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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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Ram temple donation: People's faith played with, says Akhilesh

NATION PAGE

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES HORROR : 920 DEAD

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CINEMA| PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

26- 06-2026

Total pilgrims : 81,340
Tonsures : 44,874
Hundi kanukalu : 3.76 CR
Laddu sale... 4.42 Lac
Annaprasadams... 3.31 Lac
Medical treatment....3,916
Waiting Compartments...Out side line at Octopus Building (Near Gogarbam Dam circle).

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens).. 18 - 24 H.

4 killed, 8 injured in lightning strikes in MP's district

CHHINDWARA (TSIT): Four people were killed and eight others injured in two separate incidents of lightning strikes in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Saturday. According to the police, the incidents occurred within the Baihar and Garhi police station limits on Friday.

Baihar police station in-charge Jayant Marskole said Satish Walke (19) and Lucky Meravi (18) died on the spot in Bhamori near Birwa after being struck by a bolt from the sky, while Jhaam Singh Taram (34) succumbed to injuries during treatment in the hospital. He said that two seriously injured people have been shifted to the district hospital, while four are undergoing treatment at Baihar Hospital. Chandravati Pusam (39), a resident of Nunkatola, was struck by a bolt from the sky in Komo village in the Garhi police station area.

Kolkata warehouse collapse toll rises to 16

KOLKATA: The toll in the Kolkata warehouse collapse incident rose to 16 on Saturday with the death of an injured person in a hospital, while rescue teams from multiple agencies sifted through the debris on the fourth day since the incident to ensure no one is still trapped, officials said. Cameras have been placed beneath the rubble to check for trapped persons, while mobile phone tower data is being used to trace the location of individuals whose phones remain active under the debris. "Our first priority is to complete the search and rescue operation. Teams are carefully checking every part of the collapsed structure. Massive debris clearance will start only after we are fully satisfied that no one is trapped inside," an official said.

SIR IN TELANGANA:

Over 1 crore forms distributed in 3 days

Hyderabad (TSIT):

A total of 10,275,000 enumeration forms were distributed during the door-to-door survey between June 25 and June 27 as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 in Telangana.

The survey has so far covered over 30 per cent of the state, according to the government.

Telangana is part of SIR Phase-III, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced in May this year. The SIR officially began on June 25 and will continue till July 24. On the first day, nine lakh enumeration forms were distributed across the state. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will verify, update and clean up voter lists, one household at a time.

Each officer has been assigned roughly 800 to 1,000 electors and will visit households multiple times, expect three to four visits, to distribute partially pre-filled enumeration forms and collect them once filled. The forms carry each voter's details, address and photograph.

A BLO will hand out two forms per voter. So, if a household has four registered voters, eight forms come through the door. It's the process, and getting both copies filled and returned matters."BLOs are required to visit every household, distribute enumeration forms and collect them," C Sudarshan Reddy, Telangana's Chief Electoral Officer, told Siasat.com, laying out the ground rules clearly.

Online submission

Voters who prefer not to wait for BLO visits can submit their enumeration forms digitally through the ECI app or at voters.eci.in. Forms submitted online are received directly at the concerned polling station or Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) level. That said, offline forms submitted to the BLO remain equally valid. For Non-Resident Indians (NRI), the process has been kept accessible. NRIs can fill the form online themselves or have a family member complete and sign it before handing it over to the BLO.

ISRO successfully conducts hot test of 175 tonne semi-cryogenic engine

Chennai (TSIT):

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed a crucial hot test of its semi-cryogenic engine power head test article (PHTA) at a thrust level of 175 tonnes, marking a major milestone in the development of India's next-generation launch vehicle propulsion technology.

The test was conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu recently. The successful trial is eighth in the series of hot tests conducted using the Power Head Test Article, which incorporates all the major systems of the engine except the thrust chamber.The latest test was aimed at studying the engine's performance during the build-up phase after pre-burner ignition and demonstrating steady-state operation at a significantly higher thrust level. For the first time, the engine powerhead was operated at 175 tonnes of thrust, representing 88 per cent of its full rated capacity.

Earlier tests had been successfully completed at 94 tonnes (47 per cent thrust) and 120 tonnes (60 per cent thrust). During the latest trial, the engine's main turbopumps also performed as designed, delivering outlet pressures of 400 and 500 bar.ISRO said the test progressed exactly as predicted, with all engine parameters remaining within the expected range throughout the firing. The successful demonstration has provided the space agency with the confidence required to proceed towards testing the engine at its full rated thrust of 200 tonnes, bringing the indigenous semi-cryogenic engine programme a significant step closer to completion.

NIA chargesheets three more accused in Red Fort car bomb case, total rises to 13

New Delhi (TSIT):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against three more accused, including a fugitive, in connection with the November 10, 2025, car bomb explosion near Delhi's Red Fort that claimed 11 lives.

With the latest chargesheet, the total number of accused named in the case has increased to 13, including the alleged mastermind, Umer Un Nabi, who died in the Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) blast.

The newly chargesheeted accused have been identified as Zameer Ahmad Ahanger, Tufail Ahmad Bhat and absconding accused Muzafar Ahmad, also known by the aliases Faraz and Zafar. All three are residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the NIA, Muzafar Ahmad, a qualified paediatrician holding MBBS and MD degrees, is the elder brother of co-accused Adeel Ahmad Rather and one of the founding members of "AGuH Interim", an alleged offshoot of the Al-Qaeda terror network.

The agency's investigation found that Muzafar, along with co-accused Umer Un Nabi, Muzammil, Adeel and Mufti Irfan, played a key role in planning the conspiracy that culminated in the deadly explosion.

Investigators alleged that Muzafar attended a secret meeting held at Eidgah in Srinagar in June 2022, where the AGuH Interim module was formed. He was also allegedly involved in manufacturing, testing and storing TATP-based improvised explosive devices at a clandestine facility operated by Umer and Muzammil at Al-Falah University in Faridabad.The NIA said a non-bailable warrant has been issued against Muzafar, who remains absconding, and efforts are underway to trace and arrest him.The agency further alleged that Zameer Ahmad Ahanger functioned as an overground worker (OGW) for the terror module and maintained contact with handlers while facilitating the movement of arms, ammunition and funds.

Govt once again showed failure: Dipke over TET 'paper leak'

New Delhi: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday alleged that the Maharashtra TET paper leak once again showed the government's failure in ensuring the integrity of competitive examinations as he pressed for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Addressing a press conference here, Dipke alleged that after the NEET controversy, the cancellation of the Maharashtra Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) following a paper leak was another instance of the government's failure to conduct examinations.

CM Naidu hands over Rs. 300 Cr R&R package to veligonda displaced families

Relief for 2,351 Families; Phase-I of Veligonda to Supply Water This Season

Visakhapatnam (TSIT)

Reaffirming the State Government's commitment to the welfare of families displaced by the Veligonda Project, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday handed over a Rs.300-crore Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package cheque to 2,351 displaced families at Gantavanipalle in Markapuram district after inspecting the ongoing project works.

Addressing a public gathering, the Chief Minister said sacrificing ancestral homes and lands for a public project is a great contribution to society and that it is the moral responsibility of the government to ensure such families live with dignity and prosperity. He noted that the project has displaced 7,225 people and assured that every affected family would receive justice and proper rehabilitation.

Describing Veligonda as a historic irrigation project, Chandrababu Naidu said it would provide irrigation to 4.47 lakh acres and drinking water to 23 lakh people upon completion. He announced that Phase-

I would be completed during the current season, benefiting 1.19 lakh acres with irrigation and providing drinking water to four lakh people. Phase-II, targeted for completion next year, will extend irrigation to another 3.25 lakh acres and provide drinking water to 11.25 lakh people. The Chief Minister said the project's total cost has risen to Rs.10,580 crore, of which Rs.6,736 crore has already been spent, while another Rs.3,844 crore is required for completion. Since assuming office in 2024, the coalition government has spent Rs.759 crore on project works and sanctioned Rs.905 crore for rehabilitation and resettlement, including the Rs.300 crore released on Saturday.

Alleging that the previous government neglected the project and failed to compensate displaced families adequately, Chandrababu Naidu said the present government had accelerated the works and was determined to complete the project at the earliest.

HM Amit Shah takes a 'Bharat Taxi' ride; driver recalls interaction with leaders

Gandhinagar (TSIT):

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi travelled in a 'Bharat Taxi' on Saturday shortly after launching the cooperative ride-hailing service in the state, with the three leaders riding from Mahatma Mandir to the Circuit House in Gandhinagar.

The symbolic journey followed the formal launch of Bharat Taxi in the state, which aims to expand the cooperative movement into the mobility sector by making drivers shareholders in the platform rather than commission-based operators.

The driver who ferried the three leaders described the experience as "unforgettable" and expressed confidence that the initiative would benefit taxi operators across the state.

Centre rejects Opposition's claims over Rajnath's Operation Sindoor remarks

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Centre on Saturday dismissed the Opposition's criticism of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement on Operation Sindoor as "factually incorrect" and a deliberate attempt to distort his remarks made in Parliament by quoting them out of context. The Ministry of Defence issued a clarification after social media posts and statements by Opposition leaders questioned Singh's remarks made during a parliamentary debate on July 28, 2025. The Ministry said the comments were being selectively presented to create a misleading narrative regarding casualties during the military operation.

The controversy resurfaced after the names of six armed forces personnel who lost their lives during Operation Sindoor were recently inscribed on the National War Memorial in New Delhi. The memorialisation marked the first official public disclosure of the identities of the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the operation.

Seizing on the development, the Congress accused the government of failing to acknowledge the soldiers' sacrifice during the parliamentary discussion on Operation Sindoor. Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged that Rajnath Singh either did not know about the deaths while addressing Parliament or was aware of them but chose not to disclose the information.

Earthquake jolts Afghanistan; tremors felt in J&K, Delhi

New Delhi (TSIT) : An earthquake of magnitude 6.2 hit Afghanistan on Saturday evening, with strong tremors felt in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and several other North Indian states. According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the nodal agency of the Indian government for monitoring earthquake activity, the epicentre of the earthquake was in Afghanistan, and its magnitude was 6.2 on the Richter scale. It also mentioned that the earthquake struck at 7:04 p.m. (local time).

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Special Intensive Revision now part of class 9 NCERT textbook, EC lauded for impartial polls

NEW DELHI: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is now part of the NCERT's class 9 Social Science textbook, which describes it as an exercise to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out of the voter list and no ineligible person is included.

The new National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbook also lauds the Election Commission of India (ECI) for conducting impartial polls despite challenges such as fake news, misinformation and intimidation.

The SIR, which has so far led to the deletion of nearly 6 crore names from the electoral rolls and led to acrimony between the opposition parties and the ECI, has completed a year and continues in 19 states and Union territories.

The pilot SIR commenced in Bihar on June 24 last year ahead of the state polls. The result was a pruned voter list, with nearly 65 lakh names dropped amid claims by the opposition and activists that the ECI was working at the BJP's behest to disenfranchise citizens for want of documents. "The ECI also conducts Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which involves updating, verifying and correcting the electoral rolls. Through SIR, it ensures that no eligible citizen is left out and no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll. "This exercise ensures the addition of all voters, especially the young voters who have just turned 18 and may be left out due to a lack of awareness of any other reason," reads a section of the textbook titled "Understanding Society: India and Beyond".

It notes that SIR also deletes names based on death of the voter, change of residence, duplicate enrolment and being permanently untraceable. "EC gives time to raise claims or objections against the revised electoral roll and settles these claims and objections before publishing the final electoral roll," it said. The old class 9 textbook, in a chapter on electoral politics, had a section on voter lists, where it mentioned that "a complete revision of the list takes place every five years and this is done to ensure that it remains up to date".

One killed, two injured as Army truck plunges off hillside in Arunachal's West Kameng

ITANAGAR: One Indian Army personnel was killed, and two others were injured when their truck veered off the road and plunged down a steep hillside along National Highway 13 in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district on Friday, officials said.

The vehicle, belonging to the 18 Sikh Light Infantry (LI), was carrying three personnel toward their unit when the accident occurred at around 2 pm.

According to officials, the truck broke through the chain-link fencing of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) 30th Battalion headquarters before crashing near the battalion's physical training (PT) ground. The stretch of NH-13 passing the area runs along a highly precarious, steep hillside.

A Rapid Response Team (RRT) from the 30th Battalion SSB immediately rushed to the crash site to launch a rescue operation, an official report said.

"One of the injured personnel was initially rushed to the SSB Unit MI Room,

where the unit medical officer administered first aid before referring him to the district hospital in Bomdila. The other two personnel were promptly evacuated to the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Dirang," the report said.

The attending doctor at CHC Dirang declared one person brought dead.

The remaining two Army personnel are currently undergoing medical treatment at the Bomdila and Dirang healthcare facilities, respectively. Their conditions are being monitored.

Mission heads of 23 EU member countries call on Nitin Nabin under 'Know BJP' initiative

NEW DELHI: Mission heads of 23 European Union member countries called on BJP president Nitin Nabin at the party headquarters here and interacted with him on a range of topics including India's transformative progress in clean energy, digital infrastructure, AI and semiconductors under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

According to the BJP, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to India Herve Delphin was also part of the meeting.

After the meeting, Nabin said in a post on X, "Had an engaging interaction with the Mission Heads of 23 European Union member countries and the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to India under the 'Know BJP' initiative."

"Shared the BJP's historic journey, organisational strength and unwavering commitment to public service. We also discussed India's transformative progress under PM Narendra Modi ji in clean energy, digital infrastructure, AI and semiconductors," the BJP chief said.

With the India-EU Free Trade Agreement marking a new chapter in "our partnership", the meeting deliberated on "future avenues of deeper collaboration between the EU and India", Nabin added.

According to the BJP, Delphin in his opening remarks appreciated the party's 'Know BJP' initiative and said that such interactions help deepen understanding of India's democratic and political processes.

"During the interaction, Nitin Nabin spoke about the BJP's historical journey, ideology, organisational structure and growth as the world's largest political party. He highlighted the party's deep grassroots connect, disciplined organisational framework and commitment to public service," the party said.

Nabin also shared the "transformational journey" of India under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

"He referred to the digital revolution in India, the expansion of digital public infrastructure and the role of technology in empowering ordinary citizens. He also mentioned India's growing focus on clean energy, artificial intelligence, semiconductor development and emerging technologies," the BJP said.

Speaking on India-EU relations, Nabin appreciated the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations and said that it marks an important milestone in strengthening the economic partnership between India and the European Union, the party said.

Nabin noted that the partnership between India and Europe is not limited to trade alone but it also includes technology, innovation, clean energy, education, connectivity and people-to-people ties.

The BJP further said that the interaction also provided an opportunity to familiarise the diplomatic community with the BJP's governance vision, organisational model and ongoing activities.

"The Mission Heads appreciated the 'Know BJP' initiative and the opportunity to engage directly with the BJP leadership," it said.

The meeting was also attended by BJP foreign affairs department in-charge Vijay Chauthaiwale and party MP Anil Baluni, who is also the chief spokesperson.

HP: Man sentenced to life imprisonment for murder in Mandi

A court in Mandi on Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment and another to one year in prison in connection with a murder. Sessions Judge Mandi (Family Court) Aman Sood sentenced Karam Kumar, a resident of Mandi's Sawar Dhar area, to life imprisonment. The court also sentenced Shiv Dass to one year's rigorous imprisonment under Section 201 of the IPC for destroying evidence of murder. The incident took place on May 31, 2022, when police received information that Karam Singh had committed the murder of Gursai, a resident of the same area.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Kumar and Gursai were going by the side of the house, and a crying sound was noticed.

Nearby people rushed to the spot and saw Gursai on the floor, while Kumar fled. They also noticed Dass destroying the evidence (blood-stained clothes and knife).

The police registered a case under Sections 302 and 201 of the IPC against the convicts. The prosecution examined 23 witnesses to prove the case, but the witnesses present at the spot did not fully support the case.

Pune realtor murder: Accused duo deleted all logs and recycle bins before and after crime

PUNE: The investigation into the murder of 25-year-old realtor Ketan Agarwal has intensified after police discovered that the accused, Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary, systematically wiped their entire phone chat history and recycle bins before and after the crime, officials said on Friday.

The mobile instruments have been sent to a forensic laboratory to retrieve the logs of deleted chats, they said.

"During our investigation, it was revealed that both the accused deleted their chats before June 18 and after the Lohagad incident from their phones. The chats were deleted from the recycle bins of their respective phones," said a police officer, who is a part of an investigation team.

Investigations by the Pune Rural Police indicated that Goyal (20) and her lover Chaudhary (22) had been in constant contact for nearly six months before the incident, logging an extraordinary 2,004 phone calls totalling 238 hours of conversation.

On the day of the crime, the duo allegedly met at a cafe to finalise the murder plot, mapping out the precise spot at Lohagad Fort in Maval taluka where Agarwal would be pushed.

Gajanan Tonpe, Deputy Superintendent of Police for the Lonavala division, said that investigators have firmly established the active roles of both suspects. Police have also summoned Goyal's brother and are calling in other relatives and friends for questioning.

"We summoned Siya's brother for the questioning, and other members and friends will also be summoned. So far, the roles of both Siya and Chetan have been established in the alleged murder of Ketan," Tonpe said.

While Chaudhary initially claimed he was not at the exact location of the cliff, police officials noticed his narrative quickly fell apart during interrogation, leading both suspects to confess.

"It was evident that he was lying," another police official said, adding that both of them finally admitted to their roles and narrated the entire sequence of events.

Police claimed that according to the final plan, Goyal gave a pre-decided signal by sitting down, prompting Chaudhary to approach from behind and push an unsuspecting Agarwal into the gorge.

The gravity of the crime has drawn immediate intervention from the state government, with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who met with the victim's father Vishal Agarwal in Pune. He assured the family of total support.

The state has officially accepted the family's demands to try the case in a fast-track court and has appointed Ujjwal Nikam as the special public prosecutor for the case.

Later, talking to reporters, the chief minister said the Lohagad Fort incident reflected a disturbing social trend that required deeper introspection.

"It is an extremely shocking and incomprehensible incident. As a society, we need to reflect on why educated young men and women from good families develop such criminal intent and a desire for revenge. This is not merely a criminal issue; it also has a social angle," he said. Society must create a strong support system to ensure such vengeful thinking does not develop among young people. Overall, this is an extremely shocking incident, Fadnavis added.

"We met Fadnavis ji and sought a speedy trial in the case. We also sought that the truth should be unravelled, and if there are any other people involved, they should also be booked. All those responsible for the murder of my son should get severe punishment," said Vishal Agarwal.

Bengal will bring strict anti-conversion law, implement UCC and NRC: CM Suvendu

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Friday said his government would enact a stringent law against religious conversion, while also implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state as part of measures to strengthen national security and preserve Bengal's cultural identity.

Addressing a programme at Rabindra Sadan to mark the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram', Adhikari alleged that infiltration through the state's international border had contributed to religious conversion, 'love jihad' and demographic changes, posing a threat to West Bengal's social fabric and national security, though he did not provide evidence to support the claims.

"Give us some time. A strict law against religious conversion, Uniform Civil Code and NRC will be introduced in West Bengal," he said.

Claiming that his government had strengthened border security by providing land required for border infrastructure, the chief minister said holding centres had been set up in border districts to identify and send back "infiltrators" to their place of origin.

"Those entering illegally and engaging in activities that threaten India's culture and national security will be sent back," he said.

Drawing a distinction between illegal immigrants and refugees covered under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Adhikari said Hindus who had come to India after facing religious persecution were "not infiltrators" and would be granted citizenship under the law.

He asserted that his government would not allow any force to weaken West Bengal's cultural identity or national character, describing the state as India's "cultural and spiritual capital".

Paying tributes to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Adhikari described the author of Vande Mataram as a visionary litterateur, journalist and administrator whose writings continue to inspire generations.

Calling Vande Mataram a "Sanjeevani Mantra" for the nation, he said the song symbolised patriotism and national unity.

He added that the state government had, for the first time, organised official programmes at Bankim Chandra's ancestral house at Kathalpara in Naihati and his residence in Kolkata to commemorate his birth anniversary. The chief minister alleged that during an earlier visit to Bankim Chandra's Kolkata residence during the previous TMC regime, he had been prevented from entering as the premises had remained locked.

Recalling the Emergency imposed in 1975, Adhikari announced that a state-level felicitation programme would be held on August 9 to honour people who had resisted the Emergency and faced persecution.

He also accepted a proposal to constitute a coordination committee of "Loktantra Senanis" (democracy fighters) to facilitate the recognition process and said eligible persons would be issued official recognition certificates in accordance with government rules. Adhikari further said the government had accepted proposals submitted by the Citizen Government Forum, including organising seminars on social, constitutional and national issues to promote civic rights and social justice, celebrating the birth anniversaries of eminent national personalities, and undertaking relief and charitable activities during natural disasters.

SIR completes one year: 6 crore names deleted so far

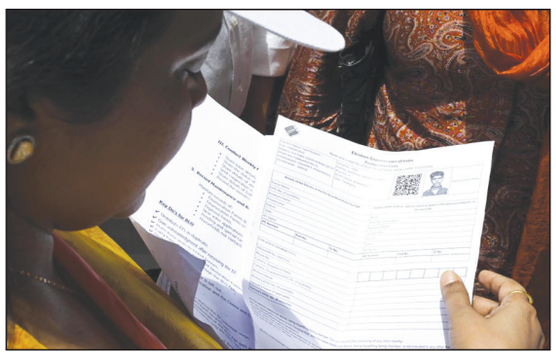
NEW DELHI: The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, which has so far led to the deletion of nearly six crore voters and triggered acrimony between the Opposition and the Election Commission, has completed one year as the poll roll cleanup exercise continues in 19 states and Union territories.

The pilot SIR exercise was commenced in Bihar on June 24 last year, ahead of the assembly polls.

Post Bihar SIR, its voters' list was pruned by nearly 65 lakh amid allegations by opposition and activists that the poll authority was working at the behest of the BJP to disenfranchise citizens for want of documents.

In March, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the constitutional validity of the EC's move to carry out SIR.

Individuals whose names were deleted during SIR are being excluded from state welfare benefits in West Bengal and Bihar.



Following recent state assembly elections, both governments announced that voter roll purification data is being linked to social security.

SIR is now part of the NCERT's Social Science textbook, describing it as an exercise to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out and no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll.

In the second phase of the exercise -- announced on October 27, last year -- in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Goa, the combined voters' list was pruned by 10.2 per cent.

The voter base before the poll roll clean-up across these states and Union territories stood at more than 50.99 crore.

Post the exercise, the voters' list stands at 45.81 crore -- a decline of over 5.18 crore. In percentage terms, the electoral rolls have been reduced by 10.2 per cent. As many as 66,88,636 deceased electors were removed from the rolls, with the maximum of 25.47 lakh from Uttar Pradesh, followed by 24.16 lakh from poll-going West Bengal.

Additionally, 63.16 lakh names were deleted following objections and adjudication during the SIR exercise. The final rolls for the 12 states and Union territories were released on different dates, with Uttar Pradesh being the last to release the data. Third phase of the SIR in 16 states and three Union territories -- Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, and Uttarakhand, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chandigarh, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu -- involving 36.73 crore voters was rolled out on May 14 and would conclude later this year.

Woman strangled to death after argument in Gurugram, accused held

GURUGRAM: Gurugram Police have solved the blind murder of a 25-year-old woman with the arrest of the accused, who fractured both his legs after falling into a roadside drain while allegedly trying to flee from the police, officials said on Friday.

According to police, the victim's husband filed a complaint at Kherki Daula police station on June 12, stating that his wife, Shabina, had gone missing from their rented accommodation in the Sikanderpur area of Sector 85 on June 8, following which a case was registered. The woman's body was recovered from Sector 93 on June 13. Following the post-mortem examination, murder charges were added to the case on June 17, police said.

During the investigation, a Crime Branch team from Manesar identified the accused and launched efforts to apprehend him.

Police said the team reached Rampura Chowk on June 21 to arrest the accused. On seeing the police, he allegedly attempted to flee but fell into a roadside drain, fracturing both his legs. he was admitted to hospital and formally arrested on June 24.

The accused has been identified as Deepu Rai (28), a native of Netaji Colony in Siliguri, West Bengal, who was staying in New Delhi.

During the interrogation, the accused allegedly told police that he worked as a toilet cleaner in Sector 89, while the deceased earned a living by collecting recyclable waste.

Police said that on the morning of June 9, around 4.30 am, the two got into an argument near Antariksh Chowk in Sector 89. The argument escalated into a quarrel, and when the woman raised an alarm, the accused allegedly strangled her to death with her dupatta.

The accused is being questioned in police remand, a Gurugram Police spokesperson said.

Nearly 1.80 lakh vehicles checked during 15-day drive by Punjab Police

CHANDIGARH: Nearly 1.80 lakh vehicles were checked during a 15-day special statewide drive by the Punjab Police against the illegal use of hooters, sirens, flashers and the unauthorised use of black films on vehicles.

Special DGP (Law and Order) Praveen Sinha said police teams checked a total of 1,79,980 vehicles. During the extensive checking, teams successfully removed 202 hooters, 49 sirens and 2,430 flashers from unauthorised vehicles.

Furthermore, strict action was taken against tinted windows, leading to the removal of illegal black films from 2,445 vehicles on the spot, he said, adding that 39,872 violators in total were issued challans and 412 vehicles were impounded.

The drive focused heavily on private vehicles unlawfully using signalling equipment or dark window tints to bypass traffic rules, evade identification and project undue authority.

Sinha, while sharing details of the operation, specified that hooters, sirens, and flashers are strictly meant for emergency vehicles and essential services, whereas black films violate security and traffic regulations. Private individuals cannot be allowed to misuse these devices, he said.

Warning violators of strict legal consequences, Sinha stated that this drive will continue across the state, with regular checking and rigorous legal action will be initiated against anyone found indulging in the unauthorised use of flashers, sirens, hooters, or black films.

Wall of Gratitude to Honor the Sacrifice of Landowners: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar

Bengaluru : Chief Minister D K Shivakumar today announced that the government would erect 'Walls of Gratitude' to honour the landowners who voluntarily give up their land for public welfare projects. Speaking at the 517th Kempegowda Jayanthi event at Kempegowda Layout developed by Bangalore Development Authority, the CM said, "The government has decided to include the names of land owners who give up land without any objections for public-welfare projects such as industrial areas, schools, lakes, and road construction, on a Wall of Gratitude. Through this, the sacrifice of these landowners will be commemorated," he said.

"Today we have inaugurated a 10-lane road named after S M Krishna. This road will not stop at 11 km. Going forward, it will be extended into a 123 km road. We are taking steps to build a Wall of Gratitude along this road. Through this, the Government of Karnataka will, in the coming days, undertake the work of permanently preserving the names of those who gave their land for this road. This will be done everywhere," he said.

"We are concerned about those who lose their land. How were Kengeri and Yelahanka towns built? Parameshwar is taking steps to build a township in Tumakuru. Aren't those also land? Birth is accidental, death is certain. What matters is what achievement or sacrifice we make between this birth and death. I offer my salutations to all those who sacrificed their land for this 10-lane road," he said.

Tree-Planting Competition for School Children

"A green Bengaluru must be built, and through that Kempegowda's farsighted vision must be realized. With that aim, 15 lakh saplings have been planted today on behalf of the BDA. This is a historic decision. We cannot forget that, during Krishna's time, Balagangadharanatha Swamiji took a vow to plant 5 crore saplings. In the same way, in Bengaluru, every school should take charge of one area each, and a programme should be carried out to have children plant and nurture trees there. On this matter, a competition will be organized on behalf of the GBA," he said.

No Child Should Be Left Out of Polio Vaccination: D.S. Ramesh

Bengaluru: A Polio Awareness Bike Rally was organised at the Bengaluru East City Corporation Headquarters as part of the National Pulse Polio Campaign–2026, in collaboration with the Public Health Department of the BECC, Humanity Calls Trust, and Bikers Unity Club India. Flagging off the rally, D.S. Ramesh, Commissioner of the Bengaluru East City Corporation, stated that active public participation is essential for the successful implementation of the National Pulse Polio Campaign.The awareness bike rally commenced from the Bengaluru East City Corporation Headquarters and concluded at the K.R. Puram Government Hospital. More than 60 bikers participated in the rally, spreading the message of polio eradication among the public. Throughout the rally, participants raised awareness by chanting slogans such as "Two Drops of Polio Vaccine for Every Child" and "No Child Below Five Years Should Miss the Polio Vaccine." As they travelled along major roads, the bikers appealed to parents and citizens to actively participate in the National Pulse Polio Campaign.Comprehensive preparations have been made across the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru East City Corporation for the National Pulse Polio Campaign to be held on Sunday, 28 June.

It was Kempegowda who planned to make Bangalore a global technology and commercial hub: S. Manohar

Bengaluru: It was Shri Kempegowda, who planned to make Bangalore a global technology and commercial hub, said MEI President S. Manohar.

Speaking at the inauguration of the 516th birth anniversary of Kempegowda at the MEI Institute, he said, "Kempegowda's unique administrative style, construction of water conservation lakes and his concern for the people that united all sections of society, are still an inspiration to our entire society."

All the senior officers and employees of the MEI Institute participated in this auspicious event with great devotion and enthusiasm, gratefully remembering the achievements of the Nadaprabhu and the unprec-

K'taka: Jilted lover dies in car bomb blast after kidnapping woman

Tumakuru(Karnataka), June 27 : A jilted lover allegedly died after detonating a country-made bomb inside a car following the alleged abduction of a young woman on National Highway-48 near Kallambella in Karnataka's Tumakuru district on Saturday.

The woman and the cab driver narrowly escaped the explosion, while police recovered another live country-made bomb from the spot. The deceased has been identified as 30-year-old Nagendra, a native of Ankola in Karwar district. Tumakuru Superintendent of Police Ashok Venkat visited the spot and inspected the scene.According to the police, Nagendra and Ramya, both natives of the Ankola region, had been in a relationship for nearly eight years. Ramya, a laboratory technician at Rajiv Gandhi University in Bengaluru, reportedly rejected Nagendra's marriage proposal due to differences between the two.

Police said Nagendra allegedly hired a cab and went to the paying guest accommodation where Ramya was staying in Bengaluru before forcibly taking her away. After witnessing the incident, one of Ramya's friends lodged a missing person complaint with the Siddapura Police Station in Bengaluru.During the journey on National Highway-48, an argument reportedly broke out between the two, during which Nagendra allegedly assaulted Ramya and struck her on the head. Ramya managed to jump out of the moving vehicle, prompting the cab driver to stop and rush to her aid.

Police said Nagendra then locked himself inside the car and detonated a country-made bomb, killing himself on the spot. The force of the explosion completely mangled the vehicle.

DK Shivakumar had allegedly been plotting for years, biding his time to grab farmers land in Bidadi: HD Kumaraswamy

Byramangala (Bidadi) : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, alleged that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had been biding his time for several years and systematically pursuing plans to acquire the fertile agricultural lands of farmers in Bidadi. Kumaraswamy had written to the Chief Minister requesting him to participate in an open discussion before farmers at Byramangala. However, the Chief Minister remained absent from the meeting, prompting the Union Minister to engage directly with aggrieved farmers on his own.

Addressing the gathering, Kumaraswamy levelled a series of serious allegations against the Chief Minister.

HDK traces CM's alleged plan to acquire farmers land in Bidadi

Kumaraswamy alleged that the purported plan to acquire lands around Bidadi was not a recent development. According to him, Shivakumar had for years harboured ambitions of bringing these lands under real-estate development and had encouraged farmers by suggesting that, as residents of Bengaluru, they would eventually command exorbitant prices for their holdings.

The Union Minister recalled remarks allegedly made by Shivakumar on October 24, 2023, during a temple event held at Sathanur in Kanakapura constituency on the occasion of Vijayadashami.

According to Kumaraswamy, Shivakumar had then urged farmers in Kanakapura not to sell their lands even if offered double the prevailing price, saying that in the future they would become residents of "Bengaluru district" and their lands would fetch substantially higher returns.

Kempegowda was born a Vokkaliga but became a Vishwamanava: CM D K Shivakumar pays homage to Bengaluru's founder Kempegowda

Bengaluru : Hailing Bengaluru's founder Kempegowda as a Vishwamanava, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar today called on people to follow his footsteps. "Kempegowda was born a Vokkaliga but grew into a Vishwamanava (universal human). No one should forget this. We must all walk along this very path," the CM said while speaking at the Kempegowda Jayanthi celebration in Yelahanka.

"The whole world is watching Bengaluru. The reason for this is Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. Five hundred years ago, he performed pooja and built the city. The residents of Bengaluru should not forget this. When he built this city, he did not know

it would grow to such a large scale. But his foresight has worked here," he said. Thinking of vertical growth for the city

"Bengaluru is growing day by day. The city keeps expanding. We cannot stop those who come to this city. That is why I am thinking about 'vertical growth.

Education Department lodges complaint at Kothanur Police Station, seeking action against school for violating court and government orders

Bengaluru: The Block Education Officer (BEO) of the Bengaluru South Zone, Raghavendra Swamy, has lodged a complaint at the Kothanur Police Station against Khalid Mushraf, Chief Administrative Officer of Samar International Islamic School, Thanisandra, alleging that the school has violated the law by failing to issue Transfer Certificates (TCs) to more than 400 students despite the School Education Department cancelling the school's recognition and despite orders of the High Court. The School Education Department has approached the police against the school management for allegedly disregarding both the High Court's directions and the government's instructions.

In the complaint filed on Wednesday, the BEO requested the police to take immediate steps to ensure that all records of Samar International Islamic

School are handed over to the Government High School at Thanisandra. An FIR had already been registered against the school's administrator, Khalid Mushraf, at Kothanur Police Station earlier this January.

Following the cancellation of the school's recognition and the directions of the Education Department, the management reportedly issued TCs to 350 students. However, it has allegedly failed to provide Transfer Certificates to the remaining students, thereby jeopardizing their educational future.

The Director of the Primary and Secondary Education Department had convened meetings with parents on April 10 and May 15 and 30, informing them that the school's recognition had been withdrawn and its registration cancelled. During those meetings, the school management was also directed to hand over all relevant academic records to the Government High School. However, according to the complaint, these directions have not been complied with.

Despite the cancellation of its recognition, the institution allegedly began the admission process for the 2026–27 academic year by publishing advertisements under the name Jamia Mohammadiya Mansoor, claiming to be a State Syllabus School under a different education society. The complaint further states that Chief Administrative Officer Khalid Mushraf and other members of the school management have not been present at the school premises, remain unavailable for contact, and have failed to respond to the department, making it impossible to implement the departmental orders.

The Education Department noted that a criminal case has already been registered against Khalid Mushraf, the Chief Executive Officer of the allegedly fake educational institution. It has therefore requested the Kothanur Police to take appropriate action to facilitate the transfer of all school records of Samar International School to the Government High School at Thanisandra.

Floral Tributes Paid to Kempegowda's Portrait and Mahatyagi Lakshmidevi's Statue by K. N. Ramesh

Bengaluru: On the occasion of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's 517th Jayanthi Utsav, K. N. Ramesh, Commissioner of Bengaluru South City Corporation, paid floral tributes to the portrait of Shri Kempegowda at the Corporation premises today. He also paid respectful homage at the memorial of Kempegowda's daughter-in-law, the great martyr Tyagi Lakshmi Devi, located in Koramangala.Chief Engineer of the Corporation Basavaraj Kabade, Joint Commissioner Smt. Dr. N. N. Madhu, and other officials and staff members of the Corporation were present on the occasion.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179

Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra. **Phone No.:** 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sl. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Ratheesh C, Sumi M, Sujith S, **/NHL01460049038/** Alapuzha	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 2.02 Ares of Land In Sy No.180/2A-88, Block No.23, Re. Sy. No. 403/1-9 Situate At Village: Kottarakkara, Taluk: Kottarakkara, District: Kollam, Kerala, Pin: 691531. East-Property of Revathy Sharma, West- Property of Ajilkumar And Subha, South-Property of Sumi, North-Vazhi	12-05-2026	04-06-2026 & Rs.705444/-
2	Girija A, Ramachandran A, Nadi A, Sarojini V, Thanka T, **/MHL00280037773/** Malapuram	District Malappuram, Taluk : Nilambur, Village : Karuvarakund, Re Survey No: 133/3-5 Extend: 0.0400 Hectre, Kerala, Pin: 676523. East-Property of Revi, West-Property of Ossan Bapputty, South-Balance Property, North-Property of Madavana Mathayi	12-05-2026	04-06-2026 & Rs.295638/-
3	Anil Kumar, Deepa K, Arun Kumar A, **/NLAP0146048300/** Alapuzha	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 2.43 Ares of Land In Sy No. 553/1-178, Block No.18, Re. Sy. No. 410/11-1, Situate At Village: Chakkuvarakal, Taluk: Kottarakkara, District: Kollam, Kerala, Pin: 691538. East-Property of Reghu, West-Property of Sukumaran, South-Road, North- Property of Lalitha And Saraswathy Amma	13-05-2026	04-06-2026 & Rs.1174210/-
4	Praveen Murali, Chinnu Sasi, **/MLAP0038047581/** Attingal	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 1.59 Ares In, Sy. No. 451/2-2, Block No. 11, Re. Sy. No. 173/18, Situate At Village: Paravur, Taluk: Ambalappuzha, District: Alappuzha, Kerala, Pin: 688004. East-Road, West- Thodu, South-Property of Raji, North-Property of Sindhu Murali	13-05-2026	05-06-2026 & Rs.483612/-
5	Renjan G K, Asha U, Rathnamma K, **/NHL00380037179/** Attingal	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 3.17 Ares In Sy. No. 466/6B9 And 466/6B4, Block No.29, Re.Sy. No. 145/13 Situate At Village: Pramadom Taluk: Konni, District: Pathanamthitta, Kerala, Pin: 689646. East- Property of Dileep, West-Property of Saroja Devi, South-Vazhi And Property of Sajeev, North-Property of Satheesh	13-05-2026	05-06-2026 & Rs.432615/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act. Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 28th June 2026 | Place: KERALA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

ARM BRANCH
HYDERABAD CIRCLE OFFICE, 10-3-163 &10-3-163/A,
PLOT NO. 85, BESIDE RAIL NILAYAM, S. D. ROAD,
SECUNDERABAD - 500026.E-mail: cb2752@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and 9(1) 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 to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of MCB Khairatabad Branch, of the Canara Bank presently with ARM Branch, Hyderabad for follow up, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 14.07.2026 for recovery of Rs.2,73,99,609/- (Rupees Two crores seventy three lakhs ninety nine thousand six hundred and nine only/- (Contractual dues as on 31.05.2026) along with further interest, charges, expenses and costs from 01.06.2026 due to the ARM Branch, Hyderabad of Canara Bank from M/s GETECH EQUIPMENTS INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED, Represented by its Directors 1. Smt.Geetha V Nair (Borrower/Director) 2. 2 Sri.K P V Nair (Borrower/Director).

DATE & TIME OF AUCTION : 14.07.2026 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.
(With unlimited extension of 05 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)
THE EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEPOSITED ON OR BEFORE 13-07-2026 by 5:00 pm.

DETAILS AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LOT I: Emt of open plot having plot no.175/b in Sy No 185/p, 189,191,196 at gangothri emerald heights, subhanapur village, Maheswaram Mandal, Rangareddy district admeasuring 225 Sq Yds.Boundaries of the property:North: 40' wide road South: plot no 176 of emerald,East: plot no 175/a West : 40' wide road
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.18,10,000/- EMD : Rs.1,81,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs.25,000/-

LOT II: Emt of open plot having plot no.175/a in Sy No 185/p, 189,191,196 at gangothri emerald heights,subhanapur village, Maheswaram Mandal, Rangareddy district admeasuring 226 Sq Yds. Boundaries of the property:North: 40' wide road South: plot no 177 of emerald East: plot no 174 West : plot no 175/b
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.18,10,000/- EMD : Rs.1,81,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs.25,000/-

LOT III: EMT of residential house & shop with land admeasuring 7.96 (04.85,00.89,02.22) ares or 944.15 sq yards in sy. No. 203/2-3, 203/2-4 & 203/2-25 (old sy. No. 273) in block no. 15 in Venmoney Village, Chengannur taluk, Alappuzha, district, Kerala State, belonging to Sri K.P.V. Nair and Smt.Geetha V. Nair, Sale Deed No.618/2007 **BOUNDARIES:As per Title deed:** North :Road, South: Agricultural land, East :Property of Kallumpurathu Thekkethil,West : Water Channel and way. **As per site/valuation** North Road,South :Road,East :nilam.,West :Thodu & nilam.
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.71,35,000/- EMD : Rs.7,35,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs. 50,000/-

LOT IV: EMT of open plot admeasuring 4.46 ares or 529 sq yards in sy.no. 203/12-1 (old sy.no. 273/2/2) in Block no. 15 in Venmoney Village, Chengannur Taluk, Alappuzha District, Kerala State, belonging to Smt.Geetha V. Nair ,Sale deed Doc. No.408/2010.**BOUNDARIES:As per Title deed:** North: Property belonging to Poovakkattil, South: Property of Arukkuzhiyil melethil, East: Way and property belonging to kunjukunjul,West : Property belonging to Thyvilayil and shahjahan. **As per site:** North: Property of Udhayathil & Neelikkal Paddeettathil,South :Property of Raju,East :Property of Velanthara,West :Road
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.11,50,000/- EMD : Rs. 1,15,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs.25,000/-

LOT-V: EMT of open plot admeasuring 16.39 ares or 1944 sq yards in sy.no. 70/8 (old sy.no. 282/16a,282/16b) in Block No.14 In Venmoney Village, Chengannur Taluk, Alappuzha District, Kerala State, belonging to Smt. Geetha V. Nair, Sale deed Doc. No.941/2010.**BOUNDARIES:As per Title deed:** North: Property of chakkalethu, South: Property of Nedumtharayil & motorable way, East: Way & Property of Velamtharayil,West : Property of Nellikkal Padeettathil. **As per site:** North: Property of Nellikkal Padeettathil,South :Property of chittakattu & motorable way,East :Property of Velenthara,West :Property of chittakattu
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.28,00,000/- EMD : Rs.2,80,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs.25,000/-

LOT VI: EMT of open plot admeasuring 22.74 ares or 2697.25 sq. Yards in sy.no. 141/2-1 (old sy. No. 151/1) in block no. 15 in venmoney village, chengannur taluk, allappuzha district, kerala state, belonging to Smt.Geetha V. Nair, Sale deed doc No.2335/2011.**BOUNDARIES:As per Title deed:** North: Land sold by Poovakkattil Lalu Varghese, South: property of Arukkuzhiyil Melethil, East:Way & Property belonging to KunjuKunjul,West : Property belonging to Thyvilayil andShajahan. **As per site:** North: Property of Poovakkattil,South :property of Arukkuzhiyil Melethil,East :Road and property belonging to Kunju Kunju,West :Property belonging to Thyvilayil
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.15,50,000/- EMD : Rs. 1,55,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs.25,000/-

LOT VII: EMT of Land admeasuring :1)17.60 ares (08.60, 9.00) in Sy. Nos. 151/7 &151/23 (old Sy.No.151/4 & 152/1a) and land measuring 24.80 ares in Sy. No. 151/4 (old sy. No. 152/1a of venmony village, chengannur taluk, alappuzha district, Kerala and land admeasuring 5.25 ares in Sy. No.151/4 & 151/24 (old Sy.No.151/1a) in Venmony village, Chengannur Taluk, Alappuzha District, Kerala of total extent of land is 47.65 Ares belonging to Sri Smt Sarasamma sale deed No. 3235/1965 & Sri Parameswaran Pillai sale deed No. 816/1988, 751/1978.**BOUNDARIES:As per Title deed:** North: Road, South: Property of parameswaran pillai, East:Property of Surendran,West : Property of Parakkattumoolayil Jose **As per site:** North: Road,South :Property of parameswaran pillai,East :Property of Surendran,West :Property of Parakkattu
RESERVE PRICE : Rs.80,00,000/- EMD : Rs.8,00,000/-. BID MULTIPLES: Rs.1,00,000/-

The sale of the properties will be subject to the outcome of SA 312/2022 Before the Hon'ble DRT-II, Hyderabad filed by the borrower.
***No Known Encumbrances to the Knowledge of the Bank. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrance, title of the properties put for auction and claims /rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid.**
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Authorized Officer, ARM Branch, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 040- 27725283/260/259 during office hours on any working day.

The Properties can be inspected Date & Time 10.07.2026 & 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
The above-mentioned balance sale price (other than EMD amount) should be remitted by the successful bidder through RTGS/NEFT to Account No. 209272434 of Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Hyderabad Branch, IFSC Code CNRB0002752. All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration, GST etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.

Mode of Auction : Online Electronic Bidding
Details of Auction service provider : M/s. PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)
Contact Mobile No. 8291220220 E-mail: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com Website: www.baanknet.com

DATE: 25.06.2026, PLACE: HYDERABAD **SD/- AUTHORISED OFFICER,CANARA BANK.**

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Prasanna Kumar Motupalli: A Visionary Leader

"Dream Big. Learn Continuously. Lead Courageously. Serve the Nation Selflessly."

These words aptly capture the remarkable journey of Shri Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, Chairman and Managing Director of NLC India Limited, whose leadership has transformed one of India's oldest energy enterprises into a future-ready powerhouse driving the nation's energy security and sustainability goals.

His story is not merely about corporate success. It is a story of perseverance, innovation, nation-building, and the power of visionary leadership. From being a gold medal-winning engineering student to leading one of India's largest integrated energy companies, Shri Motupalli's journey offers invaluable lessons for the younger generation aspiring to make a meaningful difference in society.

A Leader with a Vision Beyond the Present

When Shri Prasanna Kumar Motupalli assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of NLC India Limited in January 2023, the company already had a proud legacy spanning seven decades. Yet he saw opportunities where others saw limitations.

The global energy sector was undergoing a massive transformation. Traditional fossil fuels were being complemented by renewable energy, digital technologies were reshaping industries, and sustainability had become a global imperative. Shri Motupalli recognized that NLC India needed not only to adapt to this changing landscape but also to lead it. With a clear vision and unwavering determination, he embarked on an ambitious mission to transform NLC India into a diversified, technology-driven, environmentally responsible, and globally competitive energy enterprise.

Within a short period, the company achieved record-breaking performances in mining, power generation, renewable energy, financial growth, and technological innovation.

Transforming India's Energy Landscape

One of the most striking aspects of Shri Motupalli's leadership has been his ability to convert complex challenges into opportunities.

Prasanna Kumar Motupalli is the only working CMD of CPSE to have IPMA level A certification as on date and under his leadership he ensured IPMA Delta certification for the organization making it first and only organization to get the certification in the country.

Under his stewardship, NLC India achieved three consecutive years of record production. Coal and lignite output rose significantly, helping strengthen India's energy security at a time when reliable power supply remains critical for economic growth. The transformation of the Talabira coal mines in Odisha . and commissioning of all 3 units of NUPPL Ghatampur project stands as a shining example of operational excellence. What was once a developing mining asset became one of India's highest-performing coal mining operations, achieving record levels of production and dispatch.

For young professionals, these achievements underscore an important lesson: success often comes not from avoiding challenges but from confronting them with determination and innovative thinking.

Delivering Mega Projects That Power the Nation

Large infrastructure projects often face delays, regulatory hurdles, and operational complexities. Yet under Shri Motupalli's leadership, several landmark power projects moved from planning stages to reality.

The Ghatampur Supercritical Thermal Power Project, one of India's important power generation initiatives, achieved the commercial operation of all three units through focused monitoring and effective execution. Simultaneously, NLC India accelerated the implementation of its ultra-supercritical thermal power project in Odisha. These projects are expected to strengthen India's power infrastructure while adopting cleaner and more efficient technologies. His ability to successfully manage complex projects earned him international recognition in project management. He was awarded the prestigious IPMA Project Director (Level A) certification—an honor held by only a limited number of professionals globally.

Championing India's Green Energy Future

Perhaps the most defining feature of Shri Motupalli's tenure has been his commitment to sustainable development and clean energy.

Major solar projects across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and other regions were initiated or accelerated. Renewable generation reached record levels, reflecting the company's growing role in India's clean energy transition.

He also spearheaded NLC India's entry into emerging sectors such as Green Hydrogen and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), technologies widely regarded as crucial for the future of energy.

The establishment of a Green Hydrogen Pilot Plant and large-scale energy storage projects illustrates his forward-looking approach to business and sustainability.

For today's youth, this offers a powerful lesson: the leaders of tomorrow are those who anticipate change rather than react to it.

Diversifying into Critical Minerals

Visionary leaders prepare not only for present challenges but also for future strategic needs.

Recognizing the importance of critical minerals for advanced technologies, electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and national security, Shri Motupalli led NLC India into the strategic minerals sector. The company secured critical mineral assets in Telangana and Chhattisgarh and forged collaborations with leading scientific institutions for research and extraction technologies.

Creating Value Through Financial Excellence

Behind every successful organization lies strong financial discipline. Under Shri Motupalli's leadership, NLC India achieved its highest-ever revenue, profitability, and operational performance. Record production, capacity additions, and renewable energy growth translated into impressive financial results. Investor confidence increased significantly, reflected in the remarkable growth of the company's market capitalization and share price performance. Yet what makes these achievements particularly noteworthy is that financial growth was achieved while simultaneously investing in sustainability, innovation, employee welfare, and community development.

This balanced approach demonstrates that long-term success is built on sustainable value creation rather than short-term gains.

Embracing Technology and Innovation

The future belongs to organizations that embrace technology.

Understanding this reality, Shri Motupalli initiated a series of digital transformation initiatives across NLC India. From drone-based mine monitoring and digital logistics management systems to integrated command and control centers, advanced analytics platforms, and mobile safety applications, technology became a key driver of operational excellence.

His leadership reflects a simple but powerful principle: innovation is not an option—it is a necessity.

Putting People First

Despite his focus on technology and infrastructure, Shri Motupalli never lost sight of the fact that people are the true strength of any organization.

Under his leadership, NLC India recruited more than 1,700 employees and completed over 87,000 training programs aimed at skill development and capacity building.

Employee welfare initiatives, healthcare reforms, digital engagement platforms, and opportunities for professional growth helped foster a culture of inclusiveness and empowerment. His people-centric approach earned him the prestigious ET Human Capital Award for "People-Focused CEO of the Year."

Solving Legacy Challenges

One of the most remarkable achievements during his tenure was the successful completion of the long-pending Paravanar River Diversion Project. The project resolved a decades-old challenge, secured future mining operations, improved flood management, enhanced irrigation potential, and benefited local communities. It demonstrated Shri Motupalli's ability to address complex issues through stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and decisive execution.

A Leader Recognized Nationally and Internationally

Over the years, Shri Motupalli has received numerous prestigious awards and recognitions for leadership, sustainability, innovation, project management, and corporate excellence.

Among them are the Pride of Telangana Award, Mahatma Award, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award, Nayudamma award, M. S. Swaminathan Green Excellence Award, PSU Leadership Award, and several national and international honors.

While these awards recognize individual achievement, they also reflect the collective success of the thousands of employees and stakeholders who have contributed to NLC India's transformation.

THE INVISIBLE IMPORT IN EVERY INDIAN THALI

In 2025-26, India spent over US$ 19 billion on edible oil imports to meet 60% of its demand, making it vulnerable to global price shocks and supply disruption while straining the nation's exchequer of its forex reserves for what it could grow at home.

Austerity reached Indian kitchens, when Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged its citizens to reduce edible oil consumption. The per capita consumption of edible oil stood over glaring 17 kg/year in 2024-25 (marketing year). With a large share of this demand unmet domestically, India's dependence on edible oil imports is nothing less than alarming. The domestic production is mainly concentrated in rapeseed, mustard, and soybean, while the consumption is majorly dominated by palm oil, followed by soybean oil. Since, highly water-intensive palm oil production is not feasible in the short -run, soybean, already produced by Indian farmers across the country should be the focus to bridge this demand-supply gap.India remains the fifth largest producer of soybean oil and the largest importer of soybean oil across the globe. The production of soybean has increased from 85.7 Lakh Tonnes (LT) in 2015-16 to 152.7 LT in 2024-25. While this growth is encouraging, it is not enough for the rapidly expanding consumption demand. India currently imports soybean oil more than 2.5 times of its production, as the existing production only meets around 30% of the domestic consumption. In 2025-26, India witnessed a marked surge in soybean oil imports alongside a decline in domestic production. India primarily imports crude soybean oil from Argentina and Brazil and in just 2025-26 itself, imports increased by 8% and 32%, respectively. Additionally, enabled by duty-free access to Nepal under the SAFTA, India's soybean oil imports from Nepal increased by staggering 147% alone in 2025-26. Further, the domestic outlook is concerning, the second advance estimates released by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) estimated soybean production to have moderated by 16% to 127.2 LT in 2025-26.

Profitability is the primary driver of declining soybean production in India. The Government guarantees minimum prices for soybean, and the Cabinet has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) for soybean for 2026-27 well in advance, in May, with an increase of ?380 over the previous year and 123% over 2013-14 levels. Thus, pricing per se is not the issue. Rather, the concern lies in the relative uncertainty surrounding the procurement process. The domestic market is frequently flooded with duty-free imports of soybean oil, leading to a decline in market prices below the MSP, thereby preventing farmers from realising an effective price for their produce. Further, the intrinsic characteristic of soybean crop is a cause for concern. Its low productivity due lack of quality seeds remains a persistent challenge.

According to ICAR's National Soybean Research Institute, India's average yields is stagnant at around 1,100-1,200 kg per hectare, significantly below the global average of over 2,700 kg per hectare, with considerable regional disparities. Additionally, the crop offers limited resilience, as its photoperiod sensitivity makes it vulnerable to unseasonal weather conditions, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change, thereby increasing production risks.The single point focus should now be on increasing per-hectare productivity. India's experience with rice and wheat demonstrates that sustained improvements in productivity can not only ensure self-sufficiency but also enable the country to emerge as a net exporter.

India remains wary of the GM seeds due to biosafety and health implications and thus did not replicate such model wholesale. However, now is an opportune time for India to develop its own approach to GM soybean seeds within an appropriate regulatory framework and with necessary safeguards to address productivity challenges. With India becoming the first country in the world to develop genome-edited rice varieties, Government should further accelerate plans for utilising genome editing for soybean seeds through Lab-to-Land approach and develop resistant soybean seed varieties. Global evidence suggests that, with robust safeguards and transparent institutions, GM crops could coexist with food safety, ecological sustainability, and farmer autonomy. Ignoring these technologies comes at a cost of missed yields, rising imports and strategic autonomy.

FOR THE GREAT PASSPORT DEBATE, A 'COMMON-SENSE' CURE

On a warm afternoon in late June 2026, during an otherwise standard briefing marking India's 14th Passport Seva Divas, a seemingly routine bureaucratic clarification ignited a national firestorm. A senior official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) casually remarked that an Indian passport is "primarily a travel document" and should not be construed as definitive, standalone proof of citizenship. The public reaction was immediate, visceral, and laced with utter bewilderment. Within hours, social media platforms erupted. Renowned screenwriter Javed Akhtar took to the internet to express the collective exasperation of millions, calling the statement flatly "absurd". His logic was simple and unassailable: are authorities really issuing these highly secure documents to people without being completely convinced that they are Indian citizens? Meanwhile, political leaders like Kapil Sibal and Asaduddin Owaisi quickly pointed out the terrifying practical fallout - warning that if the country's most vetted identity document cannot establish citizenship, ordinary Indians could face arbitrary challenges to their voting rights during routine electoral roll revisions. The government quickly moved to defuse the panic, explaining that this wasn't a sudden policy shift but rather a long-standing legal reality. Officials pointed to Section 20 of the Passports Act of 1967, which gives the central government the rare power to issue a passport or travel document to a non-citizen if deemed necessary in the "public interest". They also cited a 2013 Bombay High Court precedent confirming that a passport does not automatically create or prove citizenship in a legal dispute. The Reality On The Ground Yet, for the average citizen, this defence feels like a classic case of legal hair-splitting - a distinction, quite frankly, without a real-world difference. To tell an individual who has survived the gruelling gauntlet of police verifications, birth certificate searches, and biometric logging that their navy-blue booklet is merely a "ticket to board a plane" and not proof of their nationality is to plunge them directly into a bureaucratic twilight zone. To understand why this controversy feels so fatuous, one only needs to look at what it actually takes to get a passport in India. The application process is essentially an exhaustive citizenship audit conducted by the state. You must produce a birth certificate, address verification, and often ancestral records, depending on your year of birth. Following that, local police officers physically visit your home, interview neighbours, and cross-reference criminal databases to verify your identity and confirm your undivided allegiance to the Republic. The state acts as a rigorous gatekeeper. If the state is not fully satisfied of an applicant's citizenship, the passport is denied. Therefore, declaring that the resulting document is not "conclusive proof" of citizenship creates a bizarre legal paradox: the government demands absolute proof of citizenship to issue the document, but refuses to accept the document as absolute proof that the citizen has citizenship. The Case Of The Aadhar This paradox becomes genuinely alarming when you realise that India lacks a single, universally held document that legally confirms nationality. Under the Citizenship Act of 1955, citizenship is a legal status derived from facts such as birth, descent, or naturalisation, not from a piece of paper. But since those facts must be proven using documents, citizens are left chasing an ever-shifting goalpost of acceptable documentation. The issue is heavily compounded by the limitations of India's other ubiquitous identity credential: the Aadhaar card. With over 1.3 billion cards issued, Aadhaar is the undisputed foundation of daily life in India, used for everything from opening bank accounts to receiving food subsidies. However, its legal status is strictly bound. The Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified - most recently when it declined requests to mandate Aadhaar for intensive voter roll revisions in Bihar - that Aadhaar is exclusively a proof of identity and local residence, not citizenship. Because the legal requirement for an Aadhaar card is simply residing in India for 182 days or more in the preceding year, millions of legal foreign residents, migrant workers, and expatriates legitimately hold one. As a result, the average Indian is caught in an administrative limbo: their Aadhaar card only proves where they live, and their passport only proves they are allowed to travel. As for citizenship, they are left legally exposed, with no single, unquestioned shield to verify their status as a son or daughter of the soil. A Manufactured Crisis, But With A Simple Solution We can easily resolve this manufactured crisis.

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A RS 1 CRORE MINIMUM:

Anthropic Shells Out Big Even For Lowest-Paid H-1B AI Talent

Even Anthropic's lowest-paid H-1B employees earn more than Rs 1 crore a year in base salary, underscoring the fierce battle for artificial intelligence talent as the AI startup races toward what could be a $1 trillion stock market debut later this year. A Business Insider analysis of Anthropic's H-1B visa sponsorship filings for roughly 80 roles certified in the first two quarters of fiscal 2026 offers a rare glimpse into the company's compensation structure. The standout figure was a Member of Technical Staff role with a base salary of $1.38 million (around Rs 13.06 crore). Another employee with the same designation was certified at $1.12 million (around Rs 10.60 crore). The filings do not include bonuses or stock awards, which typically account for a significant portion of compensation at high-growth AI companies. Anthropic, currently valued at around $965 billion, has seen early employees' stock options appreciate sharply. Even at the lower end of the pay scale, Anthropic's largest job category starts at $133,952 (around Rs 1.27 crore) in base salary. Several non-engineering teams, including legal, finance and partnerships—also begin well above Rs 1.7 crore annually. Among other roles disclosed in the filings: - Member of Technical Staff (Manager): Up to $850,000 (Rs 8.04 crore) - Reinforcement Learning Researcher: Up to $500,000 (Rs 4.73 crore) - Product Design Manager: Up to $385,000 (Rs 3.64 crore) - Commercial Counsel: Up to $320,000 (Rs 3.03 crore) - Partnerships: $227,760-$248,500 (Rs 2.15 crore- Rs 2.35 crore) The salary data highlights the escalating competition for top AI talent. Meta, Google and OpenAI have all ramped up compensation packages in recent years as they compete to attract and retain elite researchers and engineers. According to SignalFire, Anthropic has maintained higher employee retention than several rival AI labs.

Telangana will emerge as the hub for blue-collar jobs: CM Revanth

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday, June 27, said the state would soon emerge as the country's hub for the best-skilled blue-collar employees. He said the state government's 'TelanganaRising' 2047 vision for creating skilled youth is witnessing the world's best companies participating in the hiring in ITIs upgraded as Advanced Technology Centres (ATC) in the state. "We will soon become India's hub for the best-skilled employees in the blue-collar economy too," he said in a post on X. Reddy was responding to media reports that 99 out of 100 applicants at the government's Industrial Training Institute-Advanced Technology Centre in the tribal area of Utnoor in Adilabad district landed MNC jobs during a campus recruitment drive. He said the Multinational corporations that drove the recruitment include Tata Motors and Foxconn.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Hunts For New MD & CEO As Ashok Vaswani Plans To Exit

Kotak Mahindra Bank has begun the search for a new managing director and chief executive officer after incumbent Ashok Vaswani informed the board that he will not seek reappointment at the end of his current term. In an exchange filing on Saturday, the private sector lender said Vaswani's current term will conclude on Dec. 31, 2026. The bank said he decided against seeking another term for personal reasons. "The Board has, at its meeting held today, respected his decision and has initiated the process for the appointment of a new Managing Director & CEO. The process will be completed within applicable regulatory timelines," Kotak Mahindra Bank said in the filing. The bank added that the succession process has already been initiated and will be completed in line with applicable regulatory timelines. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. shares are likely to remain in focus on Monday after the lender said its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Ashok Vaswani, has decided not to seek a fresh term after his current tenure ends on Dec. 31, 2026. The announcement comes more than six months before the end of Vaswani's tenure, giving the lender sufficient time to complete the succession process. Kotak Mahindra Bank shares settled 0.75% higher at Rs 409 in the previous trading session, compared with the prior close of Rs 405.95. During the day, the stock touched an intraday high of Rs 413.80 and a low of Rs 407.20. Over the past 52 weeks, the stock has traded in a range of Rs 345.50 to Rs 453.20.

Trump threatens 100% tariff on European nations over tech tax

US president Donald Trump has vowed to impose a 100% import tariff on any European country that introduces a digital services tax on American technology giants. Writing on his Truth Social platform, Trump said "numerous European countries" had been discussing bringing in such a levy and some were close to doing so. He warned that the punitive penalties would be applied immediately and would completely "supersede" any existing bilateral trade agreements. While the post targets nations planning the "imminent implementation" of new levies, the precise implications for the UK were not immediately clear, given London has had such a tax in place since 2020. "Please let this statement serve to represent that any Country that imposes such a Tax will immediately be met with a 100% TARIFF on any and all Goods sent to the United States of America," he wrote. Britain's 2% Digital Services Tax (DST) applies to major search engines, social media platforms, and online marketplaces with global revenues from their digital businesses exceeding £500 million, and total UK revenues surpassing £25 million. It impacts some of the largest US companies, including Apple, Google, Meta, and Amazon and raised more than £800 million in 2024–25, up from £678 million in 2023–24, according to the Treasury. In April, Trump said that the UK faced "a big tariff" for purportedly targeting major US companies with a tax. "They think they're going to make an easy buck, that's why they've all taken advantage of our country", Trump said at the time. The Department for Business and Trade and the Treasury have been contacted for comment. Trump's threat of retaliation against European nations that may be planning to launch or revise their own such tax comes just days after the US and EU finalised a new trade deal. Michael Damianos, minister of energy, commerce and industry of the Republic of Cyprus, said at the time that "the EU can respond swiftly and proportionately when the deal is not respected or its interests are at stake". France, Italy and Spain also impose a digital services tax of 3% on large companies operating in their countries, and several other EU nations have implemented or proposed a similar tax, according to Tax Foundation, a nonprofit group focused on tax policy. Amazon earlier this year upped its fees on sellers citing such taxes. Trump has attempted to impose large tariffs on many countries since he became president again in 2025. The US Supreme Court in February struck down Trump's earlier attempt to impose a global tariff of 10%. Nevertheless, the US recently announced new tariffs of 10-12.5% on dozens of countries accounting for almost all its imports over claims that such countries are not doing enough to tackle forced labour. Donald Trump expressed his gratitude for naming a road in Hyderabad, India, after him, saying he was the first US President to be honoured this way.

Trump's remarks on Truth Social on Friday came after the Telangana government named a road adjoining the US Consulate in the southern Indian city as "Donald Trump Avenue".

"The new Donald Trump Avenue in Hyderabad, India -- The first US President to ever be honoured in this way. Thank you," Trump said, sharing a photograph of Telangana deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and US envoy to India Sergio Gor unveiling the ceremonial plaque earlier this week. The newly named Donald Trump Avenue is also close to the offices of major American tech firms, including Microsoft, Google and Amazon.

The Telangana government described the designation as a tribute to the United States and a recognition of Hyderabad's growing role in US-India relations.

OpenAI names Prabhjeet Singh as Managing Director for India ops

New Delhi: OpenAI has appointed Prabhjeet Singh as Managing Director for India, one of the company's top-priority markets, a statement on Friday, June 26, said. Singh will be OpenAI's "most senior leader" in India, with responsibility for performance across consumer growth, enterprise adoption and partnerships, regulatory engagement and operations. His focus will include building partnerships and supporting India's wider AI ecosystem, while helping more consumers, businesses, institutions and government bodies benefit from AI, OpenAI said.

"OpenAI can confirm that Prabhjeet Singh will join as Managing Director for India in September. He will report to Kiran Mani, Managing Director for APAC (Asia Pacific)," according to the company. The latest appointment is part of OpenAI's continued investment in India, one of the top priority markets for the company. From Uber to OpenAI

Singh joins OpenAI from Uber where he served as President of India and South Asia, and led its mobility business across India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

He is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur and IIM Ahmedabad. Sam Altman-led OpenAI has stepped up its India push, deepening partnerships with businesses and developer community, as it lays bold bets on one of the fastest-growing markets for artificial intelligence adoption.

Altman has maintained that AI adoption in India has been "amazing" to watch, and that the company is excited to invest more here. The company announced its first office in New Delhi in November 2025.

One of the most prominent names in the global digital industry, Altman, had recently also signalled a major vote of confidence in India's tech landscape during the India AI Summit in February this year when he lauded the speed of tech adoption here. "What's happening in India with AI is really quite amazing," Altman had said. He had praised India's current "conviction" to invest across the entire AI stack, and indicated that India's tech ecosystem is on the verge of a massive, AI-driven entrepreneurial explosion.

"The country's conviction to invest in everything from the infrastructure layer to the model layer to the application layer on top, and the rapid adoption of the tools by people here is really quite something," Altman had said at the time.

Can Toy Story help Disney's new CEO get the magic back?

=Toy Story 5 broke opening weekend box office records, handing Josh D'Amaro a welcome gift as he settles in to the top role at Disney. But he inherits many challenges at the global media company as well - theme park attendance has dipped, overall cinema sales are down compared with pre-pandemic box office takings, while its streaming service Disney+ is yet to make a profit. And while Toy Story 5 recreated the magic of the original animated adventure, recent releases linked to Marvel or Star Wars have bombed. This is the latest episode of our weekly Power Players show, hosted by Rahul Tandon and Will Bain in the UK, and North America Business Correspondent Michelle Fleury in New York. Toy Story 5 is a 2026 American animated adventure comedy-drama film produced by Pixar Animation Studios for Walt Disney Pictures. Directed by Andrew Stanton, who conceived the story and co-wrote the screenplay with Kenna Harris, it is the fifth main installment in Pixar's Toy Story film series and the sequel to Toy Story 4 (2019). The ensemble voice cast features Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, and Joan Cusack among those reprising their roles from the previous films, joined by Conan O'Brien, Scarlett Spears, Greta Lee, Shelby Rabara, Mykal-Michelle Harris, and Craig Robinson. Set two years after the events of the fourth film, Toy Story 5 follows Jessie (Cusack), Woody (Hanks), and Buzz Lightyear (Allen) as they and the other toys deal with the presence of Lilypad (Lee), a tablet and the new favorite plaything of Bonnie (Spears). While Hanks said in May 2019 that Toy Story 4 was the final film in the franchise, the possibility of a fifth film had not been ruled out. Development on a fifth film was confirmed in February 2023, with Hanks and Allen returning. Stanton was confirmed as the director in June 2024 and later as a writer. It is the first main film in the series with no involvement from co-creator John Lasseter, who left Pixar in late 2018. The franchise's composer, Randy Newman, returned to score the film, marking his tenth collaboration with Pixar, while Taylor Swift contributed the single "I Knew It, I Knew You" to the soundtrack. With a budget of $250 million, Toy Story 5 is one of the most expensive animated films ever made, and the most expensive film produced by Pixar. Toy Story 5 had its world premiere in Los Angeles on June 9, 2026, and was theatrically released in the United States on June 19. Like its predecessors, it received positive reviews from critics, who praised its visuals, voice performances, humor and themes, although some questioned its justification for existing. It has grossed $379 million worldwide, breaking several box office records and becoming Pixar's biggest worldwide opening weekend on record. It is currently the seventh-highest-grossing film of 2026. A cargo ship filled with a unit of hi-tech edition Buzz Lightyear toys crash-lands on a deserted island.

Apple hikes some prices by nearly 20% while Xbox raises console cost

Apple is increasing the price of MacBooks and iPads worldwide due to rising memory and storage chip costs. The iPhone maker has hiked the prices of some laptops and tablets by almost 20%, saying the electronics industry is facing an "unprecedented challenge" due to an "extraordinary surge" in demand for chips to power AI data centres. "We have never seen a component price increase this much, this quickly," the company said - adding it was working to find solutions. Not long after Apple's announcement, Xbox said it had decided to significantly raise the price of its popular gaming console for the second time in less than a year due to the current "components crisis". The Microsoft-owned company said on Thursday that the price of its basic console will go up by $100 (£75) to $499, while the price of a console with more memory will go up by $150, to $749. New prices will take effect from August. Xbox previously hiked the price of its consoles in October by $20-$70, meaning the price of a new console will be 30% to 40% more expensive than it was this time last year. The company said it had "hoped another price increase would not be necessary", but blamed the rising cost of console storage and memory for needing to raise prices on consumers. "The entire consumer electronics industry is struggling with the current components crisis, but the effects are particularly hard on consoles," Xbox said. The company added that while the cost of memory and storage has already more than doubled, it expects the costs to double again by 2027. That seemingly leaves the door open for Xbox to further raise prices. Apple's and Xbox's price hikes follow a slew of firms increasing device prices to help them absorb rising hardware costs. Commenting before the Xbox price increase was publicised, tech analyst Paolo Pescatore said Apple's price rises showed the "AI boom was now affecting consumer electronics". Much of the increased prices for memory and storage components - particularly Ram, a form of computer memory - have been attributed to a proliferation of data centres needed to power the AI boom. This, experts say, has caused an imbalance between supply and demand which means everyone has to pay more. The world's largest chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), has also said that inflation is pushing up the cost of doing business. Speaking to the BBC earlier in June, Wendell Huang of TSMC - which makes chips for the likes of Nvidia, AMD and Apple - did not rule out its own price rises amid spiking costs. Pescatore said Apple's actions demonstrated the extent of the challenges for "even for the world's biggest technology companies". "This is a significant moment because even Apple, with its scale and buying power, is no longer immune to the rising cost of key components," he told the BBC. Affected hardware included the MacBook Pro with 1 terabyte of storage, which rose to $1,999 from $1,699 on its US store.

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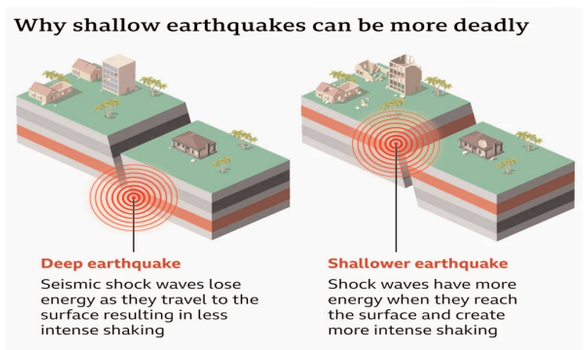
VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES HORROR : 920 DEAD

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES KILL 920 PEOPLE AS INTERNATIONAL RESCUE TEAMS ARRIVE



More than 900 people have been killed and 3,360 others injured in the Venezuela earthquakes, according to the government

More than 900 people have been killed and 3,360 others injured in the Venezuela earthquakes, according to the government, as rescuers keep searching for survivors and families wait desperately for news. The injured are being treated in makeshift medical facilities after dozens of buildings in the country's north were destroyed by the two quakes, including in the capital Caracas. UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher says almost 2,000 international rescue workers are part of the response. Two powerful earthquakes rocked Venezuela within seconds of each other on Wednesday. The second quake was one of the strongest tremors to hit the country in a century, at a magnitude of 7.5. La Guaira, a region north of the capital, has been hit the hardest, officials said. The state is also home to one of the country's two main ports and to Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía - the country's main airport. Many people are missing, and it is likely the death toll will rise as rescue efforts continue. In La Guaira, Natacha Diaz told the BBC that her two daughters - aged 22 and 23 - were trapped under the rubble of a collapsed shopping centre, where they worked as manicurists. "They were with their friends," she said. "I just want them to be found. I have faith and hope that they are there." "I just want them back with me. They are all I have, please." National assembly head Jorge Rodriguez said in a state TV broadcast on Friday that the death toll had reached 920, with at least 172 people still believed to be trapped. In La Guaira alone, at least 243 people have been rescued, the top lawmaker - who is the interim president's brother - said. Dozens of people have been rescued alive, which "brings us joy that they can embrace their families and loved ones", Acting President Delcy Rodríguez said at a televised briefing on Friday. There have been 214 aftershocks since the initial quakes, she added. On Saturday, the UN's Tom Fletcher told BBC Radio 4's Today programme teams were surging in, as the first 72 hours after the earthquake were "crucial". "It's absolutely grim, it's devastating and for us we are driven on minute by minute, hour by hour, by the sound of the survivors underneath the rubble." "We cannot pause for a second while we hear them, but the worst thing is when those voices go quiet. We're determined to save as many lives as we can." Hundreds of buildings have been damaged or destroyed, including a number of hospitals and shopping centres, Jorge Rodríguez said, adding that at least 1,000 other infrastructure sites have also been damaged. Surviving medical facilities are said to be overwhelmed, with medics telling the BBC that even before the disaster it was difficult to treat patients. "All our hospitals lack supplies, lack medicines, we are not able to provide medical attention to our people in a normal day," doctor Pedro Javier Fernandez said. "Now with this tragedy, the emergency is even bigger and it's more difficult to face than in other countries," he added. There are reports of rescuers pulling people out of collapsed buildings with their bare hands, as disrupted communications, damaged roads, and a lack of resources made the initial emergency response difficult. Fletcher said the UN has 39 search and rescue teams deployed, with each consisting of 50-100 people. "You're looking at almost 2000 people surging in, 111 dogs, medical teams as well. We go in with these micro drones, they call them cockroach drones, that help us find people in the buildings." A UK military flight carrying British search and rescue teams, dogs and drones left RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire on Friday, bound for Venezuela. The flight is carrying specialists from 14 UK fire services, led by Merseyside Fire and Rescue. Other countries, including the United States, the Netherlands, Mexico and Switzerland have sent teams. The US has also announced the deployment of warships and transport planes as well as $150m (£113m) in aid. A BBC reporter in Caraballeda, in La Guaira state, has seen heavy machinery arrive to begin the task of removing rubble. International rescue workers already on the ground have seen "horrific damage", the secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council said. Venezuela was ill-prepared and vulnerable in an emergency situation because of its already "crumbling infrastructure" following decades of underinvestment, Jan Egeland told the BBC. Venezuela has experienced more than a decade of intense economic crisis, which has led to deteriorated living standards in the oil-rich country. Earlier, the UN's humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said the disaster "needs an international global response and we'll coordinate that and we will deliver". "I want people to know in Venezuela that help is coming," he said.

US strikes Iran after attack on cargo ship

The US military has conducted strikes on Iranian targets after President Donald Trump accused Iran of a "foolish violation" of its truce following an attack on a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz. US Central Command said it had struck missile and drone storage facilities and coastal radar positions on Friday, in response to a drone attack on a cargo ship on Thursday which halted a planned evacuation of sailors stuck in the region. Tehran said the cargo ship was attacked because it was using an unauthorised route to transit through the Gulf waterway. After the US strikes, Iran in turn accused the US of violating their interim deal and said it had struck targets linked to American forces. US Central Command - or Centcom - described the American strikes as "a powerful response" to the drone attack a day earlier. "The unwarranted aggression against commercial shipping by Iranian forces clearly violated the ceasefire," it said in a statement. "Furthermore, Iran's dangerous behaviour undermined freedom of navigation as commerce increasingly flows through the vital international trade corridor." Centcom said the US military would "continue to provide safe passage coordination and support to commercial vessels transiting the strait". Iran's foreign ministry released a statement on Saturday morning, saying the country had carried out strikes against targets linked to American forces in response, and blamed the "treaty-breaking US regime" for the situation. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said its navy had struck US military positions in the region, without providing further details. The BBC contacted the Pentagon for comment. Bahrain's foreign ministry said the country had come under attack from "several Iranian drones" early on Saturday, condemning the action as a "flagrant violation" of its sovereignty and accusing Tehran of undermining peace efforts. Also on Saturday, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said a tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile in the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel sustained damage to its bridge, but all crew were safe and no environmental damage had been reported, UKMTO added. Tehran effectively closed the strait after US and Israeli attacks against Iran began at the end of February. The shutdown of the critical waterway for oil and gas shipments caused a spike in global oil prices and choked off shipments of other crucial commodities such as fertiliser. The US and Iran agreed on 17 June to end hostilities under a 14-point memorandum of understanding, which had also called for Iran to use its "best efforts for the safe passage of commercial vessels with no charge for 60 days". In a post on X following the US retaliatory strikes, Vice-President JD Vance said that if Iran "has disagreements about how the MOU is being applied, they can pick up the phone". "But violence will be met with violence," he added. Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Iranian parliament's national security commission, though, said on social media that the US had "attacked Iran in the middle of negotiations once again". He continued in his social media post:

"This reckless violation of the ceasefire will, as always, lead to retreat and regret on their part. The blame game does not work anymore." Speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday afternoon, Trump refused to be drawn into questions on how the US might respond to the drone attack, or whether he viewed the ceasefire as still intact. "You'll find out," he said. "I don't like the fact that they took a shot yesterday. They shouldn't be doing that." Asked why he believed Iran would conduct such an operation, Trump said only that "they're a little bit different". In recent days, Trump and other US officials insisted negotiations with Iran were progressing well, saying Iran had given up any suggestion of tolling vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. In a Truth Social post on Wednesday, Trump said Iran had informed the US that there would be "no tolls, no insurance costs and no other charges of any kind being sought or received". "If this is false information, negotiations would end, immediately," he added. The US has condemned reports that Iran is charging fees to tankers going through the strait, and many see any tolling system as breaking with international maritime law. On Tuesday, Iranian and Omani officials held talks in Oman's capital of Muscat to discuss "the future management of navigation", although Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi said both countries were committed to "toll-free safe passage".

EUROPE'S DEADLY HEATWAVE BREAKS GERMAN RECORD AND HALTS PUBLIC EVENTS

Temperatures broke June records in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands on Friday as the death toll from Europe's heatwave climbed in Spain and France and authorities cancelled concerts and other public events because of health risks. Germany's highest ever temperature of 41.3C was recorded provisionally in the south-western city of Saarbrücken, just over the border from France, which this week endured its hottest temperatures three days in a row. Although France's heatwave has peaked, its health minister said the "emergence of deaths at home" was of particular concern. The World Meteorological Organization warned of "major impacts" to health, ecosystems, agriculture and labour. Spokeswoman Clare Nullis said: "We need to get used to it, unfortunately."

Europe's deadly June heatwave has moved slowly north and east, and Belgian forecaster David Dehenauw said unofficially that 40C had been recorded in Kleine Brogel, close to the Dutch border. A top temperature of 39.4C was recorded in the southern Dutch province of Limburg. Meanwhile, in the UK a provisional June record of 37.1C was recorded at Cavendish in Suffolk.

BILLIONAIRE LEON BLACK WALKS OUT OF EPSTEIN INVESTIGATION HEARING

Billionaire investor Leon Black walked out of a closed-door hearing with the congressional committee investigating late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein after refusing to answer questions on non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), say lawmakers. Black, whose name comes up in the Epstein files released by the justice department, testified voluntarily. But he left after he was asked about NDAs he may have signed, the panel chairman said. The House of Representatives Oversight Committee issued two subpoenas for Black to share NDAs and give an on-camera deposition under oath. Black left Apollo Global Management, which he co-founded, in 2021 amid scrutiny over his Epstein ties.

Religion row as Texas makes Bible stories required reading in schools

A Texas education panel has approved plans to make Bible stories mandatory for all five million public school students in the state, sparking a row about separation of church and state. The required readings, which don't come into effect until 2030, include Bible passages about Adam and Eve and from the book of Exodus, where God speaks to Moses through a burning bush. Critics say the new reading requirements, which also include Dickens and Shakespeare, infringe on religious freedoms and lack diversity. The Republican-controlled State Board of Education approved the measure in a 9-5 vote with one Republican joining Democrats to vote against it. "We are bringing the Bible back into schools this week for the first time in 60 years," Brandon Hall, a Republican member of the board of edu-

Meloni and Trump: A very public fall-out that is proving very hard to fix

There is an AI-generated meme doing the rounds on social media in Italy that shows Giorgia Meloni doing all the things you might expect from someone fresh out of a tough break-up. In one fake photo she has a new haircut; in others she is imagined booking herself on a singles' holiday, training for a marathon and creating a profile on a dating app. Of course none of the images are real, but the joke has landed because it captures the very public political fall-out between the Italian prime minister and US President Donald Trump. Their relationship has over the past few months gone from public attacks to personal insults and back again, cooling what used to be one of the most watched alliances in European politics. It was not that long ago that Meloni was being called the "Trump whisperer", and she was the only European leader with a front-row seat at his January 2025 inauguration. Last April, she was also the EU leader of choice to head to the White House for a meeting aimed at easing tensions over US tariffs on European goods. For someone who started out on the fringes of Italian politics, with her roots in Italy's post-fascist tradition, and who has spent years trying to rebrand herself as a moderate, credible face of the European right, that closeness to Trump was never just seen by observers as a useful diplomatic tie. It was proof, on the biggest stage available, that she belonged there. But Trump's unpredictability has proved difficult for Meloni to handle, denting her credibility both nationally and internationally. The first real fracture came in late March, when Italy's defence ministry refused to let US military aircraft bound for the Middle East use the Nato airbase at Sigonella in Sicily without parliamentary approval, a decision rooted in Italy's constitution and the public's deep opposition to the war. Weeks later the row deepened. Trump attacked Pope Leo XIV on Truth Social in April over the pontiff's criticism of the war, calling him "weak on crime". Meloni, governing a deeply Catholic country, called the attack "unacceptable".

MESSI TO START FINAL ARGENTINA GROUP MATCH ON BENCH

World Cup top scorer Lionel Messi will start Argentina's final group match against Jordan on the bench, manager Lionel Scaloni has confirmed. Messi, 39, leads the Golden Boot standings with five goals from his first two matches, including a double against Austria that made him the World Cup's all-time record goalscorer. Scaloni said the decision to rest the superstar was not injury related as he spoke before the match in Dallas, which will kick-off at 03:00 BST on Sunday. "Leo [Messi] will most likely come on in the second half," he said. "We talked and agreed that it was better that way, but obviously it's also good for him to stay in competitive form." He added: "The decision of who plays tomorrow is not related to who plays in the next match. "Jordan is a good opponent, and our intention will be to have the ball and dominate through possession. The opponent's forwards are fast and we will have to take that into account." Kylian Mbappe failed to add to his four goals in France's 4-1 win over Norway, a game that saw Erling Haaland, also on four goals, stay on the bench. But Ousmane Dembele put himself into Golden Boot contention with a first-half hat-trick to move to four goals for the tournament. Argentina will aim to complete a flawless Group J campaign when they face Jordan at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington on Sunday, with qualification to the Round of 32 already secured. The defending champions have been the standout team in the group, collecting six points from two matches while Lionel Messi has once again stolen the spotlight. After scoring a hat-trick against Algeria, the veteran forward added a brace in the victory over Austria, surpassing Miroslav Klose to become the highest scorer in World Cup history. With top spot already guaranteed, Lionel Scaloni is expected to rest several regular starters before the knockout rounds, offering valuable minutes to members of his squad who have featured less prominently. Jordan, meanwhile, will bring the curtain down on their first-ever World Cup appearance. Although successive defeats Austria and Algeria ende their hopes of gressing, they now attacking intent by finding the net in both matches. Their spirited displays have not translated into points, but they will be eager to sign off with a performance to remember against one of the tournament favourites. Even with wholesale changes, Argentina possess quality throughout their squad and will enter the contest as overwhelming favourites. Jordan's enthusiasm could make the match entertaining, but matching the depth, experience and composure of the reigning champions represents an enormous challenge. Anything other than an Argentine victory would rank among the biggest surprises of the tournament so far.

KORDA SIX BEHIND YOON AS SHE SEEKS MAJOR HAT-TRICK

Nelly Korda is six shots behind leader Ina Yoon at the midway point of the Women's PGA Championship as she chases her third straight major. World number one Korda has won the Chevron Championship and the US Open this year already. The 27-year-old is in contention again after shooting a four-under 68 at Hazeltine, making birdies on four of the front nine before finishing with six pars in a row. Korda says South Korea's Yoon - who has yet to win a major but has a five-shot lead from a group of three players including Canada's Brooke Henderson - will start to feel the pressure. "It is hard to have a big lead going into the weekend," said the American. "I was there at the Chevron and you do feel a little bit more pressure, like everyone is hunting you down. "I'm just going to focus on, as boring as it is, one shot at a time and see where that takes me." England's Charley Hull - second to Korda at the US Open earlier this month - missed the cut at two-over par after back-to-back rounds of 73. Yoon, who was nine under par after a spectacular opening round, backed that up with a 69 to get to 12 under. "The remaining two days will obviously be nerve-racking, but being nervous is human nature, and I think I want to embrace that and focus on what I can in my shots," she said. The purse of $13m (£9.8m) this week is the largest in women's golf history, with $1.95m (£1.48m) awarded to the winner.

"GOING TO HIT 13 SIXES":

Kumar Sangakkara Reveals Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Confident Declaration Ahead Of An IPL Innings

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is only 15 years old, but the maturity the player has shown is way beyond his age. His sensational batting has helped him earn the 'Boss Baby' tag. In the Indian Premier League 2026, the teenager represented Rajasthan Royals and won the Orange Cap with 776 runs to his name. He also hit a record 72 sixes in the season, comfortably surpassing previous topper Chris Gayle's 59 maximums from the 2012 season. RR head coach Kumar Sangakkara, a legendary wicketkeeper batter from Sri Lanka, recently talked about Sooryavanshi's massive declaration ahead of a chase against Lucknow Super Giants. Sangakkara revealed that Sooryavanshi claimed that he would hit around 13 sixes in the innings and ended up smashing 10. "This year, we were playing Lucknow Super Giants. We had to chase 220 (221) to win the game and stay in the competition. We fielded first. Vaibhav is walking out, he winks at me and says, 'Coach, don't worry. It's done.' He walks into the dressing room and tells Donovan Ferreira and Lhuan-dre Pretorius, 'Listen, the two of you. I am going to hit 13 sixes now. And once I do that, you just do the rest.' He hit 10. And when he was on five sixes, Donovan and Pretorius thought, 'What is he talking about?' Then they suddenly sat down and said, 'We better start counting this down because this kid is actually going to do it.' So, that is the level of confidence he has," said Kumar Sangakkara on Sky Sports. The incident took place during the mid-innings break of RR's IPL 2026 game against LSG at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, on May 19. RR's stand-in captain Yashasvi Jaiswal won the toss and opted to bowl in the game. However, a good batting display from LSG helped the side post 220 for 5. Sooryavanshi smashed 93 off just 48 balls as Rajasthan Royals completed the chase with seven wickets in hand and five balls to spare.

Abhishek Sharma Gives Blunt Verdict On India's Loss In 1st T20I Against Ireland: "Didn't Happen"

Left-hand batter Abhishek Sharma attributed India's defeat to Ireland to the team's inability to adjust quickly to the playing conditions. He said that in a tight schedule with back-to-back games, adapting fast during limited practice sessions is crucial for a strong side. Ireland held their nerve to notch a historic first win over India in the opening match of the T20I series in Belfast on Friday. The 34-run win marks Ireland's first-ever triumph against the T20 world champions across all formats of the game. "It's just how quickly we adapt the conditions, that's really matters as a team, because when you are playing back to back games, as a group you have to step forward and get used to the conditions, whenever you get practice sessions or probably get used to, I feel as a dominating team, you have to adapt really quick and that's what we were trying today, but unfortunately it didn't happen," Sharma told the reporters after the match. Captain Lorcan Tucker's half-century paved the way for the Irish, as they piled up an impressive 182/9 in their 20 overs. India's famed batting line-up crumbled under pressure, and the visitors were dismissed for 148 in 18.5 overs. Sharma held the Indian challenge together with 50 runs off just 20 balls, but the star-studded batting line-up came up short against some inspiring bowling from Ireland. Left-arm spinner Matthew Humphreys and Matt Hollard claimed three-wicket hauls, while it was a memorable outing for debutant Jai Moondra, who finished with 2/25 in four overs. The two teams will lock horns again in the second and final T20I on Sunday.

Gull Feroza, Ayesha Zafar, Fatima Sana Star In Pakistan's Consolation Win Over Netherlands In Women's T20 World Cup

Pakistan closed their 2026 Women's T20 World Cup campaign on a high by defeating the Netherlands by 37 runs at the County Ground on Saturday. After Pakistan elected to bat first, Gull Feroza top-scored with 63 not out off 52 balls, laced with nine boundaries, to take them to 126/6, despite losing the last four wickets for just 24 runs. In reply, Fatima Sana got the win with a triple-wicket maiden and ended up with 3-12, while Ayesha Zafar chipped in with 3-13 – her career-best figures - as the Netherlands were bowled out for just 89 in 18 overs. The Netherlands, playing their first-ever T20 World Cup, showed plenty of heart, but fell short in the chase after Babette de Leede (30) and Heather Siegers (24) were dismissed.
It meant that Pakistan finished their tournament on a winning note and will occupy fifth spot on the points table in Group A. The Netherlands' chase began brightly with Heather Siegers striking five boundaries off Sadia Iqbal, Fatima Sana, and Diana Baig to race to 24 off 16 balls. But Diana eventually had the last laugh by trapping Heather lbw in the fourth over with a slower ball, which went past the pull to hit the back pad, as the DRS also confirmed the same. Phebe Molkenboer followed soon after, run out for eight by a sharp direct hit from Eyman Fatima at short fine leg. Sterre Kalis tried to rebuild with Babette de Leede, but runs dried up against the spin of Nashra Sandhu and Tuba Hassan.

Romelu Lukaku Achieves Historic Feat As Belgium Enter World Cup Round Of 32

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku has become his country's all-time leading goal scorer in FIFA World Cup history after netting in their 5-1 win over New Zealand in a Group G clash at the FIFA World Cup 2026. The 33-year-old achieved the milestone in the 86th minute of the match, taking his World Cup tally to six goals and surpassing Marc Wilmots' previous record of five goals for Belgium at the global showpiece, according to OptaJose's X handle. Lukaku's landmark strike came during Belgium's dominant performance, as the Red Devils sealed a commanding victory to finish strongly in the group stage. Coming to the contest, Leandro Trossard starred with a brace as Belgium produced a dominant display to thrash New Zealand and seal top spot in the group. The match began with Belgium in complete control, as New Zealand failed to register a single attempt in a one-sided first half. Trossard came close to earning an early penalty after his effort struck Finn Surman's arm, but the decision was overturned following a VAR review. The breakthrough arrived in the 28th minute when Trossard converted from close range after a goalmouth scramble. The Arsenal forward doubled his tally early in the second half with an acrobatic finish after his initial attempt was saved by Max Crocombe.

Who Is Maya Joint? All About 20-Year-Old Attempting To Spoil Serena Williams' Wimbledon Comeback

Maya Joint's cheering section at Wimbledon for her match of a lifetime against Serena Williams will be small. The Michigan-born Aussie said she'll have her tennis coach, fitness coach, agent and ... her mom. That might be it. Joint, 20, was drawn to face the seven-time Wimbledon champion in the first round and knows she'll need to tune out what likely will be a stadium — probably Centre Court — full of fans hoping to see the 44-year-old Williams launch a successful singles comeback. "I'm expecting big serves and big forehands," Joint said. "I'm expecting shorter rallies, just from how hard she hits the ball. I'll have to be really ready for the first couple of games, try and get a good start to maybe catch her off guard a little bit." Her record in Grand Slams is two wins, seven losses with both victories coming at the U.S. Open. Meanwhile, Williams won seven major titles — completing a career Grand Slam in the process — before Joint was born in 2006. "I have so much respect for her. She was one of my idols growing up, I'm just really excited to have the opportunity to play against her," Joint said. As a qualifier at Flushing Meadows in 2024, Joint beat Laura Siegemund before losing to Madison Keys. Joint said the match against Keys in Arthur Ashe Stadium gave her a flavor of what's to come at Wimbledon. "When I saw that she got a wild card to get back into singles, there was always a part of me wanted to experience playing against her," Joint said. Ranked No. 53, she made her Wimbledon debut last year, losing in the first round. Williams could have been drawn with any top player on tour, but in Joint she'll face an opponent who has struggled for much of 2026. At one point Joint lost 10 consecutive matches before a first-round victory at a clay-court WTA 125 event in Croatia this month. The young player, who represents Australia through her father, sees an opportunity. "Any match is winnable. I've gotten a lot closer in my past couple matches, I've been getting closer in the score," she said.

Novak Djokovic In Jannik Sinner's Half In Wimbledon Draw As He Chases 25th Grand Slam Title

Serbian tennis icon Novak Djokovic has landed in defending champion Jannik Sinner's half in the Wimbledon draw, while Taylor Fritz will get to play Jack Draper in an intriguing first-round clash. Djokovic, a seven-time Wimbledon champion chasing his 25th Grand Slam title, is aiming to break his major title drought, with his last title being the US Open 2023. He could face Sinner, the current world number one, in the semifinals, with French Open champion Alexander Zverev finding a place in the other half, as per the ATP's official website. Djokovic, a seventh seed, will start off against Wu Yibing and could play Stefanos Tsitsipas or Hugo Gaston in round two, Arthur Rinderknech in the third round, Andrey Rublev or Brazilian Joao Fonseca in the fourth round, and third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime in the quarter-finals if he keeps winning. Sinner outclassed rival and Spanish sensation Carlos Alcaraz in the title clash last year and will start his title defence against Miomir Kecmanovic. Given that he keeps winning his matches, he could meet the winner of Nuno Borges and Tristan Boyer in the second round, Ignacio Buse in the third round, and could meet rising Spaniard Rafael Jodar or countryman Luciano Darderi in the fourth round. Sinner's seeded quarterfinal opponent is Daniil Medvedev, with the Russian opening his campaign against 2017 finalist Marin Cilic. Sinner holds an edge over Medvedev with a 10-7 record in head-to-head matches and has won the past 10 of their 11 matches. Zverev's first-round opponent will be a 21-year-old Belgian, Alexander Blockx, and could meet British wild card Harry Wendelken or Frenchman Valentin Royer in the second round, at the French Open semifinalist Matteo Arnaldi in round three, Jiri Lehecka or Francisco Cerundolo in the fourth round and sixth seed Fritz in the quarter-finals. Fritz dominates Zverev 10-5 in the ATP head-to-head series and has won the past seven matches between them, including their last Wimbledon clash two years back and at Halle this month on a grass court. Fritz will open his campaign against world number four Draper. Shelton could meet Zverev in the semifinal if the French Open champion makes it that far. Shelton will play Otto Virtanen in the first round and could also face Jakub Mensik or Arthur Fils in the fourth round.

VENKATESH & TRIVIKRAM'S "Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 - AK47" Set for a Grand Worldwide Release on October 2, 2026

One of Telugu cinema's most anticipated collaborations is finally ready to grace the big screen. Victory Venkatesh and ace filmmaker Trivikram reunite for the much-awaited family entertainer "Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 – AK47," which is officially slated for a worldwide theatrical release on October 2, 2026. The release date poster offers the first glimpse into the film's warm and vibrant world, featuring Venkatesh and Srinidhi Shetty in elegant, graceful avatars that perfectly capture the essence of a close-knit family drama. The visuals promise a film filled with emotions, entertainment and heartwarming moments.

The reunion of Venkatesh and Trivikram has generated tremendous excitement ever since the project was announced. With Trivikram's signature blend of relatable emotions, memorable characters, sparkling humour and meaningful storytelling, audiences can expect a wholesome cinematic experience. Venkatesh, known for his effortless charm and impeccable comic timing, is set to headline yet another role that celebrates family values while delivering entertainment for audiences of all ages.

The film boasts a stellar technical team, with S. Thaman composing the music, Ravi K. Chandran handling cinematography, Sreekar Prasad taking charge of editing, Kevin Kumar choreographing the action sequences.Produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under the prestigious Haarika & Hassine Creations banner, the film carries enormous expectations as it brings together one of Telugu cinema's most successful actor-director combinations.

With its perfect festive release on October 2, 2026, "Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 – AK47" is gearing up to be a complete family entertainer. Fans and movie lovers are eagerly waiting to witness the magic that unfolds when Venkatesh's lovable screen presence meets Trivikram's exceptional storytelling.

'Nagabandham' Made with Confidence in Content, Rs.110 Crore Visual Spectacle: Producers

With confidence in the content of 'Nagabandham', we have produced the film brilliantly with a huge budget of Rs. 110 crores. 'Nagabandham' will be like a visual feast. It will give a great theatrical experience to the audience: Producers Kishore Annapureddy, Nishita Nagi Reddy

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

■ HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE NAGABANDHAM PROJECT?

-We successfully ran a software company. After exiting from there, we also considered the film industry as a good opportunity to diversify our business. Before Nagabandham, we heard another story. It was a huge project with a very big hero. But since we had not proven ourselves as producers by then, that opportunity did not come.

- Ravinder Reddy told us about the script that Abhishek Nama had. That's how we met Abhishek. We liked his vision a lot. Nagabandham started with the idea of ??making a film on a large scale. As the story developed, our confidence grew. With the confidence in the content of Nagabandham, we produced it with a budget of over Rs. 110 crores.

-We were interested in the creative field from the beginning. But we didn't enter this field just for the name. We have earned a good reputation in the software field. In the process of expanding our business, we thought that cinema would also be a good field, along with sectors like real estate and pharma.

■ ISN'T CINEMA A RISKY BUSINESS?

-Risk is present in all fields. When we started the start-up, that trend was not there. At that time, the idea of ??doing B.Tech and going to America to get a good job and settling down was more common. But we broke that trend. Despite being IIT graduates, we struggled for four years without any income. Our belief in ourselves brought us to this point. With the same belief, we took risks in the film industry as well. Both Virat Karna and Abhishek Nama are newcomers as directors. What is the reason for such a huge budget?

RK DEEKSHA" SET FOR GRAND THEATRICAL RELEASE ON JULY 3RD

Andhra & Ceded Distribution Completed for "RK Deeksha"

No theatres being allotted in Nizam; we will fight against it A handful of people in the industry are killing small films

We will launch an indefinite hunger strike in front of the Film Chamber from Monday

Director-Producer Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud expresses strong concern Produced and directed by Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud under the banners RK Films and Sigdha Creations, RK Deeksha is presented by D.S. Reddy. The film stars Aks Khan (of Dhee and Jodi fame), Alekhya Reddy, and Kiran in the lead roles, with Tulasi, Anusha, Keerthana, Pravallika, Rohit Sharma, and others playing pivotal roles. The film is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on July 3.

I WISH 'HYY CHIKITTHA' BECOMES A GRAND SUCCESS: POPULAR PRODUCER C KALYAN AT THE TEASER LAUNCH EVENT

Hyy Chikittha' Beautifully Connects the 'Raithe Raju' Concept with Pawanism: Actor Prabhakar Hey Chikittha, produced by N Ashok RNS and Garudavega Anji under the banners Amaravathi Movie Makers and Sundarakanda Motion Pictures LLP, is directed by Dhanraj Lekkala. The film stars Abhinav Manikanta, Divija,Tanmayi Khushi in the lead roles and is scheduled for a theatrical release on July 24. The film's teaser was unveiled on Saturday by renowned cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar and Director G.Nageswara Reddy garu.

The teaser launch event was graced by popular producers C Kalyan, KL Damodar Prasad and Rama Satyanarayana, directors Nageshwar Reddy and Dasarath, along with several other prominent personalities from the film industry.

AFTER NERAM AND PREMAM, COMES VIJAYAM - TITLE OF NIVIN PAULY × ALPHONSE PUTHREN REUNION FILM REVEALED

The much-awaited announcement that Malayalam cinema audiences have been eagerly anticipating is finally here. After 12 years, the blockbuster duo of Nivin Pauly and director Alphonse Puthren have reunited for a new film titled "Vijayam." Following the phenomenal success of Neram and Premam, the duo joins hands once again for this exciting new project. Marking Nivin Pauly's milestone 50th film, the title announcement video was unveiled at a special event held at Padma Theatre, Ernakulam, in the presence of a massive gathering of fans and media. Set against the backdrop of the world of racing, the film is written, directed, and edited by Alphonse Puthren. The film is produced by Pauly Jr. Pictures joined by Tonson Tony and Sunil Ramadi under the banner of Cineholics. The project's design and executive production are handled by Kuttu Sivanandan. The background score is composed by Kerala-born Steve Kottur, who previously worked on the music production for the blockbuster films Durandhar and Durandhar 2, as well as Bads of Bollywood, the web series directed by Aryan Khan, son of Shah Rukh Khan. The title announcement video begins with a humorous sequence playfully trolling Alphonse Puthren before unfolding into a journey featuring both Alphonse and Nivin together.

KEERTHY SURESH GLOWS IN GOLDEN YELLOW SAREE

Keerthy Suresh is on cloud nine with her packed slate of upcoming projects. She is currently filming Rowdy Janardhana alongside Vijay Deverakonda, and recently attended the opening pooja of Anil Ravipudi's upcoming film starring Victory Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, making her one of the busiest actresses across South Indian cinema right now. In her latest pictures, Keerthy nailed a golden yellow organza saree with intricate gold embroidery along the border. She paired it with a stunning layered silver choker necklace, statement earrings, and silver bangles, letting the jewellery do the heavy lifting against the sheer, luminous drape. Beyond these two big projects, Keerthy also has Raftaar with Rajkummar Rao releasing on July 24, 2026, and has Thottam, Yellamma, No Entry 2, and more in various stages of production, making her one of the most sought-after names across multiple film industries.

DISHA PATANI : DROP DEAD GORGEOUS IN BLUE

Disha Patani is turning up the heat with her latest pictures shared ahead of Welcome To The Jungle, which hit theatres on June 26. The film is the third instalment of the hit Welcome franchise, directed by Ahmed Khan and featuring a massive star cast including Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Arshad Warsi, and Jacqueline Fernandez. Her song Tera Paisa Mera Paisa from the film has already been making waves online. In her latest pictures, Disha is seen in a royal blue sequinned corset mini dress with a dramatically deep neckline, sitting behind the scenes on set. While Disha's Hollywood-level glamour has always been her signature, this time the look has pushed boundaries and divided opinion, with many feeling the ultra-low neckline crossed the line from bold into excessive Coming to her recently released movie, Disha Patani looks like a million bucks in Welcome To The Jungle, but performance-wise she is decent at best, with the character offering her barely any dialogue. Disha Patani is gearing up for one of her busiest phases yet. Her ensemble comedy Welcome To The Jungle, featuring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, and Jackie Shroff, is set to release on June 26. She also has Awarapan 2 with Emraan Hashmi arriving in August, and is making her Hollywood debut in the supernatural thriller Holiguards, directed by Kevin Spacey.

In her latest pictures, Disha kept things sleek and party ready. She wore a sparkly silver and black animal print halter top, paired with a black satin micro skirt.

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