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“Our goal is a developed Tamil Nadu for developed India. The Central Government remains fully committed to enabling inclusive development and the state's progress.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi



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MISSION MODE TO COMPLETE PALAMURU IRRIGATION PROJECTS: UTTAM KUMAR REDDY

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced a special initiative to fast-track major irrigation projects aimed at benefiting farmers in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar region and other parts of South Telangana.

Reviewing the status of irrigation works, the Minister said the government is determined to make the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) fully operational within the next 20 months. He also pledged that the Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima and Koilsagar projects would be completed in mission mode by March 2027.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the state government will ensure full utilisation of Telangana's rightful share of river waters without losing even a drop. To accelerate the works, the government has earmarked major allocations over the next year, including 909 crore for the Kalwakurthy project 252 crore for Nettempadu 200



crore for Bhima and 185 crore for Koilsagar.

Minister said the government is also expediting the land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) works to ensure timely completion of irrigation projects. Quoting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he said the government has decided to prioritise land acquisition for key irrigation projects by releasing 5,000 crore by June 2 this year.

Criticising the previous government, Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that several irrigation projects were neglected after 2014. He said shifting the off-take point of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project from Jurala to

Srisailem increased lifting costs and put the state at a disadvantage. He also criticised changes in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, where the water source was shifted from Tummidihatti to Medigadda, calling it a costly decision that affected the project's benefits.

The Minister said the previous government had secured administrative approval of 35,200 crore for PRLIS but spent only about 27,000 crore without achieving meaningful irrigation benefits. Only one pump of the scheme was briefly operated in September 2023, he said, without irrigating even a single acre effectively.

MEGA WOMEN FARMERS' MELA HELD AT PJTSAU; 6,000 WOMEN PARTICIPATE



Hyderabad: A two-day Mega Women Farmers' Mela was inaugurated at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in Rajendranagar with participation of nearly 6,000 women farmers from across Telangana. The event, organised by PJTSAU, Coromandel International Limited and the State Agriculture Department on the occasion of International Women's Day, focused on modern farming technologies and women's empowerment in agriculture. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Minister Dansari Anasuya Seethakka attended the programme.

DR.GODHA VISHNU REDDY ATTENDS WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

Hanamkonda Dr.godha Vishnu Reddy, daughter of Warangal West MLA Naimi Rajender Reddy, Along with her Husband State youth Congress Leader Vishnu Reddy participated in several programmes organised in Hanamakonda on Sunday on the occasion of International Women's Day. She attended the Graduation Day ceremony held at Meridian School in Arapelli,



where she distributed certificates to the young students. Speaking on the occasion, she encouraged the children to pursue education with dedication and develop good values alongside academics to achieve success in life.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED AT SC GIRLS' HOSTEL.



Mancherla, March 8, TSIT: A special programme was organised at the Government SC Girls' Hostel on the occasion of International Women's Day under the supervision of District Youth and Sports Officer G. Hanumanth Reddy. As part of the celebrations, Khelo India coach Rajesh conducted fun sports activities such as musical chairs and

lemon-and-spoon races for the hostel students. The students participated enthusiastically in the competitions and prizes were distributed to the winners. Addressing the students, Mr. Hanumanth Reddy advised them to focus on their upcoming examinations and shape their future with discipline and good conduct. He also distributed pens and fruits to encourage them in their studies. Executive Director of the SC Corporation, Durga Prasad, attended the programme along with his family as the chief guest and motivated the students. He urged them to work hard and achieve good results in the forthcoming examinations.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Congratulates Women Journalists on International Women's Day

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud extended his heartfelt congratulations to women journalists who received Best Journalist Awards on the occasion of International Women's Day. In a statement, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the media plays a vital role in the development of society and strengthening democracy. He appreciated the dedication and courage of women journalists who continue to highlight public issues and social concerns with commitment and responsibility.

He said women journalists have been playing a significant role in bringing truth to light and giving voice to people's concerns despite various challenges in the profession. Their determination and professionalism, he said, are contributing greatly to strengthening democratic values. Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that questioning injustice and presenting facts fearlessly before the public is the primary responsibility of journalists. He praised women journalists for fulfilling this responsibility with sincerity and integrity while showcasing their talent in the field of journalism.



HPV vaccine program launched at Mahabubabad Government General Hospital



Mahabubabad (TSIT): The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine program was jointly launched at the Mahabubabad Government General Hospital by District Medical Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Ravi Rathod and GGH Superintendent Dr. Srinivasa Rao. He said that by taking HPV vaccine, women can prevent fatal diseases like cervical cancer. He explained that young women and girls can avoid health problems in the future by taking this vaccine. They asked people to remove the misconceptions about this vaccine and take the vaccine as per the instructions of the health staff. Officials said that the aim of this program is to increase awareness among the people about HPV vaccine in the district and protect the health of women.



Mahabubabad : As part of the 21st Brahmotsavam of Anantadri Sri Swayambhu Jagannatha Venkateswara Swamy in Mahabubabad district headquarters, Sri Sudarshana Narasimha Homam and Sri Venkateswara Swamy Thiru Kalyana Uttsavam along with Padmavati Goda Sameta were held today. MIA Murali Nayak, DCC President Uma Murali Nayak, who participated in the program, presented silk clothes and pearls to the Swamy. Speaking on the occasion, the MIA said that he will work towards the construction of a CC road to circumambulate the temple and the construction of a Kalyana Mandapam for the convenience of the devotees. A large number of devotees came to have darshan of the Swamy. Anantadri Devasthanam Chief Priest Sri Godawathi Chakradharacharya was felicitated on the occasion of his election as the General Secretary of Manukota District Dhpadapepa Naivedya and the State Convener of the Telangana State Dhpadapepa Naivedya Working Committee. Municipal Chairman, Women Councilors, Temple Trust Member Najini Prabhakar Reddy, Temple Priests, Godawathi Sravan Kumaracharyulu, Hananthi, Santoshi, Gautham, Vijayakumaracharyulu, and devotees Malliyala Ranga Rao participated in this program.

SAUBHAGYA JEWELLERS UNVEILS EXCLUSIVE 92.5 SILVER JEWELLERY COLLECTION IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: Saubhagya Jewellers has launched an exclusive 92.5 pure silver jewellery collection in Hyderabad, featuring handcrafted necklaces, earrings, bracelets, pendants and kadas.



The highlight of the collection is the temple-inspired designs reflecting South Indian heritage and intricate craftsmanship. Made from certified 92.5 sterling silver, the jewellery blends traditional artistry with modern elegance. The brand also col-

laborated with The Golden Brush, a premium menswear label known for hand-painted and embroi-

dered designs, to present a unique fusion of fashion and jewellery craftsmanship.

STRICT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL SAND TRANSPORT: SANGAREDDY COLLECTOR

Sangareddy: District Collector P. Praveenya directed officials to take strict action against illegal transportation of sand, gravel and other construction materials in the district.

At a review meeting at the Integrated Collectorate Sangareddy, she instructed Revenue, Police and Mining officials to form joint teams and conduct surprise inspections. Vehicles involved in illegal transport will be seized and



cases registered under the Motor Vehicles Act. The Collector said quality sand is being supplied through authorised markets and warned of action against those spreading false information about shortages.

KIMS Cuddles Hosts Women's Day Event; HC Judge Stresses Women's Unity



Hyderabad: KIMS Hospitals and KIMS Cuddles celebrated International Women's Day with a grand event and panel discussion on the theme "Give to Gain." Chief Guest Juvvadi Sridevi, a judge of the Telangana High Court, said women can bring meaningful change in society by supporting and uplifting each other. She noted that women today are excelling in all fields and appreciated the contributions of women doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals.

The panel discussion featured noted speakers including film writer Gaulani Challagulla, entrepreneur Shwetha Adolia, social activist Jerisa Jasper Paul, Dr. Manimala Rao, Dr. M. Madhavi, and Haritha Vijayan. The session was moderated by Pooja Marathe.

Doctors, nurses, and staff members participated enthusiastically in the celebrations, which also included cultural performances and entertainment programmes.

ASTER PRIME HOSPITAL ORGANISES HEALTH CAMP FOR RAILWAY PENSIONERS ON WOMEN'S DAY

Hyderabad, March 8: Aster Prime Hospital, in association with All India Railwaymen's Retirement Federation (AIRRF), organised a health camp for railway pensioners at the AIRRF Central Office in Chilkalguda, Secunderabad, to mark International Women's Day.

Dr. Nirmala Rajaram, PCMD of South Central Railway, attended as the chief guest and highlighted the importance of women's contributions and the need for regular health awareness and preventive care

among pensioners and their families.

A total of 96 beneficiaries availed health screening and consultations. The camp offered tests such as BP, GRBS, ECG, 2D Echo, pulmonary function tests, and specialist consultations in cardiology, gynaecology, and general medicine.

AIRRF leaders including S. Sreedhar, K. Sivakumar, C. Krishnakumari and K. Girija were present. Railway pensioners and their family members participated enthusiastically in the programme.



WOMEN'S HEALTH SCREENING CENTRE INAUGURATED IN HYDERABAD



Hyderabad (TSIT): A women's health screening centre was inaugurated at Komaram Bheem Bhavan in Banjara Hills on the occasion of International Women's Day. The centre was inaugurated by Telangana Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha along with Minister Seethakka. The facility will provide around 30 medical tests for members of various women's associations to promote preventive healthcare. Bandru Shobha Rani, Chairperson of the Telangana Women Development Corporation, senior women IAS officers, and members of women's organisations attended the programme.

HPV VACCINE CAN PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER: KHAMMAM COLLECTOR



Khammam: District Collector Anudeep Durishetty said cervical cancer among women can be prevented through HPV vaccination. He launched the HPV vaccination programme at Khammam Government General Hospital on the occasion of International Women's Day.

HEALTH CAMP FOR RAILWAY PENSIONERS ON WOMEN'S DAY

Hyderabad (TSIT): Aster Prime Hospital in association with All India Railwaymen's Retirement Federation organised a health camp at Chilkalguda, Secunderabad to mark International Women's Day. Dr. Nirmala Rajaram, PCMD of South Central Railway, attended as chief guest. Around 96 railway pensioners and their family members availed health screenings and specialist consultations during the camp.

DR. NOMULA VENKATESHWARLU RECEIVES TELANGANA BEST PSYCHOLOGIST AWARD 2026

Hyderabad (TSIT): Renowned psychologist Nomula Venkateshwarlu, Associate Professor at Government Degree College Hayathnagar, was honoured with the Telangana Best Psychologist Award-2026 at the 38th Seva Ugadi Mahotsavam held at Harihara Kala Bhavan, Secunderabad. The award was presented by dignitaries including Shankar Nayak and Komatireddy Gopal Reddy in recognition of his contributions to mental health awareness. Dr. Venkateshwarlu has conducted counselling and awareness programmes for over 15 years, reaching thousands of students and families through educational visits, free medical camps, and media programmes.



JAGATHI FOUNDATION LAUNCHES '3C' STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN GUNTUR

Guntur: Jagathi Foundation launched its Holistic Student Development Program "3C - Care, Conserve, Compute" at S.N. Government High School Palaparru in Guntur district. The initiative, supported by C1, aims to promote digital learning, environmental awareness, and healthy living among government school students. Over the next three years, four schools in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be adopted, benefiting more than 600 students. Chandra Boddaju, MD and Country Head of C1 India, along with foundation members, education officials, teachers, and students attended the launch event.



SUPPORT OF MEN KEY TO WOMEN'S SUCCESS



Khammam (TSIT): Mayor Punukollu Neeraja said the support of men is crucial for women to achieve success in different fields and that women can accomplish

remarkable things when given equal opportunities. She was speaking as the chief guest at an International Women's Day meeting held at the Pensioners' Bhavan here. Neeraja said she could reach the position of city mayor with the encouragement and support of her husband. She stressed that when women are given equal opportunities, they can excel in every sphere and play a key role in the progress of society. Gynaecologist Dr. Shobha Devi urged women to take proper care of their health, stating that the well-being of families and society depends largely on women's health. Senior pensioners from various mandals in the district were felicitated on the occasion. Retired employees' association leaders M. Subbaiah, T. Venu, D. Venkateswarlu and Suguna Rajendran were among those present.

HPV VACCINE KEY TO PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER: SANGAREDDY COLLECTOR

Sangareddy (TSIT): District Collector P. Praveenya said the HPV vaccine plays a crucial role in preventing cervical cancer among women. She inaugurated the vaccination programme at Sangareddy General Hospital. The vaccine



will be provided free of cost to girls below 15 years in government and area hospitals across the district. Around 12,500 girls aged 14-15 have been identified for vaccination under the Prajapalana-Pragathi Plan. Vasantha Rao, District Medical and Health Officer, along with health department officials, attended the programme.

VALEDICTORY OF NATIONAL LEVEL STUDENT CULTURAL CARNIVAL "SANSKRITI'26" HELD AT PLAYFIELDS KITS WARANGAL

WARANGAL, TSIT : On March 7th, 2026 the Valedictory Ceremony of Cultural Carnival "SANSKRITI'26" took place at Playfields KITS WARANGAL Campus. It was organised by the Music, Dance and Fine Arts (MDF) Club, Student Activity Centre (SAC), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) told by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. It was conducted successfully for two days during 6 and 7th March, 2026. On this occasion the Chief Patron, Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy highlighted that the national carnival concludes transforming education for holistic development of the student community. During the last two days different cultural and innovative activities took place at our institution. The holistic approach encourages personal and collective responsibility by engaging students in building Indian cultural ethics among the students. The activities such as traditional beats, street art fair, live photography contest, guessing game, selfie contest, hook step challenge, photo booth dome, Fashion shows, folk dance, Kuchipudi, student performances and DJ show enthralled the young participants. He concluded that cultural and traditional beats are symbolic representations of discipline in your life, building innovative ideas and leadership qualities. According to the Chairperson, Sanskriti'26 & Dean student affairs, Prof. K. Sridhar, Sanskriti guarantees that students have experienced the richness of different traditions, cuisines, and lifestyles. The main objective of the cultural fest is primarily for recreation, happiness and also to inculcate skills and constructive administrative qualities were achieved by the students.



INDIA'S ENERGY POLICY IS WRITTEN IN NEW DELHI, NOT WASHINGTON, SHOWS DATA



IRANIAN CLERICS CLOSE TO NAMING NEW LEADER AS SMOKE CHOKES TEHRAN AFTER OIL DEPOT



TELANGANA, ANDHRA CMS CONGRATULATE TEAM INDIA ON T20 WORLD CUP



IN BRIFS

CBI BOOKS ANIL AMBANI IN RS 1085 CR PNB LOAN FRAUD CASE

New Delhi, March 8 (TSIT) In a fresh trouble to Anil Ambani, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered another case against him under Sections 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC based on a complaint filed by Santoshkrishna Annavarapu, Chief Manager of Punjab National Bank (PNB). The UNI is in the possession of the FIR copy lodged by the CBI. According to the FIR, between 2013 and 2017, Anil Ambani, along with other then officials of Reliance Communications, allegedly cheated PNB of Rs1,085 crore. The bank has alleged that Reliance Communications obtained the loan of Rs1,085 crore with the intention of not repaying it. PNB has further claimed that the company deliberately diverted the funds obtained from the bank to other purposes. The accused are alleged to have misused the bank's money, amounting to cheating and criminal breach of trust.

Telangana Govt Celebrates International Women's Day; Women Journalists Felicitated

International Women's Day; Women Journalists Felicitated



HYDERABAD, MARCH 8 (TSIT): The Government of Telangana celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad, where several women journalists were felicitated for their contributions to media. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Konda Surekha and Mohammed Azharuddin attended the programme along with officials and media representatives. The leaders felicitated senior women journalists from leading newspapers and television channels.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appreciated the role of women journalists and said their voices carry credi-

girl college students and create a platform to report misinformation on social media. Later, the participants visited the Indira Mahila Bazaar at Shilparamam, where women journalists interacted with self-help group members and purchased handloom and handicraft products.

The journalists thanked the state government for recognizing



bility in society. He also announced that the government plans to provide EV scooters to

their services and organizing the programme.

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T20 WC

India Make History, Clinch 3rd Title After Beating New Zealand

Ahmedabad (TSIT): A dominant India became the first team to retain the ICC Men's T20 World Cup title, win three world crowns, and clinch the trophy on home soil after defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final played in front of 86, 824 fans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.



Captain Suryakumar Yadav will now lift the trophy and be the fourth Indian to lead the side to a men's cricket World Cup title after having not lost a single series since taking charge in July 2024 - a remarkable record that highlights India's dominance in the shortest format.

Though the massive win, India broke two hoodoos - of having never previously beaten New Zealand in a Men's T20 World Cup match, and winning in

Ahmedabad after their last two ICC white-ball defeats - the 2023 ODI World Cup final loss to Australia and a Super Eights defeat to South Africa earlier in this tournament - came at the venue.

Sanju Samson's blistering 89 off 46 balls, laced with five fours and eight sixes, led India's charge to posting a massive 255/5 - the second highest total of the tournament and the

most posted by a team in the World Cup - before their bowlers dismantled New Zealand inside the powerplay to seal a comprehensive victory, as the visitors were bowled out for 159 in 19 overs.

Samson, in the form of his life, having struck 97 not out and 89 in his two previous innings, shared an opening stand of 98 with Abhishek Sharma, who saved his best for the

title clash by hitting 52 off 21 balls, while Ishan Kishan hit 54 off 25 balls to extend the carnage.

James Neesham briefly checked India's momentum with three wickets in a single over before Shivam Dube plundered an unbeaten 26 off eight balls to take India past 250. Local lads Jasprit Bumrah and Axar Patel then wrecked New Zealand's top order, reducing the challengers to 52/3 and extinguishing any realistic hope of a record chase, as India lived up to their pre-tournament hype and made history.

Brief scores: India 255/5 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 89, Ishan Kishan 54; James Neesham 3-46, Rachin Ravindra 1-32) beat New Zealand 159 all out in 19 overs (Tim Seifert 52, Mitchell Santner 43; Jasprit Bumrah 4-15, Axar Patel 3-27) by 96 runs.

TELANGANA SHOCKER: MAN KILLS THREE DAUGHTERS BY THROWING THEM INTO LAKE

Hyderabad (TSIT) : In a shocking incident, a man in Telangana's Kamaraedy town killed his three daughters by throwing them into the lake as he was unable to raise them due to financial problems, police said on Sunday. The bodies of Ayat (7) and Mariyam (5) were recovered from the lake on Saturday night, while the body of Shifat (8) was pulled out on Sunday morning. Police have arrested Ismail, an autorickshaw driver, who was remanded to judicial custody on Sunday. The accused had approached the police to lodge a missing complaint after throwing them into the lake. On suspicion, police interrogated him, during which he confessed to the crime. Assistant Superintendent of Police Chaitanya Reddy on Sunday revealed the details of the case at a news conference. She said that the parents of the three children came to the police station at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday to complain that the children had not been seen since 10 a.m.

Women entrepreneurs to drive economic empowerment in Andhra: CM Naidu



Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said that women entrepreneurs will play a key role in strengthening economic empowerment in the state. Addressing International Women's Day celebrations at Amaravati Parade Grounds here, the chief minister greeted women across the country and described them as the embodiment of hard work, love and sacrifice. The TDP supremo said that societies prosper when women are respected and empowered, affirming that he will continue making every effort, both as the chief minister and personally, to support women's

Women entrepreneurs will play a key role in strengthening economic empowerment in the state, he added.

upliftment. Naidu noted that International Women's Day began in 1911 and is celebrated every year on March 8, adding that this year's theme focuses on rights, justice and action.

Highlighting leadership roles, the TDP supremo said India has a tribal woman as

President and a woman serving as finance minister, reflecting growing recognition of women's capabilities.

He observed that women are natural financial managers who efficiently manage income in households, likening their role to that of finance ministers handling budgets responsibly.

He also encouraged women to prepare for future opportunities in politics, noting that 33 per cent reservation in legislatures will create greater representation for women. Naidu said the government had set a target of creating one lakh women entrepreneurs and has already surpassed it with over 1.1 lakh women establishing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Women entrepreneurs will play a key role in strengthening economic empowerment in the state, he added.

He further noted that nearly 34,000 enterprises were set up by women in urban areas, reflecting growing participation of women in entrepreneurship across Andhra Pradesh.

Stalin hits out at BJP, AIADMK says Bihar CM Nitish fate will befall on EPS

Chennai (TSIT) Hitting out at the BJP which had made Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to quit after picking him as a Rajya Sabha nominee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and ruling DMK President M K Stalin hit out at the saffron party and its ally, the main Opposition AIADMK, and said AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), the CM face of the NDA in the ensuing Assembly polls, would meet the same fate as that of Mr Nitish Kumar. In his address at a public meeting in Madurai on Sunday night to formally induct ousted AIADMK leader and three time CM O Panneerselvam and his supporters in the DMK, Mr Stalin claimed that according to the information he had received, the BJP could replace Mr Palaniswami with someone as the AIADMK General Secretary. Alleging that the BJP would "suck the blood" of AIADMK as it had done with Mr Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister said the same fate would befall on EPS. Had he not accepted the BJP's offer to forge electoral ties with the NDA, in which the AIADMK had returned after walking out of it in 2023, the saffron party would have orchestrated the replacement a while ago, Mr Stalin claimed.



CM REVANTH INAUGURATES RESTORED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday inaugurated the restored Telangana Legislative Council building, along with Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said it was a proud moment to be part of the historic milestone in the rebuilding of Telangana. He said that overseeing the restoration works of the Council building as the R&B Minister gave him special satisfaction.

The minister stated that the government believes meaningful and lasting solutions to

public issues can be achieved only when the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council work in close coordination.

He expressed hope that the renovated building would serve as a platform for constructive debates, intellectual discussions and historic decisions in the public interest in the coming years.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy added that restoring the prestigious Council building has brought new dignity to the Upper House, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening parliamentary traditions and democratic values in the state.

KHARGE INVOKES AMBEDKAR, CALLS WOMEN THE 'DRIVING FORCE' OF DEVELOPMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

New Delhi (TSIT) Marking International Women's Day, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, said women are the "driving force" of development and stressed that true progress would be achieved only when gender equality becomes a lived reality for every woman. In a message posted on X on Sunday, Kharge invoked the words of social reformer and constitutional architect B R Ambedkar to highlight the importance of gender equality. "You are not born to suffer. You are born to rise," Kharge wrote, quoting Ambedkar while reflecting on the continuing struggle for equal rights and opportunities for women. The Congress president

said women's role in society extends far beyond participation in development processes. "Women are not merely participants in development. They are its driving force," he said.

"Through their wisdom, resilience, compassion, and determination, women strengthen communities, and build stronger nations."

Highlighting the significance of the day, Kharge said International Women's Day is an opportunity to recognise the contributions of women across sectors and renew the commitment to equality. "On International Women's Day 2026, we celebrate the courage, leadership, and countless contributions of women everywhere," he wrote.



PM Modi extends International Women's Day greetings, highlights role of 'Nari Shakti' in India's progress

New Delhi, March 8 (TSIT) Marking International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended greetings to women across the country and praised their contributions to India's development, saying the achievements of "Nari Shakti" continue to inspire the nation and strengthen its journey towards a developed India. In a series of posts on X on Sunday, the Prime Minister said women are playing a transformative role across sectors and are central to the country's progress. "On International Women's Day, I extend my greetings to all our Nari Shakti," Modi wrote. "Across every field, women are shaping India's

progress with determination, creativity and unmatched zeal. Their achievements inspire our nation and strengthen our collective resolve to build a Viksit Bharat."

Highlighting the government's focus on women's empowerment, Modi said several initiatives and schemes launched over the past decade have been aimed at expanding opportunities and enabling women to realise their full potential.

"Empowerment of women is at the core of our various schemes and initiatives," he said. "We remain committed to creating opportunities that enable every woman to realise her full potential and contrib-



ute to India's journey of development."

In another post, the Prime Minister said the accomplishments of women across the country continue to shape India's path forward. "The achievements of India's Nari Shakti are a source of pride and a powerful reminder of the transformative role in nation building," Modi wrote. "As

India progresses further, the aspirations and contributions of women will continue to guide our collective journey towards a strong and prosperous nation."

Sharing a video highlighting stories of women at the grassroots level, Modi said it offered "a glimpse of how the lives of women have been transformed over the past decade," using the hashtag #NayeBharatKiNariShakti.

The central government has in recent years highlighted several programmes focused on women's empowerment, including initiatives aimed at financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, health, education

and sanitation. The government has also emphasised women's participation in sectors such as science, technology, governance and the armed forces.

International Women's Day, observed globally on March 8 each year, celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women while also serving as a call to accelerate gender equality and expand opportunities for women worldwide. Leaders from across the political spectrum in India marked the occasion with messages acknowledging the contributions of women and reiterating commitments to empowerment and equal opportunity.

TN BJP condemns West Bengal CM for 'brazen insult' of President Murmu

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu BJP leader C R Kesavan on Sunday condemned the West Bengal government for what he termed as the "brazen insult" and "shameful misconduct" directed toward President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to the state.

The controversy stems from the TMC government's reported refusal to grant permission for an international Santhali conference at its original venue, forcing a relocation despite the President's scheduled attendance as the chief guest.

In a strongly worded statement, the BJP national spokesperson characterised the TMC's actions as a violation of the "cherished principles of protocol, propriety, and decorum" essential to a constitutional democracy. He further alleged that the TMC harbours deep-seated disdain for the tribal community, citing past "preposterous



comments" made by TMC ministers regarding the President's appearance. "This shameful misconduct of Mamata Banerjee's TMC is indefensible, unacceptable, and most reprehensible," Kesavan stated, adding that the President's anguish over the matter has deeply pained the nation.

He also took aim at the opposition parties, questioning the "deafening silence" from top opposition leaders. He specifically

called out Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, as well as DMK chief M K Stalin, for failing to publicly condemn the TMC's treatment of the first woman President from the tribal community. He also demanded immediate accountability and insisted that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the TMC government offer an unconditional apology to Murmu, tribal community and the citizens of India.

Sivaganga youth dies in custody; family alleges police torture

CHENNAI: Tension prevailed in Manamadurai in Sivaganga district after a 24-year-old remand prisoner died during treatment, with his family alleging that he was tortured by the police during interrogation.

The deceased has been identified as Akash Delishan (24). Police said he had been arrested in connection with a recent assault case in the area.

According to a media reports, Akash Delishan and others were allegedly involved in an attack on Jayakumar (37) of Jeeva Nagar and Azhagar (36) of Adhanur. The two men were reportedly attacked with weapons by assailants near the railway colony area in Manamadurai late at night a few days ago. Both victims, who work at a chicken shop and a hotel respectively, sustained injuries and were admitted to the Sivaganga Government Hospital for treatment.



CCTV footage of the attack later surfaced on social media. Following the incident, Manamadurai police registered a case and arrested Guna and Akash Delishan, while a search is under way to trace another suspect.

Police said that while attempting to arrest Akash Delishan, he jumped from the Melapasalai overbridge in an attempt to escape, resulting in a fracture in his leg. He was initially treated at the Manamadurai Government Hospital and later shifted to the Sivaganga Government Medical College Hospital before being admitted to the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai for further treatment.



As per the guidance of the Honble Chief Minister, Honble Minister for Health and Family Welfare handed over appointment orders to healthcare professionals...

Amudhavalli Ranganathan new Tamil Nadu chairwoman of CII Indian Women Network (IWN)

CHENNAI: Amudhavalli Ranganathan, director, CavinKare and Executive Director of CK Group of Educational Institutions, has assumed charge as chairwoman of the CII Indian Women Network (IWN) Tamil Nadu at the Thaaragai 2026 summit here.

At the summit, leaders called for stronger policy and institutional support to enhance women's participation in the workforce and leadership roles.

The summit brought together more than 400 leaders from industry, government, healthcare and academia for discussions on women's health, safety, entrepreneurship and economic participation under the theme 'Give to Gain: Rise. Radiate. Redefine'. "Platforms like Thaaragai bring leaders together to exchange ideas and collaboratively shape solutions that enable more women to



succeed," Amudhavalli said. "Expanding networks, mentorship and opportunities will help women emerge as catalysts of progress."

CII Tamil Nadu chairman AR Unnikrishnan said that women's labour force participation in India stood at around 32percent, while TN was close to 40percent. "Further increasing this participation is essential

for economic growth and innovation," he added.

A white paper on women's health and safety, outlining policy recommendations on healthcare access, workplace safety and caregiving support systems was released during the summit. Industry leaders also took the Equal Opportunity Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to gender-inclusive workplaces.

TN sanctions 1,249 additional posts to gear up for Assembly elections

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned 1,249 additional posts on a redeployment basis across election administration offices to strengthen the machinery for the forthcoming 2026 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections, as preparations gather momentum ahead of the polling schedule.

The additional staff will be deployed in the offices of District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Returning Officers, primarily on a redeployment basis, to ensure smooth execution of election-related activities.

According to a Government Order (GO) issued by Chief Electoral Officer and principal secretary to government Archana Patnaik, the decision comes in view of the extensive groundwork



required for the elections, including the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for 2026 and other preparatory exercises at the field level.

The GO said the additional man-

power would help handle critical tasks such as identification of sensitive polling booths, enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, expenditure monitoring, polling personnel training and voter awareness initiatives under the

SVEEP programme.

The order noted that election-related workload would rise significantly from the date of announcement of the poll schedule until the declaration of results and formation of the new Assembly, necessitating temporary strengthening of the administrative set-up. The sanctioned posts include Deputy Tahsildars, Assistants, Junior Assistants, Steno-Typists, Record Clerks and Office Assistants, besides staff for collectors' offices, returning officers and electoral registration offices. Notably, each Returning Officer for the State's 234 Assembly constituencies will be provided an Assistant, while additional personnel will be deployed across district collectors' offices and revenue divisional offices to manage election logistics and reporting requirements.

India aims for 60% childhood cancer survival by 2030, says health official

New Delhi, Feb 16: The Union government has set an ambitious target to achieve a 60 per cent survival rate for childhood cancer by 2030, Deputy Director General of Health Services L. Swasticharan said on Sunday. Speaking at an event marking International Childhood Cancer Day, observed globally on February 15, he emphasised the need to save every child and build a "Viksit Bharat 2047."

Swasticharan assured support for innovative funding models to improve access to treatment and financial assistance for children with cancer and their families. While India currently lacks a dedicated National Policy on childhood cancer, he said the existing health framework is flexible enough to incorporate initiatives aimed at universal health coverage for affected children. He also lauded nine states for signing MoUs prioritising childhood cancer and urged governments to work closely with stakeholders to leave no child behind.

The event, organised by CanKids KidsCan, highlighted progress in access to care, which has doubled from 27 per cent in 2019-20 to over 54 per cent in 2025. Experts stressed the next steps: achieving 100 per cent access,



full financial protection, and the 60 per cent survival goal in line with national health priorities and the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer.

Professor Sameer Bakshi of AIIMS underlined the importance of capturing more childhood cancer cases to raise the national survival rate

from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. He called for stronger coordination among stakeholders to reduce system fragmentation and enhance outcomes.

Poonam Bagai highlighted the need for policy integration, dialogue, and actionable solutions, which the newly formed Technical Expert

Group on childhood cancer aims to facilitate. Bagai, who also chairs CanKids KidsCan and serves as Vice Chairman of Pallium India, emphasised that even as a low-income country, India has made significant strides in treating childhood cancer and changing societal perceptions. The event also featured

support from prominent figures including former IAS officer Karan Avtar Singh, CSR advocate Nikhil Pant, and banker Piyush Gupta. Childhood Cancer Survivors Excellence Awards were presented to Dr Tanveer Ahmed and Asian Youth sports climbing medallist Shivani Charak.

Google pulls AI health summaries amid safety concerns

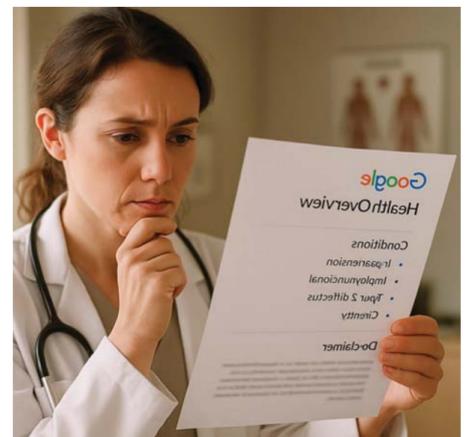
San Francisco, Feb 16: Google has removed some of its AI-generated search summaries after an investigation found misleading health advice that experts warned could put users at risk. The controversy centred on Google's AI Overviews feature, which had provided incorrect information about critical liver function tests. In some instances, users were reportedly given inaccurate "normal ranges," raising concerns that patients with serious liver infections or diseases could mistakenly believe they were healthy.

Following the findings, Google removed AI Overviews for certain search terms, including queries such as "what is the normal range for liver function tests" and "what is the normal range for liver blood tests."

A recent study by search engine optimisation platform SE Ranking further raised alarm, revealing that Google's AI Overviews often relied on YouTube as a primary cited source for health-related queries rather than established medical websites.

The study, which analysed over 50,000 health searches in Germany, found that YouTube accounted for 4.43% of all AI citations — 3.5 times more than netdoktor.de, one of Germany's largest consumer health portals, and more than twice the citations of the respected medical reference MSD Manuals. Only 34.45% of citations came from reliable medical sources, while government health institutions and academic journals together accounted for roughly 1%.

Researchers highlighted that YouTube is a general-purpose video platform,



not a medical publisher, and hosts content from a wide spectrum of creators, including those without formal medical training.

Experts pointed to particularly dangerous examples. In one case, Google's AI allegedly advised pancreatic cancer patients to avoid high-fat foods — advice medical professionals said was the opposite of recommended dietary guidance and could increase health risks. AI Overviews related to women's cancer screening tests also reportedly contained incorrect information that might lead patients to dismiss genuine symptoms. The rise of AI-driven health advice is not limited to search engines. According to OpenAI, nearly 40 million people globally use ChatGPT daily for healthcare-related queries. A 2026 survey by the Canadian Medical Association found that roughly half of Canadians surveyed consult Google AI summaries or ChatGPT for medical advice.

However, users who relied on AI-generated advice for self-diagnosis

and treatment were reportedly five times more likely to experience adverse effects than those who did not.

Studies have also raised concerns about chatbot accuracy. A 2025 study by researchers at the University of Waterloo found that GPT-4 provided incorrect answers to open-ended health queries around two-thirds of the time. Another 2025 study by Harvard researchers suggested chatbots often failed to challenge flawed assumptions in user queries, instead offering compliant but misleading responses.

Health experts warn that while long wait times and limited access to doctors may drive patients toward AI tools for quick answers, overreliance on such systems without professional consultation could pose serious public health risks. As AI tools become increasingly embedded in daily life, critics argue that ensuring accuracy, transparency and accountability in health-related information is more urgent than ever.

There's an inflation wave coming. How worried should we be?

Up until late on Thursday the rise in global oil markets appeared to be more of an unfortunate bump than imminent oil shock. The immediate response to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a 10% price increase, appeared rather benign for what was long-assumed to be the oil market's nightmare scenario. On Friday the situation changed, pennies started to drop. The intervention from the Qatari Energy minister Saad al-Kaabi that all Gulf energy providers were likely to halt export in days, and \$150 a barrel of oil was coming, sparked oil markets into life. Crude oil ended up 27% since the conflict began. Derivative petrochemical products vital for livelihoods, and industrial supply chains that are also dependent on free passage in the Gulf, from jet fuel, to urea, are also spiking in price. While this is not yet an energy shock, the markets are starting to assume worse scenarios if not yet the worst case. It won't take much for oil to breach the \$100 barrier next week. Iran has not actually formally closed the Strait.



They have de facto been closed voluntarily as insurance costs soar, and sailors fear for their safety. The net result is a wave of inflationary pressures emanating from the conflict zone, and upsetting global markets for energy, fuel, food, industrial chemicals, and credit. On Monday night I gently suggested that forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility, the UK government's independent forecaster, could prove rather out of date even before publication on Tuesday. The extent of that

mismatch has surprised me, four days on from the Spring Statement and a week into this conflict. On Tuesday the price of a barrel of crude oil was assumed to be \$63. It closed at \$94 on Friday. A therm of gas delivered to the UK was assumed to cost 74 pence. It is £1.35, and got as high as £1.70 this week. The gilt rate, the effective interest rate on 10-year government borrowing was assumed to be 4.4%, it ended the week at 4.6%, having nearly hit 4.7%, a significant difference. The UK's bonds have been hit

more than other countries as traders recall the UK's sensitivity to energy price inflation during the Russia-Ukraine crisis. The essential bet is that the Bank of England (BoE) will rein in interest rate cuts as inflation stays sticky. All this came just at the moment when the markets had started to give credit to the government for the speed of its planned fall in borrowing. There is immediate feed through into the mortgage market. Home mortgages are being repriced by banks who had just started to show some

confidence that rates were coming down. There will be no mortgage price war while all this is going on. The BoE, which had been heavily backed to cut rates this month, is now expected to wait and see. Of course, these clouds might lift, but US President Donald Trump seems to be suggesting a conflict of weeks or months. Some of the economic warnings from the Gulf may be a way to focus his mind. It isn't just about the stoppage in the flow of energy through its most important artery. From Bahrain's oil facilities, to Qatar's gas processing, the port near the Dubai Palm, or tankers near Kuwait, there have been a pattern of attacks that raise questions about a conscious Iranian strategy to up the economic price for the US-Israeli attacks. The economic consequences are not an accidental byproduct of this conflict, they are an intrinsic aspect of the war. This makes the precise consequences very difficult to predict, but this new wave of inflation from the Gulf will wash up on the shores of the rest of the globe, including here in the UK.

FOREIGN INVESTORS PULL OUT RS 21K CRORE FROM INDIAN EQUITIES AMID IRAN TENSIONS

New Delhi: Foreign investors pulled out Rs 21,000 crore (around USD 2.3 billion) from Indian equities over the last four trading sessions amid deteriorating global risk sentiment triggered by the West Asia crisis. The latest sell-off comes after foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused Rs 22,615 crore into Indian equities in February, the highest monthly inflow in 17 months. Prior to that, FPIs had been net sellers for three consecutive months. They withdrew Rs 35,962 crore in January, Rs 22,611 crore in December, and Rs 3,765 crore in November, according to data from the depositories. The latest outflows occurred during March 2-6, when FPIs sold equities worth about Rs 21,000 crore in the cash market. March 3 was a trading holiday on account of Holi. Market experts attributed the pullout primarily to the rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The US and Israel launched a major attack on Iran on February 28 which killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, triggering conflict in the region. Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, said fears of



potential disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz pushed Brent crude prices above USD 90 per barrel, triggering a global risk-off sentiment. Other factors contributing to the outflows include rupee depreciation beyond the 92-per-dollar level, elevated US Treasury yields drawing capital back to safe-haven assets, and mixed early outlook for Q4 FY26 corporate earnings, particularly margin pressures in the IT and consumption sectors, he added. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said "uncertainty surrounding the Middle East conflict, the recent market correction, the Indian economy's vulnerability to a sharp rise in crude prices, and the depreciation of the rupee have all contributed to sustained

FPI selling in the cash market". Himanshu Srivastava, Principal Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, noted that higher crude prices increase risks related to inflation, the current account deficit, and currency stability, which typically weigh on foreign investor sentiment toward emerging markets. He added that global investors have also shifted towards safer assets such as the US dollar amid rising uncertainty. The recent uptick in US Treasury yields during the week further contributed to capital outflows from emerging markets. Going ahead, Vijayakumar said FPIs are unlikely to return as buyers until there is greater clarity on the geopolitical situation and crude prices moderate.

Escalating tensions in Middle East to impact steel markets: BigMint

Highlights
■ The global steel industry, including India, is expected to face multiple market-related issues in the coming days as the escalating crisis in the Middle East impacts fuels cost that has led to increased freight rates, according to BigMint Research.



New Delhi: The global steel industry, including India, is expected to face multiple market-related issues in the coming days as the escalating crisis in the Middle East impacts fuels cost that has led to increased freight rates, according to BigMint Research. Military tensions in the region are increasing as both Iran, and the US, along with Israel, continue to attack each other. BigMint analysts said crude oil, LNG, and freight costs are rising

simultaneously, transmitting cost pressure directly into steel and steel-related commodity markets. From an average of USD 70 a barrel before the war, crude oil prices have risen to about USD 90/per barrel, an analyst said, adding that the cost is expected to continue to rise in the coming days. War has also impacted freight cost, which jumped almost 40 per cent in recent times. In the absence of insurance cover, marine operators

are also offering freight at non-negotiable prices as per the availability of the vessel. On the impact of the US-Iran conflict on steel markets, including India, they said the industry would face sustained input cost inflation across coal, scrap and ore, with freight and energy reinforcing one another. "The players are expected to pass on the increased cost to customers. However, if market is not ready to absorb the cost, steel demand can also

be affected," an expert said. Extended disruption could push prices of coking coal — a key steel making raw material — from major supplying markets such as Australia, Russia, and the US. Increased input cost, coupled with higher freight cost, will also put pressure on the margins, the analysts added. Military tensions in the region are increasing as both Iran, and the US, along with Israel, continue to attack each other.

Gold poised for volatile week as Middle East tensions roil markets: Analysts

New Delhi: Gold prices are expected to remain volatile next week as investors track geopolitical developments in the Middle East and key macroeconomic data releases that could shape the sentiment in the domestic market, analysts said. "Focus will again be on the developments in the Middle East and further escalation would be positive for gold prices, but a sign of de-escalation may trigger sharp selling," Pranav Mer, Vice President, Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said. Mer added that silver is also undergoing a consolidation phase but remains highly volatile. "Silver too is passing through a consolidation phase but trading with high volatility as gains are capped by consolidative moves in gold and industrial metals like Copper and Zinc," he said. During the past week, bullion futures witnessed sharp movements in the domestic market. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, sil-



ver plunged Rs 14,359, or 5.08 per cent, while gold slipped Rs 470, or 0.3 per cent. "Gold prices consolidated in a broad range last week, in a range of Rs 1.59 lakh-1.70 lakh per 10 grams," Prathamesh Mallya, DVP - Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, said. He added that geopolitical tensions, Asian demand, strong central bank purchases, elevated US Treasury bond yields and a firm dollar remain the key factors influencing price dynamics in the bullion market. Globally, silver futures on the Comex slumped USD 8.98, or near-

ly 10 per cent, while gold prices fell USD 89.2, or 1.7 per cent, during the past week. Gold has closed in the negative territory on a weekly basis amid rising demand for alternative safe-haven assets such as the US dollar, Franc, and Bonds, though the downside remains capped by ongoing geopolitical escalation in the Middle East, Mer said. Geopolitical tensions remained elevated after the Israeli military said it is moving to the "next phase" of its campaign against Iran. Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the amount of firepow-

er in the region "is about to surge dramatically," following Britain's decision to allow the US armed forces to use its military installations. Analysts noted that major global Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are witnessing outflows as traders, especially from the Middle East region, look to book profits or raise liquidity amid the escalating conflict. At the same time, surging energy prices have reduced expectations of a near-term interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve at its June meeting. Investors will watch key releases, including China's inflation and trade data, and inflation readings from the US, Germany, and India. Later in the week, provisional GDP, Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index and US consumer sentiment will guide the global growth and monetary policy outlook, they added. During the past week, bullion futures witnessed sharp movements in the domestic market.

Mcap of 8 of top-10 most valued firms erodes by Rs 2.81 lakh cr

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most-valued firms eroded by Rs 2,81,581.53 crore last week, with the State Bank of India taking the biggest hit, in tandem with a weak trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 2,368.29 points, or 2.91 per cent. "Markets ended the holiday-shortened week with steep losses as escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a sharp spike in crude oil prices weighed heavily on investor sentiment," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries and Infosys were the only gainers. The market valuation of State Bank of India tumbled Rs 53,952.96 crore to Rs 10,55,567.27 crore. ICICI Bank's valuation eroded by Rs 46,936.82 crore to Rs 9,40,049.82 crore and that of HDFC Bank dived Rs 46,552.3 crore to Rs 13,19,107.08



crore. The valuation of Larsen & Toubro tanked Rs 45,629.03 crore to Rs 5,43,208.36 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Bajaj Finance dropped by Rs 28,934.56 crore to Rs 5,91,136.03 crore and that of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) diminished by Rs 28,492.44 crore to Rs 9,25,380.15 crore. Hindustan Unilever's mcap declined by 26,350.67 crore to Rs 5,23,042.51 crore and that of Bharti Airtel edged lower by Rs 4,732.75 crore to Rs 10,67,120.50 crore.

However, the market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 14,750.39 crore to Rs 19,01,583.05 crore. The mcap of Infosys climbed by Rs 3,459.99 crore to Rs 5,30,546.54 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, and Hindustan Unilever. Last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 2,368.29 points, or 2.91 per cent.

SWIGGY, MAGICPIN, ZOMATO SEE FOOD DELIVERY REGAIN GROWTH MOMENTUM IN DEC QTR

New Delhi: India's top three food delivery players — Swiggy, magicpin and Zomato — regained growth momentum in the October-December period after a period of slower expansion, on strong order volumes led by festive demand, affordability-focused offerings and expanding user bases. With continued investments in marketing, product innovations, and value-led propositions, industry executives said the sector expects the momentum in order growth to sustain in the coming quarters. "It has been a phenomenal October-November-December quarter for us, marked by strong growth and sharper execution across markets. Our unit economics at an order level have improved by over 60 per cent, reflecting greater efficiency and improved monetisation," magicpin Founder and CEO Anshoo Sharma told PTI. While mature markets such as Delhi-NCR remained steady, the company report-



ed more than 40 per cent growth in gross order value in cities, including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. The magicpin CEO said affordability-led consumption is a key growth driver, with an average order value of Rs 150-Rs 300 encouraging frequent ordering among users. According to Swiggy's Q3 FY26 shareholder letter, the company's gross order value (GOV)

grew 20.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,959 crore, marking the fastest growth in the last three years. Swiggy said the acceleration was driven by stronger adoption of new propositions across speed, selection and affordability. Its average monthly transacting user (MTU) base grew 22 per cent year-on-year to 24.3 million during the quarter from 17.8 million a year ago, while total orders rose

to 294 million from 234 million during the period. Zomato's food delivery business also reported improving growth trends during the quarter under review. The company posted 16.6 per cent year-on-year net order value (NOV) growth at Rs 9,846 crore in the December quarter translating into 21.3 per cent growth in GOV. This marked an acceleration from 13.8 per cent growth in

Highlights
■ India's top three food delivery players — Swiggy, magicpin and Zomato — regained growth momentum in the October-December period after a period of slower expansion, on strong order volumes led by festive demand, affordability-focused offerings and expanding user bases.

the September quarter. Its average monthly transacting users grew 21 per cent year-on-year to 24.9 million during the December quarter. Executives also said the growth was increasingly coming from smaller cities as affordability-led offerings resonated strongly with consumers in tier-II and III markets. Zomato's food delivery business reported improving growth trends during the quarter under review.

Iranian clerics close to naming new leader as smoke chokes Tehran after oil depot strikes

I've been looking at the latest situation regarding some of the major commercial airlines in the Middle East - all of which are operating significantly reduced services. Qatar Airways says it has a limited number of flights leaving Doha today and tomorrow - you can read more here - and below are the latest details from Etihad Airways and Emirates. According to Etihad's website, flights resumed on Friday with a "limited commercial flight schedule". In the coming days Etihad intends to operate 20 flights each on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday subject to all safety criteria being met. Destinations include: Jeddah, Toronto, New York, Riyadh, Seoul, Malé, Bangkok, Phuket, Hanoi, Colombo, London, Moscow, Paris, Milan, Zurich, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Etihad stresses that passengers should check before they travel as the situ-



ation is being closely monitored and could change. Emirates says it will operate a reduced flight schedule in the coming days, following the partial re-opening of regional airspace. Tickets for the commercial airline went on sale a few hours ago and I have had a look at Emirates' website for the earliest dates that Brits in Dubai can find a flight back to the UK. They include 9 March for Gatwick and Heathrow; 10 March for

Glasgow and Newcastle; 11 March for Edinburgh; 12 March for Birmingham. Similar to Etihad Airways, Emirates notes the airline will continue to monitor developments in the region and "will develop our operational schedule accordingly". Passengers are advised to keep checking before travelling. US Central Command (Centcom) is urging Iranians to stay home as it claims the Islamic Republic's regime is

carrying out military operations from densely populated civilian areas. Iran has used "crowded areas surrounded by civilians in cities such as Dezful, Isfahan and Shiraz to launch attack drones and ballistic missiles", Centcom says in a statement released on X. It adds that this behaviour puts the lives of civilians at risk "since locations used for military purposes lose protected status" and can become legitimate targets. "Iran's ter-

rorist regime is blatantly disregarding civilian lives by attacking Gulf partners while compromising the safety of their own people," says Centcom commander Adm Brad Cooper. Since the start of the strikes on 28 February, Iran has also accused the United States of hitting civilian infrastructure. BBC Verify has documented damage to a hospital, sporting centres, a Unesco world heritage site and two schools - one of which saw 168 people killed on Saturday morning, according to Iranian officials. People in Iran have been sending messages to BBC Persian's Ghoncheh Habibi, after several oil refineries in Tehran were targeted in Israeli strikes overnight. A man in his 30s from Karaj, in the west of the Tehran province, said: "It started with a red light that lit up everything followed by a wave that jolted the door. Then the sky was lit again and a huge red cloud appeared." A woman in her

20s said the city was covered in smoke. "You can smell the burning," she said. "I can't see the sun. There is a horrible smoke. It's still there. I'm very tired." Another woman in her 20s described opening the window "for a moment and it smelled like a pump station [burning]". After the Karaj depot was hit, another man in his 20s described a "huge explosion and it was on fire for hours". BBC Persian is the Persian language service of BBC News, used by 24 million people around the world - the majority in Iran - despite being blocked and routinely jammed by Iranian authorities. These are the latest pictures coming to us from Tel Aviv, Israel. Smoke and vapor trails are visible in the sky over the city, and smoke has been seen rising. This follows a report from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) that missiles had been launched towards Israel from Iran. The IDF said that "defensive systems are operating to intercept the threat."

Rapper-politician Balendra Shah unseats Nepal's ex-PM as he heads for victory



Rapper Balendra Shah has defeated the former Nepalese Prime Minister Sharma KP Oli in his parliamentary constituency, as he takes a step closer to becoming Nepal's next prime minister. Nepal's Election Commission confirmed on Saturday that Shah, 35, received 68,348 votes compared to Oli's 18,734 to unseat the former leader in his constituency. Thursday's general election - the first since violent youth-led protests toppled the government in September - pitted the establishment against a new generation of politicians advocating for angry, young Gen Z voters

hungry for change. Shah's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is now seemingly on course to win the general election. The party has a majority in directly elected seats in the general election counted so far, according to partial official results on Sunday, and could be heading for a landslide, official trends suggest. The 35-year-old is also leading in the proportional representation vote count so far, according to the election commission. For more than two decades, Nepal has seen a revolving door of coalition governments, largely dominated by three parties, two of them communist.

Explosion at US embassy in Oslo may have been terrorism, Norway police say



An overnight explosion at the US embassy in Oslo may have been an act of terrorism, Norway's police have said. The embassy in the Norwegian capital sustained minor damage after the blast in the early hours of Sunday - but no one was injured. "One of the hypotheses is that it is an act of terrorism, but we are not completely locked into it," Frode Larsen, the head of police joint investigation and intelligence unit, told Norway's public broadcaster NRK. Norwegian authorities say they are in contact with US diplomats, and an investigation into the incident is now under way. US diplomats have not commented. Speaking to NRK later on Sunday, Larsen stressed that "we have to be open to the possibility that there may be other causes behind what has happened". In an earlier statement, Norway's police said that "large resources" were sent to the area around the US embassy at about 01:00 local time on Sunday (00:00 GMT). "The police

are in dialogue with the embassy and no injuries have been reported," the statement added. Michael Dellemyr, who is leading the police response, told NRK that the explosion was at the public entrance to the building. He said police officers had conducted searches in the area around the embassy in the Morgedalsvegen district of Oslo, about 7km (4 miles) outside the city centre. He said the police had also issued an appeal for information from anyone who may have seen or heard anything about the incident. Photos posted on social media later showed shattered glass in the snow outside the entrance to the consular section of the building, cracks in a glass door as well as dark marks on a tiled floor. Norwegian authorities described the incident as "unacceptable", with Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide stressing that "the security of diplomatic missions is very important to us". He added that he had contacted US embassy chargé d'affaires Eric Meyer regarding Sunday's incident.

Irish government chartered flight from Oman arrives in Dublin



The first Irish government chartered flight to bring home stranded Irish citizens from the Middle East has landed at Dublin Airport. The flight carrying 194 passengers left Oman on Saturday afternoon (local time) and arrived in Dublin at about 05:00 (local time). The Irish embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said earlier this week that elderly citizens or those with medical conditions would be prioritised and that children under 16 years would

be able to travel for free. Thousands of people from the UK and Republic of Ireland have been unable to leave the region after US-Israeli strikes on Iran prompted retaliatory strikes by Tehran across the region. The Irish Foreign Affairs Minister, Helen McEntee said it was a "challenging journey", but she was "glad that we have been able to directly facilitate the return of nearly 200 people, including a number of children and infants".

War fuels debate in Cyprus over UK military bases

A drone strike on a British airbase in Cyprus has reignited an enduring debate about the UK's presence on the island. It's a week since the drone punched a hole in a hangar at RAF Akrotiri. That hole, for some in Britain, symbolises embarrassing gaps in UK hard power. For some in Cyprus, it's another unwelcome result of British military overreach. "We just want to have an independent Cyprus," said local business owner Natasha Theodotou. She was holding a banner that read "British Bases Out" at a demonstration outside the presidential palace in the capital, Nicosia. "Just as we're occupied by the Turkish government," said Natasha, "we are occupied by the UK." She wants to see a unified country where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live



together. Britain retained two major sovereign bases in Cyprus' south and south east, Akrotiri and Dhekelia, as part of a 1960 treaty that established the island's independence and ended its status as a British colony. In 1974 Turkey invaded and took control of Cyprus' northern third in response to a Greece-backed military coup. Not far from the protest tourists queue up at a checkpoint allowing pas-

sage into the Turkish-controlled part of Nicosia. The city, which sits on the UN-patrolled buffer zone known as the Green Line, is sometimes called the world's last divided capital. British military officials' best assessment is that the drone that hit RAF Akrotiri was launched in Lebanon by the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah. The UK government has said its bases in Cyprus are not among those that could be utilised

by US bombers for "defensive" strikes on Iranian missile sites. But the reported use of the base by American U-2 spy planes may explain why RAF Akrotiri was a target, as Iran and its proxies retaliated against US-Israeli strikes. The UK has not taken part in any direct attacks on Iran itself. Roughly 200 to 300 protesters joined the march on Saturday, carrying signs that were also pro-Palestine and critical of the US and Israel. Chants included: "Say it loud, say it clear, British bases out of here." The territory, kept by the UK, covers about 98 sq miles (254 sq km) and is even patrolled by a separate, special police force. These Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) are a lingering point of contention while also being highly interwoven into the island and a source of employment.

Dancers loved practising in this Singapore walkway. Then the complaints came

With its wide floors, floor-to-ceiling mirrors and a ready audience, the underground passage connecting a train station to Singapore's iconic Gardens by the Bay had served as a practice ground for aspiring dancers for years. Until 1 January, when they showed up as usual only to find the mirrors frosted. Hundreds of commuters and tourists walk through the spacious tunnel every day, many of them on their way to the city's number one attraction. People had complained that the dancers were "blocking pedestrian flow at this high-traffic area", local media reported. So, the mirrors



were frosted, triggering a debate - not just about space, but also Singapore's fixation with orderliness, the low bar for people to complain, and its many, many rules. All of which arguably stifle the abandon, or even the havoc, that is often characteristic of the

world's biggest cities. This is not the first time Singaporeans have crossed swords over how common spaces should be used in the land-scarce country, where more than 8,300 people jostle for each kilometre. From whether frisbees should be allowed in parks, to bench-

es fitted with dividers to deter rough sleepers, Singaporeans are often split on whose needs come first. Additional restrictions are not the problem, says urban planning expert Tan Shin Bin from the National University of Singapore. "[What should] give us pause is really whether the decision was a well-considered and fair one... Whose needs are being prioritised as legitimate, and whose desires are deemed secondary?" In the case of the walkway, it is one of many owned and maintained by private developers to "facilitate all-weather, safe and convenient connectivity", authorities told.

UK OPENS CHARTER FLIGHTS BOOKING PORTAL FOR BRITONS IN DUBAI



The Foreign Office has opened a booking portal for British nationals in Dubai who wish to access government charter flights to leave the Middle East region. Thousands of Britons have been stranded in the region, including in Dubai, after the US and Israel's conflict with Iran led to widespread airspace closures and cancelled flights. The most vulnerable will be prioritised for booking onto charter flights and the Foreign Office has said it will contact those who have registered their presence in the region. The government began operating flights out of the region earlier in the week from Muscat, Oman. Two have returned to the UK so far and a flight from Dubai is scheduled for early next week. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to be affected by the conflict. On Saturday, a Dubai resident was killed when the first Iranian missiles struck the city. "Our phones were going off, saying 'emergency, emergency'. We were crying, we were shaking," she said. She arrived back in Edinburgh on Wednesday on an Emirates flight.

On Saturday, the government announced it will run a commercial charter flight from Dubai, available for a charge. British nationals, their spouse or partner and children under the age of 18 are eligible to register. Earlier, Emirates airline said it had carried about 30,000 passengers out of Dubai on Thursday and had operated 35 flights to the UK since resuming services. The BBC's Nick Beake, who was at Dubai Airport on Friday morning, said it felt calm and quiet on Friday, with a steady stream of passengers arriving. He added that there was no visible gathering of expats trying to leave. British people stranded in Dubai have told the BBC about their experiences, including Victoria Cameron, from Larkhall in Scotland. On 28 February, Cameron told the BBC she was queuing to get into her Dubai hotel when the first Iranian missiles struck the city. "Our phones were going off, saying 'emergency, emergency'. We were crying, we were shaking," she said. She arrived back in Edinburgh on Wednesday on an Emirates flight.



Dozens killed as Israeli special forces raid Lebanese village in search of 40-year-old remains

Boy, 12, among six dead as tornadoes hit Michigan and Oklahoma

At least six people have died and more than a dozen others injured after tornadoes struck Michigan and Oklahoma, in severe storms that swept across parts of the US. Officials said four people were killed in southern Michigan, including a 12-year-old boy, and two died in Oklahoma on Friday, with rescue workers continuing to assess the damage. The storms uprooted trees, downed power lines, damaged buildings and ripped the roofs off some houses on Friday. The National Weather Service (NWS) said the severe weather could continue into the weekend, warning of thunderstorms and flash flooding from the Great Plains to Texas. In Michigan, the Branch



County sheriff's department said three people were killed and 12 others were injured near Union City after a tornado hit on Friday. Power outages and road closures are expected this weekend, they added. About 50 miles (80km) away in Cass County, Michigan, authorities reported one death and several injuries.

Gilgeous-Alexander closes in on Chamberlain record

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander moved to within two games of breaking a decades-old NBA record as he scored 27 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 104-97 home win over the Golden State Warriors. He has scored at least 20 points in 125 consecutive games for the defending champions, a sequence that began on 1 November 2024. The legendary Wilt Chamberlain holds the record of 126 games - set between October 1961 and January 1963. The Thunder host the Denver Nuggets on Monday and the Boston Celtics on Thursday. Victory at Paycom Center was the Thunder's fifth in a row. They became the first side to 50 wins this season and sit top of the Western Conference.



Gilgeous-Alexander said: "If we were the best team last year, all year, we win a championship, and we get better, we should put ourselves in

great position to repeat. "This year's had a little bit more ups and downs for us, but I think we've done a pretty good job keeping that front of mind." The Warriors - again missing the injured Stephen Curry - scored seven unanswered points to reduce the

Thunder's lead to 99-97 before a three-pointer from Gilgeous-Alexander in the final minute. Michael Porter Jr scored 30 points as the Brooklyn Nets came from 23 points down to win 107-105 at Eastern Conference leaders Detroit Pistons and end a 10-game

losing streak. Kawhi Leonard scored 28 points as the Los Angeles Clippers overturned a 19-point first-half deficit to win 123-120 at the Memphis Grizzlies. The Orlando Magic won 119-92 at the Minnesota Timberwolves despite Anthony Edwards' 34 points for the hosts.

Rohit Sharma Reveals Chat With Sanju Samson Over Non-Selection In T20 World Cup

One of the finest to play for India in white-ball cricket, Rohit Sharma knows what it means to wear the India shirt in a World Cup. Rohit wasn't picked for India's squad for the 2011 World Cup, the last 50-over World Cup that the country won. Earlier in his career, he too had to warm the bench, be ignored by selectors in a number of tournaments and series. Seeing India wicket-keeper batter Sanju Samson face selection snubs for a spot in the playing XI early in the ongoing T20 World Cup, Rohit had a heartwarming chat with him. Samson was a part of the Indian team in the T20 World Cup 2024 but didn't get to play a single game. The opening batter might have feared that the 2026 campaign could turn out to be the same for him, as he was snubbed early on in the tournament. But, Rohit urged him to not lose hope as opportunities can come any time in a tournament like this, like this. "Dukhi mat ho bhai. It is a long tourna-



ment, kabhi bhi mauka aa sakta hai. ("Don't be disheartened. It is a long tournament. You'll get your chance. The opportunity can come anytime)," Rohit said in a video shared by ICC on Instagram. Sharing some words of wisdom from his own experience, Rohit said that he can sometimes "feel the pulse of a player" and understand what they are going through. "I can sometimes feel the pulse of the player. I have been myself in that place where, you know, when I've been in a tournament like this, and my chances haven't come, it's important to stay

focused and try and do the right things and not get frustrated with you not getting the opportunity, and that's what I felt with him," said Rohit in a video. "Because he was consistently playing for India and then was dropped just before the World Cup started, you know, I just wanted to tell him that it's a long tournament and funny things have happened in the past, so I just wanted to reassure him that your chance would come. So it happened in the game where it was a crucial game for India, and he played a blinder," said Rohit.

"OFF-SPINNER NAHI HAI":

Suryakumar Yadav's First Reaction On Seeing New Zealand's Playing XI In T20 World Cup Final

Finals are all about strategy and perfect execution. Making changes to the playing XI for a title clash is often a tough call. India did not walk that path in the T20 World Cup 2026 final against New Zealand. However, New Zealand took the big call by dropping Cole McConchie and introducing Jacob Duffy for the title clash in Ahmedabad on Sunday. India captain Suryakumar Yadav was intrigued when he received New Zealand's team sheet from Mitchell Santner right before the toss. He noticed that the Blackcaps were not fielding specialist spinner Cole McConchie. Yadav then signalled towards the team dugout: "Off-spinner



nahi hai" (there is no off-spinner). Earlier, legendary cricketers MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma brought out the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup trophy together ahead of the final between India and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

The sight of the duo carrying out the glittering silverware generated a thunderous roar of delight from the packed crowd. Dhoni, who captained India to the title in the inaugural 2007 edition, joined Rohit, who led the team to the trophy in 2024. Apart from

Dhoni and Rohit, tournament ambassador and ICC chairman Jay Shah, along with JioStar vice-chairman Uday Shankar, also walked out with the trophy, which was placed on the pedestal before both teams lined up for the national anthems. Legendary playback singer Kavitha Krishnamurthy delivered a soaring rendition of the Indian national anthem. Coming to the match, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner won the toss and elected to bowl against defending champions India. The Blackcaps made one change, drafting in pacer Jacob Duffy in place of off-spin bowling all-rounder Cole McConchie.

White House To Host First Professional Sporting Event As UFC Announces Title Bouts

The UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) has announced two championship fights for its upcoming event at the White House in Washington, DC, scheduled for June 14. The card, called UFC Freedom Fights 250, will be led by a lightweight title clash between Ilia Topuria and Justin Gaethje. The event will take place on the South Lawn of the White House and is being organised as part of celebrations marking 250 years of American independence. The date also coincides with US President Donald Trump's 80th birthday. UFC officials confirmed the matchups during the broadcast of UFC 326. Topuria vs Gaethje headlines card Topuria (17-0), a 29-year-old Spanish-



Georgian fighter, will defend his lightweight belt against Gaethje in the main event. Widely regarded as one of the sport's most dangerous knockout artists, Topuria captured the 155-pound (70 kg) title last June with a first-round knockout of Charles Oliveira after moving up from featherweight. Later in 2025,

Topuria announced he would step away briefly to deal with personal matters. With those issues resolved, he now returns for his first title defence and could consider a future move to welterweight. Gaethje (27-5), 37, will get his third chance to win the UFC's undisputed lightweight title. He previously fought for the belt in

2020 and 2022 but lost to Khabib Nurmagomedov and Oliveira. In January, Gaethje captured the interim championship by defeating Britain's Paddy Pimblett via unanimous decision in Las Vegas while Topuria was inactive. A two-time interim champion and 18-year veteran of the sport, Gaethje trains in Denver and grew up in Safford, Arizona. Pereira eyes historic third belt The co-main event features Pereira (13-3) taking on Gaethje (13-2) for the interim heavyweight title. Pereira will attempt to become the first fighter to win UFC championships in three different weight divisions. The Brazilian fighter previously held titles at middleweight and light heavyweight.

BORTHWICK BACKED BY RFU DESPITE RUN OF DEFEATS

Steve Borthwick's boss has given the England coach his backing, but says there will be a full examination of the woeful Six Nations campaign after the team's final-round match against France on Saturday. England are fifth in the table and well out of the title running after successive defeats by Scotland, Ireland and Italy - which was the first loss to the Azzurri - ruined their ambitions and prompted questions over Borthwick's future. "After a 12-match winning run, these past three results have been hugely disappointing, and we feel that just as much as everyone else," said Rugby Football Union chief executive Bill Sweeney. "Steve



and his coaching team are working tirelessly to make improvements, and we remain fully committed to supporting them and the players as they face France this weekend and then look ahead to the Nations Championship. "Part of that support is being open about what hasn't gone right during this Six

Nations and making sure everyone has a clear sense of how we move through those challenges together. "That's something we'll be talking through and working on in the days and weeks ahead. "We will work together to understand and rectify why we have been unable to meet the expectations and anticipation going into these games. "England fans rightly expect a team that learns and grows through adversity, and we're confident this group will do everything they can to deliver that." Borthwick defended his record and the direction of the team after Italy, who had lost their previous 32 games against England, ran out 23-18 winners in Rome.

James Anderson Reveals Jasprit Bumrah's Act Against England That Left Him Stunned

England great and one of the legends of the game, James Anderson, has been left in awe of India pacer Jasprit Bumrah's bowling precision. It was Bumrah who turned the game on its head as India beat England in the T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal on Thursday. For Anderson, the manner in which Bumrah executes his yorkers with inch-perfect accuracy sets him apart from the rest of the bowlers in the world, whether in men's or women's cricket. "The thing about Bumrah is, I look at him and think, I don't think you can learn anything from him. He's an absolute freak. There's not one bowler in the world, in any format, men or women, who can bowl six yorkers



out of six and absolutely nail it every time. Even one of the yorkers he bowled [vs England] in his last over was a slower ball. So he nailed five fast yorkers and one slower-ball yorker-you just can't hit them anywhere," Anderson said on the BBC podcast. England had their task cut out in the semifinal against India as they chased a gigantic total of 254. Yet, Jacob Bethell

showed exemplary determination and desire to fight on. He scored a breathtaking century, taking all Indian bowlers to the cleaners-except Bumrah. For Anderson, if it hadn't been for Bumrah, England might well have chased down the target. "England did really well to get six [runs] off the hole, like they squeezed the ball out.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri Involved In Ugly Crash At Australian Grand Prix



The mood at Albert Park changed suddenly from joy to shock when Oscar Piastri crashed during the warm-up lap of the Australian Grand Prix. In a cruel twist, the McLaren driver lost control of his MCL38 coming out of Turn 4, a fast part of the Melbourne track that has troubled many experienced racers before.

The crash was heavy. Piastri's car spun across the track and slammed into the barriers, badly damaging the suspension and bodywork. Thankfully, he climbed out on his own and looked unhurt, but the heartbreak of missing his home race was clear on his face. "Marshals rushed to clear the wreck, but Piastri's dream of a podium finish in front of a record home crowd ended in the run-off area.

For McLaren, this is a big blow. With Piastri out, all hopes now rest on Lando Norris, who must fight alone against the leaders. The race starts at 3 p.m. local time, leaving the engineers no choice but to focus fully on Norris's race plan. At the front, Mercedes are stealing the spotlight. George Russell grabbed pole position, showing the team finally has the speed to win regularly. Alongside him is teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli, starting on the front row. The battle between Russell, the team leader, and Antonelli, the fearless newcomer, will be one of the main stories in the opening laps, especially with strong rivals chasing close behind. As fans come to terms with Piastri's absence, the stage is set for a tense and tactical race under the Australian sun.

Oliveira dominates Holloway to win BMF title

Charles Oliveira dominated Max Holloway from start to finish to win the BMF title by unanimous decision at UFC 326 in Las Vegas. Defending champion Holloway had no answer to Oliveira's grappling as the Brazilian took him down at will in the lightweight main event at the T-Mobile Arena. Although Holloway defended against submissions admirably, the American failed to mount any significant offence as Oliveira added the symbolic BMF belt to the lightweight world championship he won in 2021. The BMF title was

first introduced by the UFC in 2019 to commemorate the promotion's 'baddest' fighter. "I respect you so much, we're different to other people," Oliveira told Holloway after being crowned champion. "These dudes come here and talk a lot, we come here and do a lot of beautiful things for our family and this sport. There are two BMFs who are Charles Oliveira and Max Holloway." Holloway, 34, and Oliveira, 36, went into the contest as two of the most popular fighters on the UFC roster and two future Hall-of-Famers. Former

featherweight champion Holloway holds the record for the most significant strikes in UFC history with 3,681 and became the first fighter to defend the BMF belt when he defeated Dustin Poirier last year. Oliveira came into the bout as the fighter with the most finishes in UFC history with 21, and the most submission wins with 17. The pair fought previously in 2015 with Holloway winning via stoppage, but Oliveira said in the build-up to the rematch he was a "jiu-jitsu fighter" then, compared to an "MMA fighter" now.

From the first round, Oliveira demonstrated his evolution as a fighter as he put Holloway on the back foot, before securing an early takedown. For over four minutes Oliveira searched for submissions on the ground and although Holloway defended resolutely, it would be a pattern which would repeat itself throughout the fight. On the feet Holloway landed sparingly and when he did, Oliveira paid little respect to the Hawaiian's power as he marched forward before securing multiple take-downs.



VISHAL AS HERO, SUNDAR. C DIRECTED 'MOGUDU'



Vishal and Sundar C. C's previous films, 'Ambala' and 'Madha Gada Raja', have been blockbusters. Now, in order to score a hat-trick, these two are making a movie called 'Mogudu' together. Tamannaah is playing the heroine in this movie. Dr. A.C. Shanmukham's blessings are being given to this movie by Arun Kumar and Khushboo Sundar under the banners of Avani Cinemas Pvt. Ltd. and Benz Media Pvt. Ltd. Navdeep, Sampath, Ajay Ghosh, Garuda Ram, VTV Ganesh, and Yogi Babu are playing the lead roles in this movie. It is known that the title promo of the movie 'Mogudu' has already been released. Vishal, while doing all the housework like a normal

Mogudu, beats up the rowdies like an undercover policeman. This movie, which has added all kinds of elements, has been made in a full mass commercial angle by Sundar C. He has already said in the title promo that he is making this movie. Everyone knows about the craze among the mass audience for more than 40 films made by Sundar. C till now. They are planning to make this 'Mogudu' movie no less than them. The 'Mogudu' team has currently completed the first schedule. The next schedule has been planned in Kolkata, Goa, and Chennai. Hip-hop Tamil music is being provided for this movie. Rodger is working as the editor, Gopi Amarnath is working as the cameraman, and Guru Raj is working

"I Really Wish The Award Should Have Gone to My Director Instead of Me, Dhandoraa's Powerful Writing Will Bring Many More Awards," Says Sivaji at the Dhandoraa's Thank You Meet

The team of Dhandoraa came together for a heartfelt Thank You Meet after the film earned three honours at the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards, further strengthening its reputation as a contentful blockbuster. The gathering turned emotional as the cast and crew reflected on the journey of the film - from its making to the overwhelming recognition it received from audiences, officials, and the media. Director Muralikant Devasoth thanked the Telangana Government and the jury for encouraging meaningful cinema. "Thanks to everyone for attending this event. I'm glad that my film has earned this recognition, and I would like to thank the jury and the Government of Telangana. By creating such a platform, you are boosting the right motivation," he said, admitting that speaking about the film now felt deeply emotional. Recalling the creative process, he spoke warmly about music director Mark K Robin, saying they spent many sleepless nights composing. "He used to pour tea for me and we would continue composing sessions. This award has given him the right recognition for our very own Hyderabad talent," he said. Muralikant Devasoth also reserved special praise for Sivaji, calling him the backbone of



the film's production. "For me he is the best actor, there is no two ways about it. Completing this film in such a short span was possible only because of him. He never demanded anything and was extremely cooperative," he noted. The director also shared how the film's subject resonated strongly with people across Telangana. "Some people told me that in their community there are around 1,000 to 2,000 members, yet they only have three to five cents of land for cremation. They thanked us for making a film on this issue because it makes them feel represented. That is the biggest award I could receive," he said, adding that he was overwhelmed by the response from audiences and officials who promoted the film on social media.

Actor Bhaskar expressed happiness that the film brought such recognition to a debut director. "Needless to say, the film has earned three awards, and what more could a debut director ask for than this?" he said, also appreciating Sivaji's support during their scenes together. "These awards and encouragement are very important for good films and actors," he added. Actor Rajasekhar said the recognition matched what the team had believed from the beginning. "Although it received the Second Best Feature Film award, we are happy for it - of course, we wished for the first," he said, noting that positive media coverage and a tweet from Jr. NTR helped the film reach a much wider audience. He also credited Mark K Robin's score for elevating

the emotional intensity of the story. Actor Suresh described the moment as a proud one for the entire team. Thanking Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and the jury, he said the recognition was especially meaningful as a state honour. "Everyone says such stories usually come from other languages, but now one such story has come from Telugu and even bagged an award," he remarked. Actor Poorna shared that the film had given him a memorable character. "Even though every film is special, this one is even more special because people are recognizing me through the character from this film," he said while congratulating the entire team.

For costume designer Rekha, the recognition felt almost inevitable from the moment she heard the story. "The belief I had when I first listened to the narration has been rewarded today," she said, recalling how listening to the title song composed by Mark K Robin moved her to tears. She also praised Sivaji's performance and described the award as a result of the honesty with which the film was made. Actress Manika Chikkala said she felt fortunate to have played a role that connected strongly with audiences. "When I was returning from my grandparents' village, everyone recognized me as the daughter of Sivaji from the film," she said, adding that the experience was deeply gratifying. Music director Mark K Robin thanked the media for supporting the film from the start and expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka for the recognition. Reflecting on the award being named after the legendary Gaddar, he said, "I've grown up listening to Gaddar's songs. They are not just songs - they are fire that shook the whole of Telangana. Receiving an award in his name is a great honour." He also thanked producer Benny Muppaneni for trusting him and recalled how emotional the experience was when Muralikant Devasoth first narrated the

story. Actor Sivaji, whose performance earned one of the awards, spoke with humility and deep admiration for the director. "I strongly wish the award could have been given to the director instead of me," he said. Thanking Jr. NTR for boosting the film through his tweet, Sivaji emphasized that the award belonged to the entire team. "This award is for every technician who worked on this film," he said, praising cinematographer Venkat R. Shakamuri and editor Srujana Adusumilli for their work. Sivaji also revealed the dedication behind his performance. "I never had a full sleep during the entire shoot of this film, because the character needed that tired, worn-out look," he shared. Calling the film a showcase of acting talent, he added, "This film is like a library of terrific acting. Some of the finest actors in this country are Telugu actors." Confident about the film's future recognition, he said the strength of its writing would ensure it continued winning more awards. Producer Benny Muppaneni concluded the event by thanking the Telangana Government, the jury, and the entire team for their efforts. "This film is truly a teamwork movie," he said, also acknowledging the support he received from the press and fellow producers Sahu and Naga Vamsi.

VIJAY BREAKS SILENCE ON RUMOURS

Hyderabad: Actor and politician Vijay recently addressed the rumours and controversies surrounding his personal life. The star spoke briefly during a Women's Day event organised by his political party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, in Chennai and urged his fans to stay calm. A video from the event quickly went viral on social media. During his speech, Vijay reassured supporters that they should not worry about the issues being discussed online. "Please don't worry about the recent problems surrounding me. Those issues are not worth

your time. I will take care of them myself," he said. The actor also shared that seeing his fans stressed about his personal life hurts him the most. He asked them not to carry that burden and instead focus on public welfare and social issues. Divorce rumours bring personal life into the spotlight Vijay's comments come at a time when his personal life has become a major topic of discussion in the media. Reports recently suggested that his wife, Sangeetha Sornalingam, has filed for divorce after nearly 27 years of marriage. The



couple married in August 1999 and have two children.

YOUTUBER ANURAG DOBHAL'S LIVESTREAM ENDS IN SHOCKING CRASH



PRANITHA SUBHASH PROVES MOM LIFE STILL GLAMOROUS



At 33, Pranitha Subhash has already spent around 15 years in films. Over time she has worked in several South movies and built a steady fan base. In the last few years life changed a lot for her as she became a mother to two sons. Still, the actress looks ready to step back into the spotlight. Her latest pictures online show that she hasn't lost that glamorous charm people remember her for. In the photos, Pranitha is seen wearing a deep blue off shoulder gown. The dress fits neatly and has a high slit that shows one leg as she stands beside a tall window. Natural light from outside falls across the room, giving the pictures a calm and stylish feel.

Her hair is tied up loosely and the makeup is kept simple. She leans against the wall in a relaxed pose, looking straight at the camera, letting the outfit and attitude speak for themselves. What many fans notice right away is how well she has maintained her figure even after becoming a mother of two. She carries the look with ease, almost like she never stepped away. Pranitha was last seen on the big screen two years ago in the Kannada film Raman Avatara. The movie didn't do well at the box office, but that hasn't stopped her from staying visible. With these fresh photos doing the rounds, there's a feeling she could land a new film soon and return to screens again.

'GAYAPADDA SIMHAM' IS AN OUT AND OUT ENTERTAINER THAT CONNECTS WITH EVERYONE: HERO TARUN BHASKAR AT THE SONG LAUNCH EVENT

Sweekar Agasthi, rapper Asura release satirical rap song from Tarun Bhaskar's 'Gayapadda Simham' Tarun Bhaskar, who is making different entertainers, is going to entertain with 'Gayapadda Simham' along with writer-director Kashyap Srinivas. This film is being produced by Saptaswa Media Works, POV Stories, and Zee Studios. Pawan Sadineni is presenting this film. The recently released Fun Filled Treasure has received a wonderful response. The makers have recently released a fun promotional rap song related to the film. This song presents the satirical tone of the film wonderfully. The song shows how the hero's American dream suddenly turns upside down. The song playfully depicts the chaos that ensues in the hero's life after the deporta-



tion decision announced by US President Donald Trump. This rap song, made with trendy beats, was sung by music director Sweekar Agasthi himself, while the rap parts were sung by Asura. The lyrics were also written by Sweekar Agasthi, while Asura provided the rap

verse. The song is entertaining with fun scenes like rejection stamps falling on passports, Trump statues, and "Happy Deportation" cake cutting. The video features energetic dance moments and fun visuals. Tarun Bhaskar brings out the laughter with his deadpan

humor, while Vishnu brings out the buddy vibe. True to the title, a lion is also visually present, symbolizing the "Gayapadda Simham" in the story. Sweekar Agasthi and Asura also appear in the video, adding to the fun. The film stars Manasa Chaudhary and Faria

Abdullah as the female leads, while Harshvardhan and Shubhlekha Sudhakar will be seen in key roles. Cinematography is by Vidya Sagar Chinta, editing by Viplav Naishadam, production design by Chandrika Gorrepati, and story by Surya Prakash Jyosula. The film is scheduled to be released in theaters in the summer of 2026. At the song launch event, hero Tarun Bhaskar said.. Hi everyone. I am very happy to see your energy. I am getting a lot of energy seeing this vibe. I am happy that you all like this song. Kashyap Srinivas has made a name for himself by making short films since his college days. He is making his debut as a director with this film. The real hero of this film is him and his story. He is a hardworking lion. I am the lucky lion. Thank you to our produc-

ers. Make sure to watch this film with your friends and family. Producer Bhanu Kiran said.. Our director has made this film as an out and out entertainer for all of you. The film has done very well. All the songs have also been well done. We all like Tarun as a director. The actor will like this film. His acting will be at the next level in this film. There are many surprises in this film. We will be revealing each and every one. We want to release it in April. I definitely want to share this song with everyone. Director Kashyap Srinivas said.. Everyone should reach their dreams. We will all get hurt in this journey. We will be wounded lions. This movie will be released soon. It will entertain you all. Tarun garu has given the best performance and will entertain you all.