



PM Modi sees northeast states as gateway to \$200 billion trade with ASEAN

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's trade with ASEAN countries, which currently stands at approximately \$125 billion, is expected to exceed \$200 billion in the coming years with the northeast states playing a key role as a strategic trade bridge and gateway to the southeast Asian markets. Inaugurating the Rising North East Investors Summit here, he highlighted the importance of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, which will provide direct access from Myanmar to Thailand, strengthening India's connectivity with Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. PM Modi underscored the government's efforts to expedite the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project, which will link the Kolkata Port to Myanmar's Sittwe Port, providing a crucial trade route through Mizoram. He stated that this project will significantly reduce the travel distance between West Bengal and Mizoram, enhancing trade and industrial



growth. Highlighting the ongoing development of Guwahati, Imphal, and Agartala as Multi-Modal Logistics Hubs, the Prime Minister noted that the establishment of Land Custom Stations in Meghalaya and Mizoram is further expanding international trade opportunities. He emphasised that these advancements are positioning the northeast as a rising force in trade with Indo-Pacific nations, unlocking new avenues for investment and economic growth. The Prime Minister further stated that the 'Heal in India' initiative is being developed as a worldwide movement. He highlighted the northeast's rich biodiver-

sity, natural environment, and organic lifestyle, describing it as a perfect destination for wellness. PM Modi urged investors to explore the northeast as a critical component of India's Heal in India mission, reaffirming that the region's climate and ecological diversity offer immense potential for wellness-driven industries. The Prime also highlighted that the northeast is emerging as a key destination for two strategic sectors -- energy and semiconductors. The government's extensive investments in hydropower and solar power across all northeastern states, with sev-

eral thousand crore rupees worth of projects already approved, he added. The Prime Minister noted that beyond investment opportunities in plants and infrastructure, there is significant potential in manufacturing, including solar modules, cells, storage solutions, and research. He underscored the importance of maximising investment in these areas, stating that greater self-sufficiency today will reduce dependence on imports in the future. PM Modi also underscored the growing role of Assam in strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem. He announced that the first Made in India chip from a northeast-based semiconductor plant would soon be introduced, signalling a major milestone for the region. This development is unlocking opportunities for cutting-edge technology and solidifying the northeast's position in India's high-tech industrial growth, he added.

Fire Erupts at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

A significant fire has erupted at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, particularly affecting the Steel Melting Station (SMS-2) area. Fire crews arrived promptly after receiving reports of the incident and are currently engaged in efforts to control and extinguish the blaze. The cause of the fire remains undetermined, but it has resulted in all liquid steel being released due to the accident. Authorities are warning that the property damage could be extensive as they continue to battle the raging fire. Further updates are expected as the situation develops.



Six killed in lorry and car collision in Prakasam district

In a devastating road accident in Prakasam district, six individuals lost their lives when a lorry collided with their car at Thaticherlamotu in the Komarolu mandal. The victims, residents of Stuartpuram in Bapatla district, were on their way home after visiting the Mahanandi temple. Another occupant of the car has sustained serious injuries. The incident has left the local community in mourning as investigations into the circumstances of the accident continue.



Former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi taken into custody in house site case



Vallabhaneni Vamsi, the former MLA and YSRCP leader from Gannavaram, has been taken into police custody for questioning in connection with the distribution of fraudulent house titles uncovered in Bapulapadu mandal. Vamsi, who has been serving as a remand prisoner in Vijayawada sub-jail, was apprehended this morning and subsequently brought to Kankipadu police station. The police sought the court's permission to hold Vamsi for two days to facilitate further investigation into the case. The court granted this request, allowing the authorities to take him into custody. Meanwhile, Vamsi is already facing charges in several other matters. Authorities express optimism that the latest developments will yield crucial information pertaining to the fake pattas case. Further details are anticipated to emerge during the course of the two-day investigation.

Kaleshwaram notice politically motivated, says KCR

Hyderabad: BRS senior leader T Harish Rao on Thursday met party supremo K Chandrashekar Rao to discuss on the Kaleshwaram notice being issued to the BRS chief. Both the leaders had a two and half hour meeting at KCR's farmhouse on the notices and how to go about this. According to sources, the BRS chief had told Harish Rao that this notice was a political conspiracy by the Congress party. He asked Harish Rao to wait for some more time so that they can see the contents in the notice and then take a stand. The party would take a decision regarding appearing for questioning only after seeing the notice. The term of the Kaleshwaram Commission, which was supposed to give the report by this month end, was increased further by the government. After this, the



Commission issued notices to KCR, Harish and BJP leader Eatala Rajender. A few days back, BRS working president KT Rama Rao met Harish Rao and had discussions with Harish on the same issue. Now the discussions between the BRS chief and senior leader of the party are indicating that the party may take a decision to appear before the

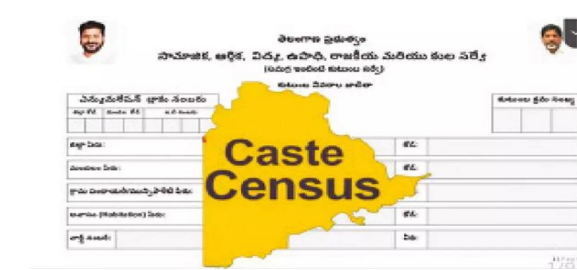
Commission. Meanwhile, in a chit chat, the BRS working president raised the doubts that the incident was the conspiracy of Congress and BJP. Stating that they had not received the notice individually, KTR said that the party would respond after seeing the notice. "The misinformation done on the Palamuru Rangareddy project has come to light. The truth came

out as a witness in yesterday's observations by the Supreme Court. The misinformation being done by this Congress and BJP on Kaleshwaram will also come to light soon," he said. The BRS leader said that both Congress and BJP were doing dirty politics on the Kaleshwaram project. "Public administration has become a percentage rule and these notices are to divert people's attention from that. The Congress party's commissions are coming out. Justice Ghose said that his report is completed and the investigation is over. But why was it extended again? The government should say. The real agenda of these notices was to demolish all the barrages in the Kaleshwaram project, call for tenders again and take 20 to 30 per cent commissions," he said.

Expert Group to submit report on caste survey by next month

Hyderabad: The State government's Expert Group will formulate a 'Composite Backwardness Index' (CBI) using the caste census data to measure disparities across 243 sub-castes. An Expert Working Group under the Chairmanship of Justice Sudarshan Reddy will study, analyse and interpret the data collected under the Social Education Employment Economic Political Caste (SEEEPC) Survey of 2024. The group consists of nine full-time members and other special invitees with expertise in sociology, caste studies, history, policy, law, economics, statistics and other domains

who are working in an honorary capacity to prepare a report of their findings of the SEEEPC survey. After the first three meetings held in Hyderabad, the fourth meeting of the Expert Group was held in New Delhi on Thursday at the Constitution Club. The Telangana 2024 SEEEPC exercise is a robust survey of 3.55 crore people with 75 fields of information about each person covering social, economic, educational, identity, occupational and living aspects of their daily lives. It enumerates people across 243 sub-castes and an option of 'No Caste' for those that do not wish to divulge and



'Others' for those that do not fall into any of the sub-castes listed in the enumeration manual. The Expert Group will move to the next phase of the drafting of the report and expects to submit the report to the State

government in a month's time. The report will present as ordinal ranking of relative backwardness of each sub-caste based on the CBI score as well as ranking of each sub-caste on each of the seven categories and parameters used for evaluation. The Expert Group has also recommended that the government provide a natural language interface using Artificial Intelligence to the SEEEPC dataset in aggregate form without revealing any household specific information and make it available for further analysis for the larger research fraternity.

Aptronix Inaugurates Telanganas First Apple Premium Partner Store at Inorbit Mall, Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May :23.,
Metroodayam

Aptronix, Indias largest Apple Premium Reseller, proudly announces the grand launch of Telanganas First Apple Premium Partner store, now open at Inorbit Mall, Hyderabad. The store, which has undergone a major transformation, now also houses a dedicated Apple-Authorised Service Center, offering the complete end-to-end Apple experience under one roof. This launch marks a significant milestone not just for Aptronix, but for the Apple retail landscape in Telangana. With its refined design and enhanced customer experience, the new Premium Partner store embodies the best of Apples global retail standards, creating a space where innovation meets



immersive service.

As part of the exclusive launch celebrations, customers visiting the store can enjoy a minimum of 12% off on every product —

including the latest iPhones, MacBooks, iPads, and accessories. The celebrations dont stop there: Flat 50% Off on Protect+ with AppleCare

ServicesUp to ₹10,000 Exchange Bonus when trading in old smartphones or laptops Expert in-store guidance from certified Apple specialists Instant upgrade and repair assistance at the newly integrated service center

We are proud to bring the Apple Premium Partner experience to Hyderabad with a store that reflects Apples retail vision in its truest form. This launch reinforces our commitment to delivering exceptional service and accessibility to Apples latest technology said Sutinder Singh Founder of Aptronix We are honoured to launch Telanganas first Apple Premium Partner store. This is more than just a store — it s a celebration of our brand ethos and the trust our customers have placed in us. With

the integrated service center and exclusive launch offers, we are thrilled to elevate the Apple buying and ownership journey for our customers said Meghna Singh, CEO of Aptronix.

The new store at Inorbit Mall not only serves as a hub for cutting-edge Apple products but also as a destination for seamless service and expert advice. Whether youre looking to purchase your first iPhone or trade in an old MacBook, Aptronix Inorbit ensures every customer journey is premium. We invite you all to join us to celebrate this landmark opening. Come be a part of this proud moment and enjoy exclusive offers while experiencing the future of Apple retail in Telangana. Visit Aptronix at Inorbit Mall, Hyderabad - where innovation meets excellence.

Chandrababu to meet union ministers during delhi visited yesterday



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is currently in Delhi, scheduled to meet with seven Union Ministers on Friday to discuss various statewide projects and initiatives. The objectives of these discussions centre around seeking cooperation from the Union Government in the implementation of key schemes. The day commenced with a meeting between Naidu and Union Minister Prahlad Joshi at 10 am, during which the Chief Minister is expected to advocate for support in advancing green energy projects in Andhra Pradesh. Following this, Naidu will meet Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at 11 am to explore strategic defence and aerospace developments within the state, including the BEL Defence Complex and HAL-AMCA initiatives. At 12 noon, he will engage with Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil before holding discussions with the Union Finance Minister at 3 pm. In the afternoon, Naidu will participate in a review session led by Amit Shah at 4 pm, focusing on the implementation of new criminal laws. The day's activities will conclude with a meeting with the Union Minister for Electronics and IT at 9 pm. Additionally, Chief Minister Naidu is set to take part in the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting scheduled for Saturday, which will further the dialogue on national and state development matters.

TGPWU Submits Representation to Additional Labour Commissioner E. Gangadhar; Indefinite Strike by Zepto Delivery Workers Continues in Hyderabad



Hyderabad May:22 (Metro udayam)

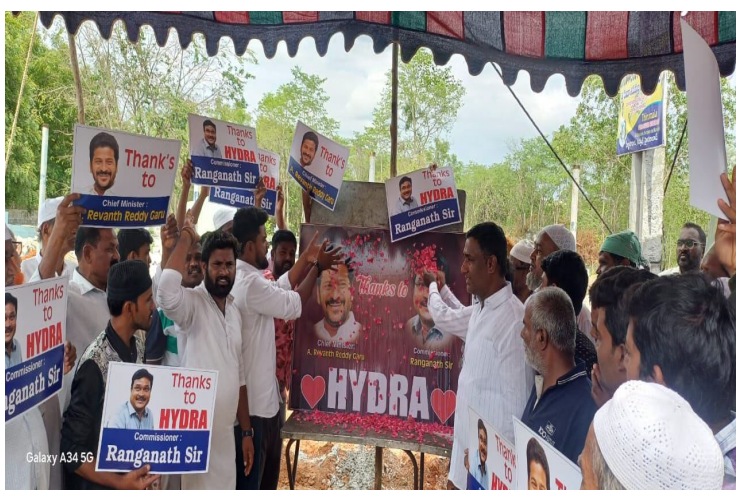
The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) has officially submitted a representation to Additional Labour Commissioner E. Gangadhar, demanding immediate intervention into the ongoing labour rights violations by Zepto management across Hyderabad. Delivery workers affiliated with Zepto have been on an indefinite strike for the past 5 days, with major protest locations including Ramanthapur, Boduppal, and other dark stores in Hyderabad. The workers, represented by TGPWU, are demanding fair pay, social security, reasonable working hours, and basic dignity at work. Despite repeated requests, Zepto management has failed to open dialogue or accept the genuine demands of its workforce. TGPWU Founder President Shaik Salauddin urged the Labour



Department to take immediate action to safeguard the rights of gig workers We are fighting not just for wages, but for our identity and dignity. The government must ensure accountability from app-based companies like Zepto he said. TGPWU has called for a tripartite

meeting involving the Labour Department, Zepto management, and union representatives to resolve the deadlock and restore justice to hundreds of affected delivery partners.

Celebrating at the graveyard



Milk showers to portrait of CM Revanth Reddy
Medipally May:22 (Metro udayam)

Hydraa on Thursday demolished illegal structures at a Christian and Muslim minority cemetery in the suburb of Parvatapur village in the Peerzadiguda municipal corporation On Friday, the celebration were held at graveyard on a large scale. Burning of crackers Milk showers to CM Revant Reddy and Hydraa Commissioner Ranganath portrait was done. On this occasion, the fighter for the graveyard MD Mazhar and Charles said that they had had a long fight for seven years for the land of the state land and finally won justice. Recognizing our struggle, the Hydraa Team visited the land and demolished the land and demolished the land and protected the state land Christian and Muslim minority elders participated in the event



UDAYAM Poetry's



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To My Brother, My Forever Strength

You were the first hand I ever held that didn't belong to my parents small, warm, full of mischief and promise.

In the whirlwind of childhood, you were my secret keeper, my partner in all adventures from whispered stories under grandma's roof to being an anchor in life's whirlwinds.

We fought, oh yes, over the last piece of chocolate, over toys, over space and silence but never over love. That remained constant, even when we drifted like boats in different waters.

When the storms of life howled, you stood like a lighthouse quiet but unshakable, your light always finding me in the darkest of tides.

You never asked for thanks. But I want you to know it was your strength



that helped me rise when my knees buckled, your belief that became my armor, your love that stitched me whole.

You are more than blood, more than a shared past you are my silent cheer, my unshaken ground, my unspoken comfort.

Thank you for never letting go. Thank you for being the kind of brother who makes life worth fighting for.

On this Brothers Day, I don't just celebrate you I carry you in every grateful heartbeat that whispers, I couldn't have done it without you.

Smt. Latha Murthy

UDAYAM Poetry's



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FEAR OF PUNISHMENT!

Very interesting to know! Three are in body only! Heart, brain and soul! Different in function!

Brain give command! Heart inspect order! Soul watch them both! Organs discharge duty!

Good or bad done! Cares not for result! Conscious enter into the picture! Filters the reaction!

General theory apply! Good to good and bad to bad! Godly fear plays a role! Fear of punishment arise!

Not the question of staunch believer in God! Nor quite opposite an atheist! Though not express in open! Inner conscious make



alert!

Every religion says about punishment after death! There enters fear of punishment in human being! Heaven or Hell that is dilemma! Punishment threatens to avoid evil doing!

Fear of consequence is an alarm to wake up.

Composed by:
Bachiraju
Satyanarayana Rao,
(Ba. Sa, Raa)
Vijayawada.

UDAYAM Poetry's



95814 19999

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बेशक आरोग्य प्रदान वही ईश्वर करता है जो हमारा सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा है, लेकिन इस का अर्थ यह नहीं के हम अपने आरोग्य के लिए औषधोपचार ही न करें। ... (शकील उवाचा -368)

आज भी अंधविश्वास को बलि चढ़कर कई लोगों को अपनी जान गंवानी पड़ती है। आज भी अंध विश्वास रखने वाले लोग जब कभी किसीको बीमार पाते हैं तो वेद याने डॉक्टर के पास न जा कर मांत्रिक, तांत्रिक और बाबाओं के यहां चले जाते हैं। और जादू, टोना, भूत, प्रेत और आत्मा के असर में आने की बात कहकर मंत्रों का सहारा लेते हैं। जिस से सही इलाज न मिलने के कारण बीमारी बढ़ जाती है और लोगों के जान पर बन आती है।

आप भी जानते ही हैं कि, हम को होने वाली बीमारियों में ज्यादा से ज्यादा बीमारियां मानसिक होती हैं। ऐसे मानसिक बीमारियों का इलाज यह झूठे मांत्रिक, तांत्रिक से कुछ हद तक हो पाता है क्यों के इन ढोंगियों को कुछ करना ही नहीं होता केवल भ्रमित करने वाले बातों से मूर्ख बनाना होता है। जिस तरह से काल्पनिक बीमारी कोई बीमारी ही नहीं वैसे ही इन पाखंडियों का उपचार भी कोई उपचार नहीं होता। इन पाखंडियों के कारण कभी कभी यह मानसिक रुग्णता इतनी बढ़ जाती है के आदमी पागल तक हो जाता है। जबकि मनो वैज्ञानिक और मानस तज्ञ इस मानो रुग्णता को ठीक तरह से कर सकते हैं।

अल्लाह (सु.) याने ईश्वर ने बीमारी और उसके उपचार दोनों को भेजा है। अलग अलग बीमारी के लिए उसने अलगअलग इलाज भी रखा है। इसलिए हमें चिकित्सा, उपचार की तलाश करना चाहिए। यह उपचार करते समय इतना ध्यान जरूर



रखना चाहिए के उपचार के नाम पर उन चीजों का उपयोग न किया जाए जिन चीजों को ईश्वर ने हराम (निषिद्ध) ठहराया है। याने इलाज उस चीज से नहीं जिसे ईश्वर ने मना किया है। मना की ही बातों में पाखंडी मांत्रिक तांत्रिकों का झूठा इलाज भी एक है।

पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "जब मैं बीमार पड़ता हूँ, तो वही(ईश्वर) मुझे आरोग्य प्रदान करता है।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक 26, सुराह अशु शोहरा, आयत क्रमांक 80)। बेशक आरोग्य प्रदान वही ईश्वर करता है जो हमारा सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा है, लेकिन इस आयत का अर्थ यह नहीं के हम अपने आरोग्य के लिए औषधोपचार ही न करें। जिस तरह उपजीविका परमात्मा ही देता है लेकिन उसे कमाने के माध्यम हमें चुनना पड़ता है, मेहनत हमें करनी पड़ती है, वैसे ही आरोग्य वही प्रदान करता है जिसे पाने के लिए उसके द्वारा उत्पन्न किए गए औषधियों का उपयोग हमें ही योग्य वेद के मार्गदर्शन में करना चाहिए।

पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "हम कुरआन में से जो उतारते हैं वह मोमिनों के लिए शिफा (धार्मिकों के लिए आरोग्य) और दयालुता है, किन्तु जालिमों (अत्याचारियों) के लिए तो वह बस घाटे ही में अभिवृद्धि करता है।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक 17, सुराह बनी इसराईल, आयत क्रमांक 82)। इस उपरोक्त आयत, आयत ए शिफा (आरोग्य वाला श्लोक) को आधार बनाकर कुछ पाखंडी, लोगों को गुमराह (पथभ्रष्ट) करते हैं और दवा लेने से रोकते हैं जो सरासर गलत है। उपरोक्त आयत का मतलब यह बिल्कुल नहीं है के कोई बीमार पड़ जाए तो केवल कुरान की आयतें पढ़ें और दवा का उपयोग न करें। इलाज जरूरी है।

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

Simran opens up on viral feud over 'Mother Roles' comment



Simran, currently riding high on the success of her latest film Tourist Family, recently grabbed headlines for her strong response to a fellow actress's remark about her playing mother roles. The exchange sparked widespread speculation that she was referring to actress Jyothika and the popular web series Dabba Cartel. In a recent interview, Simran addressed the controversy, confirming that her comments were indeed linked to Dabba Cartel. She revealed that she had watched the series and found it to be a good show. "People are overthinking and making guesses. The person I was referring to understood it and even apologized to me, saying she didn't intend to hurt my feelings," Simran said. Simran elaborated that while the other actress had a right to her opinion, the choice of words was what upset her. She stressed that she spoke honestly from the heart but felt that people read too much into it. The incident reportedly began when Simran messaged a fellow actress to praise her performance. The actress responded with a comment, "At least it's better than doing aunty roles," which Simran found insensitive. She replied firmly, "It's okay to do aunty or mother roles. That's better than doing meaningless or 'dabba' roles." On the professional front, Simran continues to receive appreciation for her role in Tourist Family, proving her versatility and staying power in the industry. This candid clarification from Simran has helped clear the air, showcasing her confidence and grace amid the recent buzz.

Paresh Rawal faces Rs 25 Crore lawsuit over 'Hera Pheri 3' exit

Bollywood veteran Paresh Rawal, widely loved for his iconic role in the cult classic Hera Pheri, has found himself embroiled in controversy. While his expressions remain a hit on social media, Rawal is now in the news for reportedly being sued by the makers of Hera Pheri 3 over alleged "unprofessional behavior." According to reports, the production house Cape of Good Films has sent Rawal a legal notice demanding damages worth Rs 25 crore. The producers claim that their investment in the actor has been jeopardized due to his unexpected withdrawal from the project. The makers, who had painstakingly secured the film rights and cleared all outstanding debts related to the franchise, aimed to recreate the magic of Hera Pheri after 20 years. However, Rawal's sudden decision to exit the film has caused significant financial and creative setbacks.



Producers are reportedly taking a tougher stance now, moving towards stricter contracts similar to Hollywood to prevent such last-minute walkouts by actors. Rawal shocked fans and co-stars Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty earlier this month when he announced his departure, stressing

that his decision was not due to any creative differences with director Priyadarshan. In a tweet, he clarified, "I reiterate that there are no creative disagreements with the film maker. I hold immense love, respect, and faith in Priyadarshan." However, the producers and the film unit remain disappointed, citing the lack of a clear explanation and labeling his exit as unprofessional, especially after a promotional video featuring the lead trio was already shot. Director Priyadarshan expressed shock and sadness, calling Rawal like family and revealing that he is still puzzled by the actor's sudden move, unable to fathom the reason behind it. As the dispute unfolds, the future of Hera Pheri 3 hangs in uncertainty, with fans hoping for a resolution soon.

11 Years of Manam: Akkineni Family's Timeless Classic Still Touches Hearts



The Telugu film industry holds many gems, but few shine as brightly as Manam, the 2014 classic that brought together three generations of the Akkineni family in one heartwarming film. Released on May 23, 2014, Manam became a special milestone for fans and the Akkineni family alike. As the film completes 11 successful years, Akkineni's home banner Annapurna Studios shared a touching tribute on social media. "We are celebrating 11 wonderful years of Manam. Manam is a film that will always hold a special place in everyone's hearts. #ANRLivesOn," they posted, along with a beautiful anniversary poster. A Unique Family Legacy on Screen Directed by Vikram Kumar, Manam is a rare film that features legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao, his son Nagarjuna, and grandson Naga Chaitanya, along with a brief appearance by Akhil Akkineni. This was the last film of Nageswara Rao, making it even more emotional and memorable. The film is widely loved for its touching story, clever screenplay, and emotional depth. It showed how love and destiny connect generations, and it deeply moved Telugu audiences everywhere. Music and Dialogues That Still Resonate The soulful music composed by Anoop Rubens and meaningful dialogues written by comedian Harshavardhan added even more beauty to the film. The songs remain popular to this day, and the film's emotional scenes still bring tears to many. In 2024, Manam was re-released in special shows across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It received a strong response once again, proving its timeless appeal. A Personal Dream Fulfilled For Nagarjuna, Manam wasn't just another film—it was a dream come true. Acting alongside his legendary father and talented son was a moment of pride and joy. Box Office Journey Manam entered theatres with a break-even target of Rs. 18 crores, which it impressively crossed within the first week. The film went on to collect a net of Rs. 36.65 crores, making it a double blockbuster. According to trade estimates, it earned around Rs. 62 crores worldwide gross. A Film That Lives Forever Even after 11 years, Manam continues to be remembered as a masterpiece of Telugu cinema. It represents love, family, and the beauty of storytelling. For fans of the Akkineni family and Telugu film lovers in general, Manam is more than a movie — it's an emotion.

I thought Rohit, Virat would call it a day after the England tour: Dilip Vengsarkar

Mumbai: Former Indian cricketer Dilip Vengsarkar expressed his surprise at the retirements of batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from the Test cricket, stating that he had thought the duo might call it a day after the upcoming England tour, scheduled to start from June 20. Both Rohit and Kohli retired from Test cricket earlier this month while continuing their careers in ODIs. Their departure left a huge void in the Indian Test team ahead of the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle beginning with the all-important England tour. Also Read - Rohit, Virat must return from retirement to save Indian Test cricket: Yograj Singh "Both have outstanding and great cricketers, and their contribution to Indian cricket is huge. I was surprised because there is an England tour of five Test matches. I thought after the England tour, they might call it a day, but they preferred it before the England tour. Then I think it's their call," Vengsarkar



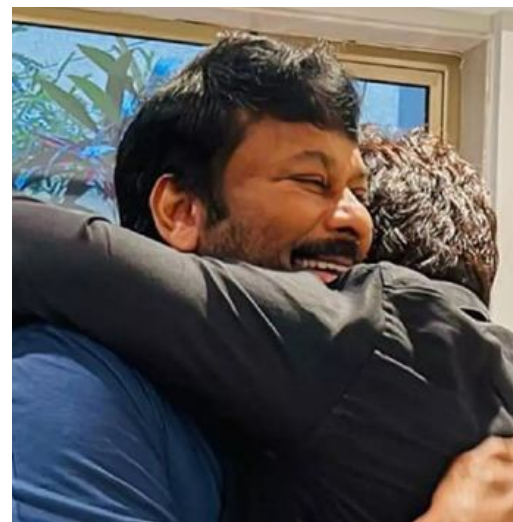
told IANS. Kohli bid adieu to his Test career with 9,230 runs in 123 matches at an impressive average of 46.85 with 30 centuries and 31 half-centuries, while Rohit drew curtains on his red-ball career with 4301 runs in 67 matches, including 12 centuries and 18 half-centuries, at an average of 40.57. In June 2024, Rohit and Kohli announced their retirement from T20Is after India beat South Africa to win the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup. "Both are experienced players, and they have done so well in England on every tour, so it's a big loss. Then, if you see that other players have

done well for the India A team, in first-class cricket in India, they will get an opportunity to play and establish themselves in the Indian team," he added. Rohit's retirement means that a new skipper will be in place for the Indian team when they tour England for a five-match Test series starting on June 20. Asked about who will fill the void left in the Indian Test cricket set-up with Rohit and Kohli's departure, Vengsarkar said, "It is difficult to say who will replace them because it is up to (Ajit Agarkar) and Co. as they are selectors. They are observing FC matches (Irani Cup, Ranji Trophy,

Duleep Trophy), and I think it's all up to them (selectors)." Vengsarkar then showered praises on Shreyas Iyer for his current form. Iyer had a successful outing with the bat at the Champions Trophy 2025 in March, scoring 243 runs in five games at an average of 48.60. He carried his fine form into the IPL 2025, where he led his side (Punjab Kings) from the front as PBKS reached the playoffs for the first time in 11 years. In the process, Iyer became the first captain to lead three different franchises into the IPL playoffs (Delhi Capitals in 2020 and Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024). Iyer's runs tally in the IPL 2025 currently stands at 435, including two half-centuries. "He is a good player, there is no question about it and he's done very well over the years, he is an experienced player," said the veteran on being asked if Iyer's current form can help him fill the void left created after Kohli's retirement from the T20I and Test formats.

Chiranjeevi Surprises Director Bobby with Priceless Omega Watch After Waltair Veerayya Success

Megastar Chiranjeevi, who is known for his deep love and respect for his fans, often becomes emotional when those fans grow into directors and go on to make films with him. Recently, he showed this affection with a heartwarming gesture toward director Bobby Kolli. Bobby, who directed Chiranjeevi in the blockbuster Waltair Veerayya, received a surprise invitation to the Megastar's home—where Chiru gifted him an expensive luxury watch as a token of appreciation. Bobby was overwhelmed and shared his happiness on social media with the following post: "A beautiful MEGA surprise from the Boss himself ?? Thank you dearest Megastar @KChiruTweets garu for this priceless gift ?? Your love, encouragement, and blessings mean the world to me, annaya ?? I'll cherish this moment forever ??" — Bobby (@dirbobby), May 22, 2025 In



the viral photos, the luxury Omega Seamaster Diver 300M watch worn by Bobby has caught everyone's attention. According to online sources, the watch is worth approximately ₹4.88 lakhs. Fans are showering Chiranjeevi with praise, com-

menting, "Annayya is everyone's brother. He always stands by his fans and appreciates those who love him." Blockbuster Success of Waltair Veerayya The Chiru-Bobby collaboration previously resulted in the mass entertainer Waltair Veerayya, which turned out to be a massive hit. The film showcased Chiranjeevi's unmatched screen presence, punchy dialogue delivery, and impeccable comic timing. It collected ₹108 crores in just three days, eventually reaching a record ₹236 crores in its theatrical run. Next Project Together Now, Bobby is preparing for another film with Chiranjeevi. Though Chiru is currently busy with projects under Anil Ravipudi and Srikanth Odela, discussions for Bobby's film are already complete. According to reports, Chiru has approved the script, and an official announcement is expected soon.

'Ace': A playful heist with a bold Vijay Sethupathi at the helm

Ace, starring Vijay Sethupathi in the lead, promises a commercial potboiler that mixes crime, comedy, and action with a dash of social commentary with its promotional content. The film hits theatres this Friday and let's see how it fares at box-office. Story: The film follows the mysterious Bold Kannan (Vijay Sethupathi), a man who leaves his murky past behind in India and lands in Malaysia with a cryptic smile. At the airport, he meets Arivu (Yogi Babu), a raggicker pretending to be a businessman to impress his girlfriend Kalpana (Divya Pillai). Mistaking Kannan for a laborer, Arivu ropes him in as his assistant. Kannan's path crosses with Rukku (Rukmini Vasanth), a spirited young woman trying to reclaim her home from a corrupt and powerful man, Raja Durai (Bablu Prithviraj). A lost bet with a local loan shark (BS Avinash) leads the motley crew into deep trouble, setting the stage for a thrilling heist and a chaotic game of survival.



Performances: Vijay Sethupathi brings charm and effortless charisma to the screen. His various backstories may be quirky, but his performance is grounded and enjoyable. Yogi Babu provides consistent comic relief, and his chemistry with Sethupathi keeps the energy flowing. Rukmini Vasanth, in her Tamil debut, leaves a pleasant mark, portraying Rukku

with grace and subtle strength. Bablu Prithviraj and BS Avinash deliver in their villainous roles, adding heft to the conflict. Technicalities: Director Arumuga Kumar makes it perfect for action lovers. Visually, the film benefits from its Malaysian setting, offering a fresh backdrop for a Tamil commercial flick. The cinematography captures the city's mix of modern and grungy textures. The music and background score work well for the genre, amplifying moments of tension and levity. However, the editing could have been crisper, especially in the second half, where the narrative meanders. Analysis: Set against the vibrant backdrop of Malaysia, the film aims to entertain with its quirky characters, colorful sequences,

and a central heist plot that tries to hold it all together. While the film does have its shortcomings in pacing and coherence, it still manages to deliver an engaging ride, thanks in large part to its performances and moments of well-timed humor. Ace tries to do a bit of everything—action, humor, social message, and heist drama—and while it doesn't master any one genre, it still entertains in parts. The plot takes several tangents, some of which feel unnecessary, but the core story remains accessible and fun. The film shines brightest when it focuses on the camaraderie between Kannan and Arivu and could have benefitted from more of that. Ace is a film that doesn't ask much from its viewers—just to sit back and enjoy the spectacle. While it might not leave a lasting impression, its spirited performances and lively tone make it a one-time watch that fans of Vijay Sethupathi and mainstream Tamil cinema can still appreciate.