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For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.comwww.thesouthindiatimes.com[/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)**RAMALINGA REDDY**
HAS WITHDRAWN HIS RESIGNATION,
CLAIMS CONG GEN SEC SURJEWALA

NATION PAGE

UKRAINIAN
DRONES TARGET ST PETERSBURG
IN ATTACK RUSSIA CALLS
'UNPRECEDENTED'

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RAM CHARAN'S
PEDDI STRONG HOLD ON DAY 2,
COLLECTS HUMONGOUS 181.8 CR
WORLDWIDE IN 2 DAYS

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SCAN FOR
E-PAPER**OM NAMO**
VENKATESAYA05-06-2026
Total pilgrims - 84,468
Tonsures - 40,203
Hundi kanakulu - 3,48 CR
Laddu sale - 422.18 CR
Medical treatment - 3,862
Waiting Compartments -
Out side line at Sthanomam.Approx. Darshan Time for Saravandhanam
(with out 250 Tokens) - 15 H**Operation Kavach:**
Hyderabad Police
conduct massive
midnight raids across
562 hotels and lodges

Hyderabad, June 6: In a major effort to strengthen internal security and curb anti-social activities, the Hyderabad City Police launched a large-scale security operation titled "Operation Kavach". The coordinated Friday midnight raids covered 562 hotels and lodges across the city, with nearly 5,000 police personnel participating in the extensive search operation, said the police officials. The inspections were carried out between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. under the direct supervision of Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar. According to officials, the top boss personally visited several lodges in the busy areas surrounding Nampally Railway Station and Ameerpet. The police chief reviewed room allotment procedures and register maintenance practices. He also checked identity verification processes. Apart from this, the police chief also interacted with guests to verify their personal details. He also inquired about the reasons for visiting the city. According to officials, the operation was conducted across all seven zones of the Hyderabad Commissionerate. Khairatabad recorded the highest number of inspections with 119 establishments, followed by Shamshabad with 92.

4 former AIADMK ministers join ruling TVK, deepening crisis in opposition party

CHENNAI (TSIT)

In a fresh setback to the AIADMK, which has been grappling with internal dissent and a string of defections since its disappointing performance in the Assembly elections, four former ministers and senior leaders joined the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) at the party's headquarters in Chennai on Saturday. Former ministers and ex-MLAs Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan, M.C. Sampath, Kadambur C. Raju and N.R. Sivapathi formally joined TVK in the presence of the party's General Secretary N. Anand and General Secretary for Election Campaign Management Aadhav Arjuna. Their induction marks one of the most significant defections from the AIADMK since the formation of the Vijay-led government. The latest development comes amid continuing turmoil within the principal opposition party following its poor showing in the April 23 Assembly

elections. The AIADMK has struggled to contain internal divisions, with several leaders and cadres expressing dissatisfaction over the party's direction after the electoral setback.

The crisis first became evident when a group of 25 AIADMK MLAs defied the party whip and supported Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay during a confidence motion in the Assembly. The rebellion triggered intense political speculation and exposed deep cracks within the party ranks. Although the rebel faction later reconciled with AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the party has continued to witness an exodus of leaders and workers. Four rebel legislators had earlier resigned from the AIADMK and joined TVK, setting the stage for further defections. Since then, several district-level office-bearers, former legislators and grassroots functionaries have crossed over to the ruling party.



Nearly 150 students of aided school in Kerala's Wayanad fall ill; 38 hospitalised

WAYANAD (TSIT):

Nearly 150 students of an aided upper primary school at Koilady in this north Kerala district are undergoing treatment for fever and vomiting over the last three days, official said.

The children are students of the Mar Baselios Aided Upper Primary School and of them 38, who continued to show discomfort, have been admitted to the Bathery Taluk hospital, they said. The District Medical Officer (DMO) said that there was currently no need to be worried and that as a precautionary measure, a week-long holiday has been declared for the school. A special ward has been set up at the Bathery Taluk hospital for the treatment of the children,



the official said.

Apart from the students, a teacher at the school has also reported physical discomfort, the DMO said. Panchayat officials who visited the hospital stated that the current health condition of the children was satisfactory.

They said that some children had started showing symptoms

The children are students of the Mar Baselios Aided Upper Primary School and of them 38, who continued to show discomfort, have been admitted to the Bathery Taluk hospital, they said.

since June 1, but the exact cause for their physical discomfort has not yet been confirmed. The doctors said that the Health Department had collected samples and sent them for testing to know the reasons behind the children's discomfort.

Koheda Fruit Market to Become a Global Landmark, Says CM Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD
TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Saturday unveiled an ambitious vision for transforming Telangana into a hub of modern agriculture, trade and global investment, while laying emphasis on the construction of the international-standard Koheda Fruit Market and the proposed Bharat Future City.

Addressing a public meeting at Koheda, Chief Minister said farmers of Rangareddy district had long supplied fruits, vegetables and milk to Hyderabad, but urbanisation and rapid real estate growth had adversely impacted agricultural activities in the region. With Hyderabad emerging as a global city with a population of over 13 million, he said the State government was committed to creating world-class infrastructure to meet the growing needs of citizens.

Recalling a tragic incident in which temporary market sheds collapsed during strong winds, injuring several farmers, Revanth Reddy said he had promised to establish a permanent and modern fruit market for farmers.

Fulfilling that commitment, the government is



constructing a state-of-the-art fruit market spread across 240 acres at Koheda.

He said the facility would serve as a comprehensive marketing hub for fruits, vegetables and dairy products and would provide better infrastructure, storage, logistics and trading facilities for farmers and traders. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the Koheda Fruit Market would emerge as a landmark institution and bring national and international recognition to Telangana.

To strengthen horticulture, he announced plans to encourage cultivation of fruits and vegetables across the State and revealed that a tomato processing and sauce manufacturing unit would be established in the Kandukur region to support local farmers.

Chief Minister also strongly backed the Bharat Future City project,

saying that it would attract some of the world's leading companies and generate large-scale employment opportunities. He said the project would be developed as a future-ready economic hub while ensuring environmental sustainability.

Criticising opposition parties for allegedly obstructing major development projects, Revanth Reddy said the government would move ahead with Bharat Future City, the Regional Ring Road, airports at Warangal and Adilabad, the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Tummidihatti project. He directed officials to ensure that operations at the Koheda Fruit Market begin by December and that the project is completed within two years. Assuring uninterrupted funding, he said the government would provide financial support through a fast-track mechanism.

Won't accept Ramalinga Reddy's resignation: CM Shivakumar

BENGALURU (TSIT):

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday ruled out accepting the resignation of senior Cabinet colleague Ramalinga Reddy, asserting that the issue would be resolved internally through discussions. Shivakumar's remarks came amid efforts by the Congress leadership to defuse the crisis triggered by Reddy's resignation announcement. "Under no circumstances will we accept his resignation," Shivakumar told reporters, signalling the government's determination to retain the senior leader in the Cabinet. The Chief Minister said he had received Reddy's resignation communication but indicated that discussions would continue before any decision was



taken. "Ramalinga Reddy may have sent his resignation to me on WhatsApp. I was occupied throughout the night. Under no circumstances will we accept his resignation. I will speak to him. I will speak to everyone," he said.

Shivakumar stressed that the matter would be addressed within the party and government rather than being allowed to escalate further. "Whatever needs to be done, we will sort it out internally," he said.

US and Iran trade strikes near Strait of Hormuz as talks hit a wall



WASHINGTON/ TEHRAN (TSIT):

Tensions between the United States and Iran moved dangerously close to reopen conflict on Friday as both sides exchanged another round of military strikes around the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway that serves as one of the world's most vital oil transit routes.

U.S. forces targeted Iranian drones and radar installations after Iran launched missiles at American bases in the Gulf while a ceasefire was being tested. At the same time, in another flashpoint, clashes between Israeli forces and the Iran-backed Hezbollah have intensified despite a ceasefire agreement reached by the Israeli and Lebanese governments. While the truce remains officially in place, its implementation on the ground appears increasingly fragile. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement that Iranian forces launched a wave of ballistic missiles and drones toward the Strait of Hormuz and nearby Gulf states. American forces intercepted six of the seven missiles aimed at Kuwait and Bahrain, while the seventh reportedly fell short before reaching its target, according to initial assessments. No US personnel was harmed, it said.

"Iranian claims of damaging U.S. 5th fleet headquarters in Bahrain are false," CENTCOM added. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had said it struck "enemy bases in the region."

US officials also said four Iranian attack drones were shot down after being identified as a direct threat to vessels operating in the area. Washington responded by striking Iranian radar and coastal defense positions in Goruk and on Qeshm Island, key sites overlooking the strait that Tehran uses to monitor naval traffic. U.S. officials described the operation as a defensive measure intended to protect commercial shipping routes and deter further attacks.

India remains world's fastest-growing economy despite global uncertainty: Rajnath

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that at a time when many countries are facing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the world's fastest-growing major economy. He further said that India's economy grew by 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and the underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'.

Defence Minister Singh took to social media 'X' and said, "At a time when many countries are facing economic uncertainty, India contin-

ues to stand out as the world's fastest-growing major economy. India's economy grew by 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has combined economic growth with stability, confidence, sustainability, and credibility. His unwavering commitment to nation-building, focus on innovation, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship, and ability to steer the country through unprecedented global challenges



have transformed India into a confident, resilient, and globally respected economic

power. As India marches towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', this remarkable

growth story continues to create new opportunities and strengthen the aspirations of

140 crore Indians."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday also hailed the latest growth figures, stating that the expansion reflected the "inherent strength" of the economy, the "success of reforms" and the "hard work of 140 crore Indians".

"India's growth momentum remains strong! GDP growth rate of 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26 and 7.8 per cent in Q4 of FY 2025-26 reflect the inherent strength of our economy, the success of reforms and the hard work of 140 crore Indians. We shall leave no stone unturned to further 'Ease of Living,' 'Ease of Doing Business' and increase opportunities for our youth," PM Modi posted on X. According to data

released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's economy expanded by 7.7 per cent during 2025-26, higher than the 7.1 per cent growth recorded in 2024-25.

The GDP growth rate for the January-March quarter of FY26 was estimated at 7.8 per cent. "Real GDP, or GDP at constant prices, is estimated to attain a level of Rs 323.12 lakh crore in 2025-26, against the First Revised Estimate (FRE) of Rs 299.89 lakh crore in 2024-25," the ministry said. "nominal GDP, or GDP at current prices, was estimated at Rs 346.36 lakh crore in FY26, compared with Rs 318.07 lakh crore in FY25, reflecting a growth rate of 8.9 per cent."

Ramalinga Reddy has withdrawn his resignation, claims Cong gen sec Surjewala

BENGALURU: Congress general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala on Saturday claimed that senior leader Ramalinga Reddy had withdrawn his resignation from the ministerial position after discussions with the party leadership. He attributed the episode involving Reddy's announcement on resignation to a misunderstanding and asserted that the veteran leader would continue to serve as a minister in the Congress government.

Surjewala also hit out at the BJP alleging that it was attempting to exploit the controversy. The Congress leader charged that the opposition had hoped to gain political mileage from the "brief turmoil" in the newly formed state government.

Nearly 150 students of aided school in Kerala's Wayanad fall ill; 38 hospitalised "There was some misunderstanding and he will continue to work as a loyal soldier and Minister of the party," Surjewala told reporters,



addressing speculation surrounding Reddy's resignation announcement. Reddy on Friday announced his resignation after being allotted the Major and Medium Irrigation Department instead of the Bengaluru Development portfolio.

The Congress leader described Reddy as one of the party's most experienced leaders and said the entire top leadership had intervened to resolve the issue. Calling Ramalinga Reddy an asset to the Congress, Surjewala said Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, former chief

minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B K Hariprasad and he himself spoke to Reddy after reports of his resignation emerged.

"He has already, I think, informed you that he has withdrawn his resignation," Surjewala said. Taking a swipe at the BJP, the Congress leader said the opposition had "prematurely celebrated" the developments within the ruling party.

"The BJP is actually in a state of shock because they thought they had found an issue in the smooth transition of power and were hoping to gain some political capital from everything they had lost in the eyes of the people," he said. Referring to BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, Surjewala said the opposition would continue to face rejection from voters. "Let me tell both Vijayendra and Ashoka that you will repeatedly get a clean defeat in the court of the people."

Precautionary Measures Ordered to Safeguard Lives During Godavari Floods



Bhadradi Kothagudem (TSIT): Precautionary measures must be taken in coordination with all departments to prevent loss of life and property during possible Godavari floods, said District Collector Ankith. Reviewing flood preparedness at the IDOC office on Saturday along with Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector Mrinal Shrestha, Additional Collector Venugopal and other officials, the Collector directed authorities to identify flood-prone villages in advance and make arrangements to shift residents to safer locations. He instructed officials to keep boats, rafts, life jackets, ropes, torches, hand microphones and rescue teams ready for emergency operations.

The Collector stressed the need for continuous monitoring of Godavari water levels and timely dissemination of flood warnings. He directed officials to collect contact details of residents in vulnerable villages and strengthen communication systems. Departments were asked to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity, drinking water, medical services and essential commodities during flood conditions. He ordered the establishment of a 24-hour flood control room at the Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector's office and preparedness of control rooms at mandal and district levels. Special focus was sought on the safety of pregnant women, elder-

ly persons, children and persons with disabilities, with advance relocation to safer places wherever necessary.

Officials of the health department were instructed to keep 108 ambulances, emergency medicines and anti-venom supplies ready. The Collector also emphasized sanitation measures, drainage maintenance and provision of safe drinking water in low-lying areas. People were advised not to cross overflowing streams and causeways. The Collector directed all departments to prepare action plans to tackle flood situations up to the 73-foot level in the Godavari and warned that strict action would be taken against officials found negligent in discharging their duties.

BRS slams CM Revanth Reddy's Palamuru visit, seeks project completion timeline



Hyderabad, June 6: Modern technological collaboration and knowledge transfer can significantly enhance education and employment opportunities for young people, said Jagdeep Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of Penang State, Malaysia. Speaking at a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony held at The Leela Hotel, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Jagdeep Singh Deo emphasized the importance of international partnerships in fostering innovation and skill development. The agreements were signed between BICUS, Vardhaman College of Engineering, and Healthcare Triangle. He noted that the collaboration would create greater educational and

career prospects for Indian youth in Penang, particularly in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, Cloud Computing, and Cybersecurity. According to him, mutual cooperation in these advanced technologies will play a crucial role in strengthening innovation ecosystems in both regions. Highlighting Penang's reputation as a leading regional innovation hub, Jagdeep Singh Deo said the new partnerships would further reinforce the state's position as a center for technology-driven growth and research. He also pointed out that Penang's rapidly growing medical tourism sector would benefit from advancements in healthcare IT.

Hyderabad Among India's Top Five Cities for Diamond Sales: Damas Jewellery CEO



Hyderabad, June 6: Diamond prices tend to remain more stable compared to gold prices, according to Anantha Narayanan Hariharan, CEO of Damas Jewellery. He made these remarks while inaugurating the SGL Diamond Experience Centre at Pranava One, Irrum Manzil, along with Srinivasan, Chairman of Emerald, the world's second-largest diamond company. Speaking on the occasion, Hariharan said that Hyderabad ranks among the top five cities in India for diamond sales,

reflecting the city's growing demand for premium jewellery and gemstones. He noted that experience centres such as the one launched by SGL help customers better understand diamond quality and grading, making the buying process more transparent and trustworthy. Chirag Soni, Director of SGL, said the newly launched facility is the largest diamond experience centre in South India. The centre enables customers to examine diamond quality, certification, and grading through advanced technologies

and expert guidance. He added that anyone can book an appointment and visit the centre to learn how diamonds are tested, evaluated, and graded. Such initiatives, he said, play an important role in increasing public awareness about diamonds and helping consumers make informed purchasing decisions. Soni further explained that while automated grading systems are already being used to assess diamond quality, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to provide deeper and more accurate analysis in the future. Among those present at the event were Shirin Bandukwala, Co-Founder of SGL, Varun Shetty, National Head of SGL, and Vasundhara, Founder of Vasundhara Diamond Group, along with other distinguished guests from the jewellery industry.

75-Year-Old Hyderabad Resident Walks Independently Again After Bilateral Knee Replacement at Medicovert Hospitals, Chandanagar

Hyderabad, 06 June, 2026: Proving that age is no barrier to regaining mobility and independence, doctors at Medicovert Hospitals, Chandanagar, successfully performed bilateral total knee replacement surgery on a 75-year-old Hyderabad resident, helping him return to an active and pain-free life.

Mr. Raghavendra, a resident of Hyderabad, had been suffering from severe osteoarthritis in both knees for several years. The condition had progressively worsened, making simple daily activities such as walking, climbing stairs, and getting up from a chair extremely painful and challenging. Like many elderly patients, he was reluctant to undergo surgery due to concerns about his age and existing health conditions, including hypothyroidism and a previous stroke.

After a comprehensive evaluation and careful medical optimization, the Orthopaedics team led by Dr. Sashivardhan, Orthopaedic Surgeon at Medicovert Hospitals, Chandanagar, recommended bilateral total knee replacement



surgery. The procedure was performed successfully, and the results were remarkable. Mr. Raghavendra was encouraged to stand and walk with full weight-bearing support on the very first day after surgery. With structured rehabilitation and physiotherapy, his recovery progressed smoothly. Within a month, he was able to

walk independently without any external support, significantly improving his quality of life.

In a touching gesture that reflected his gratitude and confidence, Mr. Raghavendra donated the walker he had used during his early recovery period back to the hospital so that it could benefit another patient beginning a similar journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sashivardhan said, "Many elderly patients continue to suffer from advanced knee arthritis because of misconceptions that they are too old for surgery or that recovery will be prolonged and difficult. Modern joint replacement techniques, enhanced pain management protocols, early mobilization, and personalized rehabilitation have made it possible for even elderly patients with associated medical conditions to achieve excellent outcomes."

Doctors emphasized that severe knee arthritis should not be accepted as an inevitable part of ageing. Patients experiencing persistent knee pain, stiffness, and mobility limitations should seek timely consultation with an orthopaedic specialist to understand the treatment options available.

Mr. Raghavendra's journey serves as an inspiring reminder that freedom from pain, restored mobility, and renewed independence are achievable—even at 75 years of age.

Apollo Honours Organ Donors, Transplant Survivors on World Transplant Day

Hyderabad, June 6: Apollo Hospitals Hyderabad marked World Transplant Day with a special programme titled "A Key That Opens New Hope – Celebrating the Gift of Life" at a city hotel on Saturday, bringing together donor families, transplant recipients, healthcare professionals and dignitaries to promote awareness on organ donation and transplantation. Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand attended the event as the chief guest, while Dr. Sreebhushan Raju, Professor and Head of Nephrology at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), was the guest of honour. Dr A. Narendra Kumar, Director of Medical Education, Telangana, and Prof. James Neuberger, Associate Medical Director, Organ Donation and Transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant, also addressed the gathering. The programme



focused on encouraging ethical organ donation practices and raising awareness about both living and deceased donor transplantation. Donor families were felicitated for their selfless contributions, while transplant recipients shared inspiring accounts of their journey towards recovery and renewed life. Apollo Hospitals highlighted its leadership in transplant care, stating that it has performed over 27,500 solid organ transplants since launching transplant services in 1984. These

include more than 21,500 kidney transplants, 5,000 liver transplants and 400 heart-lung transplants.

Dr Sharath Putta, Head of the Department of Liver Transplant, said Apollo continues to set benchmarks in transplant medicine through its network of 28 hospitals across 15 states, advanced transplant ICUs, ECMO-supported critical care facilities and comprehensive post-transplant follow-up programmes. Several senior specialists, including liver, heart, lung and kidney

transplant surgeons and physicians, participated in the event and stressed the importance of organ donation in saving lives. They noted that advances in transplant medicine have significantly improved survival rates and quality of life for recipients.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Tejasvi Rao Veerapalli, CEO, Apollo Hospitals Telugu States, described organ donation as one of the greatest gifts a person can offer, providing critically ill patients with a second chance at life. He called for greater public awareness and participation in organ donation programmes to bridge the gap between organ demand and availability. He also acknowledged the role of government initiatives such as Jeevandan and the Green Channel support provided by the police, stating that these measures have strengthened the organ donation ecosystem and enabled timely transplants, ultimately saving more lives.

Technology Transfer to Create New Education and Employment Opportunities: Penang Deputy Chief Minister



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He noted that the collaboration would create greater educational and career prospects for Indian youth in Penang, particularly in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, Cloud Computing, and Cybersecurity. According to him, mutual cooperation in these advanced technologies will play a crucial role in strengthening innovation ecosystems in both regions. Highlighting Penang's reputation as a leading regional innovation hub, Jagdeep Singh Deo said the new partnerships would further reinforce the state's position as a center for technology-driven growth and research. He also pointed

out that Penang's rapidly growing medical tourism sector would benefit from advancements in healthcare IT, including Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and Digital Health Solutions. Such technological integration, he said, would contribute significantly to the development of health tourism in the region.

The Deputy Chief Minister further stated that technology and healthcare companies from Hyderabad would find it easier to expand their operations in Penang through these collaborations. The agreements are also expected to facilitate joint research initiatives, innovation programs, academic exchanges, and internship opportunities for students and professionals. Among those present at the event were Dr. Nageswara Rao Pulipati, representative of BICUS; Dr. Vijayender Reddy, representative of Vardhaman College of Engineering; and Suresh Venkatachari, Chairman of Healthcare Triangle, along with other distinguished guests.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw rides Kolkata Metro, announces 60 new-generation trains



Kolkata: Union Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw traveled on the Kolkata Metro, interacting with passengers and railway staff during his visit. The Minister announced that around 60 new-generation Metro trains will be introduced into the Kolkata Metro network over the next four to five years. He said these modern trains will enhance Metro services and strengthen urban mobility across the city. Shri Vaishnaw also highlighted ongoing Metro expansion projects, noting that they will significantly improve connectivity and commuter convenience, further supporting Kolkata's growing transportation needs.

Anbumani says Mettur water release unlikely, seeks input subsidy of Rs 5,000 per acre of Kuruvai

CHENNAI: PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss on Saturday urged the Tamil Nadu government to immediately announce a comprehensive Kuruvai package, including an input subsidy of Rs 5,000 per acre, stating that the opening of the Mettur Dam for Kuruvai cultivation this year appears unlikely due to dwindling water levels and poor inflows.

Anbumani noted that water is traditionally released from the Mettur Dam on June 12 every year to support Kuruvai cultivation in Cauvery delta districts, including Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai. However, the dam, which has a total storage capacity of 93.47 TMC, currently holds only 41.60 TMC of water, with the water level standing at 79 feet, he noted.

He said that for water to be released for irrigation,



the reservoir level should exceed 90 feet and receive inflows of at least 1.5 TMC per day. According to him, the reservoir requires an additional 12 TMC of water and inflows of around 18,000 cusecs to sustain irrigation throughout the Kuruvai season. Anbumani pointed out that the four major Cauvery reservoirs in Karnataka – Krishna Raja Sagar, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathi together hold only 33.45 TMC of water, which is just 29.08 per cent of their combined storage capacity of 114.57 TMC. Given the low storage levels, he said Karnataka is unlikely to release water to Tamil

Nadu in the immediate future.

Recalling that Kuruvai cultivation covered 6.13 lakh acres last year, Anbumani warned that the cultivated area could fall below 3 lakh acres this season if water is not released from Mettur on schedule. Such a situation would result in income losses for farmers and affect employment opportunities for agricultural labourers, he said.

To mitigate the impact, he urged the state government to support farmers in undertaking Kuruvai cultivation using ground-water resources. He called for the immediate announcement of the Kuruvai special package, including subsidised seeds, fertilisers and micronutrients for farmers across Tamil Nadu.

Anbumani also demanded that the scheme be extended to all eligible farmers without any acreage cap.



Honble Minister for Natural Resources launched a mega tree plantation drive, distributed safety equipment and inaugurated district mineral foundation fund projects on World Environment Day

Edappadi's elephant trade with DMK to become CM triggered exodus: Aadhav Arjuna

CHENNAI: Launching one of the sharpest attacks yet on AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, State PWD Minister Aadhav Arjuna on Saturday alleged that the AIADMK leader had attempted to form a government with the support of the DMK after the Assembly election results, calling it 'elephant trade' in apparent tit-for-tat over horsetrading charges.

Addressing party workers at the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur during a mass induction programme, Aadhav said Palaniswami remained AIADMK general secretary only on paper and claimed 90 per cent of the cadre would soon join the ruling party, claiming that 50 per cent have already jumped ship. "One person is acting as AIADMK general secretary on paper. He accused us of horse-trading. But he himself tried to become Chief Minister with the support of the DMK after the election results. That unholy wish of EPS pushed many of you towards the TVK.



It is EPS and Stalin who conducted elephant trading," Aadhav charged.

In a politically charged assertion, the minister claimed that TVK's electoral success in the 2026 Assembly polls was largely made possible by support from AIADMK cadres. "All AIADMK cadres

are in TVK. Our victory would not have been possible without their votes. They stood with us and ensured our win," he said. He called the AIADMK the "mother organisation" of TVK and said there was no difference between the two parties. "I wholeheartedly welcome all AIADMK mem-

bers into the TVK family. TVK is one family. Unlike other parties, there are no internal feuds, jealousy or power struggles here," he said. At the same time, he appealed to newly inducted leaders and cadre not to sideline existing district-level office-bearers. "You will be

treated with due respect like Minister KA Sengottaiyan," he added. Extending the outreach beyond the AIADMK, Aadhav invited true loyalists of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi from the DMK to join the TVK, promising opportunities in local bodies and Parliament.

Forging the Future of Freight Mobility with 9,000 HP Electric Locomotive

Indian Railways has taken a major leap in freight mobility with the dedication of the Loco Manufacturing Shop at the Rolling Stock Workshop in Dahod, Gujarat by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This moment marked a pivotal milestone in the ongoing transformation of freight transport. The facility, designed to produce 1,200 cutting-edge electric freight locomotives with a powerful 9000 HP capacity, stands as a testament to India's engineering prowess and industrial ambition.

At the dedication ceremony, the first electric locomotive from this workshop was ceremoniously flagged off, marking the dawn of a new era in freight transportation, one characterised by higher speeds, greater hauling power and a deep commitment to sustainability. With the ability to haul 4,500 to 5,000 tonnes even on steep gradients, these locomotives are set to be game-changers in heavy-duty freight movement. Proudly built under the Make in India initiative, these locomotives are equipped with advanced IGBT-based propulsion technology, ensuring superior energy efficiency and operational performance. Together, these features position Indian Railways at the forefront of modern, reliable and eco-friendly freight logistics.

Power That Transforms Freight Logistics

The 9000 HP locomotive is the most powerful single-unit electric engine ever developed for Indian Railways. Until now, freight locomotives have typically operated at 4500 or 6000 HP capacities. While 12,000 HP engines do exist, they are created by coupling two 6000 HP units. In contrast, the Dahod-built locomotive offers a unified, high-powered solution that can haul significantly longer and heavier freight trains with ease. This leap in capacity means fewer trips are needed for the same volume of goods, resulting in faster turnaround times, reduced congestion and improved freight efficiency.

Reducing Congestion, Lowering Costs

The increased hauling power of the 9000 HP locomotive offers a solution to one of Indian Railways' big-

gest challenges: congestion on high-density freight routes. With fewer locomotives required to pull heavier loads, rail traffic can be optimised, thereby easing pressure on busy corridors. Moreover, by replacing multiple smaller engines with one high-performance locomotive, Indian Railways stands to reduce operating costs, manpower requirements and energy consumption. These gains will ultimately translate into lower logistics costs for industries, contributing to more competitive pricing and streamlined supply chains.

Reviving Dahod: A Regional and National Asset

The decision to manufacture these advanced locomotives in Dahod is not just a strategic industrial move, it is a revival of the region's railway heritage. Once a major hub for railway works, Dahod had seen a decline after key railway work was shifted elsewhere. In 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisioned Dahod's resurgence as a railway manufacturing powerhouse. Today, that vision has materialised with the setting up of a world-class facility in partnership with Siemens India, selected through a transparent tendering process. The factory is equipped to produce both Broad Gauge locomotives for Indian Railways and Standard Gauge locomotives for export. This dual capability strengthens India's positioning in the global rail manufacturing market. With 89% of the components made in India, the project aligns perfectly with the 'Make in India' and 'Make for World' visions. High-quality, cost-effective production makes these locomotives highly exportable, opening new doors for India in international railway supply chains.

Green Manufacturing, Cleaner Future

What sets the 9000 HP locomotive apart is its deep integration of sustainability. The manufacturing process itself is powered by green energy, earning the facility a Green Manufacturing tag. The locomotive design includes regenerative braking, which feeds electricity back into the grid when brakes are applied, further reducing the carbon

footprint. These features make the locomotive a strong contributor to India's climate commitments and environmental goals, moving the nation closer to a greener future in transportation.

Safety, Comfort and Smart Engineering

From factory-fitted Kavach (India's indigenous train collision avoidance system) to modern driver cabins with air-conditioning, low noise and minimal vibration, the 9000 HP engine is engineered with safety and comfort in mind. Toilets feature electronic locks that can only be accessed when the engine is stationary, ensuring operational discipline. Onboard cameras on all sides provide enhanced monitoring and security.

Training for Tomorrow

A highlight of the Dahod facility is its focus on skill development through immersive training technology. A virtual digital model of the locomotive has been developed to enhance training for mechanics and drivers. Using VR headsets, trainees can interact with a highly realistic simulation of the locomotive, allowing them to explore and familiarise themselves with every component in a safe, immersive environment.

Employment, Empowerment, and Skill Development

Around 85% of the jobs created through the infrastructure development are held by local youth. Skill development is embedded into the project, with training modules designed to upgrade the technical capabilities of the workforce. The factory's presence is already catalysing infrastructure development and ancillary industries in the region, driving long-term economic growth. The 9000 HP locomotive will turn out to be the linchpin of a bold new freight ecosystem. Its power, efficiency and design sophistication promise to make Indian Railways more competitive, more sustainable and better equipped for future demands. By combining the strengths of technology, regional development and global vision, the Dahod-built locomotive is set to redefine the trajectory of freight transport, not just in India, but on the world stage.

Several common mistakes can exacerbate sinus problems

New Delhi: Sinus infections, often triggered by preceding illnesses such as the cold or flu, can be both disruptive and persistent. While these infections typically run their course in about a week, some individuals experience prolonged and intensified sinus issues, indicating chronic sinusitis. Seeking timely consultation with a sinus specialist becomes crucial in such cases. Complicating matters, common mistakes made during a sinus infection can exacerbate the condition. As the cold and flu season approaches, sinusitis becomes a prevalent concern for both adults and children, leading to sinus inflammation. Fortunately, natural remedies offer relief; however, it is essential to navigate self-care treatments cautiously, avoiding certain practices and approaching others with care. In this article, we explore the mistakes that can worsen sinus issues and provide guidance on managing them naturally.

Common Mistakes that Aggravate Sinus Infections

Common mistakes during sinus infections can inadvertently exacerbate symptoms and prolong discomfort. It's crucial to be aware of these pitfalls to ensure effective self-care during sinusitis.

Not Using a Humidifier

Sinus infections often worsen in colder seasons when the air becomes dry. Winter's chilly and dry conditions not only impact the skin but also lead to the drying out of nasal passages, exacerbating sinus discomfort. To address this, consider using a humidifier or vaporizer to add moisture to the air. This helps prevent your sinuses from becoming excessively dry and irritated, providing relief from discomfort.

Excessive Use of Nasal Spray

While over-the-counter nasal sprays provide temporary relief from sinus infection pressure, prolonged and improper usage can have adverse effects. The main chemical in these sprays may contribute to worsening sinus infections. If your sinus infection persists beyond a week, it is crucial to consult with an ENT specialist to ensure appropriate management.

Insufficient Sleep

Ample sleep is a crucial aspect of overall well-being, particularly when

combating a sinus infection. Ensuring a minimum of eight hours of sleep supports your immune system in its battle against the infection. Additionally, resting during the day and conserving energy aids in a quicker recovery from sinus infections.

Staying well-hydrated is crucial when dealing with a sinus infection. Increased water intake supports mucus production, helping to keep the mucus thin and easier to expel. Proper hydration during a sinus infection contributes to relieving congestion and facilitating better breathing.

Minimize Sinus Irritants

Sinus discomfort isn't solely linked to dry air; various factors like seasonal allergies, fragrances, smoke, and airborne particles can exacerbate sinus issues, particularly during an infection. While you can't control all environmental factors, ceasing the use of perfumes or quitting smoking can lead to noticeable relief. The toxins in smoke can aggravate sinusitis, making it crucial to min-

imize exposure for improved sinus health.

Sinusitis can often be alleviated using natural remedies, some of which might be familiar advice passed down through generations. These approaches work to calm irritated sinus passages, promoting better mucus flow and providing relief from nasal congestion.

Relieve Sinus Congestion with Steam

One of the most effective at-home remedies for sinus infections involves warming and moisturizing your sinus passageways. Inhaling steam is a soothing method that clears your sinuses. Simply stand in the shower or sit in the bathroom while the shower is running. Alternatively, place a warm washcloth over your nose and cheeks as you lie on your bed. For a potent steam treatment, boil a pot of water, remove it from the heat, and put a towel over your head. Bend over the pot to inhale the steam, keeping your eyes closed and maintaining a safe distance from the hot water. As the liquid cools, adjust your proximity for comfort.

ICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICI Home Finance Company Limited ICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: ICI Home Finance Company Ltd. Apex Chamber - Office portion bearing No.3, 3rd floor, No.20, Thiyyagaraya Road, T Nagar Chennai - 600017

Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty

Sole Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets through Private Treaty under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(8) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

ICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICI HFC) conducted several e-Auctions for the sale of the mortgaged property mentioned below, however, all such e-Auctions failed. Now, an interested buyer has approached ICI HFC with an offer to purchase at Reserve Price (Please refer below table). Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below-described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of Private Treaty as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured Asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	Sarfaesi Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	C H Sairom (Borrower) C H Thansheka (Co-Borrowers) Lan No. LHCTN00001323208	Flat No. S2 (Rear Side) Second Floor 25th Street Krishna Nagar Phase III Varadharajapuram Village Sriprembudhur Taluk-600040 S No. 104/1 As Per Patta S No. 104/1B Plot No. 99 Kancheepuram Tamil Nadu- 600122	Rs. 80,26,182/- June 02, 2026	Rs. 16,00,000/- To Rs. 1,60,000/-	June 16, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 23, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 22, 2026 before 04:00 PM	Physical Possession
2.	Thirumurugan (Borrower) Suganthi (Co-Borrowers) Lan No. LHCTN00001579145 & LHCTN00001580496	Flat No. F1 Lakshmi Nagar, (Rear Side), South Facing, 1st Floor, Plot No. 47, Guduvanchery, Chengalpattu - 603211. Chennai Tamil Nadu	Rs. 36,57,709/- June 02, 2026	Rs. 20,00,000/- To Rs.2,00,000/-	June 16, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 24, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 23, 2026 before 04:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 22, 2026/ June23, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit a signed copy of the Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 22, 2026/ June23, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

The general public is requested to submit their bids higher than the amount being offered by the interested buyer mentioned above. It is hereby informed that in case no bids higher than the amount being offered by the aforementioned interested buyer is received by ICI HFC, the mortgaged property shall be sold to the said interested buyer as per Rule 8(8) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the sale or submission of bids, kindly contact ICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or ValueTrust Centralised HelpDesk No. 6200-22-6200. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icihfc.com>.

Date : June 07, 2026
Place : Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu

Authorized Officer, "ICI Home Finance Company Limited"
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106



EDITORIAL

The Supreme Court's
Bihar SIR Verdict and a
Fresh Citizenship Crisis

In The Origins of Totalitarianism, Hannah Arendt refers to citizenship as “the right to have rights”. The absence of citizenship deprives one of not just the right to vote and access entitlements, but also of the very foundation to claim them. The Supreme Court’s judgment on the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists in Bihar in 2025 (Association for Democratic Reforms v. Election Commission of India), delivered on May 27, 2026, must be read and critiqued in this light. On the surface, the judgment, amongst other questions, was concerned with whether the Election Commission (EC) had constitutional and statutory powers to conduct the SIR in Bihar. The court has upheld it. Yet embedded within the judgment is an issue with far-reaching consequences: its direction that all persons deleted from the 2003 Bihar SIR on grounds of ‘doubt’ be referred to the “Competent Authority” under the Citizenship Act, 1955, for a determination of their citizenship status. In doing so, the Supreme Court has potentially subjected lakhs of people to a citizenship trial.

The 2003 SIR: an arbitrary baseline

The EC used the 2003 SIR as the eligibility “base year” for inclusion in the 2025 SIR. Individuals whose names had appeared in this eligibility list did not need to furnish any document; those who could not be traced to it were required to produce any document from a prescribed list. The court accepted this classification in favour, on the ground that the 2003 SIR was the product of an intensive revision and thus enjoyed a “higher degree of reliability”. The court, while accepting the ‘2003 SIR’ as the baseline, has in practice rendered all subsequent inclusions in the state’s electoral rolls as ‘irrelevant’. What this means is that everyone deleted from the 2003 SIR list in Bihar on the ground of ‘citizenship under doubt’ will have to face a citizenship determination process. Take, for instance, a migrant worker from a remote district in Bihar who is working in another state and was deleted from the 2003 SIR due to a lack of proper documentation. For 22 years, the EC did not act on that exclusion. The state acknowledged his continuous citizenship. But now, this deletion from the 2003 rolls – a sheer bureaucratic accident – becomes the basis for referring him to the Competent Authority to determine whether he is a citizen.

Echoes of the Assam NRC

The Supreme Court has opened a Pandora’s box by referring all excluded individuals to the Competent Authority, raising an uncomfortable parallel with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in Assam. The Assam NRC, which used a different cut-off date, had placed the burden of proving citizenship on individuals. The exercise resulted in mass exclusion, leaving lakhs in limbo over their citizenship status. The Supreme Court’s order means that the citizenship status of ‘deleted’ individuals would next be governed by the mechanism set out under the Citizenship Act, 1955, and the newly enacted Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. The burden of proof will shift squarely onto the individual.

Why Operation Blue Star Remains A
'Ghallughara' For Sikhs After 42 Years

Every year in the first week of June, something shifts in the air over Amritsar. It is not the security cordons, not the police flag marches, not the official advisories. It is something older and heavier, the return of a memory, mourning and an unfinished chapter of 1984.

In government records, it is called Operation Blue Star. Among millions of Sikhs across Punjab, the diaspora in Canada, Britain and California, it is remembered as a “Ghallughara”, a collective wound linked to faith, identity and dignity. The choice of that word is not incidental; it is an argument.

The word Ghallughara has deep historical meaning in Sikh memory. It is generally used for a large-scale massacre or collective destruction faced by the Sikh community. Sikh history remembers the Chhota Ghallughara of 1746 and the Vadda Ghallughara of 1762, when thousands of Sikhs were killed during a period of persecution. Operation Blue Star was carried out in June 1984 inside the Sri Darbar Sahib complex in Amritsar. The official position was that the operation was meant to flush out armed militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and others who had taken positions inside the complex. Punjab in 1984 had been bleeding through a very tense period of militant violence. The state had a security problem that required resolution. That much is not in dispute. But the choice of place and timing left a deep scar. For Sikhs, military action inside the holiest Sikh shrine was not seen only as a security operation, but as an emotional rupture linked to faith and dignity. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex gurdwara management body, along with the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, have, this year as in past years, appealed for the anniversary to be observed as Martyrdom Week, peacefully, within Panthic maryada, with remembrance and ardas. Akal Takht’s officiating Jathedar, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, has stressed unity and decorum. SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami had



appealed to Sikhs and gurdwara management committees to observe the anniversary as Martyrdom Week from June 1 to June 6, to remember what the SGPC called the June 1984 Ghallughara. These are not the words of a community bent on separatism. They are the words of institutions trying to hold together a community that has real and legitimate reasons for grief. There is another layer: law and order. For the Punjab Police, the anniversary is one of the most sensitive days in Amritsar’s annual security calendar. Over the years, senior police officers, often up to DGP level, have personally reviewed arrangements in Amritsar. This year, the Amritsar Commissionerate Police also conducted a flag march across the city. Praveen Kumar Sinha, IPS, Special Director-General of Police (Law and Order), said the official objective is to ensure that remembrance remains peaceful. In several past observances, pro-

Khalistan slogans have been raised after ardas at the Akal Takht by activists of radical Sikh outfits. Traditionally, Dal Khalsa has given calls for Amritsar Bandh and taken out remembrance marches a day before June 6. For the 42nd anniversary in 2026, the organisation announced two-day events, including an Amritsar Bandh on June 6 for business, commercial and educational institutions, and a remembrance parade on the evening of June 5 from Burj Akali Phoola Singh. The one thing that unifies this diverse landscape is the memory of 1984, not as a political programme, but as a wound. That wound will not heal because it is inconvenient. It will heal when it is recognised. Recognition does not mean capitulation; it means engagement. It means accepting that communities remember trauma through faith, emotion and lived experience. Healing cannot come by imposing official language on wounded memory.

1984 must be remembered with dignity. But its pain must not be used by those who want Sikhs and India to remain enemies forever. This is where leadership matters. The SGPC, Akal Takht, scholars, politicians, and the Indian government all have a role to play. Peaceful mourning is not a threat. But grief must not be turned into a call for violence. The difference between remembering and inciting must be respected by everyone. The government must also understand that healing cannot happen in a single statement or ceremony. It requires real, ongoing conversation with Sikh thinkers, farmers, youth, diaspora communities, and religious leaders. It requires honest language. It requires justice, for which Sikhs are waiting far too long. It requires putting real investment into Punjab, so its young people have a future worth staying for. So the real question is not just what this word “Ghallughara” means; the real question is why,

after more than forty years, it still hits so hard. It hits hard because Sri Darbar Sahib and the Akal Takht are not just structures. They are the heart of Sikh faith, identity, and dignity. And it hits hard because June 1984 did not end in June. It was followed by November 1984, when thousands of Sikhs were killed in organised violence across India, violence that many survivors and Sikh groups call genocide. That second blow deepened the wound and the feeling of betrayal. For many Sikhs, Operation Blue Star remains a Ghallughara because it struck their holiest place, damaged the Akal Takht, took lives, and broke something deep inside the community. Punjab does not need more anger. It needs responsible remembrance, justice that is honest, and reconciliation that is real. The goal is not to forget. The goal is to understand. Because a wound does not heal with silence. It heals with recognition.

Beyond Opposition:

What the CJP Moment Reveals
About Our Political Crisis

As we witnessed on June 3, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement moved visibly beyond the digital sphere and entered physical political space through its public press conference and growing national attention. What began as student anger around education and institutional accountability now appears to be opening into something politically larger. The upcoming June 6 mobilisation demanding Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation, along with social activist Sonam Wangchuk joining the movement, suggests different strands of public dissatisfaction – education, unemployment, ecological anxiety, democratic centralisation – are beginning to converge. It is understandable that many feel hopeful watching young people organise collectively again. In a political atmosphere marked by fatigue, cynicism, and endless polarisation, students attempting to reclaim public questions beyond electoral calculations carries significance. Much of contemporary public life has become deeply individualised. Politics increasingly appears either as media spectacle or as endless digital outrage with very little sustained collective participation. Against this backdrop, any attempt by young people to create democratic energy inevitably generates attention and expectation.



The movement has already attracted predictable criticism. Some see it as another version of AAP-style politics – morally charged, anti-establishment in language, but eventually vulnerable to the same institutional compulsions of centralised leadership, electoral pragmatism, and media management. Others argue such movements fragment opposition politics and indirectly benefit dominant formations by dispersing anti-incumbency.

The need for distributed democratic participation

These concerns are not entirely misplaced. Indian political history repeatedly shows how movements emerging from moral frustration eventually confront the structural realities of institutional politics. Electoral mobilisation requires money, organisation, visibility, technological infrastructure, and carefully managed

narratives. Contemporary media systems reward concentrated visibility and recognisable faces rather than distributed democratic participation. This problem is not unique to India. Across the world, politics operates through sophisticated ecosystems of digital messaging, branding, and algorithmic amplification. Public opinion is continuously shaped through social media infrastructures that reward immediacy, outrage, and emotional reaction. Professional consulting firms, data analytics operations, and massive funding networks increasingly shape how narratives circulate and political identities are constructed. In such a system, collective democratic reasoning weakens while emotional polarisation becomes easier to manufacture. Simultaneously, societies have become more individualised in ways that make col-

lective politics harder to sustain. Consumer culture trains individuals to imagine freedom primarily through personal mobility and individualised aspiration rather than through collective democratic life. Digital culture intensifies this by turning citizens into continuously reacting individuals rather than participants within durable social structures. The result is not simply political fragmentation, but erosion of the social conditions necessary for collective imagination itself. This is where the significance of the CJP moment lies. The issue is not whether it succeeds electorally or confronts the same contradictions that earlier anti-establishment movements faced. The more important question is whether political mobilisation can move beyond reactive opposition and confront the deeper social crisis underlying the present moment.

Dramas are being created daily to garner views

GROWING SOCIAL MEDIA SENSATIONS,
SCRIPTED CONTROVERSIES AND THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUDIENCE



PRIYANKA
SAURABH

The digital revolution has completely transformed the world of communication and expression. Today, anyone with a smartphone and an internet connection can share their thoughts, talents, and experiences with the world. YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and other social media platforms have provided recognition, employment, and popularity to millions. This is a positive change that has broken the monopoly of traditional media and given ordinary citizens the opportunity to express themselves. However, with this change, certain trends have also developed that are becoming a matter of concern. Chief among these is the blind race for views, likes, and followers. Today, the measure of success on social media is often not the quality of the content, but its popularity. The number of views, comments, and shares of a video are considered the key to its success. In this environment, some content creators have resorted to methods that rely more on drama and sensationalism than reality to attract audiences. Over the past few years, numerous videos have gone viral on social media depicting alleged fights, family disputes, conflicts between friends, relationship breakdowns, public debates, or emotional events. These events are often so dra-

matic that viewers naturally become suspicious. It seems as if the entire sequence of events is pre-planned, the dialogue is written, and the cameras are set up solely to record the script. Often, the alleged altercation occurs right in front of a camera or CCTV. Characters repeatedly glance at the camera, events unfold in a film-like manner, and the video eventually goes viral. Viewers are forced to wonder whether this was a real accident or a well-planned drama designed to gain popularity. The economic structure of social media helps explain this trend. Attention is the most valuable asset on digital platforms. The more people view content, the greater its reach, and the greater the potential financial gain. Advertising, brand collaborations, sponsorships, and other business opportunities increase with popularity. Some people assume that creating controversy is the easiest strategy, as it increases views. This is why genuine creativity often takes a back seat, replaced by artificial drama. Creating informative content, conducting research, or presenting useful information takes time and effort. In contrast, a controversial video or sensational event can capture the attention of millions of people in a matter of hours. As a result, some content creators choose the easy way out. The biggest impact of this trend falls on the younger generation. Teens and young adults are the most active users of social media. When they see controversies, fights, and sensationalism becoming increasingly popular, they may develop the impression that the path to success lies not in talent, hard work, and knowledge, but in attention-seeking activities. This thinking can prove detrimental to society in the long run. This increasing dramatization on social media is not just a question of entertainment, but also of social values. When arti-

ficial controversies become the focus of discussion, important topics like education, health, the environment, employment, science, and social justice are marginalized. Society’s collective attention shifts from these issues to events that have little relevance to real life. However, it’s also true that not every viral video or public controversy can be called scripted without evidence. Conflicts, strained relationships, and public events occur in real life. With the increasing availability of cameras, many real events are recorded. Therefore, it’s important to adopt a balanced approach when drawing conclusions about any video. It’s unfair to blame an individual or group based solely on speculation. But when similar patterns are repeated, when every controversy has the potential to go viral, when every altercation unfolds in front of the cameras, and when the people involved later appear to derive economic or social benefit from the controversy, it’s natural to raise questions. In a democratic society, asking questions and fact-checking is both the right and the responsibility of the audience. This is where the importance of media literacy comes in. Today, it’s not enough to be literate; it’s also essential to be digitally literate. People must understand how social media content is created, how algorithms work, and what factors make content viral. If viewers understand these processes, they will be better able to distinguish between sensationalism and reality. YouTube and other platforms also have a significant responsibility. If their algorithms only promote content that is more controversial and provocative, content creators will follow suit. Platforms must develop policies that encourage knowledge, creativity, social utility, and positive dialogue. A healthy digital culture can only develop when quality is valued as much as popularity.

Ukrainian drones target St Petersburg in attack Russia calls 'unprecedented'

Russian authorities say Ukraine has launched an "unprecedented attack" on and around St Petersburg, as the city hosts the final day of Russia's annual economic forum. More than 140 drones were shot down over the surrounding Leningrad region, governor Aleksandr Drozdenko said, while the city's governor, Alexander Beglov, urged residents to remain indoors for the first time since the war began more than four years ago. Ukraine's president said his forces had hit Russia's arsenals and a naval base in what he called a just response to Russian attacks. It comes a day after Vladimir Putin told the forum there was no point in meeting Volodymyr Zelensky, who had called for direct talks on ending the war. The commander of one of the Ukrainian units involved in the drone strikes told the BBC that it was very easy to hit targets inside Russia. "We fly in Russia like



it's our own territory. Almost no resistance, not hard to reach a target," Yevhen Karas, commander of the 413th regiment Raid of Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces, said. Governor Drozdenko said Ukraine's attacks had caused a fire at an unspecified military facility, and that residents had been evacuated. He also said buildings had

sustained "insignificant" damage. Zelensky said his country's drones had covered a distance of 1,000km (620 miles) to the St Petersburg region, targeting "the enemy navy's arsenals and a base in Kronstadt". The main outpost of the Russian Navy's Baltic Fleet is located in Kronstadt. According to Zelensky, an oil depot 500km (310 miles) away, in the

southern Krasnodar region, was also hit as part of Ukraine's "long-range sanctions" - a euphemism for strikes on Russia. The Ukrainian president said it was "time to end this war", but accused Russia's leader of wanting to "keep fighting". These latest attacks follow Ukrainian strikes on the outskirts of St Petersburg as Putin's flagship economic

forum was getting under way just days earlier. The major forum, designed to attract foreign investment into the country, drew thousands of guests from 130 countries, including a low-key US delegation - the first for many years. In his open letter to Putin on Thursday, Zelensky called for a ceasefire and face-to-face negotiations with the Russian leader to end the war, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. He wrote that it would be "wrong to simply wait" for the conflict to once again become the focus of US attention. President Donald Trump has been involved in efforts to mediate an end to the conflict, but the war with Iran has recently taken precedence. Speaking at the economic forum on Friday, Putin refused the request for a meeting with Zelensky and reiterated his position that a truce would only allow Ukraine to regroup. He said he would only end the war

when Russia's goals had been met. Russia's long-standing position is that Ukraine should withdraw from the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions it has largely seized, as well as abandon efforts to join Nato. Ukraine has refused to give up any territory, arguing that concessions to Moscow would embolden it to invade again in the future. In the Russian-occupied Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine, the Moscow-installed authorities say they have suspended coach services on two motorways following a campaign of Ukrainian drone strikes targeting Russian logistics. They urged local residents not to use them "for security reasons". The Russia-backed administration also banned commuter train services and transportation of groups of children within Luhansk. Putin has said Russia is in full control of the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic".

MAN DIES AFTER SHARK ATTACK IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, POLICE SAY



A male diver has died after being bitten by a suspected 4.5m (14.8ft) shark in Western Australia, according to local authorities. The 35-year-old, who has not been named, was spearfishing with family off Michaelmas Island, south-east of Perth, when he was attacked at 11:25 local time (03:25 GMT) on Saturday, police said. He was taken by boat to shore where he was met by paramedics, who were unable to revive him. Police said they would prepare a report for the coroner, in a statement shared by local media. The BBC has contacted officials to confirm the reports. The

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) said it was assisting police and local authorities with the incident. It has also urged residents to report any shark sightings, local media report. It comes less than a month after a father-of-two died after a separate shark attack in Western Australia. Steven Mattaboni, 38, was attacked by a 4m (13ft) shark at Horseshoe Reef, north-west of the popular Rottnest Island near Perth. Shark attacks around Australia are more common than in many other parts of the world, though they are often not fatal.

Palestinian baby killed by Israeli gunfire in West Bank, health ministry says



A seven-month-old baby boy has been killed by Israeli gunfire in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry has said. The ministry identified the infant as Sam Fahd Abu Haikal, adding that his parents were also injured in the shooting in the Tel Rumeida area, south of the city of Hebron. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said its troops on Friday "perceived a vehicle accelerating toward them" and one of the soldiers "responded with single shots toward the vehicle". "As a result, three Palestinians were injured and evacuated for medical treatment," the IDF said, adding that "the incident is under review". It also expressed "deep sorrow for any harm caused to uninvolved individuals". The baby's grandmother said the family were driving in the area and stopped their car when

they saw Israeli military vehicles and soldiers in the distance, Reuters reported. She said shots were then fired toward them, which they initially believed were warning shots. "One bullet struck my grandson, traversed his face and crossed his head, striking his mother's cheek where it lodged," the grandmother said. She added that the bullet had also grazed the father's finger, and that the mother was in hospital. More than 1,000 Palestinians have been reported killed in the West Bank since the war in Gaza broke out following the Hamas-led attack on Israel on 7 October 2023. In the Hamas-led attack, about 1,200 people were killed and 251 abducted into Gaza. More than 70,600 people have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza since then, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

TRIBUTES TO BUFFY AND TED LASSO STAR ANTHONY HEAD AFTER DEATH AGED 72



British actor Anthony Head, best known for his roles in TV shows including Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Ted Lasso, Merlin and Little Britain, has died at the age of 72. Head found international fame as Rupert Giles in hit supernatural teen show Buffy in the late 1990s. "He passed away peacefully of complications due to pneumonia, surrounded by his

family," his daughters Emily and Daisy said. Sarah Michelle Gellar, who played the eponymous Buffy, led tributes to Head, writing: "Thank you to Daisy and Emily who not only shared their dad with me, but with the world." His daughters' statement said "it is with heavy hearts that we announce the death of our extraordinary father".

US AND IRAN EXCHANGE STRIKES IN GULF IN LATEST TEST OF CEASEFIRE

The shaky ceasefire between the US and Iran has been tested further, with American forces targeting Iranian drones and radar sites, and Iran firing missiles at US bases in the Gulf. The US military said the attacks were in response to four Iranian "one-way attack drones" launched towards the Strait of Hormuz, which it said "posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic". The drones were shot down, US Central Command (Centcom) said. Tehran called the US strikes a "flagrant" violation of the ceasefire agreement between the two countries. Iran retaliated by firing ballistic missiles at two US air bases in Kuwait, and US Navy facilities in Bahrain, Iran's Irib news agency reported. Bahrain and Kuwait both condemned the attacks, saying



the drone and missile fire had been successfully repelled. Centcom said initial assessments showed that of the seven Iranian missiles fired at the two Gulf states, six were intercepted and one did not reach its target. The United Arab Emirates and Qatar also denounced the Iranian attacks on their Gulf neighbours. The Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement that the US strikes on radar

installations in Sirik and at Qeshm island were a "flagrant" violation of the ceasefire and "an attack on the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran", according to news agencies. "The US attack demonstrates this country's complete disregard for the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter," the statement added. Iran's

Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said it had hit "enemy bases" as retaliation to the American strikes. There have been several such exchanges of fire, threatening the ceasefire that has been in place since April. However, even with the conflict between the two nations continuing, the US has granted visas to Iran's World Cup football team, ahead of their first match in Los Angeles on 15 June. It is the first time the competition will see a host nation receive the team of a country it is at war with. The attacks occurred as ceasefire negotiations between the US and Iran stalled, with a deal to end the war failing to advance, and US media reporting that President Donald Trump had requested changes to the terms of an agreement.

Armenia braces for election as Russia piles pressure on pro-West government

Armenia votes on 7 June under mounting Russian economic pressure, as Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan seeks re-election on a promise of European integration. The election has drawn significant international attention to the small South Caucasus nation of three million people, which has steadily grown closer to the West while still intertwined with Russia, its largest trading partner. The rapprochement with the West is largely Pashinyan's doing. Since coming to power in 2018, the prime minister has steered his country away from Moscow, passed a law to launch the process of joining



the EU, and accelerated the peace process with neighbouring Azerbaijan via a US-brokered agreement. The latter has won him US President Donald Trump's endorsement. Pashinyan also hosted a large summit of EU leaders and Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelensky in the capital, Yerevan, earlier this year. Yet despite these successes, Pashinyan's domestic support has fallen from 54% in 2021 to around 30% today. The main reason is Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous

enclave inside Azerbaijan that was home to 100,000 ethnic Armenians until Azerbaijan took it by force in 2023. Pashinyan's critics have never forgiven him for making concessions in favour of peace with Azerbaijan, like refusing to campaign for the release of former leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh who are in jail in the neighbouring country. The peace deal with Azerbaijan, too, remains deeply divisive, with one recent poll showing 44% of public opinion in support and 41% opposed. Pashinyan's critics now form several opposition parties and alliances.

The cash-in-the-sofa saga that just won't go away for South Africa's president



Just like Watergate in the US, South Africa's "Farmgate" scandal started with a break-in but has since spiralled into something that could threaten the future of the sitting president. Cyril Ramaphosa now faces the possibility of being removed from office as MPs have taken the unprecedented step of setting up a committee that will recommend whether or not he should be impeached. This issue first came up in parliament in 2022, but last month, the county's highest court ruled that MPs had violated the constitution by blocking moves to impeach Ramaphosa. At that time, the president's African National Congress (ANC) controlled more than half the seats in parliament, but after the 2024 election, he no longer has that majority to rely on. What is Ramaphosa actually accused of doing? It all started back in 2020 with a robbery at the president's private farm in Phala Phala, Limpopo province. Thieves broke in and allegedly stole \$580,000 (£430,000) in US dollar bills that had been stuffed into a sofa. But details only came

out two years later when the country's former spy chief, Arthur Fraser, highlighted the alleged theft in an explosive dossier that he sent to the police. Fraser, a close ally of former President Jacob Zuma, who Ramaphosa replaced, accused the head of state of hiding the theft from the police and tax authorities. At the time Ramaphosa said there was "no basis for the claims of criminal conduct". As the stolen cash was in foreign currency, it meant that exchange control laws could also have been contravened. The reserve bank looked into the issue and found that there were no violations of the exchange control act and the public protector, who investigates allegations of abuse of power, found no wrongdoing on the president's part. But parliament also began an impeachment process and established an independent panel to investigate the allegations. It came to some damning findings, including saying there was "substantial doubt about the legitimacy of the source of the currency that was stolen" and concluding that Ramaphosa "has a case to answer".



Lebanon says three soldiers killed in Israeli attack on car

GIANT BANQUETS RILE RADICAL LEFT IN FRANCE



Three-and-a-half-thousand hungry Alsations wolf down platters of charcuterie and periodically burst into noisy chorus. No, it is not the police dogs' annual convention, but the latest iteration of a feasting phenomenon that is sweeping provincial France. The Alsace town of Colmar - famous for its half-timbered medieval centre - was the scene last weekend of one of the banquets géants - huge banquets whose pop-

ularity in the country has suddenly become a hot political issue. Run by a company called Le Canon Français (The French Cannon), the banquets are massively attended - 81 (£70) buying you four courses of local gastronomy, all the wine you can drink, and several hours of sing-along camaraderie. But not everyone is cheering. For the radical left party La France Insoumise (LFI - France Unbowed).

ANDREEVA WINS FRENCH OPEN AS CHWALINSKA FAIRYTALE ENDS

Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva was already a tennis phenom at age 15. At 19, she's a Grand Slam champion. The eighth-ranked Andreeva ended the run of 114th-ranked Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska with a 6-3, 6-2 victory in the French Open final on Saturday. Andreeva became the youngest player to win the women's singles title since Monica Seles, who was 18 when she landed her third straight French Open in 1992. Chwalinska was attempting to become the first qualifier to capture the Roland Garros title. When Andreeva executed a backhand cross-court winner on her first match point, she dropped on her knees to the clay to celebrate. Alexander Zverev plays Flavio Cobolli in the men's final on Sunday to conclude the wildest Grand Slam in recent memory. Andreeva has been considered a Grand Slam contender since she burst onto the scene as a 15-year-old at the 2023 Madrid Open, when she became the third-youngest

player to win a main-draw match at a WTA 1000 tournament and made the quarterfinals. Lately, Andreeva has had to contend with playing under neutral status and without her country's flag due to the war with Ukraine. When she beat Marta Kostyuk in the semifinals, her opponent refused to shake her hand, as has been the custom for Ukrainian players facing Russians ever since the war started in 2022. Andreeva has now gone a step further than her coach, Conchita Martinez, who lost the 2000 French Open final to Mary Pierce. Pierce was due to present the winner's trophy to Andreeva. The final was played under mostly sunny skies but wind was a factor in the first Grand Slam final for both player. Chwalinska double-faulted on the opening point of the match but she was the first player to hold serve in the fifth game. Eventually, though, Andreeva found a way to hit through the wind and an answer to Chwalinska's array of spins

and drop shots. There was a strong Polish presence in the Court Philippe-Chatrier crowd. When Chwalinska was introduced, fans held aloft red-and-white Polish flags and chanted her name: "Ma-ja, Ma-ja." Andreeva had little support from the crowd, although there was a shout of "Davai Mirra" - "Go Mirra" - in Russian late in the match. In men's doubles, top-seeded Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos retained their title with a 6-4, 6-2 win against Harri Heliövaara and Henry Patten. Chwalinska had enjoyed a transformative few weeks in Paris regardless of Saturday's result. No qualifier had previously won the French Open, while Chwalinska's defeat means Britain's Emma Raducanu remains the only qualifier to win a Grand Slam title after her 2021 US Open success. Having not played a top-20 opponent on her way to the final, Chwalinska found Andreeva to be a huge step up in class.



"Will Cover All Expenses": BCCI Set To Take Big Step To Help Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

The BCCI has allowed Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's parents to travel with the 15-year-old sensation during the tour of Ireland and England, according to a report by Sportstar. Sooryavanshi received his first national team call-up after a sensational show in IPL 2026 where he emerged as the top run-scorer with 776 runs. The report claimed that BCCI felt that the "presence of family would help him adjust to the demands of international cricket and life on the road". "As he is a child, we have decided to allow his parents to accompany him to Ireland and England, so that they can be with him and help him settle in the new environment. The Board will cover all their expenses," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told Sportstar. The youngster is currently in Sri Lanka with the India A team for the upcoming tri-nation series. Earlier, BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar said he had high hopes for teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi



after giving him a maiden T20I call-up to tours of Ireland, England, and the Asian Games, adding the youngster had 'picked himself' into the squad with his explosive IPL 2026 performances. Sooryavanshi had a stellar IPL 2026 for the Rajasthan Royals and was the leading run-getter in the competition with 776 runs, including a hundred and five half-centuries. He also bagged the most valuable player and emerging player of the competition awards in the competition. "What do you say, we've seen what he can do. You saw, even towards those playoffs, almost single-handedly carried the

Rajasthan Royals. For a young kid, I don't need to talk about how well he's batting or how well he's playing. It's not just this season. He's obviously made a great start last season. "To back it up for a young kid in a competition that's as competitive and has a high-pressure environment, and how explosive he can be, and a game-changer that he can be. So we've, like everyone else that's watched cricket, or at least watched T20 cricket in India, we've got high hopes of him, and I think he just has picked himself really," said Agarkar in the press conference at the BCCI HQ on Saturday.

BILLAM-SMITH FIGHT SET TO PROCEED DESPITE LEGAL CHALLENGE

Zuffa Boxing's first show in the UK, featuring Chris Billam-Smith, appears set to go ahead on Saturday despite legal action from rival promoter Boxxer. Former WBO cruiser-weight champion Billam-Smith is scheduled to fight Canadian Ryan Rozicki at the Bournemouth International Centre as the headline bout, with fellow Britons Jack Massey and Sam Hickey both on the undercard. The event is due to be shown on Sky Sports, but promoter Boxxer claims to have contractual rights involving fighters on the bill and says they are appearing without "consent or authorisation". BBC Sport understands that Zuffa does not accept the



claims by Boxxer and plans to proceed with the event as planned. "Boxxer can confirm it is seeking urgent injunctive relief against Zuffa Boxing and Sky Sports concerning the pro-

motion and proposed participation of fighters who remain subject to binding contractual obligations to Boxxer," said a statement from Boxxer. "Boxxer have ensured that all parties

involved are fully aware of the contractual obligations owed to Boxxer by the fighters being promoted for Saturday's event. Despite this, those fighters continue to be advertised and promoted without Boxxer's consent. "As a result of the conduct it has witnessed in recent months, Boxxer has been left with no option but to seek further relief from the English courts." Zuffa Boxing, which was founded by UFC president Dana White and backed by Saudi Arabian funding, is looking to rival the sport's established promoters. Billam-Smith signed a multi-fight deal with Zuffa Boxing in April after previously being promoted by Ben Shalom's Boxxer.

Suryakumar Yadav Slams 24-Ball 48 Just Hours After Losing India T20I Captaincy

Suryakumar Yadav shared a hug with Shreyas Iyer just hours after losing the Indian cricket team T20I captaincy. Shreyas replaced Suryakumar as India's T20I captain ahead of the series against Ireland and England on Saturday. The two cricketers met each other just few hours later during the T20 Mumbai League match between Triumphs Knights MNE and SoBo Mumbai Falcons. Suryakumar is the captain of Triumphs Knights MNE and although Shreyas did not feature in the match for SoBo Mumbai Falcons, he was present at the ground. The two cricketers greeted each other before the game and shared a hug while they were joined by Rohit Sharma. Later, Suryakumar slammed 48 off just 24 deliveries with



the help of 3 fours and 4 sixes. "I am so happy for Shreyas for becoming the captain of the Indian T20I team. We have played all our cricket together here in Mumbai and it feels amazing that the last three T20 captains of India have all come from Mumbai," SKY said at the toss. Earlier, chief selector Ajit Agarkar said Shreyas Iyer was a stand-out candidate with the experience

lone standout. His form dipped further in IPL 2026, where he scored just 270 runs in 13 innings at an average of 20.76 as Mumbai Indians finished ninth in the ten-team points table. With Shreyas taking over, Suryakumar has been totally omitted from the squads for tours of Ireland, England and the Asian Games. Iyer, 31, last played a T20I in December 2023 but boasts of strong captaincy credentials in the IPL. He led Kolkata Knight Riders to the title in 2024, guided Punjab Kings to a runners-up finish in 2025, and steered Delhi Capitals to the final in 2020. "I mean, with regards to Shreyas, obviously, we've seen what he's done over the last few years, leading different franchises, obviously, won once, finals twice.

Chad Gable Returns And Makes Peace With Rey Fenix

WWE is building another storyline as Chad Gable returns to the backstage area at SmackDown. Fans have been wondering when Gable would appear again after being absent from television, and his comeback quickly became one of the biggest talking points of the night. Over the past few months, tensions between Chad Gable and Rey Fenix had become a major part of WWE programming. The match between them had an intense drama that kept fans invested. OG El Grande Americano lost to El Grande Americano at Noches de Los Grandes in a AAA mask vs. mask match. After losing his mask, his true identity was revealed. Because of this history, many viewers expected another confrontation when Gable returned. One of the most notable



aspects of Gable's return was that he appeared as himself rather than under any alternate presentation. The WWE star entered the arena and addressed the WWE universe directly. Instead of focusing on future matches or championship opportunities, Gable spoke about the recent issues that had surrounded him and Rey Fenix.

"Fearless, Focused, Deeply Indian": Gautam Adani On R Praggnanandhaa's Historic Norway Chess Triumph

India chess star R Praggnanandhaa climbed a new peak on Friday. The 20-year-old Praggnanandhaa, pitted against some of the best in world chess, came out victorious in the Norway Chess tournament - a first for any Indian. It's a feat that had eluded even Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand and reigning world champion D Gukesh, among others, since the tournament's inception in 2013. Competing in Norway Chess for only the second time, Praggnanandhaa endured a slow start in the elite six-player field before gathering momentum in the second half of the event. His campaign was highlighted by a remarkable achievement -- defeating seven-time Norway Chess champion and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen twice in classical chess - a rare



accomplishment that underlined his determination to bounce back from the disappointment of an underwhelming Candidates Tournament in Paphos earlier this year. Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani termed the win as "fearless,

focused, deeply Indian." "Congratulations to Praggnanandhaa on becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess tournament - one of the ultimate tests of endurance, intellect and temperament in the world of chess. To defeat the world's

absolute best on one of chess's grandest stages is a remarkable feat. But what makes it even more special is the spirit with which Pragg plays. Fearless - Focused - Deeply Indian," Adani wrote in a post on X. Congratulations to Praggnanandhaa on becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess tournament - one of the ultimate tests of endurance, intellect and temperament in the world of chess. Praggnanandhaa ensured that India's challenge remained alive, ultimately carrying it all the way to the title. The result was made possible after American Grandmaster Wesley So, who led the standings with 15.5 points heading into the final round, was held to a draw in his classical game against Alireza Firouzja, sending their contest into an Armageddon tie-break.

'PAVLOVA' BACK ON ENGLAND COURSE AS FOREST EYE GLORY



Nottingham Forest's Tash Paveleva and Jayda Pechova are rarely apart. They live together, share the defensive circle on court, and have played side by side for the past three seasons. They were also together when they found out in late May that both have been selected for the 2026-27 England Vitality Roses programme, which puts them in the frame for the Commonwealth Games next month. Affectionately nicknamed 'Pavlova' by fans, Paveleva and Pechova will be operating in tandem when Forest - in their second season - contest their first Netball Super League semi-final on Saturday against East Midlands rivals Loughborough Lightning. This is a hectic time of year for elite-level netballers. Amid it all, the England selection was a real tonic. "We were in the gym, waiting for the emails to come through," said 28-year-old Paveleva. "We were both refreshing our phones so much, and then we literally found out five minutes

apart. We were just so happy for each other." Amid Forest's build-up to their first taste of the playoffs, England's call provided a poignant moment particularly for Pechova, who had been longing for a return to the international stage. The Nottingham Forest goal keeper, only 21, is no stranger to the soaring highs and brutal lows of professional sport. Young SPOTY nominee, England call... then a big shock In 2022, aged 18, Pechova was nominated for the BBC's Young Sports Personality of the Year award and recognised as one of England's brightest prospects. Her first senior cap followed in 2023 against New Zealand. Then in 2024, having earned a scholarship with Bath University, Team Bath were disbanded as part of a major Netball Super League restructure. Pechova - just like Paveleva, who was also a Bath player - had no time to mope. Instead, she moved her life to Nottingham to join newly established Forest.

CHARLES LECLERC BEATS LEWIS HAMILTON AS FERRARI SHINE IN MONACO F1 PRACTICE

Charles Leclerc made local knowledge pay on Friday when he topped the times for Ferrari in opening practice for his home Monaco Formula One Grand Prix ahead of team-mate seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton. The two Ferraris were half a second faster than third-placed four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull ahead of the Mercedes duo of championship leading Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli and George Russell. World champion Lando Norris was sixth for McLaren,

without troubling the leading pace-setters, ahead of Audi's Nico Hulkenberg, Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren - on a weekend when the team is celebrating its 1000th Grand Prix - and Gabriel Bortoleto in the second Audi. Pierre Gasly was 10th for Alpine in an interesting session interrupted by two red flags as the drivers familiarised themselves with the singular challenges of driving F1's new hybrid era cars on the classic barrier-lined Mediterranean street circuit. It was a near-perfect

start to the weekend for Ferrari and Leclerc, who became only the second Monegasque to win his home event when he triumphed in 2024, justifying expectations this time that they were favourites to break a long winless run since Mexico two years ago. The session began in bright sunshine with home hero Leclerc out early only to lock up and run off on his first lap, recovering to pursue his team-mate's early fastest lap on the 'green' track following overnight rain.



RAM CHARAN’S PEDDI STRONG HOLD ON DAY 2, COLLECTS HUMONGOUS 181.8 CR WORLDWIDE IN 2 DAYS

The unanimous positive response from audiences has emerged as the biggest driving force behind Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s Peddi. After opening to highly encouraging reviews and exceptional word-of-mouth, the film has taken the global box office by storm, grossing a phenomenal 135.36 crore worldwide on its opening day, including premiere shows.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana and produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, in association with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, Peddi has demonstrated strong hold on its second day.

The film collected an impressive 46.44 crore gross worldwide on Day 2, taking its cumulative two-day total to a humongous 181.8 crore. Notably, the second-day figures are bigger than the collections of several major blockbuster films, underlining the film’s extraordinary box-office strength.

In North India, footfalls witnessed a significant surge from the second day onwards, indicating that the

film’s positive word-of-mouth is spreading rapidly across regions. The overwhelming response from Hindi-speaking audiences has surprised many trade analysts and further reinforced Peddi’s pan-India appeal.

Ram Charan’s performance continues to receive widespread acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

Social media is flooded with appreciation for the actor’s striking transformation, commanding screen presence, and emotionally powerful portrayal. Many viewers are hailing it as the finest performance.

The overseas market has also played a crucial role in the film’s sensational run. In North America, Peddi has already crossed the \$2 million milestone and is now racing towards the coveted \$3 million mark, reflecting the immense excitement surrounding the film among international audiences. Advance bookings for the weekend remain phenomenal, with most centers reporting excellent occupancies and several locations witnessing packed houses. With strong audience appreciation, robust advance sales, and exceptional word-of-mouth, Peddi is poised for an even bigger surge in the days ahead.



'RANABAALI' COMPLETES 100 DAYS OF SHOOT

Ranabaali starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, has successfully completed 100 days of shooting and is gearing up for a grand worldwide release on September 11.

“Ranabaali” is a massive pan-India project directed by Rahul Sankrityan, featuring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles. The film is being presented by T-Series and produced under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar on a massive budget. Set against a 19th-century backdrop, the story is based on real historical events that took place during British rule between 1854 and 1878. Recently, the film completed its 100-day shooting schedule. A recent schedule was filmed in Gandikota, which lasted for a week. During this schedule, emotional scenes between Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna were shot. According to the makers, around 90% of the filming has now been completed, and they are satisfied with the output. A recently released birthday glimpse of Vijay



Deverakonda featured high-energy action sequences that received a strong response from movie lovers. With huge

pan-India expectations, the makers are currently in full swing preparing for the worldwide release on September 11.

'Balan The Boy' Trailer Unveiled Across Languages

Ajay Devgn, Suriya Sivakumar, Naga Chaitanya and Raj B.Shetty extend their warm wishes to Balan The Boy trailer across languages; an emotionally charged journey of identity and survival set to release in theatres on 19th June Ever since its successful showcase at the Marché du Film during the Cannes Film Festival, Balan The Boy has made a remarkable impact. The film has been generating curiosity ever since its announcement and the release of its first poster. As anticipation around the film continues to grow, leading stars from across the Indian film industry came together to unveil the trailer in multiple languages.

Ajay Devgn, Suriya Sivakumar, Naga Chaitanya and Raj B.Shetty shared the trailer of the film in Hindi, Tamil,Telugu and Kannada respectively. The



actors took to their social media extending their best wishes to the trailer and the film. The trailer offers a glimpse into a deeply human and emotionally resonant cinematic experience rooted in themes of identity, belonging, and survival. Packed with suspense, emotion, and intrigue, the trailer promises a compelling and thought-provoking journey.

The Night of the Stars" musical event to be held grandly on June 12th under the baton of Kalyani Malik and Geetha Madhuri

The prestigious music festival "The Night of the Stars", jointly organized by Scene Setters and Assembly, will be held on June 12, 2026 at the Assembly in the Financial District, Hyderabad. Noted music director Kalyani Malik, renowned playback singer Geetha Madhuri, as well as Saket, Vinootna, Kashyap, Aditi, and Bhargavi will entertain the audience with their amazing musical performances. The event is being organized by popular YouTuber Nikhil Vijayendra Simha. Speaking at the media conference organized on this occasion, Nikhil Vijayendra Simha said.. Greetings to everyone. Thank you to everyone who came to support us. We all grew up enjoying songs as sweet memories and nostalgic feelings since childhood. We are organizing this program with the idea of ??bringing those nostalgic songs to the audience once



again. It is very happy that this musical live show is being held under the auspices of Kalyani Malik garu after almost 23 years. This program will be organized on June 12 at the Assembly venue. Special thanks to Srikanth garu for providing us with this venue. Also, thanks to Kalyani Malik garu, Geetha Madhuri garu, Saket garu, Vinootna garu, and Aditi garu. All of them are making this celebration even more grand. We want you all

to attend this program and enjoy this musical celebration with us. For tickets, we request you to contact the District App and the phone numbers we have provided. Kalyani Malik said... Hello everyone.

I felt so happy and excited when my first film was released, and I am also feeling the same while hosting this show. I am very happy to be participating in this program with all our singers. I definite-

ly want everyone to come to this musical event on June 12th. This show will definitely entertain the audience. Singer Geeta Madhuri said... Hello everyone. I am getting a lot of calls about this show being organized by Kalyani Malik for the first time. Everyone is asking about this program with interest. Kalyani garu has many fans. I love live music shows. I am very happy to be a part of such a special program. Another special thing is that this program is being held in the Assembly Financial District. This venue is very amazing. Tickets are available on the District app. You can also contact the organizers through the phone numbers given or through social media. I am very happy that Kalyani Malik garu's songs are going to be sung on this stage. Singers, organizers and other representatives related to the program participated in this media conference.

Arunachala creations, Harsh Roshan next titled Thella Kaagitham; First Look Out Now



Young and talented actor Harsh Roshan is all set to begin an exciting new chapter in his career with his next film under the Arunachala Creations banner. Backed by producer Krishna Kommalapati, the project comes after the actor's impressive success with acclaimed films like Court and Band Melam. With a strong focus on emotions, romance, and relatable storytelling, the makers are promising a refreshing cinematic experience for audiences. The film has been titled Thella Kaagitham, and its first-look poster was unveiled today, generating considerable buzz among movie lovers.

Thella Kaagitham is described as a heart-warming musical love story that revolves around youthful emotions and memorable relationships. The first-look poster offers a glimpse into the film's

charming world, featuring Harsh Roshan and leading lady Nakshatra sharing a beautiful moment while riding a bicycle against a picturesque backdrop. The visually appealing poster reflects the film's romantic essence and has already struck a chord with audiences, raising expectations for the project. The film is penned by talented writer Nandu Savirigana, who has earned recognition for co-writing successful entertainers such as Samajavaragamana and Nari Nari Naduma Murari. Apart from crafting the story, Nandu has also written the screenplay and dialogues, ensuring a cohesive narrative filled with engaging moments and emotional depth. Making his directorial debut with this venture is Ramesh Bandreddi, who is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the romantic entertainer.

"If Theatres Are Not Given, Suicide Is My Only Refuge": 'O Andala Rakshasi' movie Hero and Filmmaker Sheraz Mehdi Expresses Anguish

Sheraz Mehdi, the hero and filmmaker of 'O Andala Rakshasi', expressed deep anguish over the challenges faced by small-budget films in the Telugu film industry. Speaking at a press meet held at the Telugu Film Chamber, he alleged that a "mafia-like system" is systematically destroying small films by denying them access to theatres. Mehdi stated that not only was his film denied theatres during its original release, but even its re-release failed to secure screening venues. "If theatres are not given, suicide is my only refuge," he said emotionally, highlighting the severe difficulties faced by independent filmmakers. He alleged that quality films are being deliberately sidelined and claimed that O Andala Rakshasi did not receive even a single theatre in the Nizam region. "This is happening



strategically. Good films are being killed, and small films are being eliminated," he remarked. Mehdi further revealed that he is continuing his fight through legal channels and vowed to pursue justice until the issue is resolved. He pointed out that wider theatrical releases are essential for films to become eligible for OTT platform acquisitions, making theatre access crucial for a movie's commercial survival. Describing the situ-

ation of small films as "extremely unfortunate," Mehdi said such conditions are rarely seen elsewhere in the world and are not prevalent even in Bollywood. He also criticized certain regulatory and financial burdens on filmmakers, including censorship-related requirements and charges such as ADCC fees, which he said place additional pressure on small producers. The film's team expressed concern that without adequate theatre access and equal opportunities, emerging talent and independent cinema would struggle to survive. They appealed to the government and industry leaders to protect small films and ensure a level playing field within the industry. "The fight will continue until justice is done," Mehdi asserted, calling for urgent reforms to support small and independent filmmakers in Telugu cinema.

Ayesha’s Birthday Special Poster Released from Sudigali Sudheer’s “Sudheer’s Joker”

Actor Sudigali Sudheer is all set to entertain audiences with his upcoming film “Sudheer,s Joker.” Bigg Boss fame Ayesha is making her debut as the female lead with this movie. The film also stars Abhirami, Murali Sharma, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, Vishnu Oi, and Muralidhar Goud in prominent roles. The movie is being produced by Vijay Donkada and Sridhar Makkava, while P.S. Sunil Puppala is directing the project. On the occasion of actress Ayesha’s birthday, the makers unveiled a special birthday poster and extended their warm wishes to her. In “Sudheer’s Joker,” Ayesha will be seen playing the character of Shalini, a role through which she is expected to impress audiences with both her charm and performance. Recently, the film’s “Banger” teaser, released on the occasion of Sudigali



Sudheer’s birthday, received a tremendous response from viewers. The promotional content

has raised expectations, with audiences looking forward to an engaging commercial entertainer.