

KOCHI | VIJAYAWADA | CHENNAI | BENGALURU | HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.comwww.thesouthindiatimes.com[/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)

PM MODI
CONFERRED WITH HONORARY
'GUARDIAN OF THE BLUE HORIZON'
TITLE BY SEYCHELLES

NATION PAGE

IN CARACAS, THIS FEELS
LIKE THE HARDEST
MOMENT IN VENEZUELA'S
MODERN HISTORY

WORLD | NEWS



SHRADDHA
KAPOOR'S HYPED FILM
LANDS IN TITLE TROUBLE

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

27-06-2026
Total pilgrims : 85,582
Tonsures - 44,155
Hundi kankalav : 3,76 CR
Laddu sale : 4,66 Lac
Annasprasadam : 3,43 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,583
Waiting Conspicuous : Out side line
at Bala Gangamma Temple

Approx. Darshan Time for Saravadashtanam
(with out SSD Tokens) : 30 H.

14 killed in Aramco helicopter crash

Rivadh (TSIT)

Fourteen people on board were killed when a helicopter operated by Saudi oil giant Aramco crashed in the eastern Saudi city of Ras Tanura on Sunday, according to state news agency SPA.



The victims were all Saudi nationals, SPA said, citing an official source from the Saudi Energy Ministry. The helicopter went down in Ras Tanura, a major oil refining and export hub on Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast. Authorities did not immediately disclose details about the flight or the circumstances leading to the crash.

CM Revanth challenges BRS, BJP to assembly debate, Unveils Rupees 13,000 crore road projects

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the BRS while highlighting the Congress government's welfare and development initiatives during a massive public meeting in Nalgonda. He also laid the foundation stone for 6,300 km of Roads & Buildings (R&B) works worth Rs.13,000 crore.

Paying tribute to Telangana movement stalwarts, Revanth Reddy said leaders like Konda Laxman Babuji and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy made genuine sacrifices for the statehood movement. He contrasted their contributions with what he described as "politically motivated resignations" by BRS leaders.

Chief Minister accused the previous BRS government of leaving Telangana with a debt burden of Rs.8.11 lakh crore and alleged that it neglected the welfare of the poor while focusing on the interests of a single family. He asserted that the people of Telangana had already rejected the BRS and would not allow it to return to power.

Throwing an open challenge to both the BRS and the BJP, Revanth Reddy proposed a special session of the Assembly



and Legislative Council to debate the performance of the 10-year BRS rule, the 12-year BJP-led Central Government, and the Congress government's two-and-a-half-year tenure in Telangana. He urged the Opposition to write to the Speaker and Council Chairman to facilitate the discussion.

Highlighting the Congress government's welfare measures Chief Minister said lakhs of new ration cards had been issued and that 3.28 crore beneficiaries were

receiving 6 kg of fine rice each under a Rs.16,000-crore programme. He also said the government had sanctioned 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses and was providing 200 units of free electricity to eligible beneficiaries.

Revanth Reddy said the government had spent Rs.1.56 lakh crore on farmers through Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waivers, bonuses and other agriculture-focused schemes. He claimed Telangana had created a record by procuring 80 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, despite challenges, and criticised the previous government's handling of the Kaleshwaram project. Chief Minister also highlighted reforms in education, including plans to introduce school

ing from Nursery to Class XII in government institutions and modernise schools for underprivileged students. He said the government had resolved the long-pending issue of SC categorisation and provided 70,000 government jobs in the last 30 months.

Reaffirming his commitment to completing the SLBC project and the Musi River rejuvenation, Revanth Reddy said both initiatives were aimed at securing Telangana's agricultural future and improving public health. Expressing confidence in the Congress government's performance, he declared that the people would continue to support the party and predicted that Congress would remain in power in Telangana from 2024 to 2034.

Around 500 farmers under house arrest ahead of protest: Abhijeet Dipke

New Delhi (TSIT)

Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Sunday alleged that around 500 farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh had been placed under house arrest to prevent them from joining the ongoing protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

Speaking exclusively to The Tribune, Dipke claimed that the action was aimed at restricting their participation in the agitation, which entered its ninth day with climate activist Sonam Wangchuk beginning an indefinite hunger strike.

"We have information that around 500 farmers have been put under house arrest because they were willing to join us," Dipke told.

Dipke had also made the same allegation in a post on X, claiming that several farmer leaders from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab had been placed under house arrest to stop them from reaching the protest site. Despite the alleged



Several farmer leaders and members of khap panchayats attend the protest at Jantar Mantar on Sunday

restrictions, several farmer leaders and members of khap panchayats attended the protest at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. Sarv Khap convener Om Prakash Dhankhar also warned of a larger farmer mobilisation from Monday, saying he remained in constant touch with

farmer leaders, including Rakesh Tikait.

Sources said Tikait and Gurnam Charuni can join the agitation in the coming week. A CJP supporter who had also contributed in the farmers' protest said, "Tikait has been observing the situation closely and feels the demands are justified. He is also in touch with other farmer unions and, along with Charuni, might join the protest in the next few days." CJP has been staging a sit-in at Delhi's Jantar Mantar since June 20, demanding Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities in examinations and paper leaks.

Get all children under 5 vaccinated against polio: Shivakumar

Bengaluru (TSIT):

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar appealed to get polio vaccine administered to all their children within the age of five years. "The government has launched the Pulse Polio vaccination drive, and parents in all parts of the state should get children under

Target to administer the polio vaccine to 60,84,911 children



five vaccinated. A healthy state and nation can be built from a healthy family," he said after launching the Pulse Polio vaccination programme at his

ly," he said after launching the Pulse Polio vaccination programme at his

Sadashivanagar residence. "Health Minister U T Khader is very smart. My granddaughter is one month old, so he chose my house. Khader decided to launch this programme at my home itself, so that this campaign would begin from the Chief Minister's house," he said.

"In this programme, a total of 1,14,213 vaccination workers are at work, including across 36,686 vaccination centres, 988 mobile centres and 2,125 transit points. Many NGOs have joined hands in the campaign.

I wholeheartedly extend my best wishes to everyone who has cooperated in this programme of service to the nation," he said. "Our government has decided to administer the polio vaccine to 60,84,911 children. In 1972, Indira Gandhi started a polio vaccination programme so that the country's children would stay healthy. During Rajiv Gandhi's time, it was launched as a campaign.

Over 26 lakh children receive polio drops in Telangana

Hyderabad (TSIT)

Over 26 lakh of the estimated 41 lakh children in Telangana received polio drops by Sunday afternoon as part of the pulse polio campaign. State Health Minister C Damodar Rajanarasimha and other ministers launched the programme at Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Borabanda here on Sunday



morning. The state Health department expects to achieve 85-90 per cent coverage by the end of the day. The department said in a release that health teams will conduct door-to-door visits over the next two days to ensure that every child who missed the campaign on Sunday receives the life-saving polio drops.

CM Naidu calls for revival of Indian joint family system

Amaravati (TSIT) :

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday called for the revival of the traditional Indian joint family system. Stating that the joint family system is one of the greatest strengths of India, he said grandparents and other family members helped shape children with values and emotional support. The Chief Minister was speaking after



administering polio drops to children as part of the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme at his official res-

idence here. He interacted with children and their parents and enquired about their health, vaccination status and

upbringing.

He urged parents to ensure that children receive all government-recommended vaccinations on time to safeguard their health. Officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department informed the Chief Minister that the State aims to administer polio drops to approximately 4.92 million children below the age of five during the three-day Pulse Polio campaign beginning Sunday.

Police raid premises of all 8 accused in Ram Temple embezzlement case

Ayodhya (TSIT):

Police on Sunday conducted searches at the residences of all the eight accused, arrested in connection with alleged misappropriation of donations and offerings at the Ram Mandir.

This comes after the eight individuals were sent to three-day judicial custody on Friday. They will stay in jail till June 29 and will be produced before the city court again on Monday. Krishna Nand Tiwari, a



neighbour of accused Anukalp Mishra, said: "Action is being taken, brother (Mishra) or whoever is involved in this, whoever has committed theft or wrongdoing, they should be given the strictest punishment.

CM Vijay launches TN-wide pulse polio campaign

CHENNAI (TSIT):

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Sunday (June 28) launched the National Pulse Polio immunisation campaign in Tamil Nadu by administering oral polio vaccine to children at the Adi Dravidar Welfare Higher Secondary School in Palavakkam here.

The State-wide campaign targeted 52.91 lakh children below the age of five through 43,051 vaccination centres. Oral polio vaccine was administered at government primary health centres, government hospitals, anganwadi centres, schools and other designated public locations from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Launching the campaign, the Chief Minister urged parents to ensure that every child below five years received the polio drops, irrespective of their routine immunisation status. Public Works and Sports Development



Minister Aadhav Arjuna inaugurated the campaign at the Rajamangalam Government Primary Health Centre in Villivakkam constituency and later launched it at the Ayanavaram Government Maternity and Child Hospital.

The Health Department had established transit vaccination booths at bus stands, railway stations, toll plazas, check-posts and airports to cover children travelling with their families. The transit booths will continue to function on June 29 and June 30.

Congress says states oppose Centre's new rural jobs scheme

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Congress on Sunday claimed that several states, including those governed by the BJP, have expressed serious reservations over the Centre's proposed rural employment programme, alleging that it would place a significant financial burden on state governments while weakening the rights-based employment guarantee

framework established under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X, accused the Narendra Modi government of repealing MGNREGA without adequate consultation with key stakeholders.

He alleged that concerns

The Modi Government, vengeful and petty as ever, bulldozed the repeal of MGNREGA through Parliament without any thorough consultation with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, State Governments, or other relevant stakeholders," Ramesh said.



had surfaced from several states over the Centre's proposed replacement programme, VB G RAM G, which is scheduled to come into effect from July 1, 2026. According to Ramesh, BJP-ruled states including Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand have objected to the "huge additional expenditure burden" the new scheme would impose

on state governments. He further claimed that four other states had opposed the proposed blackout period during the peak agricultural season, while at least five states had sought higher wages for rural workers. "The Rural Development Minister's own home state is voicing concerns around the Modi Government's new pet project," Ramesh said.

PM MODI CONFERRED WITH HONORARY ‘GUARDIAN OF THE BLUE HORIZON’ TITLE BY SEYCHELLES

VICTORIA (SEYCHELLES): (Jun 28) , Jun 28 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday was conferred with the honorary ‘Guardian of the Blue Horizon’ title by Seychelles for his steadfast commitment to environmental conservation and advancing the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States. President Patrick Herminie presented Modi with the title here, the first such honour bestowed by Seychelles.

PM Modi thanked Seychelles for the honour and dedicated it to the nations which are fighting the challenges of climate change. “Grateful to the people and Government of Seychelles as well as President Herminie for conferring upon me the ‘Guardian of the Blue Horizon,’” PM Modi posted on social media after receiving the honour.

“I humbly accept this honour and dedicate it to all those countries that are fighting the challenge of climate change and consider environmental protection their responsibility towards future generations. This is a pressing challenge which we have to overcome together,” Modi said. PM Modi said India is ready to do whatever is required to make the planet “greener and sustainable.”

“This is reflected in our various domestic policies, emphasis on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and global efforts like the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and more,” he said. The prime minister also thanked President



Herminie and the people of Seychelles for the honour in his address to the National Assembly.

“It will encourage all those who are making sustained efforts for environment conservation. I bring with me the warm greetings and best wishes of 1.4 billion people of India,” he said. “It stands as a symbol of our nation’s deepest respect and recognition for those whose leadership and partnership embodied the spirit of the guardian of our blue horizon,” President Herminie said on the occasion.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the honour reflects PM Modi’s “leadership role in advancing climate action and sustainable development, while also underscoring the growing strength of part-

nership.”

“The Presidential Distinction recognises PM’s leadership and steadfast commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable development, climate resilience, blue economy and advancing the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X.

MEA said Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Big Cat Alliance are some of the initiatives taken by PM Modi in this direction.

The recognition is the latest in a series of such honours conferred on PM Modi for promoting sustainable development.

Chandrayaan-3 showcased future of space engineering through resilient design: Expert

Thiruvananthapuram, June 28 (UNI) The successful soft landing of India’s lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3 lunar landing, has offered a powerful engineering lesson to the global space community by demonstrating that future spacecraft must be designed not only for reliability but also for resilience, according to engineering physicist and electronics engineer K.S. Manoj. In an article titled “Chandrayaan-3’s Greatest Lesson: Engineering for Failure,” Manoj said the mission marked a fundamental shift in engineering philosophy by proving that complex space systems can be designed to withstand failures and still accomplish their primary objectives. He said the approach adopted by the mission has important implications for future lunar, Martian and deep-space exploration programmes.

The author recalled that shortly before the launch of Chandrayaan-3, former S. Somanath, then Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation, had expressed confidence that the Vikram lander had been engineered to tolerate certain failures while still achieving a safe lunar landing. According to Manoj, that assurance reflected a broader evolution in engineering thinking rather than confidence in a single mission.

He noted that Chandrayaan-3 incorporated several improvements over its predecessor, including greater fault tolerance, enhanced guidance and navigation algorithms,



wider operational margins, improved contingency logic and increased capability to function under off-nominal conditions.

Together, these enhancements shifted the design philosophy from merely preventing failures to ensuring systems remain functional even when unexpected events occur.

The article explained that conventional engineering focuses on reliability by attempting to eliminate failures, whereas resilient engineering accepts that failures cannot always be avoided and therefore seeks to ensure that systems continue performing their essential functions safely.

A central principle of this approach, Manoj said, is “graceful degradation”—the ability of a system to continue operating with

reduced capability instead of progressing abruptly to catastrophic failure.

He argued that this philosophy extends far beyond India’s lunar programme. As spacecraft become increasingly autonomous, software-driven and technologically complex, complete elimination of failures is neither practical nor economically feasible. Instead, future missions should be designed so that localized anomalies remain isolated and do not escalate into mission-ending failures.

Referring to recent anomalies in international space missions, Manoj said that, without drawing conclusions about individual investigations, several incidents have illustrated how sensor failures, propulsion problems, software faults or communication

disruptions can rapidly result in the loss of entire missions.

These experiences underline the growing importance of graceful degradation, adaptive fault management, operational continuity and effective fault isolation in spacecraft design. While acknowledging that every mission has unique technical circumstances and that no single engineering factor can explain individual failures, he said the broader trend is becoming increasingly evident.

As the complexity and autonomy of modern spacecraft continue to increase, resilience must become a fundamental engineering requirement rather than merely a desirable feature.

The author further observed that the lessons from Chandrayaan-3 are

equally relevant to several critical infrastructure sectors, including electric power grids, aviation, industrial automation, healthcare technologies and autonomous transportation systems.

These sectors face similar challenges arising from digitalisation, increasing complexity and cyber-physical risks, making resilient engineering essential for preventing localized failures from escalating into catastrophic consequences.

Manoj concluded that Chandrayaan-3 may ultimately be remembered not only as the mission that achieved India’s first successful soft landing on the Moon, but also as a landmark demonstration of resilient engineering.

The emphasis placed on fault tolerance and graceful degradation under the leadership of S. Somanath, he said, offers an important model for future space programmes around the world.

As humanity prepares for more ambitious lunar missions, human exploration of Mars, reusable launch systems and deep-space exploration, resilience should stand alongside safety, reliability and performance as one of the fundamental principles of engineering design. The future of space exploration, he argued, will belong not merely to spacecraft that perform flawlessly under ideal conditions, but to those capable of adapting, surviving and successfully completing their missions when conditions are far from ideal.

Padma Shri Dr. Vijayananda Reddy felicitated in Mahabubnagar



Mahabubnagar, June 28 (TSIT): Palamuru Reddy Seva Samithi felicitated Padma Shri awardee and renowned oncologist

Dr. Palakonda Vijayananda Reddy at a grand function held in Mahabubnagar on Sunday. Government Whip

and MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy honoured Dr. Vijayananda Reddy and said the Padma Shri recognition for

his outstanding service to cancer patients was a matter of pride for Mahabubnagar and the Telugu community. He praised the doctor’s lifelong dedication to saving lives and inspiring hope among cancer patients.

Expressing gratitude, Dr. Vijayananda Reddy said the affection shown by the people of Mahabubnagar was as meaningful as receiving the national honour. He reaffirmed his commitment to providing quality treatment, guidance and support to cancer patients, especially those from the district.

P.V. Narasimha Rao's 105th birth anniversary observed



Hyderabad, June 28: The 105th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna P.V. Narasimha Rao was observed with solemnity at P.V. Ghat, Necklace Road, on Sunday, with family members, political leaders, journalists, social activists and admirers paying floral tributes.

P.V. Prabhakar Rao, son of the late leader, said the continued respect for P.V. Narasimha Rao reflects his enduring legacy of integrity, national unity

and visionary leadership. He urged the youth to draw inspiration from his contributions to nation-building.

Telangana Youth Journalists Federation (TYJF) President Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula and several dignitaries also paid homage. Speakers recalled P.V. Narasimha Rao’s landmark role in economic liberalisation, governance, education and foreign policy, describing him as one of India’s most transformative leaders.

PM Modi urges people to choose clay idols for Ganesh Utsav, support local artisans

New Delhi, June 28 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people across the country to purchase clay Ganesh idols made by Indian artisans ahead of the upcoming Ganesh Utsav, saying the practice would not only help protect the environment but also strengthen the government’s ‘Vocal for Local’ initiative by supporting traditional potters and craftsmen.

Addressing the nation during the 135th episode of his monthly radio programme, ‘Mann Ki Baat’, the Prime Minister said many people had written to him requesting that he speak about Ganesh Utsav, even though the festival is still some time away.

“Many people have writ-



ten to me suggesting that I speak about a special topic. This topic relates to ‘Ganesh Utsav’. Although there is still quite some time left for ‘Ganesh Utsav’, people have urged that this subject be discussed right now,” PM Modi said. He noted that preparations for the festival begin several months in advance, particularly for artisans engaged in making Ganesh idols, making it an appropriate time to encourage environmentally friendly practices and support for local craftsmanship.

'You should look at your own history': CM Yogi hits out at Akhilesh Yadav over Ayodhya remarks

Lucknow, June 28 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav over his recent remarks on Ayodhya, accusing the opposition leader and his party of having a history of opposing Hindu religious traditions and questioning their commitment to the development of the temple town.

The Chief Minister’s comments came a day after Akhilesh Yadav pledged that, if voted to power, his party would develop Ayodhya into a “peerless and inimitable sacred city.”

In a post on X on Saturday, the SP president had said, “With devotion and integrity, we take this pledge that, by forming a new government, we shall develop ‘Ayodhya’ into a peerless and inimitable sacred city, where devotees from across the world will experience



the unparalleled essence of true spirituality.” Responding to the statement while addressing a public gathering in Hathras during the inauguration and foundation stone-laying ceremony of 143 development projects worth Rs 548 crore, CM Yogi questioned the Samajwadi Party’s record when it was in power and asserted that Ayodhya has

regained global prominence under the BJP government.

“I am surprised; I was reading a statement by Samajwadi Party President Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji yesterday. He was saying that when his government comes to power, it will make Ayodhya a religious city. What religious city will you make? You should look at your own history. Your own

people fired bullets at Ram devotees. The Samajwadi Party government ordered firing on them,” the Chief Minister said.

Referring to the transformation of Ayodhya in recent years, he credited the efforts of Ram devotees and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for restoring the city’s religious and cultural identity. “Today, when Ayodhya, through the hard work and efforts of Ram devotees and under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi ji, is now reminding us of the ‘Treta Yuga’, you are also tempted by the idea,” he said. Continuing his criticism, CM Yogi alleged that the previous Samajwadi Party government had taken steps that were against Hindu religious practices. He claimed that celebrations of Krishna Janmashtami had been stopped in police stations and jails during the SP regime and also accused

the party of imposing restrictions on the Kanwar Yatra. Highlighting the BJP government’s initiatives in the field of religious infrastructure, the Chief Minister referred to the renovation of temples in Hathras and contrasted it with the policies of the previous government.

“Today, when our representatives were saying that more than 22 temples were beautified in Hathras, was this possible during the time of the Samajwadi Party? It was not possible during their time because, at that time, this money used to go towards the boundary walls of graveyards, and that is what we have diverted towards temples,” he said. The Chief Minister maintained that Ayodhya’s religious character had been further strengthened under the current government and urged opposition leaders to witness the changes for themselves.

BJP workers should work carefully, if they make mistakes, the party will get a bad name - MLA S. Suresh Kumar

Bengaluru: MLA S. Suresh Kumar said that, BJP workers should work carefully. If workers make mistakes, the party will get a bad name. Workers should speak well and do good work. BJP workers should work like servants. As Prime Minister said.

Speaking on the occasion of the 517th anniversary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, Dayanandanagar Ward and Bandireddy Circle Ward, he launched a public-friendly website for redressing public grievances,

No Prime Minister in the world speaks to the people of the country every month like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so he has called has world leader.

For the first time in Bengaluru, a website has been launched for public



issues, and the common people of Dayanandanagar and Bandireddy Circle Wards can raise their problems through mobile phones.

The entire country’s voter list is being revised. The opposition parties are spreading misinformation. One should have one vote, one should not have one name in the voter list in many places. BJP workers should perform their duties like soldiers protecting the country, he

said. Central District BJP District President Saptagirigowda said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi responds to the problems of the common man. BJP workers who have taken responsibility, has increased on your shoulders. The work and projects done by the Prime Minister should be delivered by visiting houses. He said that the party can come to power through workers.

EDITORIAL

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.

Edit

Ram Mandir Trust Confirms Key Officials' Offer to Resign, Says Won't Let Scandal Repeat

In its first official statement on the Ram Mandir embezzlement case, the temple's trust on Saturday (June 27) confirmed that general secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra have tendered their resignations, and said it will "ensure that such unfortunate situations do not arise" again. Rai and Mishra's resignations will be considered at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust's next meeting, treasurer Govind Dev Giri said, a day after the Uttar Pradesh police arrested eight people in connection with the donations embezzlement case lodged on Thursday, in turn well over two weeks after the allegations first became public. Giri, who said the trust is "shocked, hurt and deeply saddened" by the "events" of the last few weeks, wrote that devotees' gifts such as silver bricks and jewellery are secure and accounted for. "We assure everyone that we will ensure that such unfortunate situations do not arise in the future. We will insist that the perpetrators receive the harshest punishments, as appropriate by law," said Giri, adding that the trust will not let "attempts by anti-social, irreligious and selfish elements to tarnish Sanatan Dharma". A long-time associate of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), and of the movement that demolished the Babri Masjid in 1992 and constructed the Ram Mandir in its place, Rai and Mishra had reportedly resigned on Friday but a spokesperson for the VHP called such reports "lies". Neither Rai nor Mishra are named in the FIR in the case, although the former is said to have been involved in overseeing day-to-day affairs at the temple and was reportedly questioned by the special investigation team (SIT) formed on June 13 amid public pressure on the government. A judicial magistrate in Ayodhya said on Friday that the



authorities recovered Rs 79,85,493 from seven of the eight accused, who were all allegedly associated with the process of counting cash and valuables. The SIT found in its interim report – on the basis of which the trust filed a complaint and the police subsequently lodged an FIR – that standard operating procedures relating to pocketless clothes for counting staff, regular frisking and the deployment of security guards that were signed off by Mishra were not followed, PTI reported on Saturday citing a person familiar with the matter. When the allegations broke out earlier this month, Rai had said on behalf of the trust that "nothing noteworthy has come to anyone's attention" in the periodic audits of the trust's work. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Saturday confirmed that it had

received the resignation letters of its General Secretary, Champat Rai, and trustee Anil Mishra amid an ongoing probe into alleged irregularities involving temple donations. The Trust also sought to reassure devotees, saying that all donated silver bricks, ornaments and other offerings made to the Ram Mandir were safe and properly documented. In a press release posted by the Trust, the temple body said it was "shocked, hurt, and deeply saddened by the incidents that have come to light in Shri Ram Temple (Ayodhya) over the past few days". It added that, as "representatives of all devotees of Lord Ram and the volunteers serving here", it was "committed to ensuring a fair investigation and reassuring the devotees." Also Read | Ram Mandir donation row deepens: 8 arrested, ?80 lakh seized, trust members quit

Trust confirms resignation of Champat Rai, Anil Mishra The Trust confirmed that it had received the resignation letter of General Secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra. "The Trust has received a resignation letter from Shri Champat Rai, General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra (Trust), and from Trustee Shri Anil Mishra. The Trust will consider the matter in its upcoming meeting." Devotees assured by the Trust Assuring devotees about offerings made to the temple, the Trust said, "The Trust assures those devotees who personally handed over silver bricks, ornaments, and other items to the Trust officials as offerings in the service of Lord Shri Ram that these items are safely available along with proper records." On the alleged irregularities involving tem

ple donations, it said, "Regarding the incident related to funds received through the temple donation boxes, based on the interim report submitted by the SIT constituted by the Uttar Pradesh administration at the request of the Trust, the Trust has lodged an FIR and legal proceedings are underway." The Trust also said, "We assure everyone that steps will be taken to ensure that such unfortunate situations do not arise in the future. The guilty will receive strict punishment in accordance with the law and serve as a deterrent." It further asserted that "anti-social, irreligious, and self-serving elements will not be allowed to succeed in their attempts to tarnish Sanatan Dharma" and urged people to protect themselves from "misleading and baseless rumours being spread." "These clouds will pass, the

darkness will recede, the light of truth will prevail, and the powerful stream of devotion to Lord Ram will continue to flow uninterrupted," it concluded. Kejriwal's remarks on resignations AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal reacted to the resignations of Champat Rai and Anil Mishra, alleging that the move was an attempt to shield them amid the ongoing probe into alleged irregularities involving temple donations"Under the guise of resignations, Champat Rai and Anil Mishra are being protected. Resignations alone won't suffice. Hang the donation thieves," Kejriwal said. He also questioned why the accused who were arrested were not taken into police remand for interrogation. "Yesterday, the people who were arrested—their police remand wasn't even taken. No police questioning of them was done.

URBAN BUILDINGS TURNING INTO FIRE TRAPS

— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

India is today among the world's fastest-growing urbanizing countries. Economic growth, industrialization, the expansion of the service sector, and the continued migration from rural areas to cities have rapidly transformed the face of Indian cities. From metropolises to smaller towns, multi-story buildings, commercial complexes, coaching institutes, hotels, hospitals, and mixed-use buildings have emerged as new symbols of development. But behind this growth lies a serious reality—negligence in urban planning, neglect of safety standards, and administrative laxity. As a result, many urban buildings, while being centers of economic progress, are also becoming potential "fire traps." Fire accidents in various parts of the country in recent years have exposed the magnitude of this crisis. Fires in coaching institutes in Delhi, coaching centers in Surat, hotels in Kolkata, commercial buildings in Hyderabad, hospitals in Mumbai, and numerous markets have plunged hundreds of families into untimely grief. Most incidents revealed similar deficiencies—unauthorized use of buildings, lack of fire safety equipment, blocked or obstructed emergency exits, narrow roads, illegal parking, and gross negligence in enforcing regulations. This clearly indicates that the problem is not limited to a single building, a single city, or a single department, but to our entire urban development model. The number of mixed-use buildings is steadily increasing in

India. It is now common for a single building to have shops on the ground floor, offices on the ground floor, coaching institutes on the upper floor, and residential accommodation on the upper floor. This arrangement may seem economically beneficial, but it poses a significant safety risk. The presence of flammable materials, electrical equipment, gas cylinders, large numbers of people, and limited escape routes in such buildings make a fire devastating. If a building was originally constructed for residential purposes and later converted to commercial activities without structural modifications, the risk increases manifold. Unplanned urbanization is the root cause of this problem. Most Indian cities have expanded without a long-term master plan. Populations have grown, but roads haven't; buildings have grown taller, but fire service capacity hasn't evolved in the same proportion. Fire engines can't even enter many old markets and densely populated areas. In many places, a network of electrical wires, illegal parking, and encroachments make fire control even more difficult. Under such circumstances, even small fires can escalate into major tragedies within minutes. Another important reason for this crisis is policy contradiction. While the government is simplifying the permitting process to promote business through "Ease of Doing Business," it is simultaneously not placing sufficient emphasis on compliance with safety standards. In many states, buildings up to a certain height are exempt from the mandatory Fire No

Objection Certificate (NOC). As a result, thousands of such buildings continue to operate without regular fire safety inspections. Often, building construction permissions are granted for one purpose, but over time, their intended use changes completely. Unfortunately, no robust system has been developed to effectively monitor this change. Lack of administrative coordination also complicates the situation. Building permits are granted by the Municipal Corporation, land use changes are handled by the Development Authority, business licenses are issued by another department, and fire safety is the responsibility of the Fire Department. Lack of proper information sharing between these departments prevents effective compliance with regulations. Often, all formalities are completed at the time of building construction, but subsequent illegal alterations remain unnoticed for years. Corruption and lack of accountability are also significant aspects of this problem. If inspections are limited to paperwork and certificates are issued without actual inspection, regulations become mere formalities. After several accidents, it was revealed that fire extinguishers were installed in buildings, but they were not regularly inspected. In many places, sprinkler systems were not working or emergency exits were locked. This is not just a technical failure, but also an administrative and moral failure. Lack of citizen awareness also contributes to this crisis. Most people do not inspect fire safety systems when buying or

renting a building. Businesses neglect safety equipment to reduce costs. Regular mock drills, disaster management training, and emergency evacuation drills are considered unnecessary. In developed countries, fire safety culture is promoted from the school level. India's disaster management system has strengthened significantly over the past two decades, but prevention of urban disasters like fires still hasn't received the necessary attention. Our agencies perform remarkable work in post-disaster relief and rescue operations, but if equally serious investment is made in prevention and risk reduction, many tragedies can be averted. The fundamental principle of disaster management is that every rupee spent on prevention saves many times the amount spent on relief and rehabilitation. What's needed now is not just punitive action, but comprehensive structural reforms. First, urban planning must be scientific and forward-looking. Land use, population density, road widths, water sources, fire station locations, and emergency access routes should be re-evaluated in each city. Separate safety standards should be set for mixed-use areas, and building approvals should be made in accordance with these standards. Second, the National Building Code and fire safety standards should be enforced with uniform, rigorous compliance across the country. Safety standards should be based on the number of occupants, the nature of the activity, and the fire risk, rather than the height of the building.

Are Prime Minister Modi's Foreign Visits Economically Beneficial for India?

Saurabh Varshney

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits have not merely been formal diplomatic engagements; rather, they have served to elevate India's global identity, economic interests, and strategic influence to new heights. Since assuming office in 2014 and up to June 2026, Prime Minister Modi has undertaken approximately 100 foreign trips, visiting 78 countries. This figure itself stands as a testament to the fact that India has established an active presence on the global stage over the past decade. For the last ten years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits have remained central to Indian politics and diplomacy. While supporters view these trips as symbols of India's rising global stature, critics often regard them as exercises in high-profile publicity and costly diplomacy. In this context, it is natural to ask: has India truly derived tangible benefits from these visits? India's foreign policy today is no longer confined to border security; it has evolved into a vehicle for advancing trade, investment, energy security, technology, defense cooperation, and global influence. During his tenure, Prime Minister Modi has endeavored to steer relations with the US, Europe, Gulf nations, Africa, and countries in the Indian Ocean region in a new direction. His recent visit to Seychelles—a beautiful island nation in the Indian Ocean—is also considered significant for strengthening maritime security, the 'Blue Economy,' and India's strategic role in the region. The

most substantial benefits of these visits are evident in the economic sphere. Increased engagement with global companies has attracted investment into India, opening up new opportunities in sectors such as the digital economy, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and manufacturing. In recent years, numerous global companies have announced major investments in India, which is expected to boost employment and industrial growth. From a strategic perspective, too, India's position has strengthened compared to the past. India is reinforcing its presence in the Indian Ocean region and enhancing defense and maritime cooperation with small island nations. The handing over of an Indian-made patrol vessel to Seychelles is part of this policy. India's acceptance on international platforms has also grown. Many nations have supported India's global role, and it is increasingly viewed as an emerging superpower. India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is also garnering support from various countries. However, the success of foreign visits cannot be measured solely by the number of welcome ceremonies and agreements signed. It is equally important to assess how many agreements are actually implemented on the ground, the volume of investment that truly materializes, and the extent to which the common citizen benefits. In some instances, India continues to face trade disputes, global tensions, and geopolitical challenges. In the modern world order, active diploma-

cy is essential for any emerging power. Prime Minister Modi's foreign visits have strengthened India's international standing, forged new partnerships, and sought to secure a more influential position for the country in global decision-making processes. Yet, the true yardstick for the success of these visits will be the extent to which they bring about positive, transformative changes in the nation's economy, employment, security, and the lives of ordinary citizens. The ultimate objective of foreign policy should be the fulfillment of national interests. If foreign visits yield benefits for India in terms of investment, technology, energy security, and strategic strength, they should be viewed not merely through a political lens but as part of a broader strategy for national development. India's expanding global role will hinge on this kind of balanced and result-oriented diplomacy. In Focus Visit to Seychelles: A New Direction for Cooperation and Strategic Partnership in the Indian Ocean Relations between India and Seychelles are not limited to diplomatic formalities; rather, they are rooted in shared maritime interests, security cooperation, and common aspirations for development. The visit to Seychelles will not only elevate bilateral ties to new heights but also reinforce the shared goal of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. Today, the Indian Ocean has emerged as a pivotal hub for global trade, energy supplies, and strategic competition. A significant portion of global trade trav-

erses these maritime routes; consequently, the security and stability of this region are vital not only for the littoral states but for the entire global economy. Despite being a small island nation geographically, Seychelles holds a position of immense importance in the Indian Ocean's maritime security architecture. India has consistently prioritized cooperation, trust, and shared development in the Indian Ocean region through its 'SAGAR' policy—Security and Growth for All in the Region. Under this policy, India has steadily cultivated partnerships with Seychelles in areas such as defense, maritime surveillance, coast guard cooperation, capacity building, and disaster management. Cooperation between the two nations has also proven crucial in combating piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and other maritime crimes. The visit to Seychelles signifies that India views its relations with neighboring and friendly nations not merely through a strategic lens but also recognizes them as trusted partners in development. There is immense potential for cooperation in sectors such as health, education, digital connectivity, renewable energy, and the 'Blue Economy.' Particularly in the realm of the Blue Economy, both nations can play a significant role in promoting the sustainable use of marine resources and environmental conservation. At a time when the activity of global powers is intensifying in the Indian Ocean region, the strengthening ties between India and Seychelles are essential for regional balance and collective security.

Nifty Bulls Eye 24,200 Breakout To Maintain Positive Momentum

The equity benchmarks have had a rather choppy ride in the last week, even as Nifty ended the previous session with gains. Going ahead, analysts expect the short-term trend to remain positive, though some consolidation might happen. "The near-term trend of Nifty remains positive amidst broader range movement. Having failed to surpass the crucial overhead resistance of 24200, one may expect further consolidation or minor dip by next week," said Nagaraj Shetti, Senior Technical research analyst at HDFC Securities. Accordingly, immediate resistance for the index is steady at 24,200, whereas on the flipside, immediate support is placed at 23,800. "A sustainable move above 24,200 could open more upside in the near term," Shetti underlined. Technically, the market has formed a range-bound pattern, as per Amol



Athawale, vice president of technical research at Kotak Securities, who added that a successful breakout of 24,200 could push the market towards 24,400. The Nifty seems to have sideways to bullish overall bias with support at 23,900-23,800 levels on the downside, as per Hitesh Tailor, research analyst at Choice Broking. "A breakdown below the 23,800 zone may invite renewed selling pressure and weaken the

current technical structure." Tailor recommended to traders to adopt a cautious stock-specific approach going into Monday's trade. "Considering the prevailing setup, traders are advised to maintain a stock-specific approach while following strict risk management amid continued market consolidation," the analyst said. Nifty Bank The Bank Nifty index is also expected to continue

its upmove as the broader trend remains constructive after the index recently gave a consolidation breakout and continues to trade above its key short and long-term moving averages, as per Sudeep Shah, head of technical and derivatives research at SBI Securities. Therefore, support zones are at 57,800 and 57,500. Above these levels, the rally could continue towards 58,700-59,000. Conversely, below 57,500, the uptrend would become vulnerable. Market Recap The benchmarks posted their third straight weekly gain, the longest such streak since the first week of December and in nearly seven months. The NSE Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex gained 0.1 and 0.4% respectively during the week. On Thursday, Nifty 50 ended 34.35 points, or 0.14%, higher at 24,056, while the Sensex gained 109.25 points, or 0.14%, to close at 77,100.47.

MCAP OF 6 OF TOP-10 MOST VALUED FIRMS CLIMBS RS 88,678 CR

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of 6 of the top-10 most valued companies went up by Rs 88,678.1 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with ICICI Bank emerging as the biggest winner. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 297.57 points, or 0.38 per cent, and the NSE Nifty went up by 42.9 points, or 0.17 per cent. "Markets ended the holiday-shortened week with modest gains, advancing in three of the four trading sessions. Sentiment remained constructive, supported by easing crude oil prices, improving geopolitical developments in West Asia, and selective buying by foreign institutional investors (FIIs)," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Larsen &



Toubr were the gainers, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion from their valuation. The market valuation of ICICI Bank jumped Rs 29,588.75 crore to reach Rs 9,95,610.74 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. HDFC Bank added Rs 24,718.3 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 12,25,981.44 crore. The valuation of Reliance Industries surged Rs

12,043.96 crore to Rs 17,83,926.92 crore and that of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 11,580.28 crore to Rs 6,10,081.53 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of State Bank of India rallied Rs 9,322.93 crore to Rs 9,64,738 crore, and that of Larsen & Toubr edged higher by Rs 1,423.88 crore to Rs 5,80,550.83 crore. However, the mcap of Bharti Airtel tumbled Rs 35,615.21 crore to Rs 11,27,348.09 crore. The valuation of LIC eroded by Rs 21,188.74 crore to Rs

■ The combined market valuation of 6 of the top-10 most valued companies went up by Rs 88,678.1 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with ICICI Bank emerging as the biggest winner. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 297.57 points, or 0.38 per cent, and the NSE Nifty went up by 42.9 points, or 0.17 per cent.

5,35,537.56 crore, and that of TCS declined by Rs 11,143.71 crore to Rs 7,58,206.42 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever dipped by Rs 5,321.83 crore to Rs 5,10,624.92 crore. In the ranking of the top-10 most valued firms, Reliance Industries retained the number one rank, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubr, LIC and Hindustan Unilever.

Gold, Silver Likely To Stay Under Pressure This Week As Dollar Strength, Iran Crisis Weigh: Analysts

Bullion prices are expected to remain weak in the coming week as markets continue to weigh the fallout from renewed US-Iran hostilities, crude oil price swings and a heavy lineup of global economic data. Investors will be tracking manufacturing and services PMI readings from major economies, Eurozone inflation numbers, and the US nonfarm payrolls and unemployment data this week for signals on where the Federal Reserve's policy stance is headed, news agency PTI reported. Geopolitical concerns are likely to stay in the spotlight too, with talks between Washington and Tehran having stalled after the conflict escalated sharply. "For gold and silver prices, the momentum still remains down and corrective," said Pranav Mer, vice president, EBG - commodity & currency research at JM Financial Services Ltd., said. As per the report, on the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures for the August contract dropped Rs 3,041, or 2.06%, over the week to close at Rs 1.44 lakh per 10 grams, while silver for September delivery fell sharply by Rs 15,269, or 6.4%, ending the week at Rs 2.23 lakh per kilogram. Gold, Silver Likely To Stay



Under Pressure This Week As Dollar Strength, Iran Crisis Weigh: AnalystsGeopolitical concerns are likely to stay in the spotlight too, with talks between Washington and Tehran having stalled after the conflict escalated sharply. Gold, Silver Likely To Stay Under Pressure This Week As Dollar Strength, Iran Crisis Weigh: Analysts Analysts added that bullion's direction this week will largely depend on incoming US data. Photo by Zlaky.cz on Unsplash Bullion prices are expected to remain weak in the coming week as markets continue to weigh the fallout from renewed US-Iran hostilities,

crude oil price swings and a heavy lineup of global economic data. Investors will be tracking manufacturing and services PMI readings from major economies, Eurozone inflation numbers, and the US nonfarm payrolls and unemployment data this week for signals on where the Federal Reserve's policy stance is headed, news agency PTI reported. Geopolitical concerns are likely to stay in the spotlight too, with talks between Washington and Tehran having stalled after the conflict escalated sharply. "For gold and silver prices, the momentum still remains down and corrective," said Pranav Mer, vice president, EBG - com-

modity & currency research at JM Financial Services Ltd., said. As per the report, on the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures for the August contract dropped Rs 3,041, or 2.06%, over the week to close at Rs 1.44 lakh per 10 grams, while silver for September delivery fell sharply by Rs 15,269, or 6.4%, ending the week at Rs 2.23 lakh per kilogram. "Gold remained under significant selling pressure last week, ending lower by 2%, extending its week-on-week decline as persistent US dollar strength continued to weigh on precious metals," PTI quoted Jateen Trivedi, research analyst, commodity and currency at LKP

Securities, as saying. He added that crude oil prices corrected sharply by nearly 10%, which eased inflation concerns, reducing gold's appeal as an inflation hedge, and investors continued to favour the US dollar over bullion. Globally, Comex gold futures slid \$149.6, or 3.5%, last week to settle at \$4,096.3 per ounce, while silver tumbled \$7.13, or 10.7%, to \$59.67 per ounce in New York, according to the report. Mer noted that gold staged a mild rebound on Friday on bargain buying, after the latest US Personal Consumption Expenditures data showed inflation had eased more than in the previous reading. Sustained gold buying by China's central bank, fresh US-Iran strikes, and US President Donald Trump's threat of 100% tariffs on the European Union also helped support prices, the news agency reported. However, rising US Treasury yields kept a lid on gains, while silver stayed weak amid soft industrial-metal demand, dollar strength and subdued buying interest, Mer said. Analysts added that bullion's direction this week will largely depend on incoming US data, Fed commentary and the dollar's trajectory, PTI reported.

MUZIGAL MALKAJGIRI ACADEMY CELEBRATES ANNUAL DAY – "SWARITHAM 2026"



Hyderabad, June 28, 2026: Muzigal Malkajgiri Academy successfully celebrated its Annual Day, "SWARITHAM 2026," at *Amogham Banquets CCPL, Malkajgiri, bringing together students, parents, teachers, and music lovers for a memorable evening of music and celebration. The event was graced by *Chief Guests* Dr. Lakshminarayana Yeluri, Founder & MD, IMPEL Group - Muzigal EduTech Pvt. Ltd., and renowned playback singer Venu Srirangam. The Guests of Honour included Janardhan Reddy Vyza, Director, Muzigal EduTech Pvt. Ltd., Aryan Shekar, Music Composer & Singer, Sharat Pasumanthy,

Global Media Head, TV Host & International Singer, and S. Madhusudhan, President, TRSMA. The event was also attended by Special Guests *Sri Pandit M. Janaki Ramulu, renowned Hindustani Classical Clarinet Artist, Lingampalli Sreedhar, Correspondent & Secretary of Shirdi Sai Baba High School, Lion Lingampalli Ashok Kumar, and Kamesh Mantha, Playback Singer. The evening featured outstanding vocal and instrumental performances by Muzigal students, who impressed the audience with their confidence, musical skills, and stage presence. Muzigal teachers also presented special performances, adding to

the grandeur of the celebration. As part of the Annual Day celebrations, students were felicitated with certificates in recognition of their dedication, consistent learning, and musical achievements. The certificates were presented by the Chief Guests and other dignitaries, who congratulated the students and appreciated the efforts of the teachers and parents. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, celebrating the success of *SWARITHAM 2026* and reaffirming Muzigal Malkajgiri Academy's commitment to nurturing young musical talent and providing students with opportunities to perform on professional platforms.

Centre Eyes Subsidy To Ease EU Carbon Border Tax Burden On MSME Exporters: Report

The Centre is working on a scheme to cover 90% of the compliance costs that micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will incur under the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), aimed at cushioning the impact of the EU's carbon tax on smaller exporters, according to a report. The move comes after India's efforts to secure a concession for small industries during trade negotiations with developed countries did not succeed, The Indian Express reported, citing people aware of the development. Steep Compliance Burden for MSMEs Under CBAM, Indian exporters are required to submit certificates corresponding to the embedded emissions in their goods. The report said this has become a significant hurdle for MSMEs, since the EU mandates "default values" for emissions data when actual figures cannot be provided, and these default values, along with associated mark-ups, are set to



rise sharply, by 10% in 2026, 20% in 2027 and 30% from 2028, according to the regulation. "For MSMEs, the principal challenge under CBAM is not necessarily the carbon levy itself, but the cost of compliance. Unlike large corporates, MSMEs often lack the technical expertise, systems and financial resources to measure, verify and report embedded emissions in accordance with CBAM requirements," the report quoted Ayush Mehrotra, partner at Khaitan & Co, as saying.

"They may have to incur significant upfront expenditure on carbon accounting, third-party verification, digital reporting systems and capacity building," "These are largely fixed compliance costs, which means they do not reduce in proportion to the size of the business or export volumes," he added. "As a result, MSMEs bear a disproportionately higher compliance burden than larger exporters, potentially eroding their price competitiveness in the EU mar-

ket. If these costs are not addressed through targeted policy support, smaller exporters may find continued access to the EU market commercially unviable despite having competitive products," Mehrotra said, as per the report. Meeting the requirement under the carbon tax alone could cost an MSME unit between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 20 lakh, and that they do not have the wherewithal to report the number of data points sought under the regulation by the EU, the report stated, The report cited an Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) working paper, released this month, which found that imports from India would decline for all CBAM commodities, and the impact of the CBAM is likely to be felt the most by the iron and steel (I&S) sector, where the extent of decline in imports by the EU could be about 24%, and the fertilisers and aluminium products, followed by metal products, are next in line.

CORPORATE ACTIONS THIS WEEK:

Bajaj Finance, Biocon, Bharat Forge, M&M To Trade Ex-Dividend

Several listed companies, including Bajaj Finance Ltd., Biocon Ltd., Bharat Forge Ltd., Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Tech Mahindra Ltd. and Welspun Enterprises Ltd., are set to trigger key corporate actions in the coming week, with ex-dates scheduled between June 15 and June 19, 2026. These include dividend payouts, bonus share issues, stock splits and a share buy-back. Dividends Jyothy Labs Ltd will go ex-dividend on Monday, June 29 for a final dividend of Rs 3.5 per share. Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd will go ex-dividend on Monday, June 29 for a final dividend of Rs 2.5 per share. Kalpataru Projects International Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Monday, June 29 for a final dividend of Rs 11 per share. Raymond Lifestyle Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Monday, June 29 for a final dividend of Rs 1 per share. Bajaj Finserv Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Tuesday, June 30 for a final dividend of Rs 1.5 per share. Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd. will go ex-div-



idend on Tuesday, June 30 for a final dividend of Rs 50 per share. Bajaj Holdings & Investment Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Tuesday, June 30 for a special dividend of Rs 50 per share. Bajaj Finance Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Tuesday, June 30 for a special dividend of Rs 6 per share. Maharashtra Scooters Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Tuesday, June 30 for a special dividend of Rs 60 per share. Welspun Corp. Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Tuesday, June 30 for a special dividend of Rs 5 per share. DCM Shriram Fine

Chemicals Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Wednesday, July 1 for a special dividend of Rs 0.4 per share. Grovy India Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Wednesday, July 1 for a special dividend of Rs 0.1 per share. Chembond Material Technologies Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Wednesday, July 1 for a special dividend of Rs 2 per share. Lloyds Enterprises Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Thursday, July 2 for a final dividend of Rs 0.05 per share. Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Friday, July 3

for a final dividend of Rs 1 per share. Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Friday, July 3 for a special dividend. Alufuoride Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Friday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 4 per share. Balaji Amines Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Friday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 11 per share. BF Investment Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Friday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 10 per share. Bharat Forge Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Thursday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 6.50 per share. Biocon Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Thursday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 0.50 per share. Can Fin Homes Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Thursday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 8 per share. Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Thursday, July 3 for a final dividend of Rs 1.50 per share. DCM Shriram Industries Ltd. will go ex-dividend on Thursday, July 3 for a dividend of Rs 0.40 per share.

TWO BOYS RESCUED FROM VENEZUELA EARTH-QUAKE RUBBLE AFTER DAYS OF BEING TRAPPED



Two 11-year-old boys have separately been rescued from the rubble of collapsed buildings within hours of each other, after powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela. Video footage of the first boy, named as Moises, showed him being pulled from the twisted debris - his eyes covered to protect them from the sun - to the applause of rescuers. Hours later, interim President Delcy Rodríguez announced another 11-year-old boy had been rescued, and posted a video of him on X, being carried down a huge mound of wreckage on a stretcher. Since the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes on Wednesday, officials have confirmed at least 1,430 deaths. Tens of thousands of people are still missing. It has now been more than 85 hours since the first quake, but rescuers are not giving up hope, saying people could still be alive, especially if they have access to food and water under the rubble. The two earthquakes, which struck within 39 seconds, caused hundreds of buildings to collapse and many people remain trapped inside. Desperate families have

been digging through the debris by hand, trying to find their loved ones. Some have told the BBC that they can hear people under the rubble, but cannot move the heavy slabs of concrete, and are waiting anxiously for heavy machinery to arrive. Columbia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) said Moises was buried under about 3m (9.8ft) of debris, and the rescue team spent six hours conducting "high-precision work" on Saturday to reach him. Reuters reported that a rescuer was overheard on a walkie-talkie saying the young boy was found near his sister and mother, who had both died. Hours later, Delcy Rodríguez posted a video on X, purportedly showing the rescue of the second 11-year-old boy in the town of Caraballeda. "In these hours, every life is hope for Venezuela," she wrote. Officials said the coastal region of La Guaira, where Caraballeda is located, has been hit the hardest. Rescuers' efforts have been hampered by aftershocks, which are in turn terrifying residents. "To be honest, it makes you feel kind of nervous.



■ US and Iran exchange strikes and accuse each other of violating ceasefire

In Caracas, this feels like the hardest moment in Venezuela's modern history

Each morning that Venezuelans wake to the aftermath of the dual earthquakes, it is a little darker, a little grimmer. It means another night in which prayers for the miraculous recovery of missing loved ones went unanswered, in which the fitful sleep of the survivors is interrupted by nightmares of collapsed buildings and moments of sheer panic. For ex-police-man Jan Carlos Roa Garcia and his family, it was another night sleeping rough. Their building in Caracas wasn't brought down but is too dangerous to return to. Tears rolling down his cheeks, he says he's not sure he even knows how to rebuild his family's life again. "If I was 30 and not 50, then maybe. But I don't



know where to begin. And so far, no-one in authority has contacted us." As a loyal public servant, Jan Carlos was careful not to over-criticise the government's response, exhausted and angry though he is. Musician Zaira Castro had no such reservations. "We're all pretty frustrated because the government is not showing what it should

– a serious display of help," she says in a plaza just a block away from two collapsed buildings. "It's actually us, the Venezuelans, who are helping each other. We live in a society that has grown into helping each other. We don't depend on the government – that doesn't exist for us anymore." In the same part of town, called Chacao, the Interim

President, Delcy Rodríguez, took a tour with the mayor and was on the receiving end of residents' ire. "You're campaigning in the middle of a tragedy! The government isn't doing anything for the people," yelled one resident. On a personal level, I know these streets well. I lived in the affected neighbourhood of Los Palos Grandes in Chacao for several years when I was the BBC's Venezuela Correspondent. My old apartment block was just metres from the collapsed Petunia building, where rescue crews are working around the clock to reach trapped residents. A friend recently posted on social media that her mother was among the missing under the building's rubble.

Israel strikes southern Lebanon as Hezbollah condemns new deal



Israeli air strikes in Lebanon have killed one person, the country's health ministry said, a day after the two countries signed a deal aimed at paving the way to a lasting peace. Lebanon's state news agency said an Israeli drone hit the southern town of Nabatieh al-Fawqa, and later reported further strikes in the area, with at least two more people wounded. The Israeli military said it carried out the drone strike on an individual who posed a threat 'to its forces, without providing details. The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group - which was not involved in negotiating Friday's US-brokered agreement - rejected it and accused the Beirut government of undermining Lebanon's sovereignty. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the agreement reached in Washington "historic" and "a blow to Iran and Hezbollah". Under the four-point framework, Israel will withdraw its forces from the South Litani area, with the Lebanese army taking exclusive control of the vacated territory. But Israeli forces are permitted to remain in an expanded security area in southern Lebanon. On Saturday Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem accused the Lebanese government of making damaging concessions. "The framework agreement in Washington is humiliating, shameful, and a surrender of sovereignty. This agreement is null and void," he said. Qassem criticised provisions linking

Israel's withdrawal to the group's disarmament, saying 'they crossed "all red lines". He accused Lebanese authorities of committing a "grave blunder" which "may even lead to the annexation of these lands", and vowed that Hezbollah would continue its armed resistance. Later on Saturday Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israeli forces had been ordered to "prepare for an extended stay in the security zone" - referring to an area up to 10km (six miles) inside Lebanese territory. Lebanon was pulled into the conflict on 2 March, when Iran-backed Hezbollah launched missiles into Israel in retaliation to an Israeli strike that killed Iran's supreme leader. Israel responded with an air campaign across Lebanon and a ground invasion in the south. Israeli attacks in Lebanon have killed at least 4,192 people since the current round of hostilities began, according to the Lebanese health ministry. More than 11,600 have been injured, and more than 1.2 million people have been displaced, Lebanon says. Israel say 36 of its soldiers and four civilians have been killed on both sides of the border. A US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon on 16 April failed to stop the fighting. Israel and Lebanon agreed in June to renew their fragile ceasefire, and the US said it would help guide the creation of "pilot zones in which the Lebanese Armed Forces will take exclusive control of the territory to the exclusion of all non-state actors".

WHY KIM JONG UN NEVER TALKS ABOUT HIS MOTHER - OR HER CONTROVERSIAL BLOODLINE

Among the many mysteries shrouding North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the secrecy around his mother stands out. In his 15 years of rule, he has never once publicly mentioned her by name. The legitimacy of Kim's dictatorship rests heavily on his "Mount Paektu" bloodline - a lineage tied to the mythical founder of the Korean people. And in a country that prides itself on this hereditary purity, the identity of Kim's mother is not just a secret - but a threat to the regime itself. A mythological birthplace The story of the Koreans, according to popular belief, begins on Mount Paektu - a mountain located on the China-North Korea border that is said to be the birthplace of Dangun, the mythical founder of what became Korea's first kingdom. Thousands of years later, Kim Il Sung - the founder of North Korea - reportedly used the mountain as a hideout when fighting against the Japanese. His son, Kim Jong Il, was said to be born on those same sacred slopes - despite reports indi-



cating he was in fact most likely born in Russia - and for decades since the mountain has been used to legitimise the Kim dynasty. "Kim Jong Un became heir in his 20s despite having no achievements, solely because of the Paektu bloodline," Ryu Hyun-woo, an exiled North Korea diplomat, wrote in his book, Kim Jong Un's Secret Vault. But the reality of Kim's maternal lineage paints a different picture. Hundreds of miles away from Mount Paektu lies

the city of Osaka: Japan's historical capital, and the place where Kim's mother, Ko Yong Hui, was said to be born. From what biographers have pieced together, Ko was born in Osaka in 1952 to parents originally from Jeju Island, which sits off the southern coast of what is now South Korea. As residents of Japan, Ko's family were "Zainichi Koreans": immigrants during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the peninsula. But when she was about 10 years old,

Ko's family emigrated to North Korea. They were among the estimated 93,000 Koreans who moved to North Korea between 1959 and 1984, lured by a resettlement scheme that promised an idyllic life of free healthcare, education and jobs. Migrants to the North were first viewed with envy as they brought cash, clothes and home appliances from the country's capitalist neighbour to the south. But they were also labelled "jjaepo", a disparaging term

for a group considered to be contaminated by foreign, dangerous ideologies. North Korean society is deeply hierarchical, with some analysts comparing it to a caste system. And in this strict social classification - known as songbun - the jjaepo belong to the "wavering class", somewhere between the core and hostile classes. They are subjected to heavy state surveillance and often denied admission to good universities or promising jobs. It is a stark contrast to the Paektu narrative that Kim's family has long promoted. "The [regime's] Paektu bloodline is seen as sacred," says Kim Hyung-su of the Northern Research Association. "So the idea of the leader being a jjaepo's son is unimaginable." Intelligence shows he was already wedded to Kim Young Sook, the daughter of a high-ranking military official, in a marriage hand-picked by his father. He was also known to have two other mistresses. Despite this, Ko - a member of the elite Mansudae Art Troupe - was

said to have caught Kim's attention due to her "natural beauty and dancing skills", says Yoji Gomi, a Japanese reporter who published a book on Ko in 2025. Reports suggest that Kim fell passionately in love with Ko, and went on to have three children with her. But children born out of wedlock face severe stigma in North Korea. And so, while Kim's official wife resided in the capital Pyongyang, Ko and her children were tucked 210km (130 mi) away in the coastal town of Wonsan. Though she never married the supreme leader, and their union was not acknowledged by the regime, Ko managed to live what Gomi calls a "Cinderella-like life". Yet it remained a fact that Ko was "never recognised as a daughter-in-law by Kim Il Sung", wrote Ryu - and nor was he ever publicly seen with her children. Had Ko won Kim Il Sung's approval, photos of him and his grandchildren would have been circulated far and wide, says Dr Cheong Seong-chang of the Sejong Institute.



Eleven killed after plane carrying skydivers crashes in eastern France

Heatwave breaks records in Germany, Denmark and Czech Republic

Europe has experienced another day of extreme heat with temperature records being broken across the continent again on Saturday. Germany set a new all-time high for the second day in a row, as temperatures reached 41.5C, according to provisional data. On Saturday, records also fell in Denmark and the Czech Republic as the unprecedented early summer heatwave moved further north and east affecting more people. An estimated 150 million people in Europe are now experiencing temperatures of over 35C. The World Meteorological Organization has warned the heatwave would have "major impacts" to health and ecosystems. The heatwave - which began in the Iberian peninsula -



has been linked to the deaths of hundreds of people over the past week. Germany's preliminary record of 41.5C was set in Möckern-Drewitz in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany's Meteorological Service said. That surpassed a record of 41.3C set just a day earlier in Saarbrücken near the French border. "This heat isn't pleasant summer

weather. It's a health crisis," Katrin Goering-Eckardt, a German politician and former leader of the Green Party, said on X. The Czech Republic recorded its highest-ever temperature on Saturday, with a reading of 40.8C at a weather station in Doksany north of Prague, the national meteorological service (CHMI) said. And forecasters in Denmark said

a provisional temperature of 37C was recorded in Odum, near Aarhus. This exceeded the previous all-time record of 36.4C set in 1976. Switzerland broke the record for its hottest-ever June day for the third day in a row on Saturday, with the mercury rising to 39C in the northern city of Basel. "This exceptional heatwave has been caused by a slow-moving persistent area of high pressure, a so-called 'heat dome'," according to the BBC's lead weather presenter Ben Rich. "Underneath the high pressure system sinking air compressed and warmed, lifting temperatures day by day. 'The skies have remained largely cloud-free, allowing strong sunshine to heat things up even more", he added.

NBA TRADE RUMORS:

New Proposal Reunites
LeBron James With Miami
Heat In Bold Move

The Miami Heat may have already made a huge offseason move by reportedly acquiring Giannis Antetokounmpo, but another big idea is now doing the rounds. A new trade proposal suggests LeBron James could return to Miami after becoming eligible for unrestricted free agency by exercising his player option with the Los Angeles Lakers. The idea comes from Sports Illustrated's Austin Dobbins, who believes a reunion between James and the Heat is no longer unrealistic. Instead of viewing it as a sentimental move, Dobbins sees it as a basketball fit that could strengthen Miami's championship hopes. Could LeBron James return to the Miami Heat? Dobbins proposed a sign-and-trade that would send Andrew Wiggins and Nikola Jovic to the Lakers, while LeBron James and Bronny James would head to Miami. Explaining why the move makes sense, Dobbins wrote, "LeBron could come to Miami. LeBron and Giannis are both fully

capable of playing on or off the ball, and LeBron wouldn't have as much pressure on him with the defensive prowess of Bam and Giannis. The idea isn't a crazy fairytale anymore, this is a full possibility, in a place that he has been before, in a place with a basketball fit, and a place that would be willing to bring along Bronny." James first joined Miami through free agency in 2010, beginning one of the most successful stretches of his career. A return would reunite him with the franchise where he last won NBA championships and could also give Bronny James a fresh opportunity. How a Lakers-Heat trade could work According to the proposal, Miami could build a sign-and-trade package around Andrew Wiggins, who owns a \$30.17 million player option for the 2026-27 season, along with Nikola Jovic. Wiggins could opt out, sign a smaller contract and become part of the deal. The Heat currently have only the non-taxpayer mid-level exception, worth

roughly \$15 million because of financial constraints. Antetokounmpo, Bam Adebayo. A sign-and-trade would allow the team to offer James a larger short-term contract. What it means for LeBron James and the Lakers James will turn 42 in December, but he continues to produce at a high level. Last season he averaged 20.9 points, 6.1 rebounds and 7.2 assists while helping the Lakers advance past the first round despite injuries affecting the roster. Miami is not the only team linked to James. Reports have also connected him with a possible return to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Dobbins believes both destinations make sense. "The Miami Heat are going to explore the LeBron James option, there is no animosity, and there are two locations that make plenty of

sense. Cleveland is coming to Miami and ending it off on the right foot, something that Pat Riley said he will be open to," Dobbins added. For now, James remains with the Lakers. But if free agency takes another unexpected turn, Miami could once again become one of the biggest names to watch.



RUSSELL HOLDS NERVE TO
SEAL VICTORY IN AUSTRIA

Mercedes' George Russell held on to win a tense battle with Red Bull's Max Verstappen for victory at the Austrian Grand Prix. The final laps of the race saw Russell in the lead being slowly caught by Verstappen while the Briton's team-mate Kimi Antonelli chased the Dutchman. Russell took his first win since the opening race of the season in Australia to reclaim second place in the championship and cut the gap to Antonelli to 40 points. Antonelli caught Verstappen on the last lap but the four-time world champion held on to take his best result of the year so far. Verstappen's impressive second place underlined a step forward in form after Red Bull introduced a major upgrade to their car for their home race. McLaren's Oscar Piastri took a solid fourth while Lewis Hamilton, who battled with Verstappen for second in the first third of the race, dropped back to fifth on the back of a confusing strategy from Ferrari. The



key stories of an involving grand prix were: Russell's overdue return to the top step of the podium after an impressive weekend's work Red Bull's revival despite Verstappen's crash in qualifying Ferrari fading after showing early promise Russell, so impressive in a number of different ways as he took pole position on Saturday, held on to the lead at the start and initially appeared to be in control of the race as he built an advantage over Hamilton. The seven-time champion spent the first part of the race trying to hold back Verstappen, and after a fran-

tic wheel to wheel battle through Turns Four, Five, Six and Seven on lap 11, Hamilton blinked first and stopped for fresh tyres on the following lap. It was early - and it sealed Hamilton's fate as a contender at the start of the race. Russell and Verstappen stayed out and stopped within a lap of each other six and seven laps after Hamilton. Antonelli, meanwhile, had briefly dropped to fifth at the start of the race after a hectic scrap with Hamilton, Verstappen and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc through Turns Three and Four on lap two.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Misses Out, India Hand Debut
To This Youngster In 2nd T20I Against Ireland

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi missed out once again, but two players made their debuts for India in the second T20I against Ireland on Sunday. Prince Yadav and Suryansh Shedge were handed their maiden T20I caps after the team management decided against including the 15-year-old prodigy in the playing XI. There had been plenty of chatter around Sooryavanshi since his inclusion in the squad for the Ireland tour, but he finishes the series without game time. As for the match itself, Indian skipper Shreyas Iyer won the toss and opted to field first. India currently trail 0-1 in the two-match series after losing the opening fixture by 34 runs. "We're going to bowl first considering the weather con-



dition. It can pour any time, so we want to maximize the advantage of it. [On what he wants his side to do differently after Friday's defeat while chasing] I think the trend is it's just important to adapt to the conditions as quickly as possible. And they were pretty smart in terms of making bowling changes and also scoring off the back foot and front foot,

clearing right in the front. So it's important that we play smart cricket rather than having a set pattern and see to it that we back our instincts as well at the same time." "[On the challenge of returning from the IPL to international cricket and adapting to different conditions] Yes, it was a bit different, but coming back to the international, it was my first

game after a very long time. And, you know, we've got many experienced players in the team who have played a considerable amount of matches. So it was just a day off for us and looking forward to have a good one today." "[On the changes to the playing XI] Yeah, we've got two changes. Suryansh Shedge and Prince Yadav come in. Both are making the debut. So these are the two changes we've made. [On debutant Shedge] He's a powerful, destructive batter. Yes, he's a sensational youngster who has been scoring runs in the domestic cricket and also in the IPL. He's got tremendous amount of experience in the youth cricket. So definitely he's performed in the A tours. So he's getting, he's reaping the benefits."

FIFA WORLD CUP ROAD TO FINAL:

ARGENTINA GET EASIEST ROUTE; PORTUGAL,
SPAIN, GERMANY MAY EXIT EARLY

The top 32 teams at the FIFA World Cup 2026 have been decided after a gruelling and drama-filled group stage, which culminated on Saturday. Defending champions Argentina maintained their perfect run in the group stage, winning all three matches, with Lionel Messi averaging two goals per game. France, who won the World Cup in 2018, also won all three games, with Kylian Mbappe and Ousmane Dembele leading the scoring charts for Les Bleus. Mexico, one of the hosts for this World Cup, was the only other side to win all three of its group stage games. Germany, the 2014 champions, will be disappointed to have lost their final



group stage game against Ecuador, especially after starting the tournament with a 7-1 win over Curacao. Brazil, Portugal, England, and even European champions Spain will not be completely happy with how the group stage of the World Cup concluded for them. It was

also a heartbreak for millions of football fans to see Argentina and Portugal go to different sides of the World Cup schedule bracket, meaning they cannot face each other until the final. But which team has the easiest road to the World Cup final? The answer, actually, is quite

easy. It is the defending champions, Argentina, led by none other than Messi. Argentina's Path to the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final Argentina face Cape Verde in the Round of 32. Although the islanders have produced some fine upsets in this World Cup, getting the better of the mighty Argentinians will be their biggest challenge yet. If Argentina beat Cape Verde, they will square off against the winner of the clash between Egypt and Australia, two teams who limped into the knockouts of the tournament. A potential quarter-final clash for Argentina could see them take on one of Switzerland, Colombia, Ghana, or Algeria.

Pakistan Cricket's "Double Standards"
Exposed By Ex-Captain, Fumes At "Sexist
Tone" Targetted At Female Players

Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir has blasted critics and fans who are giving a 'sexist' touch to the performance of the national team in the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup. Pakistan ended its campaign in the World Cup on Saturday with a consolation win over the Netherlands after losing four straight games to India, South Africa, Australia and Bangladesh. Mir said in an interview to a Pakistani media outlet that when the national men's team doesn't do well does anyone say that the players would be better off making 'rotis' in the kitchen. "I see double standards while talking about the performances of the men's and women's teams. I don't agree with the tone of the criticism. Yes the team has not come up to the expectations



but just because it is the women's team why add a sexist tone to it," she said. Sana, who is commenting in the World Cup, said everyone was disappointed with the team's performance but it is the way we discuss the team is what is troubling for me. "Even after so many years we still don't give the required respect to the women's team while discussing its performances." Sana said fans and

critics had to take into count the problems girls face when they take up professional cricket in Pakistan. "Our players could not perform the way we expected. It took many years to convince everyone that Pakistan's girls have what it takes, that they can cause upsets," she said and also stressed that the mindset surrounding women's cricket needed to change first.

Argentine Footballer's Wife, Kids Killed In
Devastating Venezuela Earthquake

In a devastating development, Venezuelan top-flight club Deportivo La Guaira has confirmed the tragic passing of Argentine defender Lucas Trejo's wife and two children following the recent earthquakes in Venezuela. Trejo's wife, Yanina Maranella, and their children, Aaron and Ainhoa Trejo, died when two powerful earthquakes struck the country's Yaracuy region. The family had been reported missing after their apartment building collapsed during the seismic activity, with rescue teams later confirming the heartbreaking news. Trejo was not present at the scene as he was in Caracas with his club, Maritimo, to prepare for an upcoming match. "From the #DLG we join



the grief that overwhelms player Lucas Trejo, for the sensitive passing of his wife, Yanina Maranella, and of his children, Aaron and Ainhoa Trejo. Peace to their souls and comfort for Lucas and all his loved ones," the club said in an official statement. Trejo's family was in Playa Grande, one of the coastal areas hardest hit by the twin earthquakes, when the residential building where they lived collapsed.

The veteran Argentine defender had launched a desperate search for his wife and children, aided by family members, local volunteers, and professional rescue teams before the tragic outcome was confirmed. Before the tragic outcome was confirmed, Trejo made a public appeal to seek information about the whereabouts or potential survival of his family. "Our building in Playa Grande collapsed.

Naomi Osaka Suffers Blow
In Wimbledon Preparations
After Injury Retirement In
Bad Homburg Open Final



Naomi Osaka's Wimbledon preparations received a setback when she retired at the start of the second set in Saturday's Bad Homburg Open final because of a foot injury. The fourth-seeded Japanese player, in her first grass-court final, was trailing 6-1, 1-0 to Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic when she pulled out. Osaka had taken a medical timeout in the first set. Then, after gesturing she could not continue, she walked over to shake hands with Muchova and the umpire. "I just want to say thank you to everyone who came to watch the match," Osaka told the crowd during the trophy ceremony.

"I apologise for not being able to finish, but this atmosphere was incredible the whole week." A four-time Grand Slam champion, the 28-year-old Osaka has never been beyond the third round at Wimbledon, which begins on Monday. Seeded No. 14, she is scheduled to play Elsa Jacquemot in the first round. It was 11th-ranked Muchova's third career title from nine tour-level finals, and her first on grass. The final was moved forward by two and a half hours to 11 a.m. local time (0900 GMT) to avoid the worst of the day's heat as much of Europe endures often record-breaking temperatures.

RADUCANU 'PLANS TO PLAY' AT
WIMBLEDON DESPITE INJURY SETBACK

Britain's Emma Raducanu says she "plans to play" at Wimbledon on Monday despite her participation being put into serious doubt because of a leg injury. Raducanu, 23, made the decision to play after a short practice session at the All England Club on Sunday. Raducanu, who is seeded 30th, is due to start her campaign against Croatia's Antonia Ruzic on Court One (13:00 BST). "I'm going to do everything with my team in terms of treatment," said Raducanu, who would not put a percentage on her chances of playing. "The plan right now is to play."

Fears about the British number one's fitness grew over the past week. Raducanu was spotted wearing a protective boot on Wednesday, then was unable to train on Thursday and Friday because of what is believed to be a shin problem. The 2021 US Open champion returned to the court on Saturday to test her fitness and, wearing strapping around her lower right leg, started with a gentle hour-long session with her team. But she then cut short another practice session with Russia's Anna Kalinskaya - when the pair played a practice set - with 10 minutes

remaining. It is another setback for Raducanu in a career which has been blighted by a series of injury problems since her fairytale US Open victory in New York five years ago. This season has been disrupted by a viral illness that meant she only played six matches from early February to the start of Queen's earlier this month. Raducanu's run to the Queen's final bred confidence and increased optimism she could have a successful Wimbledon, where she reached the fourth round in 2021 and 2024. In a news conference at Wimbledon on

Sunday, Raducanu said the shin issue was a "niggle" which she had been dealing with for about a month. "I've been managing it. Queen's, maybe, was a lot of load for me. Five matches after having not competed for a while, it was just a lot. "But I'm just managing it with my team as best as I possibly can, exhausting all options and doing what we can." Analysis: Raducanu willing to take risk for Wimbledon To play or not to play? That is the question racing around Raducanu's mind less than 24 hours before she is due to start her latest Wimbledon campaign.



"HAPPY JOURNEY IS EVERYONE'S STORY": ANNAPOORNAMMA

Happy Journey' movie has been amazing. It is the story of all of us. A movie that the whole family should watch in theaters together: Senior actress Annapoornamma at the teaser launch event Gutta Productions & Kamalakara Film Corporation, Abhiram Naidu, launch the teaser of the heartwarming emotional drama 'Happy Journey' 'Happy Journey' is a heartwarming emotional drama jointly produced by Gutta Productions and Kamalakara Film Corporation. Directed by Abhiram Naidu, the film is focusing on women's emotions. Balaji Gutta and Kaushik Reddy are the producers, while Tarun Reddy is the co-producer. The film, which mainly shows the emotional journeys of seven women, stars Annapurnamma, Aamani, Anchor Jhansi, Payal Radhakrishna, Jinisha



Alisetty, Rupa Srinivas, and Sunayana in the lead roles, while Pridhvi Dandamudi, Vamsidhar Goud, and Ravi Sivateja will be seen in key roles. Each character has been crafted very naturally and emotionally. The makers have recently launched the teaser. Speaking at the teaser launch event, senior actress Annapurnamma said.. Hello everyone. My role in this will be different from the roles I have done so far. I was really surprised that the director chose me for this role. This is a very good story. The story of all of us. We all have many stories and emotions. All of them will be understood more after watching this film. This is a film that the whole family can watch comfortably. This film also has a definition that tells why we cannot understand our people at home. A very good film. I hope you all will watch it and bless us. Watch how I did in this role in the theater and bless me. We shot in a parish. The film came out very wonderfully.

SYG Enters Grand Finale Shoot, Eyes December Release



Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej, Rohit KP, K. Niranjan Reddy, Chaitanya Reddy, Primeshow Entertainment Pan India Movie SYG (Sambarala Etigattu) Grand Finale Schedule Begins, Theatrical Release in December Mega hero Sai Durga Tej's ambitious pan-India project SYG (Sambarala Etigattu). Directed by Rohit KP and produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under the Primeshow Entertainment banner, the film is generating huge buzz with the huge response to the 'Asura Aagamana' glimpses and promotional content. The production house, which delivered the pan-India sensation 'Hanuman', is producing this film on a grand scale to deliver a cinematic experience of the highest level. From the huge sets to the highest technical standards, the producers are making this film with a great vision without compromising. Marking the final and most crucial phase of the production, the film 'Sambarala Etigattu' began its final schedule in Hyderabad today. A huge set has been specially constructed to bring the most spectacular action-packed scenes to life. This final schedule will feature key moments involving the main cast, making for an unforgettable cinematic experience. Sai Durga Tej is going to be seen in one of the most powerful and intense roles of his career. Known for choosing unique stories, Sai Tej has undergone a remarkable transformation for this film. It promises a film with a mass appeal that the audience has never seen before. Director Rohit KP is making this film a grand action drama with a powerful narrative, thrilling visuals, and high-octane sequences. It stands as one of the most eagerly awaited pan-Indian films currently in production. The film, which has successfully completed several schedules in different locations, has now entered its final stages. Post-production work will begin immediately after this schedule is completed. While a top Bollywood actor will play a key role in the film, Aishwarya Lakshmi, Jagapathi Babu, Sai Kumar, Srikanth, and Ananya Nagalla will be seen in prominent roles. DOP Vetrivel Palaniswami shot this huge film brilliantly, while B. Ajaneesh Loknath composed the music. Editor Naveen Vijay Krishna and production designer Gandhi Nadikudikar.

Real Star Srihari's son Meghamsh Srihari's STUDENT teaser unveiled

Meghamsh Srihari, son of the late Real Star Srihari, is playing the lead role in the upcoming film Student. Vijeta Pareek stars as the female lead. The film is being produced by Bellam Siddareddy under the banners of Jovika Cinemas and Cherish Media Works, while Balu Tatvamasi is directing the project. Bellam Sangeetha and Bellam Bayyareddy are

serving as co-producers. The film is gearing up for its theatrical release, and the makers have now unveiled its official teaser. The teaser introduces Bhanu, played by Meghamsh Srihari, as a carefree college student who enjoys campus life. His decision to enter politics by representing the Andhra Rashtra Samithi Party creates a sensation

on campus. Although new to politics, Bhanu quickly learns about the challenges, strategies, and power struggles that define the political arena. One of the teaser's standout moments features Meghamsh delivering the powerful dialogue: "When someone next to you is fighting with a knife, if you interfere, you'll lose your hand."



RAO BAHADUR' IS A SURREAL FILM... INDIAN CINEMA HAS NEVER SEEN A FILM LIKE THIS: SENSATIONAL DIRECTOR SUKUMAR



The expectations on the most awaited psychological drama 'Rao Bahadur', made in the great combination of Satyadev and Venkatesh, are increasing day by day. Presenter Superstar Mahesh Babu, who has already seen the film, showered praises on it, while recently successful

director Sukumar also praised the film after watching the special preview. His comments on the film, which is getting ready for release on July 3, have further increased the interest. Sukumar said, "Rao Bahadur is a surreal film. I don't think there has ever been a film like this in the

Indian film industry. It is a magical, immersive cinematic experience. It surprises the audience at every moment." Speaking about Satyadev's performance, he praised him saying, "An actor rarely gets such an opportunity in life. This role is a great gift given to Satyadev by the entire team."

Konanki Entertainments releases first look of "Soldier – 24×7 On Duty"



Konanki Entertainments has officially released the first look poster of its prestigious action thriller "Soldier – 24×7 On Duty". The film, which is a symbol of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, and commitment to duty, is

shades of combat, and the proudly waving Indian tricolor flag is further raising expectations for the film. With the tagline "24×7 on duty", the film will stand as a tribute to the Indian soldiers who work tirelessly for the security of the country by constantly performing duties at the country's borders. The film stars Konanki Karthik and Priyanka Varma in the lead roles. The film is being directed by Shraddha Khatri. K. V. Naidu is producing it under the banner of Konanki Entertainments. The film is a blend of action, emotions, patriotism, and human values that will entertain the audience.

AKANKSHA SHARMA SLAYS HARD IN BLACK SHEER GOWN



Akanksha Sharma made her Telugu debut with Vishvak Sen's Laila and while the film did not work at the box office, this Bollywood actress has absolutely refused to let that dull her shine. She keeps showing up on social media with looks that grab attention and her follower base across both industries is very much enjoying every bit of it. Her latest pictures are nothing short of stunning. Akanksha wore a black sheer embroidered gown with deep floral lace detailing all over the full sleeves and body, a sweetheart neckline and a thigh high slit that added a very dramatic touch. The whole look is dark, bold and gorgeous and she carried it with full confidence. Laila may not have worked but Akanksha Sharma in a black gown like this is very hard to ignore. Her glamour does all the talking and right now it is speaking very loudly.

SHRADDHA KAPOOR'S HYPED FILM LANDS IN TITLE TROUBLE

Saaho heroine Shraddha Kapoor is finally returning with a most hyped content driven film after scoring a massive blockbuster with Stree 2. Her next release Eetha is arriving on August 28 under the direction of Laxman Utekar. But even before the promotions begin, the movie has landed in an unexpected controversy. Eetha is inspired by the life of legendary Marathi folk artist Vithabai Bhaui Mang Narayangaonkar. She was celebrated as the queen of Tamasha and ruled the stage for decades. One unforgettable incident from her life was delivering a baby backstage after performing while heavily pregnant. Laxman Utekar reportedly spent years researching Vithabai's remarkable journey before making the film.

The teaser has already generated curiosity. However, Vithabai's family is unhappy with the title Eetha. They believe the film should have carried her name instead of a fictional title. The family is even considering legal action against the makers over the issue. So far the production team has remained silent. The film will release in multiple languages including Telugu. Along with Shraddha Kapoor, Randeep Hooda and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub play key roles while Ajay Atul have composed the music. The teaser of Eetha has arrived, and it leaves a strong impact within its brief runtime. Directed by Cchaava fame Laxman Utekar, the film is based on the life of legendary Lavani and Tamasha artist Vithabai Narayangaonkar,

with Shraddha Kapoor stepping into one of the most challenging roles of her career. The biggest highlight of the teaser is undoubtedly Shraddha Kapoor's transformation. From her appearance to her body language, she looks completely immersed in the character. One particular sequence showing Vithabai enduring labor pains backstage before returning to perform on stage is both powerful and emotionally charged, instantly grabbing attention. Visually, Eetha looks grand and authentic. Laxman Utekar appears to have recreated the era with impressive detail, while the cinematography and production design add richness to every frame. The teaser carries a rustic flavor and successfully transports viewers into the world

of Maharashtra's folk theatre traditions. The background score also stands out, elevating the emotions and lending a larger-than-life feel to the visuals. More importantly, the teaser hints at a story filled with struggle, sacrifice, passion, and resilience rather than just a conventional biopic. Overall, Eetha delivers exactly what a teaser should, curiosity, intrigue, and excitement.

