

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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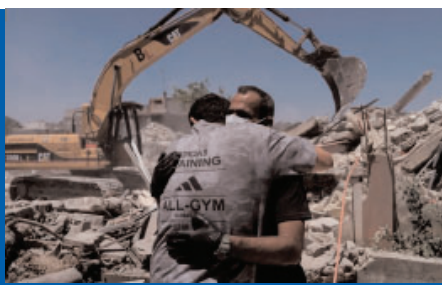
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CONGRESS AND UDDHAV THACKERAY RELY ON INFILTRATORS TO SURVIVE IN POLITICS: HM AMIT SHAH

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ISRAEL & HEZBOLLAH CONTINUE STRIKES DESPITE CEASEFIRE

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

19-06-2026

Total pilgrims: 74,128
Tonnages: 30,057
Hundi (Kansalu): 3,58 CR
Laddu sale: 3,98 Lac
Annaprasadam: 2,75 Lac
Medical treatment: 3,745
Waiting Compartments: Out side line at Chaitanyam.

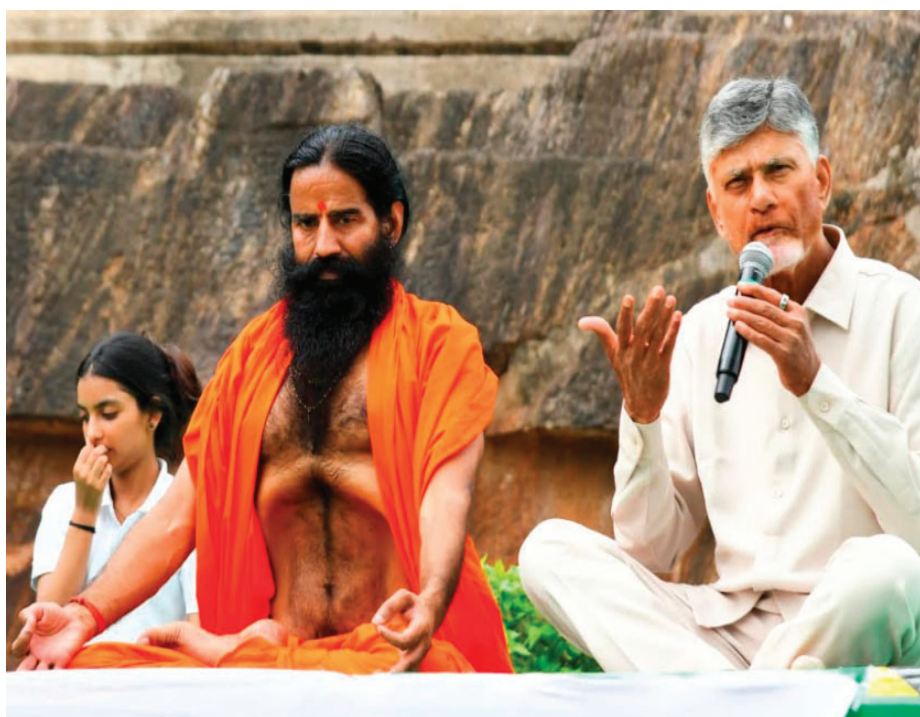
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (without SSD Tokens): 24 H

4 killed after temple roof collapses in Maha's Parbhani



NEW DELHI: A portion of roof in front of the sanctum at the Yashwadi temple in Maharashtra's Parbhani district collapsed during construction work on Saturday, killing at least four people and leaving several injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed grief over the incident. In a post on social media platform X, the Prime Minister's Office said: "I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to the wall collapse in Parbhani, Maharashtra." The Prime Minister also said: "My condolences are with those who have lost their loved ones in this accident. Praying for the swift recovery of the injured." Maharashtra Chief Minister Fadnavis also consoled the loss of lives in the tragedy. "In a tragic incident in Yashwadi of Parbhani district, part of the roof under construction at the Hanuman temple collapsed, resulting in the deaths of some devotees. I offer my heartfelt condolences to them," he said in a post on X. Chief Minister Fadnavis added: "We share in the grief of their families. The injured in this incident are receiving treatment. Local administration officials are at the scene, and relief and rescue operations are also underway swiftly." Located in Yashwadi village, about 190 km from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, formerly Aurangabad, the temple is a revered shrine for thousands of devotees.

CM Naidu Attends Baba Ramdev's Yoga Session at Undavalli Caves



THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, VISAKHAPATNAM.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu attended and observed a yoga session conducted

by yoga guru Baba Ramdev at the historic Undavalli Caves on the occasion of International Yoga Day. Wearing a T-shirt bearing the "Yogandhra" logo, the Chief Minister highlight-

ed the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu lauded Baba Ramdev for popularising yoga among the

masses and thanked him for his contribution to spreading the practice across the country. He also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for securing global recognition for yoga, noting that International Yoga Day is now celebrated in around 190 countries.

The Chief Minister described the Undavalli Caves as a site of immense historical and spiritual significance and said the state government is developing Amaravati as a pollution-free, net-zero capital city. He also emphasized efforts to increase green cover, promote natural farming, and encourage chemical-free food production.

Naidu further stated that the government's "Sanjeevani" public health initiative focuses on preventive health-care, incorporating yoga and pranayama as key components to improve the overall health of citizens.

CM Revanth writes again to Kishan Reddy on Hyderabad metro issues



HYDERABAD TSIT.

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy has once again written to Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy seeking the Centre's intervention for the resolution of pending issues related to the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. In his letter dated June 20 Chief Minister requested Kishan Reddy to facilitate a meeting with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to discuss Hyderabad Metro Phase-II, IRFC financing, Metro takeover proposals, and other pending matters.

Revanth Reddy recalled that he had already highlighted the Metro-related

issues in his earlier letter dated June 16 and stressed the need for an expeditious resolution. He urged the Centre to intervene and help clear the pending proposals at the earliest.

Chief Minister informed Kishan Reddy that he would be in New Delhi on June 22 and 23 and requested that a meeting with the Railway Minister be scheduled during his visit. He also stated that he would personally bring all relevant documents, including proposals related to Metro takeover, financing agreements with the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), and Metro Phase-II plans.

PM Modi releases 23rd instalment of PM-Kisan scheme

GANDHINAGAR (TSIT).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday released the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme from Tarkeshwar city of Hooghly district in West Bengal, transferring more than Rs 18,880 crore directly into the bank accounts of 9.44 crore farmers across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). In Gujarat, 51.28 lakh farmers received more than Rs 1,025 crore under this instalment, credited directly into their bank accounts without intermediaries. The PM-Kisan scheme, launched in 2019, provides eligible farmer families with Rs 6,000 annually in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000.



Stop gambling with children's future: Rahul slams govt over NEET aspirant exam centre mix-up



NEW DELHI (TSIT).

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday lashed out at the Modi government after a NEET-UG aspirant from Nagpur was allotted a centre in Abu Dhabi for the re-exam, saying it should "stop gambling" with children's future. The family of the Nagpur NEET aspirant claimed that he was allocated a school in Abu Dhabi as his exam centre for the June 21 retest. The National Testing Agency (NTA) said the grievance is being addressed and the candidate will be allocated a centre in Nagpur, after due verification, in the next few hours. In a post in

Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "A student from Nagpur had been preparing for the NEET re-exam for a month. He downloaded his admit card just a day before the exam. His assigned centre was in Abu Dhabi. He has no passport, his family lacks the funds to send him abroad, and there is no time left. He wept all night and is refusing to take the exam - can one even imagine the level of stress involved?"

Karnataka Minister bats for Mokedatu dam, says state seeks its share of Cauvery water "How did this even happen? No student should have to face the issue of being unable to reach their exam centre. In reality, the NTA is merely testing the patience of the country's students and their parents," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said. A system that cannot provide a student with a centre in their own city - and instead assigns one abroad - has no right to conduct examinations, Gandhi asserted. "This is exactly what I said in Kota: this is no longer an education system.

TELANGANA SIR:

House-to-house enumeration to start from June 25



CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER (CEO) C SUDHARSHAN REDDY...

HYDERABAD (TSIT):

House-to-house enumeration process under the SIR of electoral rolls would be taken up in Telangana from June 25 to July 24, a top official said on Saturday, June 20. Addressing a press conference, state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy said the primary objective of Special Intensive Revision

(SIR) is purification of electoral rolls and to see to it that all the eligible citizens are included on the electoral rolls.

He said that all arrangements have been made for a door-to-door visit by the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during which distribution of enumeration forms will be done. "BLOs will be visiting every household at least three

times during which they will distribute the enumeration forms and also collect the filled forms from electors. BLOs play a crucial role in the entire SIR process," he said.

In addition, Booth Level Agents have also been trained in assisting BLOs in filling up of enumeration forms, he said.

The CEO appealed to the electors to co-operate in the SIR process when BLOs visit door-to-door for distribution and collection of enumeration forms. "House-to-house enumeration process will start from June 25 and continue upto July 24," he said and clarified that no extension will be given beyond July 24. The entire SIR 2026 programme will be carried out with strict adherence to the instructions and guidelines issued by the ECI in a transparent way, Reddy added.

CM Shivakumar announces one more K'aka Bhavan in Delhi for civil services aspirants

BENGALURU (TSIT)

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday announced a series of decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, including the construction of Karnataka Bhavan-4 in New Delhi for civil services aspirants, approval for 620 new buses for state transport corporations, and major investments in healthcare infrastructure across the state.

The Cabinet also approved exemptions for certain rural agricultural structures from regulatory provisions, sanctioned a 200-bed super-specialty hospital at Yadgir, cleared funding for medical infrastructure projects, and initiated a restructuring of Karnataka's administrative and legal coordination mechanisms in Delhi.

"We have also decided to construct Karnataka Bhavan-4 in New Delhi. This facility is not meant for legislators or officials. It is intended for students preparing for IAS, IFS, IRS and other competitive examinations," Shivakumar told reporters after the second Cabinet meeting of his government. He said the proposed Karnataka Bhavan-4 would be developed by the Public Works



Department at an estimated cost of Rs 80 crore and would provide accommodation and study facilities for students preparing for national-level competitive examinations.

According to officials, the existing Karnataka Bhavan in the national capital is used to administrative purposes.

The chief minister said at least 50 per cent of the accommodation would be reserved for SC/ST students, while the remaining seats would be available to candidates from other categories. Shivakumar also announced a reorganisation of the Resident Commissioner's Office in New Delhi, saying the state government would establish a dedicated mechanism to monitor Central government projects and schemes and improve Karnataka's engagement with the union government.

India always spread peace in world: President



RAIRANGPUR (TSIT)

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said India has always spread peace in the world because issues can only be resolved through mutual discussion, not war.

"Whenever the world reeled under war-like con-

flicts and uncertainties, India spread the message of peace... Issues can be resolved through mutual discussion, not through war," she said, while addressing a public gathering at Rairangpur in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, where she, along with Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, attended the second anniversary celebrations of the state's BJP government. India's glory has enhanced at the international level due to PM Modi's "influential leadership", she said, while praising him for his dedication towards the country and its people.

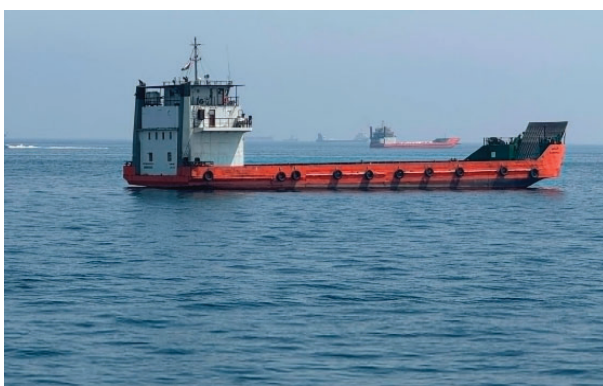
The entire world witnessed India's management skills during the COVID-19 pandemic. During that period, India not only successfully vaccinated its people, but also provided vaccines to several foreign countries, she said. India has always been the first to extend a helping hand to countries facing natural calamities, she added.

Iran closes Strait of Hormuz again, cites MoU violation by US & Israel

TEHRAN (TSIT)

Iran on Saturday announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz once again, citing alleged violations of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the US and Israel, local media reported.

Just days after announcing an agreement lifting naval blockades, Iran's top joint military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said the closure comes in response to the "explicit breach" of the first clause of the post-war MoU by the US and Israel and "ongoing violations" of the ceasefire in southern



Lebanon, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency reported. The headquarters said that in light of the US' clear breach of its commitments regarding the first article of the MoU on

ending the war and Israel's attacks in Lebanon, it is announcing that the Strait of Hormuz will be closed to vessel traffic.

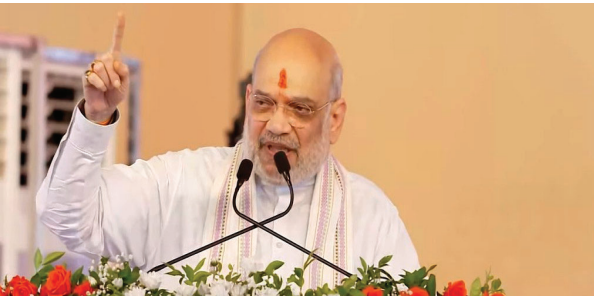
The MoU between Iran and the US was signed on

June 18 by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and US President Donald Trump through a simultaneous digital process without an in-person ceremony.

"The agreement's first article provides for the immediate and permanent termination of military operations between Iran, the US, and their respective allies across all fronts, including Lebanon, and commits the parties to refrain from future military action or threats of force," the report by Mehr noted. Iran on Friday introduced new regulations for vessels transiting

the Strait of Hormuz, requiring ships to register in advance and obtain permits and insurance before entering one of the world's most critical energy shipping routes, after the earlier reopening of the waterway under a US-Iran agreement. The new requirements were announced by Iran's newly established Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), which was created as part of the framework agreed between Washington and Tehran to restore commercial shipping through the strategic passage after more than three months of conflict.

Congress and Uddhav Thackeray rely on infiltrators to survive in politics: HM Amit Shah



Kolhapur (Maharashtra), June 20 : Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah on Saturday accused Congress and Shiv Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray of surviving in politics by turning infiltrators into a vote bank.

However, he clarified that India is not a 'Dharamshala' and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, every aspect of India's security is being ensured.

Addressing a public rally in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, HM Shah said that over the course of 12 years, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA have expanded from Somnath to Ganga Sagar and across the entire country.

"People used to say that you would reach every part of the country, but what about West Bengal? However, in the last election, the people of West

Bengal have also bestowed their blessings and support upon the Bharatiya Janata Party. Bengal has also blessed the BJP. The people of Bengal have given us their blessings, and PM Modi and the BJP owe a debt to the people of Bengal," he added.

"I assure you that not only will infiltration across Bengal's borders be stopped, but every infiltrator will also be identified and removed one by one," he said. "PM Modi has set the record for being the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of the country. Whenever the history of independent India is written, these 12 years will be remembered for building a Viksit Bharat, the cultural renaissance of India, and the country's growing prestige across the world.

RESIDENTS SEEK FAIR PROBE

Khammam (TSIT): Residents of Raghavayya Nagar have urged the authorities to conduct an impartial inquiry into the ongoing land dispute near the Ashtalakshmi Temple, stating that they have been in lawful possession of their properties for over 45 years and have not encroached on any government land.

According to the residents, their families had legally purchased agricultural lands in Survey Nos. 84 and 85 of Pakabanda several decades ago. A portion of the land was later acquired by the government for the Nagarjuna Sagar Project canal. They said revenue records, registered documents, LRS certificates and survey reports support their

ownership claims. The residents alleged that the dispute is being raised only over nine plots located beside the 2-L Minor canal near the road leading to Mamata College, while a nearly 10-km canal stretch remains undisputed. They questioned why the issue is being confined to a 250-metre stretch alone.

They said they had approached the court and obtained stay orders after fencing was allegedly erected in their plots during temple-related activities. Despite the court orders, construction activities continued and FIRs were subsequently registered, they claimed. The residents also expressed concern over alleged attempts to alter the status of the 2-L Minor

canal after more than four decades and sought a comprehensive inquiry into missing or unavailable revenue records. They maintained that survey affidavits and reports from the revenue and irrigation departments indicate there was no encroachment.

Stating that they do not seek any land beyond what is covered by their legal documents and government-issued NOCs, the residents said they would fully cooperate with authorities if any excess land is found in their possession. They appealed for a transparent examination of all records, departmental reports and court proceedings before arriving at a final decision.

Health Camp for Senior Citizens at Pranam Day Care Centre

Mulugu, June 20, TSIT : On the orders of Mulugu District Collector Hemant Borkade Sahadeva Rao, a dental health camp was organized for the elderly at Pranam Day Care Center in Mulugu District Center with the instructions of District Welfare Officer Premalatha.

Special Medical Team District Hospital Dr. Veeramalla Harish, Nursing Officer G Tirupati — conducted a dental checkup for the elderly in the day care center.

In this camp, BP and sugar tests were done for the elderly, dental tests were done for all the members of the center and medicines were given to the needy.

Dr. A Appiah, CS RMO, Mulugu District Hospital, who was the chief guest at



the event, said that all the elderly should make it a habit to brush every morning and night and avoid sugary things, gutka and tobacco.

He said that BP and sugar should be checked regularly and if there is a minor problem, consult a doctor immediately.

All members of the day care center wish to be healthy and happy by consuming nutritious food.

Retired employees seek allotment of land after 26-year wait

Sadashivpet, June 20: Members of the Retired Employees Association in Sadashivpet have appealed to the Telangana Government to issue final orders and construction permission for land allotted to the association, stating that they have been waiting for nearly 26 years.

Addressing a press conference at Padmashali Bhavan on Saturday, Association President Mallesham and Secretary Siddapuram Satyanarayana Chisthi said that former MP Ale Narendra and former MLA T. Jagga Reddy had allotted the land in 2005 and even performed foundation rituals at the site. However, the association has yet to receive a land certificate or official clearance for construction.

The leaders alleged that despite repeated representa-

tions to several public representatives over the years, including former MLA Chinta Prabhakar and Jagga Reddy, the issue remains unresolved. They claimed that local obstacles and administrative delays have prevented the association from taking possession of the land.

Expressing concern over their advancing age, the retired employees urged the government to immediately issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) and necessary permissions. They also alleged attempts to encroach upon the site in recent years. The association stated that once the issue is resolved, it plans to organize career guidance programmes, health camps and anti-drug awareness initiatives for the benefit of society.

MADIGA MAHASHAKTI MEETING TO BE HELD IN MAHABUBABAD ON JUNE 29

Mahabubabad :Byline Balne Suman The Madiga Mahashakti emerged for the rights that have been denied politically and economically for the last 78 years. Honorable Shri Motkupalli Narasimhulu Garu, former minister, celebrated the birth anniversary of late Babu Jagjivanram. On 05-04-2026, a flag was unfurled in Basheerbagh and a procession was organized with lakhs of activists. A speech was made in the presence of activists and party leaders about how injustice is being done to the Madigas in the current situation. The fact that there are three M.P.s in Telangana state and the Rajya Sabha seat was not given to any of the 70 lakh Madigas is a coincidence. Is it a conspiracy... As part of an effort to inform the Madiga people of the state about these issues, demonstrations and meetings were organized with thousands of Madiga youth activists in Warangal, Peddapalli and Suryapet districts. There is a surge in the Madiga youth who are facing political discrimination. As part of



this, a Madiga Mahashakti demonstration will be held in Mahabubabad town of the joint Warangal district on 29.06.2026. In this, other social B.C. Thousands of people are going to participate in support of these Madiga Mahashakti activists. In an effort to unify the Madigas, regardless of their affiliation with parties, Honorable Motkupalli Narsimhulu Garu is inviting all the Madigas belonging to various parties and all the Madiga caste associations to this Madiga Mahashakti program.

SBI Employees Organise Mega Blood Donation Camp in Memory of Comrade Y. Taraknath.

MANCHERIAL, June 20 , TSIT : As part of their social service initiatives, the State Bank of India Employees' Union organised a mega blood donation camp in Mancherial on Friday to mark the 22nd death anniversary of Comrade Y. Taraknath.

The camp was conducted at the SBI branch premises in Reddy Colony, where bank employees voluntarily donated blood. Organised under the supervision of Comrade K. Srinivas, the programme was inaugurated by Ritesh Kumar Gupta, Regional Manager of SBI, Mancherial.

Speaking on the occasion, the participants described blood donation as one of the noblest forms of humanitarian service, noting that a single donation could help save lives. They said such camps play a vital role in meeting the blood requirements of patients during emergencies, accidents and surger-



ies. The speakers appreciated the employees for coming forward with a sense of social responsibility and contributing to a noble cause. The blood collected during the camp was handed over to the blood bank for use by needy patients. Among those present were Alok Verma, Chief Manager; Ramakrishna, HR Officer; Chanduri Mahender, District General Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society; V. Madhusudan Reddy, State Management Committee Member; SBI employees, union leaders and blood bank staff.

Greenery is a Gift to Future Generations - Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

Nagarkurnool (TSIT) State Minister for Excise, Tourism and Culture, Jupally Krishna Rao, called upon everyone to act responsibly in protecting the environment and preserving ecological balance in Nagarkurnool district. As part of Vanamah otsavam-2026, the Minister participated in a plantation drive organized by the District Forest Department on Saturday at government land near Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavan in Nagarkurnool town and planted saplings.

'Annadata Sukhibhava' Strengthens Farmers with Rs.20,000 Annual Assistance

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said that the coalition government's Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kisan scheme is providing strong financial support to lakhs of farming families across the state. He was speaking at the fund disbursement programme held at Linganguntla village in Palnadu district. The minister stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the government is committed to revitalising the agriculture sector and making farming more profitable. As part of the Super Six promises, every eligible farmer family is being provided Rs.20,000 annually, including Rs.14,000 from the State Government and Rs.6,000 under the PM-Kisan scheme of the Central Government. He said that in the first instal-



ment of the current year, Rs.7,000 was credited directly into farmers' bank accounts, comprising Rs.5,000 from the State Government and Rs.2,000 from the Centre. More than 46.85 lakh farmer families have benefited from the scheme, with Rs.3,125.47 crore released in the first instalment alone. Atchannaidu noted that several agricultural support programmes, including soil health management, drip and sprinkler irrigation, farm mechanisation and drone technology, are being strength-

ened. He added that the government has also supported farmers by providing price assistance for crops such as tobacco, cocoa, onion and Totapuri mangoes during periods of market downturn. The minister advised farmers to use fertilisers judiciously, reduce excessive urea consumption and adopt scientific and organic farming practices. He called upon people to support the government's efforts to ensure agricultural growth and overall development of the state.

Harkara Venugopal Rao's Birthday Celebrated

Hyderabad, TSIT: The birthday of Government Advisor Harkara Venugopal Rao was celebrated with enthusiasm at his office on Saturday. Colleagues, well-wishers and staff members extended their heartfelt greetings and wished him good health, happiness and continued success in public service. Among those who participated in the celebrations were G. Nagabhushanam, TPCC General Secretary and former Vice Chairman of the Labour Advisory Board, and Balakrishna, who conveyed their best wishes to Venugopal Rao on the occasion.

A cake-cutting ceremony was held as part of the celebrations, and attendees lauded Venugopal Rao's contributions and commitment to public welfare. Event was marked by a cordial atmosphere, with participants expressing their appreciation for his leadership and service.



Anjaiah Yadav Alleges Illegal Soil Mining in Shadnagar

RANGAREDDY: Former Shadnagar MLA Y. Anjaiah Yadav alleged that a soil mafia is illegally excavating and transporting valuable soil from the constituency to Hyderabad, posing a threat to agricultural lands and water resources.

Addressing a press conference at the BRS office in Shadnagar, he claimed that fertile soil from Bobbili



Cheruvu and other water bodies is being transported in hundreds of lorries while the police and revenue departments remain silent. He questioned why no action was being taken against those involved in the alleged illegal activity. Anjaiah Yadav also accused officials of targeting farmers while ignoring large-scale soil excavation and transportation. He urged the government to take immediate steps to stop illegal soil mining and protect the region's natural resources. BRS leaders Vankayala Narayana Reddy, Eeta Ganesh, M.S. Natarajan, Laxman Nayak, Devender Yadav, Penumuni Gopal, Cheepiri Ravi Yadav, Jatta Kumar, Yugandhar, Ashok, Vishwa, Ramakrishna and Rajashekhar were present.

Experts Bust Common Cataract Myths, Urge Timely Surgery for Vision Restoration

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Cataract specialists at the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary Campus, Vijayawada, have urged the public to avoid misconceptions surrounding cataracts, warning that misinformation often leads to delayed treatment and avoidable vision loss. As part of Cataract Awareness Month, the specialists highlighted some of the most common myths and facts about the condition. Doctors clarified that no eye drops, vitamins, or herbal remedies can dissolve or cure cataracts. Cataracts occur due to clouding of the eye's natural lens, a structural change that cannot be reversed through medication. Surgery remains the only proven and effective treatment.



The specialists also pointed out that cataracts are not limited to the elderly. Congenital cataracts can affect newborns, while younger adults may develop cataracts due to eye injuries, prolonged steroid use, uncontrolled diabetes, or radiation exposure. Addressing another widespread misconception, they said patients no longer need to wait for a cataract to become "fully ripe" before undergoing surgery. With modern phacoemulsification technology, cataracts can be safely removed at any stage. Delaying surgery can make the procedure more difficult and increase the risk of complications. Experts noted that modern cataract surgery is a quick and minimally invasive procedure, typically completed within 30 minutes under local or topical anaesthesia, without requiring an overnight hospital stay. Most patients experience significant improvement in vision within a day and resume normal activities shortly thereafter. "Cataracts are the most treatable cause of blindness in the world. No one should lose sight because of fear of surgery or false hope in unproven remedies. Early consultation and timely treatment can restore vision and improve quality of life," said Dr. Shaeerza Samreen, Cataract Specialist at the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary Campus, Vijayawada.

Revenue Services Must Be Delivered Transparently to the Public: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar

Tirupati, June 20 : District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar stated that revenue department officials should work with dedication to deliver the services provided by the department to the public more efficiently and transparently, while also adopting modern technology. On Saturday, the Revenue Day celebrations were held at the Conference Hall of the Collectorate. District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar, along with Joint Collector R. Govind Rao, DRO Narasimhulu, Deputy Collectors Rosamund and Shiva Shankar Naik, and Revenue Association District President S. Shiva Prasad, participated in the programme. They lit the traditional lamp to inaugurate the event.

Speaking on the occa-



sion, the Collector said that the Revenue Department is one of the most important departments compared to all others. He extended greetings to all revenue officials and staff on the occasion of Revenue Day. He emphasized that all services, including revenue-related services, should

be delivered with a sense of responsibility rather than as a burden. He stressed the need for accuracy while taking decisions related to revenue matters. The Collector urged all officials and staff working in the Revenue Department to acquire technical knowledge and develop their

skills. Only then can revenue services be delivered to the public more easily. He stated that it is the duty of every revenue officer to ensure that people do not face any difficulties while availing services. He instructed them to pay special attention to the protection of government lands, prevention of encroachments, and updating of records.

He directed officials to resolve people's problems at the village and mandal levels quickly so that public trust in the government increases. He also advised staff, who are usually busy with daily revenue work, to take care of their health along with their duties. He called upon them to deliver services with dedication by managing their time efficiently for the tasks assigned to them.

GITAM Medical Colleges Confer Degrees on 315 Graduates



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSR) and GITAM Dental College celebrated their Graduation Day at Gadiraju Palace, Visakhapatnam, on Saturday, awarding degrees to 315 students. The graduates included 153 MBBS, 80 BDS, 50 MD/MS, and 32 MDS students, marking a significant milestone for the institution. Addressing the gathering, chief guest Dr. C.N. Manjunath, MP from Bengaluru Rural and noted cardiologist, emphasized the importance of ethics, communication skills, affordable healthcare, and compassionate patient care. He said that while technology and Artificial Intelligence are transforming health-

care, they can never replace the human touch and clinical expertise of doctors. Visakhapatnam MP and GITAM President M. Sribharat urged the young doctors to uphold humanitarian values and work towards restoring public trust in the healthcare system. He reaffirmed GITAM Hospital's commitment to providing quality and affordable healthcare services. GIMSR Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. Geethanjali and Principal Dr. G. Sambasiva Rao highlighted the institution's focus on competency-based medical education, research, and innovation. They also announced plans to introduce a post-graduate course in Emergency Medicine and expand super-specialty programmes.

Prepare solutions to technical hurdles before Mangaluru cabinet meeting: CM D K Shivakumar

Bengaluru, Jun 20: A cabinet meeting will be held in Mangaluru shortly, and solutions to all technical issues must be prepared before the meeting, chief minister D K Shivakumar has instructed. He was speaking while chairing a meeting on coastal tourism development held at the conference hall of Vidhana Soudha on Friday.

D K Shivakumar directed officials to prepare a report within the next 15 to 20 days on the technical hurdles arising from Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms and the Forest Department. He said investor-friendly and simplified procedures should be created, and solutions must be found to address the difficulties faced by entrepreneurs due to various



departmental issues.

He stressed that priority should be given to promoting coastal culture at the international level while generating more employment opportuni-

ties and boosting economic growth. The 45 projects currently approved are expected to create 4,500 jobs, and this number should increase further, he said. He also noted that beaches

should be incorporated into tourism projects without causing damage to the coastal environment. The chief minister said a single-window system should be implemented to facilitate various approvals and prevent technical hurdles from delaying development projects. He also appealed to entrepreneurs to focus on the development of heli-tourism. Energy and Tourism minister K J George, actor Rishab Shetty, MLAs G T Devegowda and Satish Sail, chief secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Tourism Development Corporation chairman Srinivas, additional chief secretary Tushar Girinath, Tourism Department secretary Trilok Chandra, and others were present at the meeting.

Karnataka freezes Rs 436 crore in cyber fraud cases, ranks second in country

Bengaluru, Jun 20: The state of Karnataka has achieved remarkable success in protecting citizens' money from cyber fraud, stated home minister Priyank Kharge. The police department has successfully frozen a total of Rs 436 crore in bank accounts linked to cyber-crimes, placing the state second in the country for such recoveries. The minister shared these

details during his visit to the police wireless headquarters on MG Road, where he inspected the facilities and held discussions with senior officials. Kharge, who also holds the information technology, biotechnology, and e-governance portfolios, explained that Karnataka achieved this significant milestone by effectively utilizing the 'lien mark' process to freeze

fraudulently transferred funds. Second only to Maharashtra Highlighting the state's performance, the minister noted that Maharashtra ranked first by freezing Rs 548 crore (17 per cent) out of a reported Rs 3,203 crore lost to cyber fraud. Following closely, Karnataka successfully froze Rs 436 crore (17 per cent) out of a reported Rs 2,640 crore, safeguarding

the hard-earned money of the public. A statement from Kharge's office revealed a significant surge in citizens reporting cybercrimes since the introduction of dedicated complaint facilities. The launch of a web platform in 2025 and a WhatsApp chatbot in 2026 has made it easier for victims to reach out to the police wireless unit.

Shubhang Hegde's all-round show helps Bengaluru Blasters overcome Gulbarga Mystics by six wickets



Mysore : Bengaluru Blasters scored a thrilling six-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics in the opening match of the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Mysore on Saturday.

Batting first, Gulbarga posted a challenging 201 in their 20 overs with handsome contributions from Prakhar Chaturvedi (64, 38 balls, 6 fours, 4 sixes) and Aarav Mahesh (63, 41 balls, 6 fours and 3 sixes).

A contribution by captain Manish Pandey (19) and a 12-ball 20 by Thippa Reddy boosted the total past 200. Shubhang Hegde and Shreevathsa Acharya claimed two wickets each for 44 and 36 runs respectively for Gulbarga. In reply, Bengaluru Blasters started confidently with Bhuvan Mohan Raju and Rohan Patil adding 88 runs for the opening partnership in 7.1 overs. They rotated the strike with clever strokes and kept the target in check. Bhuvan Mohan Raju's 29-ball 56 (3 fours, 4 sixes, strike rate 193.10) in the end became the fulcrum on which Bangalore Blasters built their victory run.

PMdisburses incentives worth Rs. 2,400 crore under Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana



Bengaluru: Ministry of Labour & Employment, organized a special programme at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi as part of the national event for disbursing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY). The main programme was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, where the Prime Minister, disbursed incentives amounting to Rs. 2,400 crore to more than 15 lakh beneficiaries across the country. As part of a nationwide outreach effort, regional programmes were organized simultaneously at 200 locations across the country.

In Bengaluru the programme was graced by K.A. Sebastian, Welfare Commissioner and State Head for Labour Welfare Organisation, Ravi Kishan, Deputy Director, ESIC At Old HMA Auditorium, Suranjan Das Road, Jeevan Bima Nagar. More than 240 participants, including 120 beneficiaries, 40 employers, Industry Association representatives, public representatives, senior State Government officials, and EPFO officers and staff were present. Nearly 20 Appointment letters were distributed by the employers to the newly employed employees during the programme.

The session highlighted the Government's commitment to creating employment opportunities, strengthening social security, promoting skill development, and empowering the youth of the nation. The speaker emphasized how these initiatives are helping young professionals build successful careers, become self-reliant, and contribute meaningfully to the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

The Prime Minister, addressed the gathering and gave his valuable guidance to youth that the beneficiaries under the PMVBRY Scheme underlined the empowerment of youth with great opportunities ahead for a Viksit Bharath and large-scale creation of jobs. The scheme shall also work as an enabler for the young minds to become active participants in nation building by dedicating to create innovation in various sectors viz MSME, Agriculture, Drone Manufacturing etc.

"Employment generation gains momentum when the Government, industry, and youth work together. The initiative is a reflection of a new India where young people receive opportunities, industries receive encouragement, and employment generation becomes a national mission", Narendra Modi remarked.

He also conveyed his best wishes to all participants and reaffirmed the Government's steadfast commitment to nurturing the aspirations, creativity, and enterprise of the country's young citizens, as India continues its journey towards becoming a developed nation.

Highlighting the significance of labour reforms, labour Minister Dr. Mabsukh Mandaviya said that the coming into effect of the four Labour Codes represents a historic step towards ensuring dignity, security and welfare for workers. Citing data released by the International Labour Organization, Dr. Mandaviya noted that India's social security coverage has expanded from 19 per cent to 64.3 per cent over the past decade, which is among the highest increases globally. He further highlighted that nearly 17 crore jobs were generated between 2014 and 2024 as against 2.9 crore jobs created during ten years prior to 2014. Quoting recent research, Dr. Mandaviya stated that between 2017 and 2023, India's employment elasticity stood at 1.11, indicating that every 1 percent increase in Gross Value Added was accompanied by a 1.11 percent increase in employment, compared to the employment elasticity of 0.008 recorded under earlier.

Raksha Foundation distributes 2 lakh notebooks to students



Bengaluru, June 20: Raksha Foundation distributed two lakh free notebooks, scholarships and laptops to students at its 14th Annual Education Support Programme held at Chandragupta Maurya Playground in Jayanagar on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, Karnataka Legislative Assembly Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka stressed that education should not be politicised

and called upon all legislators to support students studying in government schools. He said strengthening education is the best way to build a progressive society and praised Raksha Foundation for its continuous efforts in supporting students over the past 14 years.

Raksha Foundation President and MLA C.K. Ramamurthy said the organisation has been working to promote quality edu-

cation through notebook distribution, scholarships, laptop assistance and merit awards. He noted that the Foundation is also involved in healthcare, child welfare and environmental initiatives.

Ramamurthy announced that two lakh notebooks are being distributed to students in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Turuvekere and Ramanagara districts. He reiterated the Foundation's commitment to ensuring that every child has access to education. The programme also included the distribution of wheelchairs to persons with disabilities and donations to Jayadeva Hospital, Geetha Education Society and Vatsalyapuram Seva Trust. Several public representatives, dignitaries and social workers attended the event.

Nick Celebrates International Yoga Day in collaboration with I.I.M.U.N bringing Bittu, Happy and a Whole Lot of Yoga at Spark A Change Foundation!



Bengaluru: Who says wellness can't be fun? With a little movement, a lot of laughter and some familiar Nicktoons, Nick India brought a playful twist to International Yoga Day as it joined hands with I.I.M.U.N. (India's International Movement to Unite Nations), one of the world's largest youth-run organisations, for a special initiative at Spark A Change Foundation. Nick India and I.I.M.U.N. came together to introduce kids and families to the joys of yoga through an interactive session led by yoga instructor Rajani Pawar.

As AI Reshapes Careers, WPU Goa Advocates a Trans disciplinary Approach to Higher Education

Bengaluru : As artificial intelligence and rapid technological change continue to reshape industries worldwide, universities must move beyond preparing students for their first job and instead equip them to navigate multiple career transitions throughout their lives, according to speakers at the World Peace University (WPU) Goa Open House held on 20 June. The event brought together prospective students, parents and educators for a discussion on the future of higher education and the changing expectations from universities in an increasingly unpredictable world. Central to the conversation was WPU Goa's transdisciplinary model of education, which seeks to combine disciplinary depth with the ability to think across domains, adapt to change and address complex real-world challenges.

"WPU Goa is being established around a transdisciplinary approach that encourages faculty and students to engage with perspectives beyond the boundaries of a single discipline. Through immersive learning, industry integration, global exposure, and active learning, the university aims to prepare graduates



for a lifetime of learning, adaptation, and leadership, also opening the doors for excellent jobs in the private and public sector, where they can apply what they have learned," said Vice Chancellor Professor Walter Leal.

"Universities can no longer assume that preparing students for their first job is enough," said Dr Ashish Bharadwaj, Pro Vice Chancellor of WPU Goa. "The more important question is whether we are preparing students for the multiple changes, transitions and opportunities they will encounter throughout their lives. The future belongs not simply to specialists, but to individuals who can learn continuously, connect ideas across domains and respond to challenges that

do not fit neatly into traditional categories."

The discussion explored how long-held assumptions about higher education are being challenged as industries evolve faster than traditional academic cycles. New professions are emerging, established roles are being transformed, and competition increasingly comes from individuals who can combine expertise from multiple fields rather than operate within a single discipline. Participants heard how the ability to learn, adapt and work across disciplines may become as important as technical expertise itself. The conversation also examined the growing importance of curiosity, resilience and lifelong learning as essential capabilities for future

careers. Speakers stressed that higher education institutions must increasingly focus on preparing students for opportunities that cannot yet be predicted rather than training them solely for existing professions.

WPU Goa currently offers B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Bachelor of Management Studies (Hons.), B.Des. in Integrated Product Design, B.Des. in Communication Design, and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Psychology. At a time when students and parents are seeking clarity about the future of work, the discussions reinforced the need for higher education institutions to focus not only on employability but also on preparing learners to navigate continuous change throughout their professional lives.

No drinking water shortage in Karnataka for two months: Ramalinga Reddy

Bengaluru, June 20: Karnataka Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy has assured citizens that there will be no shortage of drinking water in the state for the next two months despite lower-than-expected monsoon rainfall.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, the minister said that although the state has received less rainfall since the onset of the monsoon, sufficient water is available to meet



drinking water needs. He noted that around 11

TMC of water is currently stored in the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir, which supplies water to Bengaluru and nearby regions. He also expressed hope that forecasted rains in the coming days would further improve the situation.

Ramalinga Reddy reiterated Karnataka's commitment to the proposed Mekedatu Drinking Water Project, stating that it is intended solely to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding districts. He

criticized opposition to the project and emphasized that no water from the scheme would be diverted for agricultural purposes.

The minister said Karnataka would continue discussions with Tamil Nadu and the Centre on river water issues, stressing that dialogue is preferable to prolonged legal disputes. He added that the Mekedatu project would benefit both states while ensuring Karnataka's future drinking water security.

EDITORIAL

Reform Without Rupture: Narendra Modi Through A Burkean Conservative Lens

Twelve years is a long time in politics, especially when anti-incumbency is a strong trend in many democracies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed 12 consecutive years in power. Prior to this, he served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for 13 uninterrupted years. This makes it an appropriate moment to reflect on the ideological foundations of his approach to statecraft and governance. Commentators have described Narendra Modi through multiple ideological lenses: nationalist, developmentalist, and civilisational, while critics have characterised his politics as majoritarian and populist. This article does not seek to engage in a comprehensive assessment of these competing formulations. Rather, it argues that an important aspect of his political thought remains underexplored: how his approach to governance and statecraft can be understood alongside the European conservative tradition associated with the British political thinker and statesman Edmund Burke (1729-1797). This does not suggest any direct intellectual influence or lineage. PM Modi comes from a distinctly Indic political and intellectual background, not the Anglo-European conservative tradition. Even so, a comparison can help highlight certain similarities in how both approach tradition, change and political authority. This article examines some of the core ideas of Burke and sees whether PM Modi's model of statecraft and governance resonates with them:

- Tradition and inherited wisdom matter in politics
- Reform Without Revolution
- Change must be prudent, gradual, and empirically grounded
- The State as Trustee of Future Generations
- Pragmatism Over Ideological Purity

Burke's Philosophy of Conservatism

Edmund Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790) remains the foundational text of modern conservatism. Burke's central concern was not opposition to change itself but opposition to revolutionary, abrupt change detached from historical experience and inherited wisdom. He argued that societies are not artificial constructions that can be redesigned according to abstract theories. Rather, they are organic inheritances shaped by generations of accumulated experience.

Burke famously described society as a partnership extending beyond the living:

"A partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are dead, and those who are to be born." This idea lies at the heart of Burkean conservatism. Political leaders are not and should not try to be architects creating society anew, but trustees responsible for preserving and improving an inherited civilisation.

Consequently, Burke's standard of statesmanship combined two seemingly opposite ideas: "a disposition to preserve and an ability to improve."

This balance between preservation and reform provides a useful framework for understanding Narendra Modi's political project. Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi

Perhaps the strongest Burkean element in PM Modi's worldview is his emphasis on civilisational continuity.

India's New Surveillance Challenge From Pakistan Lies 500 km Above Earth

A US-based firm recently shared a post on LinkedIn explaining how Pakistan's earth observation satellite, PRSC EO3, is an anomaly because of its orbit. The US-based company COMSPOC found that the electro-optical imagery satellite, which requires sunlight to capture images of the ground, was placed in a 38-degree inclined orbit around Earth. The orbit is unusual for an optical imagery satellite, with a sun-synchronous inclination of nearly 90 degrees. COMSPOC says the satellite sacrifices global coverage, but it allows it to capture Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India, with frequent visits. Additionally, ThePrint, in its investigation, found that Pakistan's latest earth observation satellite network has grown since 2025, allowing it to capture changes in India and the Indian Ocean region through its orbital architecture. ThePrint's report states that these satellites are mapping India at least twice every two days. I dug deeper into Pakistan's satellite network, tracking its position and revisit rates using open-source satellite monitoring platforms, and found that its Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites capture India, the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea multiple times, providing nearly real-time intelligence on activities in India. While the counter-argument to the observation from Pakistan could be that they share a border with India, therefore, it will naturally capture, however, each satellite, especially PRSC EO3, makes multiple visits over India, covering territory from south to north during the entire day. During this investigation, I monitored five Pakistani



satellites: PRSC EO1, PRSC EO2, PRSC EO3, PRSC HS-1, PRSS-1, and PakTes-1a. While PRSS-1 was a joint venture between Pakistan and China, the others were developed by Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO). These assets, launched in 2018 (PRSS-1 and PakTES-1A) and between 2025 and 2026, comprise a seven-satellite constellation. Additionally, although PRSS-2 is another Sino-Pakistani project, its real-time location remains unconfirmed for this investigation.

What Makes It Unusual?

ThePrint's report provides a useful starting point for understanding the orbital configuration of Pakistan's satellites. My investigation found that three of Pakistan's low Earth orbit (LEO) Earth-observation

satellites-PRSC-HS1, PRSS-EO1 and PakTES-1A-orbit at inclinations between 97 and 98 degrees, placing them in near-polar sun-synchronous orbits. Sun-synchronous orbits are particularly useful for surveillance, reconnaissance and Earth observation missions because they allow satellites to pass over the same location at nearly the same local time during each revisit. For example, if a satellite images Delhi at 10 a.m. IST during one pass, it will capture the city at roughly the same time on subsequent passes. This ensures consistent lighting conditions, enabling analysts to compare imagery over time and detect changes more accurately. As a result, most optical Earth-observation satellites operate in sun-synchronous orbits. What stands out, however, is the role of PRSC-EO3.

Unlike the other satellites, EO3 operates in an inclined orbit of 38 degrees. Consequently, around an hour after the sun-synchronous satellites pass over India, EO3 crosses southern India and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). While sun-synchronous satellites image territory along a north-south ground track, EO3 maps the region along a west-east path, providing a different viewing geometry and expanding overall coverage of a landmass. A similar pattern emerges with PRSC-EO2. The satellite has a Right Ascension of the Ascending Node (RAAN) of 298 degrees, compared to 243 degrees for EO1. RAAN determines the orientation of a satellite's orbital plane in space. Consider the Earth as a clock, so 298 degrees means that EO2's orbit points roughly at 10 o'clock and EO1's orbit

roughly at 8 o'clock. Similarly, EO3's orbit is at 1 o'clock. RAAN is crucial to understanding the orbital planes of satellites and their revisit rates. The 55-degree difference between the two satellites places them in distinct orbital planes, offering important clues about how Pakistan has distributed its satellites to improve revisit opportunities over India. This separation in orbital planes enables EO2 to observe areas from different geometries and at different times than EO1, PakTES-1A and PRSC-HS1. When those satellites cross India, EO2 typically follows roughly 90 minutes later, passing over parts of the country, particularly the north-east, during certain orbital cycles. This staggered arrangement increases the frequency with which specific regions can be observed.

The effect becomes more apparent when Earth's rotation is taken into account. A satellite in low Earth orbit completes one revolution in approximately 95 minutes. During that time, the Earth rotates eastward by nearly 24 degrees. As a result, when EO2 returns for its next orbit, the ground track beneath it has shifted westward. In one pass, the satellite may image north-eastern India; on the next, it can cover parts of central India before continuing over Pakistan. This orbital configuration allows successive passes to capture different parts of the subcontinent, improving overall coverage and observation opportunities. Therefore, the satellites capture changes in India multiple times during daylight alone, providing nearly real-time intelligence on activities in India.

BUILDING SAFER FUTURES:

REIMAGINING CHILD PROTECTION WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In January 2026, two young sisters went missing from Ranchi, Jharkhand, triggering an urgent search. With limited leads and vast geographies to cover, Ranchi Police sought support from Just Rights for Children's Raksha AI tools. Drawing on years of child protection data, trafficking patterns, migration trends, GIS mapping and machine learning, Raksha AI responds to the critical question If the children had been trafficked, where were they most likely to be found? The tool identified a high-risk trafficking corridor spanning Lohardaga, Khunti and Gumla. Despite massive manhunt, the girls were not in these hotspot districts. It appeared that the prediction had failed.

The tech experts of Raksha ai urged

"The model is not predicting a single village or building. It is identifying the most likely operational geography. Continue searching within the surrounding radius." The police expanded their efforts to nearby locations within the same movement corridor highlighted by the analysis. Then came the breakthrough. On 14 January 2026, the two sisters were safely rescued from the Chitarpur area of Ramgarh district, Jharkhand, within the radius identified by Raksha AI. The information generated through technology



aided search and rescue operation, further led to the rescue of another 52 missing and kidnapped children, the arrest of 21 traffickers/kidnappers, and the dismantling an organised crime network. This technology aided police and civil society intervention demonstrates how technology, data and partnerships can make child protection systems smarter, faster and more effective. Technology is the amplifier in timely interventions to prevent crimes against children and ensure their protection. However, more often than we would like, we are only able to reach the child after harm has occurred. According to the Crime in India 2024 report by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the crimes against children increased by 5.85 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year. Today, the real and the vir-

tual world are intertwined in unprecedented ways. Criminal networks operate across states and countries, online platforms create new avenues for exploitation, and millions of data points are generated every day. Yet much of this information remains fragmented across departments, institutions, and jurisdictions, limiting its potential to inform swift response. Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM) is being created, shared, and circulated at unprecedented speed across online platforms, encrypted channels, and digital networks. AI-generated deepfakes and synthetic CSEAM, sometimes based on images of real children, compound real harms at scale. Meanwhile, offenders increasingly use technology to operate across jurisdictions and

conceal their identities in ways unimaginable a decade ago. Artificial intelligence presents a paradox, a Pandora's box of boons and harms. The same technology misused by offenders can also help protect children by enabling prevention rather than merely improving response mechanisms. At its best, AI can uncover trafficking routes by analysing historical data and movement patterns, identify emerging and dominant hotspots of child labour, child marriage, and exploitation. It can monitor online environments for indicators of child sexual abuse and can predict vulnerabilities and risks before they escalate into crimes. This reality makes it imperative that AI be developed and deployed responsibly, with child rights, safety, transparency, and accountability at its core.

A MEANS OF PROTECTION OR A RESTRICTION ON FREEDOM?



The Indian Constitution recognizes individual liberty as the cornerstone of democratic governance. Article 21 states that a person may be deprived of life and personal liberty only according to procedure established by law. Furthermore, the framers of the Constitution, while considering national security, public order, and the stability of the state, recognized the provision of preventive detention. Its purpose is to detain a person based on a potential future act, not to punish him for a crime. However, over time, the question has become increasingly serious as to whether the extraordinary provisions of preventive detention are truly being used to protect public order or are becoming a tool to restrict individual liberty. A recent decision by the Allahabad High Court has brought this debate back to the forefront. Recently, the Allahabad High Court struck down a preventive action taken under the National Security Act, stating that the state had failed to distinguish between ordinary law and order problems and a serious public order threat. The Court clarified that not every criminal inci-

dent affects public order. If action against a person is possible under ordinary criminal laws, resorting to preventive detention would be contrary to constitutional freedoms. The Court also underlined that preventive detention powers are extraordinary and should be used only in very limited circumstances. This decision is significant because the Indian judiciary has long reiterated the principle that "law and order" and "public order" are not synonymous. A crime against an individual or a local disturbance may constitute a law and order issue, while public order concerns arise when the broader public life, social peace, and normal activities of the community are affected. However, in practice, the administration often ignores this distinction and resorts to preventive detention even in ordinary criminal cases. Preventive detention in India is constitutionally recognized under the provisions of Article 22. Since independence, this power has been exercised through various laws—the Preventive Detention Act, the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, the National Security Act, and various state-level detention laws. These laws were primarily intended to address terrorism, smuggling, communal violence, organized crime, and serious threats to national security. In such cases, normal criminal procedures are often insufficient,

as waiting for a crime to occur can be extremely risky for the state and society. Preventive detention is argued to be a crucial tool for protecting public interest and national security, as modern security challenges have become increasingly complex. Terrorist networks, cybercrime, cross-border violence, and organized crime groups pose threats that require states to take preventive measures to address them. Intelligence is often available, but cannot be presented as sufficient evidence for prosecution in court. In such circumstances, preventive detention is considered an important means of protecting public interest and national security. Despite this, serious concerns have consistently been raised about preventive detention. The first problem lies in its very nature. The normal criminal justice system is based on the principle of guilt and evidence, whereas preventive detention is based on apprehension and administrative satisfaction. This means that a person can be deprived of liberty not for a proven crime, but based on potential future activities. This system inherently conflicts with democratic principles. The second problem relates to the excessive extent of administrative discretion. Detention orders are often issued by the District Magistrate or the State Government. Although there are mechanisms for subsequent advisory boards and judicial review, decisions at the initial stage largely

depend on administrative satisfaction. In many cases, it has been found that the language of detention orders is mechanical and lacks adequate analysis of the actual threat. A third concern is that preventive detention is often used to conceal shortcomings in the regular criminal justice process. If the police fail to gather sufficient evidence, the prosecution is weak, or the accused is granted bail, laws like the National Security Act are invoked against them. This undermines the practical significance of the constitutional right to bail and a fair trial. The Allahabad High Court also expressed concern about this trend in a recent decision. The fourth problem relates to its impact on human rights and civil liberties. Detainees can be held for long periods without trial. Although there are provisions for informing them of the grounds for detention and providing them with an opportunity for representation, much information is withheld from them in the name of national security or public interest. As a result, the right to effective defense is limited. Critics also argue that preventive detention is sometimes used to control political dissent, protests, or criticism of the administration. Criticism of the state and peaceful protest are part of civil rights in a democracy. Using preventive action against these acts as a threat to public order would be contrary to the spirit of constitutional democracy.

JIO PLATFORMS FILES FOR USD 4 BN IPO

New Delhi: Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital services arm of Reliance Industries, on Friday, June 19, filed draft papers for an initial public offering that is being billed as the largest ever, with a potential fundraise estimated at around USD 4 billion (about Rs 37,700 crore). Jio Platforms will offer up to 27 crore fresh shares, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). This would amount to 2.9 per cent of the total equity base post issue. “The net proceeds of the issue are proposed to be utilised in ...prepayment, in full or in part, of certain outstanding borrowings availed by the material subsidiary, namely, RJIL...and general corporate purposes,” the draft paper said. Sources said the company expects to raise around Rs 37,700 crore, making it the country’s biggest-ever IPO. The estimated fundraise is expected to value Jio Platforms at around USD 137 billion. IPO proceeds will be used for repayment/prepayment of outstanding borrowings of Rs 27,500 crore and general corporate purposes, according to a source. Jio Platforms has previously attracted



some of the world’s largest technology and private equity investors. In 2020, Jio Platforms raised Rs 43,574 crore from Meta, the promoter of Facebook, for a 9.99 per cent stake, and Rs 33,737 crore from Google for a 7.73 per cent stake. In addition, Jio Platforms raised approximately Rs 74,745 crore for around a 15.2 per cent stake from a marquee group of global financial sponsors, sovereign investors and strategic investors, including Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG,

L Catterton, PIF, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures. Reliance Industries currently owns 66.43 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, while Meta holds 9.99 per cent, acquired in 2020 through a USD 5.7 billion investment. The IPO will be the first public offer from the group since 2008 and the first-ever for a consumer-focused company within the conglomerate. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani on Friday, June 19, said the transfer of day-to-day management responsibilities at his oil-to-telecom-and-retail

conglomerate Reliance Industries to his children is “almost complete”, marking the final stages of a closely watched succession process at India’s most valuable company. Speaking at the annual shareholders meeting, Ambani said Akash, Isha and Anant are now leading key businesses across the group and will drive the conglomerate’s next phase of growth, including major initiatives in telecommunications, retail, digital services and new energy. Ambani, 69, lavished praise on his three children as he said the “gen-

erational transfer of day-to-day management at Reliance is almost complete”, signalling that the succession process at India’s largest conglomerate has entered its final phase. “The future of your company is not only in safe hands, but in hands that will take Reliance to far greater heights,” he told shareholders. Just like the previous year, he gave the floor to twins Akash and Isha, 34, to present a business plan for the telecom and retail segments, respectively. Youngest, Anant, 31, who in May last year was appointed as executive director on the board of Reliance — the first among the siblings—for a second year in a row, delivered a business update for the energy segment. Succession has long been one of the most closely watched issues at Reliance. Ambani, who joined the company’s board in 1977 at the age of 20, assumed control of the conglomerate following the death of founder Dhirubhai Ambani in 2002. He, however, had a protracted dispute over control of the conglomerate with his younger brother, as their father did not leave a will.

HCLFOUNDATION INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR EDITION XII OF HCLTECH GRANT

Highlights

■ 24 crore will be granted to NGOs for transformative projects across water, biodiversity, health and education categories HCLFoundation, which drives the corporate social responsibility agenda of global technology company HCLTech in India

NOIDA, India, June 2026: 24 crore will be granted to NGOs for transformative projects across water, biodiversity, health and education categories HCLFoundation, which drives the corporate social responsibility agenda of global technology company HCLTech in India, announced Edition XII of HCLTech Grant to provide a platform to non-profits in India to create sustainable, community-led change across rural India. A total of ₹24 crore will be provided to NGOs, selected by an esteemed jury, for transformative projects in sustainable rural development across the themes of water, biodiversity, health and education. Four winning NGOs from each category will receive ₹5 crore each, while eight other NGOs will receive ₹50 lakh each for their proposed projects. The last date for submitting applications on www.hclfoundation.org/hcltech-grant is June 30, 2026. “At HCLFoundation, we believe that some of the most transformative solutions emerge from grassroots organizations that are deeply connected to the communities they serve. Through this edition of

HCLTech Grant, we aim to provide a platform for NGOs to unleash their potential, scale innovative ideas and create sustainable change that improves lives and strengthens communities across the country. We look forward to partnering with organizations that are driving meaningful impact and contributing to India’s development journey,” said Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Director, HCLFoundation. The HCLTech Grant-supported projects have significantly advanced sustainable development through the years, uplifting 2.3 million lives across 61,000 villages in India. The Grant-funded ini-

tiatives have led to the planting of 3+ lakh saplings, the rejuvenation of 68,300+ hectares of land and a reduction of 67,000+ tons in CO2 emissions. So far, over ₹203 crore has been committed by HCLFoundation through HCLTech Grant. In Edition XI of the Grant, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) from Rajasthan, Live Foundation from Jharkhand, Goodwill Foundation from Mizoram and Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti from Rajasthan were selected for grant of ₹5 crore each for projects ranging from water harvesting in the Thar desert and biodiversity conservation in Jharkhand to enhancing healthcare access in Mizoram and enabling gender equality through education in Rajasthan. HCLFoundation also announced the HCLTech Grant Edition XII Pan India Symposiums 2026 in an effort to bring together NGOs, experts, government, corporates and policymakers on one platform across India to deliberate on how CSR can contribute towards nation building. This year, the Symposiums have been scheduled in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Nagpur and Delhi.

ICICI Pru Signature Secure launched, an industry first ULIP combining guaranteed maturity benefit, life cover and tax-efficient wealth creation

Mumbai, June 2026: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Signature Secure, Indian life insurance’s first Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) with an in-built guaranteed maturity benefit. ICICI Pru Signature Secure is a Non Participating Linked Individual Savings Life Insurance Plan and has been designed for customers looking for the reassurance of tax efficient guaranteed benefits. The product offers a simple proposition - invest once, stay protected through life cover during the policy term and receive a maturity benefit at the end of five years. . On maturity, the customer receives the higher of the fund value or the guaranteed maturity benefit, providing the reassurance of a guaranteed outcome For instance, a 45-year-old customer looking for a one-time investment solution can invest ₹5 lacs in ICICI Pru Signature Secure and remain protected through life cover during the policy term. The customer can choose a life cover (Sum Assured) of ₹6.25 lacs and gets a guaranteed maturity benefit of ₹7 lacs in this case. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, “Customers seeking guaranteed returns have traditionally relied on instruments such as



fixed deposits, bonds and other guaranteed-return products. However, customers are increasingly looking for solutions that can help them achieve better post-tax outcomes along with guaranteed returns and financial protection. ICICI Pru Signature Secure has been designed to address this need by bringing together the benefits of a ULIP, an in-built guaranteed maturity benefit and life cover within a single proposition. The product enables customers to make a one-time investment while remaining focused on their long-term financial goals with greater confidence. The plan also offers life cover throughout the policy term, helping customers secure the financial future of their loved ones.” Notably, the product provides a guaranteed maturity benefit of up to 140% of the initial premium paid. At maturity, customers receive the higher of the fund value or the guar-

anteed maturity benefit. In addition, the product comes with zero premium allocation charges and policy administration charges. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance remains committed to delivering superior value to its customers. The Company achieved a claim settlement ratio of 99.3% with an average turnaround time of 1.1 days in FY2026, demonstrating its commitment to supporting customers and their families when it matters the most. Over the past 25 years, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has had the privilege of serving customers across generations. The Company remains focused on building a future-ready organisation led by technology that continues to adapt thoughtfully, act with agility and create meaningful impact by expanding access to insurance while delivering long-term sustainable value to all stakeholders.

Campus Activewear Introduces Élan by Campus, a New Expression of Effortless Elegance, with Jim Sarbh as the Face of its Latest Campaign

Campus Activewear Limited, one of India’s leading sports and athleisure footwear brands, today announced its entry into the growing neo-casual footwear category with the launch of Élan by Campus, crafted for the modern man who seeks a refined blend of style, comfort and versatility. Marking the launch is the brand’s latest campaign, ‘Most Elegant Man in Town’, fronted by acclaimed actor Jim Sarbh, whose distinctive personality and understated confidence bring the collection’s spirit to life. The launch expands Campus Activewear’s portfolio beyond sports and athleisure to address evolving consumer preferences and lifestyle needs. Designed for men who move seamlessly across different moments of life, Élan by Campus offers an elegant alternative to conventional formal footwear, blending elevated style with all-day comfort. The collection brings together elevated design with everyday wearability, mak-



ing it an effortless choice across varied occasions – from office hours and business meetings to dinner plans, weekend outings, and everything in between. At the heart of the launch is a visually striking campaign film that brings the idea of the Effortless Elegant Man through a fashion first lens. In the film, Jim Sarbh appears as himself, relaxed, self-assured and entirely at ease, entering a minimal, stylized world before slip-

ping into Élan by Campus shoes as music sets off the tone. What follows is not a transformation, but a reveal of his many dimensions – the composed professional, the fluid traveler and the expressive fashion-forward man. Through movement, mood, and cinematic visual language, the film presents elegance as something innate, an attitude defined by quiet confidence, versatility, and presence rather than performance.

With cinematic visuals, fluid movement and a contemporary aesthetic, the campaign reflects Campus Activewear’s evolving approach to deeper storytelling resonance through culture, style and aspiration. With sharp visual treatment, styling and a premium tonality, Élan by Campus is positioned as a modern expression of elegance for men who don’t try too hard to stand out, they simply do.

Crompton extends its 85-year legacy to India’s fastest-growing house wires segment, delivering on the promise of performance, reliability & safety

June 2026, Mumbai: Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., one of India’s most trusted consumer electrical brands with leadership in fans, pumps, lighting, and appliances announced the launch of Crompton Armor Wires, marking its entry into the house wires category. At launch events held across Tamil Nadu, Telangana & Karnataka, the company’s leadership unveiled the new range of Crompton Armor House Wires, designed to serve as the core electrical backbone of Indian households. This expansion is a natural adjacency to Crompton’s existing portfolio, building on a trusted 85-year legacy of engineering excellence. To capture the massive opportunity in the cables and wires sector valued at nearly ₹1.25 lakh crore - Crompton is deploying a robust South-first go-to-market plan. Starting with Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka, the brand is

leveraging its strong distribution network to ensure a seamless entry into this new category. By extending its proven Crompton 2.0 playbook anchored in premiumization, consumer-first innovation, and deep trade engagement—the company aims to raise benchmarks in performance, safety, and reliability within the residential ecosystem. The Crompton Armor range includes multiple variants designed to address diverse household needs, with differentiated safety, insulation, and performance features. At the premium end is Crompton Armor Ultra, engineered with 10% more copper and the ability to operate at higher temperatures (up to 90°C). The range will include flexible house wires, designed to meet relevant quality standards while reinforcing Crompton’s reputation for reliability and innovation. As Indian homes continue to evolve with higher appliance



usage and increased electrical loads, the need for durable and safe wiring solutions has become more critical than ever. Crompton Armor Wires are designed to meet these evolving demands, ensuring long-term performance and reliability.

Future-ready wires. More current. Higher heat tolerance. Safer homes.

- Optimized Performance Across Needs: Multiple variants designed to meet varying household electrical requirements
- Superior Material

Quality: 99.9%+ pure copper ensures efficient and consistent power flow

- Enhanced Safety: Low-smoke and low-toxic-gas properties for safer indoor environments
- Reliable Performance Under Stress: Armor Ultra

operates at up to 90°C, ensuring stability under heavy load and varying environmental conditions. • Long-Term Durability: Flame-retardant, anti-termite, and anti-rodent properties for sustained protection • Global Standards: 100% RoHS compliance and adherence to rigorous national safety norms The go-to-market strategy goes beyond retail, focusing on a comprehensive engagement model that empowers electricians, contractors, and key retailers, while also building strong preference among architects and builders. South India has been chosen as the launchpad owing to Crompton’s strong brand equity and distribution strength, making it the ideal region to build early national momentum. Promeet Ghosh, MD & CEO, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., said, “At Crompton, consumers and electricians have trusted us for over 85 years to

deliver safety, quality, and performance across core electrical categories. Our foray into residential house wires is a natural extension of that legacy and a strategic growth opportunity. This category offers a compelling business model, and we are investing in building a strong and scalable presence through product quality, distribution expansion, and deeper engagement with the ecosystem. At the same time, there is a clear need to drive greater awareness around the importance of choosing the right wiring solutions, given its direct impact on household safety and long-term performance. We are focused on establishing a strong presence in South India before expanding nationally, leveraging our brand strength, distribution network, and proven execution capabilities.” Shaleen Nayak, Business Unit Head - Lighting, Solar, Wires & Cables, Crompton

Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd., added, “Residential wires is a critical yet often under-considered part of home infrastructure, where product quality directly impacts safety and long-term performance. With Crompton Armor Wires, we are focused on scalability and durability and compliance with safety standards that modern households expect. Our Crompton Armor Ultra range, with 10% more copper and superior insulation, is designed to support the evolving power needs of modern homes. As we enter this category, our priority is to ensure strong availability, support our channel partners, and build confidence across electricians and consumers alike. Along with Crompton Armor we are also launching the Crompton Saathi App for electricians, this app will act as a one stop shop for all information related to the product and applicable incentives.

ISRAEL AND HEZBOLLAH CONTINUE STRIKES DESPITE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

About two dozen people have reportedly been killed by Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon, less than 24 hours after a new ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah was announced. Local officials said 16 people had been killed in the Nabatieh district and seven in neighbouring Saïda, with others injured, after Israeli warplanes, drones, and artillery targeted several areas. The Israeli military said it struck "Hezbollah terrorist targets" after the group fired over 50 projectiles at Israeli forces in the region. Washington has criticised Israel's ongoing operations in Lebanon, which was drawn into the US-Iran war when Hezbollah launched rockets into Israel in retaliation for a strike that killed Iran's supreme leader. Washington also fears that the continuing tensions between Israel and Lebanon could undermine the US peace deal with Iran, which includes a commitment to end fighting on "all fronts" including Lebanon. US envoy,



Steve Witkoff, is reported to be heading to Switzerland for initial talks with Iran to help cement the agreement. While it may have helped prevent a wider regional escalation for the time being, the deal leaves unresolved the central disputes at the heart of the conflict, including Israel's military presence in southern Lebanon and the future of Hezbollah's weapons. A

Hezbollah official told the BBC it does not recognise the ceasefire that was announced by US officials on Friday afternoon, and it rejects the Israeli objective to operate freely inside Lebanon. Senior Hezbollah official Hassan Fadlallah said his group had the right to respond to Israeli attacks. "What concerns us is that the enemy fully and comprehensively respects the

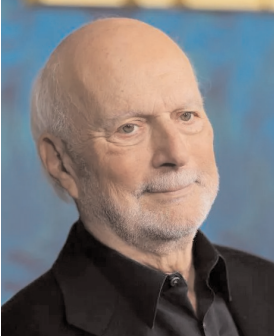
ceasefire, and doesn't attempt to attack our country and villages or seek to occupy any new position," he said, as quoted in Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA). Previous ceasefires between Israel and Hezbollah have still seen near-daily cross-border strikes, with both sides accusing each other of violating the agreement. Before Friday's ceasefire was

announced, Israel said it had no intention of withdrawing its forces from Lebanon and had insisted that its conflict with Hezbollah was separate from the war on Iran. Earlier on Friday Lebanon's health ministry said 47 people were killed and 97 wounded in Israeli air strikes, while the Israeli military said four of its soldiers were also killed. Ali, a Red Cross first responder in Nabatieh, told the BBC that it was "the most intense night" he can remember. Those strikes came a day after the US and Iranian presidents signed an initial peace deal aiming to end the war, including in Lebanon, with immediate effect, but strikes continued. The consequences of the ongoing fighting are visible across southern Lebanon. At hospitals in the south, exhausted doctors continue treating the wounded, while emergency workers increasingly find themselves on recovery missions rather than rescue operations. At Najdi Hospital in Nabatieh, ambu-

lances bypass the emergency room and head straight to the morgue. Ali says there is no more room inside, and through the doorway, bodies in white bags can be seen laid out on the floor. Many residents had returned to their villages after previous ceasefires and temporary truces, believing the worst of the fighting was behind them. "The problem is that we got used to it," Ali says. "I have been with the Red Cross for more than 30 years, and deaths now are only a number for us." The two countries first agreed to a ceasefire in April, but this failed to stop the fighting. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the Israeli military to intensify its strikes on Hezbollah and advance deeper into Lebanon, after Hezbollah struck communities in northern Israel with drone and rocket attacks. Ceasefire commitments have been repeatedly renewed since then, but followed by airstrikes and attacks from both sides.

James Burrows, legendary director of Cheers and Friends, dies aged 85

James Burrows, legendary director of some of America's most-loved sitcoms, has died aged 85. Best-known as co-creator of the sitcom Cheers, Burrows directed more than 1,000 episodes of other TV comedy classics including Friends, Big Bang Theory, and Will and Grace. Attorney Tom Hoberman confirmed Burrows' death "with great sadness" to CBS News, the BBC's US partner. In a career spanning more than 50 years, Burrows won 11 Emmy Awards and five Directors Guild of America Awards. In a statement shared with US outlet People, his family said: "We celebrate the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of James 'Jimmy' Burrows, who passed away peacefully today surrounded by his loving family. "For more than five decades, Burrows was one of the most influential and beloved directors in television history. As a legendary director,



mentor, and creative force, he helped shape generations of comedy and brought immeasurable joy to audiences around the world." Born in Los Angeles in 1940, Burrows spent much of his childhood in New York. As a young adult, he attended the graduate programme of the Yale School of Drama, where he got his first experience of directing. After several years behind the camera, he co-created the sitcom Cheers alongside the brothers Glen and Les Charles. The show quickly became a 1980s TV hit in both the US and UK.

African and Caribbean nations call for formal apology for transatlantic slavery



African and Caribbean countries have called for a formal apology and reparations from countries that benefited from the transatlantic slave trade. The demands came at the end of a three day conference in Ghana which looked to advance the push for reparatory justice. It follows a landmark UN resolution earlier in March which recognised transatlantic slavery as the "gravest crime against humanity", urging UN member states to contribute to a reparations fund. Around 12-15 million African men, women and children were captured and trafficked to the Americas to work as slaves from the 15-19th century. A 19-point reparations plan has been endorsed as part of the "Next Steps" conference in the Ghanaian capital of Accra. It calls for comprehensive debt relief, the restitution of looted cultural property, and the establishment of a global reparations fund, though no specific amount was stated. It also addresses the disproportionate impact of slavery on African women and girls. The conference leaders also called on countries formerly involved in the slave trade to offer their

"full, formal and unconditional apologies". Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama told delegates: "History does not ask us to inherit guilt, but it asks us to inherit responsibility". French President Emmanuel Macron also gave a virtual note at the conference, where he recognised that enslaved people were "dehumanised and treated as goods". However, he cautioned against reducing reparations for slavery to financial compensation alone, saying they should not be seen as a "cheque written to bring the story to a close". The UN General Assembly vote took place in March, with 123 votes in favour, and three votes - the United States, Israel and Argentina - against declaring the transatlantic slave trade a crime against humanity. 52 countries, including the United Kingdom and European Union member states abstained. Unlike UN Security Council resolutions, those from the General Assembly are not legally binding. The UK has long rejected calls to pay reparations, saying today's institutions cannot be held responsible for past wrongs.

AUSTRALIA CONFIRMS FIRST CASE OF H5N1 BIRD FLU AS VIRUS REACHES EVERY CONTINENT



The H5N1 strain of bird flu has for the first time been found in Australia, the country's agriculture ministry confirmed. It means the highly contagious variant has now reached every continent. The disease was found in a migratory seabird, a brown skua, in remote Western Australia, Agriculture Minister Julie Collins said on Saturday. The bird was

found on a beach at the Cape Le Grand National Park near the town of Esperance, about 700km (434 mi) south-east of Perth, according to local media. Australia was previously the only continent where the H5N1 bird flu strain had not been found. The strain can spread quickly among poultry and wild bird populations. Human cases tied to the disease remain uncommon. "We all knew we couldn't be bird flu-free forever," Collins told a press conference. Collins added that there was a second suspected case of bird flu - a southern petrel that was found exhausted on an Esperance beach, though she added that there was no "evidence of mass mortalities at this time".

Zelensky stripped of highest Polish honour over WW2 name of army unit

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has been stripped of Poland's highest state honour, the Order of the White Eagle, over Kyiv's decision to name a military unit after controversial World War Two fighters. Polish President Karol Nawrocki branded Ukraine's decision late last month to name the unit after the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) "outrageous", "incomprehensible" and "deeply disappointing". Nawrocki stressed the diplomatic row would not impact Poland's support for Ukraine against Russia. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha denounced Warsaw's move, calling it a "strategic mistake" and "disrespectful". Many in Ukraine regard the UPA, which existed in the 1940s and 1950s, as



heroes who fought for Ukrainian independence against the Soviet Red Army as well as Nazi Germany and Polish authorities. So for Ukrainians the title "Heroes of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army" is a major honour. Poland, however, accuses the UPA of carrying out a genocide of ethnic Poles in Volhynia (now Volyn in Ukraine) in 1943-45. "For the

incomprehensible and deeply disappointing," he said. "It hurts not only our historical memory. It also undermines the trust built up over the years and in recent months," he added. The Polish president pointed to the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees welcomed into the country following the launch of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. "Poles opened their borders, their homes, and their hearts to millions of Ukrainians," he said. He went on to say: "Ukraine's path toward European structures also requires a willingness to honestly confront the difficult chapters of its own history. "A united Europe was built on the rejection of totalitarianism and the cult of violence.

O'LEARY EXTENDS RYANAIR CONTRACT IN DEAL THAT COULD NET HIM OVER £130M

Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary has extended his contract to 2032, in a deal featuring a bonus scheme that could earn him more than 150m (£130m). Since becoming chief executive in 1994, Ryanair has grown from a relatively small regional airline into Europe's largest low-cost carrier. If O'Leary remains at the Ryanair group until April 2032, he would be granted the option of buying 10 million shares at 26.70 per share if annual profit reached 4 billion or if the share price exceeds 42 for 28 successive days. "Achievement of these very ambitious targets would create substantial



additional value for all Ryanair shareholders," Ryanair said in a statement. Ryanair group chairman Stan McCarthy said that in spring, the company's board had "commenced discussions" with O'Leary on his contract. "I am pleased to report that

this process, which included extensive engagement with Ryanair's largest shareholders, has successfully concluded with Michael agreeing to extend his leadership of the Ryanair Group for the next six years to April 2032, for the benefit of all shareholders," he added. Last year, it was reported that O'Leary was on track to pocket bonuses worth more than 100m. This was after shares in the budget airline closed above 21 (£17.65) for a 28th consecutive day in May 2025, meeting a key performance target.

Highlights
■ Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary has extended his contract to 2032, in a deal featuring a bonus scheme that could earn him more than €150m (£130m).

US TO STOP FUNDING HIV PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA



The US government says it will stop funding programmes in South Africa intended to tackle the spread of HIV and Aids. More than eight million South Africans are living with HIV - the highest number of any country in the world. The US State Department appeared to link the decision to South Africa's alleged failure to protect the white-minority Afrikaner community - an allegation the South African government has repeatedly rejected. South Africa's health ministry responded by saying that though it had not been informed of this decision, it had "long been working on a self-reliance plan". Until 2025, the US was supporting South Africa's efforts to deal with the virus with an estimated \$400m (£300m) a year through the President's Emergency Fund for Aids Relief (Pepfar). But since the inauguration of President Donald Trump, relations between the two countries have increasingly soured.

Shortly after he came into office, Trump issued an executive order alleging that "countless" South African policies dismantled equal opportunities and fuelled violence "against racially disfavored landowners". This is disputed by the South African government, which says its Black Economic Empowerment policy is needed to correct economic inequality dating from the apartheid era. The executive order also highlighted South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice and its links to Iran. The White House said that given these "unjust and immoral practices", further aid to South Africa would not be provided. Trump has also falsely alleged that there is a "white genocide" taking place in South Africa, which has led to the administration setting up a refugee programme for Afrikaners - descendants of western Europeans who settled in southern Africa in the 17th Century.



Tourist dies in Dominican Republic luxury resort fire

JAPANESE POP GROUP XG WENT FROM BRUTAL FIVE YEAR TRAINING TO GLOBAL POP STARS



Every night, before they take the stage, the seven members of pop group XG form a circle and join hands. Band leader Jurin shouts "Hesono", and the other members reply with a loud shout of "Oh", flinging their arms towards the sky. They're not the only band to have pre-show ritual - but there's a special message behind XG's chant. Hesono (or, more accurately) is the

Japanese word for umbilical cord. It can symbolise someone's fate or destiny from birth. For XG, the phrase represents the intensity of their bond. "We're so strongly connected, we're always thinking the same things," says Chisa, the group's oldest member. "In our early days, I actually had a dream we were connected by an umbilical cord, like a mother and child.

Rohit Sharma, Prasidh Krishna Achieve Massive Record In India's 3rd ODI Against Afghanistan

Pacer Prasidh Krishna tore apart Afghanistan's top-order with a career-best 5 for 23 but skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi valiant 102 carried his side to 218 all out against India in the third and final ODI in Chennai on Saturday. Opting to bat first, Afghanistan were in all sorts of trouble at 36 for four after Prasidh discovered the perfect length at the Chepauk pitch with a four-wicket burst during his opening spell. But Shahidi, who took 131 balls for his maiden ODI hundred, marshalled the remaining resources well to save Afghanistan some blushes. The left-hander first milked 105 runs off 117 balls for the fifth wicket with Azmatullah Omarzai (50, 56b) and then a 57 runs off 53 balls for the sixth wicket with Mohammad Nabi. Before the Afghans mounted a rescue act, Prasidh hogged the limelight with a very fine spell marked by hitting the fuller length that tempted the batters to drive.



Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah, all attempted to drive outside the off-stump off Prasidh, giving regulation catches to Rohit Sharma at first slip. It was the third time in India's ODI history that a fielder took three catches off the same bowler. VVS Laxman off Irfan Pathan against Zimbabwe in 2004 and Virat Kohli off Jasprit Bumrah against

Bangladesh in 2018 are the two other instances. However, what made Rohit and Prasidh's combination special is that it was the first time a fielder and bowler combined for three consecutive wickets, and also the first three wickets. Darwish Rasooli tried to pull the pacer, but Shreyas Iyer ran from mid-off to take a fine catch that gave Prasidh his fourth wicket inside the first

10 overs. The Karnataka man also joined an elite list of pacers like Jasprit Bumrah, Javagal Srinath and Mohammed Siraj etc to have achieved that feat. At 36 for four, a capitulation seemed imminent. But Shahidi and Omarzai resisted the Indian bowlers bravely, and often managed to score at over five runs an over. Shahidi played the anchor role to perfection,

and often used late cuts and little dabs to the gaps to collect runs and raised his fifty in 64 balls. In contrast, Omarzai was more aggressive and brought up his half-century in 55 balls which contained sixes off left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey and off-spinner Washington Sundar. But a feeble pull off Prince Yadav ended in the hands of Prasidh at long leg. However, Shahidi, who battled cramps after reaching 80, continued unfazed and scored his first one-day international century off 128 balls fittingly with a late cut four off Washington. But once Nabi was departed wickets began to fall quickly around Shahidi, who had to conjure his last ounce of energy to bat through the pain barrier to take Afghanistan past the 200-run mark. The tourists' otherwise modest was amplified by the five-run penalty imposed on them after Shahidi ran on the pitch's danger zone in the last ball of the 39th over.

NEERAJ CHOPRA POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER FOURTH-PLACE FINISH AT DOHA DIAMOND LEAGUE

India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra expressed satisfaction after making a successful return to competition at the Doha Diamond League 2026, where he secured qualification for the upcoming Commonwealth Games with an 85.69m throw in his first event of the 2026 season. Sharing a video of his effort on X on Saturday, Chopra wrote, "Happy to be back on the field. 85.69m felt good, and ready for the season ahead!" The 28-year-old was competing for the first time in eight months after recovering from a back injury that had sidelined him since the end of last season. While he narrowly missed out on a podium finish in Doha, the outing provided encouraging signs as he returned to the international circuit. Chopra began the competition with a foul throw but gradually found his rhythm in a high-quality field. His best effort of 85.69m came on the third attempt, lifting him to third



place at the end of the third round and comfortably taking him past the qualification mark for the Commonwealth Games. The Tokyo Olympic gold medallist followed it up with a throw of 83.45m in

the fourth round. However, he could not improve further and recorded another foul on his fifth attempt. As a result, he slipped to fourth place and missed out on advancing to the final three-athlete shootout.

Clavicular Announces Looksmaxing Ascension Summit in Miami: Tickets, Dates, VIP Experience, And More

Kick streamer Clavicular is taking his content beyond livestreams and social media posts with a new in-person event called The Ascension Summit. Announced on June 17, the summit is designed around the same self-improvement and looksmaxxing ideas that helped him build an audience online. Instead of teaching through videos alone, the creator plans to meet followers directly and share the methods he says helped shape his appearance, confidence, and fitness journey. What attendees can expect from The Ascension Summit The event will offer both online and in-person access, giving supporters different ways to take part. While the summit itself begins on June 28, one part of the experience is getting more attention than the rest: a limited VIP program that includes a private yacht session with Clavicular. The event is scheduled to take place in Miami next month, with multiple ticket options available depending on how closely attendees want to interact with the streamer. People who don't plan to travel

can still join through a virtual ticket priced at \$97. According to the event website, that package includes a livestream of the summit, speaker presentations, and a question-and-answer session. For those attending in person, general admission costs \$297. The event description lists activities such as a Looksmaxing Masterclass along with "mog battles," a term commonly used within looksmaxxing communities. Organizers have not shared attendance numbers so far, but the summit has already stood out because of how heavily it focuses on the self-improvement niche that made Clavicular popular. The VIP package comes with a private yacht mastermind session The most limited option available is the VIP Experience. Only ten people will be accepted into the program, and getting in requires more than simply buying a ticket. Applicants must fill out a separate form that asks about their background, social media presence, and how much they are willing to invest in personal development.



Shubman Gill, Gautam Gambhir Urged To 'Bite The Bullet' And Take Big Call In 3rd ODI Against Afghanistan

Aakash Chopra did not include Harshit Rana as he picked India's playing XI for the third and final ODI match against Afghanistan on Saturday. India have already won the three-match series and may look to rest some players in the final game. Harshit Rana was added to the squad on Friday after a long absence due to injury for the fast bowler. However, while picking the playing XI, Chopra picked Yashasvi Jaiswal and replaced Arshdeep Singh with Nitish Kumar Reddy. "Yashasvi has been played only one match. So let him play. Bite the bullet and say that we want to play Nitish Kumar Reddy if he is fit, so we will play like this only. Make Arshdeep Singh sit



out and play Nitish Kumar Reddy. Say that you won't make Yashasvi sit out because I have got no idea when he would get a chance to play again," he said on his YouTube channel. Earlier, India assistant coach Ryan

ten Doeschate confirmed that speedster Harshit Rana has fully recovered from his injury after completing rehabilitation and clearance at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). Rana has been added to the India squad for the third

and final One-Day International match against Afghanistan, which will be played on Saturday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, although he is unlikely to feature in the next match, confirms Doeschate.

'Everything I do is for you' - how tragedy is driving Diomande

When Ivory Coast's teenage sensation Yan Diomande lines up on the wing against Germany in their second World Cup match on Saturday (21:00 BST), he will be the subject of huge attention from millions around the world. Just how good is he? Can he put on a show against one of the best teams in the competition? How would his speed and dribbling translate to the Premier League? But Diomande's own focus will be on one thing - making his little sister Roxanne proud. She died a year ago, aged 15, after her drink was spiked. "Everything I do on a football pitch, it's for you," the 19-year-old wrote in a heartfelt and searingly honest letter published by The Players' Tribune, external this week. Diomande - who scored 12 goals for RB Leipzig in his debut season in the Bundesliga last year - outlined how much his sister's belief in his ability as a footballer has underpinned his career so far. "I don't even look at it like a game," he wrote. "I look at it like a stage. This is my chance to show the whole world what you saw in me. "Every time I score, I'll make sure everybody knows your name. I'll make sure they don't forget you." Diomande con-



tinued: "Now, I don't feel anything. It's like I'm not even human. Since you died, I'm just blank. "I don't try to forget, because I know I won't forget. All I can do is use the pain to work harder, and to do everything we dreamed about." "We call him golden boy' Such a painful loss was rendered even more difficult for Diomande as he was living away from his loved ones, playing for Spanish side Leganes.

Paraguay's Matias Galarza Scripts History, Scores Fastest Goal Of FIFA World Cup 2026

Paraguay's Matias Galarza scripted history by scoring the fastest goal of FIFA World Cup 2026 during the Group D match against Türkiye on Saturday. It took just 65 seconds for Paraguay to take the lead in the match as Galarza scored from a sensational long-range effort. Earlier in the day, Morocco's Ismael Saïbani claimed the record when he scored after just 72 seconds during the match against Scotland. However, the record did not last long as Galarza capitalised on a fiery start by Paraguay and handed his team the lead in a must-win game for them. Earlier, Matheus Cunha scored twice as Brazil eased past Haiti 3-0 on Friday to breathe life into their FIFA World Cup campaign and close in on a spot in the last 32. After a much-criticised display in their opening 1-1 draw with Morocco, the five-



time world champions underlined the gulf in class with outsiders Haiti, who became the first country to exit this World Cup. Cunha's scruffy goal in Philadelphia gave Brazil the lead midway through the first half, and he struck again as C a r l o

Ancelotti's side asserted their dominance. Vinicius Junior added a third before the break. Brazil play Scotland in their final Group C game in Miami on June 24. Haiti's first World Cup appearance since 1974 will end after they play Morocco in Atlanta. The Selecao currently have the edge over Morocco for top spot on goal difference.

Who Is Minaravel? French Streamer Faces Backlash Over Response To Live-Stream Harassment



Who is Minaravel and what kind of content does she make? Before this incident, Minaravel was known mainly within French streaming circles. She streams on Twitch under the username @minaravel and is also active on X under the name minanami. The 22-year-old creator describes herself as a "chaotic, sentimental nine-tailed fox" streamer. She has been streaming since 2025 and mostly does IRL streams She currently has more than 10,000 followers on Twitch. What happened during the Paris live stream? The clip came from a public broadcast recorded near Châtelet-Les Halles in Paris before the France vs. Senegal World Cup match in 2026. Minaravel and another streamer were filming outdoors while

wearing French flag face paint and interacting with viewers. During the stream, a man approached them and moved into the frame. According to accounts of the incident, he put an arm around Minaravel, kissed her, and touched her intimately while the broadcast was still live. Her friend reacted more visibly to what was happening, while the stream continued after the interaction ended. Why is Minaravel criticizing people who shared the video? After the clip spread online, Minaravel reportedly addressed the situation on her own platforms. She said she did not allow the kiss because she wanted it, but because she was worried about how the man might react if she rejected him more forcefully in public.

Lionel Messi Red Card Debate In Focus As Algeria Lodge Official Complaint With FIFA

Algeria have officially lodged a complaint with FIFA over what they described as poor refereeing during their 3-0 defeat to Argentina in the FIFA World Cup 2026, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Friday (local time). According to Reuters, the complaint was submitted to FIFA's refereeing commission and highlighted a number of incidents that Algeria believe were not dealt with appropriately during the Group J encounter. One of the key incidents cited in the letter reportedly occurred during

the first half when Argentina captain Lionel Messi appeared to step on the calf of Algeria skipper Aissa Mandi, according to Reuters. Fans called for Messi to be sent off after he made contact from behind with a raised boot. However, no disciplinary action was taken against the Argentine captain, who remained on the pitch and later went on to score all three goals in Argentina's victory. As per Reuters, Algeria have also raised concerns over an alleged elbow by Argentina midfielder Alexis Mac Allister on Ibrahim Maza in

the second half of the Group J match in Kansas City, which went unpunished by Polish referee Szymon Marciniak. Marciniak, who officiated the 2022 World Cup final between Argentina and France, was reportedly close to the incident when Mac Allister appeared to challenge Maza with a raised elbow. Coming to the match, Messi produced a stunning performance as Argentina defeated Algeria 3-0 in their FIFA World Cup 2026 opener, scoring a hat-trick and leading the defending champions in dominant fashion. The Argentine skipper

opened the scoring with a powerful long-range effort before doubling the lead with a poacher's finish following a rebound. He completed his hat-trick in the 76th minute with a composed curling strike to seal the win for the defending champions. The hat-trick was Messi's first in FIFA World Cup history and saw him draw level with Germany's Miroslav Klose as the joint-highest scorer in men's World Cup history with 16 goals. The milestone came just days before Messi's 39th birthday and exactly 20 years after he scored his first World Cup goal in 2006. Making his

200th

appearance for Argentina, Messi produced a vintage display of creativity, control and finishing to guide La Albiceleste to a convincing victory. Argentina will next face Austria in Dallas on Monday, while Algeria are scheduled to take on Jordan in San Francisco.



Director S.V. Krishna Reddy and Producer Achhi Reddy Launched the Teaser of "Hreem"



The teaser of the upcoming film "Hreem", starring Pawan Tata and Chaminda Varma as the lead pair, was launched in Hyderabad by renowned director S. V. Krishna Reddy and noted producer Achhi Reddy. The film also features Tanikella Bharani, Rajeev Kanakala, Banerjee, and Bhadram in important roles. Presented by Sujatha Mallala and produced by Shiva Mallala, the movie is directed by Rajesh Ravuri and is based on a horror-mystical thriller storyline. Producer Achhi Reddy Said - "The teaser of Hreem is very good. It shows producer Shiva Mallala's passion. He should earn a good name as a producer and go on to make many bigger films. Heroine Chaminda Varma should gain recognition through this film. All the best to hero Pawan as well.

Rajeev Kanakala is someone who could have been a hero; now, as a character actor, he has become one of the most wanted artists in the industry. Tanikella Bharani garu has also played an important role. These experienced actors are going to scare us and entertain us in this film. Director Rajesh Ravoori should achieve success with Hreem. I wish the entire team all the best." Director S.V. Krishna Reddy Said - "I am happy that Shiva Mallala is producing a good film like Hreem. The teaser is appealing. Though the title is Hreem, it feels like cream. Heroine Chaminda Varma has performed very well. Rajeev Kanakala, Banerjee, Tanikella Bharani—the entire casting is good. The release date will be announced soon. Whenever it releases, I hope this movie achieves great success." Producer Shiva

Mallala Said - "I have been in journalism for nearly 25 years. Now I am coming before you as a producer. Throughout this journey, my media friends, family friends, family members, and Prabhu garu, who is like a father to me, supported and encouraged me. Opportunities did not come searching for me; I went searching for opportunities. When an opportunity came, I stepped forward boldly. I took risks, thinking about how deep I could fall even if I failed. Even when I worked as a critic and reviewed films, I always felt that this industry belongs to all of us. It is easy to speak negatively, but I know how hard a team works for a film. Cinema is a collective effort. If we are passionate, it becomes easy to overcome any obstacle. While making this film, my entire team supported me greatly and

encouraged me as a producer. Director Rajesh narrated a story called Karnapishachi. The core point of that story impressed me very much. I narrated it to my friends Srinivas, Satish, and Shailaja, and they also became curious about it. The two-minute video shown on screen today was the reason this film went onto the sets. Director Rajesh and DOP Aravind shot a five-minute demo. I sent that demo to a producer friend of mine in Chennai. After watching it, he asked how much it cost. When I said not even a rupee had been spent, he was surprised. He appreciated the team and said they could make a good film within budget. Our director and DOP said they could shoot in a guerrilla style and still deliver good output, so I came forward to produce the project.

SRI VISHNU: 'COMRADE KALYAN' IS A COMPLETE BIG-SCREEN ENTERTAINER

'Comrade Kalyan' is a very good entertainer. I have spoken a new language in this film. Audience will enjoy it a lot on the big screen: King of Entertainment Sri Vishnu at the launch event of Oriya Pilla song -Sri Vishnu launches the song 'Oriya Pilla' from the film 'Comrade Kalyan' - The song became a chartbuster with Sid Sriram's amazing voice 'King of Entertainment' Sri Vishnu, who entertains with different stories and entertaining performances, will be coming to the audience with an action entertainer with a new theme 'Comrade Kalyan'. Directed by Janakiram Marella, presented by Kona Venkat, the film is being produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under the banner of Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. The title glimpse of the film has already received a wonderful response. The story is set against the backdrop of the Andhra-Odisha border in 1992. Mahima Nambiar is playing the female lead. The film team launched the first song 'Oriya Pilla' from the film today. The song introduces the romantic world of 'Comrade Kalyan' and presents a tender love story. Composed by music director Vijay Bulganin, the melody conveys heart-touching emotions along with a catchy tune. Sid Sriram brings this song, reminiscent of vintage sweetness, to life with his mesmerizing voice. He wonderfully conveys the joy and innocence of first-time love with his voice. The lyrics



provided by Bhaskarabhatla beautifully reveal the feelings of a young man who falls in love with an Oriya girl. The naturally flowing words enhance the softness of the song and immediately connect with the listeners. Visually, the song is also impressive. While Sree Vishnu impressed with his natural acting as a young man immersed in love, Mahima Nambiar stood out with her beauty and screen presence. The chemistry between the two added more beauty to the song. The melodious vocals, heart-touching lyrics, Sid Sriram's singing, and beautiful visuals combined to make 'Oriya Pilla' a chart-buster. With this song, expectations on 'Comrade Kalyan' have increased even more. Radhika Sarathkumar, Shine Tom Chacko, and Upendra Limaye are playing key roles in this film. Sai Sriram has handled the cin-

ematography and Vijay Bulganin has composed the music. Chota K. Prasad is the editor. At the song launch event, hero Sri Vishnu said: Hello everyone. Thank you to everyone who came to this event by name. It is a great pleasure to do the film 'Comrade Kalyan'. It is a period film. Kona Venkat came to me with a wonderful story based on an incident that happened in the 90s and added fiction to it. Excellent technicians worked on this film. We started shooting only after the script came out wonderfully. Most of the filming took place in forests and rural areas. We enjoyed a lot during the shooting. Sudarshan garu, Satya garu, Brahmaji garu, Raghubabhu garu and everyone worked very fun along with me. Vijay Bulganin gave very wonderful songs. The four songs in the film are also very special. They are easy for

everyone to sing and remember. Bhaskarabhatla garu's lyrics are very catchy. Every film done with Srikanth garu has been successful. Shine Tom Chacko is a very energetic actor. His contribution to this film was a big plus. Many wonderful locations were found because of him. He is a very energetic person. His role in the film is also very different. The audience will enjoy watching that role. Thank you to everyone who worked on this film. I spoke a new language for this film. You will enjoy it a lot on screen. Writer and producer Kona Venkat said: Hello everyone. I felt a special satisfaction while watching this song. I feel very proud about this film. This is also the first song we recorded. The idea of ??making a song with the word 'Oriya Pilla' was also my own. Vijay presented that idea in a wonderful musical form. Bhaskarabhatla garu wrote 'Adhrutham Chenchadu' in this song. But in this film, luck is not in spoons, but in buckets. A very big star cast is acting in this film. This is a journey of almost a year and a half. I liked the idea that Janakiram said a lot. After that, we added each element and produced this film in a wonderful way. Sri Vishnu is this generation's all-rounder. An actor with a positive image loved by all sections of the audience. He has many fans in the family audience. He is working with the aim of making at least three films a year and providing employment to many. Sri Vishnu is a boon to the Telugu industry.

Rise Of Linga From Vishal’s Makutam Packs A Ferocious Punch

Puratchi Thalapathy Vishal, who scored consecutive commercial successes with Mark Antony and Madha Gaja Raja, is now gearing up for his most ambitious venture, Makutam. Currently in the final leg of production, the film is written and directed by Vishal himself. This indeed marks his directorial debut. Produced on a grand scale by Super Good Films, Makutam also stands as the prestigious banner's 99th production. The project has attracted immense attention ever since its announcement, thanks to its scale, vision, and emotional significance. The film became very emotional for everyone associated with it, following the demise of legendary producer RB Choudary. Makutam has steadily built anticipation through its striking promotional material, while the recently released teaser further amplifies expect-



tations. The makers have now kick-started the musical promotions with the first single, "Rise Of Linga," an electrifying track that introduces Vishal's character in a blazing fashion. Designed as a character anthem, the song establishes Linga as a commanding presence whose very name evokes fear, power, and authority. Composed by GV Prakash Kumar, the track thrives on pulsating beats, raw

energy, and a rugged gangster-rap flavour that perfectly complements the character's larger-than-life aura. The aggressive rhythm and hard-hitting arrangement create a charged atmosphere, while the lyrics celebrate Linga's fearless attitude, unmatched dominance, and towering reputation. Adding further intensity to the number is Vishal himself, who joins GV Prakash Kumar and V7H on vocals. Their spirited rendition injects authenticity and swagger into the track, making it an impactful character introduction rather than just another promotional song. More than a musical release, "Rise Of Linga" serves as a declaration of intent. With its explosive soundscape, powerful lyrics, and commanding presentation, the song successfully captures the essence of Linga and offers a glimpse into the high-voltage world of Makutam.

“A Big Conspiracy Is Being Carried Out Against Small Films”

Actor and director Sheraz Mehdi has alleged that a major conspiracy is being carried out against small-budget films in the Telugu film industry. Addressing a press conference at the Film Chamber regarding the difficulties faced during the release and re-release of his film O Andala Rakshasi, he expressed deep concern over the treatment of low-budget filmmakers. Sheraz claimed that the issue is not limited to his film alone and that many producers of small-budget movies are facing injustice. He alleged that theaters often promise screens to small films but withdraw their commitments at the last minute. According to him, politics and favoritism are influencing the theater allocation system, causing significant losses to smaller productions. He stated that in major cities such as Hyderabad, small films are given only a limited number of shows, often at less favor-



able time slots when audience turnout is low. As a result, many films fail before they even get a chance to reach viewers. Sheraz further said that the challenges faced by small films extend beyond theatrical releases. He claimed that low-budget productions encounter obstacles in securing audio rights, satellite rights, OTT platform deals, and overseas distribution opportunities. He also expressed concern that opportunities for new

directors and producers are shrinking. Speaking about O Andala Rakshasi, Sheraz said that everyone who watched the preview appreciated the film and believed it had strong potential. However, he alleged that influential figures within the industry were preventing the film from getting the recognition it deserved. He stated that despite submitting multiple complaints to the Film Chamber, he had not received a satisfactory response. Sheraz expressed hope that Bharat Bhushan would take steps to address the issues faced by small filmmakers. The director also revealed that he had sent legal notices to PVR, INOX, and Asian Cinemas regarding what he described as unfair theater allocation practices. He added that if his film had received adequate support during its initial release, there would have been no need for a re-release.

KRITI SANON STUNS IN OLIVE GREEN GOWN



Kriti Sanon is currently trending online for her bold beach avatar in Cocktail 2, her latest release alongside Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna. Her scenes from the film have gone viral on social media, with many praising her fitness transformation and confident screen presence. Despite mixed reviews for the film overall, Kriti's performance has emerged

as one of its biggest talking points. Away from the big screen, Kriti continues to impress with her style choices too. In her latest pictures, she wore an olive green satin gown with a plunging neckline and a thigh-high slit, finished with black piping detail. She paired the look with subtle jewellery and soft waves, keeping the focus entirely on the dress.

‘Police Complaint’ Enters Successful Second Week in Theatres

The horror thriller-action entertainer 'Police Complaint' has successfully entered its second week of theatrical run. Starring Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Naveen Chandra, Krishna Sai, and Ragini Dwivedi in lead roles, the film is produced by Balakrishna Maharana under the MSK Pramida Sri Films banner. The movie is directed by creative filmmaker Sanjeev Megoti, known for films such as Aghora, Paurusham, Aaptha, Dandu, Raghava Reddy, and Adiparvam. Despite being released amid controversies, Police Complaint has continued its successful run across all centers and has entered its second week with strong audience support. Producer Balakrishna Maharana expressed happiness

over the film's performance and revealed that the number of screens has been increased in several regions due to growing demand. He also stated that a special song dedicated to the late Superstar Krishna has received an overwhelming response from fans. Director Sanjeev Megoti said the film is based on the unique concept of the "Chain Reaction of Karma," blending horror-thriller elements with action entertainment. He added that the story has been crafted to offer audiences a fresh cinematic experience, while the distinctive characterization has helped the film connect with viewers across all age groups. The film combines action, comedy, romance, and thriller elements and features an ensemble cast

including Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Naveen Chandra, Krishna Sai, Ragini Dwivedi, Aditya Om, Ravi Shankar, Prithvi, Srinivasa Reddy, Sapthagiri, Krithi Varma, Preeti Sundar, Sharath Lohitashwa, Gemini Suresh, Dil Ramesh, Sattenna, Vijay Bhaskar, Madhu Nambiar, Anil Raj, Sriharsha, Devender, Pushparam, DSP, and many others. With nearly 52 senior artists appearing in the film, the makers say the cinematography by S.N. Harish Sondekoppa and the action sequences choreographed by Dragon Prakash and Ravi Teja have emerged as major highlights. Director Sanjeev Megoti attributed the film's success to its unique storyline, strong ensemble cast, and engaging thriller elements.

