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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

17-06-2026

Total pilgrims : 82,438

Tonsures : 39,948

Hundi kanukaku : 4,24 CR

Laddu sales : 4,16 Lac

Ammarasadam : 2,14 Lac

Medical treatment : 3,052

Waiting Compartments : 31



Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 10 H

SC seeks Centre, BCI responses on plea for national digital registry of legal professions



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Centre, Bar Council of India, and others on a plea seeking a direction to establish a national digital registry of legal professions in India, including a unique national advocate identifier for every enrolled lawyer, to curb fake practitioners. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana observed that the idea appeared innovative and could be done with the help of technology. The petition, filed by the Bar Association of India (BAI), has also sought a direction to the Bar Council of India (BCI) to frame a social media and digital conduct code under Section 49 of the Advocates Act, 1961. Advocates Vipin Nair and Prashant Kumar appeared for the BAI. The top court issued notice to the Centre, BCI, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and others, seeking their responses to the plea, and posted it for hearing in July.

Indian techie among 12 killed in Missouri skydiving plane crash

Missouri (TSIT): A 24-year-old Indian technology professional was among 12 people killed after a skydiving aircraft crashed shortly after take-off in the US state of Missouri, authorities said. The victim was identified as Sai Karthik Varma Datla, the only Indian national among those who died in the accident near Butler Memorial Airport in Bates County, about 80 miles south of Kansas City. The aircraft, operated by Skydive Kansas City, crashed moments after taking off on Sunday morning. According to investigators, the plane appeared to attempt a return to the airport before going down in a nearby field and bursting into flames. There were no survivors. Officials said the aircraft involved was a Pacific Aerospace P750XL commonly used for skydiving operations. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have launched a joint investigation into the crash. While the exact cause remains unknown, preliminary findings are expected in the coming weeks.

Mekedatu will benefit TN farmers more than Karnataka: CM DK Shivakumar

BENGALURU (TSIT):

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday defended the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project, asserting that it would benefit Tamil Nadu more than Karnataka and reiterating that the state remained committed to releasing 177 TMC of Cauvery water to the neighbouring state as mandated by the Supreme Court. Responding to Tamil Nadu Governor RV Arlekar's address to the state assembly calling for halting Karnataka's attempt to build the Mekedatu dam on the river Cauvery, Shivakumar clarified that the Mekedatu proposal is intended primarily to ensure drinking water security for Bengaluru and to regulate water releases downstream during times of distress. Earlier, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to reject the Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the Cauvery River.

The project aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru city. It involves constructing a dam on the Cauvery River near its confluence with the Arkavathi River in the Ramanagara district at Kanakapura, the home town of Karnataka Chief Minister Shivakumar. It includes a power station designed to generate 400 MW of renewable hydroelectricity. Speaking to reporters here, Karnataka Chief Minister said, "Mekedatu (project) is not close



to my heart. It is the heart of the entire South India. Mekedatu is a project that will help Tamil Nadu more than Karnataka". "We are committed to releasing 177 TMC of water, as ordered by the Supreme Court. We have to protect Tamil Nadu's farmers," he added. Stressing that it is only a balancing reservoir, the chief minister said "not even a bucket of water" will be used for irrigation, except for Bengaluru's drinking water needs.

The chief minister said the project would not affect Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water and argued that the reservoir would help ensure timely releases to the downstream state. Shivakumar said the entire Tamil Nadu politics has revolved around Cauvery for the past 40 to 50 years. "See, for the entire Tamil Nadu political establishment, this (Cauvery water sharing dispute) has been a political

agenda for the last 40-50 years. I do not want to interfere in its politics," he said and underlined that the Mekedatu project was before the court, which has already given directions.

Shivakumar said the judgment has benefited both states. "At any cost, it is our bounden duty to release 177 TMC of water to them. Last year, more than 400 TMC of water flowed into the sea. Who is responsible for that?" he asked. Stressing that Karnataka had not opposed dams constructed by Tamil Nadu within its territory, Shivakumar said the Mekedatu project would generate hydroelectric power in addition to meeting Bengaluru's drinking water requirements.

"We are not seeking any financial assistance or anything of that sort. Only the power sector will benefit. We can generate 400 MW of power. That is the major benefit for Karnataka.

Pradhan reviews preparedness for NEET-UG re-exam; stresses integrity, transparency

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a high-level review meeting on Thursday with senior officials from the Ministry of Education, state governments, the National Testing Agency (NTA) and higher education institutions to assess preparedness for the NEET-UG re-examination scheduled for June 21.

The NEET-UG for admissions into medical courses took place on May 3 this year but the NTA cancelled it on May 12 amid allegations of a paper leak. The CBI is currently investigating this matter.

Addressing the meeting, Pradhan emphasised the importance of maintaining the "highest standards of integrity, transparency and efficiency" in the examination process and directed all concerned authorities to remain vigilant and fully prepared for the free and fair conduct of



the re-examination.

The minister said officers designated by the ministry would reach all states to coordinate activities related to the re-examination process and report to the command centre headed by the NTA Director General. Pradhan also asked designated nodal officers of state governments to ensure that students were provided all necessary facilities to enable them to appear for the re-examination in a stress-free environment. School Education and Literacy Secretary Sanjay Kumar, Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi and NTA Director General Abhishek Singh, among others, attended the meeting.

CM Revanth defends Musi project, vows to build Bharat Future City

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Thursday strongly defended the government's Musi River rejuvenation initiative and the proposed Bharat Future City project, asserting that both programmes are crucial for Hyderabad's long-term development and environmental sustainability.

Addressing a public meeting in LB Nagar, the Chief Minister said the constituency shares a special bond with him and recalled the support extended by the people during his political journey. He said the people of LB Nagar had stood by him when he contested the Malkajgiri Lok Sabha election and later played a role in strengthening his leadership within the Congress party.

Highlighting development initiatives in the region, Revanth Reddy said several areas of LB



Nagar, BN Reddy Nagar, Vanasthalipuram and Gurranguda were neglected for years despite rapid growth in other parts of Rangareddy district.

He announced that an international fruit market is being developed over 240 acres with an investment of Rs.2,400 crore and said 424 acres in Gurranguda have been secured and dedicated as a National Park for the public. Chief Minister defended HYDRA's anti-encroach-

ment operations, stating that the agency was created to protect lakes, nalas, parks and public lands from illegal occupation. He clarified that genuine homeowners would not face any trouble, but warned that encroachers, irrespective of their influence, would face strict action. He said unchecked encroachments were responsible for repeated flooding in several colonies, including areas around Saroornagar Lake.

Telegram being exploited for terror activities, circulation of leaked papers: Centre to Delhi HC

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The Centre on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that the Telegram messaging app was being exploited for illegal activities ranging from cyber-crime and financial frauds to terrorism and circulation of leaked examination papers. This was stated in an affidavit filed by scientist Mayank working with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology seeking dismissal of the plea by Telegram against the Centre's action to temporarily restrict access to the app ahead of June 21 NEET-UG re-examination.

spokesperson Saurav Das said the organisation had called for a peaceful protest and had approached Delhi Police for permission. "We have given a call for a peaceful protest. We have requested the Delhi Police's cooperation and are hopeful that permission will be granted. This will be a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar," Das said, and invited artists and singers to join and perform at the demonstration.



sation is expected to culminate in an indefinite sit-in demanding Pradhan's resignation, according to the organisation. Addressing a press conference here, CJP

Rebel Sena (UBT) MPs given additional Rs 10 cr, moved to safe location in Rajasthan: Raut

MUMBAI (TSIT):

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday claimed that the rebel MPs of his party had been given an additional Rs 10 crore and moved to a safe location in Rajasthan, as the Uddhav Thackeray-led party faces an imminent crisis. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, Raut said the "traitors", a reference to the dissident Sena (UBT) MPs, have been given police security. He demanded that the cover provided to the lawmakers and to their properties be withdrawn.

He also warned that the party would launch 'Operation Tudwa' (bash up) against the rebel MPs. "Rebel Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs have been given an additional Rs 10 crore each. Earlier, they were given Rs 15 crore each. They have moved from Delhi to a safe location in Rajasthan," he said.

The Rajya Sabha MP, who again used expletives in the press conference on Thursday, had earlier alleged that the MPs were being offered Rs 50 crore to switch sides.

Raut demanded that the rebel MPs quit and seek re-election, stressing that Sena (UBT) workers have toiled to ensure their victory.

"If they have any morality left, then they should quit," Raut said.



Earlier in the day, six of the nine Lok Sabha MPs of the Sena (UBT) skipped its parliamentary party meeting here, signalling that a formal crossover to the ruling Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde may be only a matter of time.

Sena (UBT) MPs Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai and Rajabhai Waje attended the meeting, along with Sanjay Raut, the party's lone Rajya Sabha MP. The absence of the remaining six MPs all but confirmed a split in the party's parliamentary ranks.

The MPs who skipped the meeting are Nagesh Aashtikar, Sanjay Deshmukh, Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Dina Patil, Omprakash Rajenimbalkar and Bhausaheb Wakchaure.

While Sawant said that show-cause notices would be issued to the six MPs, Raut claimed that their no-show would be considered a violation of the party whip.

Tribal society lives with self-respect and patience: President Droupadi Murmu

The President was speaking at a programme, titled “Empowerment of tribal society by spiritual awakening”, organised by the spiritual organisation Brahma Kumaris in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh

BETUL: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that the tribal society lives with self-respect and patience and does not speak about its problems. ‘How can rights of 150 million users be curtailed’: Delhi HC questions Centre’s Telegram ban; reserves verdict The President was speaking at a programme, titled “Empowerment of tribal society by spiritual awakening”, organised by the spiritual organisation Brahma Kumaris in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.

“The tribal society lives with self-respect and patience, and does not tell anyone about its problems. They never ask for anything and live with nature and with the hope that they will get things with time. They prefer to live in peace,” she said.

Madhya Pradesh Governor, Mangubhai



Patel and Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durga

Das Uikey were present on the occasion. The President said that the

tribal society comes forward in every aspect of life. According to the

Indian philosophy of life, real empowerment happens when society is empowered in other things along with economic development, she said. In today’s fast-paced world, driven by a culture of consumption, spiritual awareness in every segment of society becomes crucial, she said.

This forms the basis for developing long-term, sustainable behaviour patterns and a lifestyle sensitive to natural resources, she said, adding that in the current tense and war-torn world, the need for this is greater than at any time in the past. President Murmu is on a five-day visit to Madhya Pradesh, during which she will participate in various programmes, offer prayers in Omkareshwar and visit Kuno National Park, home to several cheetahs, officials have said.

Azharuddin Seeks New Degree Colleges, Hajj House and Minority Welfare Infrastructure Boost

Hyderabad: Telangana Minister for Minority Welfare and Public Enterprises, Mohammed Azharuddin, participated in a high-level review meeting chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister along with chairpersons of minority welfare institutions, senior officials of the Minority Welfare Department, Telangana State Waqf Board, Urdu Academy, Christian Minority Finance Corporation, and other departments.

During the meeting, the Minister presented several key proposals aimed at enhancing minority welfare, education, and infrastructure across the State. He sought approval for the establishment of 10 Boys’ Degree Colleges and 10 Girls’ Degree Colleges to provide higher education opportunities for students graduating from Minority Residential Educational Institutions. He noted that while residential institutions currently offer education up to Intermediate level, the absence of dedicated degree colleges limits students’ access to higher education, particularly



affecting girls.

The Minister also requested the Government to expedite the completion of 37 Minority Residential School buildings under construction. He informed that 20 newly completed school buildings are ready for inauguration and commencement of academic activities. Seeking support for ongoing development projects, Azharuddin urged the immediate release of around Rs.130 crore in pending bills related to Minority Welfare Department institutions and works.

Among the major proposals, the Minister sought approval for constructing a permanent Hajj House Rubath near Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at

Mamidipally village, Balapur, with an estimated cost of Rs.86 crore. He also proposed the establishment of an Integrated Christian Complex on two acres of land at a cost of Rs.69 crore to serve the Christian minority community. The meeting further reviewed pending Shadi Khana projects, Urdu Academy initiatives, and plans to organize a grand Mushaira as part of the Urdu Academy’s Golden Jubilee celebrations. Discussions were also held on issues concerning Waqf Board employees, welfare measures for Imams and Muezzins, protection of Waqf properties, and the development of graveyard infrastructure across Telangana.

LAND ACQUISITION KEY TO PROJECT COMPLETION



KHAMMAM (TSIT): Land acquisition for ongoing irrigation projects should be expedited to ensure their timely completion, R&R and Irrigation Land Acquisition Commissioner K. Sivakumar said during a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Thursday. Along with District Collector TS Divakar, the Commissioner reviewed the progress of land acquisition and compensation payments for major irrigation projects in the district. He directed officials to resolve pending issues swiftly and ensure that compensation is paid to affected farmers without delay.

The review covered the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, the Munneru-Paleru Link Canal and other irrigation projects in the erstwhile Khammam district. Officials briefed the meeting on the status of land acquisition, forest clearances, compensation payments, pending court cases and survey works. Sivakumar

stressed the need for close coordination between the revenue and irrigation departments to address bottlenecks and speed up project implementation. He said all departments should focus on completing the state’s prestigious irrigation projects within the stipulated timeframe and regularly monitor progress. District Collector TS Divakar said land acquisition for 193.15 acres in 11 villages under the Jawahar Lift Irrigation Project is currently at the award stage. Under Package-14 of the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, awards have been passed for 623.02 acres out of 650.22 acres acquired. For Package-15, compensation has been paid after awards were passed for 198.13 acres. Under Package-16, awards have been issued for 820.12 acres, while compensation has been paid and possession taken for 796.13 acres. Compensation for the remaining land is awaited from the government.

ITC Launches Ultra Mintz, Expands Premium Sugar-Free Mint Portfolio

HYDERABAD (TSIT)

ITC Ltd. has announced the launch of Ultra Mintz, a premium sugar-free mint brand aimed at consumers seeking sophisticated, on-the-go freshness solutions. The new offering strengthens the company’s presence in the confectionery segment and reflects its focus on consumer-led innovation amid rising demand for premium refreshment products. Ultra Mintz is available in two variants — Strong Peppermint and Sensational Strawberry. Designed to deliver a long-lasting mint experience, the product combines bold flavors with contemporary packaging in a compact, pocket-friendly tin. The brand is positioned as a convenient refreshment option for consumers during meetings, after meals, or while travelling. Speaking on the launch, Subash Balar, Vice President and Business Head – Chocolates, Coffee and Confectionery & NCD, Foods Division, ITC Ltd., said the company is witnessing growing demand for premium adult confectionery products that combine convenience, quality, and an enhanced consumer experience. He noted that Ultra Mintz has been developed to address this opportunity while supporting ITC’s expansion into high-growth categories. Priced at Rs.150, Ultra Mintz is currently available through leading quick-commerce platforms and select retail outlets across the country.

TUDA board approves key development projects in Tirupati



Tirupati, June 18: The Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Board on Thursday approved several key infrastructure and development projects aimed at improving civic amenities and urban infrastructure across the TUDA limits.

The decisions were taken at a board meeting chaired by TUDA Chairman C. Divakar Reddy and attended by District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar and TUDA Vice Chairman R. Govinda Rao at the TUDA office in Tirupati. During the meeting, the District Collector reviewed ongoing development programmes, infrastructure creation initiatives, and the progress of various projects under TUDA. He directed officials to prioritize development works and ensure that all projects are completed with quality standards and within the stipulated timeframe.

The Board approved the provision of basic infrastructure facilities, including electricity, drainage systems, roads, and a convention hall at Padmavathi Nagar Layout in Surappakasam village. It also approved a master plan for developing areas up to the approach road of Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanoor to improve transportation facilities and

ease traffic congestion.

In addition, the Board sanctioned master plan roads for Settipalli Township and approved the construction of internal drainage facilities at Nayudupeta.

As part of efforts to transform Tirupati into a city of lakes and ponds, in line with the vision of the Chief Minister, the Board approved the “Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management” project for the TUDA region.

Addressing the meeting, TUDA Chairman C. Divakar Reddy instructed officials to expedite construction works in the Surappakasam Layout and complete the convention hall and other facilities in Padmavathi Nagar Layout as requested by the Plot Owners Association.

The meeting also discussed several other development proposals, with officials directed to examine new projects and take necessary steps to enhance public services across the urban development authority limits.

TUDA Secretary Srikanth Babu, Superintending Engineer Ravindra, Chief Planning Officer Devi Kumar, board members, and officials from various departments were present at the meeting.

High-Level Review on Monsoon Preparedness, Waterlogging Prevention and Traffic Management Held at PSIOC



Hyderabad TSIT: A high-level review meeting on monsoon preparedness, waterlogging mitigation and traffic management was held at the Public Safety Integrated Operations Centre (PSIOC) in the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate under the chairmanship of the HMDA Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan. Meeting was attended by the Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh Reddy, HYDRACOMMISSIONER Ranganathan, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner Srijana, Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) from the Cyberabad Commissionerate and senior officials from various departments.

Reviewing the preparedness in light of forecasts issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), officials discussed preventive measures to

address monsoon-related challenges and prevent water stagnation at minor, medium and major waterlogging points across the city.

Special Chief Secretary directed all departments to remain on high alert during periods of heavy rainfall and ensure seamless inter-departmental coordination for prompt emergency response. Officials were instructed to keep adequate manpower, machinery and emergency resources ready in vulnerable areas.

To prevent traffic disruptions during heavy rains, departments were asked to ensure the swift removal of broken-down vehicles and other road obstructions. Authorities were also directed to make extensive use of technology, including drones and real-time monitoring systems, to effectively track traffic conditions and respond quickly to emerging issues.

Kidney cancer a silent killer; early detection key, say experts

Hyderabad (TSIT): Early diagnosis remains the most effective way to improve outcomes in kidney cancer treatment, Hyderabad Collector Priyanka Ala said while inaugurating an awareness walk organised by the Department of Renal Sciences at KIMS Hospitals, Kompally, on the occasion of International Kidney Cancer Day on Thursday. Addressing participants, Ms. Ala stressed the need for greater public awareness about various diseases and cancers, noting that kidney cancer is emerging as one of the fastest-growing cancers globally. She underscored the importance of educating people about risk factors, symptoms, and the benefits of timely screening. That smoking, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and a family history of kidney can-



cer are among the major risk factors associated with the disease. Individuals with these risk factors should undergo regular health check-ups to facilitate early detection, he said.

Senior Consultant Urologist Dr. K. Seshu Mohan said kidney cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage because it may not produce noticeable symptoms in its early phases. He advised individuals to seek medical

attention if they experience symptoms such as blood in the urine, persistent pain in the lower back or side, an abdominal lump, unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, or prolonged fatigue.

He said advances in medical technology at KIMS Hospitals, Kompally, have significantly improved treatment outcomes for kidney cancer patients. Minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgeries

now enable surgeons to remove cancerous tissue while preserving healthy portions of the kidney, thereby improving recovery and long-term kidney function.

The specialists also emphasised that adopting a healthy lifestyle, including avoiding tobacco use, maintaining a healthy body weight, controlling blood pressure and diabetes, and regular follow-ups, helps in early detection and timely treatment the risk of kidney cancer.

Doctors called for increased public awareness and urged people not to ignore early warning signs, highlighting that timely medical intervention can save lives. Consultant Urologist Dr. Amish J. Vani, Consultant Nephrologist Dr. Papayya Nirmal, hospital staff, and members of the public participated in the awareness walk.

SC seeks Centre, BCI responses on plea for national digital registry of legal professions

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Centre, Bar Council of India, and others on a plea seeking a direction to establish a national digital registry of legal professions in India, including a unique national advocate identifier for every enrolled lawyer, to curb fake practitioners. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana observed that the idea appeared innovative and could be done with the help of technology.

The petition, filed by the Bar Association of India (BAI), has also sought a direction to the Bar Council of India (BCI) to frame a social media and digital conduct code under Section 49 of the Advocates Act, 1961.



The top court issued notice to the Centre, BCI, the University Grants Commission (UGC), and others, seeking their responses to the plea, and posted it for hearing in July. During the hearing, the CJI stressed the need to strengthen the young members of the Bar and said they must be encouraged.

When the petitioners’ council referred to the issue of social media and

ethics

“They (advocates) will not indulge in all this. Those who are doing it and are defaming the profession, they may not be really professionals,” the bench said. The CJI said the best thing is to strengthen the young members of the Bar.

He said in some high courts and even in some district courts, young members of the Bar have formed associations, and were engaging in constructive academic activities and discussion on legal issues. “Our entire hope lies on the young members of the Bar and the future generation of the profession,” the CJI observed. The bench also observed that law universities have to be impleaded as parties in the matter.

EDITORIAL

TRUMP'S IRAN WAR:
WAS IT WORTH IT?

President Donald Trump attacked Iran to weaken the Islamic Republic, crush its ambitions and neuter it as a regional threat. But he leaves the battlefield with his adversary strategically stronger and forcing compromises.

There's been no regime change and a new version of the old rules still. Also, no descent into oblivion and no abject surrender by Tehran's theocrats. If anything, it was Trump who was keen to end the war, ready to give concessions he would have laughed at when he came into the avatar of the "war president".The US and Israel declared war to "obliterate" (this time for real) Iran's nuclear programme, exhaust its missiles, decimate its proxies in the region and "liberate" the people by sending armed Kurds and installing a man of their liking on top. None of it materialised in full measure.

Embarrassing and expensive, Trump decided to cut his losses – a wise move in the eyes of most of the world but capitulation if you listen to the hawks. His most ardent Republican supporters are having a meltdown while the Democrats are asking why wage war only to reward the adversary? Israel, America's partner and instigator, stands bereft, abandoned by Trump and under pressure to play along with the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might be the loneliest politician with his future dark and plans to dominate West Asia in pieces. Instead, it is Iran that is emerging as the new regional anchor ready to set the table with Gulf countries whose faith in American power and protection might be the second major casualty of the war after Netanyahu's desolation. It wasn't meant to be this way but after 108 days, Trump was staring at strategic defeat for the United States. The thousands of (successful) bombing raids, a naval blockade and bombastic threats were tactical victories not definitive triumphs. Iran "won" simply by not losing. It used the Strait of Hormuz as the ultimate weapon of choice, hurting not only US allies but the entire world by turning the crucial waterway into a cemetery of zombie ships, neither dead nor moving. It absorbed the attacks, used asymmetric warfare and inflicted enough pain on its neighbours to shatter their reputation as classy oases. Cheap drones proved more effective against the expensive stockpiles of the world's two most powerful militaries than anticipated.

Not only did Iran's regime not change, let alone collapse, it emerged as a negotiating partner for the US and regional allies. Gulf states are busy opening channels to Tehran, trying to find space in a new regional order with Iran as a central player. It only proves that Iran's international relevance is greater and its sway over the Strait of Hormuz established. Hormuz may become a permanent Damocles' sword hanging over the global economy, something it wasn't before the US-Israeli war. In the past Iran had only speculated about blocking the strait but never actually done so. Now it has tasted the power it can exercise whenever needed. Did Trump meet any of his goals after an expensive - it cost US taxpayers \$100 billion - and high-risk war? In his defence, Trump and his advisors point to the damage the US and Israeli militaries inflicted on Iran, leaving the country and the regime considerably weakened.

Collateral Damage, No Regret: Indian Sailor Killings And India-US Equation

Three Indian mariners on a merchant ship off the coast of Iran and Oman are killed by the US Navy, but the US did not think it politically appropriate to express regret at this loss of life. Whatever the circumstances that led to this killing, some words of regret from the US would have been normal. After all, the merchant ship was unarmed and was not posing any military threat to the US warship. The US used military force against it, knowing that civilian casualties could result. Even if there was no deliberate intention to inflict casualties, but "collateral damage" occurred, why not express regret? Is there no moral obligation to condone the death of civilians in a military action, particularly against a non-military target?

What is worse in this case is that India is a comprehensive global strategic partner of the US. Both countries have cooperated for many years to promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean. The two countries regularly hold elaborate naval exercises. Both are members of the Quad, along with Japan and Australia, which has, amongst its several tasks, maritime security in the Indo-Pacific area. Maritime domain awareness is another major area of cooperation between the two countries. A US officer is stationed in our Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram, which is a maritime security and intelligence sharing hub established by the Indian Navy. It actively collaborates with international partners to monitor shipping traffic and combat threats across the region. India maintains a reciprocal liaison officer in the US Central Command HQs in Florida as part of deepening maritime, counterterror-



ism, and undersea domain awareness cooperation with the US. The Gulf area falls under the US Central Command and not the US Indo-Pacific Command. It is, therefore, surprising that with such levels of institutional cooperation, the likelihood of a very large number of Indian crews on commercial vessels being physically endangered in an area which is the biggest source of supply of oil and gas not only to India but to Asia in general was not discussed, and some protocols to protect their lives were not devised. Iran's step to control the flow of commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, however objectionable or legally questionable it may be, was in response to the US/Israeli war on Iran. Before the attack, the passage through the Strait was free, even when relations between Iran and the US had been hostile, and Iran had been subject to draconian sanctions by the US. The US violated the UN Charter in attacking Iran. The US policy of oil and

other sanctions on Iran and imposing them on third countries if they disregard these sanctions has no basis in international law. The US may have political reasons to sanction Iran because of its regional policies or its nuclear programme, but that does not mean that the US is acting in accordance with international law or the UN Charter. The US is exercising its power unilaterally because it has the muscle to do so. Accordingly, the US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and the prevention of Iran from exporting oil constituted unilateral decisions by the US. Commercial shipping would have no legal obligation to adhere to the blockade, though prudence would demand a careful assessment of the physical risks of violating it, given the deployment of US naval forces in the area. If individual ships, for whatever reason, felt that they could run the risk of passing through the Strait of Hormuz, they would not be acting illegally – they would simply be risk-taking in defying US orders.

If the commercial vessels were shutting off their transponders, etc., to breach the blockade, the question arises as to who gave the US the legal authority to act against them. As it happens, the US has not formally declared war against Iran. On top of it, under the US Constitution, the power to declare war lies with Congress and Trump's military action against Iran without Congressional approval is an issue of contention in the US itself. In this background, the US Navy firing on commercial shipping in international waters would be all the more legally questionable.

India's own initial reaction to the killing of our three mariners on MT Settebello was much too circumspect. True, the vessel was not under the Indian flag, and it knowingly circumvented the US blockade, but because three Indian nationals were killed by the US Navy, this necessitated a strong reaction from us. Instead, we seemed to want to give an escape clause to the US by referring to sanc-

tions, OFAC and the US blockade in our initial comments. We eventually condemned the attack on June 10, but without saying who was responsible. The US Navy was not named. With public anger mounting, the US C'dA was summoned the second time after the US Navy struck MT Jalveer, which also carried Indian crew members (20) but without causing any casualties. This time, we lodged a strong protest against the continuing attacks by US naval forces on commercial vessels carrying Indian sailors in the Gulf of Oman, which, we recalled, had already resulted in the tragic and avoidable loss of three Indian lives. The MEA once again conveyed its deep concern over the use of lethal and deadly force against civilian shipping, adding that "such actions are unacceptable and undermine the safety, security and stability of international maritime commerce in a sensitive region at a difficult time". The US C'dA was requested to convey India's strong con-

cerns to its authorities and to ensure that US forces operating in the region took all necessary measures to prevent the loss of civilian life.

The government obviously felt that, with the US ambassador out of the country, summoning the C'dA was not enough and that our concerns had to be communicated at the political level. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar spoke to US Secretary of State Rubio and reiterated India's strong protest at the attacks by the US Navy in the Gulf that killed three Indian mariners, stating that such lethal actions against commercial shipping were not justified.

Rather surprisingly, Rubio's read-out of the exchange with Jaishankar was unusually harsh and peremptory. He said that he stressed to EAM that all commercial vessels should immediately comply with orders from US forces, which seek to uphold peace and security in the Strait. He underscored that violations of the US blockade and the illicit transport of Iranian oil will not be tolerated. Rubio implicitly not only justified the killing of three Indian mariners under the circumstances but also warned that this could happen again, as the US will not tolerate the violation of its unilaterally imposed blockade. There is not even a pro forma expression of regret at the killing of nationals of a friendly country. A wiser diplomatic approach would have dictated some balancing of a tough message asserting the fundamentals of the US position with the palliative of regret. But Rubio preferred to snub us. As for the US upholding peace and security in the Strait, one can argue that, whatever the sins of Iran, it is the US that has disturbed peace and security in the Strait by its initial attacks on Iran.

Social Media Monopoly Looked Unbreakable
For A Decade. It Doesn't Anymore



Algorithms built the social media order. And for the better part of a decade, nothing has seriously threatened it. Instagram and Facebook together give Meta command of roughly 44% of all global social advertising spend. TikTok has mounted the only credible challenge, growing ad revenues 28% year-on-year. YouTube, vast in reach and chronically undercounted in social rankings, anchors the ecosystem across mobile, TV, and desktop. These four platforms have divided global attention between them with a precision that makes the word competition almost quaint. Threads peaked and retreated. Bluesky is a footnote. That, until last week, was the complete story. Against this entire backdrop, X has always looked like an anomaly. Influential beyond its scale, volatile beyond its fundamentals, and perpetually described as either the future of public discourse or a cautionary tale about Elon Musk's ego project. Both

framings missed the point. The real question about X was never about the platform. It was always about the architecture Musk envisioned around it. That architecture is now visible. Most observers have not fully absorbed what has happened. X is no longer a social media platform sustained by Musk's personal conviction and positioning. It is the media and distribution layer embedded inside the world's most valuable company. xAI acquired X in March 2025. SpaceX acquired xAI in February 2026. SpaceX then went public in June 2026 in the largest IPO in recorded history, raising \$86 billion at a \$1.77 trillion valuation, with markets pushing the combined entity past \$2.5 trillion within days of listing. X, the social network, now sits inside a publicly traded conglomerate spanning orbital infrastructure, satellite internet, AI compute, and enterprise software. This has no precedence in the history of social media.

Four things change as a result. The first is acquisition currency. The SpaceX IPO did not give Musk capital. It gave him something more powerful: a stock at stratospheric valuation where a \$60 billion acquisition represents barely 3% dilution. The logic was demonstrated immediately. Within days of listing, SpaceX acquired Cursor, the market-leading AI coding platform built by Anysphere, for \$80 billion in all-stock. A direct competitive strike at Anthropic's Claude Code and OpenAI in the most contested battleground in enterprise AI. Musk paid \$60 billion and barely moved his equity. That is what a near \$3 trillion valuation enables. The second is market obligation. Investors did not price a \$1.77 trillion IPO on rocket launches and Starlink subscriptions alone. They priced in AI infrastructure dominance, orbital compute, enterprise software at scale, and global platform reach. X is a named component of

that thesis. A larger X means more users, stronger distribution for Grok, a richer training data stream, and a more credible enterprise narrative for the combined entity. The third is the most underappreciated. Grok is xAI's consumer AI product and its most direct rival to ChatGPT and Gemini. It currently trails Anthropic, OpenAI, and Google in the frontier AI market. But Grok carries a structural data advantage no competitor can replicate or purchase: real-time, unmediated access to the full X conversational corpus. Every breaking news thread, every political argument, every market-moving signal that surfaces first on X flows directly into Grok's training and inference architecture. Scaling X is not a media strategy. It is a data acquisition strategy. The social network and the AI platform are not separate bets. They are the same. The fourth is what purely financial analysis misses. Musk's outsized political and institutional influence flows directly from X. His ability to shape regulatory decisions, move markets, and command governmental attention in the United States is predicated on platform reach. Replicating that in other major markets matters enormously, not just for X's advertising yield, but for Starlink's market access negotiations. X is the soft power instrument of the entire industrial empire. Its strategic value cannot be reduced to ad revenue multiples.

STRENGTHENING ATMANIRBHAR
BHARAT THROUGH INDIA'S DOMESTIC
GLOVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

By-K. Anindith Reddy, Co-founder and Managing Director, Wadi Surgicals,

India's journey towards becoming a self-reliant manufacturing economy has gained significant momentum under the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi through initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India. Across sectors, Indian industries are steadily strengthening domestic capabilities and reducing dependence on imports. The rubber and nitrile glove manufacturing sector is one such industry that holds immense potential to contribute to India's manufacturing growth and economic resilience. It also plays a critical role in ensuring national preparedness and healthcare security during periods of global supply chain disruptions, as witnessed during the COVID 19 pandemic. At a time when the Government of India is increasingly focusing on reducing non-essential imports and strengthening domestic industries, the Indian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association (IRGMA) has respectfully urged the Government of India to stop or significantly restrict glove imports into the country. Despite the presence of domestic manufacturers capable of supplying high quality gloves that meet global quality and safety standards, India currently imports rubber gloves worth nearly Rs 1,000 crore (\$104 Mn) annually from various countries. This



heavy dependence on imports continues even though Indian manufacturers possess the technology, infrastructure, automation capabilities, and production capacity required to fulfil the country's growing demand across healthcare, pharmaceuticals, food processing, industrial safety, and laboratories. Encouraging domestic manufacturing by revising the duty structures on imports, enforcing strict Quality Control on imports, will strengthen supply chain security, reduce import dependence, conserve valuable foreign exchange, and support Indian industry to achieve economies of scale and facilitate the broader vision of Make in India. It will also help India build a more resilient manufacturing ecosystem for essential healthcare and industrial products. India today has the manufacturing strength, skilled work-

force, and technological capability to emerge as a global hub for rubber and nitrile gloves. Strong policy support for domestic manufacturers, combined with strict quality compliance norms for imports, can significantly reduce import dependency while creating employment opportunities, encouraging industrial investments, and strengthening India's position in global manufacturing. The COVID 19 pandemic highlighted the importance of having robust domestic manufacturing capabilities for essential healthcare and safety products. India witnessed firsthand the challenges posed by global supply chain disruptions and rising international dependency. Strengthening the domestic glove industry is therefore not only an economic priority but also a strategic necessity for national preparedness and healthcare

security. Promoting domestic glove manufacturing will generate long term economic benefits for the country. A stronger local industry will create employment opportunities across manufacturing, logistics, packaging, and allied sectors while driving industrial growth in multiple regions. Most importantly, supporting Indian manufacturers directly aligns with the Government's vision of building a stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant India. With the right policy support and encouragement for local industries, India has the potential to emerge as a leading global manufacturing destination for rubber and nitrile gloves while significantly reducing unnecessary imports. Enliva remains committed to supporting India's manufacturing growth and contributing towards a self-reliant and globally competitive industrial future.

Rupee falls 21 paise to 94.71 against US dollar in early trade

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 21 paise to 94.71 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, June 18, on US Federal Reserve's hawkish stance and the broad strength of the American currency in the overseas market. Forex traders said the dollar Index rose to 100.23 levels, a 4-month high, due to a hawkish FED. The FED Reserve held interest rates steady as widely anticipated but implied that at least one quarter-point rate hike would come later this year. At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 94.66, then touched 94.71, registering a fall of 21 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 94.50 against the US dollar. "Asian currencies had also weakened considerably, taking the rupee lower this morning. Most asset classes had fallen against the dollar keeping it well bid while the asset class was well offered," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 0.14 per cent up at 100.23. Brent crude, the global oil



benchmark, was trading lower by 1.68 per cent at USD 78.21 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 111.23 points to 77,044.39 in early trade, while the Nifty dipped 26.85 points to 24,058.85. Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers and purchased equities worth Rs 101.59 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data. According to traders markets had other reasons to stay optimistic as reports indicated that the United States and Iran have electronically signed a memo-

randum of understanding aimed at ending hostilities and creating a framework for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. Negotiators are expected to meet in Geneva on Friday. "The agreement has improved market sentiment considerably, although President Trump simultaneously warned that military action could resume if Iran fails to comply with the framework," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump

directed their officials to work towards a balanced, mutually beneficial and commercially meaningful trade agreement at the earliest. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this on Thursday, a day after the two leaders held wide-ranging talks for the first time in 16 months on the margins of the G7 Summit in an attempt to rebuild the strained bilateral ties. US Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, will be visiting India next week to take forward the talks on the proposed trade deal. Why the Fed's signal hit the rupee hard

The Fed's hawkish stance reinforced expectations of higher US yields, prompting capital flows into the dollar and away from emerging markets. Analysts said this shift undermines the rupee's recent gains from lower crude prices and improved sentiment after the US-Iran peace framework. With Asian peers like the Korean won and Malaysian ringgit also weakening, the rupee's fall reflected a broader regional trend tied to dollar strength. Moneycontrol + 3 Oil prices and geopolitics offer mixed signals Brent crude futures dropped 1.68% to \$78.21 per barrel, a level supportive for India's import bill and inflation outlook. The decline follows a preliminary US-Iran agreement to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, easing energy supply fears. However, analysts caution that while this improves sentiment, the rupee remains vulnerable to shifts in global risk appetite and Fed policy expectations. The Times of India + 4 What traders will watch next Market participants are eyeing upcoming US-Iran negotiations in Geneva and the visit of US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to India for trade talks.

India among top gainers in global energy transition: WEF

New Delhi: Global energy transition readiness has declined for the first time in more than a decade amid a surge in geopolitical risks, but India has registered one of the strongest improvements, a new report showed on Thursday, June 18. Sweden, Finland and Denmark retained their top three positions globally on the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index 2026, while India advanced two places to rank 70th. "India was one of the strongest improvers globally in the Energy Transition Index 2026, recording one of the largest gains in transition readiness and strengthening its position as a key player in the next phase of the global energy transition," the WEF said. It attributed India's improvement to stronger energy transition readiness and broad-based system gains, driven by a sharp rise in infrastructure, alongside improvements in equity, sustainability and financial investment. The proportion of low-carbon jobs increased by 24 per cent in India in 2024, as renewable energy jobs reached 1.3 million (up 25 per cent over 2023), with hydropower being the largest employment source. The report also underlined scaling renewable capacity, grid expansion and green



hydrogen under its infrastructure-led clean-energy strategy as key focus areas for India. Globally, the WEF said, the energy landscape is becoming more fragmented and security-driven, as countries rebalance sustainability, affordability and resilience priorities. Despite record clean energy investment in 2025, global momentum slowed as transition readiness declined for the first time in more than a decade, it said. It highlighted the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz having exposed vulnerabilities in energy systems already strained by rising demand, infrastructure bottlenecks and concentrated clean-energy investment. The report, developed in collaboration with Accenture, found that the global energy

transition — defined as progress toward more sustainable, equitable and secure energy systems — has stalled despite record global investment of USD 3.3 trillion, including USD 2.3 trillion in clean energy. The research pointed to a growing disconnect between capital deployment and transition readiness, which declined for the first time in over a decade, suggesting that investment alone is no longer enough to sustain momentum. The Energy Transition Index (ETI) benchmarks the performance of national energy systems across three core dimensions — security, sustainability and equity — and the readiness of the enabling environment to support the transition.

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

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 capa-

bilities 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 proprietary, 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.

"As a market leader, our responsibility has always been to stay ahead of what students and counselling partners need. ForeignAdmits brings a level of AI-enabled capability in financing and visa that, combined with our institutional strength, creates a truly integrated platform; one that sets a new benchmark for what this industry can offer." — Dr. Vikash Agarwal, Chairman & Managing Director, Crizac Limited

Nikhil Jain Will Join Crizac as Chief Product & Marketing Officer As part of the transition, Nikhil Jain, Founder and CEO of ForeignAdmits, will join Crizac's senior leadership as Chief Product & Marketing Officer. An IIT (BHU) Varanasi graduate, Stanford SEED Spark alumnus, and former doctoral researcher at the IIT Bombay-Monash Research Academy, Jain brings a rare combination of research rigour and at-scale product execution. He will lead product strategy and consumer brand across the combined platform.

BREMBO AND NINGBO SAFE BRAKES SYSTEMS SIGN A JOINT VENTURE FOR MOTORCYCLE ABS PRODUCTION IN INDIA

Bergamo 18 June, 2026 – Brembo, the global mobility innovation leader, and Ningbo SAFE Brakes Systems, market leader in China's motorcycle ABS sector, have today signed a joint venture establishing a new company, BRSF Active Safety Solutions, dedicated to the production of ABS for the Indian motorcycle market. Brembo will hold a 60% majority stake in the joint venture, which will focus on the local assembly and supply of the ABS for motorcycles for the Indian market. Operations will be carried out at a dedicated manufacturing facility in Chakan (Pune), one of India's main automotive and motorcycle industrial hubs, just next to the Brembo India plant. The project includes the deployment of highly advanced and automated assembly lines, reflecting the strong focus on quality, efficiency, and industrial excellence. The plant is expected to employ around 50 people, with a progressive ramp up



aligned with production volumes and the localization of the supply chain. "The joint venture with Ningbo SAFE Brakes Systems reflects our commitment to supporting the progressive evolution of motorcycle safety standards in India," said Andrea Paganessi, Motorcycle GBU Chief Operating Officer of Brembo. "Leveraging our

long-standing experience in the Indian market and by investing in local production and industrial capabilities, we aim to accompany the market's transition toward more advanced braking solutions." "Within this joint venture, our role is to translate this shared vision into an efficient and localized industrial operation. Together with Brembo, we are establishing a manu-

facturing platform focused on quality, reliability and the specific requirements of the Indian motorcycle market" said Hill Shan, Founder of Ningbo SAFE Brakes Systems. The synergies between Brembo and Ningbo SAFE Brakes Systems create a significant opportunity to further strengthen leadership in foundation brake solutions for motorcycles under the BYBRE brand, enabling the supply of advanced braking systems to Original Equipment customers in the Indian market. The joint venture will offer to customers both dual-channel and single-channel ABS solutions, aiming to cover all needs and potential in the Indian market. In the future, more advanced technology products will also be introduced to the joint venture if needed. The industrial setup has been designed to enable the JV to respond effectively to current market requirements and to quickly react to evolving safety standards in India.

Volkswagen Group's e.solutions selects HCLTech to accelerate innovation for next-generation automotive infotainment and connectivity solutions

NOIDA, India, June 18, 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, today announced a multi-year strategic partnership with e.solutions, a Germany-based automotive software specialist and part of Volkswagen Group, for the development of next-generation software-defined infotainment and connectivity solutions. The engagement will focus on scaling AI-enabled future infotainment and connectivity platforms built on Android Automotive, in line with the growing demand for connected, digital in-vehicle experiences. HCLTech will support the development, integration and validation of production-grade human-machine interface (HMI) software for multiple vehicle programs, enabling consistent deployment across varied hardware platforms and global markets. "At e.solutions, we are continuously pushing the

boundaries of connected mobility and digital cockpit innovation. Our partnership with HCLTech enables us to scale HMI software development across diverse vehicle programs while maintaining the highest standards of quality, consistency, and user experience. Together, we are building the foundation for the next generation of software-defined mobility," said Uwe Reder, CEO, e.solutions. "By combining AI-driven engineering and a deep understanding of the automotive sector, we will empower e.solutions to accelerate and develop world-class infotainment platforms. The partnership underscores our long-term commitment to the automotive ecosystem and the ability to support complex engineering programs at scale across international markets," said Pankaj Tagra, Chief Growth Officer and Global Head, Mobility at HCLTech.

Sundaram Finance Celebrates 25 Years of Service at Warangal branch

Warangal, June 18, 2026 – Sundaram Finance marked a meaningful milestone today as its Warangal branch completed 25 years of continuous service. More than a celebration of time, the event recognized the enduring partnership with customers, the dedication of employees, and the support of their families who have shaped the branch's legacy in Warangal. "At Sundaram Finance, what sustains us is not just longevity, but the spirit of truth, fairness, and service that defines our relationship with people. This branch has endured because of the values it lives by—and the community it serves and belongs to," said Mr. S. Balasubramanian, Vice President & Head of Andhra region - Sundaram Finance. "Established in 2000, the Warangal branch has played a vital role in expanding financial access in Warangal, often serving customers who were outside the reach of mainstream finance. Small business own-



ers, first-time borrowers, self-employed professionals, and transport operators have all found a dependable financial partner in this branch" said Mr. Ramalingam P, Senior Branch Manager, Warangal retail branch. The branch has stood for more than financial support—it has stood for transparency, dignity, and a human touch, helping generations of customers build livelihoods and live with confidence. The strength of the Warangal

branch lies in its people. Many employees have spent significant parts of their careers here, serving not just with competence, but with honesty, empathy, and purpose. Their bond with customers goes beyond transactions—it is built on mutual respect and shared progress. This milestone also honours the families of employees, who have quietly stood behind every achievement. Letters of heartfelt appreciation personally signed by Mr.

S. Balasubramanian, Vice President & Head of Andhra region, Sundaram Finance were presented to family members acknowledging their role in making this journey possible. As Sundaram Finance prepares to celebrate 75 years in 2029, this branch milestone serves as a reaffirmation of the company's founding philosophy—to serve with integrity, grow with humility, and remain rooted in community.

THINK GAS SWIFTLY RESTORES CITY GAS SUPPLY AFTER PIPELINE DAMAGE

Anantapur, 17th June 2026: A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated excavation work carried out for Electrical Pole installation work Near Pavitra hotel back side Papampeta in Anantapur. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Anantapur district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users. Despite the presence of visible route markers, cautionary signage, and emergency contact boards along the pipeline route, the contractor involved in the excavation failed to

notify THINK Gas before starting work and did not submit any post-indent report. As per government regulations, any third-party planning to carry out excavation work must inform the City Municipal authorities or the City Gas Distribution company through the 'Dial Before You Dig' contact number. The incident occurred without prior intimation to the company, prompting THINK Gas to file an official complaint against the party responsible. As per the current legal provisions under IPC Sections 285 and 336, such unauthorized damage constitutes an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to ₹25 crores. THINK Gas urges all contractors, agencies, and individuals to comply with this safety requirement. The toll-free number to contact THINK Gas before any digging activity is 1800 2022 999.

Hegseth warns US could reinstate naval blockade if Iran deal not upheld after Trump signs agreement

The US naval blockade has been lifted after the deal with Iran was signed last night, ending days of confusion about whether American forces would continue to enforce it. "Iran has wasted no time in getting its tankers back into circulation," Michelle Wiese Bockman from Windward Maritime Intelligence tells BBC Verify. We reported yesterday that Iran had sent three ships loaded with crude oil over the blockade line while another empty tanker crossed back towards Iran. We're seeing similar activity today with another Iranian tanker, Dorena, sailing out of the Gulf of Oman this morning. Ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic shows it is loaded with as much as two million barrels of oil but does not list its destination. Tracking also shows an empty Iranian tanker called Herby sailed to the port of Chabahar from Pakistan, where location data shows it had been loitering for six weeks. Shipping experts

TankerTrackers.com have identified Herby as being the unnamed ship the US military said it had intercepted in April. All of these vessels are still sanctioned by the US alongside their owner, the National Iranian Tanker Company. But Bockman says the scale of movement in recent days suggests Iran feels confident it will imminently receive US sanctions waivers. Three people have died in Lebanon after Israeli strikes targeted the towns of Kfar Tebnit and Zebdin this morning, according to the state-run National News Agency. The Israel Defense Forces haven't confirmed any strikes in Lebanon today, but say Israeli forces continue to operate in the country, within a security zone extending about 10km (6.2 miles) into the southern border. As a reminder, the US-Iran deal commits the US and its allies to ending hostilities in Lebanon. Despite the US-Iran deal calling for an end to military operations in Lebanon, bursts of gunfire and explo-



sions were heard in verified videos from the southern Nabatieh region overnight. In the footage, filmed from the village of Kfar Jouz, flashes from explosions lit up the night sky, but the source of the blasts and exact locations are unclear. BBC Verify has checked footage of smoke plumes and explosions in south Lebanon, reportedly from Hezbollah and Israeli military clashes, every day since the framework agreement was announced on Sunday night. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come under fresh political pressure to defy the terms of Donald

Trump's ceasefire agreement with Iran. "I demand that the Prime Minister stand before the people of Israel and make it clear, both here and to the countries of the world: We are not part of the agreement. We do not accept any connection between the Iranian arena and the Lebanese arena," said the head of the Yisrael Beiteinu opposition party, Avigdor Lieberman. "We will act solely in accordance with Israeli interests, and not in accordance with fuel prices on world stock exchanges," he continued. The person now missing from the negotiating equation is Iran's late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei. He was the biggest critic of any deal with the US, and by killing him they somehow removed the main obstacle to a deal. Some of his headline supporters are unhappy about the agreement. His son Mojtaba Khamenei has yet to make any statements about the deal in recent days, and has also not been seen publicly for months. But from what the top negotiators and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf were saying yesterday, it appears that he is making some (if not almost all) of the decisions in the country Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has posted a picture on social media of the signed memorandum of understanding, saying it is "a message from a powerful Iran". Peace will be "realised in the shadow of mutual respect", he says. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been committed and steadfast to global peace while preserving its dignity and independence",

Pezeshkian adds. Donald Trump has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the US and Iran to end the war, kickstarting a 60-day period in which both countries will work towards a final deal. The agreement centres around 14 core points, which we have summed up for you here, including the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran must be feeling quite pleased about this deal, our chief international correspondent Lyse Doucet writes, whereas for Israel, it presents another blow to Benjamin Netanyahu's credibility. Trump has praised the agreement as a major win for the US, although there remain serious questions still to be resolved, not least the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has threatened to reimpose an "ironclad blockade" if Iran does not do "what it says it's going to do" and give up its nuclear weapon ambitions.

Suspected gang leader shot dead in flower bouquet ambush at airport



An Ecuadorean man, who police accuse of leading a faction of one of the country's most feared criminal gangs, has been shot dead as he was leaving the airport in Ecuador's largest city, Guayaquil. Security footage shows two young men waiting outside the arrivals terminal holding stuffed toys and flowers before one of them approaches the victim, pulls his gun from behind a teddy and shoots him point-blank. Police have detained two teenagers in connection with the crime, the latest in a widespread wave of gang violence. This latest deadly shooting came just a

day after Ecuador's president declared a fresh state of emergency in 10 provinces, including Guayas, where the attack unfolded. Ecuador's interior minister, John Reimberg, identified the victim of Wednesday's attack as 39-year-old Carlos Alberto Suástegui Villanueva, who he said was the leader of the Los Águilas gang in El Triunfo, a region east of Guayaquil. Los Águilas, which was designated as a "terrorist organisation" by Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa in 2024, is accused of being heavily involved in drug trafficking and extortion.

GUNFIRE AND EXPLOSIONS HEARD AT NIGER CAPITAL'S AIRPORT



Explosions and gunfire were heard early on Thursday at the airport in Niger's capital, Niamey, residents have told the BBC. "I heard the first gunshots at 06:00 local time (05:00 GMT) while I was at the mosque. But the current situation is under control," one person said. The gunfire, which lasted for two hours, came from the entrance at the Diori Hamani international airport, a witness told the AFP news agency. Niger has been fighting an Islamist insurgency for a decade and in January suspected jihadists launched an attack on the same airport. Like its neighbours, Burkina Faso and Mali, Niger is run by a military junta that came to power in part because of a failure to deal with the violence. Residents have told the BBC that Thursday's attack was repelled by the army, which is now hunting down the fleeing assailants who reportedly abandoned their weapons. The authorities have not

yet commented and no group has said it was responsible but an affiliate to the Islamic State group said it had carried out January's assault. Niger's defence ministry said that in January's attack, four military personnel were injured and 20 attackers killed. At the time, the head of Niger's military government, which has been in power for three years, thanked Russia for its help in foiling the attack. Abdourahamane Tiani also accused the presidents of France, Benin and Ivory Coast of backing those responsible. He did not give details of what help Russia had provided, or provide any evidence to support his accusations against the other countries. In recent weeks, authorities in Niger have demolished neighbourhoods near the airport, citing "terrorist risks". They have also extended the airport's perimeter fence and installed more than 350 surveillance cameras, AFP reports.

British man dies in paragliding accident in Spain



A 63-year-old British man has died in a paragliding accident in Spain's north-eastern Catalonia region, authorities have said. Emergency services received a report of the accident in the Palau de Noguera area, near the town of Tremp, about 13:30 local time (14:30 BST) on Wednesday. The man, who was found seriously injured by rescuers, received first aid until medical teams

arrived, but later died. The UK Foreign Office said it was "supporting the family of a British man who has died in Spain". Palau de Noguera is located near Àger - an area popular with paragliders and hang gliders on the edge of the Pyrenees in north-eastern Spain. Local media reported that the man appeared to have become tangled in power lines before hitting the ground.

What's in the US-Iran agreement?

A US-Iran agreement to extend the ceasefire between the two countries has been signed and is now in effect, a White House official has confirmed to the BBC. President Donald Trump formally signed the deal - which is set to reopen the pivotal Strait of Hormuz - while attending the G7 summit in Evian-les-Bains in France. The 14-point agreement, which is known as a Memorandum of Understanding, says that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon, and also commits a \$300bn fund for the "reconstruction and economic development" of the country - although the US is not required to contribute. It comes four months after the conflict between the countries - and Israel - broke out. The agreement has been described by the



Trump administration as "performance-based", with Iran benefitting only if it complies with its commitments. While the text of the deal leaves many questions unanswered - and many key issues unsolved - here's what we know about some of the key points. The first paragraph of the agreement notes that the US, Iran and allies will declare an "immediate and permanent" termination of military opera-

tions on "all fronts" - including Lebanon. From the US perspective, Trump has been growing increasingly concerned that Israeli military operations against Hezbollah could upend the agreement with Iran. Tehran, for its part, has repeatedly said it expected Lebanon to be covered by the truce. Any continuation of Israeli military operations in Lebanon would constitute a "violation of the

understanding" and "necessary measures will be taken", a spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday. The agreement notes that "from now on" neither side will initiate military operations or threaten each other, and ensure "the territorial integrity and sovereignty" of Lebanon. The final agreement will lead to the permanent "termination" of the conflict, the document says. It is unclear how Israel will react to this point. Point 2: Respect for 'internal affairs' The text of the document - read verbatim to reporters in a call with US officials - notes that the US and Iran will "respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and refrain from interfering in each side's internal affairs.

Moscow hit by largest Ukrainian attack since start of Russia's full-scale war

Moscow has come under the largest Ukrainian attack since the start of the full-scale war, with close to 200 drones hitting targets around the Russian capital and setting columns of thick smoke billowing high into the sky. Seventeen people were wounded in the Moscow region, according to local governor Andrei Vorobyov. Almost 1,000 drones and four Ukrainian cruise missiles were intercepted and destroyed across the country in 24 hours, Russia's defence ministry was quoted as saying. An oil depot was struck in the southern Rostov region, where one person was killed. Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv had once again hit the Moscow region with "long-range sanc-



tions" - a euphemism for Ukrainian long-distance strikes on Russia. "It's time to end this war, and Russia must take the necessary steps in diplomacy," he added. He said the massive drone strike was in response to last week's Russian attack on Kyiv, which set a major religious landmark

ablaze. "We don't want this war and have never wanted it," Zelensky said. "But if Ukraine burns, your Moscow will burn too." Fires broke out as the Kapotnya refinery in south-east Moscow was hit for the third time in a month and the second time this week, colouring the sky black with smoke.

Numerous videos showed the lid of a large oil storage tank blown dozens of metres into the air by the force of an explosion. A nearby shopping centre was also burning, reportedly after drone debris fell on the building, and several residential high-rise blocks were evacuated. Moscow's four airports were temporarily shut and more than 500 flights were cancelled or delayed. Although local authorities across Russia have banned publication of images of the aftermath of drone strikes, dozens of videos were posted on social media showing drones flying across the sky in broad daylight and explosions over industrial areas on the outskirts of Moscow.

The Ring and Lilo & Stitch actress Daveigh Chase dies aged 35



Daveigh Chase, the horror actress who crawled out of a TV in The Ring and voiced Lilo in Disney's animated Lilo & Stitch, has died aged 35. Chase, who also voiced Chihiro in the English version of Spirited Away and starred in the cable drama Big Love, died from sepsis after suffering from meningitis in a Los Angeles hospital, her manager John Ryan Jr confirmed to BBC News. Ryan said on Wednesday that Chase had been admitted to hospital for malnourishment before her death. The former child star began acting at 4 years old, booking her first Hollywood job when she was 7, but she retired from acting full time in 2015, he said. "She was the greatest. She loved cats. She worked with cat

rescues with us. She was very to herself," said Ryan, her friend and manager of 15 years, noting that Chase would often retreat to her home in Las Vegas for years at a time and turn down big studio films to do independent projects. "She was not very Hollywood," he said. "She'd rather eat at Bob's Big Boy and go home with the cats. She loved acting but wasn't into the fame scene." Chase, who kept homes in Nevada and downtown Los Angeles, started acting in Las Vegas around age 4 doing voiceover work and theatre. She landed her first TV role in Hollywood at age 7, booking a small part in the popular Melissa Joan Hart-led American sitcom Sabrina The Teenage Witch.

Lawyer in high-profile Ugandan treason case charged with related offence

A former Ugandan mayor and lawyer representing detained opposition figure Kizza Besigye, who is on trial for treason, has himself been charged with a treason-related offence. Erias Lukwago appeared before a magistrate's court in the capital Kampala looking visibly weak, local media reported, days after he was arrested at his home. He denied the charges of failure to report treason and was remanded in prison until next week when his case will be heard. His arrest on Monday sparked condemnation after Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the country's military chief and son of the president, boasted about it on social media. Bobi Wine, a Ugandan opposition politician who fled the country fearing for his life after "contesting the



January presidential election, alleged that Lukwago had been arrested on Kainerugaba's orders as he was preparing to serve a court summons on the military chief. "I call upon all of us to reject and resist this brazen impunity," he posted on X. Lukwago's family went to court seeking an order compelling security officers, whom they accused of abducting him, to disclose his whereabouts and release him whether "dead or alive".



Drones create the first-ever Fifa scoreboard in Seattle sky

NO RED CARD FOR LIONEL MESSI AFTER NASTY FOUL QUESTIONED, FIFA WORLD CUP COACH SAYS: "NOT EVEN A VAR"

South Africa coach Hugo Broos wants to appeal midfielder Themba Zwane's three-match ban for a red card at the World Cup, citing Lionel Messi in his reasoning. Zwane was given one of the three red cards in the opening game of the World Cup on Thursday, when Mexico beat South Africa 2-0. Speaking Wednesday, Broos noted Messi avoided punishment for what appeared to be a foul in Argentina's 3-0 win over Algeria on Tuesday as evidence of what he believes was an unfair sanction by the FIFA disciplinary committee. Zwane was sent off in the 84th minute in Mexico City for hitting Roberto Alvarado in the face. Standard punishment is a one-match suspension, but FIFA said Wednesday it had increased the sanction because it was deemed serious foul play. The suspension means Zwane would not be able to play again until the round of



16 if South Africa advances that far. "I think the, the red card, is too severe. I saw back the situation where Themba got the red card. I don't think it was a red card," Broos said. "When I see what happened yesterday with Messi, then I don't agree." Slow motion replays showed Messi's studs catch Algeria captain Aissa

Mandi's on the calf in Argentina's win, but it went unpunished. Messi ended up scoring a hat trick in the match. Zwane was sent off after his challenge went to a video review. "I think there was not even a VAR with Messi," Broos said. "I don't want Messi to get a red card because that player has to be

on the pitch and you, you saw yesterday what a wonderful player he is. But, yeah, what is the difference here?" South Africa plays the Czech Republic in Atlanta on Thursday. A loss for either team would move them closer to elimination. From the time Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick for Argentina

against Algeria in a FIFA World Cup match, all eyes were on a Group K match that was to happen between Portugal and DR Congo hours later. One man was at the centre of attention - Cristiano Ronaldo. Throughout their career, the two football greats have always been judged against one another. Now, with Messi starting with a hat-trick, how would Cristiano Ronaldo respond? Ronaldo finished the match with 25 touches, attempting three shots without hitting the target, and winning just one duel, underlining how effectively he was contained by the DR Congo defence, according to ESPN FC's X handle. It was also one of the lowest-involvement games of his World Cup career, marking the second-fewest touches he has ever recorded in a World Cup start, highlighting his limited influence in Portugal's attacking play.

Sunil Gavaskar Lauds BCCI Selectors For Picking 26-Year-Old In ODIs vs Afghanistan

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has praised the Indian selection committee and team management for identifying and backing young pacer Gurnoor Brar, whose impressive performance helped India secure a commanding 170-run victory over Afghanistan in the second ODI in Lucknow. Brar was one of the standout performers with the ball as India bowled Afghanistan out for 232 in 44.3 overs after posting a mammoth 402, sealing an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The left-arm seamer returned figures of 3/60 and played a key role in dismantling the visitors' batting line-up. "His run-up is so good, his rhythm is so good, he was hitting the deck and getting the ball to climb. The wicket he got of Gurbaz was particularly impressive because of the way that batter followed him. It's very accurate. It comes right at you, exactly where the batter does not want it," Gavaskar told Jio Hotstar.



The batting great also credited chief selector Ajit Agarkar and the selection panel for looking beyond numbers and recognising Brar's potential. "I think the selection committee deserves all the compliments. If you look at his stats, or his India A performances, they're okay, but not to the extent where you would say he deserved an India cap. However, the selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, saw something in him, and that's why they picked him.

He's also been backed by the management, which is so important," he added. Gavaskar also reflected on captain Shubman Gill's magnificent run of form and explained how a player's personal performances can influence decision-making as a leader. Gill led from the front with a superb 154 off 110 balls, sharing a match-defining 224-run partnership with Ishan Kishan, who smashed 125 off 79 deliveries, as India piled up 402 all out.

306* In 126 Balls: After Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Another Bihar Youngster Akshara Gupta Grabs Limelight



After Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, another Bihar youngster has grabbed the lime-light with terrific batting. This time, it's Akshara Gupta. The young batter scored an unbeaten 306 runs in the BCA Women's U-19 One-Day Trophy Tournament on Thursday at the Sandis Compound Ground in Bhagalpur. Akshara slammed 55 fours and eight sixes. She reached 306* off just 126 deliveries at a strike rate of 242.86. Akshara reached the 50-run mark in 16 balls and completed her ton in 34 deliveries. The 15-year-old cricketer hails from Raxaul in East Champaran. She is the captain of the Bihar Under-19 women's team. Akshara Gupta played in Bhagalpur. She is the first female cricketer from Bihar to play four consecutive BCCI women's tournaments within two years. Commenting on Akshara's achievement, Bihar Cricket Association president Harshvardhan said that Bihar's women cricketers are consistently bringing laurels to the

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state through their performances, according to Sportstar. Bihar Cricket Association Secretary Ziaul Arfin also wished Akshara on her feat. Akshara is the latest teenager from Bihar to make headlines in cricket. Currently, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who hails from Tajpur in Bihar, got selected for the Indian cricket team at just 15. He will be travelling with the team to Ireland for a T20I series starting on June 26. Then, he is part of the squad that will play in England too. Currently, Sooryavanshi is in action in a tri-nation series in Sri Lanka.

"Sign Of Sheer Class": Graeme Swann Praises India Batter After 2nd Afghanistan ODI. It's Not Shubman Gill

Following India's win over Afghanistan in the second ODI, former England spinner Graeme Swann heaped praises on Indian batter Ishan Kishan, who slammed his quickfire second 50-over ton, saying that the way he performed seemed he never went away from the ODI set-up and it was "remarkable". Kishan, after a dream run in T20Is, which culminated in the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 win, emerging as India's second-highest run-getter, with a fifty in the final, continued his incredible form for the Men in Blue in the ODIs as well. In his return to the ODI set-up for the first time since 2023, Kishan scored a quickfire 34 in the first ODI before smashing a blistering 79-ball 125 in the second, also completing his 1,000 ODI runs in

the process. Speaking on JioStar's 'Cricket Live', Swann spoke on Kishan, pointing out that he is the type of player who does a job asked of him without any complaints and highlighted his brutal acceleration, reaching from fifty to a century in just 19 balls. "He is the sort of player who will do whatever job you ask of him without any complaints. The fact that he's come back into the team and looks like he's never been away is remarkable. He came to the crease and was circumspect for his first fifty but then took just 19 deliveries to go from 50 to 100, which is ridiculous," he said. Swann also hailed Kishan's knock as "sensible" cricket, adding that his shots were not about "crazy hitting or slogging".



Tilak Varma, Mohammed Siraj Issued Legal Notice For Association With "Tainted And Illegal" League: Report

The Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) has issued legal notices to actors Vijay Deverakonda and Venkatesh Daggubati, along with cricketers Mohammed Siraj, Ambati Rayudu and Tilak Varma, over their reported association with the proposed TG20 League, alleging that the tournament is being conducted without mandatory approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Speaking to ANI, TCA General Secretary Gurava Reddy said the association has objected to celebrities endorsing what it described as an "illegal" and "unapproved" league being organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). "Today, the Telangana Cricket Association has sent legal notices to Vijay Deverakonda, Venkatesh Daggubati, international cricketer Siraj, former cricketer Ambati Rayudu and Tilak Varma, questioning their association with the tainted and illegal TG20 League proposed to be conducted by the Hyderabad Cricket Association," Reddy told ANI. According to the notice, the TCA has alleged that the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) is conducting business with corporate entities without BCCI authorisation and that promoting the proposed TG20 League without such approval amounts to an offence. The association has



raised concerns over the league's regulatory status and the potential implications of celebrity endorsements. "The Hyderabad Cricket Association, conducting the TG20 league, has changed its name in due course from Telangana Premier League to TTL, then to the TG20 Premier League, and now TG20. They say they have some prefix, some names, some sponsors' names now, but basically they do not have two primary mandates to conduct any franchise-based Premier League at the state level. All the BCCI members should adopt two rules: Rule number 28.

Pakistan Captain Fatima Sana Scripts History With New Signing In England

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana will become the first player from her country to feature in the women's Hundred after being signed by Birmingham Phoenix in Thursday's wildcard draft. Fatima has now filled Phoenix's fourth overseas slot after it was vacated as Cricket Australia withdrew Lucy Hamilton to manage her workload. Fatima, the seam-bowling all-rounder, will get 15,000 pounds for playing at The Hundred, though her availability could be affected by Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka from July 23 to August 4. Her selection comes a day after she produced a stunning all-round performance in Pakistan's defeat to South Africa in the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup at Edgbaston, which is also Phoenix's home ground. Fatima top-scored with an



unbeaten 55 off 38 balls before picking 3-16, as South Africa scraped home by two wickets. Fatima will become the third Pakistani player signed to play in the Hundred this season, after spinners Usman Tariq (Phoenix men's team) and Abrar Ahmed (Sunrisers Leeds). Apart from Fatima, all-rounder Mary Taylor has also been signed by Phoenix in

the wildcard draft. "In the women's team, signing Fatima Sana is a real statement of intent. She is Pakistan's captain, an international-class pace bowler, and a brilliant replacement for Lucy Hamilton, who is unavailable due to her Australia commitments. "Mary Taylor is an exciting addition too. She's a homegrown talent with strong ties to Edgbaston through her work with Warwickshire Bears, and this is a fantastic opportunity for her to develop at the highest level of the women's franchise game," said James Thomas, Birmingham Phoenix Performance Director. Scotland openers Darcy Carter and Katherine Fraser have also earned The Hundred deals after being picked by Sunrisers Leeds and Southern Brave, respectively.

Cristiano Ronaldo Not Alone, Portugal Coach Roberto Martinez Termed "Most Disappointing" By Manchester United Legend



Manchester United legend and Denmark international Peter Schmeichel launched a scathing attack on Portugal manager Roberto Martinez after the side's 1-1 draw against DR Congo in their FIFA World Cup 2026 opener. Terming him as 'one of the most disappointing coaches' of the tournament so far, Schmeichel added that Portugal, while they have one of the strongest squads in the tournament, are not playing to their potential. Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal were left frustrated after being held to a 1-1 draw by underdogs DR Congo in their opening World Cup group match, as Yoane Wissa's equaliser cancelled out Joao Neves' early strike. Ronaldo, who was making his sixth FIFA World Cup appearance, cut a subdued figure in attack, while Manchester United star Bernardo Silva also endured a difficult outing, with Roberto Martinez's side failing to justify their pre-

tournament favourites tag. The post-match fallout for Portugal has been brutal, particularly for Ronaldo, who was slammed by Thierry Henry, the ex-France and Arsenal legend, for looking to score himself but not ensuring that the team scores. Now, it is coach Roberto who has also come in for criticism. Peter pointed out Roberto's failure to win a FIFA World Cup with a squad that is often regarded as a 'golden generation', with stars like Lukaku, Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard at their peaks. Roberto earned a third-place finish at the 2018 FIFA World Cup and a group-stage exit in the next edition in Qatar with Belgium. After the match, Peter was quoted by Goal.com as saying, "Roberto Martinez has to be one of the most disappointing coaches of this World Cup so far. He wasted Belgium's golden generation, and now it seems the same thing is happening with Portugal."

Will Formula 1 Race Return To India? F1 CEO's Clear Statement

Formula 1 is looking for the right set of promoters and collaborators for a sustainable return to India, its CEO Stefano Domenicali said without committing to a timeline for the marquee event's comeback to the country. India hosted Formula 1 from 2011 to 2013 before the round was dropped from the calendar due to taxation and financial reasons. "There is a big interest from us to return to your country. There are the right things that we need to do, to find back again the

right promoters, the right collaboration, and the right timing, which will not be in the very short term," Domenicali told FanCode, which broadcasts F1 in India. "But when we talk about five years in Formula 1, it seems to be very far away, but it's not. There is not yet a fixed date on which we can really say something, but we see the interest that is growing at all levels." It is the first time in a long while that a key figure in F1 has spoken about the Indian market. "It is very

important to say that we need to feel the interest from all the stakeholders of India because this is a project that, when we reach back to your country, has to be big. "It has to be the right one, with the right level of investment and the right level of people, because your market is just phenomenal. I just want to guarantee that we're going to be there for sure one day and in the right condition," Domenicali said. Of late, the central government has expressed its desire to bring

the coveted race back to India but massive private investment worth millions of dollars is needed to successfully stage the mega event on an annual basis. The Adani Group recently acquired the assets of debt ridden Jaypee Group including the Buddh International City in Greater Noida, where the three F1 races were held in the previous decade. The onus will be on the Indian conglomerate worth billions to bring the high-profile race back to the country.



CLIMAX TWIST IN 'TRANSFER TRIMURTHULU' FEELS AMAZING - HEROINE RASHI SINGH

Transfer Trimurthulu' is a film produced by Vadde Naveen under the banner of Vadde Creations and presented by Vadde Jishnu. Kamal Teja is going to make his directorial debut with this movie. Rashi Singh acted opposite Vadde Naveen in this movie. The film is going to release on June 19. In this order, heroine Rashi Singh interacted with the media on Thursday. What she said is special..

How is your role going to be in the film 'Transfer Trimurthulu'?
My role is like the girl next door. It feels so natural. I acted without makeup. Most of the time I look natural. There is no such thing as a complete mother role. This is a story that revolves around family.

Did you know anything about Vadde Naveen before?
When I came to know that Vadde is a movie with Naveen, I did a lot of research about him. I came to know about many films in which he acted. I asked him first why he gave such a gap (laughs).

What will be the turning point of your role in the film 'Transfer Trimurthulu'?
Lakshmi's role is that of a good housewife who supports her husband in everything. I am completely different in real life. It was a pleasure to play the role of Lakshmi. The character Lakshmi is always prepared for these transfers.



The husband is always there even if he gets irritated in some cases. This will be a different role in my career.

Tell us about your work

experience with the director?
Kamal has full clarity. He keeps trying until he gets what he wants. He used to say that Lakshmi should be like that.

‘Venkatramayya Gari Thaluka’ Set for Grand July Release



Directed by Satish Aavala, "Venkatramayya Gari Thaluka" marks the debut of Dinesh Kumar as the lead actor and Divija Prabhakar (daughter of ETV Prabhakar) as the heroine. The film is slated for release in July
Directed by Satish Awala, Venkatramayya Gari Thaluka introduces Dinesh Kumar as the lead hero and Divija Prabhakar (daughter of ETV Prabhakar) as the heroine. Muraleedhar Goud and Sudha play the title roles in this family drama produced by Komali Mahender Thotte and Somesh Saripalli under the Komali

Creations banner. The film has completed all production formalities and is gearing up for a grand release in July.
Producer Komali's Statement
Producer Komali said:
"I am a folk singer and have earned my own recognition in the field. With a deep passion for cinema and a dream of producing a film, I faced numerous challenges and hardships to complete Venkatramayya Gari Thaluka. From the day the project began until now, I have gone through immense struggles and sleepless nights.

Venkatesh, Kalyan Ram & Anil Ravipudi's Sankranthi 2027 Entertainer Launched Grandly



Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, Anil Ravipudi, Sahu Garapati, Shine Screens's #VenkyAnil5 #NkrAR2, Presented By Suresh Productions, Zee Studios, Smt Archana Launched Grandly
A crazy combination is gearing up for Sankranthi 2027 as Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, and Hit Machine Anil Ravipudi join forces for a full-fledged festive entertainer, #VenkyAnil5 & #NkrAR2. Produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner, the project is presented by Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana and Zee Studios. Keerthy Suresh and Krithi Shetty play the female leads. The film was officially launched with a grand muhurtham ceremony and pooja, attended

by the core team along with several special guests.
Dil Raju and Shirish formally handed over the script to director Anil Ravipudi and producer Sahu Garapati, to start the proceedings. For the grand muhurtham ceremony, Allu Aravind sounded the clapboard for the first shot featuring Victory Venkatesh, Kalyan Ram, Keerthy Suresh, and Krithi Shetty, while Suresh Babu switched on the camera. Legendary filmmaker K Raghavendra Rao directed the inaugural shot.#VenkyAnil5 & #NkrAR2 promises to be a quintessential Anil Ravipudi-style Sankranthi entertainer packed with nonstop fun and laughter. The exciting combination of Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram adds further weight

to the project, making it one of the most anticipated festive releases in the making.
Despite being only recently launched, the film has already generated strong buzz, thanks to Anil Ravipudi's impressive blockbuster track record, the unique star combination, and the backing of some of the industry's most prominent production houses. The film boasts a top-notch technical team, with leading music director GV Prakash Kumar composing the soundtrack, Sameer Reddy handling the cinematography, Tammiraju taking care of the editing, and AS Prakash overseeing the art direction. S Krishna serves as the executive producer. Preparations are underway to commence the regular shoot soon.

