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**Mother, job aspirant disagrees with Revanth Reddy's statement on DSC postponement** **2pg**

**Rahul Dravid Reduces His T20 World Cup Bonus By Rs. 2.5 Crore, Wants Equal Reward** **4pg**

**Police file a case against actor Raj Tarun** **4pg**

## In Brief

### HC serious on phone tapping case

**Hyderabad:** The CJ bench has taken up the inquiry on phone tapping. The bench said that the names of the judges and their family members should not be broadcast in the media. The High Court said that some newspapers had published the judge's name and mobile number. The media should exercise restraint and responsibility on phone tapping and the media should be careful while reporting the phone tapping case. The defendants have already filed a counter in the phone tapping case. That is why she explained that she does not want to give any orders at the moment. The government told the court that the state government has already filed a counter in this case, investigation is underway and the accused have been arrested. The government countered that the phones of several police officers were also tapped.

### Dr. Jitender appointed as new DGP of Telangana

**Hyderabad:** The State government on Wednesday appointed Dr. Jitender, a 1992 batch IPS officer, as the Director General of Police, (Coordination) while he will also hold the post of Director General of Police (FAC) Head of Police Force - HoPF. The present DGP Ravi Gupta is transferred and posted as Special Chief Secretary to Government, Home Department.

# TG LAND SETTLEMENT WITH HUMAR ANGLE: CM

**CORRESPONDENT Hyderabad -Telangana Capital:**

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has advised the collectors to act in a humane manner in the matter of land acquisition for national highways. As per the rules, the farmers should see that the more compensation they get, the more they get. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted a review on Wednesday at the Dr. BR Ambedkar State Secretariat on the problems faced in the construction of roads under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Telangana. The Chief Minister questioned why the land acquisition is getting delayed despite the cooperation from the government. Collectors said that the government registration prices for lands are low and the market prices are high, so farmers are not coming forward to give lands. The Chief Minister



who responded wanted to recognize the fact that the farmers are permanently losing the land that has been handed down from generation to generation. Collectors are advised to call and talk to the farmers and convince them.

The Chief Minister said that when the Minister of National Highways Nitin Gadkari was asked not to consider the

southern part of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and the northern part separately, but to assign a single number to both of them, he gave his approval in principle. The officials were advised to take necessary steps for that process. Officials said that a tripartite agreement will have to be concluded between the state government, central government and NHAI in this

regard. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered to complete it immediately. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asked about the obstacles in land acquisition in the northern part of RRR. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Collector Hanmanth K. Zengade said that some farmers approached the court due to a mistake in the alignment issue, and the High Court granted a stay.

## Only real farmers should get Rythu Bharosa: Minister Thummala



**Khammam:** State Agriculture Minister Tummala said that only genuine farmers should get Rythu Bharosa. The minister said that farmers' security conferences were started from Khammam district on Wednesday. He said that opinions have been collected on the farmer insurance procedures in Khammam Collectorate. It was revealed that the collection of opinions was done under the auspices of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. Thum mala said that the government will move forward according to the thoughts of the people. He commented that people have noticed the financial loss in the past. He explained that this program was undertaken to help small and marginal farmers. He said that the government's decision will be taken only after collecting the opinions of the farmers.

## Russia's highest civilian award for Modi



**Kyiv:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the highest civilian award from Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday formally awarded Prime Minister Modi with his country's highest civilian award, the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, for his efforts to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. Putin presented the award to Prime Minister Modi at a special event held at St. Andrew's Hall in the Kremlin. Russia announced this award in 2019. Narendra Modi is the first Indian leader to be selected for this civic award. A ward was established in 1698. The award was instituted by Tsar Peter the Great in honor of Saint Andrew, the chief disciple of Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his happiness on receiving Russia's highest civilian award. He expressed his gratitude for being selected for the award. Modi said that this is to honor not only him but also 140 crore Indians. He described it as a tribute to the centuries-long friendship and mutual trust between India and Russia. The Russian President had then said on X, "Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Order of St Andrew for outstanding achievements in promoting partnership with Russia." To this, PM Modi replied that the foundation of the friendship between the two countries is deep and the future of the partnership is bright.

## Harish Rao respond on journalist arrested



**Hyderabad:** BRS MLA Harish Rao has said that he strongly condemns the way the police treated journalists as a witness of Osmania University. Harish Rao tweeted on Wednesday. If the DSC candidates and the unemployed are protesting to resolve their demands, is it wrong for the journalists to cover the news as part of their duty? He asked. Arresting journalists and forcibly taking them to the police station is a violation of media rights and freedom, Harish Rao said. The government is being warned to change its tyrannical attitude towards journalists. They demanded the immediate release of the detained journalists.

# 'Not Charity, Right': SC's Big Alimony Order For Muslim Women

**New Delhi:** A divorced Muslim woman can seek alimony from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure - the law related to maintenance for wives - the Supreme Court ruled today. The big judgment came as a bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih dismissed a Muslim man's petition challenging a direction to pay his wife maintenance after divorce. "We are hereby dismissing

the criminal appeal with the major conclusion that Section 125 would be applicable to all women and not just married women," Justice Nagarathna said. Justice Nagarathna and Justice Masih delivered separate, but concurrent, judgments. The bench made it clear that the law for seeking maintenance applies to all married women, irrespective of their religion.

Section 125 broadly says a person with sufficient means cannot deny maintenance to

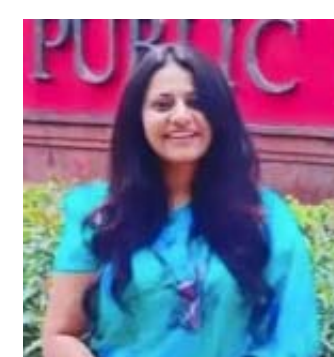
their wife, children or parents. Maintenance is not a matter of charity but a fundamental right of married women, the court said. "This right transcends religious boundaries, reinforcing the principle of gender equality and financial security for all married women," it added. "Some husbands are not conscious of the fact that the wife, who is a homemaker, is dependent on them emotionally and in other ways. Time has come for Indian men to recognise the indispensable

role and sacrifices made by housewives for the family." Rekha Sharma, chairperson of the National Commission for Women, has welcomed the judgment. "NCW Chairperson, Ms. Rekha Sharma, wholeheartedly welcomes the Supreme Court's landmark ruling affirming the right of Muslim women to seek maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC. This decision is a significant step towards gender equality and justice for all women," the panel said in a post on X.

## Trainee IAS Officer, Who Used Siren On Private Car, Claimed Mental Disability

**Mumbai:** Puja Khedkar - an on-probation Civil Service officer - claimed to be visually and mentally impaired in an affidavit submitted the Union Public Service Commission to avail selection process concessions. She had refused, six times, to undergo a mandatory medical test to confirm her disabilities. It is unclear how, or why, she was appointed if she, in fact, declined to appear for the examination. Unconfirmed reports say the first test had been scheduled at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences for April 2022. She skipped this claiming to have tested positive for COVID-19. Two appointments for the following month were also

skipped, as were those in July and August. And she only half-attended a sixth in September; she did not appear for a MRI test to assess vision loss. The Commission subsequently challenged her selection and, in February 2023, a tribunal ruled against her. Nevertheless, somehow she managed to have her civil service appointment confirmed. There are also questions over Ms Khedkar claiming OBC, or Other Backward Classes, status. The falsified statements - and allowances so gained - allowed Ms Khedkar to pass the uber-competitive Civil Services Exam despite scoring a relatively low all-India rank of 841. Ms Khedkar was transferred



from Pune to Washim after her 'exploits' - including the use of a siren on her private vehicle, an Audi luxury sedan - came to light. Pune Collector Suhas Divase had written to the Chief Secretary of the Maharashtra government to request Puja Khedkar's re-assignment.

## Maharashtra 'Pawar' Play: How Ajit Pawar Is Planning To Revive NCP and Win Prestige Battle Against Sharad Pawar?

**Mumbai:** On June 4, when the results of the Lok Sabha Elections were announced, Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party was expecting that the people of Maharashtra would understand his choice of rebellion and support him in the polls. However, in a shocking turn of events, the NCP could win just one Lok Sabha seat of the four it contested. On the other hand, the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) bagged eight out of 10 seats it contested. The election was a test for Ajit Pawar as he was leading the NCP in the first Lok Sabha polls after its split last year. Ajit Pawar even fielded his wife Sunetra against cousin sister Supriya Sule but lost the Baramati seat. Ajit Pawar knows that the NCP has failed in its debut test and if he doesn't act, then it may go further downhill in the upcoming state assembly elections. With only three months left for the Maharashtra assembly elections, Ajit Pawar has decided to turn the fortunes in his party's favour. The NCP is facing stiff competition from NCP-Sharad Pawar. Ajit Pawar is facing twin challenges - first to woo the voters and second to overcome the Sharad Pawar conundrum.

Ajit Pawar warmly welcomed the Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi, part of the Pandharpur pilgrimage, to his hometown of Baramati. True to his promise made in the Assembly to walk with the pilgrims, or 'warkaris,' when they passed through Baramati, the Deputy Chief Minister joined them in traditional attire, accompanied by his wife, Sunetra. Furthermore, the Budget he presented as Finance Minister last week included a special allocation for the warkaris - Rs 20,000 for every 'dindi' (group) participating in the Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj and Sant Tukaram



Maharaj palkhis to Pandharpur.

Ajit Pawar knows that he will have to be on the ground if he wants to make the NCP race ahead of the rival faction. Speaking to reporters recently, Ajit Pawar said that he will start campaigning for the Assembly elections soon. After the Lok Sabha setback, the Mahayuti comprising of the BJP, Shiv Sena-Shinde and the NCP-Ajit Pawar is banking on the monetary payout announced for women in the state Budget, on the lines of Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behan yojana.

Ahead of the polls, Ajit Pawar will hold a mega rally or show of strength in Baramati on July 14 via the 'Jan Samman Rally'. NCP President Sunil Tatkar said that the party leadership will interact with party workers to strategise future plans.

In the upcoming Vidhan Sabha elections, Ajit Pawar is determined not to take any risks, as the NCP (SP) plans to field Sharad Pawar's grandnephew, Yugendra Pawar. Ajit, a seven-time MLA from Baramati, is aware of the competition within the family, with

another of Sharad's grandnephews, Rohit Pawar, currently serving as an MLA from Karjat-Jamkhed in Ahmednagar district.

By catalysing the grassroots workers and making his presence felt in Baramati, Ajit Pawar is trying to send out a message that he is down but not out. The NCP is confident that the Lok Sabha election results would have no bearing on the state assembly polls. With both - Ajit Pawar out on the battlefield to strengthen his factions, all eyes on Sharad Pawar's next move.

## BMW Hit-And-Run: Accused Mihir Shah In Custody Till July 16; Girlfriend May Face Detention

**Mumbai:** A Mumbai court has sent Mihir Shah, the main accused in the Worli hit-and-run case, to police custody till July 16. After a rigorous search, Mihir Shah was arrested from Virar on Tuesday. Thereafter, he was brought to Sewri court in Mumbai on Wednesday. Shah had been absconding after the car he was allegedly driving hit a scooter on Dr Annie Besant Road in Worli on Sunday, July 7.

After ramming the couple on a scooter with his BMW, Mihir Shah spoke to his girlfriend 40 times before abandoning the car. Police said the girlfriend may now be detained for questioning. Fourteen teams were formed by Mumbai police to nab him. Police arrested Rajrishi Singh Bidawat and Mihir's father, Rajesh Shah, for their alleged involvement in the case. Following the tragic incident, the deceased woman's husband, Pradeep Nakhwa, questioned the delay in the arrest of the accused and alleged that he dragged his wife from Ceejay House to Sea Link Road.

"It was due to 'politics' and the accused would not be arrested until the Vidhan Sabha

session ends," Nakhwa had claimed. He also alleged that the delay in the arrest was because the accused was the son of a political leader.

In an exclusive interview, Nakhwa said, "We were on our daily routine, as we are fishermen, and as part of our daily routine, on Sunday at 4 am, we were returning through the Peddar Road from the fish hatchery after buying fish. We were riding slowly at a speed of 35-40 km/hr on the side of the road. Suddenly, a car at high speed came and hit us; we didn't even realize how fast it was. We flew into the air and dropped on my car's bonnet."

"When he applied the brake, I fell on the left side of the road while my wife came under the wheels of his car. He didn't stop after that; I tried to stop him, but he didn't and dragged her from Ceejay House to Sea Link Road. There was smoke from the wheels when he was dragging my wife. After the incident, he fled from the spot," said Nakhwa.

According to Mumbai police, the 45-year-old victim was a resident of Worli Koliwada. Her husband was riding the scooter while she was riding the pillion. The

husband also sustained injuries in the incident. "The couple was returning home after buying fish when the scooter they were riding on was hit by the luxury car. Both of them sustained injuries, and the woman died during treatment," police added.

Police also said that the luxury car belonged to a leader of a political party based in Maharashtra's Palghar. The incident in Worli follows less than two months after the Pune case in which a luxury car allegedly driven by a 17-year-old youth, who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, rammed into a motorcycle, resulting in the deaths of two software engineers in Pune's Kalyani Nagar area in the early hours of May 19.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed his 'alarm' at the 'rise in hit-and-run incidents' in the state on Monday and said that he has directed the police to take strict action against such cases, adding that the 'guilty will not be spared'. The Shiv Sena also removed Rajesh Shah the father of the accused from the party following his arrest.

## Mihir Shah Called Girlfriend 40 Times After BMW Crash, She May Be Detained

**Mumbai:** In a very short span after he rammed a couple on a scooter with his BMW, killing the woman who was riding pillion, Mihir Shah spoke to his girlfriend 40 times before abandoning the car, hailing an auto and heading to her house. Police said the girlfriend may now be detained for questioning.

The 24-year-old son of a Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) leader crashed his BMW into a scooter in Worli in which Pradeep Nakhwa and Kaveri

Nakhwa, a fish-seller couple, were returning around 5.30 am on Sunday after buying fish to sell during the day. While Pradeep was flung off the bonnet after the car hit him, Kaveri came under the wheels and was dragged for 1.5 km. Shah, who was allegedly drunk, then switched seats with his driver, Rajrishi Bidawat, and they reversed the car over Kaveri before speeding away. Shah and the driver then went to Kala Nagar in Bandra, where they

abandoned the car and took off the number plate to avoid being caught. While all this was happening, an official said, Shah called and spoke to his girlfriend 40 times. After leaving the car in Kala Nagar, the 24-year-old hailed an auto and went to his girlfriend's house in Goregaon. Police said he "rested" there for two hours while his girlfriend informed Shah's sister about the accident. His sister went to Goregaon and then took Shah

to their house in Borivali.

From there, Shah's mother, Meena, two sisters - Puja and Kinjal - and a friend, Avdeep, left for a resort in Shahpur, nearly 70 km from Mumbai. They hid there while the police kept looking for Shah, having arrested his father Rajesh Shah and the driver, Bidawat.

On Monday night, Shah left for the family's house in Virar and, the next morning, Avdeep turned on his phone for 15 minutes, revealing his location.

This led to Shah's arrest.

While Shah was produced in court and sent to police custody till July 16, police said they may also detain his girlfriend to question her. An official said the questions will centre around what information about the accident was shared with her by Shah, and whether he was drunk when he spoke to her and met her. The Worli hit-and-run, which came close on the heels of the Pune Porsche

accident, has led to questions being asked of the government. While the juvenile is on the Porsche case is on bail after killing two 24-year-old techies, Mihir Shah also managed to evade the police for 72 hours. In both cases, the opposition has alleged that the accused have links to people in the state government, which is being run by a coalition of the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, the BJP, and the Ajit Pawar-led faction of the NCP.

## Ganja riot broke out at Idupulapaya IIT



**Amaravati -** Idupulapaya IIT of Kadapa District Ganja riot broke out. Education Minister Nara Lokesh expressed his anger over this. The officials were ordered to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the ganja scandal. It is clear that strict action should be taken against those who promote ganja.

The parents of the students met Minister Lokesh in the Prajadarbar held today in Amaravati to stop the irregularities in Triple IT. They complained that they were losing their children by including them. He said that the entire campus of Triple IT has become a base of ganja.

Responding to this,

Minister Nara Lokesh assured the parents of the students that we will eliminate any traces of cannabis in the schools. He said that the government has already taken strict measures to eradicate ganja. He assured that he would solve the problem in Triple IT and save the future of the students.

## Vienna: PM Modi Calls On Austria President Alexander Van der Bellen

**VIENNA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on the President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen, in Vienna. PM Modi arrived in Vienna on Tuesday evening for a day-long State visit under the second leg of his two-nation tour. He was in Russia on a two-day visit where he met President Vladimir Putin.

This historic visit of PM Modi to Austria has reinforced the commitment to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Austria, emphasising core democratic values and the rule of law as shared foundations. The visit holds special significance as it marks several decades since an Indian Prime Minister last visited Austria, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of diplo-

matic relations between the two nations.

PM Modi expressed his delight, saying, "Had an excellent meeting with Chancellor Karl Nehammer. This visit to Austria is very special because it is after several decades that an Indian Prime Minister is visiting this wonderful country. It is also the time when we are marking 75 years of the India-Austria friendship."

"There are several shared principles that connect us such as democracy and rule of law. In the spirit of these shared values, Chancellor Karl Nehammer and I agreed to further cement the India-Austria friendship across various sectors," he said in a post on X. In addition to bilateral matters, PM Modi and Chancellor Nehammer exchanged views on re-



gional and global issues of mutual interest, underscoring the importance of collaborative approaches to international challenges.

PM Modi and Austrian Chancellor Nehammer also participated in the India-

Austria Business Meeting, bringing together around 40 businesses from both nations to explore new economic opportunities and strengthen bilateral trade relations. The two also addressed India-Austria joint

press statement, following their delegation-level talks.

Notably, this is the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited Austria in 41 years. Indira Gandhi was the last PM to visit Austria in 1983.

## 'MAI AAPKE PAIR PAKAD LETA HU'

**Patna:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's unusual gesture for getting the infrastructure work expedited has gone viral on social media. During a public function in Bihar, at one point, CM Kumar got up from his seat and moved a bit towards an IAS officer with folded hands requesting him to get the project completed at the earliest. The IAS officer

was Pratyaya Amrit, additional home secretary of the state. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar visited Patna to inaugurate the extension of the JP Ganga Path up to Kangan Ghat in Patna City. Emphasizing the need for rapid progress, the Chief Minister urged officials to expedite the work as the Ganga Path is set to extend further.

In the midst of this, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar suddenly remarked, "If you insist, I will touch your feet." He then made a gesture as if to bow down and touch the feet of his subordinate, IAS officer Pratyaya Amrit. Pratyaya Amrit, taken aback, folded his hands and tried to stop him.

In Bihar, the assembly elections are scheduled for

October-November next year. Before every election, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar aims to complete several major projects. He has consistently urged officials to expedite the work on the JP Ganga Path. Nitish has made it clear to his subordinate officers that the work must be completed before the elections to facilitate his engagement with the public.

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav said that the state never had such a weak CM in the past. During a similar discussion, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was emphasizing the timely completion of the JP Ganga Path. He urged the engineers from the construction agency and the officers associated with the project to expedite the work.

## Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's Gesture To Get Work Done From Babus Goes Viral



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# EDITORIAL

## How many years in Manipur?

The Congress party, which has won a significant number of seats in the Lok Sabha elections and has become a spear in the side of the NDA, is using every aspect it has got and is trying to corner the ruling party. Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's latest visit to Manipur belongs to this category. While Prime Minister Modi is on his way to Russia, Rahul's visit to the states of Assam and Manipur is a strategic move. It must be said that Rahul has been instrumental in sending strong signals to the people that the Prime Minister is ignoring Assam, which is suffering from floods, and Manipur, which is suffering from riots. Rahul visited the victims languishing in the rehabilitation camps and once again called on the Prime Minister to visit Manipur and give courage to the victims.

Recently, Prime Minister Modi toured the country to win the Lok Sabha elections. He spared no small weapon he found to throw the opposition into self-defence. Finally, in West Bengal's Sandesh Khali, they also met with women who had been raped and tried to push the ruling Trinamool party into self-defence. But it is strange that he did not have the heart to visit Manipur, which has been suffering for a year. The Prime Minister's failure to mention Manipur in his speech of thanks to the President's speech in the Parliament has left everyone in awe. As long as the Prime Minister was speaking in the Lok Sabha, the opposition was chanting 'Manipur...Manipur', but he did not speak about the matter even a word. But this turned into a storm and the Prime Minister, sensing that it would bring the government into disrepute, spoke about Manipur in the Rajya Sabha and angered the opposition.

The Prime Minister, who criticized the imposition of President's rule in Manipur ten times during the Congress regime, did not try to explain why he did not visit the state till now. There is no doubt that the ruling BJP government in Manipur has failed to control the riots. It is not surprising that the opposition is using it as a weapon. But it is ironic that the elders of the central government are going for prestige and not on solving the problem. At one stage, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat also blurted out that there will be no peace in Manipur for a year. Known as the Switzerland of India, Manipur has been out of control since May last year. The riots started after the High Court ordered to look into the inclusion of Meiteis, who constitute a large percentage of the population, in the list of STs.

About 221 people have been blinded and more than 60 thousand people have been displaced and are languishing in resettlement camps in the clashes between the Naga-Kuki tribes and the Meitei tribe. Due to the temporary relief measures taken by the central and state governments, the riots started again after a few days of calm. Last month, assailants opened fire on the Chief Minister's advance security convoy. Earlier in the month, security personnel opened fire on the camp and killed two CRPF jawans. In this context, it is an urgent duty for the central government to take warlike measures to restore law and order in the affected state.

Ten days ago, Bimol Akoizam, MP of Inner Manipur and a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, gave a speech about the situation in his state. "Put your hand on your heart and think of the homeless in Manipur, the women who have lost their mothers, their children, their husbands. Then take action. There they are fighting to protect their villages with weapons. The central government needs to open its eyes to the painful speech of the central government saying that it is watching the violence that has been going on for a year.

# Telangana Govt under fire for risky financial move

**Hyderabad:** The Revanth Reddy government came under fire from the opposition BRS, for resorting to risky measures by mortgaging prime lands to raise funds for fulfilling electoral promises. The party leadership further expressed concerns about the appointment of a merchant banker as an intermediary, reportedly receiving a commission of Rs 100 crore.

According to media reports, the State government is planning to mortgage 400 acres of government land, worth Rs 20,000 crore, to private finance companies to secure a loan of

Rs 10,000 crore. This land, belonging to the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC), is primarily located in the economically significant areas of Kokapet and Raidurg. BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the State government for its inability to manage the State finances efficiently. "Such thoughtless actions will cripple the progress of Telangana. There will be no new investments, industries, or jobs, jeopardising the future of our children," he posted on X. Rama Rao pointed out that most of the IT industries are coming

in areas like Kokapet and Raidurg. Mortgaging 400 acres in such a prime locality to private companies is an ill-advised move, he remarked. He said the industrial sector in Telangana has been stagnant for the past seven months, with no new investments and existing companies not receiving proper incentives. He questioned the impact of mortgaging industrial lands on the future of these companies and the State's youth seeking employment. In a separate post, the former Minister also highlighted the stalled progress of the 'Eco Park' project on the

Himayatsagar Lakefront at Kothwalguda near Hyderabad. Launched in October 2022, this ambitious 125-acre project included attractions like India's largest aviary, an aquarium, boardwalks, landscaped parks, and weekend camping facility among others. However, the project has come to a standstill in recent months due to a lack of support from the current administration. "I urge Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take this project forward and make sure Hyderabadis have a great family getaway as we had conceptualised," he said.



## KTR urges CM to complete the Eco Park Project at Kothwalguda

**Hyderabad:** Former Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Minister KT Rama Rao has called upon Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to complete the Eco Park project on the Himayat Sagar Lakefront at Kothwalguda, near Hyderabad. He remarked that the ambitious project, initiated under the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) administration, has come to a halt since the party left office last year.

In a post on his social media handle X (formerly Twitter), KT Rama Rao expressed his concerns, stating, "We had launched an ambitious project called the 'Eco Park' on the Himayat Sagar Lakefront at Kothwalguda near Hyderabad in about 125 acres with attractions such as India's largest aviary, an aquarium, boardwalks, landscaped parks, and weekend camping options. The project was launched in October 2022 and works were progressing until we relinquished office. Now, I've learned that



the project has come to a standstill in the last few months due to a lack of support from the administration."

He urged the current administration to prioritize the completion of the Eco Park, emphasizing its potential as a major recreational hub for families. "I request @TelanganaCMO to take this project forward and make sure Hyderabadis have a great family getaway as we had

conceptualized," he added. Spanning across 125 acres, the Himayat Sagar Eco Park project is being developed on two land parcels separated by the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Designed to cater to all age groups, the park features a variety of attractions and amenities. The first phase of the eco-park was inaugurated by KTR in 2023, but work on the remaining phases has yet to be completed.

## Mother, job aspirant disagrees with Revanth Reddy's statement on DSC postponement



**Hyderabad:** Deferring with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's statement that political parties were instigating students for postponement of the DSC, a mother and teacher job aspirant made a fervent appeal to the Chief Minister on their genuine demands. In a video that has been circulate on social media, the DSC aspirant said that it was difficult to manage three kids and simultaneously prepare for the DSC exam that has vast syllabus. There is only a 20 day gap between the Teacher Eligibility Test and DSC exam. "My husband has a lot of hopes on me. I feel like I am letting those hopes down. I don't feel like living. We have put in a lot of effort but you say it is being done by BRS. We are making our efforts for DSC postponement. I will touch your feet sir please postpone DSC," she said in an appeal to the Chief Minister.

## Muslim women have right to seek maintenance from spouse, rules SC

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court ruled that a Muslim woman can seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which is applicable to all married women irrespective of religion. A Bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih, which pronounced a separate but concurrent verdict, said Section 125 of the erstwhile CrPC, which deals with wife's legal right to maintenance, covers Muslim women. "We are hereby dismissing the criminal appeal with the major conclusion that section 125 would be applicable to all women and not just married women," Justice Nagarathna said while pronouncing the verdict. The Bench said maintenance is not charity but the right of married women and it is applicable to all married women irrespective of their religion. The top court dismissed the petition of one Mohd Abdul Samad, who has challenged the order of the Telangana High Court refusing to interfere with the maintenance order of the family court. He has contended that a divorced Muslim woman is not entitled for maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC and has to invoke the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

## First case of sex change in Indian Civil Services: Woman IRS officer posted in Hyderabad turns man

**Hyderabad:** A woman Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, serving as the Joint Commissioner in the regional bench of the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Hyderabad, has turned a man. This is said to be the first case of a sex change in the Indian Civil Services. The Ministry of Finance has accepted the request of M Anusuya for change of her name to M Anukathir Surya and gender from male to female. "The request of Ms M Anusuya has been considered. Henceforth, the officer will be recognised as 'Mr M Anukathir Surya' in all official records," reads the order issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on July 9. The 35-year-old officer, posted as Joint Commissioner in the office of the Chief Commissioner (Authorised Representative) of CESTAT, had joined his current posting last year. Surya started his career as an Assistant Commissioner in Chennai in December 2013, and was promoted to the rank of Deputy Commissioner in 2018. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication from the Madras Institute of Technology in Chennai. He did PG Diploma in Cyber Law and Cyber Forensics from the National Law Institute University in Bhopal in 2023. The Supreme Court, in its judgment in the NALSA case on April 15, 2014, had recognised the third gender and ruled that gender identity is a personal choice, whether or not a person undergoes Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS).

## Amid numerous pubs and cafés in Hyderabad, this new board game spot stands out!

**Hyderabad:** Amid the fatigue of the numerous pubs and cafés in Hyderabad, a new board game spot in Himayathnagar stands out. Aptly named Ammusem — an amusing museum of board games — the place has quickly emerged as a haven for board game enthusiasts of all ages. Ammusem, which celebrates its first anniversary this month, is the brainchild of Sai and Ravali, a couple whose passion for board games inspired them to create a space where people can connect, unwind, and rediscover the joys of face-to-face interaction. Tired of the noise and lack of engagement in pubs, Sai's search for interactive places in the city led him to rediscover his childhood love for board games, a passion he shared with Ravali when they first met in 2020. "Ravali has pushed really hard into starting this place," shared Sai, a software engineer. "Whenever we used to play board games at a cafe, I would get really competitive, and she observed that games bring out my true self."

Be it intricate games like Sagrada, the exciting and strategic Long Shot, or the classic



Catan, Ammusem boasts a collection of 120 board games, ensuring there's something for everyone, regardless of their gaming experience. Game master Aditya guides customers through the games, making the experience accessible and enjoyable for all. The café charges Rs 129 per hour on weekdays and Rs 159 on weekends.

"Many of our customers feel hesitant to walk in because they think board games are only for intelligent people. However, that's not true at all. We're here to teach you everything, and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the experience," says Aditya, who juggles between being an advocate and a game master. Explaining their choice

of Himayathnagar, Ravali mentioned that they wanted to introduce an engaging activity spot in that part of the city, which is ripe for such spaces.

"Playing games always gave us stories to talk about. We realised that board games draw people of all age groups together. We've seen grandparents and grandkids, parents with their kids, newlyweds with their in-laws. Everyone can bond over board games," added Ravali, who is on a break from her medical career.

Looking ahead, they aim to build a board gaming community in Hyderabad, plausibly via WhatsApp, where strangers can meet, play games, and bond over shared interests.

## 18 killed, 19 injured as speeding sleeper bus hits milk tanker in UP

**Unnao:** Eighteen people died and 19 were injured when a double-decker sleeper bus hit a milk tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway, police said. The accident took place around 5 am near Jojikot village in the Behta Mughawar police station area. District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said prima facie the bus, which was on its way to Delhi from Bihar, was speeding and hit the milk tanker from behind. A probe has been launched into the matter, he said. Bangarmanu Circle Officer (CO) Arvind Kumar said due to the impact of the collision, both the bus and milk tanker over-



turned. Drivers of the two vehicles were among the dead. He said the injured were rushed to a hospital

and their condition was stated to be stable. Police are trying to identify the victims.

## Police file a case against actor Raj Tarun

The Narsingi police in Hyderabad have opened a case against actor Raj Tarun after his former girlfriend filed a complaint with all available documents and records to back up her claims. Lavanya, Raj Tarun's long-term live-in partner, has filed a complaint against him, stating that he cheated her when actress Malvi Malhotra commenced an affair with him and that they both threatened her.

However, police urged her to produce basic proofs before proceeding with the case, and after she did, a case against Raj Tarun was ultimately registered. Lavanya has given the police full evidence of Raj Tarun's actions. The Narsingi police will start an investigation.

She claims that Raj Tarun and she had been together for more than ten years. They married in a temple but did not register their marriage. When she requested a legal registered wedding, he allegedly cheated her and began an affair with his "Thiragabadara Saami" co-star Malvi Malhotra. Lavanya further claimed that Raj Tarun compelled her to abort the pregnancy. She stated that she registered her name as Avika at the hospital.



## Kiran Abbavaram's next 'Ka' announced

Kiran Abbavaram is the latest Telugu young actor to join the "pan-Indian" bandwagon. His next film, 'KA', has been touted as a pan-Indian project that would be released in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam languages. The first poster has Kiran Abbavaram's back and the title logo. Sujith and Sandeep are writing and directing the film, which is produced by Chinta Gopala Krishna Reddy. The music will be provided by Sam CS. Kiran Abbavaram's recent flicks have failed. He took a break and resolved to think big. Thus, the "Ka" has been announced. More details about other cast members yet to be revealed.



## Ravi Teja and Bhagyashri Borse sizzle in 'Sitar' song

The first song "Sitar" from the upcoming film "Mr. Bachchan" is now out. The Sitar strings of this lovely music will undoubtedly soothe your heartstrings. Mickey J Meyer composed this song, which combines trendy beats, top class instrumentation, and his typical melodious composition. The song, which stars Ravi Teja and newcomer Bhagyashri Borse, was shot in stunning settings in Kashmir.

Ravi Teja in sophisticated style and Bhagyashri Borse in a glamorous avatar performed enchantingly, to the voices of Saketh Komanduri and Sameera Bharadwaj. Both lead actors have sparkling chemistry. "Mr. Bachchan" is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and directed by Harish Shankar.



## SSMB29: Countdown to official announcement

Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu have teamed up on a globe-trotting action thriller. The filming will begin in a month or two. Meanwhile, Rajamouli is finalizing the casting for all of the characters. He has approached several pan-Indian and global actors about this project. The latest buzz is that Rajamouli will make a major announcement about the project, and the countdown has begun. The film will be launched very soon. An auspicious muhurtham will be determined after the Aashada maasam (which ends on July 21st). Mahesh Babu plays an adventurer in the film, and a foreign actress will star alongside him. Prithviraj Sukumaran is believed to be in talks with Rajamouli about a key role. KL Narayana is the producer. MM Keeravani recently announced that he will begin the music session in August.



## Rahul Dravid Reduces His T20 World Cup Bonus By Rs. 2.5 Crore, Wants Equal Reward

The 'gentleman' Rahul Dravid has given another fine example of his character, deciding to let go of half of the INR 5 crore prize money that he was to get from the pool of Rs. 125 crore that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced for the T20 World Cup-winning Indian team. After Rohit Sharma's men beat South Africa in the final to clinch the title, the BCCI announced that a total of Rs. 125 crore will be given to the team, coaching staff, and support staff as a cash reward. The cut for head coach Rahul Dravid came out to be INR 5 crore while the other coaches in the team were to be given Rs. 2.5 crore.

Dravid asked the board to reduce his cash reward to Rs. 2.5 crore too as he didn't want to get more money in comparison to the batting, bowling, and fielding coaches. "Rahul wanted the same bonus money (Rs. 2.5 crore) as the rest of his support staff (bowling coach Paras Mhambrey, fielding coach T Dilip and batting coach Vikram Rathore). We respect his sentiments," a BCCI source



said, as per the report.

What's to be noted is that Dravid had taken a similar stance as the head coach of India's winning U-19 World Cup team of 2018. At that time, Dravid was to get INR 50 lakh while the other members of the support staff were to get Rs. 20 lakh each. The players were to earn Rs. 30 lakh each, as per the formula. Dravid refused such a bifurcation, forcing the BCCI to change the

distribution percentage and reward everyone equally. The board then issued a revised list of cash awards that saw every member of the support staff earn INR 25 lakh, including Dravid. Time and again, Dravid has drawn plaudits for his selfless style. Even as a batter during his active playing days, he put the interests of the team first. As a coach, Dravid continues to bat for the people he work with.

## Carlos Alcaraz Sets Up Repeat Daniil Medvedev Wimbledon Semi-Final

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz shrugged off the loss of the first set to beat Tommy Paul and set up a repeat Wimbledon semi-final with Daniil Medvedev. The Spanish world number three, seeking a fourth Grand Slam title, beat his 12th-seeded opponent 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 under the No. 1 Court roof. Alcaraz was slow out of the blocks, broken twice by the in-form American in a 72-minute first set. Paul raced into a two-game lead in the second set as Alcaraz again faltered on serve but the Spaniard got back on level terms and broke again to level the match.

Three breaks in the third set put the world number three in charge and he stepped up another gear in the fourth set, winning 92 percent of first-serve points and making just four unforced errors. Alcaraz, seeking to become just the sixth man to capture the French Open and Wimbledon titles back to back, said it had been a tough start to his quarter-final against the recent champion at Queen's. "If I'm struggling a little bit to find the



solutions, if the opponent is playing great tennis and I don't get him in trouble, I believe at the end that I'll be able to come back and be able to find solutions," he said. Looking forward to his match against Russian fifth-seed Medvedev, whom he beat last year on his way to winning his

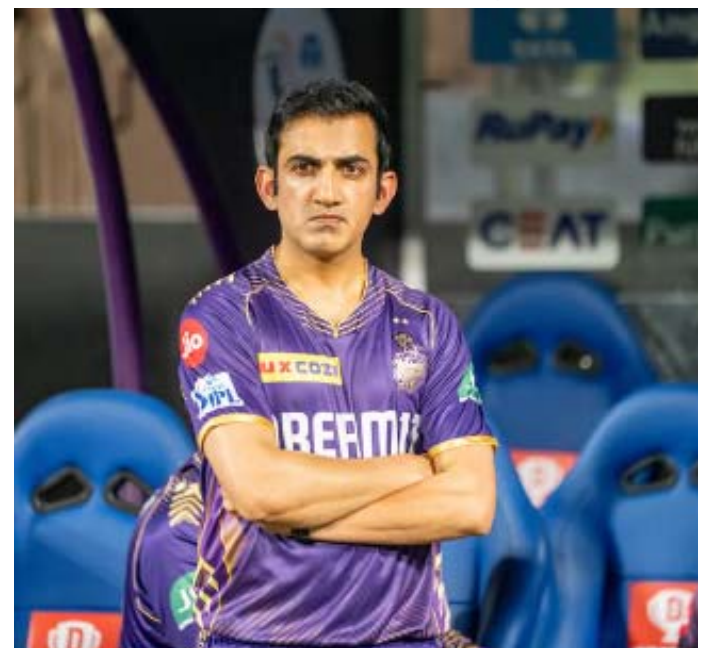
first Wimbledon title, he said: "Hopefully I'm going to get the same result. He just won against Jannik Sinner, the best player right now, so I know that he's in really good shape so I have to play my best, I have to believe in myself and try to keep going if I want to beat him."

## Gautam Gambhir Informs BCCI, Wants Ex RCB Star As Team India Bowling Coach

The ferocious Gautam Gambhir was named head coach of the Indian cricket team by the BCCI, which hoped that he would bring "tenacity and leadership" to the position that was held with "remarkable success" by Rahul Dravid until recently. Gambhir's arrival isn't the only change in India's coaching setup, with the former opening batter also looking to bring in his own coaching staff. While Abhishek Nayar, the assistant coach at Kolkata Knight Riders, is one of Gambhir's preferences, he reportedly also wants former India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer R Vinay Kumar as the bowling coach in the Indian team.

According to a report in RevSportz, Gambhir has submitted the names of Abhishek Nayar, as assistant coach and R Vinay Kumar, as bowling coach, to the BCCI. With Gambhir's coaching tenure beginning with the Sri Lanka series, the BCCI would need to act quickly upon the recommendations made by Gambhir.

The 42-year-old Gambhir was the front-runner to replace Dravid whose tenure ended with the country's title win in the T20 World Cup in Barbados last month. "It is an absolute honour to serve my tricolour, my people, my country," said Gambhir in a BCCI statement. "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rahul Dravid and his



team of support staff for their exemplary run with the team. I am honoured and excited to take on the role of Head Coach for Team India. "I have always taken pride while donning the Indian jersey during my playing days and it is going to be no different when I take up this new role. Gambhir said he looks forward to working closely with the BCCI, Head of Cricket VVS Laxman, the support staff, and, "most importantly, the players, as we work towards achieving success in the upcoming tournaments." Gambhir's first assignment as India coach will be the tour Sri Lanka for three T20Is and as many ODIs start-

ing July 27. "The Board would like to thank former Head Coach, Mr Rahul Dravid for his brilliant run with the team. Team India now embarks on a journey under a new coach - Mr Gautam Gambhir," said BCCI President Roger Binny in an elaborate statement. The Board stated that the Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjpe and Sulakshana Naik on Tuesday unanimously recommended Gambhir. The BCCI had invited applications for the position on May 13. "His experience, dedication, and vision for the game make him the ideal candidate to guide our team forward."