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THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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TN CM Vijay plans Delhi visit with political
outreach, economic demands on agenda


CHENNAI (TSIT):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay is preparing for a significant visit to New Delhi, one expected to carry both political and administrative importance. Unlike his previous trip to the national capital as a party leader for questioning in connection with the Karur crowd-tragedy case,

Vijay is now set to arrive in Delhi as the head of the Tamil Nadu government with an agenda focused on strengthening political ties and seeking financial support for the state.

Vijay had earlier appeared before the CBI in New Delhi on January 12 and January 19 in connection with investigations linked to the stampede at a public meeting held in Karur on September 27 last year, in which 41 people lost their lives. This time, however, the focus of the visit is expected to be entirely different. Sources indicate that Vijay plans to hold meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Global oil prices climb as Iran indicates scepticism of agreement with US

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Global oil prices climbed on the last day of trading week after Iran cast doubt on market hopes for a near-term agreement with the United States. Brent crude rose 0.94 per cent to \$103.5 per barrel, while US benchmark WTI gained 0.26 per cent to \$96.60 a barrel, reversing part of Thursday's selloff losses that had pushed both benchmarks to their lowest in nearly two weeks.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tehran could not say an agreement with Washington was close, according to state-linked Tasnim news agency.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there were "some good signs", while stressing that any Iranian attempt to

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tehran could not say an agreement with Washington was close, according to state-linked Tasnim news agency.



restrict movement through the Strait of Hormuz would remain a red line. The comments followed days of mixed messaging from both sides, while markets rallied on optimistic headlines, and then waited to ascertain if any-

thing actually changed on ground. Traders have grown wary of pricing in news of diplomatic breakthroughs without clear evidence, analysts said. Physical oil markets remain tight, inventories are falling and elevated fuel prices

are feeding broader inflation concerns, they added.

Petrol and diesel prices were raised on Saturday by state-owned oil marketing companies, marking the third such increase in about 10 days.

Petrol became costlier by Rs

0.87 per litre, while diesel prices were raised by Rs 0.91 per litre. There is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG in the country and petrol pumps that are not giving fuel or giving fuel in reduced quantities are being pulled up, senior government officials said.

The government is receiving feedback about petrol pumps across India and full supply of fuels is being maintained to all retail outlets. About 50 per cent of India's crude and almost 90 per cent of its LPG and LNG imports pass through Hormuz, making it India's single biggest energy vulnerability. Since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, India has been sourcing 70 per cent of its crude imports via alternative, longer sea routes across the Arctic and the Baltic region.

No power can stop India from being biggest
exporter of weapons in 25-30 years: Rajnath

SHIRDI (AHLIYANAGARI) (TSIT):

Signalling a major shift in India's defence manufacturing strategy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the private sector is no longer merely a supplier of "nuts and bolts" to the armed forces, but has evolved into an innovator and producer of advanced weapon systems, as the government seeks to transform India into a global hub for munitions and automated warfare systems. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the state-of-the-art defence and aerospace innovation and production facilities of Nibe Limited in the temple town of Shirdi, Singh said the Centre aims to increase private sector participation in defence manufacturing from the current 25-30 per cent to nearly 50 per cent in the coming years.

"Earlier, the role of the private sector in defence production was negligible. Today, it has reached almost 25 to 30 per cent. We want to scale it up to 50 per cent," the Defence Minister said. The remarks come amid the government's



broad push for indigenisation and self-reliance in strategic sectors under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, particularly in the backdrop of lessons drawn from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and rising geopolitical instability in West Asia, which have highlighted the importance of domestic defence manufacturing capacity and resilient supply chains. "Our government is continuously emphasising that Make in India should be promoted in critical technologies and advanced systems. To ensure India emerges as a frontrunner in munitions and automated systems, the government is ready to take every necessary step," Singh said. Lauding the role of Indian industries, he said the country's private sector had developed a strong understanding of future warfare

technologies and was increasingly contributing to next-generation defence capabilities. "To make India a hub for munitions and automation, everyone will have to work together. Only when the capabilities of Indian defence companies increase will the country's security framework become even stronger," he said. Calling for complete self-reliance in defence and space technologies, Singh said: "Self-reliant India means a secure India, a capable India and a powerful India." Among those present were Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Industries Minister Uday Samant, Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan and Nibe Group Chairman and Managing Director Ganesh Nibe.

Bengal govt cuts
Bakrid holiday to
one day from earlier
two-day break

KOLKATA (TSIT):

The West Bengal government on Saturday issued a notification declaring May 28 as the Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid) holiday this year, cancelling the earlier notification issued under



the previous Mamata Banerjee-led regime that had declared a two-day holiday on May 26 and May 27. "In terms of Notification No. 4188-F(P2) dated 27 November, 2025, 26 May, 2026 (Tuesday) and 27 May, 2026 (Wednesday) were declared as public holidays on account of the Day before Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid) and Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid) respectively. Now, information has been received that Id-Ud-Zoha (Bakrid) will be observed on 28 May, 2026 (Thursday).

CM Naidu launches sanjeevani
healthcare programme in Chittoor

Yadamarri (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said the government aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services to people through the Sanjeevani programme and develop Rayalaseema into a global horticulture hub.

The Chief Minister participated in the Sanjeevani programme at Kandriga village in Yadamarri mandal of Chittoor district along with District In-charge Minister Ram Prasad, MP Duggimalla Prasad Rao, Puthalapattu MLA Murali, District Collector Sumit Kumar and Tata Group CEO Girish Krishnamurthy.

He announced that the programme, launched as a pilot



project in Kuppam last year, has now been expanded to Chittoor district and will be implemented across Andhra Pradesh by August 15. Under the initiative, digital health records will be created for every citizen.

The Chief Minister said 42 types of medical tests would be conducted at the village level and AI-based medical advice, virtual consultations and doctor follow-up services would be provided. He also announced plans to introduce a Family

Doctor system for every family. The government is providing health insurance coverage of up to Rs. 2.5 lakh for every citizen, while assistance up to Rs. 25 lakh will be extended through NTR Vaidya Seva and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in special cases.

Chandrababu Naidu urged people to adopt healthy lifestyles through proper nutrition, exercise, yoga and meditation under the concept of "Food as Medicine, Kitchen as Pharmacy." Highlighting regional development plans, he said irrigation projects including Handri-Neva, Galeru-Nagari and the Somasila-Swarnamukhi Link Canal would be completed to make Rayalaseema green and prosperous. The Chief Minister added that the government is promoting industries, data centres, drone cities, aerospace hubs and food processing sectors in Rayalaseema and aims to develop the region into a world-class horticulture centre.

Telangana cabinet approves 2.5 lac indiramma houses

MAJOR WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS

HYDERABAD
TSIT BUREAU

The Telangana Cabinet on Friday approved several major welfare and development decisions, including construction of 2.5 lakh Indiramma Housing Scheme houses under the second phase for poor families across the state.

The government decided to sanction 2,000 houses in every Assembly constituency. It also approved financial assistance to complete unfinished Indiramma houses started during the previous Congress regime in united Andhra Pradesh. Houses with only foundations completed will receive Rs. 3 lakh assistance, while houses with completed walls but unfinished slabs will get Rs. 2 lakh.

The Cabinet announced that nearly one lakh houses from the first phase are expected to be ready for housewarming ceremonies by June 2. It also approved construction of one lakh LJG houses in 24 constituencies under the Hyderabad Metropolitan CURE region.

Chief Minister A. Revanth



Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka are expected to participate in the inauguration of 28 newly built houses for Kolam tribal families in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district on June 1. The Cabinet further approved Rs. 1,000 crore for development works related to the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu, including immediate release of Rs. 300 crore in the

first phase. In the education sector, the government approved implementation of midday meals in junior colleges and decided to provide breakfast and milk to students in government schools and colleges.

The Cabinet also cleared proposals for strengthening power distribution infrastructure under the Centre's RDSS scheme and sanctioned Rs. 587 crore for land acquisition and rehabilita-

tion related to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. In a major industrial push, the Cabinet approved the Next Generation Life Sciences Policy 2026-30 aiming to make Telangana one of the world's top five life sciences hubs by 2030. The policy targets investments worth 25 billion US dollars and creation of five lakh jobs in pharma, biotech and medical innovation sectors.

Rubio briefs PM Modi on 'sustained progress' in India-US cooperation across key sectors

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the "sustained progress" in bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) stated on Saturday. Rubio called on Prime Minister Modi soon after his arrival in New Delhi and also extended an invite on behalf of US President Donald Trump for PM Modi to visit the White House in the near future.

After the meeting, PM Modi said that both countries will continue to work closely for the global good.

"Happy to receive the US Secretary of State, Mr. Marco Rubio. We discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security. India and the United States will continue to work closely for the global good," PM Modi wrote on X.

The PMO stated the visiting US Secretary of State briefed PM Modi on the sustained progress in bilateral cooperation across a wide



range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education and people-to-people ties.

"Secretary Rubio shared US perspective on various regional and global issues, including the situation in West Asia. Prime Minister reaffirmed India's consistent support for peace efforts and reiterated the call for peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy," read a statement issued by the PMO following the meeting.

"Prime Minister requested Secretary Rubio to convey his warm greetings to President Trump and said that he looked forward to their continued exchanges," it added.

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

22-05-2026
Total pilgrims : 87589
Tonsure : 44,476
Hundi/Kanulu : 4,29 CR
Waiting Compartments : Outside
line at Silahoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravardhanam
(with out SSD Tonsure) : 15 - 10 H

IVANKA TRUMP TARGETED
BY TERRORIST TRAINED BY
IRGC: REPORT

Washington : Ivanka Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump, was allegedly targeted by a terrorist trained by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), determined to avenge the killing of General Qasem Soleimani, eliminated by the United States in a raid in Baghdad in January 2020. The New York Post reported that the 32-year-old Iraqi Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood Al-Saadi allegedly "swore" to kill Ivanka and managed to obtain a floor plan of her Florida residence. According to sources cited by the newspaper, Al-Saadi reportedly said that "killing Ivanka would mean burning Trump's house as he burned ours."

health centres across the state. The Chief Minister also reviewed the Sanjeevani DiNC stall, where officials explained how modern neurological diagnosis and treatment services are being delivered to rural and urban people through telemedicine, specialist consultations and digital health records.



Following the intervention, the patient showed steady neurological recovery with rehabilitation and physiotherapy support and was discharged in stable condition. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Annapureddy Jagadish said, "Basilar artery stenosis is among the most life-threatening forms of stroke disease because it affects the brainstem, which controls breathing, consciousness, balance, swallowing, speech, and other vital neurological functions. In patients with recurrent strokes despite medication, timely neuro-intervention can become lifesaving."

A photograph showing a long queue of motorcycles parked at a public charging station in India. A man in a blue uniform is attending to a red motorcycle in the foreground. The station has yellow and blue branding and displays the amount charged. In the background, there are colorful buildings and a river.

firms continued to maintain sufficient fuel inventories nationwide and were taking steps to address isolated disruptions and

ensure uninterrupted supplies. "Despite this sustained and exceptionally high growth in demand, IndianOil continues to consistently meet customer requirements across the country," it added. Earlier in the day, petrol and diesel prices were increased, marking the third revision in retail fuel rates in just 10 days. Petrol became costlier by Rs 0.87 per litre, while diesel prices were raised by Rs 0.91 per litre by state-owned oil marketing companies. The latest hike comes amid sustained pressure from rising global crude oil prices and ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which continue to impact international energy markets.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh through skill centres, customer support

points and digital education initiatives including the Kausal Rath Mobile IT Lab. Booklets related to Kausal Rath, UNICEF P2E and Kausal Vikas Yatra programmes were released during the conclave. Offer letters and student kits were also distributed to candidates to encourage participation in employment-linked skill programmes. Awards were presented to top-perform-

The conclave concluded with a call to strengthen AI-driven education, entrepreneurship and digital inclusion initiatives for the vision of Viksit Bharat.

from July 21 to August 20. The final electoral rolls will be published on September 22, the Collector informed. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidyadhari, DRO M. Visweswara Naidu, RDOs Sessa Sailaja and Sangeet Madhur, Deputy Collector Govind, Election DT Murthy, zonal special officers, zonal commissioners and other officials participated in the meeting.

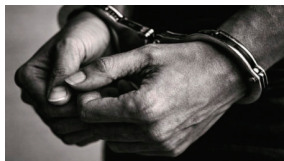
The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Bhimili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao called upon people to create awareness on maintaining clean surroundings and protecting the environment. He, along with MLC Konidela Nagababu, participated in the "Clean Sweep" sanitation drive organised at the Bhairavavaka temple premises near Simhachalam on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, Ganta Srinivasa Rao said students should be educated from the school level itself about the dangers of plastic usage. He opined that providing weightage marks for participation in cleanliness activities would help create greater awareness among youngsters. He urged the public to make the Clean Sweep programme a success.

Nagababu said thousands of devotees visit the



Rao and Nagababu joined sanitation workers in cleaning the temple surroundings with brooms as part of the drive. Zonal Commissioner Ayyappa Naidu, coalition leaders Chikkala Vijay Babu, Panchakarla Sandeep, Ghattamaneni Subhash Chandra Bose, Shakhari Srinivas, Panchadara Srinivas, Chettupalli Gopi, Gadu Chinni Kumari Lakshmi, Kasireddy Damodara Rao, Krishnayya, Lodagala Venkata Rao and others participated in the programme.

The incident of a 10-year-old girl being kidnapped, sexually assaulted and murdered near Sulur in Coimbatore district has shaken the entire state of Tamil Nadu, police said on Saturday. The police have arrested two accused in the incident within 24 hours. The girl, who lived with her parents in a village near Sulur,



had gone to a nearby shop on Thursday evening but did not return home. When the girl could not be found even after a long time, the worried parents searched the surrounding areas and filed a complaint at the Suler police station. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case and started an extensive investigation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Cyberabad Police Commissioner said the connected ambulance technology and real-time monitoring system would help improve emergency response and save lives during the crit-

ical Golden Hour. A. Lingaiah said the system enables hospital-level emergency care even during ambulance transport through real-time tele-monitoring and specialist guidance. He added that facilities such as Cath Labs, Operation Theatres, ICU beds and trauma teams can be prepared in advance before the patient reaches the hospital.

The initiative also includes a comprehensive ORR Trauma Corridor monitoring system aimed at improving rapid coordination and emergency trauma response across Hyderabad.

Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad, May 23:
Sridhar Peddiredy
Founder & CEO of Renova
Hospitals, has been con-
ferred with the prestigious
“Visionary Leadership in
Healthcare Excellence”
award at the Zee Telugu
News Healthcare
Excellence Awards 2026,
held at Radisson Blu Plaza
Hotel Hyderabad Banjara
Hills.

The award was presented by the Honorable Governor of Telangana, Shiv Pratap Shukla, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to transforming healthcare delivery and advancing patient-centric medical excellence across the region.



Sridhar Peddireddy, Renova Hospitals has grown into a rapidly expanding 12-unit, 2,000-bed healthcare network, delivering comprehensive multispecialty care across precision oncology,

advanced diagnostics, cardiac sciences, neurosciences, orthopaedics, nephrology, women & child care, and several other specialized health-care services.

A strong advocate for

infrastructure, his commitment to social impact is reflected through the Sri Dharani Foundation, which actively supports initiatives in rural education, environmental sustainability, and communi-

Widely respected for his visionary leadership, operational excellence, and patient-first philosophy, Sridhar Peddireddy continues to redefine regional healthcare delivery with a mission centered on accessibility, innovation, dignity, and hope. Speaking on the occasion, he stated at Renova, "we are not just building hospitals; we are building a geography where hope is accessible to everyone". With a continued focus on compassionate care, innovation, and community impact, Renova Hospitals remains committed to shaping the future of healthcare in India.

Minor girl brutally killed in Coimbatore; CM Vijay orders detailed probe, oppn slams govt

Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin and AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami among others sought justice in the matter.

COIMBATORE / CHENNAI: A 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore's Sular was brutally killed, leading to shock and outrage across the state with the government promising strict action on Saturday following opposition uproar.

Terming the incident as "horrific," Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay said two persons have been apprehended in connection with the incident and that the police were directed to conduct a detailed and expeditious probe into the killing.

Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin and AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami among others sought justice in the matter.

On his official 'X' handle, Vijay said, "I have directed the police to conduct a thorough and expeditious investigation into the incident and take all necessary actions to file the chargesheet immediately." He expressed his deepest condolences to the family of the victim. "The horrific incident that occurred yesterday



to a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore causes immense pain and shock." "Such inhuman and unforgivable criminal acts can never be tolerated in our society," the CM said. Stating that the government will firmly act to ensure that those who commit such heinous acts against women and children received severe punishment under the law, he said "all immediate and necessary actions for this will be taken".

Meanwhile, various political leaders, including DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin, condemned the incident.

"This heinous incident has sent shockwaves across the country. The voice demanding true justice for this murder is echoing from all quarters", Udhayanidhi wrote on his social media page.

Assuring the victim's family that the DMK stands by their side, he alleged "since the new government assumed office, in just 12 days, over 30 major incidents including sexual violence and ganja smuggling," had happened.

"Now the Coimbatore abduction and murder have made headlines, casting serious doubts on the state's law

and order", he said, adding, "on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I urge the Chief Minister to accord top priority to law and order to ensure no such incident ever happens again".

Palaniswami said "it is heartbreaking that this government, which is duty-bound to ensure the safety of women and children, has failed to prevent such heinous incidents".

"Even though two individuals have been arrested in connection with this incident after hours of protests, the inability to save the life of an innocent child points to the government's negligence", he said on 'X'. Palaniswami also demanded that the perpetrators be given the strictest punishment under the law, and that the government take immediate and firm actions to ensure the safety of women and children in order to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

AMMK leader TTV Dinakaran said that "those inhuman perpetrators must face stern action."

DMK MP Raja's 'bent coconut tree' remark targets allies joining TVK govt

CHENNAI: Nilgiris MP A Raja on Friday took a jibe at parties joining the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, minutes before ministers from the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) took oath in the new cabinet. State language criterion for SSC historic win: MP Su Venkatesan Posting on social media platform X minutes before the oath-taking ceremony of VCK leader Vanni Arasu and IUML representative Shahjahan as ministers in the TVK government, Raja wrote in Tamil: "If the coconut tree in my home garden bends and gives tender coconut water to another house, it is called 'mudhathengu' (bent tree) in Tamil. If the same happens in politics, what should it be called?" He



ended the post with the phrase, "Long Live Tamil." Raja's cryptic post is being widely viewed as a criticism aimed at the VCK and IUML, both of which were part of the DMK-led alliance during the 2026 Assembly elections, but later extended support to the TVK government and secured ministerial berths. This comes a day after VCK president Thirumavalavan confirmed that his party would be part of the TVK government through

ministerial representation. Following the announcement, heated exchanges erupted on social media between VCK cadres and DMK supporters, with both sides expressing contrasting views over the political move. The VCK, IUML, CPI and CPI(M), all constituents of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, had backed the formation of the TVK government at the last minute, citing the need to prevent Governor's Rule in the State. "We are extending support to TVK for two reasons. VCK should not be a factor hindering Vijay from becoming CM, and Tamil Nadu should not come under President's rule," Thirumavalavan had said then, adding it would continue in the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance.

**UGRO Capital Limited**

A-601, B-604, Rustomjee Central Park, Opposite to Kanakia Wall Street, Near WEH Metro Station, Andheri East Mumbai-400093.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BY PRIVATE TREATY

SALE NOTICE OF 15 DAYS FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS ("SECURED ASSETS") BY PRIVATE TREATY UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 AND 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Secured Creditor(s) that the below described Secured Assets mortgaged / charged to U GRO Capital Limited ("Secured Creditor"), the possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is what is" and "As is where is" and "Whatever there is" basis, by way of private treaty after 15 days from this notice, for recovery of **Rs. 43,30,721.42 (Rupees Forty-Three Lakh Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-One and Forty-Two Paise Only)** and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization of amount, due to Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantors namely **1. K R FIBRES (Borrower) 2. RAMADASS RAJASEKAR (Co-applicant) 3. RAJASEKAR SANTHI (Co-applicant).** The Reserve Price will be **Rs. 30,00,000/-** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 3,00,000/-**.

Description of Secured Assets(s):

All that part and parcel of immovable property bearing in Dindigul Registration District, Nagalichikematti sub Registration District, Dindigul Taluk, Balakrishnapuram Village, "Pasumai Nagar", Southern part of Plot No. 48 comprised in old S. No.s. 851/1, 851/2, 852/1, 852/3, under Patna No. 1055, New S. No.s 851/1A1A1, 852/1A1A & Under Patna No. 1183, S. No. 851/2A1A1A, 852/3A1A1 measuring East West 40 feet on both sides and North South 30 feet on the both sides in all measuring 1200 sq. ft, Bounded on South - 20 feet wide East West E Road., West - Plot No. 47., North- Northern part of the Plot No. 48 measuring 1200 sq. ft, East- 20 feet wide North South C Road.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in U GRO Capital Limited/Secured Creditor's website. I.e. www.ugrocapital.com or contact the undersigned at authorized.officer@ugrocapital.com Contact No. DINESH M: 9344271472.

Date : 24.05.2026, Place : Tamil Nadu Authorized Officer, UGRO Capital Limited

**Protium**

PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)

Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - II, Irinon Knowledge Park, Palahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Canna Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai-400063, Maharashtra.

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Protium Finance Limited (ERSTWHILE Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "Protium Finance Limited") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (SARFESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 6th Nov 2025 calling upon the Borrowers **VTM SUPER STORE THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR PRABHAKARAN V S/O VASIKARAN** and Co-borrowers 1. **PRABHAKARAN V S/O VASIKARAN** 2. **PRIYA RAGAVAN V/O PRABHAKARAN V** in respect of loan account bearing No. **G5036EEL2427760** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **INR. 78,48,562.21/- (Seventy-Eight Lakh Forty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Two Rupees and Twenty-One Paise Only)** as on 6th Nov 2025 with further interest, within 60 days of the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Public in General that the Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate, COIMBATORE in exercise of powers conferred on them under Sec 14 of the said Act, had issued an order dated 26.03.2026 in Case Number **Cz.M.P. No.1661 of 2026** appointed advocate commissioner **Ms/Mrs. R. Samaya Devi** to take possession of the Secured Assets at the location mentioned. The said order was executed on **22.05.2026**, and **Ms/Mrs. R. Samaya Devi**, took physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property, described herein below on **22.05.2026** and handed over Physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property to the Authorized Officer of Protium Finance Limited.

Further, Protium Finance Limited are in process of disposal of the said property through Public Auction for recovery of outstanding dues. Public in general are informed that no stay/ injunction order has been passed by any Court/Tribunal and have clear title and free from encumbrance. People who are interested in the said property can participate in auction as and when initiated by Protium Finance Limited by giving advertisement in newspaper.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any deal with the property will be subject to the charge of Protium Finance Limited, for an amount of **INR. 78,48,562.21/- (Seventy-Eight Lakh Forty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Two Rupees and Twenty-One Paise Only)** as on 6th Nov 2025 and further interest thereon, plus costs, charges, expenses incurred.

The Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY -

Item No. 1 Coimbatore South Registration District, Peelamedu Sub Registration District, Coimbatore South Taluk, Sowripalayam Village, S.F.No.231 Part, Uppilipalayam Main Road Within The Following Boundaries And Measurements: East Of - Property Belonging To Murugesan, West Of - House Belonging To Palanisamy, North Of - East West Uppilipalayam Main Road-Third Street, South Of - 'B' Schedule Property Belonging To Muthammal And Ravi In This Middle, East West On Both Sides - 27 Feet, North South On Both Sides - 32 Feet, Admeasuring An Extent Of 864 Sq.Ft Of Land With Rcc Building, Doors, Windows, Electricity Connection, Water Connection And Both Deposits, All The Fittings And Usual Rights To Roads And Common Path Ways Etc., Door No. 204 & 205 Uppilipalayam Main Road-Third Street, T.s.no. 169, Ward No. Ab Sowripalayam, Block No. 28 **Item No. 2** Coimbatore North Registration District, Thondamuthur Sub Registration District, Veerakeralam Village, S.F.No. 67/4, In Punjai Area 1.53 Extent Of Land In Which Eastern End Acre 1.00 Of Land Within The Following Boundaries And Measurements:- North Of - East West 20 Ft East West Pathway East Of - Property Belonging To Kamalam South Of - 15 Ft East West Pathway West Of - 13 Ft Width South North Pathway In This Middle, South North On Both Sides - 62 Ft, North South On The South Side - 44 Ft East West On The North Side - 36 Ft Admeasuring 2500 Sq.Ft Or 5 Cents 322 Sq.Ft Of Land With Rcc Building, Doors, Windows, Electricity Connection, Water Connection And Both Deposits, All The Fittings And Usual Rights To Roads And Common Pathways Etc., Door No. 6, Government Employee Colony. The Above Property is Comprised At Present Division S.F.no. 67/4b. The Above Property is Situated At Within The Limits Of Coimbatore Corporation.

Date of Possession: 22nd May 2026 Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited

Place of Possession: COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU, Authorized Officer



PRESIDENT OF VIDUTHALAI CHIRUTHAIGAL KATCHI AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CALLED ON HONBLE CHIEF MINISTER.

CONGRESS 'BETRAYAL,' TVK'S L&O 'FAILURES' TOP DMK YOUTH WING RESOLUTIONS

Chennai: The DMK functionaries raised slogans against former ally Congress, as the party's Youth Wing adopted nine resolutions at its meeting in Chennai on Saturday.

The meeting, convened under the leadership of the wing secretary and the Leader of the Opposition, Udhayanidhi Stalin, strongly criticised the Congress for snapping ties with the party after the Assembly election results and expressed support for the 36-member poll review committee constituted by the leadership.

The Congress changed alliances overnight. Its betrayal will continue even with its new ally

The meeting passed several resolutions appreciating the party leadership's role during the recently concluded Assembly election campaign, despite suffering a defeat. One of the resolutions welcomed



the functioning of the 36-member review panel formed to analyse the reasons behind the party's electoral setback and assured full cooperation for organisational restructuring initiatives to be undertaken by the leadership. The Youth Wing also launched a sharp attack on the Congress party, accus-

ing it of betraying the DMK by switching political sides immediately after the election results. Anaesthesia overdose costs nursing student's life in Tiruchy GH "The Congress changed alliances overnight. Its betrayal will continue even with its new ally. " one of the resolutions stated. The meeting also

adopted a resolution condemning the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government over the sexual abuse and murder of a young girl in Coimbatore and alleged deterioration in the State's law and order situation within days of the new government assuming office

FDA proposes ban on bulk compounding of semaglutide and tirzepatide

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Trusted Source it is considering removing glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) Trusted Source receptor agonists from the 503B bulks list Trusted Source, as there is no current clinical need for pharmacies to be able to compound these medications.

This could include drugs such as semaglutide (the active ingredient in Ozempic and Wegovy), tirzepatide- Trusted Source (the active ingredient in Zepbound and Mounjaro), and liraglutide- Trusted Source (the active ingredient in Victoza and Saxenda).

According to the FDA's announcement, the organization is asking for submitted comments for or against this decision by the end of June 2026 before making their final determination.

Medical News Today spoke with 4 obesity experts to find out more about what the FDA's 503B bulks list is, the potential future availability of compounded GLP-1 medications, and what alternatives may be available for users who may not be able to afford the brand name drugs.

According to Douglas Ewing, MD, FACS, DABOM, a board-certified bariatric surgeon and medical director of the Center for Weight Loss and Metabolic Health at Hackensack University Medical Center, and associate professor of surgery at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine in New Jersey, the FDA's 503B bulks list identifies bulk drug substances that outsourcing facilities can use to compound medications. "These outsourcing facilities, regulated under section 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, can produce larger batches of compounded drugs than traditional 503A compounding- Trusted Source pharmacies, which compound for individual patients with specific pre-

scriptions," Ewing explained to MNT.

"The critical difference between a drug on the 503B list and an FDA-approved medication is the level of scrutiny," he continued.

"FDA-approved drugs undergo a long and rigorous process of clinical trials to prove their safety, effectiveness, and quality before they can be marketed to the public." "Compounded drugs, even from 503B facilities, do not go through this same pre-market approval process. While 503B facilities are required to follow current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP), the compounded drugs themselves are not FDA-approved." If semaglutide and tirzepatide are removed from the 503B bulks list, the availability of compounded GLP-1s would drop significantly, Michael Snyder, MD, FACS, FASMBS, DABOM, medical director of the Bariatric Surgery Center at Rose Medical Center, founder and director of the Denver Center for Bariatric Surgery Foundation, and in-house obesity specialist at FuturHealth, told MNT.

"Most current compounded supply is produced through 503B outsourcing facilities, which would no longer be able to compound them in bulk," Snyder said.

"There may still be limited use under 503A compounding rules, where a medication is prepared for an individual patient based on a specific clinical indication, but that pathway is much more restricted and not designed for widespread use," Jen Manne-Goehler, MD, ScD, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, agreed. "There may be some forms of compounded GLP-1 drugs still available despite this decision," Manne-Goehler told MNT. "Specifically, the FDA's decision not to include these GLP-1s on the bulk compounding list would not be expected to affect their use by 503A pharmacies.

**IIFL FINANCE LIMITED**

IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate Thane West, 400604. Website : www.iifl.com

REGISTERED POST WITH A.D./SPEED POST WITH A.D. WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Ref No : - 01/2026/IIFL Date: 08.05.2026

To – Borrower/Co-borrower, Guarantors and Mortgagors:

1. M/s. Lion Tex (Borrower)
Proprietor Ship firm Having address at No. 76, 2nd Floor K G Layout NRK Puram Tiruppur 641607
Also at: 1-C, Thattan Thottam, 3rd Street, Palladam Road, Tiruppur, Tamilnadu 641604

2. Shanmugasundaram Velusamy (Borrower and Mortgagor)
Proprietor of M/s. Lion Tex Having address at No. 76, 2nd Floor K G Layout Nrk Puram Tiruppur 641607
Also at: No. 26/2, N.V.B. Garden, Tiruppur, Tamilnadu 641687
Also at: 442-1, 442-1B, 442-1C, Peruntholuvu, Thottipalayam, Near K N Knit Wear, Tirupur- 641665

3. Rathimala Selvakumarasamy (Co-Borrower)
Having address at No. 76, 2nd Floor K G Layout Nrk Puram, Tiruppur 641607
Also at: 2/365-C, Karuparampalayam Pirvu, Tiruppur, Tamilnadu 641004

Subject: Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Reference: Loan Agreement/Contract bearing No. LP597 dated 23.06.2025.

Sir / Madam,

With Reference to the aforementioned subject, I undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED** Previously Known As **INDIA INFOLINE FINANCE LIMITED** having its Corporate office at previously at 12A-10, 13th Floor, Parinee Crescenzo, C-38 and C-39, G Block, Behind MCA, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai- 400 051, and presently at 802, 8th Floor, Hub Town Solaris, N.S. Phadke Marg, Vijay Nagar, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400069 and registered Office address at IIFL FINANCE, IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23,Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane, Maharashtra, India, 400604, having its branch office at ARG Building Plot No.E-52, 2nd Flr, Laxmi Villas Chitraranjan Marg C-Scheme, Jaipur-302001 (hereinafter referred to as "IIFL"), appointed under the provision of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, do hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereafter the "said Act").

- That you availed Loan/financial assistance after executing a Loan Agreement/Contract Bearing Number **LP597** disbursed dated **23.06.2025** ("Loan Agreement") between you and IIFL. Pursuant to execution of the said loan agreement, IIFL disbursed on **27.06.2025** to you i.e., all the addresses herein above the financial assistance of **Rs.60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Only)** towards the captioned Loan against property/ Home Loan/ Business Loans - Secured/ Profession Loan Secured.
- That in terms of the aforesaid loan agreement and with an intention to create a security by way of equitable mortgage towards the discharge of your loan repayment liability, you have inter alia deposited the title deeds & other documents in respect of the immovable property more fully mentioned in the Schedule "A" to this notice.
- That in terms of the said loan agreement, all of you have jointly, severally and co-extensively undertaken to repay the loan amount by way of equated monthly installments (EMIS) with interest @ **16.50% p.a.** on monthly installments of **Rs.95,924/- (Rupees Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Four Only)** commencing from **25.07.2025** and payable initially for **144 months** for the LAN **LP597**. (EMI tenure and Amount is subject to change in case floating rate of Interest and Loan Moratorium Case.)
- After availing of loan facility, it is observed that in spite of several requests, reminders and demands and despite the recall of the Loan/finance facility, you have deliberately failed and/or neglected in timely payment of EMIs and failed to discharge your loan repayment obligation in the manner and within the time admittedly agreed under the aforesaid Loan Agreement/Contract/Sanction Letter. You thereby committed breach of the terms and conditions of the said Agreement/Contract/Sanction Letter. It is further observed that you have defaulted in repayment of loan amount due and payable to IIFL under the aforesaid loan agreement.
- This is to notify you that, as per the provision of Sec. 2(zd) of the SARFESI Act, IIFL being a Secured Creditor and the debt due and payable by you to IIFL is a **Secured Debt against the Schedule A mortgaged property**. Accordingly, the security interest stood created in favour of IIFL over the Schedule A property through mortgage by deposit of Title Deeds & other documents in respect of the said Schedule A mentioned immovable property. You herein being borrower/co-borrower, Guarantor and/or Mortgagor have committed defaults in payment of the secured debt including the monthly installments in respect thereof.
- That due to non-payment of monthly dues, which has remained outstanding for over a period of 91 days, your debt has been classified by IIFL as a **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** on **03.05.2026** in accordance with the directives, guidelines relating to assets classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time read with Section 2(o) of SARFESI Act.
- On account of defaults committed by you, you are jointly, severally and co-extensively liable to pay to IIFL, the total outstanding dues of **Rs. 66,44,383.86/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lacs Forty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Three and Paise Eighty Six Only)** due and payable as on **08.05.2026** thereon. You are also liable to pay further interest from **09.05.2026** till the date of actual payment, at the contractual rate as per the loan agreement. We state that the said outstanding amount is arrived at after giving credits to all the payments made by you in terms of the said agreement.
- Under the circumstances, we hereby call upon you to repay the aforesaid entire dues of **Rs. 66,44,383.86/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lacs Forty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Three and Paise Eighty Six Only)** as on **08.05.2026** detailed break up of which is more fully mentioned in "Schedule B" hereunder along with applicable interest cost and expenses thereon within **60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of this notice**, failing which, IIFL shall be constrained, without prejudice to any of its other rights and remedies including appropriate legal proceedings (Civil & Criminal) to be initiated before the appropriate courts and/or tribunal for recovery of the aforesaid outstanding amount, to take recourse to various measures prescribed under **Section 13(4)** of the SARFESI Act. Please take further notice that, you shall further be liable to pay to IIFL, all costs, charges and expenses incurred by IIFL in this connection.
- In the event if you all effect the repayment of dues together with interest, costs, charges and expenses before the date fixed for sale or transfer of Schedule A immovable property, IIFL shall not take any further steps for the sale/transfer of the Schedule A immovable property.
- You are therefore advised to comply with this statutory demand notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI Act, else the consequences to follow at your cost, risk and responsibility. Please also take note that as per section 13(13) of aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer/ assign/ surrender/ sale/ lease or dispose of (other than in the ordinary course of your business) any of your secured properties/assets without prior written consent of IIFL and violation or contravention of this shall attract punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both in terms of Sec. 29 of the SARFESI Act.

Further Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets, the extract of which is as furnished hereunder: (8) where the amount of dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by him is tendered to the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets :-

- the secured assets shall not be transferred by way of lease assignment or sale by the secured creditor; and
- In case any step has been taken by the secured creditor for transfer by way of lease or assignment or sale of the assets before tendering of such amount under this section, no further step shall be taken by such secured creditor for transfer by way of lease or assignment or sale of such secured assets.]

This notice is without prejudice to all other rights and remedies available to the IIFL in respect of the aforesaid outstanding amount due from you.

For IIFL Finance Limited

Authorized Officer

Name : **Ms. Smita Santosh Shinde**

Encl: Schedule-A-And Schedule B

SCHEDULE "A"
Schedule of property:

Sr. No.	Description of Property
1.	Old SF 442/1 New Sub division No Sf 442/1A Peruthozhuvu Village,Tiruppur Taluka,Thottipalayam SRO,Tiruppur-641665 East by 1.50 acres in this eastern side one portion 0.21 acres of lands retained by the vendor West by Property purchased by Tamilaras, North by East West Vehicle pathway, South by Canal

SCHEDULE "B" (Particulars of Demand)

Outstanding amount due under Secured Business Loan No. LP597 as on 08.05.2026

Sr. No.	Particulars	Amount (in Rs.)
1.	Principal Outstanding	58,72,321.47/-
2.	Overdue Principal	58,687.17/-
3.	Overdue Interest	3,25,008.83/-
4.	Penal Charges **	12,288.00/-
5.	Broken Period Interest	16,148.88/-
6.	Prepay Charges	2,96,550.43/-
7.	NESL Charge	0.00/-
8.	GST (6+7)*	53,379.08/-
9.	Cheque Default Charges	10,000.00/-
10.	Excess Lying	0.00/-
11.	TDS Due Charges	NA
12.	Advance EMI Amount	0.00
	Total Amount Payable	66,44,383.86/-
13.	Per Day Interest	2,691.48/-
14.	Per Day Penal Interest subject to change as per Government Guidelines	252.29/-

** Inclusive of GST as applicable

Future Interest and Other Charges Accrued payable as per the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement

For IIFL Finance Limited

Authorized Officer

Name : **Ms. Smita Santosh Shinde**

EDITORIAL

US-India Relations: Can Marco Rubio Fix It?

In the two-tiered Washington that is the second administration of US President Donald Trump, the top tier makes non-stop trouble, and the second tries to fix it. Marco Rubio, secretary of state and national security advisor, has arrived in India on his first visit as "Mr Fix It." He will attempt to calm Indian nerves and restore a sense that India (still) matters for a myriad geopolitical reasons even if it hasn't felt that way for one long year. On the side, he will talk business. Selling more US and Venezuelan oil for an India caught in a serious energy crisis caused by Trump's war against Iran is on his agenda.

The job of select cabinet members is to recreate old friendly feelings, re-package the past and re-sell a future in Trumpian terms. They recognize the need for allies and partners even if their leader doesn't seem to - only fellow bullies and field marshals get serious presidential attention.

It is in this spirit of repair and maintenance that Rubio's May 23-26 visit should be seen that takes him to Kolkata, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi. He will find that Indian diplomats have shed sentimentality in the year of living dangerously with Trump. The soft frame has changed - it's all hardcore. No lofty messaging, no unrealistic promises and no fuzzy expectations from Delhi. Can Rubio soften the edges and restore greater confidence?

The secretary did quite a job of reassuring the Europeans after Vice President J.D. Vance had berated them at the same venue a year earlier for suppression of free speech and untamed immigration. Rubio may have charmed Europe and celebrated colonialism, empires and missionaries but he raised eyebrows in more than half the world that was colonised. His efforts in India will, no doubt, be more refined because he can be skillful with words. Because Rubio wears two important hats and spends more time in the White House than any other cabinet member as a result, the conversations in Delhi will be real and substantive. Topics include defence cooperation, trade, the Iran war, the energy crisis, Pakistan, China, and the Quad even if Trump shows no interest in the grouping.

Rubio will attend a Quad foreign ministers' meeting with his counterparts - S. Jaishankar, Penny Wong of Australia and Toshimitsu Motegi of Japan - on his last day. To show the group is important, he is sure to recall the fact that his first official engagement after being sworn in as secretary of state was to convene Quad ministers who happened to be in DC for Trump's inauguration. That said, the failure of Quad to convene at the leaders' level does raise questions, especially in light of Trump's overly accommodative stance towards China. The main strategic purpose behind Quad's revival during the first Trump administration was to build a defensive fence of democracies around China and create options for smaller Asian countries. That purpose - never explicitly stated but consistently implied - has been obscured somewhat by the recent US-China summit where Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the start of a "constructive relationship of strategic stability."

The growing market takeover of public health

The challenge of providing health services to rural and poor India



PRIYANKA SAURABH

In a vast and diverse country like India, public health is not just a question of medical care, but also a matter of social justice, economic equality, and democratic accountability. A nation's progress is measured by the health status of its citizens. If large segments of society are deprived of treatment, medicines, nutrition, and primary health care, claims of economic development prove hollow. Unfortunately, over the past few decades, the health sector has been rapidly commercialized in many countries around the world, including India. Healthcare, which should have been fundamentally a human right, has gradually transformed into a profit-making industry. Private hospitals, expensive medicines, insurance-based treatments, and corporate medical systems have alienated ordinary citizens, especially the poor and rural communities, from healthcare. At this juncture, the role of the Indian state becomes crucial to strengthen the public health system and ensure its access to the grassroots.

The biggest problem in India's healthcare sector is inequality. While metropolitan cities have state-of-the-art hospitals and super-specialty facilities, even primary health centers in remote rural areas lack adequate doctors, medicines, and equipment. According to the World Health Organization, the availability and accessibility of healthcare is a primary responsibility of any democratic state. However, in India, millions of people are unable to access treatment solely due to financial constraints. The cost of private hospitals is so



high that a serious illness can push an entire family into poverty. National Health Accounts reports indicate that out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare in India remains very high. This means that people have to pay a significant portion of their treatment costs out of their own pockets. This is the most dangerous consequence of marketization. To expand public health services, the state must first strengthen the primary health care system. Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs) are considered the backbone of the health system in India's villages and small towns. However, most centers face problems such as a shortage of doctors, lack of medicines, poor buildings, and inadequate equipment. The government should substantially increase the health budget and equip these institutions with modern facilities. Every primary health center should be mandated to have a regular doctor, trained nurses, lab facilities, and essential medicines. If primary health care becomes easier to diagnose and treat, it will reduce pressure on large hospitals and prevent poor people from migrating to cities. Additionally, decentralization of

health services is essential. Relying solely on district hospitals poses significant challenges for people in remote areas. State governments should expand health services down to the Panchayat level. Strengthening ASHA workers, Anganwadi services, and community health volunteers can promote health awareness and primary care in rural areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the crucial role of locally trained health workers. If these workers are provided with better training, respectable salaries, and resources, they can play a significant role in delivering health services to every household. The use of technology in the health sector can also be an effective means of increasing access at the grassroots level. Systems like telemedicine, mobile health units, and digital health records can help provide specialized services in remote areas. India has many villages where specialist doctors are difficult to reach. Online consultations and digital diagnostic services can play a vital role in such areas. However, technology must be developed as a complementary medium, not a substitute for human contact. Digital health services require the presence

of local health workers so that even people with low literacy can benefit from these services. Affordable and universal drug availability is also an essential aspect of public health expansion. Drug prices in the private market are constantly rising. The state should expand Jan Aushadhi Kendras and effectively implement the price-control policy for essential medicines. Availability of free or very affordable medicines for the poor and lower middle class can play a significant role in reducing health inequalities. Essential diagnostic facilities and medicines should also be made available free of charge in government hospitals so that people do not have to rely on private laboratories and medical stores. Lack of human resources is also a major challenge for expanding healthcare services in India. Rural areas face a severe shortage of doctors and specialists, as most physicians prefer to work in urban areas. To address this problem, the government should develop policies that encourage rural service. Making rural service mandatory for medical students, providing better salaries, housing, and security facilities, and providing opportunities for local

youth in medical education could be useful steps. Training doctors and health workers from the local community in rural areas would enhance both the sustainability and reliability of healthcare services. Preventive health care must also be prioritized in the public health sector. India's health system still focuses heavily on post-disease treatment, while investment in areas such as sanitation, nutrition, vaccination, and health education remains relatively low. If states strengthen programs such as clean drinking water, nutrition programs, mental health awareness, and regular health checkups, many diseases can be prevented at an early stage. This will not only improve public health but also reduce the financial burden on the health system. The state must also play an active role in regulating the private health sector. Exorbitant fees, unnecessary testing, and commercial exploitation by private hospitals have become commonplace. Patients' helplessness is often exploited as a means to profit. The government must develop a robust regulatory framework that monitors treatment fees, drug prices, and medical ethics. Leaving healthcare solely to the market would be an abdication of the democratic state's responsibility. It is also important to increase the effectiveness of health insurance schemes. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat have provided relief to poor families, but a large number of people remain outside their reach. Insurance schemes often limit hospital-based treatment to primary health services, and primary health services are underserved. The state must ensure that health insurance schemes cover not only treatment but also prevention, nutrition, and primary care. Additionally, public-private partnerships in the health sector must be balanced and transparent. While leveraging private sector expertise and resources can be beneficial, public interest must remain paramount. If profit-making becomes the primary objective, the poor and vulnerable will once again be marginalized.

New Study Links Daily Almond Consumption to Better Brain and Metabolic Health in Adults with Prediabetes

Research by Dr. Anoop Misra and Dr. Seema Gulati, published in the Journal of Nutrition, found improvements in executive function, blood sugar levels, and body composition after 24 weeks of daily almond consumption. New research published in the Journal of Nutrition indicates that a simple dietary change - eating just a few almonds each day - may benefit cognitive performance, metabolic health, and markers for inflammation and oxidative stress in middle-aged Asian Indian adults with prediabetes. Prediabetes affects more than 600 million people worldwide and is linked not only to an increased risk of type 2 diabetes but also to impaired brain function. In the 24-week study conducted in New Delhi, 60 Asian Indian adults aged 40 to 60 with prediabetes but no signs of cognitive decline were randomly assigned to either a control or intervention group after receiving guidance on following a balanced diet consistent with dietary guidelines for Asian Indians. While the control group continued with the same diet, the intervention group consumed a calorie-matched diet that included almonds, with almonds accounting for 20% of daily calories, equivalent to around 32-42g per day. Participants were monitored remotely twice a week and attended in-person visits every four weeks. Researchers assessed cognitive performance, blood glucose levels, HbA1c, blood



lipids, weight, BMI and waist circumference at the beginning and end of the study. At the end of the study, participants in the almond group experienced improvements in executive function and processing speed, both key measures of cognitive performance. The group also demonstrated better blood sugar control, including lower fasting blood glucose, lower blood glucose levels two hours after eating, and improvements in HbA1c, a marker of long-term blood sugar control. Additional metabolic benefits included significant reductions in body weight, body fat, BMI, waist circumference, total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol.

Participants consuming almonds also showed improvements in markers related to inflammation and oxidative stress. Previous studies by the same researchers found almonds helped improve blood glucose control and body composition in Asian Indians with prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. This study was the first to explore the potential impact of almonds on cognitive performance in middle-aged Asian Indian adults with prediabetes, a population particularly vulnerable to both metabolic disease and cognitive decline. Dr. Anoop Misra, co-investigator and Chairman, Fortis-CDOC Center of

Excellence for Diabetes, Metabolic Diseases, and Endocrinology in New Delhi, believes the findings from this exploratory study have the potential to support better brain health in millions of people around the world. "Adults with prediabetes are vulnerable to a decline in cognitive function," he says. "Our study indicates that just one simple dietary change - adding a small quantity of almonds to the daily diet - may help support brain health and improve cognitive performance in some populations." But almonds offer other health benefits as well. "As with our previous research, we found that diets enriched with almonds benefit metabolic health measures like blood sugar control and body weight," confirms Dr. Misra. "Together, these changes could help lower the risk of prediabetes progressing to type 2 diabetes, a condition associated with an increased risk of dementia." Discussing the findings, Ritika Samaddar said, "With the growing issue of prediabetes and lifestyle-related health concerns, it is encouraging to see research highlighting how a simple dietary addition like almonds may support both metabolic and cognitive health. The findings showing improvements in cognitive function, blood sugar control, body weight, and cholesterol levels reinforce the role of almonds as a superfood.

Rubio Is In India, But Trump's America Just Launched Its Sharpest Attack On Indian Immigrants

As US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives in India for the Quad meeting and strategic consultations, the Trump administration is preparing one of the sharpest reversals of long-standing American immigration policy in decades. At the centre of this shift is a new USCIS approach that seeks to restrict adjustment of status inside the United States and push many legal immigrants to complete green card processing from abroad. This is not merely an administrative change. It overturns the logic Congress itself built into the American immigration system. For decades, US law allowed legally admitted migrants to transition from temporary visas to permanent residency while remaining inside the country. Congress deliberately created categories such as the H-1B visa around the idea of "dual intent", where skilled workers could arrive temporarily while eventually seeking permanent settlement. That framework helped build modern American technological dominance. Indian engineers, doctors, researchers, entrepreneurs and students became central to the US economy under exactly this system. Silicon Valley, American hospitals, research universities and technology firms absorbed Indian talent at every level. Now, that same pipeline is being politically targeted. The implications for Indians are enormous because Indians dominate many high-skilled visa categories and already face massive green card backlogs unique to their nationality. Thousands of



Indian professionals who spent years following American laws, paying taxes and building lives in the US may now face the prospect of leaving the country during processing with no certainty of return timelines. Families could be split across continents. Careers built over decades could collapse overnight. Children raised in the United States may suddenly face instability because their parents entered a system whose rules are now being rewritten midway. This marks a major transformation in American politics. The Trump movement no longer limits immigration politics to illegal border crossings. Legal immigration itself is increasingly becoming the target. Student visas, employment-based migration, family sponsorship and status adjustment are now all drawn into the same political battle. Indians sit directly in the firing line because they represent one of the most visible

and successful immigrant communities in America's high-skilled sectors. The racial undertones have become increasingly difficult to ignore. Across sections of the MAGA ecosystem, Indian professionals are routinely portrayed as people "taking over tech", replacing American workers or changing the cultural balance of the country. Social media platforms are flooded with openly hostile narratives directed specifically at Indian migrants and Indian-Americans. The striking aspect is that many of these migrants represent exactly the profile American conservatives once claimed to support: educated, economically productive, low-crime and legally compliant. The hostility has, therefore, moved beyond questions of legality. It increasingly reflects demographic anxiety and identity politics. Bots, outrage algorithms and coordinated information war-

fare networks amplify this sentiment daily. Immigration outrage generates clicks, political engagement and emotional mobilisation. Complex immigration law gets reduced into viral slogans designed to trigger resentment. The result is a digital ecosystem where hostility towards Indian professionals has become politically useful. The political calculation behind this shift is straightforward. Trump and his allies see immigration as the most emotionally powerful issue available before the midterms. Expanding the target from illegal immigration to legal immigration broadens the culture war and creates a permanent atmosphere of grievance and anger. The strategy also helps redirect public frustration over inflation, economic uncertainty and governance failures toward immigrants and administrative "loopholes."

Rubio meets Modi during India visit with energy high on agenda

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has held talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi as part of a four-day visit to the country. Rubio arrived in the eastern city of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) on Saturday morning before travelling to the capital. He is also due to visit Jaipur and Agra. He extended an invitation to visit the White House to Modi during their meeting. US officials said. The Indian premier, meanwhile, said the pair had discussed "issues related to regional and global peace and security". The visit comes as the two nations seek to reshape their economic relationship, and amid a global energy crisis triggered by the Iran war that has become a flashpoint since Israel and the US attacked Iran - have virtually ground to a halt. Iran has used the effective closure of the strait, through which around 20% of the world's oil and natural gas flows, as a pressure tactic in the fragile peace negotiations with the US. India, which imports more than 80% of its energy needs, has



suffered as a result. Nearly half of India's crude oil imports usually pass through the strait. Rubio discussed the situation in the Middle East with Modi, his spokesman said following their meeting. "[He] emphasised that the United States will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage and affirmed that US energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply," the US official added. Rubio had indicated ahead of the meeting that the US was keen to sell India "as much energy as they'll buy". There will be appetite in Delhi to

boost its energy imports from the US as it will also help bridge the trade deficit that has been in India's favour - something that has constantly irked US President Donald Trump. The US goods trade deficit with India was \$58.2bn (£43.3bn) in 2025, a 27.1% increase on 2024. But it's not a straightforward solution. It's a much longer and expensive route for India to get energy shipments from the US. And analysts say it is not logical for India to fill the current shortfall in its imports from the US. "Energy security is going to be the key theme of this visit because the Iran sit-

uation is not going to be resolved anytime soon," Vineet Prakash, associate professor of US studies at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, said. "The US has already given a waiver to India on buying Russian oil, but Delhi is likely to push for more concessions." Rubio's visit also comes under the shadow of prolonged tensions between Delhi and Washington over trade negotiations and conflicting claims on who settled the brief India-Pakistan conflict last year. While Trump has repeatedly claimed that he brokered peace between the

neighbours, Delhi has consistently denied this with its stated policy of not welcoming a third party to mediate between the nuclear-armed nations in South Asia. What also appears to have displeased Delhi is Trump's open affection for Pakistani army chief Asim Munir, whom the US president has called his "favourite field marshal". Pakistan's peace mediation efforts between Iran and the US appear to have brought Islamabad and Washington even closer. Prakash added that this wasn't surprising, as Pakistan shares a long border with Iran and is strategically important for the US to keep the country close. But Rubio is not likely to make statements around Pakistan on this trip. "Any talks around Pakistan are likely to stay behind closed doors when Rubio meets leaders in Delhi," Prakash added. Meanwhile, the last few months have also seen Washington and Delhi offering an olive branch to each other. Trump's decision to lower reciprocal tariffs on India earlier this year from 50% to 18% after a 10-month impasse was met with a huge sense of relief in Delhi.

SpaceX launches massive Starship V3 rocket on test flight



Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched the largest and most powerful rocket in history after its highly anticipated test flight was delayed. The uncrewed Starship V3 rocket blasted off from Texas just after 17:30 (22:30 GMT) on Friday, days after SpaceX revealed plans for a record-breaking stock market debut. Once in space, Starship deployed 20 dummy satellites before making re-entry and about an hour after launch it splashed down in the Indian Ocean, where it exploded as planned. "Congratulations @SpaceX team on an epic first Starship V3 launch & landing!" Musk wrote

on X. "You scored a goal for humanity." The first attempted launch on Thursday was postponed due to a launch-tower malfunction. The SpaceX team celebrated after the launch, and while the mission achieved most of its major objectives, it did not go exactly to plan. Both stages of the rocket suffered engine failures but the test flight was largely successful - a result that will likely boost confidence both for investors and for Nasa, which intends to use the Starship vehicle in future missions to the moon. Nasa Administrator Jared Isaacman congratulated Musk and the SpaceX team. "One step closer to the Moon... one

step closer to Mars," he posted on X. It was the 12th flight of a SpaceX rocket, and featured the latest design which stands 124m (407ft) high - more than 40 storeys. The debut of the Starship V3 comes ahead of SpaceX's initial public offering (IPO), which is set to be the largest in Wall Street history. It could start next month. Because of the shares Musk will own in SpaceX, which values itself at \$1.25tn, the listing could make him the first-ever trillionaire. SpaceX not only makes rockets, but has a satellite internet service called Starlink, and owns the controversial artificial intelligence (AI) firm xAI.

BIG TECH BETS ON NEW MASCOTS IN BID TO SEEM MORE CUDDLY

Some of the world's biggest and most powerful brands are attempting to be more cute and cuddly. Tech giants Microsoft and Apple are among a wave of businesses who have recently introduced new cartoon character mascots, a tactic experts say is often used to make a brand seem more human and friendly, and to build a stronger connection with customers. Apple's character, a blue and white figure with an outsized head, has become unofficially known as Little Finder Guy. Introduced in March in social media videos to promote a new laptop, it has gained some positive coverage. Microsoft, which years ago shelved its widely-disliked Clippy paper-clip virtual assistant, has also unveiled a new cartoon character for its AI assistant Copilot. The company says the avatar, called Mico and resembling a blob with a smiley face, is "not a mascot, but an optional visual identity for Copilot". It adds that Mico is "expressive, customizable and warm", and "makes voice conversations [with the AI] feel more natural". There are plenty of good reasons for firms to



adopt a cute character to embody their brand. Businesses whose marketing campaigns include mascots are 37% more likely to grow their market share than those which don't, according to research published back in 2019. "They give a voice, a personality, a face even, to a company that is cold and impersonal to many people," says Anthony Patterson, professor of marketing at Lancaster University Management School. Some firms, tech businesses among them, are finding new ways to make use of existing characters. This includes the little green robot

that Google uses as the mascot for its Android mobile operating system. Last September, Google launched an app that allows users to create personalised versions of the robot. You can upload a selfie and the mascot will start wearing your clothes and copying your hairstyle. Google said it is about people being able to give the robot "different vibes". Among others, online forum Reddit updated its alien character Snoo in 2023 to be more animated and emotive. And in March of this year, Mozilla, operator of the Firefox web browser, turned its Firefox logo into a fully-fledged mas-

cot called Kit. John Solomon, chief marketing officer at Mozilla, says: "If you think about our competition - look at a Chrome logo, look at a Safari logo, look at an Edge logo - they're very stark, somewhat similar, somewhat cold. As a challenger brand, we want to distinguish ourselves from them." Yet, while sweet characters may win over some customers, not everyone is happy. Nathalie Nahai, who writes books and lectures on the interplay of psychology, technology and business, says the resurgence of mascots coincides with growing mistrust in some big tech firms. "People are reaching a crisis point when it comes to our relationship with consumer-oriented technologies," she says. "So many companies are getting a massively bad rap for being these techno overlords. What better way to cut through than to create a cute and cuddly, anthropomorphic mascot?" Both Nahai and Patterson are concerned about the impact of combining AI and mascots, enabling them to interact with people in new, highly personalised ways.

Star Air relaunches six weekly flights connecting Hyderabad, Jharsuguda, Bhubaneswar

Bengaluru: Star Air, the aviation arm of the Sanjay Ghodawat Group, on Thursday, May 21, announced the relaunch of its direct flight service connecting Hyderabad, Jharsuguda, and Bhubaneswar with six weekly operations. The move is aimed at further strengthening the airline's expanding regional network and enhancing vital air connectivity between key economic and cultural centres in South and East India. The renewed service connects Hyderabad, India's technology and commercial hub, with Jharsuguda, a prominent industrial centre in Odisha, and Bhubaneswar, the state capital known for its rapid growth in business, infrastructure, and tourism, the company said in a release. The corridor is expected to significantly benefit business travellers, industrial stakeholders, tourists, and residents by improving accessibility, supporting regional trade, and reducing travel time between these high-growth destinations, it said. Captain



Simran Singh Tiwana, CEO of Star Air, said, "This route is more than just a flight connection; it is a strategic link for commerce and opportunity between South and East India." "By restoring direct access between Hyderabad, Jharsuguda, and Bhubaneswar, we are enabling faster business connectivity, attracting new investment, and supporting the vibrant industries and communities that drive these regions forward," he added. A participant in the Government of India's

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) initiative, Star Air has completed seven years of uninterrupted operations and carried nearly three million passengers, while maintaining a robust schedule of 455 weekly flights. The airline said this will increase to 550 weekly flights during the summer schedule. The airline continues to expand beyond UDAN routes by introducing new commercial city pairs while remaining committed to its mission of "Connecting Real India" through improved connec-

tivity for underserved Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, it said. Star Air's Embraer E175 fleet features a comfortable two-class configuration with business and economy seating. The airline said passengers are also served hot meal and beverages onboard, setting a new benchmark for comfort, efficiency, and service quality in regional aviation, it added. The move is aimed at further strengthening the airline's expanding regional network and enhancing vital air connectivity.

GRAND LAUNCH OF HONDA CITY MMC.

Honda Cars proudly launched the much-awaited New Honda City MMC at its dealership Green Honda amidst great enthusiasm and celebration. The latest edition of Honda's iconic sedan combines sophisticated styling, advanced technology, enhanced comfort, and superior performance, with prices starting at Rs. 11,99,900 (ex-showroom)**. The New Honda City MMC features a host of premium upgrades, including the Blade-Eye Signature LED Lighting System, Signature Bi-LED Projector Headlamps with Integrated Split LED DRLs and Turn Signals, Signature Matrix-Mesh Black Painted Front Upper Grille, and R16 Steel Wheels with Silver Trim Covers. The vehicle also boasts a refreshed exterior design, premium interiors, advanced infotainment features, enhanced safety systems, and superior driving dynamics, reaffirming Honda's commitment to innovation and customer



satisfaction. Speaking on the occasion, representatives from Green Honda highlighted that the new model has been designed to meet the evolving aspirations of modern car buyers by offering a perfect blend of style, comfort, technology, and reliability. The grand launch ceremony witnessed the presence of several distinguished

guests and dignitaries, The unveiling of the car was done by Mr. N.S. Mohan Raj, Addl SP and DSP, CID. Customers and automobile enthusiasts who attended the event were given an exclusive opportunity to experience the vehicle firsthand through detailed product presentations and interactive sessions with the Honda team.

MORRISONS PLANNING TO CLOSE 100 STORES IN NEXT FEW MONTHS



Morrisons is planning to close 100 stores over the coming months, as it blamed government policy choices for rising costs. The supermarket chain said the affected convenience stores had been loss-making for some time and were acquired through its McColls acquisition in 2022. It said the difficulties had been exacerbated in more recent years by "significant cost increases resulting from government policy choices", including increases to the national living wage and National Insurance. The planned closures come after Morrisons said last year it was closing 52 cafes and 17 convenience

stores, putting hundreds of jobs at risk. It also comes after it revealed last month that about 200 jobs were at risk at its Bradford headquarters. The supermarket chain said its proposal to take the "tough but necessary decision" to close more Morrisons Daily stores meant more staff would be at risk of redundancy and a consultation would start shortly. While Morrisons has not confirmed how many staff are at risk of redundancy, it is understood that hundreds of jobs will be affected. A Morrisons spokesperson said the business would try to find other opportunities for the staff affected by the closures.

Hyderabad to soon get Tesla showroom: IT Minister Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad: Tesla India representatives on Friday, May 22, expressed interest in establishing a sales and service centre in Hyderabad during a meeting with Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. The minister expressed happiness that Hyderabad

was selected as the next destination for Tesla's expansion in India, stating that Telangana's technology ecosystem aligns strongly with Tesla's long-term innovation goals. Inviting Tesla representatives to explore expanding ancillary industries in Telangana, Sridhar Babu

said that electric vehicles currently account for only around 4 percent of India's automobile market, indicating massive growth potential in the sector. He also assured full government support to the company for investments in technology and industrial sectors.

AT LEAST 90 KILLED IN CHINESE COAL MINE EXPLOSION, STATE MEDIA REPORTS

At least 90 people have been killed in a coal mine blast in northern China, according to state media. The gas explosion at the Liushenyu Coal Mine in Shanxi province is the worst mining disaster in China since 2009. There were 247 workers reportedly on duty when the blast happened at 19:29 local time on Friday (22:29 GMT), with more than 100 people reportedly pulled to safety and hundreds of rescuers sent to the site. Chinese President Xi Jinping called for no effort to be spared in efforts to treat the injured and search for survivors, and asked the government to investigate the cause of the blast and hold those responsible to account. Twenty-seven people remain in a local hospital, with one in critical condition, while the rest have minor injuries. Most were affected after inhaling poisonous gas, according to state media, though it is not clear what type of gas it was.



Wang Yong, an injured miner, told state media that when the incident happened, he did not hear a sound but saw a sudden plume of smoke. "I smelled sulphur, the same smell you get from blasting. I shouted at people to run. As we were

running I could see people collapsing from the fumes. Then I blacked out too," he said. "I lay there for about an hour or so before I came round on my own. I woke up the person next to me and we got out together." Some of the management team at the

mine have reportedly been detained. The cause of the gas explosion has not yet been revealed, but state media reported that the levels of carbon monoxide - a highly toxic, odourless gas - in the mine were found to have "exceeded limits".

China's Ministry of Emergency Management has sent 345 personnel from six rescue teams to help with the operation. State media said the rescue operation had encountered difficulties as water has built up near the explosion site, pre-

venting access to certain areas, while blueprints provided by the mine did not match the actual conditions. In 2024, the Liushenyu mine was listed as one of the "severe safety hazards" by the Chinese National Mine Safety Administration. Tongzhou Group, which runs the mine, has reportedly received two administrative penalties in 2025 for safety issues. Shanxi province produces more than a quarter of China's total coal output. This disaster is a reminder of the darkest days of China's coal mining industry. In the early 2000s, deadly accidents were common in coal mines across the country. Safety standards have been tightened in recent years, and there has also been a crack-down on illegal coal mines, especially in Shanxi. But accidents still happen. In 2023, a collapse at an open-pit coal mine in the northern Inner Mongolia region killed 53 people.

FRENCH PAIR HELD UNTIL TRIAL AFTER BOYS ABANDONED BY ROAD IN PORTUGAL

A French woman and her partner will remain in custody after allegedly abandoning her two young boys on a roadside in the south of Portugal, a court has ruled. The boys were found on Tuesday evening crying beside a road near Alcacer do Sal, about 100km (60 miles) south of Lisbon. The woman and her partner, identified by authorities as Marine R and Marc B, were arrested in Fatima on Thursday. As they were being led into court on Saturday morning, the man shouted "I love you" in French and the boys' mother sang. A judge subsequently ordered the pair be placed in pre-trial detention, French and Portuguese media report. They are accused of aggravated assault, endangerment and abandonment of the boys. In Portugal, suspects must be brought before a judge within 48 hours of their arrest to decide whether they remain in custody or are released ahead of their trial. The couple have



already been questioned by investigators for several hours. Meanwhile, the children, who are aged four and five, are with a French foster family in Lisbon and are expected to return to France. Authorities told the Setubal courthouse that the two boys had been living with their 41-year-old mother in the eastern French city of Colmar, while their father had limited and supervised visitation rights, local media report. On 11 May, the father reported them missing, prompting authorities to begin searching for the mother and children, and a European arrest warrant being issued.

UK officials suggested single market for goods with Europe



UK officials suggested establishing a single market for goods trade with the EU as part of the next phase of its Brexit reset, the BBC understands. Industry figures briefed on the move said the idea has not been taken forward at this point, after EU scepticism, as attention focuses on the details of existing negotiations over food, farm and energy trade. The move does show significant extra ambition for a closer post-Brexit economic relationship, ahead of a summit in the coming weeks. For weeks Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer have been publicly calling for a much closer economic relationship with the EU in the next phase of post-Brexit talks. There has been little public detail of what that has meant beyond existing talks on single market treatment for the trade in food, farm products, electricity and emissions trading. It has now emerged that UK officials suggested that the agenda for the next summit could be much more ambitious, with one option covering frictionless trade within a UK-EU single market for all goods. A European Commission

spokesperson declined to comment on the UK's proposal to the Guardian, which first reported the story, but said they "see scope to deepen" industrial defence cooperation, citing the UK's desire for talks on a Ukraine loan. The government did not confirm the specifics of any conversations, but acknowledged that a range of options were put to the EU in recent months and conversations are ongoing. British business groups have been briefed on the move and the EU's pushback that such an ambitious ask would not be negotiable with the government's existing red lines on, for example, freedom of movement. Some ministers believe that significant recent changes in the US posture to Europe might lead to more flexible thinking in continental capitals about the opportunities of economic reintegration between the UK and EU. A summit is expected in July. In the recent King's Speech, the government announced a European Partnership Bill which will provide a method through which UK and EU law would be aligned in relevant sectors being negotiated.

TULSI GABBARD TO RESIGN AS US NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR

Tulsi Gabbard will resign from her position as the US director of national intelligence in the Trump administration, citing her husband's recent bone cancer diagnosis. "His strength and love have sustained me through every challenge," she wrote in her resignation letter on Friday. "I cannot in good conscience ask him to face this fight alone while I continue in this demanding and time-consuming position." US President Donald Trump wrote in a social media post that Gabbard had "done an incredible job, and we will miss her". Her resignation is effective as of 30 June. Aaron Lukas, the principal deputy director, will step in as acting director, Trump said. Gabbard, a loyal sup-



porter of Trump during his 2024 presidential campaign, was confirmed as one of the most powerful figures in US intelligence-gathering weeks after he returned to the White House in 2025. But this year she has largely been out of public view even as the US took military action against Iran, put pressure on Cuba, and notably removed Venezuela's president.

Senegal's president sacks PM and former ally after months-long feud

Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye has sacked Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko and dissolved the nation's government after months of tensions between the two men. A shock decree, read out on TV by a presidential aide, said Faye had "ended the duties" of his one-time political ally Sonko and "consequently those of the ministers and secretaries of state who are members of the government". Sonko, a popular figure among Senegal's youth, said on social media that he would "sleep with a light heart". The split comes as the country faces mounting economic pressure, with its public debt having reached the equivalent of 132% of its GDP, according to the International Monetary



Fund (IMF). Sonko's dismissal followed a parliamentary session on Tuesday, during which the prime minister openly criticised Faye for his approach to the debt crisis. Faye was in the unusual situation of owing his position, in large part, to his prime minister's popularity. Sonko would almost certainly have taken the top job had he not been barred

from running in 2024's elections due to a defamation conviction. However, Sonko backed Faye's bid for presidency, using the slogan "Diomaye is Sonko, Sonko is Diomaye". The pair went on to unseat then-President Macky Sall - an extraordinary victory given they were both in prison until 10 days before the election. Late on Tuesday night, sev-

eral hundred students demonstrated on the streets of the capital city, Dakar, declaring their support for Sonko. No details have been provided on the appointment of a new prime minister. Tensions between Sonko and Faye have been on display for months. Faye had reportedly criticised Sonko's "excessive personalisation" within the ruling party Pastef, while Sonko accused the president of a "failure of leadership" for not defending him against his critics. Amid this feud, Senegal's leaders have been grappling with the colossal amount of debt they inherited from the previous government. The IMF has frozen its \$1.8bn (£1.3bn) lending programme with Senegal as a result.

Gaza flotilla activists allege abuse by Israeli forces while detained

Pro-Palestinian activists deported after their Gaza-bound aid flotilla was intercepted in international waters by Israeli forces have alleged they were subjected to abuse while held in detention. Canada said it had received information detailing "appalling abuse" of its citizens, while Germany and Spain confirmed that a number of their citizens had injuries. The flotilla's organisers alleged there were "at least 15 cases of sexual assaults" while other people who were detained said they were beaten and mistreated. The BBC has not been able to independently verify the allegations. Israel's prison service has dismissed them as false, saying



all detainees were "held in accordance with the law". The Israeli military similarly rejected the allegations, telling the BBC that its orders "require respectful and appropriate treatment of flotilla participants". Warning: This article contains details of alleged abuse some may find

distressing More than 50 boats in the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) set sail from Turkey last week, planning to breach Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza and deliver food and medical aid. Israel's government dismissed the action as a "PR stunt" serving the Palestinian armed group

Hamas, and ordered commandos to board the boats west of Cyprus on Monday and Tuesday. The detained activists were transferred to Israeli vessels and taken to an Israeli prison after arriving at the port of Ashdod. On Thursday, 422 people from 41 countries were deported by Israel. Many have since arrived home. Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said on Friday that she had "received information from my officials which details the appalling abuse of Canadians who were detained in Israel", without giving further details. She added: "Canada unequivocally condemns the grave mistreatment of Canadians in Israel."

Fergie's former racehorse enjoying a retirement with beaches and beer



Sir Alex Ferguson's former champions have gone on to have varied post-sport careers, from Gary Neville's role as a pundit to Eric Cantona's Hollywood stardom. But it's a more relaxing life for one retired winner. Spirit Dancer was one of Ferguson's most successful racehorses and is now enjoying strolls on the beaches of County Donegal and even enjoying some beer each day. Instead of being put out to pasture in England after an injury, the gelding was placed in stables in Rathmullan. So how did this English-trained champion end up in Donegal? He had earned his retirement' Trainer Rachel Carton works at the stables in Rathmullan and her stepson is the top jockey Oisín Orr, who rode Spirit Dancer. Together Orr and the thoroughbred brought great success for Sir Alex and his co-owner. "Oisín rode him twice in Bahrain and he won the Bahrain International twice with him [Spirit Dancer] and Fergie, as we now affectionately call him," Carton said. She said her stepson later took up a job in England

with Richard Fahey, who was training Spirit Dancer. When the horse unfortunately suffered a career-ending injury, Orr stepped in with a solution. "He sprained his fetlock joint which is the equivalent of the ankle in a human," she said. "He had his rest and his rehab and his medication, but it became obvious last autumn when he started into his training again that the joint just wasn't going to stand up to racing again. "So the decision was made that he had earned his retirement." Orr then asked if it was possible to retire him to his home stables where he learned to ride. The horse has adapted well to his new surroundings and enjoys lapping up a locally-brewed beer with his dinner. But he is only allowed a few drops each time, Carton said. She said Spirit Dancer was a "step above most horses" whose "superior character as well as ability comes through". The horse's hugely successful career included winning about \$2m (£1.5m) in back-to-back successes in the Bahrain International Trophy in 2023 and 2024.



Putin vows retaliation after accusing Ukraine of hitting student dormitory

EBOLA RISK RAISED TO 'VERY HIGH' IN DR CONGO



The public health risk from the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been raised from "high" to "very high" by the World Health Organization (WHO). In an update on Friday, WHO head Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said the risk in the wider region in Africa was "high", but it remained "low" globally. The rare species of Ebola, known as Bundibugyo, has no

proven vaccine and kills about a third of those infected. So far, the outbreak centred on DR Congo has resulted in 177 suspected deaths and 750 suspected cases. It comes as scientists at Oxford University in the UK are developing a new vaccine that could be ready for clinical trials within two to three months. Based on the same technology they developed for the AstraZeneca Covid vaccine.

Virat Kohli Snubs Australia Star Travis Head's Handshake As On-Filed IPL Spat Escalates



EBOLA OUTBREAK FORCES DR CONGO WORLD CUP SQUAD INTO 21-DAY ISOLATION IN BELGIUM

It is the kind of problem no football federation plans for. DR Congo spent months fighting their way to a first World Cup since 1974, only to arrive at the final weeks of preparation facing a crisis that has nothing to do with tactics, form or fitness. An Ebola outbreak back home has put their entire participation under threat, and Washington has made it clear the rules are not negotiable. What the US has told DR Congo The message from American authorities was delivered bluntly. DR Congo's squad must stay in a sealed bubble in Belgium, where they are currently based for training, and complete a full 21-day isolation period before they will be allowed to cross into the United States. Giuliani told ESPN: "We've been very clear to Congo that they should maintain the integrity of their bubble for 21 days before they can then come to Houston on June 11. We've made it very clear to the Congo government as



well that they need to maintain that bubble or they risk not being able to travel to the US. We cannot be any clearer." The CDC has also announced that the US will ban entry of all foreign nationals who have been in Congo, Uganda and South Sudan within the past three weeks. That ban runs for 30 days. What is happening with the Ebola outbreak The strain at the centre of this outbreak is Bundibugyo Ebola, a rarer and particularly dangerous variant for which no

approved vaccine or treatment currently exists. That detail is what makes the US position so firm. The outbreak is thought to have killed more than 130 people and caused nearly 600 suspected cases, prompting the World Health Organization to declare it a public health emergency of international concern. Earlier this week, DR Congo cancelled a three-day training camp and a planned farewell event for fans in the capital, Kinshasa, as a direct result of the situation.

"Lawsuit Is Still Going On": Frogan Reacts After Reports Claim Ethan Klein Won Copyright Lawsuit Against Her

Twitch streamer Morgan "Frogan" is finally speaking out after reports claimed that Ethan Klein had won his copyright lawsuit against her through a default judgment. The situation started blowing up online after court-related details began circulating on X on May 20, 2026. Soon after that, multiple creators and commentary pages started reacting to the news, with many people believing the legal fight was already finished. But according to Frogan herself, that's not the case at all. During a recent livestream, the streamer pushed back against the narrative that she had already lost everything. Clips from the stream quickly spread online after Drama Alert shared part of her response on X, bringing even more attention to the ongoing situation between the Twitch creator and the H3 Podcast host. Frogan says she has been dealing with the lawsuit since August. For people unfamiliar with the drama, the case reportedly involves a copyright infringement lawsuit connected to



Ethan Klein. Online discussions intensified after lawyer and YouTuber Andrew "Legal Mindset" commented on the reported court update and claimed Frogan had "officially lost" the case following the default judgment filing. While reacting to the online discussions, Frogan told viewers that people were acting like the legal situation had already completely ended when, according to her, it was still active. During her stream, she repeated several times that "the lawsuit is not over" and reminded

viewers that she had been dealing with the situation for months. She also mentioned that she had been fighting the lawsuit since August, clearly frustrated by how fast social media had decided the outcome. Her comments immediately became a major talking point across livestream communities, especially because many creators had already started treating the case like it was fully settled. Asmongold reacts to Frogan's comments and questions her legal response. After clips of Frogan's stream started circulating, Zack "Asmongold" also shared his thoughts on the situation. While reacting live, the streamer questioned how Frogan was supposedly fighting the lawsuit if, according to reports being discussed online, there had already been a default judgment because she allegedly did not respond properly. During his reaction, Asmongold also brought up her crowdfunding efforts and criticized some of her spending choices while the legal battle was still ongoing.

Ludwig Kaiser Arrest Update: Reports Claim WWE Star Reacted After Man Allegedly Threatened Real-Life Partner

New details are now coming out about the situation involving WWE star Ludwig Kaiser after reports claimed the incident may have started because of comments directed at his real-life partner, Andrea Bazarate. The story has quickly become a huge topic among wrestling fans online, especially after conflicting versions of what happened inside an apartment building elevator began circulating. According to recent reports shared by wrestling journalist Raj Giri, the confrontation reportedly escalated after another man allegedly threatened to "call ICE" on Bazarate during an interaction with Kaiser. That version of events is very different from what was written in the police affidavit, which mostly focused on claims made by



the complainant, Richard Reap. Right now, fans are trying to piece together what exactly happened because both sides describe the altercation very differently. Reports claim Ludwig Kaiser and Andrea Bazarate were threatened in an elevator. The reported incident allegedly happened while Ludwig Kaiser and Andrea Bazarate

were inside an apartment elevator together. Raj Giri stated that the couple was being affectionate, but according to him, nothing was happening that seemed extreme or unusual. Things reportedly changed once the elevator reached the 12th floor. The latest report claims Richard Reap did not say anything while inside the elevator

itself. However, after stepping out, he allegedly made comments telling Kaiser to "show respect" before threatening to call ICE on Bazarate. That's reportedly when the situation became physical. The report claims Kaiser exited the elevator and got into what was described as a small scuffle with Reap. At the same time, the report also stated that no punches were allegedly thrown during the confrontation. Police affidavit tells a very different version of the alleged altercation. The police affidavit paints a much different picture of the incident. According to the document, Richard Reap claimed Kaiser and Bazarate were acting in what he described as an "uncontrollably intimate" manner while inside the elevator.

Inside SoFi Stadium: The Most Expensive Venue Hosting USA's World Cup Opening Match Against Paraguay

There are 16 stadiums hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup. None of them cost anything close to what SoFi Stadium cost to build. Sitting in Inglewood, just a short drive from downtown Los Angeles, it is the kind of venue that stops you mid-sentence. And on the day the United States kick off their World Cup campaign against Paraguay, it will be the most-watched stadium on the planet. How much did SoFi Stadium cost, and why so much? Construction started in 2016, and when the doors finally opened in September 2020, the total cost had landed some-



where between \$5 and \$6 billion. That figure alone put it in a category of its own. No sports venue in history had cost that much to

sheer scale. The stadium sits on 298 acres and forms the centerpiece of Hollywood Park, a full entertainment district built around it, complete with shops, offices, parks, and residential areas. This was never just a stadium. It was a city within a city, developed alongside the venue rather than bolted on later.

There was also a specific engineering challenge: because the site sits in the flight path of Los Angeles International Airport, height restrictions meant the entire stadium had to be built 30 metres below street level. That decision shaped everything from the structural design to the construction timeline. The Infinity Screen: a feature that has no real comparison. Walk into SoFi and the first thing that catches your eye is not the pitch. It is the screen above it. The Infinity Screen is the largest video board ever installed in a sports stadium. It weighs close to 100,000 kilograms and runs more than 304 metres around the interior of the roof. There is nothing else like it in world sport. Fans sitting anywhere in the bowl can see it clearly, which was the point.

MALVIKA BANSOD, ASHMITA CHALIHA PROGRESS TO SECOND ROUND OF MALAYSIA MASTERS; LAKSHYA SEN, HS PRANNOY OUT



BCCI Selectors Wants To 'Move On' From Struggling Suryakumar Yadav, But Final Decision With One Man: Report



Suryakumar Yadav's future as India's T20 captain could primarily be decided by head coach Gautam Gambhir, as the national selection committee is not entirely convinced that he can make it to the team purely as a batter, according to a senior BCCI source. Suryakumar, who was given the moniker SKY by Gambhir, has been struggling for form for a year now. Within the BCCI, it is understood that the selection panel is in favour of moving on from him, but the Board hierarchy also recognises that the coach-captain equation is integral to the dressing-room environment. And Gambhir's stated comfort with Suryakumar will make him a key figure in the final call. For close to a year now, Suryakumar's place in the side has remained under scrutiny. At the moment, it is understood that all five selectors largely believe that the current T20 captain should be dropped from the XI. The view has been gain-

ing ground ever since the emotional dust of the T20 World Cup triumph settled. The selectors, it is learnt, began seeing the future of Indian cricket through a wider lens instead of focusing on the glow of a single tournament. "Initially, the selectors thought that the IPL would help Suryakumar regain form like the last edition when he crossed 700 runs. But strangely, there hasn't been any technical course correction in his game. "Even the rookie of pacers are just bowling straight hard lengths, and he has no answer. Selectors don't see him playing the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. It is as simple as that," a senior BCCI source told PTL. The numbers do make for grim reading. Suryakumar managed only 210 runs from 12 innings at a strike rate of 148 but, more alarmingly, averaged below 18 - statistics that have sharply contrasted with the aura surrounding one of modern T20 cricket's most inventive batters.

Jasprit Bumrah Played T20 World Cup With Niggle: MI Coach Mahela Jayawardene's Revelation Ahead Of Last IPL 2026 Match



Managing a niggle that Jasprit Bumrah carried from this year's T20 World Cup into the ongoing IPL season resulted in the pace spearhead losing his "sharpness", despite Mumbai Indians giving

him enough recuperation time, revealed head coach Mahela Jayawardene here on Saturday. Bumrah's reduced effectiveness meant that he has just four wickets to show from 13 games for MI, and Jayawardene said the 32-year-old was fighting that unspecified injury in the earlier part of IPL 2026. "It is due to a combination of a few things. Coming back from the (T20) World Cup, he had a slight niggle which he played with through the World Cup, so we gave him adequate rest to come back," Jayawardene told reporters on the eve of their last game in this IPL against Rajasthan Royals. In fact, MI allowed the India internationals

in their line-up - Bumrah, skipper Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma - to join the pre-season camp only five days ahead of the start of this IPL on March 28. India had defended their title at Ahmedabad after an intense campaign. For Jayawardene, Bumrah's drop in pace in the earlier part of the league was because the pacer was trying to make a "gradual build-up." "In the first 4-5 games, it was a gradual build-up for him to get over that niggle he had. You could see the pace was dropped because of that, and now he's back to his pace. The last 4-5 games have been good. "But obviously when you're going through some-

thing like that, you do lose a little bit of sharpness of execution and all that because you're fighting something else. But I think health-wise, it's 100 per cent (but it is) unfortunate that the season is (now) over for us," Jayawardene said. It has been a tough season for Bumrah, who featured in four of the five matches that India played against New Zealand in a bilateral series before the T20 World Cup. Bumrah also emerged as the joint highest wicket-taker with Varun Chakravarty (14 wickets) - including a 4/15 in the final against New Zealand - while featuring in eight of the nine matches that India played in the T20 World Cup

Mega Power Star Ram Charan, Buchi Babu Sana, Shruti Haasan, Janhvi Kapoor, AR Rahman's biggest special song 'Hallalla Llo' promo release from 'Peddhi', full song release tomorrow

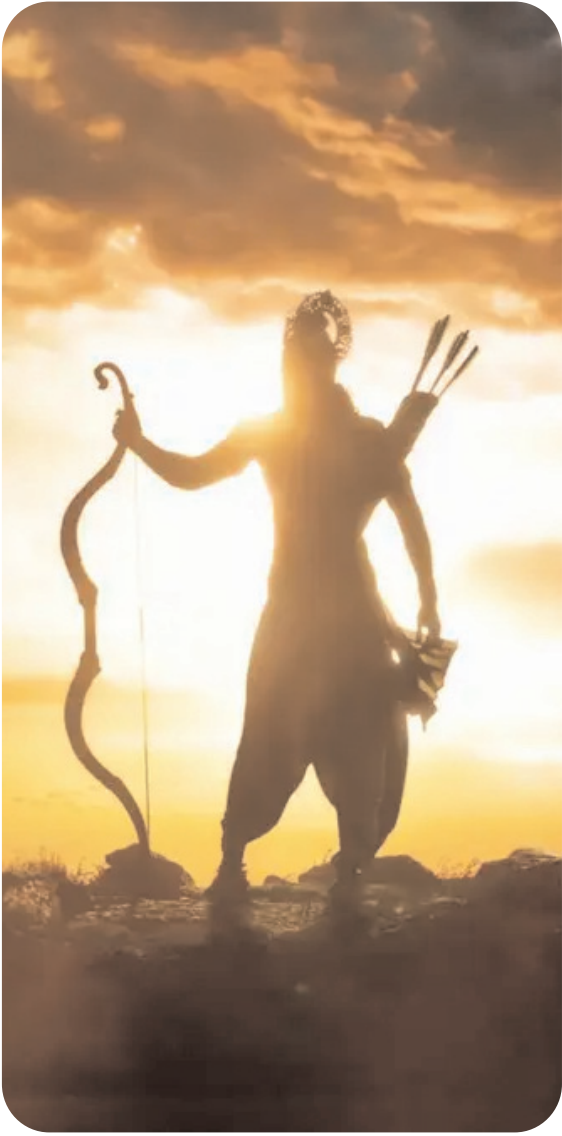
Mega Power Star Ram Charan's most awaited action drama 'Peddhi' is creating huge buzz across the country. The film is already mesmerizing the audience with its amazing glimpses, two chartbuster songs and a powerful theatrical trailer. It is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas, under the direction of Buchi Babu Sana, under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings. AR Rahman has composed the music for the film, and today the film team released the promo of the third single 'Hallalla Llo'. Looking at the promo, it is clear that it will be one of the most energetic and colorful special songs in recent times. The song immediately impresses the audience with its powerful drum beats, catchy rhythm, and tune reminiscent of a fair. In this song, Ram Charan impresses with his rugged and stylish look and his stunning steps. Along with him, Shruti Haasan and Janhvi Kapoor also entertained. Shruti Haasan with her bold attitude and Janhvi Kapoor with her graceful energy became the special attraction of the song. The screen presence of the three together made this song even more grand. The full song will be released tomorrow at a



huge musical event in Bhopal. The fans are even more excited as AR Rahman and his team will be performing the song live at the event. The film stars Shivarajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyandu and Boman Irani in key roles.

Cinematography is by R. Rathnavelu, while editing is by National Award winner Naveen Nooli. Avinash Kolla is the production designer. Peddi will be released globally on June 4th. Special premieres will be held on June 3rd.

RAMAYANA EYES DIWALI JACKPOT WITH EARLY RELEASE STRATEGY?



Ramayana, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai pallavi and Yash, is reportedly gearing up for a revised theatrical release around October 30, ahead of the Diwali festive window as per early buzz. The big-budget mythological epic has been one of the most anticipated Indian films in recent times, and the makers are now said to be recalibrating their release strategy to maximize box office potential during the holiday season.

Nikhil, Bharat Krishnamachari, KK Senthil Kumar, Pixel Studio's Most Ambitious Pan India Project Swayambhu Post-Production VFX Work In Full Swing

Nikhil Siddhartha is pushing boundaries like never before with Swayambhu, his most ambitious cinematic venture yet. Mounted on a massive scale, this period action drama is directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, backed by Pixel Studios' Bhuvan and Sreekar, with Tagore Madhu presenting the film. Swayambhu is steadily shaping into one of the biggest technical undertakings in Indian cinema, and the team has now offered movie lovers a striking glimpse into the sheer magnitude of the work driving this epic. A newly released video pulls back the curtain on the film's post-production process, showcasing the enormity of its VFX pipeline. In the video, Nikhil Siddhartha, director Bharat Krishnamachari, and cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar are seen visiting Phantom FX, where hundreds of skilled VFX artists are meticulously crafting the world of Swayambhu frame by frame. With more than 2700 VFX shots and over 750 technicians involved, the project stands as a colossal visual-effects effort. From complex war sequences to vast ancient landscapes, every element is being shaped with extraordinary precision. The team is personally supervising every layer of CG to retain complete creative control, with both Nikhil and Senthil Kumar deeply



involved in overseeing the VFX work. Samyuktha and Nabha Natesh play the female leads opposite Nikhil in this magnum opus. While the teaser received an overwhelming response, the first single, Ra Ra Dheevara, showcasing the valour and warrior spirit of Nikhil's character, has become a chartbuster. The

grandeur of Swayambhu radiates through every frame. KK Senthil Kumar (ISC) enhances the scale with his breathtaking visuals, while Ravi Basrur scores the music. Production design is helmed by M Prabhakaran and Raveendra. Swayambhu is gearing up for a Pan-India release.

Sandigdham Will Appeal to Everyone: Director Parthasaradhi at Trailer Launch Event

The film Sandigdham has been produced under the Thirdha Creations banner by Sandhya Tiruveedhula and directed by Parthasaradhi Kommoju. The movie stars Nihal, Priya Deshpag, Arjun CH, and Kajal Tiwari in the lead roles, while Thera Chepa fame Naveenraj Sankarapu plays the antagonist. The film is slated for release on May 29. The posters and teaser released earlier have already generated a positive response. The trailer was unveiled on Saturday, followed by a grand trailer launch event. Speaking at the event, director Pardasaradhi said , "My wife Sandhya supported me immensely

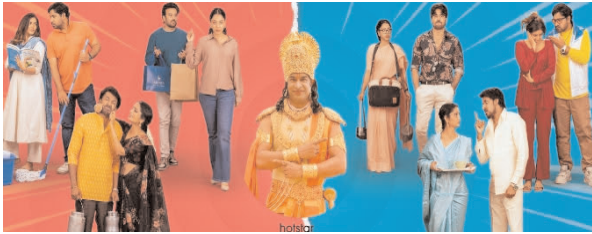


throughout the journey of Sandigdham. Every artist worked

extremely hard for this film, and everyone stood by us with great support. It is because of the collective efforts of all the artists and technicians that we were able to make the film so well. Sandigdham will definitely appeal to everyone. We hope the audience will support our film when it releases on May 29." Lead actor Nihal said , "The director and producer supported me a lot during the making of Sandigdham. They overcame many chal-

lenges to bring the film to this stage. The movie comes with a unique and different concept. I request everyone to watch the film on May 29 and make it a success." Kajal Tiwari shared , "I am not very fluent in Telugu, but everyone on the set supported me a lot. I thank the director and producer for giving me this opportunity in Sandigdham. Our film is releasing on May 29, and I hope everyone watches it." Actor Arjun said , "I thank director Parthu garu for giving me a wonderful role named Sathya in Sandigdham. Producer Sandhya garu supported us greatly. I also thank all the artists who worked in the film. I hope the audience watches the movie on May 29 and blesses it with success." Music director Gowtham Raviram stated , "The music and background score of Sandigdham will be exceptional. Parthasaradhi has crafted the movie in a very different manner.

JioHotstar unveils poster of The Biggest Family Entertainer 'Save The Tigers – Season 3'



After Season 1 and Season 2 have become blockbusters, JioHotstar announces the return of the biggest family entertainer, Save The Tigers – Season 3. Known for its candy floss humour, witty dialogues and relationship drama in the first two seasons, the anticipation surrounding the intriguing Season 3 has been very high. Ever since its debut in 2023, Save The Tigers franchise has become a household favourite with a loyal fan base. Showrunners Mahi V Raghav and Pradeep Advaitam are bringing Season 3 with an exciting twist and new additions to the famous cast. Anticipation builds for Season 3...with a

cosmic shift The highly anticipated Save The Tigers – Season 3 poster indicates a cosmic twist. The two contrasting worlds introduce a unique social experiment into its plot, making more exciting. This element changes the entire dynamic of the series. For a comedy drama involving three frustrated and troubled husbands, this is an exciting premise. Fans can expect a perfect mix of laughs, relationship struggles, and light-hearted drama. Vennela Kishore, the surprise package While the beloved couples — jodis won the hearts of the audiences in the first two instalments, the ultimate surprise addition to the cast of Season 3 is Vennela Kishore.

PAPS CULTURE GETTING GRILLED WHERE IT STARTED



Y Sara Tendulkar has strongly condemned a paparazzi account after a video showing her arriving at the airport with her sister-in-law was shared online alongside a derogatory and body-shaming caption. The incident quickly sparked outrage among fans and social media users, many of whom criticized the growing culture of invasive celebrity coverage. Taking to her official Instagram Stories, Sara publicly called out the creator of the account and expressed her anger over the disrespectful post. She wrote, "@tahirjasus, you are disgusting. This is not journalism. Leave. Us. Alone." Her statement immediately gained traction online, with screenshots and reposts circulating widely across

Instagram and Twitter. Sara further pointed out that deleting the original post did not undo the damage caused by such behavior. She emphasized that public figures also deserve dignity and privacy, especially when faced with insulting or demeaning commentary. The controversy has reignited discussions around media ethics, paparazzi toxicity, online harassment, and the boundaries of celebrity privacy. Many supporters praised Sara for speaking up firmly and using her platform to challenge harmful behavior often normalized in entertainment reporting. Her response has become a major talking point online, with many calling for greater accountability and sensitivity in digital journalism and celebrity coverage practices.

AMID DRAGON HYPE, NEEL DROPPED SALAAR 2 BOMB!

NTR and Prashanth Neel are working together on a prestigious film titled Dragon. The film's shoot is underway, and the glimpse released yesterday sparked a mixed storm on social media. Meanwhile, there are speculations that Neel's focus is drifting away from Salaar

2 and that, post-Dragon, he will work on another standalone film. However, the director provided clarity on this in a recent interview. Prashanth Neel clarified that he will work on Salaar 2 right after the film Dragon. The issue popped up when Neel revealed that his current focus is only on Dragon, and some fans speculated that his focus was slightly drifting away. But now Neel has made it clear that Salaar 2 is on the cards and will definitely happen. Prashanth Neel worked with Prabhas for the first time among Telugu heroes. The film, in its combination, has generated huge box-office revenues. Additionally, Neel will be able

to push Salaar 2 forward, but he has no clarity on when he can shift his focus back to KGF 3, as the project may take longer to materialize. At the same time, Prashanth Neel is also inclined towards writing a mythological subject, and he wants to move away from the action genre soon. Prabhas' recent outing, The Raja Saab, left his fans disappointed. More than the film's result, the trolling surrounding it caused considerable damage. However, the macho star remains unfazed and is gearing up for a strong comeback with his upcoming projects, including Kalki 2, Fauzi, and Spirit. Amid this, uncertainty continues to surround Salaar 2. There

is no clear timeline for the film yet. While the producers at Hombale Films maintain that Salaar 2 is very much on track and will materialise, the bigger question remains – when will it actually begin, and when will it release? Prabhas is currently busy with Fauzi, Spirit, and Kalki 2. Given the massive scale and canvas of these films, it is expected that he may take at least 1.5 to 2 years to complete them. Meanwhile, director Prashanth Neel is also occupied with his project starring NTR. As of now, it remains uncertain when Salaar 2 will go on floors, making it a half good news and half bad news for Prabhas fans.