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For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.comwww.thesouthindiatimes.com[/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)**KERALA CM WRITES**
to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu,
Puducherry govts seeking
anti-drug cooperation

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**CONGRESS PASSES WAR
POWERS MEASURE FOR
FIRST TIME, BREAKING
WITH TRUMP OVER IRAN**

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**'ALPHA IS A CELEBRATION
of attitude...I had such a
good time making it!': Alia
Bhatt had a blast shooting
this fun, popcorn ntertainer
every single day**

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SCAN FOR
E-PAPER**OM NAMO
VENKATESAYA**

23-06-2026

Total pilgrims : 84,235

Tonsures : 29,745

Hundi kankalalu : 518 CR

Laddu sale : 4,20 Lac

Annasprasadam : 2,20 Lac

Medical treatment : 2,940

Waiting Compartments : 21

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravardashanam

(with out SSD Tokens) : 8-10 H

**Heavy rain triggers
landslides, flash floods;
3 missing in
Arunachal Pradesh**

ITANAGAR (TSIT) : Incessant rain triggered flash floods in Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday morning, inundating low-lying areas and damaging 18 residential units, while landslides on a national highway disrupted vehicular movement and left several people stranded, an official said. Three people reportedly went missing due to the flash floods at the Neepeo project colony near Poosa under the Yazali circle, state disaster management secretary Dani Sulu said.

**4 dead, 17 hospitalised after
under-construction Kolkata warehouse
collapses, several remain trapped****KOLKATA (TSIT):**

Four people died and 17 others were hospitalised after a three-storey under-construction warehouse in the Taratala area of west Kolkata collapsed on Wednesday afternoon, trapping several people underneath the rubble, a senior West Bengal health department officer said. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, who visited the disaster site where rescue operations were underway, stated that about 18 others remained trapped under the rubble where coordinated rescue efforts were being made by state and central agencies, including the army.

The collapsed warehouse is a lease-hold property under the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in the city, an official said. "So far, 21 people have been rescued; three of whom have perished. The others have been admitted to SSKM Hospital where all efforts are being made to provide them with adequate



medical attention," the CM had said earlier, following which the death toll increased.

Till reports last received, all the rescued people, believed to be workers at the construction site, were admitted to the Trauma Care Centre of the state-run SSKM Hospital, the condition of several of them was stated to be critical. A multi-disciplinary team of doctors, involving neurologists, orthopaedics and general medicine experts, has been set up to attend to the injured patients who have suffered severe trauma, they added.

"The roof of the warehouse located on the

Transport Depot Road near Brace Bridge in the Taratala area collapsed around noon. Some people were working at the site at the time of the incident," a Kolkata Police officer said.

Massive chunks of iron beams and concrete crumbled during the construction, where several workers were engaged. Eyewitnesses at the site said they heard trapped victims crying for help from beneath the debris. "Construction activities were taking place on the ground floor while the RCC structure for the first and second floors had been completed. The entire structure came crashing down," an eyewitness said.

**CM Revanth Seeks Centre's Intervention
for Telangana's Tungabhadra Water Share**

HYDERABAD, TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged the Central Government to intervene and facilitate coordination among the riparian states to ensure Telangana receives its rightful share of water from the Tungabhadra river system.

Reviewing issues related to the Tungabhadra Project, Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), and inter-state river water disputes at Jalasoudha on Wednesday evening, the Chief Minister expressed concern that Telangana is entitled to 15.9 TMC of water from the Tungabhadra Dam and river flows, but is currently receiving only about 5-6 TMC. He noted that under the RDS, irrigation water is meant to reach 83,987 acres across nearly 75 villages in Jogulamba Gadwal district, but inadequate water availability continues to affect farmers. Since Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are stakeholders in the project, the Chief Minister called for strengthening the



Tungabhadra Board under the supervision of the Central Water Commission (CWC) to ensure efficient and equitable utilization of water among the three states.

During the review, officials informed the Chief Minister that the RDS anicut has become vulnerable and requires urgent safety-related works. Although the Telangana Government had already deposited Rs.59 crore for modernization of the Rajolibanda Diversion Canal, only Packages 3 and 4 have been completed, while Packages 1 and 2 remain pending.

The Chief Minister directed officials to strongly raise the issue during the meeting convened by the Union Jal Shakti Minister with the Chief

Ministers of the three states on Thursday and seek immediate completion of the pending works.

Engineers also explained that heavy silt accumulation on the Telangana side of the RDS is preventing adequate diversion of water. A technical committee had recommended desiltation as early as 2004, but its recommendations remain unimplemented. The Chief Minister decided to request the Centre to take up desiltation works immediately and seek cooperation from Karnataka, where the silted area is located.

He further instructed irrigation officials to prepare a comprehensive report comparing the present situation with the 2004 expert committee recommendations and submit it

at the earliest.

The Chief Minister also directed officials to explore all possible alternatives to maximize water utilization under the Tungabhadra Lift Irrigation Scheme. He emphasized increasing the storage capacity of the M a l l a m a k u n t a Balancing Reservoir, which is crucial for utilizing water from the Tummilli project, and called for expediting the works. The review meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, MP Mallu Ravi, Government Adviser Jitender Reddy, Irrigation Adviser Aditya Nath Das, CMO Secretary Manik Raj, Irrigation Secretary Sreedhar, Special Chief Secretary (Energy) Naveen Mittal, and senior irrigation officials.

**Air India flight briefly enters Pakistan
airspace after technical snag****Chandigarh (TSIT)**

An Air India flight operating on the Delhi-Amritsar sector briefly entered Pakistani airspace on Monday night after



experiencing a technical snag in its navigation system, official sources confirmed on Wednesday.

The aircraft, an Airbus A321 (Flight AI-463), safely returned to Indian airspace after being alerted by Pakistani Air Traffic Control (ATC) and later landed in Amritsar after a brief diversion back to the national capital. According to airport and aviation sources, the flight departed from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport at 9:18 PM on Monday. Shortly into its journey

toward Amritsar, the aircraft encountered a technical malfunction that disrupted its onboard navigation tools, causing the flight path to drift westward across the International Border into Pakistani territory.

"The deviation was promptly flagged by the Pakistani air traffic authorities, who coordinated with the flight crew to alert them of the airspace breach. The pilots immediately corrected their course and guided the aircraft back into Indian territory," a senior airport official stated on the condition of anonymity. However, the operational challenges did not end there. By the time the aircraft approached Amritsar's Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport around 10:30 PM, the local airspace was experiencing high traffic congestion. Due to the lack of an immediate landing slot and operational constraints, air traffic controllers instructed the flight to return to Delhi.

Jonnagiri Gold Mine Inaugurated in AP:**CM NAIDU LAUNCHES INDIA'S LARGEST PRIVATE GOLD PROJECT**

KURNOOL (TSIT).

In a significant boost to mining and economic development in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district. The project, touted as the country's largest private sector gold mine with an integrated processing unit in the last 70 years, marks a major step towards boosting domestic gold production.

The Chief Minister symboli-

cally handed over the first batch of gold produced at the mine to leading state-based jewellery firms — Vasavi Jewelers, Sai Santosh Jewelers, Madhumurthi Jewelers, and Emerald Jewelers.

The initiative aligns with the state's vision to ensure that locally extracted resources primarily benefit local industries and people. Geo Mysore Services India Pvt Ltd (GMSI) is developing the mine with an investment of approximately Rs.405 crore. The open-pit mine spreads across 597.82 hectares

in Jonnagiri, Erragudi, and Pagidirai villages in Tuggali Mandal. The company has committed to selling the entire gold output to jewellery businesses within Andhra Pradesh to strengthen the local economy.

**PRODUCTION &
ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The mine is targeting 400 kg of gold production in the current financial year (2026-27) and plans to scale up to 1 tonne (1,000 kg) annually in the coming years. Estimated reserves stand at around 12 tonnes. The project is expected to generate direct employment for 300 people and indirect jobs for another 300. The state government anticipates royalty revenue of around Rs.57 crore in the first year, which could rise to Rs.144 crore per annum once the mine reaches full capacity. These funds will support local development through the District Mineral Foundation.

**London court orders Nirav Modi
to pay Rs 100 cr to Bank of India
in loan recovery case****New Delhi (TSIT)**

A London court has ordered fugitive billionaire Nirav Modi to pay more than USD 10.7 million (over Rs 100 crore) to the Bank of India in a loan recovery issue related to a firm he operated in Dubai.

This was another major legal setback for Nirav Modi in the UK. The London Circuit Commercial Court ruled in favour of the Bank of India on Tuesday, ruling that Nirav Modi, who was also a prime accused in the Rs 13,000 crore PNB scam, was personally responsible for repayment under a personal guarantee he had signed for a loan given to Firestar Diamond FZE, a Firestar Group company based in Dubai. After the



borrowing firm defaulted, the court ruled that Modi was still legally liable for the obligation. The total recoverable amount is more than USD 10.7 million, including the principal outstanding amount of over USD 4.1 million (about Rs 38.9 crore) and any applicable interest claimed by the bank.

**Bhojpur
encounter: PK
seeks probe by
sitting judge,
threatens gherao
of Bihar CM if
demand not met****PATNA (TSIT):**

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Wednesday demanded that the judicial inquiry into the death of a man in the recent police encounter in Bihar's Bhojpur district be conducted by a sitting judge. India, US review core elements of bilateral trade agreement Addressing a 'maha panchayat' (a huge public meeting) at Bilauti, the village to which the deceased Bharat Tiwari belonged, Kishor said the role played by "top officials sitting in Patna" must also be probed and warned of "a gherao of the Chief Minister's residence" if the demands were not met in 15 days. The political strategist-turned-activist addressed the 'maha panchayat' after visiting the residence of Tiwari and meeting the bereaved family members. The deceased's kin had met him and sought his help days after the man, described as "mentally stable" by the Bhojpur administration, had been shot dead on June 17. Heavy rain triggers landslides, flash floods; 3 missing in Arunachal Pradesh The Samrat Choudhary government in Bihar, which has been facing the charge that it was a "fake encounter", has ordered a judicial inquiry, to be conducted by a retired judge of the high court.

BJP striving for 2/3rd majority in LS as 'real target' is to end reservation: Congress**NEW DELHI (TSIT):**

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that the BJP is striving for a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha as its "real and ultimate target" is to be able to amend the Constitution for ending reservation. In an exclusive interview with PTI Videos, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that the ruling party first wants to push delimitation in the garb of women's reservation with the ultimate objective being of ending reservation altogether. Ramesh said if the government is really concerned about women's reservation it should implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam on the current

strength of the Lok Sabha - 543 - for the next general elections in 2029.

He alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah's efforts to split the TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT) vindicate the 2024 campaign of the Congress that the BJP wanted '400 paar' so that they can "amend the Constitution and finish off reservation".

Asked about the spate of defections in the opposition ranks, Ramesh said, "The single cause for this is the humiliation that the self-styled Chanakya of Indian politics suffered on the 17th of April in the Lok Sabha. He promised prime minister (Narendra Modi) that he would get the three delimitation bills passed. He could not muster more than 298 votes in the Lok



Sabha." Shah thought he could brazen it out and could bamboozle and bulldoze his way through but his bluff was called, Ramesh said. "I think he decided to take revenge on that day for that humiliation he had been forced to suffer and now he is busy with the 'todh-phod ki rajniti'. He broke the TMC, he's breaking the Shiv Sena, all

in his search for a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha - you're seeing the truth of our 2024 campaign. They were asking for '400 paar' so that they can amend the Constitution to finish off reservation," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said.

"That was the whole logic of '400 paar' and now

you are seeing why he is splitting all these parties, he is splitting up parties in his search for a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution," Ramesh claimed.

Asked if the BJP is striving for a two-thirds majority to target reservations, the Congress leader said the ruling party's immediate target is the delimitation bill but the real target is ending reservation.

"You look that in 2024 it was very clear what was happening. I mean the ultimate objective is to end reservation as the Constitution has provided and in spite of what the prime minister (Narendra Modi) says, you know the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh is on record as having said that reserva-

tion should be done away with, RSS leaders have weighed in against reservation," he said. So, delimitation is the first milestone they want to pass but ultimately there are three years more left for this government, he said.

"They (BJP) want to amend the Constitution in diverse ways and one fundamental way they want to... they have always been uncomfortable with this Constitution. Remember on the 26th of November, 1949 when this Constitution was adopted by the constituent assembly, the Organiser attacked it," he said. The effigies of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. BR Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, were burnt. Of course, Gandhi by then had passed away, but then you know he was also

criticised for having inspired Dr. Ambedkar in joining the constituent assembly," he said.

So, all these founding fathers were attacked for having given us this Constitution, Ramesh said. "The vote by the opposition in Parliament, bringing down the bills was against delimitation and not against women's reservation," the Congress leader said. "All opposition parties unitedly voted against it. The home minister was humiliated. The PM was angry and it showed on his face. He criticised the Congress that it is because of the Congress that women's reservation is not being delivered. What had the Congress stated - that you should give women reservation on 543 seats," Ramesh said.

State paying
Rs.76,000
crore yearly for
BRS-era debt



Wyra (TSIT): Telangana is paying nearly Rs.76,000 crore annually towards repayment of loans and interest accumulated during the previous BRS regime, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said on Wednesday. Addressing Congress workers at the MLA camp office in Wyra, he alleged that the previous government had left behind huge debts without creating adequate infrastructure for farmers and the public. Despite the financial burden, the Congress government was continuing to implement welfare programmes for all sections of society, he said. Bhatti urged Congress leaders and workers to remain vigilant during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that no eligible voter was left out of the list. He stressed the need for close monitoring of voter registration, mapping and correction processes at the grassroots level. Highlighting welfare initiatives, he said the government was providing 200 units of free electricity to over 50 lakh families, besides implementing farm loan waiver, free power for farmers and Rythu Bharosa. He added that the government aimed to provide interest-free loans worth Rs.1 lakh crore to women's self-help groups over the next five years.

Strict Action Against Bonded Labour:
SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil



The South India Times // Nagarkurnool : District SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil stated that strict action will be taken against those involved in bonded labour and human trafficking. A training programme on Human Trafficking and Bonded Labour was conducted on Wednesday at the District Police Office under the supervision of the International Justice Mission (IJM) for police officers and staff across the district.

During the programme, High Court advocates Merakamani and Raviteja created awareness on identifying and rescuing victims trapped in bonded labour, protecting women and children from trafficking, and ensuring legal action against offenders through coordination between police and courts.

HMDA Medipally Layout E-Auction
Receives Overwhelming Response;
Highest Bid Touches 80,000 per Sq. Yard



Hyderabad, 24 June 2026: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) successfully conducted Phase- III e-auction of 68 residential plots in its Medipally Layout, witnessing an overwhelming response from homebuyers and investors. The auction attracted significant participation from bidders across Hyderabad and surrounding regions, reflecting strong market confidence in HMDA developed layouts and the growing demand for well-planned residential developments. Of the 68 plots, 63

plots were auctioned with the highest bid received during the auction reaching Rs. 80,000 per square yard with an average bid rate of Rs. 56,260 per squareyard generating a total revenue of approximately Rs. 120 Crore highlighting the attractiveness of Medipally location. The auction generated intense competition among bidders, with several plots receiving multiple bids. The successful auction is expected to further accelerate development and investment in the eastern growth corridor of Hyderabad.

Congress rule leaves all
sections disappointed

SATTUPALLY (TSIT):

Alleging that every section of society had been let down during the Congress government's two-and-a-half years in office, BRS leaders on Tuesday said people across Telangana were increasingly looking towards the return of the BRS government. Addressing a meeting of party functionaries in Sattupalli, BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao said farmers, students, journalists and business communities were facing hardships under the present regime. He alleged that several election promises remained unfulfilled and criticised the government over issues such as farm loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa assistance, fee reimbursement and fertiliser



availability. Stating that the BRS government had invested thousands of crores of rupees in the Sitarama Project, he said the project would be completed after the party returns to power. He also alleged irregularities in the excavation and transportation of soil from the project and demanded a government explanation.

The BRS leader questioned the allocation of land in the Buggapadu Food Park, alleging that government land had been allotted to private companies at rates far below market value. He further claimed that while the state's revenue was declining, certain individuals in power were benefiting. KTR urged party workers to actively participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the party membership drive, asking them to ensure that no eligible voter's name was deleted. He expressed confidence that the BRS would regain power with public support. Former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar alleged that the Congress government was intimidating opposition leaders through false cases.

Collector conducts surprise inspections in Gandeed



Mahabubnagar (TSIT): District Collector Khushboo Gupta conducted surprise inspections at the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Mahammadabad and the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Gandeed mandal on Wednesday to review educational and health-

care services. During her visit to the KGBV, the Collector found Special Officer Kumari Shivaleela absent without prior permission and directed officials to issue a show-cause notice. She also observed some teachers outside classrooms during school hours and

instructed them to adhere strictly to the timetable and discharge their duties responsibly.

The Collector interacted with students and enquired about teaching standards, hostel facilities, sanitation, food quality, and healthcare. She inspected the storeroom and reviewed the progress of the new KGBV building, directing the contractor to speed up construction work.

Later, at the Gandeed PHC, she reviewed outpatient services, medicine availability, and maternal healthcare facilities. She interacted with a recent beneficiary and stressed the importance of cleanliness and quality healthcare services.

WETA India launched in Hyderabad to promote women's leadership

Hyderabad: The India chapter of the Women Empowerment Telugu Association (WETA) was formally launched at a grand ceremony held at the Jubilee Hills Convention Centre in Hyderabad, marking a significant step towards promoting women's empowerment, leadership, and social advancement.

WETA, which has been actively supporting women's development, entrepreneurship, networking, and leadership initiatives in the United States, has now expanded its activities to India with the aim of creating greater opportunities for women across various sectors. The inaugural event was



attended by Telangana Ministers Ponnampallabharathi and Vivek Venkataswamy, along with Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha. The dignitaries were welcomed by WETA Founder and Chairperson Jhansi Reddy. Addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized

the importance of empowering women through education, entrepreneurship, financial independence, and leadership training. They noted that women are excelling in diverse fields and stressed the need for platforms that encourage their growth and participation. Jhansi Reddy said WETA India aims to

empower women through skill development, mentoring, awareness campaigns, leadership workshops, and social outreach programmes. She added that the organisation seeks to build a strong network of women leaders capable of driving positive social change.

WETA India plans to undertake initiatives in both urban and rural areas, focusing on education, health awareness, entrepreneurship, and professional development. Participants expressed confidence that the organisation would play a key role in advancing gender equality and inclusive development across the country.

Yashoda Hospitals Successfully Performs
Robotic Pyeloplasty on a One-Month-Old
Infant with Congenital Kidney Obstruction

Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, 24 June 2026: The Department of Urology at Yashoda Hospitals successfully performed a highly specialized robotic-assisted pyeloplasty on a one-month-old male infant diagnosed with Left Pelvi-Ureteric Junction Obstruction (PUJO) associated with hydronephrosis (HDN) and decreased kidney function.

The infant was admitted with swelling of the kidney caused by a blockage at the junction where the kidney meets the ureter, affecting normal urine drainage and compromising renal function. After detailed evaluation and pre-operative assessment, the expert urology team performed a robotic left pyeloplasty under general anaesthesia. The minimally invasive



robotic procedure involved excision of the narrowed obstructed segment and reconstruction of the urinary drainage pathway with precise anastomosis over a DJ stent. The surgery was completed successfully without complications, and the child recovered well post-operatively.

Speaking about the case, Dr. Mallikarjuna Reddy N is a Senior Consultant in Urology & Robotic Surgery and the Clinical Director at Yashoda Hospitals, said, "Congenital PUJO is one of

the most common causes of urinary obstruction in infants and, if left untreated, can gradually damage kidney function.

Robotic-assisted pyeloplasty offers superior precision, smaller incisions, minimal blood loss, reduced pain, and faster recovery, even in very young children. Early diagnosis and timely intervention are critical in preserving kidney function and ensuring healthy growth in such babies."

He further added, "The successful management of this one-month-old infant highlights the advancements in pediatric robotic urology and the expertise available at Yashoda Hospitals in handling complex congenital urological conditions with minimally invasive technology."

Indiramma Housing for Every Eligible Poor
Family: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

The South India Times // kollar (Nagar kurnool) State Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao stated that every eligible poor family would be provided an Indiramma house irrespective of political affiliation. He made these remarks while participating in the Indiramma housing housewarming ceremony held at Gantraopally and Chennapuravupally villages in Peddakothapally mandal of Nagarkurnool district.

During the event, the minister distributed new clothes to the beneficiaries and extended his greetings. He wished the families happiness, prosperity, and good health in their new homes. Addressing the gathering, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said that immediately after coming to power, despite financial challenges, the Congress government sanctioned 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses across the state in the



first phase with an expenditure of Rs.22,500 crore. He stated that 3,500 houses were allocated to each constituency.

The minister further announced that the government has decided to undertake the construction of 2.50 lakh houses across the state in the second phase and has allocated 2,000 houses per constituency. He emphasized that houses are being sanctioned to all eligible poor families without considering caste, religion, social category, or political affiliation. According to him, the government is spending Rs.5 lakh for the construction of each house.

SRM University-AP, Haruka Clean Energy to Launch
Green Hydrogen-Powered Street Lighting Project



Amaravati: In a major step towards promoting sustainable energy solutions, SRM University-AP has partnered with Haruka Clean Energy Private Limited to develop a pilot green hydrogen-powered street lighting system on its campus. The collaboration was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two organisations.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SRM University-AP, and Ravindra Madan Mohan Sinha, Director of Haruka Clean Energy Private Limited, in the presence of senior officials from both institutions.

The proposed project will integrate renewable energy technologies, including a 55 kWp Solar PV Tree system, a 100 kWh Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery Energy Storage System, a 25 kW PEM Electrolyser, hydrogen storage facilities, a 3.6 kW PEM Fuel Cell, and an AI-based Energy Management System. The initiative aims to provide reliable and environmentally friendly power for street lighting across the campus.

According to Prof. D. Narayana Rao, Executive Director-Research, the project will serve as a live demonstration of green hydrogen technology in Amaravati, sup-

porting Andhra Pradesh's vision for clean energy and sustainable infrastructure.

The initiative will also offer students and faculty hands-on exposure to advanced renewable energy systems while facilitating research, innovation, skill development, and access to government grants and incentives.

University and company officials expressed confidence that the model can be replicated across universities, public institutions, smart cities, and municipal infrastructure, helping position Andhra Pradesh as a leading Green Hydrogen hub in India.

500 Robotic Knee Replacements Restore Mobility
to Hundreds at CARE Hospitals, Visakhapatnam

MILESTONE REINFORCES CARE HOSPITALS AS A LEADING CENTRE FOR ROBOTIC JOINT REPLACEMENT IN NORTH ANDHRA

Visakhapatnam, June 24, 2026: CARE Hospitals, Health City, Visakhapatnam, continues to strengthen its position as a leader in robotic orthopaedic care in North Andhra Pradesh by successfully completing 500 robotic knee replacement surgeries within a year. The milestone reflects the hospital's commitment to providing advanced treatment solutions for patients suffering from severe knee arthritis and debilitating joint pain.

Led by Dr. Ravi Chandra Vattipalli, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Chief Robotic Knee Replacement Surgeon, the programme has helped hundreds of patients regain mobility



and return to their normal lives after years of pain and disability.

The achievement further establishes CARE Hospitals as a preferred destination for advanced robotic orthopaedic care in the region. Patients

from Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Anakapalli, East Godavari, and neighbouring districts of Odisha are increasingly choosing CARE Hospitals for robotic knee replacement procedures. According to

experts, the incidence of knee osteoarthritis and degenerative joint diseases has been rising steadily due to factors such as ageing, obesity, diabetes, sedentary lifestyles, previous injuries, and delayed medical intervention.

In North Andhra, years of physically demanding occupations such as farming, fishing, carrying heavy loads, prolonged squatting, frequent stair climbing, and sitting on the floor contribute significantly to accelerated wear and tear of the knee joints.

Doctors also note that many individuals continue to dismiss knee pain as a natural consequence of ageing and postpone seeking medical attention for years. Reliance on pain medications, fear of surgery, and lack of awareness often result in patients presenting with advanced arthritis, severe deformities, and significant difficulty in walking.

Ready for SIR voter revision



Khammam (TSIT): Preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls have been completed and a door-to-door enumeration drive will be conducted from June 25 to July 24, District Collector Divakar TS said on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference, he said booth-level

officers (BLOs) would visit every household, distribute enumeration forms and collect the completed forms from voters. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the exercise and urged the media to create awareness about the programme. The Collector said voters living abroad, working in other cities or serving in the armed forces could submit their forms online or through family members. He clarified that even mapped voters must submit enumeration forms. A draft electoral roll will be published on July 31, objections will be accepted till August 30 and the final list will be released on October 1.

SC Law Graduates Invited to
Apply for Training Assistance.

Mancherial, June 24, TSIT : Scheduled Caste law graduates in the district have been invited to apply for financial assistance and



training under a welfare scheme for 2025-26. District Scheduled Caste Development Officer Chatarajula Durgaprasad said on Wednesday. Eligible SC law graduates below 39 years of age will be attached to legal officers for three years of practical training in legal administration. During the training period, beneficiaries will receive a monthly stipend of Rs.3,000 and a one-time grant of Rs.50,000 for the purchase of law books and furniture.

India pushes for ‘BRICS Space Economy’, seeks deeper collaboration in space innovation and sustainability

Bengaluru, 24 June: India on Wednesday called for the creation of a “BRICS Space Economy”, urging member nations to strengthen collaboration in space technology, innovation and investment as the sector emerges as a key driver of economic growth.

Addressing the valedictory session of the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting in Bengaluru, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said the future of the global space economy would depend on partnerships rather than countries working in isolation.

“The future of the space economy will not be shaped by nations work-



ing in isolation. It will be shaped by partnerships, shared innovation, and collective ambition. BRICS countries have the potential to become one of the strongest pillars of this emerging global space ecosystem,” said Singh. The two-day meet-

ing, hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under India’s BRICS Chairship 2026, brought together heads of space agencies and senior officials from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia,

South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

According to the minister, BRICS countries possess the scientific expertise, technological capabilities and industrial capacity to become a major force in the rapidly expanding global space sector. He argued that deeper cooperation could create opportunities for innovation, technology transfer, industrial partnerships and investment while addressing shared developmental priorities.

The meeting reviewed progress on existing cooperation mechanisms and discussed issues including space sustainability, debris-free missions, strengthening the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite

Constellation (RSSC), expanding participation of newer BRICS members and advancing discussions on a proposed BRICS Space Council.

Delegates also explored future collaboration in disaster management, Earth observation, capacity building and knowledge sharing. Singh said space technology is increasingly critical for communication, navigation, disaster preparedness, agriculture, healthcare, education and environmental monitoring, adding that challenges such as climate change and food and water security require collective solutions supported by advanced space technologies.

PM Modi's Viksit Bharat Vision to Be Powered by a Digitally Transformed Steel Sector: HD Kumaraswamy

Mysuru (TSIT): Gulbarga Mystics scored their maiden victory on Tuesday trouncing Shivamogga Yodhas by 95 runs in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament. A turbo charged batting display in the powerplay during which the Mystics smashed 93 runs, and a heroic all-round performance by Kranthi Kumar (31 of 22, 2/8) did the magic for Gulbarga who posted a challenging 232/8. Gautam Mishra (3/34) and Ronit More (2/7) also shone with the ball as Gulbarga restricted Shivamogga to 137.

To complete an outstanding day, Kranthi Kumar returned to claim two decisive wickets for just eight runs in three overs to put Gulbarga on the highway to a comfortable victory.

Kumar first dismissed



Harshil Dharmani (23 off 17) of the last ball of his first over and then got rid of captain Smaran Ravichandran (23 off 23) of the first ball of his next to effectively end Shivamogga’s ambitions of pulling off a high-scoring chase. For Shivamogga Yodhas, opener Luvnith Sisodia’s (30 off 14) early burst hardly mattered as the lineup could not cope with the mounting pressure. The match eventually petered out into a one-sided contest. It was Shivamogga’s second

defeat in three matches. Earlier, put into bat first, Gulbarga opener Lochan Gowda (47 off 21) and No.3 Prakhar Chaturvedi (45 off 19) set the early tempo with some aggressive strokes and once in the saddle they stepped up the pace to such an extent that a 300-run target was possible.

But Shivamogga’s medium pacer Bheem Rao Navale, who had gone for 18 runs in his first over, dismissed both Gowda and Chaturvedi in the space of 11 runs to firmly grab the initiative back.

Macneil Noronha (26 of 16) and captain Manish Pandey (22 off 11) stemmed further rot from setting in by adding an 18-ball 35 for the fifth wicket. But their run rate suffered as at one stretch of play there were no boundaries for 15 deliveries.

EWS reservation does not guarantee fee concession in private colleges: SC

New Delhi, June 24 : The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea challenging the Economic Weaker Sections (EWS) criteria in the context of admissions to private medical colleges, refusing to accept the contention that the annual income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh for EWS candidates becomes meaningless when private medical colleges charge tuition fees running into lakhs of rupees.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Joyimalya Bagchi declined to interfere with a Rajasthan High Court judgment that had rejected the challenge mounted by Rajasthan

domicile candidate Harshvardhan Singh, who had argued that the fee structure of private medical colleges effectively rendered EWS reservation illusory for economically weaker students.

During the hearing, the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench orally observed that self-financing private institutions could not be compelled to charge fees at par with government medical colleges merely because seats are reserved for EWS candidates.

The apex court highlighted the distinction between government and private educational institutions, remarking that government colleges

receive financial support from the public exchequer while private colleges operate on a self-financing model. “These are self-financing institutes. For government ones, they get grants from the State. There is a vital difference,” the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench said.

It further said that while capitation fees are prohibited, that does not mean private colleges cannot charge regular tuition fees fixed under the applicable regulatory framework.

When the petitioner argued that EWS candidates from families earning less than Rs 8 lakh annually could not realistically afford annual tuition fees

ranging between Rs 18 lakh and Rs 25 lakh in private medical colleges, the top court suggested that financial assistance mechanisms were available. “If you are unable to pay, get a scholarship,” the Justice Nagarathna-led Bench said.

The special leave petition (SLP) arose from a Rajasthan High Court judgment delivered in May this year. The petitioner, an EWS candidate who appeared in ujj NEET-UG 2025, had contended that private medical colleges in Rajasthan were charging tuition fees between Rs 18.90 lakh and Rs 25 lakh per annum despite the EWS income ceiling being fixed at Rs 8 lakh annually.

Mangaluru: Waste menace grows on Bikkarnakatte Service Road as CCTV goes missing

Mangaluru, June 24: A service road near the Bikkarnakatte flyover on National Highway 73 has turned into an illegal dumping ground, causing serious inconvenience to commuters and nearby residents. The stretch, an important route within the city, has become a daily eyesore due to poor waste management and repeated dumping.

For a long time, the roadside has been used as a dumping spot. Although workers of the city corporation have cleared the garbage several times, waste continues to reappear, making it a recurring problem. In some places, the garbage has spread across nearly half



the road, making movement difficult for pedestrians and motorists.

Plastic waste, paper and other discarded materials lie scattered along the road. With continuous rainfall, contaminated water from the decomposing waste flows onto the roadway, creating unhygienic conditions and raising concerns about the spread of infections and

diseases. The garbage has been dumped along a nearly 50-metre stretch, causing inconvenience to people who use the road every day. Residents say the situation is particularly concerning as Bikkarnakatte is a busy locality and people are forced to witness the unpleasant sight on a regular basis. Locals suspect that waste from nearby hotels, shops and com-

mercial establishments is being transported in vehicles and dumped during the night. Much of the waste is found packed in large sacks and black garbage bags, indicating that the source of the dumping should be investigated. At the same time, some local residents are also allegedly contributing to the problem by disposing of waste at the spot.

Residents have urged the city authorities not only to clear the existing garbage but also to take strict measures to prevent further dumping. They have demanded action against those responsible and called for stronger monitoring of the area.

Bengaluru Blasters beat Coastal Kings by 20 runs

Mysuru : Bengaluru Blasters continued their impressive run in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20, defeating Coastal Kings Mangaluru by 20 runs to remain at the top of the points table with six points from four matches.

Battling first, Bengaluru Blasters posted a formidable 226 for 6, powered by KL Shrijith’s 59 off 33 balls. He received good support from Rohan Patil (30), Samit Dravid (39), captain Shubhang Hegde (34), and Praveen Dubey, who remained unbeaten on 45.

Chasing 227, Coastal Kings suffered early setbacks, losing key batsmen Nikin Jose and captain Karun Nair cheaply. Reduced to 97 for 5, the



team looked out of contention before Suraj Ahuja produced a sensational counterattack.

Ahuja smashed an unbeaten 96 off just 38 balls, hitting five fours and eight sixes, while C.A. Karthik remained not out on 49. The pair added 109 runs for the sixth wicket but could not take their team home.

Shubhang Hegde starred with the ball for Bengaluru, claiming 2 for 31 as Coastal Kings finished 20 runs short.

Nitin Nabin sends premium Indian mangoes to diplomats from 82 countries

New Delhi, June 24 : In a unique cultural outreach initiative, BJP President Nitin Nabin has sent specially curated boxes of premium Indian mangoes to diplomats from 82 countries posted in the national capital. The hampers featured four of India’s most celebrated varieties – Kesar, Dasheri, Banganapalli, and Langra – each known for its distinctive taste, aroma, and regional identity.

The initiative aims to showcase India’s rich horticultural heritage and highlight the global appeal of its most-loved summer fruit.

Along with the mangoes, Nabin sent a personal note conveying greetings and underlining the cultural significance of the fruit, which he described as a symbol of hospitality, friendship, and India’s agricultural legacy. The gesture is being viewed as a form of cultural diplomacy, using



one of India’s iconic fruits to foster goodwill and strengthen engagement with the diplomatic community in the national capital. India is among the world’s largest producers of mangoes, with varieties such as Kesar, Dasheri, Banganapalli, and Langra widely appreciated both domestically and internationally for their flavour and quality.

Kesar mango, cultivated in Gujarat’s Ginnar region, is known for its saffron-coloured pulp, sweetness, and strong aroma. It received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2011.

Dasheri, originating from Malihabad in Uttar Pradesh, is characterised by its thin skin, fibreless texture, and rich, sweet taste. It was accorded GI recognition in 2009.

First general body meeting of Bendur church CAL held, new office bearers installed



Mangaluru, Jun 24: The first general body meeting and installation of the newly elected executive committee of the Catholic Action League (CAL), St Sebastian Church, Bendur, was held on June 21, in the Parish Hall. Prior to the meeting, the newly elected

office bearers took their oath during the 8.00 am Holy Mass. The meeting commenced with a prayer service led by Lenn Tauru and team. Ian Neil Pinto, president of CAL, welcomed the gathering and expressed his gratitude to all the members for their con-

tinued support and participation. The new term was formally inaugurated with the symbolic lighting of the lamp by Fr Walter D’Souza, Fr Arun Lobo, Vinod D’Souza and Ian Neil Pinto, signifying the beginning of a new year of leadership, service and fellowship.

Starting Bengaluru, BLive PRIME to deploy 1000 Electric mini-trucks to Revolutionize Last-Mile Logistics in Next 2 Years



Bengaluru : India’s fastest growing Electric Mobility Platform BLive has announced its expansion and investment plans to accelerate India’s transition to sustainable logistics. The company has introduced BLive PRIME with a Rs.100 crore investment dedicated to deploying 1,000 electric mini-trucks over the next two years. With the introduction of BLive PRIME, an innovative 4-wheeler franchise

model, the company is set to drive large-scale electric fleet adoption and advance the nation’s green delivery revolution. Responding to the rapid 15-20% CAGR growth in last-mile logistics fueled by e-commerce and quick commerce, BLive will roll out 1000 electric cargo vehicles in 24 months. The expansion begins in Bengaluru and will extend to key urban markets including Delhi, Chennai, and Hyderabad in the coming

months, reinforcing BLive’s commitment to building a reliable, high-utilisation electric fleet for India’s evolving logistics landscape.

BLive PRIME is designed to bridge the gap between growing fleet demand and access to structured capital, enabling investors to participate in this transition through an asset-backed model. With an entry investment starting at Rs.50 lakh, the model follows a 100% franchisee-owned, company-operated structure, in which investors own electric mini-truck fleets while BLive manages end-to-end operations, including deployment, utilisation, and maintenance. BLive’s fleet ecosystem leverages proven commercial EVs such as the Tata Ace EV, widely used in last-mile logistics for its suitability in urban delivery operations and consistent performance in high-frequency use cases.

Devanahalli Land Acquisition: Rs.2.70 Crore Compensation per Acre Recommended

Bengaluru: The Land Price Determination Advisory Committee has recommended a compensation of Rs.2.70 crore per acre to the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) for 120 acres of land in Gokarebacchenahalli and Hyadala villages of Channarayana Hobli in Devanahalli taluk, where landowners have voluntarily agreed to part with their land for industrial development. The decision was taken at a joint meeting of officials and landowners held at Aravinda Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday, which was presided over by KIADB Special Deputy Commissioner A.N. Raghunandan said the recommendation would now be placed before the KIADB Board for approval. He

added that landowners who do not wish to receive monetary compensation would have the option of obtaining 10,781 square feet of developed land in the industrial area for every acre of agricultural land acquired.

He noted that the farmers had voluntarily consented to the acquisition of their land and that a final notification under the provisions of the KIADB Act had been issued on the 16th of this month and published in the official gazette. He further stated that the compensation recommended is the highest ever offered in the Devanahalli region and reflects the government’s commitment to ensuring fair compensation for the affected farmers.

Senior officials, including KIADB Land Acquisition Officer Suraj, were present at the meeting.

ICICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India

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Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	Sarfaesi Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Nibu Thomas (Borrower) Soumya N G (Co-Borrowers) Lan No. NHKO00001405183	Revenue Sy. No. 229/1/2, Old Sy. No. 497/4, Block No. 12, Village Eraviperoor, Thiruvalla Taluk, Pathanamthitta Dist.- 686510	Rs. 42,61, 461/- June 19, 2026	Rs. 18,00, 000/- June 19, 2026	06, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	July 13, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	July 10, 2026 before 04:00 PM	Physical Possession
2.	Dhanil P R (Borrower) Neethu Mullath Sreedharan (Co-Borrowers) Lan No. LHTR00001365298/ LHTR00001365592	Rsy No 54/1-3, Pazhankaran House, Door No. 6/108/DThirissur TalukAra upuzha VillageThirissur District Trichur-680562	Rs. 47,08, 870/- June 23, 2026	Rs. 18,00, 000/- June 23, 2026	July 06, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	July 14, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	July 13, 2026 before 04:00 PM	Physical Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before July 10, 2026/ July 13, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit a signed copy of the Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before July 10, 2026/ July 13, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article. The general public is requested to submit their bids higher than the amount being offered by the interested buyer mentioned above. It is hereby informed that in case no bids higher than the amount being offered by the aforementioned interested buyer is received by ICICI HFC, the mortgaged property shall be sold to the said interested buyer as per Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the sale or submission of bids, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or ValueTrust Centralised HelpDesk No. 6200-22-6200. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com>.

Date: June 25, 2026

Place: Pathanamthitta, Trichur

Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited"

CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC121006

EDITORIAL

THE IRAN PARADOX

The US-Iran peace process is well and truly on. In accordance with the provisions of the 14-Point MoU that was signed on June 16, the first round of talks were held in Burgenstock, Switzerland, on June 22. It resulted in the agreement for a roadmap of 60 days, which involves many confidence-building measures before the really tricky issues are discussed and agreed upon. Coming in the backdrop of many doubts and apprehensions if and when the talks will take place, mainly due to the continuing ceasefire violations in Southern Lebanon and the occasional threat from President Trump of restarting the war and bombing Iran, this roadmap is indeed a welcome step. However, the bigger question is not the the roadmap itself but whether it can finally lead to an acceptable deal that can ensure lasting peace in the region, battered by war and instability for almost three years since the outbreak of Gaza war in October 2023.

The Roadmap

The roadmap is a follow-up of the 14-Point MoU, which was digitally signed by President Trump and President Pezeshkian on June 16. It calls for the formation of a high-level committee for political oversight, technical working groups on nuclear and sanctions issues, and a dispute resolution mechanism. It provides for a communication line to be established between parties, especially Iran and the US, to ensure safe passage for commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz - a key provision of the 14-Point MoU. Some of the other key provisions of the roadmap are: A de-escalation and monitoring unit will also be created to ensure compliance of the ceasefire and the cessation of military operations in Lebanon. Iran to receive sanctions waiver from the US Treasury Department to sell crude oil, gas, and petrochemical products freely for a period of 60 days, up to August 21, 2026. An agreement with Qatar regarding the release of Iran's frozen assets. A working group on nuclear file, which will commence talks on the future of Iran's nuclear programme. It also involves Iran permitting IAEA inspectors to return to the country provided that other critical conditions as per clauses 1 (Lebanon ceasefire), 4 and 5 (Strait of Hormuz), 10 (removal of sanctions on oil sales) and 11(unfreezing of Iranian funds and assets) of the MoU have been implemented. Why A Deal Is Still Elusive The MoU and the roadmap are already facing severe criticism both in the US as well as Israel. Many are terming it as America's abject surrender to Iran, while most are questioning the whole purpose of the war if at the end of it, Iran had to be awarded with revocations of sanctions and unfreezing of funds and assets. More importantly, the MoU terms clearly indicate that none of the two primary objectives of the war in Iran, ie., complete destruction of its nuclear programme or its ballistic missiles programme, has been achieved. On the third implied (or desired) objective of regime change in Iran, the outcome of the war has been contrary to the intentions. Not only has the regime survived but the war has cemented the hold of the regime in Iran, with an added factor of the Revolutionary Guards having tighter control over critical issues, as well as an elusive Supreme Leader who may well turn out to be more hardline than the previous one.

Why Indian Parties Are Beginning To Look Like Political 'Spare Parts'

In the old imagination of Indian democracy, a seat was won after a campaign. The candidate filed nomination papers, voters listened to speeches, caste elders made their calculations, party workers fought over polling booths, and the Election Commission announced the result. Today, in several corners of the Republic, the more advanced practitioners of politics are trying something more efficient: win before the voter gets a chance to vote. Maharashtra's recent Legislative Council elections offer a telling example. Of the 17 seats from local authorities' constituencies, Mahayuti candidates secured six unopposed victories after withdrawals by Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidates in Thane, Raigad-Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Pune, Ahilyanagar, Yavatmal and Wardha-Chandrapur-Gadchiroli. On paper, this is a legitimate democratic outcome. No contest, no polling, no uncertainty. In practice, it is more revealing. A great deal of politics has already happened before the official election."There were the usual signs of modern electoral management: withdrawals, rebels, independents, triangular contests and last-minute recalibration. In Ahilyanagar, controversy reportedly arose after an Independent candidate later claimed he had not voluntarily withdrawn. In Pune, multiple withdrawals paved the way for an unopposed victory. In Yavatmal, Congress and potential MVA-backed names withdrew. What voters eventually see is the result. What they do not always see is the pressure, persuasion, arithmetic, and inducement that may shape the field itself. This is not new. But it has become more systematic. Surat in the 2024 Lok Sabha election remains the boldest recent template. The BJP's Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed after the



Congress candidate's nomination was rejected and other candidates withdrew. The Congress called it "match-fixing"; the BJP called it victory. Both descriptions, in their own way, captured the moment. In a first-past-the-post system, defeating rivals is one route. Ensuring that rivals do not remain in the fray is another. The Party As A Vehicle If Maharashtra shows the politics of withdrawal, Bengal offers the politics of transfer. The recent Trinamool Congress (TMC) rebellion, with rebel MPs moving towards the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), is the kind of episode that would have sounded comic had it not been so consequential. An obscure registered party suddenly becomes a national instrument. Legislators who might have faced political and legal hazards find, through a direct jump in a small party, a possible route of repositioning. The voter

who chose one party now watches that mandate being transported through another political vehicle. This is ingenious, and deeply questionable. Ingenious because it understands the letter of the law, the limits of anti-defection provisions, the procedural role of the Speaker, and the political value of ambiguity. Questionable, because it reduces parties to containers. A party is no longer an ideological home, organisational family, or social coalition. It can become a shell, a route, a temporary address. India has thousands of political parties on paper, many of them registered but unrecognised. Some are genuine vehicles of local aspiration. Some represent caste, community or regional interests. Some are ideological experiments. But others are beginning to look like political spare parts: useful when the main engine needs reassembly. Maharashtra has already

shown another version of this through the splits in Shiv Sena and the NCP. In both cases, the battle was not merely about who had the numbers, but who owned the name, the symbol, the memory, and the inheritance. The present anxiety in Uddhav Thackeray's camp shows how this tactic has acquired a second life: six of the Sena (UBT)'s nine MPs have been at the centre of revolt speculation, and several of them were the very faces who had helped Uddhav hold ground in the 2024 Lok Sabha election after the 2022 split. If they do leave, the blow will not be merely numerical; it will suggest that even post-split loyalists and constituency anchors can be turned into movable assets in the continuing battle over the Sena's inheritance. Indian politics has always had family disputes. What is new is the sophistication with which these disputes are converted into institutional advantage.

The Welfare Model If one route to victory is to manage the field, another is to manage memory. Here, welfare has become the most powerful new election technology. In Maharashtra, the Mahayuti's Ladki Bahin scheme became a crucial electoral talking point, with direct cash support to women becoming not merely welfare but a political relationship. Similar "guarantee" politics helped the Congress in Karnataka and Telangana. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) built much of its urban appeal in Delhi around free electricity, water, schools, and mohalla clinics. The BJP has, at the national level, built an enormous welfare-and-beneficiary architecture around housing, toilets, cooking gas, foodgrain, and direct transfers. But the newer improvisation is sharper: women are no longer treated as a soft vote bank. They are being treated as a decisive political constituency. In

Madhya Pradesh, the BJP's Ladli Behna scheme became a template for converting direct support to women into electoral reassurance. In Odisha, the BJP's Subhadra promise was designed not only as welfare, but as a direct challenge to the BJD's long-cultivated relationship with women's self-help groups. In Bihar, Nitish Kumar's pre-poll cash transfer to women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana showed how ruling parties can compress welfare, timing, and electoral messaging into a single act. In Andhra Pradesh, the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance packaged welfare as "Super Six", while the YSR Congress countered with its own welfare-first idiom. Different states, different parties, same insight: the household is now a battlefield, and the woman voter is often the central gatekeeper. The ingenuity is obvious. It turns governance into recall.

Is the demand to make RSS funding and assets public merely politics or a serious issue?

Saurabh Varshney

In India, the question regarding the transparency of organizations involved in public life arises from time to time. Recently, a demand made by Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge—seeking public disclosure of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) funding, income and expenditure, assets, and tax compliance—has sparked a new debate. The question is whether this is merely part of political accusations and counter-accusations, or a serious issue concerning transparency within a democratic system. In a democracy, transparency forms a crucial basis for the credibility of any institution. Political parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious bodies, and social organizations are expected to maintain a clear account of their financial sources and expenditures. If an organization exerts a significant influence on society and public policy, it is natural for questions to arise regarding its financial operations. On the other hand, the RSS describes itself as a cultural and social organization, not a political party. The Sangh maintains that its activities are conducted based on the cooperation of volunteers and contributions received from society, and that it adheres to all legal compliance requirements. Supporters of the

Sangh argue that singling out the RSS appears to be politically motivated, given that thousands of other social, religious, and ideological organizations are also active in the country. This is where the issue takes on a political hue. Since the RSS is widely regarded as the source of ideological inspiration for the Bharatiya Janata Party, questions regarding its financial affairs often become part of political discourse. The opposition frames this as a matter of accountability, whereas supporters view it as a consequence of ideological opposition. The reality is that the demand for transparency cannot be dismissed simply as politics. If an organization's activities have a broad social and national impact, making information about its financial structure public can enhance public trust. However, this principle should apply equally not just to the RSS, but to all major social, religious, ideological, and political organizations. The problem in India is that demands for transparency often appear selective. When questions are raised only about organizations with opposing ideologies—and not about those aligned with one's own—the impartiality of such demands comes under scrutiny. Therefore, it is essential to develop a uniform and universal standard for financial transparency that applies equally to all entities. There is undoubtedly

a political element to the demand for disclosing the RSS's funding and assets, as it has been raised within a political context. Yet, the underlying issues of transparency and accountability are serious and significant for democracy. In a democracy, the credibility of any institution is determined not only by its actions but also by its transparency. Thus, the focus of the debate should not be on targeting a specific organization, but on ensuring equal accountability for all influential institutions. This is the true test of democratic values and good governance. In a democracy, transparency and accountability strengthen the credibility of any major organization. When political parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trusts, and companies are expected to make their financial details public, it is natural for a similar demand to arise regarding an organization of such immense influence. Supporters argue that if the Sangh were to disclose its sources of income, categories of donors, details of assets, and tax compliance information, public trust in it would increase further. On the other hand, the Sangh maintains that it considers itself a voluntary socio-cultural organization and complies with all legal requirements regarding the disclosure of information. Various trusts, service institutions, and educational organizations associ-

ated with the Sangh operate under distinct legal frameworks and submit the necessary financial details to the relevant government agencies. The core issue of the dispute is not limited to the RSS alone. This applies broadly to all major social, religious, and ideological organizations that influence public life. The principle of transparency in a democracy dictates that major institutions serving the public interest should demonstrate greater openness regarding their financial and administrative affairs. Conversely, the principle of organizational autonomy holds that institutions should not be subjected to pressures beyond the scope of the law. In this context, a balanced approach would be for the government to establish uniform transparency standards for all major social, religious, and ideological organizations. If an organization benefits from tax exemptions, public donations, or wields significant social influence, making its financial and administrative details public—at least to a minimum extent—can be considered consistent with democratic values. This debate is not about favoring or opposing any specific organization, but rather about strengthening democratic transparency, accountability, and institutional trust. Greater transparency fosters increased public trust and deepens the roots of democracy.

LUCKNOW COACHING FIRE:

Will the Safety of Our Children Remain Just News?



The recent coaching centre fire in Lucknow has shaken the entire nation. Smoke-filled buildings, screaming students, panicked parents, and the scramble of rescue teams—these scenes are not just a reflection of an accident, but a reflection of the weaknesses in our system that we have ignored for years. Every major tragedy is followed by a few days of grief, sympathy, and outrage, before everything returns to normal. But the question is: will the safety of our children remain a temporary news item? Will we not wake up until the next tragedy strikes in another city, another coaching institute, or another hostel? Today, millions of students in India are preparing for competitive exams while living far from home. Cities like Kota, Delhi, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Patna, Jaipur, and Chandigarh have become major centers of education. Parents send their children to these institutions with great hopes for a better future. They pay fees, bear hostel expenses, and trust that their child's safety will be taken care of wherever they study. Unfortunately, this trust is often broken. Such accidents don't happen suddenly. They stem from years of negligence, disregard for regulations, and a lack of accountability. When a building lacks adequate emergency exits, when electrical wiring is not up to

standard, when fire extinguishers are installed merely for show, when commercial activities are conducted without following building regulations, a small spark can turn into a major tragedy any day. Following this incident, the first question parents should ask themselves is whether they've ever truly investigated the security arrangements at their child's coaching institute, hostel, or PG? Often, we inquire about an institution's reputation, results, and facilities, but ignore safety concerns. This trend must change. As important as a child's future is, their life and safety are even more important. Parents should first check the condition of emergency exits. In the event of a fire in any building, a safe exit can be the difference between life and death. In many institutions, emergency stairs are either closed or filled with debris. In some places, security doors are locked. In such situations, escape becomes nearly impossible during a stampede or panic. If emergency exits in a building are not clearly marked or there are obstacles to their use, this should be considered a serious warning. Another important aspect is the availability and functionality of firefighting equipment. Simply hanging fire extinguishers on walls doesn't ensure safety. Regular inspection, maintenance, and periodic refilling are essential. Parents have the right to know how many fire extinguishers an institution has, their validity, and whether staff are trained in their use. If an institution doesn't provide clear answers to these questions, its safety system should be seriously questioned. The third issue is the Fire NOC (Fire Safety No Objection Certificate). It's often seen in our country that while all regulations appear to be met on paper, the actual situation is different. Inspections are often a mere formality. Therefore, simply checking a copy of the NOC isn't enough. It's also essential to

verify its validity, the inspection report, and the actual state of safety standards. The administration must ensure that the Fire NOC isn't merely a paperwork, but rather evidence of actual safety. Building structure is also an important safety factor. Many coaching institutes operate in multi-story buildings located in narrow streets. These lack adequate ventilation, have limited windows, and are overcrowded. Such buildings can become death traps in the event of an accident. Therefore, ensuring compliance with building standards is crucial. Safety comes not just from equipment, but also from preparedness. Does the institution conduct regular fire drills? Are students taught what to do in case of an emergency? Is the staff trained in basic disaster management? The answers to these questions are often negative. While regular safety drills are mandatory in schools and educational institutions in developed countries, this system should be implemented in India as well. This problem isn't limited to coaching institutes. Hostels, PGs, dormitories, and private residential settings also often ignore safety standards. Many places overcrowd students. Narrow staircases, closed windows, and poor electrical systems multiply the risks. Therefore, safety must be considered comprehensively. The role of the administration is also crucial in this regard. It is not enough to form an inquiry committee after an accident and announce action against the culprits. What is needed is a system of regular inspections and rigorous monitoring. Annual safety audits of coaching institutes and hostels should be mandatory in every city. Institutions found to have serious deficiencies should not be allowed to operate until they are rectified. Additionally, local bodies and fire departments must be strengthened with technical resources and manpower.

META MAKES A \$900 MILLION SUPER-APP MOVE IN INDIA

Meta Platforms Inc. is spending \$900 million on an Indian fintech whose founder will run WhatsApp globally. Is this just an expensive talent hire? Perhaps. But I think the motivation runs deeper. Mark Zuckerberg may be trying to revive the super-app idea. The global tech firm announced this week that it will own 20% of Bengaluru-based Cred, which rewards people who pay their credit-card bills on time. Cred's founder and Chief Executive Officer Kunal Shah will move to Meta as the head of its flagship messaging service. With an estimated 500 million-plus users, India is WhatsApp's largest market. But how to make them do more on the app than just communicate? This is where a super-app enters the picture, as a one-stop shop for users to arrange travel, order food, get entertained, pay online, save money, take a loan, or buy micro-insurance. China's WeChat is one such colossus; Alipay is another. Indonesia also has two: GoTo and Singapore-based Grab. But surprisingly, the world's most populous nation hasn't yet yielded a homegrown digital utility for daily needs. Large Indian conglomerates like the Adani Group, Jio,



and the Tata Group have all tried and failed to capture the crown. Zuckerberg has also displayed similar ambitions before. A decade ago, he approached the Indian data market with the promise of Free Basics, a walled garden in which the Silicon Valley behemoth and its partners would have been the banyan tree providing shade from high data costs. When that plan didn't fly with authorities, and data prices crashed when tycoon Mukesh Ambani entered the Indian wireless market in 2016, the Silicon Valley behemoth switched its attention to promoting WhatsApp as a facili-

tator of online payments. Being able to mirror Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s success with WeChat Pay could have spawned India's first super-app, but Facebook Inc. (as Meta was then called) didn't get the chance. Instead, Alphabet Inc.'s Google Pay and Walmart Inc.'s PhonePe stole the lead and built solid moats over the so-called Unified Payments Interface, a platform shared across India's banks. Stuck in a regulatory logjam, Zuckerberg waited for a very long time to scale up the service. As I wrote six years ago, WhatsApp got a raw deal. Then a lot of other things hap-

pened. Zuckerberg pivoted toward - and later abandoned - the metaverse. His concept of a blockchain-based world money was shot down by regulators. He threw Meta's immense weight into the AI race, investing heavily to capture the frontier of open-source intelligence. Amid all this tumult, however, WhatsApp remains a potentially underharvested field. Although restrictions on onboarding users for the payments function went away in December 2024, Meta doesn't even have a 1% share of the record 23 billion transactions that took place on UPI last month. Not only is Cred

slightly ahead, but more importantly it has some of India's highest-spending online customers. Therein lies the attraction to Zuckerberg of both Cred and its founder. Shah breaks the stereotypes of an Indian techie. For one thing, he isn't an engineer. A philosophy graduate from Mumbai, Shah built Cred around the idea that in a deeply unequal society like India's, people climbing the economic ladder have a strong yearning to signal their superiority to others. To create a sense of exclusivity, he allowed only people with high credit scores to join his platform. The strategy paid off. Today, Cred processes more than 40% of India's credit-card bills. Although Cred has ruled out any sharing of members' data with Meta, some critics are asking if the deal is evidence of American tech companies' increasing control over the vast financial data generated by Indian consumers. The nationality of the investor, however, is a sideshow. Online consumers in India are being routinely fleeced by "dark patterns" - design elements in apps and websites that trick users into overpaying, or paying for things they never wanted.

Energy stress, monsoon may slow India's FY27 growth to 6.6 pc



New Delhi: S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday, June 24, said energy stress, sub-par monsoon and slowing global growth will pull down India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal. The Indian economy recorded 7.7 per cent growth in the 2025-26 fiscal and 7.1 per cent in 2024-25. "We project real GDP growth will slow to 6.6 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2027, compared with 7.7 per cent in fiscal 2026, amid the energy stress, expectations of a sub-par monsoon, and slowing global growth," S&P said in its report. S&P's FY27 growth projection is in line with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimate of 6.6 per cent. The impact of El Nino has weakened monsoon rains, with

the rainfall deficit widening to 43 per cent by June 22. To deal with deficient monsoon, the government has drawn up state-wise contingency plans recommending alternative crops suited to deficient rainfall conditions. India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil needs, and a rise in global prices increases its import bill and stokes inflation. In its report titled "Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2026: AI-Exposed Markets To Outperform," S&P said the region's outlook is shaped by resilient global activity, energy market stress, and an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven tech export boom. S&P said the impact of energy stress arising from the West Asia conflict is visible, as the industry faces a substantial rise in input costs and sup-

pliers' delivery time. Also, higher fertiliser prices weigh on food production and raise food prices. Rising inflation is eroding purchasing power, thus depressing growth. Sharply higher fertiliser prices may weigh on food production and fuel food prices, S&P said. S&P said consumer inflation would be 0.5-0.6 percentage points higher in the third quarter in India, and it will rise to 5.1 per cent in the current fiscal year as manufacturers pass on higher energy costs to consumers, alongside recent increases in prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. "We expect a policy rate hike in the second half of this fiscal year," S&P said. S&P's FY27 growth projection is in line with the RBI estimate of 6.6 per cent.

Make more of your summer with Emirates

National, 24th June 2026: Emirates is kickstarting the summer holidays with exclusive offers for passengers travelling to or through Dubai. From complimentary stays at the iconic JW Marriott Marquis, to hundreds of discounts through the popular My Emirates Pass, travellers can enjoy even more value while exploring the city, whether visiting for a longer getaway or a short stopover. Built for all seasons, Dubai offers an unrivalled variety of experiences in one destination, making it easy to tailor a summer escape to any travel style or length of stay. Travellers can explore both in- and outdoor activities that entertain, inspire or educate; visit world-famous attractions like the Burj Khalifa; enjoy immersive, thrilling experiences at theme parks; or beat the heat entirely by spending a day at Dubai's museums and interactive art galleries. As one of the world's most visited cities, Dubai is ready to welcome travellers with the warmth, hospitality and safety the destination is renowned for. Adnan Kazim, Deputy President and Chief Commercial



Officer, Emirates said, "Whether visitors are seeking relaxation, adventure, entertainment or a combination of all three, Dubai is the ideal start to any summer vacation. We're inviting passengers to enjoy even more of the city with a complimentary hotel stay to take advantage of the exceptional range of shopping, entertainment, dining and family-friendly experiences that define the Dubai summer experience, when stopping over as part of your journey or visiting Dubai as your

final destination."

■ **UNWIND AT THE JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS**
Emirates is offering passengers the opportunity to turn their stopover into a city break, or extend their summer holiday, with a complimentary stay in the luxurious 5 star JW Marriott Marquis, located in the heart of Dubai. Guests can dine in award-winning restaurants and bars featuring cuisine from all over the world, visit the Saray Spa, a sanctuary of wellness

inspired by ancient rituals, work out in the fully equipped gym and state-of-the-art reformer-based studio, BodyBase or take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool, overlooking the stunning city skyline. From 22 June to 12 July, travellers who purchase an Emirates return ticket in First Class or Business Class are invited to enjoy a two-night stay, while customers booked in Premium Economy Class or Economy Class can enjoy a complimentary one-night stay.

Samsung Redefines Premium Residential Cooling with Smart Air Care and Windfree Climate Solutions

June 22, 2026: Samsung, today announced the deployment of its next-generation residential climate solutions that combine WindFree™ cooling, PM1.0 purification, SmartThings connectivity and AI-enabled VRF technology to redefine premium living experiences in India. Tailored specifically to meet the evolving demands of Indian urban centers where rising temperatures and deteriorating air quality are becoming everyday concerns - Samsung's integrated ecosystem addresses consumer wellness, indoor air quality, connected living and macro energy efficiency. The deployment represents a significant benchmark for integrated residential projects, utilizing WindFree™ air conditioning with PM1.0 purification, Wi-Fi enabled SmartThings connectivity and AI-enabled VRF outdoor units at scale. "At Samsung, our innovation philosophy begins with understanding real consumer needs and everyday living challenges. Today's homeowners are looking

beyond conventional cooling — they expect healthier air, connected experiences, intelligent energy management and greater comfort. Our WindFree™ climate solutions are specifically optimized for local conditions and combine all these capabilities into one integrated ecosystem that is unique to Samsung," said Vipin Agrawal, Head of SAC Business, Samsung India. "One of the strongest examples of this vision is our partnership with Central Park Flower Valley's The Orchard, Gurugram, where we are demonstrating how large-scale residential developments can integrate intelligent, wellness-focused and energy-efficient climate technologies to create future-ready living environments," the spokesperson added.

■ **DESIGNED AROUND REAL CONSUMER CHALLENGES**
Samsung's residential climate solutions have been engineered to address some of the most pressing pain points faced by modern

urban homeowners.

■ **TACKLING THE "SUMMER COLD" PHENOMENON WITH WINDFREE™**
Conventional air conditioning systems often continue to expose users to direct cold airflow even after the desired room temperature has been achieved, causing discomfort commonly described as "summer cold." Samsung's WindFree™ Technology addresses this challenge by dispersing cool air gently through 10,000 micro air holes, creating a "Still Air" environment with extremely low air speed. This enables users to maintain thermal comfort without the unpleasant sensation of direct cold drafts. The solution is particularly beneficial for prolonged nighttime usage and family living environments where comfort consistency is critical.

■ **HEALTHIER INDOOR AIR THROUGH PM1.0 PURIFICATION**
With AQI levels in Delhi NCR frequently crossing safe limits, indoor air quality

ty has become an increasing concern for homeowners. Samsung's WindFree™ 1 Way Cassette ACs can be equipped with an optional PM1.0 purification panel featuring a two-stage filtration system comprising a pre-filter and PM1.0 filter. While the pre-filter captures larger dust particles and fibers, the PM1.0 filter captures ultrafine dust particles as small as 0.3 microns and sterilizes up to 99% of bacteria trapped in the filter using electrostatic precipitator technology verified by Intertek. The integrated purification solution helps maintain cleaner and healthier indoor environments without requiring separate standalone systems.

■ **SMARTTHINGS CONNECTIVITY ENABLES INTELLIGENT LIVING**
As modern homebuyers increasingly expect seamless smart home experiences, Samsung's SmartThings ecosystem enables connected and intuitive climate management across residential spaces.

JAWA 42 IVORY DRAWS STRONG RIDER INTEREST, NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.IN AND FLIPKART



Mumbai, June 24, 2026: The Jawa 42 Ivory, which has seen strong interest from riders since its recent introduction, is now available for booking on Amazon.in and Flipkart. By bringing the motorcycle to India's leading e-commerce platforms, Jawa makes it easier for enthusiasts across the country to discover and begin their ownership journey online. For many early owners, the appeal of the Ivory edition is immediate and deeply personal. Shailendra S Nanekar from Pune, Maharashtra, who recently upgraded from a commuter motorcycle, describes the shift in experience: "The step up in power is immediately noticeable. It feels refined and comfortable for longer, relaxed rides." Beyond the ride itself, what stands out most to him is the motorcycle's ability to draw attention, spark conversations, and for some, even turn back time. "Wherever I park, people come up to look at it closely. Many say the Jawa 42 Ivory reminds them of the Jawa's

early days. They stop by to admire it, run their hands over the tank, sit on it, and ask about the motorcycle." The Ivory edition builds on the design legacy of the Jawa 42, which helped shape the modern neo-classic motorcycle segment in India. Its soft pastel finish, classic proportions and understated styling capture the nostalgia associated with classic motorcycling while presenting it in a distinctly contemporary form. The newest edition continues this design philosophy with its distinctive retro livery, signature '42' decals, and the checkered flag motif on the tank, details that reinforce the motorcycle's unmistakable character and racing-inspired heritage. Hari from Andhra Pradesh, who recently brought home the Jawa 42 Ivory, explains how these elements come together in everyday life: "The Ivory colour instantly stood out to me. During festive occasions when I'm dressed in traditional attire, the motorcycle complements the entire look. The

soft pastel shade contrasts beautifully with earthy colours like maroon, cream or gold. It gives the moment a very classic feel." For some riders, the connection begins the moment they first see the motorcycle. Prem Kumar from Puducherry recalls his first impression: "I fell in love with the Ivory shade the moment I saw it in the showroom. It has a timeless quality that makes it stand apart." The Jawa 42 Ivory combines engineering refinement with everyday usability. It features a powerful liquid-cooled J-Panther engine paired with a smooth 6-speed gearbox, delivering an engaging riding experience. Producing up to 40 per cent more power than other 350 cc motorcycles, the engine offers strong acceleration and effortless rideability, suited for the city as well as longer journeys. Optimised gearing and throttle mapping further enhance the riding experience, while the assist and slipper clutch improves control during spirited riding.

LONDON HC ORDERS NIRAV MODI TO PAY BANK OF INDIA USD 11.5 MN

London: Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi is liable to pay Bank of India over USD 11.5 million, including accruing interest on a personal loan guarantee, the High Court in London has ruled. The 55-year-old jeweller, who remains in prison fighting extradition to India in a separate USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, had disputed the enforceability of the personal guarantee related to a loan to a Dubai-incorporated firm, Firestar Diamond FZE, associated with him. In a judgment handed down at the London Circuit Commercial Court on Tuesday, June 23, Justice Simon Tinkler found in favour of the Bank of India after a lengthy legal process complicated by paperwork transfer delays within the UK prison service. "Mr Modi was validly served with the October 2025 Madi Demand. That was a valid demand for a liability to the Bank under the Personal Guarantee,"



Justice Tinkler ruled. "The Personal Guarantee is not, as a matter of Indian law, void/unenforceable. Mr Modi is therefore liable under the Personal Guarantee to the Bank for the principal amount due of USD 4,105,189.34," he said. The judge also pointed to "the interest on that sum for which Mr Modi is liable", which adds up to an estimated USD 11.5 million until March 2026, with further interest accruing following that date. "The interest calculated on the basis set out by the bank is to be added to the principal sum in calculating the total amount due," the judge concluded. Bank of India, represented by Milan

Kapadia of Flaggate LLP, had been pursuing the case since 2018 when allegations began to circulate regarding companies associated with Modi. "This case is a commercial banking recovery claim by Bank of India against Mr Modi as guarantor. It does not concern, and makes no findings in respect of, the wider fraud allegations against Mr Modi or the Punjab National Bank fraud," Flaggate clarified, following this week's judgment. There were three main issues before the judge to determine: whether Modi had been validly served with a demand; whether that demand related to a liability he owed to the bank.

Congress passes war powers measure for first time, breaking with Trump over Iran



The Republican-controlled US Senate has approved a measure demanding that President Donald Trump halt the war in Iran or seek congressional approval before continuing military action. But the resolution is largely symbolic because, even after passing both chambers of Congress, it will not be sent to Trump for his consideration and does not carry the force of the law. A handful of

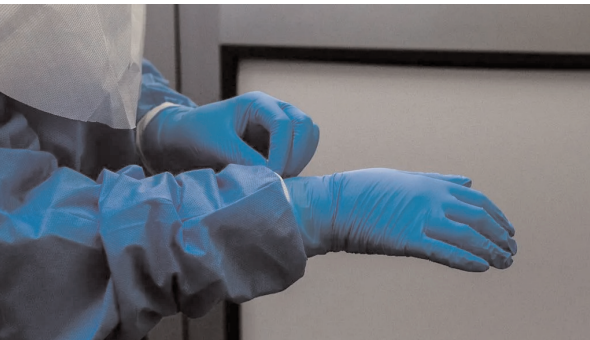
Republicans joined Democrats in Tuesday's 50-48 vote. The same measure was passed by the US House of Representatives earlier this month. It came as Republicans in Congress have expressed scepticism about a peace plan Trump agreed with Iran, and the unpopular conflict approaches its fifth month. Trump criticised the resolution on Tuesday night, calling it "poorly timed and meaningless". "So, I have Iran on the 'ropes,' ready to go down for the fall... and the U.S. Senate decides to have a poorly timed and meaningless War Powers Act Vote," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "These Senators have just made my job more difficult, but I will get it done, one way or the other, because I always get it done!" The vote marks the first time that both chambers of Congress have approved a concurrent resolution instructing a president to end a military action

since the War Powers Resolution of 1973 was enacted. A concurrent resolution expresses the sentiment or will of Congress, as opposed to other forms of legislation that go to the president to be signed into law. In 2019, Trump vetoed a joint resolution that called for the removal of armed forces from hostilities in the Yemeni civil war. Middle East analyst Laura Blumenfeld called it "more of a slap on a wrist than a handcuff, because it has no legal binding". But she told the BBC she thought what "it does reflect is the American people's sentiments". The concurrent resolution's passage is significant because it adds to pressure on the White House to find an end to the Iran war, which is unpopular with the public after petrol prices spiked. The same measure was passed earlier this month by the US House of Representatives, where four Republicans joined every

Democrat to approve it in a 215-208 vote. But a White House official told the BBC that with the ceasefire agreed on 7 April, there are no hostilities from which to withdraw American forces. The official also said the measure only passed because two Republican senators were absent: Mitch McConnell and Dave McCormick. Four Republican senators voted with Democrats in support of the resolution: Rand Paul, Lisa Murkowski, Susan Collins and Bill Cassidy. Democratic Senator John Fetterman was the only member of his party to vote against it. It was the latest sign of division among Trump's fellow Republicans ahead of the midterm elections in November, which will determine whether the party can hold on to its slender majorities in both chambers of Congress. Some Republicans have resisted the president recently, including by rejecting his

plans to create a \$1.8 bn (£1.3bn) "anti-weaponisation" fund and approving Ukraine aid. Tuesday's vote was the 10th time that Senate Democrats have forced a war powers vote since the start of the war. It came the same day as the Pentagon asked Congress for some \$80bn, most of which is to pay for the war with Iran. Federal law requires congressional approval to continue military actions for more than 60 days. The US-Israel strikes on Iran began on 28 February, although the Trump administration has argued April's ceasefire reset the clock. The White House can also extend the deadline for another 30 days, citing national security. Currently, the US and Iran have agreed to continue a ceasefire and are working towards an end of hostilities under a memorandum of understanding that was signed by the presidents of both countries last week.

FRANCE CONFIRMS FIRST EBOLA CASE



France has confirmed its first case of Ebola - a doctor who had returned from a humanitarian mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The doctor was "immediately admitted to a specialised facility" and is in a stable condition, the French health ministry said on Wednesday. DR Congo announced an Ebola outbreak last month, but experts believe the virus had been circulating for weeks previously. More than 260 people are confirmed to have died from the virus in the central African country, while 1,000 people have been infected. This is the first Ebola case to have been confirmed in Europe,

although an American doctor who tested positive in DR Congo was treated at a German hospital last month. DR Congo's neighbour, Uganda, has also confirmed Ebola cases. The World Health Organization (WHO) says 20 people are known to have been infected there and two deaths have been confirmed. It added that authorities were working to trace people who may have been in contact with the doctor. Healthcare workers are especially at risk from Ebola, which is spread through bodily fluids. Last week WHO said 17 of the 75 health workers who had caught Ebola in DR Congo had died.

Clean sweep for Mamdani-backed candidates in New York's Democratic primary



US congressman Dan Goldman has been defeated in a New York primary election, capping a clean sweep for candidates backed by New York's democratic socialist Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Goldman was beaten by progressive challenger Brad Lander in New York's 10th congressional district in a contest that laid bare the party's divisions over the Israel-Gaza war. Lander has accused Israel of genocide in Gaza. Goldman, a two-term incumbent, was backed by pro-Israel groups. Two other candidates, both democratic socialists endorsed by Mamdani as he seeks to tilt the Democratic party to the left, won their primary races on Tuesday, in a boost for the party's left wing in America's largest city. Assemblywoman Claire Valdez defeated Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso in the 7th district. Dariaaliza Avila Chevalier, a doctoral student who has joined pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University, won her race in New York's 13th district.

She toppled Adriano Espaillat, who had held the district for five terms and is chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a body that advocates for legislation and resources for Hispanic Americans. Mamdani celebrated her win, describing Chevalier as a person "of clarity, of conscience and of conviction". Lander, who was also endorsed by Vermont's democratic socialist Senator Bernie Sanders, easily beat Goldman by 65.7% to 34.1%, with most votes counted. He also received praise from Mamdani, who touted Lander's "vision of politics that is more than what we've seen for so long". Mamdani has described himself as a democratic socialist. The term has no clear definition but focuses on giving a voice to workers over corporations through policies like tax hikes on the rich to expand social programmes. The endorsements were seen as a test of Mamdani's political influence, as he helps boost the profiles of progressive political candidates.

French woman allegedly held captive by husband for 12 years rescued in Pakistan

Police in Pakistan have arrested a man who allegedly held his wife and children captive at home and abused them for more than a decade. His wife, a French national named Sylvie Yasmina, claims the man assaulted his family physically and mentally "on a daily basis" and described him as "very violent", local police told BBC Urdu. One of their sons managed to sneak out to make a police report, which led to a raid of their house in Bara, a remote town in the mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Police found Yasmina and her five children in a cramped and "extremely dilapidated room", with bruises all over their bodies. Yasmina and her children have been taken to a women's shelter in Peshawar. They plan to move back to France,



the police say. According to Yasmina, 54, her husband had "effectively imprisoned" the family since they moved to Pakistan from Australia in 2014. "According to the woman... She was not allowed to meet anyone, their two older children had missed their studies, while the three younger children were born in Pakistan and never enrolled in school.

POWER OUTAGES HIT FRANCE AS RECORD HEATWAVE SET TO PEAK

Tens of thousands of homes in western France are without power, with temperatures set to peak across the country on Wednesday during a record-breaking heatwave. About 68,000 homes in Brittany have been affected, with electricity unlikely to be fully restored until Wednesday night at the earliest, authorities said. More than half of the country remains under a red heat alert, with a high of 43C (109.4F) possible later in the day in the southwest, according to forecaster Météo France. The peak comes after the country experienced its hottest day since records began on Tuesday, with an average temperature of 29.8C (85.54F). Pissos, in the southwestern Landes region, saw



a scorching temperature of 44.3C on Tuesday, Météo France said. The country also experienced its hottest night ever recorded from Monday night into Tuesday, with an average temperature of 29.9C across the country, the forecaster said. The heatwave spread to other parts of western Europe on Wednesday, with an orange alert for danger-

ous weather in place for parts of the Netherlands. A rare red heat alert is in place for parts of the UK, where temperatures could hit 38C on Thursday. Temperatures are expected to peak in the Netherlands and Belgium on Friday, while the mercury in Germany is expected to rise to 40C over the weekend. The heatwave will also

extend to eastern Europe over the next few days, with severe heat warnings issued for countries including Poland, Croatia and Hungary for later in the week. So far, France, Spain and Italy have been hardest hit by the heatwave. At least forty people have drowned in heatwave-related incidents in France since last Thursday, according to the prime minister. On Wednesday, red alerts in France were extended to include four more regions, Météo France said, bringing the total number to 58. Thirty-one more regions are under an orange alert. Highs of 39 to 40C are forecast across much of the country's west, from Paris to Brittany, and are expected to remain the same until the weekend.

UN says it will evacuate sailors stranded in Strait of Hormuz, as Rubio warns against tolls

The UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) is set to evacuate more than 11,000 sailors who have been stranded in the Gulf because of the US-Israel war against Iran. IMO secretary-general Arsenio Dominguez said the "large-scale operation" would be carried out in cooperation with Iran, Oman, the US, other coastal states in the region and the maritime industry. "We have secured the necessary safety guarantees and have thoroughly verified the conditions for safe navigation to support these operations," he added. An interim deal was signed last week to end the conflict, but both the US and Iran continue to clash on



details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The US has said the MoU includes guarantees that Iran's nuclear weapons programme will come under inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). US President Donald Trump posted on social media on

Tuesday: "Iran has fully and completely agreed to highest level Nuclear inspections long into the future (Infinity!!!). This will insure 'Nuclear Honesty.'" Shortly before Trump's post, Iran said the UN watchdog would not be able to inspect nuclear sites bombed by the US and

Israel last year. In response, a US official said: "The Iranians have agreed to robust IAEA inspections of the remains of their nuclear weapons programme. The Iranian regime will say what they have to say for their domestic audience." Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said during a visit to Pakistan on Tuesday that Iran "will never negotiate with anyone, under any circumstances, ever, about our defensive capabilities". Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said at a news conference with Pezeshkian that ballistic missiles were not discussed between the US and Iran and were "not on the table at all".

UN nuclear chief says inspectors will visit Iran sites as part of war deal



The head of the global nuclear watchdog has said it will carry out inspections in Iran under the country's preliminary peace agreement with the US. "The inspections will indeed take place," International Atomic Energy Agency director general Rafael Grossi told reporters in Japan. "We will be working on the modalities - dates, procedures, places - very soon." The agreement signed last week said "explicitly" that the dilution of Iran's highly enriched uranium would be carried out under IAEA supervision, he added. However, Iran's deputy foreign minister said access to its damaged nuclear facilities and nuclear material would only be addressed within the framework of a final deal with the US. Grossi's comments come as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is visiting Gulf nations to discuss the deal. On Wednesday he met UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and is due to travel to Kuwait and Bahrain. The initial US-Iran agreement also said that Iran would allow shipping to pass through the Strait of Hormuz while the US would lift a naval blockade on

Iranian ports. On Wednesday the price of Brent crude oil fell to below \$75 (£57) for first time since the US-Israeli war on Iran began. Meanwhile the UN said some ships had already passed through the strait under a scheme to evacuate thousands of sailors stranded by the war. In recent days, there has been a dispute between the US and Iran over the issue of UN nuclear inspectors visiting sites in the country. On Monday, following talks in Switzerland with Iran's chief negotiator, US Vice-President JD Vance said Iran had "agreed to invite IAEA inspectors back into their country". The next day, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said there had been "no detailed discussions" and that Iran had no plans to grant IAEA inspectors access to nuclear facilities which were bombed by the US during a 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June 2025. US President Donald Trump then dismissed Iran's "protestations and false statements to the contrary", saying the country had "fully and completely agreed" to inspections.



Biggest city in Crimea without power after Ukraine strikes

SYDNEY WOMAN WAKES FROM INDUCED COMA MORE THAN A WEEK AFTER SHARK ATTACK



A woman who was bitten by a shark more than a week ago while swimming at a popular Sydney beach has woken briefly from an induced coma, her family has said. Leah Stewart was attacked by a shark on Saturday 13 June at Coogee Beach, suffering multiple bites on her arms and legs and extreme blood loss. The 34-year-old mother was taken to hospital in

a critical condition and underwent several surgeries including having her arm amputated. On Tuesday, her brother said doctors had reduced Stewart's medication so she could wake up briefly from an induced coma. She said "I love you" to her mum and partner who were both by her bedside and asked if her daughter was ok.



Chiranjeevi Hails Ram Charan as ‘New Age Megastar’ at Peddi Mega Blockbuster Event

While watching the movie, we did not see Charan, only ‘Peddi’ was seen. It gave us great joy to call Charan a ‘New Age Megastar’. I am feeling 100 percent filial piety. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the film Peddi and gave it such a huge success: Megastar Chiranjeevi at the Peddi mega blockbuster even ‘The success of Peddi changed my life. Until Peddi was released, my baby Cleankara used to call me ‘Nanna’. After its release, she calls me ‘Peddi’. Now everyone remembers Peddi’s name. Peddi gave me such beautiful memories: Mega Power Star Ram Charan Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s latest sensational blockbuster ‘Peddi’. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, presented by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, Venkata Satish Kilaru has produced it under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas. The film, which



was released worldwide on June 4, received rave reviews from the audience and critics and became a sensational success with record-breaking collections. It became the number one grosser in South India in 2026 and is being successfully screened in all regions with housefull collections. On this occasion, the makers organized a mega blockbuster event. Megastar Chiranjeevi attended the event as the chief guest and it was a grand event. Megastar Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan presented shields to the exhibitors, distributors and team members at the hands of Megastar Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan.

‘Alpha is a celebration of attitude...I had such a good time making it!’: Alia Bhatt had a blast shooting this fun, popcorn entertainer every single day

Yash Raj Films’ Alpha presents two girls Alia Bhatt and Sharvari at the heart of a big-budget popcorn, action film that has never happened in India before. Alia says she had the time of her life shooting this fun, popcorn, action entertainer that is a celebration of the Alpha attitude regardless of gender. Alia says, “I had such a good time making Alpha. It’s probably one of the most enjoyable experiences I’ve had on a film set. There was something really exciting about stepping into this world of action, scale and adventure. It pushed me in ways I hadn’t experienced before and I loved every bit of it.” She adds, “What I loved most was that at the heart of it were two women leading all the action. We don’t get to see that very often and I had a lot of fun being part of that. Alpha is a celebration of attitude and a celebration at the movies.” Alia says she was always excited to be on the sets of this action entertainer. The actor says, “What made it even more special was getting to do it with such a fantastic group of people. Whether it was our director, cast, the action team, or the crew behind the scenes, there was a real sense of excitement around what we were making and I think some of that energy found its



way onto the screen. I genuinely looked forward to going to set every morning and I loved every minute of it.” Produced by Aditya Chopra & directed by Shiv Rawail of The Railway Men fame, Alpha is set to release on July 3rd in cinemas worldwide!

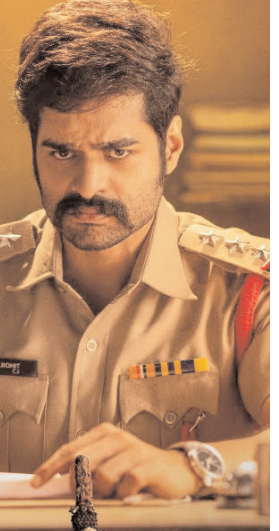
Gagan Babu Looks Fierce As Police Officer In Jangaa

The makers of Jangaa have released a special birthday poster for actor Gagan Babu, offering a striking sight into his character from the film. Presented by Smt Vanitha Kilari and produced by Ramya Kilari and Jayachandra Naidu Kilari under the RK Film Factory banner, the film is written and directed by Kevin Gaddam. The film features Thrigun alongside Varalaxmi Sarathkumar

and Gagan Vihari. The first look poster showcases Gagan Babu in a powerful and fierce police officer avatar. Seated at his desk in uniform, he sports a stern expression that reflects intensity, discipline, and authority. The character appears deeply focused, hinting at a role that carries significant weight in the narrative. The rugged look, commanding body language, and serious demeanor suggest that Gagan Babu will be seen in an action-packed role. Adding further curiosity is the film’s intriguing tagline, “When Love Burns, Shiva Awakens,” which points toward a story

nificant weight in the narrative. The rugged look, commanding body language, and serious demeanor suggest that Gagan Babu will be seen in an action-packed role. Adding further curiosity is the film’s intriguing tagline, “When Love Burns, Shiva Awakens,” which points toward a story

driven by strong emotions, conflict, and transformation. The film’s shoot is progressing briskly, and the team is expected to announce more updates soon. Music is composed by Krishna Saurabh, while Venkat C Dileep handles cinematography. Dialogues are penned by Prasad Varma and Prem Raj, with editing by Praveen Pudi. Lyrics are written by Kasarla Shyam, Poornachari, and Kalyan Chakravarthy.



MAKERS OF MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE UNVEIL FIRST-LOOK CHARACTER POSTERS; TEASER OUT TOMORROW

First Look Out! Makers of Mirzapur: The Movie Drop Character Posters Ahead Of Tomorrow’s Teaser

Ahead of the teaser launch tomorrow, the makers have unveiled a series of first-look character posters featuring the iconic Gaddi, Munna Bhaiya, Guddu Bhaiya and Kaleen Bhaiya. Carrying the message, “Gaddi Hai Toh Hum Hain,” the posters revisit the power, legacy and rivalries that have defined the Mirzapur universe, instantly sparking excitement among fans. The reveal has already generated buzz online, with audiences revisiting the world of Mirzapur and speculating about what awaits in its big-screen chapter. With the teaser arriving tomorrow, anticipation is only set to grow. Presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment, Mirzapur: The Movie is directed by Gurmeet Singh, written by Puneet Krishna, and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under the banner of Excel Entertainment. The film is co-produced by Kassim Jagmagia and Vishal Ramchandani, film is all set to release in Hindi and Telugu language and is slated for a worldwide theatrical release



P. Bharath Bhushan Meets Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu After Assuming Charge as APSFTVTDC Chairman



Mr. P. Bharath Bhushan, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation (APSFTVTDC), recently paid a courtesy visit to the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu. During the meeting, Mr. Bharath Bhushan expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and reaffirmed his commitment towards the growth and development of the film industry in Andhra Pradesh. As the Vice President of the Film Federation of India (FFI), a

body recognized by the Government of India, he stated that he would work closely with his team and industry stakeholders to strengthen the state’s position as a major destination for film, television, and entertainment activities. Mr. Bharath Bhushan also conveyed his happiness over the grand launch of the much-awaited #NBK112, scheduled to take place tomorrow at the TTD Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple premises in Venkatapalem. He expressed his delight that Hon’ble Minister Shri Nara Lokesh and Hon’ble Minister Shri Kandula Durgesh will grace the occasion as Chief Guests. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bharath Bhushan said that the APSFTVTDC team is committed to creating an ecosystem that encourages more such prestigious film-related events and productions in Andhra Pradesh.

Rajinikanth’s ‘Dharman’ Goes on Floors with Striking First Look



Superstar Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Ashwath Marimuthu, RKFI, #Thalaivar173 movie title ‘Dharman’ - Stylish, powerful first look release - Grand opening of the movie Raj Kamal Films International (RKFI) today began shooting for the much-awaited new film ‘Dharman’ starring Superstar Rajinikanth. The title and first look of the film were unveiled today. It has emerged as one of the most exciting projects in the Indian film industry in recent times. Released with the powerful tagline ‘The Deadly Doctor’, this poster is generating a lot of interest among the audience. Rajinikanth is seen standing in the operation theatre, wearing an operation gown and dark glasses. His look is very interesting as he is seen smiling while holding a blood-stained scalpel in his hand. The friendship between Kamal Haasan and Superstar Rajinikanth is rare in the history of world cinema. These two giants, who have been at the top of the Indian film industry for more than five decades, are working together for the first time as producer-actor through the film ‘Dharman’.

VB Entertainments Digital Media Awards 2026 Presentation: Rare Honor for Industry Hit’s Shiva Kumar Boyidapu

The digital era has completely transformed the way we consume information. Gone are the days when people relied solely on newspapers and television for news; today, smartphones deliver content within seconds. Alongside cinema and OTT updates, platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and digital websites now dominate the entertainment industry. Behind this massive digital revolution lies the relentless hard work of countless content creators, journalists, and editors. To recognize and honor their talent and dedication, VB Entertainments has present-



ed the prestigious “Digital Media Awards 2026.” on June 24 at Prasad Lab, Hyderabad. Best Website Editor Award’ for Shiva Kumar Boyidapu In this 2026 edition, the highly coveted “Best Website Editor Award” has been conferred upon Shiva Kumar Boyidapu, the chief of the prominent film portal ‘Industry Hit’. Holding a unique position in Telugu digital journalism, Shiva

Kumar is known not just for breaking news quickly, but for delivering it with deep, analytical insights that resonate with readers. Whether it is cinema updates or social issues, honesty and depth shine through every article he pens. Shiva Kumar has set new benchmarks in website presentation, catchy headlines, content structuring, and SEO (Search Engine Optimization) management. Steering completely clear of sensationalist ‘clickbait’ tactics, he has consistently prioritized high-quality journalism, earning the trust of thousands of readers. Recognizing his immense contribution to training

young journalists and promoting digital media ethics, VB Entertainments honoured him with ‘Best Website Editor’ prestigious award, presented by senior producer Ambica Krishna and MAA Vice President Madala Ravi. In reality, digital media is far more than just a 30-second viral reel. Behind that short piece of content lies days of intensive research, sleepless nights of editing, high-pressure deadlines, and the resilience to face online criticism. The VB Entertainments Digital Media Awards is a platform that truly values this sweat, sacrifice, and passion of digital creators.