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SCAN FOR E-PAPER


OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

25-05-2026

Total pilgrims : 89,399

Tonsure : 49,885

Hundi kankulu : 4,92 CR

Laddu sale : 3.88 Lac

Medical treatment : 3,75 Nos

Waiting Compartments : Outside line at Silcharam.



Approx. Darshan Time for Saravardhanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 10-24 H

GOLD, SILVER TRADE LOWER

Mumbai: Gold and silver prices traded lower on Tuesday, declining up to nearly 2 per cent after the US military launched fresh strikes on southern Iran. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) were trading 0.61 per cent or Rs 971 lower at Rs 1,58,110 at around 10:25 am. The yellow metal touched an intraday low of Rs 1,58,000, down 0.67 per cent or over Rs 1,000 from the previous close of Rs 1,59,081. It also recorded an intraday high of Rs 1,58,789, down 0.18 per cent or Rs 292. On the other hand, silver futures (July 3) also witnessed selling pressure, slipping nearly 2 per cent or over Rs 5,000 to hit an intraday low of Rs 2,71,972 so far.

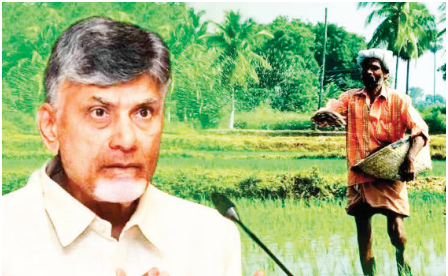
AP CM directs officials to introduce farm-to-home model to benefit farmers

VIJAYAWADA (TSIT).

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed the officials to implement the Farm-to-Home model to benefit farmers by ensuring agricultural produce reaches consumers directly at their doorstep.

The Chief Minister said the initiative, particularly for fruits and vegetables, should be implemented through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to reduce marketing costs and improve direct access between farmers and consumers. He noted that the strategy would help make agricultural produce more affordable and accessible through efficient home delivery systems.

Addressing a review meeting on the agriculture, allied sectors and six primary sector missions, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to assess the likely impact of El Niño on the State and prepare region-wise crop



planning accordingly.

He stressed the need to promote natural farming across various regions and adopt suitable cultivation methods such as PMDS-Half Moon systems in water-scarce areas.

Despite adverse climatic conditions caused by El Niño, the Chief Minister directed officials to ensure farmers do not incur losses and receive Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops. He also called for greater cooperation from the Centre to strengthen natural farming initiatives in Andhra Pradesh and suggested leveraging the expertise of farmers who have already succeeded in

natural farming.

Naidu further instructed the officials to write to the Centre for support under the NMNF (National Mission on Natural Farming) scheme and called for exclusive counters for naturally grown produce in Rythu Bazaars and private markets.

The Chief Minister emphasised the need to prioritise irrigation for crops in regions including the Krishna and Godavari deltas. Naidu instructed officials to assess the extent to which pesticide use has been reduced and promote micronutrients while reducing dependency on chemical fertilisers.

Observing that ongoing geopolitical tensions could impact fertiliser availability, the Chief Minister stressed encouraging farmers toward natural farming. He directed agricultural universities to prepare action plans enabling professors and students to undertake field-level studies on natural farming.



cial autonomy of Gram Panchayats that were removed during the previous government's tenure.

As part of the proposed amendment to Section 70(3) of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, the Chief Minister directed officials to amend rules allowing Gram Panchayats to deposit their Own Source Revenue (OSR) into bank accounts instead of treasury accounts. The move is aimed at strengthening local self-governance and improving financial independence.

The Chief Minister also issued directions to reform the pension distribution

system in the state. He instructed officials to discontinue the existing method of pension delivery through the postal department and instead transfer pensions directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Emphasising transparency and accountability, Revanth Reddy directed officials to streamline the pension system using Voter ID, Aadhaar and SEEEPC data to ensure benefits reach only eligible beneficiaries.

He further instructed officials to give top priority to single women in the allocation of newly sanctioned pensions.

India slams China-Pakistan joint statement on J-K, rejects projects in PoK

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

India on Tuesday mounted a sharp diplomatic rebuttal to a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan, categorically rejecting references to Jammu and Kashmir and strongly opposing renewed Chinese backing for projects under the "so-called" China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan-occupied territories.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India", asserting that no other country had the "locus standi" to comment on the matter.

The strong response came after Beijing and Islamabad, in a joint statement issued during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, reiterated support for deeper cooperation under CPEC and referred to the Kashmir issue while calling for enhanced "trans-boundary water resources cooperation".

Reacting to the development, MEA spokesperson

The Ministry of External Affairs says the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh 'have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India', asserting that no other country had the 'locus standi' to comment on the matter..

Randhir Jaiswal said India "categorically rejects unwarranted references" to Jammu and Kashmir in the China-Pakistan statement. India also reiterated its longstanding objection to CPEC projects passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), saying such initiatives violated India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, some of which are in India's sovereign territory, we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories," Jaiswal said.

Top Maoist leader, wife surrender before Telangana Police



HYDERABAD (TSIT):

In a major setback to the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), senior Maoist leader Pasunoori Narahari and his wife Medara Danamma surrendered before Telangana Police on Tuesday. Director General of Police C. V. Anand presented the surrendered Maoist leaders before the media in Hyderabad.

Police said Narahari, also known by aliases Vishwanath and Salai Da, served as secretary of the Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee (BJSAC), while Danamma, also known as Latha, Poonam and Joba, was a State Committee Member.

The DGP stated that with their surrender, the last surviving Eastern Regional Bureau of the Maoist organisation is nearing collapse. A native of Hanumakonda district in Telangana, 64-year-old Narahari

joined the Radical Students Union during his college days before formally joining CPI (ML) People's War in 1982 under the influence of late Maoist leader Puli Anjaiah.

Police said Narahari played a key role in Maoist operations and possessed expertise in manufacturing and maintaining firearms, mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades and booby traps.

He reportedly trained cadres in weapons production and maintenance while handling senior technical and organisational responsibilities.

Danamma, a native of Guntur district, joined the Maoist movement after marrying Narahari in 1988. She worked in the Technical Department teams in Chhattisgarh and Nagpur and later served in various leadership roles within the Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee.

Indian pilgrims reach Arafat as Haj rituals begins in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (TSIT):

As millions of pilgrims assemble at Saudi Arabia's Arafat on Tuesday for the core ritual of Haj, all Indian pilgrims had reached the holy site comfortably and in a timely manner to take part in the prayers.

Extending his wishes to all those performing Haj, Indian Ambassador to the Saudi Arabia, Suhel Ajaz Khan, said, "Today is the day of Arafat. It is the most important day of the core Haj, where the entire pilgrimage moves from the tent city of Mina to Arafat and spends the day here in Arafat



in prayer before they move to their next destination of Muzdalifah after the sunset." All Indian pilgrims have moved from Mina to Arafat in a timely manner, in a very comfortable manner, and they are all now accommodated in their tents in Arafat. We had moved pilgrims by both the buses and the trains.

CM Siddaramaiah meets Cong high command in Delhi amid K'taka leadership change buzz

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU (TSIT):

The high-voltage meeting over the speculated leadership change in Karnataka is underway at Indira Bhavan in Delhi on Tuesday, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah attending it. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office has released photographs showing Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar engaged in a deep discussion at Indira Bhavan in Delhi. The development has further fuelled speculations.

Sources stated that Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, General Secretaries K.C. Venugopal



and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala are participating in the meeting with Siddaramaiah.

Sources further stated that after concluding discussions with Siddaramaiah, the leaders will hold a separate meeting with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The out-

come of the meeting is being keenly awaited. Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar is considered a strong contender for the Chief Minister's post. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has repeatedly expressed his desire to complete the full term and has also stated that he will abide by the decision of the

party high command. Ministers and legislators belonging to Siddaramaiah's camp have demanded that, in the event of a leadership change, state Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who hails from the Dalit community, should be made the Chief Minister.

Party President Mallikarjun Kharge has also stated that he was under pressure from state leaders, party workers and national leaders to become the Chief Minister. All eyes are now on the developments. Meanwhile, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar smiled when asked by media persons whether he would be the next Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Before arriving at Indira Bhavan, Siddaramaiah had breakfast at Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi along with Ministers G. Parameshwara, Satish Jarkiholi, H.C. Mahadevappa, Byrathi Suresh, K.J. George, and M.B. Patil, as well as senior Congress leader and Haryana in-charge B.K. Hariprasad and legal adviser Ponnanna, among other prominent leaders. PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, reacting to the developments, said, "There has been confusion in the party for the past six months, and we are confident that it will be cleared soon. We have not received any call from the high command, and we have come along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Kavitha meets Telangana Governor, represents issues of land evictees

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Rakshana Samithi (TRS) President K. Kavitha on Tuesday met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and sought justice for those displaced by land acquisition by the state government at various places. Kavitha, along with Dharma Samaj Party President Visharadan Maharaj and some affected people, submitted a petition to the Governor, requesting that house sites be provided to all those whose homes were demolished in Velugumatla in Khammam district.They also demanded that the land acquisition notice issued for setting up an Industrial Park in Kadlapur of Parigi Mandal be cancelled. They also urged him to address the issues of the change in the Regional Ring Road (RRR) alignment and land acquisition problems.Two representatives each from Velugumatla, Kadlapur, and RRR areas were part of the delegation that met the Governor.Kavitha told media persons after meeting the Governor at Lok Bhavan



that he responded positively. She hoped that justice would be served.She slammed the government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for demolishing the houses of women.She stated that the Chief Minister is spreading lies, claiming to have turned these

people into millionaires after merely distributing sarees worth one hundred rupees. Describing Revanth Reddy as a "ruthless" Chief Minister, she stated that the Congress government is a "wicked" administration.Kavitha and others shared the plight of the victims

with the Governor. They apprised the Governor of the house demolitions in Velugumatla in Khammam, the changes made to the RRR alignment, land acquisition in Rayagiri, and the ongoing attempts to acquire land in Kadlapur under the guise of

establishing an industrial park. She said the TRS and the Dharma Samaj Party have been fighting on behalf of the victims of land acquisition for the industrial park in Pargi, the house demolitions in Velugumatla and the persons displaced by the RRR project. "As a result of our struggle, the government has agreed to allocate land to the victims in Velugumatla at the very same location. The government has also halted the land acquisition processes intended for the Pargi industrial park and the RRR project. All these represent partial victories for us. To achieve complete success, the involvement of the Central government is essential. That is precisely why we met with the Governor and explained these issues to him," Kavitha said. She hoped that the Governor would call for a report on all these matters and respond to them in a positive and constructive manner.Kavitha said that if justice is not delivered to the victims, they will once again take up the path of agitation.

Azinomotu monosodium glucomate should be controlled when it is high in food

Hyderabad TSIT : Dr. Pallepapu Damodar, President of Consumers' Conference of Southern States, said that the use of Azinomoto in food should be controlled. On Tuesday, he met Dr C Shivaleela, Director, Food Adulteration Prevention Department, Hyderabad, and said that in the latest research conducted by ICMR and National Institute of Nutrition scientists, 18 to 24-year-old college students are consuming ultra-processed foods excessively. He said that they are getting affected by fatal diseases at a young age, youths are getting used to fast foods like biryani, fried chicken and burger just because of the taste, low price and easy online delivery system. Dr. Pallepapu Damodar explained to the director that Azinomoto (China salt) is being used to make the taste more palatable, and in this process the youth are suffering from cancer, diabetes and heart pain. According to the ICMR report, if clinical tests were conducted on 311 college students, it was found that 12.5% of the youth had high blood pressure and thus there was a possibility of heart attack. Dr. Pallepapu Damodar asked the director to control Azinomotu Monosodium Glucomate which is high in food items. National General



Secretary of the Consumers' Council director Sambaraju Chakrapani said that online food suppliers like Swiggy and Zomato are selling fast food biryani mostly to the youth, and fast food hotels are deceiving the consumers with unapproved colors, nasi type of spices, cooking oils that are used repeatedly, and rotten meat. It was explained to the director that due to the packing and supply of hot food items in unauthorized black plastic boxes, cancer, celiac disease, diabetes, and hormone imbalances are caused by plastic leaching. Therefore, according to the Labeling and Display Regulations 2020, action is not sought against fast food hotels and their affiliates Swiggy and Zomato.

Srinivas University reports 100 patents at Research Conclave attended by 1,000 participants

Mangaluru, May 26 (TSIT) : Around 1,000 research scholars, post-doctoral fellows, professors and guides participated in "Research Conclave-2026", organised by the Research and Innovation Council of Srinivas University at Hotel Srinivas. The conclave brought together scholars, guides, deans and research administrators with the university leadership. According to the university, it has secured 100 patents and 1,000 copyrights, besides producing over 2,000 research publications. Nearly 1,000 members are engaged in research activities at the institution. Addressing the participants after inaugurating the conclave, Chancellor of Srinivas University, Dr. A. Srinivas Rao, stressed the importance of strengthening research culture to drive societal progress.



Referring to technological advancements in countries such as China, he said sustained investment in research and innovation had significantly improved living standards. He underlined the need to promote both product-based and service-oriented research. Member of the university's Board of Governors Meghana S. Rao emphasised the importance of taking research outcomes

to society and said academic institutions should work towards creating socially relevant innovations. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sathyanarayana Reddy lauded the commitment shown by researchers and urged scholars to focus on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies for greater academic impact. Registrar Dr. Anil Kumar highlighted the

need for collaboration across disciplines and said research should contribute to knowledge advancement and discovery. Evaluation Registrar Dr. Srinivas Mayya D. called upon scholars to broaden the scope of their studies beyond local issues and incorporate sustainable development goals into their work. Development Registrar Dr. Ajay Kumar spoke on the growing relevance of research in spirituality and its potential contribution to society. Research Director Dr. Praveen B.M. presented the university's annual research report, detailing its publications, patents and copyrights. Research Coordinator Dr. Shailashree V.T. welcomed the gathering, while Dr. Reena Ranjith proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was compered by Prof. Rohan Fernandis.

K2 Infragen Secures Rs.56.91 Crore Power Transmission Orders in Rajasthan

Gurugram: K2 Infragen Limited has secured two major orders worth Rs.56.91 crore from Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (RVPN), strengthening its presence in India's power transmission sector. The awarded projects include the construction of a new 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Mukundgarh in Jhunjhunu district along with associated transmission lines and 132 KV bays, valued at Rs.29.85 crore. The second project involves the development of 220 KV and 132 KV transmission lines linked to the 220 KV Grid Sub-Station at Seruna in Bikaner district, valued at Rs.27.06 crore. Both projects are scheduled to be completed within 15 months. The company stated that since December 2025, it has secured fresh orders worth Rs.411.91 crore across energy, transmission and



distribution, railway, and renewable infrastructure projects. K2 Infragen has also bid for tenders worth nearly Rs.580 crore in the roads and railways sectors as part of its expansion plans. Commenting on the

development, Pankaj Sharma said the company is focused on scaling up its power infrastructure operations while expanding its geographical presence through direct transmission and distribution projects in Rajasthan and

Karnataka. He added that the company also plans to explore tariff-based competitive bidding projects to build long-term annuity revenues through government assets. Founded in 2015, K2 Infragen operates across roads, railways, power transmission and distribution, civil construction, water infrastructure, and renewable energy sectors. Its clients include National Highways Authority of India, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Group and Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited. The company currently operates across Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, Haryana, and Delhi NCR, and aims to strengthen its position in India's infrastructure growth story through diversified operations and timely project execution.

Medicover Treats Rare Adrenal Gland Cancer in 32-Year-Old International Patient

Hyderabad, 26 May, 2026:Medicover Cancer Institute has successfully treated a rare and aggressive case of adrenocortical carcinoma (ACC) in a 32-year-old international patient from Somalia, who now shows no evidence of disease on follow-up imaging — underscoring the institute's capability in complex, multidisciplinary cancer care. The patient initially presented with abdominal pain, vomiting, fever and loss of appetite. Advanced imaging, including a PET-CT scan, revealed a large tumour in the right suprarenal (adrenal) region that involved adjacent organs. After a detailed evaluation, the patient underwent a major en bloc surgical procedure — a radical right adrenalectomy with right nephrectomy and right hepatectomy — to remove the tumour along with the involved kidney and a portion of the liver. Histopathology and immunohistochemistry confirmed adrenocortical carcinoma, a rare malignancy arising from the outer layer (cortex) of the adrenal gland. The patient subsequently received six cycles of the EDP chemotherapy regimen — etoposide, doxorubicin and cisplatin — under the care of Dr. A. Venugopal, Senior Consultant Medical &



Hemato-Oncologist at Medicover Cancer Institute. The multidisciplinary team involved in the successful management of this complex case also included Dr. A V Ravi Kumar, Senior Consultant Urologist and Andrologist, and Dr. Kishore Reddy, Liver/Transplant Surgeon. The patient tolerated chemotherapy well and was discharged in stable condition. A repeat PET-CT scan after completion of treatment showed no evidence of residual tumour, and the patient remains on structured follow-up. "Adrenocortical carcinoma is one of the rarer and more aggressive cancers we encounter, and a case in someone this young is unusual," said Dr. A. Venugopal. "What made the difference here was early, accu-

rate diagnosis, a coordinated surgical and medical oncology effort, and expert pathology review. With cancers like this, long-term follow-up with imaging and hormonal monitoring is essential, because the risk of recurrence is real — which is why we describe the patient as being in complete remission and continue to monitor closely." About Adrenocortical Carcinoma (ACC) ACC is a rare and aggressive cancer arising from the adrenal cortex, with an estimated incidence of just 1-2 cases per million people per year. It is more common in women and is usually diagnosed between the ages of 40 and 50, making this a notably young patient. ACC may present with abdominal pain, hormonal disturbances or

weight loss, or may be found incidentally during imaging. Because of its aggressive nature, early diagnosis and multidisciplinary management are critical. Surgery remains the cornerstone of treatment for localised disease, while advanced cases require systemic chemotherapy. Lifelong follow-up with imaging and hormonal evaluation is essential given the risk of recurrence. About Medicover Cancer Institute Medicover Cancer Institute is a leading centre for advanced oncology care, offering state-of-the-art diagnostics, surgical oncology, medical oncology and chemotherapy, precision medicine, and dedicated international patient services under one roof.

KVIC Records Historic Rs.1.87 Lakh Crore Turnover in FY 2025-26

Hyderabad (TSIT) Khadi and Village Industries Sector Records Remarkable Growth in Production, Sales and Employment under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Leadership Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has achieved unprecedented growth, setting new benchmarks in production, sales and employment generation during the financial year 2025-26. According to the provisional data released by KVIC Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi, the turnover of Khadi and Village Industries products has crossed the historic milestone of Rs.1.87 lakh crore for the first time. Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar stated that the sales of Khadi and Village Industries products reached Rs.1,87,105 crore in FY 2025-26, compared to Rs.31,154 crore in 2013-14, registering an impressive growth of 501 percent over the last 12 years. Production also increased from Rs.26,109 crore to Rs.1,25,296 crore during the same period, reflecting a growth of 380 percent. Employment generation witnessed a significant



rise of 56 percent, increasing from 1.30 crore to 2.04 crore persons. The Chairman attributed this remarkable achievement to the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi, the hard work of rural artisans, and the transformative initiatives of the Government of India, including 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local to Global'. He said the sector is playing a vital role in strengthening rural economy and contributing towards the vision of

'Viksit Bharat@2047'. The Khadi textiles sector also recorded notable progress. Khadi production increased from Rs.811 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.3,974 crore in FY 2025-26, while sales rose from Rs.1,081 crore to Rs.7,869 crore, reflecting a growth of 628 percent. Similarly, the village industries sector registered substantial expansion in both production and sales. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), 66,494 new units

were established during FY 2025-26, generating employment opportunities for more than 7.31 lakh persons. KVIC also continued its efforts towards women empowerment, with women accounting for nearly 59 percent of trainees under various training programmes during the year. The remuneration of artisans has also increased substantially, from Rs.4 per hank in 2013-14 to Rs.15 per hank at present, reflecting a rise of approximately 275 percent.

Karnataka to revise guarantee scheme beneficiary lists, ineligible persons to lose benefits

Bengaluru, May 26: The state government has taken a significant decision to revise the beneficiary lists for its ambitious guarantee schemes, Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyothi. The matter was discussed extensively during a special SIR meeting held recently, where the government decided to comprehensively verify the eligibility of current beneficiaries. The move aims to prevent unnecessary financial burden on the state exchequer and ensure that the benefits reach only the genuinely deserving poor.

Amidst allegations from the opposition that the Gruha Lakshmi scheme is being used as a political tool with funds released primarily during elections, the government has resolved to drop ineligible individuals who are wrongfully availing



the benefits. The primary goal is to enforce transparency. Several instances have been reported where funds under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme were being transferred to the accounts of deceased individuals.

Currently, there are over 1 crore 24 lac beneficiaries under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme across the state. The government has taken note of several technical



glitches and rule violations within such a massive database. Incidentally, while the government has reserved funds for these major guarantee schemes, reports indicate that no grants have been allocated for the Yuva Nidhi scheme this time. The lack of strict verification has led to the misuse of public funds. It has come to light that income taxpayers are also

reaping the benefits of the Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyothi schemes. As the core objective of these initiatives is to provide financial assistance exclusively to the economically backward sections, the government is considering strictly excluding taxpayers from this bracket. Additionally, anomalies such as two individuals from the same household receiving Gruha Lakshmi funds have been detected, prompting the government to review the situation and initiate appropriate action.

To identify these irregularities and weed out ineligible beneficiaries from the database, a comprehensive review is being planned under the leadership of chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar.

Shivraj Chouhan unveils book 'Apnapan' detailing PM Modi's leadership, his decades-long experience

New Delhi, May 26 : 'Apnapan', a book penned by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on his decades-long association with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also giving a peek into the latter's long-standing public life, was released on Tuesday, in the presence of several high-profile dignitaries in the national capital.

The book, titled 'Apnapan: Narendra Modi Sang Mere Anubhav', was formally launched by former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and former Prime Minister Deve Gowda at the NASC Complex in the capital.

The event saw the participation of many Union Ministers, besides Chief Ministers from multiple



states, including those of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, who reached the capital to be part of the book launch. Several writers, authors, and social leaders also attended the event.

The book, 'Apnapan', authored by Shivraj Chouhan, chronicles his 35-year-long association and experiences with PM Modi. The Union Minister recalled decades of warmth, closeness and humility while working

with the Prime Minister, during a long stretch of public life ranging from party worker to Chief Minister of respective states and then at the Centre. He said that the book will serve as an inspiration for youth and will make them understand the commitment and dedication of a true leader.

Sharing a glimpse of the book on his social media handle, he also appealed to the readers to give it a read to get an insight into the

'true and exemplary leadership' as shown by the Prime Minister.

"I am fully confident that this book will acquaint the new generation with the breadth of Prime Minister's personality, the vastness of his heart, his dedication to national service, and his intimate affection toward workers," he said on his X handle. According to Chouhan, the book reflects deeply on his experiences, observations and learning from more than three decades of political and organisational association with the Prime Minister, and he believes that this will find strong resonance with the people and political workers at large. In a media interaction before the book launch.

Karnataka Government Initiates Action on Dr. Bhargav Mallappa's Mobile Surveillance Complaint

New Delhi : The Karnataka government has formally initiated action on the complaint submitted by Dr. Bhargav Mallappa, Chairman of the Akhila Sevak Samaj Sangh, regarding alleged unauthorised mobile surveillance and suspicious digital monitoring activities.

In official communications issued from the Chief Minister's Secretariat and the Office of the Home Minister on May 25, 2026, Karnataka authorities acknowledged receipt of Dr. Mallappa's petition and directed senior police and cyber crime officials to examine the matter and take action as per established procedures. A note issued by M. Shanthappa, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister, forwarded the representation to the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, requesting review of the petition and necessary action under the rules. Separately, a commu-



nication from Dr. Channabasappa K., Private Secretary to the Home Minister, instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime-2 Division, Bengaluru City, to look into the complaint. The letter specifically referred to requests for technical verification by the Cyber Crime Cell and an urgent cyber forensic investigation into the alleged activities.

Karnataka to Host Bengaluru Skill Summit 2026 from November 3

Bengaluru: The Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood (SDEL), Government of Karnataka, will organise the second edition of the Bengaluru Skill Summit from November 3 to 5, 2026, at Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru, with a focus on advancing the Workforce 2030 agenda and strengthening employability-driven skilling systems.

The summit will bring together ministers, policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, training bodies, skilling aggregators, multi-lateral organisations, and sovereign skilling agencies to discuss strategies for building an industry-aligned workforce ecosystem.

Speaking about the event, Karnataka Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood and Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil said the summit reflects Karnataka's commitment to creat-



ing a future-ready workforce capable of competing globally as industries continue to evolve. Hosted by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) in collaboration with the Karnataka Skill Development Authority (KSDA), with Karnataka Digital Economy Mission serving as knowledge partner and managed by Trescon, the summit will be held under the theme "Workforce 2030: Scale, Systems, Synergy."

The discussions will focus on expanding access to skilling,

strengthening institutional frameworks, and enhancing collaboration between government, industry, and academia. Emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, Industry 4.0, deep tech, and green jobs will also be highlighted.

The summit is expected to promote inter- and industry-led skilling models, including vocational training, apprenticeship-led learning, upskilling, and re-skilling initiatives aimed at improving workforce readiness and employability. Organisers said the event will further support Karnataka's vision of becoming a global talent and skilling hub by strengthening policy direction, fostering institutional partnerships, and creating scalable workforce development frameworks aligned with long-term economic growth ambitions.

DCM D K Shivakumar thanks Supreme Court for dismissing Tamil Nadu's petition on Mekedatu



New Delhi : Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar hailed the decision of Supreme Court to dismiss the review petition filed by Tamil Nadu against Mekedatu project.

"The Supreme Court's three-member bench has dismissed the review petition filed by Tamil Nadu regarding the Mekedatu project. This is good news for Karnataka. On behalf of the people of Karnataka, we express our gratitude to the Supreme Court," he

said while speaking to reporters at Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi.

"The Supreme Court had already given us clear instructions in its earlier order, imposing a condition that Tamil Nadu's share of 177 TMC of water must be released. Now it is for the Central Government to take final decision regarding this project. We are in the process of submitting the revised DPR," he stated.

AICPA & CIMA Conclude CFO Summit and RISE2040 in Bengaluru with Discussions on AI and Finance Transformation

Bengaluru: The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, representing AICPA and CIMA, brought together finance leaders, accounting professionals, educators, policymakers, and business executives in Bengaluru recently for two major industry engagements centred on the changing future of finance and accounting amid rapid advances in artificial intelligence, automation, and digital transformation.

Hosted at The Ritz-Carlton, Bengaluru, the two-day engagement opened with the CFO Summit under the theme, "What Accounting and Finance Will Do Differently." The summit convened senior finance leaders and decision-makers for conversations around the evolving responsibilities of finance functions, changing business expectations, leadership priorities, and the growing influence of technology on enterprise strategy and operational decision-making. Sessions across the day reflected the expanding role of CFOs in advancing strategic growth, managing transformation priorities, strengthening organisational preparedness, and supporting businesses through increasingly dynamic operating conditions.

The following day, AICPA & CIMA hosted RISE2040 under the theme, "Reimagining the Profession for the



Next Generation in the Age of AI." The conference examined how artificial intelligence, automation, digital capability, and shifting workplace expectations are redefining the accounting and finance profession globally and influencing how future talent will be trained, developed, and prepared for leadership.

RISE2040 brought together professionals, educators, students, industry leaders, and business stakeholders to examine how finance and accounting roles are evolving alongside technological advancement and changing organisa-

tional requirements. Discussions explored the growing importance of analytical thinking, ethical judgement, adaptability, technology fluency, and interdisciplinary capabilities as businesses accelerate AI integration across functions.

The conference also examined how professional education and learning frameworks will need to evolve to remain aligned with changing industry realities. Speakers across sessions highlighted the importance of continuous upskilling, industry-academia collaboration, and future-ready profes-

sional development models to help finance and accounting professionals remain prepared for increasingly technology-enabled business environments.

"RISE2040 brought together diverse perspectives on how the finance and accounting profession must evolve amid rapid technological, regulatory and workforce shifts. The discussions reinforced that while AI and digital transformation are reshaping the profession, trust, ethics, strategic thinking, governance and communication remain central to effective leadership.

RISE2040 reflects the profession's collective effort to actively shape its future - moving beyond adaptation to leadership in defining what comes next. India continues to play a critical role in shaping global talent and capability, and these conversations are essential to preparing finance professionals to lead in a rapidly changing world," said Venkkat Ramanan, Regional Vice President for Asia Pacific, AICPA & CIMA.

Alongside the conferences, AICPA & CIMA hosted a press interaction examining the future of the accounting and finance profession, the growing influence of artificial intelligence across business operations, and the changing expectations from finance and accounting teams in a rapidly transforming global economy.

The engagements reinforced India's growing significance within the global accounting and finance ecosystem, particularly as organisations continue to increase investments in digital capability, AI integration, innovation-driven business models, and future-ready talent development. The events also reflected the growing emphasis on collaboration between industry, academia, employers, and professional bodies to help shape a finance and accounting workforce equipped for the demands of the coming decades.

Triguna Projects and Megha Landmark Estates Launch 65-Acre Hospitality-Integrated Farmland Community Near Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Triguna Projects, in association with Megha Landmark Estates, has officially launched Country Homes Harohalli, a 65-acre hospitality-led gated farmland community near Bannerghatta National Forest and Ragi Halli State Forest.

The grand launch was celebrated with an immersive countryside-themed showcase attended by investors, influencers and guests from across Bengaluru. Teams from Radio City and Radio Indigo were also present at the event, adding to the vibrant atmosphere of the launch. Designed around the philosophy of "Life Amidst Wilderness," the event featured live cultural dance performances, traditional food experiences, nostalgic childhood games, outdoor nature-inspired activities and lush greenery-led setups that transported guests into a slower, countryside way of living.

Guests also explored the project through guided property tours and experienced the charm of the heritage-inspired home within the community, giving them a glimpse into the lifestyle envisioned at Country Homes Harohalli. The overall experience blended nature, culture, hospitality and leisure; creating a warm and memorable atmosphere for families and nature-seeking buyers alike.

Speaking about the launch experience, T.Thimmegowda & Brothers, Directors & Founders of Megha Landmark Estates, said: "We wanted people to truly experi-



ence the feeling behind Country Homes Harohalli instead of just visiting a project site. From traditional food and childhood games to nature trails and cultural performances, every element of the launch was curated to reflect the slower, more meaningful countryside lifestyle we are trying to create here."

Located in Harohalli, the project sits within one of the fast-emerging countryside corridors near Bengaluru. Surrounded by forest-facing landscapes and untouched greenery, the region continues to retain its raw ecological charm despite the city's

rapid expansion.

Strategically located near the forest belt of Bannerghatta National Forest, Harohalli is emerging as a key countryside growth corridor for Bengaluru. With improving connectivity through NICE Road, STRR and the upcoming IRR, proximity to major employment hubs like Electronic City, Bidadi and the upcoming KHIR City, along with the proposed Second International Airport Corridor near Kanakapura Road, the region offers a rare blend of nature, accessibility and long-term investment relevance for premium gated farmland communities.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED		MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED		
Formerly Manappuram Home Finance Pvt Ltd		Formerly Manappuram Home Finance Pvt Ltd		
Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpu - Thrissur Road, Thrissur, Kerala 680057 Phone No: 0487-3520504, Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com				
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ("SARFESI") Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon 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 and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said "Act" read with rule 9 of the said rules. 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 the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number / Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Soumya V. Binresh V. /MHL080013566/ Attingal	Total Area Measuring is 1.62 Acres of Land, Re Survey No. 241/9/2/3, Block No. 017, Thundappur No.18799, Class of Land is Dry Land, Situated/Lying At Village Arattupuzha, Taluk: Karthikapally, District: Alappuzha, Kerala, Pin: 690535. East-Property of Chullukkal, West-Kochu Chullukkal, South-Property of Kochanparambil & Road, North- Chullukkal	19-01-2026 & Rs.473854/-	23-05-2026
Date: 27 th May 2026 Place: KERALA		Sd/-: Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd		

EDITORIAL

A New Sunni Bloc Is Taking Shape, And Pak May Be Its Biggest Winner

At a recent press briefing to commemorate the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, publicly identified Turkey as a direct adversary, referring to Turkish military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Militarily, at least, India perceives Turkey to be a threat of almost the same magnitude as Pakistan. This military support, in fact, led to a major downturn in bilateral relationships, which included the government cancelling contracts to Turkish firms and a downturn in Indian tourism to Turkey. Now, ironically, the war between Israel-US and Iran has led to the ascendance of two of India's major adversaries - Pakistan and Turkiye. Already locked in a close embrace militarily, they are now ideologically pushing for an 'Islamic NATO'. Recent reports that Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, told a local news outlet that Turkey and Qatar could join the defence pact signed last year between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, have caused a stir, setting off speculation about an Islamic NATO taking shape. A Concept Long On The Cards To be fair, the term 'Islamic NATO' is not new. It has been around for more than a decade, when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced the formation of an Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) to fight "terrorism". This was in 2015. A year before that, the Saudis had astonished the international community with their decision to militarily intervene in Yemen, whose capital, Sanaa, had fallen to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. This marked a paradigm shift in Saudi politics as the Kingdom had usually kept a low profile until then, preferring to leverage its elevated position in the Muslim world and its oil wealth, pulling strings behind the scenes. The Arab Spring put paid to that. Along with the ascendancy of its main and traditional rival, Iran, it also engendered Sunni terror groups, such as the Islamic State. A perceived indifference on the part of the Obama administration to these threats convinced the Saudis that they needed to act. Since Pakistan had initially refused to perform its duties as the traditional Saudi client state, the Kingdom had to convince the Muslim world to take collective action. Though Yemen produced a stalemate, a number of countries, mostly all members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), joined in. In January 2017, the Former Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan, General Raheel Sharif, was named the IMCTC's first commander. However, intra-Arab rivalry, a downturn in Saudi-Turkish relations, and the refusal of military support by some member states, such as Bangladesh, hamstrung the coalition from taking any action.

Why The Sudden Revival Of Interest

Talks around an Islamic NATO have now once again been revived, beginning with sudden Israeli strikes on Qatar last year, allegedly targeting Hamas leaders. The strikes highlighted the vulnerabilities of the regional countries, already grappling with both Iran's Shiite emboldenment and Sunni terrorism, to the new threat of Israeli unilateralism. Moreover, Qatar hosted the US's largest overseas military base and had been designated a "major non-NATO ally".

A renaissance of tradition, health and the environment amidst modern lifestyles

—Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

There was a time when wooden cots were an integral part of life in Indian homes, courtyards, community halls, and fields. From morning tea to nighttime sleep, the cot was not just a piece of furniture but the center of social, cultural, and family life. But as the influence of modernity increased, urbanization gained momentum, and new types of beds, sofa-cum-beds, and expensive mattresses began to appear on the market, the cot gradually began to disappear from homes. It was considered archaic, rural, and a symbol of backwardness. But the wheel of time is turning once again. Today, people are returning to the wooden cot. This return is not just a return to a traditional object, but also a symbol of changing attitudes towards life, awareness of health, and the search for balance with nature.

The cot has a long history in Indian society. It is also known by names like charpai, manji, or khatiya. This structure, made of a sturdy wooden frame and woven with ropes or strips, formed the foundation of Indian life for centuries. Cots were the hallmark of village community gatherings. Family elders made decisions while sitting on cots, farmers rested on them after a hard day's work, and children grew up playing and playing on them. It was not only a means of rest but also a platform for social dialogue. Even today, discussions held on cots in rural India are considered the most

spontaneous and natural expression of democratic dialogue.

The past few decades have seen significant lifestyle changes. People have embraced modern furniture as a symbol of progress and prosperity. Large beds, thick mattresses, and attractively designed furniture have become essential household items. Advertisements have also convinced people that comfort lies only in expensive mattresses and modern beds. As a result, the cot gradually faded from use. But now, as people face health problems, increased stress, and the adverse effects of a sedentary lifestyle, they are beginning to reconsider traditional options they once abandoned. The biggest reason for the popularity of wooden cots is their health benefits. Modern lifestyles have rapidly increased back pain, neck pain, and spinal problems. Sleeping on overly soft mattresses has proven uncomfortable for many. In contrast, the frame of a cot provides balanced support. The cot, woven from ropes, distributes body weight evenly, reducing unnecessary pressure on the spine. Even today, many elderly people in rural areas appear to be in good physical condition due to years of sleeping on cots. Although each person's health needs vary, cots are considered a natural and balanced means of rest.

In India, where the climate is hot, the usefulness of a cot is even greater. Foam and spring mattresses often trap body heat, increasing discomfort

in summer. In contrast, a cot allows for airflow both above and below the bed. This natural ventilation cools the body and improves sleep quality. This feature of a cot becomes especially important in an era of increasing electricity consumption and dependence on air conditioners.

The importance of cots is also increasing from an environmental perspective. Today, the world is talking about sustainable development and environmental protection. The modern furniture industry widely uses plastic, synthetic foam, and chemicals, which have adverse environmental impacts. In contrast, cots made from wood and natural ropes are relatively eco-friendly. They last longer, are easily repaired, and most of their parts can be recycled or decomposed naturally. At a time when people are becoming more sensitive to the environment, cots are seen as a sustainable option.

One reason for the return of the khat is economic. The prices of expensive furniture and branded mattresses are constantly rising. On the other hand, khats made by local artisans are relatively inexpensive and durable. Khats are still available at low cost in rural and semi-urban areas. They can last for years and can be refurbished by replacing the ropes when needed. Thus, the khat is not only a cultural heritage but also an economically viable option. Interestingly, the return of the khat isn't limited to rural areas. Even in larger cities, people are embracing it

in new forms. Interior designers have begun reimagining the traditional khat with a modern aesthetic. Many homes today feature khats as both decorative and functional pieces in balconies, gardens, terraces, or living spaces. Resorts, cafes, and homestays are also incorporating khats into their premises to offer customers a desi and traditional experience. This demonstrates how blending tradition and modernity is possible.

Social media has also played a significant role in increasing the popularity of the khat. Today, themes like "sustainable living," "slow life," "desi lifestyle," and "return to the roots" are gaining popularity among young people. People share photos of the khat in their homes and farmhouses. Many young people, who once considered the khat a village-only item, now see it as a part of their lifestyle and identity.

This change indicates that the new generation is viewing its cultural heritage from a new perspective.

The khat holds no less cultural significance. It is frequently mentioned in Indian literature, folk songs, and films. It has been a symbol of rural life, intimacy, and togetherness. When family members sat together on the khat and conversed, communication evolved naturally. Today, in the digital age, where people are often preoccupied with mobile screens even while living in the same home, communal seating spaces like the khat can once again become a medium for social closeness.

Edit

RIISING PETROL PRICES

Inflation, energy security and the challenge of policy-making



PRIYANKA SAURABH

For some time now, a growing concern has been echoing in cities and villages across the country—the rising prices of petrol and diesel. This concern isn't limited to motorists; it impacts every citizen who consumes everyday goods and services. When petrol becomes more expensive, the impact goes beyond just the petrol pump; it reaches transportation, food, construction materials, agricultural costs, and household budgets. Therefore, it's not enough to consider the rise in petrol prices merely an economic phenomenon. It's also a social, political, and policy issue, involving the government, the market, and citizens.

In a developing country like India, energy is not only the foundation of economic activity but also a vital force for social dynamism and development. The country's vast transportation system, agriculture, industrial production, and service sectors rely heavily on petroleum products. Therefore, when petrol prices rise, their impact is felt in almost every sector of the economy. This is why rising petrol prices always become a topic of public discussion and political debate.

To understand petrol and diesel prices, it's first important to understand that India imports the majority of its oil needs. The country buys more than 80 percent of its total crude oil needs from abroad. This means that fluctuations in the international market directly impact Indian consumers' pockets. If global crude oil prices rise, India has to pay more, and this ultimately reflects in retail prices.

The global oil market isn't solely influenced by economic factors. Geopolitical factors also play a significant role. Factors such as tensions in West Asia, security of sea lanes, production policies of major oil-producing countries, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict all influence oil prices. The impact of any regional conflict or supply crisis is reflected in the international market within days. This poses a significant challenge for an import-dependent country like India, as the domestic market cannot be completely isolated from these conditions.

While the international market is an important factor, the full truth about petrol prices isn't limited to that. Taxes also play a significant role in the retail prices of petrol and diesel in India. The final price of petrol includes the cost of crude oil, as well as central government excise duty, state government value-added tax (VAT), transportation costs, and dealer commissions. This is why petrol prices vary across states.

Oil taxes are a significant source of revenue for governments. Revenue from these taxes is used to finance road construction, infrastructure, health, education, and various social welfare programs. However, these taxes also impose additional financial burdens on ordinary citizens. When oil prices rise internationally and the tax structure offers no relief, consumers face a double whammy. This situation often leads to political debate.

The most direct impact of rising petrol prices is seen on the transportation sector. Taxi drivers, auto drivers, truck owners, bus operators, and millions of delivery service providers face rising costs. They generally have two options: either absorb the increased costs themselves or pass them on to consumers by raising fares and service charges. In most cases, the latter option is adopted, resulting in higher prices for goods and services.

This is where the widespread impact of inflation begins. When freight costs increase, vegetables, fruits, milk, grains, medicines, construction materials, and other consumer goods also become more expensive. This phenomenon is called cost-push inflation in economics. It particularly affects the middle and lower income groups, as their incomes are limited while expenses constantly rise.

The impact of petrol and diesel prices is even more profound in rural India. Agriculture still relies heavily on diesel-powered machinery and equipment. Tractors, irrigation pumps, harvesting machines, and the transportation of agricultural produce all require fuel. When diesel prices rise, agricultural costs increase. Small and marginal farmers, whose incomes are already limited, bear the brunt of these rising costs.

Additionally, the cost of transporting agricultural products to market also increases. Farmers often cannot determine the price of their produce and must rely on middlemen or wholesalers. The pressure of rising transportation costs can further reduce farmers' incomes.

Consequently, the rural economy faces a dual impact—increasing production costs and reducing profits.

The urban middle class is also not immune to this inflation. Today's urban life has become increasingly dependent on digital services, online shopping, food delivery, and private transportation. However, transportation costs are a crucial factor in all these services. Whether ordering food online or purchasing goods from an e-commerce platform, the vehicle delivering it ultimately relies on fuel. Therefore, rising petrol prices gradually increase consumers' daily expenses.

While discussing rising petrol prices, an important question arises as to how self-sufficient India is in terms of energy security. In recent years, the government has made efforts to develop strategic oil reserves and diversify energy sources. This may provide some relief from supply constraints, but it is not a long-term solution. As long as the country remains heavily dependent on imported oil, global market volatility will continue to

impact the domestic economy. This is where the question of energy independence comes into play. Energy independence means not only increasing domestic oil production but also strengthening alternative energy sources. Solar energy, wind power, green hydrogen, biofuels, and electric transportation systems can play a significant role in this direction. India has made significant progress in the field of renewable energy, but there is still a long way to go.

Transportation policy is also an important part of this discussion. A robust, accessible, and reliable public transportation system can reduce reliance on private vehicles. Alternatives like metros, bus rapid transit, suburban rail, and protected bicycle lanes can not only reduce fuel consumption but also mitigate pollution and traffic congestion. Unfortunately, such facilities are still lacking in many cities and most rural areas.

Policy promotion of electric vehicles is also important in this context. Electric vehicles are considered the future option to reduce dependence on petrol and diesel. While their adoption is growing, challenges such as charging infrastructure, battery costs, and access in rural areas remain. If governments increase investment in this sector and develop the necessary infrastructure, dependence on oil can be significantly reduced in the coming years.

Petrol prices also have an environmental dimension. Excessive use of fossil fuels is a major contributor to climate change and air pollution. Rising fuel prices sometimes drive people to alternative modes of transportation, but this is only possible if those options are truly available and convenient.

Environmental goals cannot be achieved simply by raising prices; they require a comprehensive and coordinated policy.

Petrol prices have always been a politically sensitive issue. Opposition parties often frame rising prices as a failure of the government, while governments cite global conditions and market forces.

The reality lies somewhere in between. It's true that no single country can have complete control over international oil prices, but it's equally true that governments play a crucial role in areas such as tax policy, energy investment, and transportation reform.

Therefore, the debate on petrol prices should not be limited to blame games. What is needed is an integrated approach to energy policy, tax structures, transportation systems, and environmental goals. If policymaking is limited only to immediate political gains or revenue needs, long-term solutions will not emerge.

The role of citizens is also crucial in this process. Energy conservation, shared transportation, the use of public transport, the adoption of fuel-efficient vehicles, and reducing unnecessary fuel consumption are steps that can have a positive impact at the individual level. While these measures cannot control gasoline prices, they can mitigate the impact of rising costs to some extent.

Ultimately, rising petrol prices are not just an economic problem. They raise a host of questions, including energy security, tax policy, social justice, environmental balance, and political accountability. If India is to effectively address this challenge in the future, it must move beyond short-term relief measures and develop a long-term energy strategy. Energy independence, robust public transport, a transparent tax structure, and investment in renewable energy are the paths that can make the country relatively immune to recurring fuel price crises.

Rising petrol prices remind us that the discussion on inflation shouldn't be limited to prices alone. The underlying energy policy, economic structure, and development model need to be considered equally seriously. Until this comprehensive approach becomes part of policy and public discourse, each new price hike will raise the same question: who is responsible for high petrol prices, and what is the lasting solution

The Great Chinese 'Miracle' Is Quickly Turning Into A Debt Nightmare

China will overtake the US to become the world's largest economy by 2028, a British think tank predicted in December 2020, after the first Covid wave. The Centre for Economics and Business Research said China's "skilful" management of the pandemic would boost its relative growth compared with the US and Europe in the coming years. Five years later, the think tank said China is unlikely to overtake the US economy for another 15 years. Other analysts doubt that Beijing will ever achieve that, given the structural problems and roadblocks facing its economy. The latest economic data released in Beijing last week confirms that the world's second-largest economy has lost momentum. Industrial production rose by just 4.1% year-on-year in April, the weakest since mid-2023. Retail sales grew by just 0.2%, the worst since the country's economy reopened after the pandemic in December 2022. Fixed asset investment contracted by 1.6% in the first four months of this year, driven by a 13.7% year on year decline in property development. Property investment in China has nearly halved since its pandemic-era peak in 2021. The real estate bubble burst soon after the pandemic ended, depleting the savings of millions of ordinary Chinese. This has severely hit demand for consumer products, as people are stuck with loans on flats they can't sell. After buying a house, owning a



car used to be another major investment for Chinese people, but most can't afford one now. Earlier in May, China's car makers reported a 25.5% year-on-year decline in passenger car sales, marking the sixth consecutive month of year-on-year declines. China's electric car giant, BYD, has built up a large stock of unsold cars. Its profits in the first quarter of this year were down 55%, to a three-year low.

focused on self-reliance and innovation in high technology to make China the global leader in many fields, including shipbuilding, solar panels, wind turbines, robotics and electric vehicles. It is also a world leader in AI and semiconductors. But China's growth story is based on exports, an economic model that now appears broken.

Demand for its products at home has shrunk because people can't afford them, even though they're cheap. Domestic consumption drives more than 80% of growth in the US and UK, and about 70% in India. China's share last year was just 52%; this year, it must be even lower. In February, the IMF said that "domestic demand has been subdued, in part because the protracted property slump, combined with a weak social safety net, hurt consumers' willingness to spend".

The IMF cut China's 2026 growth rate to 4.5% from 5% last year. In March, the Chinese government also set its annual growth target to a range of 4.5%-5%, the lowest goal since 1991.

But China is still building new factories and plants for export, continuing to make the world dependent on Chinese products. Last year, its trade deficit hit \$1.19 trillion, fuelling more resentment against Beijing and prompting countries around the world to demand that China increase imports. If the war in Iran leads to a global recession, as is likely, demand for Chinese products will fall, hurting its plants and industries. Overcapacity in factories has already caused deflation, where prices continue to drop, discouraging customers from buying in the hope that goods will be even cheaper later.



FERRARI UNVEILS FIRST FULLY ELECTRIC CAR

Luxury sports car maker Ferrari has unveiled its first fully electric car - the \$640,000 (€474,320) Luce. The new model departs from the look of typical Ferraris as the Italian brand's first ever five-seater, created in collaboration with the LoveFrom agency founded by former Apple design chief Sir Jony Ive. Responses on social media to the launch have ranged from describing it as "straight to the junkyard trash" to an "absolute masterpiece in design". Supercar rivals like Lamborghini and Porsche have scaled back on their EV plans due to poor demand and intense competition from Chinese brands.



Ferrari chief executive Benedetto Vigna said in Rome that the Luce, Italian for "light", has taken half a decade to develop. Ferrari plans to roll out the electric vehicle (EV) after previously ruling out such a move, opting instead to make hybrid cars that are powered by both petrol and electricity. The Luce runs with a Ferrari-made electric motor on each wheel, helping the car to hit 60mph (96km/h) in around 2.5 seconds.

The firm said that all of the components are made in-house, so that the car can be repaired by the company well into the future, protecting the Luce's resale value. The shift by motor industry giants to EVs has faced major obstacles in recent years. Carmakers including Ford and Volkswagen have doubled down on petrol cars, especially in the US, due to poor demand and regulatory changes under President Donald Trump,

who has cut incentives for EV buyers. The launch of Jaguar's electric concept car was heavily criticised for abandoning the British brand's classic styling. Ferrari's unveiling of Luce has faced similar criticism. One account on X said: "Ferrari just killed their brand just like Jaguar did. This is straight to the junkyard trash." "What is going on with European Luxury car manufacturers First Jaguar and now Ferrari",

Ferrari with a new design is "polarising" but believes people will appreciate it in months to come. Ferrari has also said it will continue offer petrol and hybrid cars along with its all-electric vehicle. Meanwhile, Ferrari's direct competitors have rolled back their EV ambitions. Lamborghini abandoned its plans to launch all-electric cars, pivoting to hybrid models instead, citing low demand for high-end luxury EVs. Germany's Porsche has scaled back its EV plans due to weak demand, caught between poor sales in China and tariffs in the US. Western carmakers have also faced intense competition from Chinese carmakers, which are able to produce vehicles faster and more cheaply. Ferrari is Europe's most valuable carmaker. It relies on selling highly exclusive cars - a strategy that has helped to shield Ferrari from much of the pressure faced by rivals. Yet Ferrari's shares have dropped by more than 25% over the past year, mirroring a wider slump across luxury brands as inflation around the world has shaken demand for high-end goods.

MARUTI SUZUKI URGES EMPLOYEES TOWARDS WFH, CARPOOL AMID MODI'S AUSTERITY CALL

New Delhi: Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday, May 26, said it has taken steps, including work from home wherever feasible and restricted foreign travels, in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity and the need to mitigate the long-term impact of the West Asia war. In a post on social media platform X, the company said it has "placed immense importance in the Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call for austerity as well as the need to mitigate the long-term impact of the West Asia war". The company strongly feels whether it is during a crisis or business as usual, management should conduct business in the most productive and efficient manner, minimising the use of petroleum products and foreign currency expenditure, it added. "This is a timely opportunity to revisit and re-examine all our processes and make efforts to improve efficiency across all our business operations, whether it is for national objectives or our own health of business," the company said.



Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) said its "management has given a message to all people to institutionalise" several steps as part of the drive. These include implementation of work from home (WFH) wherever operationally feasible to reduce commute related fuel consumption. "This is aligned with the company's remote working policy," it said. To optimise travel, the company has issued directive said for "foreign travel to be avoided unless critical for business requirements". It also asked employees to choose virtual meetings as preferred mode for engagements, while minimising domestic travel. The company has also

asked its employees to adopt sustainable commute practices, encouraging them to adopt carpooling and use public transport wherever practical. The carmaker also asked its employees to prioritise energy conservation and optimise the use of energy such as AC, fans, lights across office and home. "These are being widely communicated to both internal employees and business partners," MSIL said in its post on X. The carmaker also asked its employees to prioritise energy conservation and optimise the use of energy such as AC, fans, lights across office and home.

Maruti Suzuki sets up Advanced Manufacturing Lab at Government ITI Hassangarh



New Delhi, 26 May 2026: Aligned with the Government of India's Skill India mission, Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") has set up an Advanced Manufacturing Lab (AML) at Government ITI, Hassangarh, Rohtak, to equip students with industry-relevant skills and support the development of a future-ready workforce. In the first year, around 200 students at Government ITI Hassangarh will be trained in the Smart Factory Lab. The initiative, part of Maruti Suzuki's CSR-led skill development programme, aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and the rapidly evolving requirements

of the automobile industry. The AML replicates real-world shop-floor environments and offers hands-on training in critical areas of automobile manufacturing, including assembly, welding, painting, machining, mechatronics, and safety. This practical exposure is designed to enhance students' technical competence, industry readiness, and overall employability. The inaugural event was attended by Mr. Sachin Gupta, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, along with senior officials from Maruti Suzuki and the institute. Speaking about Advanced Manufacturing Lab, Mr. Rahul Bharti, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate

Affairs, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "Through the Advanced Manufacturing Lab at Hassangarh, we are bringing real shop-floor learning and modern machinery into classrooms. This initiative, aligned with Skill India mission, equips students with confidence to handle industry-specific processes and nurtures talent for the evolving automotive ecosystem. It is part of our commitment to build a skilled, future-ready workforce for India's manufacturing sector." Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Sachin Gupta, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, said, "The establishment of the Advanced Manufacturing Lab at ITI

Hassangarh marks a defining milestone in Rohtak's journey towards becoming a centre of excellence in skill development and a significant contribution to the vision of Viksit Bharat. By introducing industry-grade infrastructure, advanced manufacturing technologies, and hands-on technical training, Maruti Suzuki has created an ecosystem that seamlessly aligns academic learning with the dynamic requirements of modern industry. This initiative will not only equip students and trainees with future-ready skills and enhance employability, but will also nurture a culture of innovation, productivity, and technical excellence.

Marico enters the hair cleansing segment with Parachute Advanced Protein Shampoo, reinforcing its innovation-led growth strategy

Marico Limited, one of India's leading FMCG companies, today announced the launch of Parachute Advanced Protein Shampoo, deepening the brand's presence in the hair care segment and marking its entry into the hair cleansing category. Building on the brand's strong equity in haircare, the new Protein Shampoo range brings the proven goodness of coconut milk and natural ingredients into the hair cleansing format. Commenting on the launch, Ashish Goupal, CEO - India Core Business, Marico Limited, said, "This launch marks Marico's most significant category extension in recent years, translating Parachute Advanced's strong coconut equity into a hair-cleansing format. Extending Parachute Advanced into shampoos is a strategic step to address the growing consumer shift towards nature-forward solutions. The launch reflects Marico's commitment to purposeful, coconut-led innovation and strengthens its play in one of India's largest and fastest-growing personal care segments - the 10,000+ crore shampoo market, which is growing at 9-10% annually[1]. Parachute Advanced's entry into hair cleansing unlocks a sizeable growth opportunity while enhancing the brand's relevance across the entire hair-care regimen. The initial response from consumers and the market has been encouraging, and we remain confident in the long-term potential of this product."



Vikram Karwal, Chief Marketing Officer - India, Marico Limited, said, "When it comes to personal care products, consumers are looking for trusted brands that deliver on their needs well. Consumers are also increasingly choosing products backed by nature. When it comes to shampoo category, we saw this as an opportunity for Parachute Advanced. Armed with this understanding, we created a product that we believe will delight our consumers. This launch represents the strength of a brand built in India, for India, grounded in local consumer insight, crafted for Indian hair needs, and created with the same trust that has shaped the brand. It is backed by a robust, multi format marketing plan spanning television, digital, creator led collaborations and regional platforms. The brand already reaches millions of households and has always

enjoyed a deep, authentic relationship with consumers, cutting across geographies and income groups. Our rollout strategy is designed to honour that breadth and ensure the brand shows up meaningfully wherever our consumers are." The new Parachute Advanced Protein Shampoo range leverages a differentiated proposition: preventing protein loss in hair. With this, the brand strategically enters the high-potential damage repair segment, with its lead variant combining coconut milk with aloe vera. The rest of the range offers a curated blend of natural powerhouse ingredients such as rosemary, amla, shikakai, almond, and others, each serving a unique consumer benefit such as hair fall control, shine, and more.

THINK Gas Swiftly Restores City Gas Supply After Pipeline Damage

Kadapa, 26th May 2026: A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated excavation work carried out for the installation of an electrical pole near Tilak Nagar, opposite the Hyundai showroom in Kadapa. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimising inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Kadapa district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users. Despite the presence of visible route markers, cautionary signage, and emergency contact boards along the pipeline route, the contractor involved in the excavation failed to notify THINK Gas before starting work and did not submit any post-



incident report. As per government regulations, any third-party planning to carry out excavation work must inform the City Municipal authorities or the City Gas Distribution company through the 'Dial Before You Dig' contact number. The incident occurred without prior intimation to the company, prompting THINK Gas to file an official complaint against the party responsible.

As per the current legal provisions under IPC Sections 285 and 336, such unauthorized damage constitutes an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to 25 crores. THINK Gas urges all contractors, agencies, and individuals to comply with this safety requirement. The toll-free number to contact THINK Gas before any digging activity is 1800 2022 999.

A Powerhouse Alliance: Dreame Technology Names Cristiano Ronaldo as new Global Ambassador

India, May 26, 2026: Dreame Technology, a global leader in innovative home appliances and smart home solutions, today announced a historic global partnership with football legend Cristiano Ronaldo. This collaboration represents a definitive milestone in the company's trajectory, uniting one of the world's most disciplined athletes with a brand defined by its relentless pursuit of technological perfection and quality supremacy. This appointment represents a strategic elevation of Dreame's global brand presence, reflecting the company's current stage of international maturity. After years of rapid expansion and consistent breakthroughs in high-speed motor technology and AI-driven systems, Dreame has solidified its position as a global benchmark, now reinforced by this high-profile partnership. A logical culmination of Dreame's growth, signaling its readiness to lead the high-end home appliance market



on a truly global scale. The alliance is rooted in a deep-seated alignment of values. In his respective field, Cristiano Ronaldo has become a global icon through unwavering self-discipline, perseverance, and a commitment to breaking through professional limits. These same principles form the backbone of Dreame's corporate philosophy: a focus on an enduring vision, technological leader-

ship, and the continuous refinement of the user experience. Speaking on the partnership, Cristiano Ronaldo shared: "I am always looking for partners who share my drive for excellence and my commitment to hard work. Dreame is a brand that innovates and delivers top-tier performance, making life easier and better. I am excited to join the Dreame family and support their mission to lead

the global market." Dreame to Win: Redefining the Future of Smart Living Developed as the core of this partnership, 'Dreame to Win' embodies the convergence of a world-class winning mindset and advanced innovation, redefining smart living as a powerful tool to empower users in achieving excellence within their daily routines. "This is more than a sponsorship; it is a powerful

alliance between a technology leader and a world-class sports IP," said Colm Chang, Global President of Dreame. "We recognize each other's strength, vision, and long-termism. Cristiano's spirit of focus and excellence resonates deeply with our mission to lead the industry and influence the world through intelligent technology. Together, we are committed to bringing a high-quality, future-ready living experience to households globally." Through this global partnership, Dreame will integrate Ronaldo's image across its comprehensive product categories, showcasing the brand's ability to deliver a sophisticated, efficient, and high-quality lifestyle. By combining Cristiano Ronaldo's cross-cultural influence with Dreame's cutting-edge ecosystem, the collaboration will highlight how intelligent technology can empower users to "Dreame to Win" in their daily lives.

IRAN CONDEMNS US STRIKES AS 'GROSS VIOLATION' OF CEASEFIRE

Iran says the US has committed a "gross violation" of the ceasefire with new air strikes it launched on the country. The US Central Command (Centcom) said Iranian missile sites and boats attempting to place mines had been targeted with what it called "self-defence strikes" in southern Iran on Monday. Iran's foreign ministry said it held the US responsible for the consequences of its "aggressive and unjustified actions" in the Hormozgan region, which has a coast along the Strait of Hormuz - the crucial waterway Iran has blocked causing a spike in world energy prices. It is unclear what impact the strikes will have on talks aimed to end the conflict. "Without a doubt, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not leave any evil unanswered and will not hesitate to defend the Iranian nation," the Iranian statement said. The US and Israel



started the war with Iran on 28 February with a wave of deadly attacks, including one which killed the country's supreme leader. After weeks of fighting, a ceasefire was agreed on 8 April and it has been largely observed ever since, barring one notable clash earlier in May. In its statement, Centcom said US forces "conducted

self-defence strikes in southern Iran today to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces". It did not give details about the location of the strikes, but an official cited by the New York Times said they had targeted an area near Bandar Abbas - a southern port city and home of an Iranian naval base that sits

on the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state media had earlier reported that local officials in Bandar Abbas were investigating after explosions were heard. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) later said it had downed a US drone and fired at a fighter jet that entered Iranian airspace, though it did not spec-

Highlights

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- The US Central Command (Centcom) said Iranian missile sites and boats attempting to place mines had been targeted with what it called "self-defence strikes" in southern Iran on Monday.

ify when this happened. This takes place against the backdrop of talks aimed at extending the current ceasefire, with the eventual aim of bringing an end to the conflict. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said a deal from the talks is still possible, but it will "take a few days". One of the stumbling blocks reportedly cen-

tres on Tehran's request for the release of frozen Iranian funds held abroad. The peace talks have been mainly mediated by Pakistan. However, Iranian negotiators have been taking part in talks with Qatari mediators this week. An official briefed on the Doha visit told Reuters news agency that Iran's central bank governor had attended Monday's talks to discuss the frozen assets, with discussions focusing primarily on Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, and the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has effectively blocked the vital shipping lane, through which around one fifth of the world's oil passes, since the US and Israel started the conflict on 28 February. US, Israel and many Western countries have accused Iran of enriching uranium in order to make a nuclear weapon. Iran says the programme is for peaceful purposes only.

Senegal's sacked PM Sonko elected parliamentary Speaker in challenge to president

Senegal's former Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko, who was dramatically sacked on Friday by the president, has been elected Speaker of the national parliament setting up a possible source of conflict at the top of Senegalese politics. The West African nation's current crisis follows months of tension between Sonko and his one-time ally President Bassirou Diomaye Faye. Parliament's previous Speaker stepped down on Sunday to make way for the former prime minister, who is a popular figure and whose Pastef party has a majority of the seats in the National Assembly. On Monday, Faye appointed economist Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo to replace Sonko as prime minister. Relations between the president and his now-former prime minister had been deteriorating for months, with Sonko openly criticising Faye for his handling of Senegal's debt problems. "What is at stake



is the relationship between morality and politics," Sonko has since said, promising not to use his new position to "to fight against anyone" and instead ensure that parliament acts in Senegalese citizens' best interests. Yet Sonko has also said that his dismissal as prime minister does not mean his political career is over. Sonko's new role as Speaker - the second highest political position in the country - could limit President Faye's ability to manoeuvre if he fails to secure parliamentary support for his policies, analysts say.

Netanyahu says Israel will intensify strikes against Hezbollah



Israel's military says it has begun a wave of strikes across Lebanon following an announcement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that his country will intensify its attacks on Hezbollah. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it had launched strikes against Hezbollah in the eastern Bekaa Valley in the eastern Bekaa Valley and other parts of the country. Hezbollah, a Shia Muslim armed group in Lebanon backed by Iran, said it had retaliated by carrying out 22 drone and rocket attacks and that its targets included Israeli soldiers, tanks, barracks and buildings. Earlier this month, Lebanon and Israel agreed to extend a 45-day ceasefire which began in mid-April, though attacks between Israel and Hezbollah have continued. On Tuesday morning, the IDF said it had "struck more than 100 Hezbollah infrastructure sites and terrorists". Twelve people are said to have been killed in an attack on the village of Mashghara in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanese local media reported. The IDF said several strikes were conducted "within seconds

against Hezbollah infrastructure sites [in Mashghara] where terrorists [sic] activity was identified". It added "the terrorists were eliminated" during the attack. The Israeli military has issued an evacuation order for the southern town of Nabatieh due to possible strikes. Hours earlier, in a video statement, Netanyahu said Israel was "at war with Hezbollah" and the military has been told to "deal them a crushing blow". Netanyahu said Israel's military offensive against Hezbollah had "eliminated... over 600 terrorists in the last few weeks". He continued: "But what this requires of us now is to increase the strikes, to increase the intensity." Two far-right Israeli ministers, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir, have called for an expansion of the military campaign, including into Beirut. Hezbollah said it had used drones and rockets to attack sites across southern Lebanon and northern Israel on Monday, in response to what it called Israel's "violation of the ceasefire".

CHINA EXECUTES MAN FOR POISONING BILLIONAIRE GAMING TYCOON



Chinese authorities have executed a man for murdering his associate, billionaire gaming tycoon Lin Qi. In 2020, a disgruntled Xu Yao poisoned Lin for sidelining him shortly after he helped him land a Netflix deal, local media reported. Lin's Yoozoo Games holds the film adaptation rights for the Chinese science fiction trilogy which Netflix made

into the series 3 Body Problem. Xu was convicted in 2024 and his execution, which reportedly happened on 21 May, was confirmed on Tuesday by his company in a statement, adding "justice has ultimately been served". "We deeply mourn Mr. Lin and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family," the statement said. "As colleagues who fought alongside him.

ELEVEN KILLED IN LEBANON VILLAGE AS ISRAEL INTENSIFIES STRIKES

Israel has launched an intensive wave of strikes across swathes of southern and eastern Lebanon, after vowing to step up its military action against Hezbollah. The Israeli military said it hit more than 100 Hezbollah infrastructure sites and fighters during what was one of the heaviest nights of bombardment since a US-brokered ceasefire began in mid-April. Strikes in the Bekaa Valley village of Mashghara killed 11 people, including two children, Lebanon's health ministry said. The military said it hit sites where "terrorist activity" was identified. It came after Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had given the instruction to "press the pedal even harder" in targeting Hezbollah. The ceasefire has been repeatedly violated



by both sides, threatening to derail the complex ongoing talks to end the war between the US, Israel and Iran. Israeli air and artillery strikes have continued daily, especially in the south of Lebanon, while Hezbollah has been launching rockets and drones at communities in northern Israel and Israeli troops occupying parts of southern Lebanon. On Monday night, Netanyahu

said in a video statement that Israel was going to increase the number and intensity of its strikes targeting Hezbollah in response to the Iran-backed Shia Muslim group's attacks, including those involving fibre-optic drones that can evade Israeli defences. "We will deal them a crushing blow," he vowed. The announcement prompted scenes of panic in Beirut's southern suburbs, a

Hezbollah stronghold, where residents were seen fleeing the area following the remarks. Thousands of cars lined the streets with families trying to escape for safety. Though the overnight strikes spared the capital, Israeli warplanes carried out wave after wave of strikes across Lebanon throughout the evening and into the early hours. The BBC counted dozens of attacks across nearly 50 locations. A man and his wife were killed in a strike on their home in the southern town of Arab Salim on Monday evening, and two other people were killed in the village of Kauthariyet El Rez, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA). Overnight, several homes in Mashghara were destroyed in Israeli strikes, according to NNA.

Ebola needs swift response to prevent catastrophe - DR Congo governor

The military governor of Congo's Ituri province, the epicentre of the current Ebola outbreak, has likened the struggle to contain the spread of the virus to a "war" for which they are lacking resources to fight. "People in affected areas are not receiving enough food," Johnny Luboya Nkashama told French broadcaster RFI, adding that "other diseases" and "overcrowding" are also issues. He called for a "swift response", including strengthening the capacity of staff to prevent Ituri "from descending into catastrophe". Officials say there are more than 900 suspected cases of Ebola, and 223 suspected deaths, since the outbreak was declared on 15 May.



The World Health Organization (WHO) said the disease may be spreading faster than originally thought and has declared a public health emergency of international concern. On Monday, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is due to travel to DR Congo,

has said the Ebola outbreak is outpacing urgent efforts to scale up a response adding that responders were "playing catch-up". Ebola has also been reported in DR Congo's North and South Kivu provinces, as well as in neighbouring Uganda, where there have been seven confirmed cases.

Elaborating on what his province needs, Kashama explained "qualified personnel" should be deployed as soon as possible and "secure treatment centres" established. Angry relatives trying to claim the bodies of loved ones who had reportedly died of Ebola have targeted two treatment centres. "Our existing resources were dedicated to the war, and this second war that is now upon us demands even more," he said on RFI. Ituri has been under military rule since 2021, when the civilian authority was replaced by a military general in an attempt to neutralise dozens of armed groups which have operated in the area for many years.

AUSTRALIA CONFIRMS FIRST DIPHTHERIA DEATH AMID WORST OUTBREAK IN DECADES



Australia has recorded its first diphtheria death in almost a decade as the country grapples with the worst outbreak of the vaccine-preventable disease in decades. In March, the Northern Territory (NT) declared an outbreak of diphtheria with cases also in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. Cases started rising in late-2025 with a sharp increase in February. This year, there

have been 245 cases, marking the largest outbreak in Australia since 1991, mainly in remote Indigenous communities. On Tuesday, NT's health minister said autopsy results from an overseas lab found diphtheria was the cause of a man's death in April at Royal Darwin Hospital, the first such case since 2018. In recent weeks, the government has ramped up vaccination efforts in areas most at risk and the number of new cases was now falling, health officials said on Tuesday. "Our government has taken this situation very seriously, and we are working hard to understand the causes and working to contain the situation," NT Health Minister Steve Edgington said.



Four killed as school minibus collides with train in Belgium

Russia threatens more Kyiv strikes and tells foreign nationals to leave



Russia has threatened to launch a fresh wave of "systematic strikes" against Kyiv, days after carrying out one of its largest attacks on the Ukrainian capital since the start of the war. The new strikes will target "decision-making centres and command posts", alongside drone manufacturing facilities in the city, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement. Moscow has called for foreign nationals and diplomats to leave Kyiv "as soon as possible" and warned citizens to stay away from administrative and military buildings. Ukraine said Russia's threats were "nothing short of shameless blackmail" and urged allies to increase pressure on Moscow. With its warning to foreign nationals, Moscow is "effectively admitting that its shelling is aimed, among other things, at intimidating the foreign diplomatic corps", the statement continued. It said Russian strikes on Kyiv "have not ceased for virtually a single week" since the start of the war,

and the overall security threat posed by Moscow "remains the same as in previous years or months". Large-scale Russian strikes on Saturday night killed four and injured about 100 people in Kyiv and other areas, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Moscow said that barrage and threatened further strikes were in response to what it claims was a deliberate Ukrainian attack on a student dormitory in the town of Starobilsk on Friday, in which Russian officials said 21 people were killed. Ukraine's military said its forces had struck an elite Russian military drone unit in the area, in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine, and had not targeted civilians. Russia has launched several waves of deadly missile and drone attacks on Kyiv since a brief ceasefire, that coincided with Moscow's annual Victory Day parade, expired earlier in May. Shortly after that, Russian strikes on Kyiv killed 24 people, including three children, in a block of flats.

IPL 2026: ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU SETS A TARGET OF 254/5 GUJARAT TITANS



"NOT MY DECISION": YASH DAYAL COUNTERS RCB OFFICIAL OVER IPL 2026 ABSENCE STATEMENT

Pacer Yash Dayal has finally opened up on missing the ongoing season of the IPL for the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, saying that he is still part of the squad despite his absence this year. Before the start of the season, RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat revealed that Dayal would not feature for the Bengaluru side this year due to a "personal situation." However, the 28-year-old has differed from the explanation given by Bobat regarding his absence from the team this season. Speaking on the Talk with Manvendra podcast, Dayal revealed that he misses the team and insisted that opting out of the ongoing season was not his decision. "Obviously, if you are sitting outside. When I watch them on television, sometimes I just get up. But then it is my team, and they haven't removed me. They kept me on the retain list and didn't get me a replacement. They probably think



that I am an important part. The other thing is that my opting out of this season wasn't my personal decision. The statement could be controversial, but the decision is always made by the authority. I don't know what was the reason was behind RCB's decision. I miss them a lot. I don't

know if the team misses me, the fans will say that," said Dayal. Dayal added that he remains in regular contact with the RCB management, including team mentor Dinesh Karthik, despite his absence from the field this season. "I have been in conversations with the management.

Arshdeep Singh Undergoes Social Media Clean Up After IPL Setback, Even Viral Virat Kohli Reel Is Missing

Arshdeep Singh social media clean-up: India pacer Arshdeep Singh has cleared the majority of his Instagram posts following his IPL side Punjab Kings' elimination from the playoff race. Arshdeep had a tough outing in IPL 2026, claiming just 14 wickets in 14 matches and leaking over 10 runs per over as PBKS bowed out of the tournament after the league stage. However, the 27-year-old has caught the attention of fans on social media, with the pacer wiping a massive chunk of his grid. Notably, Arshdeep also removed his viral reel with star batter Virat Kohli, which had reportedly grossed over 15 million views. In the reel, which was posted in December last



year, Arshdeep joked with Kohli that if the target had been bigger, the former captain might have scored a third consecutive century. "Paaaji, run kam reh gaye, century aaj pakki thi waise (Brother, the target wasn't big enough, otherwise a cen-

tury seemed certain)," Arshdeep had said. Kohli playfully responded, "Toss jeet gaye, nahi toh teri bhi pakki thi dew mein (Be thankful we won the toss, or you would have been hit for a century in the dew!)." Arshdeep Singh to Virat

Kohli ; Paaaji run km rah gye century pakki thi. While the exact reason behind Arshdeep's latest Instagram activity remains unclear, he currently has just 44 posts on his account - a tally significantly lower than it was a few days ago. Interestingly, this comes amid recent reports that videos involving PBKS players must now be produced and posted exclusively through the franchise's official social media handles. "The CEO will speak to the players after training tonight and read out the guidelines issued by the BCCI. There is no player in focus as such. The rules need to be respected and strictly followed," a team source told PTI.

PADERBORN STRIKE LATE TO RELEGATE WOLFSBURG FROM BUNDESLIGA

Paderborn's Laurin Curda scored in extra-time to grab a 2-1 home win in the second relegation playoff leg on Monday and relegate 2009 Bundesliga champions Wolfsburg 2-1 on aggregate. The narrow win returns Paderborn to the Bundesliga after six seasons, while ending Wolfsburg's 29-year run in the top flight. Wolfsburg, who played all but 14 minutes with 10 men, became just the second top-flight team in the past 14 seasons to be relegated in the two-legged playoff. Wolfsburg coach Dieter Hecking, who won the German Cup with the side in 2015 and returned to try and beat the drop, told German TV he was "profoundly disappointed. "We tried absolutely everything - and the players invested everything they had - in an effort to keep the team in the league." Dzenan Pejcinovic gave Wolfsburg the lead early but two yellow cards inside three minutes to Joakim Maelle reduced the Wolves to 10 men. "Look, we could discuss it, but it's ulti-



mately futile to do so, because the referee made his decision, even if we view that incident in a completely different light," Hecking said. Buoyed by their one-man advantage, Paderborn laid siege to the Wolfsburg goal and Filip Bibijca levelled things up just before the break with a far post header. The Wolves managed to keep the hosts at bay

and force extra-time but Curda broke through in the 99th minute to put his side on course for victory. The Volkswagen-owned Wolves, who reportedly have the fifth most expensive side in the Bundesliga, had hoped to challenge for a European spot this season but will now play in the Bundesliga 2 for the first time since 1997.

Shreyas Iyer's Sister Shresta Hits Back At Trolls Over 'Lo Ditta Ek Point' Viral Video



Shuttler Lakshya Sen Returns To BWF Top 10 In Men's Singles Rankings After 440 days

India's Commonwealth Games champion and Paris Olympics semifinalist, Lakshya Sen, has made it back to the top 10 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) men's singles rankings for the first time since March last year. A post on X by BAI lauded Lakshya, who featured in India's bronze medal-winning team at the Thomas Cup recently, for his return to the top 10 after 440 days. The post said, "For over 440 days, Lakshya Sen has battled relentless injuries, grueling recovering, and devastating setbacks that would have broken most. Today, he's back where he belongs." For over 440 days, Lakshya Sen has battled relentless injuries, grueling recovering, and devastating setbacks that would have broken most. Today, he's back where he belongs."



ken most. Recently, at the Malaysia Masters this month, Lakshya crashed out in the first round, losing to Zaki Ubaidillah of Indonesia in the opening rounds by 21-

17, 21-11 in straight games, as per Olympics.com. He has displayed a solid run of form this year. While he has faced round of 32 exits in his past BWF World Tour

tournaments, a runner-up spot in the prestigious All England Open in March, and quarterfinal finishes in India Open, Indonesia Masters and Thailand Open have been shows of brilliance. He had concluded the last year with a Australia Open title win in November and a third-place finish in the Japan Masters in the same month. He also had a runner-up finish in the Hong Kong Open (September last year), a third-place finish in the Macau Open (August last year), despite a dip in form last year. His biggest set-back was a shocking first-round exit in the BWF World Championships, losing to Shi Yu Qi of China. Next, Lakshya will be in action in the Singapore Open from May 26-31.

ARYNA SABALENKA REGISTERS EASY WIN IN FRENCH OPEN. DANIIL MEDVEDEV LOSES IN 5 SETS



Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka took advantage of the heat wave at the French Open to impose her attacking game in the first round Tuesday. Daniil Medvedev struggled, though, in a five-set loss to 97th-ranked Australian opponent Adam Walton. Sabalenka beat 50th-ranked Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 6-4, 6-2 on Court Philippe-Chatrier with an array of approaches to the net and volley put-aways. "That's the most enjoyable part of the game right now - that I'm able to come to the net to play points there," Sabalenka said. "I'm super proud that I was able to improve that part of the game." The unusually hot conditions at Roland Garros make net-rushing - usually better reserved for hard and grass courts - a viable option because the court is drying out quicker and playing faster. For a third consecutive day, the temperature in Paris was fore-

cast to rise to at least 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit). "Let's hope that this is the perfect condition for me," Sabalenka said. "It suits my game really well." Sabalenka reached the final in Paris last year, losing to Coco Gauff. She has won the Australian Open and the U.S. Open on hard courts. Gauff was opening her title defense later against fellow American Taylor Townsend. Also advancing was 17th-seeded Iva Jovic, who beat good friend Alexandra Eala 6-4, 6-2. Walton, who received a wild card invitation from tournament organizers, beat Medvedev 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4. Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 2021 runner-up to Novak Djokovic, was leading 6-2, 3-0 against Alexander Muller when his French opponent retired. Muller wiped away tears as he left the court and later said he injured his right calf, three months after injuring his left calf.

What next for heavyweight division after Usyk's win

Oleksandr Usyk came through a gritty contest to beat a game Rico Verhoeven and retain his heavyweight world titles. Usyk, 39, was pushed to his limits by Verhoeven at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, but ultimately delivered the goods with one second remaining in the 11th round. The Ukrainian had it all to lose against an opponent who had competed only once in boxing, although he carried a formidable record from kickboxing. Usyk, who extended his undefeated record to 25 wins, consistently said in the build-up to this bout that he still wanted to fight

on two more occasions before considering whether to hang up the gloves. With no shortage of challengers queuing up for a shot at one of Usyk's three belts - the WBA 'super', WBC and IBF - who could be next for the pound-for-pound great Usyk still holds three heavyweight belts but, with only a handful of fights left before retirement, there is a growing sense that he is no longer driven by collecting titles. Mandatory challengers are enforced on a rotating basis between sanctioning bodies, and next in line is WBC interim champion Agit Kabayel - widely viewed as the most



deserving contender yet to receive his opportunity. The unbeaten German has quietly built one of the strongest recent resumes in the division, stopping Arslanbek Makhmudov, Frank Sanchez and Zhilei

Zhang to make his case for a title shot. Yet there has been little indication that Usyk is interested in the fight. Meanwhile, on the undercard in Giza, Sanchez earned a stunning knockout win against Richard

Torrez Jr to become the leading contender for Usyk's IBF belt. The IBF is expected to order a mandatory title defence within six months once WBC obligations are clarified. Elsewhere, former cruiserweight rival Murat Gassiev - beaten by Usyk in their undisputed clash in 2018 - holds the WBA 'regular' title and also sits high in the sanctioning queue. Verhoeven emerged from his loss against generational great Usyk with a huge amount of credit. The kickboxing superstar, who reigned as the Glory heavyweight world champion for 12 years, clearly demon-

strated that he has the tools to hang with boxing's elite. Aged 37, time is not on Verhoeven's side, but there will undoubtedly be further opportunities. Fellow crossover star Francis Ngannou, who pushed Tyson Fury close and suffering a heavy knockout defeat against Anthony Joshua, has set the blueprint for Verhoeven. A rematch with Usyk has been touted, although it is unlikely to land next for Verhoeven, so options elsewhere will need to be explored. After years of negotiations, false starts and public callouts, Joshua v Fury finally appears within touching distance.

'MaInti Bangaram' will be a complete family entertainer.. Samantha at the trailer launch event



The film 'MaInti Bangaram' is jointly produced by Samantha, Raj Nidimoru and Himank Duvvuru under the banner of Tralala Moving Pictures. This movie directed by Nandini Reddy with Samantha in the lead role is going to release on June 19. The trailer was released on Monday. In this trailer launch event.. Samantha says .. I think the trailer of "MaInti Bangaram" will be liked by everyone. Thanks to every single fan who came here for us. Nandini garu and Raj garu are perfect in everything. So far I have not come across any argument with them or any such incident. Every emotion is there in 'MaInti Bangar'. A complete family entertainer. Action,

drama, comedy are all there. Our film is coming on June 19. Enjoy everyone. This film will make all the fans proud', he said. Nandini Reddy said .. 'Samantha garu is improving day by day. The Samantha of yesteryear is very different from the Samantha of today. Now she is at the next level. Samantha excelled in every scene be it action, comedy or emotion. I too sat in front of the monitor as a fan of Samantha. This movie will definitely be a blast. He said that there will be 'our home's gold' to impress everyone. Raj Nidimoru says .. There is a lot of emotion and love in the name "MaInti Bangaram". There is also a dark side behind it, a possessiveness. Everyone knows the closeness

between Samantha and Nandini Reddy. There is a good bonding between the two of them. That is why we took Nandini Reddy as the director. Srimumukhi says .. 'I said okay without hearing the story just by saying that Samantha is the heroine. Samantha is truly a gold. Watching her in action live is a treat. She laughs, cries and fights in this film. Thanks to Nandini Reddy for giving me this opportunity. It is a pleasure to be associated with Raj. I wish this film will be a big success with the love of all the fans. In this movie, Digant, Gulshan Devaiah played the lead roles. Sri Mukhi, Gautami, Anand, Lakshmi, Srinivas Gavireddy, Manjusha and others played important roles.

Mythological Thriller 'Trikaal' Starring Shraddha Das Set for Worldwide Release on May 28

A mythological fictional thriller based on the hidden spiritual secrets of Sanatana Dharma. High-quality VFX and grand visuals are the major highlights. Trailer and songs receive tremendous response, raising expectations. Worldwide release by Chaganti Production LLP. Music by Harshavardhan Rameshwar adds strength to the film. The mythological fictional thriller Trikaal, inspired by the spiritual mysteries hidden within Indian Sanatana Dharma, is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on May 28. Popular actress Shraddha Das plays the lead role in the film, while Master Mahendran, Ajay, and senior actress Aamani appear in pivotal roles. The film is written and directed by Mani Tellaguti and produced by Radhika-Srinivas, with Chaganti Production LLP presenting and distributing it worldwide. The recently released trailer, promotional content, and songs have generated massive buzz and significantly increased expectations for the film. The visuals shot in forest backdrops, thrilling narrative elements, and spine-chilling background score have especially impressed audiences. Going by the trailer, Trikaal appears to be more than just a conventional horror film, blending divine and supernatural powers into an intense mythological suspense thriller.



The film's high-end VFX work and stunning cinematography further elevate its grandeur. In particular, the emotional song "Amma" has struck a chord with audiences and heightened curiosity around the movie. Shraddha Das's new look, Master Mahendran's

action sequences, and Ajay's powerful character have become talking points among movie lovers. Even the title Trikaal has turned into a hot topic within the industry.

Speaking about the film, director Mani Tellaguti said:

"Trikaal revolves around a powerful force that emerges as light during a time when darkness engulfs the world. We blended certain spiritual elements of Sanatana Dharma with thrilling cinematic moments to create this film. The trailer and songs have already

received an overwhelming response, and audiences are going to experience something truly unique."

The producers stated:

"This film, made with a mythological touch, will appeal to audiences of all sections. Trikaal is a unique blend of culture, spirituality, and thrilling elements, offering viewers a completely new cinematic experience." The music for the film is composed by Harshavardhan Rameshwar, who is known for his work in films like Arjun Reddy, Animal, and Spirit. The film team believes that his music and background score will stand out as one of the major strengths of Trikaal. According to industry sources, the film has already generated good business in North India as well. Reports suggest that the Hindi satellite rights and dubbing rights have been sold for a fancy price. Shraddha Das, who made her Tollywood debut with Siddu from Srikakulam, gained popularity through films like Arya 2, Guntur Talkies, Ek Mini Katha, Dictator, and Nagavalli. She is now set to appear in yet another unique role in Trikaal. Overall, with its mythological thriller backdrop, spiritual themes, supernatural elements, and grand cinematic presentation, Trikaal has created strong excitement among cinema audiences ahead of its worldwide release on May 28.

Priyasakhi from EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER Wins Hearts with Its Soulful Melody Hesham Abdul Wahab MusicL

The makers of EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER have unveiled the film's second single "Priyasakhi" and the melody is already winning hearts with its emotional depth and soothing vibe. Centered around the feeling of love, the song beautifully expresses the silent emotions, admiration and affection a young man carries for someone special. Lyricist Suresh Baniseti pens heartfelt lines that feel simple yet deeply relatable. Every word blends seamlessly with the mood of the song, making it instantly connect with listeners. Adding soul to the composition, singer K S Harisankar delivers a captivating performance with his soft and expressive vocals. Composer Hesham Abdul Wahab once again proves his brilliance by creating a melody that feels fresh, calming, and emotionally rich. The instrumentation flows gently throughout the track, enhancing the mood without



overpowering the vocals. The song carries a breezy feel while also leaving behind emotional warmth, making it a perfect repeat-listen melody. Visually, "Priya Sakhi" stands out with its stunning London backdrop. The scenic visuals add elegance and freshness to the song, while Anand Deverakonda and

Vaishnavi Chaitanya share charming chemistry on screen. Their pairing once again reminds audiences why they became one of the most loved young on-screen pairs after Baby. Directed by debutant Aditya Haasan, EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER is backed by producers Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya

under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with Sri Kara Studios presenting the film. Coming to theatres this July. With "Priyasakhi" the film promises a youthful love story filled with emotion, innocence and heartfelt moments. More exciting updates about the film are expected soon.

"Nenevaru" – A Message-Oriented Entertaining Film Set for Grand Release on May 29

A meaningful yet entertaining film titled "Nenevaru", starring veteran actor Rajendra Prasad in the lead role, is all set for a grand worldwide release on May 29. The film is directed by young talent Chiranjeevi Tanneeru and features Sai Kiran, known for super hit films like Nuvve Kavali and Preminchu, along with Jogini Shyamala in important roles. Blending entertainment with thought-provoking elements, the film has already created good curiosity among audiences. The posters, teaser, and trailer released so far have received a highly positive response, generating strong buzz around the movie. Rajendra Prasad will be seen in a unique and impactful role backed by his vast acting experience. The film is expected to appeal not only to fami-



ly audiences but also to youth with its engaging content and emotional depth. According to the makers, the movie has been crafted with a mix of emotions, entertainment, and suspense. Staying true to its title "Nenevaru" ("Who Am I"), the story revolves around a relatable life question that connects deeply with every individual.

Virat Karna, Abhishek Nama, Nick Studios' Pan India Project 'Nagabandham' Celebrated at 3D Standee Curtain Raiser Event



Expectations are increasing day by day on the most eagerly awaited mythological action-adventure 'Nagabandham'. The Secret Treasure' in the Indian film industry. This huge film, which is being made in the crazy combination of director Abhishek Nama and hero Virat Karna, is impressing the nation with every promotional update. The film, which is made with elements of Indian mythology, adventure, ancient mysteries, divine powers, and high-octane action, will provide the audience with a cinematic experience like never before. Produced by Kishore Annappureddy and Nishita Nagi Reddy under the banner of NIK Studios, the film is being presented by Abhishek Pictures. The film is being made on a pan-India scale with high production values and the highest technical standards. Recently, the film team organized a specially

designed 'Nagabandham' 3D stand curtain raiser event at AMB Cinemas in Hyderabad. Hero Virat Karna, heroine Nabha Natesh, and the producer participated in this event and launched the 3D stand. The event was enthusiastically attended by a large number of fans. The film crew is working hard to bring ancient temples, mystical worlds, massive battle scenes, and divine powers to life on screen with cutting-edge technology. Every frame is crafted to deliver a world-class cinematic experience. Industry sources are already describing 'Nagabandham' as one of the biggest visual spectacles to come from Indian cinema in recent times. Leading company Zee Studios has acquired the theatrical release rights for all languages in North India. This partnership, which is planning a massive release in the Hindi market, will bring 'Nagabandham' closer to the nation.

Oscar- winning music director M. M. Keeravaani launched the song “Vadhalane” from the movie Chennai Love Story

Starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles, "Chennai Love Story" is being produced by the successful maker duo SKN and Sai Rajesh, who previously delivered cult classics like Colour Photo and Baby. The film is being produced under the banners Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers. Sai Rajesh has provided the story, while Ravi Namburi is directing the film. Melody Brahma Mani Sharma is composing the music.

The film's second single, "Vadhalane" was grandly launched on Monday in Hyderabad by M. M.

Keeravaani. Several noted music directors attended the event as guests, including Madhavapeddi Suresh, Kalyani Malik, Anup Rubens, Hari Gowra, Mark K Robin, Sinjith Yerramilli, Chaitan Bharadwaj, Sweekar Agasthi, Suresh Bobbili, Vivek Sagar, and Sricharan Pakala. Speaking at the event, M. M. Keeravani said, "After watching 'Baby,' I became a fan of Sai Rajesh myself. Looking at the songs and visuals of 'Chennai Love Story,' it feels like the film will match the standard of 'Baby' and emerge as a feel-good movie. My friend Mani Sharma has composed 'Vadhalane' beautifully, it has a haunting quality.



Music lovers and music platforms should never let go of this song. I hope it becomes a huge success. This film has seven songs. If

a love story has seven songs, you can already assume it will be a blockbuster, because music is the soul of a love story. The

music has perfectly suited the film. The lead pair also look fresh and appealing. Their expressions and visuals are impressive. I'm

happy to meet so many music director friends on this stage. I wish the entire team of 'Chennai Love Story' all the very best." Director Ravi Namburii said, "I feel nervous speaking on a stage filled with so many music directors, it feels like a music app itself. 'Vadhalane.' will remain the best song of my career. My thanks to Mani Sharma garu, Anantha Sriram garu, and my producers Sai Rajesh and SKN." Co-producer Dheeraj Mogilineni said, "'Chennai Love Story' will become the biggest blockbuster love story film of the year and collect over 100 crore. Audiences will not let go of this film until then."