

CHENNAI | BENGALURU | HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)**MANIPUR CM CALLS**
for inclusive growth, urges
equal development across
all communities

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SCAN FOR
E-PAPER**OM NAMO**
VENKATESAYA

29-05-2026

Total pilgrims : 78,389
Tonsures : 45,283
Hundi kanaku : 415 CR
Laddu sale : 407 Lac
Annaprasadam : 2,94 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,556
Waiting Compartments : Outside line
at Sthanonaram.Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens) : 24 H**PM MODI EXTENDS GOA**
STATEHOOD DAY GREETINGS,
HAILS STATE'S CULTURE AND

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended greetings to the people of Goa on the occasion of Goa Statehood Day, praising the state's vibrant culture, rich heritage, natural beauty and the warmth of its people.

In a post on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "Greetings to the people of Goa on the special occasion of Goa Statehood Day. Goa's vibrant culture, rich heritage, natural beauty and warm-hearted people are widely known."

Modi also paid tribute to those who contributed to the state's development and distinct identity over the years. "This day is also an opportunity to remember with gratitude all those who worked tirelessly for its progress and identity," he said.

RED ALERT ISSUED AS
STRONG WINDS AND DUST
STORMS SWEEP RAJASTHAN

Jaipur, May 30 : A strong Western Disturbance triggered widespread sandstorms, rain and gusty winds across Rajasthan on Saturday, disrupting normal life in several districts. Sandstorms swept through Churu, Hanumangarh, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Nagaur, Didwana-Kuchaman, Alwar and Sikar, while Jaipur witnessed rain accompanied by strong winds. Hailstones were also reported from some rural areas. The sudden weather change brought daytime darkness to several districts, forcing motorists to switch on headlights. Strong winds uprooted trees and disrupted electricity supply in many areas. The storm system first impacted Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar, where wind speeds reached up to 56 kilometres per hour. In Jaipur's Jhotwara area, intense winds and dust storms persisted for nearly 10 minutes during the evening. In Sri Ganganagar, a storm around 11 a.m. engulfed the city in dust, creating conditions resembling a massive sandstorm.

Shivakumar elected the new leader
of the Congress Legislative Party

BENGALURU (TSIT):

D K Shivakumar has been elected as the new leader of the Congress Legislative Party leader. In the Congress Legislative Party meeting held at the Conference Hall of Vidhana Soudha today, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed D K Shivakumar's name as the new leader. Dr G Parameshwara seconded the proposal. All the legislators supported it unanimously.

AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal announced in a press conference that D K Shivakumar has been elected as the new leader of the Congress Legislative Party. Earlier, AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala initiated the proceedings stating that the process of electing a new leader of the Congress Legislative Party would proceed with a proposal by Siddaramaiah.

CM Siddaramaiah moved a one-line resolution stating that the matter of electing the new legislative party leader was left to the discretion of the AICC. Parameshwara seconded it, and all legislators supported it by raising their hands.

**SHIVAKUMAR TO BE SWORN IN**
AS NEW CM ON JUNE 3

Bengaluru: D K Shivakumar, who has been elected as the new leader of the Congress Legislative Party, will be sworn in on June 3. Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot will administer the oath of office to D K Shivakumar and his team at a ceremony to be held at 4:05 pm at Lok Bhavan. After the election as the new leader at the Congress Legislature Party meeting at Vidhana Soudha, D K Shivakumar proceeded directly to Raj Bhavan and submitted a letter to the Governor seeking time for the swearing in. In response, the Governor issued a letter of permission for Shivakumar and his probable Cabinet members to be sworn in.

AICC General Secretary Surjewala then announced a 10-minute recess, during which CM Siddaramaiah, Venugopal, and Randeep Singh Surjewala held a discussion in the Chief Minister's chamber.

The election of the new leader was completed after a brief recess. Subsequently, the newly elected leader D K Shivakumar moved a resolution praising the service rendered by outgoing leader Siddaramaiah during his tenure as Chief Minister, and sought the support of the legislators. The meeting endorsed it unanimously.

Brahmos cruise missile deal with Vietnam
already signed: Defence Secretary

SINGAPORE (TSIT):

Highlighting India's expanding expertise in missile manufacturing and increasing outreach, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Saturday announced that a BrahMos missile deal has already been signed with Vietnam with another similar agreement with Indonesia currently in the final stages.

"My understanding is that with both Indonesia and with Vietnam, the deal is in the final stages. In fact, for Vietnam, I understand that it has already been signed, probably not publicly announced, but it's already been signed. Obviously, you are in the category of friendly foreign countries with whom we would be happy to share this kind of

advanced technology," Singh said while responding to a question from a Vietnamese delegate during a media event held on the sidelines of the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore.

With the Philippines being the first buyer of supersonic cruise missiles jointly produced by India and Russia, Defence Secretary Singh asserted that India has a strong commitment to the ASEAN nations. "We treat you all as friendly foreign countries with whom we can share advanced defence technology," he told the gathering in Singapore. The Philippines received the first batch of the BrahMos missiles in 2024, becoming India's first customer of the missile, while India delivered the second batch of the missiles in April 2025.

Chief Minister Vijay
to visit Trichy East on
Monday, thank voters
ahead of bypoll

CHENNAI (TSIT):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is expected to visit the Tiruchy East Assembly constituency on Monday to thank voters and interact with the public following his victory in the recently concluded Assembly elections, sources said.



Vijay, whose Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) emerged as the single largest party in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections and subsequently formed the government with the support of its allies, had contested from two constituencies — Perambur and Tiruchy East. After securing victories in both seats, he chose to retain the Perambur constituency and resigned from Tiruchy East, paving the way for a by-election. According to party sources, Vijay will travel from Chennai to Tiruchy by a private aircraft and is expected to participate in a public event at a college ground within the constituency. The visit is being viewed as a significant political move, especially as the Election Commission is expected to announce a by-election for Tiruchy East in the coming months.

Amit Shah orders zero-tolerance action
on encroachment and infiltration

BHUJ (TSIT)

Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed authorities in Gujarat's border districts to adopt a strict zero-tolerance policy against illegal encroachments, strengthen measures to curb infiltration and financial crimes, and closely monitor demographic changes in sensitive frontier regions.

The directions were issued during a high-level security review meeting held in Bhuj focused on border and coastal security along the India-Pakistan frontier. The meeting was attended by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Das, and Director General of Police K.L.N. Rao, along with senior officials from districts including Kutch, Vav-Tharad, and Patan.

Shah stated that enhanced border fencing, maritime surveillance, and coordinated enforcement efforts have significantly



improved security in Gujarat, asserting that infiltration and cross-border smuggling had been largely brought under control due to sustained political will and administrative action. He instructed officials to remove all unauthorised constructions within the 0-15 km belt along the international border and emphasised that any encroachment in these zones should be dealt with under a zero-tolerance framework.

The Home Minister also raised concerns over

demographic changes in border districts, describing them as one of the most serious emerging challenges in the region. He directed district administrations to maintain continuous surveillance and submit regular reports on population shifts and related developments.

At the same time, Shah acknowledged that reverse migration in certain border areas, driven by new industrial investments, was a positive development contributing to local economic growth.

Abhishek Banerjee called 'Bangladeshi,' attacked with stones, eggs; Mamata fumes

KOLKATA (TSIT):

All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was roughed up on Saturday, May 30, allegedly by locals, when he visited West Bengal's Sonarpur area to meet families of post-poll violence victims, police said. Stones, shoes, and eggs were hurled at the TMC MP by unidentified people who even attempted to rain blows and kicks on him. They shouted 'thief' slogans at Banerjee and called him "Bangladeshi."

Why did you not visit when
RG Kar rape incident
happened? Angry residents

The attack, led mostly by local women in the Kamrabad area falling under ward 9 of Rajpur-Sonarpur municipality, was, allegedly, an explosion

of the pent-up anger accrued on account of years of "torture perpetrated by TMC-run syndicates and extortion rackets" and abject lack of governance leading to broken roads, clogged drains and poor drinking water supply.

Holding broomsticks and bamboo sticks, they gathered outside the house of the TMC party worker Banerjee visited.

Questioning the purpose of his visit, they raised slogans against Banerjee. "Why has he come here? The person whose house he has come to visit is also a thief. It is like a thief visiting another thief," one of the protesting women alleged.

"Where was he (Abhishek) when the Abhaya incident (RG Kar rape and murder) happened? How many times had he gone to meet the parents of



Abhaya? We want an answer from him," another protesting woman said.

Another protester said that Banerjee "had it coming" since the day he issued "veiled threats" from pre-election rallies. "He had said from campaign stages that he would play DJ music from May 4 after

results were declared and no father-figure from Delhi would come to protect us. That's why we have gathered here today to pay him back in his own coin," he said.

Television footage from the scene captured the intensity of the confrontation, showing a visibly shaken Banerjee being

escorted through the area under heavy personal security and local TMC workers.

They wanted to kill me:
Banerjee

Wearing a police-issued helmet for protection, the TMC leader was seen with his shirt torn amid the melee, underscoring the volatile nature of the incident. Banerjee was seen being escorted out of the area with a police helmet on and his shirt tattered.

"Look what they have done to me. This was pre-planned. There is no police in the area. They want to kill me. I will not leave this place till the local police send their force and offer protection to the victims' families," Banerjee said while meeting the family of a deceased post-poll violence victim.

Later, after the attack, a visi-

bly upset Banerjee told reporters that he would "definitely move the High Court."

"They threw a brick, threw an egg, and pelted stones. Please tell me what this is. And all the people standing nearby, the people of the area they are still meeting us and still greeting us with love and respect. Go and ask those who are doing hooliganism here," he said.

"We have all the video evidence. There's a community hall nearby. From 11 am onwards, goons were kept in that community hall to pelt stones. Look at what's happened to my glasses. They hit my eye with a brick, and I can't open my eye. He's punched me in the back, chest, arm, and leg. I was wearing a helmet; otherwise, my head would have been split in two. You can make my

body fall, but my resolve is strong and strong, the passion and enthusiasm are still there, and this head won't bow down." Another video shows women gathered in large numbers, holding eggs and ready to throw them at Banerjee.

True face exposed:
TMC slams BJP

The TMC slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party, calling the attack on Banerjee a "reminder" of how swiftly the law and order has deteriorated under the "shameless regime." "If a sitting Opposition MP can be targeted in broad daylight, what hope is there for ordinary citizens? Is this BJP's idea of democracy? Is this the 'good governance' that PM Modi never stops boasting about?" the party wrote on X.

Flavours and Star Appeal Trap Youth, SP Warns on World No Tobacco Day

Hyderabad, May 30, 2026: Telangana Eagle Force SP P. Seetharam has warned young people against the growing appeal of tobacco and nicotine products, which are increasingly marketed in attractive forms to target youth. Speaking at an awareness programme held at Kamineni Hospitals, LB Nagar, ahead of World No Tobacco Day on May 31, he urged students, parents, and community leaders to work together to build a healthier, tobacco-free society.

Participants at the event were administered a pledge to stay away from tobacco. SP Seetharam emphasized that tobacco poses a serious threat not only to individual health



but also to families and society, and that collective responsibility is essential to curb its use.

Dr. Subhakar Kandi, Senior Consultant Pulmonologist, highlighted this year's World No Tobacco Day theme, "Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction," which exposes marketing

tactics used to lure young people through flavored products, attractive packaging, and social media campaigns. He noted that tobacco significantly increases the risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and respiratory illnesses, while passive smoking endangers family members and others. Consultant

Pulmonologist Dr. E. Ravindra Reddy added that tobacco use is a leading cause of chronic bronchitis, emphysema, COPD, lung cancer, heart attack, stroke, and oral cancers. He dispelled the myth that smokeless tobacco is safe and stressed that quitting at any stage provides significant health benefits.

The programme was also attended by Dr. Sudheer Babu Padgul, Principal of Kamineni Academy of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, along with other medical professionals, nursing staff, and hospital personnel. Experts reinforced the message: "Say No to Tobacco, Say Yes to Life."

70% of Indians Fall Short of Daily Fibre Intake, Reveals Aashirvaad Happy Tummy Study

The South India times Hyderabad : Nearly 70 percent of Indians are not meeting their recommended daily fibre intake, according to the latest findings released by Aashirvaad Happy Tummy on the occasion of World Digestive Health Day. The study, based on insights from more than 6.5 lakh participants across India, highlights a significant gap in fibre consumption driven by low awareness and unhealthy lifestyle habits. The findings reveal that women are more affected by the fibre deficit, with over 73 percent failing to meet recommended intake levels, compared to more than 63 percent of men. The study points to dietary patterns as a key factor behind the shortfall. Only one in four respondents

reported consuming multi-grains daily, while nearly 40 percent said they rarely eat fruits. Although vegetable consumption was relatively better, researchers noted that most diets still lack the diversity required to consistently meet fibre needs.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR–NIN), adult women should consume at least 25 grams of dietary fibre per day, while adult men require a minimum of 30 grams. The analysis also found that digestive health is influenced by lifestyle factors beyond diet. More than 60 percent of respondents reported not engaging in daily physical activity, while only around 30 percent met recommended water

intake levels. Nearly half of the participants reported inadequate sleep, and one in five individuals experienced severe stress, factors known to affect digestive well-being.

Speaking on the findings, Anuj Rustagi, Business Unit Chief Executive, Staples, ITC Ltd., said that growing awareness of digestive wellness and gut health underscores the need for greater education on the importance of fibre consumption. He noted that increasing the intake of fibre-rich foods such as multigrains, fruits and vegetables can play a significant role in improving digestive health outcomes among Indian consumers. To promote awareness, Aashirvaad Atta with Multigrains has launched the "Happy Tummy,

Happy You" campaign, bringing together leading health experts and content creators through podcasts, educational content and interactive sessions focused on digestive health. Experts continue to advocate fibre-rich diets, adequate hydration, sufficient sleep and regular physical activity as key components of better gut health.

The Aashirvaad Happy Tummy platform also offers tools such as the Digestive Quotient Test and Fibre Meter, enabling consumers to assess and improve their digestive health through simple daily habits. The findings are based on self-reported responses collected between 2021 and 2025 from participants aged 18 to 60 years across India.

Live Surgical Sessions Inspire Next Generation of ENT Surgeons at Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills

BLENDING FREE SURGERIES WITH GLOBAL ENT LEARNING PLATFORM -



Hyderabad, May 30: In a major initiative aimed at enhancing surgical skills among young ENT specialists, Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, hosted the second edition of the two-day International 360° ENT & Skull Base Conference, bringing together over 250 eminent ENT surgeons, faculty members and postgraduate students from India and abroad. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Ramchandra J, Chief Operating Officer Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills, and Dr. Ravi Kiran, Medical Director Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills. Addressing the gathering, he said the hospital had conducted 12 complex skull base surgeries free of cost for underprivileged patients as part of the academic programme. These surgeries were broadcast live to delegates, allowing young surgeons to observe surgical

planning, intra-operative decision-making and advanced treatment techniques in real time. He said live surgical demonstrations offer invaluable practical exposure to the management of complex ENT and skull base disorders, emergency situations and minimally invasive procedures, helping participants strengthen their clinical and operative skills. Organised jointly by Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, and the AOI Hyderabad Chapter, the conference focused on the latest advances in ENT, head and neck surgery, skull base procedures and hearing restoration techniques. Doctors at the conference highlighted the increasing prevalence of ENT-related disorders such as chronic sinus infections, recurrent headaches, nasal obstruction, nosebleeds, hearing loss, tinnitus, vertigo, voice changes, swallow-

ing difficulties, snoring and sleep apnoea. They noted that the growing burden of such conditions has created an urgent need for more highly trained ENT specialists. Dr. Vemuru Tejaswi, ENT surgeon at Apollo Hospitals and Organising Chairman of the conference, said specialised training programmes are essential to prepare the next generation of surgeons for managing complex ear, nose and throat disorders as well as skull base tumours, infections and neurological conditions located near the base of the brain.

He added that the department routinely performs advanced procedures including endoscopic skull base surgery, sinus surgery, hearing restoration surgeries, cochlear implants, sleep apnoea surgery and paediatric ENT interventions.

The scientific sessions were led by internationally renowned experts including Dr. Prepagaran Narayanan from Malaysia, Dr. Narayana Jayashankar from Mumbai, Dr. Satish Jain from Jaipur and Dr. Sanjeev Mohanty from Chennai, who shared their expertise on emerging technologies and challenging clinical cases.

World No Tobacco Day: Doctors warn of rising tobacco-related cancers among youth

Hyderabad: Marking World No Tobacco Day, cancer specialists have raised serious concerns over the growing burden of tobacco-related diseases, describing tobacco use as a "silent epidemic" that continues to claim millions of lives every year.

Doctors noted that habits such as occasional smoking, chewing gutka, or using other tobacco products may appear harmless initially but can eventually lead to life-threatening illnesses, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic lung disorders. Globally, tobacco causes more than 7 million deaths annually, while India records nearly 1.35 million tobacco-related deaths every year.

Medical experts highlighted that tobacco-related cancers can affect multiple organs, including the lips, tongue, throat, lungs, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, and bladder. They also cautioned against the misconception that smokeless tobacco products such as gutka, khaini, and chewing tobacco are safer alternatives, stressing that these products are strongly linked to oral cancers.

Doctors expressed concern over the increasing number of younger patients in their thirties and forties being diagnosed with tobacco-related cancers. They urged people to pay attention to warning signs such as non-healing mouth ulcers, persistent hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, unexplained weight loss, blood in urine, and changes in bowel habits. Emphasising that it is never too late to quit, experts said tobacco cessation improves overall health and significantly reduces the risk of cancer and cardiovascular diseases. They called on parents, educational institutions, workplaces, healthcare professionals, and society at large to support tobacco-free environments and help individuals quit tobacco.



The doctors reiterated that while cancer treatment has advanced considerably, prevention remains the most effective weapon against tobacco-related cancers.

India's Tobacco Crisis Hits Younger Adults, CARE Doctors Warn of Rising Lung Disease and Cancer

Hyderabad, May 30, 2026: As World No Tobacco Day approaches, CARE Hospitals experts have raised alarms over the increasing prevalence of tobacco-related lung diseases and cancers among younger adults in India. This year's WHO theme, "Unmasking the Appeal – Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction," highlights strategies used by the tobacco industry to attract children and young adults through flavored products, vaping devices, nicotine pouches, and digital marketing.

Nearly 267 million Indians use tobacco, contributing to over 1.3 million deaths annually. Doctors report a rising number of patients in their 30s and 40s presenting with chronic cough, breathlessness, reduced lung function, worsening asthma, and early-stage COPD. "Many believe lung damage occurs only after decades of smoking, but harmful effects begin much earlier. By the time symptoms appear, significant and often irreversible damage may have already occurred," said Dr. Jayachandra, Clinical Director & HOD – Interventional Pulmonology, CARE Hospitals, Hyderabad. Experts also warn against vaping and newer nicotine products, which are often marketed as safer alternatives but still pose serious health risks. Highlighting the cancer burden, Dr. Ravi Jaiswal, Senior Consultant Oncologist, CARE Hospitals, Rajpur,



said, "Tobacco is linked not only to lung cancer but also cancers of the mouth, throat, voice box, food pipe, stomach, liver, pancreas, colon, kidney, bladder, cervix, and even blood cancers. Nearly one-third of all cancers are related to tobacco use." Doctors emphasized the dangers of passive smoking, particularly for children and the elderly, and noted India loses over Rs.1.7 trillion annually due to healthcare costs and productivity losses from tobacco-related diseases. CARE Hospitals urged individuals to seek professional help for tobacco cessation, including counselling, behavioural therapy, nicotine replacement, and medical support. "Tobacco affects more than just smokers – it impacts families, workplaces, healthcare systems,

Awareness rally on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day



diseases and cancer caused by tobacco use. This year is World No Tobacco Day. The theme is "Unmasking the appeal: countering nicotine and tobacco addiction". Tobacco products like cigarettes, beedis, hookah, gutka, khaini, zarda contain nicotine and it is quickly addictive, he said. He said there is a risk of serious diseases like lung cancer, mouth and throat cancer, heart disease and paralysis due to tobacco use. Especially than smoking. Medical experts warn that about 30 types of cancer may occur due to chewing tobacco. Family members who are close to smokers, especially children and the elderly, are also at risk of developing illnesses due to second-hand smoking, he said. By completely quitting the habit of tobacco, the risk of cancer is reduced and the heart and lungs are healthy and life expectancy is also increased. It is explained that it will increase.

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Hormuz crisis: India maintains shipping lifeline amid conflict

New Delhi, May 30: Despite the ongoing conflict involving Iran and the continued disruption of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, India has managed to keep key shipping routes operational, ensuring the movement of energy supplies and essential cargo through one of the world's most critical waterways.

Since Iran entered the war on February 28, the Strait of Hormuz — through which nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil and natural gas supplies pass — has remained largely affected by the conflict. Although active hostilities ceased following an April 9 ceasefire, maritime movement through the strategic passage continues to face significant challenges. The disruption has triggered concerns over global energy security, fuel prices and economic stability, particularly across Asia. However, Indian-linked vessels have continued to navigate the high-risk route, helping maintain the country's energy supply chain.

Addressing an inter-ministerial briefing on Friday, shipping ministry officials revealed that India has been closely coordinating with various stakeholders to facilitate the movement of vessels through the region. Opesh Kumar Sharma, Director of Shipping at the Ministry of

Ports, said operational coordination is being carried out through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), though he declined to disclose specific details due to security considerations.

"In terms of priority, it is decided in coordination with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Ministry of Fertilisers and other concerned agencies. Based on these priorities, efforts are made to facilitate the movement of ships," Sharma said. According to official data, 13 Indian-flagged vessels are currently operating in the Strait of Hormuz region. These include one LPG tanker, five crude oil tankers, one chemical or product tanker, three container vessels, two bulk carriers and one dredger.

Several Indian-linked ships have successfully transited the waterway since the conflict began. These include Shivalik, Nanda Devi, Jag Laadki, Pine Gas, Jag Vasant, BW Tyr, BW Elm and Green Sanvi. Iran, which holds a strategic position overlooking the Strait, has repeatedly targeted vessels in response to US-Israeli military actions that triggered the conflict. As a result, several global shipping operators have reduced or suspended operations through the route due to security concerns.

RTI activist and lawyer Simranjit Singh shot dead in Phagwara; police launch probe

Chandigarh, May 30: RTI activist and lawyer Simranjit Singh was shot dead by two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants in Punjab's Phagwara on Saturday, in what police described as a targeted attack. The killing marks the second attempt on his life after he had previously survived a similar attack in Jalandhar.

According to police officials, the incident occurred near the Jalandhar-Ludhiana highway when the attackers approached Singh and opened fire at close range. He sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died at the scene.

Singh was known for filing petitions and complaints on several high-profile and controversial matters before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, state authorities, and the Enforcement Directorate. Investigators are examining various angles behind the killing, including Singh's legal and activist work. Reports suggest he had submitted documents to the Enforcement Directorate concerning state Cabinet minister Sanjeev Arora and had also challenged the constitutional validity of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib (Amendment) Act, 2026 through

a petition. Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Toora said preliminary findings indicate that two bullets struck the victim's head. Police recovered a .32-bore pistol near the body and a 12-bore rifle from Singh's Fortuner vehicle. Two mobile phones belonging to the victim were also found at the scene. Officials noted that Singh's vehicle was parked normally, suggesting that he may not have been intercepted while travelling. Investigators are working to reconstruct the sequence of events leading to the shooting.

Deputy Inspector General Naveen Singla said the police would seek assistance from specialised units, including the Counter-Intelligence Wing of the Punjab Police, if required. The incident has sparked strong political reactions across Punjab. Sukhbir Singh Badal condemned the killing, calling it a direct attack on transparency and democratic values. He demanded a thorough investigation by an independent agency and expressed concern over the safety of individuals who expose alleged wrongdoing through legal channels.

Collector Conducts Special Review of Development Works in CM Revanth Reddy's Native Village



The South India Times // Nagar Kurnool District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil directed officials to complete all ongoing development works in Kondareddypalli village of Vangoori mandal, Achampet constituency, by the end of June. Reviewing the progress of various government projects at the Gram Panchayat office on Saturday, the Collector assessed the status of school buildings, Anganwadi centres, roads, drainage systems, Primary Health Centre construction, drinking water facilities, and power infrastructure works being carried out in the village. The Collector stated that the state government and Revanth Reddy are giving special attention to developing Kondareddypalli as a model village. He instructed officials of all departments to work in close coordination and ensure there are no delays in executing the projects.

District Collector Urges Youth, Especially Girls, to Know Their Rights and Laws

Jagityala, May 30, 2026:

As part of the 99-day action plan under the Public Governance – Progress Programme, a friendship programme was held at the Jagityala District Collectorate on Saturday, organized by the District Rural Development Department. District Collector B. Sathyaprasad, who was the chief guest, emphasized the importance of youth and girls being fully aware of their rights, laws, and government welfare schemes. Speaking at the event, the Collector highlighted that numerous laws and schemes are in place to ensure women's safety, respect, and equal opportunities. He stressed the need for awareness about laws against child marriage, gender discrimination, cybercrime, and measures for the protection of women. Parents, teachers, and authorities were urged to contribute actively to the holistic development of girls. Referring to the government's initiative to provide 33% reservation for women in governance, the Collector encouraged young girls to pursue education and participate in politics from the village level to central government. The programme was also attended by District Local Bodies Additional Collector B. Raja Goud, District Rural Development Officer Raghuvaran, and other officials.



CM Vijay to visit Tiruchy East on June 1 to thank voters

CHENNAI: TVK president and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will visit the Tiruchy East Assembly constituency on Monday to thank voters for their support in the recent Assembly election, party sources said.

The visit comes amid a wider organisational exercise initiated by the party leadership, which has directed all TVK candidates who contested the election and the party's newly elected legislators to personally visit their respective constituencies and express gratitude to the electorate.



According to party instructions issued to district and constituency functionaries, candi-

dates and MLAs have been asked to meet residents directly and convey their appreciation for the mandate received by the party. The exercise is aimed at strengthening the party's engagement with voters following the election.

The leadership has also sought details of the outreach programmes already conducted. Candidates and legislators who have completed thanksgiving visits have been instructed to submit photographs and related records of the events to the party headquarters for documentation/

TVK functionary on 'inspection drive' slaps man near Tambaram, sacked from party

According to the police, the incident took place at Puthur Nagar in New Perungalathur, where an old building was being demolished on Thursday night

CHENNAI: A TVK functionary, who assaulted a heavy machinery operator near Tambaram, was sacked from the party on Saturday after the video of the incident surfaced in the media.

According to the police, the incident took place at Puthur Nagar in New Perungalathur, where an old building was being demolished on Thursday night. Around the time, a group of people, led by Jayachandran, a TVK functionary from Kadaperi in Tambaram, came to the spot on a car bearing TVK flag. They asked the machinery



operator Alagudurai (32) for the contact details of the demolition contractor.

When Alagudurai refused to share the phone number stating that it was too late in the day to call the contrator,

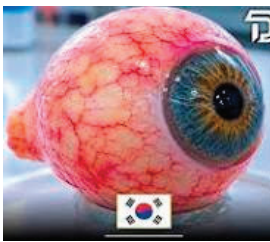
lodged with the Peerkankaranai police, while the video was also circulated on social media.

Following the incident, TVK's Chengalpattu North-West district unit announced that Jayachandran, who was serving as the district deputy organiser of the party's volunteers' wing, had been removed from the party and all organisational posts with immediate effect. The party said the action was taken for violating party discipline and bringing disrepute to the organisation.

Later, a complaint was

Scientists Discover Unique Building Block of Human Vision

Research shows that infants primarily see high-contrast, simple patterns, forming an essential visual foundation for later development and influencing both human vision and AI training.What do infants see? What do they look at? The answers to these questions are very different for the youngest babies than they are for older infants, children, and adults. Characterized by a few high-contrast edges in simple patterns, these early scenes also contain the very materials needed to build a strong foundation for human vision.



That is the finding of a new study which was recently published in Science Advances by IU researchers Erin Anderson, Rowan Candy, Jason Gold, and Linda Smith. "The startling assumption for everybody who thinks about the role of experience in visual development has always been that at the scale of everyday experience, visual input is pretty much the same for everyone," explains principal investigator Linda Smith, a professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. "Yet, this study says, no, visual input changes with development. It's not the same for everybody. The daily life input for very young infants appears to be unique to that age." Prior studies in the laboratory and clinic had shown that

young infants prefer to look at simple, high-contrast scenes of big black stripes and checkerboards. The current study is the first to ask to what extent these preferences make up their daily life input. "To see what young babies see and look at," says Anderson, a former post-doctoral researcher in Smith's Cognitive Development Lab, she and her colleagues put head cameras on infants to wear in the home during daily life activities.

"You can buy 'baby flash cards' for newborns that show these simple, high-contrast images," she explains. "What the head-camera videos show, what this work shows, is that young infants find these types of images all around them in their daily life, just by looking at things like lights and ceiling corners." "What we found is a very special, early 'diet' for visual development," adds Smith. "As with food, young infants do not start with rich, complex meals or pizza, but rather with simple, developmentally specific nourishment."Previous work

has recognized the critical nature of this early period to the future development of human vision. For example, infants born with visual abnormalities such as cataracts or those in orphanages with limited visual experiences have been shown to have lifelong visual deficiencies. The current study offers some preliminary data for addressing these deficiencies. It also has important implications for the makings of AI visual systems, which likewise acquire stronger visual skills when training begins with the same simple, high-contrast visual content.

To identify the properties of visual input in infants at approximately three to 13 months old, the researchers placed head-mounted video cameras on 10 infants and 10 of their adult caregivers, collecting and analyzing 70 hours of visual documentation of at-home daily life. Clear differences emerge between the contents of the infants and adults' images with a higher concentration of simple patterns and high-contrast edges within the views of infants than in those of adults.

Smith infers that the reason for these views is not only that infants will turn their heads to look at the features of the world they can see, but that parents or caregivers are likely to put them in places where they like to look at things.

Tamil Nadu

PM Modi's appeal on river linking should be given top priority, says TN BJP chief

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu BJP chief Nainar Nagendran on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal on river interlinking should be viewed as a strategic effort to bolster the nation's water resources.Tamil Nadu and all other states must give top priority to river interlinking and water management reforms, he said.

PM Modi has asked states to resolve inter-state water disputes through cooperation, timely clearances and technology-based monitoring, and said the Ken-Betwa project should serve as a model. According to the Centre, the Ken-Betwa project is expected to irrigate 10.62 lakh hectares of land (8.11 lakh ha in Madhya Pradesh and 2.51 lakh ha in Uttar Pradesh), provide



drinking water to around 62 lakh people and generate 103 megawatts of hydropower and 27 megawatts of solar power.

"For decades, Tamil Nadu has faced a water crisis. Within the state, the Tamirabarani remains one of the few rivers that flows year-round and many other rivers, including the

Cauvery, rely heavily on favourable flows from neighbouring states and seasonal rains. Yet, Tamil Nadu ranks among the least endowed states in the country in terms of available water," Nagendran said. "If left unaddressed, prolonged scarcity could transform once-fertile tracts into degraded land-

scapes, jeopardising agriculture, livelihoods and urban water security", he added.

The prime minister is pushing forward measures intended to provide Tamil Nadu with a more reliable water base.

"River interlinking must be carried out responsibly with careful planning, environmental safeguards, equitable water sharing arrangements and the participation of affected communities," Nagendran said. "If river interlinking is designed and implemented transparently, it can be an important component of a broader strategy that includes groundwater recharge, efficient irrigation, rainwater harvesting, watershed restoration and improving urban water infrastructure," he said.

Under-trial prisoners can get treated by doctors, hospitals of their choice, says Madras High Court



that an under-trial prisoner has the right to seek treatment from a doctor of his choice and in a hospital where he is comfortable. The court, however, noted that the authority concerned or the court could impose limits on the duration of such treatment.

Devanathan, one of the directors of the Mylapore Hindu Permanent Fund finance com-

pany, is among those accused of allegedly defrauding hundreds of investors to the tune of several crores of rupees. He was arrested

Beware the Rise of Superweeds: Mowing's Unintended Consequences

Due to plant defense mechanisms, the flowers of silverleaf nightshade (Solanum elaeagnifolium) are consumed less by natural predators like this tobacco hornworm (Manduca sexta) if the plant is frequently mowed. Research indicates that frequent mowing of Solanum elaeagnifolium enhances its defensive traits, making it more resilient and potentially a superweed. The study highlights the necessity for updated weed management practices that consider the adaptive responses of invasive plants to disturbances. Research on the effects of mowing on a common weed has found that what doesn't kill you can make you stronger.

Published in Nature's Scientific Reports, the study found that frequent mowing of Solanum elaeagnifolium may help create a "superweed." Solanum elaeagnifolium — also known as silverleaf nightshade — can be found from south Texas to South Africa and Greece, infesting fields and soaking up valuable nutrients intended for cash crops. The weed with purple flowers — sometimes white and light purple — has prickly spines and poisonous berries. Silverleaf nightshade, scientifically known as Solanum elaeagnifolium, is a perennial weed native to the United States and parts of Mexico but has spread to various regions worldwide. It is easily recognized by its silver-green leaves and purple, sometimes white, star-shaped flowers. The plant contains toxic compounds and bears yellow or orange berries that are also poisonous.Relatives of the plant, including Solanum ptychanthum or black nightshade, and Solanum carolinense, or Carolina horsenettle, also produce toxic berries and are native to Arkansas. It's a family that also includes some friendly crops such as tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, and eggplants. Rupesh Kariyat, an associate professor of entomology and plant pathology with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, has been studying silverleaf nightshade for more than a decade. Kariyat began the study while at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, when he and his graduate student Alejandro Vasquez took on what turned into a five-year, two-part study to observe the effects of frequently mowed silverleaf nightshade. Kariyat joined the experiment station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, in 2022. Frequently mowed silverleaf nightshade develops more spines on the

stem to protect its flowers from caterpillars. Credit: Alejandro Vasquez

Although studies have often highlighted weed fitness and defense traits resulting from disturbances like mowing, most were limited to foliar, or leaf, defenses, Kariyat said. That changed when Vasquez and fellow master's biology students at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley monitored fields of mowed, unmowed, and frequently mowed silverleaf nightshade in and around Edinburg, Texas."Alejandro's question was, 'how do these flowers differ between mowed and unmowed plants?'" Kariyat said. "And does that have consequences for the insects that actually feed on them?"

Alejandro Vasquez, an entomology and plant pathology Ph.D. student at the University of Arkansas, was the lead author of a study on the effects of frequent mowing silverleaf nightshade. Credit: Alejandro Vasquez

Findings in both studies showed that the more silverleaf nightshade was mowed, the more it developed ways to avoid destruction, Kariyat said. The taproot went down further, nearly 5 feet deep, in the first generation of mowed plants. More spikes popped out on the stem as a defense against caterpillars feeding on the flowers. The flowers became more toxic to caterpillars, leading to less pressure from natural predators.

Like time bombs, the plant produced some groups of seeds that germinated faster and others that were delayed. This "staggered" germination was the plant's way to ensure survival over the long haul. "You are trying to mow these plants so that the plants are getting eliminated," Kariyat said. "But what you are actually doing here, you are making them much worse, much stronger." Tilling areas with silverleaf nightshade also spreads the plant because the rhizomic roots, like many weeds, can propagate asexually over multiple years and growing seasons.

The observations of mowed, unmowed, and frequently mowed areas with silverleaf nightshade provide evidence that could prompt further studies by weed scientists on best management practices, Kariyat said. Since the studies focus solely on silverleaf nightshade, Kariyat said other weeds — even the plant's family relatives — may or may not react the same way to frequent mowing. However, the study does provide more insight into the defensive capabilities of plants pitted against human disturbance.

Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (Clix)
Registered Office: W/214, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)

Whereas the Authorized officer of CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. (Clix), a Non-Banking Financial Company duly incorporated and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having its Registered Office at: W/214, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address Of Borrower/Co-Borrower : **1. M Fatema W/O Attari Murtuza, 2. Attari Murtuza, Both At - Door No.35, 1st Floor Davidson Street Chennai-600001. Also At : 40/44 Muthu Naicken Street Near Mannady Ve Chennai Po Chennai G.P. Sub District Chennai State Tamil Nadu - 600001. Sr. No. 1 Also At - M.S Tools & Hardware Through Its Proprietor, 3 Iyyappa Chetty Street Mannadu Chennai- Tamilnadu-600001.**

Demand Notice Dated : 11-02-2026, **Date of Possession :** 29.05.2026
Amount of Demand Notice : Rs.84,01,272.96/- as on 10-FEB-2026

Details Of Property : All That Piece And Entire Residential Portion Of Third Floor/Floor Built Up Area Measuring 1470 Square Feet Situated At Old Door No. 30 New Door No. 159 Formerly Pophams Broadway Presently Prakasham Salai George Town Chennai 600108 Together With 217.5 Square Feet Undivided Share Out Of 435 Square Feet In 1740 Square Feet Collector's Certificate No. 149 Comprised In Old Survey No. 5161, R.S.no. 5676 Of Of V.O.C Nagar, Purasawalkam Taluk Chennai District.

Date : 29.05.2026, Place : Chennai **Authorised Officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.**

Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (Clix)
Registered Office: W/214, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)

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Name & Address Of Borrower/Co-Borrower : **1. Manimozhi V/O Shankar, 2. Vignesh S/O Vadivel, 3. Vaidivel G S/O Govindaraj, 4. S. Manimozhi W/O Vadivel, All At - No.67, Chinnammam Koil Street, Nettukkuppam, Kattivakkam, Ennore Thermal Station, Ennore, Tiruvallur - 600057. Also At : Door No.67, Chinnammal Street, Old Grama Natham Survey No.52 Part, Patta No.338, Givana Natham Survey No.32, Ts No.32, Block No.9, Ward B Od Kattivakkam Village, Tiruvottiyur Sro, Tiruvottiyur Taluk, Chennai District - 600057.**

Demand Notice Dated: 10-Mar-2026, **Date of Possession:** 29.05.2026
Amount of Demand Notice : Rs.248897.4/- as on 09.03.2026

Details Of Property : All That Piece And Parcel Of Land And Building, Comprised In Gramanatham Old S.No.5/2 Part/As Per Patta New S.No.32, T.S.No.32, Ward No.6, Block No.9, Measuring With An Extent Of 125sq.Mtr. Or 1345 Sq.Ft., Situated At Nettukkuppam Chinnammam Koil Street, Kattivakkam Village, Tiruvottiyur Taluk, Chennai District And Bounded On The North By: Land & House Belongs To Mrs.Dhanalakshmi, Mrs. Ramani, South By: Land & House Belongs To Mrs.Malliga, East By: Road West By : Land & House Belongs To Mrs. Ramani, Measuring East To West On The Northern Side : 10.43 Meter East To West On The Southern Side: 5.03 x 4.75 = 9.78 Meter, North To South On The Eastern Side: 11.65 x 89 = 12.33 Meter, North To South On The Western Side: 11.65 Meter, Situated Within The Sub-Registration District Of Tiruvottiyur And In The Registration District Of North Chennai.

Date : 29.05.2026, Place : Tamil Nadu **Authorised Officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.**

M4
Muthoot Homefin

Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra-400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Rajivgandhi Sundharrajan/ S Indira/ CHE-HL-000458/ Chennai	Comprised In S. No. 617/2 Door No. 65 Bajjanai Koil Street Madhanankuppam Korattur Village Ambattur Taluk Thiruvallur District Chennai 600099 North-Mr A Baskar Part Land and Feet Common Passage, South-Mr A Velayudham Part Land, East- 8feet Wide Road West-Mr A Baskar Part Land	20-May-2025/ Rs. 28,25,236/- Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six Only.	28-May-2026

Date: May 31, 2026, Place: Chennai **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited**

Altum Credo
Home Finance

ALTUM CREDO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
REGD. OFFICE: Floor No 7, Kalpataru Infinita, Plot No 22, Sub Plot No 3, CTS No. 169r, Village Bhendla, Wakdevadi, Shivaji Nagar, Pune City, Maharashtra 411005

AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with proviso to rule 8(1) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) indicated that the below-described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd., hereinafter known as ACHFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ACHFL, being the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As Is Where Is" and "Whatever There Is" basis on 02/07/2026 (Thursday) between 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM for recovery of the below-mentioned amount with future interest, cost and charges thereon due to ACHFL from the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as below mentioned.

Sr No.	Name of borrower(s) / co-borrower(s) & guarantor(s) loan Ac No.	Date of possession	Outstanding dues to be recovered (secured debt)	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date(s) & time of opening tender(s)
1	Sundarapandiyam Karuppasami (Borrower) SAGARVARANI SUNDARAPANDIYAN (Co-Borrower 1)(Co-Borrower 2) Loan Ac: S170202000002	28-Apr-2026	Rs.648386/- NPA Date: 29-Dec-2025	Rs. 1234847/- Rs. 123485/-	02-Jul-26 (Saturday) from 11.30 P.M. To 4.30 P.M.
Description of Secured Asset: Originally the subject matter of this property is situated in Thanjavur Register District, Budalur sub register office, Thiruvaiyars Taluk, Pudalur Circle, Alur Village, Survey Number 196/20 Measuring 0.196 are equal to 136 sq mtr equal to 1463 sq ft land area and it contains of R.C.C tiled roof house measuring East to the West side 22 ft, South to the North both side 22ft south to the both side 22ft Total extent of 484 Sq.fts equal to 44.96 Sq.mts is originally belongs to Mr.S.Karuppaia derived from Natham is measuring East to the West both side 11ft South to the North both side 21ft Total extent of 321 Sq.fts equal to 21.46 Sq.mts with EB Connection No.163 and Water Connection With door No.473/1; Old No - 196/2, East - Street, West - M.Neelamegam Land, South - Street, North - V.Lekshmi Land					
2	Madhavan Palraj(Borrower) Ramathal Madhavan (Co-Borrower 1)(Co-Borrower 2) Loan Ac: S17202000012	10-Apr-2026	Rs.564626 /- NPA Date: 29-Dec-2025	Rs. 1353600/- Rs. 135360/-	02-Jul-26 (Saturday) from 11.30 P.M. To 4.30 P.M.
Description of Secured Asset: VELAN NAGAR PHASE II, Muthalpalayam Village, within the Sub-Registration District of Thottipalayam, East - Plot No. 52, West - Plot No. 54, South - Survey No.404/24/1 Part, North - 23 Feet East West Layout Road					
TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The detailed terms and conditions of the above auction are available on website https://altumcredo.co.in/pdf/viewer.php?file=TERMS%20AND%20CONDITIONS%20FOR%20AUCTION.pdf and should be treated as the part of this auction publication					
Date: 30-05-2026 Place: Tamil Nadu			Sd/- Authorized Officer Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd.		



EDITORIAL

Does the BJP Still
Need Eknath Shinde?

It is a million-dollar question what fate awaits Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde, the brand the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) built up to demolish Uddhav Thackeray's party. The deputy chief minister of Maharashtra once said a 'Maha Shakti' – the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – was standing behind him. But things are a little different now. The BJP has all but established one-party rule across India. And in politics, every such action breeds a reaction. That is why the talk in Mumbai's corridors of power is no longer grudgingly admiring of Shinde's tactics, which always seemed to strengthen his party. Now the discussion is about whether he will still get room to negotiate with Delhi, as the BJP is less likely to tolerate an ally, much less a competitor, in Maharashtra politics. The answer is written on the walls of Vidhan Bhavan in invisible ink. The recent buzz was that the BJP and Shiv Sena were bargaining over the sharing of 17 Maharashtra Legislative Council seats elected by urban local bodies and local authorities. It is said Union Home Minister Amit Shah ultimately accommodated Shinde's demands, but granted him an audience only after a long wait. Their meeting finally took place last week, but reportedly required the intervention of a former Maharashtra minister and education baron, who sat through the discussion. This is strange, as Shinde used to be the most frequent visitor to Delhi in the past. Reports also say that Shinde eventually secured a better deal than initially offered, which may fuel resentment within the BJP in the run-up to the elections on 18 June.

BJP on strong wicket
Freshly renewed after sweeping recent state assembly elections, conceding Shinde's demands is perhaps no longer a priority for the BJP. The question is, if the central leadership and Shah no longer back him as they once did, will Shinde still thrive? He will certainly do well in Thane, his pocket borough. Besides, Ajit Pawar's death has removed a major Mahayuti (comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party) ally and Maratha leader, increasing Shinde's relative importance within the alliance. But at the same time, the BJP is still handling the infighting within Mahayuti – Shinde and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis don't see eye-to-eye. Truth be told, Shinde may have had his moment of glory, but it was four years ago, when as Shiv Sena leader he led a rebellion to evict Thackeray from power by splitting the Sena sixty years after Bal Thackeray founded it. Even so, he had to concede the chief ministership to the BJP's own, Fadnavis, after two years in the seat following the 2022 Shiv Sena split. What is more, the BJP nearly achieved an independent majority in the Maharashtra polls at the time, while the opposition won fewer than 50 seats in the 288-member house. Shinde did make an impression as an action-oriented chief minister and went all out in terms of public engagement during his time in the top seat. He is a pugnaacious fighter whose rise is said to be the result of his 'rada' -aggression. So, when Fadnavis took over, he cancelled some of Shinde's policy decisions, cutting the persona around the man down to size. Still, Shinde and the BJP were on the same page when it came to trumpeting Hindutva. That was a natural outcome of the twelve years of dogged backing that the Shiv Sena leader got from the saffron party.

The Modi government through its various ministries and departments, however, seems to have done the exact opposite over the last 13 years. It has failed to meaningfully reform systems and institutions in need of structural change, while repeatedly disrupting institutions and systems that require stability and careful stewardship. The resultant chaos is there for all to see, most recently in the state of education in our country. After cancelling and rescheduling the 2026 NEET examination – following a major question paper leak that affected over 22 lakh aspirants – the government is now faced with yet another national level fiasco, this time involving class 12 students who recently appeared for their Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board examinations. This year, 18 lakh class 12 students submitted 98 lakh answer booklets – with the total number of pages running into crores. But instead of evaluators physically checking these answer sheets, the answer booklets were scanned, uploaded digitally and evaluated online. When the exam results came out on May 13, many students were dismayed to see they had received much lower marks than expected. In fact, the overall pass percentage of students dropped to 85.29% this year from 88.39% last year. There was also a notable decline in the number of students scoring above 90%. When these students requested scans of their answer sheets for re-evaluation, they were shocked to see blurred scans, barely legible handwriting, cropped pages and impossible-to-decipher diagrams and equations. Stuti, who has taught political science at a private school in central Delhi for the last 19 years, talked about the anxiety and anger this sparked amongst students, parents and educators. "One of my brightest students, who has already received provisional admission from an Ivy League college, was expecting to score at least 90% – the minimum required to secure her place – but ended up with only 82%. Is she now going to have to explain to the university that the reason for her unexpected-



ly low marks is that her own government is incapable of conducting and evaluating crucial examinations properly?" The CBSE's goals of "eliminating totaling errors," and doing away with "post-result verification of marks" seem to have come a cropper. Stuti said that schools were informed about the new OSM (On-Screen Marking) barely ten days before the first exam. "We were able to [do it] because our school has the computers, infrastructure, and technical know-how to manage it. But what about other schools who barely have even the basics in place? In fact, at one evaluation centre, an older government school teacher lamented, 'Humko toh mouse bhi pakadna nahi aataa' ('I don't even know how to use a computer mouse!')." It is a small but telling example of the Modi government's obsession with digital spectacles without first adequately reckoning with the infrastructural inequalities on the ground. Stuti also pointed out that many examiners were government school teachers, many of whom had also been put on census duty at the same time. Several of them held two circulars in their hands, one telling them to check

board exam papers (screens) and the other telling them to count people for the 2026 Census. "Many of our students received an arbitrary 6.5 out of 10 for answers that they should, by rights, have received at least 8 points or more for. One reason for this is probably the inordinate amount of pressure that was put on the evaluators by CBSE to quickly finish the checking. Normally, the checking of papers begins within ten to twelve days of the last exam. This time it didn't begin for a month. The entire process seems to have experienced huge delays. In fact, a teacher told me that she was asked to come in on the morning of May 13 to finish checking some papers — the same day the results were supposed to be declared," Stuti alleged. She added that her current batch of class 12 students have all but lost their motivation to study. It is sad that a prime minister – who has lectured school students every year in his elaborate Pariksha Pe Charcha programmes on how to handle examination stress – doesn't seem too bothered about the unprecedented anxiety, uncertainty and distress that millions of them are facing in the 13th year of his gov-

ernment. Kaaviya, a Class 12 humanities student, who has won many laurels for her school, cannot understand why she hasn't been given the marks she should have. "It took CBSE five days to send me four of my five answer sheets. I'm still waiting for the fifth and I don't know what to do about that because their helpline numbers aren't working. I have noticed odd things in the papers I have received. In my English paper, marks have been cut for no reason at all. In my Maths paper, there is no 'steps marking'. Previously, in Maths, even if your final answer was wrong, you would still get marks for doing the different steps correctly, but not this time," she alleged. "A friend of mine had written answers to two questions in her biology paper, yet the page was marked blank. As a result, she received no marks on those questions because the software seems to have identified the page as empty. Who should we hold accountable for that?" Kaaviya asked. I am tempted to say, "The Non-Biological One," but I refrain. Instead, I ask her how she is feeling about it. "It's very disheartening. The whole focus of Class 12, and

school for that matter, seems to be to do well in your board exams. I have taken the Common University Entrance Test too, which is evaluated by the National Testing Authority. The NTA is responsible for the NEET exam, so now I am concerned about that as well, considering what happened with the NEET paper leaks." Nidhi Anand, an educator, said, "As a parent, I feel both anxious and disappointed. Our children put in years of consistent effort, and at such a crucial stage, even small lapses can feel very big to them. What worries me most is not just the outcome, but the emotional impact. This uncertainty can really shake their confidence and sense of security." Mannat, a counsellor at a private school in South Delhi, is also concerned about the students' mental health. "Not only are double shocks like the NEET leaks and the CBSE scoring fiasco jeopardising the careers of young people, they are creating a huge amount of emotional turmoil in young minds. It is wrong for CBSE to expect people who are not well trained in technology to handle something as sensitive as the scoring of test papers. "

UP'S SUGARCANE FARMERS ARE
FINALLY SMILING AGAIN

The true meaning of development in any state lies in the prosperity visible on the faces of its farmers, and this is possible only when villages, farms and farmers are placed at the centre of the development framework. When state policies are farmer-centric, they strengthen the very soul of the nation. This is because farming is not merely a process of production, but the foundation for the continuity of life, culture and civilization. Viewed from this perspective, the steps taken for farmers in Uttar Pradesh over the last nine years are not merely the resolve of a government, but the foundational vision for the holistic development of a state. Soon after assuming office, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made his priorities clear by waiving farmers' loans, and the decisions subsequently taken specifically in the interest of sugarcane farmers have placed the state in the leading position across the country. Record payment of more than Rs 3.22 lakh crore Today, farmers in Uttar Pradesh are not merely a part of the economy, but symbols of self-reliance and self-respect, because the government's intent as well as policy remained clear. As a result, Uttar Pradesh has made payments of more than Rs 3.22 lakh crore to sugarcane farmers. This figure reflects the government's highest level of commitment. No other state in the country has made such a large payment to sugarcane farmers. This achievement reflects the self-confidence of the state. About a decade ago, the condition of sugarcane



farmers in the state was nothing less than tragic. Mills were shut, cane dues remained unpaid, farmers were drowning in debt, and governments merely offered assurances. From Purvanchal to western Uttar Pradesh, the suffering of sugarcane farmers had become a common reality. Sugarcane-laden trolleys standing outside sugar mills for months, rotting cane and disheartened farmers had begun to appear as the destiny of the state. However, change comes with determination, and the Yogi Government proved this. The payment of more than Rs 3.22 lakh crore to sugarcane farmers is the economic lifeline for lakhs of families who spent countless sleepless nights, waiting for these dues. Today, farmers in western Uttar Pradesh reach sugar mills with enthusiasm and pride. They openly say that earlier sugar mills used to delay their payments and did not care how farmers' families would

survive. Now that payments are received on time, they no longer worry about their children's education or marriages. Farming now feels like a matter of dignity. The stigma of helplessness has been removed from their lives. Not an election promise, but the government's priority This is not a single decision in favour of farmers, but merely a part of a continuous process. In the crushing season 2025-26, sugarcane prices were increased by Rs 30 per quintal. At a time when several states in the country hesitate to provide fair support prices for sugarcane, Uttar Pradesh has demonstrated that increasing farmers' income is not merely an election promise, but a government priority. Therefore, this increase is extraordinary. In a state like Uttar Pradesh, where crores of quintals of sugarcane are crushed, its overall economic impact runs into billions of rupees. Every rupee increase directly benefits the farmer who toils in the

scorching afternoon heat and harvests crops in freezing cold weather. This price increase should be viewed as an ideological declaration. It reflects that the government has understood the value of farmers' labour and respected their hard work. This is why there is now no hesitation in investing in agriculture. Farmers are also becoming technologically empowered. Farmers gained confidence, results followed Today, Uttar Pradesh is the highest sugarcane-producing state in the country. This is not merely the result of an expansion in agricultural land, but the outcome of policies that restored farmers' confidence in farming. When farmers are assured that they will receive fair prices for their crops and timely payments, they cultivate more land with greater dedication. The results are visible. Uttar Pradesh has now surpassed both Maharashtra and Karnataka in average sugar recovery rate.

From Kanthi, Not Kolkata: What
Sets Suvendu Adhikari Apart

West Bengal's ninth chief minister, Suvendu Adhikari, is the state's first chief minister in 55 years who hails from outside Kolkata and hence has no house of his own in the city. Most of his predecessors, from the first chief minister Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, who was in the chair for barely six months before making way for Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, to three-term chief minister Mamata Banerjee, were mostly residents of Kolkata and hence contested seats in and around the city and had their homes there. Most of the state's chief ministers have lived in neighbourhoods alongside commoners as neighbours. Since Kolkata has functioned without a designated chief ministerial quarter, Adhikari moved to a plush convention centre - c u m - g u e s t h o u s e , "Soujanya" - a high-tech complex built in 2014 by the Mamata Banerjee government in the Alipur area that is part of the Bhabanipur assembly seat. Soujanya was built to house VIP guests to the city. Adhikari lived in a private flat at Chinar Park in Rajar Haat, situated in the northern fringes of the city, a comparatively newly developed area, close to the airport, whenever he came to Kolkata from his home in Kanthi. When he became leader of the opposition in the Bengal assembly in 2021, his official residence was at the state's



guest house, Nizam Palace, in central Kolkata. Suvendu Adhikari hails from Kanthi, in East Midnapur, where he lived in his ancestral home, Shanti Kunja, along with his father Sisir Adhikari and the rest of his family. While he won from Nandigram for the 2016 and 2021 assembly polls, he represented the Kanthi Dakshin assembly seat in 2005 and the Tamluk parliamentary seat in 2009 and 2014. His growing-up years were spent in Midnapur, and hence he had never lived in the city before he joined the state's political class. As the first chief minister, from July 1947 to January 1948, Prafulla Chandra Ghosh lived in a north Kolkata neighbour-

hood. Bidhan Chandra Roy, who served at the top post from 1948 to 1962, a renowned doctor, lived and worked out of his ancestral house at Wellington Square (now Raja Subodh Mallick square), which he donated to be run as a charitable hospital after his death. Prafulla Chandra Sen, a Gandhian known as "Arambager Gandhi", represented the Arambagh seat in the Hooghly district. When he became chief minister, he lived in a private flat off Park Street in central Kolkata that belonged to Congress leader Ashok Krishna Dutta, according to an old timer from the party. Ajoy Mukherjee, the only other chief minister who hailed from Tamluk and represented the Tamluk

Assembly seat, lived in the government quarters in Belvedere Estate in Alipur, south Kolkata, when he became chief minister for three truncated terms. His first tenure lasted from February 1969 to March 1970, followed by second and third terms till June 1971. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, who was in office from 1972 to 1977, had his ancestral house at Beltala Road, Bhabanipur, where he lived. Ray represented the Chowrighee constituency in central Kolkata. Jyoti Basu, Bengal's longest-serving chief minister, who was in office from 1977 to 2000, represented the Satgachhia constituency on the outskirts of Kolkata. Most of the years he lived in his ancestral home on Hindustan Road in south Kolkata and in the later years moved to a government accommodation in the Salt Lake area - Indira Bhawan, an irrigation department bungalow. Before moving into Indira Bhawan, Basu had briefly stayed at the Raj Bhawan. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, who was in office from 2000 to 2011, continued to live in his government flat on Palm Avenue in south Kolkata and represented the Jadavpur seat. Mamata Banerjee continues to live in her ancestral home - a small single stories house on Harish Chatterjee Street in the Kalighat neighbourhood that is part of the Bhabanipur constituency that she represented.

AMERICA’S PILE OF EMERGENCY OIL IS SHRINKING FAST

New York — When he launched his presidential campaign in late 2022, then-candidate Donald Trump blasted his successor for aggressively releasing oil from America’s emergency stockpile ahead of the midterm elections. “The strategic national reserves, which I filled up, have been virtually drained in order to keep gasoline prices lower, just prior to the election,” Trump said during his 2024 campaign launch at Mar-a-Lago, referring to President Joe Biden’s record-setting releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). But now, as voter frustration over high gas prices mounts, President Trump is draining the nation’s pile of emergency oil at an even faster pace than Joe Biden ahead of this year’s midterms. Not only has the magnitude of SPR releases under Trump surpassed records, but the amount of crude left in the reserve is approaching the lowest levels since the early 1980s. Back then, the United States had a far smaller economy that consumed less energy. The emergency steps taken this spring underscore the scale of the oil crisis set off by the war with Iran and the scramble around the



world to replace crude trapped in the Persian Gulf. The shrinking pile of emergency oil also serves as a reminder of how US officials will need to refill the SPR afterwards, an endeavor that will keep both demand and prices high. “This isn’t like a cookie jar. Those barrels have got to be put back at some point and that will lead to higher prices,” said Matt Smith, lead oil analyst at energy intelligence firm Kpler. SPR is 50 million barrels smaller than pre-war. Of course, moments like this are exactly what the SPR is

designed for. Located in a series of underground salt caverns in Texas and Louisiana, the SPR is the world’s largest stockpile of emergency crude. It’s been used by Republican and Democratic presidents alike during wars, hurricanes and other supply disruptions. For example, Biden aggressively tapped the SPR after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, spiking gasoline prices above \$5 a gallon for the first time ever. The amount of oil in the SPR plunged from about 638 million barrels in January 2021 to a 40-year low

of 347 million barrels by July 2023, according to federal data. The effective shutdown in late February of the Strait of Hormuz, the most critical chokepoint for energy in the world, has derailed more than 1.2 billion barrels of crude, according to S&P Global Energy. To help fill the gap, the SPR released 9.1 million barrels of crude last week alone, according to federal data. That’s just shy of the all-time high set the prior week. Since the war with Iran started, the amount of oil in the SPR has dropped by about 50 million

barrels, or 12%, to 365 million barrels – the lowest since April 2024, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Notably, that emergency crude isn’t just supply for US refineries. About half of the crude released in April and May have been exported, according to Kpler estimates. “The US is basically the supplier of last resort. The rest of the world needs that crude,” Smith said. Countries in Asia and Europe have been hit particularly hard by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, leading them to turn to US crude as a replacement. It’s a trend that will likely continue as the crisis drags on. “Even if a deal is done tomorrow, it will probably take six weeks to unblock the strait, only adding to pressure in inventories during peak summer demand season,” Helima Croft, global head of commodity strategy at RBC Capital Markets, told CNN in an email. “Europe could easily see rationing.” The market pays particular attention to the amount of crude stockpiled at Cushing, Oklahoma, because that’s where West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures are priced.

BITS PILANI TO SET UP STARTUP INCUBATORS IN TELANGANA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH T-HUB



Hyderabad: BITS Pilani will be setting up two startup incubators in Telangana, each at a cost of Rs 10.70 crore by partnering up with T-Hub, Minister for Women and Child Welfare Danasari Anasuya aka Seethakka said on Friday, May 29. Speaking at the Komaram Bheem Adivasi Bhavan in Banjara Hills, the minister said that the government’s goal is to have not just bank passbooks but also industries and businesses in the hands of women. These incubators will help provide financial, technical and business support to up to 300 women entrepreneurs so that women don’t just remain job seekers but can also become

job providers, the minister said. Speaking on Telangana government’s initiatives for women empowerment, Seethakka said that 67 lakh self-help group women currently form the backbone of the rural economy by running various businesses. Moreover, interest-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh are being provided to women’s groups. She said that so far Rs. 60 thousand crore bank loans have been given to women’s groups who are setting an example by repaying 100 percent of them. Solar power plants have been set up for women in Madhira at a cost of Rs 3 crore, enabling them to earn an income of up to Rs 5 lakh per month. Also,

petrol stations run by women are earning a profit of up to Rs 4 lakh per month, the minister said. During the Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Jatra, 554 women were provided with Rs 6 crore assistance, and they managed a business of Rs. 9.5 crore in just 15 days. On top of this, the government is making sure that products made by women in villages are not limited to the local market but also reach the international markets. Giving an example, she said that tamarind masks made by women in Cheryala are being exported to the Netherlands, providing a testament to the creativity of Telangana women.

NMDC Steel Turns Profitable in FY26; Records Best-Ever Production and Sales

Hyderabad, May 30, 2026: NMDC Steel Limited (NSL), one of India’s youngest integrated steel producers, has announced its financial results for FY26. NMDC Steel Limited (NSL) delivered a landmark performance in FY26, achieving profitability and registering best-ever production and sales during the year, while also recording its best-ever quarterly performance in Q4, FY26. NMDC Steel recorded its highest-ever annual production of 23.25 lakh metric tonnes and sales of 24.55 lakh metric tonnes during FY26, registering growth of 62% and 74% respectively over the previous year. The strong operational performance reflects improved capacity utilisation, enhanced efficiencies and growing market acceptance of NSL products across key sectors. NSL has now achieved average capacity utilisation of 80% of its rated production capacity within two years of commencing its operations, marking a significant milestone in the operational stabilisation of the Nagarnar Steel Plant.



This achievement places NSL among the fastest ramp-ups witnessed in the Global Steel Industry for a greenfield integrated steel project. NSL also delivered its best-ever quarterly performance during Q4 FY26, with production rising 45% year-on-year to 6.42 lakh metric tonnes and sales increasing 40% to 7.03 lakh metric tonnes, underscoring the growing operational strength and market presence of the company. The operational gains translated into a strong financial performance, with turnover increasing 60% year-on-year to Rs.13,642 crore. This robust growth reflects

improved capacity utilisation, stronger market penetration and the growing acceptance of NSL high-quality steel products across key sectors. Most significantly, FY26 marked a complete turnaround in NSL profitability. Profit After Tax (PAT) stood at Rs. 58.72 crore in FY26 against a loss of Rs. 2,373 crore in the previous year. Reflecting the strength of this turnaround, Q4 FY26 PAT improved to Rs. 391 crore from a loss of Rs. 473 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. NMDC Steel closed FY26 on a strong note, delivering its best-ever quarterly production and sales alongside a

significant improvement in operational performance. Turnover for Q4 FY26 increased 37% year-on-year to Rs. 3,879 crore, while EBITDA stood at Rs. 832.09 crore against a negative EBITDA of Rs. 271.51 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Commenting on the results, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC Steel Limited, said: “FY26 marks a defining year in NMDC Steel journey. Achieving profitability, recording our highest-ever production & sales and reaching nearly average capacity utilisation of 80% within two years of operations reflect the successful stabilisation of the Nagarnar Steel Plant. As we continue to improve efficiencies, expand our product portfolio and strengthen our market presence, we remain committed to progressing towards full capacity utilisation of NMDC Steel Plant, while supplying high-quality steel products that contribute to India infrastructure and industrial development.”

Geopolitical tensions biggest threat to India’s growth: RBI Annual Report

Mumbai: Robust macroeconomic fundamentals will support the growth trajectory of the Indian economy in the current fiscal year despite headwinds from elevated energy prices, supply chain disruptions and global markets, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its Annual Report on Friday, May 29. Healthy balance sheets of the corporate and banking sectors, along with the government’s continued thrust on capital expenditure, bode well for India’s strong growth trajectory, it said. Geopolitical risk has re-emerged as the dominant drag on global growth in 2026, the report said, adding that the adverse impact of the outbreak of the conflict in West Asia at the end of February 2026 is reflected in forecasts for global growth and inflation. “Against the backdrop of a moderate global growth, the outlook for the Indian economy in 2026-27 remains positive, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, although a prolonged West Asia conflict may pose downside risk,” it said. Moreover, the implementation of various trade agreements with the key trading partners would provide further momentum to India’s growth, the RBI’s Annual Report for 2025-26 said. India remained the fastest-growing major economy, expanding at 7.6 per cent during 2025-26 (7.1 per cent a year ago), supported by strong domestic consumption, sustained investment, proactive policy initiatives and sound macro-



economic fundamentals. The report further said the outlook for the agriculture sector in 2026-27 remains contingent upon the progress and distribution of the South-West monsoon. “The likelihood of El Nino conditions poses downside risks to agricultural output,” it said. However, the rain-inducing positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are likely to emerge towards the latter part of the monsoon season, which may partly offset adverse impacts. “While the ongoing geopolitical tensions are likely to exert pressure on the availability and prices of key inputs, particularly fertilisers, the government’s continued efforts in ensuring adequate availability of fertiliser and other key inputs through diversified sources and buffer management are expected to mitigate these potential concerns,” it said. The report also said infla-

tion in 2026-27 is likely to remain aligned with the target on the back of adequate foodgrain stocks, sufficient reservoir levels and stable agricultural prospects despite possible El Nino conditions and above-normal summer temperature. The central government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, retained the inflation target of 4 per cent with a tolerance band of +/- 2 per cent for the period beginning April 1, 2026, and ending on March 31, 2031. The report also said the RBI plans to expand the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot to cover new use cases under DBT schemes and the domestic retail space, while exploring additional pilots on tokenisation of financial assets and widening participant coverage. Geopolitical risk has re-emerged as the dominant drag on global growth in 2026, the RBI report said.

WILL FRONTIER LEARN FROM SPIRIT’S MISTAKES? BUDGET AIRLINES FACE TOUGH ROAD AHEAD

No airline is more likely than Frontier Airlines to benefit from the demise of Spirit. But no airline is more at risk of suffering the same fate. Financial problems and higher fuel costs tipped long-struggling budget airline Spirit over the edge when it went out of business on May 2. Frontier, which sought to merge with its low-cost rival in 2022, is well-positioned to benefit from Spirit’s absence. Its routes have the most overlap with Spirit, and both cater to budget travelers through similar business models: low-base fares coupled with extra charges for everything else. As airlines start their critical summer travel season, Frontier may find itself in better financial shape with Spirit out of the picture — it has already raised fares on the routes it shared with Spirit. But Frontier is still vulnerable to the many problems plaguing the overall US air-



line industry, and especially the low-fare segment of the market. “(Frontier) has a much stronger cash position (than Spirit had),” said Shye Gilad, a business professor at Georgetown University and former airline executive. “But I don’t dismiss the pressure that the industry is under, especially for these ultra-low-cost carriers.” All airlines, from the upstart budget carriers to the four major US commercial airlines, are struggling with jet fuel costs. Fuel, the second largest expense for airlines after labor, is now up 30% from before the start of the

war in Iran. Most airlines are raising fares and fees to make up for higher costs. But even with fares up more than 20% from last year, airlines haven’t been able to cover all the new expenses. And Frontier, like Spirit, was in financial trouble even before the fuel spike. The Denver-based airline lost \$137 million last year when jet fuel was relatively inexpensive. In fact, the airline has bled money every year since the pandemic, aside from earning a narrow profit in 2024. Frontier’s executives, however, dismiss doubts about its long-term future.

US, UK AND AUSTRALIA TO DEVELOP UNDERWATER DRONE TECHNOLOGY

The US, UK and Australia say they will develop underwater drone technology to protect undersea cables and boost defence, under their military alliance known as Aukus. The uncrewed undersea vehicle (UUV) technology is expected to be ready by next year. While the project’s total cost was not stated, UK Defence Secretary John Healey said his nation would contribute £150m (\$201m). The announcement, made by the countries’ defence ministers at a security summit in Singapore, follows claims of slow progress in Aukus’s projects. Acknowledging the criticism, Healey said “for too long in Aukus, we talked too much and delivered too little”, adding “that has now changed under our three governments”. The Aukus defence pact, which began in 2021, affirmed the three countries would develop nuclear submarines and share military expertise. It is widely seen as a way to



counter China’s growing maritime presence in the Indo-Pacific and its role in rising tensions in disputed territories such as the South China Sea. The UUV technology is the first signature project under Aukus’s Pillar Two, in which the partner countries work together on “advanced capabilities” in areas such as long-range hypersonic missiles, undersea robotics and AI. A joint

statement said the new project would see “cutting edge payloads and enabling systems” developed for UUVs that could protect seabed infrastructure, conduct strikes, and conduct surveillance, reconnaissance and logistics operations. Healey also said that sensors and weapons systems would be developed for the UUVs, which would “rapidly give our forces advanced battle

technologies”. It would also help them deal with threats “including to our underwater cables and pipelines on which so much of our daily life depends”. Such efforts would strengthen deterrence in the Pacific, Atlantic and waters in the High North, he added. The announcement comes a month after Healey accused Russia of running a covert operation over cables and

pipelines in waters north of the UK. Moscow has denied the allegations. In December, the UK and Norway signed a pact to hunt Russian submarines in the North Atlantic to protect undersea cables. The UK is connected by about 60 undersea cables, which British officials say are increasingly under threat from Moscow, with a 30% rise in Russian vessels spotted in UK waters over the past few years. Elsewhere, Chinese ships are suspected to have damaged undersea cables in waters surrounding Taiwan and in Swedish territory. There have also been multiple reports of cables damaged in the Baltic Sea. On Saturday, the three defence ministers did not respond to a question from the BBC on whether the UUV technology project was aimed at countering Russian and Chinese undersea activities. They also did not answer a question on whether progress on Aukus projects was too slow.



No deal announced after Trump meeting to make 'final determination' on Iran

US President Donald Trump has held a meeting with top aides to make a "final determination" about a framework for extending the ceasefire with Iran, but it concluded without clarity on the next steps. Posting on Truth Social beforehand, Trump said Iran must agree to never have a nuclear weapon or bomb, that the Strait of Hormuz be reopened for "unrestricted shipping traffic, in both directions", and that any mines in the strait be "terminated". An adviser to Iran's supreme leader on Saturday accused Trump of "betraying diplomacy" by making what he described as excessive demands. Iran says it is not negotiating on its nuclear programme - insisting it is wholly for peaceful purposes. On Thursday, the two countries had agreed a framework of a deal - known as a memorandum of understanding - pending the approval of Trump and Iran's leadership, according to US officials. The

deal would reportedly extend the current ceasefire for 60 days and launch talks on the future of Iran's nuclear programme. "President Trump will only make a deal that is good for America and satisfies his red lines. Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon," a White House official told CBS, the BBC's US news partner. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 8 April, Trump has repeatedly suggested that the US and Iran were close to a deal and that negotiations were progressing, but so far there have been no substantive results. Trump wrote on social media before the meeting of aides on Friday that he was prepared to lift the US naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, allowing ships caught in the waterway to "start the process of 'heading home.'" He also insisted that Iran allow the US to remove and destroy its enriched uranium. "No money will be exchanged, until further notice," he said.



"Other items, of far less importance, have been agreed to." A White House official confirmed to the BBC that the meeting - which was held in the White House's Situation Room, used for dealing with major crises - had concluded late on Friday. The official provided no further details. Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday that the blockade on Iranian shipping remained in place. It said Iranian vessels were still being prevented from crossing the blockade line and continued to receive warnings

from US forces. Reacting to Trump's latest remarks, Mohsen Rezaei, an adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, wrote on X: "As predicted, the President of the United States is betraying diplomacy for the third time. "By continuing the naval blockade and making excessive demands in negotiations, he has once again proven that he is not inclined toward negotiation and is pursuing other objectives." Iran's Pars news agency earlier cited informed sources as saying that Trump's latest comments

were a "mixture of truth and lies". There was no provision to destroy nuclear materials in the memorandum of understanding, the agency reported. Meanwhile, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told state TV it was "focused on ending the war, and there are no negotiations on the nuclear issue". The US has long demanded that Iran stop producing highly enriched uranium and dispose of its existing stockpile, which in theory could be used to create nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful and denies it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The possibility of the US being able to "recommence" strikes in Iran was floated by US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. Speaking at a security summit in Singapore, he said: "Our stockpiles are more than suited for that, both there and around the globe, because of how we balance exquisite and more plen-

tiful munitions." "So we're in a very good place," he added. The US and Israel launched strikes against Iran on 28 February. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf, and effectively closed the strait, which has sent global oil prices soaring. Normally, about 20% of the world's energy supplies are shipped through the strait. On Thursday, US Vice-President JD Vance said negotiators were "going back and forth on a couple of language points", including the "question of enrichment". "We're not there yet, but we're very close and we're going to keep on working at it," he said. Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said earlier on Friday that it had "no trust in guarantees or words", only actions. "No action will be taken before the other side acts," he said in a social media post. "The winner of any agreement is the one who is better prepared for war the day after."

Ex-US attorney general defends Epstein files handling in congressional probe



Former US Attorney General Pam Bondi has defended her handling of the release of documents related to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Bondi, who was removed from her post as America's top law enforcement officer by US President Donald Trump in April, testified behind closed doors on Friday in Washington DC. "We demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to transparency in the Department's search for, collection and review of the Epstein files, producing nearly three million pages of material," she said in opening remarks to the US House

Oversight Committee. Bondi was formally summoned by the panel in March, just before Trump announced her ouster as his administration's top prosecutor. As attorney general, Bondi was tasked with implementing the Epstein Files Transparency Act, legislation signed into law by Trump that mandated the US Department of Justice publicly release unclassified records. But Bondi and the US Justice Department have been widely criticised, with accusations that documents were withheld and files were published that made victims of Epstein's crimes publicly identifiable.

Israel put on UN sexual violence in warzones blacklist for first time



Israel has been added to a UN blacklist of countries that commit sexual violence in warzones for the first time. A report by the office of Secretary General António Guterres said the UN had last year verified 31 cases of sexual violence perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank. It said 13 of the cases had occurred in 2025, and 18 in the two years prior. The UN said its report should be seen as "indicative of incidents and patterns" rather than comprehensive. Israel said it rejected allegations of sexual abuse and intended to break off relations with the secretary general's office. Israel's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, accused Guterres on Thursday of spreading anti-semitic lies. The Israeli UN mission said it will refuse contact with his office as long as he serves as head of the international body. The report said the cases the UN had verified were carried out against 14 men, seven women, nine boys and one girl. The violations included rape, gang rape, forced nudity, and violence to genitals committed by officers from

the Israeli military, police and prison service. The UN said its attempts to fully investigate the issue had been obstructed by the Israeli government and threats made against detainees to prevent abuse being reported. Last year, Hamas was added to the previous "Conflict-related Sexual Violence" report. The UN said 12 former hostages released from Gaza had made allegations of sexual violence against Hamas captors, adding it had been unable to verify the reports as the Israeli government had denied access to UN bodies to carry out investigations. Guterres said at the time that he was placing Israel on "notice", urging it to take steps to investigate numerous allegations and improve detention conditions for Palestinians. Since then, a series of high-profile cases have suggested a pattern of sexual abuse being used against Palestinian detainees. In one now-infamous case, five Israeli guards were caught on leaked CCTV footage appearing to sexually abuse a detainee from Gaza at the Sde Teiman detention facility.

'Poison seller' who sold toxic chemicals online to people across world admits aiding suicides

A man has pleaded guilty to 14 counts of aiding suicides in Canada after he sold toxic chemicals online. Kenneth Law, 60, entered the guilty pleas in an Ontario court on Friday, as part of a deal with prosecutors, who withdrew more serious murder charges. Authorities said the former chef also sold about 1,200 packages of the toxic substances to recipients - who he met in online suicide forums - in 40 countries, roughly a quarter of which were sent to the UK. The charges all relate to Canadian victims - but families of British victims have said they were angry UK prosecutors would not charge Law over the deaths of 79



Britons, which authorities say are linked to products he supplied. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said it had agreed to the Canadian plea bargain on the basis Law's sentence take the British deaths into account. A letter from the CPS, seen by the BBC, said Law would not face charges in the UK because he could challenge the extradition after being convicted of similar offences in Canada.

US not 'turning back' on Asia allies, but expects them to boost defence, says Hegseth

The US military is not "turning our backs" on Asia while fulfilling "global obligations" such as the Iran war, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has told a top regional defence forum in Singapore. Hegseth sought to reassure Asia-Pacific allies about US commitment to the region, including fulfilling arms deals in the wake of a suspended Taiwan weapons package - even as he reiterated calls for Asian partners to spend more on defence. While noting the threat of China's military build-up in the region, Hegseth also said the US wanted to avoid "needless confrontation". Hegseth was speaking weeks after US President Donald Trump held positive talks with China's President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Hegseth



was asked by Japan's defence minister to address concerns about US commitment at the Shangri-La Dialogue on Saturday. Shinjiro Koizumi said "some countries might underestimate" that level of commitment and may want to "drive a wedge" between the US and its allies. Hegseth replied that part of the US national defence strategy was aimed at "power projection" in the

Pacific and working with allies. "People want to conflate that we have global obligations with the turning of our backs to this region," he said, denying that was the case. "We can do two things at one time," he insisted, saying the US was "quietly but very strongly" working with allies with a "substantive, serious approach" to the Pacific, while maintaining "global obligations to ensure

that, say, Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon". Separately, a dialogue participant raised the question of the US's ability to fulfil arms deals with its partners after suspending a \$14bn (£10bn) package to Taiwan in order to conserve munitions for the war in Iran. Hegseth said he would "very much decouple the two" issues, insisting the US was in a "very good place... very strong position" in terms of its overall munitions stockpile and ability to produce more if needed. In his speech, Hegseth emphasised the US's "strong, quiet and clear" approach to the region - its capacity to wield a "big stick" but "speak softly". Central to this approach was more weapons, he insisted, instead of "empty globalist rhetoric about the rules-based international order".

Nato and EU condemn Russia after drone hits Romanian residential block

A Russian drone hit a block of flats in Romania, causing a fire and injuring two people, Romanian officials say. Friday's incident in the eastern town of Galați, near the border with Ukraine, was condemned by Romania's fellow members of Nato and the EU. Ukraine said it proved again that Russia posed "a real threat" to Europe. Romanian President Nicușor Dan said the drone was likely hit by Ukrainian air defences over Kyiv's territory, altering its trajectory. Russian President Vladimir Putin later questioned whether the drone was Russian. Drones fired by Russia have strayed into Romania a number of times during the four-year war with



Ukraine, but it is the first time Romanians have been hurt. Romania's emergency situations authority said the drone's entire explosive payload detonated and caused a fire on the 10th floor of the residential building. Two people with abrasions required medical treatment and were taken

to the Galați County Emergency Clinical Hospital. About 70 people were evacuated as the fire was put out. Romania's defence ministry said two F-16 fighter jets were scrambled after the drones were detected. Brig Gen Gheorghe Maxim said the army had only four minutes

from when the drone was detected to the moment of impact. The ministry added in a later update that it appeared the "entire load" of the Geran 2 drone - also known as a Shahed 136 - had exploded on impact. Gen Maxim said Romanian forces were under significant constraints, as they could not fire munitions that violated Ukrainian airspace. "Ukraine is at war, but Romania is at peace. We cannot launch a projectile into Ukrainian airspace," he said. Romania's military has sought to reassure the public that it was not an attack on the country but rather "a conflict at our border, with consequences for the local population".

GHANA'S PARLIAMENT PASSES ANTI-LGBTQ+ BILL



The parliament in Ghana has approved a new bill criminalising homosexuality and the promotion of LGBTQ+ activities. It proposes that identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer be punished by up to three years' imprisonment. The bill also introduces a "duty to report" prohibited acts to police. Religious leaders have pressured President John Dramani Mahama, who still needs to ratify the legislation, to strengthen anti-gay laws since he came to power last year. The ban has been sharply criticised by international organisations, including Human Rights Watch, which said it placed LGBTQ+ peoples' lives at risk while also "encouraging citizens to surveil and denounce one another". Same-sex relationships have been banned in Ghana under laws dating from the British colonial era. In an address to parliament, the bill's sponsor Reverend John Ntim Fordjour said it would protect Ghanaian family and cultural values. He said the new bans would make exist-

ing laws "more robust, more encompassing and more stringent in dealing with the practices of LGBTQI". Anyone who identifies as an "ally", a general term for a supporter of LGBTQ+ people, could also face a prison sentence. Exemptions were included for legal, media and healthcare professionals who report on LGBTQ+ issues or provide medical treatment or other services for gay people. Human Rights Watch recommended the bill be abandoned in a formal submission to the constitutional and legal affairs committee scrutinising the legislation in the capital, Accra. Ghana passed a similar bill in 2024 but it did not become law after former President Akufo-Addo failed to sign it amid legal challenges. The current President Mahama has indicated he would support the bill's passage, saying shortly after he took office that "I believe in the principles and values that only two genders exist - man and woman - and that marriage is between a man and a woman."



Four more men freed from flooded Laos cave after 10 days

Spain's Sánchez digs in after eight years as PM as wave of scandals threatens survival

1 June marks exactly eight years since Pedro Sánchez became prime minister of Spain, but with his government and Socialist Party besieged by corruption investigations he is more likely to be plotting his political survival than celebrating. His musician brother, David, has just gone on trial accused of influence peddling. Former Socialist prime minister and close Sánchez ally José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero has been named in an investigation into alleged money laundering. And police have raided the Socialist headquarters in Madrid as part of a probe into allegations of a dirty tricks campaign that the opposition has dubbed "the Socialists' Watergate". These probes and others have generated a



growing clamour by the opposition for Sánchez's resignation and speculation that his government might soon collapse. "The accumulation of cases makes clear that these are not isolated episodes or the fruit of dark conspiracies," warned centre-left newspaper El País, traditionally sympathetic to the Socialist Party. "The investigations are linked to the nucleus of power which has governed for the past eight years."

Toronto Stands To Gain Billions From 2026 FIFA World Cup But Transportation Could Undo It All

The numbers are hard to argue with. FIFA's own economic analysis suggests the 2026 World Cup could generate roughly CAD 3.8 billion in economic output for Canada, with approximately CAD 2 billion adding directly to Canadian GDP and more than 24,000 jobs created or preserved. For Toronto specifically, a Deloitte Canada assessment estimates up to \$940 million in positive economic output for the Greater Toronto Area, including \$520 million in GDP growth, \$340 million in labour income and \$25 million in government revenue. The tournament is also expected to create more than 6,600 jobs between now and August. The money is coming. Whether Toronto can actually handle it is the question nobody in the city is answering confidently.

• **The Transportation Problem Is Real**
Toronto already faces seri-



ous congestion challenges in normal conditions, and the influx of World Cup visitors will intensify pressure on roads and public transit well beyond anything the city typically manages. The TTC is expected to experience crowding significantly above peak levels throughout the tournament, with residents likely facing longer commute times and reduced everyday conven-

ience. On match days, more than 45,000 spectators are expected at Toronto Stadium per match. On top of that, up to 20,000 people could attend the FIFA Fan Festival at Fort York National Historic Site and The Bentway across up to 22 operational days. Those two venues alone place enormous simultaneous pressure on the same transit corridors. Transportation analysts

have pointed to public transit performance, crowd management, communication systems and regional connectivity as the four variables that will collectively shape how visitors experience the city. For international fans navigating an unfamiliar place, real-time information may matter just as much as additional bus routes. If systems struggle, the consequences reach

into every corner of the economy. Restaurant reservations get missed. Hotels fill with frustrated guests who cannot get where they need to go.

• **What the City Has Put in Place**
The City of Toronto released its official Mobility Plan in March, built around encouraging fans to use transit, walk or cycle, plan ahead and allow extra time. Ontario has extended restaurant and bar service hours across match days. The FIFA Fan Festival at Fort York is designed to spread foot traffic more evenly, keeping visitors engaged outside stadium hours. The plans are solid on paper. The venues are ready. But whether Toronto's transport network holds up when 45,000 people pour out of a stadium at the same time is a question that will only be answered in real time, starting June 11.

RCB Captain Rajat Patidar's Blunt Response On Being Asked About Potential India Selection

Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar has made a strong case for his India selection with impressive performances in the Indian Premier League. He was appointed as RCB captain ahead of IPL 2025 and led the side to its maiden title, which came after 18 years. This season, Patidar not only took the team to its second consecutive IPL final, but also improved his performance with the bat. The player has scored 486 runs in 14 games at an average of 44.18 and a strike rate of 196.76. His performances include a sensational 33-ball 93 that came against Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1. When asked regarding a potential selection for India's T20I team, Patidar came up with a blunt response. "The answer to your first question is I'm not looking forward to any selection regarding India. So, I'm not looking forward to it," he said on the eve of the IPL 2026 final. In a fascinating



battle of ideologies, the well-balanced and bold RCB will have to subdue a phlegmatic GT to lift their second consecutive IPL title in Ahmedabad on Sunday. On paper, the reigning champions are the overwhelming favourites against the 2022 winners because of the fearless, high-risk game that they have been playing in this tournament so far. It has landed them in trouble occasionally, but Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim David, skipper Rajat Patidar, Phil Salt, when

available, and Venkatesh Iyer have relentlessly pounded the opposition with single-gear batting. The nature of pitches or opposition bowling strategies have had little effect on their battering ram approach, and no other team has managed to go past 200 as often as they have in this edition of the IPL. Patidar's calm approach to captaincy too has added to Royal Challengers' stability as a team across the last two seasons.

"I Challenge Travis Kelce, Patrick Mahomes":

EX-NFL STAR'S STRONG MESSAGE TO KANSAS CITY CHIEFS AMID RASHEE RICE JAIL TIME

The Kansas City Chiefs are no strangers to difficult off-field headlines, but the latest conversation around Rashee Rice has placed the spotlight on the team's leadership group. With the wide receiver currently serving a jail sentence and his NFL future under scrutiny, former NFL star Jarvis Landry believes this is the moment for veterans inside the organisation to step forward. Rather than focusing only on punishment, Landry wants the Chiefs' biggest names to help Rice avoid making more mistakes and find a better path forward. Jarvis Landry Wants Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce To Step Up For Rashee Rice Speaking on the



4th And South Podcast, Landry said that he believes players such as Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce have a responsibility to support younger teammates during difficult moments. "I challenge Travis Kelce, I challenge Patrick Mahomes, I challenge any leader that's

in the Kansas City organization to put their arms around this young man, give him guidance, put him in a better room and better position," Landry said. "Show him how to move in the off-season and how to establish a circle that can lead to generational wealth because

they say you are the sum of who you hang with. If you hang around bad s, bad s gonna happen to you. If you're hanging with bad people, bad things are gonna happen to you."

A simpler version: Rice's legal troubles remain a talking point around the league. Some Chiefs players backed him publicly, but the move also drew criticism from victims' representatives and former Chiefs players. What Rashee Rice's Probation Violation Means For The Kansas City Chiefs Rice remains one of the most talented receivers on Kansas City's roster, which makes the situation complicated for the Chiefs.

WWE CLASH IN ITALY 2026 PREDICTIONS:

WILL ROMAN REIGNS AND CODY RHODES SURVIVE THEIR TITLE MATCHES?

WWE is heading to Turin, Italy, for Clash in Italy 2026, and honestly, this card feels a little different from the usual premium live events. A lot of the matches are rematches, which means fans already know what these superstars are capable of doing against each other. But that's exactly why the pressure is much higher this time. Nobody wants to see the same results play out all over again. Some of WWE's biggest names are walking into the event with targets on their backs. Cody Rhodes and Roman Reigns are still champions, but both of them are facing opponents who have every reason to believe they can finally get the job



done. Add in title matches featuring Rhea Ripley, Becky Lynch, and rising stars looking for career-defining moments, and Clash in Italy could end up changing more than a few championship pictures. Could Jacob Fatu finally take down Roman Reigns?

Out of all the matches on the card, this one feels like the hardest to predict. Roman Reigns and Jacob Fatu have already gone to war recently, but the addition of Tribal Combat changes everything. These matches are usually chaotic, and outside involvement is almost expected at

this point. A lot of fans think help could arrive for Reigns when things get tough. But what if things go the other way? If the Bloodline story takes another major twist, Reigns could suddenly find himself standing alone. That's why Jacob Fatu feels like the safer prediction here. WWE may be ready to push him even further and completely shake up the family power structure. Prediction: Jacob Fatu wins the World Heavyweight Championship. Cody Rhodes might survive, but Gunther won't make it easy. It feels like WWE has been slowly building Gunther toward a world title moment for a long time.

ARYNA SABALENKA QUELLS DARIA KASATKINA TO MARCH ON AT FRENCH OPEN

World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka continued her pursuit of a first French Open title by easing past Daria Kasatkina 6-0, 7-5 in the French Open third round on Saturday. The Belarusian top seed ripped through the first set in 29 minutes. Sabalenka let her momentum drift at the start of the second set as two unforced errors and a double fault allowed Kasatkina to break in the



opening game. The Australian then held to love as Sabalenka continued to miss. The Belarusian took the next three games but faced greater resistance from Kasatkina.



Vinesh Phogat was knocked out of the Asian Games

Shubman Gill's Father Puts On Dancing Shoes, GT Captain Somehow Dodges Spotlight

Shubman Gill shared a heartfelt moment with his parents after guiding Gujarat Titans to the IPL 2026 final on Friday in Chandigarh. Playing against Rajasthan Royals, Gill delivered a magnificent knock of 104 off 53 balls as GT chased down a target of 214 with eight balls to spare and seven wickets in hand. GT will now take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the summit clash in Ahmedabad on Sunday, a team they had earlier lost to in Qualifier 1. After the match, Gill was seen celebrating the victory with his parents in the stadium. In a video that is now going viral on social media, Gill's father, Lakhwinder Singh, was seen making both his son and wife dance. However, appearing shy,



Gill quickly asked his father to stop, creating a hilarious yet adorable moment for fans. Gill smacked 104 off 53 balls with 15 fours and three sixes to eclipse the first-innings heroics of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who made a calculated 96, to power Gujarat Titans' victory in

the Qualifier 2. "(The) feeling is really good. But (a) quick turnaround so tomorrow (Saturday) we'll just rest and recover and then go there and assess conditions," Gill told the broadcaster after the match. "If you don't play the occasion it brings the best out of us and that's what we spoke

about. Let's take the occasion out and play some good cricket. Whether we win or lose, we should play good cricket," he said while revealing GT's mantra. The IPL final this year will be a repeat of the Qualifier 1 in which defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru had beaten Gujarat Titans by 92 runs. GT's win on Friday was built on a 167-run opening stand between Gill and Sai Sudharsan (58), who was dismissed hit-wicket for a second game in a row. "We complement each other and each other's game very well. When we are batting out there our communication is very good. One of us has to take down one of the bowlers and we are very good in deciding which bowler to take on," Gill said

Vinesh Phogat Out Of Asian Games 2026 Race After Losing In 53kg Wrestling Trials

selection trials in New Delhi on Saturday after losing to Meenakshi Goyat 4-6 in a tense semifinal bout of the women's 53kg event. The loss will dash Vinesh's hopes of a comeback and her chances of securing a berth at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan later this year. Earlier, Vinesh had summoned her years of experience to prevail in a fiercely fought bout against a super aggressive Nishu to reach the semifinals. After a rather easy 7-1 win against

Jyoti, Vinesh had to contend with a technically sound Nishu, who opened up a massive 5-0 lead and almost pinned the star grappler in the first period after a sensational four-point throw, but she survived. The bout was emotionally charged but was littered with challenges and technical failures of the screens. The resultant long breaks gave Vinesh much needed breather. She remains technically skilled, but time away from the mat has certainly taken a toll on her endurance. Nishu used the half head locks effective-

ly to keep Vinesh under check for a large part but Vinesh needed that one move to turn the tables and she found that in the second period -- a powerful four-point as she threw Nishu on mat. Vinesh had Nishu in her grip as she went for a pin. Sitting in her coach corner, her husband Sombir Rath and supporters charged on the net, demanding a pin. Eventually, a challenge was sought. It was ruled that the referee gave 'wrong whistle' but Vinesh was not given the 'pin' result. Nishu was put on the ground

position, though she could not take advantage. Another two-pointer put Vinesh ahead 6-5. It soon became 6-6, putting Vinesh ahead on criteria. Nishu attempted a take down but was not given points. Nishu's coach challenged the decision but lost as Vinesh left the mat relieved. Stunned, Nishu refused to share hands with the referee and Vinesh and stood on mat for a long time, crying. She will now fight it out with Meenakshi Goyat, who had shocked Antim Pangal in the Asian Championship trials.

Who Is JollyRancherZoo? Streamer Breaks Down While Accusing Boyfriend Shoovy Of Taking Her OnlyFans Money



JollyRancherZoo is all over social media right now, and honestly, it's because of a pretty messy situation. The Kick streamer broke down during a livestream and made some serious claims about her boyfriend, Shoovy. Clips from the stream started spreading everywhere almost instantly, with viewers trying to figure out what exactly happened between the two creators. During the stream, Jolly didn't hold back. She claimed Shoovy changed the banking information connected to her OnlyFans account and redirected money to himself. According to her, she only found out later and felt completely blindsided by it. The whole thing quickly turned into one of the biggest streamer dramas people were talking about online. What did JollyRancherZoo accuse Shoovy of? The viral clip mainly revolves around money. JollyRancherZoo claimed that Shoovy changed the payout details on her OnlyFans account without her knowing. She

suggested that a huge amount of money was involved, with different clips and posts online mentioning figures that go as high as \$100,000. At one point, she said she felt like she got "played" by someone she trusted. You could tell she was really emotional while talking about it. The stream wasn't some calm explanation of events. It was more like everything hitting her at once and coming out live in front of thousands of viewers. Another part of the stream that immediately went viral was when she mentioned a private request Shoovy allegedly made during their relationship. Social media grabbed onto that detail almost instantly, and within hours it became one of the most shared parts of the entire situation. The internet had reactions almost immediately. As soon as clips started making rounds online, everybody suddenly had an opinion. Some people felt bad for Jolly and said she should get lawyers involved if her claims are true.

DRINKER SAI’ TRENDS AT NO. 1 ON ZEE5; VIEWERS LAUD DHARMA MAHESH’S PERFORMANCE

Drinker Sai, starring Dharma Mahesh and directed by Kiran Tirumalasetti, is produced by Basavaraju Srinivas, Ismail Shaik, and Basavaraju Laharidhar under the Everest Cinemas and Smart Screen Entertainments banners. Carrying the tagline 'Brand of Bad Boys', the film was released in theaters and received a positive response, particularly from youth and mass audiences. The movie is now continuing its successful run on OTT as well. Streaming on ZEE5, Drinker Sai is currently the No. 1 trending movie in the platform's Free on ZEE5 section, winning widespread audience appreciation.

In particular, Dharma Mahesh's outstanding performance in the film has been earning well-deserved praise from viewers and on social media. Audiences have noted that he portrayed a wide range of emotions, including love, anger, pain, rebellion, and emotional depth, with remarkable naturalness. Carrying the film on his shoulders and fully immersing himself in the role, Dharma Mahesh's performance has emerged as one of the movie's biggest highlights. In this film, Dharma Mahesh delivers a natural and convincing performance portraying the life of an ordinary young man, along with his experiences



of love, self-respect, and emotional struggles. In several key scenes, his expressions, dialogue delivery, and body language have impressed audiences. As a result, after earning a good reputation during its theatrical run, the film is now receiving even greater appreciation on OTT platforms. He also won the Debut Actor – Jury Award

at GAMA Awards in Dubai for his mature act. Actress Aishwarya Sharma has impressed viewers with her beauty and performance, while her chemistry with Dharma Mahesh has become another major attraction of the film. Supporting actors including Ritu Choudhary, Posani Krishna Murali, Srikanth Iyengar, Sameer, Bhadram,

Kirrak Seetha, Fun Bucket Rajesh, and Raja Prajwal have also done full justice to their roles, adding strength to the story. Technically as well, Drinker Sai has received positive feedback. Director Kiran Tirumalasetti succeeded in presenting the story in a way that connects with today's youth. In particular, he effectively balanced emotions, romance, and entertainment throughout the film. The producers ensured high production values without compromising on quality. Music director Sri Vasanth's songs and background score have been a major asset to the movie. Since its release, the film's songs have continued to attract music lovers. The music has played a crucial role in enhancing the emotional impact of the story and connecting it more strongly with the audience. The response to Drinker Sai, which is currently holding the top trending position on ZEE5, shows that audiences are highly appreciative of Dharma Mahesh's performance. The praise he is receiving is making this film a milestone in his career. With OTT viewers watching the film in large numbers, its popularity continues to grow day by day. The team is encouraging those who have not yet watched the movie to check it out, as it is currently available to stream for free on ZEE5.

I Request Everyone to Watch and Support Mana Doctor Baabe: V. N. Aditya at the Teaser Launch Event

Lana Doctor Baabe is a unique entertainer being produced by Kritakshi under the Skanda Films banner, with Sharanya and Sudheeksha presenting the film. The movie marks the debut of Sri Skanda as a hero. Directed by Chalapathi Kumar Puvvala, who has also provided the story and screenplay, the film unveiled its teaser on Saturday. Renowned filmmaker V. N. Aditya attended the teaser launch event as the chief guest. V. N. Aditya said: "The teaser of Mana Doctor Baabe is entertaining from start to finish. We need more good comedy films like this. Interestingly, films with words like 'Doctor' and 'Mana' in their titles often turn out to be successful. Many thanks to Ali garu and Rajeev Kanakala garu for supporting such projects. I am also delighted to see Shanthi, daughter of the late AVS garu, making a comeback. I request everyone to watch and support this film." Sri Skanda said: "Thank you to everyone who attended the teaser launch event. Every member of this team treated the film as their own and supported it wholeheartedly. Chalapathi garu shouldered every responsibility and handled everything himself. This is a wonderful story, and we have presented a sensitive subject with great care. Please don't assume it is just a youth-oriented film



after watching the teaser. It is a complete family entertainer. Audiences will keep laughing until the climax. It has the flavor of classic films by EVV Satyanarayana garu and Jandhyala garu. The true hero of this film is the story; I am only an artist portraying a character. Every family will connect with this film. I have already watched it, and I genuinely feel proud of the film we have made. In my very first film, I had the opportunity to work with stalwarts like Ali garu, Rajeev Kanakala garu, Shanti garu, and Koteswara Rao garu. Cinematographer Kishore garu has done a fantastic job, writer RK has provided an excellent story and dialogues, and Manoj's music will touch everyone's hearts." Actor Ali said: "Sri Skanda has performed won-

derfully in Mana Doctor Baabe. Chalapathi has brought out the best performances from everyone. I hope the film becomes a grand success. New filmmakers need encouragement and hits so they can continue making more films. A single film supports many families. I urge audiences to support small films." Director Chalapathi Kumar said: "Thank you to everyone who attended the teaser launch event. I have shared a long association with V. N. Aditya garu. Prabhu garu and Suresh garu have always supported me. This film began because of Sri Skanda garu. The day I met him, I felt he had the potential to become a successful hero. As producers, Sri Skanda garu and Kritakshi garu never com-

promised on quality. Writer RK developed the story exceptionally well. Audiences will laugh at every scene. Though the film deals with a concept that has a delicate layer to it, we have handled it responsibly without crossing any boundaries. It is a pure family entertainer. By the end, audiences will walk out of the theatre with tears in their eyes. I request the media to support our film. Viewers will leave with the satisfaction of having watched a good movie. My heartfelt thanks to Ali garu, Rajeev Kanakala garu, and all the artists who supported me throughout this journey." Producer Kritakshi said: "Thank you to everyone who attended the teaser launch event. I request everyone to support our film."

Chennai Love Story songs are emerging as chartbusters, while the film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release in July

Starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles, Chennai Love Story is being produced by SKN and Sai Rajesh, the makers behind cult classics such as Colour Photo and Baby. The film is being produced under the Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers banners. While Sai Rajesh has provided the story, the film is directed by Ravi Namburii. Renowned music composer Mani Sharma has composed the soundtrack for the film. The songs released from the movie have been receiving an overwhelming response from music lovers and are quickly turning into chartbusters. The first single, "Guruthundha," garnered a huge response from audiences. More recently, the



second single, "Vadhalane," was unveiled by Oscar-winning music director M. M. Keeravani and became an instant success. With every song winning audience appreciation, Chennai Love Story is

enjoying a blockbuster musical journey even before its release. Meanwhile, post-production work is progressing at a brisk pace. The makers are planning to bring the film to theatres with a grand release in July.

“Nenevaru?” Receives Excellent Response with Housefull Shows; Theatres Increasing Across Regions!

The message-oriented family entertainer "Nenevaru?", starring veteran actor Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the lead role, along with Sai Kiran and Jogini Shyamala in pivotal roles, and directed by talented filmmaker Chiranjeevi Thanneeru, is receiving an overwhelming response from audiences after its worldwide release on May 29, according to producers Andekar Jagadeesh Babu and Sakinana Bhoolakshmi. The producers stated that the film is running successfully with housefull shows in several centres and has been receiving positive feedback from audiences across all age groups. Due to the strong word-of-mouth and encouraging public response, the number of theatres screening the film is steadily increas-



ing in many regions. On this occasion, Dr. Rajendra Prasad expressed his happiness and congratulated the entire team. He said that he is delighted to see audiences appreciating a film with a meaningful story and strong emotional content. He further stated that the love and encouragement shown by family audiences have given him immense satisfaction.

Rajendra Prasad congratulated director Chiranjeevi Thanneeru, producers Andekar Jagadeesh Babu and Sakinana Bhoolakshmi, and every technician and artist associated with the film for their efforts. The film's emotional narrative, courtroom sequences, and thought-provoking message have been particularly appreciated by viewers. The performances of Sai Kiran and Jogini Shyamala have also been receiving praise from audiences. The producers credited the film's success to director Chiranjeevi Thanneeru's engaging storytelling, Chinnikrishna's music, Naidu Prasad Kolli's cinematography, the editing by Nandamuri Hari and Tarakaramarao, dialogues by Srinivas, and lyrics by S.S. Veeru.

ANIMAL GIRL STUNS IN PINK BLAZER LOOK



Bollywood actress Tripti Dimri is back with some gorgeous new photos and fans are absolutely loving it! In the pictures, she is wearing a bright pink blazer over a white top with light blue jeans. She

is also wearing cool sunglasses and a gold necklace. The background shows palm trees and open sky, giving total beach holiday vibes. She is looking stylish, fresh and full of confidence. Simply stunning!

TFCC Short Film Festival Awards – 2026 Announced to Encourage Young Talent: TFCC Chairman Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud

The Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC) has come forward to encourage emerging talent in the film industry. Marking the 12th Telangana Formation Day celebrations, TFCC Chairman Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud officially announced the "TFCC Short Film Festival Awards - 2026." There is no entry fee for participation in the festival. Aspiring filmmakers, actors, and technicians can submit their short films with a duration ranging from 5 to 25 minutes. Entries will be accepted until June 13, and the winners selected by the jury will be honored at a grand awards ceremony on

June 21 at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad. Speaking at the press meet, Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud said that the festival is being launched as part of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations and will be organized every year hereafter. He noted that many successful actors and filmmakers in the industry began their careers through short films. The festival will present awards in nearly 20 categories, including Best Story, Best Director, Best Hero, Best Heroine, Best Actor, Best Co-Artist, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematographer, Best Background Music, Best Supporting Actress, Jury



Award, Best Producer, Best Journalist (Print & Electronic Media), Best Photo Journalist, and Best Cameraman, among others.

He urged talented newcomers to make use of this opportunity and showcase their creativity. TFCC Vice Chairman

Gururaj praised Dr. Ramakrishna Goud's efforts in promoting new talent and stated that conducting the festival without any entry fee is a commendable initiative. TFCC Organizing Secretary Aksa Khan said that the festival provides an excellent platform for aspiring artists and filmmakers to prove their talent. He added that entries have already started coming in and encouraged participants to submit their films before June 13. TFCC Vice Chairman Alla Bhakshu remarked that while many film festivals charge hefty entry fees, TFCC is offering this opportunity completely free of cost. He pointed out that sev-

eral successful actors and directors have risen through short films and expressed confidence that this festival would help identify fresh talent. TFCC Coordination Committee Secretary Prakash Goud appreciated the initiative and said that the festival would serve as a valuable platform for directors, actors, and technicians to showcase their skills. He encouraged all eligible participants to take advantage of this opportunity. The speakers expressed hope that the TFCC Short Film Festival Awards - 2026 would emerge as a significant platform for discovering, recognizing, and encouraging new talent in the film industry.