsor EV, Comet EV and VS EV. Maruti Suzuki entered the segment with the e Vitara, VinFast made its India debut, and Hyundai,

GST revenue grows 13.9% in June, collections touch Rs 1.94 lakh crore

New Delhi, July 1

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 13.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,94,812 crore in June 2026, driven largely by a sharp increase in tax revenues from imports, according to provisional data released by the finance ministry on Wednesday. The latest collections were higher than the Rs 1,71,105 crore recorded in June 2025, while net GST revenue, after adjusting for refunds, increased 11.2 per cent to Rs 1,62,377 crore from Rs 1,45,984 crore a year earlier.

The data showed a clear divergence between domestic and import-led tax collections during the month. Gross revenue from domestic transactions rose 6.5 per cent to Rs 1,34,774 crore, compared with Rs 1,26,506 crore in June last year. In contrast, GST revenue from imports surged 34.6 per cent to Rs 60,038 crore, up from Rs 44,600 crore a year ago, providing the biggest boost to overall collections. The government also stepped up refund disbursements during the month. Total GST refunds increased 29.1 per cent to Rs 32,436 crore in June 2026, compared with Rs 25,121 crore in the same month last year, helping improve liquidity for businesses while maintaining strong revenue growth. Collections up 8.4%



so far this fiscal

For the financial year up to June 2026, gross GST collections reached Rs 6,31,699 crore, registering 8.4 per cent growth over Rs 5,82,542 crore in the corresponding period last year. During the period, domestic GST collections rose 2.8 per cent to Rs 4,54,427 crore, while import-related GST revenues expanded 26.2 per cent to Rs 1,77,273 crore. Total refunds during the period stood at Rs 91,482 crore, resulting in net GST collections of Rs 5,40,218 crore.

Maharashtra leads state collections

Among the major states, Maharashtra continued to account for the largest share of domestic GST collections, with revenues rising 9 per cent to Rs 30,714 crore from Rs 28,248 crore in June 2025. Karnataka and

Gujarat also posted double-digit growth, collecting Rs 12,937 crore and Rs 11,743 crore, respectively. Uttar Pradesh recorded one of the strongest performances among large states, with GST collections increasing 19 per cent to Rs 9,165 crore. However, several states reported declines. Sikkim recorded the steepest fall, with collections dropping 53 per cent to Rs 170 crore. Puducherry saw collections decline 28 per cent, while Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand posted declines of 26 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively. Tamil Nadu also reported a marginal 2 per cent decline in collections to Rs 9,776 crore.

GST reform showing maturity

Commenting on the latest figures, Manoj Mishra, partner and tax controversy management

leader at Grant Thornton Bharat, said the June collections reflected the growing resilience of India's tax system despite global uncertainties. "June GST collections of Rs 1.95 lakh crore, registering a robust 13.9% year-on-year growth, underscore the resilience of India's revenue base at a time when global trade and geopolitical uncertainties continue to dominate the economic landscape," he said. He added that the strong rise in import GST and higher refunds highlighted improving tax administration. "The consistency of collections around the Rs 2 lakh crore mark, alongside faster refunds, demonstrates that GST is maturing into a predictable and technology-driven revenue framework," Mishra said, noting that the reform has strengthened both revenue collection and taxpayer facilitation as GST completes nine years.

Skoda Auto India sales rise 7.5% in H1 2026 to record 38,894 units

New Delhi, July 1

Skoda Auto India on Wednesday reported a 7.5 per cent year-on-year sales growth in the first half of 2026 at 38,894 units, its best ever half-yearly performance in the country.

With the H1 2026 performance, the Skoda brand has bettered the record set in the first half of 2025, Skoda Auto India said in a statement.

"Our record half-yearly sales reflect the growing confidence and trust customers place in the Skoda brand. In 2026, we have strengthened this connection through a focused product offensive, customer-first initiatives, and an unwavering commitment to excellence," Skoda Auto India Brand Director, Ashish Gupta said.

The demand for the new Kushaq, updated Kodiaq, and the all-new



"Our record half-yearly sales reflect the growing confidence and trust customers place in the Skoda brand. In 2026, we have strengthened this connection through a focused product offensive, customer-first initiatives, and an unwavering commitment to excellence," Skoda Auto India Brand Director, Ashish Gupta said.

Kodiaq RS, highlights strong market momentum, he said, adding the Kylaq continues to drive volumes and the Slavia reinforces the brand's sedan legacy.

FIFA World Cup 2026, Day 21: England seek last-16 berth; USA chase first knockout win in nearly 25 years

Serena Williams 'enjoyed the moment' despite 3-set loss at Wimbledon in comeback at age 44



Day 21 of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Round of 32 promises more action as England, Belgium and co-hosts the United States battle for places in the last 16.

England begin the day's action against the Democratic Republic of Congo, hoping to keep alive their quest to end a 60-year wait for a major international trophy. But with fellow European heavyweights Germany and the Netherlands already knocked out on penalties by Paraguay and Morocco, the Three Lions know there is no margin for error.

Belgium, meanwhile, take on Senegal in what promises to be one of the day's toughest contests, with a place in the Round of 16 at stake and little separating the two sides.

Co-hosts the United States gear up for one of the biggest matches in their football history as Christian Pulisic

and company bid for the nation's first World Cup knockout victory in nearly 25 years.

Day 20 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 delivered more entertainment in the knockout stage. Kylian Mbappe moved to within one goal of Lionel Messi's all-time World Cup scoring record, taking his tally to 18 goals in 18 tournament appearances as France booked their place in the last 16.

Erling Haaland struck late to seal Norway's historic 2-1 victory over Ivory Coast, sending the Scandinavians into a blockbuster last-16 clash with Brazil and securing the nation's first-ever World Cup knockout win.

Mexico, meanwhile, turned on the style at their iconic Azteca Stadium with a commanding 2-0 win over Ecuador, ending a 40-year wait for a World Cup knockout-stage victory.

LONDON: The roars began even before Serena Williams stepped on Centre Court. Then they grew louder when the 23-time Grand Slam champion arrived to play her first singles match in nearly four years.

And when it was all over and the 44-year-old Williams had performed admirably in a three-set defeat to an opponent less than half her age in the opening round of Wimbledon with her two daughters cheering her on, Williams smiled as she walked off to a loud round of applause.

"It was really great to be back at Wimbledon. I never expected to be here," Williams, who did not meet with media after the match, said in a statement released by Wimbledon organizers. "The atmosphere was amazing. Walking out was amazing. I definitely relished it and missed it and enjoyed the moment more than anything."

In a 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3 loss to 20-year-old Maya Joint of Australia on Tuesday, Williams showed she can still crank out serves faster than 120 mph and dictate points with her heavy groundstrokes.

Movement was an issue for Williams, though, and the 87th-ranked Joint was able to handle Williams' pace and win more of the big points by hitting beyond the American's reach.

While Williams played two doubles matches just before Wimbledon to announce her comeback to the sport she once dominated, she hadn't played a singles match since the 2022 U.S. Open.

"She has such an aura, she's just a legend



and this court has so many huge names that have played on it," Joint added. "I've been dreaming about this moment since I was a little kid, so this is pretty crazy."

Williams has 98 career victories and seven titles in singles on the hallowed grass of the All England Club. By contrast, it was Joint's first Wimbledon victory in just her second appearance at the All England Club after losing in the opening round last year.

But Joint won a Wimbledon warmup in nearby Eastbourne last year and knows how to play

on grass.

Williams, who has no singles ranking after being out for so long, was given wild card invitations by Wimbledon organizers to play singles and also doubles with older sister Venus. Her doubles match will come later in the week.

Williams has said that having her two daughters off from school inspired her comeback and it marked the first time that her youngest daughter, Adira, who is almost three, saw her play singles. Adira sat next to her 8-year-old sister, Olympia in the front row of Serena's players' box.

Fans started cheering when Williams' name was announced as the next match on Centre Court and then they gave her a standing ovation as she walked out before the match started under a closed roof. Several supporters held up signs with messages like "Welcome Back" and one wore a T-shirt that said "Unstoppable Queen."

Williams executed a delicate topspin lob winner early on and then cranked out a 121 mph ace to hold for 3-3 in the first set. But Williams also had a costly double-fault which led to the only break of the first set.

Ecuador's Hincapié becomes the second player sent off for covering his mouth at the World Cup

MEXICO CITY: Ecuador's Piero Hincapié became the second player to be issued a red card at the World Cup under FIFA's new rule that calls for a player to be sent off for covering their mouth during a confrontational exchange with an opponent.

Hincapié was sent off in the 95th minute of Ecuador's 2-0 loss to Mexico Tuesday in the round of 32. He was shown the red card following an exchange with Mexico forward Santi Giménez.

FIFA established the new rule to prevent players from hiding abusive comments to opponents by covering their mouth.



Paraguay's Miguel Almiron was the first player to be punished under the new rule when he was sent

off in a group stage match against Turkey last week.

While Ecuador's tournament is over, Hincapié

will be suspended for the team's next international match.

Ronaldo, Modric struggle to defy Father Time at World Cup

ATLANTA: Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric will make history when two outfield players aged over 40 face off for the first time in a World Cup as Portugal take on Croatia in Friday's last-32 clash.

But both men are facing questions over whether their status as national heroes is now more of a burden than a boost to their countries' hopes of progressing far in the competition.

Prior to this tournament, only Cameroon's Roger Milla had played in a World Cup as an outfield player after turning 40.

Ronaldo and Modric, who won four Champions Leagues in six seasons together at Real Madrid, have long defied Father Time but have shown their age in what will almost certainly be their final flourish on the global stage.

At 41, Ronaldo defiantly screamed "I'm back" after netting twice against Uzbekistan as he became the first player to ever score at six World Cups.

Yet either side of a 5-0 romp over a team ranked 60th in the world, Portugal failed to beat the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia and fell into



Ronaldo and Modric, who won four Champions Leagues in six seasons together at Real Madrid, have long defied Father Time but have shown their age in what will almost certainly be their final flourish on the global stage.

a tougher section of the draw as a result.

"It's already 23 years I've been a professional and whenever things don't go well it's 'Cristiano, he's finished, he's old'," Ronaldo said earlier in the

tournament.

The forward played every minute of the group stages and outgoing Portugal boss Roberto Martinez shows no sign of taking the bold call to sit the five-time Ballon d'Or winner

on the bench.

"There is not an issue physically or mentally for Cristiano in today's game to play the 90 minutes," Martinez said after Ronaldo managed just two touches in the Colombia box.

Kylian Mbappe scores twice as France breeze past Sweden into World Cup last 16

EAST RUTHERFORD: Kylian Mbappe scored twice and Michael Olise was in scintillating form as France beat Sweden 3-0 at the World Cup on Tuesday and set up a last-16 clash with Paraguay.

Mbappe finished a superb move to break the deadlock just before half-time in the last-32 tie watched by 80,663 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, after France had already hit the woodwork twice -- once through Mbappe and once through Olise.

The French were on top throughout against a limited Swedish side, utterly dominating in terms of possession and shots on goal.

Olise set up Paris Saint-Germain winger Bradley Barcola for the second on 53 minutes, and then delivered a delightful pass for Mbappe to complete a convincing victory.

Mbappe's strikes saw him move level with Lionel Messi on six goals in the all-star golden boot race at this World Cup.

The France captain now has 18 World Cup goals in total, meaning he is just one behind Messi's overall record of 19 -- a mark which 27-year-old Mbappe will keep chasing.

He celebrated his first goal by running across to embrace coach Didier Deschamps, who missed France's final group game against Norway to travel home for his mother's funeral.

Deschamps will step



down at the end of the competition after 14 highly successful years in charge.

Going out in the last 32 would have been such an anti-climactic way to depart for Deschamps, who captained the first France team to win the World Cup in 1998 and coached them to glory in 2018.

In 1998, France's run to victory on home soil included a 1-0 last-16 win over Paraguay, when Laurent Blanc scored a golden goal in extra time.

Les Bleus will face the South Americans in the last 16 again this time, on Saturday in Philadelphia.

France will be fully expected to win and march on.

Mbappe and Olise were again central figures, with Ousmane Dembele also showing flashes of his brilliance

while Barcola was preferred to Desire Doue as the fourth forward.

Sweden have quality in attack too, with the Premier League trio of Viktor Gyokeres, Alexander Isak and Anthony Elanga. But they couldn't get enough of the ball to create chances and Graham Potter's team now go home.

Getting this far should really be seen as a success for them, however, after they only made it to North America through the back door of the play-offs.

Olise released Mbappe through the middle to put the ball in the net in the 20th minute, only for a tight offside call to cut short the celebrations.

However, that sparked an intense spell of French pressure which eventually resulted in the opening goal.

Some of their football was mesmerising, as Mbappe hit the post from a Jules Kounde ball across the face of goal and Adrien Rabiot fired narrowly over.

Olise then struck an upright with a breathtaking overhead bicycle kick before Dembele put the rebound wide.

The opener came right on half-time, after an Olise effort was tipped behind by Swedish 'keeper Jacob Widell Zetterstrom.

Dembele and Olise combined at the resulting corner before finding Mbappe, and he did the rest.

Sweden needed the interval to regroup, but they conceded again eight minutes after the restart as the magical Olise threaded a pass through the legs of Gustaf Lagerbierke for Barcola, who lashed in.

“My six pack”: Mom-to-be Samantha flaunts her baby bump

Mom-to-be Samantha Ruth Prabhu was seen flaunting her baby bump in her latest Instagram post.

On Tuesday, she took to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle and published a picture of her prominent baby bump from the top angle. However, the ‘Yashoda’ actress had covered her stomach with a large pillow.

“My six pack. I’ll see you when I see you. (sic),” read the text overlay on the post.

Samantha recently confirmed that she is expecting her first child with her filmmaker husband, Raj Nidimoru.

Addressing the media during the success meet of her latest release ‘Maa Inti Bangaaram’, Samantha revealed that she will be taking a maternity break after wrapping up her present professional commitments.

“After Maa Inti Bangaaram, I will have to take a small break, given my condition. I’ll have to take maternity leave. After that, I’ll be back with another film for my fans,” Samantha was heard saying during the event.

The speculations around Samantha’s pregnancy started doing the



rounds after her appearance at the success celebration of ‘Maa Inti Bangaaram’.

The netizens noticed Samantha’s baby bump after the ‘Kushi’ actress made an appearance in a fitted white bodycon top paired with blue denim.

If the reports are to be believed, Samantha and Raj are expected to wel-

come their little bundle of joy in December this year.

For those who do not know, Samantha tied the knot with filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, one-half of the acclaimed director duo Raj & DK, in December last year.

Samantha is believed to have first met Raj while shooting the Amazon

Prime Video series, “The Family Man 2”, in which she played a powerful role.

This is Samantha’s second marriage. She was previously married to actor Naga Chaitanya. They tied the knot in October 2017 after dating for some time. However, the two announced their separation in October 2021.

‘Irumudi Kattu’ from Ravi Teja’s ‘Irumudi’ unveiled by makers

The makers of director Shiva Nirvana’s upcoming film, ‘Irumudi’, featuring actors Ravi Teja and Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead, on Monday released the first single from the film, ‘Irumudi Kattu’, much to the delight of fans and film buffs.

Taking to his X timeline to share the video of the first single, actor Ravi Teja wrote, “SWAMIYE SARANAM AYYAPPA. Bringing you all our first single #IrumudiKattu from #Irumudi in Telugu & Tamil. In cinemas from August 21st!”

The song is a devotional number that Ayyappa devotees are shown singing in the film. Set to tune by G V Prakash, the number has lyrics by Shiva Nirvana and Kalyan Chakravarthy. It has been rendered by Ananthu.

The film has been garnering attention ever since the makers released a glimpse video.

The glimpse video released shows Ravi Teja lovingly taking care of his daughter in the film. The child, it is evident, is in a very happy space with her father. However, the glimpse video hints at something tragic happening. As a result, we see Ravi Teja turn violent. He also takes to drinking. When his daughter urges him to quit alcohol, we see him become an Ayyappa devotee and wear the sacred mala to take back control of his life and kick the dreaded habit.

The film, which happens to be Ravi Teja’s 77th film and was therefore being tentatively referred to as #RT77 until it was titled ‘Irumudi’, is being produced by leading production house Mythri Movie Makers.

The title ‘Irumudi’ carries deep spiritual significance, as it symbolizes a devotee’s sacred offering and surrender to Lord Ayyappa.

Ravi Teja, at the time of the film’s first look being launched, had said, “Some stories choose you at the right moment in life. Feeling blessed to be part of one such story again, letting belief lead the way. Excited to begin this new journey called #Irumudi with @ShivaNirvana & @MythriOfficial Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa.”

Sources say director Shiva Nirvana has crafted a powerful script that fuses devotional depth, emotional weight, and mass appeal in equal measure. They further disclose that at the film’s core will lie a strong fa-



ther-daughter bond, that will offer Ravi Teja a character arc unlike anything that he’s portrayed before. Besides playing a first-of-its-kind role, Ravi Teja, they say, has also undergone a transformation.

Sources also claim that the film promises well-defined roles for every character, adding richness to the narrative. Priya Bhavani Shankar plays the female lead, with Baby Nakshatra portraying Ravi Teja’s daughter in the film. The cast also includes Sai Kumar, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, and Swasika in key roles.

Backed by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, ‘Irumudi’ boasts a solid technical crew, with GV Prakash Kumar scoring the music, Vishnu Sarma handling cinematography, Sahi Suresh leading production design, and Prawin Pudi on the editing table. Shiva Nirvana has penned the story, screenplay, and dialogues, with Naresh Babu P serving as script coordinator.

Mysaa director Rawindra Pulle shares pic of shirt with Rashmika Mandanna’s hand imprints, promises blood marks next

Director Rawindra Pulle, who is directing the eagerly awaited action thriller ‘Mysaa’, featuring actress Rashmika Mandanna in the lead, has now posted a picture of him sporting a shirt bearing Rashmika’s hand imprints on social media and said, “The blood marks are on their way”.

Director Rawindra Pulle, while sharing the picture wrote, “Signed by MYSAA @Rashmika_mandanna. The blood marks are on their way. @unformulafilms.”

Unformula Films, the production house producing the film, for its part, said, “Signed in mud. Remembered in blood. #MYSAA shoot in progress with #RashmikaMandanna, bringing raw emotion, grit and brilliance to the screen like never before. In cinemas this 2026.”

Rashmika, while responding to this post of her director, jokingly remarked, “We should have also mixed some blood and amber powder in this beautiful art of mine! Next time for sure! @rawindrapulle @unformulafilms.” Bollywood & South Asian Film

Only 10 days ago, the director had disclosed that the unit of the film had just wrapped up the shooting of a song in the film.

Taking to his Instagram stories section, Rawindra Pulle shared a picture of the sets of the song and wrote, “#Mysaa song pack up.” The song, which features Rashmika, has been choreographed by well known dance choreographer Brinda.

The film has generated excitement among fans ever since it was first announced. In fact, in May this year, the film was in the

news when actress Rashmika Mandanna disclosed that the unit had successfully wrapped up a long schedule in Kerala.

Taking to her Instagram page to share pictures of the unit that worked in Kerala, Rashmika wrote, “Guys, a little update is that we successfully wrapped up a long schedule for #Mysaa in Kerala!”

She went on to say, “And these were some of the darlings who worked so so hard and made it all possible. Thank you guys and I’ll see you soon again on set.”

Sources close to the unit had told IANS earlier that stunt master Kecha Khampakdi had choreographed some high voltage action sequences for this film which were shot in this schedule. Rashmika is believed to have performed some high intensity action sequences during this schedule along with key actors in the film.

IANS had reported earlier that the actress had been training hard at an intensive stunt and combat bootcamp in Bangkok, Thailand to perform in the sequences that were to be filmed during this action schedule.

Sources in the unit had disclosed that the actress had trained for over eight hours everyday for ‘Mysaa’ in Bangkok.

For the unaware, Rashmika plays a tribal Gond girl- a character that demands emotional vulnerability as much as physical ferocity — in the film.

The film, apart from Rashmika, also features Eshwari Rao, Guru Somasundaram, and Rao Ramesh in pivotal roles.

On the technical front, cinematography for the film is by Shreyas P Krishna while music is by Jakes Bejoy. International stunt choreographer Andy Long is overseeing the action for this ambitious entertainer.



Vishnu Manchu on 1 year of Kannappa: A journey that tested me in every possible way

It has been a year since Vishnu Manchu’s epic devotional drama ‘Kannappa’ reached the audience.

Marking the special occasion, Vishnu Manchu penned a heartfelt note on social media, looking back at the fulfilling journey, which he claims ended up testing him in every way possible.

He wrote on the photo-sharing app, “One year ago today, Kannappa found its way to all of you. (Red heart emoji) Some films entertain. Some films change you. Kannappa did both for me. It was a journey of faith, sacrifice, and belief. A journey that tested me in every possible way and gave me memories I will carry for a lifetime. (sic)”

Vishnu Manchu further expressed his gratitude to the viewers for keeping the momentum for “Kannappa” going long after its release.

“To everyone who watched it in theatres, discovered it later on OTT, celebrated it, critiqued it, and kept talking about it... thank you. Your love has kept Kannappa alive far beyond its release. A year later, my heart is still full. Har Har Mahadev. (folded hands emoji),” concluded the post.

Made under the direction of Mukesh Kumar Singh, the script for the drama has been provided by Vishnu Manchu himself.

Backed by Vishnu Manchu’s father Mohan Babu, the project has been inspired by the legend of Kannappa in the Hindu mythology, a devotee of Lord Shiva who sacrificed his eyes.

Produced under the banner of AVA Entertainment, along with 24 Frames Factory ‘Kannappa’, features Vishnu Manchu in the title role, with Mohanlal, Prabhas, Akshay Kumar, Kajal Aggarwal, Preity Mukhundan, Mohan Babu, R. Sarathkumar, Madhoo, Mukesh Rishi, Devaraj, Arpit Ranka, and Aishwariya Bhaskaran playing pivotal characters. Arts & Entertainment

‘Kannappa’ which was released in theatres on 27 June 2025, opened to mixed reviews. The ambitious projects also failed to perform at the box office.

Ajay Devgn announces new action film ‘Chauhaan’, set for 2027 release

Actor Ajay Devgn will headline the action entertainer “Chauhaan”, scheduled for a theatrical release on October 1, 2027. Set against the backdrop of Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, the film features Devgn as an army officer and marks director Neeraj Yadav’s debut feature. The project was announced on the birth anniversary of legendary stunt choreographer Veeru Devgan

Actor Ajay Devgn is set to headline “Chauhaan”, an action entertainer which will be released in theatres on October 1, 2027, the makers announced on Thursday.

The project was announcement on the birth anniversary of Devgn’s father Veeru Devgan, who was one of Hindi cinema’s most celebrated stunt choreographers.

Presented by Jio Studios and Colour Yellow Productions, the film will be directed by Neeraj Yadav, known for his work as a writer on movies such as “An Action Hero” and “Tere Ishk Mein”. The makers also released an announcement video, offering a glimpse into the film’s gritty action-packed world.

Set against a volatile backdrop in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pulwama, the film will see Devgn step into the role of an army officer. “Chauhaan” is being produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Anand L Rai and Himanshu Sharma. Devgn will next be seen in the comedy franchise film “Dhamaal 4”, slated for release on July 3. It will be followed by the third instalment of the “Drishyam” franchise, in which he reprises his popular role as Vijay Salgaonkar.

He also has “Ranger”, an action-adventure co-starring Sanjay Dutt and Tamannaah Bhatia, in the pipeline.

