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CENTRE OFFERS CONSTITUTIONAL safeguards, legislative body for Ladakh; talks still underway, say activists

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

22-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 87,689
Tonsures: 44,476
Hundi tendered: 4.29 CR
Waiting Compartments: Outside line at Silahoranam
Approx. Darshan Time for Saravardhanam (with out SSD Tokens): 15 - 18 H

IVANKA TRUMP TARGETTED BY TERRORIST TRAINED BY IRGC: REPORT

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

CM Naidu launches sanjeevani healthcare programme in Chittoor

Yadamarri (TSIT):

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said the government is implementing the Sanjeevani programme under a Predictive, Preventive and Curative healthcare model with the philosophy that "Health is the Greatest Wealth."

He announced that the programme, launched as a pilot



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

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

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

Chandrababu Naidu urged people to adopt healthy lifestyles through proper nutrition, exercise, yoga and meditation under the concept of "Food as Medicine, Kitchen as Pharmacy."

Highlighting regional development plans, he said irrigation projects including Handri-Neva, Galeru-Nagari and the Somasila-Swarnamukhi Link Canal would be completed to make Rayalaseema green and prosperous.

The Chief Minister added that the government is promoting industries, data centres, drone cities, aerospace hubs and food processing sectors in Rayalaseema and aims to develop the region into a world-class horticulture centre.



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

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

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

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

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

KOLKATA (TSIT):

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



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

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

SHIRDI (AHLIYANAGAR) (TSIT):

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

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



The remarks come amid the government's broader push for indigenisation and self-reliance in strategic sectors under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, particularly in the backdrop of lessons drawn from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and rising geopolitical instability in West Asia, which have highlighted the importance of domestic defence manufacturing capacity and resilient supply chains.

"Our government is continuously emphasising that Make in India should be promoted in critical technologies and advanced systems. To ensure India emerges as a frontrunner in munitions and automated systems, the government is ready to take every necessary

step," Singh said.

Lauding the role of Indian industries, he said the country's private sector had developed a strong understanding of future warfare technologies and was increasingly contributing to next-generation defence capabilities. "To make India a hub for munitions and automation, everyone will have to work together. Only when the capabilities of Indian defence companies increase will the country's security framework become even stronger," he said.

Calling for complete self-reliance in defence and space technologies, Singh said: "Self-reliant India means a secure India, a capable India and a powerful India."

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



CHENNAI (TSIT):

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

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

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

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

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

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

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

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

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



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

are feeding broader inflation concerns, they added.

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

Petrol became costlier by Rs

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

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

Nritya Neerajanam program by artists from Lakshmi Gururaj's Nritya Niketan



Udupi: Lakshmi Gururaj NNU (R) organized a memorial and award program for D. Krishnamurthy Rao, Kodavoor and parents D. Gururaj Aital.

The program was inaugurated by K. Narayana Aital, a Sahakar Ratna awardee.

Natyacharya Narayana Bhat was presented with a memorial award at a program held at IYC near Sharada Kalyana Mantap,

Kunjibettu. Nritya Neerajanam program by artists from Lakshmi Gururaj's Nritya Niketan attracted the attention of the audience.

Vidushi Lakshmi Gururaj, retired principal of MGM College M.L. Samaga, Chairman of the Disaster Management Committee of the Indian Red Cross Society Yatish Baikampady, Nagaraj Tantri and a large number of fans were present.

Complete the Remaining 12-Metre Box Pushing Work of Geddalahalli Railway Vent by the End of May – Ramesh.D.S.



Bengaluru: The Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, Ramesh.D.S., conducted a site inspection to review the progress of the railway vent work and stormwater drain maintenance works being carried out at Geddalahalli Sai Layout under the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru East City Corporation. Instructions to Complete Remaining 12-Metre Box Pushing Work on PriorityAs part of the railway vent project at Geddalahalli Sai Layout, approximately 12 metres of box pushing work remains pending. The Commissioner issued strict instructions to the Executive Engineers to

complete the pending work before May 31.The Commissioner stated that once the work is completed, the retaining wall construction can be immediately taken up, enabling smooth flow of rainwater through the railway vent and providing a permanent solution to the flooding problems faced in the surrounding areas. Inspection of Stormwater Drain Desilting Works The Commissioner also inspected the progress of desilting and cleaning works being carried out under the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for the stormwater drains near Geddalahalli Rajakaluve.

Removal of Fallen and Dangerous Trees and Branches Intensified: Rajendra Cholan

Bengaluru: Under the strict directions of Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, the removal of dangerous trees, branches, and trees fallen due to rain and strong winds is being carried out actively across the jurisdiction of the Central City Corporation.

Since April 29, 2026, a total of 260 trees and 761 branches have fallen within the Central City Corporation limits. All fallen trees and branches have been cleared, while removal work is continuing at a few locations where clearance is still pending.

Keeping public safety in view and to prevent



damage caused by falling trees and branches, the Commissioner has been issuing timely directions for the removal of dangerous trees and branches within the Bengaluru Central City Corporation limits. Accordingly, the removal of dangerous trees, as well as trees and branches vulnerable to rain and wind damage, is being carried out efficiently with the help of necessary equipment, skilled personnel, and cranes, the Commissioner stated.

Similar tree and branch removal operations have also been carried out at several other locations to ensure smooth and safe public movement.

RCB Finish League Stage on Top Despite Loss to SRH

Hyderabad: Royal Challengers Bengaluru finished the IPL league stage at the top of the points table with 18 points despite suffering a 55-run defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their final league match.

RCB captain Rajat Patidar scored his fourth half-century of the season, while Virat Kohli extended his record for the most 50-plus partnerships in men's T20 cricket with 211 stands. Bhuvneshwar Kumar continued to lead the Purple Cap standings with 24 wickets this season.

Speaking after the match, Krunal Pandya said finishing at the top of the table was a satisfying achievement after consistent performances throughout the season.



"We are two steps away from what we have manifested from day one," Krunal said, adding that the team's ultimate goal remains winning the IPL trophy.

Krunal also contributed with 41 runs and claimed the important wicket of

Heinrich Klaasen during the match.

RCB Head Coach Andy Flower praised the team's consistency in a highly competitive tournament, saying finishing on top reflected the squad's strong performances over the league phase.

Cases Against Accused of Inciting Communal Violence Withdrawn; It Poses a Threat to the State's Security: Opposition Leader R. Ashok

Bengaluru : The Congress government has once again indulged in vote-bank politics by withdrawing cases against those accused of inciting communal violence in Kalaburagi. This has endangered the security of the state, said Opposition Leader R. Ashok.

Speaking to reporters, he said that the Congress government has withdrawn cases against those who attacked police near the Ladle Mashak Darga in Aland, Kalaburagi, those who attacked a minister's car, and those who incited communal violence in the name of the darga. In this case, cases against nearly 150 people, including members of the Popular Front of India (PFI), have been dropped purely for vote-bank politics. Ministers and the Chief Minister, who took oath under the Constitution, have acted against the Constitution. The Congress has sent a message that "it's enough if you vote for us; we will support you even if



you indulge in terrorism." Such actions pose a danger to the country's security, he said.

Bangladeshi citizens are infiltrating the country and engaging in anti-national activities. Similarly, some people are inciting communal violence. If the government does not back down from this decision, the BJP will launch a protest. Recently, permission has been given for hijab in schools and colleges, and

around Rs.600 crore has been sanctioned for the Muslim community. Through this, the Congress is blatantly appeasing Muslims with bumper rewards just for votes. It is acceptable to withdraw cases related to farmers and pro-Kannada activists. But for whom were those involved in communal violence fighting? This is an act of betrayal against the majority community, he said.

An international cricket stadium is being constructed in Anekal despite opposition from farmers and environmentalists. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru is opened only four or five times a year. When such is the situation, why is a new stadium being built? This project has been designed only to sell land around the stadium and earn commissions. Has any sportsperson from Anekal approached the government requesting this? The sudden decision to build this clearly shows it is a plan to make money. Chinnaswamy Stadium was meant to provide cricket training facilities, but no new talent is being trained there. It is only open for IPL, which brings in crores of rupees, he said.

The increase in petrol and diesel prices will not bring even a single extra paise in tax to the Central Government. However, the state government will earn approximately Rs.7,000 crore

annually. If the Congress government has any respect for the people, it should announce that it is ready to forego this additional revenue. It is wrong to blame only the Central Government. Oil companies have increased prices due to the international price hike. Due to ongoing wars, oil prices have risen in all countries. Actor Kamal Haasan has said that they supported the nation during difficult times. Even though the DMK party has gained some sense, the Congress has not. He demanded that the Congress government reduce the tax it is collecting.

The 'Cockroach Party' is a conspiracy of the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party. It is a nuisance created by a jobless Congress and a powerless Aam Aadmi Party. It is wrong to speak against the judiciary. Everyone must respect court verdicts and opinions. Such strange actions against the judiciary are not right, he said.

5-yr breast cancer survival rate in India stands at 66.4%

New Delhi: The five-year survival rate for breast cancer, the most common cancer in India, stands at 66.4 per cent, with variations across 11 geographical areas, according to a study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Breast cancer is the most common cancer in India, accounting for 28.2 per cent of all female cancers, with an estimated 216,108 cases by 2022.

The age-standardised incidence rate of female breast cancer has increased by 39.1 per cent from 1990 to 2016, and this trend has been seen in every state of India over the past 26 years.

The study, published in Cancer, an international interdisciplinary journal of the American Cancer Society, showed disparity in survival rates across 11 geographical areas. Mizoram (74.9 per cent), Ahmedabad urban (72.7 per cent), Kollam (71.5 per cent), and Thiruvananthapuram (69.1 per cent) had higher survival rates than the national average. Conversely, Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) had the lowest survival rate (41.9 per cent). Manipur and Tripura also had low survival rate, while the national average stood at 66.4 per cent.

Deaths during the 5-year follow-up period were also the highest in Pasighat (53.6 per cent) and lowest in Mizoram.

"Breast cancer survival in India has improved slightly, but it still lags behind that in developed countries. Comprehensive cancer control strategies have to be implemented widely in the country," said the researchers including Krishnan Sathishkumar, from ICMR's National Center for Disease Informatics and



Research, along with others.

"Early detection programmes, including breast cancer awareness and cost-effective screening, along with accessible and affordable multi-modality treatment, survivorship care, and palliative care, have to be prioritised," they suggested.

The study included 17,331 patients who had breast cancer diagnosed between 2012 and 2015 from 11 areas who were followed until June 30, 2021. The team conducted survival analysis by calculating the difference between the date of first diagnosis and the date of death or censoring to estimate observed survival and relative survival. The study also revealed that Indian patients diagnosed with local-stage cancer have a 4.4 times greater 5-year survival rate than those diagnosed with distant-stage cancer. In addition, patients older than 65 years had a 16 per cent lower chance of survival compared with those aged 15-39 years. Further, the study

found that the survival rates for localised, locoregional, and distant metastases in India were lower than those in the US, with rates of 81.0 per cent, 65.5 per cent, and 18.3 per cent, respectively, compared with 99.3 per cent, 86.3 per cent, and 31.0 per cent, respectively.

In India, the majority of patients with breast cancer were diagnosed at the locoregional stage (57 per cent) in contrast to the US, where large numbers of cases were identified at the localised stage (63 per cent). In light of the disparity, "it is imperative to implement comprehensive cancer control strategies widely throughout the country", the team said. "Newer treatment options, such as targeted therapies and immunotherapies, have been shown to improve the prognosis of certain subgroups of patients with breast cancer, but access to such expensive choices are extremely limited in a low-income to middle-income country like India," they noted.

Changing old viticulture for all the right rieslings

When April nights dip below freezing, Claude de Nicolay knows she won't be getting much sleep. At 4 a.m., she climbs out of bed and heads outside to light around 300 candles set up between the vines at Domaine Chandon de Briailles, a biodynamic vineyard in the Burgundy region in France that de Nicolay owns and manages. Spring buds are emerging earlier because of warming March temperatures, yet frosts are still common in April. The candles produce just enough heat to thaw the buds and protect them from being destroyed by the Sun's rays come daybreak.

Although the candles are "a lot of work", de Nicolay chooses to use them, rather than electric heaters, because they help to minimize her contribution to climate change — the problem that has caused her vineyard to become dangerously out of sync with nature. "Agriculturalists are the first people who are affected," de Nicolay says. "The future is really about how to be very gentle with the soils, to go back to more manual work, to stop using chemicals and to stop using too much energy."

Wine-growers around the world from California to South Africa are feeling the heat as global warming increases temperatures, throws patterns of precipitation out of whack and drives up the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and wildfires. France's wine sector faces extra vulnerabilities, thanks to its strict appellation d'origine contrôlée — a classification system with rigid rules about geography, grape varieties and production techniques. Under this system, "the origin becomes a sort of collective brand", says Cornelis van Leeuwen, a viticulturist at Bordeaux Sciences Agro in Gradignan Cedex, France.

France is the leading wine-producing country in terms of value. Last year, it exported wine worth 12.3 billion (US\$13.3 billion), accounting for about one-third of total global exports, according to the International Organisation of



Vine and Wine, based in Dijon, France. This is in large part owing to the strong branding that the appellation system has created, exemplifying "how you find identity in a competitive world", says Etienne Neethling, head of the international master programme in vine, wine and terroir management at the Higher School of Agriculture in Angers, France. Much of this has to do with terroir, which translates to 'land'. But in the context of French wine, terroir refers to an entire philosophy of production: environmental factors, such as soil type, are understood to influence the flavour profile of the grapes. It also factors in where the product came from and who produced it and how — growers in different regions have different approaches to winemaking, and value different characteristics in their wine.

Terroir and the appellation system might be canny cultural-marketing strategies, but both might prevent French wine-makers from being agile and innovative in the face of changing environmental conditions. The appellation system's strengths could become weaknesses if the country's wine regulators and makers adhere too closely to custom and do not keep pace with a rapidly changing

world. "We are extremely vulnerable because of our strict regulations," Neethling says. As climate change intensifies, French wine-growers have begun to advocate for legislative changes that reflect the realities of the pressures that they face in the field and cellar. In the meantime, they aren't waiting for decisions to be formalized on paper, but are finding creative solutions that still adhere to the rules. As de Nicolay says, "We have to react quicker than our governments, because otherwise it's going to be a real disaster."

Action imperative Compared with the 1980s, the grape harvest in France is now starting around three weeks earlier. "All producers have observed this earlier harvest," says Jean-Marc Touzard, director of research at the Montpellier centre of the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE). In 2019, Neethling and his colleagues conducted a survey of 3,636 wine-growers from 18 countries, which has not been published. Among the 1,298 French respondents, more than 80% were already noticing the impacts of climate change on vine performance and wine quality and were thinking about

short- and long-term adaptation strategies. "Being reactive is no longer sustainable," Neethling says. "We need to make sure our vineyards are the most climate-resilient possible."

In 2011, scientists and industry experts launched LACCAGE, a project aimed at examining the future of French winemaking. Sticking to business as usual, they found, was a strategy that "has no future", says Touzard, who coordinated the project. The team also steered away from plans that relied solely on technology to save the day, he adds, because "it leads to artificialization of the wine industry" and "disconnection from the terroir".

Solutions will need to incorporate both science and centuries of wine-growing knowledge. For example, van Leeuwen and his colleagues have used chemical analysis to detect key molecules that influence aroma. The findings could help wine-makers to more closely control the style and quality of their final product by basing decisions about harvest time on their grapes' chemical profiles. A research team at the University of Bordeaux in France has used gas chromatography, a technique to separate and analyse vaporized compounds, and tastings by a panel of experts to explore and better understand the fruitiness of red wines produced from grape varieties that seem ideal for Bordeaux's future climate. All solutions will need to be tailored to specific locations and driven by actions from a range of players, from individual growers and consumers to local and national authorities. This will all need to be done while "still trying to preserve the local identity of the wine", Touzard says, yet at the same time accepting that "the taste, the flavour, will evolve". The country's wine-makers will walk a fine line between preserving the marketing advantages offered by time-honed knowledge and expertise and making sure that French vines aren't left behind the rest of the world's.

EDITORIAL

US-India Relations: Can Marco Rubio Fix It?

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

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

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

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

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

The growing market takeover of public health

The challenge of providing health services to rural and poor India



PRIYANKA SAURABH

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Rubio meets Modi during India visit with energy high on agenda

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



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

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

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

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

SpaceX launches massive Starship V3 rocket on test flight



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

GRAND LAUNCH OF HONDA CITY MMC.

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



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

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

MORRISONS PLANNING TO CLOSE 100 STORES IN NEXT FEW MONTHS



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

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

Hyderabad to soon get Tesla showroom: IT Minister Sridhar Babu



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

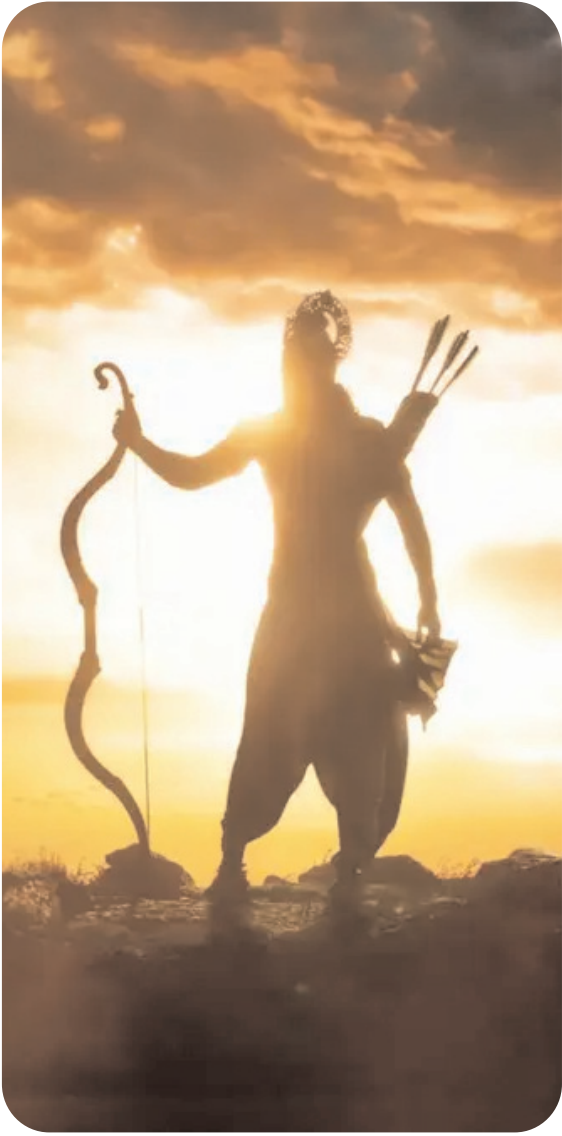
Mega Power Star Ram Charan's most awaited action drama 'Peddhi' is creating huge buzz across the country. The film is already mesmerizing the audience with its amazing glimpses, two chartbuster songs and a powerful theatrical trailer. It is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the banner of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



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

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

RAMAYANA EYES DIWALI JACKPOT WITH EARLY RELEASE STRATEGY?



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

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

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



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

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

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

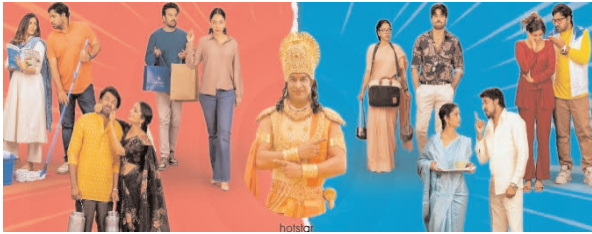
The film Sandigdham has been produced under the Thirdha Creations banner by Sandhya Tiruveedhula and directed by Parthasaradhi Kommoju. The movie stars Nihal, Priya Deshpag, Arjun CH, and Kajal Tiwari in the lead roles, while Thera Chepa fame Naveenraj Sankarapu plays the antagonist. The film is slated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



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

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

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



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

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

PAPS CULTURE GETTING GRILLED WHERE IT STARTED



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

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

AMID DRAGON HYPE, NEEL DROPPED SALAAR 2 BOMB!

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

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

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

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