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SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

25-06-2026
Total pilgrims: 62,925
Tonsures: 36,297
Hundi kankalav: 3,77 CR
Laddu sale: 4,23 Lac
Annasradams: 2,40 Lac
Medical treatment: 2,910
Waiting Compartments: Out side line
at Bala Gangamma Temple

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravaddashnam
(with out SSD Tokens): 24 H.

Heavy rain triggers
landslides, flash floods;
3 missing in
Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR (TSIT): Incessant rain triggered flash floods in Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday morning, inundating low-lying areas and damaging 18 residential units, while landslides on a national highway disrupted vehicular movement and left several people stranded, an official said. Three

India-UK trade pact sparks business optimism ahead of July 15 rollout

LONDON (TSIT):

Addressing a gathering of more than 300 policymakers and industry leaders, Goyal said that the best innings of the India-UK partnership are yet to come, highlighting the growing strategic, economic and technological ties between the two countries as the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is set to take effect from July 15. "Truly honoured to have received the Special Award for Exceptional Leadership in Elevating UK-India Relations at the Annual UK-India Awards 2026 in London," Goyal added. This recognition belongs to the many bridge-builders across governments, businesses, academia, culture, and our vibrant diaspora who continue to strengthen India-UK ties, he added.



"The best innings of the India-UK partnership are yet to come," Goyal said, while emphasising the vast opportunities for collaboration between the two countries.

The minister also said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's growth story is creating unprecedented opportunities for deeper engagement between India and the United Kingdom across several sectors.

He also congratulated the other award recipients for

their contributions towards further enriching the India-UK partnership. The minister noted that the evolving partnership between the two countries is being supported by stronger economic engagement, expanding business ties and growing people-to-people connections, setting the stage for a new chapter in bilateral relations. "Under the decisive leadership of PM Narendra Modi, India's growth story offers unprecedented opportunities for collaboration across trade, innovation, technology, education, and emerging sectors," he stated.

Strait of Hormuz attack: Iran strikes vessel, UN evacuation mission suspended

Washington (TSIT):

The UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) has paused "immediate evacuation operations" for more than 11,000 sailors stranded in the Strait of Hormuz after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attacked a Singapore-flagged cargo vessel Ever Lovely, in an incident that tests the durability of a newly signed US-Iran agreement aimed at reopening the critical shipping lane and ensuring stabilizing maritime traffic and safety of seafarers in the Gulf. The vessel was reportedly struck by a "one-way attack drone" that maneuvered to the western side of the ship before impact, damaging its bridge on the starboard side, CNN reported. There were "no casualties" and no reported environmental damage, but maritime monitoring agencies confirmed the attack disrupted operations in one of the world's most strategically sensitive waterways. The incident came just hours after Iran warned that vessels would only be granted safe passage if they followed "specific routes sanctioned by Tehran," directly challenging Washington's assertion that the Strait has been reopened under the recent ceasefire framework.

Sanjay Jaju appointed Telangana CS; 13 IAS officers transferred

Hyderabad (TSIT):

The Telangana Government on Friday appointed senior IAS officer Sanjay Jaju as the new Chief Secretary and announced a major bureaucratic reshuffle involving 13 IAS officers across key departments and government institutions. According to G.O. Rt. No. 911, Sanjay Jaju, a 1992-batch IAS officer, will succeed K. Ramakrishna Rao, who is retiring on June 30. Jaju will assume charge as the state's Chief Secretary from July 1, 2026.

The reshuffle, issued through G.O. Rt. No. 914, includes several important appointments. N. Sridhar has been posted as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, while Shailaja Ramaiyer has been appointed Principal Secretary of the Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Department. Ahmed Nadeem will serve as Principal Secretary, Political Administration Department, and Rahul Bojja has been posted as Principal Secretary,



SANJAY JAJU

Disaster Management.

Ajit Reddy has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Invest Telangana, while Musharraf Ali Faruqi has been given additional charge as Vice Chairman and Managing Director of TGREDCO. P. Katayani Devi has been



appointed Special Chief Secretary, Handlooms and Textiles. K. Gangadhar has been transferred to the Roads and Buildings Department, T. Venkanna has been named Commissioner of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation, K. Vidyasagar has been appointed Director of Tourism, and K. Chandrakala has been given Full Additional Charge as Joint Metropolitan Commissioner of HMDA.

Sanjay Jaju returns to Telangana after nearly 13 years on Central deputation, during which he served in several key positions, including Secretary in the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). His extensive administrative experience at the Centre is expected to strengthen Telangana's coordination with the Union Government and support the state's infrastructure, investment and governance initiatives.

Ram temple donation case: All 8 accused sent to police custody till June 29

AYODHYA (TSIT):

A court has granted police custody of all eight accused arrested in connection with the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya till June 29, during which investigators will continue questioning them, an official said on Friday. Prosecution Officer K C Verma told reporters that they have been remanded in police custody till Monday and will be produced before the special court thereafter.

The eight arrested are Avinash Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Lav Kush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ram Shankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava and Ramashankar alias Tinnu Yadav.

Verma said investigators have so far recovered Rs 79.85 lakh during the probe. He said appropriate provisions relating to criminal breach of trust by public servants and the Prevention of

Corruption Act had been invoked as the accused were allegedly involved in embezzlement.

The prosecution officer said five to six of the arrested persons were bank employees who were deployed for counting cash donations received at the temple and were drawing salaries from the bank. He, however, declined to identify the individual bank employees at this stage of the investigation.

He said Tinnu Yadav was not a bank employee but worked as a driver, while Subhash Srivastava was in charge of the donation counting process. The case relates to the alleged embezzlement of cash and valuables offered by devotees at the Ram temple. An FIR was registered after a preliminary report by a Special Investigation Team (SIT), and the investigation is being carried out by both the SIT and Ayodhya police.



Cockroach Janta Party steps up protest, launches nationwide 'Pradhan Go Back' campaign

New Delhi (TSIT)

Stepping up attack against Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Friday announced the launch of a nationwide campaign to demand his resignation and exhorted students, farmers and civil society groups to join him at Jantar Mantar on June 28. Addressing a press conference here, Dipke said activist Sonam Wangchuk would also join the campaign at Jantar Mantar on Sunday and begin an indefinite fast. He, however, did not elaborate on what the campaign would entail.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Pradhan resigns, saying that he would be seen as an "incompetent prime minister" if he failed to do so.

The CJP, which started as a digital satirical outfit, has been holding a sit-in at Jantar Mantar since June 20



to demand Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities in exams and the NEET paper-leak controversy. "It has been a week, and Dharmendra Pradhan has not taken any responsibility for the paper leaks," Dipke said.

"Sonam Wangchuk will join the protest from Sunday. It is unfortunate that no one is being held accountable for student suicides, and an educator and a scientist like Wangchuk has to go on a hunger strike when 20 students have already died."

"It is not too late. Pradhan should resign because the blood of those students is on his hands. He was calling us terrorists, but he is the real terrorist because he is the reason for the death of these students," Dipke added.

CM Shivakumar holds review meeting with commercial taxes department

Bengaluru (TSIT):

Expressing happiness over Karnataka achieving the second highest GST growth in the country, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said he was confident that the state would exceed tax collection targets for the current financial year.

Holding a review meeting of the Commercial Taxes department at Vidhana Soudha, the CM said, "Officials of the Finance department, Finance Adviser L K Atheeq, and Additional Chief Secretary of the Finance department Ritesh Kumar have offered several suggestions to improve the department's

"No goods-carrying vehicles should cross a check-post at our state borders without the necessary documents. There must be no scope for tax evasion. There is no room for any kind of compromise or negligence in this,"



performance. The responsibility of implementing them strictly now rests on all of you. I have full faith in the officials. I am also confident that all of you will strive to fulfil my expectations."

"No goods-carrying vehicles should cross a check-post at our state borders without the necessary documents. There must be no scope for tax evasion. There is no room for any kind of compromise or negligence in this,"

and your performance reports must match one another," he said.

"Achieve good coordination with the Commercial Tax departments and enforcement agencies of neighbouring states. Tax evasion must be effectively prevented through information-sharing and joint operations," he noted.

"Today we have information on about 12 lakh taxpayers. You have the capacity to analyse them from a 360-degree perspective using technology and data analytics. If you use this opportunity properly, you are capable not only of achieving the target set for you but of exceeding it," he said.

India's credit card spends surge 6.6 pc in May, 1 million new cards added

New Delhi, June 26 : Credit card spending in India surged to Rs 2,023 billion in the month of May, up 6.6 per cent year-on-year and 2.6 per cent month-on-month, a report said on Friday.

The sequential increase comes after a 10.1 per cent on-month decline in April, indicating that the recovery is not yet strong or structural, the report from Asit C. Mehta Investment Intermediates Limited said.

The industry added 1 million new cards during May, marking the second-highest monthly card issuance in the past 27 months. Total cards in force increased to 120.5 million, while YoY growth accelerated to 8.7 per cent, the highest recorded in the past 15 months.



Transaction volumes stood at 587 million, increasing 5.7 per cent sequentially and 25.8 per cent on an annual basis. The sequential recovery was largely attributable to the sharp decline witnessed in April.

Average spend per card eased 1.8 per cent YoY and increased by 1.7 per cent sequentially. SBI was the

clear exception, with per-card spend up 12 per cent YoY, lifted by higher corporate spending.

Average spend per transaction declined on both measures, down 3 per cent MoM and 15 per cent YoY, continuing its downward trajectory due to increase in low value transactions.

The top four banks

accounted for only 63.7 per cent of the incremental spending during the month despite holding an industry market share of roughly 76 per cent in spends, the report noted.

Among the top four banks, all broadly matched the industry's sequential growth except HDFC Bank, which grew by 4.2 per cent.

Another report has said that credit sourcing of new loans in Q3 FY26 grew 36 per cent YoY compared to 7 per cent a year earlier, driven by sustained demand from consumers and businesses. The report highlighted strong growth in lending activity, led by accelerated sourcing growth, rising secured lending, and improving asset quality.

6 soldiers martyred during 'Operation Sindoor' to be immortalised at National War Memorial

New Delhi, June 26 : Six bravehearts of the Indian armed forces, who laid down their lives during 'Operation Sindoor' – India's military response to the Pahalgam massacre, against Pakistan in May last year, are set to be immortalised at the National War Memorial.

The names of these martyred soldiers will be inscribed at the National War Memorial in the national Capital. Their names will be engraved on the granite bricks at the memorial.

The identities of the six fallen soldiers who made their supreme sacrifice for the nation have been made public for the first time. They include five soldiers from the Indian Army and one sergeant from the Indian Air Force. Two of the martyrs have also been honoured by the



government for their bravery. They are Rifleman Sunil Kumar, who was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously while Sergeant Surendra Kumar was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal posthumously.

The six brave soldiers martyred in 'Operation Sindoor' include Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Rifleman Sunil Kumar, Lance Naik Dinesh

Kumar, Agniveer Murali Naik, Havildar Sunil Kumar Singh, and Indian Air Force Sergeant Surendra Kumar.

Five of these personnel belonged to the Indian Army, while one belonged to the Indian Air Force.

Their names are being inscribed at the National War Memorial to ensure that their supreme sacrifice remains alive in the nation's memory forever.

8 killed in three road accidents in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, June 26 : Eight persons were killed and 15 others injured in three separate road accidents in Andhra Pradesh since Thursday night, police said. Four persons were killed and nine others injured when a Multi-Utility Vehicle rammed into a stationary lorry in Palnadu district early Friday. The accident occurred near Macherla Nagaravanam when the vehicle hit the lorry parked by the roadside. Four people died on the spot, while nine others were injured. Police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the Government Hospital at Macherla. Rescue workers had a tough time extricating the bodies from the mangled remains of the vehicle.

End citizenship confusion, amend law, says Shashi Tharoor amid MEA passport statement row

Thiruvananthapuram, June 26 : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday called for a legislative overhaul to end the controversy over the legal status of Indian passports, arguing that both passports and Aadhaar cards should be recognised as conclusive proof of Indian citizenship unless they are cancelled or withdrawn by the state.

Reacting to the Ministry of External Affairs' clarification on Passport Seva Divas that an Indian passport is primarily a travel document and not conclusive proof of citizenship, Tharoor said the government's explanation, though based on the Passports Act, 1967, has created widespread public confusion.



He noted that while Section 20 of the Act permits passports to be issued to non-citizens under exceptional circumstances in the public interest, the distinction was meaningless to the

average citizen because passports are issued only after rigorous police verification and extensive scrutiny of documents. "For decades, the passport has been regarded as the gold standard of identity," Tharoor said, ques-

tioning how a document issued after such stringent verification could then be declared inadequate as proof of citizenship. "If a passport does not establish domestic citizenship, then what does?" he asked. he Thiruvananthapuram MP also pointed out that the Supreme Court had earlier held that the Aadhaar card serves only as proof of identity and residence, not citizenship. Together, he argued, the two positions leave millions of Indians possessing government-issued identity documents that are still not legally considered conclusive proof of nationality. To resolve what he described as an absurd legal paradox, Tharoor proposed amendments to

the legal framework recognising both passports and Aadhaar as valid proof of citizenship. Acknowledging that Aadhaar is currently issued on the basis of residence rather than nationality, he suggested that the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduce a visually distinct Aadhaar card for non-citizen residents. Such a system, he argued, would clearly distinguish citizens from non-citizens, simplify domestic verification procedures, reduce bureaucratic disputes during exercises such as electoral roll revisions and provide every Indian with legal certainty over his or her citizenship status.

Indira Shobhan Hits Back at BRS Over Anganwadi Recruitment Allegations



Shobhan said the interviews are conducted by a special committee headed by the District Collector, ensuring fairness and eliminating the possibility of arbitrary evaluation. She added that similar recruitment practices are already in place in several other states. Launching a sharp attack on BRS leaders, particularly former minister Satyavathi Rathod, she alleged that the opposition was deliberately spreading misinformation to stall the Anganwadi recruitment

process. She accused the BRS of being unable to accept the growing public support for Women and Child Welfare Minister Seethakka and warned against making what she called false allegations against the minister. She said Anganwadi workers play a vital role in child care, nutrition, and maternal welfare, making it essential to assess candidates' aptitude and attitude in addition to their academic qualifications. Claiming that the previous BRS government had delayed recruitments by creating technical hurdles, Indira Shobhan said the Congress government is committed to completing the appointments transparently and providing equal opportunities to all eligible candidates.

MLA who laid foundation stone for development and construction works



WARANGAL, June 26, TSIT : In addition to the park development works to be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 80 lakh in Keerthi Nagar, 16th division of Baldia range, and the construction of a drinking water pipe line to be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 11 lakh in Garib Nagar, Dharmaram, for the construction works of CC roads and

drains to be undertaken in the Moglich area at an estimated cost of Rs 80 lakhs, P a r a k a l a Legislator Revuri Prakash Reddy along with District Collector/Baldia Special Officer Chahat Bajpai laid the foundation stone for CC road construction works to be undertaken in Reddypalem at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh. Former city mayor Gundu Sudharani, former corporator Manisha Shiva Kumar, EE Santhosh Babu, HO Lakshmareddy, DE Suresh and others participated in this programme.

Ensure Error-Free Voter List: ITDA PO B. Rahul

Bhadradi kothagudem (TSIT): Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Pinapaka (ST) Assembly Constituency and ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul appealed to all eligible voters to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls being undertaken by the Election Commission of India. During a door-to-door awareness and verification programme held on Friday in Burgampahad, Veeravendi and Mothe polling station areas, he distributed Enumeration Forms and urged voters to furnish complete details of all eligible family members and submit the forms to the concerned Booth Level Officers (BLOs). He advised voters to obtain an acknowledgement receipt after submission. Rahul clarified that the Special Intensive Revision aims to



prepare a transparent and error-free electoral roll by enrolling all eligible voters, correcting discrepancies, and removing duplicate, deceased and shifted voter entries. He assured that genuine voters need not have any apprehensions, as no eligible voter's name would be deleted without following the prescribed procedure. He further instructed BLOs and Supervisors to ensure door-to-door verification, collect accurate information from every household and complete the revision process in a transparent and time-bound manner.

SBI signs MoU with Telangana Government to offer exclusive salary package for employees

Hyderabad: In a major initiative to strengthen banking services for State Government employees, the State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana to provide a comprehensive Salary Package Scheme with a range of exclusive banking benefits. The agreement, signed on June 25, is aimed at offering a customised banking solution that provides financial flexibility, enhanced convenience and value-added services to Telangana Government employees. The specially designed salary package includes lifestyle benefits linked to SBI debit and



credit cards, exclusive benefits for family members, a comprehensive pension package, complimentary personal accident and air accident insurance, discounts on locker rentals, and concessional

personal loans, among other features. Speaking on the occasion, Neelash Dwivedi, Chief General Manager, SBI Hyderabad Circle, thanked the Telangana Government for its contin-

ued trust and support. He said the partnership reflects SBI's commitment to serving State Government employees more effectively while contributing to the State's financial inclusion and employee welfare initiatives. The MoU marks another milestone in SBI's long-standing collaboration with government institutions and reinforces the bank's focus on delivering technology-driven, customer-centric banking solutions. The initiative is expected to enhance the overall banking experience for thousands of Telangana Government employees through a comprehensive suite of financial services and benefits.

ICFAI Law School Concludes Faculty Development Programme

RANGAREDDY ICFAI Law School, a constituent of the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE), concluded its Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled "The Modern Law Schools: Navigating Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Innovative Legal Pedagogy" with a valedictory session at the IFHE Auditorium on Friday. Prof. (Dr.) Bindu S. Ronald, Vice Chancellor of Maharashtra National Law University, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, attended as the Chief Guest and stressed the impor-



importance of Outcome-Based Education, technological adaptation and innovative teaching methods in preparing competent and ethical legal professionals. She also appreciated ICFAI Law School for organising the programme. Prof. (Dr.) Pujari

Ravisekhararaju, Director of ICFAI Law School, lauded the participation of faculty members from across the country and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation and capacity building. Prof. (Dr.) Md. Akbar Khan, Associate Dean, presented the programme report, highlighting sessions on Outcome-Based Education, legal pedagogy, curriculum development, assessment strategies, experiential learning, research methodologies, digital technologies and implementation of the National Education Policy in law schools.

Largest Indian Butterfly Species Spotted in Telangana for the First Time

The South India Times Nagar Kurnool : In a significant development for biodiversity conservation, the Southern Birdwing, one of the largest butterfly species found in India, has been recorded for the first time in Telangana State at the Kollapur Range of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Nagarkurnool district. The Southern Birdwing is primarily distributed across the Western Ghats and is only rarely reported from a few locations in the Eastern Ghats. Its presence in Amrabad Tiger Reserve



marks an important milestone in documenting and understanding the region's ecological richness. The rare butterfly was recorded by Nilesh, FSO, and Dr. Ravikanth, Wildlife Biologist. The discovery was appreciated by Dr. Sunil Hiremath, IFS, Field

Director of Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Revanth Chandra, IFS, DFO Nagarkurnool, Chandrashekhara, FDO Achampet, and Vanikumari, FRO Kollapur. The finding further highlights the rich biodiversity of Amrabad Tiger Reserve and reinforces its importance as a key conservation landscape. The first-ever record of the Southern Birdwing in Telangana is expected to support future scientific research and strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts in the region.

Warangal Police organise anti-drug run; youth urged to build drug-free society



Warangal : Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh called upon youth to play an active role in building a drug-free society while launching a 2K anti-drug awareness run organised by the Central Zone Police to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The run, flagged off in the presence of MLAs, District Collectors and KUDA Chairman, commenced from the Warangal Police Commissionerate and concluded at the Arts and Science College Grounds in Subedari. Hundreds of students and youth from the tri-city region participated in the event, and medals and certificates were presented to outstanding participants. Addressing the gather-

ing, Commissioner Sunpreet Singh said drug abuse has become a serious social menace and urged students and young people to stay away from narcotics and focus on education and career goals. He warned against involvement in drug consumption or trafficking and stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate the menace. West Warangal MLA Naini Rajender Reddy appealed to youth to avoid bad habits and spread awareness about the harmful effects of drugs. Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju said an Eagle Force unit would be strengthened to curb narcotics and urged the public to report drug-related activities by calling the police helpline.

Karnataka's Dr Radhika Balakrishnan Becomes First Carnatic Vocalist to Receive Honorary Fellowship from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, UK

Bringing international recognition to Karnataka's rich classical music heritage, renowned Carnatic vocalist, academic and educator Dr Radhika Balakrishnan has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC), one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious performing arts institutions. She is the first Carnatic vocalist to receive an Honorary Fellowship from the Conservatoire. The award was formally presented at a ceremony held at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The honour recognises Dr Balakrishnan's significant contributions to arts, culture and education, as well as her work in introducing the depth and sophistication of Carnatic music to students, artists and audiences in the United Kingdom. The recognition marks a significant moment for Karnataka's classical arts community. The state has



long been one of the principal centres of Carnatic music, with its deep-rooted guru-shishya traditions, influential composers, vibrant performance ecosystem and institutions that have nurtured generations of musicians and teachers. Dr Balakrishnan's Fellowship further highlights the continuing global relevance of the Carnatic tradition and the role of Karnataka's artists and educators in preserving its foundations while enabling it to engage meaningfully with con-

temporary musical and academic environments. Dating back almost a century, the Honorary Fellowship places Dr Balakrishnan among an esteemed cohort of recipients who have demonstrated exceptional excellence and made meaningful contributions to their respective fields. Among previous recipients was the late John Mayer (1930-2004) who served as Composer, Professor of Composition at RBC from 1990 to 2004, and a pioneer of Indo-jazz fusion and received the award in 1999.

Over more than 15 years, Dr Balakrishnan has brought traditional Carnatic music, infused with contemporary influences, to audiences across India, the United Kingdom and internationally. Her work demonstrates how ancient Indian musical systems can enrich modern conservatoire training and prepare students for careers in an increasingly interconnected creative world. As the inaugural ICCR Chair in Indian Studies at Birmingham City University in 2023, and through her continuing contribution to RBC as a visiting artist and professor, she has also positioned Indian classical music within a broader scholarly and diplomatic framework, strengthening institutional ties between UK higher education and India's rich cultural heritage. Dr Balakrishnan learned Carnatic music under the tutelage of celebrated vocalist and educator Vidushi Dr. R.N. Sreelatha of the distin-

guished Rudrapatnam music tradition. Speaking on her achievement, Stephen Maddock, Principal of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire said, "It gives me great pleasure to honour Radhika with this award. Her achievements as a distinguished Carnatic vocalist and teacher, combined with her unwavering commitment to supporting our students and bringing Indian music into the core of RBC's work, have been transformative. Radhika embodies the kind of excellence and cultural generosity that we deeply value at the Conservatoire, and we are delighted to recognize her contributions with this prestigious honour." Adding to this, Professor Shirley Thompson, Vice Principal (Music), Royal Birmingham Conservatoire stated, "Radhika's time with us has been nothing short of remarkable. When she joined us as our first Visiting Chair in Indian

Music, I could never have predicted the profound impact she would have on both our students and staff. Her passion for sharing the depth and sophistication of Carnatic music, combined with her pedagogical skill and warmth, exemplifies what it means to bridge musical traditions. We are thrilled that she has continued her involvement with RBC, and this honour is thoroughly deserved." In her own words Dr Radhika Balakrishnan says that "Receiving the Honorary Fellowship of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is an honour that extends far beyond me. It represents recognition for the transformative power of Indian classical music in global artistic discourse. For centuries, Carnatic music has embodied a philosophy of learning, growth, and human connection. My work here at RBC has been about demonstrating that these ancient Indian music traditions as living.

Anti-drug rally held in Husnabad to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse



Husnabad, June 26: The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed in Husnabad with an anti-drug awareness rally and pledge-taking programme organised by the local police to promote a drug-free society. Led by ACP Sadanandam, the rally was conducted at Ambedkar Crossroads, where participants pledged to support the government's vision of a drug-free Telangana. Addressing the gath-

ering, the ACP called upon citizens to cooperate with the police in eliminating drug abuse in the Husnabad division. He stressed the need to create awareness about the harmful effects of narcotics and urged parents, teachers and the public to work together to prevent children and youth from falling victim to drug addiction. He appealed to young people to stay away from drugs and focus on building a healthy and productive future.

TN announces CM medals for 15 officers on anti-narcotics day

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has named 15 police officers and personnel as recipients of the Chief Minister's Police Medal for Special Service in Eradicating Drug Production and Illicit Trafficking, with the announcement made on the occasion of Anti-Narcotics Day.

According to an official release, the award recognises distinguished service rendered since 2023 in preventing the manufacture of narcotic substances and curbing illegal drug trafficking across the state. The selections for the 2026 medals were made based on recom-



mendations submitted by Director General of Police Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal.

The awardees include C u d d a l o r e Superintendent of Police Vivekananda Shukla; Ramanathapuram Police Inspector Sandish; A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police Lakshmanan (Narcotics Intelligence Unit, Chennai); Assistant Commissioner of Police Kannan (Narcotics Control Unit, Intelligence Wing, Chennai); Police Inspector Kamaraj (Tiruchirappalli Central Intelligence Unit); Assistant Sub-Inspector Arun (Kurangani Police

Station, Theni); Head Constables Rajkumar (Kumuli PS, Theni), K a r t h i k e y a n (Vettaikaraniruppu PS, Nagapattinam), Nallur (Tiruppur PS), Ayyappan (Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Tirunelveli), Premkumar (Ashok Nagar PS, Chennai), and Ramakrishnan (Theni Narcotics Intelligence Unit); Constable K u t h b u d e e n (Kottaipattinam PS, Pudukkottai); Special Sub-Inspector Senthil Kumar (Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Karur); along with one other personnel named in the government order.

Madurai–Abu Dhabi flight services to resume from August 14

CHENNAI: After a suspension of several months due to geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region, direct flight services between Madurai and Abu Dhabi will resume from August 14, providing renewed international connectivity for passengers travelling to the UAE. According to a Daily Thanthi report, the Madurai Airport authorities have announced that direct flight services to Abu Dhabi will restart from August 14, following the easing of tensions in the Gulf region that had led to the suspension of operations earlier this year. Madurai Airport currently operates 18 daily



domestic flights connecting the city with Chennai, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, and Hyderabad. It also offers a daily international service to Sri Lanka. Earlier, direct flights to Dubai and Abu Dhabi were suspended at the end of February due to the conflict-related situation in the Gulf. With normalcy returning, services to Abu

Dhabi are now set to resume. According to airport officials, the Abu Dhabi flights will operate three times a week – on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The flight from Abu Dhabi will arrive in Madurai at 1:50 pm, while the return service will depart from Madurai at 2:50 pm, the airline said.

Tamil Nadu introduces online outpatient registration at government hospitals

CHENNAI: The State Health and Family Welfare Department on Friday (June 26) introduced an Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)-enabled Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) for outpatient registration at government hospitals, allowing patients to complete the process online before visiting the hospital and reducing time spent at registration counters. The facility was launched at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) and Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital and few other medical colleges and hospitals across the State, and will be expanded to all

government hospitals across the State in phases. Under the new system, patients can register from home or any location using a mobile phone, laptop or other internet-enabled device by scanning a QR code or visiting the portal. Once the registration is completed, they will receive a token number, which can be produced at the registration counter to obtain the outpatient card before meeting the doctor. "If a patient is visiting the hospital for the first time, he or she has to register through the QR code. A token number will be generated after registration. The patient can produce the token at the counter, collect the OP

card and consult the doctor. Doctors will record prescriptions, diagnosis and laboratory investigations online, making the entire process paperless," said Sundaravadhanam, Technical Expert at RGGGH. He said the digital records created through the ABDM platform would be available at other government and private hospitals using the same system.

"If a patient visits another hospital that is integrated with ABDM, doctors can access previous prescriptions, laboratory reports, diagnosis and treatment details through the patient's digital health ID," he said.

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.
Registered Office: 14th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Tel : 91-11-43115600 Fax: 91-11-43115618
Corporate Office: Unit No. : 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. : C-66, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai – 400051 Tel.: 022 68643101 E-mail : acre.arc@acreindia.in Website : www.acreindia.in CIN : U65993DL2002PLC115769



POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)
WHEREAS, The Authorized Officer of **Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.** Original Lender acting in its capacity as trustee of Trusts as mentioned below, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers to recover repay the amount as mentioned in the notice as below:

Sr. No.	Assignor Bank/ Original Lender (TRUST)	Assignment Agreement date	Borrowers	Date of Notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002.	Outstanding amounts mentioned in the notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002.	Date of possession
1	Piramal Finance Limited (ACRE 174 TRUST)	28 Mar-25	1) Mr. Parthiban A (Borrower) , 2. Sangeetha Parthiban (Co-Borrower), 3. Arumugam Ponnusamy (Co-Borrower); 4. Gnamam Arumugam Poongavanam (Co-Borrower)	28-Oct-25	Rs. 4,343,339/- (Rupees Forty-three lakh forty-three thousand three hundred thirty-nine only) against Loan Account No. 4900003648 as on 22-Oct-25 and interest thereon	24.06.2026

Description Of Immoveable Property:- New Door No 84 & Old Door No:102, Bharathiya Main Road, Karaikal Union Territory, Pondicherry, Thanjavur Tamil Nadu 605009

The Original Lenders as mentioned above had assigned all its rights, title and interest of the above loan accounts in favor of **Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Limited** acting in its capacity as trustee of TRUSTS ("ACRE") by way of an Assignment Agreement as mentioned above. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the dates as mentioned above. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.**, acting as trustee of Trusts for total outstanding amounts and interest thereon as mentioned above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

DATE: 27.06.2026
PLACE: TAMIL NADU

Sd/- Authorized officer
Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.
Acting in its capacity as trustee of TRUSTS as mentioned above

**Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.**
Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Ragupathi Chinathimmarayan/ Chandhira Ragupathi/ HOS-HL-000241/ Hosur	Sy. No. 341 Dry,ext.hct.0.90.0 In This New Sub Division Sy. No. 341/91 Measuring An Extent Of 80 Sq. Mtr Of Land, Asst. Rs.2.00 The Above Said Land Has Been Divided Into House Sites And Layout Has Been Formed In Which Plot No. 91 Krishnagiri District, Krishnagiri Registration District, Krishnagiri II Joint Sub Registration District, Krishnagiri Taluk, Kattiganapalli Village. Property is Bounded As Follows:- East: Land Belongs To Mr. Amina Babu In The Natham Sy. Nos. 341/34, West: Common Way, North: Natham Sy. Nos. 341/73 & 341/74, South: Common Way	30-Mar-2026/- Rs. 40,73,246/- Rupees Forty Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred Forty Six Only.	24-Jun-2026
2.	Gopal V/ Roopa A/ 092-09200091/ Hosur	In Jawalagiri Village, Of Devkavukottai Taluk, And Attached To Denkanikottai Sub Registration District And Krishnagiri Registration District Of Krishnagiri District And Also Attached To The Village Panchayat Limits Of Jawalagiri And Union Council Of Thally Land Bearing :- All That Piece And Parcel Of Vacant Land And Thereon In Jawalagiri Village, Survey Number 146/2 and in This New Survey Number: 146/2C, Dry Extent Hect.0.04.0, Asst Rs.0.09 Np., (Under Pattna No.450) An Extent Of Ac.0.10-cents, (Ten Cents) Full Land; And Situated Within The Following Boundaries:- East By:- Vacant Land, West By:- Endrammappa Land, North By:- Temple, South By:- Endrammappa Land,	24-Jan-2026/- Rs. 11,30,248/- Rupees Eleven Lakh Thirty Thousand Two Hundred Forty Eight Only.	25-Jun-2026

Date: June 27, 2026, Place: Krishnagiri

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

What to eat and drink before and after a flu shot: Expert Q&A

All international and national health organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trusted Source, agree that it is important to get vaccinated against the flu on a yearly basis, typically in the autumn and winter season, to prevent not just getting ill due to infection with the influenza virus, but also potential serious complications that may arise from getting the flu. Flu shots are both safe and effective, but some people may still worry about potential side effects. The most common side effects are mild and do not last very long, and they can include low grade fever, headache, muscle aches, and nausea. These side effects are expected, and they are often a sign that the vaccine is working — it is teaching the body's immune system to fight the influenza virus, which can result in these mild and temporary inflammatory responses.

Other people might worry about feeling faint during vaccination — this can be due to anxiety around needles or about vaccines. So what can you do to prevent or mitigate these reactions during and after a flu shot? What you eat and drink before getting the vaccine could help your body go through this experience more smoothly. To get some expert tips on how to keep our flu shot experiences positive with the help of healthy dietary choices, Medical News Today spoke to Michelle Routhenstein, MS, RD, CDCES, CDN, a preventive cardiology dietitian at EntirelyNourished, and to Elena Rolt, MSc, DiplON, IFMCP, rCNHC, nutritional therapist at Health.Miro, and ebnem Ünlüiler, MSc, genetic engineer and Chief Longevity Officer at the

London Regenerative Institute in the United Kingdom. For those worried about becoming dizzy and feeling faint during or immediately after a flu shot, Routhenstein recommended hydrating well and eating light, whole foods.

"To help prevent dizziness or lightheadedness, stay well-hydrated and eat a light, balanced snack before a flu shot," she advised. "As a genetic engineer, I often look at how nutrition can support our immune system at a cellular level, particularly around vaccination. While food and drink cannot change the efficacy of the flu jab itself, certain choices may help the body respond more smoothly and ease common side effects," Ünlüiler clarified. She also emphasized the importance of stabilizing blood sugar levels before getting vaccinated, "particularly for those who may feel light-headed or anxious about needles."

Like Routhenstein, Ünlüiler recommended a protein- and complex carb-rich snack pre-flu jab, suggesting yogurt with oats or wholegrain toast. She also cautioned that "even mild dehydration can increase feelings of dizziness," recommending drinking "water or an electrolyte-rich drink [as] a simple preventive measure."

What should you eat after a flu shot, and why? Rolt told us that when it comes to what to eat and drink after a flu shot, it is important to have a balanced meal filled with an array of nutrients. "After receiving a flu vaccine, the immune system initiates an inflammatory response to process the vaccine antigens, followed by the formation of antibodies by B cells to provide protection

against the virus," she explained.

"This process involves oxidative stress and inflammation as part of immune activation and memory cell development, which are essential for effective immunity but can also temporarily challenge the body's balance," the nutritional therapist detailed. "A balanced meal that would include all of these nutrients would be a chicken broth rich in easily digestible protein, garlic, onions, carrots, bok choy or broccoli, or any other leafy greens, and mushrooms (a great source of beta-glucans), paired with berry-based drinks like cranberry or sea buckthorn tea with manuka honey, providing vitamin C and polyphenols to modulate inflammation and oxidative stress," Rolt suggested.

According to Rolt, "this combination helps support the immune system's recovery, reduces potential side effects and optimises the body's response to the flu shot."

In addition, Ünlüiler also recommended "turmeric and oily fish high in omega-3," which help moderate inflammation without blunting the immune system's adaptive response. "A diet with sufficient protein, such as lean meats, legumes, or tofu, also provides the amino acids necessary for antibody production," she added. Furthermore, while hydration is crucial before getting vaccinated, it is equally important after vaccination. "Staying hydrated is another important consideration as optimal blood circulation, as it helps the efficient delivery of nutrients and immune cells required for an effective vaccine response," Rolt explained.

ED freezes 56 bank accounts in Polytechnic teacher scam

The searches were carried out on Tuesday at 21 premises across Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchy and Coimbatore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

CHENNAI: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has seized Rs 13.18 lakh in cash, frozen 56 bank accounts and two demat accounts, and recovered documents relating to 36 immovable properties, with a market value of over Rs 20 crore, during searches conducted in connection with the alleged money laundering linked to the 2017 Teachers Recruitment Board Polytechnic Lecturer recruitment scam. The searches were carried out on Tuesday at 21 premises across Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchy and Coimbatore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to the ED, documents relating to 36 immovable properties with a guideline value of about Rs 9.67 crore, with estimated market value exceeding Rs 20 crore, were seized. The agency also recovered digital evidence, alleged records of cash collections, carbon copies of OMR answer sheets of various government recruitment examinations and copies of candidates' certificates. The ED initiated its investigation based on a 2017 FIR registered by the Tamil Nadu police alleging manipulation of scanned OMR answer sheets to inflate marks of some candidates in the recruitment examination for Polytechnic Lecturers conducted by the TRB.



Protium
Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Nirfon Knowledge Park, Pahal Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Canal Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra.

PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)
POSSESSION NOTICE (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of **Protium Finance Limited** (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "**Protium Finance Limited**"), under the provisions of the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "**SARFAESI Act**"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the **Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**, issued a Demand Notice dated 8th Apr 2026, calling upon the Borrowers **Majeed Traders Through Its Proprietor Abdul Majeed Mohamed Abdul Kadar S/o Mohamed Abdul Kadar**, And The Co-Borrowers: 1. Kavya Banu W/o Abdul Majeed Mohamed Abdul Kadar, 2. Abdul Majeed Mohamed Abdul Kadar S/o Mohamed Abdul Kadar, in respect of the Loan Account Bearing No. **GS0861AP2471524**, to repay the amount mentioned in the said Demand Notice, being **INR 82,36,811.93/- (Eighty Two Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven Rupees and Ninety Three Paise Only)** as on 8th Apr 2026, within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described hereinbelow, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 26th June 2026. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property, and any dealings with the property shall be subject to the charge of **Protium Finance Limited** for an amount of **INR 82,36,811.93/- (Eighty Two Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven Rupees and Ninety Three Paise Only)** as on 8th Apr 2026 together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred. The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Release Deed No. 20/2020) Situated at **Thanjavur District, Pattukkottai Registration District, Pattukkottai Taluk, Erandampulikkadu Sub-Registration District, Sedhupavasamudram Panchayat Union, Sarabandrananjampattinam Panchayat, Village No. 135, Sarabandrananjampattinam Village, Kallivayal Garden, comprising Item No. 1, Old S.No. 45/188, S.No. 45/188/1 (New S.No. 45/188/1A), having an extent of Hec. 0.02.90 Ares, equivalent to Acre 0.07 Cents (3,052 Square Feet), bounded by: East: Property belongs to Mohamed Abdul Kadar and Ahsameh Ali; North: Property belongs to Ahsameh Ali; South: Property belongs to Mohamed Kadam Within these boundaries measuring 3,052 Square Feet. Item No. 2, Old S.No. 45/188, S.No. 45/188/2 (New S.No. 45/188/2A), having an extent of 0.07 Ares, equivalent to Acre 0.01 Cents, bounded by: East: Pattivayal, West: Property belongs to Ahsameh Ali; South: 1st Item Property Within these boundaries measuring Acre 0.01 Cents. Together with all other rights, buildings, improvements, and easements appurtenant thereto.**

Date: 26th June 2026
Place: Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

Sd/- For Protium Finance Limited
Authorized Officer

Continuation of Partial Cancellation of some Mail/Express Trains between Andal & Durgapur Stations

The locomotive reversal of the following Mail/Express trains at Andal station instead of Durgapur station will be continued for a period of 3 months i.e., from **01.07.2026 to 30.09.2026**. Hence, these trains will be diverted via Asansol-Andal-Sainthia instead of their existing route Asansol-Andal-Durgapur-Andal-Sainthia and will remain partially cancelled between Andal & Durgapur stations.

● **12551 SMVT Bengaluru-Kamakhyia AC Superfast Express** [JCO 04/07, 11/07, 18/07, 25/07, 01/08, 08/08, 15/08, 22/08, 29/08, 05/09, 12/09, 19/09 & 26/09/26 (Saturday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 20.00 hrs., Dep. 20.01 hrs. ● **12552 Kamakhyia-SMVT Bengaluru AC Superfast Express** [JCO 01/07, 08/07, 15/07, 22/07, 29/07, 05/08, 12/08, 19/08, 26/08, 02/09, 09/09, 16/09, 23/09 & 30/09/26 (Wednesday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 06.45 hrs., Dep. 06.47 hrs. ● **13417 Digha-Malda Town Express** [JCO 02/07, 09/07, 16/07, 23/07, 30/07, 06/08, 13/08, 20/08, 27/08, 03/09, 10/09, 17/09 & 24/09/26 (Thursday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 08.10 hrs., Dep. 08.11 hrs. ● **13418 Malda Town-Digha Express** [JCO 02/07, 09/07, 16/07, 23/07, 30/07, 06/08, 13/08, 20/08, 27/08, 03/09, 10/09, 17/09 & 24/09/26 (Thursday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal**: Arr. 12.43 hrs. ● **13425 Malda Town-Surat Express** [JCO 04/07, 11/07, 18/07, 25/07, 01/08, 08/08, 15/08, 22/08, 29/08, 05/09, 12/09, 19/09 & 26/09/26 (Saturday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 16.41 hrs., Dep. 16.43 hrs. ● **13426 Surat-Malda Town Express** [JCO 06/07, 13/07, 20/07, 27/07, 03/08, 10/08, 17/08, 24/08, 31/08, 07/09, 14/09, 21/09, 28/09/26 (Monday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 00.02 hrs., Dep. 00.04 hrs. ● **15629 Tambaram-Silghat Town Nagaon Express** [JCO 06/07, 13/07, 20/07, 27/07, 03/08, 10/08, 17/08, 24/08, 31/08, 07/09, 14/09, 21/09 & 28/09/26 (Monday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 03.41 hrs., Dep. 03.42 hrs. ● **15630 Silghat Town-Tambaram Nagaon Express** [JCO 03/07, 10/07, 17/07, 24/07, 31/07, 07/08, 14/08, 21/08, 28/08, 04/09, 11/09, 18/09 & 25/09/26 (Friday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 08.10 hrs., Dep. 08.11 hrs. ● **15640 Kamakhyia-Puri Express** [JCO 05/07, 12/07, 19/07, 26/07, 02/08, 09/08, 16/08, 23/08, 30/08, 06/09, 13/09, 20/09 & 27/09/26 (Sunday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 12.20 hrs., Dep. 12.22 hrs. ● **15661 Ranchi-Kamakhyia Express** [JCO 01/07, 08/07, 15/07, 22/07, 29/07, 05/08, 12/08, 19/08, 26/08, 02/09, 09/09, 16/09, 23/09 & 30/09/26 (Wednesday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 02.21 hrs., Dep. 02.23 hrs. ● **15662 Kamakhyia-Ranchi Express** [JCO 07/07, 14/07, 21/07, 28/07, 04/08, 11/08, 18/08, 25/08, 01/09, 08/09, 15/09, 22/09 & 29/09/26 (Tuesday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal**: Arr. 06.45 hrs., Dep. 06.47 hrs. ● **15929 Tambaram-New Tinsukia Express** [JCO 02/07, 09/07, 16/07, 23/07, 30/07, 06/08, 13/08, 20/08, 27/08, 03/09, 10/09, 17/09 & 24/09/26 (Thursday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 03.41 hrs., Dep. 03.42 hrs. ● **15930 New Tinsukia-Tambaram Express** [JCO 06/07, 13/07, 20/07, 27/07, 03/08, 10/08, 17/08, 24/08, 31/08, 07/09, 14/09, 21/09 & 28/09/26 (Monday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 08.10 hrs., Dep. 08.11 hrs. ● **22611 MGR Chennai Central-New Jalpaiguri Superfast Express** [JCO 01/07, 08/07, 15/07, 22/07, 29/07, 05/08, 12/08, 19/08, 26/08, 02/09, 09/09, 16/09, 23/09 & 30/09/26 (Wednesday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 16.55 hrs., Dep. 16.57 hrs. ● **22612 New Jalpaiguri-MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express** [JCO 03/07, 10/07, 17/07, 24/07, 31/07, 07/08, 14/08, 21/08, 28/08, 04/09, 11/09, 18/09 & 25/09/26 (Friday)]. **Stoppage Time at Andal** : Arr. 06.45 hrs., Dep. 06.47 hrs.

Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol
EASTERN RAILWAY
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EDITORIAL

The Invisible Import
In Every Indian Thali

In 2025-26, India spent over US\$ 19 billion on edible oil imports to meet 60% of its demand, making it vulnerable to global price shocks and supply disruption while straining the nation's exchequer of its forex reserves for what it could grow at home.

Austerity reached Indian kitchens, when Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged its citizens to reduce edible oil consumption. The per capita consumption of edible oil stood over glaring 17 kg/year in 2024-25 (marketing year). With a large share of this demand unmet domestically, India's dependence on edible oil imports is nothing less than alarming. The domestic production is mainly concentrated in rapeseed, mustard, and soybean, while the consumption is majorly dominated by palm oil, followed by soybean oil. Since, highly water-intensive palm oil production is not feasible in the short-run, soybean, already produced by Indian farmers across the country should be the focus to bridge this demand-supply gap.India remains the fifth largest producer of soybean oil and the largest importer of soybean oil across the globe. The production of soybean has increased from 85.7 Lakh Tonnes (LT) in 2015-16 to 152.7 LT in 2024-25. While this growth is encouraging, it is not enough for the rapidly expanding consumption demand. India currently imports soybean oil more than 2.5 times of its production, as the existing production only meets around 30% of the domestic consumption. In 2025-26, India witnessed a marked surge in soybean oil imports alongside a decline in domestic production. India primarily imports crude soybean oil from Argentina and Brazil and in just 2025-26 itself, imports increased by 8% and 32%, respectively. Additionally, enabled by duty-free access to Nepal under the SAFTA, India's soybean oil imports from Nepal increased by staggering 147% alone in 2025-26. Further, the domestic outlook is concerning, the second advance estimates released by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) estimated soybean production to have moderated by 16% to 127.2 LT in 2025-26. Profitability is the primary driver of declining soybean production in India. The Government guarantees minimum prices for soybean, and the Cabinet has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for soybean for 2026-27 well in advance, in May, with an increase of ₹380 over the previous year and 123% over 2013-14 levels. Thus, pricing per se is not the issue. Rather, the concern lies in the relative uncertainty surrounding the procurement process. The domestic market is frequently flooded with duty-free imports of soybean oil, leading to a decline in market prices below the MSP, thereby preventing farmers from realising an effective price for their produce. Further, the intrinsic characteristic of soybean crop is a cause for concern. Its low productivity due lack of quality seeds remains a persistent challenge. According to ICAR's National Soybean Research Institute, India's average yields is stagnant at around 1,100-1,200 kg per hectare, significantly below the global average of over 2,700 kg per hectare, with considerable regional disparities. Additionally, the crop offers limited resilience, as its photoperiod sensitivity makes it vulnerable to unseasonal weather conditions, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change.

-Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

In India, the monsoon is not just a season, but the fulcrum of the country's economy, agriculture, water resources, and livelihoods. For centuries, the monsoon has been considered life-giving because its rains nourish fields, fill rivers and reservoirs, and provide relief from the scorching heat. However, in recent years, the nature of the monsoon has been rapidly changing. Now, it brings not only relief but also numerous risks. In some places, sudden cloudbursts occur, strong winds and thunderstorms disrupt life, and in others, lightning strikes claim lives. In an era of changing weather and climate change, the risks associated with the monsoon have become more serious and widespread than ever before. This is why weather-related risks have become not only a subject of scientific study but also a matter of social, economic, and humanitarian concern. Currently, it is clearly visible that the traditional nature of weather is changing. While rainfall used to be relatively regular and balanced, now prolonged droughts are followed by sudden bursts of excessive rainfall. Similarly, the incidence of thunderstorms and lightning is also increasing. Meteorologists believe that the Earth's rising temperatures have affected the structure and behavior of the atmosphere. With more energy and moisture available in the atmosphere, weather events are becoming more intense and unpredictable. This is directly impacting human life, agriculture, infrastructure, and natural resources. Lightning is one of the natural phenomena that affects thousands of people every year. In India, the number of deaths due to lightning strikes is higher than that of many other natu-



ral disasters. Of particular concern is that most of the victims are from rural areas, where a large number of people work in the open. Farmers, agricultural laborers, livestock herders, and construction workers are more vulnerable to these weather hazards. When clouds suddenly gather and thunderstorms begin, many people do not understand the severity of the danger and remain in open spaces. As a result, many people lose their lives due to lightning strikes. Scientifically, lightning is the result of complex processes occurring in the atmosphere. When the surface becomes extremely hot and the air above it is relatively cold, the warm, moist air begins to rise rapidly. This process is called convection. The rising air cools, condenses, and

forms clouds. If the atmosphere is sufficiently humid and energetic, these clouds form large cumulonimbus clouds. Collisions between water droplets, ice particles, and hailstones within these clouds generate electrical charges. When the imbalance of charges becomes too great, lightning strikes, resulting in an electrical discharge between the ground and the clouds. During the monsoon, moist winds from the oceans reach much of the Indian subcontinent. These winds carry large amounts of water vapor, essential for cloud formation and rainfall. But this moisture, when combined with an extremely warm atmosphere, can also create powerful storms. This combination of moisture and temperature increases weather instability. This is why thun-

derstorms and lightning are more frequent during the monsoon months. Weather experts believe that as global temperatures rise, the atmosphere will hold more moisture, increasing the likelihood of such events. Climate change is the most important aspect of this entire scenario. Industrialization, excessive use of fossil fuels, deforestation, and uncontrolled urbanization have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As a result, the Earth's average temperature is continuously increasing. This increase in temperature is not limited to increasing heat, but is affecting the entire weather system. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, which increases the likelihood of intense rainfall and thunderstorms. This is why today's

weather appears more unpredictable and extreme than before. Urbanization is also playing a significant role in increasing weather risks. The abundance of concrete, asphalt, and buildings in large cities creates a heat island effect. This causes temperatures in cities to be higher than surrounding rural areas. Hotter surfaces cause air to rise faster, which can increase the likelihood of local cloud formation and storms. Additionally, inadequate drainage systems in urban areas can lead to waterlogging and flooding during heavy rainfall. India's geographical diversity also influences weather events. In the Himalayan region, mountains cause air to rise rapidly, leading to increased cloud formation. In Northeast

India, high humidity and mountainous terrain combine to create conditions for intense rainfall. In Central India and the Gangetic Plain, the combination of heat and humidity gives rise to thunderstorms. In coastal areas, the interaction between sea breezes and land heat influences weather patterns. Thus, each region of India faces different risks due to its geographical and climatic factors. Weather hazards have the greatest impact on vulnerable sections of society. People living in rural areas often lack safe shelter and timely information. Even when warnings are issued for lightning or severe storms, the information doesn't reach the last person. Furthermore, economic limitations also force people to take risks. Farmers and laborers often continue working despite bad weather because their livelihoods depend on it. In such circumstances, natural hazards transform into social and economic risks. Technical solutions alone are not enough to reduce the damage caused by weather-related disasters. Increasing public awareness and weather literacy is also essential. People need to be made aware of the importance of moving away from open spaces when they hear thunder, the dangers of standing under tall trees, and the precautions to take during lightning. Schools, municipal councils, NGOs, and the media all have a crucial role to play in this regard. If society understands weather risks, many lives can be saved. Meteorology has made remarkable progress today. Satellites, Doppler radar, automated weather stations, and advanced computer models are making weather forecasts more accurate. In many cases, the likelihood of thunderstorms and lightning can now be predicted in advance.

Which Document is Ultimately
Valid for Proving Citizenship?

Saurabh Varshney

The national debate regarding citizenship in India has intensified once again. After the Ministry of External Affairs clarified that a passport is not, in itself, the final and conclusive proof of citizenship, the opposition has questioned the government; meanwhile, the government maintains that citizenship is determined not by a single document alone, but through a comprehensive examination of the law and available evidence. This dispute is not merely legal; it is also linked to democratic rights and the trust of citizens. The common citizen's primary question is this: if Aadhaar, Voter ID, PAN card, and even the passport are not conclusive proof, then how exactly is Indian citizenship to be established? In a democracy, the greatest strength lies in the trust of the citizens. If citizens remain in a state of uncertainty regarding the proof of their own rights, the situation cannot be considered appropriate for any democratic system. Therefore, the need of the hour is to make the citizenship certification process clear, easily accessible, and free from controversy, ensuring that no Indian has to face uncertainty regarding the question of proving their citizenship. First, it is essential to understand that identity and citizenship are not the

same thing. An Aadhaar card serves as proof of identity and residence. A Voter ID is proof of the right to vote. A PAN card establishes identity for income tax purposes. A driving license grants permission to drive a vehicle. A passport is a document for foreign travel and international identification. However, none of these documents, in isolation, is considered the final legal proof of citizenship. How, then, is citizenship determined? In India, citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955. According to this law, the primary grounds for acquiring citizenship are: by birth, by descent, by registration, by naturalization, and by the incorporation of territory into India. If a person's citizenship is called into question, the relevant authority conducts a comprehensive assessment of available documents—such as birth records, parental citizenship details, government records, and other legal evidence. No single document is considered conclusive in every situation. In recent years, the birth certificate has emerged as a crucial foundational document, as it provides a record of both the date and place of birth. However, for individuals born decades ago who lack birth certificates, documents such as school certificates, land records, family

records, government service records, and other official papers can serve as vital evidence depending on the circumstances. Following a clarification from the Ministry of External Affairs, the opposition raised a question: if a passport is not definitive proof of citizenship, then which document should an ordinary citizen rely upon? Conversely, the ruling dispensation argues that in many countries worldwide, a passport is not the sole legal basis for determining citizenship; in cases of dispute, original citizenship records are the deciding factor. This debate has extended beyond Parliament to political parties and social organizations. The primary reason for this entire controversy is the absence of a single national citizenship certificate in India that is accepted as conclusive in all situations. Consequently, people often mistake documents like Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards, and passports for proof of citizenship, even though each serves a distinct legal purpose. In a democracy, the mere existence of a law is insufficient; clear and simple communication regarding it is equally essential. If confusion persists among citizens regarding which documents are valid and which are not, it can lead to unnecessary fear and the spread of rumors. The government should

issue clear guidelines on citizenship verification, specifying which documents will be accepted under various circumstances. This would reduce administrative disputes and bolster public confidence. Every citizen should safeguard original government documents related to their birth, education, family, and property. Digitizing these documents and keeping them updated is also crucial, as these records could prove invaluable during any future legal proceedings. Citizenship is not merely a legal status but the foundation of the rights and duties conferred by the Constitution. Therefore, this issue requires clarity and transparency rather than politics. Instead of confusing citizens, the government should develop a simple, unified, and transparent system for citizenship certification. The central government now needs to determine exactly which documents are valid for proving citizenship—documents that citizens can present to establish their status. The only solution to this entire matter is for the central government to first hold a press conference to provide clarity on the issue of citizenship, ensuring there is no confusion in the minds of the people across the country. The author is a senior journalist, thinker, and political analyst.

Arithmetic, Alliances And The Quest
For Constitutional Power

The resignation of Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurien after the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure has revived speculation over a long-awaited reshuffle in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. While cabinet changes are routine in any administration, the circumstances surrounding this exercise suggest that political arithmetic rather than administrative performance may dominate the calculations. The BJP enters the second half of Modi's third term facing a different reality from 2014 or 2019. Unlike the years of an outright majority, the party today operates in a coalition environment. Yet it also faces an ambitious legislative agenda involving constitutional amendments and electoral reforms that require numbers far beyond a simple majority. This makes the impending reshuffle – any time before the start of the monsoon session slated for the second half of July – a parliamentary strategy as well as an imperative governance exercise. The forthcoming reshuffle also appears less about individual ministers and more about the BJP's larger political project. Rewarding new allies The NDA today is broader and more dependent on allies than during Modi's first two terms. Regional partners expect adequate representation and influence. Cabinet berths remain the most visible mechanism for maintaining coalition harmony. Managing these allies while accommodating



defectors and retaining party veterans creates a complicated equation. Too much emphasis on one category risks upsetting another. One factor likely to influence the cabinet reshuffle is the accommodation of recent entrants and breakaway groups from opposition parties. Indian politics has traditionally rewarded defectors with positions of influence. The BJP itself has done so in states ranging from Maharashtra to Assam and Madhya Pradesh. The emergence of splinter groups from the parties like AAP, Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) has naturally generated expectations of representation. Cabinet berths have often served two purposes- rewarding loyalty and signalling to others that political migration carries incentives. However, there is a delicate balance. Excessive accommodation of newcomers risks alienating long-serving BJP leaders who have spent decades building the party. The experience of

Maharashtra after the induction of leaders from rival camps showed that cadres sometimes resent the prominence accorded to recent converts. Thus, any induction of defectors will probably be calibrated rather than overwhelming. The two-thirds majority imperative Perhaps the most important consideration is numbers in Parliament. Constitutional amendments require a special majority. The BJP-led NDA recently improved its position in the Rajya Sabha through strong performances in upper-house elections, bringing the alliance closer to the two-thirds mark. Earlier this year, the government's attempt to push legislation connected with delimitation and accelerated implementation of women's reservation fell short of the required strength in the Lok Sabha. The proposed constitutional amendment failed to secure the necessary 352 votes among members present and voting. Consequently, the accompa-

nying bills had to be withdrawn. This setback underlined an uncomfortable reality - electoral dominance does not automatically translate into constitutional dominance. Hence, expanding support through new allies and defectors assumes importance. Each MP matters when pursuing measures that require extraordinary majorities. The BJP has invested considerable political capital in projecting itself as the champion of women's political representation. The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act was passed in 2023, but its implementation is legally tied to the completion of both a future census and a subsequent delimitation exercise. The government attempted to expedite the process through additional legislation in 2026, but opposition resistance prevented success. For the BJP, delivering women's reservation before the 2029 election would carry immense symbolic and electoral significance.

Govt says it restored commercial LPG supply to pre-crisis levels

New Delhi: The government on Thursday, June 25, restored liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies to commercial consumers such as hotels, restaurants and other businesses to pre-crisis levels, and lifted sector-specific restrictions imposed during the recent West Asia conflict, in a sign that energy supply concerns are easing as global markets stabilise. The Petroleum Ministry, in a statement, said that restrictions on commercial LPG supplies had been lifted following an improvement in domestic production and the expected arrival of imported LPG cargoes. The supply of bulk LPG, which had been suspended at the onset of the crisis, has also been partially resumed at 50 per cent of pre-crisis consumption levels. The move marks the latest step by the government to unwind emergency measures introduced during the conflict, when fears of supply disruptions in West Asia prompted authorities to prioritise household cooking gas availability. Restrictions imposed after Iran conflict disrupted supplies. The restrictions were imposed after the Iran conflict disrupted LPG supplies from West Asia, which accounts



for about 90 per cent of India's cooking gas imports. To safeguard household consumption, the government initially halted supplies of commercial LPG to hotels, restaurants and industrial users, diverting available volumes to domestic consumers. Supplies were subsequently restored in phases to about 70 per cent of normal levels, although several sectors continued to face curbs of up to 50 per cent of their usual allocations as authorities sought to conserve fuel stocks amid concerns over import availability. Refineries were ordered to produce more LPG by divert-

ing streams they would otherwise use for petrochemical production. "In a major relief to industrial and commercial LPG consumers, the government has removed all sectoral restrictions on the supply of non-domestic packed LPG and restored supplies to the levels prevailing prior to the West Asia crisis," the statement said. Also, "the supply of bulk LPG, which had been suspended at the onset of the crisis, has been relaxed by 50 per cent of the pre-crisis consumption levels, providing significant relief to commercial and industrial consumers," it said, adding that the restora-

tion follows the recent improvement in the LPG supply situation. Essential Commodities Act To boost LPG production during the crisis, the government had invoked powers under the Essential Commodities Act to direct that C3 and C4 hydrocarbon streams be used exclusively for LPG production, diverting feedstock away from petrochemical and other industrial uses. This move had hit companies like Reliance Industries hard. These refineries had to cut down their lucrative petrochemical production to boost LPG supplies. With supply conditions improv-

ing, authorities have now decided to reduce the diversion of C3-C4 streams to the LPG pool and restore allocations to petrochemical and other downstream industries, while ensuring domestic LPG production remains above 40,000 tonnes per day. "Taking note of the improved indigenous LPG production and the projected availability of imported LPG cargoes, the government has also decided to reduce the diversion of C3/C4 streams to the LPG pool. "The enhanced allocation of C3-C4 streams for non-LPG uses will be implemented while ensuring that the domestic LPG availability remains unaffected and aggregate indigenous LPG production is maintained at not less than 40,000 tonnes per day," it said. The Centre of High Technology under the ministry has been directed to issue organisation-wise allocation of these enhanced C3/C4 streams for the petrochemical and other critical sectors and submit regular reports to the ministry. Decision comes amid broader signs of energy supplies easing. The decision comes amid broader signs that the energy crisis triggered by the conflict is easing.

Uber India, South Asia Chief Prabhjeet Singh Steps Down

After an 11-year stint with the ride-hailing major, Uber India and South Asia President Prabhjeet Singh has stepped down from his role to pursue another leadership opportunity, the company said on Friday. An Uber spokesperson confirmed Singh's exit and said the company continues to remain committed to expanding its presence in India, which is among its key markets worldwide. "India is one of Uber's most important markets globally, an important driver of innovation and long-term growth. The strength of our business today reflects the incredible team and foundation built over the years," the spokesperson said. "We thank Prabhjeet for his leadership and lasting contributions in his decade-long journey with Uber; we remain deeply committed to our next phase of growth in India." Singh joined Uber more than a decade ago and played a key role in shaping the company's India and South Asia operations during a period marked by rapid expansion, evolving mobility trends and increased competition in the ride-hailing sector. Under his leadership, Uber strengthened its footprint across Indian



cities while expanding its offerings beyond traditional cab services. The company has been focusing on technology-led mobility solutions, driver partnerships and improving customer experience as competition in the sector continues to intensify. Singh's exit comes as Uber continues to prioritise growth in India, a market the company has consistently identified as central to its global strategy. The company has not yet announced Singh's successor or provided details on the transition plan following his departure. During his tenure, Uber expanded beyond core cab-hailing services, focusing on two-wheelers, improved driver engagement systems, and enhanced user safety features, as the company adapt-

ed to India's highly price-sensitive and fast-evolving mobility landscape. Confirming the development, an Uber spokesperson told CNBC-TV18 that India continues to be central to the company's global strategy. "India is one of Uber's most important markets globally, an important driver of innovation and long-term growth," the spokesperson said. "The strength of our business today reflects the incredible team and foundation built over the years. We thank Prabhjeet for his leadership and lasting contributions in his decade-long journey with Uber - we remain deeply committed to our next phase of growth in India." The company did not announce Singh's successor or immediate plans for the leadership transition.

Micron, Sandisk, AMD Sink Up To 8% As Wall Street Resumes Dumping Chip Stocks

The Micron earnings breather was short-lived as Wall Street investors have resumed their tech selloff on Friday, specifically for AI-linked chipmakers. Micron Technology corrected sharply and plunged as much as 7% to hit a low of \$1,126.52 on Friday; its semiconductor peers followed suit with Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and Intel Corp falling as low as 6% to \$502 and \$125.50, respectively. Sandisk Corp. also saw a steep correction from Thursday's high and fell nearly 8% to \$2,126.12. Microchip Technology Inc. also traded in the red after falling 5% to \$89.42. Nvidia extended its decline and fell as much as 3% to \$191.22. As of 10:36 a.m. EST, MU traded 3.5% lower at \$1,169.39, Intel was down 2.6% to \$129.55, AMD traded 2.7% lower at \$519.12. While Sandisk pared some losses to trade 5.6% lower at \$2,206.55. A global tech selloff this entire week had rattled wall street indices. While Micron Technology Inc.'s strong Q3 financial fine print and a stronger revenue forecast



helped lift sentiment on Thursday, decline in major names like AMD and Nvidia had dragged Nasdaq lower. Jitters regarding high valuations of semiconductor giants have been a prominent theme on the Wall Street in the last week, triggering mass offloads. "After a remarkable rally in recent months, investors have become increasingly sensitive to stretched valuations, rising infrastructure costs associated with AI, and a more hawkish outlook for US monetary policy," Fawad Razaqzada at Forex.com told news agency Bloomberg. Some of the magnificent seven stocks also bore the brunt of this tech dump with

google-parent Alphabet down 2% to \$336.50, and Nvidia Corp. extending losses and trading 1.14% lower at \$192.8. MU's Earnings Boost Micron Technology's revenue more than quadrupled from \$9.3 billion a year earlier to \$41.46 billion in the third quarter of fiscal 2026. Aside from exceeding street expectations of a \$36 billion topline, the company has forecasted a \$50 billion for the current quarter, an increase from \$11.3 billion in the year-ago period. "We saw a similar dynamic during the pandemic, when supply chain disruptions limited access to semiconductors. Now, we're witnessing a comparable supply shock,

this time driven by memory, which is creating renewed inflationary pressure," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at B. Riley Wealth. At 9:34 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 229.49 points, or 0.44%, to 51,691.13; the S&P 500 lost 60.87 points, or 0.83%, to 7,296.62 and the Nasdaq Composite lost 336.63 points, or 1.33%, to 25,021.97. A report that OpenAI was considering delaying its public debut until next year also weighed on risk sentiment towards the tech space. Shares of Elon Musk's SpaceX, which debuted earlier this month, were down 1.6%. Recent market volatility has driven investors toward overlooked sectors poised to benefit from easing inflation concerns and stronger growth prospects. Cooling tensions in the Middle East have further helped lift the blue-chip Dow to record highs. Investors expected heavy trading volume on Friday to reflect changes to the Russell indexes, including reclassification for megacaps like Microsoft and the Russell 1000's "fast-track" addition of SpaceX.

Apple hikes MacBook, iPad prices by 20 to 42 per cent worldwide

New Delhi: Apple has increased the starting prices of MacBook and iPad models by 20-42 per cent compared to their launch prices across the globe, including India, mainly due to higher memory chip costs. The new price list on Apple India's website shows that the company has increased the price of the MacBook Pro built on the M5 series chip by about 20 per cent. The price of the 14-inch MacBook Pro with the M5 Pro chip has been increased to Rs 2,99,900 per unit from the launch price of Rs 2,49,900 per unit. There has been a sharp rise in the price of the iPad Air. The basic model of the 13-inch iPad Air has increased by 41.22 per cent to Rs 1,19,900 per unit from Rs 84,900 per unit. Counterpoint Research Co-founder and Vice President for Research, Neil Shah, said Apple's price hikes for the MacBook Neo, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, iPad Air, and iPad Pro Wi-Fi follow the biggest change in the cost structure of the consumer and enterprise PC and tablet market, being shaped by the



rising semiconductor chip pricing from memory to processors. Price increase due to rapid expansion of AI data centres Apple, in a statement, said that the consumer electronics industry is facing an unprecedented challenge. "The rapid expansion of AI data centres has created an extraordinary surge in demand for memory and storage. We have never seen a component price increase this much, this quickly. "We have shielded our customers from these increases so far, but we have now reached a point where we need to begin raising prices on several products, including today's increases for iPad and Mac. We know this is not welcome

news, and we are working tirelessly to find solutions," the statement said. Price increases for consumer electronics are already widespread across the industry, with many products rising by 40 per cent or more. Memory companies have been allocating an increasing share of their production to artificial intelligence (AI) data centres, leaving the consumer electronics segment with constrained availability and rising costs. Memory suppliers, meanwhile are recording higher margins. Memory suppliers are reporting margins at historic highs. Memory chip leader Micron reported 86 per cent gross margins, up

from 15 per cent in just the past year. "Apple, long regarded as the industry's benchmark for supply chain resilience, has begun passing higher component costs on to consumers. That is a strong signal that pricing pressures have reached a level that even the most sophisticated absorption strategies cannot fully offset," CyberMedia Research, VP - Industry Research Group, Prabhu Ram said. Shah said Apple held the price increase for at least two quarters, protecting its user base from any price inflation, but it has reached a point beyond which Apple could absorb the cost increase. "The unprecedented AI infrastructure growth has changed the semiconductor supply chain, driving insatiable demand for DRAM, NAND and Compute chips, not matching up to the capacity to produce and supply to other markets as AI infrastructure is prioritised. We believe the situation is not going to be better at least for the next two years," he said.

OPERATIONAL COST FOR SMALL OFFICE SPACES IS 35% HIGHER THAN THE LARGE OFFICE CAMPUSES IN HYDERABAD: KNIGHT FRANK INDIA

Hyderabad June 2026: Knight Frank India's latest facilities management (FM) cost assessment highlights that the small office occupiers in Hyderabad are incurring 35% higher operational cost than large office spaces in Hyderabad. For office spaces between 100,000-300,000 sq ft, facilities management costs stand at INR 15.41 per sq ft for standard operations and INR 17.25 per sq ft for 24x7 operations. For occupiers operating in the 10,000-30,000 sq ft category, facilities management costs in Hyderabad stand at INR 23.48 per sq ft for standard 12-hour, 5-day operations and rise to INR 25.32 per sq ft for 24x7 operations. As per Knight Frank's India Real Estate Report Q1 2026, large office spaces constituted 75% (4.4 mn sq ft) of the overall office transaction volumes (5.9 mn sq ft) in Hyderabad market. Pawan Koyal, Executive Director and Head of Facilities & Asset Management Services,



Knight Frank India, said, "It's understandable that smaller offices will be less efficient in any geography but in Hyderabad, with higher minimum wages and other fixed costs, it is worthwhile to evaluate which model makes sense. It may be cheaper to use a co-working space than lease a small office and may even be optimal for mid-range considering that one does not need to hire FTEs or spend money and efforts in procuring services till a certain scale is achieved." Large offices offer the strongest scale advantage. The most significant cost efficiencies are observed in Hyderabad's large office campuses. For

offices between 100,000-300,000 sq ft, facilities management costs stand at INR 15.41 per sq ft for standard operations and INR 17.25 per sq ft for 24x7 operations. Costs decline further for occupiers operating offices between 300,000-500,000 sq ft, where FM expenses reduce to INR 12.56 per sq ft and INR 14.40 per sq ft, respectively. Security costs remain stable at INR 2.75-2.85 per sq ft. These efficiencies are driven by integrated building infrastructure, centralised command systems, automation, and optimised workforce deployment, making large-format campuses particularly attractive for multinational

corporations, GCCs, and IT/ITES occupiers. While 24x7 operating models continue to command a premium across office categories, the cost differential narrows for larger offices due to centralised systems, automation, and manpower efficiencies. Increasing adoption of smart building technologies, ESG-led workplace practices, and employee-centric workplace strategies is expected to further accelerate demand for integrated facilities management solutions across Hyderabad's commercial office market. Small offices record higher per sq ft operating costs. For occupiers operating in the 10,000-30,000 sq ft category,

facilities management costs in Hyderabad stand at INR 23.48 per sq ft for standard 12-hour, 5-day operations and rise to INR 25.32 per sq ft for 24x7 operations. Meanwhile, offices in the 30,000-50,000 sq ft category incur FM costs of INR 25.44 per sq ft and INR 27.28 per sq ft, respectively. Security costs range between INR 2.76-4.85 per sq ft across these office formats. These office formats are typically occupied by startups, flex-space operators, boutique firms, and regional business units, where manpower intensity and limited scale efficiencies tend to elevate operating costs on a per sq ft basis.

Volkswagen May Cut Up To 1 Lakh Jobs; Close Four Plants In Major Revamp

Volkswagen Group is weighing one of the biggest restructuring plans in its history, with Chief Executive Oliver Blume reportedly considering up to 100,000 job cuts, the closure of four manufacturing plants in Germany, and a sharp reduction in planned investments, according to reports.



The proposed restructuring, which is awaiting board approval, includes a 15% cut in Volkswagen's planned investments, bringing its capital spending to just over 130 billion over the next five years, Manager Magazin reported. Volkswagen is considering separating its core VW passenger car brand and parts business into standalone entities as part of a broader effort to streamline operations. The proposed overhaul comes as Volkswagen faces mounting pressure from US tariffs, fierce competition from Chinese electric vehicle manufac-

turers, and rising costs linked to its shift toward electric mobility, according to the report. Blume has repeatedly stressed the need to sharpen the group's focus on its core automotive business and improve profitability, Reuters reported. Production could eventually cease at Volkswagen's Hanover, Zwickau and Emden plants, as well as Audi's Neckarsulm facility, after current vehicle programmes end. The proposed measures would

go beyond the company's existing plan to cut 50,000 jobs and could affect nearly 15% of Volkswagen's global workforce. Volkswagen declined to comment on the reported internal plans but said the entire group must undergo "far-reaching change", according to the report. The company's works council and IG Metall union vowed to strongly oppose any attempt to close plants or implement deeper job cuts, it added.

Venezuelans try to reach missing relatives as earthquakes death toll doubles to 589

The outer layer of the Earth is divided into different sections called tectonic plates - a bit like the Earth's puzzle pieces. These plates move very slowly - perhaps only a few centimetres a year, which is roughly the same rate as your fingernails grow. Northern Venezuela sits on the boundary of the Caribbean and South American plates. As they move relative to one another, parts of the plates can get "stuck", and stress builds up over a long period of time. Eventually, this stress becomes too much and the plates jolt or slip back into place. That releases the huge amounts of energy experienced as an earthquake. It's been just over 40 hours since Venezuela was rocked by twin earthquakes. The death toll has continued to climb, as international teams head to the country to help with recovery efforts. Here's a timeline of how events unfolded. Wednesday, 18:04 local time (23:04 BST): An



earthquake of magnitude 7.2 strikes in the north of Venezuela. About 39 seconds later: A second earthquake of magnitude 7.5 strikes, 28km (17.4 miles) south-east of Yumare, a town in Yaracuy state. This was the strongest to hit the country since 1900. Thursday, about 00:50: Venezuela's acting president Delcy Rodríguez reports at least 32 deaths and more than 700 injured. She

says this doesn't include any figures from the state most affected by the earthquakes, La Guaira. Throughout the day: As rescuers and the army mobilise to clear debris, aid groups around the world scramble to deliver help to Venezuela, with the US pledging \$150m (£113.4m) in assistance. Friday morning: Support teams from countries including Mexico, El Salvador,

Switzerland and Spain land in Venezuela, with personnel from more countries and organisations expected. Around 08:30 local time (13:30 BST): Rodríguez says the death toll has risen to 589 people and the number of injured stands at 2,980. She adds that the hard-hit state of La Guaira will be "militarised". I'm Venezuelan and have been living abroad for six years. I see among my

family and friends in the diaspora how difficult it is to face - once again - a situation of national upheaval in Venezuela. Many tell me how they've organised and are gathering aid to send home. And although we've lived through difficult times on several occasions, this one feels particularly hard. Those abroad find themselves in a state of dissociation between a tragedy striking their country and the normality of their own routines far away from Venezuela. And there's an additional element, too. This is the biggest natural disaster of 1999 - when that deadly landslide killed and left missing thousands of La Guaira's residents - we heard the stories through TV, radio or newspapers. It wasn't immediate - we had to wait for the information. After the earthquakes, it is the victims themselves who

are using their own mobile phones and social media posts to show straight to us the horrific reality in which the country is plunged. For those abroad, this brings you home in a more personal way, but also more bleak, more dismal. Police in Venezuela have released the video below showing children being rescued from a damaged building. Dozens of people have been rescued alive since the earthquake, acting President Delcy Rodríguez said earlier. Marianella Cremi is sitting on the pavement next to her mother, just a few blocks from the Petunia building in Caracas, where her brother Juan Diego was watching the Brazil-Scotland football match when the roof collapsed as the quakes hit the city. "My heart tells me my brother is alive," Marianella, 25, says in a WhatsApp call from a street in Los Palos Grandes, one of the hardest-hit areas in northern Caracas.

SENIOR UKRAINIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL JAILED FOR LIFE FOR SPYING FOR RUSSIA



A former high-ranking Ukrainian intelligence official has been sentenced to life in prison for spying for Russia's FSB security service. Col Dmytro Kozmyura was found guilty of high treason under martial law, Ukraine's prosecutor general said. He was previously chief of staff of the Security Service of Ukraine's (SBU) anti-terrorism centre. An operation codenamed "rat" found he had used a safehouse in Kyiv to communicate with Russian handlers seeking classified information about Ukraine's military and leadership, the SBU said. The prosecutor gener-

al said Kozmyura had agreed to share information "constituting state secrets" for financial reward and deserved the harshest punishment. Kyiv has announced numerous operations to expose Russian agents on its soil since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022. After his arrest in February 2025, the SBU released an image of the former official with Ukraine's intelligence chief Vasyl Malyuk, who led the investigation. In a statement after his sentencing, the agency said he had been recruited by Russia's FSB in Vienna in 2018.

Christmas market attacker jailed for life for murdering six in Germany



A court in Germany has sentenced a man to life in prison for an attack on the Christmas market in Magdeburg in 2024, in which six people were killed. The court imposed the maximum sentence on the defendant, Taleb Al-Abdulmohsen, who is from Saudi Arabia. The 51-year-old was found guilty of murder. Prosecutors say he drove a rented BMW car at speeds of up to 48km/h (30mph) through the Christmas market in the centre of Magdeburg on 20 December 2024. They say the attack took place at 19:02 local time when the market was very crowded with Christmas revellers celebrating at the gingerbread and mulled wine stalls. It lasted just a minute and four seconds. A nine-year-old boy and five women between the ages of 45 and 75 were killed. Around 300 others were injured. Taleb Al-Abdulmohsen was arrested immediately after the incident. Prosecutors said he planned the attack well in advance and had acted alone. They said he was not pursuing any serious ideological goals, but acted primarily out of personal motives. "The defen-

dant's sole concern was, and remains, himself," the Chief Public Prosecutor Matthias Böttcher said. A psychiatric expert said the man had narcissistic personality disorder and an overwhelming need for attention. Taleb Al-Abdulmohsen told the court he had been motivated to carry out the attack because of conflicts with the German authorities. He said he was angry that the rights of Saudi women were being ignored. He said very little about the attack itself. Taleb Al-Abdulmohsen was granted asylum in Germany in 2016. It is understood that he has been described as critical of Islam and the ruling family. The German Press Agency DPA said he came from Hofuf in Saudi Arabia, and is from the Shiite minority there. Officials say he had a history of anti-Islamic rhetoric and far-right sympathies. He has been described as critical of Islam and he also voiced support on social media for the far-right Alternative for Germany party, hailing the party for fighting the same enemy as him "to protect Germany".

Reflecting Pool liner cut with sharp knife or razor, National Park Service says

A liner along the bottom of the Reflecting Pool in Washington DC was cut with a sharp knife or razor earlier this month, an official at the National Park Service has said. Frank Lands, deputy director of operations for the park service, said in a court filing on Thursday that US Park Police had responded to a report of an incident on 9 June regarding the pool's liner, which caused damage to the foam sealant that had been installed as part of a recent multi-million dollar rehabilitation project. Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump blamed vandals for "a 300-foot-long gash" and accused someone of putting fertiliser in the water. The president was pressed by CBS

News during an interview for evidence of the slit, which Trump said would be provided in court. In the recent court filing, Lands said a US Park Police report indicated damage "including a caulk over the foam sealant that was cut with a sharp knife or razor and destruction of delaminating surface material." It also detailed that "approximately 70 fence post tops were thrown into the pool". However, it does not say when exactly the damage occurred and does not identify anyone who might have been involved. The statement in the court filing is part of a lawsuit filed by a nonprofit organisation seeking to stop the Trump administration's work on the site.

UN pauses Strait of Hormuz evacuation plan after cargo ship attacked

The UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) has paused the planned evacuation of more than 11,000 sailors stranded in the Strait of Hormuz after a cargo ship passing through the waterway was attacked. IMO chief Arsenio Dominguez said several boats had already been evacuated, but the agency wanted to ensure that "necessary safety guarantees" would continue to be in place. The British maritime security agency UKMTO reported on Thursday that a ship had been struck 7.5 nautical miles southeast of Oman's port of Dahit by "an unknown projectile". No casualties were reported. The ship's owner said limited damage had been caused and that it had since safely



transited the strait. US officials said Iran had fired on the ship, according to US media reports. The attack came after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had warned that attempts to cross the strait along a route designated by the IMO would be "unacceptable and completely dangerous" and vessels should coordinate with

Iran. The Ever Lovely, a Singapore-flagged ship, had been following the UKMTO's recommended route through the strait when it was struck, the ship's owner, Evergreen, said. "All crew members remain safe as does the vessel itself and all cargo," it added. "The vessel followed a southern route identified by the IMO on Thursday

morning, data from the ship-tracking website MarineTraffic reviewed by BBC Verify shows. IMO chief Dominguez said in a statement on Thursday the ship "did not transit under IMO's evacuation framework", without going into further detail. Announcing the suspension of the evacuation plan, he said: "I have always reiterated that the safety of the seafarers remains paramount. Therefore, to ensure a coordinated approach and navigational safety, the evacuation plan will be paused until further clarity is obtained." Hundreds of ships and thousands of sailors have been stranded in the Gulf since February because of the US-Israel war against Iran.

US sanctions Rwanda gold refinery accused of smuggling DR Congo's minerals



The US has sanctioned a major gold refinery in Rwanda and two of its executives, accusing them of smuggling minerals from rebel-controlled areas of neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. Washington alleged what it described as a "network" was collaborating with the M23 rebel group, which commands tracts of DR Congo that are home to vast reserves of gold and coltan, a metallic ore key to making electronics. Despite overwhelming evidence from the likes of UN experts, Rwanda has long denied supporting the M23. The government there has not responded to the US' recent sanctions, but have previously described

similar measures against Rwanda as unfair and one-sided. The sanctions, announced on Thursday, target the Gasabo Gold Refinery, its chairman Jean Malic Kalima and its general manager Bosco Kayobotsi. In a statement, the US alleged at least 60kg of gold, valued at

millions of US dollars, were smuggled from eastern DR Congo to Gasabo Gold in early 2026. The statement accuses Rwandan government officials and soldiers of overseeing the system. Last year, Gasabo Gold Refinery was sanctioned by the European Union for "exploit-

ing the armed conflict" in DR Congo. Three separate mining companies controlled by Kalima - Bugambira Mines, Wolfram Mining and Processing and Rwinkwavu Mining Corporation - were also sanctioned by the US on Thursday. The sanctioned parties have not responded to the BBC's requests for comment. Any assets they have under US jurisdiction will be frozen. The sanctions also bar American citizens and companies from dealing with the designated parties. "The United States will not allow rogue groups to profit from the illicit mineral trade and destabilise the region," Treasury secretary Scott Bessent said.

CANADA ELIGIBLE TO JOIN EUROVISION COMPETITION



When countries from around the world take to the stage to participate in Eurovision next year, they could see a new competitor. Canada is now eligible to take part in the song contest after CBC/Radio-Canada became a full member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), a requirement to compete. Prime Minister Mark Carney, who has been seeking closer political and economic ties with Europe since taking office last year, raised the idea of Canada joining the song contest in his 2025 budget. Canada would not be the first non-European country to join the contest; Israel and Australia regularly compete, and Morocco competed in 1980. The Carney government said in November that it was working with the CBC, Canada's public broadcaster, "to explore participation in Eurovision". His government's budget included C\$150m (£80m) in funding for the broadcaster. Eurovision's rules state that participation in the contest is open to countries with broadcasting organisations that are members of the EBU. Before Thursday,

the CBC had been an "associate member". "Canada's voice in this community makes us stronger," Noel Curran, director general of the EBU, said. When countries from around the world take to the stage to participate in Eurovision next year, they could see a new competitor. Canada is now eligible to take part in the song contest after CBC/Radio-Canada became a full member of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), a requirement to compete. Prime Minister Mark Carney, who has been seeking closer political and economic ties with Europe since taking office last year, raised the idea of Canada joining the song contest in his 2025 budget. Canada would not be the first non-European country to join the contest; Israel and Australia regularly compete, and Morocco competed in 1980. The Carney government said in November that it was working with the CBC, Canada's public broadcaster, "to explore participation in Eurovision". His government's budget included C\$150m (£80m) in funding for the broadcaster.



Housing board votes to freeze New York rents in victory for Mamdani

Four men held over child-marriage in Sierra Leone set to appear in landmark court case



For the first time since child marriage was banned in Sierra Leone two years ago, people accused of committing the crime are being brought to trial. Four men are to appear in court charged with the forcible marriage of a 17-year-old girl. Among the accused are the girl's father and her so-called husband. The BBC is not naming them so as to

protect the child's identity. If convicted, the defendants will be jailed for at least 15 years or fined around \$4,000 (£3,200), or both. Under the law, even those who attend the wedding of a child can be arrested and jailed. Sierra Leone is a patriarchal society and it has long been common for a father to give his daughter's hand in marriage forcibly.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Knockout Race

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has already delivered everything fans hoped for, with Lionel Messi rolling back the years and scoring a tournament hat-trick to become the competition's all-time leading scorer, Kylian Mbappe firing France into the knockouts, Germany rediscovering their old swagger, and surprise packages announcing themselves on football's biggest stage. With the expanded 48-team format introducing a Round of 32 for the first time, the group stage has produced drama, upsets and historic firsts. As the final round of group matches concludes, 18 teams have already secured their place in the knockout rounds, while several others have seen their World Cup dreams come to an end. Teams That Have Qualified For The Round Of 32 (As Of 26 June) Mexico (Group A) The co-hosts became the first team to book their knockout berth after defeating South Korea 1-0. Mexico began their campaign with a 2-0 victory



over South Africa and finished top of Group A. USA (Group D) The Americans followed close behind after a commanding 4-1 win over Paraguay and a 2-0 victory against Australia secured qualification. Germany (Group E) After back-to-back group-stage exits in 2018 and 2022, Germany have announced their return as contenders. A stunning 7-1 demolition of Curacao followed by a 2-1 win over Ivory Coast sealed

their passage. Argentina (Group J) The reigning champions have looked every bit the defending title holders. Lionel Messi opened the tournament with his first-ever World Cup hat-trick against Algeria before scoring twice against Austria to become the tournament's all-time leading scorer with 18 goals. Argentina have also secured top spot in Group J. France (Group I) Pre-tournament favourites

France eased into the Round of 32 after beating Senegal 3-1 and Iraq 3-0. Kylian Mbappe has already netted four goals in two games. Norway (Group I) Back at the World Cup after a 28-year wait, Norway have made an immediate impact. Comfortable wins over Iraq and Senegal have booked their place in the knockouts. Colombia (Group K) Victories over Uzbekistan and DR Congo ensured Colombia joined

the growing list of qualified nations. Switzerland (Group B) The Swiss topped Group B with seven points, confirming qualification after defeating co-host Canada 2-1. Canada (Group B) The hosts recovered from an opening draw by thrashing Qatar 6-0 before doing enough to finish second despite losing to Switzerland. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Group B) A convincing 3-1 victory over Qatar helped Bosnia finish among the tournament's best third-placed teams. Brazil (Group C) Brazil sealed qualification in style as Vinicius Junior scored twice in a 3-0 win over Scotland to finish top of Group C. Morocco (Group C) One of the tournament's most consistent teams so far, Morocco advanced unbeaten with two wins and a draw. South Africa (Group A) One of the stories of the tournament. Bafana Bafana stunned South Korea to become the first South African side to reach the World Cup knockout stages.

WHY HAS TRUMP STAYED AWAY FROM THE WORLD CUP?



United States President Donald Trump was expected by many to regularly feature at the World Cup. But he is yet to attend a single match, despite the United States team winning two of their three group games and qualifying for the knockout stages. So is it a surprise? Why may he have stayed away? And will he appear before the final? BBC Sport takes a closer look. "My fellow Americans, citizens of the world, the United States is honoured to play host to this magnificent celebration. The World Cup has captured the imagination of our country, as has the game itself in the last few years...So I welcome all who have come from all countries and all continents and all who will watch these games in the United States for the next 30 days." Those were the words of President Bill Clinton on 17 June, 1994 at Soldier Field in Chicago when attending the opening

match of the first World Cup to be held in the United States. The day is remembered more for Diana Ross' missed 'penalty kick' during the pre-match festivities than Clinton's address, but his presence now seems more notable. Because 32 years on, the country is once again staging the event, and yet, with the halfway point of the tournament passed, the current president has stayed away. Earlier this month, Trump hailed the number of tickets sold by Fifa, labelling it "the most successful World

Cup they've ever had", and reinforcing the widely held view that he would be a highly visible and enthusiastic presence. After all, in the build-up, the tournament had seemed very important to him. He even referenced it, external in an address at a rally staged on the eve of his presidential inauguration early last year. And Trump then played a central role at the draw in Washington DC in December, where he was awarded Fifa's inaugural Peace Prize by the governing body's president Gianni Infantino.

Germany Players, Manager Stand On Opposite Sides After Bitter Defeat To Ecuador

After two consecutive exits from the FIFA World Cup, Germany are through to the knockouts in the 2026 edition of the quadrennial event. However, the Germans' road to the next round wasn't the smoothest, despite the fact that they secured the top spot in the group. After a nervy victory over the Ivory Coast, Julian Nagelsmann's side was



tunned 1-2 by Ecuador in their final Group E match on Thursday. While the defeat is supposed to work as a wake-up call for the four-time champions, there seems to be a divide in the team as far as the reason behind the loss is concerned. Germany captain Joshua Kimmich and striker Deniz Undav are of the opinion that their team wasn't as

hungry for three points against Ecuador as their South American opponents. After Leroy Sané's second-minute strike, Germany failed to live up to expectations and were outrun by Ecuador, who needed a win to stay in the hunt for a spot in the Round of 32. "I had the feeling that they wanted it more than we did," Germany striker Undav told Magenta

TV. "Ecuador were more aggressive, more tenacious. We have to learn from this that we also have to give it our all. They gave 100% in every action; they were involved in every challenge." Kimmich echoed Undav's sentiments as he spoke to the media after the game. "The difference today was that the opponent wanted to win more than us. This is why they won today. It was really deserved," the German captain said. Germany manager Nagelsmann, however, stands on the opposite side of the reasoning given by Kimmich and Undav. He refused to accept that his players didn't give their all on the field, calling the lack of hunger talk 'nonsense'. "No, please stop with this nonsense, honestly," the Germany coach said. "We got off to a great start. Unfortunately, right after scoring, we started committing tactical suicide with our positioning. "Ecuador had everything to play for, and you could tell. They had their foot on the gas. But I also can't say that any of my players didn't give it their all. That's too simplistic."

Captain Shreyas Iyer's Reply On Not Picking Vaibhav Sooryavanshi For 1st India vs Ireland T20I

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi had the world's attention from the time he was picked for India's T20I squad against Ireland for a 2-match series that began on Friday. Sooryavanshi had an extended net session on Thursday, where he was seen talking with Gautam Gambhir and other senior India coaching staff. However, Sooryavanshi has not been named in the playing XI for the 1st T20I against Ireland. Had Sooryavanshi been picked, at 15 years, 91 days, he would have been the youngest debutant in Indian cricket (men's or women's). "Unfortunately no (Sooryavanshi is not playing). He's a gun player but we have some tremendous players who have done well for us so we are backing them. He



will get his chance when the time comes," Shreyas Iyer, new India captain, said at the toss. Iyer opted to bowl in the match. Shafali Verma is the youngest (15 years, 239 days) to play for India. In men's cricket, Sachin Tendulkar (16 years, 205 days) holds that record. Sooryavanshi not getting picked has a lot to do

with the strong top order that India possess. Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan were part of the T20 World Cup, and dropping any one of them to accommodate Vaibhav Sooryavanshi would have been a big decision. India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Thursday had said:

"And I am sure that he will get his dues and his opportunities. So I don't think that just to give him an opportunity, we should drop someone who has already been scoring runs. "That also won't be right. I think there is a very thin line between trying to give somebody an opportunity and being unfair to some other player," said Kotak. With so much T20 talent ready for the highest level, Kotak felt even selectors have a very tough job at hand. He is relieved that he is not part of the team selection process. "If you ask me, there is so much talent in India that even the selectors have a headache. Honestly, I don't have such a big headache because I am not the head coach and the captain.

Serena Williams To Face Maya Joint In Wimbledon Return After Four-Year Absence

Serena Williams was on Friday drawn to play Australia's Maya Joint in the Wimbledon first round as the American legend returns to singles action after four years. Williams retired in 2022 but the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion made a sensational comeback by playing in the Queen's Club and Berlin Open doubles earlier in June. The 44-year-old was given a wild card entry in the Wimbledon singles - a tournament she has won seven times. If Williams beats world number 53 Joint, a 20-year-old who has won just one of her past 14 matches, the American could face 29th seed rising star Alexandra Eala of the Philippines in the second round. A victory in the second round would raise the possibility of a potential blockbuster third round tie against reigning champion



Iga Swiatek, who starts her title defence against American Taylor Townsend. Williams, who has been practising at Wimbledon for the past week, last played a singles match nearly four years ago at the US Open in what had appeared to be her farewell to the sport. She said at the time she was "evolving away" from tennis. But just prior to the Wimbledon warm-up event at Queen's this year, Williams announced her stunning

return, a move motivated by a desire to play in front of her two young daughters. She has not played at Wimbledon since losing to Harmony Tan in the first round in 2022. Her last Grand Slam match was the US Open third round defeat against Ajla Tomljanovic that seemed to have brought the curtain down on her astonishing career. It remains to be seen if Williams can cope with the physical demands of singles competition after so long away from the sport. She looked solid in her two doubles matches at Queen's and Berlin, winning one in London with Victoria Mboko and losing her opening tie with Karolina Muchova in Germany. But Williams has not won a Grand Slam crown since the 2017 Australian Open, with her last major final appearance ending in defeat at the 2019 US Open.

Who Is Jai Moondra? Rajasthan-Born Pacer Who Dismissed Sanju Samson On Debut For Ireland Against India, Amid Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Hype

The first T20I between India and Ireland in Belfast on Friday was a historic one for Jai Moondra. While the entire world queued up in anticipation of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's long-awaited senior India debut, which would have made him the youngest debutant in Indian cricket history, another sensational story took place on the other dugout. 29-year-old pace-bowling all-rounder Jai Moondra, who is of Indian origin, made his debut for Ireland and dismissed Sanju Samson on his first ball. Born in Rajasthan, Moondra has taken the unconventional route to international cricket. Moondra was born on January 10, 1997, in the town of Tonk in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It's in



Rajasthan where Moondra began his cricketing journey, joining an academy where he developed his fast-bowling skills. However, by the age of 16, he had transformed into a top-order batter and left-arm spinner. Eventually, Moondra rediscovered his love for fast bowling. While academics took over, Moondra did decide to give cricket one final shot in 2019. "After college in 2019, I thought my

cricket journey would be over if I got a full-time corporate job. I wanted to give myself a last chance with cricket. So, I quit!" Moondra told Cricket Ireland. In 2021, Moondra moved to Ireland on a student visa to pursue an M Tech degree. During his stay there, he also continued to play cricket, joining the Leinster Cricket Club in Dublin. As a part of the team, he won the Irish Senior Cup in 2023.

Rainbow flags await Egypt and Iran at awkward World Cup Pride Match



Iran's head coach Amir Ghalenoei says he will not address "things that do not exist" as his team prepares to play Egypt in the Pride Match in Seattle. Local organisers have designated the game as a Pride Match because it falls on the Friday before Pride Weekend, which celebrates diversity and the LGBTQ+ community. Drag performances and Pride watch parties are planned across the city while rainbow flags - a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride, diversity, and social inclusion - will fly inside the stadium. Despite complaints from Iran and Egypt, countries where homosexuality is illegal, the event will still take place. Both teams say they are purely focused on football, with both coaches avoiding questions about gay pride at their news conferences before the match, which kicks off at 04:00 BST on Saturday. "We are here to play football, not for other things," Ghalenoei said. "As for things that are forbidden in our religion and do not exist, we do not want to talk about them. We only talk

about the match, football and the beauty of the game." Across the street, Seattle host committee officials insisted that the timing of the Pride Match was not designed to provoke. Pride weekend had been planned before the draw paired Egypt and Iran, they told the BBC, adding that the answer to discomfort is curiosity rather than retreat. "We're thrilled," Hedda McLendon, from Seattle's World Cup organising committee, told the BBC after the city's 'Pride Match Day' press briefing. "It might not be how you want to live or how things are in your country but this is something that makes us unique and we want you to experience it and be curious." With a stunning view overlooking Seattle's football stadium, McLendon and other host committee officials repeatedly said it did not matter who was playing - that the match was scheduled before the teams were announced and they would celebrate the beauty of football and gay pride no matter what.

Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton Faces Mercedes In Austria Hoping To Turn F1 Win Into A Title Shot

The Formula 1 title race is turning into the ultimate battle of youth against experience. On one side, Lewis Hamilton, who at 41 just became F1's oldest race winner since 1970. An eighth world title would make him the oldest champion since 1957. On the other, Kimi Antonelli, the 19-year-old Italian who leads the standings, on course to be the youngest-ever to take the title. "I've been here before. I know what I have to do, and there's a long way to go," Hamilton said Thursday ahead of this weekend's Austrian Grand Prix, set to take place as a "heat hazard" race as hot weather bakes Europe. "We have a real battle on our hands, and it's going to

take everyone for the rest of the year to even come close to competing with (Mercedes), but I don't think it's impossible." Hamilton's win at Barcelona two weeks ago, his first with Ferrari after a year and a half of frustration, brought together smart strategy, Mercedes' reliability issues and innovation at Ferrari with key car parts that rivals have rushed to copy. Ferrari's bringing an upgraded engine to Austria, too. Antonelli's teammate George Russell said he was surprised how fast Ferrari is developing its car under F1's strict spending rules, but "at the end of the day, we're still the team to beat. So this will be another

good weekend to see if Ferrari are still on that good form or if that was a one-off." Hamilton's win just showed that anyone "writing him off" was wrong, said Russell, his teammate at Mercedes in 2024. "For sure, he is a big threat. Ferrari are a huge threat. Kimi is still very much the driver out front and is performing really incredibly and consistently," Russell said. "Ferrari feel like they're coming and Lewis is at forefront of that." What a difference a year makes. Three corners into last year's Austrian Grand Prix, Antonelli smashed into Max Verstappen, ending the race for both. Verstappen accepted Antonelli's apology, say-

ing "every driver has made a mistake like that". though the points he lost that day arguably ended up costing him the title. It was part of a disastrous run of summer results at European tracks for Antonelli, who admitted he felt overwhelmed by frustration. After Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff repeatedly called Antonelli's performance "underwhelming" at his home Italian Grand Prix, it prompted speculation about his future. Then came the turnaround. Antonelli used Wolff's criticism as "fuel to do even better" and he did, scoring more points in the final eight rounds of the season than he had in the previous 16.



Court' Fame Sridevi, Aegan & 'Minnal Murali' Fame Femina George Wrap Shoot for Vision Cinema House's 'Haiku'

Actress Sridevi Apalla, who earned widespread appreciation from Telugu audiences with her performance in Court, has completed shooting for her next multi-lingual venture, Haiku. She stars alongside Aegan and 'Minnal Murali' fame Femina George in the upcoming film, produced by Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu under the Vision Cinema House banner. Written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnasamy, Haiku has officially wrapped principal photography and entered post-production after nearly 90 call sheets spread across four schedules. Sharing his thoughts on completing the film, director Yuvaraj Chinnasamy said, "Completing Haiku is an emotional and deeply satisfying moment for our entire team. I sincerely thank our producers, Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu, for believing in this story from the very



beginning and for giving me complete creative freedom throughout the journey. Their trust allowed us to bring the film to life exactly as we had envisioned it. Working with

Aegan, Sridevi, Femina George and every member of our cast and crew has been an enriching experience. We are shaping Haiku into a soothing, breezy and emotionally fulfilling theatrical experience, and we are excited to share it with audiences. Every director needs producers who stand firmly behind the vision, and I was fortunate to receive that unwavering support. I truly believe Vision Cinema House will become a platform that encourages many talented young filmmakers in the future." Producers Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu said reaching this milestone has been immensely gratifying. They praised director Yuvaraj Chinnasamy for his clarity, sincerity and disciplined approach throughout production, adding that the film has taken shape exactly as they had hoped. They also expressed confidence that audiences will connect with the film's emotional core when it reaches theatres after post-production completes. Apart from Aegan and Sridevi, the ensemble cast includes Femina George, Adrichi

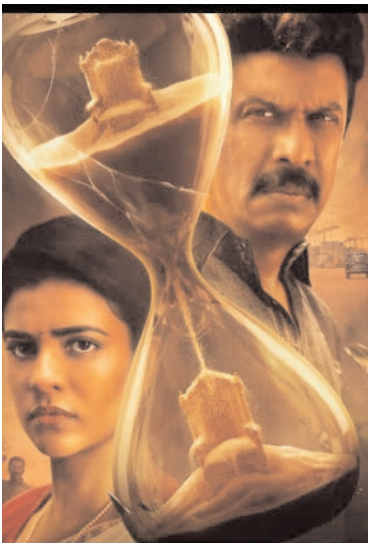
Arun, Mime Gopi, 'Sathyam Sundaram' fame Indhumathi, 'Lubber Pandhu' fame Jenson, 'Sirai' fame Ismatha Banu, Doctor Shiva and several other notable performers. The technical team comprises Hari Haran Ram (Additional Screenplay), Priyesh Guruswamy (Cinematography), Sakthi Pranesh (Editing), Siddhu Kumar (Music) and Prem (Art Direction). Even before completing production, Haiku achieved a significant milestone by securing its post-theatrical digital streaming rights with Netflix. At a time when digital acquisitions have become increasingly selective, the early OTT deal reflects the confidence in the film's storytelling and universal emotional appeal. With principal photography now complete, the makers have shifted their focus to post-production; more updates on the film are expected in the coming months.

Prime Video Drops an Explosive New Trailer for Isakapatnam, as a Father-Daughter Feud Sparks a Deadly Battle for Power and Threatens to Tear the Town Apart

Prime Video, India's most loved entertainment destination, today unveiled the explosive new trailer for its upcoming Telugu Original series, Isakapatnam—a gripping crime drama set in a fictional port town defined by power struggles, family feuds, gangster warfare, and political rivalries. At the heart of this riveting saga lies a fractured father-daughter relationship that threatens the town's fragile balance of power and reshapes the lives of everyone caught in its crossfire.

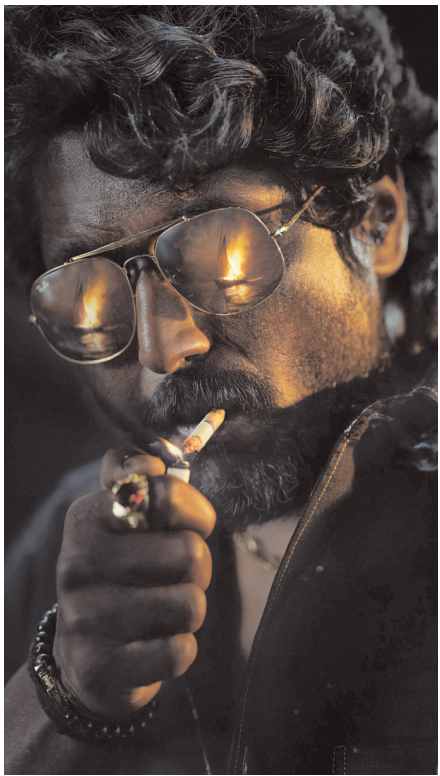
Naidu (Samuthirakani), the most formidable force in town, commands an empire that spans politics, crime, and commerce. Always one step ahead of his enemies and acutely aware of every plot against him, he believes he has everything under control—until the greatest challenge to his power emerges from within his own family. As Bharati (Aishwarya Rajesh), a resilient and fiercely independent woman, decides to take matters into her own hands and refuses to be defined by

the world shaped by power and conflict around her. With tensions escalating between father and daughter and loyalties beginning to shift, personal vendettas collide with larger ambitions, setting the stage for an explosive battle for power. Directed by Garry BH, written by Prashant Ragathi, and dialogues byTajuddin Syed, the seven-episode crime thriller is produced by Rahul Tamada and Saideep Reddy Borra under the banner of Tamada Media Productions.



MANDAADI BTS: Suhas's Unbelievable Makeover & Intense Performance

RS Infotainment's ambitious action drama MANDAADI is all set to arrive in cinemas worldwide in September. Produced by Elred Kumar and directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, the film has already wrapped up its entire shoot, with post-production progressing rapidly toward release. Soori plays the lead in the film in what is expected to be one of the most physically and emotionally demanding roles of his career. Joining him is Telugu actor Suhas, who makes a striking Tamil cinema debut in a menacing negative-shaded role. The talented actor reportedly dedicated nearly 100 days to the film and underwent a remarkable physical transformation to bring the character to life. A newly released BTS glimpse offers a fascinating look at his intense makeover and the effort behind crafting the role. Known for his versatility as a leading actor in Telugu cinema, Suhas has previously impressed audiences with his sinister performances in HIT 2 and Family Drama. However, his character in MANDAADI is said to be his most intense and ferocious yet. The BTS video teases his chilling screen presence, raw aggression, and complete transformation, hinting at an outstanding performance that promises to leave a lasting impact. Mahima Nambiar plays the leading lady, while Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, and Balasaravanan complete the impressive supporting cast.



Coming to the technical crew, GV Prakash Kumar composes the music, SR Kathir handles cinematography, DRK Kiran serves as the production designer, and Pradeep E Ragav is in charge of editing.

Intriguing Murder Mystery Investigation Thriller 'Tatvam' Trailer Unveiled



The trailer of the upcoming murder mystery investigation thriller 'Tatvam', starring Dinesh Tej and Dashvika K., was unveiled at a grand event held in Hyderabad on Thursday. Directed by Arjun Kola, the film is produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Swetha

Pashupulate under the banners of Trayati Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions. Packed with suspense, mystery, and unexpected twists, Tatvam promises to offer audiences a gripping cinematic experience. The trailer has already generat-

ed positive buzz for its intriguing narrative and intense investigative elements. Speaking at the trailer launch, editor Viplav Naishadam described the film as a special project. "Everyone involved has worked tirelessly on Tatvam. Though Arjun Kola comes from a software background, he has handled the film like an experienced filmmaker. The screenplay keeps the audience engaged throughout, and I'm happy to have been part of this exciting journey," he said. Music director Chetan Bharadwaj expressed confidence in the film, saying that audiences today are encouraging content-driven cinema. "Tatvam is one such film with a strong emotional core and a compelling thriller narrative. It also offered me great scope to compose an engaging background score. Arjun is an exceptionally talented director," he remarked.

Aha Partners with WPP Media to Launch Telugu Entertainment's First-Ever Influencer Reality Show Featuring Top Digital Creators



Aha, in collaboration with WPP Media, is set to redefine reality entertainment with the launch of Telugu's first-ever influencer reality show, bringing together some of the biggest and most loved digital creators from across social media platforms. The show marks a unique collaboration between entertainment, creators, and brands, powered by WPP Media's expertise in building impactful brand-led content experiences. Marking a fresh chapter in reality programming, the show blends the excitement of competition with the creativity of digital storytelling. Spread across eight high-energy episodes, each episode will feature a unique theme and challenge designed to push influencers beyond their comfort zones while testing their creativity, personali-

ty, adaptability, and audience appeal. Designed for today's digital-first audience, the show introduces a fresh visual identity, innovative production style, and a contemporary content format that seamlessly bridges social media culture with mainstream entertainment. Conceptualized by WPP Media's WPP Motion Entertainment in partnership with Aha, the show represents a new-age entertainment ecosystem that seamlessly brings together creators, audiences, and brands. By combining the power of influencer culture with premium content and strategic brand integrations, the property demonstrates WPP Media's ability to create innovative, culture-led entertainment experiences that drive engagement and meaningful connections for brands.

'LGBT: A Legal Battle' Set for Multi-Language Release Across India

Gradiante Infotainment Limited joins hands with Sravya Films to take the acclaimed Telugu film to audiences across India and the world

LGBT: A Legal Battle, the socially relevant courtroom drama directed by National Award-winning and critically acclaimed filmmaker P. Suneel Kumar Reddy, is all set to begin a new chapter in its journey. Following its theatrical release on June 19 across India with English subtitles, the Telugu film has been receiving encouraging appreciation from audiences, critics and members of the LGBTQ+ community for its honest storytelling and thought-provoking narrative. Now successfully entering its second week in theatres, the film is gearing up for a wider reach. Gradiante Infotainment Limited has partnered with

Sravya Films to dub and release LGBT: A Legal Battle in multiple Indian languages, recognising the film's universal appeal and its potential to connect with audiences across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Expressing his delight over the collaboration, Mr. Vimal Raj Mathur, Managing Director of Gradiante Infotainment Limited, said, "We are delighted to associate with Sravya Films for LGBT: A Legal Battle. It is a powerful story with universal emotions and an important social message. We see tremendous potential in taking this film to audiences across India while simultaneously exploring opportu-



nities in the international market." The collaboration was significantly strengthened by the efforts of Rajesh Agarwal, celebrated entre-

preneur and Chairman of TPL, who played a key role in bringing the two companies together. Speaking about the association, he

said, "Meaningful cinema deserves meaningful partnerships. P. Suneel Kumar Reddy has consistently demonstrated his commitment to socially relevant storytelling, and Gradiante Infotainment has the vision and market reach to take such stories to wider audiences. I am delighted that this collaboration has materialised and believe it will create opportunities for many more content-driven films in the future." Media consultant Sandeep Jain also welcomed the collaboration and expressed confidence in the film's larger journey. "LGBT: A Legal Battle is a story that goes beyond regional boundaries. It is rooted in the real-

ities of the Indian subcontinent, yet its emotional core is universal. Films like these have the power to create awareness, encourage dialogue and connect with audiences across cultures. I am confident this film will find appreciation in many languages." Sharing his happiness over the association, P. Suneel Kumar Reddy, Managing Director of Sravya Films, said, "I am extremely happy to collaborate with a reputed media company like Gradiante Infotainment Limited. Their experience and market reach will certainly help elevate LGBT: A Legal Battle to the next level and introduce the film to a much larger audience."