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03-06-2026

Total pilgrims - 84,220

Tonsures - 40,542

Hundi kanakulu - 4,16 CR

Laddu sale - 359 Lac

Annasreadams - 217 Lac

Medical treatment - 3,342

Waiting Compartments - 31

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam

(with out 350 Tokens) - 12 H

Won't tolerate demographic changes in West Bengal, Tripura, Bihar: Amit Shah



AGARTALA (TSIT): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the government will not tolerate demographic changes in West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar, asserting that the Centre is taking steps to bridge gaps in guarding the country's borders. Shah, addressing BSP personnel at Lankamura Border Outpost in Tripura, also said that the government's "smart border" project is in the final stage. "Demographic changes in West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar will not be tolerated... The Centre is making all efforts to bridge the gaps in guarding international borders," the home minister said. "The concept of 'smart border' will be implemented in seven to eight places of the country as a pilot project. I request the Union home secretary and the director general of the BSF to visit border areas, and hold talks," he said. The new security grid will include cutting-edge tech, local administration and border sentinels, Shah said.

AI-171 crash probe: Pilots' body flags aircraft messages, engine shutdown logic; seeks fresh technical review

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Questions over unexplained technical signals, possible electrical disturbances and engine shutdown mechanisms have resurfaced in the AI-171 crash investigation, with Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) asking Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) to closely examine ACARS (aircraft communications addressing and reporting system) maintenance messages, FADEC fail-safe systems and previously



flagged discrepancies before technical causes are set aside.

In a detailed letter sent to AAIB on Friday, FIP president Capt CS Randhawa referred to newly obtained technical material, including ACARS maintenance

messages reportedly transmitted after take-off, publicly available documents relating to Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) systems, and previously highlighted concerns around RAT deployment chronology

and said these issues required closer examination as part of the ongoing investigation.

The pilots' body said the submission places on record "ACARS maintenance messages transmitted before after the aircraft got airborne, a design feature in the FADEC that permits auto shutdown of both engines", while linking these issues with earlier concerns regarding electrical disturbances, simulator validation requests and flight-data timelines.

CM Naidu plans to transform Vizag into world-class Bay City

VISAKHAPATNAM (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to formulate an action plan to transform Visakhapatnam into a world-class Bay City.

Addressing a review meeting on Visakha Economic Region (VER) attended by Collectors of nine districts, public representatives and officials, the Chief Minister outlined a roadmap for tourism, infrastructure and economic development across the region. The Chief Minister instructed officials to develop the Bay City Project stretching from Kailasagiri to Bhogapuram.

He also suggested establishing a dedicated Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for the Visakha Economic



Region to ensure effective implementation and coordination of projects. He directed officials to construct a Convention Centre on 303 acres belonging to the Greyhounds department and emphasized the need to develop the Kailasagiri area as both a spiritual and tourism destination. The Chief Minister called for attracting investments in beach-based recreational projects, including water sports and entertainment facilities, to provide enjoyable and best experiences for visitors of all age groups.

Annammalai quits BJP, Nitin Nabin accepts resignation



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

BJP National President Nitin Nabin on Friday accepted the resignation submitted by former Tamil Nadu BJP state president K. Annammalai from the primary membership of the party. This was confirmed by Arun Singh, National General Secretary and Headquarters In-charge of the party in a press release.

Revanth challenges KCR to debate BRS, Congress Performance

HYDERABAD
TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Friday threw an open challenge to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao to participate in a debate on the performance of the 10-year BRS rule and the two-and-a-half-year Congress government in the State Assembly. Addressing a massive public meeting under the "Praja Palana - Pragati Pranaliika" programme in Jadcherla, Revanth Reddy said the Congress government was ready to discuss governance, development and welfare initiatives and even apologise if proven wrong.

Chief Minister launched a scathing attack on the previous BRS regime, accusing it of failing to complete major irrigation projects, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He alleged that loans raised in the name of irrigation projects were misused and that the people of



Palamuru received little benefit despite the expenditure of thousands of crores of rupees.

Revanth Reddy also criticized Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis over the Godavari river water issue, accusing him of playing a "hide-and-seek" game. He said Telangana would continue to press for its rightful share of river waters and vowed to complete the Tummidihatti Barrage despite all obstacles. Highlighting the neglect of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district during the BRS rule, the Chief Minister said not a single major project was completed

in the region during the previous government's tenure. He recalled that people of Palamuru had overwhelmingly supported KCR and the BRS but were left without irrigation water and development.

Stating that the Congress government is committed to transforming the region, Revanth Reddy said his administration aims to provide irrigation water to 26 lakh acres through the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He assured that the government would secure approval for 90 TMC of water for the project and release funds through a special "Green

Channel" mechanism to expedite completion of pending works.

The Chief Minister claimed that while the previous government spent nearly Rs.1 lakh crore on the Kaleshwaram project, it failed to adequately compensate or rehabilitate affected families in Palamuru. In contrast, he said, the Congress government had spent Rs.8,000 crore in the district during the last 30 months on irrigation and development works.

Predicting a political setback for the BRS in the region, Revanth Reddy said the people of Palamuru would ensure the party fails to win even a single Assembly seat in future elections. Reiterating his confidence in the Congress party's future, he declared, "Aur Ek Baar, Congress Sarkar," asserting that Congress would return to power in 2029 and continue governing Telangana until 2034. Chief Minister also highlighted several welfare

initiatives undertaken by the Congress government, including the sanction of 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses, distribution of 15 lakh ration cards, provision of 200 units of free electricity to 50 lakh families and free bus travel for women. He said the government had spent over Rs.10,000 crore on the women's travel scheme alone.

Emphasising the importance of education, Revanth Reddy said the government was developing an education hub in Kodangal and creating opportunities for students in the region to pursue higher education without migrating elsewhere. He urged parents to ensure that their children receive quality education, describing it as the most effective tool for social and economic progress. The Chief Minister asserted that the Congress government remains committed to welfare, irrigation development and inclusive growth across Telangana, particularly in the long-neglected Palamuru region.

'Surat gifted me garbage':

PM Modi turns city's cleanliness drive into message on civic responsibility

SURAT (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday praised a city-wide cleanliness campaign in Surat involving more than one lakh people, describing the collected waste as the "most valuable gift" he had received during his visit. Speaking at a public gathering on the World Environment Day, PM Modi said residents had transformed a routine sanitation exercise into a civic movement that reflected the city's commitment to public participation and community responsibility. "You welcomed me, presented various mementoes and gifts. But even more valuable than all these gifts is the priceless gift that Surat has given me. Surat has gifted me garbage," he added. The Prime Minister was referring to a five-day cleanliness campaign conducted ahead of his visit, in which more than one lakh residents reportedly participated. "For me, this is a huge gift," he said, thanking those involved in the initiative. Prime Minister Modi said many people expected visiting leaders to receive ceremonial honours and expensive gifts, but Surat's decision to present the outcome of a cleanliness cam-

aign sent a more meaningful message. "People usually think that a Prime Minister should receive grand gifts during a welcome. But you are taking pride in gifting garbage," he added. According to Prime Minister Modi, the significance of the campaign lay not only in the waste collected but in the scale of public participation. He noted that involvement by more



than one lakh residents effectively represented the participation of more than one lakh families. "This is not merely a cleanliness campaign. It is a cultural festival for a healthy future," he said. The Prime Minister linked the campaign to Surat's long-standing reputation as one of India's cleanest cities.

Top-ranking student's suicide raises questions on welfare systems in corporate colleges

BY M. RAJANIKANTH
HYDERABAD:

The death of a 17-year-old intermediate student who had secured an exceptional 466 out of 470 marks in his first-year examinations has triggered fresh concerns about student welfare and mental health support systems in Telangana's corporate colleges.

Student, who was residing in the hostel of a Sri Chaitanya campus at Koheda on the outskirts of Hyderabad, was found dead on Wednesday. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

What has particularly shocked fellow students, parents and educators is the fact that the teenager was among the institution's top performers. Having scored 466 marks out of 470 in the first-year examinations, he was expected to begin his second year with strong aca-



ademic prospects.

The apparent contradiction between outstanding academic achievement and the decision to take an extreme step has raised questions about the pressures faced by students in highly competitive educational environments.

Educationists point out that academic performance cannot be the sole indicator of a student's mental and emotional state. They argue that residential colleges have a heightened duty of care, requiring regular counselling, emotional support mechanisms and close monitoring of stu-

dents living away from their families.

The incident has once again brought into focus the accountability of corporate colleges, where intense competition and high expectations often define campus life. Parents' groups and child rights advocates have repeatedly called for mandatory mental health audits, regular interaction between counsellors and students, and greater transparency in hostel management practices.

As investigators seek to determine what led to the tragedy, one question remains unanswered: what drove a student who had achieved near-perfect academic success to take such a drastic step just as a promising second year was about to begin? Until that question is answered, the tragedy is likely to intensify scrutiny of student welfare systems and institutional responsibility in residential educational campuses across the state.

Indian markets trade higher ahead of RBI policy decision

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Indian equity markets traded higher in the morning session on Friday ahead of a key central bank policy decision as investors awaited cues on how the central bank plans to address inflation and currency pressures amid elevated energy prices driven by geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Sensex jumped as much as 0.48 per cent or 357 points to 74,717.57, hitting an intraday high in early trade. Similarly, Nifty was trading 0.42 per cent or 100 points higher at 23,516.

Sector-wise, among the major gainers, the Nifty Media index jumped 1.81 per cent, followed by the Nifty Financial Services index, which rose 0.97 per cent.

In addition, healthcare-related indices remained strong, with Nifty Healthcare and Nifty Pharma gaining up to 0.82 per cent, while Nifty Realty added 0.71 per cent. On the other hand, Nifty Oil & Gas slipped marginally by 0.06 per cent, while Nifty Metal declined 0.60 per cent. IT



and FMCG stocks were largely steady, while PSU banks and private banks posted marginal gains.

Among individual stocks, Wipro, Tata Steel, Trent, Hindalco Industries and Coal India were among the top losers on the Nifty index. Analysts said there were mild positive indications for the market. "There are signs of weakness in the AI trade in the US, South Korea and Taiwan and rotation away from tech stocks, but it is too early to say whether this will sustain," they said.

If the Reserve Bank of India decides to act with a 25 bps rate hike, banking stocks could see sharp gains as lenders benefit from higher interest rates, experts said. However, they added that a rate hike would be negative for interest-sensitive segments such as automobiles and real estate.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday kept the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, with Governor Sanjay Malhotra asserting that the Indian economy remains resilient and is better prepared than in the past to deal with rising global uncertainties, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions. Announcing the decisions of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the Governor said the global economy has been facing heightened uncertainty in recent months due to disruptions in key trade routes, volatility in financial markets and cautious business sentiment.

He noted that the ongoing geopolitical situation in West Asia has led to higher energy prices and supply chain disruptions, creating challenges for economies across the world. "Let me at the outset emphasise that the Indian economy entered this episode of global turbulence with much better fundamentals than in pre-



vious similar episodes. While we remain confident to withstand these shocks with minimum pain, it is important to not only confront and address these challenges but also take them as an opportunity to further enhance resilience," the Governor said.

The six-member MPC unanimously voted to retain the repo rate at 5.25 per cent. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 5.0 per cent, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate remain at 5.5 per cent. The committee also decided to continue with the neutral stance.

Explaining the rationale behind the decision, the Governor said the committee felt it would be prudent to wait for greater

clarity regarding the duration and intensity of the ongoing geopolitical conflict and its impact on inflation and growth.

While inflation risks have increased, the central bank believes that policy flexibility is necessary amid evolving global conditions. The RBI noted that inflation has remained below the target despite external shocks. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 3.4 per cent in March and 3.5 per cent in April 2026. However, the central bank warned that rising crude oil prices, higher input costs and weather-related risks could exert upward pressure on prices in the coming months.

The Governor said the baseline projections indicate inflation may move closer to the upper tolerance band during the third quarter of the current financial year before easing thereafter. He also cautioned that second-round effects through wages and inflation expectations remain a possibility and would require close monitoring.

DCM Pawan Kalyan Launches Mega Seed Ball Initiative on World Environment Day



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forests and Environment Pawan Kalyan on Friday launched an ambitious programme to prepare 2.5 crore seed balls as part of the state's World Environment Day celebrations. The initiative was formally inaugurated at the Butterfly Park in Mulapadu, NTR District, with the participation of public representatives, officials, women from Self-Help Groups, students, and environmental volunteers. On the occasion, Pawan Kalyan personally joined women and children in preparing seed balls using seeds of indigenous tree species, including neem, bamboo, banyan, tamarind, amla, peepal, moduga, and other native varieties. The initiative aims to strengthen afforestation efforts and enhance green cover across Andhra Pradesh. Addressing participants, the Deputy Chief Minister said seed ball

preparation programmes were being conducted simultaneously at nearly 300 locations across the state. Through a video conference from Mulapadu, he interacted with participants involved in the activity, enquired about the varieties of seeds being used, and appreciated children who explained the ecological importance of seed balls. He directed officials to complete the preparation of 2.5 crore seed balls by June 15. Pawan Kalyan later witnessed a drone demonstration in which seed balls were dispersed over hilltops and forest areas, a method aimed at supporting large-scale reforestation in inaccessible regions. Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister visited various stalls set up by the Forest Department at the Butterfly Park. Impressed by the yoga hall included in the park's design, he instructed officials to establish yoga halls in every eco-tourism park across the state to promote wellness alongside envi-

ronmental awareness. During his visit, Pawan Kalyan also inspected displays of Kondapalli wooden toys and handcrafted products made by artisans from different regions. He expressed admiration for innovative wooden creations, including handcrafted watches and laptop models. Responding to concerns raised by artisans regarding the shortage of suitable wood, he assured them that the government would explore the establishment of a Wood Bank to support traditional craftsmen. The Deputy Chief Minister further promised assistance in promoting Andhra Pradesh's rich handicrafts through better marketing and publicity. He directed officials to organize regular interactions with artisans every two months and suggested the creation of a wooden statue of renowned freedom fighter and former Hyderabad State Chief Minister Burgula Ramakrishna Rao by Kondapalli artisans.

Visakhapatnam Port Achieves Historic Milestone

Cape-Size Vessel MV Gracious Successfully Berthed at Inner Harbour

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : The Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has achieved another significant milestone by successfully berthing the cape-size bulk carrier MV Gracious at EQ-1 Berth in the Inner Harbour on Friday. The vessel, measuring 292 metres in length, 45 metres in breadth, and having a draft of 12.2 metres, arrived at the port carrying 100,198 met-



ric tonnes of cargo. The successful berthing of such a large vessel marks a major advancement in the port's capability to handle cape-size ships. Port officials stated that the achievement further strengthens Visakhapatnam Port's cargo-handling capacity and enhances its ability to accommodate larger bulk carriers, thereby boosting maritime trade operations. The successful operation was made possible through the guidance and leadership of Chairman Jasmeet Singh Bindra, IRTS, Deputy Chairperson Roshni Aparanji Korati, IAS, and the coordinated efforts of the port team. This accomplishment reflects the Port Authority's continued commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and meeting the growing demands of the maritime sector. Port Secretary M. Shankar Babu informed the media that the successful berthing of MV Gracious is a landmark achievement for Visakhapatnam Port and a testament to its expanding capabilities in handling large vessels and cargo volumes.

AI-based devotee services in Tirumala commendable, says Union Minister Piyush Goyal

Tirumala: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal lauded the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for its effective use of Artificial Intelligence and modern technology in managing devotee services, describing the AI-driven initiatives as a model for efficient temple administration. During his visit to Tirumala on Friday, the minister offered prayers at the temple of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy and later interacted with the media. He appreciated the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) established at the Vaikuntham Queue Complex, noting that real-time monitoring of room occupancy, devotee arrivals, queue management, and Laddu pras-



adam distribution has significantly enhanced transparency and efficiency. Goyal said the system provides instant information on room availability, waiting devotees, hourly pilgrim inflow, and prasadam distribution, helping authorities deliver better services. He congratulated Andhra Pradesh Chief

Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for promoting technology-driven governance and praised the efforts of NRI devotees and TTD officials in implementing the AI-based system within 100 days. Earlier, on the occasion of World Environment Day, Goyal participated in

the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign and planted a sapling in his mother's name. He urged children and citizens across the country to plant and nurture trees as a contribution to environmental protection and sustainability. The minister also shared that it has become a tradition for him to visit Tirumala during the first week of June every year, around his birthday, to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. He prayed for strength to continue serving the nation and the people. TTD Executive Officer M. Ravi Chandra, Additional EO Ch. Venkayya Chowdary, Temple Deputy EO Lokanatham and other officials were present during the visit.

TTD launches 'Srivari Vaidya Seva' to invite specialist doctors for voluntary service

Tirupati: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has launched the "Srivari Vaidya Seva" programme on a pilot basis to encourage medical specialists from India and abroad to offer voluntary healthcare services at TTD-run hospitals and institutions. Inaugurating a specially developed IT application for the programme on Friday, M. Ravichandra said the initiative was launched following the vision of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to create a platform for experts willing to contribute their services in healthcare, education, IT, and other sectors. The EO said the programme would initially be implemented on an experimental basis,



with feedback from participating doctors being used to further improve and expand the initiative. He assured that TTD would provide accommodation and food facilities to all specialists volunteering their services in Tirumala and Tirupati. Through the dedicated online application, medical specialists and devotees from across the world can register and choose convenient dates to offer their services. Super-speciality

doctors will be able to volunteer for three days, while MBBS doctors can render services for seven days. The specialists will serve at institutions including Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, BIRRD Hospital, Aswini Hospital, the Ayurvedic Hospital, Sri Padmavathi Children's Hospital, SV Gosala, and other TTD-affiliated facilities. Medical specialists belonging to the Hindu faith can register online through the TTD portal. Several senior doctors who joined the launch virtually welcomed the initiative and described the opportunity to serve in TTD hospitals as a divine blessing.

Mamata retains Abhishek Banerjee as Trinamool general secy, appoints two deputies



Kolkata, June 5 : Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - the Trinamool Congress supremo - on Friday announced her decision to retain her nephew and the party Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee, as the party's general secretary. However, she also appointed the party's Rajya Sabha members, Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen as deputy general secretaries, which according to political observers, means that Abhishek Banerjee would no more be able to unani-

mously adopt organisational decisions henceforth. At the same time, on Friday, the state unit of Trinamool Congress in West Bengal had been thoroughly reconstituted. The erstwhile state president of the party in West Bengal and veteran party leader, Subrata Bakshi, who had been seeking relief from the post for quite some time because of age-related ailments, has been relieved, and instead the former West Bengal Minister of State for

Finance (independent charge), Chandrima Bhattacharya had been appointed in that post. Party Lok Sabha member, Sajda Ahmed, party Rajya Sabha member, Mamata Bala Thakur and the party legislator, Nay Bandopadhyay and senior party leader, Swait Khondkar, have been appointed the vice-presidents of the state unit of Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. Babar Ali, Pulak Roy, Ashima Patra, Aroop Biswas and Rajib Banerjee have been appointed as the state general secretaries, out of them Patra is an existing Trinamool Congress legislator. Jyotipriyo Mullick, Dr Rana Chatterjee, Bidesh Bose, Trinankur Bhattacharjee, Jaya Dutta, Tapas Chatterjee, Vasundhara Goswamy and Goutam Deb have been appointed as the executive members of the state committee of Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.

KTR demands probe into Rs 1,600 crore 'coal scam' in Singareni

Hyderabad, June 5 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday demanded an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the alleged disappearance of nearly 40 lakh tonnes of coal worth approximately Rs 1,600 crore from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCLL). In a letter addressed to Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy, he questioned how such a massive quantity of coal, officially shown in Singareni's stock records, could have vanished without accountability. KTR, as the BRS leader is popularly known, alleged that coal that should have been available in stockyards was illegally diverted and sold, causing a loss of nearly Rs 1,600 crore to the public sector undertaking. He demanded that the Union Government immediately ascertain the where-



abouts of the missing coal and bring those responsible to justice. He stated that ever since the Congress government assumed office in Telangana, Singareni has become synonymous with a series of scandals. From the Naini coal mine tender controversy to several other alleged irregularities, KTR said there has been no meaningful response from the Centre despite repeated demands from BRS. According to KTR, official records on the Singareni website indicated the availability of

approximately 40 lakh tonnes of coal across multiple mines, including Mandamarri, Srirampur, Ramagundam-I, Ramagundam-II, Bhupalpally, Yellandu and Sathupalli. However, physical verification reportedly revealed that the coal stocks were not available at the designated locations. He pointed out that despite records showing payment of coal cess and income tax on these stocks, the actual coal was allegedly missing from the ground. KTR questioned who was responsi-

ble for this discrepancy and why neither officials from the Union Coal Ministry nor the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had conducted inspections so far. "The coal of Singareni belongs to the people of Telangana. Both the State and Central Governments are collectively endangering the future of this institution," KTR said. He further alleged that if there is no tacit understanding between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Union Minister Kishan Reddy, the Centre should immediately order a thorough investigation and take stringent action against those responsible. Demanding transparency, KTR called upon the Union Government to send an all-party delegation to the concerned mines and stockyards for on-ground verification. He said such an exercise would expose the large-scale irregularities alleg-

edly taking place in Singareni. Referring to the earlier Naini coal mine tender controversy, KTR alleged that the Congress government introduced conditions such as mandatory site-visit certificates to favour select bidders. He claimed that despite BRS exposing the issue, no meaningful action had been taken against those involved. KTR also raised concerns regarding alleged irregularities in solar power tenders, diesel procurement, explosive purchases, diversion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and the alleged misuse of Singareni funds for non-core activities. He accused both the Congress and the BJP of protecting those involved in various irregularities and demanded a judicial inquiry headed by a sitting judge into the Rs 1,600 crore coal scam.

PM Modi extends best wishes on World Environment Day, applauds conservation efforts

New Delhi, June 5 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended his greetings to citizens on the occasion of World Environment Day and praised those who are dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment. Taking to the social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "Best wishes to everyone on World Environment Day. I would like to applaud all those passionate about environmental conservation. This is a day to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our environment

and furthering growth that is sustainable. Numerous efforts by our Government over the last decade highlight our work in this direction. Some of India's key successes include expanding green cover and a rise in the population of several animals. The people of India have shown how collective efforts, policies, belief in science and innovation can improve our environment." Observed annually on June 5, World Environment Day aims to raise awareness about environmental issues and



encourage action to safeguard the planet. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it has become one of the largest global platforms for environmental advocacy and public engagement. The origin of World Environment Day can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972. The conference marked a significant milestone in international environmental governance by bringing ecological

concerns to the forefront of global policymaking. Following the conference, the United Nations officially designated June 5 as World Environment Day, with the first observance taking place in 1973. The occasion serves as an important reminder of the environmental challenges confronting the world today, including climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and the depletion of natural resources. It encourages individuals, communities, businesses, and govern-

ments to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to environmental protection. Over the years, World Environment Day has evolved into a global movement involving more than 150 countries. Activities such as tree-planting campaigns, beach clean-ups, educational programmes, and policy initiatives are organised worldwide. Each year, a host country is selected, and a specific theme highlights a pressing environmental issue.

DVAC registers case against ex-minister KN Nehru over Rs 634 crore bribery charges

CHENNAI: The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) has registered a case against former DMK minister KN Nehru in connection with alleged bribery and corruption in recruitments carried out during his tenure as Minister for Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS). Madras HC allows appeal in Vilathikulam girl sexual assault and murder case

According to Daily Thanthi, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had earlier alleged large-scale irregularities in appointments and tender allocations within the MAWS. The agency claimed that corruption amounting to nearly Rs 1,020 crore had taken place through illegal recruitments, tender



manipulation and criminal conspiracy. The ED had submitted evidence to the Tamil Nadu government, alleging that bribes totalling Rs 634 crore were collected for the appointment of 2,538 engineers and officials in the Municipal Administration Department alone. The agency had also urged the state government to register a criminal case and had reportedly sent two separate communications in

this regard. However, no case was registered against Nehru during the previous DMK regime despite the ED's recommendations.

Following the formation of the TVK government, the DVAC has now booked KN Nehru based on the evidence submitted by the Enforcement Directorate. The case has been registered under the directions of DVAC Director A Arun, according to Daily Thanthi. With the DVAC initiating criminal proceedings, sources indicate that the Enforcement Directorate may also launch a separate case against the former minister under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
AWARDING OF ADVERTISEMENT DISPLAY CONTRACT

No. : COM-PUB-E-Auction-SDAH **Dated : 04.06.2026**
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Room No. 44, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 has published **e-Auction Catalogue No. ADVT-SDAH-06-03** on **www.ireps.gov.in** towards awarding advertisement display contracts through 01 asset of Sealdah Division. Details of the auction catalogue is as follows: • **E-Auction Catalogue No. ADVT-SDAH-06-03, • Auction start: 11.00 hrs on 16.06.2026. Seq. No.; Lot No./Category; Description; Contract period : AA/1; ADVT-IntExt-S1-12C072204-26-1** (Advertising – Train Interior and Exterior); Advertisement display on the full body at the exterior surface and at the specified locations inside the coaches of 05 three phase EMU rakes of 12 coaches each plying over Sealdah division using Vinyl stickers (graphic films according to RDSO specifications); 03 years. • **E-Auction Catalogue No. ADVT-SDAH-06-04, • Auction start: 12.00 hrs on 18.06.2026. Seq. No.; Lot No./Category; Description; Contract period : AA/1; ADVT-IntExt-243463-1-26-1** (Advertising – Train Interior and Exterior); Advertisement display through vinyl wrapping (Graphic Film according to RDSO specification) at the exterior (full body) and at specified locations inside the coaches of 01 rake (out of 04 rakes) of 13173-13174 (Sealdah-Sabroom-Sealdah Kanchanjungha Express)/13175-13176 (Sealdah-Silchar-Sealdah Kanchanjungha Express); 03 years. Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-auction module of **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and condition. (SDAH-70/2026-27)
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POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 r/w Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (Appendix IV)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), 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, due to non-payment of monthly dues, which remained outstanding for a period over 91 days, thereby classifying the Loan Accounts as Non-performing assets (NPA) on 31-July-2025, had issued a Demand Notice to Borrower/ Mortgagee/ Guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amounts mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower/ Mortgagee/ Guarantor having failed to repay the demanded amounts, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Mortgagee/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), has taken possession of the properties further described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/ Mortgagee/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said immovable property(ies) and any dealings with the said property(ies) will be subject to the First Charge of Bajaj Finance Limited for the amount(s) as mentioned herein above along with further interest and charges accrued thereon.

Name of the Branch, Loan Agreement Numbers and Borrower(s) /mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Immovable Property	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
Branch:CUMBUM SLN:SPW/PT3SPBL4395236 Date: 05-06-2026 Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s): 1. SAI DHANYA ENTERPRISES thr. Its Prop. Rajendran Aitaiyakallapuram R/o. 131-119D/W-13, Aranamal Street, Aitaiyakallapuram Road Kombai Tamilnadu 625522. Email id: rajendranprema1956@gmail.com. Also at: R/o. R/S No. - 288/5, 288/3A, 288/3A1, Ward No(Old) - 12, Ward No(New)- 3, D.No - 36/7, 3rd Kulalar Street, Kombai Town, Uthamapalayam Vattam, Devaram SRO, Periyakulam RD, Thir District 625530. 2. RAJENDRAN P Sio Periya Rajarajapuram R/o. 3-3-91/A Kulalar Street, Thevaram, Uthamapalayam Kombai Thiru Tamilnadu 625522. Email id: rajendranprema1956@gmail.com. Also at: R/o. 12-4-3A Mueslem Street Kombai Uthamapalayam 625522 Email id: rajendranprema1956@gmail.com. 3. PREMA C W/o Rajendran R/o. 3 22, Ricesmill Street Thevaram, Uthamapalayam Thiru Tamilnadu 625530. Email id: rajendranprema1956@gmail.com.	Thiru District Periyakulam Registration District Devaram Sub Registration Office Uthamapalayam Taluk Kompa Town Old Ward No. 12 Kulalar 2nd Street New Ward No.3 Kulalar 3rd Street in Survey No. 288/3A1 to an extent of 0.25.63 Acres in which 1151.875 Sq.Ft. of property within the following boundaries: North: East West Pathway; East: Property belongs to Survilve; West: Property belongs to Karuppan [Jadaglowri and others; South: Property belongs to Ponnusamy and others Within which property measuring East-West 22 1/2 Feet on the North and 25 Feet on the South, North-South 48 1/2 Feet on the East and 48 1/2 Feet on the West, to an extent of 1151.875 Sq.Ft. of the vacant site in which constructed a building bearing Door No. 3671 in Property Tax Assessment No. 1529 and with all deposits and all other amenities along with all pathway rights. The property in Survey No. 288/3 R/o Survey No. 288/3A in subdivision Patla in Patla No. 2380 comprised in Survey No. 288/3A1 to an extent of 0.25.63 Hectare situated at Kompa municipality.	20-01-2026 Rs.20,41,254/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Four Only)	04-06-2026

Date:05-06-2026, Place: Tamilnadu **For M/s. Bajaj Finance Limited, Authorised Officer.**

TIRUPATHI BRANCH ,
Bank of India
Relationship beyond banking
Door NO: 18-1-24/C, Vaishnavi Towers, K.T.Road, Tirupathi 517501. Dist:Tirupathi, Tel:0877-2220398

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction sale notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the following Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank Of India (secured creditor), the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officers of Bank Of India will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on **25-06-2026** for recovery of **Rs. 39,72,786.35 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Six and Thirty Five paise) + applicable interest costs and charges due to BANK OF INDIA, Tirupathi Branch from Borrowers Mr.Jebbulu Gopal Mohan and Mr.Nalakukula Vasu.** The reserve price, EMD amount and Property details are as mentioned hereunder:
Description of the Immovable Property
Property covered by DOC No:1 i.e.,5841/2020 SRO Renigunta
All that piece of land with buildings, sheds and structures standing there on situated at Tirupathi District, Renigunta Sub- District, Renigunta Mandal, Thukivakam Village group and accounts, Renigunta Grama Panchayat, Ward No:14, Panchali Nagar Residential Area, New Survey 812/1 (as per Mandal Surveyour report), Old Survey No:812, Assessment No:2201, D.No's:14-994, 14-995, 14-996, 14-997, 14-998 and 14-999 admeasuring an extent of 2400 Sq.fts or 266.66 Sq.yds. **East: Road, West: House of S Midhun Shah,North: Site of S Benhar South: Measuring of Sarunachalam and S Jagadiswar Reddy** Within these boundaries an extent of 2400 Sq.ft. or 266.66 sq yds of site and RCC roofed ground floor building 1572.50 Sq Ft plinth area in the name of **Mr.Jebbulu Gopal Mohan and Mr.Nalakukula Vasu** with all necessary accessories
RESERVE PRICE :Rs.69,68,000/- EMD is 10%of Reserve Price i.e. Rs.6,96,800/-
Date & Time of E-auction 25-06-2026 From 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM
(With auto unlimited extension of 10 minutes each)
To the best knowledge and information available with the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property referred above. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property and to inspect & satisfy them. The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website **https://banknet.com**. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://www.bankofindia.bank.in/tenders** and the intending purchasers can contact the undersigned on phone no: 0877-2220398 and **Mr. Jaganathan K P, Chief Manager, Tirupathi Branch** on his mobile: 9790100673. **Date & Time of E-auction: 25-06-2026 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (With auto unlimited extension of 10 minutes each).** E-auction is being held on "as is where basis " " " as is what is basis " and " whatever there is basis " and will be conducted "On Line". The successful bidder is bound to pay applicable TDS as per SRO guidelines
SALE NOTICE TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS
Dear Sir/Madam,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of India is having full powers to issue this notice of sale and exercise all powers of sale under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the rules framed there under. You have committed default in payment of outstanding dues and interest with the monthly rent, cost and charges etc. in respect of the advances granted by the bank mentioned above. Hence, the Bank has issued demand notice dated **29-08-2025** to you under section 13(2) to pay the above mentioned amount within 60 days. You have failed to pay the amount even after the expiry of the 60 days. Therefore, the Authorized Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(4) on **12-12-2025**, took symbolic possession of the secured assets more particularly described in the schedule mentioned above. Notice is hereby given to you to pay the same as mentioned above before the date fixed for sale failing which the property will be sold and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from you. Please note that all expenses pertaining to demand notice, taking possession, valuation and sale of assets etc. shall be first deducted from the sale proceeds which may be realized by the undersigned and the balance of the sale proceeds will be appropriated towards your liability as aforesaid. You are at liberty to participate in the auction to be held on the terms and conditions thereof including deposit of earnest money.
Date:05.06.2026 , Place: TIRUPATHI **Sd/-Authorised Officer, Bank Of India**

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu tops India in bank credit share



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu accounts for the largest share of bank credit in the country, with nearly Rs 28 out of every Rs 100 lent by banks in India flowing to the state, according to a study based on Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

The study, which analysed district-wise credit and deposit data released by the RBI, found that Tamil Nadu accounted for 27.76 per cent of the country's total bank credit, marginally ahead of Maharashtra at 27.70 per cent. Karnataka accounted for 8.81 per cent of total bank credit, followed by Gujarat (5.64 per cent) and Telangana (5.12 per cent). Together, these five states accounted for more than 75 per cent of the country's total bank lending.

The study attributed it to Tamil Nadu's leading position in the growth of industrial and commercial centres such as Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchy. Strong demand for credit from sectors including automobile manufacturing, information technology, textile exports, leather products, engineering industries, small and medium enterprises, and port-based trade has contributed to the state's share. The study also highlighted the uneven distribution of bank credit across the country despite the rapid expansion of financial inclusion and digital banking.

According to the findings, more than 54 crore bank accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana since 2015, with around 60 per cent of them held by women. More than 70 crore digital transactions are carried out daily through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Madras HC allows appeal in Vilathikulam girl sexual assault and murder case

MADURAI: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has granted time to Dharma Muneeswaran, who was sentenced to death for the sexual assault and murder of a Class 12 student in Vilathikulam of Thoothukudi district, to file an appeal against the conviction and sentence. The court adjourned the matter to June 12.

Tamil Nadu: Professors seek faster faculty, principal appointments

The order was passed by Justices Anand Venkatesh and Ramakrishnan when the case came up for hearing on Thursday. The Bench said the convict should be allowed to challenge the sentence before further proceedings in the case. The Thoothukudi Pocco Court awarded Dharma Muneswaran a death sentence on May 25 after finding him guilty of raping and murdering a Class 12 student from Vedanatham near Kulathur in Vilathikulam.

According to the prose-

cution, the student went missing on March 10 after stepping out of her house, and her body was recovered from a nearby bush the next day. A post-mortem examination revealed that she had been sexually assaulted and murdered.

Based on the initial findings, a special police team launched an investigation and arrested Dharma Muneeswaran of Salyakudi in Ramanathapuram district.

The investigation also revealed that he had previously been sentenced to life imprisonment in another rape and murder case involving an elderly woman and was out on bail at the time of the offence. The trial was conducted before the Thoothukudi Pocco Court, where 71 witnesses were examined.

After the conviction, Vilathikulam police submitted the case records before the Madurai Bench for confirmation of the death sentence, as required under law.

No loss to BJP after Annamalai's exit, says Nainar Nagenthiran



CHENNAI: Seeking to play down the exit of former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai from the party, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthiran on Friday asserted that the party would remain unaffected, describing it as the largest political organisation in the world built on ideology. Madras HC allows appeal in Vilathikulam girl sexual assault and murder case

Reacting to Annamalai's decision to part ways with the BJP and lead the "We The Leader" movement, Nainar Nagenthiran said the party's growth and functioning were not centred around individuals. "Party first. Our BJP is the biggest political party in the

world and it is a party built on ideology. There is no loss for the BJP as Annamalai quit the party," he told reporters here. His remarks came minutes after Annamalai formally quit the BJP, ending weeks of speculation over his political future. The former IPS officer has said his move-firm was to be expanded across Tamil Nadu before being converted into a political party at an appropriate time, with an eye on the 2031 Assembly elections.

68-year low halts release from Vaigai dam for Kharif? The BJP leadership, meanwhile, sought to project confidence and organisational stability in the wake of the development.

CHENNAI
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026 **3**

SURYODAY
A BANK OF INDIA
Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector - 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrowers/ Guarantors. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith:

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	09.01.2026
257000020242, 1) MRS. SANGEETHA S W/O SELVARAJ, 2) MR SELVARAJ S/O KARUTHAKANNAN	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 15,38,644.60/- as on 08.01.2026
	Date of Possession	02-06-2026 (Symbolic)

Description of Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) : MADURAI DISTRICT MADURAI SOUTH REGISTRATION DISTRICT CHELLAMPATTI SUB REGISTRATION OFFICE NOW CHOLAVANTHAN SUB REGISTRATION OFFICE USILAMPATTI UNION MUTHALAKULAM VILLAGE IN RE SURVEY NO. 133/18 TO AN EXTENT OF 0.13 HECTARE EQUIVALENT TO 32 CENTS, 2 IN RE SURVEY NO. 133/26 TO AN EXTENT OF 0.10 HECTARE EQUIVALENT TO 24 CENTS, 3 IN RE SURVEY NO. 134/61 TO AN EXTENT OF 0.03.5 HECTARE EQUIVALENT TO 9 CENTS, THUS SERIAL NO. 1 TO 3 TO TOTALLY TO AN EXTENT OF 65 CENTS IN WHICH UNDIVIDED 3/5 SHARE OVER 30 CENTS IN WHICH EASTERN PORTION OF 19 1/2 CENTS EQUIVALENT TO 8902.50 FEET OF THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES NORTH : PROPERTY BELONGS TO SURESH (S/O RASU), ELONG: PROPERTY BELONGS TO CHINNAKANNAN AND 15 FEET WIDE NORTH, SOUTH STREET, WEST: PROPERTY BELONGS TO SELVAM, SOUTH: PROPERTY BELONGS TO SONALI, WITHIN WHICH PROPERTY TOTALLY TO AN EXTENT OF 19 1/2 CENTS OF THE PROPERTY IN WHICH CONSTRUCTED A BUILDING BEARING DOOR NO. 11/414A AND TAX ASSESSMENT NO. 2036 AND WITH ALL DEPOSITS AND FITTING AND ALL OTHER AMENITIES WITH ALL PATHWAY RIGHTS.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. for an above mentioned demanded amount and further interest thereon.
Date : 06.06.2026, Place : Tamilnadu **Authorised Officer, Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

EASTERN RAILWAY
Auction Catalogue

Admin Unit/Zone : Sealdah Division-Commercial, Eastern Railway. **Auctioning Authority :** Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Room No. 44, Remote Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014. **Auction Catalogue No.:** SDAH-PARCEL-61. **Auction Start (All Lots) :** 19.06.2026, 12.00 hrs. **Auction Close Date/Time:** 19.06.2026, 14.30 hrs. **Catalogue Published on :** 03.06.2026, 13.18 hrs. **Seq. No.; Lot No./Category; Description; Close Date/Time:** AA/1; 13137-SLR-F1-KOAA-AMH-26-2 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 12.30 hrs. AA/2; 13105-SLR-F1-SDAH-BUI-26-2 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 12.40 hrs. AA/3; 13105-SLR-F2-SDAH-BUI-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 12.50 hrs. AA/4; 13145-SLR-F1-KOAA-RDP-26-2 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 13.00 hrs. AA/5; 12363-SLR-F1-KOAA-HDB-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 13.10 hrs. AA/6; 12317-SLR-F1-KOAA-ASR-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 13.20 hrs. AA/7; 13121-SLR-F1-KOAA-GCT-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 13.30 hrs. AA/8; 22201-SLR-F1-SDAH-PURI-26-2 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 13.40 hrs. AA/9; 13149-SLR-F1-SDAH-APDU-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 13.50 hrs. AA/10; 13125-SLR-F1-KOAA-SANG-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 14.00 hrs. AA/11; 13157-SLR-F1-KOAA-MFP-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 14.10 hrs. AA/12; 13169-SLR-F2-SDAH-SHC-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 14.20 hrs. AA/13; 13141-SLR-F1-SDAH-NOG-26-1 (Parcel SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compar...; 19.06.2026, 14.30 hrs. **Rate Unit :** Per Trip Licensing Fee (for all Seq. Nos.). **Trips/Days :** 157 (for Seq. No. AA/1 & AA/7); 626 (for Seq. No. AA/2); 1096 (for Seq. No. AA/3, AA/9 & AA/13); 469 (for Seq. No. AA/4, AA/5 & AA/10); 313 (for Seq. No. AA/6); 470 (for Seq. No. AA/8); 156 (for Seq. No. AA/11) & 312 (for Seq. No. AA/12). **Minimum Increment:** 0.2% (for all Seq. Nos.). **EMD :** Bid value of 10 Trips (Minimum 5 Lakh) (for all Seq. Nos.). **Minimum Turnover Required :** ₹ 0 (for all Seq. Nos.). (SDAH-71/2026-27)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. : O-A-C-T-51 to 78-26-27 (Open), dated 03.06.2026.
e-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the Zonal Works (General, Road, Wood and Pipe laying & Sanitary installation & bridges) of Asansol Division for the period ending on 30.06.2027 : **Sl. No. & Tender No. ; AENs; Zone No. 2025-26; Name of Work; Tender Cost; Bid Security Money :** 1) O-A-C-T-51-26-27; AEN/Durgapur; 1; Zonal works Khana-Andal section from Km. 120.70 to 180.00, SL section from Km. 0.00 to 38.00 & Military base, All service & station buildings, staff quarters & colonies, including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation work under SSE/Works/Panagarh; ₹ 75 lakhs; ₹ 150000/- 2) O-A-C-T-52-26-27; AEN/Durgapur & AEN/I/Asansol; 2; Zonal Bridge works under Sr. DEN/3/Asansol; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 3) O-A-C-T-53-26-27; AEN/I/Asansol; 3; Zonal works Andal-Asansol section from Km. 0.00 to 180.00 to Km. no. 215.5, OYR (excluding) to Asansol (excluding) all service & station buildings, UP Yard etc. & all other asset including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation work under SSE/Works/I/Andal; ₹ 75 lakhs; ₹ 150000/- 4) O-A-C-T-54-26-27; AEN/I/Asansol; 4; Zonal works for Disel Shed, BOXN including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation etc. work under SSE/Works/I/Andal; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 5) O-A-C-T-55-26-27; AEN/Durgapur & AEN/I/Asansol; 5; Zonal work for LC gate lodge & repair of road etc. in the section of Sr. DEN/3/Asansol; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 6) O-A-C-T-56-26-27; AEN/I/Asansol; 6; All zonal works Sitapuram (excluding) to Pradhankhanda (excluding) section from Sitapuram to Pradhankhanda. This includes all service building & colonies etc. and including minor road, wood works, pipe laying & sanitary installation works under SSE/Works/Sitapuram; ₹ 75 lakhs; ₹ 150000/- 7) O-A-C-T-57-26-27; AEN/2/Asansol; 7; All zonal works Barachak to Salampur section from Km. 215.00 to 227.00, including Hirapur yard & Sitapuram station & Colony. This includes all service building & colonies etc. and including minor road, wood works, pipe laying & sanitary installation works under SSE/Works/Sitapuram; ₹ 70 lakhs; ₹ 140000/- 8) O-A-C-T-58-26-27; AEN/2/Asansol; 8; Zonal Bridge works under AEN/2/Asansol; ₹ 30 lakhs; ₹ 60000/- 9) O-A-C-T-59-26-27; AEN/2/Asansol; 9; Zonal works for maintenance of ZTC/Bhuli, Dhanbad under Sr. DEN/I/Asansol; ₹ 60 lakhs; ₹ 120000/- 10) O-A-C-T-60-26-27; AEN/HQ/Asansol; 10; Zonal works for all staff quarters at Traffic colony, Domohani colony, Railpar colony under ASansol including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation works under SSE/Works/East/Asansol; ₹ 75 lakhs; ₹ 150000/- 11) O-A-C-T-61-26-27; AEN/HQ/Asansol; 11; Zonal works for all staff quarters at Officers' colony & Aradanga/Old Station colony at Asansol including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation works under SSE/Works/East/Asansol; ₹ 80 lakhs; ₹ 160000/- 12) O-A-C-T-62-26-27; AEN/HQ/Asansol; 12; Zonal works for all staff quarters of Loco, Budha, Hospital and Barlington, Mahuadanga, Chandmani, Chelidanga colonies & all service buildings, Loco stadium, DRM's office, RPF barrack etc. including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation works under SSE/Works/West/Asansol; ₹ 110 lakhs; ₹ 205000/- 13) O-A-C-T-63-26-27; AEN/HQ/Asansol; 13; Zonal works for all service buildings, station buildings such as platforms, circulating area, RRI, RPF buildings, RPF Mahila Batalian Asansol, Traffic and Domohani health units etc. including Barakar, Sitapuram Pump House etc. including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation works within the jurisdiction of SSE/Works/East/Asansol under AEN (HQ)/Asansol; ₹ 80 lakhs; ₹ 160000/- 14) O-A-C-T-64-26-27; AEN/HQ/Asansol; 14; Zonal works for Divisional Railway Hospital, Electric Loco Shed & MEMU Shed including minor road, wood, pipe laying & sanitary installation works within the jurisdiction of SSE/Works/West/Asansol; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 15) O-A-C-T-65-26-27; AEN/HQ/Asansol; 26; Zonal work of LC gate lodge & repair of road etc. in the section of Sr. DEN/I/Asansol; ₹ 30 lakhs; ₹ 60000/- 16) O-A-C-T-66-26-27; AEN/2/Andal; 15; Zonal works from Andal (excluding) to Sitapuram (excluding) in AS chord line for repairs and maintenance work including Road, wood & pipe/sanitary works for all staff quarters & service building under SSE/Works/Pandebeswar; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 17) O-A-C-T-67-26-27; AEN/2/Andal; 16; Zonal works from Andal (excluding) to Sitapuram (excluding) in Andal-Sitapuram loop line via Tapasi for repairs & maintenance works including road, wood, pipe/sanitary works for all staff quarters & service building under SSE/Works/Pandebeswar; ₹ 40 lakhs; ₹ 80000/- 18) O-A-C-T-68-26-27; AEN/2/Andal; 17; Zonal works for repairs & maintenance of bridges under SSE/Works/Pandebeswar; ₹ 30 lakhs; ₹ 60000/- 19) O-A-C-T-69-26-27; AEN/I/Andal; 18; Zonal works for repairs & maintenance including road, wood and pipe/sanitary works in staff quarters in South colony, Workshop colony & Damodar colony including service buildings under SSE/Works/I/Andal; ₹ 90 lakhs; ₹ 180000/- 20) O-A-C-T-70-26-27; AEN/I/Andal; 19; Zonal works for repairs & maintenance including road, wood and pipe/sanitary works in staff quarters in Traffic colony, 9 no. colony, 12 no. colony & 11 no. colony including service buildings under SSE/Works/I/Andal; ₹ 90 lakhs; ₹ 180000/- 21) O-A-C-T-71-26-27; AEN/2/Andal; 20; Zonal works for repairs & maintenance including road, wood and pipe/sanitary works including, schools & pump houses including DSEY colony including service buildings under SSE/Works/I/Andal; ₹ 60 lakhs; ₹ 120000/- 22) O-A-C-T-72-26-27; AEN/2/Andal; 27; Zonal work for LC gate lodge & repair of road in the section of Sr. DEN/4/Asansol; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 23) O-A-C-T-73-26-27; AEN/Madhapur; 21; All zonal works from Rupnarayanpur (including) Km. 227.200 to JSME (excluding) in Sitapuram-Jhajha section includes all service buildings & colonies etc. and including minor road, wood works, pipe laying and sanitary works under SSE/Works/Madhapur; ₹ 75 lakhs; ₹ 150000/- 24) O-A-C-T-74-26-27; AEN/Madhapur; 22; All zonal works from Madhapur (including) to Giridih (including) includes all service buildings & colonies etc. and including minor road, wood works, pipe laying and sanitary works under SSE/Works/Madhapur; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 25) O-A-C-T-75-26-27; AEN/Madhapur; 26; Zonal Bridge works under Sr. DEN/2/Asansol; ₹ 60 lakhs; ₹ 120000/- 26) O-A-C-T-76-26-27; AEN/Jasidih; 24; All zonal works from Jasidih (including) to Jhajha (excluding) & Jasidih to Baidyanathdham (including) in Sitapuram-Jhajha Section, includes all service buildings & colonies etc. and including minor road, wood works, pipe laying and sanitary works under SSE/Works/Jasidih; ₹ 55 lakhs; ₹ 110000/- 27) O-A-C-T-77-26-27; AEN/Madhapur & AEN/Jasidih; 25; Zonal work for LC gate lodge & repair of road etc. in section in Sr. DEN/2/Asansol; ₹ 51 lakhs; ₹ 102000/- 28) O-A-C-T-78-26-27; AEN/Jasidih; 28; All zonal works from Jasidih (excluding) to Dumka (including), Deoghar (including) to Banka (including) & Mohanpur (including) to Hansdih (including), includes all service buildings & colonies etc. and including minor road, wood works, pipe laying and sanitary works under SSE/Works/Jasidih; ₹ 30 lakhs; ₹ 60000/- **Date and time of closing :** 29.06.2026 at 12.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website **www.ireps.gov.in** (ASN-129/2026-27)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
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EDITORIAL

Panic In Silicon Valley:
Why 15,000 Indians Fled
US Last Year - With More
On Their Way

How long will the husband continue to use
the rights of Sarpanchs and Councillors?

A US-based Indian tech engineer's post on Reddit went viral late last month, in which the user claimed to have applied for more than 1,500 jobs over the previous few months without receiving a single call. The data engineer, who's been on an H-1B visa for the past three years, wrote, "Unfortunately, my current company has decided not to renew my H-1B application." This prompted other Indians in similar situations in the US to share their experiences and confirm how widespread and serious the job issue has become for Indian professionals there.

Each year, the US issues 85,000 three-year H-1B visas to foreign nationals, and the vast majority have gone to Indians. This visa - a work permit for highly skilled professionals - can be renewed for a further three years at the employer's request, leading to a green card and, eventually, US citizenship. In 2025, about 78% of H-1B visas went to Indians, up seven percentage points from 2024. Most top leaders in America's tech industry have taken this route, including the world's richest man, Elon Musk, Microsoft Chief Satya Nadella, Google's CEO, Sundar Pichai, and Jayshree Ullas, the CEO of cloud networking company Arista Networks. One can't blame young Indian professionals for aspiring to follow in the footsteps of these tech icons. But many young and mid-level engineers and other professionals are now facing a difficult period of job uncertainty, driven by the Trump administration's tough immigration policies, tech giants' growing embrace of AI, corporate restructuring, and a weakening economy. Hundreds of Indian tech engineers have already lost their jobs, and many more are at risk, with disastrous consequences for their families in the US and their dependents in India. More than 15,000 Indian tech professionals returned home from the US in 2025, and 7,300 have already returned this year, according to the tech hiring and consulting firm Xpheno. The company told NDTV that the situation is worsening and that recent H-1B visa moves in the US could result in the number of returnees surpassing the number of Indian tech professionals moving to the US. Indian techies are "stepping away from the American dream", the company added.

Trump Shocker

In September 2025, President Trump stunned the tech world and lakhs of Indians by announcing a 50-fold increase in the H-1B visa fee to \$100,000. He claimed the new fee was necessary to prevent abuse of the programme, saying that some American companies were undercutting US workers' wages by hiring lower-paid foreign workers. This has been a common complaint among members of Trump's MAGA base, who accuse Indians of taking American jobs. Trump insisted that the \$100,000 fee would compel US companies to hire Americans rather than foreigners. While the steep hike may help some companies hire locally, most foreigners, such as Indians, are hired for their superior skills. This has created resentment and envy among some Americans. But there is evidence that Indians help boost Americans' job prospects. A 2024 study by the non-profit IZA Institute of Labor Economics in the US found that H-1B workers actually "help firms increase their employment.



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Democracy in India is deeply rooted not only in Parliament, the Legislative Assembly, and larger political forums, but also in the local institutions of villages, towns, and cities. Panchayats and municipal bodies are the smallest but most vibrant units of democracy, where the public participates in governance through their direct representatives. To increase women's participation in these institutions, the Constitution provided for reservations so that they are not confined to the domestic sphere but can play an active role in the decision-making process. However, the harsh reality today is that in many places, women Sarpanchs and women Councillors are merely nominal representatives, while their husbands or male family members handle the actual work. This situation gives rise to terms like "Sarpanch Pati" and "Councillor Pati."

This question is not merely a formality, but one that touches the very essence of democracy. When a woman is elected to office, it is backed by public trust, constitutional rights, and political participation. If someone else makes decisions, participates in meetings, or performs administrative duties in her place, it is an affront to the mandate given by the voters. Allowing a man to exercise power in the name of a female representative not only violates democratic norms but also undermines the very spirit of the reservation policy. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments gave a new dimension to local self-governance in India. These amendments ensured reservation for women in Panchayats and municipal bodies. The objective was to ensure that women were not merely visible in Panchayats as a number, but

rather participated in leadership, administration, planning, and policy implementation. This brought millions of women into local politics, many of whom demonstrated exceptional ability, sensitivity, and public relations skills. Many women Sarpanchs accomplished remarkable work in areas such as water, sanitation, education, health, and social justice. This also proved that, given the opportunity, women are in no way inferior to men. Yet, it is also true that the broader social structure remains patriarchal. In villages, especially in many areas of North India, women lack sufficient social acceptance to participate freely in public life. Even with education, they often refrain from making decisions due to traditional pressures, family control, and fear. In some places, after marriage, the political identity of a female representative virtually disappears, and her husband takes her place. As a result, her constitutional rights remain on paper, but in practice, those rights are transferred to the male members of the family. This is a matter of serious concern for a democratic system.

The root of the problem is not merely personal, but also social and institutional. In many families, the mindset has developed that the position of a female representative is essentially a "family position" to be held by the husband or father-in-law. People who think this way forget that an elected position is held by an individual, not a family. Legally, the officeholder is the one elected by the people. If someone else begins making decisions on their behalf, it violates the concept of representative governance. This not only limits women's freedom but also sends a negative message to future generations of female leaders.

The Haryana State Information Commission's comments on this issue are particularly significant. The Commission clearly stated that it is wrong for women Sarpanchs' husbands to participate in government meetings or administrative work in their place. This statement not only reflects administrative rigidity, but also points to the fact that women's reservation still needs to be implemented seriously. If the powers of elected representatives are being

delegated to someone else, then what is the meaning of the electoral process? The Commission's comments have brought back into the national discourse the debate: are we truly empowering women, or merely using their name?

Many argue that rural women are often uneducated, inexperienced, or under social pressure, so their husbands take over administrative tasks. This argument may be partially correct, but it is not a solution to the problem. It is not fair to take away a woman's rights because of her weakness. If a woman is uneducated, she should be educated. If she lacks administrative experience, she should be trained. If there is social pressure, society and the administration should provide her with protection and support. The solution to the problem is not power transfer, but empowerment.

This is where the role of the state and society becomes crucial. The government must ensure that elected women representatives are properly educated on procedures, financial management, laws, Gram Sabha operations, development plans, and grievance redressal. Simply holding elections and leaving it at that is not enough. If women receive regular training, guidance, and institutional support, they can confidently lead. Training programs for women Sarpanchs have been conducted in several states, and these have yielded positive results. This clearly demonstrates that women are capable of leadership; they simply need the opportunity and the environment.

But administrative measures alone will not suffice. Until societal thinking changes, the culture of "Sarpanch Pati" (Sarpanch Pati) and "Parshad Pati" (Councilor's Husband) will persist. In villages and small towns, political power is often associated with male dominance. Women hold positions, but are not allowed to have the final say in decisions. Sometimes, even though they are present in meetings, it is their husband who speaks. Sometimes, even officials find it more convenient to communicate with their husbands rather than with female representatives. This convenience is detrimental to democracy, as it implicitly legitimizes wrongdoing.

Political representation isn't just about sitting on a chair. It involves understanding public issues, setting priorities, equitably distributing resources, and maintaining accountability. When a man replaces a female representative, the woman's political identity is diminished. The long-term impact is that the perception in society that women are unsuitable for leadership is reinforced. The reality is that women can provide more sensitive, practical, and public-oriented leadership. Numerous studies and local experiences show that women's leadership often increases transparency and social concerns. It must also be remembered that women's reservation is not the result of any mercy or grace. It is a constitutional measure to balance historical injustice. For centuries, women were excluded from politics, public life, and property-related decisions. They were confined to the confines of family and home. Reservation is an attempt to mitigate this inequality. Therefore, if male control continues in the name of reservation, it is tantamount to perpetuating historical injustice. In fact, the culture of "Sarpanch Pati" undermines the achievement of reservation.

In this context, it is also essential that the presence of elected women representatives be accepted as mandatory in meetings with elected women representatives. The administration should establish a clear rule that no one can participate in any government proceedings, meetings, documentation, or decision-making in place of the representative. This is not just a matter of discipline, but of constitutional decorum. If officials themselves adhere to this rule, bad practices will be weakened. Furthermore, accountability should be fixed for the absence of public representatives, to curb the practice of nominal participation. Women's empowerment doesn't come merely from speeches, slogans, or symbolic ceremonies. It is realized when women have the freedom to make decisions, speak out, express dissent, and lead. If a woman sarpanch can decide on her village's plans, roads, water supply, schools, and sanitation, she can become not just a representative but an agent of change. This change is strengthened when society

recognizes her rights. The family's role should be supportive, not controlling. The husband can be supportive, but not a representative.

The need today is to empower women representatives not just to win elections, but to empower them with skills in the actual processes of governance. Special capacity-building programs, legal literacy campaigns, digital training, and financial management education should be mandatory for women leaders in panchayats and municipal bodies. Simultaneously, a gender-equal mindset must be fostered in society. Schools, colleges, the media, and local forums should consistently convey the message that women's leadership is the norm, not the exception. The media also has a responsibility on this issue. When newspapers and news channels use terms like "Sarpanch Pati," they not only describe a practice but also highlight a social ill. Instead of superficial reporting, the media should engage in responsible discussion on this issue. They should show how women can become active in administration, the obstacles they face, and the policy reforms needed. This will shape public opinion and increase the likelihood of reform.

Ultimately, this question isn't just about women, but about the quality of democracy itself. If elected positions are held by unelected individuals, what meaning does the will of the people hold? If the rights of women representatives continue to be held by men, the constitutional declaration of equality will remain merely on paper. Therefore, the time has come to strictly curb the practices of "Sarpanch Pati" and "Parshad Pati." Women must have real power, not just nominal power. Only then will panchayats, municipal bodies, and local governments become truly democratic. The true test of democracy lies not in election results, but in the independent functioning of elected representatives. Only when women Sarpanchs exercise their rights, when women councillors express their views, and when the administration communicates directly with them, can we say that women's empowerment has truly taken shape in India.

Partnerships That Deliver:

India and Denmark's Collaboration on Environment in Action

In global development, partnerships are often spoken of as enablers. In practice, they tend to follow policy, supporting programmes that are already defined. The India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership offers a different proposition: what if partnerships are not downstream of policy, but foundational to how it is shaped, delivered and sustained? As the world marks World Environment Day 2026, this question is particularly relevant for the water sector, where the gap between infrastructure creation and long-term service delivery continues to challenge even the most ambitious programmes.

At its core, the India and Denmark partnership is not organised around projects, but around systems thinking. It brings together Denmark's experience of managing water as a regulated, efficiency-driven public service with India's scale and urgency of delivery. Crucially, it is designed to operate across levels like policy, institutions and implementation, rather than being confined to any one layer. This architecture matters because water governance failures rarely stem from a single point of weakness. They emerge from fragmentation: between planning and execution, between infrastructure and maintenance, and between users and providers.

The partnership attempts to close these gaps.



Through institutions such as the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Denmark contributes more than technical inputs. It brings a regulatory and operational perspective where service delivery is continuously monitored, efficiency is measured, and sustainability is embedded in decision-making. These are precisely the dimensions that become critical once large-scale infrastructure has been created. Equally important is the role of the United Nations Office for Project Services, which acts not as an external implementer, but as a bridge between global knowledge and local systems. Its work lies in translating high-level principles into institutional practices, adapting them to the realities of village-level governance, resource constraints and varying state capacities. This dual structure, global expertise combined with grounded implementation, gives the partnership its operational depth. It is

within this enabling framework that India's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) can be better understood, not simply as a national scheme, but as a platform where partnership-led approaches are being applied at scale. JJM's achievements in expanding rural water access are widely recognised. But its longer-term significance lies in how it has been designed: decentralised planning, community-managed systems, and an explicit focus on service delivery rather than one-time asset creation. These design choices align closely with the principles underpinning the India-Denmark partnership, and it is this alignment that allows the partnership to add value beyond incremental support. For instance, knowledge exchanges under the partnership, on groundwater management, energy efficiency, water quality monitoring and data use, are not standalone activities. They feed directly into how water systems are

planned and operated within the Jal Jeevan Mission. Similarly, peer-to-peer engagements between Indian states and Danish utilities are helping shift the focus from building infrastructure to managing services over time. The real test of this alignment, however, lies in implementation. Here, collaboration between UNOPS India and the Government of Denmark plays a critical role in providing implementation support to specific areas under the Green Strategic Partnership. By working through Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees, it strengthens the very institutions responsible for sustaining water systems. This includes supporting Village Action Plans, building operational capacities, and introducing structured approaches to monitoring and maintenance. What emerges is not a parallel system, but a reinforcement of existing ones.

Malviya Nagar fire tragedy:

Accountability and reform, not compensation, will save lives



A massive fire broke out in a hotel in Malviya Nagar, Delhi, on June 3, 2026, shocking the entire nation. The tragic incident, which claimed the lives of twenty-one people and injured many more, stunned not only the capital but the entire nation. People were seen jumping from high-rise buildings to escape the flames. The scenes broadcast on social media and the news media were deeply traumatic for any sensitive individual. This was not just an accident; it was a horrific testament to the failure of the system designed to ensure the safety of citizens. Every major accident is followed by a few days of mourning, condolences, investigations, and announcements of compensation. Then, the matter gradually fades from public memory. But the Malviya Nagar tragedy is not something to be simply condoled and forgotten. It points to deep structural flaws that have become more dangerous with the rapid urbanization of India's metropolitan cities. This accident forces us to ask—are our buildings truly safe? Are fire safety regulations limited to paper only? And is the role of the administration limited to distributing relief after an accident? In the event of a fire in any multi-story building, the most important elements are safe exits, firefighting equipment, and timely rescue. If people inside a building have to jump from win-

dows and balconies to save their lives, it indicates a complete failure of the security system. Fire not only destroys the building, it also exposes the reality of safety claims and administrative preparedness. This is what happened in the Malviya Nagar incident. According to preliminary information, several foreign nationals were also staying at the hotel. This fact makes the tragedy even more serious. India's capital welcomes tourists, businessmen, and investors from around the world. If security standards in the capital are so poor that even foreign nationals feel unsafe, it not only represents a failure of the local administration but also a question mark on the country's international image. A modern metropolis is not defined solely by tall buildings and glitzy hotels, but by the security and disaster management systems in place.

Following the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta expressed condolences and announced financial assistance for the deceased and injured. Such condolences are necessary, and the families of the victims deserve support in this time of crisis. But it is equally true that compensation cannot bring back a lost life. Financial assistance cannot lessen the intensity of grief. A family member, a child's father, a parent's child, or a person's spouse cannot be replaced by a single sum of money. Therefore, the real question is not one of compensation, but of prevention. The Delhi Police filing an FIR against the hotel owner under sections related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder indicates that investigating agencies are not treating this incident as a mere accident. If safety regulations were ignored, fire safety standards were not followed, or building construction rules were violated, this is not merely an administrative error but criminal negligence. Fixing responsibility in such cases is crucial, as in the

absence of accountability, rules become mere formalities.

But the fault can't lie solely with the building owner. We also need to examine where the inspection officials were. Were fire safety certificates renewed in a timely manner? Did any inspections uncover deficiencies? If so, why wasn't action taken? If not, were the inspections conducted properly? Answers to these questions are essential not only for this case, but for understanding the functioning of the entire city administration.

Most of India's metropolitan cities today grapple with the problem of haphazard urbanization. Narrow streets, illegal construction, overcrowding, parking chaos, and disregard for safety standards have become common sights in almost every city. These shortcomings go unnoticed as long as everything remains normal. But as soon as a disaster strikes, these shortcomings prove fatal. The difficulties faced by fire engines in navigating the narrow streets of Malviya Nagar once again highlighted the serious lack of coordination between urban planning and disaster management.

Delhi is not alone. Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and other metropolitan cities face similar challenges. Many buildings either lack fire extinguishers or have not been inspected for years. Emergency exits are often blocked. Many commercial establishments compromise safety standards to maximize profits. Sadly, even the administration often remains indifferent to these violations.

Fire safety isn't just a technical matter of building construction; it's fundamental to protecting civilian life. In developed countries, violating fire safety regulations is considered a serious offense. Regular inspections, mandatory mock drills, and strict penalties are enforced. India also has regulations, but the problem lies in their effective implementation.

RBI maintains repo rate at 5.25 pc, flags global risks

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday unanimously decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, in line with the expectations from economists. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate was set at 5 per cent, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate stood at 5.5 per cent. Announcing the decision of the second bi-monthly monetary policy meeting for FY27, held from June 3-June 5, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the MPC had undertaken a detailed assessment of evolving macroeconomic and financial conditions before voting unanimously to leave the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25 per cent. Malhotra said while the economy remains resilient, incipient stress in certain segments exists and there are considerable risks surrounding both inflation and growth assessments.

GDP growth forecast
The RBI revised its real GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 6.6 per cent, down from the earlier



er projection of 6.9 per cent, reflecting the impact of heightened global uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and rising energy prices. The governor also expressed confidence that services exports will remain resilient despite global uncertainties and highlighted that the government has taken measures to help the economy cope with external shocks. He said external factors continue to pose downside risks to the growth outlook amid elevated geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty. On the inflation front, he noted that fuel inflation remained muted in March and April, while core inflation was stable at 3.7 per

cent during the two months. On inflation, the governor said CPI inflation remains low at present, though baseline projections indicate that inflation could move closer to the upper tolerance band in the third quarter. He cautioned that the outlook remains clouded by the forecast of a sub-normal monsoon and the possible emergence of El Nino conditions.

On private consumption
The RBI governor also said that private consumption remains supportive of growth, aided by resilient discretionary spending, while merchandise exports have continued to register growth despite the ongoing geopoliti-

cal conflict. However, he noted that the impact of rising cost pressures is becoming increasingly visible across sectors. The six-member MPC unanimously voted to keep the repo rate unchanged, while Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted global uncertainties linked to the Iran conflict. The Reserve Bank of India's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% reflects a cautious approach toward inflation and liquidity management. For the Indian crypto market, this signals stability rather than a fresh catalyst for risk-taking. When borrowing costs remain elevated and liquidity is tightly managed, retail investors typically become more selective with their investments, prioritizing capital preservation over aggressive speculation. As a result, crypto participation often shifts from short-term trading toward disciplined accumulation through long-term holding strategies.

Historically, lower interest rates have encouraged flows into risk assets such as equities and cryptocurrencies by reducing returns from traditional savings products.

However, India's crypto market operates within a unique framework shaped by stringent taxation and evolving regulations. This means monetary policy alone is not the primary driver of adoption. Instead, investor confidence increasingly depends on regulatory clarity, compliance standards, and long-term innovation. Going forward, the ecosystem is likely to mature through greater institutional participation, stronger investor education, and the gradual integration of blockchain-based financial infrastructure. "RBI's Monetary Policy announcements are broadly on expected lines. Given the global conditions, the Central Bank has acted with prudence to wait and assess economic impact before taking concrete rate actions. At the same time, a host of measures announced to boost forex inflow, including liberalisation of norms and expanding the universe of specified securities for FPI investment in government securities, raising the limit for investments by NRIs in equity instruments, along with tax relief measures for foreign investors announced overnight.

MG MOTOR INDIA INSTALLS 1,000 EV CHARGERS AT OVER 470 SITES



Mumbai: JSW MG Motor India on Friday said it has installed 1,000 community chargers under the 'MG Charge initiative' at more than 470 sites across the country, making it the first original equipment maker to build electric vehicle community charging infrastructure at this scale. The installations span residential societies, condominiums, hospitals, campuses, hotels and industrial parks, the company said. It views India's sustainability journey as one that can be driven by multiple technologies, the company added. The carmaker also said it is preparing an aggressive product lineup for the current calendar year, with

three new energy vehicles (NEVs) slated for launch, including the introduction of plug-in hybrid technology. JSW MG Motor India utilises more than 78 per cent renewable energy at its manufacturing plant in Halol, Gujarat, in line with the central government's vision, it said. The plant meets nearly 95 per cent of its total power requirements through renewable energy sources, the company said. The charging points have been deployed at residential societies, hospitals, educational campuses, hotels, industrial parks and other community locations under the company's charging network initiative. The automaker also said

its electric vehicles have cumulatively covered more than 290 crore kilometres on Indian roads, which it estimates has helped avoid around 4.17 lakh metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Separately, the company said it plans to introduce three new energy vehicles (NEVs) in calendar year 2026, including models equipped with plug-in hybrid technology. At its manufacturing facility in Halol, Gujarat, the company said renewable sources account for nearly 95 per cent of total power consumption, while more than 78 per cent of the energy used at the plant comes from renewable sources.

India's Q4 GDP expands 7.8 pc, taking full year growth to 7.7 pc

New Delhi: India's economy grew at a higher pace of 7.7 per cent during 2025-26 as compared to 7.1 per cent in 2024-25, according to government data released on Friday. In the January-March period of the 2025-26 fiscal year, the gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow 7.8 per cent, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said. "Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of Rs 323.12 lakh crore in the 2025-26, against the First Revised Estimate (FRE) of GDP for 2024-25 of Rs 299.89 lakh crore," it said. Nominal GDP, or GDP at current prices, has been estimated to attain a level of Rs 346.36 lakh crore in 2025-26, against Rs 318.07 lakh crore in 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.9 per cent. India can return to 7 pc growth path in FY28 on macro stability, supply measures: CEA



Macro stability and supply measures can bring back India on a 7 per cent growth trajectory in FY28, Chief

economic activity. "We have no reason to second-guess them (RBI forecast) at this point, because there are both possibilities on the upside and on the downside with respect to the numbers that they have presented," he said here. "So, even if the growth were to slip below 7 per cent as the RBI forecast suggests...macro stability measures and supply assurances will bring us back to a 7 per cent plus growth track in FY28 or as soon as exter-

nal conditions improve," he said. He further said it is a hope based on the assumption that the pre-February 28 condition is restored before FY28. "The good news is that the nominal GDP growth will be significantly higher than the number which the budget estimates used, which is 10.1 per cent for the current financial year," he said. Overall trade deficit widened in FY26. With regard to the overall trade deficit, Nageswaran said it widened in FY26, and a similar trend with potentially wider deficits is possible in FY27. The evolving West Asia crisis represents both a significant supply shock and a potential demand shock, he said. However, he said, most high-frequency indicators up to April 2026 suggest that domestic demand and overall economic activity in India have remained relatively resilient so far, with emerging signs of stress. Supply-side price pressures are beginning to emerge in wholesale inflation, he said.

Hyderabad, June 5, 2026: NMDC, India's largest iron ore producer and a Responsible Miner, observed World Environment Day 2026 across its Head Office in Hyderabad and projects nationwide, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable mining and environmental stewardship. The company organized a special event centered on the WED 2026 theme - Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Our Future, highlighting the importance of collective action towards environmental sustainability. The celebrations commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing a shared commitment to building a greener future. NMDC's senior leadership, led by Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, along with Shri Joydeep Dasgupta, Director (Production), Shri Krishan Kumar Thakur, Director (Personnel), Shri Anurag Kapil, Director (Finance), and Shri C. Neelakanta Reddy, Chief Vigilance Officer, administered an environmental pledge, inspiring employees to contribute towards safeguarding natural resources and fostering sustainable prac-



tices. As part of the event, a series of awareness videos were screened and a documentary showcasing NMDC's ongoing initiatives in environmental conservation, biodiversity preservation, afforestation, and sustainable mining practices. Across its projects, NMDC organized plantation drives and a range of competitions for employees and students to encourage environmental awareness and innovative thinking around sustainability. The company also distributed environment friendly products, promoting sustainable alternatives and reinforcing everyday environmental responsibility. Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD addressed the gathering and said, "The

Earth has survived without humans for most of its existence and has done remarkably well. I am certain that even if humans were to cease to exist in the future, the Earth would continue comfortably. Therefore, it is in our own interest to care for the planet and ensure that it remains livable and capable of sustaining us. This is not a survival strategy for the Earth but for humanity. Every step we take, both commercially and personally, must be guided by a conscious pause to think and act responsibly. As an environmentally responsible organization, NMDC is a believer and practitioner of Responsible Mining. What we do today makes us proud, not only

because we continue to perform strongly as a business, but also because we remain committed to the environment and the communities we serve." The occasion also witnessed the felicitation of winners of NMDC's in-house World Environment Day contests by the senior management, recognizing their efforts in advancing environmental consciousness through creativity and participation. As the nation progresses towards a sustainable future, NMDC continues to demonstrate that responsible mining and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand, ensuring that what is nurtured beneath the earth contributes meaningfully to life above it.

96 US unicorns founded by India-born entrepreneurs: Study

Washington: Indian-born entrepreneurs account for the largest group of immigrant founders of billion-dollar companies, or unicorns, in the US, according to a new study by the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP). The US-based non-profit organisation found that 96 American unicorns were founded or co-founded by entrepreneurs of Indian origin. Among them is Perplexity AI, co-founded by Aravind Srinivas, which ranks 12th with a valuation of USD 20 billion. According to the study, India tops the list of countries of origin for immigrant founders of US unicorns with 96 companies, followed by Israel (60 unicorns), the United Kingdom (47), China (41), Canada (30), Russia (23), France (21), Germany (18), Ukraine (16), Australia (14), Pakistan (10), and Romania (10). The NFAP study, titled "Immigrants and US Billion-dollar Companies" and authored by Stuart



Anderson, found that immigrants have founded or co-founded 59 per cent (455 of 775) of America's privately held startup unicorns. The research found that the privately held US billion-dollar startups with immigrant founders have created an average of 833 jobs per company. Approximately two-thirds (66 per cent) of unicorns were founded or co-founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants. Nearly 80 per cent of US unicorns have either an immigrant founder or an immigrant in a key leadership role, such as CEO or vice

president of engineering. The NFAP study found that at least 15 immigrants, including Elon Musk, have founded two or more unicorns. Six Indian-origin founders - Mohit Aron, Jyoti Bansal, Ashutosh Garg, Arvind Jain, Sachin Nayyar, and Ajeet Singh - have made it to the coveted list. Lebanese-born entrepreneur Noubar Afeyan has founded five companies that achieved valuations of USD 1 billion or more, including Moderna, Indigo Ag, Generate Biomedicines, Tessera Therapeutics, and Lila Sciences.

Trump announces \$700m coal investment using wartime powers



Donald Trump plans to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to revive the US coal industry, with much of the new funding coming through the president's wartime powers. "So today we're taking historic action to bring down the price of energy and the cost

of living for all Americans with the power of clean, beautiful coal," Trump said at the White House on Thursday. The investment comes as Trump seeks to insulate Americans from rising energy costs following the war with Iran. To finance the initiative, he invoked the Defense

Production Act, a Cold War-era law that grants the president broad authority to support industries considered vital to national security. "As a result of the \$700m investment that I'm announcing today, we will protect 14 coal plants and 42 coalmines, a tremendous number, and build two new coal

plants and one massive new export terminal," Trump said. The president said \$500m (£372m) of federal funds will go towards saving 14 existing coal plants and opening a new export terminal in California. The Department of Energy will grant a further \$200m to build new coal plants in Alaska and West Virginia, the first new plants in the US since 2013. Trump said that the construction of a coal export terminal in Oakland, California will create more than 1,400 jobs, with the total package supporting around 14,000. The coal plants getting Trump's investment are in Kentucky, North Carolina, Indiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Arizona, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Wisconsin and West

Virginia. The president argued that successful countries rely on coal before criticising what he called "failure countries" for investing in renewable energy sources such as wind power. Trump said his coal investment plans would save American consumers \$50bn in new energy generation costs which otherwise would have been passed on in higher bills. The war with Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route that carries around a fifth of global oil and gas supplies, have pushed energy prices higher, driving up costs for consumers. The average price of a gallon of petrol in the US stood at \$4.24 on Thursday, according to the AAA motoring group. That is up from \$2.98 on the day the US and Israel began striking Iran. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), overall energy prices for consumers rose by 17.9% in the year to April.



Ukraine strikes cargo ships and admits Romania drone blast as Putin prepares for key speech

Ukraine says it has struck five ships carrying illegal cargo in the Sea of Azov and in coastal waters of Russian-occupied territories. The Ukrainian drone forces commander said the vessels were involved in "stealing" Ukrainian grain, as well as transferring military cargo and fuel. The strikes come as Russian President Vladimir Putin prepares to speak at a major economic forum in St Petersburg, a day after Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky offered face-to-face talks with the Russian leader on ending the war. Meanwhile, Ukraine has confirmed one of its naval drones exploded off Romania's coast on Friday. No injuries were reported in the blast. Zelensky wrote alongside his latest offer of peace talks that Russians had become tired of Ukrainian drone and missile attacks, petrol shortages and rising prices that the war, now in its fourth year, had brought. Ukraine has repeatedly targeted military and energy



infrastructure within Russia in a bid to limit its war-fighting capability. Putin's arrival in St Petersburg comes a day after Kyiv had launched a drone attack on the outskirts of the city. Azerbaijan's foreign ministry confirmed five of its citizens had been killed in attacks on two of the vessels in the Sea of Azov. It did not specify who had been behind the attacks and noted that the ships did not belong to

Azerbaijan. Earlier, Robert Brovdi, Ukraine's drone commander, announced that five "illegally loitering vessels" had been struck overnight in the ports of Mariupol, Berdyansk and in the coastal waters of what Ukraine calls the "temporarily occupied territories" - parts of the country that Russia currently controls. He said the names of the five ships, which included cargo vessels and tankers,

were painted over and their radars were turned off "with the aim of quietly stealing Ukrainian grain", as well as "transferring military cargo and fuel". The Azeri foreign ministry named two of the ships as the Nastra and the Circon. Brovdi did not mention any deaths. In Ukraine, at least 13 people have been killed and more than 70 others have been injured in the past day, according to local offi-

cials. Among them are four people who died after Russian drones struck a dairy factory outside the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, according to the regional head, and a 35-year-old woman in a drone attack on a petrol station in Kherson, local officials said. Meanwhile, a naval drone exploded in the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanta on Friday. The country's defence ministry said the drone had self-detonated near an oil terminal without causing any casualties, although authorities have said it caused considerable damage to a ship and warehouses. Adrian Teodor Picoiu, Constanta's top official, told G4Media that "information from the Ukrainian side" was that the drone was part of a group of five, with a second one exploding in Ukraine. Ukraine later confirmed one of its naval drones had been involved, saying it had been knocked off course by Russian electronic interference. Moscow has yet to comment.

The remaining three drones were unaccounted for but officials said there was no further risk. No reason has yet been offered for why the drones would be in Romanian waters. Romanian President Nicusor Dan wrote on X that it was the second "significant security incident this week", after a stray mine was discovered on a beach near the village of Vama Veche, more than 50km (31 miles) north of Constanta. It also comes a week after two people were injured when a drone hit a Romanian apartment block in the eastern city of Galati - close to the border with Ukraine. Romanian officials said they had confirmed it was a Russian drone but Moscow said "accusations" of its involvement were "unsubstantiated". Zelensky told Putin in an open letter that it would be "wrong to simply wait" until the war in Europe became the focus of US attention once more, adding peace could only come "through direct engagement".

US ACTOR JAMES HANDY STABBED TO DEATH, WITH GIRLFRIEND'S SON ARRESTED



US actor James Handy, known for his roles in films including Jumanji and Top Gun: Maverick, has been stabbed to death at his home in Los Angeles, police have said. Handy, who was 81, was found unconscious in the front garden of his home in Tarzana, California, on Wednesday with several stab wounds to the chest. Michael Gledhill, 44, the son of Handy's girlfriend, has been arrested on suspicion of murder, the Los Angeles Police Department said. Officers responded to a report of "unknown trouble" after a caller dialled 911 and told police: "I am the son of man, I just killed the man of sin."

Handy was born in New York and appeared in a string of films and TV shows over six decades, often as a supporting character or for a small number of episodes. Despite rarely being the leading star, Handy racked up a long string of credits, including NYPD Blue, K-9, Law & Order, CSI: NY, Logan, Alias, Castle, NCIS, The West Wing, Arachnophobia, The X Files and Murder, She Wrote. His most recent film role was 2022's Top Gun: Maverick, in which he played Jimmy, a bartender who works with the character played by Jennifer Connelly, Tom Cruise's love interest.

Zelensky proposes face-to-face talks in open letter to Putin



Volodymyr Zelensky has called for a face-to-face meeting between himself and Vladimir Putin in a renewed bid to end the war in Ukraine. The Ukrainian leader wrote in an open letter to the Russian president that it would be "wrong to simply wait" until the war in Europe became the focus of US attention once more, adding that peace could only come "through direct engagement between" Ukraine and Russia. He also called for a full ceasefire for the duration of proposed negotiations - something Putin ruled out earlier on Thursday.

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he thought "it would be great" if the two leaders met. The Kremlin confirmed it had received the letter. The tone of the letter was defiant, even mocking, drawing attention to Ukraine's recent strikes on Russian territory. Zelensky stated that "after 26 years in power, age is beginning to take its toll" on Putin. The letter also provided an invi-

Ex-wife of Dubai ruler's nephew in custody, prosecutors say

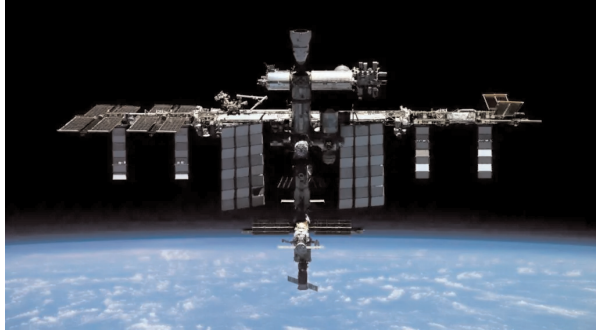


The ex-wife of a nephew of the ruler of Dubai has been taken into custody, authorities have said, as a custody battle over their three young daughters deepens. Dubai Public Prosecution told the BBC that Zenab Javadli was detained following a complaint made by the father of her three children - her former husband, Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Javadli's family and friends had lost contact with her since Tuesday night and had raised the alarm over her

whereabouts. For almost two days, no news was received as to where Javadli or her children had gone. For months, she had barely left the house as she believed security officers were waiting to take her children from her and put her under arrest. According to Dubai Public Prosecution, her ex-husband has alleged she abducted the children during a court-approved visitation session. Last year, he lodged a complaint with the police accusing her of kidnapping their daughters. That was after the children changed hands between their parents several times, with each accusing the other of kidnap. Javadli - a former international gymnast - has also been facing potential arrest for e-crimes - online offences - in the UAE after she livestreamed one of the show-downs last year.

Astronauts on International Space Station told to shelter as repairs under way to fix air leaks

Nasa has directed five of the seven astronauts currently aboard the ISS to shelter inside the docked SpaceX Crew Dragon "Freedom" spacecraft — designated as a "safe haven" — while two Russian cosmonauts attempt an urgent repair. The trigger is a worsening air leak in the Russian segment of the station, specifically in the Zvezda service module's transfer tunnel, known as the PrK. This is not the first time the station has had to deal with this problem — the cracks responsible have persisted on and off for around six years. However, following the arrival of a Russian cargo ship last month, the Russian Space Agency Roscosmos noticed a fresh slow pressure drop in the tunnel, prompting the decision to move beyond patchwork fixes and attempt a



more extensive repair operation today. Here's the full statement from Nasa spokeswoman Bethany Stevens, released a short while ago: "The Zvezda service module transfer tunnel, known as PrK, has suffered from cracks and leaks for some time, and has been mitigated by Roscosmos as much as possible to date. "The cracks have always been a concern that NASA watches very closely.

NASA and Roscosmos have been working to determine the root cause of the cracks, and Roscosmos manages the issue through operational mitigation measures and periodic partial-repair efforts.?" "Following new leaks, Roscosmos has elected to proceed with a more extensive repair operation on Friday, June 5. "Out of an abundance of caution, NASA has directed all four of the agency's SpaceX

Crew-12 members and NASA astronaut Chris Williams to assume an elevated safety posture in the Dragon spacecraft while the repair is underway.?" "We continue to work with our Russian counterparts, along with the rest of the international community that supports the space station, to arrive at a more permanent resolution." Astronauts aboard the International Space Station have been told to shelter on their spacecraft as repair work is carried out to fix new air leaks, Nasa says. "Out of an abundance of caution, Nasa has directed all four of the agency's SpaceX Crew-12 members and Nasa astronaut Chris Williams to assume an elevated safety posture in the Dragon spacecraft while the repair is under way," the space agency says.

FURY IN FRANCE AFTER CHILD MURDER SUSPECT'S CRIMINAL RECORD RELEASED

There is fury in France over the murder of an 11-year-old girl after it emerged the principal suspect had been identified several times in the past as a potential child molester. Lyhanna disappeared after school a week ago in the Gers area of southwest France. A body, presumed to be hers, was found on farmland near the town of Fleurance on Thursday. A 41-year-old man named as Jérôme B has been in custody since Monday. He is the father of a friend of Lyhanna, and two witnesses said they saw the girl in his car on the afternoon of her disappearance. Amid the shock and grief, the affair took a politi-



cal turn as details of Jérôme B's police record were released by officials. He had been named in four separate cases involving young girls in recent years. Two were closed for lack of evidence, and in a third he was dismissed from his job as a

maintenance worker at a secondary school for "inappropriate behaviour" towards a teenager. But the fourth affair has lit a fuse leading to the highest reaches of the justice system. Jérôme B was the object of a complaint last August from the mother of

10-year-old Rosa, who said she had been raped by him on several occasions, according to the state prosecutor in the town of Auch. But shockingly, even though medical examination substantiated Rosa's claims, not once in the nine months since her family went to police had Jérôme B been questioned by investigators. The slowness of the French justice system is legendary. In this case, the delays were aggravated by the case having to be transferred from one jurisdiction to another. But the French are appalled that none of the several alarm signals about Jérôme B were heeded by the authorities.

US journalist pleads guilty to working as China's agent



A US journalist who had been living and working in China for over a decade has pleaded guilty in a US court to working as an illegal agent for the People's Republic of China (PRC). Thomas Weir Pauken II, 50, "admitted to being part of a conspiracy to obtain sensitive information from the US government" for China, US Assistant Attorney General for National Security John A. Eisenberg said. Court filings show that Pauken had been living in China since 2010 and had worked for several media organisations there, including China Central Television and Xinhua News. According to court documents, Pauken worked "at the direction and control of people he knew worked for the PRC" from at least 2019 until February this year. Among the people Pauken worked with is a person identified as "Cathy", whom the US Department of Justice (DOJ) said provided him with "taskings, including meeting with potential intelligence assets". Pauken and "Cathy" were introduced by a man employed as a speechwriter for Chinese President Xi

Jinping during the "Trump-China trade wars" in 2017, court filings show. The DOJ said that the US journalist received at least \$100,000 (£73,000) from "Cathy" for his work. Pauken was also instructed to travel several times between 2019 and 2025 to meet with people in the US who could provide him with information to pass on to the PRC. The American journalist "gathered intelligence on his American targets and reported it back to his Chinese intelligence handlers," said Assistant Director Roman Rozhavsky of the FBI's Counterintelligence and Espionage Division. Rozhavsky added that the case was an example of "the lengths to which the Chinese Communist Party will go to undermine our democratic institutions and degrade our political freedoms". Pauken worked with two other people in China, identified as "William" and "Richard", who told the US journalist that reports he filed for them were being sent to Japan. Pauken also sold a group of people from Wuhan information about the US DoJ and information about technology.



Nearly 50 people die of thirst in Sahara desert after lorry breaks down

SINGER FALLY IPUPA'S PRIDE AT BEING GIVEN MAJOR DR CONGO HONOUR

One of Africa's biggest music stars says he feels "immense pride and deep emotion" after being given one of the Democratic Republic of Congo's most prestigious awards. Fally Ipupa kick-started his career working with fellow Congolese heavyweight Koffi Olomide three decades ago and today boasts millions of fans across the globe. Known for his versatility, his output spans group hits as part of Talent Latent and Quartier Latin International, as well eight solo albums. His highest honour yet came on Tuesday, when the 48-year-old became a knight of the National Order of the Leopard. This title is only awarded by the Congolese president to the most



esteemed public figures. While there was no televised ceremony, Fally Ipupa's new status was announced the following day on state TV by a government spokeswoman who called him a "worthy son of the nation". The singer's unique style and artistry has "contributed to the promotion of Congolese rumba and the dissemination of Congolese culture to an international audience," she added.

Peddi Hits Century on Day 1

Peddi has reportedly opened with a sensational Day 1 gross of over Rs 115 crore worldwide, making it one of the biggest openings in Ram Charan's career. The numbers have come as a pleasant surprise for many in the trade. What makes this achievement more notable is that the film managed these figures despite receiving a mixed response to its trailer before release and slightly divided word of mouth on the opening day. The star power and hype around the film have clearly worked in its favor. The weekend now becomes extremely important. With strong advance bookings and holiday advantage in several centers, Peddi is expected to post solid numbers over the next two days as well. While the film is performing very well in the Telugu states, the real challenge lies outside its core markets. Karnataka has delivered decent numbers so far, but bigger contributions are needed from other regions. North India and Tamil Nadu will be crucial in the coming days. If the film picks up momentum in these territories and sustains well from Monday onwards, Peddi will be in a strong position to recover its business and emerge as a major box office success. Mega Powerstar Ram Charan's Peddi has taken a Superb start at the Box Office. The movie has collected Worldwide Share of 67.85 Crore with the Premieres and Day 1. The Worldwide Gross is around 115-120 Crore. It is the first 100 Crore Opener of Ram Charan as a Solo Hero. The movie has taken a very good opening in both the Telugu States and Karnataka. The Premieres alone in India collected around 21 Crore Gross in India. The movie's other language versions under-performs and we will



have to see if they pick up. Hindi version only collected around 2.97 Crore Nett. The movie has recorded around 2.85 Million Dollars in the Overseas for its Premiere and Day1. At the domestic box office, the Day 2 started on a positive note and it will improve further by the evening. If the weekend holds, the

real challenge is on Monday which is when we will get an idea where the movie is headed to. The Breakup of Peddi First Day Collections is in the Video (all numbers are excluding GST) The makers of Lenin are clearly aiming to strike a chord with the masses through their promotional content.

The film starring Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse in lead roles. After good songs, makers dropped Soul Of Lenin video song today. Instead of presenting a conventional romantic number, the song showcases the emotional struggles and determination of a man fighting for the woman he loves. The intense visuals have struck a chord with viewers and generated widespread appreciation online. Akhil Akkineni steals the spotlight with his rugged appearance and emotionally charged performance. His expressions communicate both vulnerability and strength, giving audiences a deeper look into the character. Bhagyashri Borse adds elegance and emotional depth, making every frame visually engaging and emotionally resonant. Musically, Thaman delivers a stirring composition that seamlessly blends melody with dramatic intensity. The lyrics capture the essence of unconditional love, while the vocals add soul to the narrative. Their pairing brings warmth and emotional depth, making the teaser feel lively and engaging. With its grounded storytelling and realistic tone, the glimpse of Lenin promises a film filled with heart and strong emotional connections. The film also stars Sivaji, Brahmaji and others in key roles. The rich visuals, rustic setting and Thaman's score makes this teaser an impressive one. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, the film is gearing up for a grand release on June 26th, promising a well-rounded cinematic experience. Produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments, and presented by Annapurna Studios, the film has editor Navin Nooli and cinematographer Leon Britto.

Soul Of Lenin presents Akhil Akkineni's fierce avatar & war for Love; Manodu Vasthunnadu on June 26th



The upcoming film Lenin is being produced under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi. It stars Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse in the lead roles, with direction by Murali Kishor Abburu. The movie is set for a grand theatrical release on June 26. All the posters and songs released so far have generated strong interest among audiences. Recently, the makers surprised audiences in theatres with the "Soul of Lenin" video song. This intense and powerful

track was attached to Peddi screenings and received a blockbuster response from viewers. Movie lovers shared clips online, expressing their excitement. The song showcases intense romantic moments between Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse. With the caption, "No War is Greater than Love," the song has raised expectations for the film to the next level. Akhil's fierce fight for love and Bhagyashri's captivating presence add to the song's emotional intensity. Composed by Thaman, the track delivers a knockout punch. Vagdevi's powerful

vocals further elevate Kalyan Chakravarthy's sensational lyrics. Every moment and visual in the song promises a new-age entertainer rooted in strong emotions. Akhil's fierce expressions and commanding screen presence create a powerful mass and emotional impact, leaving a lasting impression and significantly raising expectations for the film. The music for the film is composed by Thaman S, and both the songs and background score are expected to enhance the film's overall impact. Leon Britto is handling cinematography, while Naveen Nooli is the editor.

'DHOOTHA 2' LAUNCHED WITH GRAND PUJA CEREMONY

Naga Chaitanya, Vikram K Kumar, Sharrath Marar, Annapurna Studios, NorthStar Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., Amazon Prime's Dhoota 2 Launched With Puja Muhurtham Ceremony. Nagarjuna Sounds Clapboard Yuva Samrat Naga Chaitanya made a sensational OTT debut with Dhoota, the critically acclaimed supernatural thriller on Amazon Prime. Dhoota turned into a global phenomenon, drawing overwhelming appreciation far beyond Telugu audiences and India. The supernatural thriller struck a chord with viewers across multiple international markets. The first season not only expanded Naga Chaitanya's reach among digital audiences but also allowed him to explore an entirely different space as a performer. Taking his association with the franchise a step further, Naga Chaitanya is now joining hands with Sharrath Marar as a producer for the sequel, with



Annapurna Studios and NorthStar Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. backing the project. Director Vikram K Kumar, whose storytelling was one of the biggest strengths of the original, returns to helm the second season. The project was formally launched today with a traditional puja muhurtham ceremony. King Nagarjuna Akkineni who graced the event as the chief guest has sounded the clapboard, besides handing over the script to the makers. Fresh from the blockbuster success of Thandel and with Vrushakarma awaiting

release, Naga Chaitanya has chosen Dhoota 2 as his next major venture. His decision to come on board as a producer reflects the immense confidence he has in the sequel's story and its potential to surpass the impact of the first season. Vikram K Kumar has crafted an even more intense and intriguing narrative this time, promising higher stakes, deeper mysteries, and a far more immersive supernatural experience. The sequel is expected to elevate the suspense and psychological thrills that made the original such a massive hit.

'Peddi' Is Ram Charan's Career Best: Producer Venkata Satish Kilaru

Peddi is Ram Charan's career best. The openings were amazing. Thanks to the audience for such a great success: Producer Venkata Satish Kilaru at the 'Peddi' box office champion press meet Mega Power Star Ram Charan's latest sensational blockbuster 'Peddi'. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, presented by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, Venkata Satish Kilaru has produced it under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas. The film, which was released worldwide on June 4, has received rave reviews from the audience and critics and has achieved sensational success with record-breaking collections. It is being successfully screened with houseful collections in all regions. On this occasion, the film team organized a 'Box Office Champion' success press meet. At the Peddi Box Office Champion Press Meet, producer Venkata Satish Kilaru said: Thank you to all the Telugu audiences around the world. The film 'Peddi' is



doing amazingly. It collected more than ₹135 crore on the first day. The response from the audience, especially the family audience, is very amazing. Everyone who has seen the film is praising it as a very good film. It is a truly magnificent film. Everyone should take their children and watch the film in theatres. This

is the best film in Ram Charan's career. The openings were at that level. Special thanks to the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments for supporting us in terms of ticket rates. We have produced this film on a grand scale and in a very grand manner. The governments have responded very positively to that effort.

Why Tollywood Treating Janhvi Kapoor Only as a Glamour Doll?



Janhvi Kapoor's recent visits to Tirumala have once again drawn widespread attention on social media, with many devotees and fans praising her simplicity and devotion. Unlike several celebrities who prefer special arrangements and VIP privileges, Janhvi is often seen choosing the traditional route by climbing the Tirumala hill through Alipiri on foot. Her humble approach has earned admiration from devotees, who appreciate her respect for tradition and spiritual practices. The actress recently visited Tirumala around the time of the release of Peddi. Interestingly, her visit came even as discussions surrounding her

role in the film continued online. While the teaser and promotional material generated excitement, some social media users questioned director Buchi Babu's decision to present Janhvi in a glamorous avatar in movie. The same happened with her Telugu debut Devara as well, where Koratala confined her role to the second half, featuring her mainly in two songs and a few scenes, which were largely focused on glamour. Many felt that her screen presence could have been showcased differently. A section of fans believes that, as the daughter of legendary actress Sridevi, Janhvi deserves roles that highlight grace, elegance, and emotional depth.

Vijay Sethupathi, Puri Jagannadh's Highly Anticipated Action-Drama Slum Dog Teaser Launching On June 8th

One of the most intriguing collaborations in recent times, Slum Dog brings together dashing director Puri Jagannadh and versatile actor Vijay Sethupathi for a gritty pan-India action drama. The film has successfully completed production, with post-production activities progressing rapidly across all language versions. Backed by the intriguing subtitle 33 Temple Road, the project has managed to spark curiosity ever since its title announcement and striking first-look reveal. Slum Dog is produced by Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur under the Puri Connects banner, in collaboration with JB Narayan Rao Kondrolla's

JB Motion Pictures. With anticipation steadily building, the makers are now gearing up for the next phase of promotions. The makers have announced that the film's teaser will be launched on June 8th. The teaser poster paints a grim picture. A blindfolded figure stands still as a blood-stained machete is held across his neck, creating a striking image that feels both menacing and symbolic. The dark, moody image hints at a brutal and unforgiving world. Leading the cast alongside Vijay Sethupathi is Samyuktha, while Tabu and Kannada star Duniya Vijay take on crucial characters that are expected to add significant

weight to the narrative. The ensemble also features Brahmaji and VTV Ganesh in key supporting roles. National Award-winning music director Harshavardhan Rameshwar, whose work in films like Arjun Reddy and Animal earned widespread acclaim for its raw intensity and emotional depth, is scoring the music for the movie. Slum Dog will have a Pan India release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages.

