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KHARGE CRITICISES PETROL, DIESEL PRICE SURGE; CALLS IT 'FUEL LOOT' AMID FOURTH HIKE IN TWO WEEKS

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

 24-05-2026
 Total pilgrims: 98,058
 Tonnes: 49,234
 Hundi (vanu): 4,09 CR
 Laddu sale: 4,20 Lac
 Waiting Compartments...
 Outside line at Sthanoram.
 Approx. Darsan Time for Saravardhanam (with out SSD Tokens), 10-24 H

THREE AIADMK MLAS RESIGN, JOIN TVK

Chennai, May 25 : In a fresh political development that could reshape Tamil Nadu's post-election landscape, three AIADMK MLAs — Madurantakam MLA Maragatham Kumaravel, Dharapuram MLA Sathiyabama, and Perundurai MLA Jayakumar — resigned from the Assembly on Monday and later joined the ruling TVK. The resignations have intensified speculation about further defections and the possibility of multiple Assembly by-elections in the state. The three legislators, considered close to the AIADMK faction led by former ministers C.V. Shanmugam and S.P. Velumani, submitted their resignation letters to Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar.

CM Vijay announces full waiver of crop loans to marginal farmers

The announcement was made after the chief minister chaired a high-level review meeting with Agriculture Minister M Vinoth, Cooperation Minister V Gandhiraj, Finance Minister N Marie Wilson, and senior officials.



CHENNAI (TSIT):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday announced complete waiver of cooperative bank crop loans of up to Rs 50,000



availed by marginal farmers across the state and up to Rs 5,000 to large farmers. The gesture would benefit 14.22 lakh farmers in the state and would entail an additional expenditure of Rs

2,044 crore to the government, he said. The waiving of crop loans obtained by farmers was among the numerous poll promises made by Vijay, the TVK chief, in the run up to the April 23 Assembly election.

Considering the current financial position and financial resources of the state government, and in the present difficult situation, the Chief Minister has ordered the waiver of crop loans obtained by farmers from cooperative banks from May 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026," a government release said.

A crop loan waiver of Rs 5,000 will be provided to other large farmers who have taken crop loans through cooperative banks. "This crop loan waiver will be of great benefit to farmers who wish to take loans for the upcoming cultivation season," the release quoting the Chief Minister said.

Fuel prices rise again, petrol crosses Rs 100 mark in Delhi


NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Petrol and diesel prices were increased once again across the country on Monday, marking the fourth hike in less than two weeks amid rising global crude oil prices and continued tensions in West Asia.

Oil marketing companies raised petrol prices by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 2.71 per litre. Following the latest revision, petrol prices in Delhi crossed the Rs 100-per-litre mark to reach Rs 102.12 per litre, while diesel prices climbed to Rs 95.20 per litre.

The latest increase comes after a series of fuel price hikes earlier this month. Prices were first raised by around Rs 3 per litre on May 15, followed by another increase of nearly 90 paise on May 19 and around 91 paise on May 23. With Monday's revision, cumulative hikes in petrol and diesel prices have crossed Rs 7.5 per litre within just two weeks. The repeated hikes have been attributed to volatility in global crude oil markets due to escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and concerns over disruptions in international oil supply routes.

Congress targets centre over fuel price hikes, Rahul calls PM 'Inflation Man'

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The Congress on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi-led government over the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, accusing the Centre of burdening citizens with repeated fuel hikes and triggering inflationary pressure across the economy. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government was deliberately raising fuel prices in phases to avoid public



"Inflation Man' Modi strikes again. They increase petrol and diesel prices in installments — so that your pockets keep getting picked quietly, little by little."

CM Vijay announces full waiver of crop loans to marginal farmers

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election. "Considering the current financial position and financial resources of the state government, and in the present difficult situation, the Chief Minister has ordered the waiver of crop loans obtained by farmers from cooperative banks from May 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026," a government release said.

BJP increased prices, congress reduced burden through guarantees: Shivakumar

BENGALURU (TSIT)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D. K. Shivakumar strongly criticized the BJP-led Central government over rising fuel and essential commodity prices, stating that the Congress government in Karnataka has reduced the burden on people through its guarantee schemes. Addressing a joint press conference at the KPCC office in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said the Congress guarantees have received appreciation not only in Karnataka but across the



country and even from the United Nations. He questioned how difficult life would have become for ordinary people without these welfare schemes amid continuous price hikes. Highlighting the increase in commercial LPG cylinder prices, he said rates had been raised multiple times this year, severely affecting hotels and small businesses.

AP to Revamp Business Rules for Faster Public Services: CM Naidu


VIJAYAWADA (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to initiate reforms in the state's business rules to ensure faster and easier

delivery of government services to citizens. Reviewing the functioning of the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) and the implementation of various departmental programmes at the grassroots level at the Camp Office, the Chief Minister said that with technology now fully available, government rules should facilitate public service delivery rather than delay it. "Government services should reach people easily and quickly. Rules should not become hurdles. We had already considered revising the business rules earlier, and now an action plan must be prepared," the Chief Minister said.

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AP Signs Major MoUs at MSME Growth Summit 2026

■ Meta, Amazon, Zoho among firms partnering with AP MSME Development Corporation

Vijayawada (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh took a major step towards strengthening its MSME and startup ecosystem as several strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed during the MSME Growth Summit 2026 held in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Chief Minister virtually laid the foundation stone for 38 new MSME parks across the state as part of the government's vision to establish industrial parks in all Assembly constituencies. A series of agreements were signed by the AP MSME Development Corporation with leading national and global organisations to boost entrepreneurship, digital transformation, exports and startup innovation. Under the Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) initiative, Smart



Village Centres were launched at Mangalagiri, Pithapuram and Kuppam to serve as incubation hubs for rural entrepreneurship. In partnership with RTIH, Kia India will establish an Advanced Prototyping and Innovation Centre along with a high-end precision manufacturing prototyping facility to support startups and innovators.

To strengthen deep-tech entrepreneurship, SIDBI announced a Rs.20-crore seed fund programme in collaboration with RTIH. The summit also witnessed an agreement between the MSME Development Corporation and the IT Department for setting up 50 Digital Transformation Facilitation Centres in colleges to support digital

maturity assessments for one lakh MSMEs. As part of infrastructure and sustainability initiatives, ESSL signed an MoU to conduct 1,000 energy and water audits in MSME clusters. The state government also announced a Rs.200-crore Cluster Development Programme expected to benefit 750 MSMEs and generate employment for more than 3,100 people. The summit further focused on strengthening global market access for MSMEs. Agreements were signed with Amazon Global Selling to support exports and international market access, while Aramex partnered to

enhance cross-border trade and logistics support. The corporation also entered into partnerships with Meta for capacity building of one lakh micro enterprises, Zoho for MSME digital transformation, and Vodafone Idea Business for technology adoption and digital readiness training. Additionally, the Quality Council of India agreed to assist MSMEs in quality certification and global standards compliance, while the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority partnered to support National Pension System implementation and social security initiatives for MSME workers. More than 1,500 stakeholders, including MSME entrepreneurs, startup founders, policymakers, bankers and technical experts from across the state, participated in the summit.

Prez Murmu honours Dharmendra, Harmanpreet Kaur, Uday Kotak with Padma Awards

New Delhi, May 25 : President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred the Padma Vibhushan on legendary Bollywood actor Dharmendra posthumously and renowned classical violinist Dr N. Rajam during a Civil Investiture Ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Dharmendra was honoured for his exceptional contribution to Indian cinema and the arts. The award was received on his behalf by his wife and Member of Parliament Hema Malini. Dr Rajam was recognised for her pioneering work in Indian classical music and for popularising the "Gayaki Ang" style of violin playing, which recreates the nuances of vocal music on the instrument. The President presented the Padma Bhushan to former Uttarakhand



Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari, noted scholar and Avadhana exponent R. Ganesh, banker Uday Kotak, and eminent gastroenterologist Dr Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy. Advertising pioneer Piyush Pandey and former parliamentarian Vijay Kumar Malhotra were honoured posthumously, with their family members receiving the awards. Among the Padma Shri awardees were Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur,

actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, para-athlete Praveen Kumar, and former CRPF Director General K. Vijay Kumar. The ceremony took place at the Gantantra Mandap of Rashtrapati Bhavan and began with an instrumental rendition of "Vande Mataram," followed by the national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana." The event was attended by Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with several dignitaries.

AP to Revamp Business Rules for Faster Public Services: CM Naidu

He stressed that while officials and field-level staff working for the people is important, delivering measurable outcomes is equally essential. The government, he said, is continuously collecting feedback on the implementation of welfare schemes and public services at the field level, and officials' performance should be evaluated accordingly. The Chief Minister said efficient officers should be appreciated, while those failing to perform adequately should be given orientation and guidance. Calling for innovative governance, he remarked that the era of routine administrative methods is over and departments must adopt creative approaches to simplify public services. He also



pointed out that nodal officers from the Planning Department have been appointed for every constituency and their services should be effectively utilized.

Special Focus on

Revenue Issues
The Chief Minister instructed officials to intensify efforts to resolve pending revenue-related disputes, reminding them that the government had promised to settle such issues within one year. "A significant part of the deadline has already passed. Focus on unresolved cases," he told officials. Referring particularly to revenue disputes arising from family conflicts, the Chief Minister advised officials to directly engage with the concerned parties, counsel them, and help them understand that prolonged disputes only lead to losses. He urged authorities to adopt a humanitarian approach in resolving such issues.

Easier Access to Caste Certificates
The Chief Minister also directed officials to remove difficulties in issuing caste certificates and ensure that citizens can download them online without inconvenience. He further stressed that there should be no negligence in providing healthcare services in hospitals at all levels. All departments, he said, must share complete information with RTGS and designate a dedicated officer for coordination. Calling for stronger measures to tackle cyber-crime, the Chief Minister instructed officials to establish a robust system to prevent cyber frauds effectively. Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and senior officials from various departments attended the review meeting.

SC issues notice on PIL against employment of minors in orchestras, spas

New Delhi, May 25 : The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on a plea seeking prohibition on employment of children, particularly minor girls, in orchestras, dance bars, massage parlours, spas and similar establishments.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi termed the issue a "very serious" matter while issuing notice to the Union Government, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Law and Justice, NCPCR and NHRC on the public interest litigation (PIL) filed by an NGO. The plea challenged the "legislative omission" under the Child Labour



(Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (CALPRA), under which occupations such as orchestras, dance bars, dance troupes, nautanki performances, massage parlours, spas and salons have not been included in the list of "hazardous occupations and processes" under Part A of the Schedule.

According to the petition, the exclusion of such establishments from the hazardous category has created an "enforcement vacuum", enabling organised trafficking networks

and exploitative establishments to operate under the guise of entertainment and wellness services. The PIL sought directions to the Centre to include employment or performance of children below 18 years in orchestras, dance bars, dance troupes, nautanki performances, massage parlours, spas and salons in the list of prohibited hazardous occupations. It also sought directions for the formulation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the rescue and rehabilitation of children engaged in such establishments. The petition said minors, especially girls, are routinely trafficked, criminally confined and subjected to coercion, intimidation and sexual exploitation under the guise of employment opportunities. It alleged that children are compelled to perform

sexually explicit and exploitative acts for commercial gain, exposing them to grave physical, psychological and sexual harm. Referring to rescue operations conducted between March 2025 and May 2026 across Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Delhi, the plea stated that 212 minors were rescued from orchestras and 12 minors from massage parlours and spas. The rescued children, aged between 10 and 18 years, were allegedly trafficked from states including West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Chhattisgarh, as well as from Nepal. The petition further claimed that orchestra groups, dance bars and spas were increasingly being used as fronts by organised trafficking networks for the commercial sexual exploitation of minor girls.

Rare Weber-Christian Disease Patient Saved Without Liver Transplant at KIMS Hospitals

Hyderabad, May 25, 2026: Doctors at KIMS Hospitals successfully treated a 26-year-old woman suffering from an extremely rare and life-threatening liver complication caused by Weber-Christian Disease, without performing a liver transplant, despite international medical criteria indicating an urgent need for transplantation. According to Dr. Sarath Chandra Mouli Veeravalli, Clinical Director, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, and Dr. K.N. Chandan Kumar, Director, Hepatology and Transplant Hepatology, the patient's condition represented rare case reported worldwide. Weber-Christian Disease is a rare autoimmune disorder characterized by inflammation of the fatty tissues beneath the skin. The patient, a resident of Hyderabad, was first diagnosed with the condition in 2018 after presenting with painful nodules on her hands and legs along with recurrent fever. She initially responded well to treatment under the care of Dr. Sarath Chandra Mouli and his team. However, she discontinued medications after 2 years and did not return for follow-up for nearly six years. Recently, she was brought back to KIMS Hospitals in critical condition with severe fever,



jaundice, sub dural hemorrhage, altered behaviour, confusion, and rapidly deteriorating liver function. Within days, she developed Grade-4 hepatic encephalopathy, a dangerous condition in which severe liver failure affects brain function. She was immediately shifted to the Liver ICU, where the hepatology and liver transplant team led by Dr. K.N. Chandan Kumar initiated intensive treatment. The patient was placed on ventilator support, measures were taken to control brain swelling, and extracorporeal liver support was provided through plasmapheresis. Doctors noted that she fulfilled the internationally accepted King's College Criteria for emergency liver transplantation. However, further investigations revealed falling blood cell counts and abnormally elevated serum ferritin levels, indi-

cating Macrophage Activation Syndrome, a severe hyper-inflammatory condition caused by uncontrolled immune system activation. Doctors explained that severe liver involvement in Weber-Christian Disease is highly fatal and has been documented in only a handful of cases globally. Given the complexity of the condition, specialists from Rheumatology, Hepatology, Liver Transplant Intensive Care, and Critical Care departments worked together to formulate a treatment strategy. The patient was treated with pulse steroids, and advanced immunomodulatory therapy. At a critical stage, doctors administered Anakinra, an IL-1 receptor antagonist, which had been specially imported from abroad as it was not readily available in India. This marked the first-ever

reported use of Anakinra in the world to treat Weber-Christian Disease with fulminant hepatic failure. Following treatment, the patient's inflammation gradually reduced, and liver function began to improve. Her neurological condition stabilised, allowing doctors to remove ventilator support. She was later shifted out of the ICU and eventually discharged in stable condition. She is currently leading a normal life and remains under regular medical follow-up. The doctors stated that early recognition of rare autoimmune disorders, rapid multidisciplinary coordination, and the use of targeted immunotherapy played a key role in saving the patient's life. They described the case as a significant medical achievement and a reflection of KIMS Hospitals' capability in handling highly complex medical emergencies.

Kharge criticises petrol, diesel price surge; calls it 'fuel loot' amid fourth hike in two weeks

New Delhi, May 25 : Congress President, Mallikarjun Kharge, has strongly criticised the recent rise in fuel prices across the country on Monday, calling it a "daily assault of FUEL LOOT" and accusing the NDA government at the Centre of burdening common citizens. His comments came after fuel prices were hiked again on Monday, the fourth time since May 15. Petrol has become costlier by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71 per litre.

In a post on X, Kharge wrote, "The Daily Assault of FUEL LOOT is not over yet! 4th hike in 11 days !!" He further highlighted the revised fuel rates, stating, "Petrol - Rs 7.35/litre, Diesel - Rs 7.53/litre," and claimed that the price increases were adding severe pressure on households and the economy.

Kharge also targeted the government over long-term fuel pricing trends, writing, "Modi Govt has sprinkled Petrol to Burn the Savings of common people." He further made comparisons between previous and current fuel prices, stating that petrol has risen from Rs 71.41 per litre in 2014 to Rs 102.12 per litre in 2026, while diesel has increased from Rs 56.71 per litre to Rs 95.20 per litre.



He further alleged, "Modi Govt. has looted Rs 43 lakh crore in the last 12

Petrol and Diesel prices, today the shares of HPCL, BPCL and IOC rose by 5.8

"The Daily Assault of FUEL LOOT is not over yet! 4th hike in 11 days !!"He further highlighted the revised fuel rates, stating, "Petrol - Rs 7.35/litre, Diesel - Rs 7.53/litre,"

years, making it a loot of Rs 1,000 EVERYDAY!" Kharge also pointed to the impact of rising fuel prices on markets, saying, "With the 4th time rise in

per cent, 4.44 per cent and 3.90 per cent respectively. Profit over People is BJP's DNA!" He warned that repeated fuel hikes were affecting

all sections of society, stating, "Every fuel price hike is another blow to household budgets, and has a cascading effect on every aspect of the economy. From farmers to MSMEs, every strata of the society bears the brunt of BJP's LOOT." Concluding his remarks, Kharge asked, "We repeat. Who is benefitting from this DAILY ROBBERY?" Fuel prices were again hiked for the fourth time in a span of two weeks on Monday across the country. State-owned oil marketing companies on Monday increased petrol prices in Delhi by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 2.71 per litre. With the latest revision, petrol is now being sold at Rs 102.12 per litre, up from Rs 99.51 per litre, while diesel prices have climbed to Rs 95.20 per litre from Rs 92.49 per litre. The fresh hike comes just two days after fuel prices were revised upward on Saturday, with petrol increasing by Rs 0.87 per litre and diesel by Rs 0.91 per litre. The consecutive increases in fuel rates come amid sustained pressure from rising global crude oil prices and ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which continue to affect international energy markets and domestic fuel costs.

Why Are Some Of India's Sharpest Pakistan Critics Calling For 'Talks'?

The Urge To 'Talk'

Most were too astonished to say much. But the support by former Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, where he said that "the path to peace was and is, through negotiations to arrive at a just settlement that meets the aspirations of the people", raised heckles, since the language was straight out of the Pakistani playbook. Scribes described the Track-2 process as a 'dangerous illusion', leading to complacency, till the next terrorist attack brought some reality back literally with a bang. True, also, that all governments - much to the exasperation of security experts - usually opened their innings with friendly reach-outs, from former Prime Minister AB Vajpayee's trip to Lahore to Manmohan Singh's restarting of the Composite Dialogue, and an invite to the then Pakistani Prime Minister, Yousaf Raza Gillani, to India for a cricket match. Most recently, PM Modi dropped by to greet Sharif on his birthday. Each and every one of these initiatives was met with a return to a terror attack. In fact, the more successful the reach-out, the worse the terrorist retaliation. For instance, Modi's visit was on December 25, 2015. The Pathankot attack was barely a week later, on January 2, 2016.

Consider, however, that Pakistani Prime Ministers have also reached out - and suffered for it. In this instance, Sharif asked his commanders why violence occurred immediately after an outreach to India. There was no answer. In 1999, the Kargil War was launched after the Lahore bus journey, and prior to this, Prime Minister Zardari's suggestion to ISI Chief Ahmed Shuja Pasha to go to India and provide full cooperation on the Mumbai attacks led to his removal. The Benazir Bhutto-Rajiv Gandhi meetings led to the former proposing oil pipelines and an opening of trade. Imran Khan came to power promising peace with India, but was soon removed before anything could come of this.



the poor are always temporary, while the rich are always permanent. Rickshaw pullers are asked, "When will you move?", but no one asks the elite clubs, built on government land for decades, when their rights will end. This isn't just economic inequality, but psychological inequality. Society has normalized it by labeling it prestige and dignity. But the story isn't limited to the Gymkhana. Whether it's the Delhi Golf Club, the India International Centre, or the India Habitat Centre—these are not just institutions, but parallel worlds of power. The Delhi Golf Club isn't just about sports; it's where a silent dialogue between power and capital takes place. From the outside, the India International Centre appears to be a cultural platform, but inside, it becomes a rebirth place for retired power. People whose positions have ended, yet their influence still lives on, meet there. At the India Habitat Centre, discussions on poverty and social justice take place in air-conditioned auditoriums, while the ordinary citizen standing outside those very discussions is unable to even become a part of the world being talked about in their name. This is the true power of permanent power. Governments change, ministers change, political slogans change, but this network

Xi Jinping's carefully choreographed hosting of Donald Trump (May 13-15) and Vladimir Putin (May 19-20) within the span of a single week was no coincidence. It was a calculated assertion of China's arrival as the indispensable pivot in global politics – a power sufficiently confident to engage both its principal strategic rival and its closest geopolitical partner with equal grandeur. Beijing wanted the world to absorb one central message: all roads now lead to China. The optics were meticulously crafted. At the Great Hall of the People, both leaders received near-identical state pageantry: military honour guards, gun salutes, marching bands, troop inspections, national anthems, and carefully staged interactions with cheering children waving national flags. Banquets featuring Chinese cultural symbolism, personal interactions with Xi Jinping, and highly choreographed public moments reinforced the image of Beijing as the epicentre of contemporary diplomacy. Chinese state media predictably amplified this narrative, portraying China as the stabilising fulcrum of an increasingly fractured international order. Putin's visit, however, carried unmistakably greater intimacy. The Russian leader was welcomed by a senior Politburo figure, a symbolic gesture underscoring strategic trust. The choreography was less rigidly formal and more personal-tea ceremonies, poetic exchanges, and repeated invocations of



Sergio Gor is not your everyday diplomat. In fact, he shouldn't be considered a diplomat at all, despite being designated the US Ambassador to New Delhi. His style of functioning is entirely his own. He drives the relationship with India, maintains a direct link to the Prime Minister's office, and yes, he is regularly on the phone with his President, Donald Trump.

This access and the vigour he brings to the Indo-US equation were on full display last night as the United States began celebrations marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence - festivities that will peak on July 4, 2026. On Sunday evening in New Delhi, Gor and his team staged a massive show at Bharat Mandapam, India's premier international convention centre. The evening's special guest of honour was his boss, the visiting Secretary of State, Marco Rubio. On May 28, he turns 55. For Gor, who played host and master of ceremonies at the American 250 event, the precise date was merely a detail. A few days here or there would not be a showstopper. And so the birthday celebrations were on. "Alright, so as everybody knows, we also have a birthday," announced Gor from the giant stage at the Mandapam - moments after AR Rahman had belted out his greatest hits, including the iconic Oscar-winning *Jai Ho* from the 2008 film *Slumdog Millionaire*. "Can we get the Secretary up



OIL PRICES SLIDE ON HOPES OF US-IRAN PEACE DEAL

Oil prices have fallen sharply on hopes of a deal that could bring an end to the US-Israel war with Iran. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said negotiators had a "pretty solid thing on the table" and an agreement to end the conflict might be reached on Monday. On Monday morning, global oil benchmark Brent fell 5.5% to \$97.90 a barrel, and remained around \$97.70 a barrel in the afternoon. US President Donald Trump said the negotiations were "proceeding nicely" but added it would either be "a great deal for all or no deal at all". While Iran says progress has been made, a government spokesman added that a deal was "not imminent". Trump had previously said the deal would include the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz shipping route, without giving further details. The Strait of Hormuz, through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) usually passes, has been effectively closed since the conflict started on 28 February. Earlier on Monday, Rubio said the talks were "still a work in progress." "As I said, you know, we thought we might



have some news last night," Rubio said in the Indian capital, Delhi. His comments came after Trump said he had instructed negotiators "not to rush into a deal", after earlier suggesting one was close. Speaking after Rubio's comments, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Esmail Baqai, said agreement has been reached on a "large portion of the issues under discussion". "But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent - no one can make such a claim," he added. On Saturday, Trump said that he had had a "very good call" with the

leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and others about a "Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to PEACE". "An agreement has been largely negotiated, subject to finalisation between the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the various other Countries, as listed," Trump said on social media. "Final aspects and details of the deal are currently being discussed, and will be announced shortly." He also said he had had a call on Saturday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which had gone

"very well". On Monday, Trump said in his discussions with the Gulf leaders and others, including the presidents of Turkey and Egypt, he pushed them to sign the Abraham Accords which are aimed at normalising relations with Israel. Global energy markets have seen big price swings since early March after Iran threatened to attack ships trying to use the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for US and Israeli attacks on the country. While crude oil prices have fallen sharply, they remain significantly higher than before the war. In the lead-up to the conflict

Brent was trading at around \$70 a barrel. A ceasefire was agreed in early April, and since then Washington and Tehran have engaged in talks over a long-term peace deal. "There is now some light at the end of the tunnel, which will bring some near term oil price relief," Saul Kavonic, head of energy research at MST Financial. "But even in the most optimistic scenario from here, oil markets will remain tight through 2027 given the time required to normalise oil flows through the Strait, repair damaged oil facilities, and rebuild global oil stocks that have seen record depletion since the war began," he added. Lars Jensen, chief executive of Vespucci Maritime and former Maersk director, said that even if a deal was announced on Monday the shipping industry would remain "very cautious and hesitant". "You are likely going to see shipping lines that have vessels stuck in the Persian Gulf try to get them out, but they will be a lot more hesitant to put ships back into the Persian Gulf in case the thing turns south again," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

SEBI BANS 7 INDIVIDUALS IN RS 20-CR STOCK MANIPULATION CASE

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi has barred seven individuals from securities markets for allegedly running a coordinated pump-and-dump scheme across social media platforms and making unlawful gains of over Rs 20.25 crore. Apart from the debarment, the regulator has also directed finfluencer Hemant Gupta and his sons, Rohan Gupta and Aniket Gupta, to immediately cease and desist from offering unregistered research analyst services or from portraying themselves as research analysts. In a 234-page interim order passed on May 22, Sebi alleged that Hemant, Rohan and Aniket acted as "Operators" who first accumulated positions in thinly traded SME stocks and later circulated bullish stock recommendations on social media platforms to inflate prices, before selling their holdings at a profit. Four other family members – Sharon, Leana, Rajani and Purvangi Gupta – allegedly facilitated the operation by allowing the use of their trading accounts or by executing



trades on the operators' instructions, the order said. "The on-going investigation has prima facie highlighted the scheme and device orchestrated intricately by noticees whereby the operators by posting stock recommendations on various scrips on their X Accounts and social media platforms induced the general public to deal in the securities purely based on misleading and unsolicited stock tips, and thus enabling the beneficiaries to liquidate their holdings at an inflated price," Sebi's Whole Time Member Kamlesh C Varshney said in the order. According to Sebi, the scheme involved 82 scrips during the exam-

ination period from December 1, 2023, to January 20, 2026. Sebi said Rohan and Aniket posted bullish updates on their X handles, 'WealthSolitaire' and '@desiwallstreet'. On the other hand, Hemant amplified these recommendations across several WhatsApp and Telegram groups, often adding explicit target prices and deliberately keeping such communications off X, to avoid regulatory scrutiny. The regulator noted that the combined gross traded value of the seven individuals rose 86 per cent from Rs 548 crore in the pre-examination period to Rs 1,023 crore during the examination period.

Probe ordered into excessive charges by online flight ticket booking platforms

Hubballi: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi has directed officials of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to investigate complaints that online flight ticket booking platforms are allegedly charging passengers excessively during ticket booking and cancellation processes. The minister's intervention came after a consumer reportedly exposed instances where online ticketing platforms were collecting charges significantly higher than the fees imposed directly by airlines. Taking serious note of the issue, Pralhad Joshi instructed the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to conduct an immediate inquiry and initiate action against unfair trade practices if violations are confirmed. According to the complaint highlighted before the minister, several online booking platforms were allegedly collecting cancellation and service charges far beyond the actual fees charged by airline companies. In some cases, the



platforms were reportedly imposing charges up to 15 times higher than the fees levied by airlines themselves. Officials said the minister has specifically asked authorities to examine whether online travel aggregators are violating consumer rights by imposing unreasonable and hidden charges during booking, modification or cancellation of flight tickets. "Investigate whether excessive and unjustified charges are being collected from passengers during ticket booking and cancellation. If such practices are found to be widespread, necessary action should be initiated under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019," the minister reportedly instructed officials. The issue has sparked concern among frequent flyers

and consumer rights activists, many of whom have long complained about hidden convenience fees, platform charges and cancellation deductions imposed by online travel portals. Consumer groups have argued that passengers are often unaware of the actual airline cancellation charges because the platforms combine multiple service fees under unclear categories, making it difficult for users to identify the genuine breakup of costs. The move by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry is expected to bring greater scrutiny on digital travel booking platforms operating across the country. Officials said the investigation would

focus on transparency in pricing, disclosure of cancellation policies and whether customers are being misled during transactions. The CCPA, established under the Consumer Protection Act, has powers to investigate unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and violations affecting consumer interests. Industry experts believe the inquiry could result in stricter regulations for online travel aggregators and force companies to clearly disclose service charges and cancellation deductions to customers before ticket confirmation. The development comes amid growing dependence on digital booking platforms for domestic and international air travel, especially after the rapid expansion of online travel services in recent years. The minister's intervention came after a consumer reportedly exposed instances where online ticketing platforms were collecting charges significantly higher than the fees imposed directly by airlines.

AI is changing the internet forever

There's a simple reason Google is making sweeping changes to its iconic, decades-old search engine: users are making complicated requests. "People are asking much longer and harder questions that no longer have a clear response anywhere on the internet," said Robby Stein, vice president of product for Google Search. Stein spoke to CNN about a new feature that lets Google generate custom visuals, interactive graphics and even mini-apps running on Google's search page in response to queries by piecing together sources from across the web. It's one of many updates the internet giant announced at its annual conference this week. The most valuable real estate on the internet is evolving to reflect the new ways people find information online, the latest example of how artificial intelligence is changing the internet across search, social media, online shopping and more. People are starting to use longer, more specific search terms instead of succinct generic keywords, according to Google, and are increasingly beginning their searches in apps like ChatGPT, experts



say. Fake, AI-generated influencers are causing a stir on social media. And people are increasingly using AI to compare and buy products. It's getting impossible to avoid using the internet without somehow encountering AI, despite growing anxiety about the tech and its impact on jobs, safety and the environment. "After a while, it just becomes part of the way you live," said Joseph Turow, a University of Pennsylvania media professor who will soon be releasing a book about AI's impact on internet advertising. ChatGPT 'trained' people to search differently Google says its search box is getting its biggest upgrade in 25 years. The new search field expands

to fit more text and makes it easier to add other media to a search — like photos, files and Chrome browser tabs. The goal is to shrink the number of steps for a user to complete a search, according to Stein. That includes tasks like performing a search based on a photo or switching to Google's AI Mode before asking a follow-up question. Searches that involve questions based on snapping a photo or circling something on a phone screen are growing 60%, year-over-year, he said. Searches in AI Mode, or the version of Google tailored for back-and-forth interactions, have more than doubled every quarter since they launched a year ago, and AI

Mode queries are triple the length of a regular search on average. Data from SEO and marketing firm Semrush indicates some people are starting to search Google the way they type to ChatGPT. Searches containing 11 words or more increased from 3.27% to 5.37%, and conversational queries jumped from 5% to 20%, while keyword-style searches decreased. Yet the median query still contains just three words, suggesting that most people still search the old-fashioned way. Robert Langenback, president of SEO marketing agency Eight Oh Two Marketing, said he's observed people typing in more searches that range from three to five or five to 10 words instead of two to three words. That started before ChatGPT's arrival in late 2022, although it's ramped up significantly since then. "AI has) really almost trained people how to search differently," he said. People generally use a mix of AI apps like ChatGPT and Google. More than 20% of ChatGPT referral traffic goes to Google, Semrush found after analyzing 1 billion lines of US clickstream data, or "trails" of user activity across the web.

Indian billionaires buy foreign companies as growth slows at home

In late April, India's Sun Pharmaceuticals agreed to pay \$11.75bn (£8.59bn) to acquire New York-listed women's health and biosimilars firm Organon & Co. It marked the biggest overseas acquisition by an Indian company in nearly two decades and followed a string of high-profile international deals by Indian firms in recent months. These include Tata Motors' \$4.4bn acquisition of Turin-based vehicle maker Iveco, IT company Coforge's \$2.35bn purchase of Silicon Valley-based AI firm Encora and the Bajaj Group buying a 23% stake in global insurance giant Allianz SE earlier in 2025. Data from consultancy Grant Thornton shows that 162 Indian companies spent more than \$18bn on outbound acquisitions in 2025 - a 34% increase from the previous year. "We could cross \$15bn in deal value in just the first half of this year," Sumet Abrol, partner and national leader at Grant Thornton, told the BBC. For many, this new wave of over-



seas acquisitions by India Inc evokes memories of the global buying spree led by companies such as the Tata Group two decades ago, when it made audacious bets for global trophy assets like Jaguar Land Rover and Corus Steel. But several analysts told the BBC that the motivations this time are somewhat different. Indian companies are pursuing Western assets not simply as symbols of global ambition, but increasingly for strategic and operational reasons. The broader economic backdrop has also changed sharply since the early 2000s. During the previous acquisition boom, India

was in the midst of a roaring bull market. Today, the country is grappling with a rapid exodus of foreign portfolio investors, a sharp slowdown in net foreign direct investment (FDI) and stubbornly weak private sector investment despite tax cuts and production-linked subsidies offered by the government. "Corporate profits [of India's top 500 companies post-Covid] grew at 30.8% per annum. But still, our overall capital formation rates from the private sector have been disappointing," India's chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran recently said at a policy conference.

String Metaverse reports record-breaking FY26 Financial Results; Revenue Surges to 1,069 Crore with PAT Crossing Rs. 102 Crore

Hyderabad, May 25, 2026: String Metaverse Limited, a rapidly emerging leader in digital and AI financial infrastructure company, today announced its audited financial results for the fiscal year ending 2025-26 (FY26). Driven by accelerated momentum across its core business verticals, the company delivered blockbuster performance, setting new financial benchmarks in its growth journey across AI infrastructure, gaming ecosystems and high-frequency trading operations. The audited consolidated financial results were officially approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on May 25, 2026.

Exceptional FY26 Financial Performance
For the full fiscal year, String Metaverse recorded a massive surge in Revenue from Operations, reaching 1,069.11 crore, up from 407.36 crore in the previous fiscal year. This exponential top-line growth translated



ed into a highly profitable bottom line, with the Profit Before Tax (PBT) standing at 103.51 crore and the Profit After Tax (PAT) crossing the milestone mark to reach 102.52 crore. Operational efficiency saw significant improvement, with the company's EBITD skyrocketing by 190% year-on-year to 121.88 crore. Consequently, Earnings Per Share (EPS) also witnessed a stellar 170% YoY growth, closing at 0.89.

Strong Q4 FY26 Momentum
The company maintained a vigorous growth trajectory

through the final quarter of the fiscal year. In Q4 FY26 alone, String Metaverse generated a robust revenue of 359.40 crore. The quarter's EBDIT grew by an impressive 167% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to 41.98 crore, while the PAT for the quarter stood at a solid 34.71 crore.

Strategic Global Expansion and Future Outlook
As global markets undergo a paradigm shift toward AI Economies, Digital Infrastructure, Digital Assets, Web3 Tokenization, and next-generation financial systems, String

Metaverse is strategically positioning itself at the convergence of these transformational sectors. The company is rapidly scaling its status as a high-growth Indian digital infrastructure platform. To support this vision, String Metaverse has aggressively expanded its global footprint, successfully scaling its AI, gaming, digital assets, and algorithmic finance infrastructure operations across key international markets, including India, the UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Canada. Commenting on the record-breaking financial results,

Mr. Ganesh Meenavalli, Managing Director of String Metaverse Limited, said: "FY26 marks a transformational year for String Metaverse as we accelerated our expansion into AI-driven financial infrastructure, gaming ecosystems, and high-frequency trading technologies."

Audit Update
The statutory auditors of the company have reviewed the financial statements and issued an unmodified audit opinion, underscoring the company's strong financial health and transparent reporting standards.

Forward-Looking Statements Disclaimer
This release contains forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. String Metaverse Limited undertakes no obligation to publicly update such statements except as required under applicable law.

Deal with US not imminent, Iran says

Iran says some progress has been reached in talks with the US, but a deal "is not imminent". Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqai's remarks came after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said an agreement could possibly be reached on Monday. "It is correct to say that we have reached a conclusion on a large portion of the issues under discussion," Baqai said in Tehran on Monday. "But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent - no one can make such a claim." The memorandum of understanding reportedly involves a 60-day ceasefire extension, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and a plan for further negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme. At the weekend, President Donald Trump suggested the sides were closing a deal, even though he later said he had instructed negotiators "not to rush into" one. On Monday, Rubio told reporters in the Indian capital, Delhi: "We thought we might have some news last night. Maybe today."



Cautioning "I wouldn't read too much into it", Rubio said: "It takes a little while to hear back from Iran." CBS News, the BBC's US partner, has reported that US intelligence believes Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei - who was injured in an Israeli strike on the first day of the war which killed his father and predecessor - is holed up in an undisclosed location, making communication with his envoys difficult and there-

fore delaying pace of talks with the US. According to US media, the mooted deal is not a final settlement - instead it leaves some of the thorniest issues to be negotiated later, including the scope and timing of Iranian sanctions relief, the release of frozen Iranian funds, and Washington's demands for Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions. "So we have, what I think is a pretty solid thing on the table in terms of their ability to open up the

Straits," he said referring to the Strait of Hormuz - the crucial waterway where 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes and which Iran has been blocking. Oil prices fell sharply and Asian stock markets rose on Monday on hopes of an agreement. The reported deal has split Trump's Republicans, with some publicly arguing it is too lenient on Iran. Senator Ted Cruz said it would be "a disastrous mistake", while

Roger Wicker, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, said a 60-day ceasefire would mean "everything accomplished by Operation Epic Fury would be for naught!" Senator Lindsey Graham, who is a close Trump ally, also criticised any deal that would leave Iran perceived as being a dominant force in the region. "It makes one wonder why the war started to begin with," he said. Trump responded by dismissing his critics as "losers" and saying "the deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal". Even in a best case scenario, the effects of a deal are unlikely to be seen right away. It could be months before the shipping industry will be able to go back to supply chains that are "physically in the same shape as they were before the crisis", Lars Jensen, chief executive of Vespucci Maritime and former director of shipping company Maersk, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Should a deal between Iran

and the US be announced in the coming days, the industry would still remain "cautious and hesitant" to make any "major operational changes", Jensen explained. The US and Israel launched wide-ranging strikes on Iran on 28 February, sparking conflict across the Middle East. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf, and effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz. The move sent oil prices soaring globally. Shortly after a ceasefire was agreed in early April, the US established a blockade of Iranian ports, which Trump says will remain "in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed". In Sunday's post on Truth Social, Trump reiterated that Iran "must understand" it cannot develop a nuclear weapon. Tehran has repeatedly said its nuclear programme is solely for peaceful purposes. Some reports in US media suggest the deal could see Iran agree to eventually hand over its highly enriched uranium.

FIRST HONG KONG ASTRONAUT LAUNCHES INTO SPACE ONBOARD CHINESE MISSION

A Hong Kong astronaut has been launched into space for the first time, aboard China's Shenzhou-23 spacecraft. Li Jiaying, a 43-year-old police officer and mother of three, serves as the payload scientist in the three-member crew who made their way to China's Tiangong space station on Sunday night. At least one member of the crew will spend a full year in orbit as part of a key experiment. Authorities will determine who that will be at a later date. The mission is the latest in China's ambitious space program to send humans to the moon by 2030. It comes amid an accelerating race with the US, which is looking to achieve a crewed lunar landing by 2028. The Shenzhou-23 is tasked with studying the effects of micro-gravity on the human body, among many experiments. Apart from Li, the two other astronauts on the mission are Zhu Yangzhu, a 39-year-old space engineer and Zhang Zhiyuan, a 39-year-old former air force pilot. Large crowds waved Chinese flags as the rocket launched from



the north-west Gobi desert on the Long March 2-F rocket at 23:08 local (15:08 GMT) Sunday. A few hours later, it docked on the Tiangong space station. Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said Li's inclusion in the mission was a "historic" moment. Li said she was inspired by Yang Liwei, the first person sent to space by China's space programme. "This is a rare chance. Why not try?" Li said, according to Xinhua news agency. As she made her way to the launch on Sunday, Li said, according to state broadcaster CCTV: "How high our Chinese spacecraft flies, that's how high we can hold our heads high".

Clashes as Venezuelan prisoners protest over alleged mistreatment



Violent clashes have erupted between inmates and security personnel at a prison in the Venezuelan state of Barinas. Extra security forces were deployed to the jail after prisoners climbed the roof and burned mattresses in protest at their alleged mistreatment. Witnesses reported hearing explosions and inmates said they had been shot at. Organisations lobbying for prisoners' rights have long denounced the poor conditions at many of Venezuela's penitentiaries. Non-governmental organisation Venezuelan Prison Observatory (OVP) said that the inmates at the jail, known as Injuba, had been complaining for more than a week about their treatment under the prison's new director. They allege they were violently searched, kept in solitary confinement and mistreated. The prison director has so far not publicly commented, nor has the government of interim President Delcy Rodriguez. In footage published by OVP, groups of inmates can be seen protesting on the roof, with some burn-

ing mattresses. In one video, a man can be seen showing wounds on his torso and his arm, with another man shouting "they're shooting at us". Others can be heard joining into chants of "we want justice". In another recording shared by OVP, a woman wearing dark glasses and a face mask addresses Rodriguez directly and demands that the minister of prisons and Injuba's director resign. She insists that their protest is peaceful before stating their demands, which include medicine for prisoners who have tuberculosis. OVP has long drawn attention to the poor conditions in Venezuelan jails, with the organisation warning that many do not meet the "minimum standards" which should be guaranteed by law. Since the United States seized Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in a military operation in the capital, Caracas, on 3 January, US pressure has led to the release of hundreds of political prisoners. However, more than 400 are still behind bars, according to pressure group Foro Penal.

ANGER GROWS AFTER CHINA'S DEADLIEST COAL MINING DISASTER IN YEARS



Anger is growing over alleged safety violations in the wake of China's worst mining disaster in more than 15 years. At least 82 people were killed and more than 120 injured after an explosion on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, the heart of China's huge mining industry. For many in China, the tragedy harks

back to the 2000s, a period of regular, deadly coal mining disasters, which is widely thought to have been left in the past. Those concerns are now reignited and playing out on China's tightly-controlled internet, with people calling for justice and questioning how this happened: "It's so heartbreaking, so many precious lives lost."

TALIBAN BAN PUSHES AFGHAN GIRLS TOWARDS FORCED MARRIAGES

Alia - whose name we have changed for her safety - travelled hundreds of miles from her village to Kabul to escape marriage. The journey by taxi last year with her female cousin - covered from head to toe, only their eyes visible, as the rules decree - was an exceptional thing to do, and risky in Afghanistan, where at any moment they might be caught by the Taliban inspectors enforcing rules banning women travelling long distances without a male relative escorting them. But Alia, who is 19, and her cousin weren't stopped at any Taliban checkpoints, and made it to the capital. "I made up an excuse to my family saying I was coming here to meet my friends and former classmates. But that's not true.



They are not here. The actual reason is that if I stayed in Daykundi, I would be forced to get married." Instead, she arrived in Kabul with a plan: she enrolled in an English language course. These short-term, narrowly-focused private courses - available only to those who can afford them - are, along with madrasas which focus on religious education, the only options for girls to

learn past primary school in Afghanistan. But neither are close to being a substitute for formal schooling. It has now been almost five years since the Taliban stopped girls over 12 going to school, with various reasons given to explain why the ban is still in place. Years in which girls like Alia have grown up without the education they wanted and needed. Years in which the path to a

career has been effectively shut off, narrowing their options until millions of girls in Afghanistan have been left with just one choice: marriage. Alia's story is unusual, not just for her bravery. But she also comes from a family which has the funds to pursue the few opportunities available to young women - a rarity in a country where three in four people cannot meet their basic needs, according to the United Nations. It's not that Alia's family do not want her to study - they accepted she wanted to stay in Kabul, and are funding her English course even now - but even they are constrained by the realities of life in Afghanistan. "Before the ban, my parents passionately encouraged me to go to school.

Large-scale Russian attack on Ukraine leaves four dead and dozens injured

Russia carried out a deadly large-scale wave of strikes against Ukraine, firing hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles on Saturday night. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv was the main target, but other areas were also hit, with about 100 people injured. Four people were killed in the capital and wider region, with explosions heard throughout the night. Dozens of residential buildings, a school, an opera house and a museum were damaged. Russia's defence ministry said the Oreshnik hypersonic missile was used in the strikes, which it described as coming in response to Ukraine's "attacks on civilian infrastructure".



Ukraine's military denies targeting civilians. Early on Monday, energy infrastructure was damaged in a missile attack on Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, including the city of Belgorod, the Interfax news agency reported, citing local authorities. There were no casualties

but power and water supply were interrupted, Interfax said. It did not provide further details. Russia's Yaroslavl region, northeast of Moscow, also came under a drone attack, the Governor Mikhail Yevrayev said on Telegram. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a

full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. He accused Kyiv of hitting a student dormitory in the town of Starobilsk on Friday, in which Russian officials said 21 people were killed. Ukraine's military said its forces did carry out an attack in Starobilsk in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine overnight on Friday, but maintained that it struck an elite Russian drone military unit. European leaders have condemned the Russian strikes early on Sunday, which came after warnings from Zelensky that Russia was planning an attack, and that it may have been preparing to use the Oreshnik missile.

Turkish riot police storm opposition offices after leaders ousted



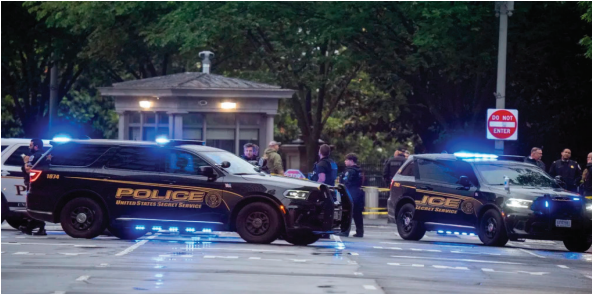
Turkish riot police forced their way into the headquarters of the country's main opposition party on Sunday, days after a court dismissed its leadership. Clouds of tear gas billowed outside the Republican People's Party (CHP) building in Ankara, where party members had blocked the entrances with a makeshift barricade. Footage from the scene showed those inside shouting and throwing objects towards the entrance, and police being sprayed with hoses. Party leader Özgür Özel had vowed to defy an appeal court decision on Thursday which declared his election null and void, in a move further cementing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's grip on power. The court decided that Özel should be replaced by Kemal Kilicdaroglu, a 77-year-old party veteran who was defeated by Erdogan in the 2023 presidential election. Turkish media reported that Kilicdaroglu's representatives had requested the police carry out "necessary procedures" to hand over the headquarters to

the new leadership, claiming they had so far been barred entry. The city's governor then instructed the police to "implement the court decision", according to a statement from his office. "We are under attack," Özel said in a video message shared on X as the security forces sought entry to the building, where clashes were also reported between his supporters and those of Kilicdaroglu. Özel later emerged from the premises, telling crowds gathered outside: "They tried to uproot and throw us out - to where?" He said the party would "from now be on the streets or in the squares, marching towards power". He then set off towards the Turkish parliament, leading hundreds of supporters through the streets of Ankara. The court's decision overturned a 2025 ruling by a lower court that threw out allegations of vote buying in the party election which made Özel leader. It also means the party's entire executive is replaced, and it is thought its decisions are no longer recognised.



At least 19 people taken to hospital after 'strong smell' reported at Tokyo mall

SUSPECT KILLED AFTER OPENING FIRE ON SECRET SERVICE NEAR WHITE HOUSE



A gunman who shot at a White House security checkpoint was killed in an exchange of fire with Secret Service agents on Saturday evening, officials have confirmed. The suspect was Nasire Best, a 21-year-old man, the Metropolitan Police Department told the BBC. He reportedly was known to police and had a documented history of mental health conditions. Gunfire

rang out just after 18:00 local time (23:00 GMT) - reporters filming outside ducked and ran for cover inside the White House. US President Donald Trump was at the White House but was unharmed. He thanked officers for their "swift and professional action". The shooting comes a month after a gunman opened fire at the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

IPL 2026: DELHI CAPITALS DEFEATS KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS BY 40 RUNS



Who Is Nishesh Basavareddy? The Indian-Origin Star Who Went Viral After Beating World No. 9 Taylor Fritz At French Open

Indian-origin tennis star Nishesh Basavareddy made headlines at the French Open after he beat world No. 9 Taylor Fritz of the United States. The 21-year-old Basavareddy, currently ranked No. 148 in the world, beat his compatriot 7-6, 7-6, 6-7, 6-1. After Taylor Fritz suffered a first-round exit at Roland Garros following a shocking defeat at the hands of countryman Nishesh Basavareddy, he stayed upbeat despite the loss, saying his level was not that bad but the Indian-American "cooked him" with his drop shots. In his first appearance in the main draw of a clay-court major, the American wild card Basavareddy prevailed on his fourth match point after a titanic fight against his compatriot, securing his first victory at Roland-Garros and his first win against a Top 10 player, becoming the first American to achieve this "double" in Paris since 1996 and Chris Woodruff, who



had then beaten Andre Agassi. Who Is Nishesh Basavareddy? The Indian-origin Basavareddy was born in Newport Beach, California, in 2005. His parents had moved to the United States from Nellore, India, in 1999. His older brother, Nishanth, was also born in the United States. His father initially worked for Toyota. Basavareddy turned pro in 2024 and had earlier been among the top 100 in the world too. In the pair's first ATP head-to-head meeting, Basavareddy

often put the seventh seed on the back foot with pinpoint backhand accuracy and deft drop shots. "He just played incredibly well," Fritz said of Basavareddy. "The biggest thing was just the drop shots were crazy. Typically, when someone is drop-shotting me too much I kind of just tell myself, 'Okay, I need to hit the ball deeper'." He was hitting insane drop shots, off balls that were landing on the baseline. He killed me with that, and there's not really much I can do about it.

Pokemon YouTuber GameboyLuke Finally Responds to Cheating Allegations And Admits Hiding Things From RaidAway

Pokemon YouTuber Luke "GameboyLuke" has finally responded after days of backlash surrounding the cheating allegations involving fellow creator Rich "RaidAway" and Rich's ex-partner, Taylor. The drama originally started on May 21, 2026, when RaidAway posted on X claiming that Taylor cheated on him with GameboyLuke during New Year's. Rich also said he only discovered the situation months later, despite the breakup already happening back in January. His emotional posts quickly spread online, with many fans shocked seeing two well-known Pokemon creators suddenly caught in personal relationship drama. Now, after several days of online discussions, GameboyLuke



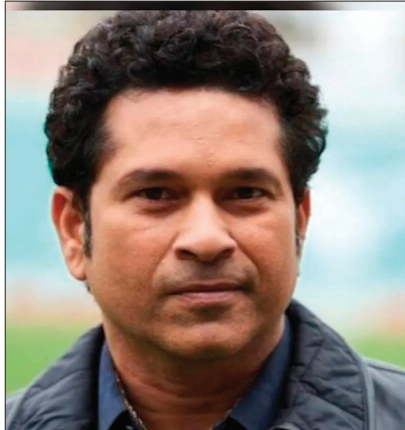
has shared his side of the story. In a detailed statement posted on X on May 24, Luke admitted he handled things badly, apologized directly to Rich, and confirmed there were still feelings between him and Taylor from their past relationship. What GameboyLuke said while

responding to the cheating allegations In his statement, GameboyLuke said he understood people were upset and admitted that he should have told Rich about the situation much earlier. He called his actions "incredibly wrong" and said he was not trying to make excuses

for what happened. Luke also clarified one of the biggest talking points online. According to him, he and Taylor "did not sleep together" before her breakup with RaidAway. However, he added that this did not erase the betrayal or emotional damage caused by the situation. The YouTuber explained that he had been trying to deal with much of the situation privately before finally deciding to speak publicly. He also acknowledged that many people would probably not be satisfied with just one post but felt remaining silent was making things worse. GameboyLuke says he and Taylor still had feelings for each other Another major part of Luke's statement focused on his past relationship with Taylor.

Sachin Tendulkar's Message To India's Fastest Man Gurindervir Singh: "Keep Sprinting Ahead"

Gurindervir Singh is making headlines. The athlete became the first Indian sprinter to clock a sub-10.10 timing in the 100m race. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar lauded India's sprint sensation Gurindervir Singh after the Punjab athlete scripted history by becoming the fastest Indian ever in the men's 100m event. Gurindervir clocked a sensational 10.09 seconds at the 29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition 2026 in Ranchi. The 25-year-old's remarkable effort rewrote the national record and secured qualification for both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. Reacting to the historic feat, Tendulkar shared a post on X, praising the sprinter for his landmark achievement. "Incredibly proud of Gurindervir Singh for becoming the fastest Indian ever. What a phenomenal achievement. Keep sprinting ahead, champion!" Tendulkar said in a post on X. Gurindervir's record-breaking run capped a dramatic day in Ranchi. He had

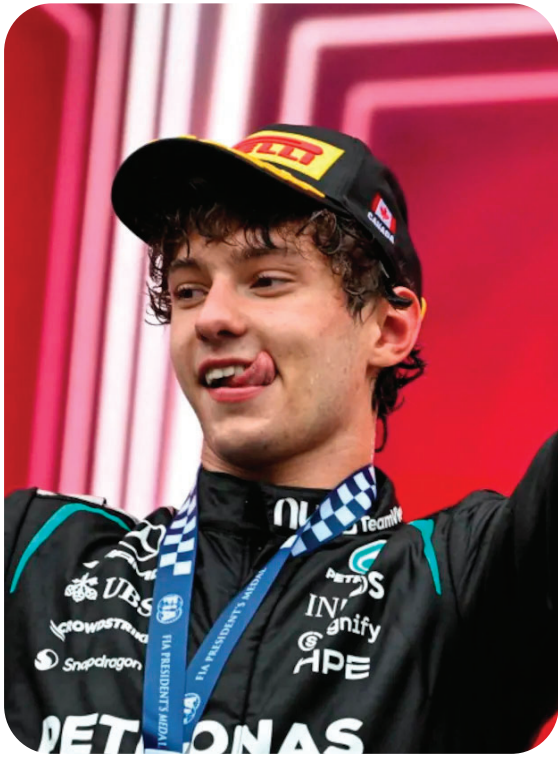


earlier clocked 10.17 seconds in the semifinals to briefly set a new national mark, only for fellow sprinter Animesh Kujur to surpass it moments later with a 10.15-second effort. In the final, however, Gurindervir reclaimed the record emphatically with his historic 10.09s finish, while both he and Animesh booked their spots for the Glasgow



Commonwealth Games. Earlier on Sunday, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated the sprinter after he became the first Indian to clock below 10.10 seconds in the men's 100m event. In a post on X, Mandaviya wrote, "10.09 seconds! Gurindervir Singh, you have rewritten history. The entire nation is incredibly proud of you!" z

MERCEDES TEEN STAR KIMI
ANTONELLI WINS CANADIAN GP
FOR HIS 4TH STRAIGHT F1 VICTORY



World Football Day: ZFA Empowers 1,400+ Young Footballers To Accelerate India's Football Growth

On the occasion of World Football Day, Zinc Football Academy (ZFA) reiterated its commitment to driving the growth and development of football in India. As it continues to celebrate the transformative power of football in shaping young lives, Zinc Football, in the past year alone, has positively impacted more than 1,400 young boys and girls in its bid to nurture grassroots talent and support India's footballing aspirations. This season has been a landmark chapter in ZFA's journey. The academy clinched its third Rajasthan State Men's League title, remarkably achieved with one of the youngest squads in the competition, underlining its strong development pathway. On the national stage, ZFA's Under-18 team finished runners-up in the



AIFF Under-18 Elite League, emerging as the second-best Under-18 team in India. Marking another significant milestone, the Zawar academy made its debut in the I-League 3, one of the top tiers of Indian football. The girls' team also delivered an exceptional season within just one year of its debut, securing titles at the Doon Cup, DAV Under-19 Nationals, and Asmita

Football League, while currently leading the points table in the ongoing Rajasthan Senior Women's League, highlighting the rapid rise of women's football at ZFA. Guided by its core philosophy, "Football Creates Dreams. Zinc Football Academy Builds Futures", Hindustan Zinc's ZFA has evolved from a grassroots initiative into a professionally driven foot-

ball ecosystem. With a strong focus on holistic development, the academy combines world-class infrastructure, structured coaching methodologies, and technology-led performance analysis to nurture the next generation of Indian footballers. Beyond the pitch, the academy promotes a true student-athlete model, ensuring every player's education is taken care of, all on a full scholarship basis. Since its inception in 2018, Zinc Football Academy-an AIFF 3-star rated academy-has consistently produced players for India's age-group teams, strengthening the nation's talent pool. Recently, the academy also launched India's first residential football academy for girls, with an inaugural batch of 20 players from rural backgrounds.

WWE News: CM Punk Spotted During WWE Break Looking Absolutely Jacked In Viral Fan Gym Footage



CM Punk might be away from WWE television right now, but fans are still talking about him nonstop after a new gym video started making rounds online. The former World Heavyweight Champion recently appeared in fan-shot footage while training during his break from WWE programming, and honestly, people could barely recognize him at first. The reason? Punk looked seriously jacked. The viral clip quickly spread across wrestling social media after a fan shared that they randomly noticed Punk training at the same gym. According to the fan, they didn't even realize it was the WWE star initially because of how muscular and ripped he looked compared to his recent TV appearances. Soon after, an X user reposted the TikTok clip, and wrestling fans instantly started reacting to Punk's physique transformation during his current hiatus. CM Punk's new look during WWE break gets

internet attention The gym clip became a huge talking point mostly because fans were shocked at how different CM Punk looked physically. In the footage, The Second City Saint appeared noticeably more muscular while training during his time away from WWE TV. CM Punk has been absent from WWE ever since WrestleMania 42, where he faced Roman Reigns in a singles match for the World Heavyweight Championship. Even though Punk delivered a strong performance in the high-profile bout, he ultimately failed to win the title. Since that match, he hasn't appeared on WWE's weekly shows, which has left fans constantly wondering when he'll return. A lot of people online started speculating whether Punk could be preparing for another major run once he returns. Others simply joked that the former champion looked "built different" during his break from wrestling.

Travis Head's Wife Abused After Virat Kohli Incident, Ugly Side Of IPL Fan Culture Exposed Again

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) contest might have been a dead-rubber form the IPL 2026 playoffs qualification standpoint, but it went on to enthrall fans in an unexpected way after a personal battle erupted between Virat Kohli and Travis Head. The match ended with SRH securing a victory, shortly after which, Kohli turned down Head's handshake, setting the internet ablaze. While fans could make out that the RCB star wasn't happy with Head's antics in the middle, Kohli's

fans decided to drag the SRH batter's wife Jessica into the matter. It isn't the first time that players' spouses have had to bear the consequences of what happened on the field. Travis Head's catch to dismiss Rohit Sharma during India and Australia's ODI World Cup final in 2023 produced a similar experience for Jessica. The aftermath of the Kohli-Head clash in the IPL 2026 match wasn't much different for her. "It feels like a repeat of the abuse that happened after the World Cup. I woke up to my socials blasting... we are fine but



they are attacking my friends and family," Jessica said while speaking to Australian media outlet The Advertiser. "I think across all sports at

the moment there's an important conversation around mental health, perspective and the way we speak to one another. Passion will always

be part of sport, but so is remembering there are real people and families behind the game. Hopefully this encourages more kindness and support for one another," she added. What Prompted Virat Koli To Snub Travis Head Handshake? Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan, who was doing commentary during the SRH vs RCB match, revealed that a lot transpired between Kohli and Head while the former was batting. The on-field tussle then led to the snubbed handshake, which could've been avoided. "Yes, I was

commentating at that time. Look, Virat also likes to play cricket the way the Australians do. A little banter, a little aggression, a little talk of 'okay, come and bowl a few deliveries.' That's what he was saying. 'You are not an Impact Player.' Generally, he is an Impact Player, and he goes off the field. He asked him to bowl, something happened, and he was calling him out as well. Look at what happened after the game-I am not going to talk much about that. But what happened on the field is okay, it happens.

Grand ‘Blast Zone’ Press Meet Held Successfully – Massive Theatrical Release on May 28!



Action King Arjun Sarja, Preeti Mukundan and Abhirami starrer much-awaited action entertainer ‘Blast Zone’ is all set for a grand theatrical release on May 28. The film is being prestigiously distributed across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by Sithara Entertainments. Directed by Subhash K Raj and produced by AGS Entertainment, the film has music composed by ‘KGF’ fame Ravi Basrur. Ahead of the release, the film’s team held a grand press meet on Monday at Park Hyatt Hyderabad. Speaking at the event, Arjun Sarja said, “Blast Zone is a very special film for me. The film carries a powerful message about standing against injustice in society and empowering women with courage and confidence. The

movie blends women empowerment with strong commercial elements. Preeti Mukundan and Abhirami have performed outstanding action sequences after undergoing martial arts training. Ravi Basrur’s background score is exceptional, and every technical department has delivered brilliant work. This film will not feel like a dubbed movie; every character will connect emotionally with the audience. I am confident everyone will thoroughly enjoy Blast Zone in theatres on May 28.” Actress Abhirami said, “I am extremely happy to be part of such a powerful mass entertainer. I have never performed such an intense role or action sequences before. I worked very hard for this film and even underwent special training. The trailer has received a fantastic

response, and the film is packed with stunning visuals, music, and action. Blast Zone is definitely a theatrical experience.” Actress Preeti Mukundan said, “We are overwhelmed by the tremendous response to the Telugu trailer. I strongly believe Blast Zone will become a huge success in Telugu as well. I thank Sithara Entertainments for releasing our film on a grand scale.” Director Subhash K Raj said, “Audiences will witness vintage Arjun sir in this film. The movie will be a treat for his fans. Preeti Mukundan and Abhirami delivered exceptional performances. After seeing the response to the trailer, I understood the expectations are very high, and I assure audiences that the film will exceed those expectations.”

PEDDI WILL STAY IN AUDIENCE HEARTS: SHIVARAJ KUMAR

It was a pleasure working with Ram Charan. The film Peddi will remain in the minds of the audience: Kannada superstar Shivaraj Kumar. Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s most awaited action drama ‘Peddi’ 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. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings and Vriddhi Cinemas. Peddi is set to release globally on June 4. Special premieres will be held on June 3. In this backdrop, the film team organized a grand press meet in Bengaluru. Mega Power Star Ram Charan said at the Bengaluru press meet.. Greetings to all the Kannada audiences. Heartfelt thanks to all the fans. I feel lucky to receive so much love doing what I love and know. I bow to all of you and to God. I am coming before you again after almost two and a half years. We all worked very honestly and devoted our lives for this film. Write it down... This will be one of the best films. Shivanna is like a father, an uncle, and a brother to me. He is a legend in the Indian film industry and the king of Kannada cinema. I feel blessed to be working with such a great actor. I am very happy that



AR Rahman is a part of this film. Janhvi also worked very honestly for this film. This is the first film for our producer Satish. He did it with all his heart. Without Buchi Babu, this film would not exist. Also, thank you to Jagapathi Babu and DOP Ratnavelu. Special thanks to Sukumar garu who was the main reason for this film to happen. The most inspiring film I have done in my life is ‘Peddi’. I hope you all will definitely watch this film in theaters on June 4th. Kannada superstar Shivraj Kumar said.. Greetings to everyone. Ram Charan has worked very hard to reach this level. He has been working very honestly since his first film. He always has the blessings of his parents, Pawan Kalyan and fans. On

one occasion, Pawan Kalyan and Ram Charan sat side by side at an event. The affection between them touched me a lot. It is like the bond I have with Puneeth. I like Ram Charan a lot. It was a great pleasure to work with him. Producer Satish, director Buchibabu and Ratnavelu all showed me a lot of love and affection. I believe that Ram Charan will definitely get a National Award with the film ‘Peddhi’. We all love Chiranjeevi. I also participated in the blood donation camp organized on his birthday and donated blood. The audience loves Chiranjeevi’s family a lot. I have never seen such affection anywhere. There are no language differences between us. We always support good

artists with love. I told Charan that I would do it immediately when he told me that there is a role in this film. Buchibabu garu has crafted my role wonderfully. The bonding between us will definitely impress the audience. There is a strong emotion in this film. The story told by Buchibabu garu will definitely connect every audience. The character of ‘Peddi’ will remain in everyone’s heart. I am also eagerly waiting for June 4th. Heroine Janhvi Kapoor said.. Namaste Bengaluru. Our movie ‘Peddi’ is releasing on June 4th. It is a very special story. I hope everyone will definitely watch it in theaters and enjoy it. Director Buchi Babu has crafted a wonderful story. I am very happy to act with

Ram Charan garu in this movie. Also, I consider it a great honor in my life to get the opportunity to act in a scene with our Kannada superstar Shivanna garu. I hope you all will enjoy watching ‘Peddhi’ in theaters on June 4th. Producer Venkata Satish Kilaru said: Hello everyone. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to produce a prestigious film like ‘Peddi’. It is an excellent sports drama. It has all the elements that can be watched with the whole family. Ram Charan garu has worked tirelessly for this film. His dedication and hard work are visible on screen at every moment. We have made this film with a lot of love. I hope you all enjoy watching ‘Peddi’ in theaters on June 4th.

Harshith Reddy’s “Deewana” Set for a Grand Worldwide Theatrical Release on June 19 Through Geetha Film Distributors

Young and talented actor Harshith Reddy, who recently scored a successful hit with “Subham,” is now coming up with his new film “Deewana.” The makers officially announced today that the movie will have a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 19 through Geetha Film



Young and talented actor Harshith Reddy, who recently scored a successful hit with “Subham,” is now coming up with his new film “Deewana.”

Distributors. The poster promises an intense one side love story full of madness. This youthful love story has already grabbed the audience’s attention with its promotional content, including the teaser and songs. The teaser of

“Deewana” received a superb response, while the song “Idi Prema... Idi Prema...” sung by Karthik has turned into a chartbuster. The film is generating a strong buzz among youth audiences. The movie is being pro-

duced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the banners of ARHA Media and V Studios. Actress Smeha Manimegalai and director Srikanth Sangishetti are being introduced through this beautiful love story.

Cast: Harshith Reddy, Smeha Manimegalai
Technical Team: Costumes – Manasa

Production Designer – Jhansi Gojala
Editor – Hrushikesh Paspal
DOP – Vamsi Pachipulusu
Music – Eshwar Chand
Digital Marketing – House Full
PRO – GSK Media (Suresh – Sreenivas)
Producers – Vasudev Koppineni, Sridevi Karyampudi
Story, Screenplay & Direction – Srikanth Sangishetti

Vihari OTT Global Vision Unveiled during Cannes Film Festival by 'Bigg Boss' Fame Sri Satya while filming Cannes as a Tourist destination

The Vihari OTT team released a special preview at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, marking a new chapter in Telugu digital entertainment and travel storytelling. For the past 18 years, Vihari has entertained audiences with its travel programs. Now, it is transforming into a full-fledged global travel OTT platform. Known as one of the most popular travel brands in Telugu media, Vihari has showcased tourist destinations, cultures, traditions, food, and unique experiences from around the world. After successfully presenting many inspiring travel stories on television, Vihari is now set to reach audiences on a much larger scale through OTT.



Vihari OTT will be launched grandly in June as the first Telugu OTT platform dedicated entirely to travel content.

Liger Beauty’s Bharatanatyam Triggers Huge Backlash



A liger fame Ananya Panday’s latest film Chand Mera Dil has found itself at the center of a major social media debate after a Bharatanatyam-inspired dance sequence from the movie went viral online. The clip, featuring Ananya performing a fusion version of the classical dance form, triggered strong reactions from viewers, with many accusing the film of failing to respect the traditional art form. Several social media users criticized the choreography, expressions, and execution of the sequence, arguing that Bharatanatyam requires years of discipline and training. Some netizens even compared Ananya’s performance to iconic classical dance moments by actresses like Sridevi and Sai

Pallavi, claiming those performances reflected the true grace of the art form. The controversy intensified after political spokesperson Dr. Shama Mohamed also reacted strongly online, stating that classical dance forms should not be insulted through poorly executed performances. Meanwhile, many memes and trolling posts flooded X and Reddit, with users mocking the dance sequence and questioning Bollywood’s approach towards classical art forms. However, not everyone agreed with the criticism. A section of viewers defended Ananya and pointed out that the sequence was designed as a cinematic fusion performance rather than a pure Bharatanatyam recital.

DIRECTOR VENU UDUGULA LAUNCHES ‘SINGLE RAJU’ TITLE AND GLIMPSE

Another beautiful rural love story is all set to entertain Telugu audiences. Titled ‘Single Raju’, the film stars Vishwas, Mounika, and Divya in lead roles and is being directed by young filmmaker S.S. Varma. With its unique title already creating curiosity among movie lovers, the title poster and glimpse of the film were grandly launched at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad, in collaboration with ‘Maaa Events’. Director and producer Venu Udagula attended the event as the chief guest. He officially unveiled the title poster and released the glimpse

of ‘Single Raju’. Speaking on the occasion, Venu Udagula said, “I like both S.S. Varma and Vishwas very much. The moment I heard the story, I found it very interesting. They started this project with great determination and are making it wonderfully. The entire team is working very hard, and I wholeheartedly wish the film becomes a big success.” Director S.S. Varma said, “This film would not have been possible without the support of Venu Udagula anna. More than me, my parents worked hard for this movie. I strongly believe ‘Single Raju’ will



stand out as a complete entertainer that will surely impress the audience.” Hero Vishwas said,

“Director S.S. Varma and all of us are making this film with great passion. During the village sched-

ule, everyone there supported us wholeheartedly. We request audiences to encourage and support