



SWATI

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PEARLS & JEWELLERS

NAMPALLY:
Opp. Public Garden, Beside Hero Show Room,
Chappel Road, Ph: 9949971337/23200048

GACHIBOWLI:
Near Telecom Nagar, Beside Cafe Coffee Day,
Ph: 9849026916/23002992

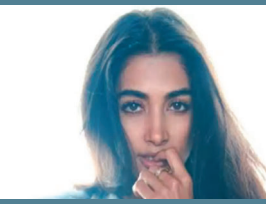
BANJARA HILLS:
Road No. 10,
Ph: 9848910502/23550896

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

10-06-2026
Total pilgrims - 11-06-2026
Tonsures - 75,428
Handi-Venudulu - 42,565
Laddu sale - 4.34 Lac
Amaraprasadam - 2.98 Lac
Medical treatment - 4,322
Waiting Compartments - Out side line at Octopus Building (Near Gopuram Dam Circle)

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

TIME FOR POOJA HEGDE TO PRIORITISE CONTENT



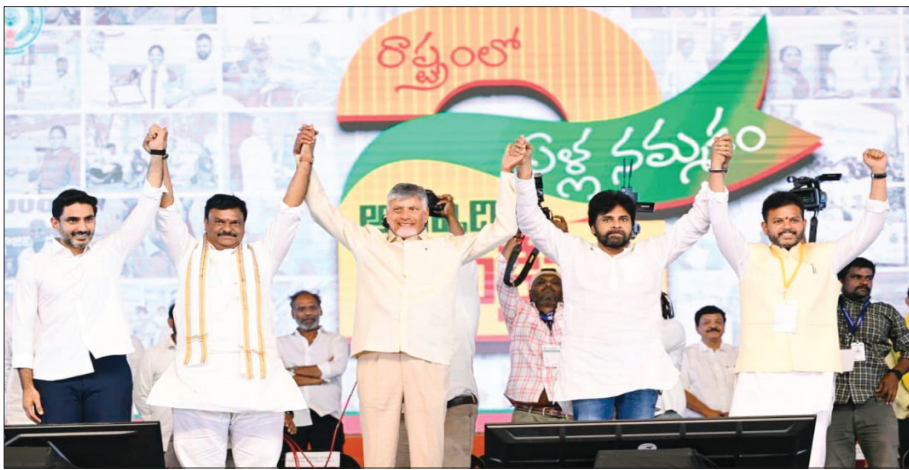
CINEMA PAGE

We will uphold people's trust & achieve greater development: CM Naidu

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES
VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu stated that his government began functioning by treating the mandate given by the people in the 2024 elections not as a victory, but as a responsibility for the reconstruction of the state. Addressing the second anniversary celebrations of the government held at Daminidu in Chandragiri constituency, he said that the government is giving priority to welfare, development and good governance while striving to live up to the trust reposed by the people.

Criticising the previous government, he said the state had plunged into a severe financial crisis and investments had declined during its tenure. He added that the state has now been brought back on track with the support of the double-engine government. He said that people are benefitting from schemes such as



NTR Bharosa, Talliki Vandanam, Stree Shakti and Annadata Sukhibhava, besides the implementation of the Super Six promises. He also stated that teacher posts are being filled through the Mega DSC and that constable recruitments have been undertaken.

The Chief Minister said that investor-friendly policies are being implemented to attract investments and that projects related to industries,

defence, drones and the space sector are coming up in Rayalaseema. He stated that the government is working towards balanced development across the state, with Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Tirupati serving as growth centres. He remarked that the coalition government believes in positive politics and accused the opposition of trying to mislead the people through malicious propaganda. CM Chandrababu further said

that with the support of the Central Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state is receiving assistance in matters relating to the Polavaram Project, Amaravati, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the Railway Zone. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Minister Nara Lokesh, Union Ministers, public representatives, leaders of the alliance parties and a large number of party workers participated in the meeting.

PM highlights women's empowerment as NDA govt marks 12 yrs in office

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the achievements of women across various sectors over the past 12 years, asserting that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's focus on women-led development has expanded opportunities and empowered women to play a larger role in nation-building. In a series of posts on social media platform X, Modi said the government's efforts had enabled women to make significant strides in fields ranging from financial inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, sanitation, housing, sports, science and governance.

"Over the last 12 years, the NDA Government has worked to further women-led development. And, this is visible across sectors," the Prime Minister said.

"From financial inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, sanitation, housing,



sports, science and governance, women are playing a prominent role across diverse sectors," he added.

Emphasising the government's approach towards women's welfare and empowerment, Modi said the initiatives undertaken during the past decade were rooted in "dignity, opportunity and empowerment".

"The efforts of the NDA Government are rooted in dignity, opportunity and empowerment. They have helped create an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute even more strongly to nation-build-

ing," he said, using the hashtag #12YearsOfNariShakti.

The Prime Minister also expressed satisfaction over the growing presence of women in emerging and technology-driven sectors, particularly science, space research and innovation. "I am particularly happy to see India's Nari Shakti make a mark in sectors like science, space and innovation. Their growing participation in emerging fields such as drone technology is opening new avenues of opportunity and transforming development landscape across the nation," Modi said.

He further underlined the role of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in promoting financial independence among women and said the government was actively supporting such collectives. "Our Government is actively supporting Self Help Groups, which are going a long way in making women financially independent," he said.

BJP poaching Opposition MPs to push women's quota, delimitation Bill: Congress



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

The Congress on Friday accused the BJP of attempting to engineer a two-thirds majority in Parliament by breaking Opposition parties after reports claimed that the NDA was preparing to revive the Constitution amendment Bill, linking delimitation with women reservation, once it secured the required numbers.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was trying to secure the numbers needed for the passage of the 131st Constitution amendment Bill, 2026, after the legislation was defeated in Parliament earlier this year. "Never before has anybody tried to engineer a two-thirds majority for his party in the Lok Sabha as the Home Minister is desperately doing these days in the run-up to the monsoon ses-

sion," Ramesh said.

Referring to the Bill's defeat on April 17, Ramesh said the NDA had failed to secure the required support for the "dangerous Constitution amendment Bill dealing with delimitation". Claiming that the set-back had intensified the BJP's efforts to expand its numbers in Parliament, the Congress leader alleged that attempts were being made to break Opposition parties and undermine democratic processes.

"Stung by that resounding defeat, he (Shah) is now busy breaking Opposition parties and making a complete mockery of democracy. The fight is on. His evil designs must not and will not succeed," Ramesh said.

The remarks came after senior government sources indicated that the NDA was actively working to ensure the passage of the 131st Constitution amendment Bill, which links the implementation of women's reservation to the delimitation exercise. According to top ministerial sources, the government is prepared to bring the legislation either during the upcoming monsoon session or through a special session once it secures the two-thirds majority in both Houses.

TMC suffers another Rajya Sabha Setback as Prakash Chik Baraik resigns

KOLKATA (TSIT)

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) suffered another setback in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday as party MP Prakash Chik Baraik resigned from the Upper House amid ongoing political turbulence within the party. Baraik formally submitted his resignation to Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan at around 11 am.

With his exit, the strength of the Trinamool Congress in the Rajya Sabha has come down to 10. His resignation comes days after two other TMC Rajya Sabha MPs, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy and



Sushmita Dev, stepped down from the Upper House, making Baraik the third Trinamool MP to resign from Parliament this week.

Considered one of the prominent young faces of the party in North Bengal, Baraik is known in political circles as being close to TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Rahul Gandhi slams PM Modi over seafarers' death



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, June 12, targeted Prime Minister

Narendra Modi over the deaths of three Indian seafarers in a US military strike on a commercial vessel, saying a "compromised PM" cannot protect the sons of 'Mother India' as he lacks both the courage and the strength to anger those who took away their lives. In a post in Hindi on X, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha questioned Prime Minister Modi's silence on the issue.

Trump cites Indian ships in Iran warning

WASHINGTON (TSIT):

US President Donald Trump on Friday accused Iran of acting in bad faith during ongoing negotiations and claimed that a drone attack targeting Indian ships near the Strait of Hormuz had been thwarted, injecting fresh uncertainty into diplomatic efforts that he had earlier said averted planned US military strikes.

Congress should identify 'black sheep' for Meenakshi Natarajan fiasco: KTR

Hyderabad, June 12 : Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Friday demanded that the Congress party leadership investigate who within the party leaked details related to cases against Meenakshi Natarajan and supplied information to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, resulting in the rejection of her nomination for Rajya Sabha.

He said that the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, should identify the "black sheep" within the Congress who are undermining the party from within.

During an interaction with media persons, Rama Rao asserted that the Congress party itself is solely responsible for Meenakshi Natarajan's defeat. He questioned why Congress leaders are attempting to drag politi-



cal opponents into an issue that is entirely the result of their own internal betrayals and factional politics.

KTR remarked that if Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is so fond of constituting Special Investigation Teams (SITs), he should order an SIT probe into this matter as well. He alleged that Congress has a history of selling important positions for money and claimed that even the present Chief Minister secured his position through finan-

cial and political arrangements.

KTR strongly condemned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's remarks referring to Hitler and war-related destruction. He said it was deeply disturbing that a democratically elected Chief Minister would speak admiringly of Hitler or glorify destruction witnessed in war zones.

According to KTR, any individual who celebrates devastation and destruction demonstrates a dis-

turbing mindset. He said such comments are unacceptable in a democracy and expose the Chief Minister's dangerous thinking. Expressing disappointment over Minister Sridhar Babu's defence of the Chief Minister's remarks, KTR said it was unfortunate that an educated and experienced leader would attempt to justify such statements.

KTR criticised the Chief Minister's handling of Hyderabad's monsoon preparedness and urban infrastructure management. He stated that Hyderabad's current resilience is largely due to the infrastructure projects implemented during the BRS government.

He alleged that the current government failed to conduct proper monsoon preparedness reviews and neglected to maintain infrastructure built during the BRS administration.

Delhi-bound IndiGo flight delayed after bomb threat inside one in lavatory

New Delhi, June 12 : An IndiGo flight carrying around 180 passengers from Lucknow to Delhi was grounded on Friday after a bomb threat was discovered written on a tissue paper inside one of the aircraft's lavatories, triggering a comprehensive security response at the airport.

The flight, scheduled to depart from Lucknow at 10:45 a.m., was preparing for take-off when crew members were alerted to a possible security threat on board. The aircraft was immediately halted at the apron and prevented from departing as security agencies initiated standard emergency procedures.



The scare began after a tissue paper bearing the word "bomb" was found inside one of the aircraft's toilets. Following the discovery, airport security personnel and other agencies conducted an extensive inspection of the aircraft and its surroundings.

Authorities later determined that the threat was a hoax. No explosive device or suspicious material was found during the

security sweep. In a statement, an IndiGo spokesperson said that a security threat was noticed shortly before take-off on flight 6E 2111 operating from Lucknow to Delhi.

"Shortly before take-off, a security threat was noticed onboard IndiGo flight 6E 2111 scheduled to operate from Lucknow to Delhi on June 12. Following the established protocol, we informed the relevant authorities immediately and are fully cooperating with them in carrying out the necessary security checks," the spokesperson said. "The aircraft will operate its journey to Delhi post securing relevant clearances.

Facebook, Insta down globally; users unable to refresh feeds

New Delhi, June 12 : Users of Facebook and Instagram across several countries reported widespread disruptions on Friday evening, with thousands complaining that the Meta-owned platforms were either not loading properly or failing to refresh content. The outage appeared to begin around 7 pm IST, according to user reports and data from outage-tracking platform Downtetector, which recorded a sharp surge in complaints. The disruption was not limited to any one region, with users from multiple countries reporting similar issues at roughly the same time.

Govt hikes onion procurement rate to Rs 16.5 per kg

New Delhi: The government has raised the onion procurement price under its buffer stock programme to Rs 16.50 per kg with effect from Saturday, June 13, from Rs 15.80 per kg currently, as part of its efforts to boost farmers' income. Farmers in Maharashtra are seeking a procurement rate of Rs 30 per kg in view of high input costs in the state, the country's largest onion-producing region. The buffer stocks are maintained annually under the Price



Stabilisation Fund (PSF) for market intervention purposes. The government has set a procurement target of 2 lakh tonnes for the year, down from 3 lakh tonnes procured in 2025-26. Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi

chaired a meeting on Thursday with officials from the Department of Consumer Affairs to strengthen onion procurement and ensure better returns for our farmers. "Based on prevailing mandi prices and quality requirements for storage-grade onions, the Minimum Assured Procurement Price (MAPP) has been revised to Rs 1,650 per quintal with effect from 13 June 2026," the minister said in a social media post on Friday.

Centre inks MoU with Assam and Nagaland for oil and gas exploration



New Delhi, Jun 12: In a major development, the Centre has signed a historic tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Governments of Assam and Nagaland for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in the two northeastern states. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Assam Chief Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Shah described the agreement as a historic step, stating that it would strengthen oil and natural gas exploration prospects in the country. He said the MoU removes key hurdles in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and developed Northeast. Shah further said that the Prime Minister has given special focus to the development of the northeastern region since 2014, and termed the agreement a strong example of cooperative federalism that would boost economic growth in Assam and Nagaland. Highlighting global energy concerns amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, Shah stressed that energy security is vital for national development. He said the initiative would enhance India's long-term self-reliance in the energy sector.

Centre mulls policy for Gulf-based CBSE private students affected by exam cancellations

New Delhi, Jun 12: The Central government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that it is working on a policy framework for private CBSE students in West Asia whose Class 12 results remain pending after examinations were cancelled due to the regional conflict. Appearing before the apex court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government is examining issues raised by affected students and requested that the matter be taken up after June 22 to allow time for policy deliberations. He told the court that a solution is being formulated specifically for private candidates whose results could not be declared because they were impacted by the cancellation of board examinations in several Gulf countries. The proposed framework may also serve as a model for handling similar situations in the future. The issue arose after



the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) cancelled Class 12 board examinations across multiple West Asian nations earlier this year due to the deteriorating security situation in the region. In a circular issued on March 15, the board announced the cancellation of all remaining examinations scheduled between March 16 and April 10, 2026, for CBSE-affiliated schools in Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The decision also covered papers that had previously been postponed. Several affected students subsequently approached the Supreme Court, arguing that the non-declaration of their results had disrupted higher education plans and admission opportunities. Earlier this month, the court issued notices to the CBSE and its Dubai Regional Office while hearing a petition filed by student Pransu Jigarkumar Patel, a private candidate from Saudi Arabia seeking declaration of his Class 12 result.

20 sheep die under suspected toxic conditions in Pulwama, probe sought

Srinagar, Jun 12: At least 20 sheep died under suspected toxic conditions in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday, triggering concern among shepherds and livestock owners who rely on seasonal grazing routes for their livelihood. The incident occurred in the Kehil area of Tral when a flock owned by Bilal

Ahmad, a resident of Seer Tral, was being moved towards higher grazing pastures. According to local shepherds, the animals had grazed on vegetation believed to be contaminated shortly before they began collapsing. All 20 sheep later died, causing substantial financial losses to the owner. Authorities have not yet confirmed the exact

cause of death, and investigations are expected to determine whether toxic substances or chemical contamination were involved. The incident has reignited concerns about the safety of grazing areas in the Valley, particularly in regions located near orchards and agricultural land where pesticides and fungicides are widely used.

Ramkrishna CARE Hospitals to host National Oncology Summit OncoSphere 2.0 in Raipur

Raipur, 12 June 2026: Ramkrishna CARE Hospitals, Raipur, one of Central India's leading healthcare institutions, will host OncoSphere 2.0, its flagship academic oncology summit, on 13th and 14th June 2026 at Hotel Babylon International, Raipur. The summit will bring together leading oncology experts, clinicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals from across the country to discuss the latest advancements and innovations shaping the future of cancer care. The summit will feature participation from some of India's most respected oncology experts, providing a platform for discussions on emerging treatment paradigms, complex clinical cases, and breakthrough innovations that are redefining cancer diagnosis and treatment. Progress in cancer care is driven not only by medical breakthroughs but also by the continuous exchange of knowledge, expertise, and experience. Through its flagship academic initiative, OncoSphere 2.0, Ramkrishna CARE Hospitals aims to foster meaningful dialogue among experts, encourage multidisciplinary collaboration, and contribute to



advancing the standards of cancer care. The two-day summit will feature scientific sessions, keynote lectures, multidisciplinary panel discussions, and case-based learning focused on emerging developments in medical oncology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, hematological malignancies, precision medicine, immunotherapy, and patient-centered cancer care. The event is designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote collaborative approaches that can improve patient outcomes. Addressing the media ahead of the summit, Dr. Sandeep Dave, Managing & Medical Director, Ramkrishna CARE Hospitals, was joined by Dr. Ravi Jaiswal, Senior Medical Oncologist; Dr. Mou Roy, Senior Surgical Oncologist; Dr. Naveen Jain, Senior Surgical Oncologist; Dr. Gourav Gupta, Senior Radiation Oncologist; and Dr. Neeru Kerketta, Senior Consultant - Nuclear Medicine. Dr. Sandeep Dave said, "India is witnessing a significant transformation in cancer care, driven by rapid advances in medical science, technology, and personalized treatment approaches. At the same time, the growing cancer burden underscores the need for continuous learning, collaboration, and multidisciplinary care. OncoSphere 2.0 brings together some of the country's leading oncology experts to share clinical insights, discuss emerging innovations, and advance the standards of cancer care. Such academic platforms play a vital role in ensuring that knowledge translates into better outcomes for patients and contributes to the overall advancement of healthcare in the country." Dr. Ravi Jaiswal said, "The field of oncology is evolving rapidly, with advances in precision medicine, immunotherapy, molecular diagnostics, and targeted therapies transforming the way cancer is diagnosed and treated. OncoSphere 2.0 will provide an important platform for clinicians and oncology specialists to discuss complex clinical scenarios and stay updated on emerging

treatment approaches that can help improve patient outcomes. Such academic forums play a vital role in ensuring that patients benefit from the latest developments in cancer care." experts highlighted that OncoSphere 2.0 will serve as a unique platform for healthcare professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss challenging clinical cases, and explore innovations shaping the future of cancer diagnosis and treatment. The summit is expected to witness participation from oncologists, physicians, surgeons, radiation specialists, healthcare professionals, and postgraduate students from across Chhattisgarh and neighboring states. Ramkrishna CARE Hospitals has been at the forefront of delivering specialized oncology care in Central India. Through OncoSphere 2.0, the hospital reaffirms its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and knowledge-sharing initiatives that contribute to improved patient outcomes and advancements in cancer care. By facilitating education, research, and scientific exchange, OncoSphere 2.0 aims to strengthen collaboration among oncology professionals and support the continued advancement of cancer care in India.

Mass food poisoning scare at Uttarakhand university as 150 students hospitalised

Dehradun, Jun 12: Panic spread across Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district after around 150 students allegedly suffered food poisoning following a special meal served at the Patel Bhawan hostel. According to university officials and students, nearly 185 second-year engineering students reside in the hostel. The incident reportedly occurred after students consumed a special meal arranged by the mess operator. Vegetarian students were served paneer dishes, while non-vegetarian students were provided butter chicken, naan, rice and rasmalai.



Students began experiencing symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea within one to one-and-a-half hours of consuming the meal. As the number of affected students increased, hostel authorities alerted the hostel manager, warden and Dean of Student Welfare (DSW). The university administration rushed the students to the university hospital using all three university ambulances and a bus. Around 150 students received treatment at the hospital. Most were discharged after receiving

primary medical care and returned to the hostel. However, five students remained admitted, with their condition reported to be serious. Several students alleged that the mess operator had been using substandard food ingredients. They claimed that insects had been found in the food on two previous occasions, but despite repeated complaints, the operator continued to manage the mess. The university administration had earlier imposed a financial penalty on the operator, following which the special meal was reportedly arranged. Senior university officials, including the Registrar, visited the hospital to monitor the situation.

DRI seizes 71 lac smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 14 crore in Northeast crackdown

Guwahati, June 12: A major crackdown on cross-border smuggling networks in the Northeast has resulted in the seizure of more than 71 lakh foreign-origin cigarette sticks worth an estimated Rs 14 crore over the past two months, officials said on Friday. The operation, led by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), also led to the arrest of four individuals allegedly linked to the smuggling syndicate operating in the region. In the latest action on June 11, DRI officials, assisted by the 34th Battalion of the Assam Rifles, seized over 45 lakh cigarette sticks in Mizoram. The consignment included foreign brands such as Mond, XSo, ORIS and Patron.



One person was arrested during the operation. Preliminary investigations suggest that the cigarettes were smuggled into India from Myanmar through the Zokhawthar sector along the Indo-

Myanmar border, a route that has frequently come under scrutiny for illegal cross-border trade. Officials said the latest seizure forms part of a broader anti-smuggling drive that has seen another 26 lakh cigarette sticks confiscated in separate operations across the region in recent weeks. These cases resulted in the arrest of three additional suspects. The crackdown follows a series of successful enforcement operations carried out in Mizoram last month by security and law enforcement agencies targeting both contraband tobacco products and narcotics. In one operation conducted in Lawngtlai district, personnel of the Assam Rifles and the Excise and Narcotics Department intercepted a drug trafficking attempt and recovered one lakh methamphetamine tablets weighing nearly 10 kg. The seized narcotics were valued at more than Rs 30 crore.

Centre mulls policy for Gulf-based CBSE private students affected by exam cancellations

New Delhi, Jun 12: The Central government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that it is working on a policy framework for private CBSE students in West Asia whose Class 12 results remain pending after examinations were cancelled due to the regional conflict. Appearing before the apex court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government is examining issues raised by affected students and requested that the matter be taken up after June 22 to allow time for policy deliberations. He told the court that a solution is being formulated specifically for private candidates whose results could not be declared because they were impacted by the cancellation of board examinations in several Gulf countries. The proposed framework may also serve as a model for handling similar situations in the future. The issue arose after the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) cancelled Class 12 board examinations across multiple West Asian nations earlier this



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Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The decision also covered papers that had previously been postponed. Several affected students subsequently approached the Supreme Court, arguing that the non-declaration of their results had disrupted higher education plans and admission opportunities. Earlier this month, the court issued notices to the CBSE and its Dubai Regional Office while hearing a petition filed by student Pransu Jigarkumar Patel, a private candidate from Saudi Arabia seeking declaration of his Class 12 result. A bench comprising Justices Manmohan and Vijay Bishnoi sought responses from the education board regarding the matter.

EDITORIAL

An India That No Longer Exists

There is a profound, aching sorrow that accompanies the realisation that a nation is gradually losing its soul. For those who have long cherished India as a grand, inclusive experiment in pluralism, recent years have brought a steady accretion of disheartening news. Yet, occasionally, a singular incident cuts through the noise of daily politics and lays bare the sheer depth of our moral drift. One such unsettling moment was captured for me in a recent news report about what many might consider a trivial incident - headlined "Hotel boot" for minority BJP leader". The report details an incident involving Sajjad Yousuf Shah, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir media co-incharge and a vocal pro-India voice. While visiting Aurangabad in Maharashtra, widely regarded as one of India's most industrialised, progressive, and prosperous states, Shah checked into a hotel, only to be asked to leave an hour later. The reason given to him, as he recounted with deep sadness on social media, was linked directly to his Muslim and Kashmiri identity. There is a profound, aching sorrow that accompanies the realisation that a nation is gradually losing its soul. For those who have long cherished India as a grand, inclusive experiment in pluralism, recent years have brought a steady accretion of disheartening news. Yet, occasionally, a singular incident cuts through the noise of daily politics and lays bare the sheer depth of our moral drift. One such unsettling moment was captured for me in a recent news report about what many might consider a trivial incident - headlined "Hotel boot" for minority BJP leader". The report details an incident involving Sajjad Yousuf Shah, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir media co-incharge and a vocal pro-India voice. While visiting Aurangabad in Maharashtra, widely regarded as one of India's most industrialised, progressive, and prosperous states, Shah checked into a hotel, only to be asked to leave an hour later. The reason given to him, as he recounted with deep sadness on social media, was linked directly to his Muslim and Kashmiri identity.

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The tragic irony of this incident is stark. Here is an individual who actively worked within the ruling party's ecosystem, championing the mainstream national narrative in a sensitive region, only to find that the very identity-based biases fostered by his party's political discourse could not shield him. When the structures of prejudice become institutionalised and normalised, they do not discriminate based on political loyalty. They target the identity itself. This incident serves as a harrowing hook to examine a much larger, quieter, and deeper tragedy unfolding across our landscape: the normalisation of anti-Muslim bigotry in contemporary India.

How Did We Arrive Here?

For millennia, India's identity was anchored in profound civilisational graces. We took immense pride in the philosophy of "Atithi Devo Bhava" - the belief that a guest is akin to the divine, deserving of unconditional warmth, safety, and respect. Parallel to this was the concept of "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb", a poetic and lived reality of syncretic culture where Hindu and Muslim traditions, languages, and daily lives flowed together like the sacred rivers, enriching the soil of our collective consciousness.



India-Bangladesh relations hold special significance in South Asian diplomacy. India's political, military, and humanitarian support at the time of Bangladesh's independence in 1971 laid a strong foundation for friendship and trust between the two countries. Over the past five decades, significant progress has been made in many areas, including trade, security, energy, connectivity, water resources, and cultural exchange. India's "Neighborhood First" policy and Bangladesh's development-oriented foreign policy have also elevated the relationship to new heights. Nevertheless, recent years have witnessed signs of tension and mistrust in relations between the two countries. This situation underscores the fact that relations with neighboring countries are not driven solely by strategic interests, but also by sensitivities, public sentiments, and mutual respect. India and Bangladesh share a border of approximately 4,096 kilometers, India's longest land border with any neighboring country. The two countries share deep cultural, linguistic, and historical ties. Over the past decade, significant progress has been made in land boundary agreements, border management, counter-terrorism cooperation, energy trade, and regional connectivity projects. Bangladesh is today a major trading partner for India and plays a vital role in connecting India's north-eastern region with the mainland. Therefore, trust and cooperation between the two countries are essential not only for bilateral stability but also for the stability and prosperity of South Asia as a whole. Recent changes in Bangladesh's internal politics have impacted bilateral relations. Changes in power, political instability, and competition among various political parties have led to



divergent perceptions of India's role. Some political groups in Bangladesh have developed a perception that India is more sympathetic to a particular political force, while India has consistently prioritized stability and development. Whether factually correct or not, such perceptions undermine the atmosphere of trust and create a psychological distance in relations. The issue of sharing the Teesta River waters has long been a major bone of contention between the two countries. For Bangladesh, the Teesta River's waters are vital for agriculture and livelihoods. For many years, a proposed agreement has been pending for various reasons, leading to a feeling in Bangladesh that its concerns are not receiving the necessary priority. The role of states in India's federal system also complicates the issue, but the delay in resolution has fueled mistrust. Building long-term trust appears difficult without equitable and sustainable management of water resources. Border issues have also caused tensions in relations. Smuggling, illegal immigration, and border security challenges have often led to unpleasant border incidents. Incidents involving civilian casualties have generated widespread reaction in Bangladesh and impacted India's image. Although the border security agencies of both countries are making efforts to enhance coordination, such incidents continue to

create negative sentiments among the public. Borders between neighboring countries are not just a matter of security, but also involve human and social relations. Issues such as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) have also raised some concerns in Bangladesh. Although India has repeatedly clarified that these are internal policies, concerns have been expressed in Bangladesh that they could have an indirect impact on future relations between the two countries. In international relations, the public perception of policies, along with their actuality, is also important, and this is why such issues sometimes become part of diplomatic debate. China's growing influence in South Asia is also a significant factor influencing India-Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh has increased economic and infrastructure cooperation with several countries, including China, to meet its development needs. India naturally has concerns that excessive influence by an external power in the region could impact its strategic interests. Bangladesh, on the other hand, seeks to maintain balance in its foreign policy while attracting investment and technical assistance from various countries. In this situation, transparency and dialogue become crucial for both countries. Trade imbalances are also a contributing

factor to mistrust. Although bilateral trade is growing steadily, India appears to be benefiting relatively more. Bangladesh has long sought better access for its products to the Indian market and a reduction in non-tariff barriers. Persistent imbalances in economic relations can also impact political relations. Therefore, making the economic partnership more balanced and inclusive is the need of the hour. Social media and digital media have also impacted relations. Today, misinformation, misleading propaganda, and content inciting nationalist sentiments spread rapidly. Even minor incidents are often exaggerated on digital platforms, leading to misunderstandings between citizens of both countries. In such an environment, the responsibility of governments and media institutions to promote factual dialogue and effectively control disinformation increases. The biggest challenge facing India is to strike a balance between its strategic interests and the sensitivities of its neighbors. As a major regional power, India's policies naturally impact its neighbors. Therefore, an approach focused solely on national interests is not sufficient; it is equally important to understand the concerns and expectations of neighboring countries. Similarly, Bangladesh must understand that India's security concerns, especially those related to the

Northeast region, are of utmost importance to it. Both countries must respect each other's legitimate concerns. To restore trust, concrete steps are needed to resolve outstanding issues. Prioritizing the Teesta Water Treaty can send a positive message to both countries. Adopting a humanitarian approach to border management, increasing joint patrols and technical cooperation are also essential. To reduce the trade imbalance, Bangladeshi products can be given greater opportunities in the Indian market. Accelerating energy, transportation, and connectivity projects can make the economies of both countries more interdependent. It is also essential to regularize and institutionalize high-level political dialogue. When there is continuous communication between the top leadership of countries, the potential for misunderstandings is reduced. People-to-people contacts should also be enhanced through education, culture, sports, media, and tourism. Trust between citizens is as important as trust between governments. Cultural proximity is a major strength of both countries and can be effectively utilized to strengthen relations. Promoting cooperation through regional forums such as BIN-STEAC and BBIN would also be useful. Regional cooperation based on shared economic and strategic interests can help reduce mistrust. Joint efforts in areas such as climate change, disaster management, maritime security, and energy cooperation could bring the two countries closer. Ultimately, India and Bangladesh's relations are not just a partnership between two countries, but a special relationship forged by history, culture, language, geography, and shared struggles. The tensions and mistrust that have arisen in recent years certainly highlight the importance of maintaining a balance between sensitivities and strategic interests in relations with neighboring countries. Based on a spirit of dialogue, cooperation, mutual respect, and shared development, both countries can transform current challenges into opportunities. If India and Bangladesh rebuild their relations on a new foundation of trust, not only will bilateral ties become stronger, but the path to peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia will also be more paved.

With Trinamool Exodus, Bengal's Political Culture Enters New Phase

Just over a month after the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election results on May 4 delivered a stunning defeat to the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), the political landscape in the state has transformed dramatically. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a landslide win with 208 seats, ending the Trinamool's 15-year rule and reducing Mamata Banerjee's party to around 80 seats. What followed was not post-poll reflection but a rapid, multi-level exodus from the party. Rebel groups emerged swiftly, with around 60 of the 80 MLAs aligning under figures like Ritabrata Banerjee. Roughly 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha MPs, led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, moved to support the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Over 100 councillors have also resigned or switched sides. This is no ordinary wave of opportunism. It reflects the deep-seated political culture of West Bengal, where power has historically concentrated in one party. Successive regimes - Congress post-Independence, the Left front (led by CPI(M)) for 34 years until 2011, and then the Trinamool - have relied on total control, patronage and grassroots absorption rather than ideological loyalty. A defeat triggers not a gradual decline but systemic collapse, as cadres, local bodies, and leaders realign for survival. The current exodus, spanning from national to village levels, signals this culture entering a new phase under the BJP's consolidation. It underscores how Bengal's politics rewards winners with wholesale loyalty while pun-



ishing losers with dissolution, a pattern etched since Independence. Bengal's All-or-Nothing Politics After Independence, the Indian National Congress held sway under leaders like Bidhan Chandra Roy, but was fragmented by the late 1970s amid economic challenges and anti-incumbency. The Left Front, anchored by the CPI(M), then ruled uninterrupted from 1977 to 2011, forging deep grassroots networks through land reforms, patronage distribution, and local muscle. This created a system where alignment with the ruling party determined access to resources, jobs, and protection. Congress withered, with its vote share today hovering below 3 per cent in many areas. The Trinamool's rise in 2011 mirrored this pattern but accelerated it. Banerjee's party, lacking a robust independent organisation, absorbed vast swathes of Left cadres, panchayat structures, and local influencers en masse. By 2016, it had built

booth-level dominance not through organic growth alone but by inheriting and repurposing the Left's machinery. Entire local bodies shifted allegiance once they captured districts and state power. This top-down absorption ensured control over police, administration, civic bodies, and welfare schemes. Bengal became a state with chronic unemployment. Trade unions, auto unions and even daily survival hinged on the ruling party's approval. Panchayats received funds or development projects only if aligned; dissent invited harassment, isolation, or exclusion from benefits. Mamata Banerjee's refusal to resign immediately after the 2026 defeat, blaming the Election Commission and BJP instead, contrasted sharply with leaders in other states who accepted verdicts gracefully. This desperation highlights the stakes: in Bengal, losing power means near-total erasure of influence. Unlike multi-party ecosystems elsewhere, here one party's

dominance links institutions vertically. A defeated dispensation cannot protect its base, leading to swift desertions. The Trinamool's defeat exposed governance issues like alleged corruption and violence, fueling public backlash that accelerated the flight. Leaders and workers face not just political irrelevance but practical threats, investigations, local anger, and loss of patronage networks. Survival, not ideology, drives the realignment. Trinamool's Inherited Machine and Fragile Loyalty The Trinamool Congress never built a fully independent ideological edifice. Formed in 1998 as a Congress breakaway, it capitalised on anti-Left sentiment, particularly after movements like Singur and Nandigram. Victory in 2011 saw it dismantle the Left's 34-year hold by absorbing its organisational remnants. Former CPI(M) local leaders, once accused of suppressing Trinamool workers, switched sides for protection and power.

An Indian-Origin Sikh, A Dead Teenager: The Murder That Has Set Britain On Fire

Britain is witnessing a violent surge in anti-immigration sentiment manifesting in arson and pitched battles with the police. It is fuelled by a combination of high-profile violent crimes, public anxiety over migration and increasingly vocal interventions from far-right politicians, activists and influential figures on both sides of the Atlantic. Recent incidents involving non-White suspects have provided fresh ammunition to anti-immigration campaigners, even though one of the accused was born and raised in Britain while another had been granted the legal right to remain in the country indefinitely. Together, the cases have reignited a fierce debate about immigration, policing, national identity and the future direction of British society. Britain is boiling The Violence Of Last Week On a cold December night in Southampton, England, 18-year-old Henry Nowak was walking home alone after spending the evening with friends when he encountered Vickrum Digwa, who was, as court revealed, carrying ceremonial blades associated with the Nihang Sikh tradition. After noticing one of the weapons, Nowak began filming Digwa on his phone. What started as a brief exchange between two strangers quickly turned deadly. Digwa stabbed the teenager four times, including a fatal wound to the chest. As he lay bleeding on the pavement, Nowak repeatedly told the police, "I have been stabbed. I can't breathe". Yet in a scene that would later shock Britain and the world,



officers initially treated him as a suspect rather than a victim, handcuffing him as his life ebbed away. Officers did not respond to his cries and instead kept taunting him. Within minutes, he died from his injuries. The horrific details came to light last week when a court sentenced the 23-year-old Vickrum Digwa, a British-born man of Indian Sikh heritage, to life imprisonment. It outraged everyone. One just couldn't believe the callousness of the policemen involved. Sikhs Facing Ugly Threats The case also triggered an ugly backlash against ordinary Sikhs. Just a few days after Digwa was jailed, a Sikh priest from his former Southampton gurdwara was assaulted while shopping and was subjected to racial abuse. Elderly and vulnerable Sikhs have since been advised to stay indoors as fears of reprisals have grown by leaps and bounds. Nigel Farage's Reform UK

and other critics pointed to the incident as evidence of what they describe as "two-tier policing", the belief that police and public institutions apply different standards depending on race, religion or political sensitivities. Whether one accepts that argument or not, the phrase has gained traction among sections of the British public who feel increasingly alienated from mainstream institutions. It is a sentiment that has become fertile ground for populist movements across Europe and the US. The incident reminded many of George Floyd, whose repeated cries of "I can't breathe" went unheeded. Elon Musk and others immediately raised their voices, saying that the treatment of Henry Nowak by British police in his final moments raised similar questions about institutional failure and deserved comparable scrutiny. US Vice-President JD Vance was

also quick to comment, linking the killing to what he called the "mass invasion of migrants". Writing on X, Vance said Nowak had died "the same way a civilisation dies: abandoned and handcuffed by authorities who neither trusted nor cared for him", adding that the "only response" was "righteous anger". The Difference It is worth noting that Floyd died at the hands of a police officer, whereas Nowak was murdered by a private individual. But no one can deny that the treatment of both men by police in their final moments bears striking similarities. That is why, for many on the political right, both cases have become symbols of a broader debate about whether public institutions apply equal standards of justice, sympathy and accountability to all victims. The murder of Henry Nowak in Southampton should, in normal circumstances,

SpaceX debuts on stock exchange, setting Elon Musk on course to be world's first trillionaire

Times Square was packed this morning - not for a Knicks viewing party, but for SpaceX's stock market debut. Ahead of the opening bell, a live video feed of founder Elon Musk was projected onto the exterior of the Nasdaq building, where shares are set to begin trading under the ticker symbol SPCX. Music blasted across the square. And fittingly, the soundtrack was Elton John's Rocket Man. Now, all eyes are on the first trade. That's when we'll find out whether investors think this stock is truly out of this world. SpaceX's listing on the technology-focused Nasdaq index is a test case in the valuation of artificial intelligence (AI) companies going public and will be closely watched by rivals. Musk's company is the first of three AI-related megafunds expected this year, with OpenAI and Anthropic set to follow suit. The quantities of cash being piled into AI companies in recent years - which have posted heavy losses to date - has led to some claims companies are being overvalued and that there is an a "AI bubble", which could burst. Such a financial earthquake would send ripples across the world, rocking stock markets and bankrupting companies. The Bank of England has sounded alarm



over a "sharp correction" in the value of AI companies, while Jamie Dimon, boss of US bank JP Morgan, has admitted some of the money being invested in AI will "probably be lost". But a big part of the demand for SpaceX shares will be investors not wanting to miss out on the potential riches AI could bring. It's a bet on what the companies plan and could achieve and how their technology could be developed in the future. Elon Musk's SpaceX is expected to begin trading on the Nasdaq stock exchange at \$171 per share, significantly higher than its \$135 per share initial offering price. The increase, driven by bumper demand for expo-

sure to the space and AI company, would give it a market value of \$2.2tn, and comfortably cement Musk's position as the world's first trillionaire. The share price expectation was reported by Reuters. Anyone trying to predict the future path of SpaceX shares - whether up or down - has a huge range of conflicting forces to consider. Musk's celebrity status, and loyal online following, not to mention the hoopla around the sheer size of this IPO, is likely to boost demand for the shares. But Musk's notoriety, his sometimes erratic behaviour and controversial public statements, also carry some risk, especially as the way voting rights are distributed,

means he remains in firm control. The scale of ambition - putting a million people on Mars - and the range of activities, from re-usable rockets to AI data-centres on satellites - will attract some investors. But there is plenty of scepticism too: are these plans realistic? To top it all, SpaceX isn't currently making a profit. And the IPO prospectus admits it "may not achieve profitability in the future". Moments before SpaceX began trading in New York, founder and CEO Elon Musk had opening remarks from the company's base in Texas. "It is certainly hard to believe a little company that started in a warehouse in El Segundo is now going public

with the largest IPO ever," Musk says. "I gave SpaceX less than a 10% chance of succeeding at all," he adds. He reiterated the company's vision of human life in space. "We want to be able take anyone who wants to go to the Moon, anyone who wants to go to Mars, or anywhere in the solar system... I am confident at this point that with the incredible team that we have here at SpaceX that we will do that for you." Musk pushed the button to officially begin trading from Texas, which was followed by confetti and a loop of Elton John's 1972 song "Rocket Man" playing in the background. It's now 09:30 ET, which means the Nasdaq stock exchange is officially open for the day. That means SpaceX stock is, for the first time, now available for public purchase. We'll be bringing you the latest updates from the stock market, along with analysis from our correspondents. Stick with us. Peta Cooper, 43, a copywriter who lives in Cornwall on the south coast of England, is one of those planning to buy SpaceX shares when they start trading today. Cooper, who grew up in California and who already has a portfolio of shares mainly in tech and crypto firms, plans to invest about £750.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Unveils ‘Nuwa’, a Natural Diamond Collection Inspired by Nature’s Finest Creations

June 12th, 2026: Malabar Gold & Diamonds has unveiled NUWA, a new natural diamond jewellery collection inspired by the intricate patterns, textures, and subtle details found in nature. Conceived as a celebration of modern luxury through the lens of the natural world, Nuwa draws inspiration from the intricate details that often go unnoticed, from the striking rhythm of stripes and honeycombs to the fluid formations and organic patterns shaped by the earth itself. Crafted in 18kt and 14kt gold with a touch of global sophistication, Nuwa features natural diamonds elevated through coloured gemstones, ceramic colour enamelling, and multi-tone rhodium finishes. The collection balances structure and softness, creating jewellery that feels refined, versatile, and relevant across occasions. Each design interprets nature's pattern play through intricate detailing, fluid forms, and a distinctly modern aesthetic. The latest edition of NUWA by Malabar Gold & Diamonds, celebrates modern luxury through natural diamonds, drawing inspiration from nature's finest creations and global design influence. As part of the collection, acclaimed actress Kareena Kapoor



Khan continues as the face of Nuwa. Known for her effortless elegance, confidence, and enduring appeal, she perfectly reflects the collection's celebration of individuality, modern femininity, and timeless sophistication. TVC Link: https://youtu.be/6rLzb5SHMVM?si=suC_wqHmKdJmWBIF Commenting on the launch, M. P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "At the heart of this collection is an appreciation for pattern play - the intricate textures, formations, and

details that quietly shape the world around us. With Nuwa, we wanted to translate that beauty into a contemporary diamond collection that feels sophisticated, versatile, and relevant to today's woman. Every piece reflects a balance between intricate craftsmanship and effortless elegance, creating jewellery that can be worn and appreciated across occasions and generations." The collection has been designed for women who appreciate understated luxury and meaningful design.

Rice prices surge in Bengaluru, adding to burden on households

Bengaluru: Amid rising petrol, diesel and vegetable prices, consumers in Bengaluru are now facing another blow as rice prices have witnessed a sharp increase across varieties. Retail prices of rice have gone up by Rs 6 to Rs 10 per kilogram, while a 25-26 kg bag now costs nearly Rs 150 more than it did a few weeks ago. Traders attribute the hike to growing demand and reduced availability in the domestic market. According to market sources, the Centre's decision to permit exports of rice to several countries has resulted in lower local stocks, pushing up prices. Dealers warn that supply constraints could continue until the arrival of fresh stocks later this year. Popular varieties such as sona masoori, steam rice, kolam and raw rice have all recorded significant price increases. The hike reportedly came into effect around 10 days ago and has already started impacting household



budgets. "Rice prices have increased considerably, but demand has not fallen. People have no choice but to buy rice despite expressing dissatisfaction over the higher prices," said N Sridhar, owner of Sri Guru Raghavendra Traders in Girinagar. Market experts note that rice prices generally rise by only Rs 1 to Rs 2 per kilogram during the summer season. However, this year the increase has been much steeper due to a combination of export demand, lower inventories

and global economic uncertainties. Limited stocks, exports drive prices up The price of sona steam rice has increased from Rs 43 to Rs 49 per kg, while sona raw rice has climbed from Rs 52 to Rs 59 per kg. Traders say exports to countries, including Sri Lanka, coupled with limited local stock, have contributed to the upward trend in Bengaluru markets. The situation has been further influenced by global geopolitical tensions and disruptions in international trade routes, which

have impacted commodity prices worldwide. Industry representatives believe rice prices may remain elevated until October or November, when fresh harvests begin reaching the market. For consumers already grappling with higher fuel and vegetable costs, the latest increase in rice prices is expected to place additional pressure on household expenses in the coming months. Traders attribute the hike to growing demand and reduced availability in the domestic market.

INDIA’S AGENTIC AI RETURNS TO HIT USD 14.4 MN: SAP

New Delhi: Indian enterprises are speeding past AI experimentation stage to value-driven implementation, positioning themselves as global frontrunners in enterprise-wide adoption, according to a SAP study. Globally, India ranks second in strategic approaches to AI investment. Reflecting this momentum, Indian organisations plan to invest USD 25.9 million in AI, with spending expected to rise 45 per cent over the next two years, it said. Agentic AI returns in India are projected to grow fivefold to USD 14.4 million, as per the SAP study. Agentic AI refers to autonomous artificial intelligence systems capable of independently making decisions, planning multi-step actions, and executing tasks to achieve a specific goal without requiring constant human prompts. The latest findings are part of the SAP Value of AI report 2026, based on a global study conducted in partnership with Oxford Economics, surveying 2,600 business leaders across 13 countries, including 200 respondents from India. Manos Raptopoulos, Global President, Customer Success — Europe, APAC,



Middle East and Africa, and Member of the Extended Board, SAP SE, noted that AI is the backbone of the autonomous enterprise. "In SAP, AI is grounded in deep industry context and rich business semantics, meaning AI that truly understands the processes, and data of your specific industry," Raptopoulos said. As this embedded intelligence becomes core to operations, organisations become more adaptive, resilient, and future-ready, the senior executive said, pointing to a fundamental shift toward enterprises that can act with greater agility, innovate continuously, and scale with confidence in an increasingly dynamic world.

Moving from experimentation to execution, AI has taken centre stage in India Inc. About 71 per cent of Indian businesses have defined AI strategy that is aligned with their business goals. The study found that AI currently supports 33 per cent of business tasks, with levels expected to rise to 51 per cent over the next two years. About 74 per cent of businesses are satisfied with current AI returns, with value creation emerging as a key measure of success, it said. Further end-to-end, cross-functional AI adoption is expected to more than double to 40 per cent in the next two years and 55 per cent of organisations have employed dedicated AI leaders to scale adoption —

the highest globally, the study found. AI adoption remains fragmented, with 48% of organisations reporting piecemeal investments and 27% pursuing department-led initiatives. AI skills remain a barrier to scale, with 64% of organisations citing incomplete, comprehensive AI training. 67% of organizations remain concerned about shadow AI, with risks across inaccurate outputs (63%), data leakage (53%), security vulnerabilities (42%), and compliance violations (34%). While 42% of businesses report adequate data readiness for AI, more than half remain unsure about sharing and integrating data internally (52%) or with external partners (51%). The Agent-Enabled Future of Business Transformation In the next two years, Indian businesses expect ROI of 7% (approximately US\$2.8 million) from agentic AI 85% of Indian businesses rate AI agents as having moderate to high potential to transform operations with 50% agreeing that AI agents can add significant value to their business by managing complex workflows across business units.

Tata Motors car prices to rise up to 1.5 pc from July 1



New Delhi: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd on Friday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicle portfolio, including both internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EV), by up to 1.5 per cent from July 1. "This price revision is being

undertaken to partially offset the impact of rising input costs and sustained inflationary pressures," the company said in a regulatory filing. While Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles continues to absorb a significant portion of these increases, a part of the

impact is being passed on to customers through this adjustment, the company stated. "The extent of the price increase will vary across models and variants, ensuring that the overall value proposition of each offering is maintained," it added.

CHHATTISGARH BAGS RS 9,500 CR WORTH INVESTMENT PACTS IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: Chhattisgarh on Friday signed investment MoUs worth more than Rs 9,500 crore with seven companies at a roadshow here, a move expected to create over 7,800 jobs. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, who spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the Chhattisgarh Investor Connect event, said there were no Maoist-affected districts left in the state. He said the investment MoUs were signed in sectors including pharmaceuticals, solar component manufacturing, and dairy. The CM said the state's new industrial policy had attracted investment proposals worth Rs 8 lakh crore. The process of implementing these proposals on the ground had also begun, he said. He urged investors to make substantial investments in the state. CM Sai said Chhattisgarh was emerging as a preferred investment destination, supported by streamlined approvals, a robust single-window system, strong infrastructure, and industry-



friendly policies. Inviting Hyderabad-based companies, particularly in the IT, pharmaceutical, and logistics sectors, to invest in the state, he assured them of policy support and a business-friendly environment, adding that Chhattisgarh had "rolled out the red carpet" for investors. Highlighting the state's industrial strengths, Sai said Chhattisgarh was emerging as a leader in green steel production and was rapidly

strengthening its position as a national power hub. The state had received investment proposals worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore in the energy sector, he said. On Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation Scheme Asked about Telangana Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy seeking a No Objection Certificate from the Chhattisgarh government for the Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation

Scheme proposed to be taken up by the Telangana government, CM Sai said a survey by IIT Roorkee had been ordered on the matter and that its report was awaited. Uttam Kumar Reddy, who met CM Sai in Hyderabad on Thursday night, sought the NOC from Chhattisgarh to expeditiously obtain all relevant permis-

sions and sanctions. Earlier, CM Sai handed over "invitation to invest" letters to prospective investors. CM Sai and the state delegation held meetings with senior executives from several leading companies such as Google India, IBM, Polycab India, Page Industries, and Delta Electronics. The discussions focused on investment prospects in Chhattisgarh, available industrial infrastructure, and the state government's industry-friendly policies, a Chhattisgarh government release said. Largest investment from Hypernext The largest investment proposal at the Hyderabad roadshow came from Hypernext Data Centre Limited, which stated its intent to invest Rs 4,200 crore to establish a modern data centre in Chhattisgarh, expected to generate approximately 250 jobs.

Tehran says 'nothing' finalised after Trump claims deal to end Iran war near

Iran has insisted that a final decision on an agreement to end the current conflict with the US has not yet been reached, despite President Trump again claiming a deal was likely to be signed imminently. Trump had declared the US would strike Iran "very hard" again on Thursday, but later said he was cancelling the strikes because negotiators had "just made a great settlement" with Iran. He told reporters it was "subject to finalisation of documents, which should get done, over the next few days" and that there would "probably" be a signing ceremony in Europe. But Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said reports of an agreement were "speculative" and "nothing has been finalised". Trump has previously claimed a deal with Iran was close without one materialising. The US and Israel launched wide-ranging strikes on Iran on 28



February. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf, and effectively closing the Strait of Hormuz - a key shipping route for the world's oil and liquefied natural gas. Despite having agreed a ceasefire in April, the US and Iran have exchanged intermittent fire, including two rounds of tit-for-tat strikes this week. At the same time, Trump has

also repeatedly talked up the prospects of a deal with Iran. In the wake of his latest comments the price of Brent crude plunged to about \$89 a barrel (\$66), down 4.4% on the day. Speaking to reporters, Trump said: "We have a deal that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon, which was the whole purpose of what we had to go through to get this. So, it's a very big thing." There

will "probably be a signing, maybe in Europe" once the documents are finalised, he said - and it should be done "pretty quickly". The documents are in "pretty final shape - so we'll see". Trump also said the Strait of Hormuz would also open "as soon as we have it signed". The US leader said he had spoken to leaders in the region, including Gulf allies and Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, adding: "The whole Middle East is very happy." The Israeli prime minister's office confirmed a conversation had taken place and said Israel "is not a party to the memorandum of understanding". The statement said Netanyahu expressed appreciation for Trump's commitment to work towards a final agreement that included "the removal of enriched material, the dismantling of enrichment infrastructure, limits on missile production, and the cessation of Iran's support for its terrorist proxies in the region". Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Baghaei said the majority of the text for the memorandum had already been "finalised" but the US had made "excessive demands" and added "new requests". He also maintained the country would not "depart from its red lines". The White House has been pushing for a quick resolution to talks with

Iran aimed at ending the conflict, as well as addressing issues like security in the Strait of Hormuz and Tehran's nuclear ambitions. On 20 April, Trump said a deal with Iran would be made "relatively quickly", and both he and senior administration figures suggested negotiations were progressing in the weeks that followed. But on 27 May, after reports the two sides were close to an agreement, Trump said he was "not satisfied" with its terms. Talks have continued since. Hours before the latest comments on an impending deal, Trump had said "the United States will be hitting Iran... very hard tonight" while threatening to seize Kharg Island and other oil infrastructure points "in the not too distant future". Kharg Island in the north of the Gulf is Iran's main oil export terminal with about 90% of its oil exports passing through the island.

SOUTH AFRICA TROLLED BY AFRICAN FANS IN WAKE OF WORLD CUP LOSS

The normal display of African unity in the early stages of a football World Cup was notably absent from social media as many fans from across the continent backed Mexico in the tournament's opening match against South Africa. The memes were light-hearted - including sombreros, mariachi bands and tacos - but they pointed to a dark underbelly. The banter reflected anger over the reports of xenophobic violence in South Africa. A poor South African performance on the pitch led to a 2-0 defeat against the World Cup co-hosts. As the final whistle blew, social media lit up with a flood of mocking posts. But some South Africans pushed back, praising the spirit of their team, nicknamed Bafana Bafana. South Africa is one of 10 African teams at this year's expanded World Cup, with the US and Canada co-hosting along with Mexico. Ahead of the Thursday's match, some African football fans justified their support for Mexico by linking it to the current ten-



sions in South Africa over migration. "You want people to cheer for you when you play soccer just because we're African?" one X user asked citing reports of mistreatment of migrants. "We're supporting Mexico so that South Africa can go back home early to protect their jobs," another user posted, playing on the unfounded accusation that foreigners were responsible for South Africa's high unemployment rate. "I hope South Africa is not blaming African migrants for the 2-0 defeat and two red cards in the match against Mexico," posted Ahmednasser Abdullahi, a prominent Kenyan lawyer.

THAI PRINCESS BAJRAKITIYABHA DIES AFTER MORE THAN THREE YEARS IN COMA



Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who had been in a coma for more than three years, has died, the royal household has announced. She was 47. She collapsed in December 2022 while exercising her dogs. Her doctors attributed it to a severely irregular heartbeat, caused by a mycoplasma infection in her heart. With her death, the Thai royal family has lost its most visibly accomplished member, and someone who might have played a pivotal role in an as yet unclear succession. She was the eldest of King Vajiralongkorn's seven children, born on 7 December 1978 to his first wife and cousin, Princess Soamsawali. "The medical team provided the closest and most intensive care possible, but her condition continued to decline progressively," the palace said in a statement on Friday morning, adding that she passed away at 19:48 local time (12:48 GMT) the previous day in Chulalongkorn Hospital. She trained as a lawyer, getting two post-graduate

degrees from Cornell University in the US. She worked briefly at the Thai mission to the United Nations in New York, before returning to Thailand to work in the Attorney-General's offices in Bangkok and elsewhere in the country. From 2012 to 2014 she was Thailand's ambassador to Austria, where she built a relationship with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). She started speaking out on the need for penal reform, with a particular focus on vulnerable women who end up in prison; Thailand has one of the world's highest numbers of female inmates. Once back in Thailand she became the UNODC's Ambassador for the Rule of Law in South East Asia, and continued to advocate reform of Thailand's criminal justice system, in which severe sentences are often handed down on people convicted of relatively minor drug possession charges. In 2021 her father made her a chief of staff in his private bodyguard, giving her the rank of general.

EX-UK POLITICAL AIDE STEVE HILTON WOULD OVERHAUL CALIFORNIA AS GOVERNOR

Steve Hilton, the former senior adviser to David Cameron, has told the BBC his bid to be California's next governor is a campaign to "save" the state from what he describes as overbearing bureaucracy and economic decline. In his first UK interview since advancing this week to November's election, he said his candidacy was rooted in what he called the state's "rebel spirit". Hilton, who moved to California in 2012, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme the state's tradition of innovation and economic dynamism had been undermined by 16 years of Democratic control. He is running as a Republican in the overwhelmingly liberal state on what he calls a "common sense" platform rather than party ideology.



Hilton has presented himself as a political outsider, casting his campaign as a push to restore affordability and opportunity in what he described as "the most incredible place in the world". Ultimately, Hilton said his campaign would hinge less on party identity and more on a broadly framed appeal to pragmatism. "It's not ideological," he said. "It is just common sense."

'They destroyed the future': Palestinian anger at rise in Israeli demolitions in East Jerusalem

There is the loud din of a demolition below Jerusalem's walled Old City, and from a hillside I watch a large Israeli excavator tearing into a Palestinian house. Some 59 properties have now been destroyed in the al-Bustan area of the Silwan neighbourhood since late 2023. With world attention diverted by the war in Gaza and now in Iran and Lebanon, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of Palestinians being pushed from their homes in Israeli-occupied east of the city. "There is no future. They destroyed the future and everything else," says Fayeze Awad, 58, who is sitting in the only remaining floor of his property when I reach him. "We spent our whole lives building this house. This is all we managed to achieve in life. They brought us back to zero



again, me and my children." Holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims, Jerusalem is at the heart of the Israel-Palestinian conflict and competing claims to the land. Israel captured the east of the city, including its holy places, along with the rest of the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War and later annexed it in a move that is not recog-

nised by most countries. For some 20 years, Israel's Jerusalem Municipality has pursued plans to turn al-Bustan into a biblically-themed park, the King's Garden, to be run by a Jewish settler organisation. Recently, demolition orders enforced by Israeli courts have accelerated along the narrow streets here.

Settlements and the forced transfer of a population from occupied land are illegal under international law. The Jerusalem Municipality told the BBC in a statement that it was working "for the benefit of all city residents" and that it aimed "to build a park in a zone that suffers from a severe shortage of open public spaces". Palestinians point out that Israeli construction permits in East Jerusalem are almost impossible for them to get. According to the Israeli human rights group Bimkom, in 2025, only 7% of new housing approved in Jerusalem was for Palestinians, who account for some 40% of the city's population. People in al-Bustan say that their efforts to reach a compromise on alternative planning proposals were rejected by the local authority.

Nigeria evacuates citizens from South Africa as anti-migrant sentiment rises

Nigeria has become the latest African state to repatriate some of its citizens from South Africa following a rise in anti-migrant sentiments in the country. A flight carrying 268 Nigerians has landed in Lagos after leaving Johannesburg on Thursday morning. The passengers were part of around 1,000 people who the Nigerian consulate in South Africa says have registered to be repatriated. Ghana, Zimbabwe and Malawi have already carried out evacuations, ahead of a 30 June deadline set by some campaigners for undocumented migrants to leave. Many people from other parts of Africa moved to South Africa around the time white-minority rule ended in



1994, hoping for a better life. But with South Africa facing an unemployment rate of more than 30%, anti-migrant sentiments have risen, with protest marches being held in major cities and people facing xenophobic attacks. At the main international airport in Johannesburg, Justin, one of

the Nigerian passengers, told the BBC that he had lived in South Africa since 1998. "I'm leaving because of the conditions they've given us here. They say we must leave on or before 30th June. And because of the way they are killing people, killing our brothers, so I'm not safe," Justin said. Justin

told the BBC that he had already been targeted. "Recently they attacked me in a taxi. I ran away and left my things. I left my phone and everything. "They call us names and say you must leave this country. When we tried to beg them, they started insulting us." After landing in Lagos, hairdresser and mother-of-three Chinwe Osuala said she had experienced violence during an earlier wave of anti-migrant attacks. "I was personally attacked in my business premises. But after everything I called the police. Police helped me." She said the attack left her deeply concerned about her family's future. "You can't even walk around freely.

What is Ebola and why is stopping the latest outbreak so difficult?



An Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been declared a public health emergency of international concern, by the World Health Organization (WHO). The latest outbreak is challenging because it involves a rare species of Ebola for which there is no vaccine, and the epicentre is in an area affected by conflict. What is Ebola and what are the symptoms? Ebola is a rare but deadly disease caused by a virus. Ebola viruses normally infect animals, typically fruit bats, but outbreaks among humans can sometimes start when people eat or handle infected animals. It takes two to 21 days for symptoms to appear. They come on suddenly and start like the flu or malaria, with fever, headache and tiredness. As the disease progresses, vomiting and diarrhoea develop and it can lead to organ failure. Some, but not all, patients develop internal and external bleeding. The virus spreads from one person to another by contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood or

vomit. Ebola outbreaks used to be small and contained to remote rural areas. However, urbanisation is pushing larger populations closer to these natural reservoirs of Ebola and increasing the risk of transmission. Why is this Ebola outbreak different and is there a vaccine? This outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo species of Ebola, which had not been seen for over a decade. Named after a district in Uganda where it was first detected, Bundibugyo has only caused two previous outbreaks - in 2007 and 2012. One study showed that it killed about a third of those infected, far less than the more common Zaire (66.6%) and Sudan (48.5%) species. Initial blood tests for Ebola in the affected areas were negative as they were designed to identify the more common species of the disease. There is no approved vaccine for Bundibugyo, but experimental ones are in development. It is possible that a vaccine for the Zaire species may offer some protection.



Storm chaser digs man out of rubble after tornadoes rip through US Midwest

'Surrender or face full force' of state, Nigerian president warns armed groups



Armed groups operating in Nigeria must "surrender or face the full force" of the state, the country's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has warned. Speaking during a national broadcast marking Nigeria's Democracy Day, he said that although the year's celebrations had been "dampened" by the recent

kidnappings of school children, security remained at the heart of the government. Nigeria has long battled with an economic crisis and insecurity. Public fear has been reignited as attacks on schools and villages as well as mass abductions for ransom have increased, largely in the country's northern and central regions. Referring specifically to the abduction of children in Oyo and Borno states, Tinubu said the authorities "remain hopeful for their safe return". "Democracy without security is not solid enough", he explained, as he announced more than 50,000 new police officers and allocated record 5.41tn naira (\$4bn; £3bn) to defence and security in the yearly budget.

Unfortunate Update On The Rock's WWE Return Amid 468-Day Hiatus

The Rock has been linked to WWE return rumours for what feels like forever. Even when he's busy with movie projects, speculation about another appearance never really disappears. This year, though, things feel a bit different. A recent update from The Rock himself suggests that wrestling is not where his attention is right now. While fans continue wondering whether he'll revisit any of the major WWE stories he was involved in during 2024, his latest comments point in another direction entirely. The Rock is focusing on Hollywood after missing out on an Oscar nomination. During an interview with Esquire, The Rock opened up about not receiving an Oscar nomination for his role in The Smashing Machine. He admitted that a nomination would have meant a lot to him. While he appreciated being part of those conversations, he didn't

hide his disappointment over the outcome. What stood out most was what he said next. Rather than dwelling on it, The Rock explained that the experience has motivated him to work even harder. He said the setback has put a new fire in him and pushed him to get back to work. "It would have been incredible to get nominated for an Oscar," he said before explaining that not receiving a nomination has "lit a fire" in him to get back to work. That comment may not have been about WWE, but it says plenty about where his attention is right now. WWE's unfinished stories may have to stay on hold. The Rock was involved in some of WWE's biggest storylines in 2024, which is one reason return speculation has continued throughout 2026. His latest remarks don't officially rule out another appearance. He never said he was done with WWE. At the same time, he

also didn't hint at any plans to come back. Instead, his attention appears to be on achieving more in Hollywood. That leaves WWE without one of its biggest crossover stars and makes it harder to imagine any immediate continuation of the stories he left behind. A former WWE personality recently weighed in on The Rock's success. The Rock's name was also brought up recently by former WWE personality Jonathan Coachman during an appearance on the Behind the Turnbuckle Studios podcast.



KANE WILLIAMSON DROPS RETIREMENT BOMBSHELL AMID ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND TEST SERIES

Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Friday made a shocking decision, calling it quits from international cricket amid the ongoing Test series against England. Williamson, who was part of modern cricket's 'Fab Four' alongside Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, and Joe Root, bows out from the big stage as New Zealand's leading run-getter in international cricket (19,346) and Test cricket (9,515). During his illustrious career that spanned over 16 years, the 35-year-old slammed 48 centuries and six double-centuries. Williamson made his New Zealand debut in 2010 and retired from T20 cricket in November last year, finishing as the country's



second-highest run-scorer in the format with 2,575 runs. Apart from his credentials as a batter, Williamson was hugely admired by his peers for his leadership qualities and humility. He led the BLACKCAPS in all three formats during a golden period from 2016 to 2024, a tenure that included two ICC World Cup Finals, three semi-finals, and victory in the inaugural ICC World Test Championship in 2021. Williamson's retirement means he will no longer take part in the ongoing three-match Test

series against England, with the second Test set to get underway next week on Wednesday. He registered scores of 0 and 18 in his final appearance for the BLACKCAPS, who lost a low-scoring first Test by 115 runs last week at Lord's. New Zealand are yet to name a replacement for him. BLACKCAPS coach Rob Walter said he had nothing but respect and admiration for Williamson. "Anyone who's had the privilege of working with Kane understands he is a very special player and person."

Jaspal Rana, India Shooting Great And Manu Bhaker's Coach, Dies At 49 In Delhi Hospital

Jaspal Rana, the coach of ace Indian shooter Manu Bhaker, has died at the age of 49. Jaspal was admitted to Delhi's Max Hospital, where he breathed his last. Sources have confirmed to NDTV that Jaspal passed away in the hospital, where he had recently undergone stent surgery. Jaspal had experienced chest pain and discomfort during the ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany, and faced a similar issue during his return flight to India. He was immediately admitted to the hospital upon landing. According to National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, Rana died at the hospital on Thursday night. After doctors examined his condition, a stent was put in place to clear



a cardiac blockage. A second stent procedure was expected to be carried out a few days later. It was reported that Jaspal was stable and recovering before the news of his death emerged. "He (Jaspal) experienced chest pain and discomfort during the ISSF

World Cup in Munich, which he initially mistook for acidity, and continued with his travel plans. However, the discomfort returned during the journey back to India, prompting immediate medical attention upon his arrival in Delhi," his brother, Subash Rana, had

told the media after his admission to the hospital a few days ago. Jaspal, a shooting legend and national coach, has been widely credited as the man behind Manu Bhaker's rise in the sport. It was under Rana's guidance that Bhaker won two medals for India at the Paris Olympic Games. READ | Jaspal Rana: A Shooting Legend Who Shaped India's Modern Shooting Era He is one of the most successful Indian athletes in the history of the Commonwealth Games, dominating across four editions (1994, 1998, 2002, and 2006). His most famous performance for India came at the 2006 Doha Asian Games, where he won three gold medals and equalled the world record in the 25m Centre Fire Pistol.

ICC Finalises Dates For ODI World Cup 2027. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma's Timeline Clear: Report

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reportedly finalised the dates for the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. It has been claimed that the governing board is looking to start the tournament on 4 October, with the final scheduled to be held on 21 November. An ICC board meeting was held in Ahmedabad during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 final, where the dates were reportedly agreed upon by those in attendance. A total of 54 matches are to be played in the ODI World Cup next year, and a report in ESPNcricinfo has claimed that 41 of these matches will be held in South Africa. Whilst Zimbabwe will host eight matches, three will be held in Namibia. South Africa has not hosted a men's



ODI World Cup since the 2003 edition of the tournament. However, the African nation did host the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, the 2009 Champions Trophy, and the 2023 Women's T20 World Cup. It has also been reported that the ODI World Cup will be the first ICC event of the 2027-2031 Future Tours Programme (FTP), which governs

bilateral international engagements between participating teams. The calendar is expected to be finalised at the

ICC meetings in Hong Kong later this year. According to the report, one of the biggest topics of debate regarding the calendar is the structure of the World Test Championship and its possible expansion. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma Have a Year and a Half With the ODI World Cup expected to be the swansong tournament for Indian cricket icons Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, the duo has about a year and a half before they potentially say goodbye to the Indian jersey forever.



Twitch Streamer Aishah Sofey Tells Her Muslim Mom That She Only Likes Women, But Mom Has One Big Concern



Aishah Sofey is back in the spotlight after a personal conversation with her mother started making rounds online. In the clip, the streamer and content creator opens up about something deeply personal, telling her mom that she is only interested in women and sees herself ending up with a woman in the future. The hard part wasn't what Aishah said. It was how differently her mom saw things. While Aishah spoke about the kind of relationship she wants, her mother kept coming back to marriage, family, and grandchildren. The short conversation ended up becoming an emotional moment between two peo-

ple who clearly wanted very different things for the future. Why this conversation hit so hard for Aishah's mom? In the clip, Aishah sits across from her hijab-wearing mother and explains how she sees her future. She tells her mom that she is interested in women and doesn't picture herself settling down with a man. Her mother's response comes from a completely different place. She talks about wanting grandchildren and asks how that could happen if her daughter stays with another woman. She also said that she really wishes that Aishah turns out to be a "good Muslim" and lives the kind of life that her mom wants her to live.

VIRAT KOHLI OUT, INDIA TO LAUNCH NEW NO.3 EXPERIMENT. COACH NAMES CANDIDATES

India bowling coach Morne Morkel on Friday indicated that the team management is likely to try multiple players at No. 3 in the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan, with first-choice batter Virat Kohli unavailable for the three-match rubber due to an injury. Kohli, who suffered a hamstring injury during the IPL 2026 final, was replaced in the squad by Yashasvi Jaiswal. Speaking on the eve of the series-opener in Dharamsala, Morkel suggested that India are likely to rotate between Jaiswal, KL Rahul, and Ishan Kishan during the series against Afghanistan. "In terms of that number three slot, that's something

that in this series we'll play around with. Even if it's Ishan or KL or Yashasvi, it's a nice opportunity now. We've got a couple of one-day games coming up and we'll give guys opportunity in different slots. "Just to give ourselves a better idea in terms of how we can go and structure the team and have different options," said the former South Africa pacer. Meanwhile, Prince Yadav or Gurnoor Brar could make their India debut on Saturday. India trained in Chandigarh before travelling to Dharamsala. As a fellow pacer, Morkel is impressed with both Prince and Gurnoor, who has been a net bowler for India for

many years. "My first impressions, it is sort of, almost like they've been part of the squad for five years. I saw no nervousness in their face. Although, I can imagine coming into the squad, they would be pretty nervous. But I think the way they've gone about their training, the energy they've trained with, was very, very nice and good to see. "In terms of their skills, I can also see that they've done a lot of work on that. They're on the money, accurate. And that makes my life a little bit easier. Obviously, from here on, we'll develop their game and sort of have conversations of how we can play that middle phase and work our plays in the death," Morkel

said. "How we can do that better. But definitely, on first impressions, very happy with what we saw as a group," he added. Morkel expressed hope that India chief coach Gautam Gambhir will try the duo out in the Afghanistan series. "I'm pretty sure Gautam will give those guys an opportunity and see how they go in the Indian shirt. It's different playing for international cricket with an Indian badge. We're excited to have them." Rohit Sharma too was part of the training session, having regained full fitness following his hamstring injury.



Serena Williams' Comeback At Queen's Club Over After Injury To Doubles Partner

Serena Williams' much-hyped comeback to professional tennis at the Queen's Club lasted just one match. The 44-year-old Williams' doubles partner, 19-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko, was forced to withdraw from the draw on Thursday because of a knee injury she sustained in a singles match against Karolina Pliskova in the last 16 on Wednesday. In her first professional match since the 2022 U.S. Open, Williams teamed up with Mboko to beat third-seeded duo Nicole Melichar-

Martinez and Erin Routliffe 7-6 (2), 6-2 at the grass-court event on Tuesday. They were scheduled to face Leylah Fernandez and Laura Siegemund in the quarterfinals. Williams is set to play doubles at the Berlin Open in Germany next week. Her partner has yet to be announced, though British newspaper The Times of London reported it was Karolina Muchova. Williams won 23 Grand Slam singles titles - including seven at Wimbledon - before stepping away from the game.

Kimi Antonelli Seeks Sixth Straight Win At Barcelona Grand Prix



SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY
INDIA RELEASE DATE: TOM
HOLLAND’S FILM TO SWING
INTO CINEMAS ON 30TH JULY

Great news for Indian fans! Spider-Man: Brand New Day is now releasing a day before its previously scheduled release date. The film will now release on 30th July. Advance ticket sales begin on 17th June in premium large formats across India. Sony Pictures Entertainment India is thrilled to announce that Spider-Man: Brand New Day will now arrive in Indian cinemas a day before the previously scheduled release. Spider-Man: Brand New Day, which is one of the most anticipated global cinematic events of 2026, will now release on 30th July in India. This news is bound to leave fans cheering! The news of the new release date comes after Spider-Man: Brand New Day made history by becoming the first movie trailer to cross 1 billion views. The announcement of the new release date was made along with the news that advance booking for tickets are going live globally, including in India. Spider-Man: Brand New Day will open in all premium large formats across India. The anticipation for Spider-Man: Brand New Day has been high ever since it was announced. The film marks the return of Tom Holland as Spider-Man after almost five years. The trailer, which shattered records with its release, has offered glimpses of



Peter Parker's life after the events of Spider-Man: No Way Home. Four years have passed since the events of No Way Home, and Peter is now an adult living entirely alone, having voluntarily erased himself from the lives and memories of those he loves. Crime-fighting in a New York that no longer knows his name, he's devoted himself entirely to protecting his city — a full-time Spider-Man — but as the

demands on him intensify, the pressure sparks a surprising physical evolution that threatens his existence, even as a strange new pattern of crimes gives rise to one of the most powerful threats he has ever faced. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man, alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, and Sadie Sink. <

Time For Pooja Hegde
To Prioritise Content

Pooja Hegde's search for a solid box-office success continues, with her latest release Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai reportedly heading towards a disappointing theatrical run. Despite being one of the most recognizable faces in Indian cinema, the actress has struggled to find consistent success in recent years, with several of her films failing to make a significant impact. The latest setback has once again sparked discussions about her choice of projects. While Pooja has often been part of star-driven commercial entertainers, many believe it is time for her to prioritize strong stories and performance-oriented roles rather than films where glamour becomes the primary focus. Interestingly, even if content-driven films do not always translate into major box-office success, they can



still enhance an actor's filmography and earn critical appreciation. Several actresses have successfully reinvented themselves through such choices, building a respected body of work despite mixed commercial results.

WILL KATRINA KAIF TAKE
HER BOLDEST CAREER RISK?

Rumours surrounding Chandni Bar 2 have sparked major curiosity among Bollywood fans, especially after reports suggested that Katrina Kaif could be seen alongside Tabu in the much-talked-about sequel. While there has been no official confirmation yet, the speculation alone has generated significant discussion across social media as the first part a bold film that dealt with bar dancers in Mumbai. If the casting rumours turn out to be true, the project could mark one of the most daring choices of Katrina's career. The original Chandni Bar was known for its hard-hitting portrayal of life in Mumbai's underbelly, with Tabu delivering a powerful performance as a woman forced into prostitution and bar dancing. Any sequel is expected to explore similar



ly intense themes. For Katrina, who has largely been associated with commercial entertainers, glam-

orous roles and mainstream blockbusters, stepping into such a gritty character would be a major departure.

RS Infotainment's MANDAADI Starring Soori
& Suhas Releasing Worldwide on September 4



After months of extensive filming across challenging terrains and coastal landscapes, the team MANDAADI recently completed principal photography and the post-production works are now happening at a brisk pace. Backed by RS Infotainment and produced by Elred Kumar, the film demanded an ambitious production effort, with significant portions shot along the shores of Ramanathapuram. Helmed by director Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, MANDAADI unfolds against a rarely explored sporting backdrop, offering a narrative rooted in the lives, struggles, and spirit of coastal communi-

ties. Meanwhile, the makers announced the film's release date. MANDAADI will hit the screens worldwide on September 4th. Leading the film is Soori, who underwent extensive preparation for the role and is said to have delivered one of the most demanding performances of his career. A major attraction of the project is actor Suhas, who makes his Tamil cinema debut in a character unlike anything he has attempted before. Stepping into an antagonist-like role, Suhas embraced a dramatic transformation and dedicated close to 100 shooting days to the project, underlining his commitment to the film. Mahima Nambiar plays

the female lead, while Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, and Balasaravanan add further depth to the ensemble cast. The release date poster looks quite interesting. It shows the protagonist and the antagonist standing face-to-face on a rocky shore against a breathtaking sunset backdrop. While Suhas holds a sword, Soori gives a stern gaze. With the sea, fishing boats, and dramatic skies in the background, the poster reflects the film's coastal setting and hints at an intense conflict between the characters. On the technical front, MANDAADI boasts an accomplished crew.

Mahira Khan expresses
desire to star in a
Malayalam movie next



HOW MUCH DID TRISHA
KRISHNAN'S FILMS EARN
AFTER COVID? FIND OUT

Trisha Krishnan continues to prove why she remains one of South India's most loved actresses. Even after more than 20 years in the film industry, she is delivering strong performances and attracting audiences to theatres. With the success of her latest film Karuppu, Trisha has now crossed an impressive Rs 2200 crore in worldwide box office collections from her post-pandemic releases. The actress has appeared in 10 theatrical releases since cinemas reopened after the pandemic. Out of these, several films turned into major commercial successes and contributed significantly to her overall box office record. Her success journey began with Ponnaiyin Selvan: Part 1, which became a blockbuster across the globe. The success continued with Ponnaiyin Selvan: Part 2 and later with Leo, which



emerged as one of the biggest hits of her career. While a few films received a modest response at the ticket windows, Trisha maintained a steady presence with back-to-back releases. Karuppu Helps Trisha Enter the Rs 2200 Crore Club.

T Gopichand, Vvenkat, Vijay Chilla, Shashi Devireddy,
70mm Entertainments Film Locks Powerful Title "SINGA"

T Gopichand is gearing up with an exciting venture Singa, a high-profile action entertainer that introduces leading action choreographer Vvenkat as a director. The film is being produced by Vijay Chilla and Shashi Devireddy under the 70mm Entertainments banner, which has earned a reputation for backing distinctive and impactful stories. The makers, extending birthday wishes to T Gopichand, unveiled the film's title and also introduced the actor's look. The chirping of birds instantly transports us into the heart of a dense forest, while the tribal soundscape further heightens the intrigue. In the darkness, a pair of glowing eyes emerges, initially creating the impression of a Panther lurking in the wild. The promo then delivers its big reveal- Gopichand. With burning rage in his eyes, he resembles a vengeful Panther, fiercely holding an axe in his hand and exuding a menacing, fear-inducing presence. The powerful title Singa is then unveiled. The title is designed impressively. Overall, the title teaser packs a strong mass appeal and lives up to its powerful title. Gopichand appears in a rugged avatar, sporting a beard, a prominent moustache, an ear ornament, and a face marked with blood and sweat. It feels like the perfect



birthday treat for his fans. For a director making his debut after a successful career as a fight master, Vvenkat has demonstrated exactly how to present a hero in the most impactful mass avatar. Gopichand's transformation is simply next level. Cinematographer Shamdat deserves special praise for the stunning way he builds up and reveals the actor's character. Meanwhile, Sam CS

elevates the experience with an immersive tribal-inspired score and realistic sound design that create an atmosphere filled with intensity, tension, and raw energy. Promising a potent blend of action, emotion, and drama, the film is designed to showcase Gopichand in a powerful new role. Vvenkat developed a gripping narrative packed with intense moments and strong emotional depth, making his transition from action director to filmmaker an eagerly awaited one. Malayalam actress Anarkali Nazar plays the leading lady, making her Telugu cinema debut with this prestigious project. The project also boasts a formidable technical crew. Renowned cinematographer Shamdat ISC handles the visuals, while Sam CS scores the music. National Award-winning editor Sreekar Prasad has been entrusted with the editing responsibilities, the film's production design is overseen by Rama Krishna-Monika and the sound design by S a c h i n Sudhakaran-Hariharan.

GV PRAKASH BOARDS VENKATESH-
KALYAN RAM ENTERTAINER

Sensational Music Composer GV Prakash Kumar Comes On Board For Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, Anil Ravipudi, Sahu Garapati, Shine Screens's #VenkyAnil5 #NkrAR2, Presented By Suresh Productions, Co-Produced By Zee Studios, First of its Kind Announcement Video Sparks Laughter Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, and blockbuster Hit Machine Anil Ravipudi collaborate for a massive festive entertainer, bankrolled by the successful production house Shine Screens. Produced by Sahu Garapati, the film #VenkyAnil5 & #NkrAR2, is planned for a grand



Sankranthi 2027 release. Suresh Productions and Smt Archana present the film, while Zee Studios joins as co-producer, making this a great partnership of prominent production houses coming together for a high-value com-

mercial entertainer. Meanwhile, leading music director of South Indian Cinema GV Prakash Kumar has been roped in to compose the music for the film. Known for juggling multiple responsibilities as a composer, actor, and producer, GV Prakash remains one of the busiest talents in the industry. To announce his inclusion in a unique and entertaining manner, the makers unveiled a fun-filled video presented in Anil Ravipudi's signature style. The promo opens with a nostalgic tribute to legendary filmmaker Jandhyala by recreating an iconic scene from Aha Naa Pellanta, where characters are buried in the sand up to their necks.

SALMAN KHAN DEFAMATION
CASE: BOMBAY HC FLAGS
SOCIAL MEDIA MISUSE

The Bombay High Court has observed that access to social media does not entitle anyone to publish content that could defame others, whether private individuals or public figures, while hearing a defamation suit filed by actor Salman Khan against his neighbour over a property dispute. Justice Sharmila Deshmukh, hearing Khan's appeal against a civil court order that declined to grant him interim relief, indicated that parties should refrain from litigating disputes on social media and instead seek remedies before appropriate legal forums. She also suggested that the neighbour, Ketan Kakkad, consider deleting tweets and YouTube videos relating to the dispute. The court

expressed disapproval of the continued circulation of such content and noted that judicial time ought not to be spent on examining whether videos should remain online. It added that even where content had been uploaded by third parties, steps could be taken to have it removed through intermediaries. The matter has been posted for further hearing on July 6. Farmhouse property dispute The dispute concerns adjoining properties in Panvel, where Khan owns a farmhouse. Kakkad has alleged that the actor violated environmental norms and blocked access to his property, and that authorities failed to act on his complaints. He subsequently took to social media and

participated in YouTube interviews to air his grievances. Khan's defamation suit contends that Kakkad's posts and videos are not only defamatory but also commonly provocative, containing false and inflammatory material.

