



MAMATA
MOVES CALCUTTA HC
CHALLENGING ASSEMBLY
ELECTION RESULTS IN
DHANBANI

NATION PAGE

TRUMP INSISTS
IRAN DEAL WILL OPEN STRAIT
OF HORMUZ 'TOLL-FREE' AS HE
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YAMALAPALLI TO LEAD INDIAN
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SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

14-06-2026

Total pilgrims: 95,094
Tonnages: 35,309
Mandi (Kannada): 3.93 CR
Laddu sales: 4.66 Lac
Annaprasadam: 3.23 Lac
Medical treatment: 4.72
Walking Complements...
Out side line at Srikalahasti.

Approx. Darshan Time for Saravali (with out SSD tokens) - 20-24 H

Trump denies Iran \$300 billion Iran fund reports, calls them 'fake news'

WASHINGTON (TSIT)

US President Donald Trump rejected reports that his administration is weighing a \$300 billion fund for Iran as part of the agreement that has been virtually signed to end the conflict.

"Iran has agreed to never have a Nuclear Weapon! Also, the story that the U.S. is paying Iran 300 million Dollars is Fake News, put out by the Democrats!!!!" Trump wrote in a Truth Social post. His remarks came just hours after Vice President JD Vance suggested that Iran "could have access" to a \$300 billion reconstruction fund if it complies with the terms of a deal, with funding expected to come from Gulf nations.

"That's the sort of thing they could have access to, funded by the Gulf Coast coalition, so long as they honor their end of the obligation," Vance said in an interview with CBS.

Vance was likely referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Moreover, CNN quoted US official's earlier briefing to reporters, saying, "We discussed the possibility of releasing frozen funds, sanctions relief, you know, a big \$300 billion fund to rebuild their country, and all of these things are going to be tied to performance."

No trace of missing girl in Andhra, dolls used in search operation

AMARAVATI (TSIT)

With the two-year-old girl missing from a palm oil plantation in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district remaining untraced for more than 10 days, authorities engaged in search operations have plant-



ed two dolls attached to an iron trap to ascertain the presence of wild animals in the area. The police and forest department personnel have placed two dolls resembling the missing child near the plantation where she went missing on June 6. They also inserted meat into the dolls to attract wild animals. Officials supervising the search operation are keeping vigil around these dolls through camera traps.

CM Revanth orders comprehensive Kharif action plan for farmers

Special Committees to Monitor Seed Supply, Fertilizer Distribution and Crop Procurement

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy has directed officials to implement a comprehensive action plan for seed procurement, fertilizer distribution and crop procurement to ensure hassle-free agricultural operations during the upcoming Kharif season. Chairing a high-level review meeting of the Agriculture Department at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion on Monday, Chief Minister emphasized the need for a transparent and technology-driven system covering every stage of farming from seed distribution to procurement of harvested crops.

Meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and D. Sridhar Babu, Rajya Sabha MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, CMO Principal Secretary Seshadri



and senior officials. To ensure effective implementation of agricultural operations, the Chief Minister ordered the immediate formation of a high-level official committee headed by the Agriculture Secretary. The committee will include the Director of Agriculture, Managing Director of Civil Supplies and Planning Department Secretary and will monitor seed distribution, crop sowing, farmer registrations, crop data collection, yield estimation and procurement activities across the State.

Stressing the importance

of preparedness, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to formulate advance plans to address challenges such as unseasonal rains, transportation, storage, weighing and marketing issues during procurement. He directed officials to ensure that farmers receive the benefits of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and government procurement policies without delay. Chief Minister also ordered adequate supply of seven identified fine variety paddy seeds following the government's decision to provide a bonus on fine rice varieties. These seeds will

be made available at subsidized rates through Rythu Vedikas, which are being transformed into integrated farmer service centres.

In a significant move, farmers will be able to register their details and obtain seeds and fertilizers through Rythu Vedikas. Officials from the Agriculture, Revenue and Police Departments will be deployed at every Rythu Vedika, while Additional Collectors will supervise their functioning at the district level. Review also focused on leveraging technology in agriculture.

PM Modi arrives in France's Evian to attend G7 Summit

EVIAN (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in France's Evian on Tuesday to attend the Group of Seven (G7) Summit. PM Modi stated that he looks forward to meeting world leaders and exchanging views on key global issues. "Reached Evian, France for the G7 Summit. Looking forward to engaging with world leaders and exchanging views on key global issues. India remains committed to advancing collective efforts for a more sustainable and prosperous planet", he wrote on X.

Earlier, PM Modi landed in Geneva, where Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin welcomed him at the airport. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, PM Modi and Parmelin exchanged warm greetings and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties. "PM Narendra Modi landed in Geneva enroute to Evian to participate in the G7 Summit.



He was received by President Guy Parmelin of Switzerland. Both leaders exchanged warm greetings and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen India-Switzerland partnership," Jaiswal posted on X.

During the summit, PM Modi will exchange views with the G7 leaders, and those from invited partner countries and international organizations, participating in the summit sessions on Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity; Reviving Balanced, Shared and Sustainable

Economic Growth for all; and Ensuring a Safe, Rapid and Efficient Rollout of AI. He will also hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders on the sidelines of the summit. PM Modi travelled to Evian at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. India's participation in the G7 Summit reflects its growing influence in global affairs and its increasing role in shaping discussions on major international issues. This year marks India's 13th participation in the G7 and PM Modi's seventh consecutive attendance at the summit.

Kharge demands resignation of Education Minister first, as govt blocks Telegram channel



NEW DELHI (TSIT) :

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge launched a sharp attack on the Modi government on Tuesday, demanding the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the ongoing row surrounding the NEET examination and repeated instances of paper leaks across competitive exams.

In a strongly worded statement, Kharge criticised the government for temporarily blocking the messaging app Telegram in connection with the NEET re-examination process. He alleged that instead of addressing the root causes of the crisis, the government was resorting to desperate measures such as deploy-

ing the Indian Air Force for question paper transport, blocking digital platforms, and shielding the main culprits behind paper leaks while arresting only minor players.

"Modi ji should first demand the resignation of his Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, who has effectively blocked the futures of crores of young people," Kharge said through his X handle in a post. He pointed out that over the last decade, as many as 90 paper leaks have occurred, severely impacting around 9 crore youth aspiring for government jobs and higher education.

The Congress chief highlighted the human cost of these scandals, noting that around half a dozen young aspirants have taken their own lives due to the setbacks. He expressed anguish over parents who borrowed heavily to fund years of coaching for exams like NEET, SSC, UGC-NET, and CUET, only to see their children's dreams shattered by repeated leaks.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Unveils "CBN@361 Degrees" Book in Singapore

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES,
VISAKHAPATNAM :

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the book "CBN@361 Degrees - Polymath" at a special event organised by the Kakatiya Cultural Association in Singapore. The Chief Minister released the book and presented the first copies to Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, Minister P. Narayana, and representatives of the Kakatiya Cultural Association. The book has been authored by Shakhmuri Srinivasa Prasad, Chief Editor of Repatikosam daily, and

translated into English by retired IAS officer K.V. Satyanarayana. The publication analyses the decisions taken by Chandrababu Naidu at various stages of his political career, portraying him as a visionary leader and examining his approach to governance and development.

Speaking on the occasion, the author stated that Chandrababu Naidu's style of leadership and decision-making reflects the qualities seen in internationally acclaimed leaders such as Lee Kuan Yew, the founding Prime Minister of Singapore, and former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

He observed that Naidu's emphasis on long-term planning for Andhra Pradesh and his commitment towards the development of Amaravati as the state capital stand as examples of his visionary outlook.

Former AP RERA Chairman Ramanath noted that the book brings to light several lesser-known aspects of Chandrababu Naidu's leadership through opinions and observations expressed on different occasions. Representatives of the Kakatiya Cultural Association also presented the Chief Minister with a commemorative silver coin issued to mark the birth centenary of Lee Kuan Yew.

Mahabubabad land dispute sparks concerns over administrative neutrality

MAHABUBABAD (TSIT)

A land dispute in Edulapusalpalli village of Mahabubabad district has raised questions over administrative neutrality after allegations surfaced that a revenue official facing complaints became directly involved in proceedings related to the disputed property. The controversy centres on Survey Nos. 447 and 448, where ownership and revenue records are reportedly under dispute and subject to ongoing litigation. Ahmed Khan, State Organising Secretary of the Telangana Muslim Associations JAC, has approached the District Collector for the second time, seeking intervention from the Telangana Chief Secretary and the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA).

According to representations submitted by Khan, complaints were earlier lodged regarding alleged irregularities in the handling of land records and administrative decisions connected to the disputed survey numbers. He alleged that before an independent verification process was



completed, the concerned Tahsildar visited the disputed land on June 12, despite complaints against the officer remaining pending before higher authorities.

Khan questioned whether official proceedings related to the land were conducted in accordance with prescribed procedures and sought clarification on the circumstances under which certain administrative orders were issued. He also alleged that no comprehensive survey was conducted at the site and claimed that his application for digital authentication of land passbook records has remained pending for more than a year.

CM Shivakumar urges doctors to uphold people's trust at RGUHS convocation

BENGALURU (TSIT) :

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar called upon the medical fraternity to uphold the faith and trust reposed in them by society, stating that doctors are regarded as demigods by the people. He made these remarks while addressing the 28th Annual Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) held at the GKVK campus in Bengaluru.

Congratulating the graduating students, the Chief Minister said doctors carry a great responsibility as people approach them with immense confidence and hope. He noted that



Karnataka-trained doctors are serving across the globe and praised the state's medical education system as one of the finest in the world.

Emphasizing the need for equitable healthcare, Shivakumar urged young doctors to serve not only

in urban centers but also in rural areas, helping improve healthcare access and reduce migration to cities. He also commended Medical Education Minister Sharanaprakash Patil for his disciplined administration of the department.

Highlighting Karnataka's achievements in the healthcare sector, the Chief Minister said the state produces around 13,940 doctors annually and has 72 medical colleges, the highest in the country. He noted that RGUHS, with 1,044 affiliated colleges and over eight lakh graduates produced in the last three decades, has played a pivotal role in strengthening healthcare services.

Shivakumar also shared his personal journey of earning a degree at the age of 47, encouraging graduates to pursue their goals with dedication and serve society with commitment and compassion.

No Israel without me: Trump slams military strikes in Beirut

Evian-le-Bains (France): United States President Donald Trump, on Tuesday, June 16, while highlighting Washington's support for Tel Aviv, claimed that "there would have been no Israel without me," and that the state would have been "blown up a long time ago" had he not gotten involved. "Without the United States, there would be no Israel, without me, there would be no Israel, cause no other President was willing to do what I did," he said.

Trump made the remarks while speaking to reporters during a bilateral meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin



Hamad Al Thani on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France.

President Donald Trump meets with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit (Source: AP)

He reiterated that Israel

would not "exist right now as it would have been blown off the face of the earth hundred per cent," adding that "every smart person in Israel knows that." According to the US President, the war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon has continued for far "too long and too many people are being killed."

Trump indicated that he was upset, while referring to the recent Israeli military strike in Lebanon's capital, Beirut, as it had come moments before the Iran-US peace deal was announced. "I saw that attack, I saw where it went. That was vicious.. too much. You know you can do too much also," he said.

Mamata Banerjee moves Calcutta HC challenging Assembly election results in Bhabanipur



Kolkata, June 16: Former Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday moved the Calcutta High Court, challenging the Assembly election results of the Bhabanipur constituency. She reached the High Court unexpectedly on Tuesday afternoon and filed an election petition, challenging the victory of Chief

Minister Suwendu Adhikari in the Bhabanipur seat. This is the second time Mamata has gone to the High Court after the Trinamool's electoral debacle. Mamata Banerjee had earlier visited the High Court on May 14. She had gone there to personally argue in a case of post-poll violence. That time, the former Chief Minister had to

face protests from a section of lawyers who had raised slogans of 'thief against her'. Almost a month after that incident, Mamata Banerjee again appeared in the High Court on Tuesday. She was accompanied by Trinamool MLA Kunal Ghosh and party leader Dola Sen. However, she was present at the High Court for a brief time and left after filing the petition.

Many people present at the High Court grew curious when the Trinamool leader suddenly arrived. Later, one of Mamata's lawyers said that the Trinamool leader has filed an election petition regarding the Bhabanipur election results. It is learned that she had filed an affidavit regarding that issue. In this year's Assembly elections, Mamata Banerjee was defeated by Suwendu Adhikari in Bhabanipur. Suwendu became the new Chief Minister of the state by defeating the then Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, by more than 15,000 votes.

Kazipet Development Works to Be Fast-Tracked; 90% Completion Target Before Monsoon MLA Naini Rajender Reddy



Hanamkonda TSIT: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for development works worth 1 crore in Venkatadri Nagar and Prashanth Nagar of Kazipet's 61st Division and said the government is committed to completing 90 percent of ongoing development works before the monsoon season. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the Congress government believes in delivering projects on the ground rather than limiting itself to foundation stone ceremonies and inaugurations. He stated

that clear timelines have been fixed for all development works and that continuous field-level monitoring is being undertaken to ensure their timely completion. Naini Rajender Reddy said special priority is being given to the development of Kazipet and noted that several long-pending infrastructure projects are being expedited under the present government. He said the Kazipet Railway Over Bridge works have gained momentum and announced that the foundation stone for a 30-bed government hospital would be laid shortly.

AP Offers the Best Investment Climate, Says CM Chandrababu Naidu

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has invited Singapore-based industrialists to invest in the state, describing Andhra Pradesh as the ideal destination for business and urging them to consider Amaravati as their second home. Speaking at the CII Partnership Summit Roadshow in Singapore, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh has established a reputation for the "Speed of Doing Business", supported by investor-friendly policies,

availability of land and water resources, and world-class infrastructure. Naidu highlighted the state's ongoing industrial initiatives, including the proposed Google Cloud AI Data Hub, large-scale data centre projects, and LG Electronics' Rs.7,000-crore manufacturing unit at Sri City. He said the government is ensuring faster approvals and creating a skilled workforce through the establishment of a Skill University. Stating that Andhra Pradesh is poised to become India's economic powerhouse, he said the state

is expanding ports, airports, industrial corridors, and MSME parks to boost exports and employment. He added that Amaravati is being developed as a global knowledge hub, with projects such as a 133-qubit quantum computer and the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub. Emphasising that the future belongs to startups, Chandrababu Naidu called upon global investors to partner with Andhra Pradesh and become part of India's growth story. Senior officials, including Minister P. Narayana, attended the event.



Public Safety and Traffic Management Top Priorities During Monsoon DGP C.V. Anand

DGP REVIEWS FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AT MALKAM CHERUVU CALLS FOR COORDINATED ACTION TO PREVENT WATERLOGGING

Hyderabad, June 16: Director General of Police C.V. Anand on Tuesday directed all departments to work in close coordination to prevent flooding and waterlogging in vulnerable areas of Hyderabad during the ongoing monsoon season, emphasizing that public safety and traffic management must remain the government's highest priorities. In line with the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, a high-level coordination meeting and field inspection were conducted at Malkam Cheruvu to review flood management measures and recurring waterlogging issues in Hyderabad's western corridor. Meeting was chaired by Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy and attended by Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi, GMLC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner Srijana, HYDRRAA Commissioner A.V.



Ranganath, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty, senior police officers and officials from GHMC, Irrigation, HYDRRAA and other departments. Addressing the meeting, DGP C.V. Anand said the Police Department is maintaining a high level of preparedness to ensure

public safety and minimize inconvenience to citizens during heavy rains. He instructed officials to take proactive measures in flood-prone and waterlogging-prone locations to prevent traffic disruptions and ensure smooth vehicular movement. DGP directed officials to

identify alternative traffic routes in advance and issue timely advisories to commuters whenever required. He also instructed police personnel to maintain constant surveillance in low-lying areas, major junctions and vulnerable localities to facilitate rapid response during emergencies. Stressing the importance of emergency preparedness, Anand said all emergency response systems must remain fully operational and police teams should be equipped to respond swiftly to any situation arising from heavy rainfall, flooding or water stagnation. During the review, officials informed the meeting that special engineering teams have been deployed to conduct detailed inspections around Malkam Cheruvu, Khajaguda Lake, Mandikunta, Gurunath Cheruvu and other flood-prone locations in Miyapur, Kondapur, Madhapur and Biodiversity Junction areas.

Kailasagiri to be Developed as a Major Tourism Hub: VMRDA Chairman Pranav Gopal



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) VMRDA Chairman M.V. Pranav Gopal stated that proposals are being prepared to transform Kailasagiri, one of Visakhapatnam's most prominent tourist destinations, into a major tourism hub in line with the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. On Tuesday evening, Pranav Gopal, accompanied by Additional Commissioner Datla Keerthi, OSD Krishna Naik, and Secretary Murali Krishna, visited Kailasagiri to review the ongoing development works. During the inspection, he examined several incomplete structures and directed officials to pre-

pare proposals for the construction of a shopping complex at the site. He also instructed the authorities to introduce battery-operated vehicles to facilitate easy access for visitors up to the Trishul viewpoint. In addition, he suggested preparing proposals to install replicas of world-famous attractions to further enhance the appeal of Kailasagiri among tourists. Later, the VMRDA Chairman held a meeting with traders and business operators at Kailasagiri. He observed that the number of visitors had increased significantly following the introduction of attractions such as the Glass Bridge and

the Trishul installation. He added that several more innovative projects aimed at attracting tourists would be introduced in the near future. Pranav Gopal urged traders to contribute towards maintaining Kailasagiri's reputation as a premier tourist destination. He also interacted with them to understand the issues they face and assured them that appropriate steps would be taken to address their concerns. Executive Engineer J.C.P. Singh, Deputy Executive Engineer Sankara Rao, Murthy, and other officials were also present during the visit.

Collector Rizwan Basha orders strict action against illegal sand transportation in Rajoli



Jogulamba Gadwal: District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik on Tuesday directed officials to take stringent measures to curb illegal sand transportation and ensure that sand is supplied to consumers strictly in accordance with government regulations. The directions were issued during an extensive inspection tour of Rajoli Mandal. As part of the visit, the Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Thummilla Sand Reach and reviewed its operations. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring through CCTV surveillance and close coordination among the Mining, Police and Revenue Departments to prevent illegal sand mining and transportation. He also examined records maintained at the site and issued necessary instructions to officials.

Special Drive Against Modified Silencers in Visakhapatnam: CP Shankhabrata Bagchi

142 Modified Silencers Seized; Cases Registered Against 73 Bike Racers



Visakhapatnam (TSIT): Visakhapatnam City Police have intensified their crackdown on the use of modified silencers that cause excessive noise pollution, City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi said on Tuesday. Addressing a media conference at the Police Commissioner's Office, Bagchi stated that many youngsters were removing the original company-fitted silencers from their expensive motorcycles and replacing them with modified ones that emit excessive noise and smoke, creating inconvenience to the public. He said the police launched a special enforcement drive from January 1 this year following complaints received from citi-

zens, particularly women, senior citizens, and people suffering from heart-related ailments, who expressed concern over the growing noise pollution in the city. As part of the drive, the police have seized and destroyed 142 modified silencers. They have also removed 89 illegally fitted high-beam lights, which pose a threat to motorists travelling in the opposite direction during night hours. In addition, 270 mobile phone holders installed on two-wheelers were removed, as they can distract riders and increase the risk of road accidents. The Commissioner further stated that the police had seized 73 motorcycles involved in illegal bike racing at various locations across the city, including

the Beach Road stretch, and registered cases against the riders. Recommendations have also been sent to the Deputy Transport Commissioner seeking suspension of the driving licences of those involved. Bagchi warned that under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the use of modified silencers and unauthorised high-beam lights could attract stringent action, including fines, imprisonment, and cancellation of driving licences. He added that violations related to mobile phone holders and bike racing would also invite legal action. Later, the seized modified silencers were destroyed in the presence of police officials. Meanwhile, the City Police Commissioner distributed 450 summer kits to traffic police personnel, procured with financial assistance of Rs.6.75 lakh sanctioned by the Director General of Police, in recognition of their services under harsh weather conditions. Emphasising the importance of public safety and road discipline, Bagchi said the city police would continue to take strict action against activities that endanger lives and disturb public peace.

No Water or Power Shortage for Visakhapatnam Due to Data Centres: MP M. Sriharat

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M. Sriharat has dismissed concerns that the proposed data centres in the Greater Visakhapatnam region would lead to shortages of water and electricity in the city, describing such apprehensions as baseless. Addressing a media conference held at the GVMC headquarters on Tuesday morning, the MP said the city's current daily water requirement for industries, townships and domestic consumption stands at 470-480 MLD, while the existing supply is around 410 MLD. He noted that once the Polavaram Project is completed and additional infrastructure is put in place, Greater Visakhapatnam will have a total water capacity of 2,110 MLD within the next two to three years. Sriharat stated that even after meeting the requirements of the proposed data centres and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, hundreds of MLD of water would still remain available. He added that the government is also focusing on desalination projects to address future demands. A proposal has already been prepared for setting up a 100 MLD desalination plant at Pudimadaka in the first phase, with the treated



water intended primarily for industrial use. The MP also rejected concerns regarding electricity shortages. He said the city's present power consumption ranges between 1.5 and 2 gigawatts, while the state's ongoing power projects are expected to generate an additional 50 gigawatts of capacity by 2029-30. The electricity needs of the data centres, he said, would largely be met through renewable energy sources. Clarifying issues related to environmental

clearances, Sriharat said that Taruluwada and Rambilli received environmental approvals on April 18, 2026, while the Mudasarlova-Adavivaram projects secured approvals on June 10, 2026. He further explained that acoustic management systems conforming to international standards would be installed to prevent noise pollution from data centre operations. Emphasising the strategic importance of data centres, the MP said they are crucial for national security

and data localisation, enabling Indian data to be stored within the country instead of relying on overseas servers. This would ensure faster services, reduced costs and enhanced data security, while also contributing to the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat, from semiconductor manufacturing to data storage infrastructure. Sriharat revealed that the proposed projects, being developed in partnership with Google, could attract nearly USD 15 billion in foreign direct investment to Andhra Pradesh. He said the construction phase alone is expected to generate employment for 40,000 to 50,000 people, while 1,000 to 2,000 direct jobs would be created once the facilities become operational. He further observed that the development of data centres would encourage banking institutions, fintech companies, artificial intelligence (AI) startups and allied IT firms to establish operations in Visakhapatnam, thereby fostering a robust digital ecosystem in the city. Appealing to the public not to believe misinformation surrounding the projects, the MP asserted that the government's decisions are being guided by scientific studies and future demand assessments. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg was also present at the media briefing.

Kempegowda Jayanti to be celebrated at Kempegowda Layout on June 27: CM Shivakumar

Bengaluru : Chief Minister D K Shivakumar today announced that this year's Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti would be held at the newly developed Kempegowda Layout on June 27.

Speaking to reporters after a preparatory meeting of the Kempegowda Jayanti at the Conference Hall in Vidhana Soudha, the CM said, "It has been decided to conduct the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti at 11.30 am on the 27th of this month in the newly developed Kempegowda Layout. The programme to plant 15 lakh saplings across the city will also be launched. A new road in this layout will also be inaugurated."

"A preparatory meeting was convened regarding the Kempegowda Jayanti

celebration. The contours of the programme have been discussed. As on every occasion, separate teams will arrive from the four Kempegowda towers in the city. Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byre Gowda, K.J. George and Byrathi Suresh will be in charge of the teams for each tower in Bengaluru. The Magadi team will be led by local MLA Balakrishna, and the side from Huliyyurudurga will be led by Ranganath. The programme at Kempegowda International Airport will be conducted by Minister K.H. Muniyappa. Preparations in some parts of Bengaluru will be made under the leadership of Krishna Byre Gowda," he said.

"It had been decided to build a Town Planning

College in the name of Kempegowda within the campus of Visvesvaraya Technological University. Preparations are underway for the college. The Jayanti will be celebrated within the limits of every Assembly constituency and a grant of Rs 1 lakh is being released. A grant of Rs 1 lakh each will be given through the GBA to conduct this programme in the 369 wards of Bengaluru on another day. The date for the ward level programme will be decided by the Minister for Bengaluru City. Many suggestions came up in this meeting," he said.

"The theme park at the Devanahalli airport has been completed, and preparations to open it to the public are being made under the leadership of



Krishna Byre Gowda. Krishna Byre Gowda has taken up the responsibility of inviting dignitaries, swamis and leaders to the programme. The organisations and the Vokkaligara Sangha have taken on

responsibilities of their own. This programme is not limited to one caste or religion. Kempegowda is an asset of Bengaluru city and of the state. People of all religions, castes and organisations will come

together to celebrate the Jayanti," he stated.

Suggestions at the meeting

Many suggestions were expressed at the preparatory meeting. It was suggested that the Kempegowda burial site should be developed over 10 acres of land. Additionally, a tender worth Rs 100 crore has been issued for the development of Kempegowda's fort. It was also discussed that a Kempegowda Award selection committee should be formed within the GBA limits. The other suggestions received are as follows:

- Declare Nadaprabhu Kempegowda as the cultural icon of Bengaluru
- Construct Kempegowda District Bhavans in all districts

• Construct an international park and an international community hall in the name of Kempegowda

• A Kempegowda museum

• Cleaning and rejuvenation of Bengaluru's lakes in memory of Kempegowda

• A workshop to create awareness among the people of Bengaluru about water management, based on the Swaminathan report

• Inclusion of Kempegowda's life history in textbooks

• Declaration of a government holiday on Kempegowda Jayanti

• Construction of 50-60 foot tall stone statues of Kempegowda in the four directions of the city

• Development of Avathi village in Bengaluru Rural district

Kanara Entrepreneurs hosts inspiring Founders' Fiesta session with Anoop Sequeira

Bengaluru, Jun 16: Kanara Entrepreneurs (KE) hosted another engaging edition of its flagship Founders' Fiesta series at Catholic Club, Bengaluru, bringing together entrepreneurs, professionals, and business leaders for a morning of learning, reflection, and meaningful conversations.

The session featured Anoop Sequeira, consultant - Workplace Culture and Leadership Development, who shared his personal journey of resilience, professional growth, and entrepreneurship with the audience.

Drawing from experiences that began in his childhood, Anoop reflected on how early life challenges helped shape his out-



look towards responsibility, adaptability, and perseverance. He acknowledged the role played by family members, mentors, teachers, and friends who supported him through different phases of his life and career.

The conversation traced his journey through the hospitality industry, highlighting how several apparent setbacks eventually became opportunities for growth and learning. Sharing candid examples from his career, Anoop

emphasized that many of the opportunities that contributed significantly to his success emerged from situations that initially felt disappointing.

One of the most memorable messages from the session was his perspective on overcoming self-doubt: "When the mind asks, 'What if I fail?' challenge it with, 'What if you succeed?'" The discussion also explored his entrepreneurial journey, which he built alongside his wife. What started as a few opportunities gradually evolved into successful ventures through disciplined execution, operational excellence, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Manish Pandey Named Gulbarga Mystics Captain Ahead of Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 2026

Manish Pandey Named Gulbarga Mystics Captain Ahead of Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 2026 Kalaburagi : Gulbarga Mystics announced Manish Pandey as captain for the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 2026 during a press conference in Kalaburagi on Tuesday.

The franchise also unveiled its official Season 5 jersey, introduced its squad for the upcoming campaign and announced a sustainability and animal welfare initiative linked to the team's performances during the tournament. The event was attended by KSCA Vice President Sujith Somasunder along with franchise owners Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali Al



Hussaini, Dr. Syed Mustafa Ali Hussaini, Mir Raofuddin Ali Khan, Mahesh Hariharan and Neil Joseph. Members of the coaching and support staff, including mentor Balachandra Akhil, Head Coach Kunal Kapoor and Fielding Coach K.V.

Siddharth, were also present alongside the players.

Speaking at the event, KSCA Vice President Sujith Somasunder highlighted the importance of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 as a platform for emerging talent.

"Talent only asks for an

opportunity, and I think the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 is providing just that. Gulbarga Mystics are not just carrying the name of Kalaburagi, but the hopes of so many young talented cricketers from across Karnataka. This tournament should show that anyone with passion can grow, play and reach great heights," he said. During the interaction, the franchise formally introduced its Season 5 squad and outlined its vision for the upcoming edition of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20. The expanded ownership group was also presented as Gulbarga Mystics continue to strengthen their presence ahead of the new season.

'Sambhrama 2026' Kannada singing festival in Doha: Rajesh Krishnan captivates Qatari Kannadigas

Qatar : Subramanya Hebbagilu, President of Karnataka Sangha Qatar said that, Organized with the motto "Qatar: The voice of Kannada... the celebration of hearts", this cultural festival has successfully unveiled the rich singing heritage of Karnataka on the soil of Qatar and we gratefully remember the efforts of parents, corporate sponsors and volunteers who stand behind the socio-cultural activities. Speaking at the grand musical evening 'Sambhrama 2026' organized by Karnataka Sangha Qatar (KSQ) under the auspices of the Indian Embassy, at the DPS MIS Auditorium in Al Wakrah City, he said that cultural



ambassadorship, communal harmony and cultural exchange between different societies of Qatar He expressed his gratitude for the continuous support given to strengthen the bond. It mesmerized music lovers and non-resident Kannadigas across Qatar.

Indian Ambassador to Qatar Vipul appreciated the continuous cultural activities being carried out by Karnataka Sangha in promoting Kannada language, culture and strengthening communal harmony in Qatar. The main attraction of the much-awaited cultur-

al program was the live singing performance of popular singer Rajesh Krishnan and his renowned musical band from India, which literally entertained the audience. In this performance, the wonderful singing of renowned Indian singers Smt. Pushpa Aaradhya, Smt. Seema Raikar and Mr. Santosh Devaiah and the talented instrumentalists impressed the audience. The audience was mesmerized by the evergreen Kannada songs, old memorable ballads, melodious duets and a series of recent super hit film songs. The entire hall stood up and applauded the musical feat.

R. Ashok's is against Bidadi Township project has his land is in that area : M. Lakshman

Bengaluru: KPCC spokesperson M. Lakshman has sarcastically said that, The township project during the BJP regime was the brainchild of BJP, and R. Ashok, who was the revenue and in-charge minister in 2006, is being fought because his land is also in this area, and the state government will put an end to all this.

Speaking at a joint press conference with KPCC general secretary S. Manohar at the KPCC office, he said that the Bidadi Township project is being done with the intention of benefiting the people, and if they feel that injustice will be done to the people in the future, they should release the document for it.

With the intention of completely losing politics, they are bringing JDS workers wearing green shawls and fighting, and they questioned who brought those who are protesting against this project to the struggle. When Kumaraswamy was the CM in the coalition government, on September 23, 2006, he decided to make



townships on 60,700 acres in five places around Bengaluru to reduce the population. It was decided to make townships in Nandagudi, Kasaba, Bidadi, Solor, Saturnur, and 9,484 acres in Bidadi in the JDS and BJP coalition government. The Congress government is issuing a preliminary notification for the 7th time on May 27, 2026 for 7481 acres of land. There is no intention to acquire land and allocate it to others in this project. A residential corridor is being built along with the 7481 acres that will be made into an industrial corridor. Our job is only to acquire the land and give it away. They have said that

they will build the rest of the townships themselves. Kumaraswamy is alleging a scam of Rs 33,000 crore, and it is an incomprehensible question where this much money comes from. After Modi became the Prime Minister, about 100 townships have been built in the entire country. Most of these townships are in BJP-ruled states, and another 100 small townships have been built. Out of 7,481 acres in Bidadi, land is being acquired from 6,043 farmers from 9 villages, of which only 1,367 farmers have objected in writing that they will not give up their land for any reason. When a notice was issued

to the farmers who had objected through a committee headed by the BMRDA Commissioner, and the complaint was received and examined, 247 farmers out of 1,367 did not come. Out of the remaining farmers, 259 farmers appeared and requested us to increase the compensation, while only 663 farmers said that they would not give up their land for any reason. Their total land is 1,348 acres. That is, only 11% of the farmers are saying that they will not give land. Kumaraswamy's statement that 80% of the farmers have not agreed to give land is completely false. After our government issued the notification, Anitha Kumaraswamy wrote a letter and said, "35 acres of land have been registered in my name, Anitha Kumaraswamy, and for some reason, I have given the land to Vinay Gowda M.G. through SPA. Now that land has been acquired completely in my name, so if this land is acquired, I request that the related documents, notices, and money be sent to my address."



Former BBMP member Dr. S. Raju met and warmly congratulated newly elected Rajya Sabha member Prof. M. Nagaraj of the BJP party.

Karnataka bags National award for Highest Wind Capacity Pipeline

Bengaluru : Karnataka has been honoured with the prestigious "Highest Wind Capacity Pipeline" award at the Global Wind Day 2026 celebrations held in Goa, recognising the state's leadership and commitment towards accelerating wind energy development and strengthening India's clean energy transition. About 9 GW of wind power capacity is in the project pipeline.

The award was presented by Prahlad Joshi, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy to K.P. Rudrappaiah, MD, KREDL in the presence of Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Mr. Ramakrishna



Dhavalikar, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Government of Goa. Speaking on Karnataka's achievement K.J. George, Minister for Energy said "This national recognition is a testament to Karnataka's

unwavering commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development. Karnataka has consistently been at the forefront of India's clean energy journey, and this award reflects our focused efforts in creating a

robust pipeline of wind energy projects. We remain committed to further strengthening renewable energy infrastructure, attracting investments, and contributing significantly to India's energy transition and net-zero aspirations." Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy, said, "Karnataka's recognition for having the highest wind capacity pipeline reflects the state's progressive policy framework, investor-friendly ecosystem, and strong institutional support for renewable energy development. The Energy Department will continue to work closely with KREDL and industry stakeholders to accelerate project implementation and ensure that Karnataka remains a preferred destination for clean energy investments."

EDITORIAL

NO ONE IS WINNING THE AI RACE

Nvidia is worth more than every company listed on the Indian stock market combined. But on a single day in January 2025, it lost roughly \$600 billion, marking the biggest single-day wipeout in US stock market history. The driving factor behind this loss was that a Chinese lab had done for \$6 million what top US labs had spent hundreds of millions attempting.

Throughout history, scarcity has been the catalyst for innovation, and that is what DeepSeek-R1 [arXiv] demonstrates: building smarter, not bigger. The US had blocked the sale of NVIDIA's most powerful AI chips, such as the H100 and B200, to Chinese companies. This restriction is the exact reason why DeepSeek had limited compute power and had to train their massive models on the less capable H800 graphics processing units (GPUs).

Rather than accept those constraints, the DeepSeek lab refined both architecture and infrastructure in tandem to train massive models far more efficiently, while keeping in mind their hardware realities. They proved they could bypass these hardware restrictions and train world-class models on older chips at a fraction of the cost.

The immediate impact was panic. Stocks for Nvidia, ASML, Google and Microsoft all plummeted the week DeepSeek launched as investors feared a massive shift. If DeepSeek could achieve frontier performance with such lean resources, the multi-billion-dollar demand for massive GPU clusters might simply evaporate.

Geopolitically, it shattered the illusion that the US was at the forefront of AI research. This forced the existing giants to pivot away from simply throwing more compute at models and hoping for better results. Instead, they began adopting an efficiency-first framework. China has since shut Nvidia out of its market, citing security concerns. They want AI sovereignty, with a homegrown ecosystem using Huawei chips. Sixteen months on, Nvidia, as well as other companies focusing heavily on AI are doing better than ever. An ever-increasing demand for compute obliterated the investors' apprehensions. This phenomenon predates modern technology, stretching back to the steam engine. The English economist William Stanley Jevons in his 1865 book *The Coal Question*, wrote: "It is a confusion of ideas to suppose that the economical use of fuel is equivalent to diminished consumption. The very contrary is the truth." He argued that more efficient technology would accelerate the depletion of England's coal reserves, not slow it.

AI compute is the latest example of this. The demand for it has skyrocketed, when intuitively, efficiency should have made massive compute obsolete.

DeepSeek-R1 was also the first open-source reasoning model. For closed-source, proprietary models, the benefits primarily flow to the model creator and the cloud provider running those workloads. OpenAI and Anthropic are the clearest examples of this. Open-source models, however, benefit startups, individual developers, enterprises and entire ecosystems of service providers.

The US strategy to maintain the lead in the AI race relied on the assumption that gatekeeping compute would render China unable to catch up. As Liang Wenfeng, DeepSeek's founder, told 36kr: "We didn't intentionally become a [disruptive force], we accidentally became one."

DeepSeek overthrew this assumption. What followed was a commoditisation shock. These models were now cheaper and more accessible than ever, drawing far more users.

INSIDE THE "RATIONAL FRENZY" DRIVING THE AI SUPER-CYCLE

When Elon Musk stood in a SpaceX hangar in Texas on June 12th and set the Nasdaq's trading day in motion, he ended it as the world's first trillionaire. The flotation pulled in \$75 billion, more than any listing before it, ahead of Saudi Aramco in 2019 and NTT back in 1987. The stock rose 19% before the close, which put a price of roughly \$2.1 trillion on the business. Take that in and pause. SpaceX booked \$18.7 billion of revenue last year and lost \$4.9 billion in the process. Set those two figures side by side and sit with the gap, because that gap is the argument of this entire market. The Gap is itself the Reality For three years, the investing world treated artificial intelligence as a riddle to be solved from the outside. How big was the bubble, which trades would it ruin, where were the winners hiding. Commentators of all kinds opined from end of humanity doom narratives to "it's a bubble" valuation analysis. The show went on. The larger shift was the one happening to the floor they were standing on. AI has stopped being one corporate theme among many and turned into something closer to a macroeconomic engine. Pimco has estimated that AI-related spending could add as much as \$14 trillion to global investment over five years, a sum it puts at roughly an eighth of world output. The big American cloud companies are on course to pour something like \$800 billion into AI data centres this year. Kevin Warsh, newly installed at the Federal Reserve, has spoken of AI as a force that could dampen inflation and clear room to cut rates. Once a single theme begins to move output, prices and the cost of money, a portfolio can no longer treat it as optional. It turns into the climate everyone invests inside. Elon Musk's rockets are not alone in defying gravity. So are AI valuations. Whatever makes AI impossible to avoid is also what has quietly disabled its pricing and this is missed by most folks. As the giants come to market, several index compilers have loosened their own rules so the shares qualify for inclusion sooner. The big low-cost tracker funds that shadow those benchmarks then have to buy, on schedule, regardless of the number



on the screen. Credit markets are warping in parallel, with Amazon, Alphabet and Meta said to have roughly doubled their borrowings to around \$300 billion in a matter of months, smudging the line that used to separate equity risk from debt risk. The OECD has reached for a coined term, the "equitification" of corporate debt. Bond desks that traditionally limit how much of any one issuer they will hold are now struggling to digest borrowing on this scale. Behind the plumbing sits one plain fact. A swelling share of the world's capital is being placed into these names by rule, not by anyone's considered judgement. This is also a reason for India's FII drought because at this stage we are not a vanguard economy. No JOMO only FOMO A market bid by rule is a peculiar thing. Strategists at Lombard Odier have made the point that when funds stop deciding what a share is actually worth, the task of weighing how concentrated a portfolio has become falls to the dwindling number of people still doing that work by hand. When you are structurally unable to be left out of something, you stop asking what it costs. Inclusion stands in for valuation. Buying on a schedule, at whatever price the tape prints, is the natural enemy of return. The investor setting the marginal price at the top is paying for a narrative, and lined up

behind that narrative is a queue of money with no licence to do anything but follow. Return to those two SpaceX figures, and to the question any patient holder ought to put to himself. What is the \$2.1 trillion actually a price on? Not the past year's sales, which would imply a multiple fit for a mental ward. Plainly not earnings, given the loss. Starlink, the satellite broadband arm, is the one that turned a profit at all, around \$4.4 billion last year by the firm's account. The rest of the valuation is a wager on terminal value, on a future still over the horizon. Server farms in orbit carried up by a Starship that is running behind. A chip plant Musk has nicknamed the Terafab and has not yet been built. Settlements on Mars. What more? A rocket climbs only while its engines are lit, and the thrust under this market flows, the mechanical index demand and a capital-spending boom that keeps feeding itself. Fundamentals are the gravity. The thing no one can yet read is how much fuel is stacked behind the thrust, and by Katie Martin's own reckoning in the Financial Times, that is something the market tends to discover only once it is far too late to act on. Filing the whole episode under mania and leaving it there would be too easy. SpaceX has spent two decades doing things that careful people insisted could not be done.

Putting a privately built liquid-fuelled rocket into orbit, recovering boosters to fly them over and over, running the internet down from a constellation of more than ten thousand satellites after every dotcom-era version of that idea collapsed into bankruptcy. Brains on their own settle nothing in markets, yet Musk has produced more of them, and more luck, than his critics ever built into their models. The genuinely awkward thought is that this may be the most rational frenzy ever financed or the most ruinously costly one, and the market has stepped back from the very work that would tell the two apart. From where India's savers sit, none of this is a far-off American show. The same automatic-inclusion logic reaches them through international and feeder funds, through the global passive complex, and through the simple reality that equity sentiment everywhere now follows a small cluster of American mega-caps. A salaried earner dropping a few thousand rupees into a monthly SIP, and a household whose retirement pot quietly tracks an index it has never inspected, are steadily riding the exact same financial wave without once being consulted. Gravity, when it eventually does its work, will not pause to check passports. A bubble is the easy word for this, though it captures only half the truth. The ordinary

kind drains away once somebody decides the price is mad; they simply walk. This one is far harder to step out of, pumped up by purchases that happen on autopilot, in a market that has handed the act of pricing to almost no one left to do it. AI investment in the West is now woven into economic life, too large to wave away and, for the time being, too relentlessly bought to interrogate. A great many people are already in their seats with the harness down. The engines are deafening. From inside the cabin, not one of them can make out the fuel gauge. Houston, we have liftoff! The policy designed to kneecap China may have handed the world cheaper AI. The US set out to win an AI race by controlling the hardware. Instead, it may have accelerated the moment when hardware stopped mattering. But what does it even mean to "win"?

Having the best model? No, because every advance gets reproduced by competitors almost immediately. DeepSeek proved that a \$500 million "lead" could be replicated in weeks. Market valuation? Also no. The market reflects investor sentiments, not the technological realities. As investor Ray Dalio says in *The All-In Podcast*, betting on the company and buying its stock are not the same thing.

Being the first to build artificial general intelligence? Maybe - at least that is what the tech giants seem to be focusing on. But how durable is the first mover advantage? According to an article in the Harvard Business Review, "a rapid pace of market evolution makes long-term dominance unlikely". The authors suggest a 'quick out, quick out' approach for companies in spaces where both the market and the technology are developing rapidly. AI fits that description exactly.

Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang contradicted himself recently after giving a Financial Times interview. Although he told the newspaper that "China is going to win the AI race", he quickly issued a statement afterwards saying "As I have long said, China is nanoseconds behind America in AI. It's vital that America wins by racing ahead and winning developers worldwide."

Heir Not-So-Apparent: The New Reality Of Indian Politics



There is a temptation to see the Trinamool Congress crisis as a Bengal story alone: Mamata Banerjee's defeat, Abhishek Banerjee's unpopularity with sections of the party, rebel MPs and MLAs testing the limits of loyalty, and a post-power scramble for survival. That would be a mistake. What is unfolding in the TMC is a cautionary tale for nearly every regional party in India attempting to compress legacy, authority, and future into the hands of a chosen heir. The latest twist, with a breakaway TMC faction moving towards the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), apparently based in West Bengal and active in Assam and Tripura, makes the crisis larger than a succession drama. It shows how rebellion in Indian politics is no longer merely a matter of walking out. It is increasingly a matter of finding the right procedural shelter, the right symbol, the right legislative arithmetic, and the

right minor partner through which a larger realignment can be engineered. The Logic Of Legacy In Indian politics, a founder can build a party through struggle, charisma, ideology, caste mobilisation, regional pride, or personal sacrifice. But the heir rarely inherits all of that. He or she inherits the office, the surname, the access, and often the impatience. The rest has to be earned. This is where the trouble begins. Mamata Banerjee's authority was not inherited. It was accumulated through bruises. She took on the CPI(M) when the Left still looked unbeatable. She built the TMC from a rebel Congress platform into Bengal's principal political force. Her legitimacy came from confrontation, not conciliation. Abhishek Banerjee's rise, however, was read by many inside the party as a transfer of power from aunt to nephew, not as an organic political ascent. As long as the TMC controlled Bengal, such

reservations could be contained. But once the state slipped away, what had been tolerated as "succession" began to be described as "nepotism". What had earlier been accepted as authority began to look like entitlement. This is not unique to Trinamool. It is the oldest problem of India's family-led regional parties: those who built the house do not always accept the child who is handed the keys. The Congress, though a national party, has not been immune to this logic, either. Its difference is scale: the Gandhis sit atop a far older and wider organisation, but the same question haunts the party - can inherited legitimacy substitute for organisational renewal, electoral proof, and the trust of leaders who have built their own political capital? In that sense, the crisis of succession is not only regional; regional parties merely experience it faster, more violently, and with fewer institutional cushions.

The Old Guard And Bloodlines In founder-led regional parties, the second-rung leadership often consists of people who spent decades alongside the original leader. They went to jail with them, fought elections with them, raised funds for them, managed caste blocs for them, took blows for them, negotiated with rivals for them, and sometimes saved the party from collapse. They can accept the founder's scolding because they remember the journey. They are rarely comfortable taking instructions from someone they remember entering politics as "the leader's son", "the leader's daughter", "the leader's nephew", or "the leader's chosen one". This is not always personal jealousy. Often, it is a dispute over political capital. The veteran believes they have earned their place through work. The heir believes they have inherited a mandate through blood and proximity. The collision is inevitable. Maharashtra has already shown this twice. In the Shiv Sena, Uddhav Thackeray inherited Bal Thackeray's party, but Eknath Shinde was able to walk away with a majority of MLAs and eventually the party name and symbol. The issue was not only ideology or alliance arithmetic. It was also the discomfort of a street-built party being run from a familial centre that many old hands felt had drifted away from the Sena's original instincts. The Nationalist Congress Party offered another lesson.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Needs To Be Told Cricket Is Not A Contact Sport

Dealing with prodigies is always a tricky affair. The younger they are, the easier it becomes to excuse things. A bad reaction gets called passion-using intense emotion to excuse poor communication or toxic actions. Poor behaviour gets passed off as immaturity. And when the talent is as obvious as Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, people often look away because the runs and the sixes just begin to feel bigger than everything else. But there is a danger of looking away. At 15, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is moving through cricket at 10x speed, that very few have experienced. He has taken apart international bowlers in the IPL, won an Under-19 World Cup, and will soon be launched by India as the most dazzling, aspirational product in the market, as early as the Ireland tour. Which is why what happened in Dambulla on Monday cannot be shrugged off. It was a tied game between India A and Sri Lanka A, the kind that leaves everybody drained. There was confusion over light, uncertainty over whether the Super Over would even happen, and then Sri Lanka A held their nerve to win it. Make no mistake that even during the game there were skirmishes between India A and Sri Lanka A players. After losing a game, frustration was natural. But what came next wasn't. The cameras caught Sooryavanshi in an argument with Sri Lankan players once the game was done. Even while walking away, he kept turn-



ing back. Kept engaging. Kept pulling himself back into it. Then came the physical contact. I am not sure how much contact sports Sooryavanshi watches. But cricket isn't rugby. It isn't boxing. You can play hard, you can get in each other's faces, you can let the adrenaline spill over a little. But once the match is over, it is over. There is a fine word that the game has given us 'controlled aggression'. And this wasn't even the first time. In the Under-19 Asia Cup final against Pakistan,

there was that needless "dust off my shoe" gesture after his dismissal. It felt immature then, copping criticisms from the opponent coach. Combined with what happened in Sri Lanka, it has begun to feel less like a one-off and more like a trait that the teenager has. Such traits, if left alone, become habits. I do not know Sooryavanshi too well to analyse his attitude, but his Dad reportedly has said that, like any youngster of his age, he struggles to process impulses, resulting in outbursts or aggression.

To channelise it, and channelise it well, is the real issue. Because when a kid is this talented, the people around him often become part of the problem. Everyone tells him how gifted he is. Everyone reminds him how special he is. Very few tell him when he is crossing the line. Every youngster needs that voice before a cheerleader. Indian sport has seen enough examples of what happens when talent outruns discipline. Prithvi Shaw was once spoken about in the same breath as Sachin Tendulkar. The bat speed, the confidence, the records at a young age - it all felt like the beginning of something huge. And maybe it still could be. But somewhere the road bent. Not because his ability disappeared. That was never the issue. It was everything around it. The habits, the distractions, the inability to keep the game at the centre. Talent is fragile that way. It can disappear in plain sight. That's why the comparisons between Sooryavanshi and Sachin need to end now. Not because Sooryavanshi lacks ability. But because comparing every gifted teenager to Tendulkar helps nobody. It puts a weight on the kid and creates a false script for his career. He is his own player. His own temperament. His own flaws. His own road. Look at Deepika Kumari. Few Indian athletes have had her natural ability. Former world No.1, absurdly gifted archer, almost effortless in the way she could shoot. And yet, no Olympic medal.

SpaceX overtakes Amazon to become world's fifth most valuable firm

Elon Musk's SpaceX has overtaken Amazon to become the world's fifth most valuable company after a surge in its share price. Days after joining New York's tech-focused Nasdaq stock exchange in the biggest public listing ever, its share price has risen by more than 50%. It leaves Musk's rocket company worth about \$2.78tn (£2.1tn), while Jeff Bezos's sprawling online retail and media empire is currently worth about \$2.66tn. The boom in SpaceX's value came as it announced it was buying AI coding start-up Cursor for \$60bn. SpaceX said it would take over Anysphere, Cursor's parent company, which makes the artificial intelligence coding agent. Soaring shares SpaceX has garnered huge enthusiasm among investors for its vision of sending AI data centres to space and even helping humans to colonise Mars. Its listing raised \$85.7bn and minted Musk as the world's first trillionaire. Since first selling shares to the public at \$135 each on Friday, they have risen to \$209. But analysts have questioned the sustainability of its high share price given the huge amount of uncertainty over its future earnings. While Amazon is a household name, with its brand difficult to avoid being



encountered on an almost daily basis, SpaceX is less embedded in the lives of the general public. Amazon made \$30.3bn of profit in the first quarter of 2026, while Musk's future-focused SpaceX lost \$4.3bn. SpaceX's biggest focus is the manufacture and launch of rockets with reusable parts. The company also manufactures and launches Starlink internet satellites, and is ramping up its presence in the AI race. SpaceX and Cursor have been partners since April, when Musk's firm announced it had the right to either buy it for \$60bn, or pay \$10bn for the

work they have done together. Like OpenAI and Anthropic, Cursor's technology uses AI to automate the process of writing code, one of the most prominent current uses for artificial intelligence. The tie-up comes as SpaceX tries to catch up with rivals by growing its AI business, xAI, which is behind the controversial Grok chatbot. Announcing the partnership in April, SpaceX said: "The combination of Cursor's leading product and distribution to expert software engineers with SpaceX's million H100 equivalent Colossus training super-computer will allow us to

build the world's most useful models." Cursor is used by major companies including Stripe, Adobe and Nvidia, whose boss Jensen Huang has described it as his "favourite enterprise AI service". SpaceX said the deal would be completed by the end of September, with Cursor's shareholders paid with \$60bn worth of SpaceX shares. SpaceX raised \$10bn (£7.5bn) more than initially thought when it sold shares to the public on Friday - bringing in a total of \$85.7bn. Elon Musk's rocket and Artificial Intelligence (AI) company pulled off the biggest initial

public offering (IPO) in history when it joined New York's Nasdaq stock exchange last week. The listing had raised \$75bn from investors, which Musk told employees will be spent funding a "significant growth phase". But the banks which backed the IPO exercised a so-called "greenshoe" clause, which let them purchase an extra \$10bn of SpaceX shares. The extra \$10bn raised, revealed in a statement by SpaceX announcing the completion of the listing, would by itself rank as one of the biggest IPOs in history. It came thanks to a financial mechanism known as an overallotment option, more commonly referred to as a "greenshoe" option. When a company goes public in a highly anticipated listing, investor demand can outstrip the initial supply of shares. To prevent wild price swings and ensure a smoother launch, a greenshoe agreement lets the banks handling the listing sell more shares than originally planned. In SpaceX's case, appetite was exceptionally high. The underwriters, which included Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, and JPMorgan, exercised the option in full, purchasing an additional 83.3 million shares directly from the company to meet the huge demand.

Anand Mahindra hails Musk's resilience after trillionaire milestone



New Delhi: As the world admires Elon Musk, who achieved the feat of becoming the first trillionaire after the record-breaking stock market debut of his company SpaceX, Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra highlighted that the real story behind the success of the American tech mogul is his unwavering belief in the ability to turn today's impossibility into tomorrow's reality. The public listing of SpaceX last week made Musk, who is also behind electric car-maker Tesla and satellite internet provider Starlink, among others, the world's first trillionaire. Mahindra, who lent his support to Musk way

back in 2018 when the latter spoke about an "exhausting, excruciating year" and "the worst is yet to come in personal life" in an interview with the New York Times, noted that innovators are often judged in their toughest moments, not their finest hours. "The headlines today are about a trillion-dollar milestone. The real story is that he (Musk) never stopped believing that today's impossibility could become tomorrow's reality," Mahindra, who had extended moral support to Musk during his struggling days, said when reached out for his comments on Musk's achievement. Mahindra said, "I reached out to

Elon in 2018 because innovators are often judged in their toughest moments, not their finest hours. What impressed me then was his resilience." In a post on the then Twitter (now X after Musk rebranded it in 2023 after acquiring the social media platform), Mahindra had rallied behind Musk, asking him to "hang in there". "Your factory is now humming at a brisk clip. The world needs inspirational innovators like you..." Mahindra wrote in response to Musk's interview with the New York Times in 2018. Elon Musk, the world's richest man and now first-ever trillionaire, controls a lot of different businesses.

STOCK MARKETS CLIMB IN EARLY TRADE TRACKING GLOBAL RALLY

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied in early trade on Tuesday, June 16, driven by a positive trend in global markets and cooling crude oil prices following a peace deal between the US and Iran. Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the positive trend in the domestic market. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 272.87 points to 76,537.20 in early deals. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 69.15 points to 23,921.55. From the 30-Sensex firms, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services were among the biggest winners. Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Power Grid and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.32 per cent lower at USD 82.90 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index were quoting higher, while Hong Kong's Hang



Seng index traded lower. US markets ended in positive territory on Monday. The Nasdaq Composite jumped 3.07 per cent, S&P 500 surged 1.65 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 0.92 per cent. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday as they

bought equities worth Rs 200.05 crore, according to exchange data. "Global cues continue to remain supportive, with US markets rallying sharply overnight. The Nasdaq surged over 3 per cent, while the S&P 500 and Dow Jones closed at fresh record highs, reflecting

renewed optimism amid easing geopolitical concerns and improving risk sentiment. "Brent crude's sharp decline is a key positive for Indian equities, while sustained domestic institutional buying continues to provide stability to the market," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research, Axis Direct, said. The US and Iran reached an agreement on Sunday to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a move expected to facilitate the resumption of oil and natural gas shipments through one of the world's most important energy transit routes. Details of the agreement have not been made public. Iran has indicated implementation will begin only after a formal signing ceremony, which Pakistan, a key mediator in the negotiations, said is scheduled to take place in Switzerland on Friday. On Monday, the Sensex jumped 736.38 points, or 0.97 per cent, to settle at 76,264.33. The Nifty surged 231 points, or 0.98 per cent, to end at 23,853.90.

Crizac Accelerates Vision for End-to-End Student Mobility with ForeignAdmits Partnership

Hyderabad, June 2026: Crizac Limited, one of India's leading technology-driven international student mobility platforms, today announced a strategic investment in Edument Consultancy Private Limited, the operator of ForeignAdmits, an AI-first student mobility platform that has served over 100,000 students and facilitated more than ₹1,500 crore in education loans. The investment, structured through Compulsorily Convertible Debentures (CCDs) and Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS), marks a significant milestone in Crizac's ongoing evolution as a technology-led, full-stack student mobility platform, extending its reach into AI-powered financing and visa solutions that serve students at every stage of their journey. With this investment, Crizac strengthens its ability to support students and counselling partners at the most consequential stages of the study-abroad journey: choosing a destination, securing financing, and clearing the visa, each powered by AI-



enabled technology that delivers speed, accuracy, and scale. ForeignAdmits will continue to operate as an independent entity under its existing brand and management, preserving the organisational agility and student-first culture that underpins its growth. From Mobility Platform to Full-Stack, AI-Enabled Student Infrastructure Crizac has consistently invested in technology and partnerships that keep it at the forefront of international

student mobility, connecting a global network of counselling partners with 400+ institutions across the UK, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. The ForeignAdmits investment is the next major step in that journey: bringing AI-powered, direct-to-student capabilities in financing and visa preparation into the platform, and giving counselling partners the tools to serve students more completely than ever before. ForeignAdmits brings a pro-

prietary, award-winning technology stack to the combined entity. LoanMonk: India's first pre-admission loan eligibility engine, with 80,000+ assessments completed across 17+ lending partners, giving students financial clarity before they even apply. VisaMonk: An AI-powered visa interview simulation tool trusted by 3,000+ students globally and winner of The Pioneer Awards 2025 for Digital Innovation of the Year in Student Recruitment.

Dreame Technology Unveils High-Performance L50s Pro Ultra and L50 Ultra CE Robotic Vacuum Cleaners in India, Setting New Benchmarks in Suction Performance

New Delhi, India, 16th June— Dreame Technology, a global leader in smart home innovation, today announced the launch of two premium robotic vacuum cleaners in India, the Dreame L50s Pro Ultra and Dreame L50 Ultra CE. Designed to address the evolving cleaning needs of modern Indian households, the new additions combine Dreame's industry-leading Vormax™ suction technology, advanced obstacle avoidance, edge-to-corner cleaning capabilities, and smart carpet cleaning solutions to provide a comprehensive and effortless home cleaning experience. The new line-up in the L50 series features intelligent mapping, AI-powered navigation, app-based controls, and voice-assisted compatibility, enabling users to personalize their cleaning experience while enjoying greater flexibility and convenience. This mirrors Dreame's commitment to building future-first products and enabling the smart-homes ecosystem. Manu Sharma, Managing

Director, Dreame Technology India, said, "Indian consumers are increasingly seeking advanced and efficient all-in-one solutions to manage their homes, while looking for technologies that integrate seamlessly into their daily routines. With the launch of the L50s Pro Ultra and L50 Ultra CE, we are further advancing our vision of enabling smarter living by delivering intelligent solutions that seamlessly integrate into consumers' everyday lives. Be it homes with pets, carpets, with different kinds of floors, elevation within homes, or multi-story houses, the new entrants are built to handle it all. These are exciting times for us at Dreame as we see growing acceptance of robot vacuums in India. As we continue to expand our portfolio in India, our focus remains on delivering innovations that simplify household management, save time, and elevate everyday living." **Dreame L50s Pro Ultra:** 30,000Pa Vormax™ Suction for Superior Cleaning



Performance: Powered by Dreame's advanced Vormax™ suction technology, the L50s Pro Ultra delivers an impressive 30,000 Pa suction power, effectively lifting dust, debris, pet hair, and fine particles from hard floors, carpets, and hard-to-reach areas. **EasyLeap™ 40mm Obstacle Crossing System:** Designed to navigate complex home environments, the L50s

Pro Ultra can effortlessly cross thresholds and obstacles up to 40mm high, ensuring uninterrupted cleaning across multiple room types and floor surfaces. **100°C ThermoHub™ Self-Cleaning Mop System:** Featuring an advanced hot-water cleaning system, the L50s Pro Ultra uses water heated up to 100°C to effectively clean mop pads, remove

grease and residue, minimize odors, and maintain enhanced hygiene with minimal manual effort. **HyperStream™ DuoBrush Anti-Tangle Technology:** Featuring a dual-brush system engineered to reduce hair entanglement, the L50s Pro Ultra efficiently captures dust, pet hair, and debris while maintaining smooth airflow and consistent cleaning

performance. **Smart Multifunctional PowerDock™:** The all-in-one docking station supports automatic dust collection, water refilling, hot-water mop washing, hot-air drying, solution dispensing, and self-cleaning maintenance, significantly reducing manual upkeep. **Dual Flex Arm Technology with Edge-to-Corner Cleaning:** Equipped with an extendable side brush and mop system, the robot effectively reaches corners, edges, and spaces around furniture for comprehensive floor coverage. **Advanced AI Navigation and Obstacle Avoidance:** Combining Smart Pathfinder™ Technology with intelligent object recognition capable of identifying over 220 object types, the L50s Pro Ultra navigates efficiently around household obstacles while optimizing cleaning routes. **Smart Carpet Cleaning Strategy:** The robot automatically detects carpets, boosts suction power for deeper cleaning, and lifts its brushes

and mops when required to prevent moisture transfer while maintaining cleaning efficiency. **Pet-Friendly Cleaning Experience:** Designed for homes with pets, the L50s Pro Ultra effectively handles pet hair, litter, and daily messes while maintaining powerful and consistent cleaning performance. **Dreame L50 Ultra CE:** 25,000Pa Vormax™ Suction for Powerful Cleaning: Powered by Dreame's 6th-generation TurboForce motor, the L50 Ultra CE delivers up to 25,000Pa suction power, efficiently removing dust, pet hair, and large debris from hard floors and carpets. **Multifunctional PowerDock™ with Hands-Free Maintenance:** The all-in-one docking station automatically empties dust, refills water, dries mops with hot air, and washes mops using 80°C hot water, significantly reducing manual maintenance.

Dual Flex Arm Technology for Comprehensive Coverage: Featuring an extendable side brush and MopExtend™ RoboSwing technology, the L50 Ultra CE effectively reaches deep corners, edges, and spaces around furniture for more thorough cleaning. **AceClean™ DryBoard for Effortless Self-Cleaning:** The integrated self-cleaning washboard system with 20 spray nozzles ensures efficient dock cleaning, minimizes residue buildup, and helps reduce unpleasant odors. **Smart Carpet Cleaning:** The robot automatically detects carpets, boosts suction power, and lifts its mops by up to 10.5mm to prevent carpets from getting wet while ensuring deep cleaning. **Pet-Friendly Cleaning Experience:** Designed for homes with pets, the L50 Ultra CE effectively handles pet hair, dirt, and everyday messes while maintaining powerful cleaning performance.

Trump insists Iran deal will open Strait of Hormuz 'toll-free' as he meets world leaders

Four people have died in strikes in southern Lebanon, according to the state-run National News Agency (NNA) and daily newspaper L'Orient-Le Jour, after separate attacks on at least three vehicles reported between Mayfadoun and Shoukin today. A further four people have been injured after a bomb was dropped in Hadatha, southern Lebanon, the NNA reports. Israel has not yet commented. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has previously said his forces would not withdraw from southern Lebanon in light of the deal agreed by the US and Iran. US President Trump has been critical of Netanyahu's continued strikes in Lebanon - describing an Israeli strike on Beirut this weekend as "vicious". Two days after the US-Iran deal was announced, there's scant detail of what's in it. US Vice President JD Vance has acknowledged the Memorandum of



Understanding is only about a page-and-a-half long, and "very general". So, a lot of the negotiations over the more difficult issues still have to be thrashed out. Crucially those issues include Iran's nuclear programme. In southern Lebanon the fragility of this deal has already become apparent. Overnight, Israel's military carried out strikes on figures it said were approaching Israeli soldiers, with four people "eliminated". Hezbollah said it had fired missiles and drones in return. Iran has insisted Lebanon must be part of its deal with the US, while Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday his forces would not withdraw and would maintain operational freedom. So, while this deal gives the region a chance to breathe, there is still much that could see negotiations unravel. As

we've reported, the signing ceremony for the US-Iran deal will take place at the Burgenstock resort, near Lucerne in central Switzerland. The ceremony takes place after Donald Trump, JD Vance and Iran's speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf already electronically signed a memorandum of understanding to end the war in Iran on Sunday. Vance previously hinted the contents of the deal earlier than Friday, describing the document as being "about a page and a half" and "very general". But the US President has since played down the idea, saying he wanted to "get a formal setting first". "I'll not only release it, I'll probably have a press conference and read it to you word by word so that the press covers it accurately," he said at the G7 Summit. The signing will kick off a 60-day period in which Tehran and Washington will negotiate a permanent peace deal, with the future of Iran's nuclear programme expected to be a prominent talking point. With an agreement signed between the US and Iran, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky sensed a moment of opportunity. Before Donald Trump launched the war on Iran at the end of February, his negotiators were holding near simultaneous rounds of negotiations on Iran and Ukraine. After the war began, the Ukraine talks stopped. As

energy prices rose and the US eased sanctions on Russian oil, Ukraine complained that this would merely help to fund Russia's war chest. The war also diverted precious air defence equipment away from Ukraine, as the US sought to protect its bases and allies in the Middle East. Now, Kyiv hopes that Donald Trump will start to view the conflict with Iran through his rear-view mirror and can once again focus his efforts on Ukraine. "We...believe that now President Trump will be much freer to get engaged back into Ukrainian-Russian war," Ukraine's former foreign minister Vadym Pristaiko told the Agency. "We need his presence." Despite earlier doubts that he would meet Donald Trump at the G7, Zelensky was able to sit down with the most powerful man in the world. According to the Ukrainian leader, Donald Trump listened to his request for additional all-important Patriot air defence missiles.

FRANCE'S OLDEST FEMALE DETAINEE, 79, GOES ON TRIAL FOR IN-LAW'S GRISLY MURDER



France's oldest female detainee has gone on trial for murder at a court in Versailles, in a cold case centring on a dismembered body found 31 years ago. Marie-Thérèse Garcia, 79, is charged with the kidnap and murder of her former sister-in-law Corinne Di Dio. Di Dio went missing in June 1995 when she was 37. Days later, a metal trunk bound with a metal chain was discovered floating in the River Seine to the west of Paris. Inside was the dismembered corpse of a woman - without head and hands. Only in 1997 was the body identified as Di Dio's, while the missing body parts have never been found. Garcia early on came under suspicion, but twice the case was closed for lack of evidence. Recently, though, DNA technology gave police a breakthrough. Two hairs found inside the metal trunk were found to belong either to the defendant or to another woman in her matrilineal descent. In 2023, Garcia was put in prison to await trial. Repeated pleas for conditional release on grounds of age and ill health have been turned down. Dubbed Ma Dalton by the French press - after the redoubtable grandmother of the Lucky Luke comic strip - Garcia protests her innocence, telling Le Parisien newspaper recently that the case against her was "built on sand".

Venezuela signs deal with US energy giant to rebuild power grid



Venezuela's interim president has signed an agreement with US energy giant General Electric to rebuild the country's electricity grid. Delcy Rodríguez, who was sworn in shortly after US forces seized Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro, in January, announced the move at a televised event at the presidential palace on Monday. The agreement is the latest sign that the interim leader - who was a fierce critic of the US before Maduro's ouster - is opening up Venezuela's economy to US investors and companies. Critics of her government have warned that while Rodríguez appears to be loosening the state's control over the economy, many key institutions remain firmly under her party's control. Venezuela suffers from frequent power cuts and its power system - which was nationalised in 2007 under Maduro's mentor, Hugo Chávez - is in dire need of repair and investment. Rodríguez described the signing of the agreement with General Electric Vernova, the US company's local branch, as "a historic

step for Venezuela", which would allow the South American nation to restore what she called "an essential service". Power cuts often last 10 hours or longer and have affected major cities, including the capital, Caracas. The Maduro government had blamed a drought for the frequent outages, which meant that the Guri hydroelectric power dam - a key source of electricity - was not producing enough energy to meet demand. But analysts have long warned that a lack of investment in and maintenance of the power grid, coupled with high consumption, have created an energy crisis which has been one of the blocks to Venezuela's economic recovery. The deal with General Electric was struck under the leadership of Energy Minister Rolando Alcalá, an electrical engineer appointed to the job by Rodríguez three months ago. His appointment was seen as a welcome change after six years in which the ministry was headed by senior members of the military, who failed to fix the failing grid.

HUNGARY'S MPS BLOCK RETURN OF ORBÁN, LIMITING RULE OF PM TO EIGHT YEARS

The Hungarian parliament has backed a change to the constitution that limits a prime minister's term in office to eight years, fulfilling a promise by Péter Magyar to prevent Viktor Orbán becoming prime minister again. Orbán led Hungary uninterrupted for 16 years, until Magyar's Tiszta party swept him from power in April's election, winning a two-thirds majority that gives it the power to amend the constitution. Under the change, no prime minister since 1990 can serve more than two terms in office, even if they are years apart. Orbán's depleted Fidesz party voted against the measure and the former prime minister, who was re-elected as its leader at the weekend, was highly critical of it. "The Orbán law has just been voted through. That was the most



pressing issue. If I'm needed, I'll be here," he wrote on Facebook. Orbán complained that Tiszta had only been in power a month and that it should not be "dreaming of eight years" into the future. The Tiszta government's so-called super-majority meant the amendment sailed through by 135 votes to 50 and the law now just needs the signature of President Tamás Sulyok to go through.

MoD investigating reports Russian warship fired warning shots near yacht in Channel

The Ministry of Defence is investigating reports a Russian warship fired warning shots near a UK-registered yacht in the English Channel. The incident, which happened at around 11:40am BST on Tuesday between the Isle of Wight and Normandy, reportedly involved the Russian frigate Admiral Grigorovich. It is understood there were no injuries or damage to the yacht. A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said: "We are investigating reports of an incident in the Channel." British authorities received reports from a UK-registered yacht that the Russian vessel had fired warning shots from around 500 yards (457 meters) away



- a relatively near distance by the standards of sea travel. The incident reportedly happened around 20 nautical miles south of the Isle of Wight, outside UK territorial waters. It comes days after Royal Marine Commandos intercepted a

Sunday's operation. Russian warships regularly pass through the Channel and are routinely monitored by Royal Navy vessels. The frigate thought to be involved in Tuesday's incident was being shadowed by the HMS Mersey, it is understood. On Monday, the Navy said the Admiral Grigorovich was being tracked by the HMS Tyne and HMS Mersey over the weekend, in what it described as a "routine operation" after it was spotted off the coast of Brest in France. The warship has allegedly been operating in the Channel for a while, patrolling and also escorting some of the Russian shadow fleet that pass through the shipping lane.

TEHRAN SELLING DEAL WITH US AS VICTORY - BUT FOR IRANIANS IT WAS NECESSITY

Iran's leadership is trying to present its emerging memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the US not as a retreat, but as the result of resistance and victory. That is not an easy argument to make. The country has just gone through a damaging war, the economy is under severe pressure, and parts of the Islamic Republic's own support base have spent months denouncing any compromise with Washington. There are also Iranians, both inside the country and abroad, who see the crisis not as a moment for diplomacy, but as an opportunity for regime change. This is the divided political landscape in which Tehran is



now trying to sell the deal. Senior Iranian officials have framed the deal as a win. Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the Speaker of parliament and the leading Iranian figure in the talks, said Iran had taken "a long step towards final victory". President Masoud Pezeshkian has

described the understanding as potentially transformative, saying that if fully implemented it could resolve many of Iran's problems and create "a different world" in Iran and the Middle East. Qalibaf's role is significant because he is not identified with Pezeshkian's moderate

camp; his public support suggests the deal has backing from more powerful parts of the system even within Islamic Republic Revolutionary Guards. The leadership is also presenting the agreement as a victory because, in Tehran's argument, the US and Israel failed to achieve their main objectives. They did not force Iran into surrender, did not remove the Islamic Republic from power, did not end Iran's nuclear programme through military action, and did not break Iran's links to Hezbollah. Instead, Iran is still at the negotiating table, with Lebanon included in the framework and sanctions relief being discussed.

RUSSIAN ARTIST AND PUTIN CRITIC SHOT DEAD IN POLAND



Police in Poland are investigating the execution-style murder of a Russian artist and vocal critic of President Vladimir Putin. Polish prosecutors said Robert K, known as the artist Semyon Skrepetsky, was shot dead on Monday morning in the Polish city of Biala Podlaska, about 40km (25 miles) from the Belarusian border. The 44-year-old was shot five times in the head, chest and back in a car park in the city, located about 600m from the Belarusian consulate. Semyon Skrepetsky was the pseudonym used by Robert Kuzovkov. He was known for his caricatures of politicians, including Putin, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. Marcin Kozak, spokesman for the District Prosecutor's Office in Lublin, said the artist was approached by an unidentified gunman who fired two shots at him. "When the victim fell to the ground, the perpetrator approached, fired three more shots and then quick-

ly fled the scene. Robert K died at the scene," he added. Five shell casings and one Geco 9mm Luger bullet were recovered from the crime scene, Kozak said. An autopsy has been scheduled for Wednesday. Police detained two Belarusian citizens, aged 33 and 37, near the Belarusian consulate in the city. Their role in the incident was still being determined, Kozak said. Media reports said Skrepetsky moved to Biala Podlaska in 2021. "The victim engaged in public artistic activities and used among other things, the pseudonym Semyon Skrepetsky, under which he expressed criticism of the current policies of the Russian Federation authorities," Kozak said. Video posted recently on social media showed Skrepetsky at a Russia Day protest outside the Russian embassy in Berlin on 12 June. He had been carrying a painting caricaturing Putin and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, as well as a Russian flag tied to his trousers that had been dragging along the road.



Eight dead after US Air Force B-52 bomber crashes in California

Cuba tourism collapses as US pressure campaign bites



The number of foreign travellers visiting Cuba has plummeted since the beginning of the year amid tightened US sanctions, figures released by Cuba's national statistics agency suggest. Fewer than 360,000 people visited the Communist-run island in the first five months of 2026, a decrease of 58.4% compared to the same period last year, according to Onei. The Trump administration has targeted the tourism sector,

a key source of income for Cuba's beleaguered government, as part of its pressure campaign against the island's leadership. As a result, a number of foreign airlines and hotel operators have stopped operating in Cuba, further driving down visitor numbers. Earlier this month, Air Canada announced it was suspending its flights to Cuba indefinitely, citing the "ongoing political and economic uncertainty" as its reason.



"MOST OPPRESSED":

Iran Coach Fumes After Team Ordered To Leave US Right After World Cup Match

The coach of Iran's World Cup team said it was ordered to leave the U.S. and return to its training base in Mexico only a few hours after opening its politically charged tournament by playing to a 2-2 draw with New Zealand on Monday night. Coach Amir Ghalenoei didn't say who ordered the Iranians to leave earlier than planned. The team had expected to spend the night in California to maximize the normal recovery process after its opening game, only to be told after the match that everyone must immediately get on a plane for the 140-mile trip back to Tijuana. "They didn't even give us time to recover," Ghalenoei said through an interpreter. "After the game today, they said to us, 'You have to leave immediately.' It's very important for us to have time for recovery, (but) we are asked to get on a plane



and return to our camp in Tijuana, and we are really troubled by that." The Iranians' World Cup cycle has been in upheaval since the U.S. and Israel began a war against Iran on Feb. 28. Iran ultimately decided to compete even after FIFA rejected its request to move

its three group-stage matches out of the U.S. "We don't know why they are returning us, to be honest," Ghalenoei said. "I think it's very strange. It seems like others are doing the planning for us. The decision-making for us is being made elsewhere. We were sup-

posed to come two nights before the game, and we were supposed to stay tonight to recover and return tomorrow at lunchtime. We have no idea why. "I think our team is perhaps the most oppressed in the World Cup." Captain Mehdi Taremi and

Ghalenoei both decried the team's lack of many important staff members — including the president of Iran's football federation, coaching support personnel and media officials — who were denied visas by the U.S., amplifying the team's difficult preparations. "We have to leave Los Angeles right now, and it's not good for us," Taremi said about an hour after the match. "I think FIFA have to help us more than this. ... Everything is like a disaster, actually, for us." Iran opened its World Cup with a disappointing draw despite overcoming two deficits and getting the tying goal from Mohammad Mohebbi in the 64th minute in front of a solidly pro-Iranian crowd despite the presence of many Iranian American fans engaged in protest against Iran's government. Iran's next match is also at SoFi Stadium against Belgium on Sunday.

ICC Takes Action Against Pakistan Days After Women's T20 World Cup Loss To India

Pakistan have been fined five per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against India in their Group A match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup played at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Sunday, the ICC announced on Tuesday. Trudy Anderson of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Pakistan were ruled to be one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration. In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time. Pakistan captain Fatima Sana pled guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Claire Polosak and Jacqueline Williams, third umpire Eloise Sheridan and



fourth umpire Sue Redfern levelled the charge. Deepthi Sharma took five wickets and India bowled out Pakistan for 106 to successfully begin their latest quest for a first Women's Twenty20 World Cup title on Sunday. Sharma spun out the last three wickets in five balls as India defended 170 and won by 64 runs in front of a heavily partisan Edgbaston crowd, a sell-out 18,814, a record attendance for a World Cup group match. Seven months after Sharma starred in India's victory in the final of the ODI World Cup with five wickets and 58 runs, she

started this T20 World Cup with another standout performance. Sharma took the first two wickets of Pakistan's chase, which actually started strong. But by the 10th over India was on top and Pakistan needed Muneeba Ali, dropped twice, to go big. But Sharma ran out Ali on 41 in the 11th over with a great direct hit on the run from backward point. With AP inputs When Pakistan captain Fatima Sana fell in the next over at 77.5, her team fell away, too. Sharma's late burst for 5-10 made her the highest wicket-taker in women's T20s with 166.

Maruti Suzuki hosts friendly matches with visually impaired cricketers as part of its employee volunteering CSR program

New Delhi, 16 June 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki"), under its Employee Volunteering CSR Program – 'eParivartan', hosted a special cricket match with visually impaired players from the Cricket Association for the Blind, Delhi (CABD), an affiliate of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI). The unique initiative aims to enable social inclusion and cultivate empathy, respect, and teamwork. The match was held at the SportsCub Center for Excellence in Sector 70, Gurgaon, a venue specifically chosen for its fully accessible infrastructure for cricketers with visual impairment. As part of this event, a team of Maruti Suzuki employees played two 10-over matches with players from



CABD. Both matches were won by the team from CABD. The matches were played as per official blind cricket guidelines, including audible balls and adjusted rules for batting, bowling, and fielding. Discussing this initiative, Mr. Rahul Bharti, Senior

Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "We thank the Cricket Association for the Blind, Delhi, for giving us this chance to bring both the teams together. Playing alongside these remarkable cricketers reminded our team of

their incredible talent, determination, and spirit. There are vital lessons here to be learnt for all of us about the true spirit of sportsmanship and what it means to collaborate closely with diverse groups and persons with disabilities.

Jey Uso Drops Three-Word Reaction To The Bloodline's Collapse Years After Shocking Split

Three years have passed since one of WWE's most famous factions finally broke apart, but Jey Uso clearly hasn't forgotten the moment. The former World Champion recently shared a video looking back at the day he walked away from The Bloodline, adding a short three-word message that immediately reminded fans of one of the biggest turning points in the group's history. The post arrives on the anniversary of the split that changed the direction of several WWE stars. While The Bloodline may look very different today, Jey's latest message showed that the moment when he chose to leave the family remains a major chapter in his career. It was a decision that not only reshaped his

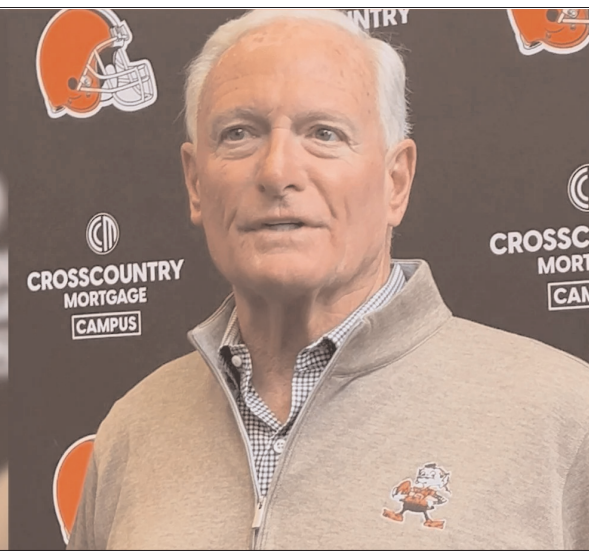


own future but also altered the path of the entire faction. Why Jey Uso's message matters three years later Before becoming one of WWE's biggest singles stars, Jey Uso was there from the very beginning of The Bloodline story. His rivalry with Roman Reigns helped lay the foundation for what later became the dominant family faction in

WWE. The group officially came together in July 2021. But after months of tension between Roman Reigns and The Usos, things eventually reached a breaking point in 2023. That split remains one of the most important moments in the faction's history, and Jey's recent post served as a reminder of exactly where everything changed. What

happened to Jey Uso after leaving The Bloodline Walking away from the family ended up opening new doors for Jey. Following the breakup, he continued his singles run and eventually captured a World Championship. His journey later brought him back alongside his brother Jimmy Uso. The pair reunited as a tag team and even enjoyed a short reign as Tag Team Champions. Even though the brothers returned to teaming together, their connection to The Bloodline story never completely disappeared. The family may be together again, but new problems are showing. The Bloodline reunited earlier this year, although the group doesn't look the same anymore.

Cleveland Browns Owner Jimmy Haslam Eyes \$100 Million Tax Break For \$2.6 Billion Stadium Project



Cleveland Browns owner Jimmy Haslam is backing a proposal that could save the franchise roughly \$100 million in taxes as work continues on plans for a new \$2.6 billion domed stadium in Brook Park, Ohio. According to reporting by Cleveland.com, the Browns want Brook Park to create a special community authority that would own the planned stadium and lease it back to the team. If approved, the arrangement would make the venue publicly owned, allowing construction materials to qualify for certain sales tax exemptions. The potential savings could reduce costs on one of the NFL's most ambitious stadium projects. Cleveland.com estimates the tax exemptions could save around \$100 million on a stadium currently budgeted at \$2.6 billion. **How the Proposal Would Work**

Brook Park Mayor Edward Orcutt has introduced legislation to create the Brook Park New Community Authority, which would oversee parts of the development surrounding the stadium. Under the proposal, the City of Brook Park would appoint five members to the authority, while Haslam Sports Group would appoint four. The authority would also manage revenue streams connected to the wider project. The proposal is expected to be discussed by the City Council this week, with a public hearing scheduled for July 15. **Browns Stadium Project Targets 2029 Opening** The planned stadium is expected to open in time for the 2029 NFL season and will replace the Browns' current home. Funding for the project combines private and public investment.

Lionel Messi's Argentina Chase Brazil's 64-Year-Old Record In FIFA World Cup 2026

Argentina enter the FIFA World Cup 2026 as defending champions. The side defeated France in a closely-fought final of the last edition to clinch their third title, while also ending a 36-year trophy drought. La Albiceleste bagged the glory for the first time in 1978, repeated it in 1986 and then waited for a long time to bring the trophy home again. While Argentina arrive in North America as one of the favourites to win the title, a huge test awaits them as none of the teams has managed to successfully defend the World Cup title since Brazil achieved it in 1962. Football great Lionel Messi remains the centre of attraction in the Argentina squad. He has won every major team and



individual honour in the sport. He continues to play an influential role in the team despite ageing. In all likelihood, expect this to be the last dance for the player who has won Ballon d'Or a record eight times. Messi also holds the record with six European Golden Boot awards and two-time

winner of the World Cup Golden Ball.

Are Argentina serious contenders for the title?

Argentina feature a more balanced and mature squad that helped them win the title in the last edition. 17 out of the 26 players that Lionel Scaloni has

picked for the event in North America are the ones who won the title in Qatar last year. La Albiceleste have an experienced core that is adept at handling pressure, surviving difficult moments and swinging the momentum their way to produce the desired result.

Asian Games: Sumit Nagal, Sahaja Yamalapalli To Lead Indian Tennis Contingent



India's top-ranked singles players Sumit Nagal and Sahaja Yamalapalli will spearhead the country's tennis campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Japan as the All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Monday picked a six-member men's and women's squad for the continental showpiece. The team was selected by the AITA's selection committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Bal and features a mix of experienced campaigners and emerging talent, with the federation banking on a blend of current form and future potential for success in Japan. The men's squad comprises world number 277 ranked Nagal, young Manas Dhamne (ranked 378), last Davis Cup tie's hero Dhakshinewar Suresh (ranked 478). There are three doubles specialists in the squad led by Yuki Bhambri (world number 24), N Sriram Balaji (world number 61) and Anirudh Chandrasekar (world number 90). Karan

Singh, Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha have been named as reserves. In the women's section, India number one and world number 332 Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar (396), Vaidehee Choudhari (417) are the singles players in the squad. Rutuja Bhosale (ranked 125), Prarthana Thombare (181) and Ankita Raina (185) have been selected, with Zeel Desai and Shruti Ahlawat listed as reserves. AITA secretary general Sunder Iyer said the selection committee had carefully assessed performances on the professional circuit before finalising the squad. "The Selection Committee has carefully evaluated performances across the professional circuit and selected a team that combines experience, current form and future potential. We are confident that this group of athletes will represent India with distinction at the Asian Games in Nagoya," Iyer said.



Serena And Venus Williams To Play Doubles Together At Wimbledon

HERO VISHAL MEETS TAMILNADU CHIEF MINISTER JOSEPH VIJAY

Dearest darling CM Vijay. The word "darling" hasn't changed which I used to call u for the last so many years since i knew u from Loyola college. It all started when I got to know you as a budding star and then seeing u rise up the ladder as the SUPERSTAR facing all odds and criticism and brushing it away with ya silence and success and then moving on to become the Hon Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Today, the posting and designation has changed but the person u r hasn't. And it was an absolute delight to meet you and feel the same warmth. From Kalaaignar Ayya to Jayalalitha Amma to Stalin uncle to my very own Udhaya it was lovely to say darling to the CM of our state. The fanboy moment in me will always remain. God bless u and thank u for accepting the gesture of not accepting the mandatory bouquet and shawl and instead I used the money to educate three deserving underprivileged girl children in TN on your behalf and in your name. They will be proud and will remember you forever. My sincere thanks once again. All the best CM sir. Wishing you only positivity and growth and looking forward to the best of Tamil Nadu in your tenure.



'Maa Inti Bangaaram' Will Win Everyone's Hearts on June 19: Samantha at Pre-Release Celebrations

'Maa Inti Bangaaram' will Become a Big Hit for sure: Producer D. Suresh Babu Pre-Release celebrations"

Maa Inti Bangaaram, produced jointly by Samantha, Raj Nidimoru, and Himank Duvuru under the Tralala Pictures banner, is all set for release on June 19. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the film features Samantha in the lead role. The teaser and trailer have already generated significant buzz among audiences. As part of the promotional campaign, the makers organized a grand pre-release celebration on Monday. Prominent guests including producer D. Suresh Babu, producer Swapna Dutt, producer Janhvi Narang, and director Deva Katta attended the event. Speaking at the event, producer D. Suresh Babu said, "I hope Samantha achieves another major success with 'Maa Inti Bangaaram.' Samantha and Nandini previously delivered a memorable success with 'Oh! Baby,' and I wish this film becomes an even bigger hit. Raj and Himank have worked extremely hard on this project. The film releases on June 19, and I request everyone to watch and support it." Samantha said, "I want to ensure that my fans get to see at least two films from me every year. We have made a wonderful film, and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it as an actor. Now, as a producer, I understand the challenges and responsibilities involved. Our team hasn't slept properly over the last week because everyone has been working tirelessly.



Every department has poured their heart and soul into this film. Raj & DK and Nandini Reddy have been tremendous pillars of support. Raj & DK are among the most hardworking people I know. I thank all the guests who came to support us. I will always remain grateful to my fans for continuing to shower me with love. 'Maa Inti Bangaaram,' releasing on June 19, is a film that will entertain and connect with everyone." Producer Raj Nidimoru said, "I thank Suresh garu, Swapna, and Janhvi for being here. The Telugu film industry is filled with immense passion and love. Vasanth and Dharmendra have been the pillars behind 'Maa Inti Bangaaram.' Through this journey, we have had the opportunity to work with several talented artists and technicians. Working with Nandini garu

was a wonderful experience. While writing the film was one challenge, Samantha's performance elevated it to another level. She is an exceptional actress. We have worked on many Hindi projects, but the kind of excitement and response this film is receiving is something I have rarely witnessed. I hope everyone watches it on the very first day." Director Nandini Reddy said, "Many of us have been working around the clock for the last few days to bring this film to audiences. This has been possible only because of an incredible team that never stopped giving their best. One of the greatest strengths I have in this industry is the friendships I've built over the years. Working with Raj was extremely easy and enjoyable. Collaborating as a team helped us learn a lot from one another. I believe I

have delivered the best possible version of the film, just as I promised. Himank carried this project on his shoulders. I also hope I have lived up to the trust Samantha placed in me. Audiences will get to see a version of Samantha unlike ever before, ten times more powerful than what they have seen so far." Producer Janhvi Narang said, "I'm delighted to be part of this event. I have always admired Nandini Reddy's filmmaking style. This film feels like it was tailor-made for Samantha. Congratulations to the entire team." Producer Swapna Dutt said, "The trailer of 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' looks fantastic. Nandini Reddy is my first best friend, and Raj is also one of my earliest friends in the industry. I strongly believe this film is going to be a blockbuster. We are also

re-entering film distribution through this project." Mythri Movie Makers producer Y. Ravi Shankar said, "There is a special positive vibration in the title 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' itself. Samantha is truly like gold to all of us. Every film she has done with our banner has been a blockbuster, which is why she has become our own 'Maa Inti Bangaram.' The action sequences featuring Samantha in a saree are stunning. I was genuinely surprised after watching the teaser and trailer. The film is expected to open big, and I hope it becomes a massive success." Producer Himank Duvuru said, "The moment Raj narrated the story and revealed the title, I could already visualize the outcome. Raj, Samantha, and I initially worked on the project together, and later Vasanth, Nandini, and many others joined the journey. I'm confident audiences will thoroughly enjoy the film when it releases on June 19." Director DK said, "We have previously worked with Samantha on two series projects, and every single time she has given her absolute best. She has done the same for this film as well. After watching the trailer, even I became excited to see the final product. I am eagerly waiting to watch the film with audiences. This is the first project Raj has done without me being directly involved, and I sincerely wish the film tremendous success."

The Official Poster of The India Story Starring Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade Unveiled

Presented by Zee Studios in association with MIG Production & Studios, the makers of The India Story have finally unveiled the film's first official poster after building curiosity with the previously released posters. The newly launched poster also reveals the looks of Kajal Aggarwal as a determined lawyer and Shreyas Talpade as a concerned father, offering a striking glimpse into the hard-hitting narrative at its core. Featuring a young girl portraying Shreyas' daughter, the poster powerfully captures the human cost of a crisis that impacts millions. Set against the backdrop of the Bombay High Court and a pesticide cylinder placed inside a witness box, the imagery hints at a gripping courtroom battle centered on the alarming issue of food adulteration. Directed by Chetan DK and written and produced by Sagar B



Shinde, the film is slated for a theatrical release on 24th July 2026. The India Story is all set to release in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil languages as a worldwide release by Zee Studios. The film shines a spotlight on one of India's most pressing yet often overlooked public health concerns. Through

an intense and thought-provoking narrative, The India Story seeks to expose the hidden dangers lurking behind everyday food consumption while raising awareness about a reality that affects countless families across the country. Backed by co-producers Swati Vinayak Saindane,

Anita Jadhav, Vinayak Saidani, Kalpesh Shah, Devyani Khorate, and Prem Joshi, the film is further elevated by the work of DOP Nishant Bhagwat, music composer Mangesh Dhakde, editor Ashish Mhatre, lyricist Shakeel Azami, and sound designer Anmol Bhawe.

SAVE THE TIGERS SEASON 3 PREMIERE LEAVES CELEBS IN SPLITS

The Tiger Territory came alive in Hyderabad on Monday evening as the grand premiere of Save The Tigers Season 3 unfolded at AMB Cinemas to an electrifying response. What began as a celebration expectedly turned into a laughter-filled evening, with guests, celeb, cast and crew members, and creators soaking in the energy of a franchise that has become a biggest hit in regional OTT entertainment. The star-studded red-carpet extravaganza drew a host of popular personalities from soap opera to films. It punctuated custom red carpets, high-fashion celeb appearances and exclusive media interactions, and pre-screening get-togethers serving as the ultimate launchpad for the streaming. The beautiful evening brought together some of the



biggest names in entertainment space including the versatile actor Sundeep Kishan, Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Rag Mayur, Bigg Boss Telugu 5 winner VJ Sunny, Kalyan Padala (Bigg Boss Season 9 winner), Chaitanya Rao, Venkatesh Kakumanu, Karthik Ratnam, Aditya Mandala, Srinath

Maganti, Jabardasth Mukku Avinash, Nirupam, Kireeti Damaraju, and audiences erupted into laughter throughout the screening. Performances by Priyadarshi, Vennela Kishore, Jordaar Sujatha, Krishna Chaitanya, Deviyani Sharma, Abhinav Gomatam, and

Pavani Gangireddy received an enthusiastic response. The story of three couples and a divine entity (Vennela Kishore) couldn't have asked for a better reception. As the makers aptly put it, "A ROAR that made two worlds collide! Call it God's plan or pure destiny... the TIGERS are back to turn heads, flip tables & own their absolute redemption arc!" The countdown has begun, with Save The Tigers Season 3 set to stream on JioHotstar from June 19. Save The Tigers has emerged as the biggest Telugu web series in terms of OTT viewership. The first two seasons won audiences love through relatable humor, quirky characters, and family-friendly entertainment. And the much-awaited third season is ready to raise the stakes with a fresh fantasy twist.

AP Film Development Corporation Holds Its First Board Meeting



First Meeting of the Board of Directors of AP Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation Focuses on Roadmap for Industry Growth The first Board Meeting of the newly constituted Andhra Pradesh Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation was successfully held on Monday at Fortune Murali

Park Hotel, Vijayawada, according to Managing Director K.S. Viswanathan. The meeting was chaired by Corporation Chairman P. Bharat Bhushan and attended by Managing Director K.S. Viswanathan along with Board Directors Y. Jhansi, Suman Talwar, S.Sivaji, Chadalawada Srinivasa Rao, Burra Sai Madhav, Kandimala Sambasiva Rao,

Vivek Kuchibhotla, V. Samudra, K. Umamaheswara Rao, S. Venkata Krishna Reddy, G. Raj Venkateswara Yadav, D. Satyanarayana, and Durga Prasad Sahu. During the meeting, extensive discussions were held on measures required for the comprehensive development of the film, television, and theatre sectors in Andhra Pradesh.

Nagabandham is visually mesmerizing. It offers a great theatrical and divine experience to the audience: DoP S. Soundararajan

Virat Karna is the hero of the epic adventure thriller 'Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure' directed by Abhishek Nama. Kishore Annapureddy and Nishitha Nagi Reddy have produced this film on a huge budget under the banner of Nick Studios. Nabha Natesh, Aishwarya Menen, Jagapathi Babu, Mahesh Manjrekar, Rishabh Sawhney and other key roles are playing in this film. The promotional content that has already been released has created a sensation across the country. The film will be released worldwide on July 3. On this occasion, DOP S. Soundararajan shared the features of the film in a press conference. How did you get involved in the Nagabandham project?

"I had earlier done the film Devil with Abhishek garu. Since then, I have a very good relationship with him. Abhishek garu started this story with a very big vision. I got involved in this project right from the script stage. The idea of 'Nagabandham' excited all of us a lot. First, we locked the story. Then we planned how grand and engaging it should be visually.

What part of the work did you find challenging?
-I have done fantasy films before. I have experience in glamorizing and elevating the visuals. But this film is very special. This film was made in a very natural style. I shot each scene with natural lighting to immerse myself in the



story. I did not over-glamorize or create unnecessary drama anywhere.

It's a film with a very big budget and VFX. What kind

of challenge did you find as a DOP?
-We use visual effects in two ways. One is for grandeur, the other is to make it seem real. But making that visualization look natural is a big task. It is practically not possible to take a lot of people and shoot in the Himalayas. Visual effects are useful in such a situation. But making them look natural and real is a very difficult task. All the VFX in this film are also very natural and real.

The visuals in this film all look very real. What kind of groundwork did you do?
-The director, I and the art director visited many temples together. We visited the Sri Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. We

photographed every detail there. Even though the film is based on the same temple, we named it "Srirangapuram". We decided on the name to combine the splendor of Srirangam and Thiruvananthapuram. We did a lot of research on the topics related to that temple. Also, art director Ashok created amazing sets. If you step into the Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple set, you will feel like you have actually entered a temple. Every set was designed so wonderfully. I have done big films before. But I have never done a film with such a huge set. Lighting such a large set and shooting at high speed is very challenging work. The shooting was done on a huge scale.