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CM VIJAY

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India won't sign US trade deal without competitive edge: Piyush Goyal



London/New Delhi, June 25 : India will not enter into a trade agreement with the United States unless it secures a clear competitive advantage over rival economies, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Speaking during a two-day visit to London, Goyal said India would only proceed with the agreement once Washington establishes a legal and policy framework that offers

Indian exporters preferential market access compared to competing countries.

"Until the framework for getting competitive advantage is finalised, we cannot enter into a US deal," Goyal said, adding that discussions are focused on how the US can create the necessary legal backing to provide India with such an advantage.

His remarks come a day after he concluded trade talks in New Delhi with

United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

Following the meeting, the commerce ministry said both sides remained committed to expanding bilateral trade and advancing negotiations under the proposed bilateral trade agreement, though it did not indicate any breakthrough on the unresolved issues.

The latest round marked the third set of negotiations since India and the

US announced plans for an interim trade pact earlier this year. The agreement was initially negotiated at a time when the US had imposed steep tariffs on Indian goods under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

According to Goyal, India had negotiated the deal on the assumption that the effective tariff burden on Indian exports would be reduced from around 50 per cent to 18 per cent, giving Indian products a significant edge over competing economies.

"There were IEEPA tariffs when we finalised the deal. We had about 50 per cent tariff on India, so we had negotiated the deal based on bringing down the 50 per cent tariff to 18 per cent," Goyal said. He added that the proposed reduction was attractive because it would have provided India with a comparative advantage over neighbouring countries and other competitors.

Passport-citizenship row:

Govt asserts no new decision taken in past 12 years

Oppn says panic being created

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

A raging controversy erupted Thursday on the passport-citizenship issue with the government asserting that no new decision has been taken on the travel document in the past 12 years and the opposition alleging that groundwork is being done to "arbitrarily deny" citizenship rights to those who "disagree" with the ruling dispensation. Citing the Passport Act 1967, government sources said passports can be given to even non-citizens "in the public interest" while Election Commission officials said passport continues to be among the 12 valid supporting documents required by voters to prove their eligibility to be on the voters' list.

Amid the row, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on



Thursday published a gazette notification, dated June 20, announcing the hike in the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport containing 36 pages from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500.

The controversy emerged after media reported, quoting MEA officials, that a passport is a travel document, not a proof of citizenship. It is not a document that establishes citizenship, the MEA officials had said on Wednesday. "It was not decided yesterday that the

passport is not a proof of citizenship. It was not even decided in the last 12 years under the Narendra Modi government. The passport has never been a proof of citizenship," a government source said. The sources also cited Section 20 of the Passports Act, 1967, which says that passports and travel documents can be issued to persons who are not citizens of India.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions relating to issue of a passport or travel document, the central government may issue, or cause to be issued, a passport or travel document to a person who is not a citizen of India if that government is of the opinion that it is necessary so to do in the public interest." However, the Section 6(2)(a) of the same Passports Act, 1967 provides that the passport authority shall refuse to issue a passport "if the applicant is not a citizen of India".

Govt lifts curbs on commercial LPG as supply improves

New Delhi (TSIT) : In a major relief to industrial and commercial LPG consumers, the government on Thursday removed all sectoral restrictions on the supply of non-domestic packed LPG and restored supplies to the levels prevailing prior to the West Asia crisis. The restrictions have been lifted due to improved indigenous LPG production and the projected availability of imported LPG cargoes following the US-Iran peace agreement and the opening of the



Strait of Hormuz, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Further, the supply of bulk LPG, which had been suspended at the onset of the crisis, has been relaxed by 50 per cent of the pre-crisis consumption levels, providing significant relief to commercial and industrial consumers. The restoration follows the recent improvement in the LPG supply situation, the statement said.

CM Revanth urges employees to drive Telangana's growth

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy called upon government employees to play a key role in transforming Telangana into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and announced accident insurance coverage for all State employees.

Speaking at a programme held at Ravindra Bharathi, where the government signed agreements with banks for the insurance scheme, the Chief Minister said the initiative was inspired by the successful accident insurance model implemented for Singareni workers. He said the scheme would provide financial secu-



rity to employees' families in times of need and reaffirmed the government's commitment to employee welfare. Revanth Reddy urged employees to contribute an extra hour of work daily to strengthen governance, increase revenue, and accelerate development. He credited government staff for the successful implementation of welfare schemes and assured them of the government's continued support.

After Lucknow fire tragedy, Chhattisgarh CM Sai orders statewide safety audit of buildings

The directive comes in the wake of some recent fire incidents in different parts of the country, including the deadly blaze in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow on June 22

RAIPUR (TSIT):

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has ordered a comprehensive review and special safety audit of multi-storey residential complexes, commercial establishments, coaching institutes, hotels and other public buildings across the state, officials said on Thursday.

The directive comes in the wake of some recent fire incidents in different parts of the country, including the deadly blaze in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow on June 22 that claimed 15 lives, they



said. The building, which caught on fire in Lucknow's Aliganj area, housed an animation centre, among other establishments, and most of the victims who lost their lives were students. Taking serious note of such incidents, the CM said strict

compliance with safety norms must be ensured to prevent similar tragedies, an official statement said. "Any issue related to the safety of citizens, students and the general public is the government's top priority," Sai said in the statement.

India, Iran discuss energy ties as sanctions relief revives oil trade prospects

New Delhi (TSIT)

India and Iran on Thursday explored ways to deepen cooperation in the energy sector as Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohsen Paknejad held separate talks with Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Union Power Minister Manohar Lal on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting.

10 newly elected RS MPs sworn-in, V-P Radhakrishnan administers oath

New Delhi (TSIT):

Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath and secrecy to ten newly elected members of the Upper House on Thursday.

The newly elected MPs, who took the oath as Rajya Sabha members, included four from Andhra Pradesh - three of whom came from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and one from Jana Sena Party (JSP), both constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). From Andhra Pradesh, Sana Satish Babu, Vijay Chintakayala and Bhashyam Rama Krishna were elected unopposed from the TDP while JSP's Lingamaneni Ramesh was elected opposed during the recent Rajya Sabha elections for 24 seats, spared across 10 states.

Among the other lawmakers who took oath in the Upper House included Tai Tagak (Bharatiya Janata Party) from Arunachal Pradesh, Rajesh Parmanad Shukla (Bharatiya Janata Party) from Gujarat, Baidyanath Ram (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha) from



Jharkhand, Debashish Samantaray (Bharatiya Janata Party) from Odisha and Praveen Chakravarty (Congress) from Tamil Nadu. Parimal Nathwani, who won as Independent from Jharkhand, was also administered oath of office by Vice-President Radhakrishnan.

With the completion of swearing-in, these members formally assume their Rajya Sabha membership and are now eligible to participate in the proceedings of the House. A notable feature of the oath ceremony was the country's linguistic diversity at display - five of the ten members took the oath in Hindi, one in English, one in Tamil, and three in Telugu. Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P.C. Mody, several members of the House, and senior officials of Rajya Sabha Secretariat attended the ceremony.

Cong launches 40-day nationwide campaign against alleged exam paper leaks, irregularities

Bengaluru (TSIT) :

Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad on Thursday announced a nationwide 40-day campaign against alleged examination paper leaks and irregularities in the country's education system, accusing the NDA government of failing to protect the interests of students.

Addressing a press conference at the Institute of Agricultural Technology on Queens Road in Bengaluru, Gaikwad said



the campaign would run from June 25 to August 9 across 28 states and 28 major cities. The initiative follows Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent public outreach on education issues and concerns

surrounding NEET and other competitive examinations.

Gaikwad said the campaign was not merely about isolated incidents of question paper leaks but reflected a deeper crisis in India's education and examination system.

"It is not the students who are failing; it is the Education Ministry and the NDA government that are failing. Due to their failures, lakhs of students are facing immense difficulties," she said.

New Delhi (TSIT):

India's military modernisation is increasingly focused on developing long-range capabilities that can reach targets across China, while continuing to account for security challenges posed by Pakistan, a report has said. Citing the latest assessment by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI),

Nikkei Asia reported that defence planning is placing greater emphasis on longer-range weapon systems amid China's military rise and its deepening strategic ties with Pakistan.

The report further estimated that India's military expenditure rose 7.5 per cent to \$92 billion in 2025, making it the world's fifth-largest military spender.

It is also estimated that India possessed around 190



nuclear warheads as of January 2026. According to the report, India's strategic planning has increasingly shifted towards capabilities aimed at deterring China.

While India previously deployed nuclear-capable systems with ranges of up to 2,000 km, it has gradually inducted missiles capable of striking targets 3,000 km away and beyond. According to the report,

India possessed 24 Agni-V nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles as of January this year. The missile has a claimed range of up to 5,000 km.

Nikkei Asia's analysis noted that India's military modernisation reflects concerns over China's growing military capabilities and its close defence partnership with Pakistan.

It highlighted the growing role of drones, cyber

operations and precision-strike weapons in modern warfare. The report further said that India is accelerating efforts to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and advanced military technologies. Domestic defence production increased from Rs 46,400 crore in FY15 to Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY25, while defence exports touched a record Rs 38,400 crore.



Dana Kishore stresses effective implementation of welfare schemes



Mahabubnagar (TSIT): M. Dana Kishore, Special Chief Secretary of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department and District Special Officer, directed officials to ensure that government welfare schemes reach every eligible poor family and that issues identified under the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika programme are resolved on priority. Addressing a district-level review meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday, he said officials should prepare action plans to address public grievances and infrastructure gaps identified during village and ward sabhas. Problems that do not require funds should be resolved immediately,

while proposals requiring financial support should be submitted to the government.

Dana Kishore also instructed officials to strengthen rural infrastructure, improve sanitation, promote plastic waste management, and ensure proper follow-up treatment for health issues identified during special camps.

District Collector Khushboo Gupta said Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika is a continuous initiative and urged officials to proactively resolve public issues. She reviewed the activities undertaken by various departments under the 99-day action plan and highlighted ongoing development and welfare programmes in the district.

CMC Commissioner Srijana Leads Ground-Level Civic Review

Hyderabad, TSIT: Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner Srijana conducted a comprehensive field inspection in Nekkampur Ward of Narsingi Circle as part of the Corporation's "One Ward Every Day" initiative, reaffirming the civic body's commitment to resolving public grievances through direct citizen engagement. Accompanied by the Zonal Commissioner of Serilingampally Zone and senior officials, Commissioner Srijana interacted with residents and representatives of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), who highlighted key civic issues requiring immediate attention. These included inadequate street lighting, fencing of open plots, recurring footpath encroachments, augmentation of the underground drainage (UGD) network, installation of speed breakers, improved park lighting and CCTV surveillance, shifting of wine shops, and addressing waterlogging at Pasha Colony.



Special Voter List Revision Begins in Husnabad

The South India Times Husnabad : Siddipet District: The special summary revision program for the voter list has officially commenced within the Husnabad municipality limits. Municipal Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi and Municipal Commissioner T. Mallikarjun jointly inaugurated the program on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, they advised all eligible individuals to verify their



details in the voter list. They urged people to

Missing Man Found Dead Near Shadnagar; Murder Suspected

RANGAREDDY : A missing person case took a tragic turn after M.D. Hasan (36) of Manganur village in Nagarkurnool district was found dead in bushes at the True Landmark Venture near Kashireddyguda on Thursday.

Hasan had been reported missing on June 23 by his brother M.D. Haji. Police said Hasan was last seen on



June 22 with his friends Panuganti Aravind and Veerakari Shivaji. Before his phone was switched off, he

had shared his location near the Burgula area. Following a search based on CCTV footage and location data, Hasan's body was recovered from the area. Police suspect the murder may be linked to a financial dispute involving paddy trading transactions. Shadnagar police have registered a murder case and launched a manhunt for Aravind and Shivaji, who are suspected to be involved in the crime. Further investigation is underway.

PNB Signs MoU with Telangana Govt for Salary Accounts of Employees



Hyderabad (TSIT) : Punjab National Bank (PNB), one of India's leading public sector banks, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana to provide its Salary Savings Account Scheme to government employees across the state. Under the agreement, PNB will offer specially designed salary accounts to permanent, outsourced, and contractual government employees. The scheme includes a wide range of benefits such as personal accidental insurance cover of up to Rs.3 crore, air accident insurance, disability cover, term insurance, Hospi-cash benefits, free digital banking services, debit cards, cheque books, SMS alerts, preferential retail loan processing, and overdraft facilities subject to eligibility.

For outsourced and contractual employees, PNB has introduced Zero Balance Salary Accounts with accidental insurance coverage of up to Rs.2.5 crore, along with term insurance, family bank-

ing facilities, locker rent concessions, retail loan benefits, and lifestyle privileges. The scheme is available in four variants—NEO, EXCEL, OPTIMA, and IMPERIAL—to cater to different salary segments and customer needs.

The MoU was signed by Vandana Pandey, General Manager and Zonal Manager, Hyderabad Zone, on behalf of PNB. The signing ceremony was attended by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the Chief Secretary, senior IAS officers, and top officials of the bank. Speaking on the occasion, Vandana Pandey said the partnership reflects PNB's commitment to delivering comprehensive, customer-focused banking solutions that provide financial security, convenience, and value-added benefits to government employees. The bank reiterated its commitment to supporting the financial well-being of individuals and contributing to Telangana's inclusive growth.

Pregnant woman undergoes successful kidney stone removal at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool

KURNOOL, June 25, 2026: Doctors at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool, successfully removed a large kidney stone from a pregnant woman in her early second trimester, ensuring the safety of both the mother and the foetus. According to Dr. Y. Manoj Kumar, Head of the Department of Urology and Senior Consultant Urologist, the patient was admitted with severe flank pain and fever. Diagnostic investigations revealed a 16-mm stone lodged in the renal pelvis. Although a ureteric stent had been placed at another hospital, her symptoms persisted, prompting referral to KIMS Hospital.

After stabilising the patient with intravenous antibiotics and counselling the family regarding potential risks, including



miscarriage and infection, the medical team proceeded with a definitive intervention. A Retrograde Intrarenal Surgery (RIRS) was performed under general anaesthesia, and the stone was fragmented and completely removed using laser technology.

Dr. Manoj Kumar said the patient experienced complete relief from pain and fever following the procedure. A follow-up scan conducted 10 days later confirmed complete clearance of the stone. The foetus was found to be healthy, with normal car-

diac activity and growth parameters.

Kidney stones during pregnancy are relatively uncommon, occurring in only 0.03% to 0.5% of pregnancies worldwide. Most cases are managed conservatively or through temporary drainage procedures. However, performing definitive stone removal through RIRS at 14 weeks of pregnancy, particularly in the presence of persistent infection, is considered rare and technically challenging.

The procedure was carried out by a multidisciplinary team led by Dr. Y. Manoj Kumar, with support from Dr. Pruthvi, Junior Consultant Urologist, Dr. Kusuma, Consultant Gynaecologist, and Dr. Indu Priya from the Department of Anaesthesiology.

Collector stresses quality healthcare services in government hospitals

Mancherial: District Collector Kumar Deepak directed health officials to ensure quality medical services for patients visiting government hospitals and healthcare institutions across the district.

During an inspection of the 30-bed Government Hospital at Laxetipet on Thursday, the Collector reviewed ward facilities, laboratory services, records, and overall hospital maintenance. He interacted with doctors and enquired about disease patterns and treatment being provided to patients.

With the monsoon season underway, Kumar Deepak instructed officials to create awareness on the prevention of seasonal diseases and maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines. He also stressed the importance of punctuality and accessibility of



doctors and healthcare staff.

Later, the Collector inspected the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, reviewed ongoing classroom construction works, and directed officials to complete them at the earliest. He also visited Venkatraopet village to review electoral roll revision activities and urged officials to ensure accuracy in voter registration.

The Collector further inspected the Government Junior College at Laxetipet and emphasized the need to improve student enrolment and educational infrastructure.

Anirudh Reddy participates in voter list revision drive



Mahabubnagar : Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy participated in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on Thursday by filling and submitting his Enumeration Form to the Booth Level Officer (BLO) at Rangareddyguda village.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA urged all eligible voters to cooperate with BLOs and provide the required information to ensure their names are correctly

included in the electoral rolls. He stressed the importance of safeguarding voting rights and encouraged citizens to actively participate in the revision process being conducted by the Election Commission of India from June 25 to July 24.

Anirudh Reddy also advised BLOs to carry out the revision exercise in a transparent, impartial, and error-free manner, ensuring that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls.

MLA Anirudh Reddy Participates in Voter List Revision Process

Mahabubnagar, June 25 :As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission of India from June 25 to July 24, Jadcherla MLA Janampally Anirudh Reddy on Thursday received the Enumeration

Form from the Booth Level Officer (BLO) at Rangareddyguda village, filled in his details, and submitted the completed form back to the BLO. After participating in the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Advanced Technology Centre (ATC)

at Rangareddyguda along with Minister G. Vivek Venkataswamy, the MLA visited the Gram Panchayat office and completed the enumeration process under the SIR programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Anirudh Reddy urged all eligible voters to provide the required information to BLOs and safeguard their voting rights. He emphasized that every citizen should ensure that their name is correctly included in the electoral roll.

The MLA also advised BLOs to conduct the revision process in a transparent, impartial, and meticulous manner. He said that officials have a responsibility to ensure that no eligible voter loses the right to vote during the revision exercise. He appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to election officials by submitting the necessary information and documents on time. A transparent and error-free electoral roll can be prepared only through active public participation, he noted. District Collector Khushboo Gupta, Assistant Collector (Under Training) Sai Shivani, election officials, and local residents participated in the programme.

Suvarnam Jewels Opens Its Second Showroom in Banjara Hills

Hyderabad, June 2026: Premium designer jewellery brand Suvarnam Jewels has inaugurated its second showroom in Hyderabad at Road No. 10, Banjara Hills. To mark the occasion, a special showcase featured models adorned in the brand's exclusive gold jewellery collections, captivating guests and jewellery enthusiasts alike. Committed to blending traditional Indian craftsmanship with contemporary design aesthetics, Suvarnam Jewels continues to offer high-quality jewellery that reflects elegance, heritage, and innovation. The new showroom houses an extensive range of gold, diamond, Polki, and Kundan jewellery collections.

The brand is particularly known for its handcrafted bridal and occasion-wear jewellery, including necklaces, chokers, waist belts, bangles, earrings, rings, and other statement pieces that have received an enthusiastic response from customers.

Founder Siddhant Nahar completed his postgraduate studies in Wealth Management from Queen Mary University of London.

By combining India's rich jewellery-making traditions with modern tastes and preferences, he has successfully established Suvarnam Jewels as a trusted and distinguished jewellery brand. Speaking on the occasion, Siddhant Nahar said, "The launch of our second showroom is more

than just a business expansion; it is a reflection of the trust and confidence our customers and partners have placed in us. Their support has helped us reach this milestone. We remain committed to offering jewellery that beautifully combines tradition, elegance, and exceptional quality."

ICICI Home Finance
Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: Shop No. 2/30, 1st Floor, T. VII/673/1-4/2 M G Corporate Centre, Medical College PU, Ollor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695011
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
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", 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.	Anu M (Borrower) Latha B (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHTVM00001433022 & LHTVM00001433028	Re Sy No. 513/1-2-1 Vizhinjan Village Neyyattinkara Taluk Trivandrum Kerala 695523	Rs. 9,36,855/- June 18, 2026	Rs. 20,23,052/- Rs. 2,02,305/-	July 20, 2026 11:00 AM To July 27, 2026 11:00 AM	July 24, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession	
2.	Anilkumar V (Borrower) Soumya S. (Co-Borrower) Savithry. (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHTVM00001474901 & LHTVM00001474952	Re Sy No. 135/10-5 Mudakkal Village Chirayinkeezhu Village Trivandrum Kerala- 695103	Rs. 12,15,415/- June 18, 2026	Rs. 38,76,432/- Rs. 3,87,643/-	July 20, 2026 11:00 AM To July 27, 2026 11:00 AM	July 24, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession	

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 24, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
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 24, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of 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 24, 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.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.
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.icicifh.com/>
Date: June 26, 2026
Place: Trivandrum
Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

ICICI Home Finance
Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: 1st Floor, Sundar Tower, 24/868(3), Opp. Nissan Pinnacle, Kunnamthuru Post, Palakkad 678013
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(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Kannan R V (Borrower) Sumitara S. (Co-Borrower) Vinod K K (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHPGT00001353766 & LHPGT00001353767	Resy No. 259/20 Kanjikode Village Palakkad Taluk Palakkad Kerala 678621	Rs. 8,40,289/- June 18, 2026	Rs. 20,70,000/- Rs. 2,07,000/-	July 20, 2026 11:00 AM To July 27, 2026 03:00 PM	July 24, 2026 Before 12:00 PM	Symbolic Possession	
2.	Mahammed Hanashad C K (Borrower) Ruabeena. (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHTRH00001542386 & LHTRH00001542387	Re Sy No: 522/24/2 Ambalappara-2 Village, Hunagad P O, Ottappalam, Palakkad Kerala 679511	Rs. 17,29,680/- June 18, 2026	Rs. 24,16,506/- Rs. 2,41,651/-	July 20, 2026 11:00 AM To July 27, 2026 03:00 PM	July 24, 2026 Before 12:00 PM	Symbolic Possession	

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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.icicifh.com/>
Date: June 26, 2026
Place: Palakkad
Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

Historic Consensus Decision by 3 States to Protect Farmers’ Interests in Tungabhadra river basin: CM D K Shivakumar

Koppal : Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that the three states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have together taken a historic consensus decision to protect the interest of farmers in Tungabhadra river basin.

Speaking after inaugurating 33 spillway gates of the Tungabhadra dam at an event organized at the Munirabad Government High School grounds in Koppal district, the CM said, "This is a historic event for South India. When the 19th gate broke off, the district in-charge minister Shivaraj Tangadagi and officials called me at midnight, expressing alarm that the dam was shaking. I visited the site at 8 am the next morning. We immediately consulted experts on what needed to be done, and the gate was replaced within a week. Through this, the farmers of this region were protected," he said.

"When the gate broke off, the Opposition parties leveled criticism. It was



possible to carry out such an important task only through the blessings of Goddess Sharada, H u l i g e m m a , Huchcharayaswamy, Ajjayya, the grace of Hampi's Virupaksha, and the power of Raghavendra Swamy. Our government decided to replace the 33 gates, and God has given us the opportunity to protect the farmers of these three states. Back then I was the Irrigation Minister. Today I am the Chief Minister. Even so, I remain your servant and your kinsman," he said.

Three States Unite to Protect the Tungabhadra Dam

"The Tungabhadra dam has been protected. There is a saying that one who forgets history cannot create history. Today, under the leadership of C.R. Patil, the chief ministers of three states have made history. Our goal is to create history rather than merely read and recall it. I keep saying that coming together is a beginning, discussing together is progress, and working together is success. Under the leadership of C.R. Patil, the chief ministers of three states came together and protected all three states," he stated.

State Biofuel Development Board Chairman S.E. Sudhindra requests for implementation of the points mentioned in the new biofuel policy along with the central policy



Bengaluru: The central government has formulated a separate compressed biogas policy and Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board Chairman S.E. Sudhindra has sought cooperation in creating the necessary funds and infrastructure to carry out the implementation process of the points mentioned in the proposed new biofuel policy of the state along with the central poli-

cy.He met Union Minister for Jal Shakti C.R. Patil, who arrived at HAL Airport to participate in the inauguration of 33 newly installed steel way gates for the Tungabhadra reservoir planned at Munirabad, Koppal district. He recalled that during his recent visit to the state of Gujarat, he had discussed with the Union Minister for Jal Shakti about the schemes implemented for the development of the biofuel sector, especially the biofuel policy and incentive measures formulated for the production of compressed biogas, and that he had invited him to visit the state of Gujarat again.

The Union Minister agreed to this request of the Chairman of the Board and assured that he would bring it to the notice of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Union Government and take steps to provide full assistance on priority.

On this occasion, he visited the compressed biogas unit of Chem Company in the state of Gujarat and discussed the need for procurement, storage, and transportation infrastructure for the construction of the units.

Free eye check-up camp for BBMP civil servants by Samrakshana Seva Trust



Bengaluru: It is the responsibility of all of us to protect the health of civil servants who are at the forefront of serving the society, said Dr. Lakshmi Shashikumar, founder of Samrakshana Seva Trust.

Speaking at a free eye check-up camp organized at namma clinic near Janatha Bazaar, Hosakerehalli, in collaboration with Vasan Eye Care Hospital and sponsored by Croire Innovative Paints, She said, "The Samrakshana Seva Trust is continuously organizing health awareness and free health camps to provide quality health services to everyone in the society."

Organized with the aim of maintaining the eye health of the civic workers who are constantly

involved in the cleanliness of the society and public service, hundreds of civic workers participated in this camp and got their eyes checked for free. Expert doctors from Vasan Eye Care Hospital conducted eye tests and provided necessary advice and guidance for further treatment, She said.Students of PES College, students and staff of Gupta College, internals, volunteers, BBMP officials, namma clinic staff and the public actively participated in this program and made the program a success. The Samrakshana Seva Trust will continue to provide such public services for the health, mental health and overall welfare of the community. The programs will be organized continuously.

Gopal's all-round efforts lead Coastal Kings Mangaluru to six-wicket victory : Karun Nair also stars with a 32-ball 61 ~

MYSORE : Karun Nair and Shreyas Gopal complimented each other to steer Coastal Kings Mangaluru to a six-wicket victory overs Mysore Warriors in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament on Thursday. The Coastal Kings were back in action less than 24 hours after losing to Bangalore Blasters by 20 runs on Wednesday. But they made light work of the fatigue factor with Nair and Gopal successfully chasing a 192-run target with a stunning and decisive 60-ball 123 run partnership for the fourth wicket.

The veteran duo, who have featured in many epic battles both for Karnataka and many franchises down the years, turned the tables after the Coastal Kings were reduced to 42-3 by the fifth over.

Nair, the top pick at Rs18-lakh in this year's auction, was at his flamboyant best making a 32-ball



61 (6 fours, three sixes) before he got out going for another big hit.

But an undeterred Gopal stayed till the end with a fine match-winning unbeaten 84 (43 balls, 9 fours, 3 sixes). He had earlier claimed two wickets for 25 runs to underline his all-round credentials.

Earlier, put into bat, opener Chethan LR, who had scored a

fine century in the previous match, was the main force for the Warriors' making an attacking 67 in 35 balls (4 fours, 6 sixes) to take his team to 191-9. Yuvraj Arora's 37 in 22 balls was next best score. V Koushik was the pick of the Coastal Kings bowling attack with a three wicket haul.

It was Coastal Kings' second victory in four matches and they moved to second spot on the table with five points while the Warriors suffered their third loss in four matches and stay at the bottom on two points.

BRIEF SCORES:

Coastal Kings Mangaluru won by six wickets

Mysore Warriors 191-9 in 20 overs (L R Chethan 67, Yuvraj Arora 37; Vasuki Koushik 3-43, Shreyas Gopal 2-25) lost to Coastal Kings Mangaluru 195-4 in 17 overs (Karun Nair 61, Shreyas Gopal 84; Arbind Kumar Rai 2-31) by six wickets.

1M1B Organizes Job Mela in Bengaluru; 350+ Youth Connected to Jobs Within Months of Launch of Green Skills & Applied AI CoE



Bengaluru : Just four months after the Green Skills & Applied AI for Climate Action Centre of Excellence (CoE) established by 1M1B in partnership with Microsoft and MeitY Startup Hub, with support from the Government of Karnataka that was inaugurated by Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar in February 2026, the Centre took a significant step in translating skilling into livelihoods by hosting a Job Mela that connected over 350 young job seekers with leading employers. In a matter of months, the CoE has begun closing the gap between skills and employment, demonstrating how a major Applied AI skilling partnership is already delivering tangible outcomes.Organised by 1M1B (

One Million for One Billion) in partnership with Microsoft at the Bengaluru CoE on Monday, the Job Mela reflects the rapid progress of the Centre in delivering on its core promise bridging the gap between future-ready Applied AI skills and meaningful careers. The drive brought together more than 10 leading employers across the technology, electronics, manufacturing, automotive, aerospace and engineering sectors, offering job openings spanning software development, AI-enabled roles, manufacturing, quality inspection, electronics, retail, telecom, BFSI and sales. More than 100 candidates from engineering, ITI, diploma, management and science backgrounds were selected, receiving on-the-spot job offers.

National Silk Expo Brings India’s Rich Weaving Traditions to Vijayawada

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) With the wedding season in full swing, the National Silk Expo has opened in Vijayawada, offering shoppers an opportunity to explore a vast collection of traditional and contemporary handloom and silk products from across India. The exhibition-cum-sale is being held from June 24 to 29 at Sri Sessa Sai Kalyan Vedaika on Bandar Road. The expo



showcases thousands of varieties of silk and cotton garments, including

designer sarees, blouses, kurtis, salwar materials, and other ethnic wear,

all under one roof. Visitors can avail themselves of discounts of up to 50 percent on a wide range of products brought directly by weavers and artisans from different states.

A major attraction of the exhibition is the presence of renowned regional weaves from across the country. These include Pure Paithani Silk Sarees from Maharashtra, Bangalore Silk, Soft Silk and Kashida Silk from Karnataka, Chanderi and Maheshwari Silks from Madhya Pradesh, and Baluchari, Jamdani,

Tangail, Dhakai Muslin, Linen Sarees and Kantha work creations from West Bengal. The expo also features Tassar, Matka and Bhagalpur Silk from Bihar, traditional Bandhini, Kutch embroidery and Patola from Gujarat, Kanjivaram Sarees from Tamil Nadu, and embroidered silk and Tabi Silk Sarees from Jammu & Kashmir. Shoppers can further explore Banarasi Silk Sarees, Jamdani and Lucknow Chikan work from Uttar Pradesh, along with Bandhej and hand-block print collec-

tions from Rajasthan.

Organisers said the exhibition serves as a platform to promote India's diverse weaving traditions while connecting artisans directly with customers. The event offers a unique opportunity for residents to shop for wedding-season attire and experience the rich textile heritage of different regions of the country. The National Silk Expo is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and entry is free for visitors. All major debit and credit cards are accepted at the venue.

Gruhalakshmi Scheme: 225 Crore Rupee Scam, Set Up SIT Probe Immediately: Opposition Leader R. Ashok Demands

Bengaluru : A massive 225 crore rupee government-sponsored loot has taken place in the Gruhalakshmi scheme, involving a gang of officials and politicians. Opposition Leader R. Ashok demanded that an SIT (Special Investigation Team) be constituted immediately to investigate this irregularity.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that despite the CAG report clearly stating a 225 crore rupee scam, the government has taken no action. Payments were made to fake accounts, and a big gang of officials and politicians is behind it. He questioned whether the Revenue Department is simply sleeping while money is being paid in the names of dead people.

Even though Karnataka is known as an IT state, the government has failed to prevent payments being made in the names of deceased persons. Software was deliberately designed to enable this loot in the names of the dead. This is the biggest cyber crime, and an SIT must be formed to investigate it. It has been found that 2.11 lakh beneficiaries are dead. Data of another 77,000 people is yet to be traced. Already 5,000 crore rupees have been swallowed, and now another scam has occurred. The Congress has formed a Guarantee Committee to award degrees to the "displaced" and is spending 150 crore rupees on it. This

committee has failed to prevent irregularities. In fact, they themselves are the leaders of these scams, he alleged.

In the Congress government, the Finance Department has become a department of crisis. Since no revenue is coming in from anywhere, pension payments for 16 lakh beneficiaries have been stopped for the last three months. Many of them cannot even go to government offices to follow up. If the government had conducted a proper survey, issued notices, and then cancelled them, it could have been accepted. But the government has adopted a policy of "Guarantees first, pensions later," he criticised.

Secretly Released Water to KRS Nadu

The KRS reservoir has a capacity of 124.80 feet, but currently has only 81.03 feet of water. Inflow is 689 cusecs, while outflow is 1,886 cusecs. This means an excessive amount of water is being released to Tamil Nadu. The government has already announced that no water will be given for crops or canals. Farmers who have grown half their crops are protesting in distress due to lack of water. Where is the 1,886 cusecs of water going when no one is being given water? It is being secretly released to Tamil Nadu. In the month of June, 9.19 TMC of water has to be released to Tamil Nadu, he said.



Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: City Mall, 2nd Floor, Office No.62/1521, YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode(Colicut)- 673001
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
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", 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.	Praseetha T S (Borrower) Joyan R (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHCLT00001565036 & LHCLT00001565037	Kuttikottar Village, Kozhikode Taluk Rsy No 59/46 Colicut Kerala 673008	Rs. 10,50,076 /- June 10, 2026	Rs. 11,09,012/- To Rs. 1,10,901/-	July 06, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	July 13, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	July 10, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 10, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
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 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of 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 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.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.
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 26, 2026
Place: Calicut

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

AP Draws Up Comprehensive Tourism Development Plan



Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography, Kandula Durgesh, has said the State Government is implementing both short-term and long-term strategies to develop Andhra Pradesh into a leading tourism destination. During a meeting with representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation at the Secretariat, the Minister announced that a high-level meeting with tour operators and industry stakeholders would be held soon to discuss tourism promotion and investment opportunities.The AP Chambers delegation appreciated the government's initiatives, including the AP Tourism Policy 2024-29, Tourism Land Allotment Policy, Beach Shack Policy and the "Visit AP" global campaign, stating that these measures have boosted investor confidence.



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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.	Sreevalsalan B (Borrower) Prathibha Nair (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHCCO00001422698 & LHCCO00001422699	Muthukulam Village Karunamuttam Ward Karthikapalli Taluk Alapuzha Re Sy No 512 16 3 Alapuzha Kerala- 690512	Rs. 47,25,975/- June 16, 2026	Rs. 47,45,887/- To Rs. 4,74,589/-	July 06, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	July 13, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	July 10, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 10, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
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For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>
Date: June 26, 2026
Place: Alapuzha

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

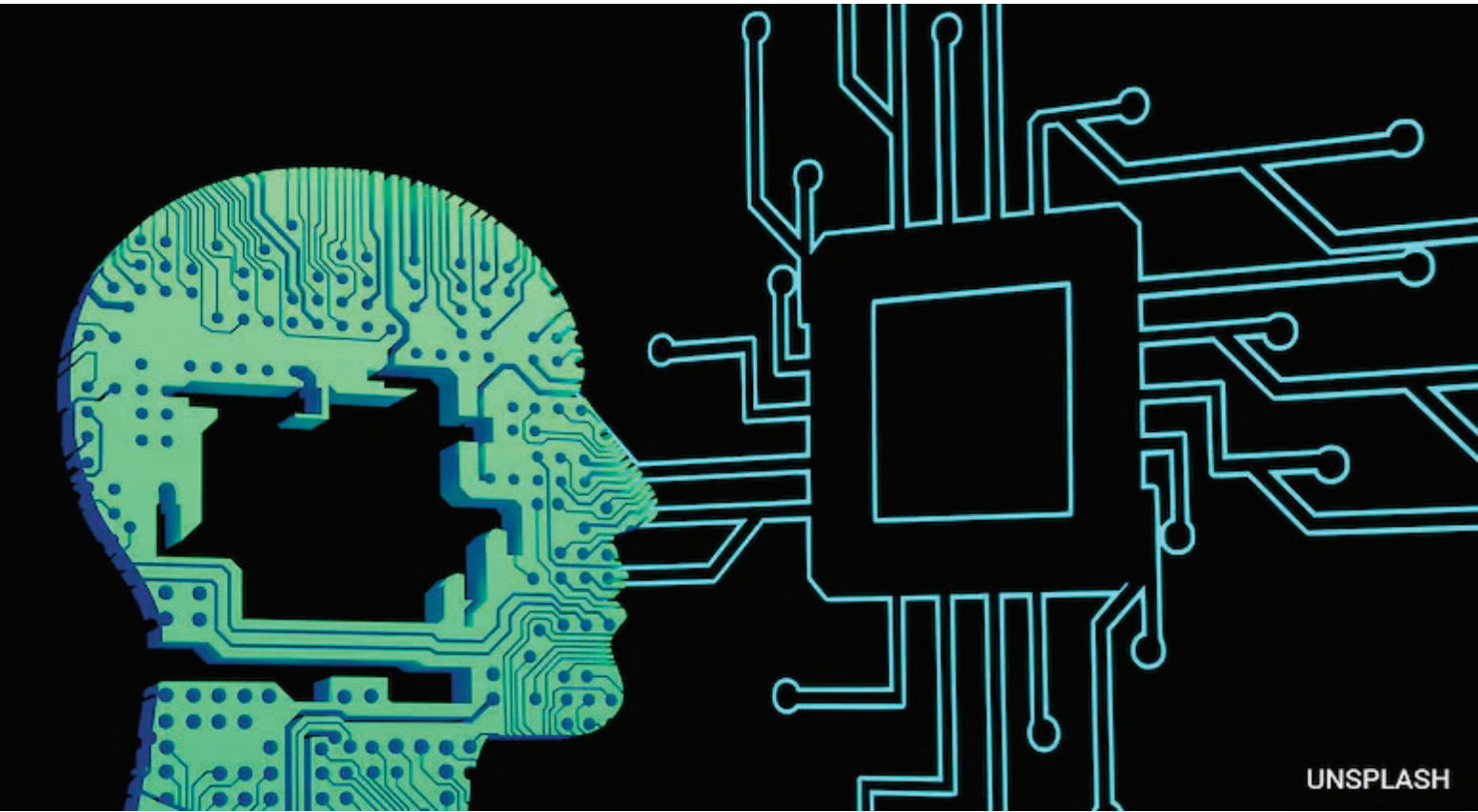
EDITORIAL

Will Bhagwant Mann's 'Video' Row Become A Larger Punjab Battle

Some words, once spoken in Punjab, never fully retire. They wait: Dharam Yudh Morcha. Guru Dokhi. Panth Virodhi. These are not ordinary political expressions. They carry religious sanction, institutional memory and the weight of decades Punjab has spent trying to put behind it. When such words resurface in the confrontation now playing out between Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Sri Akal Takht Sahib and the Shiromani Akali Dal, the right question is not who wins this round. It is whether Punjab is watching a dispute over one contested video or the opening moves of a wider Panthic mobilisation ahead of the 2027 Assembly election. The clearest signal has come from Sukhbir Singh Badal, who has given the AAP government until July 19 to remove Mann, failing which he has threatened to launch a Dharam Yudh Morcha to force him out. Punjab has witnessed many Panthic morchas, but the title Dharam Yudh Morcha refers primarily to the movement formally launched by the Akali Dal on August 4, 1982. The phrase describes an organised struggle for what is considered a righteous cause, rather than literally meaning a "holy war". Its most consequential political use was during the Akali Dal movement under Harchand Singh Longowal, built around the Anandpur Sahib Resolution and other Punjab-related demands. The politics of 2026 shares little with that of 1982. But the phrase does not carry politics alone; it carries memory. Once invoked, it can turn a political disagreement into a moral confrontation that is much harder to resolve or step back from. Beyond Mann: Why June 29 could be a turning point The confrontation enters a sensitive phase on June 29. The Five Singh Sahibans have summoned Sikh ministers and MLAs from different parties to appear before Sri Akal Takht Sahib. Non-Sikh ministers have been asked for written explanations instead. The summons relates to the Jagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026, passed allegedly without proper consultation with Panthic institutions. Bhagwant Mann has not been included because Sri Akal Takht Sahib has already issued a separate and more serious directive against him. The stakes go well beyond one appearance. For AAP's Sikh ministers and MLAs, this creates a real conflict: between staying loyal to their party, which passed the law, and respecting the Akal Takht, which many see as the Sikh community's highest authority. If they appear, it may look like they accept religious scrutiny over their legislative work. If they refuse, they risk being seen as disrespecting the Takht. Defending the law in person could also raise hard questions about where religious authority ends and constitutional authority begins. It may also expose cracks within AAP, if Sikh legislators respond differently from their party's official line and making Mann look more isolated. June 29, in short, will show whether this stays a fight about one Chief Minister, or grows into a bigger clash between the Punjab government and Panthic authority.

India In The Age Of AI: Producer, Consumer, Or Bystander

When Jio Platforms file for what promises to be one of the largest IPOs in Indian market history, the natural instinct is to celebrate. A company that rewired how 1.4 billion people connect with the internet is now inviting public capital into its story. That is, by any measure, a significant moment. But, capital markets have a way of forcing clarity. When institutional investors price an offering, they are valuing the next decade, weighing where value will be created and by whom. In that light, the Jio IPO arrives at a moment when a far more uncomfortable question about India's position in the global technology order deserves examination without sentiment. The question is quite straightforward. In the age of artificial intelligence, is India becoming a net consumer rather than a producer of the infrastructure that will govern economic life for the next half century? The honest answer is that we are trending in that direction. Understanding why, and whether that trajectory is reversible, matters more than the celebration or the alarm. The Platform Shift Problem Every generation of technology infrastructure produces a distinct class of winners. The winners are rarely those who were strongest in the previous era. They are those who recognised, early enough, that a platform shift had occurred and committed capital and conviction to the new foundational layer before the window narrowed. India understood this once. When mobile internet arrived, the government built Aadhaar and UPI. When 4G threatened to remain a premium product serving urban elites, Jio made the counter intuitive decision to subsidise access until scale made the economics work. From that infrastructure base, an entire generation of Indian digital busi-



nesses became possible. Zomato, Meesho, PhonePe, Nykaa, Zepto. None of them built the pipes. All of them needed the pipes to exist. Artificial intelligence is the next foundational layer. It is infrastructure itself, as much as fiber or spectrum. The distinction matters enormously, and India has yet to internalise it with the urgency the moment requires. The Seduction Of The Application Layer The consensus view that took hold among Indian technology leaders roughly two years ago had the surface logic of pragmatism. The United States and China were burning hundreds of billions on foundational model development. India's competitive advantage, the argument ran, lay in its deep software services capability, its cost efficiency and its ability to build applications serving specific markets and verticals. Why enter an arms race from a position of disadvan-

tage? It was a reasonable, plausible argument. It deserves to be taken seriously. There is even a version of the future where it proves correct. If AI models follow the trajectory of cloud computing or bandwidth, moving from scarce and expensive to abundant and cheap, then the greatest value may ultimately accrue to those who build indispensable products and workflows on top of commodity intelligence. India's strengths in enterprise software, services delivery, and market-specific execution could, in that scenario, prove more durable than ownership of any underlying model. The concern is that India appears to be making this bet by default rather than by design. That distinction matters because the ultimate economics of AI remain unsettled. It is entirely possible that foundation models evolve much like cloud infrastructure which is increasingly abundant, increasingly

interchangeable with value migrating toward products, workflows and distribution. If that proves to be the case, India's instinct to build at the application layer may ultimately look prescient rather than defensive. The problem is arriving there without having first made a conscious strategic choice. There is a meaningful difference between choosing the application layer because you have made a considered judgment about where value will compound rather than drifting toward it because building foundational models requires a scale of conviction and capital that no institution has yet organised. That is the distinction between strategy and drift. The evidence, at this point, points toward drift. What the Foundational Layer Confers If AI models remain strategic assets rather than commodities and serious analysts sit on both sides of that question, then the foundational

layer confers three things that the application layer is structurally unable to replicate. The first is pricing power. The second is data sovereignty. India has what may be the most valuable and least systematically captured training dataset on earth. Twenty-two scheduled languages. Over sixteen hundred dialects. A healthcare system whose patterns are distinct from any Western baseline. An agricultural economy whose granular data has no equivalent elsewhere. A legal and administrative repository that reflects governance at a scale no other democracy matches. Very little of this is being converted into model intelligence at national scale. Nor is conversion straightforward. Much of India's data remains fragmented, inconsistently labelled, or protected by legitimate privacy considerations. Possessing data is not the same as possessing usable training corpora.

Turning national data assets into model intelligence requires governance, standards and institutional coordination as much as raw scale. The third is compounding. There is, however, another plausible future. Open-weight models are improving rapidly, inference costs continue to decline and enterprises are increasingly fine-tuning existing models rather than training entirely new ones. If these trends accelerate, the barriers to building competitive AI applications could fall dramatically. India's software ecosystem would then enjoy a much larger opportunity than many currently assume. That possibility deserves to be taken seriously. It simply remains one possible future rather than an established outcome. One Company, Many Languages India's response to this challenge, at present, is largely embodied in a single organisation.

ACHIEVEMENT OR CONCERN: FIXED DOSE DRUG COMBINATIONS

- Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Health is the most important asset of any nation. Modern medical science has made unprecedented progress in the treatment of diseases, and a significant aspect of this progress is the combined use of various drugs. Many diseases require more than one drug for treatment. Keeping this need in mind, fixed-dose drug combinations (FDCs) were developed. FDCs are medicines that combine two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients in a specific ratio and are presented as a single drug. These can be in the form of tablets, capsules, syrups, or injections. FDCs have become an important part of the medical world today. They are widely used in the treatment of high blood pressure, diabetes, tuberculosis, HIV infection, heart disease, asthma, and various infections. The World Health Organization also considers the use of FDCs useful in certain conditions. While they have many benefits, their uncontrolled and irrational use has also raised serious concerns. There has been a long-standing debate, particularly in India, regarding the regulation and quality of FDCs. The basic purpose of FDCs is to simplify treatment. When a patient needs to take different medications multiple times a day, they often miss doses or don't take them regularly. This impacts the success of treatment. If the same medications are available in a single pill, it becomes easier

for the patient to take them. This is why FDCs are considered an effective tool to increase patient compliance. The biggest advantage of FDCs is patient convenience. Containing multiple medications in a single tablet simplifies medication administration. This is particularly useful for older patients, children, and those on long-term treatment. Reducing the number of medications reduces the likelihood of patients discontinuing treatment. This advantage is particularly important in diseases like tuberculosis and HIV, where incomplete treatment can have serious consequences. Another important benefit of FDCs is increased treatment effectiveness. In many diseases, combining different drugs produces better results. For example, the treatment of tuberculosis requires the combined use of multiple drugs because single-drug treatment can lead to bacterial resistance. Similarly, multi-drug therapy is part of the standard treatment for HIV infection. In such cases, FDCs simplify and make treatment more effective. Another benefit of FDCs is controlling drug resistance. Antibiotic resistance has become a global health crisis. If a patient skips one of the necessary medications, the potential for pathogens to develop resistance increases. FDCs help mitigate this problem by giving all necessary medications simultaneously. This prevents the patient from skipping a single medication,

making treatment more effective. FDCs are also often economically beneficial. The production, packaging, transportation, and distribution costs of combined drugs can be lower than those of individual drugs. This reduces the financial burden on healthcare systems. The use of FDCs in large government health programs can also simplify drug management and supply systems. FDCs are also useful for health administration. In national health programs, when medicines must be provided to large numbers of patients, distributing a single combined drug is more convenient than distributing individual drugs. This reduces storage requirements and makes it easier to ensure drug availability. Despite these advantages, FDCs also pose several serious challenges. The most significant problem is the lack of dosage flexibility. Each patient's needs are different. Often, a physician may want to increase or decrease the dosage of a particular drug, but this is impossible with FDCs because all the components are in fixed proportions. As a result, the patient must either change the entire drug or take a dosage that does not meet their needs. Another major drawback of FDCs is that they make it difficult to identify side effects. If a patient experiences an allergic reaction or other adverse effect after taking a combined medication, it can be difficult to identify which component caused the problem. This

can complicate treatment and compromise patient safety. Another significant problem is unnecessary medication use. Sometimes, patients don't need all the medications included in an FDC, yet they are still required to take the entire combination. This increases the risk of side effects and exposes patients to unnecessary additional medications. A fundamental principle of medical science is to give patients only the medication they need, but irrational FDCs can go against this principle. The biggest concern regarding FDCs in India has been irrational combinations. For a long time, many drugs were available on the market for combinations that had no clear scientific basis. In some cases, the components of the drugs reduced rather than enhanced each other's effects, while some combinations posed unnecessary risks to patients. This situation exposed the weaknesses of the drug regulatory system. Irrational combinations of antibiotics have been a particular concern. Their improper use promotes resistance in bacteria. When antibiotics become ineffective, even common infections become difficult to treat. The World Health Organization has identified antibiotic resistance as one of the greatest threats to human health. Therefore, special caution is necessary in the use of antibiotic FDCs. Challenges related to FDCs include the complexity of the regulatory system.

Britain Seems To Have A New National Hobby:Firing Its Prime Ministers

The tale of Britain's revolving-door prime ministers has become an embarrassment, if not the outright butt of social media jokes and memes. The churning at alarming regularity in Downing Street looks less like democratic renewal and more like political musical chairs. The country once prided itself on political stability. Not long ago, Margaret Thatcher spent more than a decade in Downing Street. Tony Blair lasted 10 years. Even David Cameron survived six. Today, however, the world's one of the oldest democracies suffers from an unbelievable inability to keep a prime minister in office. If Andy Burnham eventually succeeds Keir Starmer, Britain will have had seven prime ministers in roughly a decade: David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and now Burnham or someone else. For a country that likes to lecture others on stable democratic governance, it is an astonishing but quite worrying record. The most obvious question is why. Why has British democracy become so politically restless? Why do prime ministers now seem to have shorter shelf lives and are found easily disposable? Some here believe that the easy answer is Brexit. The referendum simply divided Britain. It also shattered the political consensus that had ruled the country for decades. It exposed deep tensions between London and the rest of the country, between younger and older voters,



between those who felt globalisation had benefited them and those who felt abandoned by it. No British prime minister since Brexit has truly escaped those divisions. Theresa May was consumed by trying to implement Brexit. Boris Johnson won power by promising to "Get Brexit Done" but discovered that slogans are easier than governing. Liz Truss destroyed her own premiership in a matter of weeks. One saw Rishi Sunak coming as a breath of fresh air. He inherited a broken Conservative Party but carried on bravely until he was undone by the weight of his own promises. Keir Starmer, who also inherited a broken country, must be credited for getting a handsome win at the election in 2024, temporarily uniting the people in opposite camps. But in many ways, Starmer's fall is the most fascinating of them all. Future historians will struggle to identify his great political crime. He did not crash the economy. He felt the pressure of Trump who pushed him hard to join him

in the war against Iran, But he did not lead Britain into war. He was not involved in any corruption or scandal. Yet he still fell. His mistake appears to have been more subtle. He offered just about enough competence at a time when voters were demanding transformation. Britain today is a country where economic growth has stagnated, public services are struggling, housing is increasingly unaffordable and living standards have barely improved for many households in years. Voters did not merely want a more efficient prime minister. They wanted someone who could persuade them that the future would be better than the present. Starmer never managed to tell that story. He could never win the war of narratives against the Reform Party or other opponents. Ironically, it's quite shocking to see that the former chief prosecutor struggled to make his case. He was seen as a ruler who believed that seriousness alone would eventually be rewarded. But he should have known that

voters often forgive mistakes. What they rarely forgive is a sense that nothing is changing. Stagnation is a politician's biggest adversary. The other thing that slowly crept against his premiership was the rise of Reform UK and the wider populist right. Nigel Farage has achieved something remarkable. He has convinced millions of voters that he is an anti-establishment outsider despite spending decades in politics. The more mainstream politicians attacked him, the stronger he appeared to have become. Labour responded by shifting to the right on migration and border controls, hoping to win back voters tempted by Reform. The strategy failed. And it failed miserably. The public wanted the original, they did not want the imitation. The result was predictable. Labour lost support both to Reform on one side and to the Greens on the other. To be fair Starmer came to power at a time when the move to the right had become a force globally. Across Europe, centre-left parties faced the same dilemma. Do they move closer to the populist right or offer a clear alternative? Starmer chose convergence. His critics now argue that Burnham is being chosen because he represents contrast. Whether that proves true remains to be seen. But Burnham's appeal is easy to understand. He comes from northern England. He talks about jobs, transport, housing and public services. He defeated the Reform Party candidate a few days ago in a bypoll.



Rescuers searching rubble after Venezuela's STRONGEST EARTHQUAKE SINCE 1900

President Trump and other administration officials have vowed to help Venezuela - a process helped along by warmer relations between the two countries following the US capture of Nicolas Maduro in early January. Since then, Trump has repeatedly signalled a willingness to work with interim president Delcy Rodríguez, on whom he frequently lavishes praise. So far, we have very little information on what that US assistance will look like. Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier said that US-based search and rescue teams are being deployed. He added that aid flights will be handled by the defence department, due to damage to Caracas' main airport. The Pentagon, however, tells me they have no information to provide at this time. Similarly, the White House and State Department has yet to provide any information on what assistance might be coming, and how



much. Representatives of Venezuela-focused organisations in South Florida - the heart of the country's diaspora in the US - tell me they're working on ramping up assistance from their communities, but so far have no further details. Maduro, for his part, is currently in a federal detention facility in New York awaiting trial. In a statement posted on X - presumably by members of his

team - Maduro called for "maximum solidarity" and "maximum action" in response to the earthquake. I've been speaking to Leander Pérez, who lives in the Santa Rosalía parish in central Caracas. His home was badly damaged in the earthquake so he slept on the street last night. During the earthquakes he and his mother and his neighbours were trapped in the building

for a while, as one of the security gates was bent and it wouldn't open, but they eventually kicked it open, he says. "We spent the night in a public square. On the pavement. Most of the neighbours slept in the streets. We are in deep shock," he says, "I have friends with missing relatives". He says his apartment block is "uninhabitable". "All the walls cracked during the earthquake and

we had to evacuate the building," he tells me. "You cannot live there. It is not safe." It is now mid-morning in Venezuela, which last night was hit by two powerful earthquakes. What happened The 7.2-magnitude and 7.5-magnitude quakes hit less than a minute apart at around 18:00 local time (23:00 BST) - the second was the strongest to hit the country since 1900. Both were very shallow at less than 30km below ground, potentially adding to the damage. Footage shows the moment the earthquake shook a BBC journalist's home in Caracas. The damage At least 164 people have been killed and 971 injured, according to acting president Delcy Rodríguez. These tolls could increase significantly as rescue efforts continue, with the US Geological Survey putting the potential loss of life at more than 10,000 - here's a closer look at its estimates

and how they are calculated. The most affected state is La Guaira, north of Caracas, where "dozens" of buildings have collapsed, according to Rodríguez. Before-and-after pictures show a 10-storey hotel reduced to rubble. The rescue effort Footage shows rescuers searching devastated buildings in the capital Caracas, and people have been heard calling for help, BBC News Mundo reports. Several countries have offered support, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio saying the US response would be "big", "fast" and "effective". More than 100 buildings have collapsed in La Guaira, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said. The update adds that acting President Delcy Rodríguez has given permission for all UN urban search and rescue teams to be deployed to offer logistics and other support to other incoming teams.

KEY FIGURE IN SOUTH AFRICA POLICE CORRUPTION SCANDAL PLEADS GUILTY



Vusumusi "Cat" Matlala, a central figure in a major ongoing police graft inquiry in South Africa, has pleaded guilty to corruption, fraud and money-laundering charges as part of a deal with state prosecutors. He was accused of bribing top police officials to win a 360m rand (\$22m; £16.5m) tender for his health company Medicare24 in 2024. The plea deal, which has not yet been accepted by the magistrate, would result in Matlala giving evidence against "high-ranking officials", state advocate Santhos Manilall said. Police chief Gen Fannie Masemola is one of those facing charges in relation to this case. He has denied the charges. Manilall told the court in

the capital, Pretoria, that it had taken almost two months of negotiations to put the deal together. If accepted, it would result in Matlala, 49, serving eight years in prison. The state's lawyer said that the "sacrifice" of a more lenient sentence would be worth it, as "for the first time we have an accused who has... given us detail that we would not have been made aware of". As part of the deal, Matlala is required to give honest and frank testimony at future trials. But in a blistering attack, the Democratic Alliance (DA), the junior partner in South Africa's governing coalition, called the arrangement a "sweetheart deal" and "a betrayal of accountability" that may not result in a successful prosecution. DA justice spokesperson Glynnis Breytenbach said it was evidence of a two-tier justice system, as "one of the country's most prominent corruption accused is allowed to negotiate what amounts to a discounted sentence".

Trump asks Congress for billions for Iran war, after tension with Republicans

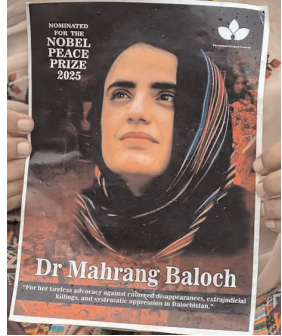


The White House has asked lawmakers to approve \$87.6bn (\$66.5bn), mostly for "urgent needs" connected with the US war on Iran, a day after Congress passed a resolution rebuking the military action. The bulk of the funding - \$67bn - is for the US Department of Defence, the White House said. But the proposal faces an uphill battle in Congress. The Iran conflict is unpopular with voters ahead of the US midterm elections in November, though a ceasefire is currently in effect. US President Donald Trump has also found himself at odds with some members of his Republican Party over the issue of Iran, and is alleged to have ended up in an angry exchange with one senator on Wednesday. That senator, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, was one of a handful of Republicans who defied the president on Tuesday by voting to pass a measure demanding that he halt the war or seek congressional approval before continuing military action. Cassidy fell back in line after his alleged sparring

with the president, and after receiving assurances from members of Trump's administration. He and others went on to vote down another similar measure in the Senate late on Wednesday. "Most of this request will address urgent needs related to Operation Epic Fury (OEF)," says the letter, referring to the Iran war. The request includes \$21bn for munitions, \$17.3bn for operational costs and \$12.1bn for classified programmes. It also asks for about \$300m to bolster security at US embassies and diplomatic outposts in the Middle East and South Asia after some of them came under attack earlier in the war. The other requested money would be for unrelated measures, including \$11bn for US farmers and \$1.4bn to tackle the Ebola outbreak in Central Africa. Washington and Tehran are currently observing a ceasefire in the war, but the White House budget office letter notes that the Pentagon needs to "rebuild stocks" after its military strikes.

The woman who fought for Pakistan's disappeared men now faces life in jail

When Dr Mahrang Baloch was a teenager, she joined hundreds of families across Pakistan's south-western province of Balochistan to search for her father, who was allegedly arrested by security forces and later killed. Years on, the doctor-turned-activist became one of the most recognisable faces of a movement demanding answers about enforced disappearances in the province. Now, she faces life behind bars. A Pakistani anti-terrorism court sentenced Mahrang and fellow activist Sibghatullah Shah to life imprisonment on Monday after convicting them of terrorism, sedition and murder in connection with the death of a paramilitary soldier during a protest in the town of Gwadar in



2024. The pair deny the charges and are expected to appeal. Speaking to the BBC after the ruling, Mahrang's sister Nadia Baloch said the family remained defiant. "We will challenge this decision in the higher courts," said Nadia, who is also part of her sister's legal team. Asked whether she had visited her sister in prison, Nadia paused.

Europe's heatwave shifts east as France raises health alert to highest level

Heatwave conditions that have left Spain, France and the UK sweltering for days are set to shift to the east, with forecasters in Germany and the Czech Republic warning of extreme conditions. Temperatures in Germany could hit 40C in some western and south-western areas on Thursday, and across the country on Friday. An extreme weather warning is now in place in much of the Czech Republic. In France, Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu announced the health alert level is being raised to its highest, to boost hospital staffing and protect the vulnerable. Health Minister Stéphanie Rist said they were now seeing deaths linked to the extreme temperatures among "young

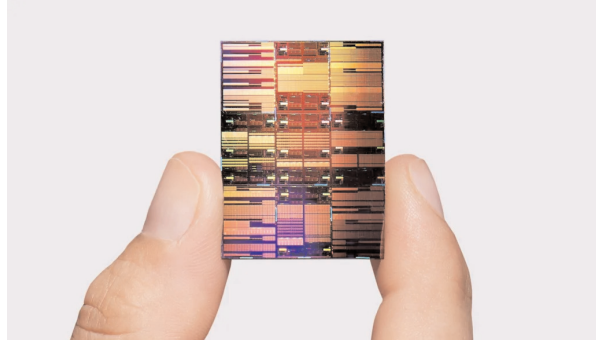


people who suffer cardiac arrests", as well as the elderly. United Nations climate change chief Simon Stiell has said "Europe's savage heatwave has the fingerprints of the climate crisis all over it", and he has called for "a faster shift to renewables, protecting forests and boosting climate resilience". After France recorded its hottest day on Wednesday

over a 24-hour period, although she stressed there were no confirmed figures for the number of deaths linked to the heatwave. Paris mayor Emmanuel Grégoire said the mortality rate was on the rise in the capital. "We must not believe ourselves to be invulnerable," he told French TV. "I am thinking especially about the youth..." At about 19:30 last night... I saw 100 or so joggers on the street. Frankly, that's irresponsible." "It's fine to take a couple of days off from exercising," he added. Meanwhile, a three-year-old child has been found dead in a car in the Paris region, days after two young children were found dead in the family's car in the southern town of Carpentras.

IBM HAILS NEW 'BLOCK OF FLATS' DESIGN BREAKTHROUGH FOR ULTRA TINY CHIPS

IBM has unveiled a new chip design which it says could enable manufacturers to cram 100 billion transistors on a silicon chip the size of a fingernail. The current industry-standard size for chips, measured in the unit of nanometres - a billionth of a metre and the size of a few atoms - is around two nanometres (nm). But IBM claims its new chip tech is the equivalent of around 0.7nm, which may make it the world's first known chip technology below 1nm. However, it will be several years before the chip tech could be ready to go into production. The firm claims in tests, its prototype performed 50% better than its own 2nm



chip and was 70% more energy efficient. It claimed similar boosts in performance when it debuted its 2nm chip tech back in 2021 - saying at the time its tests of those, slightly larger, chips produced similar leaps in performance and energy efficiency. Jay Gambetta, direc-

tor of IBM Research and IBM Fellow, described the NanoStack tech as a "landmark moment" for the future of chips. "With our new NanoStack architecture, we're not just making smaller transistors, we're reinventing how chips are built to deliver dramatically more

power and energy efficiency," he said. Transistors are the building blocks of silicon chips - which provide computing power for the world's electronics, including smartphones, games consoles and laptops. They have also become crucial to the powerful computers housed in data centres, processing a range of everyday digital activities from streaming to online banking, and powering the generative AI boom. The more transistors manufacturers can squeeze onto a chip, the more powerful the chip becomes, and therefore the more devices can do. At the same time, designers strive to make the chips themselves ever smaller.



Families lay flowers on barbed wire barricade on anniversary of deadly Kenya protests

THE ICE RAIDS ARE OVER, BUT SOME MINNESOTANS SAY THEY STILL LIVE IN FEAR



Aliah, a 20-year-old student in Minnesota, expected her new American life to be all about studying and work after fleeing Afghanistan in 2021 and being granted asylum in the US. But earlier this year, when federal immigration enforcement agents flooded the Minneapolis area during Operation Metro Surge, she faced a much different reality. Months after the operation's official end,

its effects still linger. "We're still a little scared," Aliah, who has a green card, told the BBC. Like several people in this report, she is not sharing her real or full name over safety concerns, but her identity has been verified. Her family is praying the immigration operation in Minnesota doesn't ramp up again. "We don't have anywhere to go if we go back to my country."

Ryanair says it will reluctantly not charge parents to sit next to children



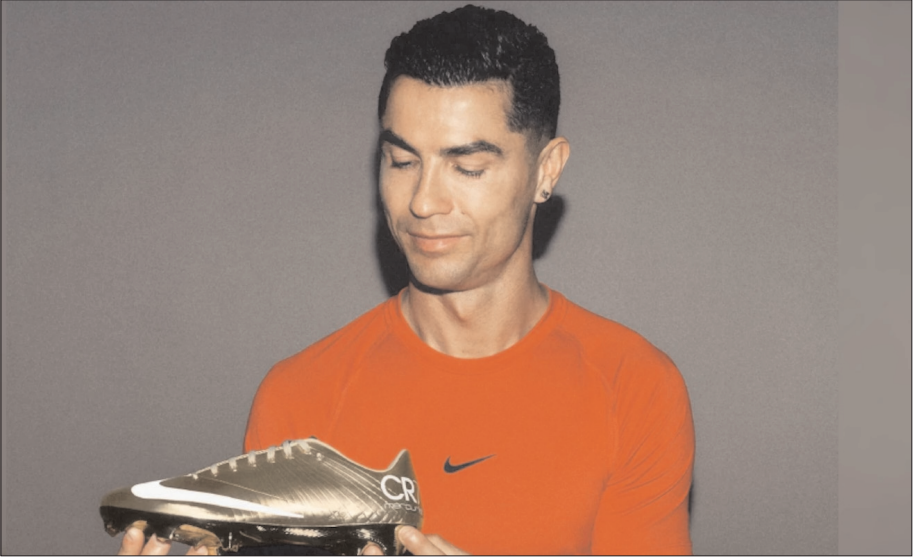
=Ryanair has changed its family seating policy to allow parents to sit next to their young children without paying a seat reservation fee, after an investigation was opened. Adults travelling with children who do not wish to pay for a reserved seat will now be told of their free seat allocation after check-in, which Ryanair said was in line with most other European airlines. Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary said it would "reluctantly adjust to this industry standard", but insisted its long-standing policy fully complied with laws and had given families "certainty". It comes after the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said it was looking into whether the policy was unfair under consumer law. The CMA said it would test whether the airline's new seating policy complies with the law, and that its investigation continues. 'Minor policy tweak' Under the old policy, Ryanair said adults travelling with children paid one reserved seat fee, and could select seats beside them for up to four children for free. This typically led to a fee of £8 each way, the CMA said when it

launched its investigation earlier this month. It said at the time it was looking at whether the airline's "approach to seat reservations may mean parents are being charged for the airline to meet its child safety and disability-related obligations as set out under aviation rules - and will investigate to determine whether or not this practice is in line with consumer law". Other airlines offered to seat children next to a parent or guardian without a fee, or allocate seats together automatically during booking for free, it added. Ryanair said its policy had given families certainty of where they would be sitting at the time of booking, which they had valued. It said the "free parent seats" will now be available at the back of the aircraft, as front rows tend to be reserved. The "minor policy tweak" came into effect on Thursday, it said. It does not expect the change to have an effect on Ryanair's revenue. O'Leary hit out at the CMA for targeting its family seating policy, which he said had been "universally embraced by consumers as the most progressive and transparent in Europe".

HISTORY IN GOLD: C

Cristiano Ronaldo's World Cup 'Record' Honoured With Special-Edition Boots

American sportswear giant Nike has released a special edition Gold Mercurial Superfly RGN football boot to celebrate Cristiano Ronaldo's remarkable 20-year career. Ronaldo, who has a lifetime contract with Nike, is likely to wear the boot during Portugal's FIFA World Cup 2026 Group Stage clash against Colombia on Sunday. According to Footy Headlines, the boots feature a striking metallic gold base with white detailing. Each pair incorporates a 3/4-length Air Zoom unit, Flywire support, and a tacky, soft upper finish for optimal ball control. Retailing at \$300 (Rs 28,343 approx.), the boots were released worldwide on Wednesday, a day after Ronaldo scored a brace during Portugal's 5-0 win against Uzbekistan. Ronaldo



became the first player to score at six different World Cup editions, and the boots celebrate his remarkable consistency and a career spanning more than two decades. In a career defined by records, resilience and

relentless ambition, Ronaldo once again showed that age is merely a number. As football's grandest stage welcomed him for a sixth World Cup, he responded in the only way he knows -- by making history. Ronaldo produced

a record-breaking performance with a brace as Portugal registered a commanding 5-0 victory over Uzbekistan. Nuno Mendes and Rafael Leao were also on the scoresheet, while an own goal involving Uzbekistan goalkeeper

Abduvohid Nematov added to the Fabio Cannavaro men's woes as Roberto Martinez's side secured their first win of the tournament in emphatic fashion. Speaking after the match, Ronaldo said the team showed significant progress from their opening match, which was a draw against DR Congo. While acknowledging that breaking records was special, he stressed that his main objective is always to help the national team achieve its goals. "The team performed really well and improved a lot. As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining. Obviously, speaking personally, records are always nice but my goal is always to help the national team achieve its objectives," he said as quoted by Reuters.

NBA DRAFT 2026: LOS ANGELES LAKERS ACQUIRE NO. 56 PICK FROM CHICAGO BULLS FOR CASH

The Los Angeles Lakers made sure they would not sit out the second round of the 2026 NBA Draft. Just hours before Wednesday night's draft action, the Lakers and Chicago Bulls completed a deal that brought the No. 56 overall pick to Los Angeles. According to ESPN insider Shams Charania, the Lakers sent cash considerations to Chicago in exchange for the selection. While the move may look small on paper, it gives the Lakers another opportunity to add young talent and possibly set up more moves later in the night. Los Angeles Lakers Acquire No. 56 Pick From Chicago Bulls In Cash Deal The Lakers entered Wednesday without a second-round selection, but that changed after the front office struck a deal with the Bulls. ESPN's Shams Charania reported on X, "The Los Angeles Lakers are acquiring No. 56 from the Chicago Bulls



in the second round of the NBA draft tonight at 8 pm ET on ESPN. Lakers sent cash to the Bulls to get a pick tonight." The trade ensures Los Angeles will now have a presence in the second round. The move continues a recent pattern for the Lakers. The franchise has regularly used cash to buy second-round picks in recent years. In 2022, Los Angeles acquired

the No. 35 pick and eventually selected Max Christie. Last year, the team moved around the board before landing the No. 36 pick, which they used to draft Adou Thiero. With a similar strategy unfolding again, league observers expect the Lakers to remain active. More importantly, acquiring the No. 56 pick gives the Lakers flexibility.

Lionel Messi's Argentina Teammates Celebrate His Birthday With Heartfelt Gesture

Lionel Messi celebrated his 39th birthday on Wednesday during a World Cup that, at least for now, has brought him nothing but joy: Defending champion Argentina has already qualified for the knockout stage, and its captain has become the tournament's career scoring leader. Messi marked the occasion alongside his teammates at Argentina's training base in Kansas City, Missouri. This is his sixth World Cup and the fifth time he's had a birthday during the tournament. The exception was the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which was played in November and December. Messi has scored all of Argentina's goals so far: three in its opening win over Algeria



and two more in its victory over Austria. He has 18 for his World Cup career, two better than Miroslav Klose and Kylian Mbappe. On social media, Messi shared a photo of himself with a

cake, alongside some of his teammates. The cake was from Pan Caliente, a Kansas City bakery owned by an Argentine pastry chef. In another picture, Argentina players posed

alongside Messi, all wearing T-shirts featuring a personal photo of themselves with the captain. "To the man who changed our lives, gave us unforgettable moments, and made us believe that dreams are possible... The best part wasn't just seeing it - it was living it with you! Happy birthday, Captain; we love you. May you be immensely happy," the T-shirts read, according to a social media post by forward Julian Alvarez. FIFA, his club Inter Miami and his former club Barcelona were among those sending birthday wishes to Messi. In his hometown of Rosario, around 5,000 kids from local schools sang "Happy Birthday," and a few even brought cakes.

Olympic Equestrian Anush Agarwalla Goes To Court Over Asian Games Non-Selection

Indian dressage rider Anush Agarwalla has challenged his exclusion from India's dressage team for the 2026 Asian Games and approached the Delhi High Court. At its core, the dispute is about how the selection criteria should be interpreted and whether some of Agarwalla's international competition scores should have been counted while preparing the final order of merit. The dispute centres on the treatment of scores achieved by Agarwalla at two international competitions: CDI Hagen, Germany (April 22-26) and CDI Lier, Belgium (May 20-24). The EFT ad-hoc panel says those scores could not be counted in the manner sought by Agarwalla because they did not comply with the selection criteria. Agarwalla,



on the other hand, has challenged that interpretation before the court. The selection system for Asian Games selection, riders had to compete in designated selection trials and achieve the required standards. One of the key requirements, according to EFT, was that riders had to declare at least

Agarwalla emailed EFT stating that only the Inter-I test at CDI Hagen would count as his third Asian Games trial. He also indicated his intention to compete in PSG and Inter-I Freestyle at Lier later. On April 18 he made a revised request, asking that both PSG and Inter-I at Hagen be counted as part of his third qualifier. EFT's position is that this revised request came after the seven-day deadline and therefore could not be accepted. The Hagen score At Hagen, Agarwalla recorded a PSG score of 70.941 per cent. However, EFT says that because the PSG test had not been declared within the stipulated time, the score could not be counted for qualification, merit ranking or selection purposes.

FIFA OPENS WAY FOR RUSSIA YOUTH TEAM TO ENTER COMPETITION

More than four years after the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, FIFA on Thursday indicated that it was opening the way for Russia to enter an international youth competition. In announcing its under-15 'World Cup and Festival' in Azerbaijan from October 22 to 31, the governing body of world football said it would be open to everyone. Even though Russian national teams and clubs have been barred from international competitions since 2022, FIFA never suspended the membership of the Russian football federation. A spokesperson for FIFA would not directly mention Russia when talking to AFP but confirmed that the tournament "is open to all FIFA member associations" and noted that the competition format and details regarding participants would be



announced later. Russia immediately interpreted the statement as an invitation to return. "We welcome FIFA's decision to allow the Russian national team to take part in the World Cup and the FIFA U-15 Festival, which will be held in Azerbaijan in October 2026. This is an important step toward bringing Russian teams back into international sport," posted Russian Sports Minister Mikhail Degtyarev on

social media. This move appears to be part of a gradual relaxing of restrictions on Russian and Belarusian athletes. In May, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommended lifting restrictions on Belarusian athletes — allowing them to compete under their national flag and anthem and participate in team sports — while recommending that restrictions on Russian athletes remain in place.

VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI WOULD SAY 'HIS HEAD WAS HURTING': A NEVER-HEARD-BEFORE TALE ON STAR'S METEORIC RISE

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's family, and the rest of India, would be looking forward to the team sheet on Friday when the side gets down to action against Ireland in the first of two T20Is in Belfast. If Sooryavanshi is named in the XI, he will be the youngest cricketer (15 years, 91 days) to play for the Indian cricket team. Sooryavanshi has also been selected for the India T20I series against England that starts next month, and his chances of making an India debut are high. Sooryavanshi might be making his India debut before reaching the age of just 16, but his journey has been long and arduous. In fact, it did not even begin with him; it began with his father, Sanjiv, who was a club-level cricketer from the village of



Motipur, according to a deep-dive story on Sooryavanshi by The Athletic. He could not fulfill his dream but invested everything when cricket coaches said his son had the poten-

tial to make it big. Brajesh Jha was Sooryavanshi's first coach. "When he first came, there were very few children playing cricket in Samastipur district," Jha says. "There was this tiny child among all the seniors... as soon as he was told something, he followed the task very quickly - how to take a stance, how to run, whatever was explained to him."

MRITI MANDHANA DEPARTS, SHAFALI VERMA ON THE CHARGE



Smriti Mandhana has departed but Shafali Verma and Yastika Bhatia are batting with confidence. India limited Bangladesh to 136 for 8 in their crucial Women's T20 World Cup match on Thursday. Opener Juairiya Ferdous (33) and skipper Nigar Sultana (32) were the significant contributors for Bangladesh after they opted to bat first. Coming back into the side, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (3/28 in 4 overs) picked up three wickets for India during an impressive outing, even as her other colleagues chipped in economical bowling. OUR! Not from the middle but it does the job. Marufa serves it on a length, on off. Shafali gets on the front foot and goes hard on the drive. The bat turns in her hand but she manages to pick the gap between cover and mid off for a four. India Women have already surpassed what Bangladesh Women managed to score in their Powerplay. Now, with two overs still to go before field restrictions are lifted, India will want to extend the difference even more.

Rabeya Khan holds onto it and that will be that for Smriti Mandhana. Floated up there, on off. Mandhana leans onto the drive and plays it crisply but can't keep it down. Rabeya Khan gets low to her left at cover. She grabs hold of the ball before falling to the ground. Mandhana starts to walk off, but is asked to wait as the third umpire is summoned to check the legality of the catch. As Rabeya fell to the ground, she had the ball in her left hand. The third umpire checks a couple of angles, but she has no conclusive evidence to say that the ball came in contact with the ground at the time Rabeya was not in control of her body. She sticks to the on-field call of Out. India Women are 31/1, chasing 137 runs. ntidy by Nigar Sultana. Very full, outside off by Marufa. Mandhana is late in getting her bat down, and it sneaks under the blade. Nigar was moving to her right and was caught wrong-footed. She gets low to make the stop, but the ball clips her fingertips and goes behind.

Neymar's 4-Word Post After Long Awaited Return To Brazil Team Is Viral

Neymar Jr., one of the most iconic football players of his generation, made a return to the Brazil national team after a hiatus of about 1000 days, appearing as a substitute in the FIFA World Cup Group C match against Scotland. Neymar, whose addition to the Brazil team for the FIFA World Cup 2026 was quite debatable, wasn't available for selection for the Selecao's first two games due to an injury. As he stepped onto the pitch as a second-half substitute against Scotland, Neymar's eyes filled with tears. The Brazil No. 10 also shared a post on Instagram after his debut in this edition of the tournament. The post has since gone viral. Neymar

remains one of the most loved players from his country. The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain man is the top-scoring active player for Brazil in World Cups, with 8 goals to his name. The man leading the charts in the all-time list for Brazil is Ronaldo (El Fenomenon) with 15 strikes. Taking to Instagram after making an appearance in Brazil's 3-0 win over Scotland on Wednesday, Neymar wrote: "REMEBER WHO YOU ARE". Speaking to reporters after the match, Neymar said the team is united and fully focused on achieving their target in the tournament. "I'm eager for it, not just me, but the whole team. The group

wants to win. We know that if we unite and this 'desire' grows stronger and stronger, we have a great chance of achieving our goal," he said. Neymar took the field for Brazil for the first time since 2023 as the 34-year-old came off the bench in the closing stages. Neymar marked his return to the field after recovering from a calf injury, after he missed the first two Group C matches. Neymar not only marked his first appearance in the ongoing World Cup but also marked his return to action for the first time since October 2023, when he sustained a serious anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury during a World Cup qualifier against

Uruguay. The injury ruled him out for an extended period and limited his involvement in Brazil's qualification campaign. Neymar entered the field in the 76th minute of the match against Scotland as he substituted Matheus Cunha. The forward came on to make his fourth FIFA World Cup appearance, completing a remarkable milestone in his international career.



GRAND LAUNCH OF 'VENKATRAMAYYA GARI TALUKA' TEASER AND AUDIO

Star-Studded Event Held at Prasad Labs

Worldwide Theatrical Release on July 18

ETV Prabhakar's Daughter Divija Prabhakar Makes Her Debut as Heroine

The teaser and songs of the upcoming family entertainer 'Venkatramayya Gari Taluka', starring Dinesh Kumar as the lead hero and introducing Divija Prabhakar, daughter of renowned actor ETV Prabhakar, as the heroine, were unveiled at a grand event held at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad, in the presence of several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry.

Directed by Satish Awala and jointly produced by Komali Mahender Thotte and Somesh Saripalli under the Komali Creations banner, the film has completed all production formalities and is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on July 18. The teaser and songs

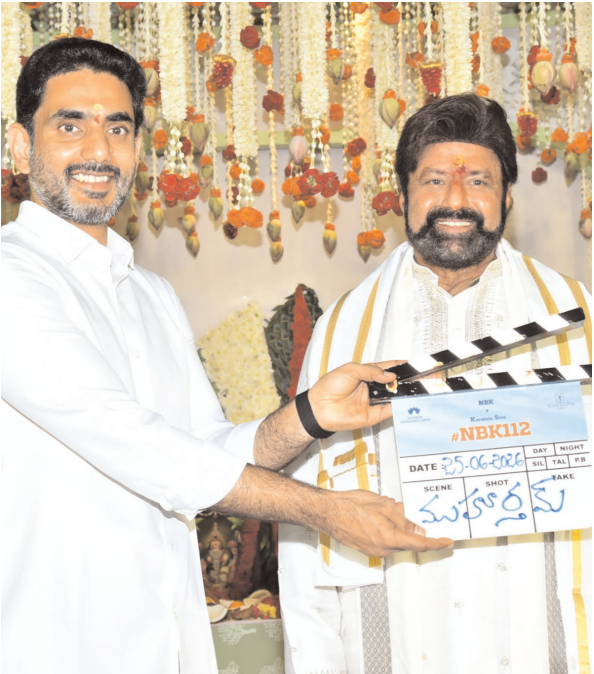


received an overwhelming response from the audience as well as members of the film fraternity. According to the makers, the film revolves around human relationships, family values, parental love, emotional bonding, and father sentiment, promising a deeply emotional cinematic experience.

The film also features Muralidhar Goud and Sudha

Speaking at the event, ETV Prabhakar said: "I am delighted to be part of the teaser and audio launch of this beautiful film. The story reminded me of the emotionally rich family dramas directed by Muthyala Subbaiah garu. It has been a long time since I heard such a touching script, and that is why I encouraged my daughter Divija to be a part of this project. Producer Komali has worked tirelessly to bring this film to life, while director Satish Awala has shouldered the responsibility with great dedication. The film beautifully portrays the greatness of a father and the importance of parents. Every song in this film has the power to touch the audience's hearts. We always thought our daughter would become a doctor, but today she is making her debut as an actress through this wonderful film. I request everyone to bless her and wish the film grand success."

NBK112 LAUNCHED GRANDLY IN AMARAVATI



Balakrishna for giving me this opportunity to be part of this special occasion. Under the leadership of our Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, we are working with a vision to strongly promote the film industry in Amaravati, the People's Capital. Along with cinema, it is also the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision to encourage the creator economy. To achieve this, the government is committed to developing world-class infrastructure, advanced finishing studios, and facilities equipped with the latest technology, creating a sustainable ecosystem for the industry. I would also like to thank the producers and the director. We consider it our privilege that this launch event is taking place here. This is not just

Sukumar Writings, Bunny Vas Works, and Priyadarshi's Film "Idupu Kayitham" Grandly Launched by Acclaimed Star Director Lokesh Kanagaraj

The film Idupu Kayitham, starring Priyadarshi and produced under the banners of Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works, was launched grandly today with traditional pooja ceremonies. The film is being produced by Bunny Vas and acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar. Telangana folk Dancer Nagadurga plays the female lead. Directed by young filmmaker Vamsi Reddy Dondapati, Idupu Kayitham is an entertaining family drama

set against a Telangana backdrop. Renowned Kollywood director Lokesh Kanagaraj attended the launch event as the chief guest and unveiled the film's first-look poster. Prominent personalities including Allu Aravind, Dil Raju, Naveen Yerneni, KL Damodar Prasad, SKN, Bapineedu, Sai Rajesh, Venu Udugula, and Sai Marthand were also present. Allu Aravind gave the ceremonial clap for the muhurtham shot.



The Bhaukaal Gets Bigger Than Ever! The Teaser of the Year's Most Awaited Film, Mirzapur: The Movie out now

The wait is finally over, and the bhaukaal is bigger than ever. The teaser of Mirzapur: The Movie has arrived, offering the first glimpse into one of the most anticipated cinematic events of the year. For the first time, the iconic world of Mirzapur is making the leap from OTT to theatres, bringing its trademark intensity, gripping storytelling, and larger-than-life scale to cinemas. Staying rooted in the timeline that began with Season 1 in 2018, the film expands the saga with an epic untold story crafted for the big screen. Set to release on 4th September 2026, it promises to present the beloved franchise in an all-new theatrical avatar. The teaser welcomes audiences back to the world of Mirzapur with Ali Fazal, Pankaj Tripathi, and Divyenndu, while Jitendra Kumar steps into the role of Bablu Pandit, bringing the fan-favourite character back to the screen. Joining the saga is Ravi Kishan, whose powerful new presence adds another intriguing dimension to the Mirzapur universe. From the streets of Purvanchal to the deserts of Rajasthan, the saga grows bigger than ever, bringing its gripping world and larger-than-life storytelling to cinema halls across regions. Further expanding the ensemble, the film features Abhishek Banerjee, Rasika Dugal, Mohitt Maalik, Sheeba Chadha, Rajesh Tailang, Pramod Pathak, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Harshita Shekhar Gaur, Shweta Tripathi,



and Sonal S Chauhan, coming together to bring to life an epic untold chapter from the world of Mirzapur.

ARUNACHALA CREATIONS, HARSH ROSHAN NEXT THELLA KAAGITHAM FIRST SINGLE "CHILAKA" SONG OUT NOW



Young and talented actor Harsh Roshan is all set to begin an exciting new chapter in his career with his next film Thella Kaagitham under the Arunachala Creations banner. Backed by producer Krishna Kommalapati, the project comes after the actor's impressive success

generating considerable buzz among movie lovers. Thella Kaagitham is described as a heartwarming musical love story that revolves around youthful emotions and memorable relationships. For this musical love story, music director Vijai Bulganin brings the narrative to life with his soulful tunes. As part of the film's musical promotions, the first single, "Chilaka," was released today in the form of a lyrical video. This beautiful melody, composed by Vijai, carries vibrant energy and heartwarming notes that are sure to make listeners fall in love with it. Renowned singer Anurag Kulkarni has sung the track with great emotion, allowing listeners to feel every bit of love through his vocals.

Promising Hero Nithin Unveils First Look of "It's Life Bro"



he first look of the upcoming emotional love story "It's Life Bro" was unveiled by promising hero Nithin. Starring KM (Krishna Mohan) and Pooja Sundar Shetty in the lead roles, the film is being produced by Krishna Mohan Sallagundla under the KM Entertainments banner and directed by Somasekhar Reddy. Speaking about the film, director Somasekhar Reddy said, "It's Life Bro is being crafted as an emotional love story with a unique storyline and engaging narrative. The film is designed to touch the hearts of audiences and leave a lasting emotional impact. Based on true-life incidents, this heartfelt romantic drama is sure to resonate with viewers and win their appreciation." The first-look poster has already generated curiosity among movie lovers with its appealing visuals and emotional undertones, hinting at a moving and realistic love story.

Sreeleela Turns Heads With Chic New Look

Sreeleela may have faced a tough year at the box office with two of her recent releases failing to meet expectations, but the actress continues to stay firmly in the spotlight. Her latest social media pictures have once again grabbed attention, with fans praising her effortless style and confidence. Dressed in a chic black outfit paired with trendy boots, Sreeleela looked every bit the modern fashion icon.

The actress struck a series of glamorous poses amid luxury travel trunks and designer accessories, creating a stylish photoshoot that quickly went viral online. Her charming expressions and elegant presence added to the appeal of the pictures.

On the career front, Sreeleela still has promising projects lined up. She is currently filming an untitled Hindi film directed by Anurag

Basu and the Tamil fantasy-action entertainer OM Chapter 1: Udhiram - The Blood Wood, giving fans plenty to look forward to. Sreeleela has been making headlines ever since a video from a Yoga Day event in Mumbai went viral on social media.

The actress found herself at the center of online discussions after an awkward moment during a group photo session sparked mixed reactions from netizens. While the debate continues online, Sreeleela seems to have chosen silence over statements.

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seems to have chosen silence over statements. A seemingly ordinary public appearance has turned into a social media talking point after a video featuring actress Sreeleela and Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis went viral online.

The clip, which surfaced from a recent yoga event, has led to widespread speculation among netizens, with many trying to decode the interaction between the two.

In the video, Sreeleela can be seen standing alongside other attendees when Amruta Fadnavis appears to gesture in her direction. This led some viewers to believe that Sreeleela was being asked to move out of the frame for photographs.

Within hours, the clip spread across social media platforms, triggering a flood of reactions and differing interpretations. While a section of users felt the gesture suggest-

ed Sreeleela was being repositioned, others argued that the moment was being blown out of proportion. Many pointed out that crowded public events often involve organizers and attendees adjusting positions for photographs, making it difficult to draw conclusions from a short video clip alone.

Interestingly, neither Sreeleela nor Amruta Fadnavis has commented on the viral discussion. The incident once again highlights how brief moments captured on camera can quickly become major online talking points.

