

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)UDDHAV THACKERAY
what next for
Balasaheb's son?

NATION PAGE

IRAN SAYS NO NEW
COMMITMENTS ON
NUCLEAR SITES AFTER
VANCE SAYS INSPECTORS
TO BE INVITED BACK

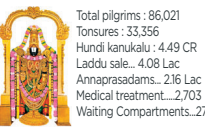
WORLD | NEWS

BANGAARAM
HOLDS STRONG
ON FIRST WEEK!

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

22-06-2026

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens): 8-10 H

Google restores
Telegram on Playstore,
app starts functioning
for some users

New Delhi: Google restored instant messaging app Telegram on Tuesday morning as a temporary ban imposed by the government ended on the midnight of June 22. The platform was accessible to some existing users before Google restored it. The app continued to remain delisted on Apple's Appstore till around 10 am. An emailed query sent to Apple did not elicit an immediate response.

PM Modi asks young civil
servants to lead journey towards
Viksit Bharat@2047

New Delhi (TSIT):

Highlighting the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with 183 Officer Trainees of the IAS 2024 batch and urged them to dedicate themselves to nation-building with a strong sense of purpose.

Emphasising the importance of data-driven governance, the Prime Minister urged the young officers to constantly evaluate their contribution towards nation-building and derive satisfaction not from positions held, but from measurable outcomes achieved. Speaking at a session held at Seva Teerth, PM Modi expressed confidence that the young officers attached as Assistant Secretaries in various Ministries and Departments would use their energy, talent, and dedication to play a pivotal role in taking India's development journey to new heights. The young Officer Trainees shared their experiences from their field training and their attachment to Ministries.

PM Modi urged IAS 2024 officer trainees to adopt citizen-centric, data-driven governance and contribute actively towards the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 through measurable outcomes and nation-building.



The Prime Minister said that after two years of field exposure and administrative learning, they now stand at a crucial stage where their decisions will shape not just their own careers, but the future of crores of citizens.

He emphasised that the real test of public service begins by handling real-life situations with integrity, sensitivity, and commitment.

The Prime Minister urged the young civil servants to dedicate themselves to nation-building with a strong sense of purpose, innovation, and citizen-centric governance.

He urged the officers to always remember the human impact behind every administrative file.

He said that every file represents the aspirations,

concerns, and lives of countless citizens. Stressing the mantra of "Nagrik Devo Bhava", he called upon officers to place citizens at the center of every decision and ensure governance remains empathetic, responsive, and inclusive.

Calling for a whole-of-government approach, the Prime Minister stressed that major developmental challenges cannot be solved in silos. He further noted that effective coordination across departments is essential for achieving meaningful and lasting outcomes. Highlighting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Prime Minister noted that every policy and administrative decision over the coming decades must contribute towards building a Viksit Bharat.

Opening of Strait of Hormuz welcome move: NSA Doval at BRICS conclave

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The opening of the Strait of Hormuz is a very welcome move as it will help energy security, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Tuesday while welcoming counterparts from BRICS nations at a key conclave here. Doval said freedom of navigation through the key shipping lane will benefit the countries of the region and beyond.

"India welcomes the MoU reached between the US and Iran. We have got



cautious optimism, and we hope that it will work. It

will help energy security," Doval said. "The opening

of the Strait of Hormuz is a very welcome development. It will remove supply chain bottlenecks and (address) shortages in sectors like fertilisers and chemicals," he said.

Doval also delved into geopolitical tensions witnessed in various geographies and their impact on various countries.

"We are meeting at a very tumultuous time. The world is facing geopolitical uncertainties, economic strains, and disruptive technology," Doval said.

India rejects Pakistan's
fabricated PoK unrest claim

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday categorically rejected Pakistan's "fabricated claims" linking India to the ongoing unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), stating that such remarks reflected a desperate bid by Islamabad to divert attention from its own failures and human rights abuses.

Responding to a question during the weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal dismissed allegations made by Pakistan's Defence Minister blaming India for



the violence in PoK.

"Such remarks are desperate attempts by Pakistan to cover up its own failings and deflect attention away from its human rights abuses. We categorically reject these fabricated claims with the contempt that they deserve.

The ongoing protests in Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir are a direct consequence of Pakistan's decades-long policy of systemic economic exploitation, denial of fundamental rights, and administrative oppression in areas under its illegal and forcible occupation," Jaiswal stated. Calling on the international community to take note of the situation, he said Pakistan should be held accountable for its actions and human rights violations in PoK.

"The Pakistani state has responded with extreme police brutality, blocking of essential supplies and medicines, internet blackouts, and use of lethal force against unarmed civilians.

FIR cites illegal
commercial use,
single entry/exit

Lucknow (TSIT):

The first information report (FIR) registered over the Aliganj building fire in Lucknow that claimed 15 lives has alleged that the premises were being operated as a commercial establishment without adequate fire safety arrangements, emergency exits, and measures to prevent smoke accumulation, police said. The FIR, lodged at Aliganj police station under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 125 (rash or negligent act endangering human life) and provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Fire and Emergency Services Act, names four accused persons and others.

TN issues GO for 'Thaimaaman gold ring scheme';
newborns in government hospitals to receive 1-gram gold ring

Chennai (TSIT)

The Tamil Nadu government has issued a Government Order (GO) to implement the 'Thaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam', under which every child born in a government hospital to a family permanently residing in the state will receive a 1-gram gold ring. The scheme, effective from June 22, 2026, will benefit all eligible newborns delivered in government healthcare facilities.

The state has set aside an annual allocation of 755.83 crore for the initiative. According to the GO, the scheme is designed to honour both the mother and the newborn. Officials have been directed to begin the tendering process for procuring the gold rings immediately.

The State has earmarked Rs 755.83 crore annually for the scheme, which will benefit babies born in government hospitals from June 22, 2026 onwards, said a Daily Thanthi report.



The initiative draws inspiration from the Tamil cultural practice of 'Thaimaaman Seer', where a maternal uncle traditionally welcomes a newborn with gifts and blessings. Under this scheme, the state will symbolically assume the role of the maternal uncle, presenting a gold ring as a gesture of affection and welcome for every eligible child. The government said the pro-

gramme also aims to strengthen public confidence in government healthcare institutions while commemorating births in these facilities.

Tamil Nadu has a strong track record in maternal and child welfare, with existing programmes such as financial assistance for pregnant women, free institutional deliveries, newborn care services, emergency obstetric

treatment, nutritional support, and the Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME) system. Officials said these interventions have significantly improved the state's maternal and child health indicators over the years.

While the scheme will apply to children born from June 22, 2026, the formal launch is scheduled for September 15, 2026, which marks the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna. Chief Minister Vijay will officially inaugurate the programme on that day. The government said the initiative seeks to celebrate motherhood, mark the birth of every child in a government hospital, and reinforce the state's enduring commitment to maternal and child welfare.

Rajendra Prasad, Murali Mohan
receive Padma Shri

New Delhi (TSIT)

Veteran Telugu actors Rajendra Prasad and Murali Mohan were conferred the Padma Shri by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Indian cinema.

Rajendra Prasad, popularly known as

"Natakireeti," earned acclaim for his exceptional performances in Telugu cinema, particularly in comedy classics such as Aha Naa Pellanta and Ladies Tailor. With a career spanning nearly five decades, he has won numerous awards and remains one of the most beloved actors in the

industry.

Murali Mohan, an accomplished actor and producer, has played a significant role in the growth of Telugu cinema through his production house, Jayabheri Creations. Apart from his film career, he is also known for his contributions to social service. The honour sparked celebrations across the Telugu film industry, with actors, filmmakers and political leaders congratulating the recipients on social media. This year's Padma Shri awardees also include Malayalam actor Mammooty, actor R. Madhavan and Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma.

Cong urges Centre
to reject '1-sided'
India-US trade
pact amid tariff
uncertainty

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Congress on Tuesday intensified its attack on the Narendra Modi government over ongoing trade negotiations with the United States, alleging that New Delhi was being pressured into signing a trade agreement that would disproportionately benefit Washington while harming Indian farmers and domestic industry. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X, questioned the rationale behind pursuing a trade pact with the US amid uncertainty over American tariff policies and ongoing investigations into India's trade practices. Referring to the visit of the US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to New Delhi, Ramesh claimed that an India-US joint statement on trade issued on February 6, 2026, had envisaged significant concessions from both sides.

Dharmendra Pradhan says CJP is
B-team of disruptive elements

New Delhi (TSIT):

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), the satirical outfit that had been leading protests over the NEET paper leak controversy, describing it as the "B team of disruptive elements" and alleging that it was fronting forces that had been rejected by voters. During a media interview, Pradhan said those behind



the movement were attempting to target institutions and create disruption under a different guise. "They are the B team of disruptive elements.

Those who were rejected in the democracy have come in disguise and are now after the system. They raise slogans for those who want to divide the country. They have been identified," he said. The remarks came a day after more than 20 lakh medical aspirants appeared for the NEET re-examination, conducted over a month after the original test was scrapped amid allegations of a paper leak. The controversy had triggered protests across the country.

RBI injects Rs 1.41
lakh crore into
banking system

Mumbai (TSIT):

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday pumped in over Rs 1.41 lakh crore of transient liquidity into the banking system through a seven-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction. The funds were injected into the system at a cut-off rate and weighted average rate of 5.26 per cent, according to figures released by the RBI. This was done after the liquidity in the banking system turned into a deficit of Rs 19,971.89 crore as on June 22.

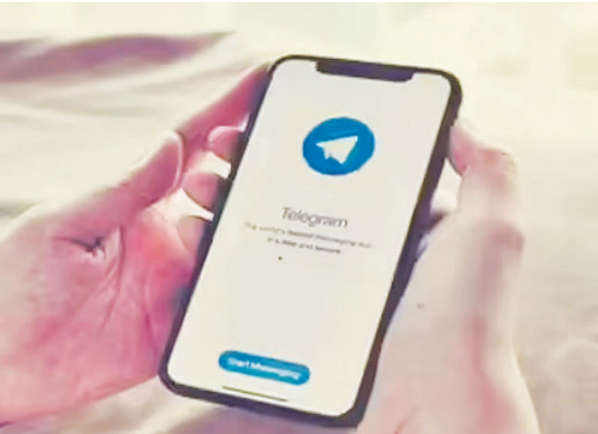
Telegram services restored in India after temporary NEET re-exam restrictions

New Delhi, Jun 23: Telegram messaging services have been restored in India after temporary restrictions imposed over concerns related to the NEET-UG re-examination were lifted on Tuesday.

The Telegram application is now available for installation through app stores. However, the editing feature on the platform will remain disabled until June 30. The Ministry of Electronics and

Information Technology (MeitY) had blocked Telegram services across India until June 22 as a precautionary step ahead of the NEET re-examination. The restrictions were imposed after allegations that Telegram had failed to prevent the circulation of fake question papers linked to the examination, along with misleading information and fraudulent activities.

Before the action was



taken, government officials had met Telegram representatives on June 3 and raised concerns over the alleged misuse of the platform. Following the discussions, the Centre decided to block the app and related web links, including its web version, until June 22. The NEET re-examination was conducted on June 21, and no cases of fraudulent activity have been reported so far.

Earlier, Telegram found-

er and CEO Pavel Durov criticised the government's decision, stating that the restriction affected more than 150 million genuine users in India instead of targeting those responsible for leaking examination materials. Durov said such restrictions would not effectively stop the spread of leaked content and could push such activities to other platforms.

He also alleged that Reliance, referring to

Reliance Jio, may have lobbied alongside WhatsApp to influence the decision to restrict Telegram in India. Reliance Jio rejected the allegations, stating that it operates its network according to global standards of reliability, security and transparency. In a statement on X, Jio said it had no role in any alleged BGP route misconfiguration and categorically denied involvement in the matter.

Uddhav Thackeray-what next for Balasaheb’s son?



New Delhi (TSIT) In politics, it can never really be an endgame. So, are the devastating developments in Shiv Sena (UBT) the end of the road for party chief Uddhav Thackeray—the son of the man who started it all six decades ago, the late Balasaheb Thackeray? Considered an introverted politician, especially when compared to the aggressive line followed by the “original” Shiv Sena and his father, many believe that the “humble and modest” Uddhav was perhaps never really cut out for cutthroat politics. For much of his early life, he remained out of the spotlight, preferring wildlife and aerial photography over public life. His cousin Raj Thackeray was widely seen as more of a chip off the old block, resembling Balasaheb Thackeray in temperament and political style. Uddhav took control of the party in January 2013 after the death of his father and also inherited the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance—one of the oldest and most enduring ideological coalitions in Indian politics, spanning three decades before its collapse in 2019 over power-sharing issues between the two. Observers say breaking up with the BJP was perhaps Uddhav’s biggest mistake. After breaking up with the BJP, he formed the

Maha Vikas Aghadi government with the Congress and the NCP to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra —a decision that reshaped Maharashtra politics and the fortunes of his party. But since the first split in 2022, when he lost the government, MLAs, and the “Bow and Arrow” party symbol to Eknath Shinde, he has been battling a perception war over who carries the Balasaheb’s legacy. Observers say more than when leaders like Chhagan Bhujbal, Narayan Rane, or Raj Thackeray left, what hurt Uddhav most was when Shinde jumped ship to become Chief Minister with the support of the BJP and, later, the breakaway faction of Sharad Pawar’s NCP. Unlike earlier departures led by individual leaders, the Shinde revolt directly challenged his leadership and the party’s political future. On Monday, Shinde dealt another devastating blow, taking away six of Uddhav’s nine Lok Sabha MPs. With rumblings also among Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs and no control over local bodies, especially the BMC, observers say Uddhav’s uncertain future now depends on how he navigates the upcoming electoral battles with a shrinking support base.

Widespread awareness of SIR process essential, says Wanaparthi Collector

Wanaparthi (TSIT) Wanaparthi District Collector Adarsh Surabhi has urged citizens to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program, scheduled from June 25 to October 30, aimed at preparing a clean and transparent voter list. Speaking at a press conference, the Collector said the initiative will remove names of deceased persons, duplicate entries, and ineligible voters. With 2,75,570 voters and 316 polling stations in Wanaparthi constituency, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door enumeration from June 25, distributing forms to every voter. Around 82 percent of voter mapping has already been completed. Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties will coordinate with officials during the process.



The draft voter list will be published on July 31, with objections accepted until August 30. Final resolution will be completed by September 28, and the final list released on October 1. The Collector warned that registering as a voter in more than one constituency is a legal offense, and false information will invite legal action. He said 316 BLOs have been trained, and urged all eligible voters to verify their details and cooperate. Additional Collector Vinod Kumar and other officials attended the press meet.

BRS leader alleges harassment of small traders in mancherial .

MANCHERIAL, June 23, TSIT : BRS State leader Nadipelli Vijith Kumar on Tuesday alleged that municipal authorities, with the support of police and at the instance of Mancherial MLA Prem Sagar Rao, had demolished sheds of small traders operating in the bus stand and market areas of Mancherial town. After visiting the affected locations and interacting with traders, Mr. Vijith Kumar criticised the demolition drive, stating that it had adversely impacted the livelihoods of several petty vendors. He said the action came at a time when business activity was expected to improve following the reopening of schools, forcing



ing traders who had invested heavily in stock and infrastructure into uncertainty. The BRS leader alleged that the State government and local authorities were neglecting the welfare of small traders and demanded that the district administration provide adequate compensation and identify alternative sites for the displaced vendors.

Padma Shri for Telugu icons Rajendra Prasad and Murali Mohan

Hyderabad (TSIT): Celebrated Telugu actor Dr. Rajendra Prasad and veteran actor-producer Maganti Murali Mohan have been conferred the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours, by the President of India in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Indian cinema and the performing arts. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, born in Krishna district, began his cinematic journey in 1977 and has acted in nearly 300 films. Known for his impeccable comic timing and versatility, he earned the affectionate title “Natakireeti” (The Crown Jewel of Acting) for his memorable performances in classics like Aha Naa Pellanta, Ladies Tailor, and Aa Naluguru. He also proved his mettle in emotionally rich roles and the English-language film Quick Gun Murugan. Murali Mohan, born in West Godavari district, made his debut in 1973 and acted in nearly 350 films, earning three Nandi Awards. Beyond cinema, he became a successful entrepreneur and served as a Member of Parliament from Rajahmundry. The Telugu community worldwide extends heartfelt congratulations to both legends, whose inspiring journeys continue to motivate generations of artists and cine lovers.

Bharat Future City: Telangana's vision for India's next growth engine

Hyderabad: Telangana has unveiled plans for Bharat Future City, an ambitious world-class urban ecosystem spread across nearly 30,000 acres south of Hyderabad. Conceived as a future-ready hub for Artificial Intelligence, Life Sciences, FinTech, Semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and education, the project aims to position the state as a global innovation destination. Strategically located between the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar highways, close to the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, the city is expected to ease developmental pressures on western Hyderabad while unlocking growth across

emerging regions. Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy has championed the initiative as a flagship pillar of Telangana's long-term vision. The project also emphasizes sustainability, with plans for a Net-Zero, pollution-free smart city powered by renewable energy and green transportation. While challenges such as land acquisition, financial viability, and governance remain, the project represents a bold step toward balanced regional development. If executed effectively, Bharat Future City could set a new benchmark for urban planning in India—combining economic growth, innovation, and environmental responsibility.



SIR Voter List Revision Should Be Conducted Without Errors: Collector Khushboo Gupta

Mahabubnagar : District Collector Khushboo Gupta has directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to conduct the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which is scheduled to commence on June 25, in a transparent manner without any errors or shortcomings. The Collector participated in a training programme for BLOs held at the Hanwada Tahsildar Office on Tuesday and provided detailed guidelines. Speaking on the occasion, she said that every BLO should visit each household under their assigned polling station jurisdiction from June 25 to July 24, distribute enumeration



forms to voters, and collect the required details. She instructed that a recent photograph of the voter must be affixed to each form. The Collector emphasized that voter details should be recorded accurately and that voter

mapping should also be completed properly. She directed officials to compare the 2002 electoral roll with the 2025 electoral roll and verify all details. Any discrepancies identified should be supported with relevant documents,

uploaded online, and corrected accordingly. Referring to notices generated online due to mismatches between old and new voter lists, she instructed BLOs to promptly serve such notices to the concerned voters, collect the necessary documents, and update the records. She stressed that the names of deceased voters or those who have permanently shifted should be deleted only after issuing notices and strictly following the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. She further stated that every effort should be made to ensure that no eligible voter loses the right to vote.

Commissioner Srijana MLA Arekapudi Gandhi Review Civic Issues in Mayuri Nagar

Hyderabad, TSIT: As part of the “One Ward Every Day” initiative, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Srijana Gummalla and MLA conducted a field visit to Mayuri Nagar in Madhapur Circle, Kukatpally Zone, to assess civic infrastructure and address public grievances. Accompanied by senior municipal officials, the Commissioner and MLA interacted with residents and reviewed key issues, including the proposed road widening at Survey No. 172, installation of signboards on narrow roads, regulation of new hostel buildings, stray dog control measures and intensified mosquito-control operations in water stagnation areas



near the CRPF premises. Commissioner Srijana directed officials to take immediate action against the burning of cables and dry waste in Subash Chandra Bose Nagar and ensure the removal of CC and BT debris near the Mayuri Nagar Water Tank. She

also instructed the concerned departments to coordinate with HMDA for the transfer of the Miyapur-Gandimaaisamma Road and drain works along with the necessary funds. MLA Arekapudi Gandhi emphasized the need for prompt resolution of civic issues and assured residents that development works would be taken up on priority. Residents shared their concerns and suggestions, which were reviewed on the spot. The visit reflects the Corporation’s commitment to strengthening public participation and ensuring faster resolution of civic issues through regular ward-level inspections.

Seed and fertilizer fair inaugurated at Hanwada; farmers urged to use certified seeds

Mahabubnagar, June 23: District Collector Khushboo Gupta inaugurated the Seed and Fertilizer Fair at the Rythu Vedika in Hanwada mandal on Tuesday and advised farmers to purchase only quality, certified seeds. She cautioned that fake or expired seeds could cause severe losses and warned of strict action against dealers involved in counterfeit sales. The fair, part of the state government’s “Rythu Mungitlo” programme, will run from June 23 to 30 across Rythu Vedikas in the district. It offers farmers access to quality crop seeds, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetable varieties. Nano Urea and Nano DAP fertilizers are also being displayed to promote modern agricultural practices. The Collector urged balanced fertilizer use to



protect soil health. Special arrangements through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) will make fertilizers available at village-level Rythu Vedikas, saving farmers time and transport costs. The Collector also unveiled a horticulture handbook on modern cultivation practices and disease management for vegetable crops. Agriculture and horticulture officials, along with other district officers, participated in the event.

MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy Promotes Blood Donation Through Birthday Initiative



The South India Times Nagarkurnool: A Mega Blood Donation Camp was inaugurated by Nagarkurnool MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy at the MLA Camp Office as part of celebrations marking his birthday. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that blood donation is one of the most valuable humanitarian services and that donated blood can help save lives during medical emergencies.

MLA Yashaswini Reddy participated in the inauguration of Durgamma new Bodrai ido



Palakurthy, June 23, TSIT : Palakurthy MLA Yashaswini Reddy participated in Durgamma New Bodrai idol inauguration ceremony organized in Surya Thanda village of Rayaparthi mandal. On this occasion, special pooja was performed to the Goddess and the idol of Bodrai. All the people of the

village prayed for happiness and good health. Later, MLA Yashaswini Reddy, who participated in the programme along with the village elders, devotees and local people, stated that such programmes that create a spiritual atmosphere in the villages will enhance social unity.

Kamineni Hospitals launches dedicated weight loss centre

Hyderabad, June 23: With obesity emerging as a major public health concern, Kamineni Hospitals has launched a dedicated Weight Loss Centre to provide comprehensive and personalized obesity management through a multi-disciplinary approach. Medical experts at the launch highlighted the growing prevalence of obesity across all age groups and warned that it significantly increases the risk of Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, fatty liver disease, hypertension, sleep apnea, infertility and certain cancers. Dr. B. Sravya, Consultant Endocrinologist, said obesity should be treated as a chronic disease rather than a lifestyle issue. She



noted that even a 5-10 percent reduction in body weight can lead to substantial improvements in blood sugar levels, blood pressure, cholesterol and overall health.

Senior Consultant Diabetologist Dr. Bhavani pointed out that obesity is rising rapidly in India, with Telangana emerging as a major hotspot. She stressed the need for spe-

cialized obesity care to address associated health complications. Experts also emphasized the importance of structured exercise programmes and personalized nutrition plans in achieving sustainable weight loss. The new centre brings together endocrinologists, diabetologists, nutritionists, physiotherapists, psychologists and bariatric specialists under one roof. The facility will offer obesity assessments, metabolic and genetic risk evaluation, body composition analysis, nutrition counselling, exercise programmes, medical management and long-term follow-up care to help patients achieve lasting health benefits.

Two women killed, 30 injured after bus overturns in West Bengal's Hooghly district

Kolkata, Jun 23: Two women lost their lives and at least 30 others sustained injuries after a passenger bus overturned and plunged into a roadside ditch in the Arambagh area of West Bengal's Hooghly district on Tuesday, officials said. Several of the injured are undergoing treatment at Arambagh Medical College and Hospital, with the condition of some passengers reported to be critical. The accident occurred in the Adambandh area while the bus, carrying around 50 passengers, was travelling from Burdwan town to the Tarakeswar temple. Preliminary investigations suggest that the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn and crash into the ditch.

DCB BANK Ltd. # 650/12, BEE EM Avenue, Dr. Raj Kumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010				
POSSESSION NOTICE				
Whereas the Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the DCB Bank Ltd. , under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, 2002, calling upon the borrowers / co-borrowers as mentioned in column no. 3 to repay the amount mentioned in the said Demand Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.				
The borrowers and co-borrowers having failed to repay the amount as mentioned in column no. 6, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possessions of the property as described herein below in column no. 4 in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.				
Sr. No	Loan Account	Borrowers/ Co-borrowers	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount Demanded	Date of Possession
1	DRHLHUB00620437	Mr. ANIL MAHADEVAPPA GAYAKWAD (Borrower) & Mrs. SHOBA MAHADEVAPPA GAYAKWAD (Co-Borrower)	12-Dec-25 Rs. 14,92,675/-	18-06-2026
Description of Secured Assets : "That in respect of Non-Agricultural residential plot / open space its piece & parcel of land bearing E-Swattu No: 17-509-101 measuring 55.74 54 Sq Mtrs, which is bearing old Property No: 454/64/7 situated at Basveshwara Nagar Kalaghatagi Taluk, Dharwad District, within the limit of taluk Municipal Corporation, Kalaghatagi, the same is bounded as under: Towards East: Property of Bhimanna Hugar, Towards West: Property of Rathnavva Mahadevappa Kanteppanavar, Towards North: Govt Road, Towards South: Property of Shantavanna Walikar."				
2	DRBLHUB00608935	Mr. IRFANSAB ADHONI (Borrower) & Mrs. UMMEJABIN ADHONI	05-Jan-26 Rs. 4,97,477/-	18-06-2026
Description of Secured Assets : "That in respect of residential Property bearing CTS No: 2279/2 measuring 35.8/9 Sq Yards i.e., 30 Sq Mtrs which is bearing E-Swattu No: 55-4-145-1789 Situated at Vallapur Oni, Taluk: Hubballi & District: Dharwad the same is bounded as under: Towards East: CTS No: 2279/3, Towards West: CTS No: 2279/1, Towards North: Govt Road, Towards South: Govt Road"				
3	DRBLHUB00591450	Mr. SHIVARAJ ASHOK DEMBE (Borrower), Mrs. SAVITREI ASHOK DEMBE, Mr. ASHOK RAJAPPA DEMBE (Co-Borrower)	10-Dec-25 Rs. 4,96,170/-	18-06-2026
Description of Secured Assets : "All that Part and parcel of the Property situated Property No. 17-510-116 Old Property No. 454/61 Assessment No. 454/61 measuring 55.7418 sq. meters out of which constructed area 20.067048 sq. meters. Situated at Kalaghatagi Town, which comes Kalaghatagi Taluk and Kalaghatagi Sub Registrar within the limit of Town Panchayat Kalaghatagi, and bounded by Towards East: Property of Jagadish Hebballimath, Towards West: Property of Parashuram Joshi, Towards North: Ashraya Houses, Towards South: Road"				
4	DBLAKOA00467168	Mr. P. HUSSAIN (Borrower), Mr. RASOOL SAB & Mrs. GHOSIYA BEGUM	10-Dec-25 Rs. 9,31,667/-	23-06-2026
Description of Secured Assets : "All the piece and parcel of the that the property bearing Corporation ward No. 06, C.M.C. ward No. XB, C.T.S. ward No. 06, Block No. 10, T. S. No. 957/2B/1 part, R.S. No. 774/C, City Municipal House No. 92/C2, Assessment No. 61738/A, measuring East-West: 20 feet, North-South: 30 feet in total 600 sq. feet, in which constructed area Ground Floor 450 sq. feet, First Floor 225 sq. feet, situated at (Bommamahal Road), R.K. Mill Road, (Kanekal Road), Ballari, within the Registration District of Ballari and Sub-Registrar of Ballari, BOUNDARIES FOR SCHEDULE, East : Plot No. 103, West: Plot No. 101, North: Road, South: Plot No. 133."				
5	DBLALBI00468891	Mr. DADAPEER K (Borrower) & Mrs. K. HAJERABEE	12-Jan-26 Rs. 10,45,036/-	22-06-2026
Description of Secured Assets : "Site situated in bellary town sub registration and registration district of bellary in the property bearing Municipal ward No. 6, Corporation ward No. 5, C.T.S. ward No. 06, Block No. 4, T.S. No. 593/1A1, Door No. 141, Assessment No. 61738/A, measuring East-West: 20 feet, North-South: 27 feet in total 540 sq. feet, in which constructed area Ground Floor 87.5 sq. feet, and 50 sq. feet, and 450 sq. feet, 648, situated at Bandimote, Ballari, within the Registration District and Sub-Registrar of Ballari, belongs to Dada Peer S/o Khaja Hussain, R/o Door No. 141, W.No. 6, Suleman Khan Street, Bandimote, Brucepatt, Ballari BOUNDARIES: East : Property of Ghousie; West: Property of Abdul Khaleed; North Road; South: Property of Mehaboboo"				
The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the DCB Bank Ltd. for the amount mentioned therein and further interest and cost thereon.				
Date: 24-06-2026 Place: Hubballi Kolagaflu Ballary			Sd/-Authorized Officer, DCB Bank Limited	

Karnataka

Kumaraswamy rejects CM's invite over Bidadi township debate

Bengaluru, June 23 : The political battle over the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT), popularly known as the Bidadi AI Township, intensified on Tuesday as union Minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy rejected Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's invitation for a closed-door discussion at Vidhana Soudha and instead challenged him to hold talks in the protest-hit Bidadi region in the presence of affected farmers.

The exchange followed Shivakumar's letter inviting Kumaraswamy and a team of five repre-



representatives to attend a meeting at his office on June 26 to discuss the township project, which the Chief Minister said had its origins during Kumaraswamy's tenure as Chief Minister.

Responding hours later, Kumaraswamy declined the invitation,

arguing that any meaningful discussion on the contentious project should involve farmers and other stakeholders whose lands and livelihoods are at stake.

He proposed that the meeting be held in Bidadi or nearby Bairamangala, where protests against

the project have been ongoing, and suggested June 27 as an alternative date due to prior commitments.

Kumaraswamy also urged the state government to allow affected residents, including women engaged in dairy and animal husbandry activities as well as small business owners, to directly present their concerns before the administration.

The union Minister accused the Congress government of adopting a contradictory stand on the township project and released Assembly records from 2006, claiming that senior Congress

leaders, including former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, had opposed his earlier proposal to establish townships at multiple locations across Karnataka.

"I withdrew the proposal in August 2007 to protect farmers' interests. I have had no role in the present project since then," Kumaraswamy said.

Dismissing attempts to link him to the ongoing land acquisition exercise, he noted that the preliminary notification for acquisition was issued on March 12, 2025, and the final notification on June 10, 2026.

Gulbarga Mystics register dominant 95-run victory against the Shivamogga Yodhas

Mysuru : Gulbarga Mystics scored their maiden victory on Tuesday trouncing Shivamogga Yodhas by 95 runs in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament. A turbo charged batting display in the powerplay during which the Mystics smashed 93 runs, and a heroic all-round performance by Kranthi Kumar (31 of 22, 2/8) did the magic for Gulbarga who posted a challenging 232/8. Gautam Mishra (3/34) and Ronit More (2/7) also shone with the ball as Gulbarga restricted Shivamogga to 137.

To complete an outstanding day, Kranthi Kumar returned to claim two decisive wickets for just eight runs in three overs to put Gulbarga on the highway to a



comfortable victory.

Kumar first dismissed Harshil Dharmani (23 off 17) of the last ball of his first over and then got rid of captain

Smaran Ravichandran (23 off 23) of the first ball of his next to effectively end Shivamogga's ambitions of pulling off a high-scoring chase. For Shivamogga Yodhas, opener Luvnith Sisodia's (30 off 14) early burst hardly mattered as the line-up could not cope with the mounting pressure. The match eventually petered out into a one-sided contest. It was Shivamogga's second defeat in three matches. Earlier, put into bat first, Gulbarga opener Lochan Gowda (47 off 21) and No.3 Prakash Chaturvedi (45 off 19) set the early tempo with some aggressive strokes and once in the saddle they stepped up the pace to such an extent that a 300-run target was possible.

Atmanirbharta in Defence Manufacturing: Stakeholder Workshop Held Under Karnataka's Leadership



Bengaluru: A major stakeholder workshop under the national initiative, 'Atmanirbharta in Defence Manufacturing', aimed at reducing import dependence and strengthening indigenous defence production, was held at Khanija Bhavan here on Tuesday.

The workshop brought together senior officials and representatives from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India; the Karnataka Government's Electronics, IT/BT and Science & Technology Department and Commerce & Industries Department; Defence PSUs such as HAL, BDL, BEML and MIDHANI, as well as leading defence industry players, MSMEs, startups and ecosystem partners. Inaugurating the workshop, Dr N. Manjula, Secretary, Electronics, IT/BT and Science & Technology Department, said the initiative seeks to make India self-reliant in defence manufacturing. She noted that Karnataka, being a leader in the aerospace and defence sectors, has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading policy formulation under the national consultation process. "We will assess the existing ecosystem, con-

solidate stakeholder inputs and prepare a comprehensive set of recommendations. Similar consultations will also be held across the country," she said.

She added that the workshop was designed to engage stakeholders across six critical areas, including policy and governance, industrial infrastructure, testing and certification, MSME and startup participation, skill development, market access and defence exports, with the objective of identifying challenges and developing practical solutions to strengthen the defence manufacturing ecosystem.

The six thematic groups were led by Hind High Vacuum, AIA, dhaRTi Foundation and IISc, New Space Research, IIT Dharwad and Merlinhawk. Discussions focused on recommendations such as formulating a long-term Aerospace and Defence Policy aligned with Karnataka's strengths, establishing a dedicated Aerospace and Defence Facilitation Cell with a single-window mechanism, developing defence manufacturing clusters and common facilities, creating a Karnataka Defence Testing and Certification Network, strengthening MSMEs and startups.

Karnataka FSL sets national benchmark in forensic investigations

Bengaluru: Karnataka's Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) has emerged as a national model in scientific crime investigation, with the State Government committed to further strengthening its capabilities. Home Minister Priyank Karge said on Tuesday, During a review meeting at the FSL office in Madivara, Bengaluru, the Minister praised the institution for its scientific accuracy, technical expertise, and speedy reporting in criminal investigations. He noted that Karnataka FSL has earned accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and operates according to international quality standards.

Kharge highlighted that the state's Digital and Mobile Forensic divisions have been recognised as "Examiner of Electronic Evidence" under

the Information Technology Act, a distinction achieved by only a few institutions in the country. He also lauded the laboratory for receiving the prestigious Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Award for excellence in digital forensics.

The Minister said Karnataka FSL gained national recognition for scientifically linking the murders of journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalists M.M. Kalburgi, Narendra Dabholkar, and Govind Pansare through advanced forensic analysis.

He announced that a dedicated Wildlife Forensic Unit will soon be established to investigate wildlife crimes and illegal smuggling. The government will also fill vacant posts and further modernise the forensic system to ensure faster, transparent, and efficient criminal investigations.

 Muthoot Homefin Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NF, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapatti Bapart Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 028				
DEMAND NOTICE				
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to MHIL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest at 2% p.m. as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to MHIL by the said Borrowers respectively.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor/ Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	Deepak Krishnamurthy/ Vijayalakshmi Venkataramanappa/ Sukeshini Chithra R/ YEL-NHL-000008/ Yelahanka	Rs. 13,03,630/- Rupees Thirteen Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of Residential Property Bearing No. 12, Situated at Kariyannapalya Gramatanu, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now BBMP Ward No.94-Kadugondanahalli, New Sikelipalli No.12, Kariyannapalya Gramatanu, Bangalore-84 and (PID) 94-292-12, Measuring East to West: 11 Feet And North To South: 25 Feet, In All Measuring 275 Sq.feet. And Bounded By East by: Private Property, West by: Padmanabha'S Property, North by: Road, South by: Padmanabha'S Property.
2.	Madhu S/ Jayalakshmi Bai/Shivarama R/ BAN-NHL-000014/ One Ramanagra	Rs. 8,71,422/- Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of the Property Bearing Present Municipal Katha No. 1081/57/67, Measuring East To West 40 Feet 6 Inches North To South 15 Feet, Situated At Ward No. 25, Kodipura, Manjunatha Nagara, Ramanagera Town And Bounded on: East By: Road, West By: Halla, North By: House No. 68, South By: House No. 66.
3.	Maheesha S/ Ambika G S/ Geetha/ MYS-HL-000297/ Mysore	Rs. 6,24,570/- Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Only.	22-May-2026	All That Part & Parcel of The Property Bearing No.208, PID.No. 15210070020100228, Situated at Channahalli Village, Mahadevapura, Gramapanchayath, Sirrangapatna Taluk, Mandya District, Measuring W- E: 12.192 Meters & N-S:6.096 Meters and Totally 74.32 square Meters., Bounded on: North- Gally & House of Siddachari South-Site of Karigowda East- Road West- Land of Karigowda
4.	Raju./ Prema./ Renukprasada R/ BAN-NHL-001079/ Bangalore	Rs. 16,60,536/- Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy One Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Six Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Sy.No. 13/1A Measuring 0-01 1/4 Guntas, Out of 1-34 1/4 Guntas, Situated at Jakardandhalla Village, Mariala Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, and bounded on: North By: Road No.46, Road South- Private Property East- Private Property West- Private Property
5.	Kiran P/ Chethan P/ Renukamma/ 053-05300361/ Bangalore	Rs. 13,15,867/- Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Immovable Property Bearing Southern Portion of The Western Portion of The Property Bearing Site No.59, Carved Out of Sy.No.101, Situated at Nagarbhavi, Adarshanagara, 1 'A' Cross Road, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now Comes Under The Jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore Ward.No.127, Measuring East To West 20 Feet., And North To South 15 Feet., In All Totally Measuring 300 Sq.Feet., And Bounded on The: East By:- Common Passage Measuring 3X20 Feet. and Property Belongs to Komala, West By:- Property No.40, North By:- Property Belongs to Kausalya, South By:- Property No.58.
6.	Hanumantha B M/ Hanuramma Mullaiah/ Pramod Madaiiah/ Praveen B M/ RAN-HL-000001/ Ramanagra	Rs. 19,19,812/- Rupees Nineteen Lakh Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Present Khameshamuri Katha No. 32 and PID No. 15290010300100194 Measuring East To West 144 Meters And North To South 12.192 Meters, Total Measuring 111.48 Sq. Meters, Situated at Bachahalalli Village, Elthetodadahalli Grama Panchayath, Channapatna Taluk and Ramanagara District and Bounded on: East By: Private Property West By: Private Property North By: 20 Ft Cc Road South By: Private Property
7.	K Shivanna/ Latha / B S Kiran/ B S Kavya/ RAN-HL-000003/ Ramanagra	Rs. 18,84,969/- Rupees Eighteen Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.329, E-Katha No.152100200800320037 Measuring East To West 12.192 Mtrs And North To South 14.0208 Mtrs, In All Measuring 170.94 sq.meters, Situated At Byadarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District Presently Within The Limits of K. Honnalagera Gram Panchayathi And Bounded on: East By: Vacant Site West By: Own Agriculrtural Land North By: Own Land South By: Road
8.	Kumar Naik K/ Roopa K/ Thippeswamy K N/ Annappurna/ BAN-HL-001080/ Bangalore	Rs. 22,06,960/- Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing TMC Assessment No.2585/2604/2512/83/1, Measuring East To West 37ft And North To South 101.2 Along With 11/2 of Passage, Totally Measuring 631 Sq.ft With Rcc House With Gf And Ff, Situated At Sadara Beldi, Attibele Town, Attibele Municipal Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. Bounded With- East By: Road West By: Residential House, Private Property North By: House of Nagarajappa South By: Passage And House of A S Govindappa
9.	Manjunatha S/ Usha/ Shivanna A M/ Sarojamma/ 053-05300721/ Bangalore	Rs. 9,02,195/- Rupees Nine Lakh Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety Five Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Immovable Property Bearing Property No.1119/118b164, E' Katha No. 4028, Situated at Dodda Ballala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Shanthinagara 7th Cross, Door.No.26, Measuring East To West 22 Feet., (6.705600000000000004 Mtrs) And North To South 30 Feet., (9.144 Mtrs) And Bounded On The- East By- House Belongs To Gadi Kempnanna, West By- 13 Feet Road North By- Property of B. Narasappa, South By- 3 Feet Galli
10.	Nithinkumar C/ Channakesha R/ Chandankumar C/ Shobha/ BAN-NHL-001126/ Bangalore	Rs. 14,56,758/- Rupees Fourteen Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No.131, Measuring East To West 51ft And North To South 53ft, Totally Measuring 2703 Sq.ft, Situated At Chodenahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk, And Bounded On: East By: Road, West By: Road North By- Road South By- Road & Property of Narayanamma.
11.	Shaheed Pasha/ Shouib Akhtar S B/ Mohammed Maaz/ Shabana./ Babu./ BAN-HL-001326/ Bangalore	Rs. 36,85,496/- Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Six Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Site No.53, Comprised In No.60/2, Pid No.64-19-53, Measuring East To West 19.81 Mtrs And North To South 15 Ft., Situated At Thavarakere, 35/58th Division, Now Known As 6th Cross Road, New Gurappanapalya, Bangalore And Bounded On: East By: Road West By: Private Property North By: Property No.54 South By: Remaining Portion of No.53
12.	Chethan M R/D Girija/ RAN-NHL-000001/ Ramanagra	Rs. 13,79,028/- Rupees Thirteen Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Twenty Eight Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Present Khameshamuri Katha No. 268/252 And Pid No. 152900103100600795, Measuring East To West 4.8768 Meters And North To South 30.1752 Meters, Total Measuring 147.16 Sq. Meters, Situated At Lalaghatta Village, Vandaraguppe Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk And Ramanagara District And Bounded on: North- Vacant Site South- Road East- Vacant Site West- House of Mallesh.
13.	Prakash./ Muniakshamma./ BAN-HL-001148 & BAN-NHL-001133/ Bangalore	Rs. 18,04,896/- Rupees Eighteen Lakh Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six Only & Rs. 9,91,683/- Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Three Only	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 99/ 223/13, Kaneshamuri No.152900203501220053, Measuring East To West 19.81 mtrs And North To South 14.02 mtrs, In All Measuring 277.78 sq.mtrs, Situated At Sirramanagera Village, Hukunda Grama Dhakale, Uymaballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District. Presently Within The Limits of Hukunda Gram Panchayath And Bounded on: East By- Moodiligowda's Property And 9ft Road, West By- Agri Land Private Property North By- Agri Land Private Property South By- Residential House.
14.	Prakash./ Asha P/ BAN-BAN-HL-001154/ Bangalore	Rs. 10,66,633/- Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three Only.	22-May-2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 146, Katha No.180, Measuring East To West 16ft And North To South 30ft, Situated At Herohalli Village, Hobli, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District. Presently Within The Limits of Bbmp And Bounded on: East By: Others Property, West By- Others Property, North By- Road South By- Road.
15.	Prasanth Kumar M/ Vedhavathi N/ 092-09200081/ Hosur			

EDITORIAL

Why Pakistan Is Becoming Harder To Isolate - Despite India's Push

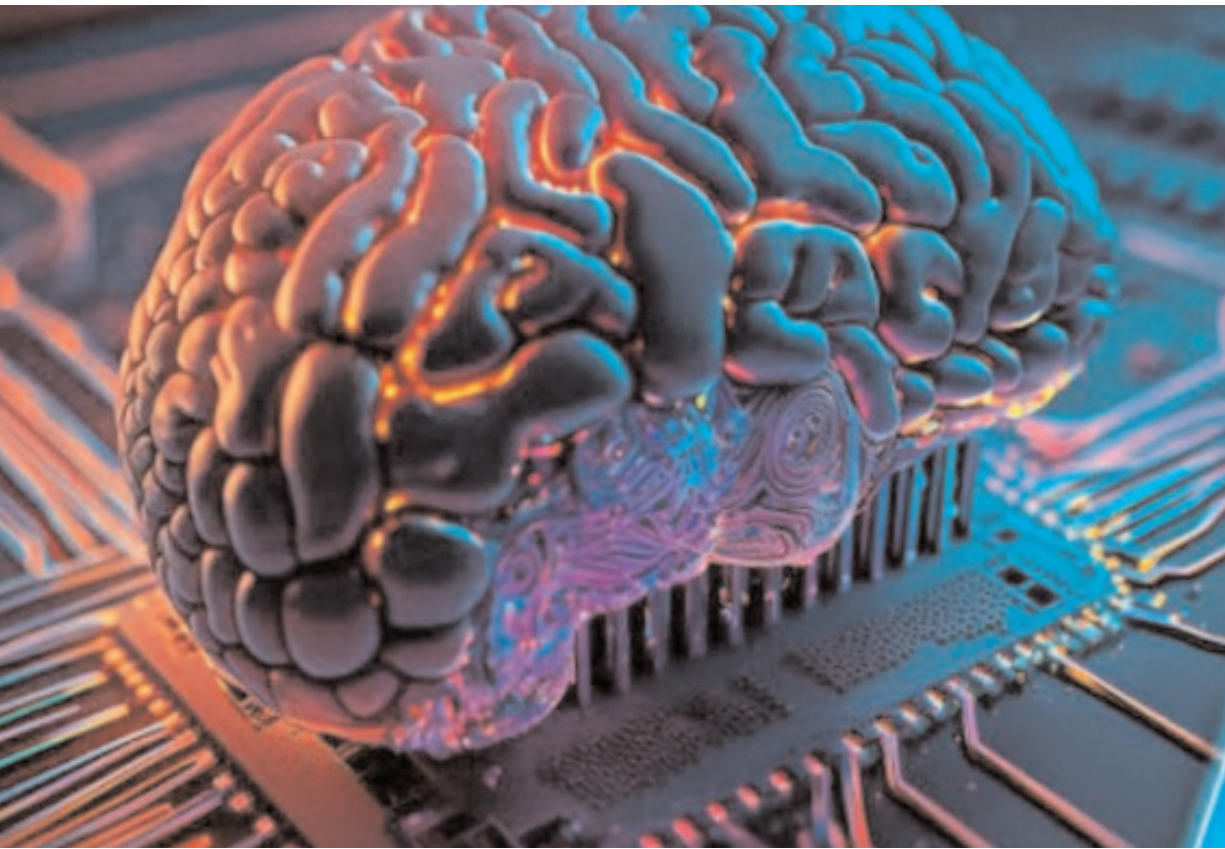
On Sunday, the world woke up to the news that Iran and the US had finally agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding "on ending the war that Israel and US had waged on Iran". The announcement was made by Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif. The document has been titled the 'Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding'. On Thursday, it was once again Sharif who announced that the deal had been electronically signed by the presidents of the United States and Iran, with his endorsement as mediator. He said the agreement takes immediate effect - Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz and the US would lift its naval blockade (though on Saturday, Iran closed the strait again after Israel attacked Hezbollah in Lebanon). Sharif also thanked the leaders of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt for their support in reaching this agreement, which has been welcomed by much of the world. Pakistan's efforts are being lauded in global capitals. Oil prices have dropped, markets have surged.

This must be the finest hour in Pakistan's diplomacy, far more significant when it brokered a breakthrough between the US and China in 1979. The Iran war had majorly and negatively affected countries around the world, and a breakthrough has caused a huge global sigh of relief. Even if, for some untoward reason, the peace deal set to be negotiated over the next two months fails, Pakistan will have put its imprint on mediating the end of this conflict and made its mark as a mediator, an important diplomatic achievement. India has been one of the worst hit countries by the war and is understandably relieved by the detente. In France, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the MoU, without mentioning Pakistan. Coming within a year of the Pahalgam attacks and Operation Sindoor, Pakistan's elevated diplomatic position is not what India would have imagined or wished for. This clarifies a sad truth - it is impossible, at least in the current geopolitical scenario, to isolate Pakistan diplomatically. Because, Pakistan has some inherent strengths and weaknesses, both of which it leverages.

A Large Muslim Population

First, the size. Pakistan is the fifth-most populous country, with a population of over 241.5 million and the world's first modern Muslim state. Used to a secular polity, we in India often undermine the role of religion in international affairs. It is futile to ignore the fact that Islam provides Pakistan the soft power that cements its place in the larger Muslim world. Moreover, it has the second-largest Muslim population, which gives it leverage - the kind most vividly demonstrated during the Afghan jihad, when it became the frontline Muslim state fighting the communists. Such a large population also gives it visibility in states like the Gulf countries, where large expatriate Pakistani communities live and work. An overall population of 241 million also creates a large consumer market that countries do not want to forfeit. Next is Pakistan's military. Pakistan has the world's seventh-largest standing army.

THE AI OVERHAUL: What India Can Learn From China's Massive University Shakeup



China has carried out the most sweeping university overhaul in the past five years. It has eliminated 12,200 undergraduate programmes and introduced 10,200 new ones. The changes touched more than 30 per cent of all Chinese university courses. The discontinued programmes share a common thread: arts, humanities, foreign languages, general management. Fields Beijing believes will have no demand in the future economy. The replacements are mostly in artificial intelligence, robotics, advanced computing, and quantum technologies. Top Chinese universities now offer degrees in embodied intelligence, the science of how AI interacts with the physical world. For children as young as six, algorithm literacy is now taught alongside reading and arithmetic. We in India need to sit with this news for a moment. The disruption in jobs and economic value is no longer speculative. AI, machine learning, robotics, and quantum computing are already restructuring industries, compressing skill cycles, and redrawing the map of what human labour is worth. India's own Economic Survey 2024-25 acknowledged the double edge: AI will automate economically valuable tasks at scale, and the workers most exposed are those in the middle and lower wage brackets. Precisely the cohort that the university system is meant to uplift. The challenge India faces is not simply unemployment. It is something more corrosive: mass unproductivity. A structural mismatch between what tens of millions of young Indians are trained to do and what a rapidly evolving economy

will pay them to do. The World Economic Forum estimates that 63% of India's workforce will require significant upskilling and reskilling by 2030 to adapt to AI and advanced automation. The demographic dividend India prizes so highly is not a guaranteed asset. Handed to an underprepared workforce, it becomes a liability. History has already run this experiment. India rode the IT wave of the 1990s because it had a critical mass of English-speaking engineering talent when the world needed it. It became pharmacy to the world because health sciences had been quietly nurtured over decades. Every economic wave India has successfully caught was preceded, years earlier, by an education system that produced the right skills at the right moment. The AI

wave is cresting now. China has done this at a far bigger scale. In 1985, under Deng Xiaoping's Four Modernizations, Beijing restructured its education system around a single purpose: industrialisation. Vocational enrolment surged from 5 per cent in 1978 to 36 per cent by 1985, redirecting large numbers of high school students into technical training. University admissions were state-directed to produce engineers, scientists, and technicians. The factory of the world that swept global markets in the 1990s was not built in Shenzhen. It was built in Chinese classrooms a decade earlier. In 1991, when India launched its own economic reforms, the two countries were roughly comparable in GDP and per capita income. Today, India is a \$4.1 trillion economy.

China is \$19 trillion, nearly five times larger. That divergence was partly engineered through a long-term bet on human capital. China is making a similar bet again. In 2024, its gross R&D spending reached \$785 billion, positioning it at the forefront of global innovation investment. That is more than ten times India's total outlay.”

Meanwhile, India's R&D spending has remained anchored at less than 1 per cent of GDP. This column is not an exercise in self-flagellation. The IITs and IIMs have produced world-class talent. India's space programme is a genuine point of national pride. The National Education Policy of 2020 is a serious document. Its emphasis on multidisciplinary, computational thinking, and early technology exposure reflects real intent. India

plans to roll out an AI curriculum across all schools from Grade 3 beginning 2027. The government has announced a Centre of Excellence in AI for Education. But a framework is not real-world transformation. Intent is not implementation. The NEP's ambitions are being tested against a baseline that, in large parts of the country, is still fighting for basic literacy.

Introducing algorithm literacy where reading literacy is absent is a Himalayan task. The private sector deserves scrutiny here. India's private universities and schools have expanded aggressively for two decades on the promise of employability. How many have genuinely restructured their programmes for the AI era, not merely rebranded them? How many are still offering the

same outdated engineering syllabi, the same general management degrees, dressed in new prospectus language? Regulatory and accreditation bodies must ask harder questions. Autonomy should be a privilege earned through demonstrated relevance. What India needs is a genuine convergence of policy-makers, industry, research institutions, and academia, operating at a speed this sector has never attempted. Industry must stop being a passive consumer of educational output and become an active co-designer of it. The gap between what engineering colleges teach and what technology companies need has been a challenge for decades. In the AI era, it becomes dangerous. Policymakers must match ambition with action. China's current reforms are backed by a planned \$300 billion commitment to AI infrastructure and a mechanism to track how AI creates and displaces jobs in real time, so that education policy can respond dynamically, not retrospectively. India needs an equivalent instrument suiting our domestic realities and economic planning. The decisions made now on curriculum, R&D investment, and the rationalisation of what we teach and why, will determine whether India participates in the AI economy as an innovator or as a vendor of cheap labour with an expensive degree. China made its education bet in 1985 and collected its dividend for thirty years. It is placing its next bet right now, with a clarity of purpose. The question for India is not whether it has noticed. It is whether it has the institutional will to act at the required scale and the required speed.

We Have Not Lost Ourselves - Notes From A Kashmiri Pandit

I was seventeen the night I left Kashmir. It was January 19, 1990. That night everything changed for us. The loudspeakers began blaring slogans against Kashmiri Pandits. Overnight, the place we had always called home no longer felt like home. Families who had lived in the Valley for generations suddenly found themselves confronting questions they had never imagined they would have to ask. Could we stay? Were we safe? What came next? In the days that followed, people began leaving quietly. Neighbours disappeared. Relatives left. One family would go, then another. Soon it was our turn. There was no time to grieve the house, or the streets, or the only life I had ever known. There was only the decision that Pandit family after Pandit family was making in those days: leave now, while you still can. My father woke me at three in the morning. I can still feel that hand on my shoulder in the cold. He did not explain much. There was nothing to explain that we both did not already know. He put me on his scooter and drove me out through the empty, curfewed streets. No sound but the engine and our own breathing. His government curfew pass was the only reason we could move at all. I held on to him in the dark, and somewhere on that ride I understood, without either of us saying it, that I did not know when I would see him again. He took me to the bus stand at Lal Chowk. Two



buses were leaving Kashmir that morning, and an entire community was trying to fold its whole life onto them. The only one I could take was a KMD bus, already packed. There was no seat for me anywhere inside. So I climbed up and sat on the bonnet at the front, the metal cover over the engine. It was the dead of a Kashmiri winter and my face was numb with cold. But the bonnet was hot. The engine ran beneath it the whole way down, and the heat came up through the metal and through my clothes, until I was freezing and burning at the same time. My father handed me over to the driver, asked him to take care of me, and let go. Then I was moving. Alone. Many of you reading this know that night without me describing it. You have your own version. A different bus, a different house, a different hand let go of in the dark. We do not need to compare notes. The

cold is the same cold. We carry it in the same place. What I want to write about is not the leaving. We have grieved the leaving for thirty-six years, and we are entitled to. I want to write about what came after, because that is the part I think we have been too modest about. We came down to Jammu in numbers no city could have been fully prepared for. We arrived faster than homes could be found and faster than supplies could be organised. Yet Jammu opened its doors. I have never forgotten that. A city was asked to absorb a flood of frightened strangers almost overnight, and most of its people met us with warmth, sharing what little there was even as our own numbers strained it past breaking. When you have lost everything, you do not forget who made room for you. My parents and my family live in Jammu to this day. It became home in the truest sense, and a part of

me will always belong to it. It was not all gentle, and I would be dishonest to my own people if I pretended it was. When supplies run short, some will profiteer. That is true in every place, and it was true there too. There were also fringe voices that taunted us, asking why Kashmiri Pandits had not stayed back and fought. Those words cut in a way the cold never could. But fringe elements exist in every society, and they were never the face of Jammu. The face of Jammu was the family that quietly made space for six other families in its own home. We paid for our survival in small daily losses of dignity, and we paid them without complaint. Put that many people into one or two rooms and the hardest thing is not sleeping. It is privacy. The makeshift bathrooms were often little more than tarpaulin stretched over a frame.

WHO IS THE CITY FOR: VEHICLES OR CITIZENS?



India's cities are growing rapidly. From metropolises to medium and small towns, the pace of urbanization is unprecedented. Millions of people are migrating to cities every year in search of economic growth, employment opportunities, and better amenities. But amid this rapid urban expansion, a fundamental question often remains neglected—are our cities walkable for their citizens? Are roads only for vehicles or for humans as well? Recently, the judiciary has made significant observations, establishing the right to walk on safe footpaths as a fundamental right, linking it to the right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. This is a welcome constitutional boost, as it attempts to view urban infrastructure for the first time not just from the perspective of construction and transportation, but in the context of civil rights and human dignity. But the question is, will judicial declarations or legal recognition alone truly make Indian cities pedestrian-friendly? The answer is negative. Real change will come when

urban planning approaches shift from a vehicle-centric model to a human-centric model, and walking is accepted as a respectable and primary mode of transportation in society. Walking is not a limited activity in India. According to various government and independent studies, a large number of daily journeys in the country are made entirely or partially on foot. The poor, laborers, students, women, the elderly, and citizens with disabilities travel the most on foot. Despite this, pedestrians receive the lowest priority in urban planning. In most cities, sidewalks either do not exist or are so narrow, broken, and encroached that they are difficult to use. In many places, sidewalks are converted into parking lots, extensions of shops, carts, or storage for construction materials. The most tragic consequence of this situation is road accidents. India ranks among the world's leading countries in road accident deaths. Pedestrians account for a significant number of these accidents. Thousands of people lose their lives each year due to road crossing difficulties, the lack of sidewalks, and high-speed vehicles. This is not just a transportation crisis, but also a question of public health, social justice, and human rights. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees every person the right to a dignified life. Over time, the judiciary has expanded its interpretation to include

rights such as a clean environment, education, health, and housing. The right to safe pedestrian paths is an extension of this progressive constitutional approach. When a citizen cannot safely travel from their home to school, office, hospital, or market, their right to life and liberty remains incomplete. Therefore, footpaths are not just structures of cement and concrete, but symbols of civil liberty and equality. Yet, merely declaring rights is not enough. Despite the legal recognition of many rights in India, serious challenges remain in their implementation. The right to education, the right to a clean environment, and the right to food are examples of this. Similarly, administrative will, financial investment, and institutional reforms will be necessary to implement the right to a footpath. The biggest problem with Indian urban governance is its vehicle-centric approach. The post-independence development model considered wide roads, flyovers, and expressways as symbols of modernity. The success of cities was measured by vehicle speeds and road capacity. As a result, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport users were marginalized. The objective of urban planning became smooth vehicular movement rather than public convenience. This approach also contradicts the principles of social justice. Private car users in India are relatively low, while most citizens rely on

public transport, bicycles, or walking. Despite this, a significant portion of public funds is spent on projects that primarily benefit vehicle owners. This increases inequality in the distribution of resources and impacts the mobility of poorer sections. The condition of sidewalks is also gender-critical. Women, especially working women and students, rely heavily on safe and well-lit pedestrian pathways. Poor sidewalks, inadequate lighting, and unsafe public spaces limit their mobility. Similarly, barrier-free sidewalks are essential for the elderly and the disabled. If urban infrastructure is not designed with the needs of these groups in mind, cities cannot be considered inclusive. The concept of human-centered urban planning becomes important in this context. Its fundamental principle is that cities should be designed for people, not vehicles. Streets are not just transportation corridors, but also social and public spaces. Sidewalks, cycle tracks, green spaces, public transportation, and universal accessibility are key elements of this model. Many cities around the world have achieved remarkable success in this direction. By prioritizing pedestrians and public transportation, several cities in Europe and Latin America have achieved reductions in road accidents, control of air pollution, and improvements in the quality of life for citizens.

Telegram ban lifted in India after NEET re-exam, edit block stays

Hyderabad: Google and Apple restored Telegram on their respective platforms on Tuesday morning, June 23, as the government's week-long ban on the messaging platform came to an end, though a separate order disabling the app's message-editing feature remains in force until June 30. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had blocked Telegram on June 16 under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, on the recommendations of the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The ban came ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination held on June 21, after the platform was found to be systematically misused by cheating networks to circulate fabricated question papers and fraudulent content targeting exam candidates. The original NEET-UG 2026 examination, held on May 3, had been cancelled by the NTA amid widespread allegations of paper leaks and irregularities. That matter remains under CBI investigation. Before the ban was imposed, government officials had met Telegram representatives on June 3 and flagged these concerns. When the platform failed to produce



adequate compliance, authorities moved to block it entirely — along with its associated web links and the web version of the app. Both Google and Apple delisted Telegram from their respective stores following the order. NTA Director General Abhishek Singh said there had been no actual paper leak but that fabricated messages circulating on the platform were causing serious anxiety among students. "We had to take this action," he told news agency PTI. Why the message editing feature was disabled A parallel order requiring Telegram to disable its message-editing feature was prompted by a

specific exploitation tactic, as channel administrators had been editing old posts to insert question paper content after an examination while retaining the original timestamp, then circulating screenshots as purported proof of a prior leak. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre in the Delhi High Court, said Telegram's architecture made it uniquely difficult to police. A single account could create up to 40 bots, he said, and once a bot was blocked, it could automatically mirror to another. "Bots are machines; they can further multiply," Mehta said, adding that law

enforcement could not trace actual users because the platform operated through the cloud. Delhi High Court backs the ban On June 19, the Delhi High Court rejected Telegram's petition challenging the blocking order, clearing the way for the ban to remain in force through the re-examination. Justice Tejas Karia held that the government had strictly followed the procedure under Section 69A, that the emergency nature of the order justified the reasons supplied, and that the restrictions satisfied the test of proportionality. Telegram had argued before the court that it had proactively taken down

more than 900 links involving unlawful NEET-related content and deployed artificial intelligence tools to address the problem. Justice Karia had orally asked the Centre during the hearing whether the rights of 150 million users could be curtailed because one set of citizens was appearing in an exam. Pavel Durov hits back Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov was sharply critical, saying the ban "punishes 150 million ordinary Telegram users in India, not the insiders who leaked the exam materials," and claiming the leaks had simply moved to other platforms. He also alleged, without citing evidence, that Reliance — which he described as partially owned by Meta, WhatsApp's parent company — may have lobbied to have Telegram banned. The Internet Freedom Foundation called the government's action "a band-aid solution" and "a disproportionate answer to exam fraud." The NTA said that so far there had been no report of any fraudulent activity during the June 21 re-examination. Before the ban was imposed, government officials had met Telegram representatives on June 3 and flagged concerns.

Tech Mahindra expands partnership with Telefónica Germany

Pune | June 23, 2026 : Tech Mahindra (NSE: TECHM), a leading global provider of technology consulting and digital solutions to enterprises across industries, announced the expansion of its partnership with Telefónica Germany to build a next-generation private cloud platform to accelerate cloud-native transformation and to provide Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) for technology and enterprise business growth. The multi-year engagement will focus on enabling a scalable, open, and future-ready digital infrastructure foundation to modernize telecom and enterprise workloads. The partnership will combine Tech Mahindra's end-to-end platform engineering and AI-first operations with Telefónica Germany's telecom infrastructure modernization objectives to create PaaS, laying the foundations for a full scale private cloud. The platform will work as a scalable blueprint for open digital infrastructure transformation at enterprise level with building blocks of Compute, Storage, Backup, Containers, Graphics Processing Units (GPU) and Ransomware Protection as a Service. The partnership will empower Telefónica Germany with a flexible cloud environment that supports cloud-native innovation, AI-led operations,



and long-term infrastructure transformation. Additionally, Telefónica Germany will be able to accelerate infrastructure sovereignty, telco cloud advancements, reduce dependency on proprietary virtualization environments, and strengthen business-to-business (B2B) monetization capabilities through a unified strategic partnership model. Harshul Asnani, President and Head - Europe Business, Tech Mahindra, said, "Telcos are looking for open, scalable, and cloud-native infrastructure environments that support evolving digital service demands while optimizing operational efficiency. Our partnership with Telefónica Germany reflects a shared commitment to building a solution that combines Automation, flexibility, and resilience. By leveraging platform engineering, cloud-native technologies, and AI-driven automation, we are

creating a strong foundation for next-generation telecom infrastructure and enabling enterprise and business-to-business (B2B) growth." Tech Mahindra will also leverage AI-driven automation, cloud-native orchestration, infrastructure-as-code frameworks, and self-service platform management capabilities to support the platform as a service. The platform is designed to enhance AI-first automation, operational flexibility and resilience while supporting both traditional and next-generation infrastructure services for telecom and enterprise businesses across Germany. Markus Ruwisch, Head of Infrastructure Platforms & Services, Telefónica Germany, said, "This partnership supports our strategy to modernize infrastructure through a more open, flexible, and resilient Platform-as-a-Service architecture.

Godrej Agrovet introduces cashback offer on Hitweed Maxx for cotton farmers

June 23, 2026: Godrej Agrovet Limited, one of India's largest farm-to-protein platforms, has announced a cashback offer on its selective herbicide, Hitweed Maxx, aimed at encouraging cotton farmers to adopt timely and effective weed management practices during the critical early stages of crop growth. Under this initiative, farmers purchasing Hitweed Maxx can avail assured cashback rewards, providing a direct economic benefit while promoting the use of scientifically recommended crop protection solutions. The programme has been designed to be simple and accessible, enabling farmers to participate through easy-to-use touchpoints and receive rewards directly in their bank accounts. Hitweed Maxx is a post-emergence selective herbicide for cotton and is effective against both grasses and broadleaf weeds. It is recommended for application when weeds are at the 2-3 leaf stage, using 70 ml per pump, ensuring precise and effective coverage.

అద్భుతమైన బహుమానాలు

హిట్‌వీడ్ మాక్స్

పత్తిని ఎంపిక చేసుకునే కలుపు నాశిని ఇప్పుడు మరింత దిగుబడి కోసం సిద్ధం

పైకి-2 ప్రమాణ కోడ్, పొందడానికి
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పైకి-2 ప్రమాణ కోడ్, పొందడానికి
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మరింత వివరాల కోసం రిటైలర్‌ను సంప్రదించండి
Call: 770000 8333
Email: gahitweed@godrejagrovet.com

CROP CARE BUSINESS

initiative allows farmers to participate through two simple routes. Farmers can either scan the QR code available on the communication material or give a missed call to receive a promo code. In addition, existing Hitweed Maxx users may receive pre-approved promo code messages ahead of the season. After purchasing Hitweed Maxx, farmers can scan the QR code on the product bottle, complete a quick verification process, and view their pre-approved cashback offer. The reward can then be redeemed ensuring a seamless and convenient experience. Through this initiative, Godrej Agrovet aims to drive greater awareness and adoption of best-in-class weed management practices by combining product performance with direct farmer incentives. The Company endeavours supporting India's farming community through innovative crop care solutions and farmer-centric programmes that improve productivity, profitability, and overall farm outcomes.

Timely application during this critical growth phase helps reduce crop-weed competition, supports better crop establishment, and enhances yield potential. Commenting on the initiative, Rajavelu N.K., CEO – Crop Care Business, Godrej Agrovet Limited, said, "Effective weed manage-

ment at the right time is critical to improving cotton productivity. With this cashback offer on Hitweed Maxx, we aim to support farmers not only with a proven solution but also with a tangible incentive that encourages timely adoption of recommended agronomic practices." The

DETTOL APOLOGISES AFTER AD TO CLEAN UP 'TOXIC MEN' BACKFIRES IN CHINA

British hygiene brand Dettol has apologised for an advert in China that it claims was meant to call out sexism, but has instead backfired. The five-minute long advert for a multipurpose disinfectant, styled like a micro drama, starts out with a man looking for a partner who is "clean" and "not tainted by other men". A plot twist comes late in the advert when his new girlfriend calls him out for his misogyny and breaks up with him. Dettol is then presented as the solution against "toxic men [who] are just like bacteria". The advert sparked an uproar on the Chinese internet, with some users saying it objectifies women and others calling for a boycott of the brand. Dettol said the advert, which has been removed following the backlash, was intended to criticise gender stereotypes, but that snippets of it that later circulated online distorted its core message. "We recognise that it has offended many people, especially women. We take responsibility for any negligence in creating and



reviewing the content of the advert," Dettol said in a statement on Monday. The company also said it would review its content moderation processes. Dettol was founded with a mission to "protect the health" of families, it said, adding, "But we are well aware that true

protection also lies in safeguarding the dignity of every individual and their right to be treated equally." The advert has sparked heated discussions across Chinese social media platforms over the last few days, with many people angered by its attempts to

compare a person's "purity" with the disinfecting abilities of Dettol products. "What a trashy advertisement. It's left me speechless," a user wrote on Weibo, China's X-like platform. "What a hopeless company. What is their senior management doing?" read another comment. "I'm never using Dettol again. There are so many brands in the market after all." Many Koetse, who runs the Eye on Digital China newsletter, described the campaign as "quite a mess for a brand whose entire business revolves around cleanliness". "Even if the intention was to portray the male character as being in the wrong, the message was conveyed so poorly that it backfired spectacularly," she said. This is not the first time Dettol, which is owned by British consumer goods company Reckitt, has found itself at the centre of controversy in China. It drew backlash last year with an advert that featured the line: "The woman was 'returned' just before her wedding; it must be because she was not clean."

A decade of defying limits: hero motosports team rally celebrates 10 years of global rally racing excellence

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, celebrated the 10th anniversary of Hero MotoSports Team Rally at its Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT), Jaipur, marking a decade of India's rise on the global rally racing stage. This milestone celebration brought together top racing stars including, 2024 FIM World Rally-Raid Champion (W2RC) Ross Branch, South America's Nacho Cornejo, South African rally-raid and motocross rider Michael Docherty, and India's motocross and supercross rider Shlok Ghorpade, alongside India's pioneering professional women bikers Somya "Moksha" Chaudhary. The event was attended by key team architects of Hero MotoSports Team Rally including its Head of MotoSports and Team Manager, Wolfgang (Waffi) Fischer, and Spanish rally expert AND Head of National



MotoSports, Jordi Grau, along dealers, partners and MotoSports fraternity. As Hero MotoSports Team Rally enters its second decade, the Company has announced three strategic initiatives that will shape the future of its rally racing journey. First, the Company renewed its partnership with Amaury Sport Organization organizers of the iconic Dakar Rally and the FIM World Rally-Raid Championship. Marking

the milestone occasion, Dr. Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp announced 'India's Next Dakar Hero' (INDH) – a first-of-its-kind program designed to identify and develop India's next-generation of rally - raid talent. Concluding the announcements, the team formally welcomed rising Indian off-road racer Shlok Ghorpade into the Hero MotoSports Team. Hosted at the Company's state-of-the-art

Research and Development facility, at Jaipur, the event also featured an exclusive showcase of Hero MotoSports Team Rally's Dakar machines and riders. This included a special off-road performance by the team's stars, offering guests a thrilling glimpse into the relentless skill, endurance, and spirit that have defined Hero MotoSports' legendary decade on the world's toughest rally stages. Speaking on this milestone,

Dr. Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp, said, "Over the past decade, Hero MotoSports Team Rally has evolved from a bold ambition into a globally respected rally racing team, proudly representing India on the world stage. This milestone celebrates our past achievements while firmly defining our vision for the future. The renewal of our partnership with ASO strengthens our long-term commitment to global rally racing. Furthermore, the India's Next Dakar Hero program reflects our deep belief that India possesses immense untapped motosports talent waiting to be discovered and nurtured. By welcoming Shlok Ghorpade to the team, we aim to build a sustainable pathway for home-grown Indian riders to compete and excel at the highest levels of the sport. Together, these initiatives represent the next chapter in our journey to create a lasting rally-raid legacy for India."

SWIGGY, ZERODHA TEAM UP TO HELP RIDERS INVEST IN MUTUAL FUNDS

New Delhi: On-demand convenience platform Swiggy Ltd on Tuesday, June 23, said it has partnered with Zerodha Fund House to enable delivery partners to save a part of their earnings with investments into mutual funds through its rider app. Delivery partners can save a part of their earnings with investments into mutual funds, starting from Rs 100, the company said in a statement. The investment is done directly in the Schemes of Zerodha Fund House, and the delivery partners can manage investments directly via Zerodha Fund House's WhatsApp channel, it added. "With this partnership with Zerodha Fund House, we are making it easier for our delivery partners to invest their earnings and, in turn, become financially independent as well as invest for their future. This is another step towards giving every part-



ner access to financial tools that are designed for them," Swiggy Senior Vice President- Driver and Delivery Org, Saurav Goyal, said. Zerodha Fund House CEO Vishal Jain said the partnership with Swiggy is another example of how technology can make investing simple and accessible.

"For millions of gig workers, building long-term savings can be difficult when incomes are earned and spent in short cycles. A Swiggy delivery partner can now save a part of their weekly earnings into a mutual fund in a few taps and withdraw it whenever they need," he added.

Iran says no new commitments on nuclear sites after Vance says inspectors to be invited back

Iran has denied a claim by Vice-President JD Vance that it will allow nuclear inspectors back into the country, after the first round of talks between Washington and Tehran to reach a final deal to end the war. Following negotiations in Switzerland, Vance said on Monday that discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could be happening "as soon as today". But Iran's foreign ministry told state media that Tehran had made "no new commitments" on nuclear inspections. Iran and the US continued to share conflicting remarks on the nuclear issue on Tuesday. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Bagaei said it had no plans to allow inspectors to access nuclear sites bombed by the US and Israel last year. US President Donald Trump said that despite Iran's "protestations and false statements to the contrary", it had "fully and completely agreed" to inspections. "If they did not agree to this, there would be no fur-

ther negotiations!" he posted on social media. Meanwhile, the US has temporarily waived sanctions, allowing Iran to sell oil in US dollars for the first time in decades. In a joint statement released on Monday, mediators Qatar and Pakistan said that after the first round of talks in the Swiss resort of Bürgenstock, the US and Iran had agreed to "a roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days". Vance described the talks as having laid a "very good foundation". The US vice-president said the teams had discussed the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and "de-confliction for the regional ceasefire". The 60-day sanctions waiver issued by the US Treasury on Monday dismantles central pillars of Washington's long-running embargo, which has historically choked off Tehran's economy. The emergency licence authorises the production, sale and delivery of Iranian crude and petrochemicals until 21 August. Iranian oil can even be



imported directly into the US, under the sanctions relief. It unlocks banking transactions, insurance and transportation and does away with the complex networks that Iran has previously used to sell crude. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that in exchange for the 60-day waiver, Tehran had committed to keeping the vital Strait of Hormuz open and allowing IAEA nuclear

inspectors back into the country. Speaking in Switzerland on Monday morning, Vance was asked by reporters when nuclear inspectors would be returning to Iran. He said he expected the process to start "at a minimum this week", but conversations with inspectors "could happen as soon as today". US President Donald Trump also posted on social media that Iran "will agree to have Major Weapons

Inspections". However, in an interview with Iranian state news agency Irna, foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Bagaei said Tehran had made "no new commitments" on nuclear inspectors. He maintained that any engagement with UN inspectors would take place "under existing procedures set by Parliament and the Supreme National Security Council". The IAEA did not immediately comment. Iran suspended IAEA access to sites bombed by Israel and the US during the 12-day war last summer. The following month, the UN's nuclear watchdog said it had pulled out its remaining inspectors from the country. In 2015, Iran and six world powers – the US, China, France, Russia, Germany and the UK – struck a deal allowing IAEA inspections of nuclear sites in Iran. During Trump's first term, in 2018, he withdrew the US from this agreement, arguing it was a "bad deal". Vance said on Monday that the Iranians had threatened to walk out of the

talks on Sunday after Trump warned on Truth Social that the US could "hit Iran very hard again". The US vice-president said he told Iranian negotiators that Trump was merely responding to Iranian "trash talk". On Monday, Trump issued a fresh warning to Iran from the Oval Office. "If Iran doesn't live up to their agreement, or if they're not behaving, I will do what I have to do," the US president said. The Qatari and Pakistani mediators' joint statement said that a "communication line" had been formed "to avoid incidents and miscommunication with the aim of safe passage for commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz". Both sides also agreed to the creation of a "de-confliction cell" between the US, Iran and Lebanon, facilitated by the mediating countries, to end military operations in Lebanon, their statement said. Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said the first "real test" would be Lebanon.

Drowning deaths soar in France as Europe buckles in peak of heatwave



Forty people have drowned in heatwave-related deaths in France since last Thursday, Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu has said, as temperatures hit record levels in several major cities and the heatwave reaches a peak in several European countries. "It's not something to be taken lightly, going swimming in unsupervised areas during a heatwave," Sports and Youth Minister Marina Ferrari told French radio. France, along with Spain and Italy, has been hardest hit by the heatwave so far. France saw its hottest June day on record on Monday and its hottest ever night on Monday night, with

a minimum average of 21.6C according to Météo France, and with well over half the country on red alert. Meanwhile, in Spain temperatures are set to peak above 40C in some areas, with red alerts in Andalusia in the south, and Cantabria and the Basque Country in the north, on the third day of a national heatwave. Spain is more exposed to the effects of climate change than almost any other European country. State weather service Aemet says June heatwaves are becoming increasingly common, with 10 recorded in mainland Spain between 2000 and 2025, and just two in the previous 25 years.

Zambia ex-president's family wins latest legal battle over what should happen to his body

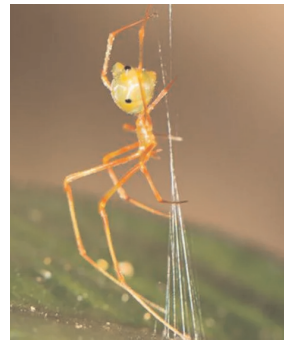


More than a year after the death of Zambia's former President Edgar Lungu, his family have won their appeal to have his body buried in South Africa where he died - overturning a high court ruling that allowed the Zambian government to repatriate the corpse. It is not clear whether Tuesday's ruling at the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein finally puts to rest the legal battle over what should happen to his remains following a long-standing feud between Lungu and his successor, President Hakainde Hichilema. All eyes will be on the Zambian government's next move, as its lawyers await instruction. It has long maintained that, as a former head of state, Lungu should be honoured in the country. The Zambian government wished to see him laid to rest alongside his predecessors in the special presidential burial ground in the capital, Lusaka. But Lungu's family wanted a private burial after negotiations with the government over the funeral arrangements broke down. "The

very ritual intended to bring closure has, instead, pitted family against the state in a hard-fought legal dispute far from the protagonists' home," said Justice Raylene May Keightley in Tuesday's judgement. Last August, the South African high court in Pretoria ruled that Zambia's government could repatriate the body and give him a state funeral - an outcome that left Lungu's relatives visibly distraught in the courtroom. The family appealed against the decision but, in a surprise announcement in April Zambia's government said Lungu's remains had been "formally transferred" to the state by the South African court. But just a few hours later, the same South African court ordered the Zambian government to return the body until the matter went to court again. The former president died of an undisclosed illness aged 68 at a clinic in Pretoria. Chaos ensued following his death, with mourners receiving conflicting information from the government and Lungu's political party, the Patriotic Front (PF).

SPIDER WHICH USES SPRING TRAP TO CAPTURE PREY DISCOVERED IN AUSTRALIA

A new species of spider which weaves a catapult-like silk trap to snare a single type of ant has been discovered in the remote rainforests of northern Australia. Researchers believe the nocturnal predator developed the unique hunting method to make meals of aggressive ants which are notoriously dangerous - and unusual - prey for arachnids. The snare's "exceptionally high power" flings the ant into a bigger web at "15 times the most extreme g-forces experienced by jet pilots", said lead researcher Prof Ajay Narendra. Though it is yet to be formally named, scientists have nicknamed the tiny spider "ballista", after the ancient weapon used to hurl stones in battle. "The snare mechanism seems to have evolved as a highly spe-



cialised way of allowing the spider to 'pick off' potentially hazardous prey one at a time and transport them a safe distance away from ant trails and nests," researcher Dr Jonas Wolff said. Ants have chemical defences, including the ability to sting in some species, and can recruit throngs of other ants rapidly as backup to overcome potential predators.

UK's biggest train operator warns against travel tomorrow as temperatures climb

Met Office has issued a rare red extreme heat warning from 09:00 on Wednesday to 21:00 on Thursday. It covers parts of southern England, as well as the Midlands and south Wales. It's the first time Wales has been covered by a red extreme heat warning and only the second time one has been issued by the Met Office. A red warning is the most severe level of alert. It means dangerous weather is expected, with a high likelihood of risk to life. It could also lead to failures of critical national infrastructure, such as power cuts or roads and rail lines being closed. When a red warning is issued, the Met Office advises people to avoid travelling where possible and to follow the advice of the emergency services and local authori-



ties. Northern Ireland will avoid the extreme heat seen in other parts of the UK, but temperatures are expected to climb close to the all-time record this week. The current record of 31.3C was set in Castlederg, County Tyrone, in July 2021, with thermometers are likely to climb close to that on Thursday. It's a similar story in the Republic of Ireland,

where an almost 140-year-old record could be threatened. 33.3C was recorded at Kilkenny Castle, County Kilkenny, on 26 June 1887 - almost exactly 139 years ago to the day. The Irish weather service, Met Éireann, has issued a yellow heat warning from noon on Tuesday until 09:00 on Friday. Today has been the hottest day of the year so far in Scotland and

Northern Ireland. Temperatures reached 28.8C in Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire, and 26.4C in Katesbridge, County Down. The hottest temperature recorded so far today in England is 32.6C in Wisley, Surrey. Britain's biggest train operator has warned passengers not to travel tomorrow or Thursday unless it's absolutely necessary. Greater Thameslink Railway (GTR), which was recently nationalised, includes Southern, Thameslink, Gatwick Express and Great Northern. There will be fewer trains running tomorrow and Thursday because of speed restrictions imposed for safety. GTR says there could also be short-notice cancellations.

UN commission of inquiry says Israel committing genocide in Gaza by deliberately targeting children

A UN commission of inquiry says Israel has deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Gaza Strip, as well as war crimes in the occupied West Bank. A new report alleges that Israeli authorities and security forces have "deliberately carried out acts inflicting death and severe bodily and mental harm on hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children", and that the killings continued even after last October's ceasefire in Gaza. The commission says it has reasonable grounds to conclude that those acts "form part of a



deliberate strategy to destroy the future of the Palestinians in Gaza by targeting their children". Israel's foreign ministry said it "utterly rejects" the commission's report, calling it a "libellous sham" and "a propaganda piece as outrageous as its previous ones".

The Israeli military launched a campaign in Gaza in response to the unprecedented Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken hostage. At least 73,035 people have been killed in

Israeli attacks in Gaza since then, including more than 21,280 children, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry, whose figures are seen as reliable by the UN. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel was established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 to investigate alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Its three-member expert panel does not officially speak for the UN. Last September, the commission accused Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Trump anticipates better relationship with Colombia under new leader



US President Donald Trump has predicted a "much better relationship" between his government and Colombia after preliminary results suggested that the right-wing candidate Abelardo de la Esparriella had won in Sunday's presidential runoff. The official, but not legally binding, preliminary vote count showed de la Esparriella beating his left-wing rival, Iván Cepeda, by a razor-thin margin of less than one percentage point. Cepeda has not yet conceded, saying he would wait for the results to be cross-checked, a process which usually takes several days. Trump had endorsed de la Esparriella ahead of the run-off vote and derided Cepeda as a "radical Left Marxist". Speaking to reporters on Monday, Trump said that de la Esparriella had "won easily", even though his lead of 0.96 percentage points in the preliminary count is the narrowest in recent Colombian history. Writing on Truth Social, Trump said he was looking forward to working together "to build a powerful relationship". The rela-

tionship between the two historic allies had suffered in recent years as Trump traded insults with Colombia's outgoing president, the left-winger Gustavo Petro. Trump had called Petro a "sick man" and a "drug-trafficking leader" without providing any evidence, while Petro had said that the US president was basing his immigration policy on that of the Nazis. Following the US military operation to seize Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in January, Trump had also remarked that a military operation targeting neighbouring Colombia sounded "good". Asked by a Colombian journalist about how he saw the relationship between the US and Colombia developing following Sunday's election, Trump said "it'll be better, he [de la Esparriella] is going to be a great president". De la Esparriella campaigned on a promise to crack down on drug-trafficking gangs and criminal organisations which have long blighted the country, which is the world's largest producer of coca, the raw material used to make cocaine.



Leading Pakistan activist given life sentence over soldier's killing at rally

Irish government to contribute £197m to cross-border rail services



The Irish government is to contribute 228m (£197m) towards improving rail services between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Some 193m (£166m) will go towards the Londonderry-Belfast-Dublin rail infrastructure investment and a further 35m (£30m) will be spent on continuing hourly trains from Dublin to Belfast, which will see the service continue until at least 2030. The money will

come from the last allocation from the Irish government's Shared Island Fund. It is part of a scheme which aims to fund cross-border projects that benefit people in both the Republic and Northern Ireland. The two governments will work together for a 15-20 minute transfer time between the Dublin-Belfast and Belfast-Derry lines to enhance connectivity between and the three cities.

Rohit Sharma Receives Prestigious Padma Shri Award From President Murmu

Former India captain Rohit Sharma was on Tuesday conferred the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian honours, during the Padma Awards ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Droupadi Murmu presented the award to the veteran cricketer in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cricket. Rohit attended the second Civil Investiture Ceremony along with his wife Ritika Sajdeh after missing the first ceremony held in May. Former Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj received the Padma Bhushan, while Indian women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia was also among the Padma Shri awardees. The honour marks another significant achievement in a career that has spanned nearly two decades at the highest level. Since making his international debut in 2007, Rohit has established himself as one of India's most successful batters and captains, producing memorable performanc-



es across all formats of the game. The Indian cricket team posted the video of Rohit receiving the award and wrote,"A highly prestigious honour for a great of the game. President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmuji @presidentofindia confers former #TeamIndia captain Rohit Sharma @rohitsharma45 with the Padma Shri award."

When his Padma Shri was announced earlier this year, Rohit described the recognition as a special moment for

both himself and his family. "Receiving the Padma Shri is a very special moment for me and my family. I thank the Government of India for this honour. I am also grateful to all those people who have played an important role in my career. My effort to win matches and trophies for my country will always continue. Thank you. Jai Hind," he had said in a video released by Doordarshan on X in February. Rohit's leadership tenure brought considerable success to Indian cricket. Under



his captaincy, India ended their ICC trophy drought by winning the T20 World Cup in 2024 after defeating South Africa in the final. The following year, he guided the team to another major title as India lifted the Champions Trophy, cementing his reputation as one of the country's most successful white-ball captains. As a batter, Rohit's numbers reflect his consistency and longevity. In Test cricket, he scored more than 4,300 runs in 67 matches, including 12 centuries. His ODI career

has yielded over 11,500 runs and 33 hundreds in 282 appearances, while in T20 Internationals he accumulated more than 4,200 runs and five centuries, placing him among the format's all-time greats. Although Rohit has stepped away from Test cricket and T20 Internationals, he continues to represent India in the 50-over format. The veteran opener remains a key figure in the ODI setup and has his sights set on leading India's charge towards the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

McCullum confused by stories of rift as Stokes returns

Head coach Brendon McCullum said he remains "good friends" with England captain Ben Stokes and the pair have "no idea" why rumours of a rift have emerged. The pair reunited on Tuesday for England's crucial deciding Test against New Zealand after Stokes missed the second following an incident in a London nightclub. Both McCullum and Stokes had previously denied their relationship was strained during the 4-1 Ashes defeat in Australia, and McCullum has faced questions about their partnership during Stokes' absence. At Trent Bridge, two days before the third Test against New Zealand, McCullum revealed the pair spoke face-to-face on Tuesday morning. "I said: 'Do you know where this has come from, the conversations around our relationship over the last six months?'" explained McCullum. "He said: 'No, I have no idea.' I said to him: 'As far I'm concerned, I con-



sider you a good friend.'" Stokes and pace bowler Gus Atkinson were made unavailable for England's heavy defeat in the second Test during an investigation into a breach of the team's midnight curfew following victory in the first Test at Lord's. They were present when a member of England security staff was struck by a Saracens rugby player. Both have been cleared to rejoin the England squad for the third Test, with Stokes returning as captain. Two days before the second Test at The Oval, McCullum gave a sombre media conference, when he repeated-

ly spoke of his "worry" and "concern" for Stokes. However, Durham's county head coach Ryan Campbell later said Stokes was in "good spirits" and the county's chief executive Tim Bostock said he was "bemused" by McCullum's comments. On Tuesday, McCullum said: "My assessment was that I was slightly concerned, worried, now my assessment is that he looks great and is ready to go. He looks fantastic, he looks ready to go, he's enthusiastic about the week and obviously from our point of view it's nice to have the band back together."

CREDAI Hyderabad Partners with TG20 Cricket League to Promote Sports and Nurture Young Talent

Hyderabad: 23rd June, 2026: The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) Hyderabad has announced its partnership as the Platinum Sponsor for the inaugural TG20 Cricket League. As Telangana's very first franchise based T20 cricket tournament, this landmark initiative by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) marks a monumental shift in the state's sporting landscape and heralds the launch of Telangana's first franchise based T20 league. As a Platinum Sponsor, CREDAI Hyderabad is supporting the development of cricket in Telangana and providing a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent. The partnership reflects the long-standing commitment to



sports development. Through this premium partnership, CREDAI Hyderabad reinforces its long-standing corporate social responsibility pillars of youth empowerment, community building, and holistic regional development. CREDAI Hyderabad extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Hyderabad Cricket

Association for this visionary initiative. The TG20 League, featuring eight city franchises, 32 matches and a strong mandate to include district level talent, is a bold and meaningful step towards creating a robust cricketing ecosystem in Telangana. As part of the opening proceedings of the league, Mr N.

Jaideep Reddy, President, CREDAI Hyderabad, had the honour of presenting the Super Striker of the Match award, underscoring CREDAI Hyderabad's commitment not just to building homes and infrastructure, but also to building communities and celebrating the spirit that binds them. As a part of the engagement CREDAI Hyderabad will reward the Super Striker of each match and the Super Striker of the tournament. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. N. Jaideep Reddy, President, CREDAI Hyderabad, said, "The partnership reflects CREDAI Hyderabad's commitment towards supporting regional sporting talent and strengthening its connection with young audiences through one of India's most celebrated sports platforms.

What Is Viking Row? Norway's FIFA World Cup 2026 Celebration That Has Gone Crazy Viral

Norway have been a hit in the FIFA World Cup 2026 so far, but their 'rowing' celebration is an even bigger hit. In fact, it is the most viral trend that has come out of the FIFA World Cup 2026 so far. Norway's players sat on the pitch and performed the "rowing" celebration, made iconic by their fans during the World Cup, after reaching the knockout stage with a nervy 3-2 win over Senegal. At their first finals since 1998, red-clad Norwegian fans have been doing their Viking row in stadiums, on escalators, and even in New York's Times Square, but it has never been more emotional or joyous than after the final whistle on Monday. Martin Odegaard and Erling Haaland, whose double helped secure the win,



brought the squad together to perform the row in front of the fans, but they had to wait for coach Stale Solbakken, who sprinted up the steps in the stand at the final whistle to kiss and hug his wife. With the squad sitting in rows resembling those of a Viking longboat and Solbakken squeezing into the middle behind

Haaland, Odegaard began beating the drum to a joyous climax. What Is the Viking Row? The celebration, according to several reports, is inspired by Norway's Viking tradition. According to the BBC, "The Viking Age was from about AD 700 to 1100. Many Vikings left their homes in Scandinavia and

travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland. The people of Britain called the invaders 'Danes', but they came from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark. Vikings sailed the seas trading goods. They bought silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back home." The rowing motion is a tribute and symbolises the voyages that the Vikings undertook. It is an integral part of Norwegian identity. What are the Norway players saying about the celebration? TV pictures showed fans back in Trondheim joining in as the celebration brought Norway supporters around the world together, but midfielder Patrick Berg revealed that he did not think the row was going to catch on.

Finn Balor Sends Heartbreaking Response As Chad Gable Faces Tough Reality On RAW

Finn Balor doesn't appear on RAW anymore after his move to SmackDown, but that clearly doesn't mean he's stopped paying attention to what happens on Monday nights. After this week's RAW in London, Balor ended up reacting to a post from Chad Gable, and honestly, his response said a lot without actually saying anything. Just a few heartbreak emojis. That's all it took. If you've been following the Alpha Academy story, though, you probably knew exactly why. Chad Gable's apology ended with him standing alone Gable showed up on RAW hoping to make things right with Alpha Academy. For a minute, it felt like there was a chance. Otis and Akira Tozawa didn't seem completely shut off from the idea of hearing him out. The conversation could've



gone in a very different direction. Maxxine Dupri wasn't having it. She made it clear she hadn't forgiven Gable for everything that happened and wasn't interested in moving on just because he was apologising now. Then came the moment that really changed things. Maxxine got Otis and Tozawa to leave with her, and Gable was left standing there watching them walk away. Otis looked torn about it,

too, which made the whole thing even harder to watch. Gable's message after RAW showed that the situation still hurts Once RAW was over, Gable shared a message to Otis on Instagram. "We've written a hell of a book the past 20 years... I hope this isn't the final chapter." It wasn't a long post, but it probably didn't need to be. The message wasn't about arguments or excuses. It was about the history between them.

FROM NON-LEAGUE TO THE WORLD CUP - THE SEMENYO STORY

When Antoine Semenyo signed for Bournemouth, he sent former Leeds United manager David Hockaday a bottle of Champagne. An unlikely duo? Perhaps. But if anyone can take credit for Semenyo's rise, it is Hockaday. On the label of the bottle read the words "hunger and belief". Words that resonated with Semenyo so much as a teenager that, at the biggest moment of his career to that point, he felt the need to reiterate them to the man who instilled them in him. Semenyo's journey to the top has been a complicated one. The failed academy trials, the 5am starts to play non-league football, the thoughts of quitting the sport altogether. But, now aged 26, it has all led to this. A game against England in a World Cup. A humble, determined man, his remarkable rise is



rooted in his resilience and the belief of a select few people who saw something in a down-and-out kid searching for his big break. This is the Semenyo story. Born in London to Ghanaian parents Larry and D e l e a , Semenyo and his brother Jaigrew up in Greenwich with a ball

almost permanently attached to their feet. It should be little surprise Semenyo is now so adept with both his right and left feet given his father, who played alongside Tony Yeboah in Ghana's top flight, encouraged him from a young age to kick "paper, a can, anything" with both feet. By the age of six it came naturally to Semenyo - and the dream of becoming a professional footballer was born. His talent was spotted and encouraged by his parents, who sent him on trials at Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and M i l l w a l l before an eight-week trial at Crystal Palace aged 15.

FORMER WIMBLEDON CHAMPION SUSPENDED FOR 4 YEARS FOR REFUSING DOPING TEST



Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova was suspended for four years on Monday for refusing an anti-doping test — even though the Czech player cited "mental stress" and fear when the testing agent "rang my door late at night without properly identifying themselves." The International Tennis Integrity Agency made the announcement, saying that Vondrousova refused a test in December, and that the decision was reached by an independent tribunal following a hearing held this month. Vondrousova became Wimbledon's first unseeded female champion when she beat Ons Jabeur in the 2023 title match. She reached a career-high ranking of No. 6 that year. She also reached the French Open final in 2019, losing to Ash Barty. The 26-year-old Vondrousova detailed her reaction to the missed test in an Instagram post in April. "It is very tough

for me to talk about this, but I want to be transparent with you about my mental health," Vondrousova said. "The recent doping control incident happened because I reached a breaking point after months of physical and mental stress." The ITIA said Vondrousova "did not submit a sample when notified by a Doping Control Officer (DCO) during an out-of-competition test attempt at her home at around 8 p.m. on 3 December 2025" and that she instead signed a refusal form. Vondrousova was represented by Los Angeles-based lawyer Howard Jacobs, a specialist in doping rules cases. Jacobs helped two-time Grand Slam singles champion Simona Halep win an appeal case in 2024 at CAS against a four-year ban for doping. Vondrousova becomes the latest high-profile tennis player involved in a doping case after Halep, Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek.

Cristiano Ronaldo Haunted By Horrible Stat Ahead Of FIFA World Cup 2026 Clash Against Uzbekistan

Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, who has not found the net for the last 10 consecutive games at major tournaments, will be aiming to overcome his poor run as his team takes on Uzbekistan in an all-important FIFA World Cup group stage clash on Tuesday. The 41-year-old was underwhelming in Portugal's 1-1 draw against DR Congo in their opening match of the FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign, where the veteran striker struggled to make an impact. Ronaldo finished the match with 25 touches, three shots without hitting the target, and won just one duel, reflecting a tightly marked performance by the DR Congo defence. It was also one of the lowest involvement games of his

World Cup career, marking the second-fewest touches he has ever recorded in a World Cup start, highlighting his limited influence in Portugal's attacking play. As per OptaJoe, Cristiano has delivered just one assist and zero goals for Portugal across the last 10 matches in major tournaments, the World Cup and UEFA Euro Championship. This is a stark contrast with his record in the first 43 matches for Portugal, where he scored 22 goals and delivered eight assists. With 147 goals in 229 appearances, he is Portugal's leading goalscorer and appearance-maker. Meanwhile, Portugal defender Ruben Dias has downplayed recent criticism directed at skipper

Ronaldo, describing the surrounding talk as "noise" and simply part of football. Speaking after recent external chatter around the veteran forward, Dias said the team remains unaffected and focused on its objectives. "It is not an issue for us," Dias insisted as cited by One Football. "It is insignificant, just a bit of fuss and noise. It is all part of the game." "First and foremost, the criticism isn't directed at just one player. Cristiano is a major focus of attention, but I think we are all in the firing line. Above all, apart from what I've just said, I do not think anything out of the ordinary is happening. It has always been like this since I have

been here. I believe it will continue to be so in the future. In the end, it is noise. We isolate ourselves from it and focus on doing our thing," he added.



Vasudheva Sutham Trailer Offers Visual Extravaganza, Hero Mahendran Says He’s Luck To Do Such A Grand Film With Strong Content

The film “Vasudheva Sutham” is being produced under the banner of Rainbow Cinemas by Dhanalaxmi Badarla and directed by Vykunt Bonu. The film stars Master Mahendran and Ambikavani in the lead roles. The posters, glimpse, and teaser released so far have already impressed audiences. The film is scheduled for release on July 10, and as part of promotions, the trailer was unveiled today. The story unfolds around a revered temple in Odisha dedicated to Lord Vasudeva, where a powerful and mysterious object known as the “Brahma Padartham” (Divine Essence) is secretly preserved. Possessing immense energy, it becomes the target of dark forces seeking to seize it and harness its power to dominate the universe. This sets the stage for an intense battle between good and evil. Hero Mahendran delivers a commanding performance as a determined warrior who stands firm in protecting Dharma against these sinister forces. The visuals present a gripping blend of high-octane action and mystical, otherworldly elements, creating a strong mythological undertone. The action sequences are impactful, further elevated by a powerful background score. Dialogues such as “The weapon is coming” and “No one who questions



the existence of God has the right to live on this earth” leave a strong impression. The climactic Garuda shot at the end of the trailer adds a striking mythic touch. Overall, the trailer hints at a fast-paced mystical thriller that seamlessly blends contemporary action with rich elements of Indian mythology. It indeed offers a visual extravaganza. At the trailer launch event, Hero Master Mahendran said: “For Vasudheva Sutham, the producers worked extremely hard. They believed in the story and spared no expense. The director overcame many challenges to complete this film. It is a well-made project based on

Lord Krishna, and I hope audiences will like it. It has excellent and strong content. I consider myself lucky to have got such a role and such a grand film. Trusting the producer, I didn’t even ask for advance payments. Director Vykunt knows exactly how much to extract from each actor. Ambikavani acted very well. Jeeju’s cinematography and Mani Sharma sir’s music will be major highlights. Our film is releasing on July 10. I request everyone to watch it in theatres and bless us.” Director Vykunt Bonu said: “I first narrated two different stories to the producer, and he said they were good. Later, I devel-

oped a story set against a famous temple backdrop in Odisha. After hearing it, he asked me to drop the earlier scripts and proceed with this one. Mahendran agreed immediately after hearing the story. I also narrated it to Mani Sharma sir and told him to proceed only if he liked it. He approved it and began work immediately. The film is releasing on July 10. After watching it, audiences will definitely talk about Mani Sharma sir’s songs and background score. The dialogues are strong and the VFX has come out well. It is a one-man show, and the last 45 minutes will be on another level. The film will not disappoint anyone. I request

everyone to support it.” Producer Trinadh Keshav said: “Vasudheva Sutham is our debut film. Everyone has performed wonderfully. I thank everyone who supported us. The film releases on July 10 and I hope audiences will encourage it.” Ambikavani said: “I am very happy to work on Vasudheva Sutham. My Telugu is not very good yet, but I will learn. I thank the director and producer for giving me this opportunity. No one discouraged me for not knowing the language; everyone supported me. I am happy to work with Mahendran. The film releases on July 10 and I request everyone’s support.”

RENOWNED DIRECTOR SAI KIRAN ADIVI LAUNCHES THE TRAILER OF “GOSSIP” – GRAND RELEASE ON JUNE 26



Talented and energetic actress Raashi Singh plays the lead role in the upcoming film “Gossip”, produced by Yethi Remella under the banner of YBHAV CINES-CULPT STUDIOS. Directed by Vaibhav Koundinya, the film is a social satire blended with contemporary emotions and a beautiful love story that is expected to connect strongly with today’s generation. The film features music composed by Shakthikanth Karthick, cinematography by Satish, and editing by Jai Kumar. Apart from Raashi Singh, the film stars Ravi Varma, Mahesh Yadlapalli, 30 Years Prudhvi Raj, Vijay Adhiraj, Guru Charan, Falguni, Shruti, and others in key roles. As the film gears up for its theatrical release on June 26, the trailer was officially launched by noted director Sai Kiran Adivi. Speaking at the event, Actor Mahesh Yadlapalli thanked Sai Kiran Adivi

for gracing the occasion and said that “Gossip” is based on a subject that closely reflects certain incidents happening in society today. He expressed confidence that the film would strongly connect with audiences and appreciated director Vaibhav Koundinya, producer Yethi Remella, co-stars, and the technical team for their support. Actor Guru Charan shared that the role offered to him was both challenging and exciting. He praised director Vaibhav’s clarity of vision and professionalism and appreciated the producer for ensuring a smooth shooting experience for the entire team. Producer Yethi Remella thanked everyone who worked on the film and extended special gratitude to Sai Kiran Adivi for supporting the project. He described director Vaibhav as a filmmaker with a unique perspective and expressed confidence that audiences would appreci-

ate the film’s strong content. Veteran actor 30 Years Prudhvi Raj stated that while good news may take time to spread, gossip spreads instantly, making the film’s subject highly relevant. He praised Vaibhav’s filmmaking skills and requested media and audiences to support the film. Chief guest Sai Kiran Adivi appreciated Vaibhav Koundinya’s determination and self-made journey. He lauded the young filmmaker’s clarity and dedication and wished the entire team great success. Director Vaibhav Koundinya revealed that “Gossip” marks his debut as both writer and director. He explained that gossip is a common part of everyday life, but careless words can sometimes have a devastating impact on others. Inspired by real incidents from his own life and those of his friends, the film highlights the power of words and the responsibility that comes with using them.

Ruthvik, Visakha Dhiman's 'Raja Di Raja' to have grand release in theaters on July 17th through Mythri Movie Distributors

'Raja Di Raja', which has already increased the interest of the audience with its youthful promotional content, is creating a good buzz among movie lovers. This youthful romantic entertainer, starring Ruthvik and Visakha Dhiman, is being directed by Anil Boydapu. K. Niharika Dasari is producing the film under the banner of Vrindavan Creations, while K. Srilatha Reddy is presenting it. The film team has recently officially announced that the film will be released on July 17. It is noteworthy that the famous production and distribution company Mythri Movie Distributors has come forward to release the film. This will give the film an opportunity to reach the audience in a grand manner. The release date poster highlights the chemistry between the hero and heroine as well as their fun journey. The colorful visuals and impressive design present the romantic



mood of the film. Ruthvik and Visakha Dhiman look enthusiastic and energetic. The chemistry between the two has become the main attraction of the film. The film has music by Mark K Robin. The first single that has already been released has become a chartbuster. Cinematography is handled

by Ravikiran Boydapu, while Vijay Kumar Pasupuleti is working as the art director. Saikumar, Dr. Naresh Vijayakrishna, Avasarala Srinivas, Vishnu Oi, Parvatheesham, Rajsri Nair, Rohini, Badram, Mime Madhu, Anand and others are playing key roles in this film.

Grand Launch of the Film “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali”



Under the presentation of Gnanamma Kalivela and produced under the banner of Sanjana Movie Makers, the film “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” has recently been launched as a love and romantic entertainer. The film introduces Venkatesh Kalivela as the director, with Vishva, Aishwarya, and Anusha playing the lead roles. The muhurtham scene featuring the lead actors was clapped by Amit Tiwari,

while camera switch-on was done by Kumari Sanjana. The first shot was directed by Venkatesh. Speaking on the occasion, director Venkatesh Kalivela said that the film is a triangular love story with romantic entertainment elements. He added that the movie will feature four songs and four action sequences, and a flashback episode where the hero says “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” will be the

highlight of the film. Producer Sanjana Kalivela stated that the shooting will begin by the end of this month and will be completed in 34 days with a single schedule across Bhimavaram, Narsapuram, and Antarvedi surrounding areas. Hero Vishva said that he feels fortunate to get a role with such strong acting scope for his debut film. Heroine Aishwarya said that she will be seen as a glamorous next-door girl in the film. Heroine Anusha said that her role in this film will be liked by everyone. Music director Vardhan said that four songs have already been recorded and the film has strong scope for background score.

JANHVI KAPOOR ADDS GRACE TO WEDDING FESTIVITIES



Janhvi Kapoor is once again making headlines, this time for her stunning traditional appearance. The actress recently tasted success with Peddi, a film that generated plenty of discussion and controversy around her character. However, the buzz surrounding the movie has done little to distract fans from her latest fashion statement, which is now going viral on social media. Dressed in a gorgeous pink saree with intricate red borders, Janhvi looked effortlessly elegant. She

complemented the outfit with traditional jewelry, soft makeup, and sleek hair, creating a timeless festive look. The actress carried the ensemble with confidence, proving why she remains one of the most followed style icons among young audiences. Currently, Janhvi is enjoying the wedding celebrations of her step-sister Anshula Kapoor. Surrounded by family and festivities, the actress appears to be making the most of the special occasion while serving major ethnic fashion goals.

BANGAARAM HOLDS STRONG ON FIRST WEEK!

After a blockbuster opening weekend with ₹42 crore gross, Samantha's Maa Inti Bangaaram continued its strong run on Monday, collecting an estimated ₹7 crore. The film has now raced past the ₹50 crore mark in just four days. With momentum still intact, all eyes are now on whether it can sustain the pace and emerge as Samantha's first solo ₹100 crore grosser. Samantha's Maa Inti Bangaaram has emerged as a major success at the Telugu box office, posting impressive collections and receiving strong support from audiences. The film has especially performed well in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and overseas markets, reaffirming Samantha's popularity among Telugu moviegoers.

However, the story is quite different in Tamil Nadu, where the film was released as Engal Thangam. Despite carrying decent expectations and Samantha's strong fan following in the state, the Tamil version has failed to generate the desired momentum during its opening weekend. Trade circles expected the film to post respectable numbers since the break-even targets were not particularly high. Unfortunately, occupancy remained below expectations, and the collections did not show the kind of growth that was anticipated. Several factors are being cited for the underwhelming performance. One of the biggest reasons appears to be the lack of aggressive promotions in

Tamil Nadu. Apart from a single promotional event, the film did not have a sustained marketing campaign to create awareness among audiences. Another factor could be Samantha's reduced presence in Kollywood over the last three to four years. While she remains a popular name, the gap between her recent Tamil releases may have affected the film's reach among younger audiences.

