



World is surprised seeing development in India, says PM Modi in Bikaner

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for several major development projects worth over Rs 26,000 crore in Rajasthan's Bikaner on Thursday. He also inaugurated 102 redeveloped railway stations across 86 districts in 18 states and Union Territories under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of approximately Rs 1,100 crore. These include a mix of major and minor stations spread across Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Addressing the public rally, PM Modi said, "Today, I came in front of you all after seeking the blessings of Karni Mata. Due to the blessings of Karni Mata, our resolution of Viksit Bharat is strengthening. Just a few minutes back, the inauguration and foundation stone of development projects worth Rs 26,000 crore were laid. I congratulate the people of Rajasthan for this." "To make a Viksit Bharat, today, an extensive campaign is ongoing to develop a modernised infrastructure in the country. To modernise the roads, highways, trains and railway stations, work has been done with an unprecedented pace in the last 11 years. Today, the amount spent by the nation on these infrastructural develop-



ments is six times what was used before," he said. "Today, even the world is surprised seeing the developmental works being carried out by India," PM Modi said, giving examples of Chenab Bridge, Arunachal Pradesh's Sela Tunnel, Mumbai's Atal Setu and Pamban Bridge in South India. The Prime Minister also said that today, India is "modernising" its train network by introducing trains like Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Namo Bharat trains, which shows the "new pace and progress of the country's technology." Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister also offered prayers at the sacred Karni Mata Temple, followed by a visit to the newly redeveloped Deshnoke railway station. This station is one of the 103 stations revamped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. PM Modi also flagged off the new Bikaner-

Mumbai Express train. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, railway stations across the country are being upgraded to offer enhanced passenger facilities, accessibility for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities), and culturally rich designs. A total of 103 stations, modernised for Rs 1,100 crore, were inaugurated by the Prime Minister. These include eight stations in Rajasthan -- Fatehpur Shekhawati, Deshnoke, Bundi, Mandalgarh, Gogamedi, Rajgarh, Govindgarh, and Mandawar-Mahua Road. The Deshnoke station, in particular, has been designed to reflect local architectural traditions, including temple-style arches and decorative pillars. As part of this vision, the Prime Minister laid the foundation for the 58 km Churu-Sadulpur rail line and dedicated the electrification of key railway sections,

including Suratgarh-Phalodi (336 km), Phulera-Degana (109 km), Udaipur-Himmatnagar (210 km), Phalodi-Jaisalmer (157 km), and Samdari-Barmer (129 km). In terms of road infrastructure, the Prime Minister launched projects aimed at both enhancing civilian connectivity and strengthening national security. This includes laying the foundation for three vehicular underpasses on NH-58 in Pushkar, as well as the widening of NH-11 and NH-70. Additionally, he dedicated seven major national highway projects worth Rs 4,850 crore, which are expected to improve military mobility and boost the regional economy. The Prime Minister's visit also emphasised India's commitment to clean energy. He laid the foundation stone for several solar power initiatives, including a 300 MW ground-mounted solar project by NEEPCO in Bikaner and a 100 MW project by SJVN in Nawa. Solar projects in Didwana and Kuchaman were also initiated. Transmission systems under Powergrid's Sirohi and Mewar divisions were launched to enhance grid connectivity. Furthermore, he inaugurated three key power infrastructure projects - Power Grid Neemuch Transmission System, a power evacuation project in Bikaner, and capacity expansion of the Fatehgarh-II Power Station. Among other projects, the 500 MW Kalasar and 300 MW

Shimbhu Ka Bhurj solar power plants will play a pivotal role in strengthening India's renewable energy framework, supported by indigenous solar PV modules under the "Make in India" mission. Strengthening regional connectivity further, the Prime Minister launched the upgradation and maintenance of 12 state highways covering 757 km under the Rajasthan State Highway Development Programme, with a total investment of Rs 3,240 crore. Prominent routes include Mangaliyawas- Padukalan (State Highway-102), Beawar-Tehla-Alniyawas (SH-59 and SH-104), and Dantiwada-Pipar-Merta City (SH-21). Plans are in place for the future upgradation of another 900 km of roadways, including the Gotan-Sathin Highway, linking industrial and border areas more efficiently. To bolster the state's healthcare infrastructure, the Prime Minister also inaugurated four new nursing colleges in Rajsamand, Pratapgarh, Bhilwara, and Dholpur. These institutions will help strengthen the healthcare workforce and improve access to quality medical education across Rajasthan. In addition, two electrical substations -- 132 kV GSS Rajpura in Bikaner and 132 kV GSS Sarda in Udaipur -- will be inaugurated to improve power distribution in the region. These upgrades are a vital part of ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply across the state.

Visakhapatnam Metro Rail Project to Begin Construction by October 2025, Confirms AP Minister

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Narayana announced that preparations are being made to launch the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail Project by October. He stated that a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared, with plans to construct the metro using a double-decker model. The minister also said that efforts are in progress to make the Bhogapuram International Airport operational by April next year, and directed officials to ensure timely completion. On Wednesday, a review meeting was held at the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) office regarding development across the Uttarandhra districts. The meeting included Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, Mayor Peela



Srinivasa Rao, VMRDA Chairman Pranav Gopal, and other public representatives. Speaking to the media, Minister Narayana said that 15 roads connecting to Bhogapuram Airport would be completed on a priority basis. He mentioned that between 2014 and 2019, the government had proposed 7 lakh TIDCO houses across the state, but the previous administration failed to complete even 2 lakh houses. He assured that these houses would be handed over to beneficiaries by Dussehra. The

review also included discussions on VMRDA's long-term development plans, the Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Petroleum, Chemicals, and Petrochemicals Investment Region (VK PCPIR), and the master plan for the merged mandals. Other topics discussed included: Development of MIG layouts and new housing layouts Construction of a semi-ring road from Rambilli in Anakapalli district to Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, passing through Visakhapatnam district The meeting was attended by Vizianagaram MP Bellana Appalanaidu, MLAs Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy, Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, Vishnukumar Raju, Vamsikrishna Srinivas, Panchakarla Ramesh Babu, Aditi Gajapathi Raju, Lokam Nagamadhavi, Kolla Lalitha Kumari, and others.

No Marriage Proof Needed for Ration Card, Says Nadendla Manohar



Andhra Pradesh Minister Nadendla Manohar assured that people who have recently applied for new ration cards need not worry. He stated that applications will be processed within 21 days of submission. Speaking at a press conference in Vijayawada, the minister addressed rumors about needing a marriage certificate for ration card applications. He clarified that there is absolutely no need to submit a marriage certificate, wedding card, or wedding photo for a new ration card. He warned field-level staff not to make any mistakes regarding this and emphasized that applications must be accepted from all eligible citizens. If there are any doubts, field officers are instructed to inspect the case on-site and make a decision accordingly. The minister also said that free ration cards will be issued to 4.24 crore people in June, and that the government has complete and accurate records. Manohar added that the government is using technology to improve services and make them more accessible to the public. He announced that a smart rice card with a QR code will be introduced soon, and various departments are working together at the field level to make this happen. He mentioned that any family member can be added to the ration card, regardless of age. However, only the names of deceased individuals are currently being considered for removal. People will also be allowed to change the "Head of the Family" on the card. Additionally, the minister noted that there is now a simpler process to correct incorrect details, which can be done at the Tehsildar level, without needing to approach the Joint Collector.

AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Urges Connection with Nature

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan emphasised the importance of fostering a closer bond with nature during biodiversity celebrations held at Tummalapalle Kalakshetra. Speaking at the event in Vijayawada, he urged people to focus on planting trees rather than removing them. Mr Kalyan highlighted the

need to adopt a mindset of giving to nature rather than taking from it. He explained that while naturally grown plants may not always be essential for our immediate needs, they play a vital role in supporting biodiversity. He encouraged individuals to consider what actions they can take in their own backyards to help preserve and



enhance biodiversity, stressing that small, everyday efforts can make a significant difference.

79TH TOLIC MEETING SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT DRM CONFERENCE HALL

The 79th meeting of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) was convened today at the DRM Conference Hall under the chairmanship of Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair. The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation from key dignitaries including Shri Manoj Kumar Sahoo, ADRM (Operations) and Deputy Chairman, TOLIC, as well as Department Heads and representatives from the member offices of TOLIC Visakhapatnam.

The proceedings commenced with an inaugural address by Shri Santosh Kumar, Incharge Secretary, TOLIC cum Rajbhasha Adhikari & Assistant Commercial Manager, Waltair. On this occasion the official release of the latest edition of the TOLIC magazine Visakha-Bharati was made followed by a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the various programmes and initiatives undertaken by TOLIC member offices over the past year.

Shri Anirban Vishwas, Deputy Director of the Regional Implementation Office, Bangalore, graced the meeting virtually via Google Meet, underscoring the collaborative spirit of



the event. Recognition of Excellence in Rajbhasha Implementation for outstanding efforts in promoting the Official Language Hindi, six member offices were felicitated with shields. Among the large offices, East Coast Railway secured the first position, followed by Customs & Excise and NSTL in second and third positions respectively. In the small

office category, Kendriya Vidyalaya-II/Srivijayanaragaram (104 Area) clinched the top spot, with FSI and CIFT awarded second and third positions. Additionally, commendation certificates were presented to seven offices for their exemplary work in Rajbhasha implementation during 2024. DRM Shri Lalit Bohra presented the shields and certificates.

Chairman Shri Lalit Bohra congratulated all award-winning offices and commended the remarkable progress made by all the offices in promoting Hindi. He encouraged all member offices to participate actively in TOLICs programmes and emphasized the importance of contributing quality articles to the Visakha-Bharati magazine. DRM also advised member offices to organize diverse activities aimed at increasing the use and propagation of Hindi as the Official Language. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks, marking the end of a productive and inspiring session dedicated to the advancement of the Official Language.



Should immediately apologize for the humiliation of the MP Gaddam Vamsi

Dalit sanghas made by dharna at Tankbund



Hyderabad, May:20, Metroudayam.

The insult to Gaddam Vamsi Krishna was a shame for all Dalits and that government officials should immediately apologize. Raju Ustad, national president of the Scheduled Castes Rights Protection Society, said.

The dharna was paid homage to the statue of Tank Bund and Ambedkar. Speaking on the occasion, Raju Ustad said on the occasion that Jaya Shankar Bhupalapalli district Kalesh war was not invited to the Saraswati River Pushkaras Vamsi Krishna and his lack of photo in the invitation according to the protocol.

The government has not responded till now. Vamsi Krishna Dalit is strongly condemned by not inviting Pushkaras. The ministers and MLAs are doing what they are doing in case of humiliation of their own party MP.

Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Konda Surekha, Chief Secretary of the Devalaya Department Sailaja and officials have demanded an apology.

The government responded and shouted slogans to apologize to MP Vamsikrishna. At the event, Chennaiah, Karan Kishan, Bitla Venkat, Janga Srinivas, Dasari Vishal, Balhava Rao, A.Naveen, Madhela Prabhakar, Satyanarayana, Parasuram, Manne Sridhar Rao, Balakrishna, Sudhir, Prabhavati, Satyanarayana, KVS Raju and Srinivas participated in this dharna.

CPI Party Medipally Mandala 4th massmeeting

Raccha Kishan unani-mous election as Secretary of mandal Medipally May:22 (Metro udayam)

CPI party Medipally mandal 4th Mahasabha was organized in the Indira Nagar Colony Welfare Society building at Medipally mandal under Boduppal Municipal Corporation. The event was chaired by Raccha Kishan, District Assistant Secretary G Damodar Reddy and Umamahesh and constituency secretary Thottapalli Shankar district executive member



J. Lakshmi, District Assistant Secretaries G Damodar Reddy and Uma Mahesh said that the CPI

party is the only Communist Party of the Indian Communist Party, which is constantly fighting for the rights of workers and peasantry for their rights. The history of the Nizam's totalitarian regime and distributed thousands of acres to the poor is the Communists. Revenue officials have informed the revenue authorities that they are going to take action against the revenue authorities on the houses of the poor in the Bhagat Singh Nagar huts. Poor people have been asked

to take action against the huts that have been repaired for 20 years. Election of Medipally Zone New Committee Raccha Kishan as Medipally CPI Party Secretary CH Madhavi and G Nagaraju were elected as Assistant Secretary. The members of the council as J Lakshmi, K Pramila, Dandu Ramesh, Macharla Kanakayya, Bhootha Ilyiah, Rachcha Shyam, Narsamma, Uppala Komuraya, Baparaju, Dandu Mother, Bhutha Naresh, Ramatara, Lakshamma Was elected.

Not just US, many countries reached out: Jaishankar on Trump's India-Pak 'ceasefire' claims

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday stated that the cessation of firing and military action was negotiated directly between India and Pakistan, and the ceasefire understanding was reached after the adversary nation made the "first move". EAM Jaishankar's statement comes in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's repeated claims that his administration brokered the ceasefire between the nuclear-armed nations, after long hours of talks. In an interview with Netherlands-based NOS, he said the United States was not alone, but many other countries reached out, between May 7 to May 10, in the wake of Operation Sindoor. He added that it is natural for other countries to set up communication channels with nations



engaged in military conflict. "US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to me while External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday stated that the cessation of firing and military action was negotiated directly between India and Pakistan spoke to PM Modi," the EAM said. Shedding light on how the understanding was reached, he stated that the Indian government sent out a clear message that "If Pakistan wants to stop firing, their general has to

call up our general, and that is how it happened." He said that India told every other nation, including the United States, that if Pakistan wanted a ceasefire, they should communicate with India directly. is S. Jaishankar's statement reiterates the government's stand that the understanding was reached after Pakistan's desperate attempts to seek an end to hostilities in light of Indian forces pounding its air bases. Opposition, however, remains unconvinced and has been demanding clarification on Trump's repeated claims on ceasefire and also asking why Prime Minister Modi is not refuting his claims. This morning, Congress media and publicity wing head Pawan Khera shared a video of Trump and said this is the eighth time

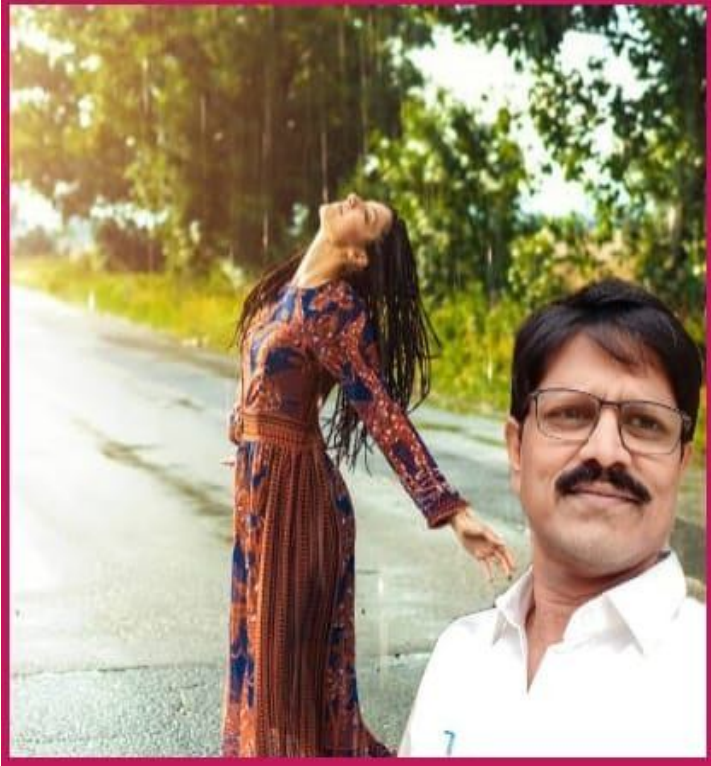
President Trump has claimed that he got the Operation Sindoor "stopped". "He claims to have used trade to get India to end Operation Sindoor. Prime Minister Modi has not rejected this claim even once. What does this silence mean?" Khera wrote in a post on X. During a meeting with visiting South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Oval Office last night, Trump said, "If you take a look at what we just did with Pakistan and India. We settled that whole, and I think I settled it through trade." On May 10, when the understanding was reached, Trump had claimed that India and Pakistan agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire after a long night of talks "mediated" by Washington.

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आपात की घड़ी /

वो चंचल शर्मिली तुम गजब की जलपरी।
प्यार भारी रसीली लाल होठों से कहीं चली?
तेरे पायल की छन छन ने मेरे दिल ले गई।
तेरी कदमों की आहत में धड़कन समा गई।

तेरे चेहरे का नूर मिटा रही है, रातमें चंद्रमा की कमी।
खूबसूरत तेरे बदन मचा रही है दिल में कलबली।
तेरे जुल्फें लहरा कर लिपट गई मस्त भीगा बदन से।
तेरे हुस्न का शबाब छलक रहा है गहरी निगाहों से।

शर्म से तेरे गुलाबी गाल खिल गई इश्क की पनाह से।
हाय राम मैं क्या तारीफ कहूँ इस हुसन को जुबान से
मेरी जिदगी तुझसे जुड़ी है। मेरी

जान तेरी करीब से।
मेरा गला सूख रहा है। प्यास बुझा दो मधुर पानी से।

तेरे उभारों की गहराई से आंचल यूँ न गिराते जाओ।
फिर तुम पलट कर मुझे बदनाम करके यूँ न जाओ।
गहराई तेरी नाभि की जरा शर्म और हया की कमी।
समा जाएगी तुझ में अब मेरी बेपना हया की बेशर्मी।

यूँ न हिचका कर चलो सनम यह आपात की घड़ी।
तुम पलट कर वार करो अब मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं।
यह प्रकृति का खेल है। इसमें कोई राज छुपा नहीं।
फूलों को अच्छा लगता है भंवरो की झूम झूम ध्वनि।

लेखक बितव्रम श्रीमन्नारायण
रेलुकुर्ति
हवेली वरंगल।

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Spring Was Born with Your Arrival

With your arrival the desert that was my life blossomed into a garden of jasmine. Like a shower of nectar, your love poured upon me.

The joys I thought I would never know smiles, peace, warmth became mine, every day, every moment, through you.

When you%µ%re with me, every day is a celebration, life becomes a rainbow. Your rare, pure love I see it as a blessing from the Divine Mother herself. With every breath, I thank her for sending you to me.

I dream of living not just years, but life-times with you, making every season a melody of together-



ness.

Your love is sacred to me, your words send a thrill through my Soul, your touch is the breeze of spring awakening every part of me.

Your call is a festival bell, your voice a sacred chant. Not just in this life in every life to come, I will wait for you. And I will live forever in the temple of your heart

Smt. Latha Murthy

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पाखंडी लोग दूसरों को ठगने और धोका देने के लिए अपने अंदर दिव्यशक्तियां होने का दावा करते हैं। अगर यह दावा सच है तो वह खुद और उन का परिवार बीमारियों से और मृत्यु से बचना चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होता। ... (शकील उवाचा -367)

दुनिया के सभी धर्म, मजहब और पंथों में सत्संग को बहुत ही अहमियत दी गई है। हमें हमेशा झूठे और फरेब (धोका) देने वाले लोगों से बचकर सच्चाई के साथ रहना चाहिए। दिव्यशक्ति, चमत्कार, मंत्र और तंत्र के नाम से धार्मिक होने का ढोंग करने वाले पाखंडियों से होशियार रहकर इनकी संगती से बचते रहना चाहिए। क्योंकि यह पाखंडी लोग दूसरों को ठगने और धोका देने के लिए अपने अंदर दिव्यशक्तियां होने का दावा करते हैं। अगर यह दावा सच है तो वह खुद और उन का परिवार बीमारियों से और मृत्यु से बचना चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होता।

ऐसे झूठे पाखंडियों के बारे में लगभग चार सौ साल पहिले जगद्गुरु संत तुकाराम महाराज मराठी में कहे हैं के, "देव्हारा बैसोनी हालविती सुपे। ऐसी पापी पापे लिपवाती।। तयांचे स्वाधीन दैवते असती। तरी का मरती त्यांची पोरे?।।" (संत तुकाराम गाथा) याने "जो अपनी दिव्य शक्ति से अंगों को हिलाते हैं और जिन लोगों में देव देवताओं का संचार होता है, (और जो लोग दिव्यशक्तियां होने का दावा करते हैं) ऐसे लोगों के अधिकार में ईश्वर होगा। फिर ईश्वर उनके आधीन रहने के बाद भी उनके बच्चे असमय कैसे मृत्यु को प्राप्त करते हैं?"।

ईश्वर के प्रति दृढ़ विश्वास और अपने कर्तृत्व पर भरोसा रखने वाला व्यक्ति ज्योतिषों के चुंगल में नहीं फंसता। पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम के प्रवचन, पत्र और उपदेशों जिस ग्रन्थ में है



उस ग्रन्थ का नाम नहजुल बलागह में आया है के, एकबार आप अलैहिस्सलाम जंग के लिए निकल रहे थे तो "अशअर बिन कैस" नामक एक आदमी ने अपने किसी एक रिश्तेदार को साथ लाया जो एक महान ज्योतिषी था। उस ज्योतिषी ने कहा "आप अभी युद्ध के लिए न निकले। ज्योतिष शास्त्र के अनुसार इस वक्त जो भी युद्ध में जायेगा वह हारेगा और मारा जाएगा।" उसके बातें सुनकर इमाम अली अलैहिस्सलाम ने अपना सफर नहीं रोका, बल्के अपने लश्कर से कहा "सिरु अला इस्मुल्लाह (ईश्वर का नाम लेकर आगे बढ़ो)" और जंग के लिए रवाना हुए। इस जंग में विजई होकर सकुशल वापिस पलट आए।

उपरोक्त घटना से पता चलता है के आदमी ज्योतिषों पर नहीं बल्के परमात्मा पर विश्वास रखना चाहिए जो हमारा सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार है। भविष्य जैसी बातों पर व्यर्थ के विचार करने के बजाए अपनी बुद्धि का उपयोग परमात्मा के उन निशानियों पर करने से हम निजात याने मुक्ति के हकदार बन सकते हैंजिन निशानियों के माध्यम से हम अपने परमात्मा को जान सके। अब सवाल यह आता है के आखिर वह निशानियां क्या है?

पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "बेशक आकाशों और धरती की रचना में, रात और दिन के आने-जाने में, और उन नावों में जो लोगों के लाभ के लिए सामान लेकर समुद्र में चलते हैं, और उस पानी में जिसे ईश्वर ने आकाश से बरसाया, फिर उस से धरती को उसके मृत हो जाने के पश्चात जीवित कर दिया और उस में हर प्रकार के जीव-जन्तु को फैला दिए, और हवाओं के चलाने में, और बादलों में जो आकाश और धरती के बीच घिरा रहता है। (इन सब बातों में) अक्लवालों (बुद्धिमान लोगों) के लिए (बड़ी बड़ी) निशानियाँ हैं।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक 02, सुराह अल बकरा, आयत क्रमांक 164)।

-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील मंवर), मंवर, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत

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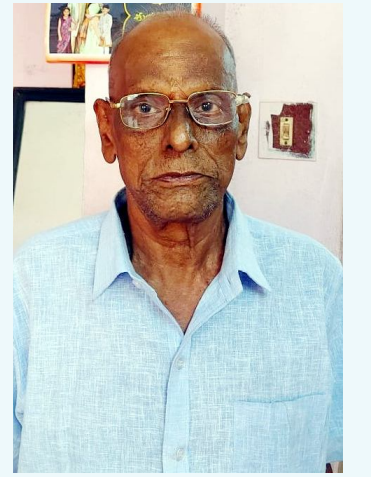
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Pawan Kalyan launches innovative to address public issues, engages through theatres

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has introduced a groundbreaking programme aimed at addressing public issues directly. He engaged with residents during face-to-face meetings from his camp office in Mangalagiri, broadcasting live via silver screens.

This initiative, named Mana Ooru - Mata Manti, allowed him to interact with villagers from Ravivalasa in the Tekkali mandal of Srikakulam district, seeking feedback on their concerns. Kalyan has instructed senior officials to ensure that villagers' problems are resolved promptly, earning widespread admiration from the local community for utilising technology as a means to alleviate their hardships. The coalition government, led by Chandrababu, is noted for its rapid response to state-wide issues, including accidents and local grievances. Recently, farmers in the agency areas of Chittoor and Vizianagaram districts reported significant distress caused by elephants. The plight of these farmers was relayed to Deputy CM Kalyan, who promptly contacted the Karnataka government to request the transfer of six Kunki elephants to Andhra Pradesh. In response, the Andhra Pradesh government has successfully signed an agreement with Karnataka, resulting in the handover of four Kunki elephants to Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in Bengaluru on Wednesday.



Cast Reflect on Reimagining Lilo & Stitch for a New Generation

A wave of nostalgia is set to hit cinemas this week as Disney's much-anticipated live-action Lilo & Stitch makes its debut on 23 May. Bringing together heartfelt storytelling, offbeat humour and cosmic chaos, the reimagined family favourite is poised to be a standout release of the summer. Directed by Dean Fleischer Camp, the film brings fresh faces and seasoned talent together, with Maia Kealoha playing the spirited young Lilo and Sydney Agudong portraying her protective older sister, Nani. The cast also features Courtney B. Vance as social worker Cobra Bubbles, Zach Galifianakis as the eccentric scientist Dr Jumba, and Tia Carrere as the warm-hearted Mrs Kekoa. Long-time Disney collaborator Chris Sanders returns to voice Stitch, the mischievous alien with a big heart. Sanders, who originated the voice of Stitch in



the 2002 animated version, admitted he felt some apprehension when he first heard about the live-action adaptation. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous," he said. "There's always uncertainty when something so loved is being reimagined. But once I was asked to be part of it, it felt completely right. Like returning home." Zach Galifianakis, known for his quirky comedic roles, brought Dr Jumba to life – despite often acting opposite thin air. "Most of the time, we had a tennis ball or a bit of tape standing in for

Stitch," he joked. "Sometimes a cuddly toy made an appearance – but honestly, all three gave pretty strong performances!" The early response has been overwhelmingly positive, with many calling it Disney's most successful live-action remake to date. Critics have applauded the film for preserving the charm and emotional depth of the original while introducing fresh energy and visual wonder. Particular praise has been given to Kealoha's heartfelt portrayal of Lilo, and the incredibly detailed, lifelike version of Stitch, which has been dubbed "irresistibly adorable." With its blend of emotion, imagination, and island spirit, Lilo & Stitch is expected to enchant audiences of all ages. The film opens in Indian cinemas on 23 May 2025 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu – promising a cosmic adventure the whole family can enjoy.

Deepika Padukone exits Spirit: Industry insiders question double standards in actor demands

In an industry constantly grappling with issues of gender parity, professionalism, and respect for boundaries, the latest buzz surrounding Deepika Padukone's exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Spirit* raises more questions than it answers. According to reports, the celebrated actress is no longer attached to the film, allegedly due to her "demands": an 8-hour shoot limit (which reportedly amounted to around 6 hours of actual filming), a refusal to deliver dialogues in Telugu, and a remuneration package involving both a high upfront fee and a profit share. These terms, we're told, shocked the director and producers so much that they chose to part ways. But step back from the headlines and ask this — are these really outrageous demands for an actress of Deepika's stature? Or are we



witnessing another instance of coded chauvinism in an industry that struggles to accommodate assertive, powerful women? Deepika Padukone is not just a Bollywood superstar. She is a global icon with a proven box

office track record, international recognition, and the kind of brand value few can rival. The idea that she should accept a role without fair compensation or that she must conform to a particular working style, especially

when such expectations are rarely applied to male superstars, reveals a troubling double standard. The 8-hour workday is not a diva's whim. It's a basic labor standard in many professional industries. The refusal to speak Telugu? Perhaps Her preference not to deliver Telugu dialogues could be because notably, when Deepika spoke Telugu in the *Kalki 2898 AD* trailer, there was online backlash, leading the makers to dub over her voice with another artist. This could have influenced her stance on speaking Telugu in *Spirit*. And the profit-sharing model? It's an industry norm for top-billed male actors. Why then is it "shocking" when Deepika asks the same? Sandeep Reddy Vanga, whose previous works like *Arjun Reddy* and *Kabir Singh* have been heavily criticized for their portrayal of

male dominance and toxic masculinity, is no stranger to controversy. If reports are true, this decision fits into a pattern where control, not collaboration, seems to drive the creative process. While producers and directors have every right to make casting decisions based on fit, budget, and vision, the framing of Deepika's professional boundaries as unreasonable feels loaded with bias. If a male superstar had demanded shorter hours and profit participation, would he be branded "difficult" — or would he be lauded as savvy and self-aware? At a time when the film industry is claiming to evolve, this incident serves as a reminder of how much further it still has to go, especially when it comes to accepting female power, on and off screen.

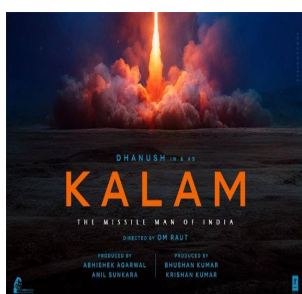
Mohanlal's Birthday Glimpse From 'Kannappa' Sparks Curiosity

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, who is currently riding high with back-to-back ₹200 crore grossers, will next be seen in the much-anticipated pan-Indian epic 'Kannappa', led by Dynamic Star Vishnu Manchu. Mohanlal is celebrating his birthday today, and to mark the occasion, a special update has been unveiled from the film, which is gearing up for a grand worldwide release on June 27. On this special occasion, the makers of 'Kannappa' released an electrifying glimpse featuring Mohanlal in a powerful and intense avatar. The short video showcases him walking with fierce determination, exuding a magnetic screen presence that commands attention. Amplified by a goosebumps-inducing background score, the glimpse has generated significant curiosity. Mohanlal plays the formidable role of Kirata, a legendary figure associated with divine might. His inclusion in the cast undoubtedly elevates the film's scale and appeal, promising a performance that fans across languages are eagerly awaiting. Vishnu Manchu and the 'Kannappa' team are sparing no effort in promoting the film. The promotional campaign has been both aggressive and strategic, with each update creating massive buzz across social media and industry circles. From unveiling character posters to teasers, the promotional drive is unlike anything seen in recent times. Fans can expect many more surprises in the lead-up to the grand release.



Om Raut Announces Dhanush Starrer Biopic on Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Titled 'Kalam'

Om Raut, the director of *Adipurush*, has announced his next movie, which will be a biopic on Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and Bharat Ratna. This announcement comes two years after making *Adipurush*, which starred Prabhas. The movie is titled *Kalam*, with the tagline "Missile Man of India." The first poster was released at the 78th Cannes Film Festival, showing actor Dhanush in the role of Dr. Kalam. The poster features a missile taking off in the background, which looks impressive. Dhanush shared how lucky and humble he feels to play the role of such an inspiring leader, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Om Raut, who directed *Tanhaji* and *Adipurush*, is now working on his third film. Many people online have said that he is doing something big by making a biopic about the famous Missile Man. The movie is being produced by Abhishek Agarwal, Anil Sunkara, Bhushan Kumar, and Krishnan Kumar.



Dil Raju Dreams: A golden opportunity for aspiring talent in Telugu cinema

In the vibrant world of Indian cinema, few names resonate as powerfully as Dil Raju. A stalwart in the Telugu film industry, fondly known as Tollywood, Dil Raju has earned a reputation for nurturing fresh talent and delivering compelling content. From introducing promising actors and directors to backing innovative stories, he has been a catalyst for success in the industry. Now, with the launch of "Dil Raju Dreams," he is taking his commitment to fostering creativity to the next level, offering a groundbreaking platform for aspiring filmmakers and artists to showcase their talent. Dil Raju, whose name is synonymous with quality cinema, has always championed fresh perspectives and unique storytelling. With "Dil Raju Dreams," he aims to provide a dedicated space for young and talented individuals to break into the Telugu film industry. Announced as a platform to encourage new talent, "Dil Raju Dreams" is designed to bridge the gap between aspiring filmmakers and the opportunities they



need to succeed. Recognizing the challenges faced by many talented individuals—such as lack of industry contacts or access to the right avenues—Dil Raju has created this initiative to ensure that creativity and skill find the spotlight they deserve. How "Dil Raju Dreams" Works? Starting in June, the "Dil Raju Dreams" online platform will officially go live, opening doors for aspiring directors, writers, actors, and technicians. Those eager to be a part of

this initiative can register their details on the official website, <https://dilrajudreams.com/>. Once registered, the Dil Raju Dreams team will personally reach out to candidates, offering them a chance to present their ideas and projects. The platform is not just a registration portal; it's a gateway for young talent to connect directly with industry professionals. Whether you're a budding director with a unique script, a writer with a compelling story, or an actor waiting for a breakthrough, "Dil Raju Dreams" promises to be the launchpad you've been waiting for. A Golden Opportunity for Aspiring Filmmakers: For many aspiring filmmakers, the biggest hurdle is not a lack of talent but a lack of opportunity. Without the right contacts or a platform to showcase their skills, many promising careers stall before they can begin. "Dil Raju Dreams" is set to change that narrative by offering a structured and accessible way for talent to reach decision-makers in the industry.

SKY stars with bat as MI storm into playoffs

Mumbai: Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten half-century, followed by a clinical bowling performance, helped the five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) to register a 59-run win in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 do-or-die clash against Delhi Capitals at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. With this win, MI have reached the playoff stage. Suryakumar Yadav played an unbeaten 73 knock, followed by Naman Dhir's cameo, lifted MI to 180/5 on a sluggish surface exploited well by Delhi Capitals spinners Kuldeep Yadav (1/25) and Vipraj Nigam (0/25). Suryakumar smashed seven fours and four maximums in his 73 not out off 43 balls. After being asked to bat, MI failed to get a good start as opener Rohit Sharma departed in the third over, scoring just five runs. First, amid a challenging phase of play with DC's spinners dominating the proceedings, Suryakumar put on



55 runs for the fourth wicket with Tilak Varma and towards the end, found a perfect foil in Dhir (24 off 8 balls, 2x4s, 2x6s) to add another 57 runs from a mere 21 balls. The tables turned drastically in the last two overs when the Indian T20 skipper Suryakumar and Dhir hit a

grand total of five sixes and four boundaries to add 48 runs, shifting the momentum completely in MI's favour. In reply, DC crumbled to 121 in 18.2 overs with Sameer Rizvi top-scoring with a 35-ball 39. Asked to bat first on a sluggish pitch where the odd ball was stopping and

spinning and in slightly overcast conditions, Surya paced his innings perfectly, playing cautiously at the start before unleashing an array of shots in the final two overs as MI recovered from 123/5 in the 17th over to reach a fighting total. Suryakumar, who reached his fifty off 36 balls, along with Naman Dhir (24 not out off 8 balls), smashed 48 runs in the final 12 balls of the innings, leaving Delhi to chase 181. Mumbai Indians had a decent Power-play as they reached 54/2 in six overs. On a pitch on which the odd ball was stopping and spinning, MI needed a better effort, especially from Rohit Sharma, as the dew will be a factor in the second innings. Brief Scores: Mumbai Indians: 180 for five in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 73 not out; Mukesh Kumar 2/48). Delhi Capitals: 121 all out in 18.2 overs (Sameer Rizvi 39; Mitchell Santner 3/11, Jasprit Bumrah 3/12)