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India, Venezuela agree to expand cooperation across key sectors after Modi-Rodriguez talks



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held extensive discussions with Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi, with the two leaders reviewing the full range of bilateral relations and identifying new opportunities for cooperation in sectors such as energy, trade, investment, healthcare and automobiles.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the talks covered multiple areas of engagement between the two countries and focused on strengthening existing partnerships while exploring fresh avenues of collaboration. "The leaders reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explored new avenues of cooperation in

energy, trade, investment, healthcare, automobiles among others," the MEA said in a statement. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The ministry said both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the India-Venezuela partnership and advancing the interests of the Global South, reflecting a shared emphasis on stronger cooperation among developing nations. The meeting at Hyderabad House came amid growing engagement between the two countries in the energy sector, which continues to be a cornerstone of bilateral ties. Ahead of the visit, the MEA had indicated that discussions would focus on areas including energy security, trade and investment, pharma-

ceuticals, healthcare, transportation and renewable energy.

Earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Rodriguez and reiterated India's commitment to enhancing relations with the South American nation. In a social media post, Jaishankar said he valued Rodriguez's longstanding commitment to the India-Venezuela relationship and expressed confidence that her discussions with Prime Minister Modi would further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Rodriguez arrived in India on Wednesday on a five-day working visit accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers responsible for foreign affairs, economy and finance, science and technology, communication and information, and transportation. The visit is aimed at broadening bilateral engagement and identifying new areas for collaboration. India and Venezuela have traditionally maintained warm relations, particularly in the energy sector. The relationship has assumed greater importance in recent months as India has increased crude oil imports from Venezuela, with both countries seeking to deepen cooperation in upstream and downstream energy activities while expanding engagement in healthcare, technology and industrial development.

CM Revanth pushes for faster irrigation project completion

HYDERABAD (TSIT)

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to accelerate the completion of major irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, stressing their importance in ensuring water security for farmers and promoting agricultural development.

During a review meeting, the

Revanth Reddy asked officials to conduct regular field visits, closely monitor project progress, and submit periodic reports to the government. He emphasized that timely completion of irrigation projects would significantly improve irrigation facilities and strengthen rural livelihoods across the region.

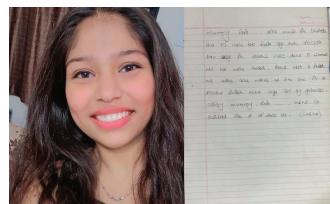
Assuring full support from the State Government, the Chief



Chief Minister examined the progress of ongoing projects and identified delays in land acquisition as a major hurdle. He instructed District Collectors to give top priority to land acquisition and work closely with public representatives to resolve local issues and speed up project execution.

Minister said there would be no shortage of funds for land acquisition and that necessary financial assistance would be provided promptly. Senior Irrigation Department officials and district administrators attended the review meeting and briefed him on project status and timelines.

'Don't have courage for retest, sorry Mummy, Papa': NEET aspirant's note found days after suicide



NAGPUR (TSIT):

Days after an 18-year-old female NEET aspirant hailing from Madhya Pradesh allegedly ended her life in Maharashtra's Nagpur, her family stumbled upon a note written by her, in which she apologised to them, saying she did not have the courage to appear for a retest of the medical entrance.

In the emotional note, the student, Akanksha Chaturvedi, said there was "no guarantee" that she would score good marks in the retest, and said she had "ruined everything" for them. Akanksha had appeared for the NEET-UG exam on May 3. After the test, she was upbeat and confident that she would score good marks. But the cancellation of that exam following allegations of a paper leak dashed her hopes and left her anxious and upset, according to her family members.



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

03-06-2026
Total pilgrims : 84,220
Tonsures : 40,542
Hundi kanakalu : 4,16 CR
Laddu sale : 3,59 Lac
Annasprasads : 2,17 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,342
Waiting Compartments : 31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 12 H

GOLD, SILVER TRADE HIGHER AMID WEAKER DOLLAR, GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

New Delhi, June 4 : Gold and silver traded higher in morning trade on Thursday, supported by a weaker dollar and geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia, as investors continued to track developments surrounding a possible diplomatic breakthrough between the US and Iran. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for August delivery were trading 0.35 per cent or Rs 533 higher at Rs 1,59,052 per 10 grams as of 11:28 am. The yellow metal rose as much as 0.61 per cent or Rs 981 to touch an intraday high of Rs 1,59,500. It also hit an intraday low of Rs 1,58,701, up 0.11 per cent or Rs 182 from the previous close. On the other hand, silver futures for July delivery rose up to 0.51 per cent or Rs 1,366 to touch an intraday high of Rs 2,64,324 per kg.

TRUMP SAYS US HELD FIRST TALKS WITH HEZBOLLAH

Washington, June 4 : President Donald Trump has said that the United States had spoken directly with Hezbollah for the first time, adding that the group had agreed not to fire on Israel as Washington seeks to stabilise multiple conflicts across the Middle East. "We actually spoke with Hezbollah for the first time ever," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday (local time) while discussing ongoing negotiations involving Iran and regional security issues. "They agreed yesterday they're not going to shoot, Israel is not going to shoot. We're just going to see."

AP CM Naidu to ride bicycle on world environment day

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, VISAKHAPATNAM:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will travel by bicycle during his Visakhapatnam tour on June 5 as part of the World Environment Day celebrations. The initiative aims to promote environmental protection and encourage sustainable practices among the public. The Chief Minister called upon citizens, public representatives, political leaders, and government employees to ride bicycles or e-bicycles on World Environment Day and take a pledge to protect the environment. He also urged everyone to



plant at least one sapling to help increase green cover.

In a message posted on social media, Chandrababu Naidu said, "The Earth is our home and nature is our lifeline. Protecting the

environment is our collective responsibility. Let us work together to conserve natural resources and prevent the pollution of air, water, and soil. Expanding green cover and using energy resources judiciously are essential for a sustainable future." He further appealed to people to celebrate World Environment Day by opting for bicycles and e-bicycles and by planting a tree.

The Chief Minister stated that he would personally ride a bicycle during his Visakhapatnam visit to spread the message of environmental conservation and requested everyone to join and support the initiative.

Hotel owner's greed, safety violations led to deadly blaze



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The owner of the Flourish Stay B&B in south Delhi's Hauz Rani area allegedly expanded the property illegally and ignored safety norms, leading to one of the deadliest fire tragedies in the capital in recent years that claimed 21 lives, including 12 foreign nationals.

According to police, hotel owner Lavkesh Bajaj was arrested after the fire and has been uncooperative during interrogation.

Investigators revealed that Bajaj justified the illegal expansion by saying, "Delhi mein sab chalta hai" (everything works in Delhi), reflecting a mindset that allegedly encouraged repeated violations. Police said the property was originally permitted to operate only six rooms under the Delhi Government's bed-and-breakfast policy.

However, it was expanded to around 25-26 rooms, including some in the basement. Authorities also found

that the establishment lacked a licence to run a restaurant and was only authorized to operate a tea shop.

Officials alleged that rooms were rented out for between Rs.3,000 and Rs.15,000 per day, while additional revenue was generated through the restaurant. Investigators also found four LPG cylinders on the premises despite there being no gas connection registered in the hotel's name.

Police are searching for Jai Mishra, the hotel manager who allegedly handled operations and accounts and is currently absconding. Five police teams have been formed to trace him.

Investigators further alleged that Bajaj drove past the burning building during the rescue operation without stopping and later moved across different parts of Delhi before being arrested.

CONGRESS ALLEGES GOVT 'PANIC MODE' OVER ECONOMY, QUESTIONS REPORTED FPI TAX ROLLBACK PLAN

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Congress on Thursday claimed that the Narendra Modi government was in "panic mode" over the state of the economy and accused it of resorting to short-term measures instead of addressing deeper structural issues affecting private investment and growth. In a statement, Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, referred to media reports suggesting that the Centre was considering an ordinance to amend the Income Tax Act and remove the 12.5 per cent long-term capital gains tax on investments made by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in Indian government securities.

"The Modi Govt is clearly in panic mode and is under siege from within its ecosystem on the current economic situation," Ramesh said. Citing a television news report, he claimed that the government was planning to promulgate an ordinance to completely eliminate the tax on long-term capital gains earned by FPIs from investments in Indian government securities.

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Another 3 FTAs to come into effect in next 6 months: Piyush Goyal



Mumbai, June 4 : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday India is actively expanding its global trade network, with the Oman free trade agreement (FTA) coming into effect from June 1, and another two to three more significant FTAs are scheduled to become operational in the next six months.

“Over the next year, around three to four more major FTAs will be executed, and in the next 9-10 months, all nine FTAs currently in the pipeline are expected to come into effect. Our doors are open for trade partnerships,” the minister said during his virtual address at the ‘Citi India Conference 2026’ being held in Mumbai.

He further stated the

government has ensured uninterrupted fuel supplies despite the recent West Asia crisis and risks around the Strait of Hormuz and managed to keep inflation in check.

Goyal also said India had already begun diversifying its energy sources, which has helped manage supply disruptions during the crisis.

He said the government ensured uninterrupted availability of petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, LNG for factories and LPG for domestic consumers. Fuel price increases were kept modest even as global inflation and energy risks intensified, he pointed out.

The minister added that the government continues to make fertil-

isers available to farmers at unchanged prices, absorbing the impact of higher global prices during the crisis.

Goyal further stated that India is being seen as the world’s credible alternative for manufacturing and investment. India will continue to be the world’s fastest-growing economy for the next two decades, he added.

The minister said long-term global capital is looking at India and the opportunities it offers.

“How quickly one recognises the India growth story will be the proportion of return that India can offer,” he remarked.

He added that patient investors in India have been rewarded, with returns backing their conviction.

Goyal also said that India is moving beyond assembly and imported technologies to become an innovation hub.

He said the country is focusing on design, research and development, new-age technologies and artificial intelligence applications. Besides, India is also promoting clean energy to support data centres and other emerging technology sectors, he added.

Goyal’s comments come in the backdrop of the government’s big push to position India as a manufacturing, technology and investment destination.

Crude oil prices fall over 1 pc as ceasefire hopes ease West Asia concerns

New Delhi, June 4 : Global crude oil prices declined more than 1 per cent on Thursday after Israel and Lebanon agreed to implement a ceasefire, raising hopes of a broader diplomatic breakthrough that could ease tensions surrounding the ongoing Iran conflict.

International oil benchmark Brent crude fell 1.33 per cent to \$96.50 per barrel. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude declined over 1 per cent to \$94.76 per barrel.

The decline in oil prices came after both benchmarks had gained nearly 2 per cent in the previous session amid renewed hostilities in West Asia, including Iranian attacks on Kuwait and US military strikes near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

In the US, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives approved a resolution seeking to limit President Donald Trump’s authority to continue military operations against Iran.

Trump said progress in negotiations with Iran could emerge as early as this weekend.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said contacts with Washington had not been severed, although he added that negotiations had yet to produce meaningful progress, with both



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between the United States and Iran, injuring several people and damaging airport infrastructure.

The Kuwaiti military said the attack caused significant material damage, forcing authorities to suspend air traffic operations.

Weak sentiment persisted across global equities, with major Asian indices including Japan’s Nikkei, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng, South Korea’s KOSPI and Indonesia’s Jakarta Composite declining by as much as 3 per cent.

US markets also closed lower overnight, with the S&P 500 falling 0.74 per cent and the Nasdaq ending 0.9 per cent lower. In addition, domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty opened lower on Thursday, with falling around 0.5 per cent amid selling pressure in IT, realty, pharma and healthcare stocks.

Essay and drawing competitions mark World Environment Day celebrations in Vijayawada



Vijayawada, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board organized essay writing and drawing competitions for students at P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science on Thursday.

The competitions were conducted to create awareness among students about environmental protection and sustainable living practices. Participants expressed their ideas through essays and artwork on important themes such as prevention of plastic pollution, tree plantation, climate change, and the responsibilities of citizens towards safeguarding the environment.

A large number of students enthusiastically took part in the events, showcasing their creativity and com-

mitment to environmental conservation. The initiative aimed to encourage young minds to think about environmental challenges and contribute towards building a greener and cleaner future.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Srinivasa Rao, Environmental Engineer with the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, emphasized the importance of environmental awareness and active public participation in protecting natural resources. He announced that prizes would be awarded to the winners of the essay writing and drawing competitions.

The programme formed part of the Board’s World Environment Day activities aimed at promoting environmental responsibility among students and the wider community.

Mauled by Dogs, Saved by Doctors

- 7 YRS OLD MAKES A REMARKABLE RECOVERY AT KAMINENI HOSPITALS

Hyderabad, June 4th, 2026: A seven-year-old boy who sustained devastating, life-threatening injuries following a brutal attack by a pack of stray dogs has made a remarkable recovery and was discharged today from Kamineni Hospitals after undergoing intensive emergency, critical care, and reconstructive treatment. Advik, was brought to the Emergency Care of Kamineni Hospitals after being attacked by five to six dogs. The attack resulted in extensive injuries, including severe scalp avulsion, multiple deep dog-bite wounds across the body, significant soft-tissue loss in the limbs, and critical blood loss. Upon arrival at the hospital, the child was in shock, with an unrecordable blood pressure, making his condition



extremely critical and life-threatening. Due to the severity of his condition, he was intubated and placed on ventilator support in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

Speaking about the case, Dr. Kanchan S. Channawar, Consultant Pediatrician & Pediatric Intensivist, Kamineni Hospitals said, “The child suffered a rare but serious complication. Owing

to the severe trauma and dog-bite injury to the neck region, he developed a blood clot in a major blood vessel, leading to an ischemic stroke affecting the left side of the brain. This resulted in weakness and paralysis on the right side of the body. He was promptly treated with blood-thinning medications and intensive physiotherapy, leading to significant neurological

recovery.” The extensive wounds required specialized reconstructive surgery under the care of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery team.

Dr. B Krishna Chaitanya, Consultant Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, Kamineni Hospitals said, “The child sustained one of the most severe dog-bite injuries seen in recent years, with extensive scalp loss, deep contaminated wounds, and significant soft-tissue defects. We performed damage control surgery initially aiming to clear heavily contaminated wounds and remove any devitalized tissue. After improvement in the clinical status, we addressed the most challenging injury, a large scalp defect with exposed skull bone. The defect was reconstructed using local scalp transposi-

tion flaps, providing durable vascularized coverage while preserving the natural contour of the scalp. Additional procedures included wound closure, skin grafting, and ongoing management of soft-tissue injuries.”

The child responded exceptionally well to treatment. Most wounds have healed satisfactorily, and the neurological deficits caused by the stroke have shown marked improvement. While a few residual raw areas and minor graft-related defects may require follow-up procedures, his overall recovery has been highly encouraging. Advik is breathing independently, he is hemodynamically stable, walking normally, interacting well with his parents and caregivers, and has been deemed fit for discharge.”

Rare Laparoscopic Whipple Procedure Successfully Performed on Patient with Previous Open Pancreatic Surgery at KIMS Hospitals

Hyderabad, June 4, 2026: Doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Kondapur, successfully performed a rare and highly complex laparoscopic Whipple procedure on a 52-year-old woman who had previously undergone open pancreatic surgery for chronic calcific pancreatitis, offering her a new lease of life.

Sharing details of the case, Dr. Ch. Naveen Kumar, Consultant Surgical Gastroenterologist, said that the patient, a resident of Hyderabad, had undergone a lateral pancreaticojejunostomy several years ago for chronic calcific pancreatitis. She recently presented with jaundice and recurrent vomiting.

Detailed investigations revealed the presence of remnant pancreatic stones along with duodenal obstruction, necessitating another major surgical intervention.

Dr. Naveen Kumar explained that the surgery was particularly challenging because of the patient’s



previous open pancreatic operation, which had altered the normal anatomy and resulted in extensive adhesions. Despite these complexities, the surgical team opted for a minimally invasive approach and successfully performed a laparoscopic pancreaticoduodenectomy (Whipple procedure).

“Performing a laparoscopic Whipple procedure in a patient who has already undergone pancreatic surgery is extremely rare. Such cases are technically demanding due to altered anatomy, dense adhesions, and changes in previous surgi-

cal reconstruction,” he said. The surgical team also adopted an innovative reconstruction strategy tailored to the patient’s altered gastrointestinal anatomy, ensuring continuity of the digestive tract and contributing significantly to the success of the procedure.

“Re-operating laparoscopically after a previous open pancreatic surgery requires meticulous planning, advanced surgical expertise, and the ability to make critical intraoperative decisions,” Dr. Naveen Kumar noted.

The patient recovered well after surgery and

was discharged within a week. She continues to do well on follow-up and remains in stable condition. According to the surgical team, successful completion of a laparoscopic Whipple procedure in a patient with prior pancreatic surgery is an exceptionally uncommon achievement. The case highlights the advances made in minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery and demonstrates the feasibility of undertaking highly complex pancreatic reoperations through a laparoscopic approach in carefully selected patients.

Your Smartwatch May Know Something About Your Heart Before You Do, Says CARE Doctor

Hyderabad, June 4, 2026: A notification flashes on your smartwatch: “Your heart rhythm may be irregular.” Most people would dismiss it as a device error, stress, or lack of sleep. But for a growing number of patients, such alerts are proving to be the first warning sign of a potentially serious heart condition. Cardiologists at CARE Hospitals say they are increasingly seeing patients seek medical consultation after receiving abnormal heart rhythm notifications on their smartwatches or fitness trackers. In several cases, these seemingly routine alerts have led to the diagnosis of previously undetected heart rhythm disorders, helping prevent complications such as stroke, heart failure, and sudden cardiac arrest.

As the world observes World Heart Rhythm Week 2026 (June 1-7), specialists are urging people not to ignore symptoms such as palpitations, rapid heartbeat, dizziness, unexplained fatigue, breathlessness, or smartwatch notifications indicating irregular heart rhythms. While not every alert signals a serious



problem, doctors say timely evaluation can make the difference between early treatment and a medical emergency. World Heart Rhythm Week is a global awareness initiative led by the Arrhythmia Alliance to improve understanding, early detection, and treatment of heart rhythm disorders. This year’s theme, “Your Heart, Your Rhythm, Your Story,” highlights the importance of recognizing changes in heart rhythm early and seeking timely medical care.

Among the most common heart rhythm disorders is Atrial Fibrillation (AF), a condition in which the heart beats irregularly and often rapidly. More than 60 million people

worldwide are estimated to be living with AF. If left untreated, it can increase the risk of stroke nearly five-fold. Experts note that heart rhythm disorders are no longer limited to older adults. Rising stress levels, sedentary lifestyles, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, sleep disorders, and other cardiovascular risk factors are contributing to an increasing number of cases among younger and middle-aged individuals.

Many arrhythmias remain undiagnosed because symptoms are often intermittent and mistaken for anxiety, stress, or fatigue. In some patients, the first warning sign may be a stroke, sudden collapse, or cardiac arrest. Doctors at CARE Hospitals recently treated a 42-year-old IT professional who had been experiencing episodes of rapid heartbeat, dizziness, and fluttering sensations in his chest for several months. Assuming the symptoms were caused by work stress and lack of sleep, he ignored them. The episodes gradually became more frequent until he suddenly collapsed at home and was rushed

to the emergency department. Further evaluation revealed a serious heart rhythm disorder requiring specialized electrophysiology treatment. Following timely intervention, his heart rhythm was successfully restored, and he recovered well.

While smartwatches are not diagnostic tools, specialists say they are emerging as valuable screening aids. In several cases, wearable-device alerts have prompted individuals to seek medical evaluation, leading to the diagnosis of previously undetected heart rhythm disorders, including atrial fibrillation. Dr. Ramakrishna SVK, Clinical Director – Cardiac Electrophysiology, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, said, “Heart rhythm disorders are more common than many people realize. Symptoms such as irregular heartbeat, dizziness, blackouts, unexplained fatigue, or breathlessness should never be ignored. Early diagnosis is critical because many arrhythmias can be effectively managed or cured with modern treatment options.

EDITORIAL

K Annamalai's Exit -
An Asset Lost, Or
Strategic Reset?

The reported exit of K Annamalai from the BJP may turn out to be one of the most consequential political developments in Tamil Nadu politics after the 2026 assembly elections. While the formal announcement and future roadmap remain fluid, it is strongly indicated that Annamalai is preparing for a political departure and may launch a new regional platform. When Annamalai took charge of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit in 2021, the party was organisationally weak, heavily dependent on alliances (particularly the AIADMK), and lacked a charismatic local face. His appointment changed the party's communication style and political positioning. Simply put, Annamalai was the primary face of the BJP's aggressive expansion in Tamil Nadu.

The bigger question is not whether BJP is losing a leader. It is whether BJP is losing its most visible experiment in Tamil Nadu.

Making BJP relevant

Since the time he joined BJP, Annamalai was clear that the BJP could only grow in Tamil Nadu by shedding its dependence on Dravidian parties. Unlike traditional BJP leaders in Tamil Nadu, he built visibility through aggressive grassroots connect. Annamalai attempted to push BJP beyond its conventional urban-upper caste image by reaching rural voters, youth, first-time voters and aspirational middle classes. The positive shift was illustrated in numbers in the subsequent elections in the state. BJP's standalone vote share in Tamil Nadu rose significantly in the 2024 Lok Sabha election to around 11.24%, compared to about 3.58% in 2019. Though it won no seats, the jump was politically important. In several urban pockets like Coimbatore and parts of western Tamil Nadu, BJP became electorally competitive. Annamalai may not have won the Coimbatore Lok Sabha seat for the BJP in 2024, but he managed to influence the voters in favour of the party. His vote share remained substantial, showing personal political capital beyond organisational strength. He secured over 4.47 lakh votes though he lost by roughly 17,800 votes.

This growth cannot be attributed solely to national leadership. Annamalai's personal brand mattered. Tamil Nadu politics rewards strong personalities. Annamalai understood this. He projected himself as an alternative to traditional Dravidian politics, anti-corruption focused campaigner; an aggressive opposition voice against the ruling establishment. His 'padayatra's and constant media presence gave BJP something it lacked- recall value among neutral voters.

In real life, Annamalai emerged just like traditional Tamil cinema 'mass superstar' bringing ray of hope for the vulnerable youth and common people. Sadly, for him and the BJP, the space was filled up by TVK's Vijay - the current chief minister. Hopes were dashed - both for Annamalai and the public - when he was asked to step down as BJP's Tamil Nadu president in 2025. Tensions with the party's top brass emerged over alliance politics, especially BJP's return toward accommodation with AIADMK-oriented politics. Hurt Annamalai refused to contest 2026 state elections and BJP's vote share dipped to less than 3%.

In the sweltering political heat of June 2026, just a month after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delivered a landslide victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections by securing around 208 seats to the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) roughly 80, Mamata Banerjee's party finds itself on the precipice of disintegration. What was unimaginable before the May results has unfolded with startling speed, as 58 Trinamool MLAs have thrown their weight behind expelled leader Ritabrata Banerjee as Leader of the Opposition, openly defying Mamata's preference for veteran Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay. The rebels, while professing loyalty to Mamata as a guiding figure, have effectively sidelined her nephew Abhishek Banerjee. In a desperate countermove, the official Trinamool faction dissolved all frontal organisations, leaving only Mamata as the foundational anchor. This is not mere post-defeat sulking, but structural rupture. The TMC, which rode to power in 2011 on the 'Maa, Maati, Manush' slogan and held the state for 15 years, has seen its organisational muscle atrophy amid allegations of centralised, corporate-style management. The crisis mirrors recent splits in the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra, where the question of control over party symbols became a legal tussle. With the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari now installed as Bengal's Chief Minister, the power vacuum has emboldened dissenters. Mamata Banerjee, the legendary street fighter who built the TMC from scratch, faces her sternest test yet, and this threat is from within. Her 41% vote share in a relatively free election underscores that her personal appeal remains intact, but institutional decay threatens to erode even that. The coming weeks will decide whether the TMC survives as a coherent force or fragments into irrelevance, a fate that would redefine not just Bengal but opposition



dynamics across the entire nation. Will Mamata Remove Abhishek? The epicentre of discontent lies with Abhishek Banerjee, the party's national general secretary. Old guards and newer entrants alike attribute the TMC's rout, from 215 seats in 2021 to around 80 now, to his style of functioning, which allegedly transformed a grassroots outfit into one steered by a professional election management firm like I-PAC. Post-poll, this resentment boiled over. The rebels' swift announcement of Ritabrata Banerjee as LoP, within minutes of official moves, signalled rejection of Abhishek's oversight. Removing him could theoretically quell the rebellion, but the probability remains low. Abhishek's ascent since 2014 has been intertwined with Mamata's decisions, who granted him control over key organisational levers. Such a move risks alienating a faction she nurtured, potentially fracturing family and loyalist networks. However, retaining him perpetuates the revolt. The dissolution of frontal wings indicates a reset attempt, but without addressing the core grievance - perceived dynastic corporate control - the murmurs will persist.

Historical parallels, like regional parties losing cohesion over second-generation leadership, suggest this dilemma could prove fatal if it goes unresolved. Mamata must weigh short-term unity against long-term organisational revival. What About The Remaining Leaders Right Now, survival is a two-front war fought in the corridors of Kolkata and the halls of New Delhi. On paper, 20 loyalists remain in the state assembly, but they look less like a vanguard and more like political hostages. With 58 rebels rallying behind a new leader, the mutineers have comfortably crossed the legal threshold to escape the anti-defection axe. The party hierarchy is crying foul, alleging forgery of signatures and demanding investigations. But everyone knows courtrooms cannot fix a broken house. Without a massive, ego-free outreach from Mamata herself, the bleeding will not stop. The warning lights are already flashing, as several of her lawmakers have already been spotted rubbing shoulders at administrative meetings hosted by the new BJP government. If the mood in Kolkata is grim, the atmosphere in New Delhi is downright skeletal.

When Mamata staged a recent protest, the optics were devastating. Out of nearly 40 parliamentarians, only a tiny circle of the old guard, including Derek O'Brien, Dola Sen, and Kalyan Banerjee, bothered to show up. When heavyweights like Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Sukhendu Sekhar Roy start venting their resentment in public, you know the rot has reached the foundation. If the rebels successfully claim they are the "real" party, a federal exodus is inevitable. They have a ready-made blueprint in the recent, brutal engineering of the Shiv Sena and NCP splits, where the factions with raw numbers simply walked away with the party names and symbols. Whether this ends in a quiet surrender to the BJP or the total erasure of the party identity, the stakes are existential. If Mamata cannot plug the leaks immediately, her grand national dream will dissolve before the monsoon ends. Legacy Or History? Mamata Banerjee's legacy - as the woman who ended Left Front's 34-year rule and resisted BJP's advances - stands imperilled. Old guards lack the ground-level stamina for prolonged battles, and years

of centralised control have distanced her from cadres. Yet, her 41% vote share in 2026 shows that many voters backed the TMC for Mamata herself, not individual MLAs or factions. A lifelong agitator since her 1984 Jadavpur victory (barring a brief 1989-91 hiatus), Mamata does not concede defeat easily. She has brushed aside the loss, claiming moral victory. However, without rebuilding from the grassroots she once championed, legacy risks fading into history. The challenge is transitioning from persona-driven politics to institutional resilience. Failure could consign her to a footnote: the leader who conquered Bengal but could not save her own party from the internal forces gnawing at its foundations. The Rajya Sabha Route One thing is crystal clear: Mamata Banerjee's political survival now hinges on retaining constitutional power. In contemporary Indian politics, mere legacy and personal charisma are insufficient shields against irrelevance. Her post-election reaction - brushing aside the defeat and claiming moral victory - reveals a leader still struggling to fathom the scale of the setback. Defeat is not new to Mamata, and a prolonged political wilderness seems almost unimaginable for her. At this juncture, the Rajya Sabha route appears a safer, less risky option to preserve her relevance and protect her legacy. However, with the party split and its severely diminished strength in the Assembly, securing enough votes for a Rajya Sabha election looks extremely difficult. Conversely, contesting a relatively safer Lok Sabha seat would allow her to demonstrate residual mass appeal and reassert dominance, but it is a high-stakes gamble. Victory would bolster her position, yet defeat could prove fatal for both her and the party's symbol. Such a move would also require open support from other parties, particularly the Congress, something that was unthinkable for her just a few years ago. “

Will DK Shivakumar Be Able To Come
Out Of Siddaramaiah's Shadow?

As the sombre, if somewhat monotonous oath-taking ceremony of DK Shivakumar was taking place at Bengaluru's Lok Bhavan (formerly Raj Bhavan) on Wednesday afternoon, there must have been a fair sprinkling of keen observers both at the venue and those watching it on their television sets entertaining a stray thought at some point: how will Shivakumar, for all his experience of four decades in politics, handle the ominous shadow of his predecessor Siddaramaiah, and give a good administration in Karnataka? As the parade of oath-taking lasted nearly an hour, it was clear that the selection of ministerial aspirants had been heavily influenced by Siddaramaiah, as all of them, barring two, had served under him. His son, Yathindra, was the sole new entrant. The party may justify the retention of heavyweights - some even 'over-weights' - saying that most of the seniors could not be ignored and Shivakumar's brigade of "young and new faces" will find space in the second or third phase of the ministry's expansion. It was not just new wine in an old bottle, or, in Karnataka's context, new arrack in an old pot, but capitulation by both Shivakumar and the Congress before a powerful leader to buy peace. But given his volatile temperament, whether Siddaramaiah will continue to offer his 'cooperation' or find a 'trigger point' to test the stability or vulnerability of the government remains to be seen. When Deve Gowda Played Shadow CM On the issue of managing political



compulsions, there is this example of a veteran Congressman, Dharam Singh, who helmed Karnataka's first Congress-JD(S) coalition government between 2004 and 2006 as chief minister. In the 2004 Assembly polls, the SM Krishna-led Congress government plummeted from 132 seats to 65, while the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP won an impressive 79 seats. But, it was the HD Deve Gowda-led JD(S) that emerged as a 'king-maker,' offering chief ministership to Congress's Dharam Singh while taking a secondary role. It was clear to Dharam Singh from the beginning that the experienced and wily Deve Gowda would play 'shadow chief minister', and he would have to comply. Singh dutifully visited Gowda's residence almost every evening with official files and spent almost two hours with Gowda reporting on the day's developments and taking 'instructions'. The

arrangement continued for 20 months before Gowda pulled the rug from under Dharam Singh's feet. However, Siddaramaiah, a socialist and not someone with a feudal bent of mind, is expected to operate at a more sophisticated level. Shivakumar is also likely to 'consult' him on a regular basis as a matter of goodwill. The party high command may even constitute a coordination committee to include either Randeep Surjewala or KC Venugopal as well to ensure a smooth functioning of the government. Shivakumar, having realised his dream of becoming the chief minister after a long wait, may not want to rock his boat, especially since he has the responsibility of preparing the party for the next Assembly polls in 2028 and the Lok Sabha elections in 2029. To their credit, it must be said that despite their unrelenting tug-of-war over chief ministership almost from the time of 2023 election results,

Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have publicly maintained cordiality - even taking friendly jibes at each other - which should give hope that they are two mature politicians who have found ways of working together. Complementing each other. Importantly, they possibly realise that given their individual strengths of one being an OBC 'Ahinda' leader and another coming from the dominant Vokkaliga community, they complement each other, which helped the Congress get an absolute majority, winning 136 seats in the last election. At the party level, Shivakumar has shown great organisational skills. Taking over as KPCC president in 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, when nobody wanted to take the responsibility, Shivakumar travelled across the state to help farmers by buying their produce and distributing them free among the people, including daily wage earners.

(Debate started from Rohtak)

IS THE PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE ABOVE THE LAW?



Democracy is not merely a means of winning elections and gaining power; it is also a continuous process of improving conduct, dignity, and respect for institutions. The true strength of a democratic system lies in its constitution, laws, and institutions. Democracy is strengthened when public representatives and administrative officials perform their duties with respect. However, when conflict between these two becomes public, it becomes more than just a personal dispute but raises serious questions about democratic values, administrative autonomy, and political culture. The recent altercation between Indian National Lok Dal MLA Arjun Chautala and Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rajpurohit in Rohtak, Haryana, has sparked such debate. The viral video on social media and the subsequent reactions have not only confined this incident to a political controversy, but have also linked it to questions of democratic decorum and institutional respect. Indian democracy empowers public representatives to raise the voice of the people. Protests, sit-ins, memorandums, and movements are integral to the democratic system. Opposing the policies of any government is not only the opposition's right but also its responsibility. Political parties raising voices on issues related to inflation, unemployment, education,

health, and public interest is part of the democratic process. However, democracy also requires that dissent be expressed with decency and within constitutional limits. When public representatives themselves begin to overstep the boundaries they expect others to uphold, democratic culture is undermined. In the Rohtak incident, based on available video and public reports, it is clear that a heated exchange occurred between the MLA and the Superintendent of Police during the protest. The language and tone of the conversation in the video generated widespread public discussion. The Haryana IPS Association's public outreach and statement in support of the police officer following the controversy adds further significance to the matter. Generally, administrative organizations rarely comment publicly on political controversies. When a professional organization openly supports its officer, it indicates that the matter is not being viewed as limited to a mere personal disagreement. It is true that the final assessment of any incident should be made only after an impartial investigation of the facts. In a democratic system, it is not appropriate to blame anyone solely on the basis of a viral video or social media. Any party has the right to present its side. The MLA also stated in his defense that he did not intend to insult any official and that the dispute arose due to circumstances. From the perspective of democratic justice, this side should also be heard. But equally important is the question: can any circumstance grant a public representative the moral right to publicly use abusive language against an official? Disagreement is natural in democratic politics, but there is a clear line between disagreement and indecency. India's administrative system is governed by the Constitution. Police officers and other administrative officials are not elected, but they are a vital part of the state's institutional structure. Their job

is to ensure the impartial implementation of the law. On the other hand, public representatives are elected by the people and are responsible for conveying issues of public interest to the government and administration. Cooperation and dialogue between these two roles are the cornerstone of democratic governance. If public representatives begin to view administrative officials as mere subordinates, or if administrative officials begin to view public representatives as unimportant, the balance in governance will be lost. Therefore, respectful behavior between both parties is essential. It must also be understood that public representatives in a democracy enjoy privileges, but they are not above the law. The Constitution does not grant any elected representative the right to behave disrespectfully toward any official holding a public office. The position of a public representative is honorable, but this honor is accompanied by responsibility. The public expects not only political struggle from their representatives, but also restraint, decency, and exemplary behavior. When a public representative loses control of their language and behavior on a public platform, the impact is not limited to that incident alone. It also sends a message to society that decorum can be circumvented based on power and influence. Unfortunately, such incidents are not new to Indian politics. From time to time, reports of conflicts between public representatives and officials have surfaced in various states. Sometimes, allegations of intimidation of an official surface, sometimes cases of mistreatment of an employee arise, and sometimes controversies arise over political interference in administrative decisions. The biggest harm of these incidents is that public trust in institutions begins to weaken. When people see those in power publicly insulting officials, respect for the law is also affected.

SpaceX IPO could make Elon Musk world’s first trillionaire

SpaceX, the space and satellite company led by billionaire Elon Musk, is planning a massive initial public offering (IPO) that could become make Musk the world’s first trillionaire. According to a regulatory filing released on Wednesday, June 3, SpaceX aims to raise around USD 75 billion through the proposed IPO.

EXPECTED VALUATION OF SPACEX

The offering would value the company at approximately USD 1.765 trillion. As per the filing, SpaceX plans to sell 555,555,555 shares at an initial price of USD 135 per share. Once completed, the fundraising would surpass the previous IPO record set by Saudi Aramco. In its 2019 public listing, the Saudi company raised USD 25.6 billion.

OFFERING COULD BOOST ELON MUSK’S WEALTH

The proposed offering could significantly boost Elon Musk’s wealth. Already regarded as the world’s richest person, Musk could become the first individual

in history to achieve trillionaire status. In the recent year, SpaceX has also expanded its operations. In February, the company absorbed Musk’s artificial intelligence venture, xAI. The development came a year after xAI acquired the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. Besides the size of the offering and the expected proceeds, SpaceX’s amended prospectus updates details about how much control of the company Musk will have. As SpaceX’s CEO, chief technical officer and chairman, Musk’s voting power will come primarily through his ownership of 5.22 billion Class B shares that give the holder 10 votes for every share held. According to the filing, Musk would have 82.4% of the voting power in the company. Forbes currently values Musk’s net worth at \$826 billion and his stake in SpaceX at \$542 billion. The estimated value of his SpaceX holdings was based on an overall value for the company of \$1.25 trillion. Based on those numbers, a \$1.77 trillion valuation for SpaceX would boost Musk’s net worth by

\$223 billion, making him a trillionaire. However, much of Musk’s worth is in stock that he has yet to cash in. Even as it makes a bid for a blockbuster market debut, SpaceX is currently losing billions of dollars a year. The filing shows that the company lost \$2.6 billion from operations last year on \$18.7 billion in revenue, and the losses kept piling up at the start of this year as well. Time will tell how SpaceX fares on the market. Musk’s plans for the company are as fantastical as the money he hopes raise in the sale. Colorful, even frightening in parts, the IPO document strikes a contrast with the typically dry, technical prose in IPO documents, detailing plans to use proceeds from the sale to help put men on the moon again and

perhaps even Mars. In one section, it talks of a need to build “a per-

manent human colony” on the red planet with “at least one million inhabitants” as existential threats loom that could consign man to “the same fate as the dinosaurs.” Musk has almost equally ambitious plans for his other publicly traded company, Tesla. His goal is to transform the maker of electric vehicles into a producer of robotaxis and humanoid robots. Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities wrote in a research note that he expects Tesla and SpaceX to merge next year. AI’s possibly pivotal role Key to the success

both companies — and any merged entity — is artificial intelligence. In its IPO filing, SpaceX says it sees potential revenue of up to \$26.5 trillion.



PHYSICSWALLAH TO EXIT DIRECT STUDENT LENDING, PARTNER WITH NBFCs

New Delhi: Edtech firm PhysicsWallah on Thursday, June 4, said it plans to exit from the business of direct financing for students and instead partner with NBFCs for education loans. The move comes after a recent announcement wherein the company said it will invest Rs 120 crore through an equity-infusion in its fully-owned subsidiary FinZ Finance Private Limited. “Physicswallah Limited wishes to inform the exchanges that it is restructuring its lending strategy and has tied up with multiple leading regulated third-party NBFCs to enable student lending needs. This decision reverses the company’s earlier approach and is intended to materially reduce balance sheet and credit related risks for the company,” the company said. PW said strategic direction for FinZ Finance will be decided in the near future subject to the board and other regulatory approvals. “We received feedback from our partners that our core strength lies in building communities and our online business. Our lending business is best left to regulated third-party NBFCs who have created robust underwriting capabilities. “We truly believe that



prudent capital allocation and shareholder value remains our foremost priority and in light of the feedback received from our partners to the said announcement, we have exercised our fiduciary responsibility to revisit this decision and enable student lending through regulated third-party NBFCs,” PW Co-founder Prateek Maheshwari said. Sources aware of the development said that the company is evaluating multiple option around FinZ Finance including its sale or surrender of licence. The company recently reported a narrowing of consolidated loss to Rs 69.14 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026 due to increase in enrolments and average revenue per person from a loss of Rs 289.27 crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from opera-

tions increased by about 51 per cent to Rs 918.8 crore during the quarter from Rs 609.6 crore in March 2025 quarter. The loss in FY26 narrowed to Rs 24.17 crore from Rs 243.26 crore in FY25. “We will continue to work as a technology platform that connects PW’s students to a curated list of regulated lending partners, based on students’ learning lifecycle and academic outcome journey of such students. PW will continue to enable affordability and accessibility, and make it more scalable, robust and capable of deeper penetration into the student ecosystem,” the filing said. The move comes after a recent announcement wherein the company said it will invest Rs 120 crore through an equity-infusion in its fully-owned subsidiary FinZ Finance Private Limited.

AIR INDIA, RIYADH AIR SIGN PACT FOR CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP

Mumbai: Tata Group-owned Air India and newly launched Saudi Arabia’s national carrier Riyadh Air have signed an initial agreement for a planned codeshare partnership and interline arrangement, among others, according to a statement. The memorandum of understanding aims to establish the foundation for a partnership that will offer air travellers seamless connections between India, Saudi Arabia, and destinations beyond, leveraging geographical advantages of their hubs in Delhi, Mumbai, and Riyadh, it said. Subject to regulatory approvals, Air India, and Riyadh Air intend to introduce interline and codeshare arrangements that will enable customers to travel seamlessly across each other’s networks with the convenience of a single booking and smoother onward connections via their respective hubs, Riyadh Air said. The partnership supports growing demand for travel linked to business, tourism, and fam-



ily visits, reflecting the deep economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties between Saudi Arabia and India, it stated. The two airlines will also explore collaboration across a range of areas, including reciprocal loyalty programme bene-

fits, cargo services, operational support and digital and technology initiatives designed to enhance the guest experience. “India is one of the most important and dynamic aviation markets in the world, and this partnership with Air India

marks a defining step in Riyadh Air’s mission to connect Saudi Arabia with key global destinations. Together, we will offer guests a seamless, world-class experience that reflects the deep cultural and economic bonds shared between our two nations,” Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas said. India and Saudi Arabia are two important growth markets in global aviation today, and the scale and momentum in both countries make this a natural partnership, Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said. “We look forward to working with Riyadh Air to bring together the complementary strengths of the two airlines to unlock that opportunity with a focus on offering our guests more choice across our combined networks,” he added. The agreement lays the groundwork for codeshare and interline services, offering seamless travel between India, Saudi Arabia and destinations beyond.

GOVT MOVES TO STANDARDIZE EDIBLE OIL PACKS FOR TRANSPARENCY

New Delhi: The government is preparing to introduce norms to standardize edible oil pack sizes, a move industry executives say could improve price transparency for consumers and create a more level playing field for manufacturers. The proposed measure is expected to address the growing prevalence of non-standard pack sizes, including 850 ml, 875 ml, 900 ml and 950 ml packs, which industry participants say can make it difficult for consumers to compare prices across brands and assess the true cost of products on a per-litre basis. The initiative comes amid a broader regulatory focus on consumer protection, transparent labelling and sustainable packaging practices. “We are pleased to note that the Government of India has taken cognizance of this important issue and is moving towards addressing non-standardized edible oil pack sizes,” said Vivek Puri, Managing Director of Puri Oil Mills Ltd., promoter of the P Mark mustard oil brand. “For several years, we have consistently highlighted that consumers deserve clear, trans-



parent and comparable pricing. Standardized pack sizes will help consumers make informed choices and ensure that competition is based on quality, purity and value rather than packaging practices,” he said. Puri said standardized pack sizes would make product comparisons simpler for consumers and help strengthen confidence in packaged edible oils. Environmental Benefits Industry stakeholders have also pointed to potential environmental benefits from standardization. Multiple pack sizes often require separate bottle moulds, labels and packaging formats, increasing supply-chain complexity and material consumption.

formally notify the proposed changes. “When a consumer compares two packs on a retail shelf, the comparison should be straightforward. Unfortunately, non-standard pack sizes often make that difficult. Standardization will strengthen transparency, build confidence in packaged edible oils and create a level playing field for all manufacturers,” Puri said. The government’s reported move comes at a time when regulators are placing increasing emphasis on consumer protection, transparent labelling and sustainable business practices. Industry observers believe that standardizing edible oil pack sizes would represent a meaningful reform that benefits consumers, encourages fair competition and supports broader sustainability objectives. If implemented, the measure is expected to bring greater clarity, trust and accountability to one of India’s most important food categories. The initiative comes amid a broader regulatory focus on consumer protection, transparent labelling and sustainable packaging practices.

Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI) Announces Strong Growth in Q4 FY2026 Financial Results

Gurugram 2026 – Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), India’s leading integrated multimodal logistics and supply chain solutions provider, today announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and year ended March 31, 2026.

Financial Highlights for Q4/FY2026:

- Revenue: TCI reported a consolidated revenue of 1336 Cr, marking a growth of 11.6% compared to 1197 Cr in the same period last year.
- EBITDA: The Company’s Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) stood at 174 Cr, a 7.4 % increase from 162 Cr in Q4/FY2025.
- Profit after Tax (PAT): PAT rose by 8.7% to 125 Cr, compared to 115 Cr in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Consolidated Management Commentary
Mr. Vineet Agarwal,



Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd. commented, “Q4 FY2026 reflected TCI’s steady execution and disciplined operations in a dynamic business environment. Our diversified portfolio, integrated multimodal capabilities and customer-led approach continued to strengthen our market position. TCI saw healthy traction across warehousing, multimodal movement and sector-specific logistics solutions, with our 3PL, cold chain and warehousing offerings serving customers across FMCG, consumer

durables, renewables, e-commerce and quick commerce. Momentum across rail, road and coastal shipping, supported by continued investments in warehouses, hubs, trucks and rail car carriers, is strengthening our long-term capabilities, alongside our exploration of EV trucks to advance greener logistics. Looking ahead, we remain focused on leveraging our investments in technology, multimodal infrastructure, green logistics and strategic partnerships to create enduring value for our customers, communities and shareholders.

‘Make it a Dubai Summer’ with the Most Value-Packed Edition Ever of DSS

Enjoy Unbeatable Value, Family Fun and Citywide Experiences in 2026

The countdown to Dubai Summer Surprises (DSS) 2026 has officially begun, with Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE) encouraging residents and visitors alike to ‘Make it a Dubai Summer’ as the city’s favourite summer festival returns from 2 July to 30 August 2026. Across 60 days, the city will come alive with a packed calendar of shopping, entertainment, dining and family-friendly experiences, and exceptional offers across hotels, restaurants, attractions, and retail destinations, bringing something new to discover throughout the summer. DSS 2026 will be anchored by a phased retail calendar designed to keep excitement building all season long, featuring major sale moments, limited-time deals and new experiences across the city. The momen-



tum will keep going all summer, with two major retail moments curated to bring shoppers big savings, exciting rewards and limited-time experiences to discover across Dubai.

The Great Dubai Summer Sale, with discounts of up to 90 per cent, exclusive brand offers, flash deals. From 3 to 30 August, Back to School will bring great deals

on school essentials, fashion, electronics and student tech. Residents and visitors will also have the chance to take part in Win Your Home in Dubai, a first-of-its-kind flagship citywide initiative jointly led by Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment and Dubai Chambers. By spending AED 500 or more at participating outlets, shoppers will take a step closer to owning



one of 12 residential units from Binghatti Developers including 11 new studio apartments and one grand prize of a two-bedroom apartment. Running across key retail periods including Eid Al Adha and Dubai Summer Surprises, the initiative transforms everyday shopping into a life-changing opportunity, with the first winner set to be announced during DSS 2026.

Entertainment will also play a key role in DSS 2026, with a summer line-up that includes the return of the biggest ever edition of Beat the Heat DXB concert series, alongside live entertainment experiences such as the Miami Musical Show at Coca-Cola Arena on 28 August, appearing outside Kuwait for the first time, with tickets now available on Platinumlist.

HEZBOLLAH REJECTS RENEWED CEASEFIRE AGREED BY ISRAEL AND LEBANON

The Lebanese armed group Hezbollah has emphatically rejected the terms of a US-backed ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. In a strongly-worded statement, the Iran-backed group's leader Naim Qassem said negotiations had been "futile" and "humiliating" for Lebanon, and rejected categorically by "broad segments of the Lebanese people". It comes after Israel and Lebanon announced a renewal of their fragile ceasefire with the creation of "pilot" security zones inside Lebanon in which Hezbollah operatives would be banned. In a joint statement released on Wednesday by the US State Department, the three countries said the deal was "contingent on a complete cessation" of fire by Hezbollah. But responding on Thursday, the leader of Hezbollah - which was not part of the talks - said the "supposed ceasefire", interpreted as Hezbollah halting fire and withdrawing fighters from the southern front with Israel, amounted to surrender and



would fulfil Israel's objectives. The mood was similar on the streets of Beirut's southern suburbs - a stronghold of Hezbollah, also known as Dahieh - with a storekeeper expressing doubts about the agreement. Sami, who has run his business there for 25 years, told the BBC: "You cannot have a ceasefire from one side, it's going to be an all side or no ceasefire." There had been strikes in Lebanon on Thursday, he said. If this was

supposed to be a truce, what did that make it? "This is surrender. This is not a peace agreement. This is a surrender agreement," he added. Across the road, Hadi, whose family store has been around for 35 years, said he saw no hope - and that this was not a new feeling. "My generation, my dad's generation, my grandpa's generation, they didn't see anything of hope from these people - not necessarily the Israeli people. You

can say the Israeli government," he said. The agreement between Israel and Lebanon, reached after a fourth round of US-mediated talks in Washington, is contingent on the "evacuation of all [Hezbollah] operatives" from an area between the Israeli border and the Litani river, about 30km (19 miles) to the north, which is currently occupied by Israeli ground forces. According to the deal, the US would help guide the

creation of "pilot zones in which the Lebanese Armed Forces will take exclusive control of the territory to the exclusion of all non-state actors". It did not include any maps to indicate where the pilot zones would be located, or any explanation of how they might work in practice. The agreement followed a partial ceasefire announced on Monday, which Lebanon said would see Israel refrain from bombing the Lebanese capital, Beirut, in exchange for Hezbollah not attacking Israel. The two countries' representatives will meet again on 22 June to hold further talks "with a view toward reaching a comprehensive agreement". Hezbollah, a Shia Muslim militia, political party and social movement, is Lebanon's most powerful group. With support from Iran, it has built an armed force more formidable than the Lebanese army and has fought a series of conflicts with Israel. It is designated as a terrorist organisation by Israel and many other coun-

tries, including the UK and US. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said the ceasefire "could be implemented within 24 hours of its final approval" by all concerned parties. Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the Israeli military would "for the time being, continue its fire and operations on the ground" in order to "dismantle terrorist infrastructure in the area". Lebanese media reported multiple Israeli strikes across southern Lebanon on Thursday. The state-run National News Agency (NNA) said five people were killed in air strikes on the Bekaa Valley town of Sohmar on Thursday, and that another person was killed when a motorcycle was targeted by an Israeli aircraft in the town of Maaroub, near the city of Tyre. The United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon (Unifil) meanwhile said one of its peacekeepers had died of wounds he sustained when mortar shells struck his position near Marjayoun late on Wednesday.

UKRAINE ACCUSED OF KILLING FOUR IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA



Russian-backed authorities in the occupied region of Crimea in Ukraine say at least four people have been killed in the latest wave of Ukrainian strikes on the peninsula. Three people were killed and seven wounded in one of the attacks on what were described as "non-residential facilities" in the regional capital, Simferopol. It appears to be the first attack resulting in fatalities there. Ukraine said they had hit a fuel depot. In a separate incident, one person was killed and three injured in an attack on a commuter train travelling to the city of Kerch, the Russia-installed Crimea leader said. It marks the third day in a row it has been accused of targeting

civilian transport in its occupied territories. In response to the BBC's request for comment, Ukrainian officials did not explicitly admit carrying out the attacks, but said Ukraine only attacked military targets and accused Russia of waging a campaign of propaganda to create a "parallel reality". The latest strikes come amid a recently-launched Ukrainian campaign of drone strikes against Russian supply routes in the occupied parts of the country. They have caused widespread fuel shortages in Crimea, with the authorities introducing fuel rationing and suspending fuel sales to residents of Sevastopol for part of Wednesday.

ISRAELI STRIKES KILL 11 PEOPLE IN GAZA CITY



At least 11 Palestinians have been killed, including women and children, and dozens wounded in Israeli air strikes across Gaza City, according to medical sources and eyewitnesses. Israeli aircraft struck at least four residential buildings in the Sheikh Radwan and Tel al-Hawa neighbourhoods and Shati refugee camp in the early hours of Thursday, causing powerful explosions and panic among residents. Among videos posted on social media, said to be the aftermath of the attacks, were distressing images of people trying to leave a building engulfed in fire in Shati camp. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Witnesses told the BBC that three Israeli helicopters hovered briefly over Gaza City's coastline before launching simultaneous strikes on the buildings. Among those reportedly targeted was a Hamas commander in northern Gaza, Hassan Labad, who was killed along with his wife and three of his children. A spokesman for the Hamas-

run Civil Defence agency said the dead included two children with disabilities from the Labad family and three women. Israel has carried out repeated air strikes in Gaza despite the US-brokered ceasefire deal, accusing Hamas of rearming and rebuilding its forces. More than 940 people have been killed since the ceasefire took effect last October, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry. And with the world's attention focused on conflicts elsewhere in the Middle East, the situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate, with a worsening humanitarian crisis and reported plans by Israel to increase the area of land under its control to 70%. The Gaza war was triggered by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, when about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage. Israel responded by launching a military campaign in Gaza, during which more than 72,950 people have been killed, according to the territory's health ministry.

MIRACLE ON EVEREST: GUIDE BELIEVED DEAD SPOTTED CRAWLING DOWN ICE



A Nepali climbing guide thought to have died on Mount Everest has been found crawling down to Base Camp, six days after he was last seen alive. Dawa Sherpa was last seen above Camp 3, at around 7,500m (24,600ft), while coming down the mountain after summiting. Hopes for his survival were slim as the air at that altitude is thin - but on Thursday, a cleaning crew spotted the experienced climber, who had frostbite on his hands

but appeared to be in good health, sliding slowly down. "Dawa managed to survive against all odds for days. It's nothing short of a miracle," said Pemba Sherpa, executive director of 8K Expeditions which was overseeing search efforts. "This is a true self-rescue." Five people have died so far in this year's climbing, three of them Nepalis who were involved in the Everest preparations, according to news agency AFP.

'Crazy' phone call between Trump and Netanyahu complicates Iran talks

Donald Trump has become the latest US president to find himself at odds with Benjamin Netanyahu, after reportedly clashing with the Israeli prime minister over military action in Lebanon that has thrown Washington's Iran diplomacy into crisis. Tehran responded to Israel's strikes on Lebanon by threatening to suspend talks with the US - a potential setback to Trump's efforts to extricate himself from an unpopular war with Iran. Trump was asked by a journalist about an Axios report that he had called Netanyahu "effing crazy" and accused him of ingratitude during a phone call on Monday. "I did," Trump told the Pod Force One podcast in an interview broadcast on Wednesday. "I wouldn't say angry. I was a little bit perturbed at his constantly fighting with ?Lebanon, you know."



Trump added: "I like Bibi a lot. And I work very well with him." He would be far from the only US president to tangle with the Israeli PM. The prime minister has a long history of testing the White House's patience - and of politically surviving any fallout. The latest reported clash came as Trump mulls a deal that would extend the US-Iran ceasefire and open the door to talks on the future of Tehran's nuclear pro-

gramme. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz - a vital global shipping lane - is also at stake. Netanyahu laughed off any suggestion of tensions with his American ally. "Sometimes we have, as in the best of families, you have these tactical disagreements," he told CNBC in an interview on Wednesday. "We always find a way to work them out, and we do so as great friends." He added that the two can "dis-

agree in the morning" and be in agreement by afternoon. Experts, however, cautioned that the call could point to frustration in the White House over the alignment of US and Israeli military and political goals nearly 100 days after they launched strikes on targets in Iran on 28 February. "Netanyahu has a long history of doing his own dance, irrespective of what he has heard from Washington," Brett Bruen, a former diplomat and president of crisis communications agency the Global Situation Room, told the BBC. "Trump... decided to take the plunge with him, and is now learning a really hard lesson about what happens when you get into war with a pretty mercurial leader that has an agenda which doesn't always align with your own priorities," he added.

HEAVY GUNFIRE IN SOMALI CAPITAL AS ROW OVER ELECTION DELAY ESCALATES

Government forces and opposition fighters have exchanged heavy gunfire in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, as a row over delays to elections has escalated. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's term in office ended on 15 May but was extended by a year. The opposition said this was unconstitutional and called for protests on Thursday. Gunfire was reported in several neighbourhoods of the capital and persisted throughout the night, according to accounts by residents. Police said they were conducting a "large-scale security operation" against "heavily armed militias who



launched mortar attacks" in some areas. Somalia last held a one-person, one-vote election in 1969 and has been ravaged by civil war for more than 30 years. Former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire said he had been attacked by government

forces while he and other leaders were preparing for Thursday's "peaceful" demonstrations. "The responsibility for any casualties or damage resulting from this incident lies with the president whose term has expired," he said on X.

"This attack is a grave assault on the constitutional rights of Somali citizens and a deliberate attempt to suppress peaceful assembly," he added. A resident told the Reuters news agency that a mortar shell had landed on his neighbour's house and injured a mother. "A big house near us is also ablaze, mortars and other weapons landed on it," Ahmed Ismail told the agency on Thursday morning. The number of casualties is not yet known and the president has not commented. In statement on X, former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, an ally of Khaire, said the opposition would not be intimidated.

Charges dropped against Budapest mayor over 2025 Pride march



Hungarian prosecutors have dropped charges against Budapest Mayor Gergely Karacsony over his role in organising a Pride march last year. The event took place in June 2025, despite warnings of potential legal repercussions by Hungary's then-Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, whose government had passed a law banning public events involving the LGBTQ community. In a statement issued on Thursday, Hungarian prosecutors cited a landmark ruling from the EU's top court as its reason for dropping the charges. There was no immediate response from Karacsony. Budapest's annual pride march went ahead last year in spite of the ban, with organisers of the march saying at the time that a record 200,000 people took part. Speaking at the march, Karacsony said: "Neither freedom nor love can be banned in Budapest." Authorities

charged him with organising the event in January. But in April, the European Court of Justice ruled that Hungary's anti-LGBTQ laws violate EU rules and infringe its values of equality and minority rights. The laws banned so-called promotion of homosexuality or gender change to under-18s, arguing it violated child protection laws. Citing that ruling on Thursday, Hungarian prosecutors announced that the charges had been dropped. "Considering the ruling by the European Court... the prosecutors dropped charges against the Budapest mayor for violating the law on freedom of assembly," they said in a statement. The ruling came nine days after Hungarians voted to end Orbán's 16-year era of continuous rule. Péter Magyar was later sworn in as the country's new prime minister.



US House delivers rebuke to Trump as it votes to halt Iran war

Bondi Beach shooting hero charged with assault



The man who disarmed one of the alleged perpetrators of the deadly Bondi Beach shooting has been charged with assault. Ahmed al Ahmed was hailed as a hero after intervening in the attack at a Jewish event in December, in which 15 people were killed and dozens injured. The 44-year-old is accused of having assaulted his father in March, Australian media report. He has been charged with domestic violence common

assault as well as stalking and intimidation. He has denied the allegations, telling broadcaster ABC they were "not true at all". Footage from the mass shooting at an event to mark Hanukkah showed Ahmed wrestling a gun from one of the alleged attackers. He was shot several times in the process and subsequently visited by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in hospital, who called him the "best of our country". A fundraiser to support him raised more than A\$2.5m (£1.24m; \$1.7m). Ahmed is due to appear in Sydney's Bankstown Local Court on 29 June. The Bondi attack was Australia's deadliest mass shooting since 1996. Police declared it a terrorist incident targeting the Jewish community.

Argentina Seeks Glorious End To Lionel Messi Era With Another World Cup Title

Argentina has bitter memories of 1994, the last time the United States hosted the World Cup. After the second group stage match, national icon Diego Maradona was expelled from the tournament due to a positive doping test. Maradona would never play another World Cup match, and Argentina was eliminated in the round of 16. Thirty-two years later, the South American powerhouse is hoping for a happier ending for Maradona's heir, Lionel Messi, who is turning 39 this month and is widely expected to retire from international soccer after the curtain comes down on the 2026 World Cup, which the U.S. is co-hosting with Mexico and Canada. If he and Argentina manage to keep the World Cup trophy they won four years ago in Qatar, they will become the first team to win back-to-back titles since

Brazil in 1962. It would also strengthen the claim of those who already call Messi the greatest player of all time. "I love playing football and I'm going to do it until I can't anymore," Messi told Argentine broadcast journalist Joaquín "Pollo" Álvarez in a YouTube interview. "I'm competitive, I like to win at everything, I don't even let my kids win at video games sometimes. It's just my nature and what led me to achieve everything I have." After more than 20 years playing for Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Miami, Messi's body is showing signs of wear. A week ahead of what will be his record

sixth World Cup, he is recovering from a hamstring problem that led to his substitution during Inter Miami's final match before the tournament on May 24. The Argentina captain worked out on his own at the team's base camp in Kansas City this week. "We all would have liked Messi to arrive without any problems, but that's not the case. Not only him, most of the players aren't fully recovered yet," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni told ESPN, a Latin American TV network. Goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez, hero of two penalty shootouts in 2022, including the final against France,

suffered a fracture to the ring finger of his right hand during the Europa League final while playing for Aston Villa. Defender Cristian "Cuti" Romero is recovering from a knee injury he picked up in mid-April while playing for Tottenham. Right backs Nahuel Molina and Gonzalo Montiel are dealing with muscle injuries as is midfielder Leandro Paredes. Argentina, also champion in 1978 and 1986, will play its first group stage match on June 16 against Algeria in Kansas City. Next up in Group J are Austria on June 22 and Jordan on June 27 in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas. Scaloni is relying on 17 of the 26 players who won the World Cup in 2022, even though several are not in peak physical condition. "Why change them if they don't deserve that? We've

always been honest with them. The players who are here today have shown us they want to be here. And secondly, their level hasn't dropped," Scaloni said. Argentina won the Copa América in 2024 and finished top of the South American World Cup qualifying group.



KNICKS LEAD NBA FINALS AFTER LATE RUN BEATS SPURS



RS 2 CRORE PER YEAR:

VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI'S ENDORSEMENT 'ASKING PRICE' SEES MASSIVE JUMP AGAIN

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's stocks are rising by the day. He is already a poster boy of Indian cricket after a stellar IPL 2026. Sooryavanshi was the only batter to slam over 750 runs in the 2026 edition of the T20 tournament. He has already been named in the India A squad for the tri-series in Sri Lanka. The wonderkid is also being primed to make his senior debut for India against Ireland later this month. Sooryavanshi's life and career are thus moving at a pretty fast pace. It's not only his on-field performance; off the field too, Sooryavanshi is making waves. An industry expert, speaking to NDTV on the condition of anonymity, has



said: "They are asking for Rs 2 crore now per year. Rajasthan Royals guys are asking for Rs 2 crore for him per year." Before the IPL, he had signed a few endorsements in the range of Rs 1 crore, which he did with Complan and Red Bull. Sooryavanshi even appeared

in Google ads during IPL 2026. Sooryavanshi was named the Most Valuable Player in the just-concluded IPL. He topped the batting chart with 776 runs from 16 innings at an average of 48.50 and a stunning strike rate of 237.30, hitting one century and five fifties to win the

Orange Cap. He surpassed West Indian Chris Gayle's previous IPL record for the maximum number of sixes (59) in a season, as he smashed 72 maximums in IPL 2026. He has been earning praise from all quarters. "He (Sooryavanshi) is extremely talented. Truly has a God-gifted talent and mindset like Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar," Madan Lal, the 1983 World Cup winner, told PTI. Lal said Sooryavanshi was as good as any of India's current top three batsmen in T20s. He also said he feared "some talented players might just get dropped because of Sooryavanshi."

Cricket Association Of Nepal Apologises After Timed-Out Dismissal Sparks Debate

The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) has issued a public apology after the women's team drew criticism for appealing a timed-out dismissal during an ACC Women's Premier Cup match against Bhutan in Malaysia. The unusual incident occurred at the beginning of Bhutan's pursuit of 114 runs, shifting focus from the match to concerns about sportsmanship and the true spirit of the game. Bhutan's innings got off to the worst possible start when opener Ngawana Choden was dismissed by the very first delivery. The drama intensified moments later as incoming batter Ritshi Choden hurried towards the middle but appeared unprepared to take a strike. Television footage showed



the batter carrying her helmet as she rushed onto the field. Before she could settle at the crease, Nepal's players approached the umpires and lodged an appeal. Following a discussion between the officials and the fielding side, the appeal was upheld, resulting in a timed-out dismissal. "The incident involving the timed-out dismissal of a

Bhutanese batter during today's match does not reflect the values and spirit of cricket that the Cricket Association of Nepal strives to uphold. On behalf of the Cricket Association of Nepal, we extend our sincere apologies for the actions of our Women's National Team in this matter. While the dismissal was effected within the Laws of

Cricket, we recognise that the spirit of the game extends beyond the written laws and must remain central to our conduct at all times. "As a developing cricketing nation, we place the utmost importance on sportsmanship, mutual respect, and fair play. We acknowledge that this incident has fallen short of those standards and regret any disappointment it may have caused. We convey our sincere apologies to Bhutan Cricket, the player concerned, and all relevant stakeholders. CAN remains firmly committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and the spirit of cricket, both on and off the field," the Cricket Association of Nepal said in a statement.

"SUE US": PATREON CEO JACK CONTE REFUSES BRICKS AND MINIFIGS DEMAND TO REMOVE RECKLESS BEN'S PATREON ACCOUNT



Patreon CEO Jack Conte posted a YouTube video on June 3 that nobody in the creator space saw coming. A legal takedown request had landed on his desk. His platform reviewed it. And instead of quietly complying, he went on camera and told the world exactly what Patreon had decided. The reason behind it goes back to a LEGO collection in

Oregon that has been pulling in millions of viewers for weeks. "Sue Us": Patreon CEO Jack Conte Refuses to Remove Reckless Ben's Page After Bricks and Minifigs Files Legal Action Conte opened his video by showing the documents Patreon had received. Bricks and Minifigs filed an official takedown request on May 29, seeking the removal of Reckless Ben's Patreon page. The filing included a complaint, a request for immediate content removal tied to a temporary restraining order, and a motion for a preliminary injunction.



The signs

FIFA Bans Reusable Water Bottles At 2026 World Cup Stadiums After Last-Minute Policy Reversal

FIFA has made a last-minute reversal of its World Cup stadium policy, banning fans from bringing water bottles into venues across North America. According to the New York Times, FIFA's official Stadium Code of Conduct included a clause which said: "For the avoidance of doubt, empty, transparent, reusable plastic bottles, up to (1 litre in) capacity, may be brought into the Stadium." However, FIFA has informed World Cup ticket holders that it has updated its code of conduct, notifying fans that "reusable water bottles are no longer permitted at FIFA World Cup 2026 stadiums." The code of conduct, updated on June 2, removed previous guidance that allowed fans to



bring empty, reusable plastic bottles into stadiums. "For the avoidance of doubt, reusable water bottles may not be brought into the stadium." Other types of bottles are also prohibited because they could cause injury if thrown. The ban on reusable plastic bottles is likely to prove controversial, as fans will no longer

be able to refill an empty bottle at a water fountain or dispenser inside stadiums. At last summer's Club World Cup, where players and supporters raised concerns about extreme heat, bottled water was sold at FIFA venues for between \$4 and \$6. While prices for the 2026 World Cup have yet to be announced, FIFA main-

tains a long-standing partnership with Coca-Cola, and its bottled water brand, Dasani, is expected to be available at World Cup stadiums. FIFA has also confirmed a record-breaking participation for the upcoming World Cup 2026, with final squad lists revealing 1,248 players from 48 nations set to compete in the expanded global tournament. Argentina are the reigning champion of the FIFA World Cup after winning the 2022 marquee tournament in Qatar. With just a few days remaining until kick-off, the latest figures underline the unprecedented scale of the competition, which will feature more teams, players and matches than any previous edition of the marquee event.

"Just Want To Quit Tennis Right Now": Devastated Aryna Sabalenka's 1st Reaction After French Open Exit



After letting another big lead slip with an error-strewn performance at the French Open, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka felt like getting as far away from the courts as possible. "Just want to quit tennis right now," Sabalenka said after wasting a lead of a set and two breaks in a 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 loss to Diana Shnaider in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. "We'll see in few days. Hopefully I'll get back on track mentally." Sabalenka's wait for a first French Open title continues despite the four-time major winner leading 4-1 in the second set and being two points from victory while serving for the match at 5-4. What followed was a complete collapse as she lost 12 of the last 13 games against a player appearing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, looking increasingly frustrated and forlorn in the windy conditions. Just like her loss to Coco Gauff in last year's final, when she also won the first set before becoming undone with a slew of

unforced errors, this one will take some time to get over. "You know those rooms where you just go in and you smash everything," Sabalenka said. "Probably I will spend a whole day tomorrow over there destroying stuff. Maybe it will help, maybe not." Shnaider next faces Maja Chwalinska, who extended her remarkable Roland Garros run by beating No. 22-seeded Anna Kalinskaya 7-6 (3), 6-3. In the men's quarterfinals, 10th-seeded Flavio Cobolli beat No. 4 Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 and will face fellow Italian Matteo Arnaldi for a spot in the final. Arnaldi advanced when Matteo Berrettini, yet another Italian, retired due to a left hip injury with Arnaldi leading 7-5, 5-2. Berrettini had his hip treated during a medical timeout earlier in the second set. The strong Italian showing comes despite top-ranked Jannik Sinner getting stunned in the second round.

Virat Kohli's Injury, That Ruled Him Out Of India vs Afghanistan ODI Series

were there in the IPL 2026 final on May 31. Playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, chasing a 156-run target against Gujarat Titans, Virat Kohli stayed unbeaten on 75 to take his team past the finish line, but not without sacrifice. Towards the latter part of the innings, Kohli could be seen struggling with a leg issue. Many thought it was just cramps playing up in the May heat, but now it has

been revealed that it was something more. Kohli was on Thursday ruled out of the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury that he sustained during the recently-concluded IPL. The three-match series begins on June 13 in Dharamshala. Kohli suffered the injury during the IPL final that his side, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, won on Sunday. "He is out of the ODI series due to a hamstring injury. He got injured during the final. Scans have revealed distal semimembranosus tendon tear," a BCCI source told news agency PTI. A distal semimembranosus tendon tear is a rare hamstring injury affecting the

thick tendon that attaches a muscle to the inner part of the shinbone, just below the knee. In a separate report by The Indian Express, it has been claimed that Kohli has been advised a minimum of two-week rest. He may be fit in time for the last ODI against Afghanistan on June 20, but the selectors are unlikely to include him, the report claimed. Kohli, known for his unmatched fitness even at 37 years of age, was in stellar form in the IPL, where he steered Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a second consecutive title. He hit the winning runs in the final against Gujarat Titans. Reinventing his T20 game, Kohli amassed 675 runs

in RCB's triumphant campaign, including a hundred and five fifty-plus scores. Kohli's absence will take the sheen off the upcoming series. Though the former India captain is now a one-format player, he remains a top draw for fans worldwide. It is extremely rare for Kohli to miss games due to an injury, given his exemplary fitness standards. When India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate was asked about Kohli's injury, he insisted that the media should wait for official updates. "Official communication will come on that. It's obviously big news when it's someone like Virat or Rohit," Ten Doeschate said.

ROCKING STAR YASH MUST END TOXIC RUMOURS

KGF star Yash's long delayed pan-India biggie 'Toxic' is supposed to be one of the most awaited films of 2026. However, the buzz has slowly fizzled out as the film got postponed several times and also because of frequent rumours about the output.

After the film got postponed from March 19, the makers have maintained absolute silence and didn't release any promotional material to keep the hype alive. This has created numerous doubts among trade circles and moviegoers. Adding to this negativity, the team pushed the release date indefinitely from June 4 and caused more disappointment.

Now, a fresh rumour started making rounds on social media platforms. The rumor claimed that Yash was deeply upset with the current output of the film, leading to plans for a massive 100-day reshoot and pushing the release window all the way back to 2027.

However, the team has quickly condemned these reports as wrong and baseless. Though the production team has denied these claims, the damage from these such hot rumors is often hard to reverse immediately and might impact the buzz and market of the film. As there won't be any smoke without a spark of fire, audiences also feel that there might be some truth in these reports.

The negative narratives on big-ticket films will surely have some effect on the theatrical revenues. So, the team should wake up from slumber and start making some sound to revive the buzz. To completely squash the negativity surrounding 'Toxic' and reignite positive hype, Yash should come and out and do some noise.

At least some teaser or a behind-the-scenes look, or a strong personal statement from the hero himself is exactly what is needed right now to clear the air, reassure the fans, and put the rumors to rest once and for all.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic stars Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and Rukmini Vasanth. KGF star Yash's long delayed pan-India biggie 'Toxic' is yet to see the light of the day due to repeated postponements. The gangster drama is supposed to hit the screens on June 4 after getting pushed from March 19. But, the makers postponed it again indefinitely, leaving fans and trade circles disappointed.

In fact, nothing went its way from the beginning as the production faced numerous challenges throughout the three year period. The promotional content sparked a few controversies and created some noise around the film all over the country.

But, there has been no proper buzz that matched the scale of a pan-India project. Even when the team initially locked March 19 as the release date, there was no big hype for the film. Luckily, it got postponed in the last minute and escaped the Dhurandhar 2 storm at the box office. There was considerable criticism as the film backed out from the race out of fear.

In the meantime, whatever little buzz

the film has slowly started to fizzle out as the team could not come up with any exciting content to engage the audiences. Amid all this, they announced June 4 as the new date. Still, there is no momentum due to lack of any promotions.

In another shocking development, the film has been postponed again, much to the frustration of moviegoers. It could have been an ideal date, but lack of buzz might have prompted the team to opt for a different date. While they have not announced any new date, the buzz continues to fade away due to all the confusion and uncertainty over the release plans.

Overall, it has now



Megastar Chiranjeevi, successful director Bobby Kolli, and renowned production house KVN Productions begin key schedule of #Chirubabi2 / #Chiru158 in Pollachi

Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Bobby Kolli are already expecting a big hit together for #ChiruBobby2 / #Chiru158. After the blockbuster 'Waltheru Veeraiya', this successful combo is once again joining hands, which has created excitement among the fans. Producer Venkat K. Narayana is producing this film with great ambitions under the banner of the famous production house KVN Productions. This is the first Telugu film for KVN Productions, which has achieved huge successes in many languages.

The shooting of the film is currently going on at a brisk pace. A key schedule has recently begun in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu. Megastar Chiranjeevi and the main cast are participating in this schedule and key scenes are being shot. Meanwhile, a special video released by the #ChiruBobby2 unit, wishing the team of Ram Charan's 'Peddhi', is impressing fans on social media.

Director Bobby Kolli has prepared a story on a grand scale. Chiranjeevi, who has been entertaining the audience with his screen presence for decades, will be seen in the most powerful and intense role of his career in this film. For this, he has once again undergone an amazing physical transformation.



A top technical team is working on this huge project. While S. Thaman is composing the music, cinematographer Vijay Karthik Kannan will provide stunning visuals for the film. Production design is handled by Avinash Kolla, while editing is done by Antony L. Ruben. Kona Venkat and K. Chakravarthy Reddy are providing the screenplay, while Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri are working as additional screenplay writers. Bhanu-Nandu duo is providing the dialogues. The makers will soon announce the details of the heroine and other main cast in the film.

YOUNG TALENTED HERO RAM NITIN'S NEW YOUTHFUL ENTERTAINER UNVEILS BIRTHDAY SPECIAL POSTER

Young and talented actor Ram Nitin, who gained immense popularity among youth audiences with MAD, is all set to entertain movie lovers with another exciting youthful entertainer. The film is being produced by successful producer Dheeraj Mogilineni under the banner of Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment and presented by Vallabhaneni Giribabu. Producers Vineeth and Sandeep, who introduced the film Youth to Telugu audiences, are co-producing the project under their E2C Talkies banner. The film is directed by Venkatesh Nimmalapudi, known for Nara Rohith's Sundarakanda.

On the occasion of Ram Nitin's birthday today, the makers unveiled a special birthday poster from the film. The colorful poster, filled with vibrant college fest vibes, has instantly grabbed attention. The caption, "Fun, Fest, Chaos... Begins Soon", hints at the film's highly entertaining nature. Set against the backdrop of a college in Kakinada, the movie promises to be a complete youth entertainer. Audiences still fondly remember Ram Nitin's energetic performance in MAD. The film has already generated significant buzz among movie lovers as it brings together producer Dheeraj



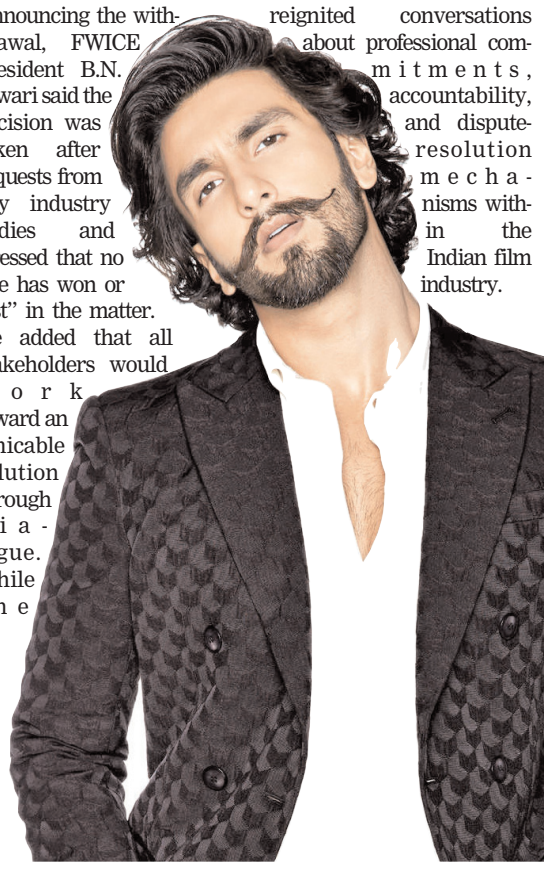
Mogilineni, who delivered the purposeful youth entertainer The Girlfriend; young producers Vineeth and Sandeep, who scored success with their debut venture Youth; and director Venkatesh Nimmalapudi, who impressed both youth and family audiences with Sundarakanda.

INDUSTRY BAN REVOKED ON DHURANDHAR STAR

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has withdrawn its non-cooperation directive against actor Ranveer Singh, bringing temporary relief in the ongoing controversy surrounding his exit from Don 3. The decision was announced on June 3 following mediation efforts by the Producers Guild of India, the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA), and the Cine and TV Artists Association (CINTAA).

The dispute began after Singh reportedly stepped away from Don 3, leading producers to raise concerns about alleged losses and disruptions caused by last-minute departures from film projects. FWICE had earlier issued a directive urging its members not to cooperate with the actor until discussions were held regarding the matter. Tensions escalated when Ranveer Singh served a legal notice to FWICE, challenging the directive and seeking legal recourse. The move prompted further

industry discussions and calls for a peaceful resolution. Announcing the withdrawal, FWICE president B.N. Tiwari said the decision was taken after requests from key industry bodies and stressed that no one has won or lost in the matter. He added that all stakeholders would work toward an amicable solution through dialogue. While the



immediate conflict appears to have eased, the episode has reignited conversations about professional commitments, accountability, and dispute resolution mechanisms within the Indian film industry.

CAN KEERTHY SURESH PULL OFF ROMANCE NOW?



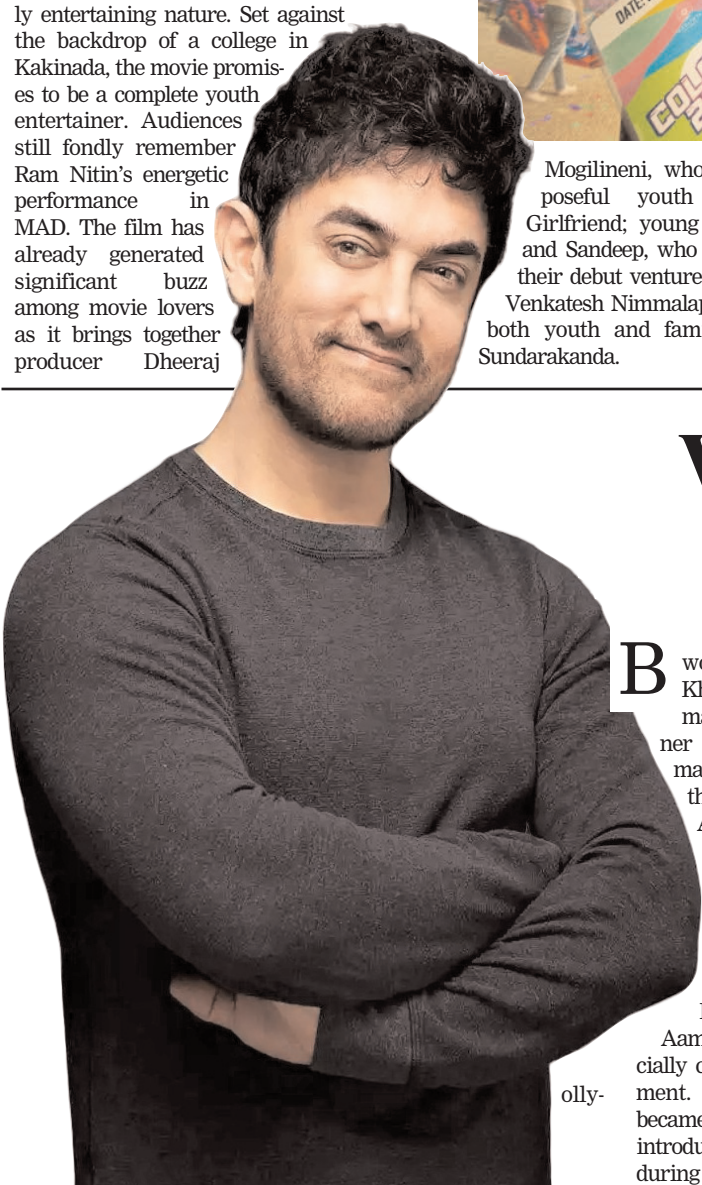
Keerthy Suresh is one of the leading heroines in the film industry. Having started her career in Tamil and Malayalam films, she later went on to attain stardom with Telugu films. The actress is reportedly in talks for a romantic thriller in Hindi and the news is trending across the internet.

However, the big question is whether the actress can pull off romantic roles especially at a time, she completely distanced herself from playing girl next door and usually bubbly girl roles.

With Mahanati, Keerthy worked her way out and climbed the ladder to become the top heroine in the film industry. She also began doing female centric

films or movies that revolve around her character. Even then, she did a few commercial films but after marriage, she completely stopped playing typical leading lady characters. Now, justifying romantic films will be a big challenge for Keerthy Suresh.

Convincing the audiences again with romantic dramas will not be easy for any heroine. Even for the family audiences, Keerthy is still familiar as an actress who does cute and sweet roles than typical characters. She was last seen in Revolver Rita and Uppu Kappurambu, where both are female centric and not the typical romantic films. As a result, if the ongoing reports are true, Keerthy definitely has to overcome a bigger challenge.



WEDDING BELLS AGAIN FOR AAMIR KHAN ?

Wood superstar Aamir Khan is reportedly set to marry his longtime partner Gauri Spratt in July, marking a new chapter in the actor's personal life. According to recent media reports, the couple is planning an intimate wedding ceremony, with July 5 being mentioned as the likely date.

However, neither Aamir nor Gauri has officially confirmed the development. The relationship became public when Aamir introduced Gauri to the media during his 60th birthday cele-

brations in March 2025. The actor revealed that they had known each other for many years before reconnecting and eventually beginning a serious relationship. Since then, the couple has made several public appearances together, attracting significant attention from fans and the entertainment industry. If the reports prove accurate, this will be Aamir Khan's third marriage. The actor was previously married to Reena Dutta and later to filmmaker Kiran Rao. Despite their separations, Aamir has often spoken respectfully about both relationships and continues to

maintain cordial ties with his former spouses. Sources suggest the upcoming ceremony will be a private affair attended by close family members and friends. Fans are now eagerly awaiting an official announcement from the actor regarding the reported wedding plans. Bollywood star Aamir Khan revealed that film failures push him into depression for nearly three months. Speaking after the box office disappointment of Ek Din, Aamir said a flop feels "like losing a child," showing how deeply he connects emotionally with every project. Aamir Khan was once widely

regarded as one of the sharpest marketing minds in Indian cinema. From innovative campaigns to unique promotional ideas, he consistently created massive buzz around his films. However, recent projects suggest that his once-celebrated PR strategies may no longer be connecting with today's audience. The latest example appears to be Ek Din, starring Sai Pallavi and Junaid Khan which Aamir is producing. Despite featuring a strong cast and generating some emotional buzz, the film reportedly has very low awareness among general audiences.