



FICCI Backs Swarna Andhra Vision-2047 at Vijayawada Meeting



The FICCI National Executive Committee has voiced its robust support for the Swarna Andhra Vision-2047 initiative during a recent meeting in Vijayawada, attended by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The gathering saw participation from proprietors and representatives of various businesses, who joined to discuss the state's development goals. FICCI officials expressed their appreciation for the industry-friendly policies and measures being implemented by the government. They also lauded the government's efforts under Chief Minister Chandrababu's leadership to promote Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The collaborative spirit and constructive feedback from the FICCI representatives underscored the strong synergy between the government and the business sector, aimed at achieving significant growth for Andhra Pradesh by 2047.

PM Modi Condemns Congress On Emergency's Golden Anniversary

On the 50th anniversary of India's Emergency period, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a blistering critique of the Congress party, declaring that no Indian will ever forget how the spirit of the Constitution was violated during that dark chapter of the nation's democratic journey. Through a series of posts on social media platform X, the Prime Minister characterized the Emergency as one of the most troubling periods in India's democratic evolution, emphasizing his administration's dedication to upholding constitutional values. Modi accused the Congress-led government of that era of effectively imprisoning democracy itself, stating that the party had "placed democracy under arrest" during Indira Gandhi's rule from 1975 to 1977. The Prime Minister outlined the systematic dismantling of democratic institutions during the Emergency, highlighting how constitutional principles were abandoned,



basic rights were suspended, media freedom was eliminated, and countless political figures, activists, students, and ordinary citizens were imprisoned without due process. Particular criticism was directed at the 42nd Constitutional Amendment enacted during the Emergency, which Modi described as a clear demonstration of Congress's manipulative tactics. This amendment significantly altered India's constitutional framework, though many of its provisions were later repealed by the Janata Party government through subsequent amendments in 1977 and

1978. Modi emphasized that the Emergency's impact was most severely felt by India's most vulnerable populations, including the poor, marginalized communities, and socially disadvantaged groups, whose dignity was systematically undermined during this period. The Prime Minister paid tribute to those who courageously opposed the Emergency, recognizing citizens from diverse backgrounds and political ideologies who united in their commitment to preserving India's democratic foundation and honoring the sacrifices of freedom fighters. He credited this collective resistance with ultimately forcing the Congress government to restore democratic governance and conduct fresh elections, which resulted in a decisive defeat for the ruling party. The Modi adminis-

Vizag Metro Rail to Build Two Train Depots, Land Acquisition Underway

In Vizag, two Metro Rail Depots (MRD) will be set up for the Vizag Metro Rail (VMR) project. One depot will be located at Old Dairy Farm near VIMS, while the other will be up near the Visakhapatnam Port Authority. The depots are key to running the metro smoothly. They store, repair, and clean trains. They also have offices and space for parking trains. Each depot needs about 35 to 40 acres of land. The whole first phase of the VMR needs about 100 acres for three routes. The



land cost is around ₹890 crore. Land acquisition is ongoing, with a social impact study (SIA) in progress. About nine acres of private land and 87

acres of government land are needed. The SIA started on May 30, 2025, to check public interest, land needs, alternatives, and effects on the local food supply. The AP Metro Rail Corporation stated that the government land near Old Dairy Farm comes from the Visakhapatnam Port, the railways, the Animal Husbandry, and other departments. APMRC Managing Director N.P. Ramakrishna Reddy said the district is handling land matters and awaits the final SIA report soon.

AP to become Aerospace and Defence Hub with new policy: Nara Lokesh

Minister Nara Lokesh has announced that the Andhra Pradesh government's new Aerospace and Defence Policy 4.0 will significantly transform the state into a global centre for manufacturing, research, and development. The policy aims to establish a comprehensive framework that supports anchor units, centres of excellence, startup incubation, and facilitates technology transfer. Minister Lokesh emphasised that the initiative seeks to bolster India's self-sufficiency in the aerospace and defence sectors while creating jobs in newly established industrial clusters across the state.



Nurturing technocrats for a future of choice over compulsion

We are witnessing a profound transformation on how we define careers, capability and success. The age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation and global digitalization has blurred the boundaries between disciplines, thereby redefining the very purpose of education. For the next generation of technocrats, a "job" is no longer an obligatory outcome—it is a deliberate choice. Education must now prepare them not just to survive in this new landscape, but to shape it. This calls for nothing less than a fresh rethink of our higher education ecosystem, particularly in engineering and technology. As educators, academic institutions, and national stakeholders, we must rise to meet this moment—not with incremental change, but with visionary reforms. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has rightly pointed out, "You are not going to lose your job to AI, but you are going to lose your job to somebody who uses AI". It is critical to realise the adaptation of AI towards strengthening them in a way to use them. Jobs to empowerment: For decades, the goal of engineering education in India was largely linear: secure a degree, land



a job, and build a career. While this model served the needs of a growing industrial economy, it no longer aligns with the realities of a digital, automated, and globalized world. The future of work will be defined by harnessing AI, innovation, and interdisciplinary thinking as echoed by Emily Rose in her 'Future of work trends 2025'. Young technocrats must be empowered—not programmed—to explore entrepreneurship, research, and socially meaningful ventures. This shift cannot happen within the confines of a traditional, exam-centric, lecture-heavy

educational model. We must transition toward experiential learning, project-based evaluation, and interdisciplinary exploration. As educators, our role is no longer limited to delivering content. We must now act as mentors, facilitators, and enablers of curiosity and courage. Across universities, the faculty should be moving from a content delivery model to one that emphasizes critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and innovation. To truly groom future-ready technocrats, we should embed entrepreneurship, AI/ML training, design thinking, and ethical technology use into the curriculum from the very first year. Creation of innovation labs, interdisciplinary research centres, startup incubators, and global industry partnerships to offer our students not just knowledge—but a launchpad is critical for Gen Z and Alpha generation students. To be architects of transformation, our vision should be clear, precise and futuristic. Educators must also evolve through continuous learning. Faculty development programs that focus on emerging technologies, pedagogical innovation, and global best practices must be a priority.

We must prepare ourselves before we can prepare our students for a future defined by complexity. Engineering education must nurture an inquiry-driven mindset. At MNR, we are actively fostering undergraduate research culture through structured research mentorship, early exposure to publication opportunities, and participation in national and international competitions. Simultaneously, entrepreneurship must move from being an "option" to a mainstream academic pathway. Our entrepreneurship cells support students with ideation labs, pitch practice, market analysis tools, and exposure to real-world investors. This culture of applied learning helps students see themselves not just as professionals—but as innovators, employers, and contributors to national development. Policy with purpose: The Government of India (GOI) has a pivotal role to play in this transformation—and in many ways, it has already laid a strong foundation. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a bold and progressive blueprint that embraces flexibility, multidisciplinary education, and research-based learning.

Former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy met with MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy



Medipally June 25 (Metro udayam)

Former Mayor of Peerzadiguda, Jakka Venkat Reddy, met with Jangaon MLA on Wednesday, A few days ago, he was treated at the Hyderabad Yashoda Hospital after discharge from hospital he went to his house. Inquired about his health condition. Former corporators Dondhiri Harishankar Reddy, Kolthuri Mahesh, Madhusudan Reddy, senior leaders Letakula Raghupathi Reddy, BRS general secretary Aadalli Raghuvardhan Reddy and Mallam Venkatesh Goud were among those present. He was aware of his health condition.

TGPWU Demands Urgent Action Against Illegal Bike Taxis by Rapido, Ola, Uber

Hyderabad June:25
(Metro udayam)

The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) expresses deep concern over the continued illegal operations of bike taxis in Telangana by companies such as Rapido, Ola, and Uber, despite clear rules prohibiting such activities. The Transport Department remains firm in its stance that two-wheelers with white number plates (personal use vehicles) cannot be used for commercial purposes. However, these companies are openly violating this rule by allowing private vehicles to operate as bike taxis on their platforms, misleading poor drivers and endangering public safety. Illegal Operations & Public Safety Threat The use of private (white-board) two-wheelers for commercial purposes is not only a clear violation of transport regulations but also poses significant risks:



Passenger Safety: Unregulated bike taxi services lack proper verification and insurance, putting passengers at risk. Traffic Violations: Unlicensed commercial activity disrupts traffic management and road safety. Loss of Revenue: The state government is losing substantial revenue from commercial registration fees, taxes, and permits. TGPWU strongly condemns these companies for prioritizing profits over legal compliance and public welfare. Exploitation of Poor

Drivers While these companies continue to collect hefty commissions, poor, unemployed youth are being misled into thinking bike taxi operations are legal. When caught by enforcement authorities, it is the drivers who face penalties, pushing them further into poverty and economic distress. TGPWU emphasizes: Targeting poor drivers is unjust. The real culprits are the companies promoting illegal operations. Our Demands TGPWU, under the leadership of its Founder President Shaik Salauddin, calls for the following immediate actions: 1. Urgent intervention by the Telangana Transport Minister and department to clarify and enforce the law. 2. Strict penalties on companies like Rapido, Ola, and Uber if they continue allowing private (white plate) vehicles to operate

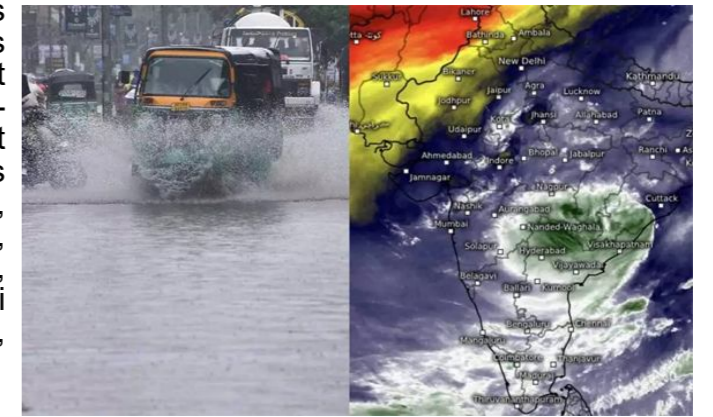
on their platforms. 3. Immediate halt to illegal bike taxi operations in Telangana. 4. Protection for misled drivers, offering them alternative legal livelihood options instead of fines. 5. Multiple state governments have issued public notifications banning such illegal bike taxi operations — Telangana must follow suit with strict enforcement. TGPWU's Stand TGPWU is ready to fully cooperate with the government to curb illegal practices by platform companies. We stand with the poor workers but firmly oppose illegal operations that compromise safety, legality, and state revenue. We urge the government to act swiftly before this illegality grows further. Companies cannot be allowed to exploit legal loopholes while poor drivers bear the consequences, said Shaik Salauddin, TGPWU Founder President.

Rains forecasted for Telangana and AP due to depressions

A surface depression has developed over the west-central and northwest Bay of Bengal, affecting the northern coast of Andhra Pradesh and the southern Odisha coasts, with altitudes recorded between 5.8 to 7.6 km above mean sea level. Another depression has formed over south Jharkhand and neighbouring areas at an altitude of 3.1 to 7.6 km. As a result, the Meteorological Department predicts winds are likely to blow from the west and southwest across Telangana. Officials have warned of light rain accom-

panied by thunder and lightning in certain districts of Telangana today and tomorrow. Specifically, moderate rains with thunder and lightning are expected to hit isolated areas in Adilabad, Komarambhim, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, and Kamareddy. In Andhra Pradesh, the Meteorological Department has also

reported that light to moderate rains are likely at many locations across the Parvatipuram Manyam district today due to the influence of a surface circulation. Additionally, light rain is anticipated in several districts including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Anakapalle, Kakinada, Eluru, Krishna, Guntur, Bapatla, Nellore, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR Kadapa, Annamayya, Chittoor, and Tirupati.



Justice's haven: Courtrooms of dignity and cooperative spirit

The decision of the Telangana High Court Bar Association (THCBA) to convene a general body meeting to address a judge's alleged humiliation of advocates and imposition of heavy costs has sparked debate, highlighting the delicate balance between judicial authority and advocates' dignity. As a journalist-turned-advocate with over three decades of experience, I examine this issue with a commitment to uphold the integrity of both the Bar and the bench. This analysis explores the propriety of the Bar's actions, conduct of the judge, and the broader implications for judicial independence, professional ethics, and justice administration, advocating dialogue and mutual respect to preserve the legal system's sanctity. Context and controversy: The Bar Association's call for a general body meeting stems from allegations that a Telangana High Court judge humiliated advocates with derogatory remarks or dismissive behaviour and imposed substantial costs perceived as punitive. Such actions, if true, undermine judicial decorum and advocates' dignity, as they are officers of the court entitled to respect. Imposition of heavy costs, often seen as disproportionate, fuels perceptions of judicial overreach, prompting the Bar to respond collectively. From the Bar's perspective, convening a general body meeting is a legitimate step to protect advocates' dignity and ensure a conducive working environment. However, the bench may view this as an attempt to pressure the judiciary, potentially threatening judicial independence enshrined in the Indian Constitution. This tension requires a balanced examination of the roles and responsibilities of both sides. The Bar's grievance: Legitimacy and limits: Advocates operate under pressure, balancing client interests, court expectations, and ethical duties. A judge's humiliating conduct — sarcasm, personal remarks, or dismissive gestures — erodes morale and impairs effective rep-




resentation. The Supreme Court has emphasized advocates' right to dignity, supporting the Bar's role in safeguarding these principles. If the judge's actions have consistently crossed into personal affronts, the Bar's decision to convene a meeting is a reasonable step to consolidate grievances and seek redress. However, the Bar must ensure its response is proportionate and respectful. Sensationalized discussions or confrontational rhetoric risk undermining judicial authority. The Supreme Court, in *C. Ravichandran Iyer v. Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee* (1995), cautioned against actions that erode judicial independence and deprecate coercive resolutions or protests, which disrupt justice delivery and harm litigants. Instead, the Bar should channel grievances through institutional mechanisms, such as representations to the Chief Justice or the Bar Council, maintaining professionalism and restraint. Conduct of the bench: Decorum and accountability: Allegations of humiliation and heavy costs warrant scrutiny of judicial conduct. The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct (2002) mandate judges to treat advocates with courtesy and respect. Derogatory remarks, if substantiated, violate these standards and erode public confidence. Similarly, heavy costs must be justified by clear procedural lapses, as arbitrary orders deter access to justice, contra-

vening Article 39A of the Constitution. Judges, however, face immense pressure managing heavy caseloads. The power to impose costs, upheld by the Supreme Court, deters frivolous litigation or ensures compliance. If the judge's costs were reasonable and addressed specific misconduct (e.g., deliberate delays), the Bar's objections may lack merit. Conversely, capricious or targeted costs justify concerns, necessitating accountability. Judicial accountability follows established protocols, such as the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, or in-house procedures led by the Chief Justice. The Bar's public meeting risks bypassing these channels, appearing confrontational. A balanced approach involves presenting specific instances of improper behaviour to the Chief Justice, supported by court records, to trigger internal review without public escalation. Balancing Bar and bench: The way forward Bar and bench are interdependent pillars of justice, requiring mutual respect to function effectively. The former must protect advocates' dignity but exercise restraint to preserve judicial authority. The bench must uphold decorum while remaining open to constructive criticism. The Supreme Court in *C. Ravichandran Iyer v. Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee* (1995) emphasized that Bar Associations should raise concerns confidentially with the Chief Justice, avoiding public pressure that could amount to contempt. The Telangana High Court Bar Association's decision to convene a general body meeting to address the alleged humiliation of advocates and imposition of excessive costs by a judge is justified, provided it has first exhausted institutional remedies by making representations to the Chief Justice with specific evidence of such conduct, thereby demonstrating a responsible and measured approach to seeking redress while upholding advocates' dignity. To resolve this impasse, both the Bar and bench may con-

sider the following steps: Dialogue over confrontation: The Bar should request a private meeting with the Chief Justice to present evidence of the judge's conduct professionally, deferring public meetings until institutional channels are exhausted. Judicial introspection: The Chief Justice should review allegations, examining court records to assess the judge's conduct. If warranted, counseling the judge can address concerns while preserving authority. Training and sensitisation: Workshops on courtroom etiquette and conflict resolution, facilitated by the National Judicial Academy or Bar Councils, can foster mutual understanding. Transparent costs framework: The High Court could adopt guidelines for cost imposition, ensuring proportionality and reasoned orders, as suggested in *Sanjeev Kumar Jain v. Raghbir Saran Charitable Trust* (2012). Strengthening trust: Regular Bar-Bench forums can preempt conflicts, reaffirming a shared commitment to justice. Conclusion: The Telangana High Court Bar Association's call for a general body meeting reflects the legitimate concerns about a judge's alleged humiliation of advocates and heavy costs but risks escalating into confrontation. The Bar should pursue institutional mechanisms, such as representations to the Chief Justice, while the bench must uphold decorum and justify costs transparently. The Telangana High Court's collegium, led by the Chief Justice, should seize this opportunity to evolve institutional mechanisms for monitoring judicial decorum periodically. By prioritising dialogue and mutual respect, the Bar and bench can ensure the courtroom remains a sanctuary of fairness and dignity, strengthening the legal system's integrity for all. (The author is former Senior Editor, The Economic Times, and currently practicing as an Advocate at Telangana High Court)


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आदमी दूसरे धर्म और पंथ के धर्मग्रंथों का भी अध्ययन करना चाहिए क्योंकि ज्ञान किसी विशिष्ट धर्म या पंथ या व्यक्ति के लिए नहीं बल्कि हर एक बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति के लिए ईश्वर के तरफ से भेजा गया उपहार है। ... (शकील उवाचा -395)



चीजों में होता है जिन्हें तुम नहीं जानते।" (हैदरी कुतुबखाना, मुंबई द्वारा प्रकाशित उर्दू पुस्तक तजल्लियाते हिकमत, जहालत 52, हदीस क्रमांक 48, पुष्ट क्रमांक 119)।

तजल्लियाते हिकमत इस पुस्तक में आया है के, "आप (पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम) से पूछा गया के, आकिल (बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति) की तौसीफ कीजिए (प्रशंसा, सराहना, या गुणवत्ता के बारे में बताइए) तो आप अलैहिस्सलाम ने फरमाया, जो किसी चीज को उसकी मुअय्यन (निर्धारित) जगह पर रखे (वही बुद्धिमान है)।" (हैदरी कुतुबखाना, मुंबई द्वारा प्रकाशित उर्दू पुस्तक तजल्लियाते हिकमत, जहालत 52, हदीस क्रमांक 09, पुष्ट क्रमांक 116)।

इसी हदीस (कथन) में आगे और आया है के, "आप (इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब) अलैहिस्सलाम से फिर कहा गया के, जाहिल (अज्ञानी, मूर्ख) की तौसीफ कीजिए (प्रशंसा, सराहना, या गुणवत्ता के बारे में बताइए), तो आप अलैहिस्सलाम ने फरमाया के, मैं ने उसकी भी तौसीफ (गुणवत्ता) बयान की है। (याने जो बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति के विपरीत कार्य करना अज्ञानी की गुणवत्ता है)।" (हैदरी कुतुबखाना, मुंबई द्वारा प्रकाशित उर्दू पुस्तक तजल्लियाते हिकमत, जहालत 52, हदीस क्रमांक 09, पुष्ट क्रमांक 119)।

आदमी दूसरे धर्म और पंथ के धर्मग्रंथों का भी अध्ययन करना चाहिए क्योंकि इल्म (ज्ञान) किसी विशिष्ट व्यक्ति, विशिष्ट धर्म या विशिष्ट पंथ के लिए नहीं बल्कि हर एक बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति के लिए ईश्वर के तरफ से भेजा गया उपहार होता है। ज्ञान को दूसरे मजहब का है यह बहाना करके जो उसे हासिल करने से इनकार करता है वह दर असल ईश्वर के महिमान्वित उपहार को खो देता है। और आदमी जिन चीजों के बारे में नहीं जानता वह उनका दुश्मन बन जाता है।

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम कहते हैं के, "अज्ञान चीजों के दुश्मन न बने क्यों के अक्सर इल्म (ज्ञान) उन्हीं

माँ की ममता

माँ, एक ऐसा शब्द, जिसमें प्यार और स्नेह है, जो अपने बच्चों के लिए, हर दम तैयार है। माँ की ममता, अनमोल है, बेशकीमती है, जो अपने बच्चों को, जीवन का सही रास्ता दिखाती है।

माँ का प्यार, शुद्ध और सच्चा है, जो अपने बच्चों के लिए, हर मुश्किल को पार करता है। माँ की मेहनत, बच्चों के भविष्य को, उज्ज्वल और सफल बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है।

माँ की सीख, जीवन में काम आती है, एक अच्छा इंसान बनने का मार्ग प्रशस्त करती है। माँ का आशीर्वाद, हमेशा बच्चों के साथ रहता है, जो उन्हें जीवन की हर चुनौती का सामना करने की ताकत देता है।

माँ की भूमिका, सबसे महान है, जो अपने बच्चों को जीवन के सही रास्ते पर चलने की प्रेरणा



माँ की ममता, हर दिल में बसी है, जो अपने बच्चों के लिए, हर दम तैयार है। माँ का आशीर्वाद, जीवन को सफल बनाता है, एक अच्छा भविष्य, की नींव रखता है।

माँ का प्यार, कभी कम नहीं होता, जो अपने बच्चों के लिए, हमेशा तैयार रहता है।

माँ की ममता, हर दिल में बसी है, जो अपने बच्चों के लिए, हर दम तैयार है। माँ का आशीर्वाद, जीवन को सफल बनाता है, एक अच्छा भविष्य, की नींव रखता है।

वीथि दुर्गावत एम. ए.

Yashasvi Jaiswal Faces Criticism for Dropped Catches in Leeds Test



Team India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is hampering Team India's chances of victory with his poor fielding. He is facing criticism for missing not two but four catches in the ongoing Leeds Test against England. After dropping three catches in the first innings, this Team India opener failed to take a crucial catch in the second innings. Duckett was batting at 97 runs when he missed the catch. When India was struggling for wickets, Jaiswal was dropping catches. Duckett played a pull shot in the bowling of Siraj. The timing was not right, and the ball rose high. Jaiswal, who was fielding at mid-wicket, ran and dived but could not catch it. With this, the England opener, who was still at 97, moved closer to a century. Duckett went on to score a century, and India lost the match to England.

LIVING RELATIONSHIP!

In my span of 70 years age! I heard about various relations! Mother and child, siblings, blood relation, family relation and friendship relation and many other relations!

To my surprise a variety relationship is on screen! Name itself is a peculiar one!

Man and woman living relationship! I do accept some where in abroad prevail! They culture and traditions may allow!

The question is how far it suits in our country? Here we have ancient customs and moral binded life living! We treat marriage is sacred one! This wed lock is a life long bondage!



What%µs the most surprise in living relationship is: Men and women live together but no marriage! Physical relationship will be there!

How far it is acceptable specially in our society! No binding, no caring, no respect, between them! At any moment they can disperse! What next, again search for another mate! Where it ends? Always followed by Comma(,) only

Oh God save the future of younger generation!

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

MeeSeva adds sand booking to online services

Hyderabad: Telangana's flagship e-governance platform MeeSeva has launched online sand booking services, providing citizens with a faster, transparent, and hassle-free alternative to the conventional booking system. The new service enables citizens to book sand from the comfort of their homes or offices, potentially streamlining the supply chain for individual users and the construction sector. MeeSeva has recently crossed 20 crore successful transactions, marking a significant milestone in citizen service delivery. Through the new system, sand booking is fully digitized, minimizing scope for irregularities and delays. The service allows citizens to select vehicle type, quantity, stockyard (sand reach), purpose of usage, and preferred delivery date. Payment can be made online, with sand delivery scheduled to the provided address. To avail the service, citizens must visit their nearest MeeSeva center, where the Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) will register their mobile number on the official portal.

Trying to be the best player for team at opening spot: Khawaja

Bridgetown: Ahead of the first Test against the West Indies, Australia batter Usman Khawaja said he is trying to be the best player for the side at the opening spot. After the retirement of David Warner last year, Australia have struggled to find his permanent replacement after testing multiple players for the job. For the series against the West Indies, the 19-year-old Sam Konstas has been given the role of rejoining Khawaja at the top after playing two Border-Gavaskar Trophy Tests against India. Meanwhile, the senior batter is aware of his abilities and knows what is his role in the team. "For me, I feel like I have plenty to give still. To be playing this series and the Ashes is the pinnacle. That's the one we all love winning and being involved in... after that there is a bit of a gap between that and the next Test series. We'll cross that bridge when we get there but for me it's about making sure I stay in the moment. Because if I'm not in the moment, I don't think I'm doing the right thing by myself and the team," he said ahead of the opening Test, he said. "I'm not the guy who's going (to say), 'I want to play for another ten years'. I'm very attuned to whatever is best for the team (and that) is what I'm trying to do. I'm



not here for myself anymore. I'm here for the team. I could have stopped playing two years ago, really. But I found that I was still contributing, still trying to be the best player for the team at that opening spot, trying to do what I can do, (and) that hasn't changed for me. When it does, you guys will surely find out," he added. Khawaja hit a career-best double century earlier this year against Sri Lanka, but questions about his form resurfaced after he registered twin failures against Kagiso Rabada in the World Test Championship final. Those struggles extended a pattern of modest returns against pace bowling, following difficulties

against Jasprit Bumrah last season and New Zealand's quicks earlier in 2024. Despite this, head coach Andrew McDonald, speaking after the Lord's Test, all but confirmed that Khawaja's spot is secure for the upcoming Ashes series later this year. Khawaja, who was the second-highest-scoring opener in the previous WTC cycle behind India's Yashasvi Jaiswal and also Australia's top run-getter overall, remains confident in his long-term record. He believes any recent dip in form is reflective of the demands of his role, especially during a period where top-order batting has been particularly tough. Since the beginning of 2024, Khawaja averaged 25.29 against pace -slightly below the global average for openers at 27.84 - but fares much better against spin, averaging 65.80. "I can't understand how I can (have a problem against seam bowling) if I can score so many runs in (Sheffield) Shield cricket or be the highest run-scorer for Australia in the WTC cycle," the 38-year-old said. "I open the batting for Australia. So I get out to seam more than I get out to anyone else. It's just part and parcel of the game. "I wish I could face more spinners, but you don't always get that opportunity. So, I'm facing

the new-ball bowlers with the new ball every single time. I went back from Sri Lanka to domestic cricket and scored a hundred against Tasmania. I pretty much faced seam the whole time there (and) against Riley Meredith, who is one of the fastest bowlers in the country. "I understand I'm 38 years old. People will be looking for an excuse. (But) I think I've got a role to play: open the batting, starting off, and setting a good platform for Australia," he added. On partnering again with Konstas, Khawaja said, "I knew when and where he was going to drop and run a quick single, and I was ready for it." "There's obviously this series and then a big Ashes coming up. [You] probably want a little bit of stability at the top. It'll be tough to chop and change, and opening is a tough place. Mentally, it can be very tough. Going out there against the new ball and sometimes just getting a good ball and low scores." "I'm just looking forward to playing with Sammy, as much as on the field as helping him off the field. I've been through a lot in my life, a lot of ups and downs. There are lots of things I've seen throughout my career and most of them are not technical. More mindset things. If I can help Sammy through this journey, especial-

'Jai Bagalaamukhii' from 'Thammudu' wins hearts; gears up for July 4 release



Actor Nithiin is all set to return to the big screen with his much-anticipated film Thammudu, directed by Sriram Venu of MCA and Vakeel Saab fame. The film, produced by Dil Raju and Shirish, is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on July 4. Following the enthusiastic reception to its first single "Bhuu Antuu Bhuutham," the makers have now unveiled the second track, "Jai Bagalaamukhii"—a powerful devotional anthem that blends spirituality with stirring music. Written by renowned lyricist Jonnavithula Ramalingeswara Rao, the song honors the goddess Bagalaamukhi with deeply reverent lyrics. Composer Ajaneesh Loknath, known for his dynamic style, infuses the track with a divine intensity, while Abby V delivers a soulful rendition that reflects the energy of traditional Jathara celebrations. The lyrical video features vibrant visuals showcasing the cultural grandeur of Ambara Godugu, further elevating the devotional atmosphere of the track. The unique composition is already resonating with audiences for its emotional depth and spiritual fervor. Thammudu also stars Laya, Saphami Gowda, Varsha Bollamma, Saurabh Sachdeva, Sriram Deetya, and Temper Vamsi in prominent roles. With a mix of drama, emotion, and cultural richness, the film is expected to strike a chord with a wide audience. As the release date approaches, the buzz around Thammudu continues to grow, with its music and spiritual themes setting the tone for a memorable cinematic experience.

SS Rajamouli makes surprise cameo in Hideo Kojima's videogame 'Death Stranding 2: On the Beach'



In a surprising crossover between cinema and gaming, RRR director SS Rajamouli and his son Karthikeya have made cameo appearances in the upcoming video game Death Stranding 2: On the Beach, developed by legendary game creator Hideo Kojima. The news has taken fans by storm, with clips of their in-game appearances going viral on social media. While many initially believed Rajamouli's meeting with Kojima in Japan during RRR's Japanese release in 2022 was casual, it turns out it laid the groundwork for a creative collaboration. Rajamouli had even arranged a 360° screening of RRR for Kojima at the time. Now, as Death Stranding 2 prepares for its global release on PlayStation 5 tomorrow, players who accessed the game early were quick to spot Rajamouli and Karthikeya's cameos, sparking excitement across the fan community. Hideo Kojima, widely respected for his cinematic storytelling and innovation in gaming, seems to have forged a meaningful creative bond with Rajamouli—one that may open doors for future collaborations. Meanwhile, SS Rajamouli is currently focused on his next ambitious project starring Mahesh Babu, but his unexpected debut in the gaming world has added a thrilling twist to his creative journey.

Get Ready to Roar! The Mahavatar Cinematic Universe Has Arrived

Hombale Films and Kleem Productions Reveal 7-Film Mega Slate Spanning Over a Decade In a landmark move that's set to redefine Indian animation and mythology-based storytelling, Hombale Films in collaboration with Kleem Productions has unveiled the official lineup for the Mahavatar Cinematic Universe; an ambitious animated saga that will chronicle the ten divine avatars of Lord Vishnu. The cinematic journey kicks off with Mahavatar Narsimha in 2025 and culminates with Mahavatar Kalki Part 2 in 2037, spanning over 12 years of mythological storytelling on an epic scale. The Mahavatar Release Calendar: Mahavatar Narsimha - 2025, Mahavatar Parshuram - 2027, Mahavatar Raghunandan - 2029, Mahavatar Dwarakadhesh - 2031, Mahavatar Gokulananda - 2033, Mahavatar Kalki Part 1 - 2035, Mahavatar Kalki Part 2 - 2037. A Universe Beyond Films The Mahavatar saga isn't limited to the big screen. The



creators are envisioning it as a multi-platform cultural phenomenon, extending into: Graphic novels and comics Immersive video games Interactive digital storytelling Limited-edition collectibles and experiences The goal? To create an ever-expanding universe that allows fans to engage with Bharat's spiritual heritage across platforms, generations, and geographies. Voices from the Makers Director Ashwin Kumar, who helms the first installment Mahavatar Narsimha,

shared his excitement, "We here at Kleem Productions, along with the powerhouse Hombale Films, are excited to bring the heritage of Bharat to the big screen in a never-before-experienced cinematic scale. The transcendental experience begins through the MAHAVATAR universe of Dasha Avatar... Now Bharat will Roar!" Producer Shilpa Dhawan added, "The possibilities are ENDLESS, and I'm PUMPED to see our stories ROAR to life on screen! Buckle up for an

EPIC cinematic ride!" A spokesperson from Hombale Films said, "At Hombale Films, we believe in storytelling that transcends time and borders. With Mahavatar, we are proud to present a cinematic universe that brings the sacred avatars of Vishnu to life through breathtaking animation. This is more than a film series- it is our tribute to India's spiritual legacy." The Beginning: Mahavatar Narsimha Slated to release on 25th July 2025, Mahavatar Narsimha marks the beginning of this mythological journey. Directed by Ashwin Kumar and produced by Shilpa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai, the film will be presented in 3D and released in five Indian languages. With its visual grandeur, cultural depth, and spiritually charged storytelling, the Mahavatar Cinematic Universe is all set to usher in a new era of mythological entertainment; a celebration of Bharat's divine legacy. Stay tuned. The roar begins soon.

'Kannappa' is not just a film, it's a spiritual experience – Shiva Balaji

With just days to go for the grand release of Kannappa, actor Shiva Balaji, who plays Kumaradeva Sastry in the epic, opened up in an exclusive interview about his experience working on the mythological actioner. Here's what he had to share: Let's start at the beginning. How did you come onboard Kannappa? It was quite casual. During a lunch with Mohan Babu garu and Vishnu, the topic of casting came up. Mohan Babu garu directly asked Vishnu, "Why doesn't Shiva have a role?" Initially, there wasn't one, but the next day, he offered me the role of his son—Kumaradeva Sastry. That's how it began. How did you prepare for the role? I mirrored Mohan Babu garu's character—stern, emotionally distant. I didn't rely on external references but focused on portraying a son shaped by that intensity. Is your role significant in the film? It's a strong supporting role. My character belongs to a lineage guarding the sacred Vayu Lingam. There are power struggles



between Thinnadu, the Boya community, and our family. Even as the son, I wasn't allowed access to the Lingam. What did you think after watching the film? Kannappa is extraordinary. The second half is emotionally powerful and visually stunning. Prabhas' presence has created a buzz. How pivotal is his role? He appears for around 40 minutes. From his entry, he dominates

the narrative. His character is impactful and well-executed. Any insight on Akshay Kumar's portrayal of Lord Shiva? Akshay Kumar looks divine. There were debates about who would play Shiva, and while Prabhas was initially considered, Akshay ended up fitting the part perfectly. You've been selective lately. Why? I've become choosy. If a role doesn't excite me, I pass. I want performance-driven characters now. You've dabbled in OTT too. Any plans to return? Yes, I plan to return with Recce 2. I'm open to strong, meaningful content. What's next? A thriller under Mohan Babu garu's production, directed by a Tamil filmmaker. Details will be announced soon. And working with Mohan Babu off-screen? He's warm and treats us like family. We grew close, especially during the MAA elections. Final thoughts on Kannappa? It's more than just cinema—it's a spiritual journey packed with powerful moments. I'm glad I didn't miss being a part of this film.

Regina Cassandra radiates playful charm

Actress Regina Cassandra, who has already made waves this year with her performances in Vidaamuyarchi, Jaat, and Kesari Chapter 2, continues to stay in the spotlight with three upcoming projects: Mookuthi Amman 2 (Tamil), Section 108 (Hindi), and Flash Back (Tamil). Adding to her streak of attention-grabbing appearances, Regina has now turned heads with a fresh and playful photoshoot that showcases her effortless sense of style. Sporting a pink and white checked mini-dress with thin straps and a flir-



ty neckline, she exudes youthful energy and confidence. The look is perfectly complemented by green and gold earrings, white wedge sandals, and a chic designer handbag featured in a few shots. Her hair pulled back and expressions ranging from joyful grins to subtle smirks give the photoshoot an airy, modern feel. Whether smiling with her eyes closed or confidently flaunting her outfit, Regina delivers a series of vibrant, fashion-forward poses. With a strong lineup of films and a renewed fashion presence, Regina is clearly enjoying a stylish and successful 2025.

