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### IN BRIEF



Special Birthday glimpse released from NBK's 109th movie

Hyderabad: Nandamuri Balakrishna commands Telugu Cinema as "Natural Born King" - NBK, the "God of Masses" and his recent form has been the big talk of the town. He is delivering some memorable characters and huge theatrical blockbusters. Now, he is gearing up to entertain (Cont.on P2)



No cabinet post for Purandeswari disappoints many

Still cadre hopes on Speaker or Dy Speaker post

Amaravati: The rank and file of not only BJP but also TDP were disappointed with denial of cabinet post for Purandeswari. AP BJP president Daggubati Purandeswari won the Lok Sabha election from Rajahmundry (Cont.on P2)



FPIs withdraw nearly Rs 14,800 crore from Indian equities amid post-election uncertainties

Mumbai: In a significant market movement, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have withdrawn nearly Rs.14,800 crore from Indian domestic stocks in the first week of June 2024. This outflow is largely attributed to the recent results of India's Lok Sabha elections (Cont.on P2)



# AP cabinet point of discussion in political circles

• Chandrababu always considered all castes, regions and track record

Patibandla Srinivas (pnsjournalist@gmail.com)

Amaravati: June 10: TDP national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu's selection of cabinet ministers is a hot topic in political circles. The newly elected TDP MLAs are facing anxious movements and inquiring whether they would get a place in the State cabinet. Several senior MLAs pinned hopes on the cabinet induction. As per the sources, Chandrababu Naidu has already completed the selection process for cabinet positions long ago. Senior MLAs pinned hopes on their chances based on their experience, caste and dis-

tribut-wise equations. According to sources, K Atchannaidu, Kuna Ravi Kumar, Aditi Gajapathi Raju, Kala Venkata Rao, Ch Ayyannapudu, Palla Srinivasa Rao, Vangalapati Anita, Raghu Ramakrishnan Raju, Pithani Satyanarayana, Jyothula Nehru, Kollu Ravindra, Sriram Rajagopal, Nara Lokesh, Julakanti Brahma Reddy, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, D Balaveeranjaneya Swamy, S Chandramohan Reddy, NMD Farooq, Kotla Surya Prakash Reddy, R Madhavi, Payavula Keshav, Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy or Amarnatha Reddy, Pawan Kalyan, Nadendla Manohar, Konathala Ramakrishna, P

Vishnukumar Raju, V Sujana Chowdary, Satyakumar Yadav of Jana Sena and BJP have more chances to get place in the cabinet. Indeed there is doubt about Brahma Reddy's induction but recently Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna directly gave assurance while hugging him in the victory celebration mood. Several legislators like Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary, Dhulipalla Narendra, Anam Ramnarayana Reddy, Kamineni Srinivas, Mandali Buddha Prasad, KE Syam, K Pardha Saradhi may get positions in the government like whips, Chief Whips and Deputy speaker. Apart (Cont.on P2)



## TDP alliance to elect Chandrababu as legislative party leader

• Preparations speed up for swearing in ceremony

Vijayawada, June 10 (The Capital News): The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) alliance is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to elect Nara Chandrababu Naidu, TDP chief, as the leader in the Legislative Assembly. During this significant meeting, the alliance parties, comprising TDP, Janasena, and BJP, will pass a resolution to officially elect Chandrababu as the leader of the legislature party. Subsequently, a delegation from the alliance will present the resolution to the Governor, requesting him to invite Chandrababu to form the government. Following the Governor's issuance of a notification inviting Chandrababu to form the government, he is set to be sworn in as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, June 12. Post the swearing-in ceremony, Chandrababu, along with his family, will proceed to Tirumala for the darshan of Lord Venkateswara and stay



overnight. The following morning, on the 13th (Thursday), they will visit Lord Shiva. Preparations for Chandrababu's swearing-in ceremony near IT park at Kesaraipalli have been expedited by the authorities. The construction of the stage is nearing completion, with dimensions of 80 feet in (Cont.on P2)

## Release of 'Kisan Nidhi' fund is PM Modi's first decision in 3rd term

New Delhi, Jun 10 (The Capital News): Taking charge as prime minister in his third term, Narendra Modi on Monday signed his first file authorising the release of 17th installment of the 'PM Kisan Nidhi' funds amounting to nearly Rs 20,000 crore, which will benefit around 9.3 crore farmers. After signing on to the release of funds, Modi said, "Ours is a government fully committed to 'kisan kalyan' (farmers' welfare). It is, therefore, fitting that the first file signed on taking charge is related to it. We want to keep working even more for farmers and the agriculture sector in the times to come." The decision signifies the government's commitment to farmers' welfare following the ruling National Democratic Alliance's poll win, albeit with some setback, especially in



parts of rural India. Modi was sworn in as prime minister on Sunday for a record-equalling third term, heading a 72-member Union.



**Revanth Reddy congratulates new Union Ministers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh**

**Hyderabad,:** Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday congratulated G Kishan Reddy, K Ram Mohan Naidu and other newly-sworn in Union Ministers from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He urged them to work for implementation of the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and to get funds and projects from the Centre to both the states, according to a post on X by Revanth Reddy. While Kishan Reddy and Ram Mohan Naidu were sworn in as cabinet ministers, Bani Sanjay Kumar, Chandrasekhar Pemasani and Bh Sri Nivasa Varma joined the PM Narendra Modi-led Ministry as Ministers of State on Sunday.



**BRS leader Rama Rao congratulates Modi after he is sworn in as PM for third consecutive term**

**Hyderabad:** BRS Working President and former Telangana Minister K T Rama Rao on Sunday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on being sworn in for a third consecutive term. "Congratulations to Sri @narendramodi Ji on a consecutive 3rd term as Prime Minister of India. Wishing you and your colleagues in NDA Government a successful tenure in serving the people of our great nation," Rama Rao said in a post on social media platform X. Narendra Modi was sworn in for a third consecutive term as prime minister, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Sunday. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to the prime minister.

**Three-member family die by suicide in Kerala over financial issues**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A three-member family died by suicide at their residence near Neyyattinkara here, allegedly due to financial issues, police said on Monday. Neyyattinkara resident Manilal (52), his wife Smitha (45) and their son Abhilash (22) were found in an unconscious condition on Sunday night by the locals, police said.

# Paytm to lay off more employees amid widening losses

**K Varaprasadarao**  
**Mumbai, June 10 (The Capital News):** Popular fintech company Paytm has announced a significant restructuring, including layoffs of an undisclosed number of employees, after a previous reduction of approximately 3,500 employees in the March quarter. This decision comes in response to widening losses and recent restrictive actions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI has imposed stringent restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), an associate of Paytm. These restrictions include a ban on accepting deposits, credit transactions, or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, and FASTags. Consequently, Paytm's sales em-



ployee headcount dropped by about 3,500 to 36,521 personnel in the March 2024 quarter. In response to these challenges, Paytm is disbursing bonuses to its employees and providing outplacement support to facilitate their transition. The company's human resource teams are collaborating with over 30 companies that are currently hiring to assist the affected employees. Paytm's financial woes have deepened, with the company reporting a loss of Rs 550

crore for the January-March 2024 period, a significant increase from the Rs 167.5 crore loss reported in the same period the previous year. To mitigate these losses, Paytm has stated that it will prune its non-core business lines and maintain a leaner organisational structure through AI-led interventions. This restructuring is part of Paytm's broader strategy to drive profitability and maintain a sustainable business model amid the regulatory challenges it faces. The company is focusing on core operations and implementing AI solutions to streamline processes and reduce costs, aiming for a more resilient and efficient business model moving forward.

# Swarupanandendra Swamy blesses Chandrababu's auspicious oath-taking

**Visakhapatnam, June 10 (The Capital News):** Visakha Sharada Peetham Seer Swarupanandendra Swamy highlighted the auspicious timing of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu's swearing-in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, coinciding with the Simha Ratri, and expressed his hope that at the new government would serve the people well. During a media interaction on the occasion, Swarupanandendra Swamy, who has a reputation as a benefactor of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, made significant remarks. He emphasized his commitment to speaking the truth, irrespective of political dynamics, and reassured that his intentions are neither profit-driven nor politically motivated. Reflecting on his consistent stance over the years,



Swamy noted that his respect for Chandrababu Naidu is longstanding and that he had supported him during his previous tenure as chief minister in 2014. He asserted that his blessings for Naidu are genuine and rooted in a desire for the State's prosperity. Swamy also highlighted that the Sharada Peetham's growth has been fueled by the devotion of its followers rather than political patronage. Swamy also addressed the broader political context, noting the recent changes in government at both the State and national levels. He celebrated the BJP's return to power for the third consecutive term in the country and remarked on the positive implications

for Hindu Dharma. He mentioned that Rammohan Naidu from Srikakulam district has been granted a position in the central cabinet, attributing this opportunity to Chandrababu Naidu's influence. Swarupanandendra Swamy shared that the Sharada Peetham has acquired land in Amaravati with plans to establish a presence there. He emphasized that they are awaiting a favorable moment to begin construction, underscoring the importance of the location for their spiritual activities. Swamy concluded by reaffirming his dedication to truth and righteousness, stating that his support for Chandrababu Naidu remains unwavering. He reiterated that their primary concern is the well-being of the people and the prosperity of Andhra Pradesh, irrespective of the government in power.



# Look forward to India, Maldives working together closely: Jaishankar

**New Delhi, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Union Minister S Jaishankar on Monday held separate bilateral meetings with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe. Jaishankar also called on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Mauritius Prime Minister Pravin Jugnauth, Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay and Seychelles Vice President Ahmed Afif. The seven leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region were in Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Council of Ministers on Sunday. "Delighted to call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu of Maldives today in New Delhi. Look forward to India and Maldives working together closely," Jaishankar said on X. Jaishankar was the external affairs minister in Modi's previous Cabinet. He took oath as a Union minister on Sunday. It was Muizzu's first visit to India after he became the island nation's president on November 17 last year. The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu,

known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. The Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians earlier this month. After his meeting with Hasina, Jaishankar said, "Honoured to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh today. The India-Bangladesh Maitri continues to advance." On his meeting with Wickremesinghe, Jaishankar said, "Appreciate President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka for receiving me this morning in New Delhi. Recognized the steady progress in India-Sri Lanka relations." "Great to meet PM Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan. Spoke about our unique and multifaceted friendship," Jaishankar said on the meeting with Tobgay. He said the meeting with Mauritius Prime Minister Jugnauth, reflected the special bond between the two countries. On the meeting with the Nepalese prime minister, Jaishankar said: "So glad to call on PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' of Nepal. Discussed the growing various facets of India-Nepal cooperation."

# One dead, 11 injured as bus rams into wall in Gondia; driver held

**Gondia:** One person was killed and 11 injured after their bus rammed into a wall in Gondia in Maharashtra on Monday, a police official said. The mishap took place on Gondia-Goregaon road near Milltoli after the driver lost control of the bus with a Madhya Pradesh registration number at around 7:30am, the official said. "The bus with 35 passengers was on its way back from Hyderabad in Telangana. Driver Mohit Umprasad Kirsan, a resident of Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, lost control of the vehicle and it ramed into the compound wall of an agricultural firm and weigh bridge. Of the 12 people who were injured, one person identified as Thanshing Yadav (30) died while undergoing treatment," the Gondia Rural police station official said. A team under Inspector Chandrakant Kale cleared the road and normalised traffic after the accident, he said. The driver has been arrested and further probe is underway, the official added.

# FPIs withdraw nearly..

(From Page 1)

and the attractive valuations of Chinese stocks. The withdrawal follows a net outflow of Rs 25,586 crore in May, driven by election-related uncertainties and concerns over changes to India's tax treaty with Mauritius. The general election results in India have notably influenced foreign investor flows in Indian equity markets this month. The initial optimism generated by exit polls predicting a decisive victory for the BJP and the NDA government was reversed by the actual results, leading to substantial outflows by foreign investors. Additionally, FPIs consider Indian stock valuations to be very high, prompting a shift of capital to more attractively priced markets, particularly China. Despite the outflow in equities, FPIs invested over Rs 4,000 crore in the debt market, spurred by the upcoming inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index. Market experts believe that the long-term outlook for FPI flows into Indian debt is positive due to this inclusion. This development has raised concerns among market analysts and investors about the potential impact on the Indian stock market and broader economy. It remains to be seen how this trend will evolve and what measures may be taken to stabilize investor confidence.

# Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as chief minister of Sikkim

**Gangtok, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang was sworn in as chief minister of the Himalayan state on Monday. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium here. Tamang, 56, became the chief minister for a second consecutive term. The SKM returned to power in Sikkim by a landslide victory, winning 31 seats in the 32-member assembly. The opposition Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which ruled the state for 25 years in a row till 2019, could manage only one seat.

# AP cabinet point..

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from this Maddipati Venkata Raju, Tangirala Somayya, MS Raju, Bandaru Sravani and B Ramanjanyulu also have chances for various posts. Senior TDP leader Yanamala Ramkrishnu's daughter is also likely to get some position. Chandrababu Naidu always prefers to consider all castes and regions. He never deviated from the formula in the sharing of power for either party positions or in the government. Chandrababu Naidu may face a tough time to allot departments. Jana Sena and BJP leaders are expecting key ministries. Now everyone is debating on the Home Ministry and Speaker posts.

# TDP alliance to

(From Page 1)

width, 60 feet in length, and a height of eight feet. A large tent using German hangers is being erected, with special parking arrangements made for the visiting guests and VIPs. Additionally, a special galle ry is being arranged for the family members of Chandrababu, Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan, and Nandamuri Balakrishna. A separate block is allocated for the families of MLAs and MPs. Due to space constraints at the venue, only those with passes will be permitted to attend the oath-taking ceremony. The platform for the swearing-in ceremony is being set up next to Kesara palli Medha Towers in Gannavaram Mandal, with TDP leaders and officials overseeing the arrangements. The stage works are supervised by Tirupati joint collector Dhyanchander and Visakhapatnam commissioner Saikanth Verma. A massive tent, 800 feet long and 420 feet wide, is being erected with German hangers. On Sunday, TDP leader Achenennadu, Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad, DGP Harishkumar Gupta, Special Officers Pradyumna, Babu.A, Veera Pandyan, Agriculture Department Commissioner Harikiran, and State Additional DGP Babji examined the preparations under the supervision of DK Balaji.

# Special Birthday glimpse..

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masses with NBK109 in the direction of super successful writer-director Bobby Kolli. Sithara Entertainments, one of the busiest and most successful production houses of Telugu Cinema, is producing the film on a lavish canvas. The makers have unveiled a special birthday glimpse to introduce the character of Nandamuri Balakrishna, "A Monster that even Evil would fear". Already, they released an important glimpse giving us a sneak peek into the world of NBK109 and now, they have introduced the character with a hint about his dangerous mission. Bobby Kolli has carved a niche for himself in making thundering action blockbuster movies with big stars. Going by the two glimpses released by the makers, he seems to be presenting NBK at his stylish and violent best, in NBK109. Adding to his stunning visual choreography, S Thaman's adept background score makes it an experience for viewers. Also, cinematographer Vijay Kartik Kannan presented NBK in mass frames of Bobby Kolli, aptly adhering to the fans' anticipation. Niranjan Devaraman's cuts and Avinash Kolla's production design also stands out in this monstrous glimpse. Famous Bollywood actor Bobby Deol is playing the antagonist role in the film. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, respectively, are producing the film and Srikara Studios is presenting it. More details will be announced soon.

# No cabinet post for..

(From Page 1)

constituency. She played an important role in State politics during the last one year. The rank and file of the BJP also expected that Purandeswari would secure a place in the Union cabinet. She successfully contested the Rajahmundry Lok Sabha seat where the TDP has a strong base. Everyone feels that she would get a place in the Union cabinet due to her experience in the previous government and good track record. She is qualified with many degrees and has a command of literature and languages. Moreover, she led the BJP affairs in the State, particularly in the crucial election time. She maintained the party's stature in the public without giving scope to any controversies. Still, the BJP leaders pinned hopes on the AP BJP president that there would still be a chance for her as Speaker or Deputy Speaker position. However, she expressed happiness over his colleague and Narasapuram MP B Srinivasa Varama's induction into the cabinet. Indeed, he is a local leader and so far he doesn't have any experience.



### Blast in illegal firecracker factory in Bengal, one injured

Kolkata, Jun 10 (The Capital News) One person was seriously injured in a blast that occurred in an illegal firecracker factory in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal, police said on Monday. The roof of the house in which the factory was being operated was blown off under the impact of the explosion late Sunday night. At least 4-5 other houses in Prayag village in Kolaghat area were also damaged, a police officer said. "An illegal firecracker manufacturing unit was operational inside the house of Ananda Maity. The roof of the house was blown off and the walls and windows were damaged. One person was injured," he told PTI. Police personnel were deployed around the house as an investigation into the blast was on, he said. Incidentally, in May last year, 12 people were killed in a blast at an illegal firecracker factory operating inside a house in Khadikul village in the same district.

# Modi govt 3.0 can usher in next phase of reforms towards Viksit Bharat: India Inc

New Delhi, Jun 10 (The Capital News) With Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking oath for the third time, India Inc on Monday expressed optimism that the new government under his leadership can usher in the next phase of reforms to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. Several corporate leaders posted congratulatory messages on X, formerly Twitter, after Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday, becoming only the second PM after Jawaharlal Nehru to secure a third consecutive term. Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal tweeted, "Congratulations to @narendramodiji on being elected Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive time. Bharat has crossed many milestones under your visionary leadership. We are confident that the country will continue on its remarkable growth trajectory!" In a post on X, JSW Group CMD Sajjan Jindal said: "Congratulations @narendramodiji on assuming office as Prime Minister for the third time, a feat last achieved by Nehruji. With new cabinet, I am optimistic about the continued progress & development of our nation. Together, let's build a stronger & more resilient eco-



nomy". Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra also congratulated Modi. "Hope the new term will prove to be important for the development and prosperity of India," he said in a post on X. CII President Sanjiv Puri in a statement said building upon a strong growth rate of 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, the new government under Modi's leadership can usher in the next phase of reforms to make the most of the global opportunities and build on the robust fundamentals of the economy. CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said as India continues to think and act 'big' under Modi, continuity in the reform agenda will carry India forward on the

path to becoming a developed nation. FICCI President Anish Shah said the third consecutive term for the NDA paves the way for continuity in the reform agenda. "We look forward to progressive policies and measures that will foster economic and social development and build a strong foundation for 'Viksit Bharat'," Shah said. ASSOCHAM Secretary General Deepak Sood said, "...India Inc is feeling confident that leadership of the country will be steered to greater heights, maintaining the fastest pace of growth amongst the major economies of the world." He said the Indian industry and global investors are feeling reassured of fast and bold-

er reforms well beyond the economy, touching upon wider governance, quality and ease of living and leveraging upon the aspirational young population. Business leaders are also holding high hopes from the upcoming Union Budget. "We are looking forward to the forthcoming regular Budget of the new government, which should serve as clear policy directions and priorities of the NDA government," ASSOCHAM President Sanjay Nayar said. Sanjeev Krishan, Chairperson, PwC in India, said the incoming government shoulders the task of shaping the economic and social destiny of the world's most populous and young democracy.

## Delhi: Students protest near education ministry, demand probe into NEET 'irregularities'

New Delhi, Jun 10 (The Capital News) Members of Left-affiliated students' unions held a protest near the education ministry here on Monday demanding a probe into the alleged irregularities in the NEET exam, a statement said. The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday said the education ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,500 candidates in the exam. The move came amid allegations of inflation of marks leading to 67 candidates sharing the first rank in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam. "Students demand an independent and transparent investigation into the alleged irregularities in the NEET exam to ensure accountability," Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union vice president Avijit Ghosh said. "We demand the ministry to establish a more reliable and secure examination system to safeguard the integrity of entrance exams," Ghosh said.



The student community stands united in demanding a fair and transparent exam system. The future of countless students is at stake and the ministry must take immediate action to address these critical issues, Ghosh was quoted as saying in a statement. The NTA has denied any irregularities and said the changes made in National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks. The issue has

also taken a political turn with several parties raising concerns about the authenticity of the national exam for medical courses. The result of the medical entrance exam was announced on June 4 and thereafter aspirants have been alleging multiple issues, including irregularities in the test demanding a fresh examination. Sixty-seven candidates had shared the first rank in the exam including eight from the same centre in Haryana. A record of more than 24 lakh candidates had registered for the exam this year.

## Trinamool Congress delegation meets farmers at Khanauri border

Chandigarh, Jun 10 (The Capital News) A delegation of TMC leaders on Monday met protesting farmers at Khanauri border point in Punjab, with West Bengal Chief Minister and party supremo Mamata Banerjee speaking to the farmer leaders over the phone. Banerjee assured the protesters that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) will "always stand for justice for farmers". The five-member delegation comprised TMC national spokesperson Derek O'Brien, Mohammed Nadimul Haque, Dola Sen, Sagarika Ghose, and Saket Gokhale. "Today team @AITCofficial in a 5 MP delegation visited farmers protests in Khanauri border. Our leader @MamataOfficial spoke via phone to farm leaders to assure them that @AITCofficial will always stand for justice for farmers. Jai Hind. Jai Kisan," Ghose posted on X after the meeting. Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Abhimanyu Kohar said the TMC delegation was at Khanauri in Sangrur district



for an hour. "They went to the spot where tractors were damaged and Shubhkar Singh had sustained bullet injury. They spoke with farmers," he said, referring to the clash with the police in February on the border point with Haryana. Kohar said Banerjee spoke with farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal. The delegation also said that the TMC will raise the issue of legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the monsoon session of Parliament. The SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chaloo' march by farmers to press the government to accept their

demands which include that the Centre should give a legal guarantee for MSP for crops. The farmers have been staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 when their march was stopped by the security forces. Shubhkar Singh (21), a native of Bathinda, was killed and 12 police personnel sustained injuries in clashes at Khanauri on February 21. The incident took place when some protesting farmers were trying to head towards barricades and were stopped by security personnel from crossing the state border and marching to Delhi.

## J-K bus terror attack: Combing operation launched to track down terrorists; NIA, SIA visit spot

Jammu, Jun 10 (The Capital News) A massive cordon and search operation is underway to track down terrorists responsible for the attack on a passenger bus in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district that left nine people dead and 41 injured, officials said on Monday. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), State Investigation Agency (SIA) and Forensic department teams visited the spot of the terror attack and initiated a probe, they said. On Sunday, terrorists opened fire at the 53-seater bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route from Shiv Khori temple to the Mata Vishnu Devi shrine at Katra near Teryath village in the Poni area. The bus plunged into the deep gorge following the gunfire. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha visited injured passengers at GMC and Narayana hospitals on Monday and said the terrorist attack was part of a nefarious design to spread turmoil in the Jammu region. Such attempts would be thwarted, he asserted. The Director General of Police (DGP) along with senior



officers, including the Army, is scheduled to visit the spot to get first-hand information about the incident. Security forces, including the Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), have laid a multi-dimensional cordon of the Teryath-Poni-Shiv Khori area bordering Rajouri district, officials said. Armed with surveillance equipment, including drones and sniffer dogs, a massive combing operation has begun in the area and adjoining areas of the district, they said. Terrorists involved in the attack are believed to be hiding in the upper reaches of neighbouring Rajouri and Reasi,

the sources said, adding the area has dense forest belts and deep gorges. "Search operation has been launched in the area. Efforts are on to track them (terrorists) down. As per information, two terrorists were involved in the attack", Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma said. The village defence committees have also been geared up in the area, she added. Officials said that 41 people were injured in the attack and 10 of them sustained bullet wounds. The forensic team reached the spot in the morning, scanned the entire area and collected various materials connected to the

attack, they said, adding these included some bullets. An NIA team has also reached the spot and is coordinating with the local police probing into the attack while the SIA team gathered first-hand information about the incident, the officials said. Meanwhile, anti-Pakistan protests broke out across the Jammu region, including Katra, Doda town and Kathua district, calling for increased security measures to prevent such incidents. Accusing Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the protesters demanded action against the neighbouring country.



## No change of guard in BJP's Kerala unit, says Surendran

New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 10 (The Capital News) Kerala BJP president, K Surendran, on Monday dismissed reports that there would be a change of guard in the party unit of the southern state. He also dismissed as "fake news" the reports about actor-politician Suresh Gopi, who won the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat, allegedly expressing displeasure over not providing him with a Cabinet or MoS (Independent) charge in the Narendra Modi-led government. Gopi took oath as the Minister of State in the NDA government on Sunday. Speaking to the media in New Delhi, Surendran mocked the Kerala media and said a section of journalists was spreading fake news against the BJP state unit. He claimed that the media had spread news that the BJP state unit was planning to defeat Gopi from the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat. "Initially, you (the media) alleged that the

Kerala BJP unit had planned to avoid Suresh Gopi by making him the chairman of the Satyajit Ray Film Institute. You claimed that Suresh Gopi would not contest from Thrissur. When the election was announced, the media and certain so-called observers claimed that the state BJP unit was trying to defeat Suresh Gopi," Surendran said. Gopi won the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat by a margin of 74,686 votes. Surendran said that people have dismissed fake news. "A section of the media also claimed that I would be resigning from the post of state chief. I will hand over the charge to you (the media) in the evening. Is that fine?" he asked. Surendran said the BJP Kerala unit has two union ministers and has an increased vote share of 20 per cent. "We have established ourselves as a political power, but still, you (the media) are trying to attack us," the BJP state chief said. Apart

# PHOTO FEATURE

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Former Minister Deviineni Uma and several TDP leaders inspecting arrangements for swearing in ceremony function



Former Minister Deviineni Uma and several TDP leaders inspecting arrangements for swearing in ceremony function

Balakrishna birthday celebrations at party central office on Monday



Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan visiting goddess Nukambika temple at Anakapalli on Monday



Jungle clearance works in Amaravati capital location on Monday

TDP activists staging novel protest at former minister Ambati Rambabu residence on Monday



# Main takeaways after far right rocks European politics, sparking snap election in France

**Brussels, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** A four-day election has shaken the foundations of the European Union, with the far right rocking ruling parties in France and Germany, the bloc's traditional driving forces. For the next five years it will be harder for the European Parliament to make decisions. French President Emmanuel Macron called snap national elections after Marine Le Pen's National Rally humbled his pro-European centrists in the polls. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats also suffered as the extreme-right Alternative for Germany shrugged off scandals to make massive gains. In Italy, the party of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, which has neo-fascist roots, won more than 28% of the national vote for the EU assembly, which would make it a key player in forming future alliances. Green and pro-business liberal groups across Europe suffered heavy defeats, but mainstream formations held their ground, with the centre-right European People's Party remaining the biggest bloc in the 27-nation EU's assembly.



immigration, nationalist party was estimated to get around 31%-32% of the vote. While a National Rally win was expected, the scale of the victory was a surprise, more than doubling the share of Macron's Renaissance party, which was projected to reach around 15%. It should become clear by mid-July whether a weakened Macron will be forced to work with a far-right government in an uncomfortable "cohabitation".

## SCANDALS DO LITTLE TO HARM GERMANY'S HARD RIGHTS

Scholz's ruling Social Democrats recorded their worst post-World War II result in a nationwide vote, with 13.9%. Alternative for Germany finished second with around 15.9%. The far-right party suffered a string of recent setbacks, including scandals surround-

ing its two lead candidates in the EU parliament elections. But voters appear to have shrugged them off. The result is better than the AfD's 11% in 2019 but still short of poll ratings earlier this year. Germany's opposition centre-right Union bloc took 30% of the vote.

## THE PRO-EUROPEAN CENTRE HOLDS

The centre-right European People's Party is projected to win 191 seats in the EU assembly and remains by far the biggest group. The EPP garnered a few more seats, but the parliament is also expanding from 705 seats in 2019 to 720 seats this year, so the increase was marginal. The second-biggest bloc, the centre-left Socialists and Democrats, lost some ground but with 135 seats comfortably retains its place. EPP lead candidate Ursula von der Leyen had flirted with parties to the right during election campaigning, but after early results were announced she called on the socialists and pro-business liberals to work together in a pro-European alliance.

## GREENS AND LIBERALS TAKE A HIT

The environmentalist Greens were perhaps the biggest losers overall. They are likely to lose around 20 seats in the EU parliament, almost a third of their tally from 2019. A series of protests across Europe by farmers angered at the burden imposed by

new climate laws helped to damage their chances. The EU considers itself a world leader in combating global warming. Senior members had hoped that Greens parties already in government in places like Germany would hold their ground. But projections suggested that Germany's Greens, the second-biggest party in Scholz's coalition, would fall from a peak of 20.5% five years ago to around 12%. Liberal parties across Europe, including Macron's, were also expected to give away a combined 20 seats in the assembly, making them the other biggest losers in this election.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Senior party officials and number-crunchers are meeting Monday to work out what kind of groups and alliances might be formed in the parliament for the next five years. Party presidents will hold their first formal talks on Tuesday. One thing is clear: The results will slow decision-making and the passing of legislation on issues ranging from climate change to farm subsidies. EU presidents and prime ministers will hold a summit on June 17 to take stock of the results. They will also discuss whether to return von der Leyen to the helm of the EU's powerful executive branch, the European Commission.

# Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif wishes Narendra Modi on taking oath as prime minister

**Islamabad, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday wished Narendra Modi for taking oath as the prime minister for the third consecutive term. Modi was sworn in as prime minister on Sunday for a record-equaling third term, heading a 72-member Union Council of Ministers in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. Sharif, the only prime minister from India's neighbourhood who wasn't invited to the swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi, took to X to wish his counterpart on his return from China, Pakistan's all-weather ally.



"Congratulations to @narendramodi on taking oath as the Prime Minister of India," he said in a post. Top leaders from India's neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region, including Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Sunday graced the historic swearing-in ceremony. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay and Vice-President of Seychelles Ahmed Afif also attended the glittering ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. India's relationship with Pakistan suffered a setback in 2019 when Islamabad downgraded its ties with New Delhi after the Indian Parliament suspended Article 370 on August 5, 2019. India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

# Australia's leader says opposition will renege on greenhouse gas emissions target if elected

**Melbourne, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday said the opposition Liberal Party would renege on the nation's ambitious target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 if it wins elections due within a year. Albanese made Australian action on climate change an issue in elections due by next May in response to comments that Peter Dutton, leader of the conservative opposition party, made to The Weekend Australian newspaper. Dutton said in an interview with the newspaper that he opposed the centre-left Labour Party government's plan to reduce emissions by 43 per cent below 2005 levels by the end of the decade, saying there was "no sense in signing up to targets you don't have any prospects of achieving." Albanese said Australia would achieve the target despite a forecast by the Climate Change Authority, a government agency, last November of a reduction of between 37 per cent and 42 per cent. "Peter Dutton is walking away from climate action. His decision to abandon the 2030 target means him walking away from the Paris Accord," Albanese told



reporters, referring to the agreement struck by governments at a United Nations climate conference in Paris in 2015. "If you walk away from the Paris Accord, you'll be standing with Libya, Yemen, and Iran, and against all of our major trading partners and all of our important allies," Albanese said. Opposition climate and energy spokesperson Ted O'Brien said Dutton was acknowledging that Australia would not meet the 43 per cent target that Parliament enshrined into law in September 2022. Parliament made the target a law to increase the degree of difficulty for any future government that wanted a less ambitious target. The Liberal Party will reveal its reduction tar-

get for 2030 closer to the next election, which Albanese could call from late 2024, O'Brien said. "We are absolutely committed to the Paris Agreement. We are absolutely committed to achieving net zero by 2050, and we will have a plan to do so," O'Brien told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "What we have done is we've called Labour out" for legislating a promise the government could not keep, O'Brien added. Opposition lawmakers voted against the legislated 43 per cent reduction target. A previous Liberal Party government promised in Paris in 2015 that Australia would reduce emissions by between 26 per cent and 28 per cent by 2030. The party remained in power until it lost elections in 2022 to Albanese's government. The Liberal Party has not changed its 2030 target since Paris but has matched Labour's pledge to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The two sides of politics are proposing different paths to meet the 2050 target. Labour is proposing more renewable energy such as solar and wind-generated electricity while the Liberal Party is proposing Australia's first nuclear-generated electricity.

# Taiwan nighttime dragon boat racing puts modern twist on ancient tradition

**Taipei, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Across the Chinese diaspora, racing in dragon boats has been a tradition reaching back thousands of years. But change is afoot, most recently in central Taiwan where the races were switched to the evening to take advantage of cooler temperatures, a refreshing breeze and the sight of the boats lit up with LED lights running the length of the low-lying watercraft. A drummer pounds out a rhythm behind the elaborately carved dragon head in the bow, while a navigator sits in the stern, where a tail rises to complete the look of the mythical animal, a traditional Chinese harbinger of prosperity and good luck. It is mainly an amateur sport and crews are formed among groups of neighbors and co-workers. Emily Lin, 31, who works as a sales executive in Changhua county, said training sessions at a local junior high school were an excellent way to strengthen friendships outside of work. "This dragon boat race allows us to meet, exchange and take part in something," Lin said Monday following qualifiers the previous night. Daytime racing means deal-



ing with the intense central Taiwan sun reflecting off the river, leaving you feeling unwell, said Chen Ta-tzung, a 28-year-old machinery maintenance specialist. "But in the evening, you don't have the sun," Chen said, a bit of a breeze making everything easier than during the day. "When we focus on rowing during the race, we cannot enjoy the beautiful scene. But when we row back, we can really enjoy the beautiful sights," he added. This year's races hold a special meaning for many participants and observers as they are the first after a

three-year break because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sizes of the boats vary and the numbers of rowers can range from ten to 20 or more. The festival generally falls at the start of June based around the summer solstice according to the Chinese lunar calendar. Over recent decades, the sport has spread in popularity around the world and standards have been imposed on rules and equipment, including the size of paddles and requirements that the drummer, playing a similar role to the coxswain in college and Olympic rowing, maintains a constant beat. "Racing at night is special for rowers," said Huang Yi-kai, 21, who is a coach for standup paddleboard rowers. "This allowed rowers to focus on the moment. It's a refreshing experience." Dragon boat races are also being held in Hong Kong and Macao, as well as around mainland China, where lax safety standards have occasionally led to deadly accidents. At least one person was killed after a dragon boat capsized in the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing on Sunday, the local government reported.



# Newly chosen Haitian prime minister discharged from hospital after spending a night in treatment

**Port Au Prince, Haiti (The Capital News)** Haiti's newly selected Prime Minister Garry Conille was discharged from a hospital on Sunday after spending a night in treatment for an undisclosed condition. In a video published on YouTube, Conille said he is now feeling well and is "ready" to continue to help steer the country out of its current security crisis by forming a government that will also prioritize issues like health care. "The whole time I was at the hospital, I was thinking of something," Conille said in Sunday's video. "People that need to go to the general hospital can't get there" due to security problems. "People who need health care" can't afford it. Conille arrived in Haiti on June 1 after a transitional council selected him as the nation's new prime minister. He had been working outside the country as UNICEF's regional director for Latin America. Gang violence is still surging in parts of Haiti's capital and beyond as Conille takes over the helm of the troubled Caribbean country awaiting the UN-backed deployment of a police force from Kenya and other countries.

# South Korea says North Korea is installing its own loudspeakers along the border

**Seoul, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** South Korea's military on Monday said it's detecting signs that North Korea is installing its own loudspeakers along their heavily armed border, a day after the South blared anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts over its speakers for the first time in years as the rivals engage in a Cold War-style psychological warfare. The South's resumption of its loudspeaker broadcasts on Sunday was in retaliation for the North sending over 1,000 balloons filled with trash and manure over the last couple of weeks. North Korea has described its balloon campaign as a tit-for-tat against South Korean civilian groups flying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border. Pyongyang has long condemned it as it's extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of leader Kim Jong Un's authoritarian rule.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately comment on the number of suspected North Korean speakers or where along the border they were spotted being installed. It said the speakers were still silent as of Monday afternoon. South Korea on Sunday activated its loudspeakers for an initial broadcast into North Korea, which reportedly included news, criticism about North Korea's government and South Korean pop music. Hours later on Sunday, Kim's powerful sister warned that the South created a "prelude to a very dangerous situation". She said South Korea would witness an unspecified "new response" from the North if it continues with the broadcasts and fails to stop civilian activists from flying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border. "I sternly warn Seoul to immediately case its dangerous activities



that would further provoke a crisis of confrontation," Kim Yo Jong said through state media. Lee Sung Joon, spokesman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Kim's comments represented a heightened verbal threat from North Korea but he did not provide a specific assessment on the actions the North might take. Lee said the South was conducting broadcasts in sites where soldiers have sufficient protection and are equipped to swiftly hit back if attacked. "We don't think that they could provoke us that easily," Lee said during a briefing Monday. The Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't specify the border area where Sunday's broadcast took place or what was played over the speakers. It said that any additional broadcasts are "entirely dependent on North Korea's behaviour". The South withdrew loudspeakers from border areas in 2018, during a brief period of engagement with the North under Seoul's previous liberal government. In deciding to restart the loudspeaker broadcasts, South Korea's presidential office be-

rated Pyongyang for attempting to cause "anxiety and disruption" in the South and stressed that North Korea would be "solely responsible" for any future escalation of tensions. The North said its balloon campaign came after South Korean activists sent over balloons filled with anti-North Korean leaflets, as well as USB sticks filled with popular South Korean songs and dramas. Pyongyang is extremely sensitive to such material and fears it could demoralize front-line troops and residents and eventually weaken leader Kim Jong Un's grip on power, analysts say. In 2015, when South Korea restarted loudspeaker broadcasts for the first time in 11 years, North Korea fired artillery rounds across the border, prompting South Korea to return fire, according to South Korean officials. No casualties were reported.



## Malik accuses Wasim of deliberately wasting balls against India

**Karachi, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Former skipper Salim Malik has accused Imad Wasim of deliberately wasting balls in Pakistan's six-run loss to arch-rivals India in the T20 World Cup in New York. Chasing an underwhelming 120-run target, Pakistani batters consumed 59 dot balls to be restricted to 113 for 7 in New York on Sunday. Wasim took 23 balls to score his 15 runs in the losing cause. "You look at his (Wasim) innings and it appears as if he was wasting balls not scoring runs and making things difficult in the run-chase," Malik said on 24 News channel. Another former captain Shahid Afridi feels all is not well in the Pakistani dressing room and some players have issues with skipper Babar Azam. "A captain brings eve-

ryone together, either he spoils the team environment or he builds the team. Let this World Cup finish, and I will speak openly," said Afridi. "I have such a relationship with Shaheen (Afridi) that if I talk about him, people will say I am favouring my son-in-law," he added. Afridi's daughter is married to left-arm pacer Shaheen, who was removed as T20 captain just before the World Cup after just one series in New Zealand. Former speedster Shoaib Akhtar minced no words in criticising Pakistan's below-par performance, saying the Babar Azam-led side doesn't deserve to be in the Super Eight stage. "I think I should have a template text. Disappointed & hurt automatically set to be posted. The whole nation is do-

ing and out. Morale is down. Some how you have to show intent to win. Do Pakistan deserve to be out of Super Eight? God knows," Akhtar said in a video message on 'X', formerly Twitter. Former England cricketer Michael Vaughan feels Pakistan lacks self-belief. "Sometimes really poor pitches produce the best games... this was one of them... Pakistan just don't believe they can win... Simple as that... #INDvsPAK." After back-to-back defeats against minnows USA and India, Pakistan's Super Eight chances now rests on winning big against Canada and Ireland, besides hoping that the Americans lose to India and Ireland. Even in that scenario both the teams will end on four points each and it will come down to the net run rate.

## Prannoy to spearhead Indian challenge in Australia Open badminton

**Sydney, Jun 10 (The Capital News)** HS Prannoy will look to regain his lost form when he spearheads India's challenge at the Australian Open badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday. Prannoy, seeded fifth here, didn't have best of results in the last two tournaments. He was stunned by compatriot Meiraba Luwang Maisnam in the men's singles opening round of Thailand Open last month. If that was not enough, world No. 10 Prannoy lost to world No. 11 Kenta Nishimoto 13-21 21-14 15-21 in a 45-minute Round of 16 match in Singapore Open. And the Indian will be desperate to turn things around in the BWF Super 500 event here as he opens his campaign against Ygor Coelho of Brazil. Sameer Verma will play Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo of Indonesia in the opening round, while Ravi faces a tough opponent in eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. Other Indians to feature in the men's singles are Mithun Manjunath, who will take on Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, Kiran Geoge who is up against Canada's Xiaodong



Sheng, S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian who is pitted against top seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia. In women's singles, eighth seed Aakarshi Kashyap will lead the Indian charge. She will play Ukraine's Polina Buhrova in the opening round. Ashmita Chaliha will play Peru's Ines Lucia Castillo, Anupama Upadhyaya will lock horns with Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching, Samiya Imad Farooqui has a tough opponent in top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, while Keyura Mopati and Malvika Bansod will feature in an all-Indian contest. No Indian features in the men's doubles, while Panda sisters, Rutuparna and Sw

etaparna, seeded seventh, and the pair of Harshita Rout and Sruti Swain will lead India's charge in the women's doubles. There are three Indian pairs in the mixed doubles. Eighth seed B Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy will play Malaysian duo of Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in their opener, while Tarun Kona and Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli will be up against another Malaysian combination of Hoo Pang Ron and Cheng Su Yin. The third Indian mixed doubles pair of Ayush Raj Gupta and Sruti Swain will play against Australian duo of Jordan Yang and Sydney Tjonadi in the opener.

## Sharma ends T-59th; Linn Grant wins mixed event in Sweden

**Helsingborg (Sweden), Jun 10 (The Capital News)** Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma dropped five shots in the last four holes for a nightmarish card of five-over 77 to end tied 59th at the 2024 Volvo Car Scandinavian Mixed Tournament here. His earlier rounds were 69-69-71 and he totalled two-under 286 to slip from the top-20 position he occupied for the first two days. Sharma was even par after 14 holes with two birdies and two bogeys before he collapsed at the finish. He had two triples in the week besides a double bogey. Diksha Dagar had earlier missed the cut in mixed event with 78 women from Ladies European Tour and 78 men from the DP World Tour. All of them play for a common title and prize pool. Home star Linn



Grant clinched a one-shot victory on a dramatic final day. Linn, 24, started the day 11 shots behind fellow Swede Sebastian Sodergberg, who had led from the start of the tournament. Grant made history in 2022 becoming the first woman to win on the DP World Tour and has now become the first woman to win twice. Grant fired a bogey-free seven-under 65 on the final day to post the clubhouse lead of 17-under-par at Vasatorps Golfklubb. Sodergberg had a one-shot lead heading into the last but made a double bogey, handing the title to Grant. She conceded that she did not think much about winning as she was 11 behind. It was the biggest comeback win on DP World Tour, which was co-sanctioning the event with LET.

## Shraddha Das: Red Hot and Ready to Slay!

**S**hraddha Das is setting the internet on fire in a fiery red saree! The actress is a vision in red, rocking a stunning saree with dramatic flares. The sleeveless blouse adds a touch of edge, while the silver necklace and bangles provide the perfect finishing touches. But it's her makeup that truly takes the cake. Shraddha's gone for a full-on glam look with glossy makeup and bold black winged mascara that accentuates her eyes. This combination creates a powerful and captivating look that leaves us wanting more. Shraddha is definitely ruling the red carpet (or should we say saree?) in this bomb outfit! We're obsessed!



## Talk: Kajal Joined The List Of Those Star Heroines



**L**ast week we saw Kajal Aggarwal's Satyabhama released in theatres and the film's confusing second half killed the film's chances to do something big at the box office. With a dismal performance at the box office, now the senior starlet has joined the list of heroines who tried luck with female-centric films but didn't score a brownie. Other than Nayantara's multiple female-centric films that did big at the box office, many other star heroines failed to click in recent times. Samantha's Yas hodha, Keerthy Suresh's Good Luck Sakhi are some of the examples of star heroines taking up female-centric movies, which didn't work at the box office. Though these heroines have the likes of Oh Baby and Mahanati to their credit, the directors walked away with all the accolades for those movies. For the ones that failed, the actresses were promoted a lot but never got the respite. The same happened with Kajal Aggarwal as well now. On the other hand, many heroines and character artists like Chandini Chowdhary, Payal Rajput, Anasuya and others are also coming up with these female-centric films now and then, but they are hardly working out at the box office, unless it has eccentric concepts like a Mangalavaram.

## YVS Chowdary Launching Nandamuri Taraka Ramarao

**Y**VS Chowdary and Hari Krishna's combination was a successful one once. The director made the blockbusters Seetharama Raju, Lahiri Lahiri Lahirilo, and Seetayya with the late actor. YVS Chowdary is now launching Hari Krishna's grandson Nandamuri Taraka Ramarao as a lead actor. Nandamuri Taraka Ramarao is son of late Janaki Ram. YVS Chowdary who introduced a few heroes such as Ram is said to have penned a winning script with all the commercial ingredients incorporated in it. On the other hand, Nandamuri Taraka Ramarao has fully prepared to test his luck as a hero. Besides taking training in acting and fights, the youngster also underwent a makeover for the character in his debut flick. The movie will be produced by Yalamanchili Geetha on New Talent Roars @. The rest of the cast and crew will be unveiled soon.

