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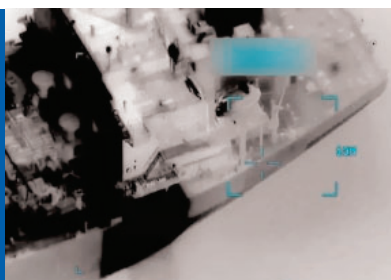
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**FAROOQ ABDULLAH
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STATEHOOD RESTORATION**

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**TRUMP SAYS
US WILL HIT IRAN 'VERY
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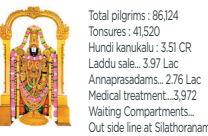


**YASH RAJ FILMS
UNVEILS THE ORIGIN STORY OF AN
ASSASSIN PLAYED BY ALIA BHATT
IN ALPHA TEASER, THEATRICAL
RELEASE DATE FIXED FOR
JULY 3RD WORLDWIDE!**

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

10-06-2026



Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Token). 18 H

World Bank lifts India growth outlook despite Gulf war

WASHINGTON (TSIT) :

India will remain the world's fastest-growing major economy despite the economic shock from the conflict in the Middle East, with the World Bank on Thursday raised its growth forecast for the country even as it cut projections for much of the global economy. In its latest Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank upgraded India's growth forecast for 2026 to 6.6 per cent from its January estimate of 6.5 per cent and raised its 2027 projection to 7.2 per cent from 6.6 per cent, citing stronger-than-expected domestic demand and economic resilience. "India remains the fastest growing large economy in the world," World Bank Deputy Chief Economist Ayhan Kose said during a media briefing on the Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report. Responding to a question from IANS on India's economic performance and the impact of the Gulf crisis, Kose said the upgraded forecast reflected "stronger than expected growth momentum in domestic demand, which so far, more than offsets the adverse impact of the conflict in the Middle East." The World Bank's latest report projects South Asia to remain the fastest-growing region in the world in 2026, although regional growth is expected to slow to 6.3 per cent from 7 per cent in 2025 because of higher energy prices and broader fallout from the conflict.

In a first, all 28 state CMs join NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting

New Delhi, June 11 : In a landmark moment for cooperative federalism, the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog witnessed participation from all 28 States and five Union Territories, with Chief Ministers from every State attending the meeting for the first time since the council's inception.

The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, was held under the theme "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat@2047."

Along with Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators of Union Territories also took part in the deliberations, making it one of the most representative gatherings of the country's federal leadership.

Describing the full participation of States as a significant step towards strengthening cooperative



federalism, PM Modi asserted that the vision of a developed India by 2047 can only be achieved through close collaboration between the Centre and States.

He said the goal of Viksit Bharat must become a collective resolve extending from States and districts to blocks and villages.

The PM also spotlighted India's strong economic performance despite global uncertainties. His thrust was on greater self-reliance and adoption of global best practices, particularly in renewable energy.

The country's demo-

graphic advantage was also emphasised by the Prime Minister. Nearly 70 crore Indians are below the age of 25, and states should convert this demographic dividend into a development dividend through education, skilling and capacity-building initiatives, he remarked. He asked states to leverage the benefits of India's recent trade agreements. He said that they can do so by creating opportunities for youth and MSMEs and attracting investments from partner countries.

PM Modi stressed the

importance of women-led development. In this context, he urged states to help increase the number of Lakhpati Didis from 3 crore to 6 crore.

He stressed the need for states to promote One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives, explore opportunities in defence manufacturing, and strengthen efforts to tackle challenges such as drug abuse and cyber fraud.

The Prime Minister laid emphasis on water conservation, natural farming, district-level monitoring of development indicators, and the need for clear 100-day and five-year targets to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. Stressing the role of good governance and infrastructure in attracting investments, he urged the states to focus on ease of doing business, branding, data centres and artificial intelligence, while equipping citizens with future-ready skills.

3 Indian sailors, initially missing, confirmed dead in US attack on vessel off Oman

New Delhi, June 11 :

Three Indian sailors, who were reportedly missing after the US forces attacked a vessel off the coast of Oman earlier this week, have been confirmed dead in the deadly attacks.

The killing of Indian seafarers was confirmed by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, who called it a "profound loss for India's maritime community".

The minister said that the bodies of all three missing sailors have been recovered. He also informed that steps are being taken to repatriate the bodies of fallen seafarers for their last rites.

"It is deeply unfortunate to learn of the tragic incident aboard the Palau-flagged MT Settebello. Sadly, three Indian seafarers initially reported missing are now confirmed dead after bodies have been located and identified," Sonowal said in a post on X.

Preliminary inputs,



after the attack on the oil vessel, said that 21 Indian sailors were rescued from the ship while three seafarers were reported missing.

The Union Minister described the tragic incident aboard the Palau-flagged MT Settebello as "deeply unfortunate" and said that the government was standing by the bereaved families in this difficult hour. "Modi government stands firmly with the bereaved during this difficult hour and is fully committed to sup-

porting the next of kin. I have directed officials to ensure immediate repatriation of the rescued crew members and swift return of the mortal remains of the deceased for their final rites," he said in the post on X.

The oil tanker had a total crew of 28 members, including 24 Indian nationals and four foreign nationals—two Pakistanis, one Ukrainian, and one Russian—when it came under a US military attack in the Gulf of Oman.

Karnataka: Toddler dies after coconut falls on him while being carried by mother

Udupi (Karnataka), June 11 : In a tragic incident, a one-and-a-half-year-old boy died after a coconut fell from a tree and struck him while he was being carried by his mother in Karnataka's Udupi district, police said on Thursday.

The deceased child has been identified as Daksha, the second son of Prashanth and Suchitra. The incident occurred on Tuesday in Heranjalu village of Chantara in Brahmapur taluk. According to the police, Suchitra was on her way to a school to drop off her six-year-old elder son. She was holding the elder child's hand and carrying Daksha on her shoulder. While Daksha was asleep on her shoulder, a coconut suddenly fell from a tree and struck him on the head, causing severe injuries.

The child was immediately rushed to a hospital in



Manipal with the help of local residents. However, despite efforts to save him, he succumbed to his injuries. The untimely death of the toddler has left the entire village in grief, with residents mourning the tragic loss. The Brahmapur Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.

It may be recalled that in the first week of June, a 3-year-old boy tragically died after he climbed into a parked car's boot while

playing, got locked inside, and suffocated. The incident was reported from Tonasanahalli (S) village of Shahabad taluk in Kalaburagi district.

The deceased, Basavaprabhu, was the only son of Kottureshwara Swami. The pontiff has two daughters. The child, while playing with other children, went into the boot of the car parked in front of the house. Later, the door was locked accidentally. The family members searched for the child for a few hours. Later, they searched the car and its boot after getting suspicious and found the boy dead inside due to suffocation. A 2.5-year-old boy in the Byadarahalli area of Bengaluru drowned after falling into an uncovered water sump while his father was washing a car in March, 2026.

Jaishankar bats for future-ready India-Bulgaria partnership during Sofia visit

Sofia, June 11: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has called for India and Bulgaria to reshape their traditional friendship into a modern, forward-looking partnership, stressing the need to explore new avenues of cooperation in line with evolving global realities.

Addressing engagements during his visit to Bulgaria, Jaishankar said the two countries enjoy warm and longstanding relations and should now work towards building a contemporary partnership focused on future opportunities and shared interests.

The External Affairs Minister held discussions with Bulgarian leaders on



strengthening bilateral ties across a range of sectors, including trade, investment, technology, innovation, defence, mobility, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, space, tourism and

the creative industries.

Highlighting the changing global landscape, Jaishankar noted that both nations have significant potential to deepen cooperation and expand economic engagement. He empha-

sised the importance of leveraging complementary strengths to enhance mutual growth and development.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments and reaffirmed their commitment to closer collaboration on issues of common concern. Jaishankar's visit is part of his official tour of Bulgaria and Finland aimed at further strengthening India's engagement with European partners and exploring new opportunities for cooperation. India and Bulgaria have shared diplomatic relations since 1954, and both countries continue to maintain cordial ties supported by growing economic, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

K'taka CM Urges PM Modi to Act on 15 Long-Pending Projects



BENGALURU (TSIT).

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has written to Prime Minister Modi, demanding urgent central intervention on 15 stalled projects critical for the state's water, infrastructure, and regional development. Shivakumar warned that delays—especially on funds already promised—are hurting farmers, rural local bodies, and the state's economic growth.

KEY DEMANDS INCLUDE:

- Fast-track clearance for the Mekedatu drinking water project.
- Release Rs.5,300 crore for the drought-hit Upper Bhadra project.
- Approve Rs.26,000 crore for Bengaluru's infrastructure and Rs.25,000 crore annually for Kalyana Karnataka under Article 371(O).
- Greenlight the Mumbai-Bengaluru high-speed rail, Bangalore suburban rail, and Satellite Town Ring Road.
- Establish AIIMS Raichur and allocate 40-45 TMC of river water to Karnataka under inter-linking schemes.

Iran targets US defence facilities, announces closing Strait of Hormuz

Tehran, June 11 : The Iranian army said it launched drone attacks against the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain on Thursday morning, adding that communications and radar facilities linked to the fleet's Patriot air-defence system were among the targets.

The US Central Command said its forces conducted additional strikes against multiple Iranian targets earlier Thursday, describing the action as a response to Iran's "unwarranted and continued aggression."

Amid the escalating confrontation, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz to all vessels, including oil tankers and commercial ships. Iranian authorities said the measure was necessary due to



security risks posed by ongoing military tensions in the region, Xinhua news agency reported. Iranian military officials warned that vessels attempting to transit the strategic waterway could be targeted. The latest exchange of attacks came despite reports that Tehran and Washington had recently explored possible peace proposals through Pakistani mediation in an effort to end the conflict.

Iran also rejected US President Donald Trump's claim of having held a phone conversation with Iranian officials, calling it a "cover" to escape war.

Kerala to launch free KSRTC bus travel for women from Monday

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 11: The Kerala government's free bus travel scheme for women in the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will be rolled out from Monday, with the benefit initially limited to ordinary bus services operated by the state-run transport corporation.

The scheme, named Priyadarshini, was one of the five "Indira Guarantees" promised by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) during the Assembly election campaign. It will be available to all women and transgender persons without any age restriction.

Announcing the decision, Chief Minister V D Satheesan said the scheme would be implemented in phases and would mark the first such initiative in Kerala. "This is the first time such a scheme is being introduced in



Kerala. It is expected to result in a revenue loss of Rs 65-70 crore per month, or Rs 750-800 crore annually, for KSRTC. The government will compensate the corporation for the loss," he said. Satheesan said the second phase of the programme would be considered after reviewing KSRTC's financial health.

"The scheme will be reviewed every month. There is a shortage of ordinary KSRTC buses in north Kerala, and steps will be taken to address it. District-wise data on women passengers using ordinary services will

also be analysed before future decisions are taken," he added. The scheme comes at a time when KSRTC continues to rely heavily on government support. Official figures show that the state spends around Rs 1,500 crore annually towards salaries of nearly 22,000 employees and pensions for about 40,000 retirees. Despite the assistance, the transport corporation remains financially strained and is unable to fully meet its operational expenses through revenue generated from services.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Baraik resigns amid party turmoil

Kolkata, Jun 11: In another setback for All India Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Chik Baraik resigned from the Upper House on Thursday, becoming the third party MP to quit in recent days. Baraik's resignation was accepted by Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan. In his resignation letter, Baraik thanked the Chair and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for their cooperation during his tenure. "Respected Sir, I do hereby resign from the membership of Rajya Sabha, which may please be accepted with immediate effect. I convey my sincere gratitude to your Excellency, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman and all functionaries of Rajya Sabha Secretariat extending all help and cooperation during my tenure as a Member of the Rajya Sabha," he wrote.

Farooq Abdullah urges PM Modi to fulfil promise on J&K Statehood restoration

Srinagar, Jun 10: National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday reiterated his appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour his commitment regarding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing party workers in Srinagar, Farooq Abdullah said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has repeatedly taken up the issue with the Prime Minister and has been given assurances that statehood would be restored.

He emphasized that the demand for reinstating statehood remains a core concern for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. According to him, the assurance made by the country's leadership had raised expectations that the long-pending demand would eventually be fulfilled. Farooq Abdullah stated that the issue had been directly discussed between Omar Abdullah



and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on multiple occasions, with assurances reportedly given regarding its restoration. He added that the promise had been

made publicly before the nation and the international community.

He further said that the people of the Union Territory continue to await the return of full

statehood and expressed hope that the process would not face further delays.

In parallel, National Conference legislators have decided to stage a

protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi during the first day of the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, demanding the restoration of statehood along with constitutional safeguards for Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar Abdullah has also reached out to opposition parties, including the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Congress, and other like-minded groups, urging them to join the demonstration.

Meanwhile, estranged National Conference leader and Member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has indicated that he will participate in the protest but maintained that the restoration of Article 370 should remain the central demand of the party.

The renewed political push comes amid continuing debate over the constitutional and administrative future of Jammu and Kashmir, with regional leaders pressing for clarity and timelines on statehood restoration.

Jhansi Reddy's Continuous Engagement Strengthens Congress Cadre

Hyderabad TSIT: TPCC Vice President and Palakurthy Congress constituency in-charge, Hanumandla Jhansi Reddy, has emerged as a leader known for her constant interaction with party workers and grassroots activists across the constituency. Through regular meetings, village visits, review sessions and direct communication, she has been maintaining close contact with Congress cadres and addressing their concerns on a priority basis.

Party workers say Jhansi Reddy remains accessible to leaders and activists from every mandal and village, encouraging them to actively participate in government welfare programmes and organizational activities. Her efforts have helped strengthen coordination between the party leadership and grassroots workers, ensuring that local issues are promptly brought to the attention of the government and party leadership.



Over the past several months, she has conducted a series of interactions with Congress workers, women's groups, youth leaders and local representatives to review developmental needs and discuss strategies for expanding the party's presence in the constituency. She has consistently emphasized the importance of unity, discipline and public service among party cadres.

Congress activists in Palakurthy credit Jhansi Reddy's leadership style for creating enthusiasm among workers and strengthening the party organization at the booth

level. Her practice of personally listening to workers' grievances and recognizing their contributions has earned her goodwill among party ranks.

Apart from organizational activities, Jhansi Reddy has also been encouraging youth empowerment initiatives, employment awareness programmes and community outreach activities. Local leaders believe that her active involvement and continuous engagement with karyakartas have played a key role in keeping the Congress party connected with the people of Palakurthy.

HMDA reschedules Hakeempet land e-auction

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has revised the schedule for the e-auction of a prime land parcel at Hakeempet in Hyderabad due to administrative reasons.

The e-auction pertains to the sale of a land parcel measuring

Ac. 8.24 guntas situated in Survey No. 102/1, T.S. Nos. 1/P and 3/P of Hakeempet Village, Shaikpet Mandal, Hyderabad District.

According to HMDA, the pre-bid meeting and e-auction, which were earlier scheduled for June 12, 2026 and June 19, 2026, respectively, have been rescheduled.

The pre-bid meeting

will now be held on June 19, 2026, while the e-auction is scheduled for July 2, 2026. HMDA has requested all prospective bidders, delegates, and stakeholders to take note of the revised dates and make necessary arrangements accordingly. The authority stated that the schedule revision was made due to administrative reasons.

Dr Raghu Ram achieves third Guinness World Records title in 15 months

Hyderabad, 11 June 2026: In a landmark convergence of healthcare, artificial intelligence and immersive technology, Dr P. Raghu Ram, the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation and the KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases today jointly secured a Guinness World Records title for hosting the "Largest Audience at an Interactive AI-Enabled Holographic Health Awareness Lecture". The achievement marks Dr Raghu Ram's third Guinness World Records title in 15 months, and underscores his continuing commitment to advancing public health education through innovation. The event featured the AI-generated holographic educator of Dr P. Raghu Ram, delivering a 30-minute breast health awareness lecture followed by a 30-minute multilingual interactive question-and-answer session. The AI-enabled holographic educator provided evidence-based information on both benign breast conditions and breast cancer and responded to audience questions in English, Hindi Telugu and Tamil. The Guinness World Records title was awarded under a newly created category recognising innovation in AI-enabled holographic health education. Designed to improve breast health literacy, reduce fear and stigma, encourage timely medical consultation and make reliable health information more accessible, the initiative demonstrated the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and immer-



sive communication technologies in advancing public health awareness. The occasion also marked the launch of NARI (National Awareness & Resource Initiative for Breast Health). An AI-enabled digital breast health educator (Avatar) of Dr Raghu Ram has been designed and programmed to provide round-the-clock access through a dedicated link to reliable, evidence-based information in multiple languages on breast health, breast cancer, breast screening and early detection. Developed with robust clinical and ethical guardrails, NARI has been created to ensure safe, responsible and compassionate

educational interactions while expanding access to credible breast health information across urban and rural communities alike. The platform enables users to ask questions and receive educational guidance in multiple Indian languages, helping bridge important gaps in breast health awareness and access to information. The event was graced by Dr Abhijat Sheth, Chairman, National Medical Commission, as Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering he said "I congratulate Dr Raghu Ram on this remarkable Guinness World Records achievement. What is particularly noteworthy is that this is not

merely a record, but a public health innovation with the potential to benefit countless individuals. I understand that this is the third Guinness World Records title secured by Dr Raghu Ram within a span of just 15 months. That is an extraordinary achievement by any standard, with each achievement being driven by a larger purpose—to advance healthcare education, awareness and public engagement.

The launch of NARI represents an important step towards making reliable breast health information accessible to people across India through the responsible use of technology and artificial intelligence. Initiatives such as these have the potential to significantly strengthen health literacy and empower individuals to make informed healthcare decisions. "Highlighting salient aspects about today's initiative, Dr P. Raghu Ram, Founder & Chairman, Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation and Founding Director, KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases said "I dedicate this recognition to my late mother, Dr Ushalakshmi, a distinguished gynaecologist and breast cancer 'conqueror' whose strength, compassion and dedication to women's health inspired the creation of the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation. Her journey taught us that awareness, early detection and hope can save lives. This recognition is a tribute to her enduring legacy and to every woman whose life

has been touched by breast cancer. Our objective is simple—to democratise access to credible breast health information, reduce fear and stigma, encourage early detection and empower women through knowledge and awareness. The Guinness World Records achievement is not an end in itself. Rather, it serves as a platform to draw attention to an important public health message and to the potential of technology in making reliable health information accessible to people regardless of geography, language or socioeconomic background."

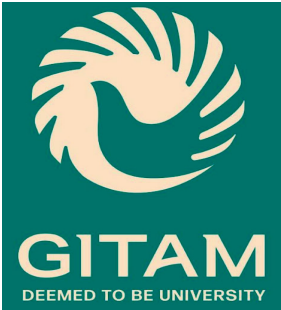
Expressing his profound happiness about this remarkable achievement, Dr Bhaskar Rao Chairman, KIMS group of Hospitals said "Our Institute is proud to support pioneering initiatives that combine innovation, technology and healthcare for meaningful social impact. For nearly two decades, Dr Raghu Ram has championed several transformative breast health awareness initiatives aimed at improving early detection and public education in India. This latest endeavour demonstrates how artificial intelligence can be leveraged responsibly to improve health education and public engagement at scale. When Raghu Ram undertakes something, he does it with complete commitment and dedication, and this achievement is yet another example that visibly demonstrates his passion for using innovation to improve people's lives."

GITAM launches research mentoring initiative

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University has launched the Research Excellence Through Mentoring initiative to strengthen research capabilities and promote academic excellence across its campuses.

According to a press release issued by Dr. Manjula Rao, Director – Strategic Initiatives, the programme aims to enhance research skills through expert mentorship and knowledge-sharing sessions.

The inaugural online lecture under the initiative will be held on June 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM IST on the theme "Medical Technology and Interdisciplinary Healthcare Innovation." The session will be delivered by Dr. Hyndavi Balla



from the Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, GITAM, and moderated by Dr. Dhruva Chowdhury.

The lecture will focus on the integration of medicine, dentistry, biomedical engineering, artificial intelligence, and digital health technologies. It will also cover key aspects of conducting clinically relevant research, including ethical approvals, clinical validation, regulatory

pathways, documentation, and compliance requirements.

GITAM has invited research faculty, postdoctoral scholars, Ph.D. scholars, and aspiring researchers to participate and benefit from the expertise shared during the session.

The initiative was conceptualized earlier this year under the guidance of Professor Sunita Ho of the University of California, San Francisco. During her visit to GITAM in May, she conducted a Research and Mentoring Retreat that laid the foundation for the mentorship-driven programme.

The university expects the initiative to encourage collaborative, interdisciplinary, and impactful research across all its campuses.

Graduation Cum Farewell Day 2026 Celebrated at Sir MVIT and SMVSA

Bengaluru : Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (Sir MVIT) and Sir M. V. School of Architecture (SMVSA), under the aegis of Sri Krishnadevaraya Educational Trust (Sri KET), celebrated the Graduation Cum Farewell Day 2026 at the Sir MVIT Campus, Bengaluru.

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. M. N. Thippeswamy highlighted the achievements of the graduating batch. Following the Graduation Oath, degrees were conferred upon 1,036 graduates, comprising 865 undergraduate students, 4 Bachelor of Architecture students, 13 M.Tech students, 79 MBA students, and 75 MCA students. The institution also recognized academic



excellence by honouring 26 University Rank Holders at the undergraduate level and 11 at the postgraduate level.

Delivering the Graduation Day Address, Dr. K. N. Satyanarayana emphasized the importance of lifelong learning in an era of rapid technological advancement. He challenged the graduates to assess their readiness for the opportunities and

challenges that lie beyond the classroom. Stressing the importance of skill development, he cited the semiconductor industry's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted how India had to recruit engineers from Taiwan due to a shortage of specialized talent. He urged graduates to continuously upgrade their technical competencies,

strengthen their communication skills, and prepare for emerging interdisciplinary career opportunities. He encouraged them to make the future both bright and meaningful through innovation, adaptability, and commitment to excellence. In his presidential remarks, V. Srinivasa Raju encouraged graduates to dream big and work together to transform aspirations into reality. A special segment of the programme featured reminiscences by graduating students, making the occasion both memorable and inspiring. The ceremony concluded on a note of pride and optimism, celebrating the accomplishments of the graduates as they embarked on their professional journeys.

Three-day "Mega Food Expo 2026" kicks off at BIEC

SMART KITCHEN TECHNOLOGY, DIGITAL SERVICES SHOWCASE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOSPITALITY SECTOR:

Bengaluru : The three-day "Mega Food Expo 2026" covering five major sectors including food, hospitality, poultry, dairy farming began today at the city's International Exhibition Centre [BIEC], with over 90 companies participating. It acts as a bridge between farmers, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and consumers. The fair is special in that it covers the entire value chain from food production to processing, packaging, storage, transportation and marketing.

Bangalore Hotel Management Board Honorary President P.C. Rao inaugurated the fair and said that special stalls have been opened on spices, fruit and vege-



table processing technologies and export opportunities. Domestic and international companies are showcasing their cutting-edge products. This fair is complementary to the growth of the food industry. The exhibition of cooking equipment, refrigeration systems, smart kitchen technologies and digital services

required by the hotel, catering and tourism sector is opening up new business opportunities for the hospitality sector, he said.

Mohammad Mudassar, Manager of Media Day Marketing, said that the three-day exhibition will feature trade meetings, buyer-seller interactions, investor conferences and

technical workshops. This will provide new market and partnership opportunities for small and medium industries. He said that Karnataka, which has a leading position in agriculture and food processing, will benefit from new investment, job creation and export growth.

Peenya Industrial Association President Danappa, Karnataka Progressive Dairy Farmers Association President B.J. Prithvi Gowda, Ferry President Ramesh Shivanna, K.R., Secretary A.C. Easwar, Auto Dealers Association President V.K. Venkatesh, Kreshma Secretary A.C. Easwar and others were present.

EDITORIAL

Why India Appointed A Non-Muslim Ambassador To Saudi Arabia, For First Time Ever

The appointment of Mr Vipul as the new Indian ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a historic shift in India's diplomatic strategy. It breaks the established convention since 1948 of sending a Muslim ambassador to the country. In this regard, Vipul is the first non-Muslim Indian diplomat in Saudi Arabia. His appointment is significant not just from a geopolitical lens but also for the underlying signalling.

Geopolitically, Saudi Arabia matters to India for reasons that extend far beyond the traditional lens of oil and expatriate labour. Riyadh today occupies one of the most important positions in India's diplomatic landscape. It is a critical energy partner, a leading political actor in the Gulf, the custodian of Islam's two holiest sites, and an increasingly influential economic hub. Under its Vision 2030 transformation agenda, Saudi Arabia has emerged as a centre where investment, technology, infrastructure, culture, and geopolitics intersect, creating new opportunities and strategic considerations for countries such as India. In this backdrop, the appointment of Mr Vipul is a wise choice. A career diplomat from the 1998 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, he brings extensive experience in the Gulf and the wider region, having served in Cairo, Colombo, Geneva, and Dubai, and most recently as India's ambassador to Qatar. His appointment reflects expertise, seniority, and familiarity with a strategically vital region rather than any departure from diplomatic meritocracy.

However, more than his professional credentials, it's the fact that he's the first non-Muslim diplomat to head the mission in Riyadh since diplomatic relations between the two countries were established that has gained more attention. In a highly polarised environment, the risk lies less in the appointment itself than in the narratives that may be constructed around it. Since the late 1940s, New Delhi had exclusively selected senior Muslim diplomats for the ambassadorial role in Riyadh and the consul general position in Jeddah. This practice was primarily rooted in logistics; the Indian mission in Saudi Arabia plays a massive role in coordinating the annual Hajj pilgrimage, which sees hundreds of thousands of Indian Muslims travel to Islam's holiest sites. India sends the second-largest Hajj contingent to Saudi Arabia after Indonesia - 1,75,000 is the official Hajj quota. With such a huge number of Indians coming in for Hajj, the role of the consul general in Jeddah and the ambassador in Riyadh becomes crucial in terms of coordination with Saudi authorities. According to senior diplomats posted earlier in the region, the coordination and management of Hajj often requires the ambassador's presence in Mecca and Medina, Jamarat for coordination, as the Saudi management also shifts to these areas. Since a non-Muslim is not allowed in the area where the Hajj pilgrimage is performed, the management of the pilgrimage may be adversely affected if the ambassador cannot be in the area. An example is the fire tragedy in the tent city of Mina in 1997, in which hundreds of Indians died, and the then ambassador, Hamid Ansari, rushed to the site of the tragedy for coordination with higher Saudi authorities.

America Has Never, Ever Looked This Humiliated: The Story Of A Superpower's Fall

Iran on Tuesday shot down a US Apache helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz, prompting Trump to say that America must, out of necessity, respond to the attack. His statement on Truth Social suggests caution rather than a boast about America's power and dominance, which he is more accustomed to. He had shown similar caution last weekend after Iran fired missiles at Israel, threatening both the precarious ceasefire and the deal Washington and Tehran have been negotiating to end the war. Trump pleaded with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, not to strike back at Iran. But the latter simply ignored him. This is the new reality 100 days after Trump joined Netanyahu's war against Iran. The leader of the so-called free world looks weak and humbled, and the power of the United States appears to have reached its limits, at least in West Asia.

Before the war, it was inconceivable that Iran would threaten Israel over its actions in Lebanon and then carry out that threat without fear of a US response. Iran's policy had been what it called "strategic patience". But its new leadership seems to believe that restraint is a sign of weakness. The cautious Ayatollah Khamenei, under whose leadership the policy of restraint was last seen during the 12-day war in 2025, is no longer alive. His son, Mojtaba, the new leader, has given full backing to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) for an uncompromising, tough approach. A week ago, Tehran warned Israel of missile strikes if it continued bombing Lebanon, particularly if the southern outskirts of the capital, Beirut, were attacked. These areas are the stronghold of Iran's proxy group, Hezbollah. That came after Netanyahu ordered these areas to be bombed. An angry Trump called Netanyahu, shouting, "What the f-- are you doing?" "You're f--ing crazy," Netanyahu paused the attacks, but only for a week. On Sunday, when Israel bombed the Beirut suburbs, Iran responded as it had promised. Defying Trump's pleas, Israel not only struck Iran in retaliation but also targeted one of its petrochemical complexes, threatening further escalation. Later, both called off further strikes at each other.



Sabotaged By A Friend!

Trump is desperate to end the war, which has become deeply unpopular in the United States. But he is worried that Netanyahu's actions could jeopardise ongoing negotiations with Iran. The Israeli leader, on the other hand, wants to resume the war. Netanyahu fears that Trump might be conceding too much to Tehran. Iran's use of the Strait of Hormuz as a chokepoint has shifted the focus from the nuclear programme to the reopening of the narrow waterways, alarming Israelis.

There is supposed to be a ceasefire in Lebanon, but Israel has not halted strikes on Hezbollah targets. The militant group has also been launching missiles at Israel. The Israeli military has killed more than 3,600 people, mostly Shia Muslims, since the war began in March and has displaced one-fifth of the population. Israel has advanced much deeper into Lebanon, occupying large parts of its territory. This has enraged Iran, hardening its stance in negotiations with the United States. As Tehran's latest military action in Lebanon shows, it is committed to backing its ally Hezbollah. Israel is well aware of that. Its military operations in Lebanon appear to be trying to sabotage a deal with Iran, despite Trump's repeated calls to Netanyahu for restraint.

Why Can't Trump Rein in Netanyahu?

Iran views Israel's behaviour in Lebanon as a test of Trump's power and his willingness to use it. Apart from angry telephone calls, Trump has not really used the leverage the US has over Israel to contain Netanyahu. Israel receives the largest amount of aid from the United States; no country is even close. In addition to \$3.8 billion annually, Israel has received billions more from the US in recent years. After the Hamas attack on Israel in 2023, the US Congress passed a law to provide \$10.6 billion in direct military aid to the Jewish state. Soon after he started his second term, Trump proposed an \$8 billion aid package for Israel, and this January, his government announced \$6.5 billion in weapons aid. Without this help, Israel can't carry out its military operations. Thus, Trump has options - if he is willing to use them. The aid has continued despite declining support for Israel among the US population. In April, the Pew Research Center reported that 60% of Americans now hold a negative view of Israel, an increase of nearly 20 percentage points from two years ago.

However, the Israeli lobby remains highly influential in the US. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) directly con-

tributes to US politicians' election funds. Netanyahu personally lobbies the American media and US lawmakers, especially those from Trump's Republican Party. Therefore, it's not easy for any American politician to rein in the Israeli leader. Even Trump finds it difficult to curb Netanyahu's actions.

All The Wrong Choices

Trump may feel betrayed by Netanyahu, but he is also responsible for the situation. His actions in favour of Israel and Netanyahu over the years have made him and the US deeply unpopular in West Asia and have damaged America's credibility. During his first term, he moved the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a city claimed by both Israelis and Palestinians. He allowed Netanyahu to expand Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, an illegal and unpopular move internationally. Trump has worked hard to make Israel acceptable to Arab governments through the Abraham Accords, though people in these countries remain opposed to the decision. In February, US Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, a Trump appointee, angered the Arab world by suggesting that Israel has a right to much of the Middle East. Trump was the first and only US president in four decades whom the

Israelis, under Netanyahu, have managed to persuade to join the war against Iran. He is also the one at whose behest Trump pulled America out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and started the 12-day war with Iran last year, while the US was negotiating a new agreement with the country, and again this year. It was Netanyahu who ordered the targeted killing of Ayatollah Khamenei and most of Iran's other leaders early in the war, many of whom would have shown more flexibility on a deal, perhaps on US terms. These actions explain why Iranians don't trust the US with a new agreement.

It was also Netanyahu who prolonged the Gaza war, which has killed more than 72,000 people. Trump backed Netanyahu even after the World Court issued arrest warrants for him over war crimes in Gaza. Last year, Israel attacked a meeting of Hamas negotiators in Qatar, a close US ally, during Gaza negotiations, embarrassing the president. With Qatar's help, Trump negotiated a deal to end the Gaza war, but Israel has not stopped its military action against Palestinians there, creating mistrust not only of Israel but also of America. Since the Gaza accord was signed, nearly 900 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory. Trump's decision to join Israel in the war against Iran has weakened the US the most. While Iran is now more powerful than ever, support for America in West Asia is now at a level not seen since the Arab-Israeli war in 1973. Trump is widely seen as a leader who cares only about Israel. A survey by the Arab Barometer, a research group in West Asia, conducted after the 12-day war in 2025, found that people in the region had lost nearly all confidence in a US-led regional order. Instead, they now regard China, Iran, and Russia more favourably than the United States. Making America Weak Again

America's position was not this weak until recently; in fact, it was riding high. The fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime in December 2024 was a major setback for Russia and Iran. Moscow was struggling in Ukraine, and China was concerned about the US's motives in the Indo-Pacific. In January, the removal of Venezuela's president, Nicholas Maduro, an ally of Beijing and Moscow.

(LATE CHILDBEARING, EARLY WORRIES?)

THE FUTURE OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN AFTER FIFTY

— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Science has provided human life with numerous conveniences and possibilities. Advances in medical science have opened the way to parenthood for couples who, for whatever reason, were unable to conceive naturally. Technologies like IVF (in vitro fertilization) have blessed thousands of families with the joy of having children. This is undoubtedly a major achievement of modern medicine. But every achievement comes with certain questions and responsibilities. Today, when some couples, at the age of 50-52 or even older, sometimes by taking on debt, decide to become parents through IVF, it becomes necessary to seriously consider this issue. The desire for children is one of the most natural and deepest human emotions. Every person wants a family, a home filled with the laughter of children, and a new direction in life. This desire drives many couples to undergo years of treatment and endure financial and mental struggles. Their feelings should be respected. But parenthood isn't limited to the birth of a child. The real responsibility begins after that. Giving birth to a child is relatively easy, but raising them to be responsible, educated, and self-reliant citizens is a long and challenging process. When a couple becomes parents in their 50s, it's natural that by the time a child reaches 12th grade, the parents will be between 68 and 70 years old. This is the stage of

life when most people expect a comfortable life after retirement. Many changes occur in the body with aging. High blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid, heart disease, arthritis, and other health problems become common. In such circumstances, it's difficult to maintain the same level of activeness as before to support a child's academic, career, and emotional needs. Adolescence and young adulthood are the most crucial times in a child's life. During this period, they need the most guidance, confidence, and emotional support. Preparing for competitive exams, choosing higher education, career planning, and many other life-related decisions are made during this age. If parents themselves are struggling with health issues at this time, it can put additional pressure on both the child and the family. Often, children must juggle their studies and future plans, as well as the responsibility of caring for their parents. There's also a social aspect to this topic. Children are surrounded by friends and classmates at school and at social events. Sometimes, having older parents can lead to unwanted comments or jokes. While this reflects social immaturity, it can still have an impact on a child's psyche. Children often want to feel comfortable and accepted among their peers. Such situations can sometimes impact their self-confidence. Delaying parenthood also presents numerous financial challenges. IVF treatments can cost lakhs of rupees. Many families

exhaust their savings or take out loans to fund them. This is followed by ongoing expenses for the child's upbringing, education, health, and other needs. Today, obtaining a quality education is more expensive than ever before. If parents are already under financial pressure and nearing retirement, it may be difficult to secure adequate resources for their child's higher education and career development. This topic becomes even more important in the context of women. Nature has set a biological time limit for reproduction. Menopause signals that the body has reached the end of its reproductive lifespan. Modern medical technologies can extend this limit somewhat, but they cannot eliminate all the challenges associated with aging. Older women carry increased health risks during pregnancy and childbirth, which cannot be ignored. However, it's important to maintain balance when discussing this topic. It's unfair to assume that everyone who becomes a parent at an older age will become a problem for their children. Many people are perfectly healthy, active, and financially capable even at age 60. At the same time, many young parents are unable to devote adequate time and resources to their children. Therefore, a decision shouldn't be evaluated solely on the basis of age. However, considering average circumstances, age is certainly an important factor that cannot be ignored. In this context, adoption is also a worthwhile option. There are

thousands of children in our country who, for whatever reason, are deprived of parental love and protection. If capable families adopt them, not only can their futures be secured, but families can also experience the joy of having children. Unfortunately, even today, society places greater importance on biological children, which is why many people don't seriously consider a positive option like adoption. In reality, becoming a parent isn't just about fulfilling one's own desires. It means actively participating in a child's life for the next twenty to twenty-five years, supporting their dreams and standing by them through every circumstance. Therefore, when deciding to have children, one should consider not only present happiness but also future responsibilities. Emotions are important, but foresight is equally essential. Ultimately, the question isn't about IVF or medical science. The question is whether we're adequately considering the long-term consequences of our decisions. Having children is one of life's greatest joys, but it's also a huge responsibility. Therefore, before deciding to delay parenthood, it's essential to consider health, financial status, social circumstances, and, above all, the child's future. The best interests of a child should be the basis for every decision. This is the hallmark of mature parenthood. — Dr. Priyanka Saurabh (Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Punjab And Its Discontents: How The Akali Factions Are Faring

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is one of India's oldest regional parties, founded in 1920 and almost as old as the RSS. For over a century, it has been deeply connected with Punjab's political, religious and social history. In contrast to many regional parties that emerged around personalities or electoral issues, SAD was born out of a mass movement and built its legitimacy through struggle and sacrifice. The party played a historic role in the Gurudwara Reform Movement, participated in the freedom struggle, led the Punjabi Suba agitation, and emerged as the principal political voice of Sikh aspirations. During the Emergency, Akali leaders were among the strongest defenders of democratic rights. For decades, SAD positioned itself as the champion of Punjab's federal rights, Sikh interests, and farmers' concerns, giving it a stature far beyond electoral politics. Electorally, SAD has been one of Punjab's most successful parties, forming governments multiple times and producing towering leaders such as Parkash Singh Badal, Gurcharan Singh Tohra, etc. Its long alliance with the BJP has often been cited as a successful model of Hindu-Sikh camaraderie and social harmony after the turmoil of the 80s. Together, the alliance dominated Punjab politics for nearly two decades. However, since 2015, the party has witnessed a dramatic decline. A number of reasons were behind this decline. Akali Dal's electoral success was based upon pragmatism and ruthless use of money and power, which led to a number of mafias - land, sand, transport, drugs, cable - dominating the party. Ideology and the old Jathedar base of the party was jettisoned for family, "Halqa incharges", and new "moneybags". Controversies like Beadabi, farm laws and Article 370 ensured that the Akalis alienated their core votebank of Sikhs and peasants. Meanwhile, new ascendant social forces - youth, NRIs, unemployed, influencers; new social movements - farmers and Panthic and new political outfits - PPP, AAP, using new digital technologies, prospered at the



expense of Akalis, painting them as the real villains of Punjab and holding them responsible for all its ills. At the same time, demographic changes - such as outmigration of the core Akali vote bank of Jatt Sikhs - also hurt the Akali Dal the most. All this ensured the dramatic decline of the Akali Dal as an electoral force. Its votebank has crashed from 35% to 13%, and its seat share in the state assembly has declined from 58 to three since 2012. It reached a nadir in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when it lost deposits on 10 of 13 seats and secured just 13.42% votes. Along with electoral decline, Akali Dal has to face a prolonged period of ideological confusion as it veered from one extreme - battling Bandi Singhs and Rajoana in elections to another, like supporting Article 370 move and farm reforms. Electoral defeats were also accompanied by a challenge to Sukhbir's leadership from disgruntled Akalis - Dhindsa, Chandumajara, Jagir Kaur and from Jathedars along with resentment among the religious over the "Beadabi" issue. One of the most significant results of the decline of the Shiromani Akali Dal over the last decade has been the fragmentation of Punjab's Panthic political space. What was once largely monopolised by a single party is today contested by four

distinct formations-Akali Dal (Badal), Waris Punjab De, Akali Dal (Mann), and the various rebel Akali factions often described as Akali Dal Punar Surjit. Each seeks to position itself as the authentic voice of Panth and Punjab, but each carries its own strengths and limitations. Despite its dramatic decline, the Akali Dal under Sukhbir Badal remains the largest and most organised Panthic force. Its greatest strengths are its century-old legacy, extensive organisational network, Sukhbir Badal's leadership, financial resources, and deep roots in rural Punjab. It remains the only Panthic outfit with a proven record of governance and state-wide presence. Moreover, the party has shown signs of revival by its improved showings in bypolls and local elections in the last year. The party has held a series of rallies recently to bolster its support. It remains strong in the rural Malwa heartland and parts of Majha. However, its weaknesses are equally apparent. Akali Dal continues to suffer from a severe credibility deficit arising from the Beadabi, drug charges, alleged mafia links and pressure from "neo panthics". The ruling AAP continues to poach Akali leaders. Youngsters remain suspicious of its intentions and unconvinced by its attempts at reinvention.

Centre waives excise duty on petrol with up to 30 pc ethanol

New Delhi: The Union government has exempted petrol blended with higher levels of ethanol from excise duty, including fuel variants containing 22 per cent, 25 per cent, 27 per cent and 30 per cent ethanol, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance on Thursday, June 11. As per the notification, excise duty has been set at nil for ethanol-blended motor spirit conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards specifications, covering blends where ethanol content ranges from 22 per cent to 30 per cent by volume. The exemption has been granted under Section 5A of the Central Excise Act, 1944, it said. The revised structure includes E22, E25, E27 and E30 petrol, defined as mixtures of motor spirit (petrol) and ethanol in specified proportions, with applicable central, state, Union Territory or integrated taxes on ethanol and duty-paid petrol components. The amendment follows India's push to expand ethanol blending in petrol as part of its broader biofuel policy aimed at reducing crude oil imports and pro-



moting domestic renewable fuel usage. The government has steadily increased ethanol blending levels in petrol in recent years, supported by policy changes under the National Policy on Biofuels and corresponding targets advanced to 2025-26. Share of ethanol in petrol rises to 10 per cent: Union minister In a separate development, the government recently launched E85 fuel for compatible flex-fuel vehicles. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has highlighted India's progress in ethanol blend-

ing, noting that the share of ethanol in petrol has risen from 1.5 per cent in 2014 to 10 per cent in June 2022, with the 20 per cent blending target achieved ahead of schedule. "From 2014 until now, we have increased ethanol blending from 1.5 per cent to 10 per cent, which was achieved in November 2022. Our target was to achieve 20 per cent blending by 2030, but we completed it in 2024 itself," Puri said. • E25: 25 per cent ethanol and 75 per cent petrol • E27: 27 per cent ethanol and 73 per cent petrol • E30: 30 per cent ethanol

and 70 per cent petrol All four fuel grades will attract a nil rate of excise duty, provided they meet Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specification IS 19850 and the applicable taxes on both petrol and ethanol have already been paid. Bharati Balaji, deputy director general at All India Distillers Association, said: "...For the distilling industry, this is a powerful demand-side signal, it creates a clear commercial pathway to deploy our surplus ethanol production capacity, which currently stands well above E20 programme requirements." Balaji further said that the move will reduce India's crude oil import bill and reinforce the country's energy security at a time when global fuel markets remain deeply volatile. "We urge state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump," she added. **How much ethanol does India produce?** India's ethanol production capacity has grown signifi-

cantly in recent years, driven by government support measures such as interest subsidy programmes and higher blending targets. According to information shared by the government in the Rajya Sabha in October 2024, the country's installed ethanol production capacity is estimated at about 20-21 billion litres per year. In comparison, ethanol demand for the current E20 blending programme is around 10-12 billion litres annually. India's ethanol-blending drive has progressed through a series of policy milestones. In 2022, the government revised the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, bringing forward the goal of achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol to the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26 from the earlier target of 2030. The programme has advanced faster than planned, with state-run oil marketing companies reaching 10 per cent blending in June 2022 - about five months ahead of the ESY 2021-22 target, according to information shared by the petroleum ministry in Parliament in March 2025.

Stock markets drop in early trade on escalating US-Iran tensions

Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early deals on Thursday, June 11, tracking weak trends in global equities and rising crude oil prices amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran. Unabated foreign fund outflows and a spike in US inflation also dented markets' sentiment, according to market analysts. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 358.54 points to 73,624.64 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 117 points to 23,098.30. From the 30-Sensex firms, HCL Tech, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal and Trent were among the laggards. Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and InterGlobe Aviation were among the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.70 per cent higher at USD 94.68 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,124.98 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. "Fresh military action by the United States against Iranian targets has reignited concerns over the stability of the Middle East, raising fears that recent diplomatic efforts may be losing momentum and increasing the risk of a broader region-



al conflict," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. Adding to the cautious mood, the latest US inflation data, while broadly in line with market expectations, showed consumer prices rising to their highest level in three years, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower. US markets ended significantly lower on Wednesday. "Wall Street witnessed a sharp correction overnight, with the Dow Jones falling over 950 points. The weakness was broad-based as investors moved away from risk

assets amid fears that escalating geopolitical tensions could disrupt energy markets and keep inflationary pressures elevated," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said. Asian markets are reflecting a similar sentiment this morning, he said. "For Indian markets, the biggest concern remains crude oil. Rising oil prices not only threaten India's inflation trajectory but also add pressure on the fiscal balance, corporate margins and the rupee," Hariprasad added. On Wednesday, the Sensex trimmed most of its intraday gains during the fag-end of trading and settled 64.42 points, or 0.09 per cent, higher at 73,983.18.

HYDRAA protects 15 acre govt land worth 3,000 cr after HC verdict

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has completed fencing around 15 acre government land valued at Rs 3,000 crore in Khanamet village of Serilingampally mandal of Rangareddy district on Wednesday, June 10. As per the request of the Revenue Department acting on the Telangana High Court's orders to secure the land, HYDRAA fenced the land and put up boards stating that the land was under the protection of HYDRAA. Ittina Properties Private Limited, a Bengaluru based real estate firm has been claiming that the land falling under Survey Numbers 41/12, 13 and 14 in Khanamet village belonged to it, despite the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Limited (TGIIC) had sent a notice to the company to vacate the government land. Questioning the notice, Ittina Properties approached the High Court in 2016. Justice Nagesh



Bhimapaka, who recently delivered the verdict in favour of the state government. The revenue officials debunked Ittina Properties' claim that the said land was allotted under the ex-servicemen quota in 1963, and proved with evidence that the title deeds (patta) submitted by the petitioner were fake and fabricated. The petitioner had submitted the revenue documents from Rajendranagar Mandal Revenue Officer

(MRO) office from 1972 and 1973, while the revenue officials proved with evidence that the office was established there only years later in 1978. As per the Record of Rights (ROR) Act, the proceedings for such a revenue transaction would have to be given by a MRO, but Ittina Properties submitted that they were issued under the name of P Narasimha Rao, Record Officer of Serilingampally mandal. The revenue officials were

able to prove that no such person was employed in the department when the fake proceedings were issued. On ascertaining the facts related to the case, the High Court ordered protection of the government land. Ittina Properties Private Limited, had submitted fake revenue documents to the Telangana High Court, claiming that the land in Survey Numbers 41/12, 13 and 14 in Khanamet village belonged to it.

WHO CAN BUY SHARES IN ELON MUSK'S SPACEX?

On Friday for the first time investors will be able to buy and sell shares in Elon Musk's Texas-based SpaceX, a company that is planning to colonise Mars and put artificial intelligence (AI) data centres in space. It is set to be the biggest ever public sale of shares and will make SpaceX one of the US's top 10 largest listed firms. A higher-than-usual proportion of those shares is being made available to individual investors, but its sheer size means many investment funds will end up with a stake in SpaceX too. So for those who invest, what exactly will they be buying and what are the risks? What is happening with SpaceX exactly? SpaceX is currently owned by Musk and other private investors, but they are launching what is known as an initial public offering, or IPO. On Friday, millions of new shares in the company will start trading on the stock market. The IPO aims to raise a vast amount of money - at least \$75bn - and gives



investors the chance to buy into a business whose activities range from space exploration and satellite communication to the social media site X and the controversial AI platform Grok. SpaceX is separate from Musk's most well-known company, the electric car maker Tesla, although it is thought the two may end up merging next year. Musk plans to use the extra money he is raising to expand SpaceX's current activities but also to fund new future ventures: mining asteroids, colonising Mars and putting AI data centres in space. The sci-fi style sales

prospectus says humans must avoid "the same fate as dinosaurs" and plan for an "age of abundance" based in space because the "light of consciousness" will not be tied to a single planet. There is plenty of scepticism about the feasibility of some of these ambitions. But Musk's backers say he has beaten the doubters before. And if the share sale goes ahead as outlined, it could make him a trillionaire. Can anyone buy shares? SpaceX shares will be traded on the New York technology-focused Nasdaq market, and some of the big global investment institutions are

likely to buy shares. But individuals, including in the UK, will also get a chance to apply to buy shares via certain investment platforms and brokers. The shares are allocated according to demand before trading starts. There are more than 550 million shares available, which SpaceX has announced it hopes to sell at \$135 (£100) each. Investors must decide if they think the shares are worth that much. And once they start trading their value could quickly rise or fall depending on whether the wider market thinks that initial price was too low or too high. Even if you do not invest in SpaceX shares directly you may find you have an indirect financial interest if your pension or savings fund manager buys shares as part of their investment strategy, or if you have an index-tracking fund that automatically buys into the biggest firms. That means millions of people will find their money is affected, at least in some small way.

Mike Ashley's Frasers offers £1.73bn to buy all of Hugo Boss

Businessman Mike Ashley's Frasers Group has made a takeover offer for German fashion brand Hugo Boss. The retail group already owns just over a quarter of Hugo Boss, having steadily built up the stake since 2020, but said on Wednesday it wanted to buy the rest of it for 1.98bn (£1.73bn). Hugo Boss said it would "thoroughly examine the offer and issue a reasoned statement". Frasers, formerly known as Sports Direct, owns House of Fraser, Game, Jack Wills, Evans Cycles and many other brands. It is also the largest shareholder in Boohoo but has had a frosty relationship with the firm. Frasers has built a reputation for swooping in to buy retail brands which have fallen into administration, but its gradual increase in ownership of profit-making Hugo Boss over several years is a different approach. Because it has grown its shareholding so much, Frasers is now close to the 30% ownership level that German law requires it to make an offer for the whole



company. The deal would value Hugo Boss at 38 a share, higher than the 36.5 it closed at on Wednesday. Frasers said that it expected the takeover to be completed by the end of this year, providing it passes all the legal checks. Hugo Boss said the "unsolicited" offer had "not been coordinated with the company", adding that it would "inform its shareholders and the public about further developments and next steps". Frasers said on Wednesday that it had "a strong track record in making strategic investments". It said it was "a long-term investor" in Hugo

Boss and that it "remains supportive" of its chair and chief executive. Boohoo for Debenhams It has not had as friendly a relationship with Debenhams, which is still formally named Boohoo. Boohoo bought the Debenhams brand out of administration after Frasers decided against buying it. Last year, Boohoo tried to formally rename itself as Debenhams, but Frasers used its shareholding votes to block the name change. Chief executive Dan Finley told the BBC earlier this week it would "operate to all intents and purposes as Debenhams Group".

KOREA FINES E-COMMERCE GIANT \$400M OVER DATA BREACH AFFECTING MILLIONS

South Korea has hit online retail giant Coupang with a record fine of more than \$400m (£299m) over a massive data breach that exposed the data of more than 30 million customers last year. The fine is the largest ever issued by Seoul's Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) for a data breach. The leak exposed the names, contact and delivery details and order histories of some customers of Coupang, South Korea's largest e-commerce platform often described as its equivalent of Amazon. Coupang told the BBC it "deeply regrets the concern caused" and that it will strengthen its security measures, but added that it planned to challenge the PIPC decision. The number of accounts affected by the incident represents more than half of South Korea's population of around 50 million people. The PIPC on Wednesday announced a 423.6bn won fine over the



personal data breach, and an additional 201bn won for the non-consensual collection of information. The commission found that a lack of safeguards, including poor management of authentication signing keys and access controls, had resulted in the personal data of around 37.5 million users being exposed. Coupang said that its explanations and measures to prevent further harm from

the data breach "were not sufficiently reflected" in the commission's decision. "Upon receiving the official resolution from the PIPC, we expect that the facts will be clearly established through legal procedures," said Coupang. The decision follows a months-long probe into Coupang after allegations of the data leak surfaced in November. The company is based in the US, but the majority of its rev-

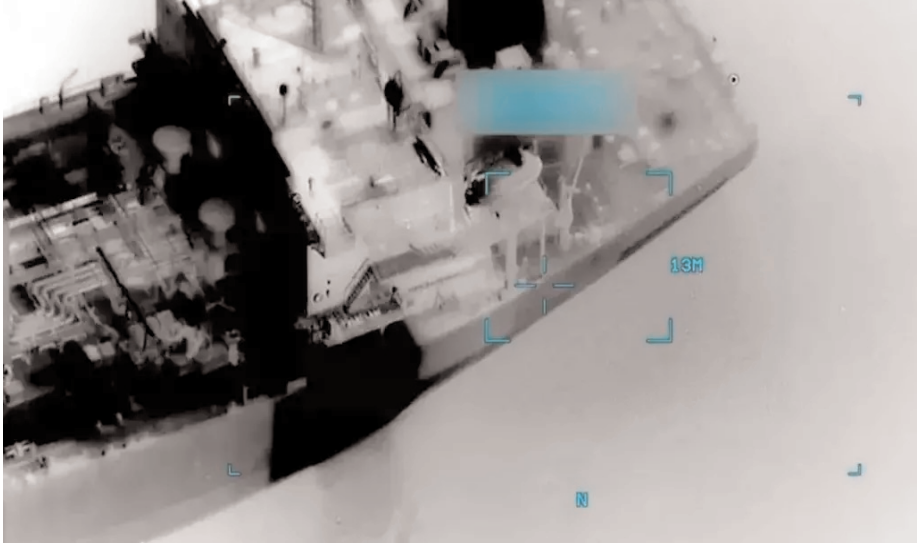
enue comes from South Korea. Coupang told the BBC at the time that it was alerted to a breach involving 4,500 customer accounts in November and immediately reported it to the author-

South Korea has hit online retail giant Coupang with a record fine of more than \$400m (£299m) over a massive data breach that exposed the data of more than 30 million customers last year.

ities. But the company said that later checks found that nearly 34 million customer accounts - all in South Korea - were likely exposed. It added that the breach is believed to have begun as early as June through a server based abroad. Following the breach, Coupang's boss Park Dae-jun resigned from his role, apologising for the incident. The platform's chief administrative officer Harold Rogers was appointed interim CEO. South Korean firms faced a series of high-profile cyber-security incidents last year despite the country's reputation for tight data privacy standards. Its largest mobile operator SK Telecom was fined nearly \$100m over a data breach involving more than 20 million subscribers.

Trump says US will hit Iran 'very hard' tonight, after US attacks third tanker near Oman

Any damage caused by Iran against US allies will be paid for by funds "extracted from Iranian accounts", US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent says. In a post on X, Bessent says any tolls paid to the Persian Gulf Strait Authority - a new body set up by Iran to control the Strait of Hormuz - "will be offset by [Iranian] funds". He continues: "Every attack Iran launches will only deepen the economic and financial consequences it faces." Earlier today, Iran launched a series of attacks against US assets in Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait. This came after a series of US strikes in southern Iran. If the US does decide to invade Kharg Island then it would most likely be a temporary measure intended to put pressure on Iran by cutting off its fuel exports until it relinquished its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz - one of the world's busiest oil shipping lanes - and conceded to Washington's demands. Given the resilience and defiance of



the Iranian regime it is highly questionable whether this would work. Iran is believed to have reinforced its defences on the island, including with surface-to-air missile batteries. In theory, US paratroopers could make an airborne assault, probably at night, to seize key positions on this small island, which measures just 20 sq km (7.7 sq miles).

The US Marines would deploy from ships equipped with Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) for making amphibious landings. But first those ships would have to run the gauntlet of getting through the Iranian-controlled Strait of Hormuz and then sailing all the way up the Gulf past any number of hidden Iranian

drone and missile launch sites. Any landing, by air or sea, would expect to be met with anti-personnel mines and swarms of drones. Such is the awesome fighting power of these Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) that the US force would almost certainly prevail, but it could come at the expense of a severe number of casualties.

The US then has the problem of holding the ground, for an indeterminate period, while subject to bombardment from the Iranian mainland. A negotiating team from Qatar held meetings in the Iranian capital Tehran into the early hours of this morning, according to reports. A Qatari official tells the BBC's US news partner CBS News that the negotiating team has since returned to Doha as diplomatic efforts continue. Qatar has condemned Iranian attacks on Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait, which came after US strikes in Iran. It has served as a mediator between the US and Iran, and called for work towards de-escalation. A spokesman for Pakistan's foreign ministry also told reporters earlier today that the country's interior minister had held "important meetings" with senior leaders in Iran this week. Trump's vow to "take" Kharg Island will reignite the fevered speculation during the war itself that a US ground operation could

be imminent. It will also spark furious denunciations in Tehran. As ever with Trump, it's impossible to know if it's a genuine plan or bluster aimed at bullying his adversaries into capitulation. We do know that the US 82nd Airborne Division remains in the region because US Central Command referenced their involvement in this week's rescue of an Apache helicopter crew. Such an airborne elite infantry unit could be an essential component to any land-based operation. But within a few minutes of his social media post, Trump appeared on Fox News seeming to contradict the more definitive tone of his earlier statement. He said, instead, that his "preference" had always been "to take Kharg Island" which he said could make a "fortune" for the US (meaning in oil revenues), but that he doubted the American people had "the stomach for it" - whilst also saying he "does not want to have to put boots on the ground".

DEADLY SUDAN DRONE STRIKE TARGETS FUNERAL PROCESSION



A drone strike on a funeral procession at a cemetery in the Sudanese city of el-Obeid has killed at least four people and injured several others, two rights groups, Sudan Doctors Network and Emergency Lawyers, have said. Both groups blame the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for the attack. Emergency Lawyers said it was part of a series of drone strikes that started on Wednesday evening in which at least 23 people have died in all. The RSF has not commented. El-Obeid, currently in the hands of the army, is a key battleground in Sudan's three-year civil war which

began after the leaders of the army and RSF fell out over the future direction of the country. The fighting has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis with more than 11 million people forced from their homes and 28 million facing acute hunger. There are no reliable figures for the death toll, but it is thought to be at least 50,000. In addition to the attack on the cemetery, Emergency Lawyers said that drones struck homes in a residential neighbourhood, the airport district and areas surrounding an army base. Thirteen civilians were killed, the group said, as civilians gathered near destroyed houses.

VANCE SAYS ISRAELI PM NETANYAHU 'HAS GOT SOME THINGS WRONG'



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "certainly gotten some things wrong", US Vice-President JD Vance has said, as ties between the two partners in the war against Iran appear to have become strained in recent weeks. While Vance would not provide examples, he told CBS News, the BBC's US partner, that Netanyahu "aggressively asserts the interests of his country" but that they were not always aligned with those of the US. His comments mark a further public admission that relations between the two allies have come under pressure of late. Recently, US President Donald Trump reportedly clashed with the Israeli leader over military action in Lebanon that brought renewed strikes and threatened peace talks with Tehran. The US and Iran exchanged strikes for a second consecutive day overnight, straining a ceasefire between the two nations that has remained in place since April. It came after Trump said Tehran had taken "too long to make a deal" to end the war, though the renewed hostilities were triggered by events in Lebanon, where Israel has continued an operation aimed at the Iranian-backed

armed group Hezbollah. Last week, Trump told an Axios journalist that he had called Netanyahu "effing crazy" in a phone conversation, saying he had been "a little bit perturbed at his constantly fighting with Lebanon". In an interview due to air on Sunday, Vance said: "Prime Minister Netanyahu, look, he governs a country that has obviously been a very close partner of the United States. "But, even when we've been close partners, sometimes we have interests that are perfectly aligned and sometimes we have interests that are misaligned. "And what I've seen with the prime minister is that he aggressively asserts the interests of his country - sometimes that means we're on the same page, sometimes it means we're not." The US vice-president went on to say that it was the job of the Trump administration to focus on what was in America's best interests, "and where that diverges, we - unfortunately for the Israelis - have to choose the side of the American people". Asked for examples of instances in which Netanyahu had got things wrong, Vance said "those conversations sometimes are better left in private".

FOUR DAYS OF EXTREME RAIN KILLED 7% OF WORLD'S RAREST ORANGUTANS, STUDY SAYS



Four days of extreme rain and landslides in the Indonesian island of Sumatra have pushed the world's most endangered great apes even closer to extinction, says a study. Research suggests that 58 of less than 800 critically endangered Tapanuli orangutans, or around 7% of the total species, were killed as a result of the extreme weather event last November. Those are conservative figures, and

do not take into account rain-induced canopy damage or reduced food availability, said the authors of the study published on Wednesday. Cyclone Senyar ravaged Sumatra in late November, killing more than 1,000 people in Southeast Asia's deadliest natural disaster for 2025. The study's findings, said the authors, show that extreme rainfall events can directly threaten the survival of great ape populations.

PENTAGON FLOORS ON LOCKDOWN AFTER 'HAZARDOUS MATERIALS' INCIDENT

Several floors in the Pentagon building have been placed on lockdown following the detection of an "air quality issue", prompting hazardous material (hazmat) response teams to the scene. The building's systems detected an "air quality issue necessitating precautionary measures until we determine its significance," said Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell in a statement. "The Department is executing standard protection protocols, including a shelter-in-place order for the affected area," Parnell said. The Pentagon is being assisted by Arlington Fire & EMS, who posted on social media that they are responding to a hazardous materials incident. Police in the building are wearing gas masks and full chemical protective gear, US media reported. The Pentagon serves as the



US Defence Department's headquarters, with more than 20,000 government employees working in the building. A message sent by the Pentagon's security team said an "air quality issue" had been detected and additional testing is needed. "This additional testing could take one to two hours. Response teams are in place and ready to sup-

port building occupants if necessary. You may observe response personnel from multiple agencies and precautionary measures taking place in the center courtyard. Please do not interpret these activities," the message said. The Pentagon Force Protection Agency's hazardous materials response team responded to the incident with the assis-

tance of the Arlington County Fire Department, according to the department spokesperson Capt. Jamie Jill. A post on social media from the Arlington Fire & EMS said Arlington County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team were operating at the Pentagon "during a hazardous materials incident."

EL NIÑO UNDER WAY AND THREATENS WEATHER EXTREMES, SCIENTISTS SAY

El Niño - the natural Pacific weather pattern that pushes up global temperatures - has officially begun, US scientists say. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has declared that El Niño conditions are now under way in the tropical Pacific, with sea surface temperatures having risen sharply in recent months. Many forecasts suggest this could end up as a so-called "super" El Niño, and even be among the strongest ever recorded. Coming on top of decades of human-caused warming, it could bring another record-hot year - most likely in 2027 - with disruption to weather, food supplies and economies running well into



that year. This announcement by NOAA is not a surprise as forecasters have expected this warming phase, after the cooler "sister" pattern, La Niña, ended earlier this year. Sea surface temperatures in the central and tropical Pacific have now passed the 0.5C-above-average threshold that

US scientists use to define an El Niño event. "El Niño conditions developed over the past month, as shown by above-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central to eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean," the agency said. NOAA has also seen the winds above the equatorial

Pacific begin to shift - a sign that the atmosphere is now responding to the warmer ocean, not just the ocean warming on its own. What has surprised the researchers is how confident the computer models already are about its strength. El Niño's intensity is measured by how far sea surface temperatures rise above average in a key zone of the Pacific. A strong event is defined as more than 1.5C above average; a very strong one above 2C. According to NOAA's June outlook, "there is a 63% chance of a very strong El Niño during November-January, that would rank among the largest El Niño events in the historical record going back to 1950.

Pope Leo visits Canary Islands to highlight perilous journeys of migrants



Bakary Jaiju was 19 when he climbed into a wooden boat in the Gambia and set out for Europe. He would be at sea for seven frightening days as his supplies of food and water gradually ran out. "You can't even sleep in case you fall in," he recalled, now in Tenerife after finally reaching the Canary Islands late last year in search of a "better life". "I decided to go, whether I survive or I die, because I want my family to be in a good condition," said Jaiju, explaining why he left his wife and baby behind and risked the treacherous waters of the Atlantic. In the few months since he reached this southernmost tip of Europe, hundreds of others have died trying. It is their plight, and the dramatic stories of those who do make it, that Pope Leo will highlight during his visit to the Spanish islands which began in Gran Canaria on Thursday. The Pope's focus is a clear counterpart to talk elsewhere of a migration "crisis" and an "ideological invasion". Data from the UNHCR show the number of migrant arrivals by sea to Spain has fallen significantly this year,

partly due to increased interceptions off the West African coast funded by the EU. But many are still trying - and dying. So Pope Leo will stress the need for alternative "safe and legal pathways" to Europe but also appeal for a humane approach and "respectful welcome" for those who pay smugglers and are then packed into the most basic of boats. In Gran Canaria, he will drop flowers into the waves in memory of the migrants who never made it, including entire boatloads that disappeared without trace. Bakary Jaiju sees himself as one of the lucky ones. First, his boat with around 160 people on board, including women and children, managed to evade the extra naval patrols off Mauritania and Senegal. Days later, they ran out of fuel only to be spotted and rescued off the tiny Spanish island of El Hierro. He then spent three "very cold, very difficult" months in a migrant camp in Tenerife until he joined a project helping him to learn Spanish and find a way to stay on the island legally.



Thai court sentences two men to death over Bangkok shrine bombing

Olivia Rodrigo sings about heartbreak but she's already chosen her wedding song

Olivia Rodrigo should be here any second. We're supposed to be filming an interview in Hampstead Heath - one of her favourite places - but the heavens have burst. It's not just raining cats and dogs, but otters, dolphins and multiple other water-dwelling mammals. As the monsoon monsoons, our lights and cameras are hastily scooped up and moved into the beautiful Victorian kitchen of nearby Kenwood House. It's a scramble, but everything's in place (just) when Rodrigo arrives - not a hair out of place, after a short but windy walk from her car to the set. Although it's an early start, the 23-year-old has already been working. On the journey over, she made final tweaks to a



new song called Maggots For Brains, just 10 days before its release. "I love that song musically, and there's a lot going on - a lot of harmonies - and literally in the car, I was like, turn that backing vocal up just one decibel," she says. "I was getting kind of weird about it. Nobody else will notice."



Mir, Shah knocks help Afghanistan A get four-run win over India A via DLS method

Dambulla, June 11 : India A's imposing 349 proved to be insufficient as Afghanistan A sealed a dramatic four-run victory via DLS method in a rain-hit 50-over match in the 'A' Teams Tri-series on Thursday, thanks to a blistering opening stand and composed knocks from skipper Imran Mir and Bahir Shah.

India A, sent in to bat first on a surface expected to aid seamers, made an assertive start through Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who smashed 44 off 22 balls. His opening burst set the tone before Prabhsimran Singh kept the tempo high with a fluent effort at the top to top-score with 84.

Despite Priyansh Arya's early exit, India remained well placed as captain Tilak Varma (66) and vice-captain Ruturaj Gaikwad (66) consolidated with a steady 78-run stand, while keeping the Afghanistan bowlers at bay.

India accelerated again in the final overs through Suryansh Shedge, whose 40 off 27 balls injected urgency into the innings. Handy contributions from Anukul Roy and Vipraj Nigam pushed India to 349/9 in a revised 49 overs. Afghanistan A's Abdullah Ahmadzai was the standout bowler, claiming five wickets and stopping India A from crossing 360.

Chasing a revised target of 294 from 38 overs after multiple rain interruptions, Afghanistan began aggressively. Hassan Eisaikhil's 34 and his 63-run opening stand with Imran Mir ensured the chase began on a bright note.

Though Arshad Khan and Anukul Roy removed Eisaikhil and Khalid Taniwal, India A struggled to apply sustained pressure. Mir anchored the reply with a composed 75 not out off 69 balls, while Shah counterattacked to hit 51 not out. Their 108-run century stand for the third wicket pushed Afghanistan A ahead

of the DLS par score. With rain returning, Afghanistan A reached 173 for two in 25.5 overs, and persistent showers forced the abandonment, handing Afghanistan A victory under the DLS method.

Brief scores:
India A 349/9 in 49 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 84, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, Tilak Varma 66; Abdullah Ahmadzai 5-68) lost to Afghanistan A 177/2 in 25.5 overs (Imran Mir 75 not out, Bahir Shah 51 not out; Anukul Roy 1-24, Arshad Khan 1-38) by four runs (via DLS method).

'200,000 tickets sold; excited for the world to fall in love with women's cricket': Barrett-Wild

New Delhi, June 11 : Beth Barrett-Wild, tournament director of the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup, said she is excited for a nation "to fall in love with women's cricket" as ticket sales for the 12-team mega event have touched the 200,000 mark. Billed as the biggest-ever Women's T20 World Cup, the tenth edition of the tournament will see 33 games being played around seven venues. The competition will start on June 12 in Edgbaston and end on July 5 at Lord's.

"We have been building towards this moment probably for at least 12 months, but between 12 to 18 months now. We have set out with really big ambitions for this tournament. Our vision is to bring women's cricket into the mainstream. "That is all about scale and status and real perception shifts around the women's game. We really want a nation in the world to really fall in love with women's cricket this summer and to recognise the world-class quality that it epitomises now," Beth told IANS in an exclusive con-

versation ahead of the competition on Thursday. England are hosting a Women's T20 World Cup for the first time since 2009. "We have been building over the last year, 12 months and there's a very detailed operational plan that has gone into that from a kind of event delivery perspective. That's all of the stuff you'd expect around venue operations.

"One of our key objectives for this tournament actually is around player satisfaction. So we wanna make sure the players have the best possible experience and sort of our KPIs are around that player experience point. That's everything from their travel and accommodation through to the facilities that they're gonna be playing and training at through the tournament. "There's been a lot of attention to detail on that, but also a lot of work going in



behind the scenes and off-field around and really growing the audience for the women's game, especially across England and Wales," she added.

The tournament has an ambition to sell 270,000 tickets, and surpass the box office sales done during the iconic 2020 edition in Australia, which famously concluded with a sold-out final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Beth, who played hockey and cricket before joining the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in 2013, said that benchmark itself was a reflection of how far the women's game had progressed.

"We've got big ticketing ambitions and actually just broke through 200,000 tickets for this event. So we're actually going after around 270,000 attendances in total, which would be double the previous highest attended Women's T20 World Cup, which was the iconic one in Australia back in 2020 with the amazing scenes at the MCG back then.

"But we wanna double the total attendance

and that just shows how much the women's game has grown now and actually the really solid foundations that we're coming into this tournament from having had that kind of global exposure, but then also at a local level recently through things like The Hundred and the growth of the women's team," she said.

On the insights ticket sales have shown so far, Beth revealed that 36 percent of ticket purchases for this tournament had been made by women. "We've had to look really carefully at this - like the female toilets, because a lot of our venues, the way that they're set up from a historic fan and audience perspective for cricket, it is a traditionally very male-dominated audience. "For men's cricket, that is still absolutely the case. So we know, for example, for an England men's fixture, roughly 80 percent of ticket purchases will be male.



DELHI-BORN NIKHIL CHAUDHARY ADDED TO AUSTRALIA SQUAD FOR BANGLADESH T20I

Sydney, June 11 : Australia have added Delhi-born uncapped spinner Nikhil Chaudhary to their squad for their upcoming T20I series against Bangladesh. The 30-year-old drafted into the squad following Travis Head's withdrawal on personal leave. Chaudhary could become the only Indian born player to play for Australia in more than 60 years after the Hobart Hurricanes all-rounder was called up for the T20I series against Bangladesh. Chaudhary, currently playing for JB Bruges in the EUT20 competition in Belgium after a stint with Delhi Capitals in the IPL, is set to join the Australian squad in Dhaka on Friday. Born in Delhi before moving Down Under at the start of the decade, the leg-spin all-rounder will compete for a middle-order berth with the likes of Joel Davies and Aaron Hardie, who are also in the T20I squad only. Australia selector Tony Dodemaide is confident the bowling all-rounder can perform well should he win selection. "Nikhil has been a player of national interest for some time. He was a standby player for this tour, joining the squad at pre-season camps in Brisbane and comes in as a replacement for Travis Head," Dodemaide said. "The panel has been impressed by his BBL form, particularly last season, leading to his addition to the squad. He has also been part of the Delhi Capitals setup in this year's IPL. "Nikhil will gain invaluable experience in Bangladesh and will be in contention to play his first game for Australia when we sit down to pick a team for the opening T20 fixture here next week," he added. Born in Delhi, Chaudhary played 14 limited-overs games for the state side Punjab alongside the likes of Harbhajan Singh, Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma, and trialled with the IPL side Mumbai Indians. He was visiting an uncle in Queensland when the pandemic shut international borders, seeing him pivot to furthering his cricket ambitions in Australia. The three-match T20I series will be played entirely in Chattogram, with the first match scheduled for June 17. The second T20I will take place on June 19, while the third and final match of the series is set to be played on June 21.

'One Last Dance': Five icons set for their FIFA World Cup swansong

New Delhi, June 11 : As the FIFA World Cup 2026 approaches, fans around the world are preparing for a month of unforgettable moments and dramatic finishes, but beyond the race for football's biggest prize, the tournament is also expected to mark the end of an era.

For several of the game's most celebrated names, this World Cup could be the final chapter of careers that have inspired millions and defined a generation of football. Some have already lifted the trophy, others are still chasing the one achievement, but all will step onto the field knowing this could be their last appearance on the sport's grandest stage. Here are five football legends who are likely playing their final FIFA World Cup.

1. Lionel Messi (Argentina) After completing football's ultimate dream by leading Argentina to World Cup glory in 2022, Lionel Messi returns for what is expected to be his final appearance at the tournament.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner ended decades of debate by lifting the trophy in Qatar and now has a chance to achieve another historic feat, helping Argentina become the first nation since Brazil in 1962 to successfully defend the World Cup title. Regardless of how far

football's ultimate challenge. At 41, he enters the tournament knowing every match could be his last on the World Cup stage.

3. Luka Modric (Croatia) Luka Modric has been the symbol of Croatia's rise as a football powerhouse. From guiding his nation to the 2018 final to another podium finish in 2022, the midfield maestro has consistently delivered on the biggest occasions. Now 40, Modric remains Croatia's leader and creative force. A strong run in 2026 would provide a fitting farewell to one of the finest midfielders the game has ever seen.

4. Thomas Muller (Germany) A World Cup winner in 2014 and one of Germany's greatest tournament performers, Thomas Müller has built a reputation for thriving under pressure. His intelligence, movement and knack for producing decisive moments have made him a fan favourite for more than a decade. As Germany look to reclaim their place among football's elite, the 36-year-old will hope to sign off with one final memorable campaign.

5. Neymar (Brazil) Brazil forward Neymar has already indicated the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be the last of his career. The 34-year-old made the statement in response to a social media post from FIFA showing images of Neymar's



Argentina go, Messi's legacy as one of football's greatest players is already secure.

2. Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) Few athletes have redefined longevity quite like Cristiano Ronaldo. The Portuguese superstar has enjoyed a remarkable international career spanning more than two decades and remains his country's biggest inspiration. The World Cup is the only major trophy missing from Ronaldo's collection, making 2026 one final opportunity to complete

career along with the words, "We've watched him grow up." "The last dance," the Santos attacker replied in the comments section. Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 79 goals in 128 international matches, has not played for Brazil since suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in October 2023. However, he has been included in the squad and would look to turn things around for Brazil, who are searching for their sixth FIFA World Cup trophy in 24 years.

Yashbardhan Chauhan to lead India U19 squads for Sri Lanka tour

New Delhi, June 11 : Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan will be leading India men's U-19 team for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, which comprises three One-Day matches and two Multi-Day fixtures, scheduled to begin next month. Lakshya Raichandani will serve as Chauhan's deputy as the BCCI named squads for both one-day and multi-day fixtures.

The white-ball leg of the tour kicks off on July 4 in Hambantota, which will host all three one-day matches. Following the limited-overs series, the team will transition to red-ball cricket for two multi-day

Sagar Virk, Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (C), Vineeth V K, Arjun Rajput, Kushagra Ojha, Rajat Baghel (WK), Anvay Dravid (WK), Anmoljeet Singh, Vutkuri Yashveer Goud, Rohit Anil Yadav, Shavin V, Kavya Paresch Patel, Mohit Ulva, Ishan Sood

India Men's U19 multi-day squad: Sagar Virk, Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (C), Patel Kush, Manal Chauhan, Kushagra Ojha, Manav Krishna (WK), Aryan Sandesh Sakpal (WK), Hemchudeshan J, BK Kishore, Rohit Anil Yadav, Kavya Paresch



matches. The first multi-day game is slated to be played in Galle from July 13 to 16, while the final fixture of the tour will take place in Colombo from July 20 to 23.

Rajat Baghel and Anvay Dravid have been handed the gloves for the One-Day squad, whereas Manav Krishna and Aryan Sandesh Sakpal will take over wicketkeeping duties for the multi-day games. India Men's U19 One-Day squad:

Patel, Priyanshu Singh, Pranav Raghvendra, Chigurupati Venkata

Earlier, the Women's Selection Committee picked the Women's U19 squads for the Sri Lanka Women's U19 Tour of India, which will comprise three T20 matches and three One-Day matches, from June 20 to July 6. The three T20s will be played in Chennai while Puducherry will host One-day games.

“KOTHA MALUPU’ IS TRULY A NEW TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE” – ACTRESS BHAIRAVI ARDHYA DEKA

A Special Media Interaction with Bhairavi Ardhya Deka As Kotha Malupu, starring Akash (son of popular singer Sunitha) and Bhairavi Ardhya Deka in the lead roles, gears up for its theatrical release on June 12, actress Bhairavi Ardhya Deka interacted with media representatives and shared interesting insights about her journey, the film, and her future aspirations. Directed by Shiva Varaprasad and produced by Thati Balakrishna, the film marks Bhairavi’s Telugu debut. Having come all the way from Assam and learned Telugu to portray a Konaseema village girl on screen, Bhairavi spoke candidly about her experiences and challenges.

Q: Tell us about your background. How did your journey from Assam to Tollywood begin?

Bhairavi Ardhya Deka: I am from Assam, and my parents and younger sister still live there. Since childhood, I have always been fascinated by films and acting. I grew up watching movies, including Telugu films, and gradually developed a dream of becoming an actress. I decided to pursue that dream with determination and worked hard to make it a reality.

Q: How did you get the opportunity to be a part of Kotha Malupu?

Bhairavi: While continuing my studies, I started attending auditions. At that time, I didn’t know Telugu at all. But I never gave up. For nearly two to three years, I kept attending auditions and made a conscious effort to learn the language. I practiced speaking Telugu with people around me and gradually improved. This film is the result of that persistence and hard work.

Q: Tell us about your character in the film. Bhairavi: My character’s name is Varalakshmi. She is an innocent and free-spirited village girl from Konaseema. She lives life on her own terms and follows her heart. It is a very natural and relatable character, and as an actress, it gave me a



wonderful opportunity to showcase my performance.

Q: How was your experience portraying a girl from Konaseema? Bhairavi: The beauty of Konaseema fascinated me. The coconut groves, local culture, and food were all completely new experiences for me. I especially loved the seafood. The lifestyle in Assam is very different from that of Konaseema, so before the shoot began, I stayed there for nearly a month to observe the local culture, dressing style, body language, and dialect. That preparation helped me a lot. In fact, many people now tell me that they never felt I was from Assam and believe I look and behave like a native Telugu girl.

Q: What were the biggest challenges you faced while working on this film? Bhairavi: Language was definitely the biggest challenge. Even after learning Telugu, adapting to the Godavari-region dialect was not easy. We also shot during the monsoon season, so the weather conditions were sometimes difficult. However, with the support of the entire team, I was able to overcome those challenges.

“Deewana” is a Beautiful Love Story That Will Touch Your Heart – Prominent Producer Allu Aravind at the Trailer Launch Event



You Can Sense the Honesty with Which ‘Deewana’ Was Made Just from the Trailer – Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen After delivering a successful film with Subham, young and talented actor Harshith Reddy is now starring in the upcoming film Deevana. Produced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the Arha Media and V

Studios banners, this beautiful love story also marks the debut of actress Smeha Manimegalai and director Srikanth Sangishetty. Distributed by Geetha Film Distributors, Deevana is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 19th. The trailer launch event was held in Hyderabad today and was attended by renowned producer Allu Aravind, actor Vishwak Sen, and producer Dheeraj

Yash Raj Films unveils the origin story of an assassin played by Alia Bhatt in Alpha teaser, theatrical release date fixed for July 3rd worldwide!

Aditya Chopra’s Yash Raj Films has launched the teaser of Alpha, headlined by Alia Bhatt. The asset unveils the first origin story of a young assassin, who is raised and built to kill, within the YRF Spy Universe! In the first teaser, YRF has set up the story of a killer (Alia) raised by Bobby Deol. YRF will reveal the character of other leading lady, Sharvari, soon as every character is built out for the audience through its marketing campaign. Alpha is a true blue popcorn entertainer that is intended to be a celebration of the Alpha attitude of two girls in a never been done before action film fronted by women in cinema! Alpha is meant to feel like a ride - thrilling, emotional, funny, unpredictable and unapologetically entertaining. Directed by Shiv



Rawail, Alpha is set to release worldwide, only in cinemas, on July 3, 2026. It also stars Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor in pivotal roles!



Vishal Stuns In Three Distinct & Powerful Avatars In Action-packed Makutam Teaser

After the blockbuster success of Mark Antony and Madha Gaja Raja, Puratchi Thalopathy Vishal is gearing up for his most ambitious project yet, Makutam, which is steadily progressing towards completion. The film marks Vishal’s directorial debut and is being mounted on a grand scale by Super Good Films. Significantly, it is the prestigious banner’s 99th production under legendary producer RB Choudary. The project carries immense emotional value for Vishal

and the entire team, as it became even more special following the recent demise of RB Choudary in a tragic road accident. Written by Ravi Arasu, the film has already generated considerable curiosity through its posters and promotional content. Today, the makers unveiled the much-awaited teaser. The teaser offers a glimpse into a fascinating and unconventional world, with Vishal appearing in three distinct avatars. It opens with a striking sequence featuring an aged gangster, played by Vishal, calmly lighting a cigarette after setting a man ablaze. As the teaser progresses, it introduces two more versions of the actor, while also presenting several key characters who inhabit this action-packed narrative. From the very first frame, the teaser impresses with its visual style and scale. One of its biggest attractions is Vishal’s remarkable transformation across the three roles. Each character carries a unique appearance, body language, and attitude.

Prime Video Sets July 2 as Global Premiere for Isakapatnam— A Gritty, Revenge-fueled Telugu Action Thriller

Prime Video, India’s most loved entertainment destination, today announced July 2 as the worldwide premiere date for its much-anticipated Telugu Prime Original series Isakapatnam. Directed by Garry BH, written by Prashant Ragathi, and with dialogues by Tajuddin Syed, this revenge-fueled action thriller is produced by Rahul Tamada and Saideep Reddy Borra under the banner of Tamada Media Productions. Set in a fictional port town, this gritty, power-packed drama revolves around power struggles, family feuds, gangster warfare, and political drama. Starring Samuthirakani and Aishwarya Rajesh in lead roles, alongside Sunil, Naresh Agastya, Merin Philip, Sudhakar Komakula, Rajeev Kanakala, Mime Gopi, Rohini, Banerjee, Jwala Koti, Ravi Varma, and Raja Chembolu playing pivotal roles, the series will premiere exclusively on Prime Video in Telugu with dubs in Tamil



and Hindi and subtitles in 15 languages, including English, across India and over 240 countries and territories worldwide on July 2. “We have an incredibly rich library of Originals across our South slate, with stories spanning languages, genres, and themes that resonate with diverse audiences not only in India but also around the world. We’re further expanding this slate with Isakapatnam, a gritty, revenge-fueled crime saga

Tamada has been an excellent collaborator with whom we have created such a cinematic and authentic production that we truly believe audiences worldwide will enjoy when it premieres exclusively on Prime Video.” Rahul Tamada and Saideep Reddy Borra at Tamada Media Productions shared*, “While Isakapatnam has the intensity and grit of a revenge thriller, at its heart it is a story about personal loss, loyalty, family feuds, and political conflict, themes that we believe are intriguing and entertaining for a global audience. At its core, the series is rooted in authenticity, with every detail—from the recreation of a port town to the characters and narrative—contributing to a rich and immersive storytelling experience. We are delighted to collaborate with Prime Video to bring this powerful, emotionally charged story to audiences across India and around the world when it premieres on July 2.”

‘THANK YOU SUBBARAO’ TEASER RAISES CURIOSITY WITH ITS INTRIGUING NARRATIVE

Director Chendu Muddu, who earned acclaim with films such as O Pitta Katha, Annapurna Photo Studio, and Repu Udayam Padhi Gantalaku, is set to entertain audiences with his latest venture, ‘Thank You Subbarao’. The film is being presented by K. Raghavendra Reddy and produced by Dinesh Kurra under the Kurra Productions banner. The makers recently unveiled the film’s first-look poster and teaser, generating considerable excitement among movie lovers. The teaser suggests that Thank You Subbarao is a unique entertainer that seamlessly blends comedy,



action, romance, suspense, and thrilling moments. With its engaging narrative setup and intriguing visuals, the teaser offers a pleasant cinematic experience while leaving audiences curious about the story. The humorous dialogues delivered by Muralidhar Goud add a fun element, while the chemistry between the lead pair brings a refreshing romantic touch. A mysterious girl on a train and several suspense-filled sequences further enhance the intrigue, making the film an exciting prospect for audiences seeking something different. With its distinctive concept and appealing content, Thank You Subbarao has all the ingredients to connect with viewers and create anticipation ahead of its release. The makers are expected to unveil more exciting updates in the coming days.

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