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Jaishankar raises Indian mariners' killing with Rubio; calls US strike on commercial shipping unjustified

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday raised with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio the killing of three Indian mariners in a US military strike on a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Oman. Jaishankar, currently on a visit to Europe, spoke to the US Secretary of State on phone.

Following the conversation, the external affairs minister described the "lethal" actions by the US military against commercial shipping as unjustified. "Spoke to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio this evening. I reiterated India's strong protest at the attacks by the US Navy in the Gulf that killed three Indian mariners," Jaishankar said on social media.

"Such lethal actions against commercial shipping are not justified," he



said. India on Friday summoned US Charge d'Affaires Jason Meeks and told him that the American military's lethal strikes on commercial vessels with Indian crew members off the coast of Oman are unacceptable.

The senior diplomat was summoned on Wednesday night as well. A Palau-flagged oil tank-

er, Marivex, carrying 24 Indian seafarers, was disabled by US forces on June 8. All crew members were safely rescued.

On June 10, the US struck another Palau-flagged tanker, Settebello, killing three out of the 24 Indian sailors on board.

Another vessel, Jalveer, a Guinea-Bissau-flagged tanker with 20 Indians, was attacked on

Thursday.

Following the attack on Jalveer, India said three merchant ships with Indian crew members came under attack from American military off the coast of Oman this week resulting in the death of three nationals.

It was New Delhi's first public acknowledgement that US Navy targeted the three ships with Indian crew members.

After Meeks was summoned on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said a "strong protest" was lodged with him regarding the continuing attacks by US naval forces on commercial vessels carrying Indian mariners in the Gulf of Oman. The ministry said it once again "conveyed its deep concern over the use of lethal and deadly force against civilian shipping".

CM Revanth puts officials on high alert amid heavy rains

HYDERABAD (TSIT)

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday directed officials to remain on high alert in view of heavy rains and take immediate measures to prevent inconvenience to residents in the Hyderabad Core Urban Region (CURE). The Chief Minister instructed senior officials, including the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and the CURE Special Chief Secretary, to conduct reviews on a war footing and ensure prompt response to rain-related issues.

He directed departments such as Police, Traffic Police, Municipal Administration, HYDRAA, Electricity and Water Board to work in close coordina-



tion and respond swiftly to any emergencies.

Revanth Reddy also advised officials to pre-deploy teams at identified water-logging points and other vulnerable locations based on weather forecasts, ensuring quick action to minimize disruptions and safeguard public safety, according to an official statement.

Police search Abhishek's Kolkata residence for over 4 hours

KOLKATA (TSIT):

In a dramatic pre-dawn operation that triggered a fresh political storm in West Bengal, police personnel, accompanied by central forces, conducted



a raid at TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's residence here on Saturday in connection with an alleged financial fraud, officials said. The operation, led by a team from Paschim Medinipur's Salboni Police station and assisted by Kolkata Police personnel, began shortly after 3 am and continued for more than four hours, triggering sharp reactions from the TMC.

PM Modi embarks on six-day France and Slovakia visit; G7 and innovation ties in focus



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday departed for a six-day visit to France and Slovakia, a diplomatic tour that will combine high-level bilateral engagements, technology and innovation partnerships, outreach to the Indian diaspora, and participation in the G7 Summit, as India seeks to deepen its strategic engagement with Europe and amplify the voice of the Global South on the world stage. The visit, scheduled from June 13 to 18, begins in the French city of Nice, where Modi will hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron and jointly inaugurate the flagship "Bharat Innovates" event, a major platform bringing together innovators, start-ups, investors and academic institutions from India and across the world. Ahead of his departure, Modi said the tour would focus on strengthening economic and cultural linkages while advancing India's partnerships with key European nations.

Congress launches nationwide campaign on exam leaks, unemployment; Rahul Gandhi to lead student conventions

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

The Congress on Saturday announced the first phase of a nationwide campaign against paper leaks, examination irregularities and unemployment, with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi set to lead a series of student conventions across the country aimed at mobilising youth on issues affecting education and recruitment. In a statement, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal said the campaign was being launched under the guidance of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, whom he described as a consistent advocate for students and young people facing growing uncertainty over their futures.



As part of the initiative, Gandhi will address large student conventions in Kota on June 17, Allahabad on July 10, Patna on July 11 and Delhi on July 14. The events are expected to bring together students, competitive examination aspirants, youth organisations, educators and others affected by examination-related controversies. Announcing

the campaign, Venugopal said the Congress would highlight the difficulties faced by millions of young Indians due to repeated paper leaks, increasing examination expenses and what the party termed the government's failure to ensure a fair and transparent education and recruitment system. "Under the guidance of the Hon'ble

Congress President, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and the empowering leadership of Shri Rahul Gandhi, the Indian National Congress has announced the first phase of a nationwide campaign against the growing crisis of paper leaks, examination irregularities, unemployment and the systematic betrayal of India's youth by the Modi Government," Venugopal said.

He said the campaign would seek to amplify concerns over examination scandals and create a platform for affected students to share their experiences. "The movement will seek to unite students beyond political affiliations and provide a platform for affected youth to share their experiences and demand accountability for repeated examination failures and paper leak scandals," he said.

Delhi: Palam 360-led delegation meets CM Rekha Gupta

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

A delegation representing villages across Delhi today met Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and discussed a range of issues affecting the capital's rural belt, including demolition drives, sealing actions, circle rates, the master plan and development works.

The delegation was led by Palam 360 chief Chaudhary Surender Solanki and included prominent rural leaders from different parts of Delhi.

Speaking after the meeting, Solanki said the delegation apprised the Chief Minister of concerns arising from recent demolition and sealing actions in some areas, stressing that the entire village community should not suffer because of the actions of a few individuals.

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth appointed new Army chief, to take charge on June 30

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth has been appointed as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), the government said in a statement on Saturday. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, will assume charge as the next Army chief on June 30, 2026.

The present Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, will retire from service on the same day. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, an alumnus of National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.

In a career spanning over four decades, he has had a distinguished military career with extensive experience across operational, strategic, capability



development and institutional domains, contributing significantly to the Indian Army's combat effectiveness and long-term transformation.

He has commanded in diverse operational environments ranging from an Armoured Regiment in the Desert Sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre, and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu & Kashmir.

5 IAF personnel killed as AN-32 crashes while landing at Assam's Jorhat airbase



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Five Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel were killed after an AN-32 transport aircraft crashed while landing at the Air Force Station in Assam's Jorhat district on Saturday. The co-pilot of the ill-fated aircraft survived and is undergoing treatment, IAF officials said.

They have been identified as Sqn Ldr Prashant Singh, Flt Lt Shubham Kumar, Sgt

Jitendra Sharma, Agniveervayu Khemaram Kumawat and Agniveervayu Danish Alam. The IAF has ordered a court of inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident.

The aircraft had taken off from the IAF base at Jorhat with six people, including the pilots, on board. According to sources, the pilot reported a technical malfunction immediately after take-off and decided to return to the air-

base. However, while attempting to land, the aircraft skidded off the runway and crashed, sources said. A fire broke out after the crash-landing, resulting in the deaths of five personnel.

"An IAF AN-32 aircraft met with an accident today while landing at Jorhat. A court of inquiry is being constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF had said earlier in a post on X. The incident occurred at the IAF's Rowrah airbase in Jorhat district. Senior IAF officials rushed to the spot soon after the accident.

The Antonov AN-32 is a twin-engine turboprop transport aircraft of Soviet origin and forms a key part of the IAF's transport fleet. It is widely used for tactical airlift, troop movement, cargo delivery and logistics support, particularly in remote and high-altitude areas. Further details are awaited.

Rajnath Singh reviews Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy, Dundigal; 231 cadets commissioned

DUNDIGAL (TSIT):

A total of 231 Flight Cadets (194 men and 37 women), including the first batch of women cadets from the National Defence Academy (NDA), were commissioned as officers in the Indian Air Force (IAF) following their graduation from the Air Force Academy (AFA) her on Saturday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade of the 217th Course and awarded the President's Commission to the graduating cadets, marking the successful completion of their pre-commissioning training for the Flying and Ground Duty branches of the IAF.

On the occasion, nine officers from the Indian Navy, three officers from



the Indian Coast Guard, and two officers from Vietnam were awarded their wings. In addition, three officers received Brevets upon the successful completion of their navigation training.

Congratulating the graduating cadets, Rajnath Singh said they

were joining a service that has consistently served as both a shield and a sword for the nation. "The Indian Air Force altered the course of the 1947-48 war in Kashmir through the Srinagar airlift and scripted history in just 13 days with decisive air

strikes during the 1971 war. Its indomitable spirit and unmatched valour were once again demonstrated during Operation Sindoor in 2025, when terror hideouts were destroyed with clarity and precision. The operation was successfully executed not only because of

our indigenous platforms but also due to the IAF's trained, courageous and disciplined officers. I am confident that the force will continue to play a pivotal role in future operations as well," he said. The Defence Minister called upon the newly commissioned officers to remain vigilant in the face of evolving security challenges and to recalibrate their responses as situations demand.

"Warfare traditionally involves two vectors: the soldier and their equipment. However, in modern warfare, neither the adversary is often visible nor the weapon being used. Systems such as radars, satellites, drones, sensors, and robotics make it impossible to detect the combatant or their machinery.

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.

Modi leaves for week-long France, Slovakia tour; G7 Summit, bilateral talks on agenda



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday left for a week-long visit to France and Slovakia, during which he will attend the G7 Summit and hold discussions with world leaders on a range of bilateral and global issues. "France occupies a special place in India's strategic vision. Earlier this year, President Macron visited India, and we elevated our relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership," Modi said. "When I meet President Macron in Nice, we will review the progress made since February, and chart the next steps in our cooperation. I look forward to our discussions on pressing global issues of mutual interest as well," he said. Modi said he was looking forward to holding discussions with Slovak President

Peter Pellegrini and Prime Minister Robert Fico in Bratislava. The prime minister said India's participation in the G7 Summit in Evian, France, reflects the confidence reposed in the country by its partners and its growing global profile. Free bus travel for women, transgender persons begins in Kerala from June 15 "This is the eighth consecutive G7 Summit to which India has been invited. At the G7, India will not only speak for itself, but it will also give voice to the aspirations of the Global South," he said.

Sabarimala gold scam accused Murari Babu dies while on bail

Kochi, June 13 : Travancore Devaswom Board's former Administrative Officer and Sabarimala gold scam second accused Murari Babu died at a private hospital, where he was undergoing treatment for cancer, here on Saturday. Murari Babu was under investigation in connection with the alleged theft of gold-plated panels from the Sabarimala temple's

door frames and 'Dwarapalaka' (guardian deity) sculptures. A native of Perunna in Changanassery, he died at Amrita Hospital after being diagnosed with cancer. The funeral will be held at his residence in Perunna at 3 pm on Saturday. The Special Investigation Team had been probing allegations that gold-plated panels removed from Sabarimala were allegedly misappropriated. Murari Babu, who was suspended from service after being named an accused, had claimed during questioning that the recording of the gold panels as copper was based on a letter from the temple priest. Born into a financially modest family, Murari Babu joined the police as a constable in 1994 but quit before completing training.

India summons US charge d'affaires over strikes on merchant ships with Indian crew



NEW DELHI: India on Friday summoned US charge d'affaires Jason Meeks and told him that the American military's "lethal and deadly" strikes on commercial vessels with Indian crew members off the coast of Oman are "unacceptable". Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook suffer global outage; services restored Meeks was summoned to the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), a day after the government said three Indian crew members of a tanker were killed in the US action. Meeks was summoned on Wednesday night as well. "A strong protest was lodged with him regarding the continuing attacks by US naval forces on commercial vessels carrying

India on Thursday said three merchant ships with Indian crew members came under attack from the American military off the coast of Oman this week, resulting in the death of three nationals. It was New Delhi's first public acknowledgement that the US Navy targeted the three ships with Indian crew members. A Palau-flagged oil tanker, Marivex, carrying 24 Indian seafarers, was disabled by US forces on June 8. All crew members were safely rescued. On June 10, the US struck another Palau-flagged tanker, Settebello, killing three out of the 24 Indian sailors on board. Another vessel, Jalveer, a Guinea-Bissau-flagged tanker with 20 Indians, was attacked on Thursday. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday that the three separate strikes on the Settebello, Marivex, and Jalveer "came from the US Navy". Jaiswal said two of the three vessels were subject to sanctions administered by the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), while another had been classified as non-compliant.

Not speaking to wife for 13 days not cruelty: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has ruled that merely not speaking to a spouse for 13 days cannot, by itself, be treated as 'cruelty' under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, and set aside the conviction of a Coimbatore-based engineer. A bench comprising Justices Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar delivered the verdict while allowing an appeal filed by Jayesh Khanna, who had challenged his conviction by a trial court and its subsequent confirmation by the Madras High Court. The case relates to the death of Jayesh Khanna's wife, Sangeetha, who died by suicide at her parents' house on January 31, 2015. Jayesh Khanna was working as an engineer in Oman at the time. According to the prosecution, Sangeetha had gone to her parents' home without informing her husband's family. It was alleged that her husband, upset over the decision, stopped speaking to her over the phone. Police subsequently registered a case alleging that the resulting mental distress had driven her to take the extreme step. Free bus travel for women, transgender persons begins in Kerala from June 15A case was registered against Jayesh

Khanna and his family members under Sections 498A and 304B of the IPC. During the trial, the woman's parents levelled allegations of dowry harassment. However, the court found that those allegations were not proved and acquitted the husband's parents and other family members. The trial court, however, held Jayesh Khanna guilty under Section 498A, observing that he had allegedly not spoken to his wife between January 18 and January 31, 2015. The court treated the alleged conduct as mental cruelty that could have contributed to her suicide. The Madras High Court later upheld the conviction. Allowing the appeal, the Supreme Court observed that mental cruelty must be assessed in the context of the facts and circumstances of each case. The bench said there could be no uniform standard to determine mental cruelty, as an act that appears insignificant to one person may cause serious emotional distress to another. However, the court noted that the allegation that the husband had not spoken to his wife for 13 days had not been established through cogent evidence.

Lord Ayyappa devotees organisation seeks CBI probe into Sabarimala gold loss



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: An organisation of Lord Ayyappa devotees has expressed dissatisfaction with the ongoing SIT probe into the Sabarimala gold loss cases and urged the Kerala government to hand over the matter to the CBI. Murugan R Selvan, the national president of the Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam (SASS), on Friday said that the Congress-led UDF was accusing the CPI(M) of being behind the gold loss and questioned why it was not, therefore, handing over the probe to the CBI.

Kia India Kickstarts Phase IV of Project D.R.O.P in 250 facilities across Delhi-NCR; Reinforces its Sustainable Future Vision



NEW DELHI, India, 13 June 2026: Kia India, country's leading mass-premium carmaker, has taken another leap towards its long-term commitment towards sustainable development and responsible environmental stewardship. In partnership with Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), the company today announced the rollout of Phase-IV of Project D.R.O.P. (Develop Responsible Outlook for Plastic) in Delhi National Capital Region at the NDMC Convention Centre in Connaught Place, New Delhi. Under Phase-IV, Project D.R.O.P. aims to facilitate responsible management of plastic waste across 250 facilities spanning Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad, further strengthening the initiative's contribution towards building cleaner and more sustainable urban ecosystems. As part of the Phase-IV rollout, Kia India and its partners unveiled specially designed D.R.O.P. Community Bins manufactured using recycled plastic waste, reaffirming the project's emphasis on resource reuse. The event also witnessed the flag-off of the D.R.O.P. Collection Vehicle, symbolizing the operationalization of a structured and integrated plastic waste collection mechanism. This is aimed at strengthening segregation, collection, and responsible disposal practices across New Delhi. On the commencement of the Phase IV of Project D.R.O.P., Mr. Atul Sood, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Kia India said, "As India's urban ecosystems continue to evolve, the need for structured and sustainable waste management systems has become more critical than ever. Through Project D.R.O.P., Kia India is committed to enabling meaningful behavioural change and supporting robust grassroots infrastructure for responsible plastic waste management. We are proud to collaborate with IPCA and NDMC in bringing this initiative to the national capital region and creating a scalable model that can inspire broader environmental transformation across the country." The keynote address was delivered by the Chief Guest Shri Kuljeet Singh Chahal, Vice Chairperson, NDMC, who lauded the initiative as a timely and impactful step towards addressing urban environmental challenges and strengthening sustainable waste management practices within the national capital region.

Yashoda Hospitals to host 2-day international conference on AI in healthcare 2.0

Hyderabad, June 13, 2026: Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, today inaugurated the 2 Days International Conference on AI in Healthcare 2.0, India's largest international medical conference dedicated to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. Organized under the theme "Powering Precision & Personalizing Care," the two-day conference, being held on June 13 and 14, has brought together more than 2,000 leading doctors, healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and AI technology experts from across the globe. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Communications, Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana, along with Dr. G. S. Rao, Managing Director of Yashoda Hospitals. Serving as a premier platform for global discussions on AI-driven

innovations, emerging technologies, and future opportunities in healthcare, the conference highlights the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in reshaping patient care, diagnostics, treatment planning, and healthcare delivery. Building on the overwhelming success of its inaugural edition, the conference has emerged as India's largest international AI-focused healthcare summit. Under the leadership of Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, Organizing Chairperson, the event features extensive discussions on Precision Medicine, AI-powered Diagnostics, Digital Pathology, Robotic Surgery, Drug Discovery, Clinical AI Applications, and other cutting-edge healthcare technologies. The conference hosts distinguished experts and thought leaders from globally renowned organizations, including Google, Microsoft,



IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, ISB, Novartis, Stanford University, King's College London, Medtronic, and TCS. Special attractions include the Policy Pavilion and Startup Innovation Sessions, which showcase breakthrough technologies, innovative healthcare solutions, and collaborative opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT, Electronics, Communications, Industries

& Commerce, Government of Telangana, said "As Artificial Intelligence continues to drive transformative change across industries worldwide, healthcare is undergoing a significant evolution. The Telangana Government is committed to fostering AI, digital innovation, and deep-tech ecosystems. This conference has strengthened collaboration among researchers, startups, industry leaders, and policymakers, further positioning Telangana as a global innovation hub." Addressing the gathering, Dr. G. S. Rao, Managing Director of Yashoda Hospitals, said "The adoption of AI in healthcare is significantly improving the quality, speed, and accuracy of medical services. From early disease detection and clinical decision-making to personalized treatment approaches, AI is delivering remarkable outcomes. By bringing together global experts on a single plat-

form, this conference has facilitated meaningful discussions on the future of healthcare while creating new opportunities for innovation, partnerships, and research." Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli, Clinical Director and Robotic Surgical Oncologist, Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, remarked "Artificial Intelligence is not merely a technological advancement; it is a transformative force redefining the future of healthcare. AI is playing a critical role in enabling more accurate diagnoses, efficient clinical workflows, and personalized treatment strategies. By bringing together healthcare leaders, researchers, technology innovators, and policymakers from around the world, this conference serves as a catalyst for the next wave of healthcare transformation. It also represents an important step toward strengthening Hyderabad's position as a global HealthTech hub."

"Tirupati Meeting Was a Betrayal Convention, Another Betrayal to Women": Botsa Satyanarayana

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Botsa Satyanarayana launched a scathing attack on the coalition government, describing its public meeting held in Tirupati as a "betrayal convention" rather than a celebration of two years in office. Addressing the media at his camp office in Visakhapatnam along with former minister Gudivada Amarnath and district YSRCP president KK Raju, Botsa alleged that the government had failed to fulfil its election promises. He said that while coalition leaders were claiming the Super Six



schemes had become a "super hit", key promises such as Aadabidda Nidhi and unemployment allowance remained unimplemented. According to him, the Tirupati meeting itself exposed the government's betrayal of women. Botsa

said the massive participation in YSRCP protests across the state reflected growing public dissatisfaction with the coalition's two-year rule. "Only sound was heard in Tirupati, but there was no public response," he remarked. The former minister

alleged that the Education Department's failures had been exposed through the DSC recruitment process. Though schools had reopened, students were yet to receive uniforms, books and school kits. He questioned Education Minister Nara Lokesh's claims and accused the government of failing to conduct the DSC process transparently. Botsa said farmers cultivating tobacco, chilli and mango crops were not getting remunerative prices, while aqua farmers were being forced to agitate and organise "Chalo Amaravati" protests due to mounting problems.

GM, South Coast Railway Conducts Intensive Inspection of Tirupati-Guntakal Section



ing area, lifts, escalators, platforms and concourse. He interacted with construction officials and stressed the importance of completing works on time while maintaining high quality standards. Officials of

Guntakal Division made a detailed presentation on ongoing projects, developmental activities, operational achievements and future plans.

As part of the inspection, Shri Sandeep Mathur visited

Razampeta Railway Station and reviewed developmental works in the circulating area, waiting hall, parking area and other passenger amenities. At Kadapa Railway Station, he inspected the circulating area, platforms and passenger facilities, with special focus on the progress of works being carried out under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He directed officials to ensure quality and timely completion of all projects. The General Manager also undertook a window trailing inspection from Tadipatri to Gooty to assess track conditions, safety measures and ongoing works in the section.

Devotees donate gold and silver ornaments worth Rs.1 crore to Srisailam temple

Srisailam: Devotees have donated gold and silver ornaments worth nearly Rs.1 crore to the revered Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, Srisailam, marking a significant offering to Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Brahmaramba Devi.



along with his wife Smt. Vidhyullatha from Peddapura in Kakinada district, offered a range of sacred

items including gold namam, a silver Jatootam with crescent motif, silver puja articles, a gold Rudraksha

mala, and mangalsutras. The total offerings included 42.516 kg of silver items and 73.5 grams of gold ornaments. The donors stated that the approximate value of the offerings is around Rs.1 crore. The items were formally handed over to Executive Officer Sri Y. Srinivas Rao in the presence of Dharmakarta Mandal member Sri Ala Anil Kumar and family members, including Rohan, Rakesh (Director, South

Indian Shopping Mall), and Aditya Krishna, among others. Temple officials, including the principal archakas, assistant executive officer, temple supervisors, inspectors, and security staff, participated in the ceremony. After the handover, a formal receipt was issued, and the donors were blessed with Vedic chanting and honoured with Sesha Vastrams and prasadam.

AP CM to participate in International Yoga Day programme

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will participate in the International Yoga Day programme, to be held in Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, here on June 21. Informing this to the media here on Saturday, NTR district Collector G Lakshminsha said that the International Yoga Day programme would be organised in the IGM stadium here. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, several Ministers, MLA, MPs and other dignitaries would participate in the mega event.

YSRCP Will Continue Agitation Until Implementation of Super Six Promises: Varudu Kalyani



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) YSRCP Women's Wing President and MLC Varudu Kalyani alleged that the coalition government's two-year rule should be termed as "Two Years of Betrayal and Crisis" rather than "Two Years of Trust". Addressing the media at the YSRCP office in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, she accused the government of failing to fulfil several key promises made during the election

campaign. She said the coalition had promised to provide Rs.1,500 per month to women under the "Aadabidda Nidhi" scheme but had failed to implement it even after completing two years in office, thereby betraying nearly two crore eligible women

in the State. She recalled that the previous Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government had regularly credited financial assistance to women through the "Cheyutha" scheme. Ms. Kalyani also alleged that the government had neglected promises relating to "Talliki Vandanam", "Annadata Sukhibhava", unemployment allowance and the creation of 20 lakh jobs. She said the coalition had misled people with its Super Six and Super Seven

assurances and pointed out that no allocation had been made for the Aadabidda Nidhi scheme even in the third State Budget. Claiming that the coalition leaders had promised to provide more welfare schemes than the previous YSRCP government, she alleged that women, farmers and unemployed youth had been deceived. Varudu Kalyani asserted that the YSRCP would continue its agitation until all the Super Six promises were fully implemented.

Gummadi Gopalakrishna Expresses Gratitude to Governor on Receiving Sangeet Natak Akademi Award

Visakhapatnam. (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Nataka Akademi Chairman Sri Gummadi Gopalakrishna has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri S. Abdul Nazeer, for graciously mentioning and appreciating him on the occasion of receiving the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. On this occasion, Sri Gummadi Gopalakrishna said that he humbly conveys his respects to the Governor for recognizing his services to the field of Telugu verse drama and for providing the encouragement necessary for the preservation and promotion of the classical Telugu theatrical tradition.

He stated that receiving the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award is not merely a personal honour, but a recognition bestowed upon the Telugu verse drama tradition, artists and theatre lovers. He said that the award has given him renewed enthusiasm and inspiration to serve with greater dedication towards the development of Telugu theatre, culture and traditional art forms. Gummadi Gopalakrishna further stated that he would continue to strive through the State Nataka Akademi to preserve the rich heritage of Telugu theatre for future generations and to foster greater interest in the dramatic arts among the youth.

Steel Plant Workers' Deaths Are Political Murders, Not Industrial Accidents: IFTU



Visakhapatnam : The Indian Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) has alleged that the recent deaths of workers at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are not mere industrial accidents but "political murders" resulting from the privatization policies and negligence of the Central and State governments. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, IFTU National Vice-President P. Prasad said that the four key elements required for the functioning of an industry—Man, Machine, Material and Management—have been systematically weakened. He alleged that the reduction of skilled manpower, inadequate maintenance and replacement of

machinery, use of substandard materials and management functioning under corporate interests have contributed to repeated accidents. He further claimed that the growing influence of corporate capital has led to the dilution of industrial safety standards, turning such incidents into "industrial political murders." IFTU State General Secretary M. Venkateswarlu said the accidents were the result

of government negligence and demanded that criminal cases be registered against those responsible, including management officials and government authorities, under Sections 105, 308, 287 and 120B of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). IFTU State Vice-President K.V. Ramana alleged that the four Labour Codes introduced in 2020 had weakened safety provisions under labour laws and called for their repeal.

Bhimavaram Bulls Crush Simhadri Vizag Lions by 104 Runs

Visakhapatnam : Bhimavaram Bulls registered a commanding 104-run victory over Simhadri Vizag Lions in the first match of Day 5 of APL 2026 Season 5 held at the ACA-VDC Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. After winning the toss, Simhadri Vizag Lions elected to field first. Batting first, Bhimavaram Bulls got off to an aggressive start and piled up a massive 219 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Opener Revanth Reddy starred with a fluent 58 off 34 balls, including two sixes, while middle-order batter B. Satwik unleashed a blistering knock of 63 off 29 deliveries.

Session on Reading English Newspapers Held at VMRDA Children's Arena



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : A special workshop on reading English newspapers was organized at the VMRDA Children's Arena, with senior IRS officer Ravi Kiran Edara serving as the Chief Mentor. A large number of high school students, accompanied by their parents and teachers, participated in the programme.

Addressing the participants, Ravi Kiran Edara remarked that reading a newspaper every day is like taking a multivita-

min tablet, as it offers numerous benefits. He said that apart from improving English language proficiency, newspaper reading helps children stay informed about current affairs and fosters a sense of social

responsibility among the youth. He added that such habits are among the stepping stones towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. Emphasizing the importance of the mother tongue, he said it serves as a strong foundation for learning any other language, including English. He advised students to focus more on reading and listening to quality English through books, newspapers and documentaries rather than concentrating solely on grammar.

Drawing a comparison with modern AI models, he explained that the human brain learns naturally through pattern recognition in sentences rather than exclusively through grammatical rules. The session also witnessed enthusiastic participation from children, who read sentences from sample newspaper clippings and took part in discussions on the meaning and usage of difficult words. Bal Vikas Foundation Honorary Secretary Prakash Rao and VMRDA Chief Administrative Officer Hariprasad said that.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT. LTD.

CIN: U65923K12010P0C039179, Regd. Off: 8/596 A, Padmasrabha Building, Near Sreeram Swami Temple, Cherupu- Thiruprayar Road, Thiruprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ("SARFESI") Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said "Act" read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number / Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which interest has been created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of possession
1	MANNEM RATNAVALI, MANNEM THIRAPATIAH/ MH.00210114890/ VIJAYAWADA	Krishna District, Gannavaram Sub-Registry, Gannavaram Mandalam, Alapuram Village Panchayat Area, Alapuram Village, R.S.NO 96/2A, Ward No 1, Door NO 1-60, Assessment NO 79, an extent of 145.2 Sq.Yards, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:521101, EAST-ROAD, WEST-ROAD Church, SOUTH-House of Manne Joyibabu, NORTH-Property of Manne Ranga Rao	06-03-2026 & Rs.405348/-	09-06-2026
2	PODA AVULA GURU DEVI, PODA AVULA SURESH, SETTIPALLE MUNI VENKATESWARULU/ MH.00360014075/ KADAPPA	RCC house having D.No.2/175 with site situated at YSR Kadapa District, Duvvur Sub-District, Venkupalley Panchayath, Ekopalle Village, in ward No.2, in the village fields of Duvvur in Sy.No.1087/1 Pyli an extent of 0.04 Cents or 193.8 S.yds, ANDHRA PRADESH,Pin:516175, EAST-House of PangaSubbarayudu, WEST-Site of Samrulla Subbarayudu, SOUTH-Rastha, NORTH-House of Panga Nagash And Site of Panga Nagu Subbarao	06-03-2026 & Rs.494990/-	09-06-2026
3	ESAMBAZI KALANATHI, ESAMBAZI SUBRAMANYAM, JADAM SURIBABU/ NH.0147050557/ TIRUPATI	Situated at Sri Pottiramerulu Nellore Dist. - Gunduru Reg.Dist. - Venkatagiri Sub-Dist. Venkatagiri Municipality-Venkatagiri Village Revenue Sy.No.279, Erukalampallemppatti D.No.21-37/63, Assessment No.1127013500 part - ab- measuring an extent of 117 sqyds of site in this 567 sqft of RCC rooled house, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:524132, EAST-Street, WEST-Bam Hymavani vacant site, SOUTH-Existent house & vacant site, NORTH-Kanna Suseelamma vacant site Aditya Sarala vacant site	12-03-2026 & Rs.533822/-	09-06-2026
4	BODDULA POISIRAO, BODDULA MANGA, BODDULA NARASIMHA RAO, BODDULA SAI KUMAR/ NH.0116029199/ KORUKONDA ROAD RAJAHMUNDRY	An extent of 88 SQ.YDS or RCC HOUSE (SQ.FTS) with structures there in,the property is situated at SY.NO. 610/1 ASST NO : 1019, WARD - 4 BLOCK NEAREST D.NO: 4-140, NEW D.NO : 4-269, POLAVARAM VILLAGE, POLAVARAM DIST., PO POLAVARAM. With in the Grampanchayath limits of POLAVARAM Village, Regd. Sub.Dist. POLAVARAM and Regd.Dist. : WEST GODAVARI (PRESENT ELURU DIST), ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:534315, EAST-WAY FT 23 , WEST-SITE OF CHINNAM BALAYYA FT 21 , SOUTH-HOUSE OF KONYA PENTAYYA AND KONYA BALUULLI FT.56, NORTH-SITE OF KONYA BAJARAYYA FT 37	14-03-2026 & Rs.256987/-	09-06-2026

Date: 14-06-2026, Place: ANDHRA PRADESH

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

ICICI Home Finance

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

Branch Office: North Side, 1st floor, Plot No. A 36, 2nd Block, 7-6-14, Lalitha Bhaskar Enterprises, Gandhi Puram-II, Rajamahendravaram, Ap- 533103

Branch Office: 23B-5-7, Shop No. 2, 4th Floor, Vasavi Plaza, Eadavaravi Street, Ramachandrapuram Pet, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh-534002

Branch Office: Supriya Towers, 1st floor, D. No. 5-37-155, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh 522002

Branch Office: Shop, No 8 & 9,1st floor, Beside ICICI Bank Ltd, Park Road, Kurnool- 518001

Branch Office: 1st floor, Unit No. 5, Shridhar's Krishna Towers, D. No. 26-15-27, FF-5-6 Iskon City, Nellore City - 524004

[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earned Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Krishna Chadisetty (Borrower) R Ganga Bhavani (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHVJVW00001347219 LHVJVW00001347226	D. No. 5-105, Plot No. 14, Epura, Garampanchayath Epuru Hanuman Junction Andhra Pradesh- 521105	Rs. 30,37,475/- May 29, 2026	Rs. 38,93,670/- Rs. 3,89,367/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
2.	Pavan Vijaykumar Chawta (Borrower) Yashshwiteja Mekala (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHVJVW00001348093	Flat No. FF -2,First Floor, "GK Heights " Apartments, Survey No. 31/1 A & 31/1 B, LP No. 31/2015, Green City 2 Road Tadigadapa Village And Patamata Sro, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist, Andhra Pradesh- 520007	Rs. 35,06,163/- June 01, 2026	Rs. 30,78,000/- Rs. 3,07,800/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
3.	Anala Jagadish Babu (Borrower) Kalasani Vijaya Lakshmi (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHGTR000001535809 LHGTR000001535990	Flat Bearing Flat No. 504 In Forth Floor In "Akhila Towers " Apartment Property Situated at Guntur District, Narasarpet Registration District, Macherla Sub District, Macherla Municipality Locality 14 Block, D.No. 14-2-475, Macherla D. No. 1076/5,	Rs. 36,53,682/- June 01, 2026	Rs. 41,31,000/- Rs. 4,13,100/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
4.	Kuruva Muniswamy (Borrower) Kuruva Sarojamma (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHKNO000001511390 LHKNO000001511391	Plot No. 28 In Sy No 366/ B1, Ward No 21, Near Rtc Colony, Mandagiri Adoni Village And Mandal, Kurnool- 518301 Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 21,16,219/- June 01, 2026	Rs. 32,67,540/- Rs. 3,26,754/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
5.	Uddandi Thulasi Krishna (Borrower) Musunuri Mani Kumar (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHNEL00001360542 LHNEL00001361022	Sy No. 126 E 1 Kakuturu Gramam Chemudugunta, Venkatachalam Nellore Andhra Pradesh 524320	Rs. 10,79,439/- May 03, 2026	Rs. 14,52,169/- Rs. 1,45,217/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
6.	Srinivasu Didda (Borrower) Vinaya Kumari Yedla (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHRJV000001579491 LHRJV000001579493	D. No.7-93-2, Situated At Ambedkar Peta, Indira Colony, Annadavenkata Village And Gram Panchayath, Vegeswarapuram Sub Reg And Tallapudi Mandal, West Godavari District, Rs No. 473/1 West Godavari Andhra Pradesh- 534342	Rs. 27,95,419/- May 03, 2026	Rs. 17,82,000/- Rs. 1,78,200/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
7.	Guttula Satish (Borrower) Guttula Rambabu (Co-Borrower) Guttula Lakshmi (Co-Borrower 2) Loan No. LHKKN000001348965	D. No. 1-8 (as Per Doc), D. No. 1-13 (as Per Tax), S. No. 260-1, Block No. 1, Vella Village And Gram Panchayath, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Previouslly East Godavari District, Presently Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema District.	Rs. 6,64,530/- June 10, 2026	Rs. 15,04,170/- Rs. 1,50,417/-	June 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	June 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till June 29, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 29, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 29, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or ValueTrust Centralised HelpDesk No. 6200-22-6200.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>

Date: June 14, 2026
Place: Andhra Pradesh

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

EDITORIAL

Rise And Fall Of
Trinamool's Once-
Unchallenged Yuvraj

I went to meet Abhishek Banerjee at his office on Camac Street in Kolkata a few years ago. I reached before the time. There was heavy security outside the Camac Street office. The entire road was being cleared by security personnel. Right in front of the office, there was a street food lane bristling with stalls selling ghugni, sandwiches, chowmein, roti-tarka etc. I got off my car to take a stroll around the stalls to try and understand the people and the market around that area. But the road was blocked. I enquired what was the matter? "Don't you know? The crown prince is coming," One person replied. "The Yuvraj Arrives" I then went to meet Abhishek Banerjee. I realised that he had political maturity and understanding. He claimed that everyone who met him appreciated him and his work. But from me, he wanted to know his flaws. And, I did tell him a few things.

My first point was that he was becoming disconnected from ordinary people. I explained the kind of reactions I was seeing. I told him that people felt he was becoming distant from the masses. At such a young age, this kind of image creates a problem.

I still remember when Abhishek used to arrive at the airport and travel to Delhi. There would be big cars, police vehicles, convoys, and Z-plus security around him. The editor of the newspaper where I worked earlier once told me many years ago that he was curious to know who was arriving because there was such a huge security arrangement - state police, paramilitary forces, and so much protection. Then it was revealed that it was Abhishek Banerjee. At that time, he was just 25. For a 25-year-old young politician, such a huge VIP security arrangement was something ordinary people did not always connect with. Regarding security, he said he had removed the police picket outside his house. He was trying to reduce it, but it was not completely in his control. The security agencies were providing him protection because of threat perception. I also told him that wearing black glasses created a sense of distance. He replied that it was not a style statement. He had almost vision in one eye after an accident, and he had to wear glasses on doctor's advice. However, my point remained that these things were creating distance between him and ordinary people.

Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee also had to wear black glasses because his eyesight was poor, but even then, such things sometimes create a psychological distance. I have seen a similar situation with Karunanidhi. People sometimes did not accept certain images easily. Despite having a strong public connection, some symbols created distance.

Mahatma Gandhi's old-school politics was about direct connection and penetration among people.

Influence Within The Party

Today, Abhishek Banerjee is around 38 years old. He entered politics at a relatively young age and, from the very beginning, received exposure that few regional leaders of his generation got. He travelled extensively across India and abroad and had the opportunity to observe different political systems and organisational structures. As a result, he developed a modern political outlook and tried to introduce a more contemporary style of political management.

BHIWANI REFUSED, HISAR DISTRICT IS REQUIRED

(SIWANI'S DECADE OLD JUST DEMAND)



Democracy is not just a system of voting; it is also a continuous process of governance in accordance with the needs, conveniences, and aspirations of the people. In any democratic system, administrative boundaries are not permanent. They are reorganized according to time, circumstances, population, development, and public convenience requirements. Administrative units are created to ensure citizens have easy access to governance and government services. If an administrative system begins to cause inconvenience rather than convenience to the public, the need for its reconsideration becomes natural and justified. The demand to separate the Siwani subdivision of Haryana from Bhiwani district and include it in Hisar district is a practical, logical, and public-interest demand that has been raised continuously for the past ten years. This demand isn't the result of political gain, regional rivalry, or emotional impulse. It's driven by numerous compelling reasons, including the Siwani region's geographical location, transportation system, economic activities, social relations, and administrative needs. Launched in August 2016 by a few conscious citizens and social workers, this campaign has gradually become the collective voice of the entire region. At the time, it was just an idea, but today it has become the shared aspiration of thousands. The most important feature of this demand is its consistency and mass support. The movement formally began in August 2016, when six conscious citizens—Badwa's prominent social worker Mahendra

Lakhera, Sunil Singhmar (Advocate), Lal Singh Lahu, Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, Surendra Bhukkal, and Mukesh Bhukkal—joined forces to elevate the issue beyond personal inconvenience and raise it as a matter of public interest. Perhaps no one at the time imagined that this initiative would become the voice of Siwani's collective consciousness in the years to come. Initially, the struggle was limited to a few meetings, memorandums, and discussions, but as ordinary people began to see their everyday problems connected to this demand, the movement's scope expanded. Farmers, businessmen, students, employees, and social organizations began to support the issue. As a result, the campaign became the common voice of the entire Siwani subdivision, not the initiative of any one individual, committee, or organization. This struggle, which has been going on peacefully and democratically for almost a decade, is proof that this demand is not the result of any momentary sentiment, but is a serious issue related to the real needs and public convenience of the area. If we look at this issue from a geographical perspective, Siwani's connection to Hisar seems more natural. Many villages in the Siwani region are relatively close to Hisar, while Bhiwani is much further away. In many places, the distance to Hisar is approximately 25 to 30 kilometers, while reaching Bhiwani requires a journey of 65 to 70 kilometers or more. This difference is not only a matter of distance, but also of time, money, and labor. For the average citizen, farmer, student, or businessman, this additional distance directly impacts their daily routine and economic situation. When people have to spend more time and resources on administrative tasks, it raises questions about the utility of the system. In terms of transportation, life in Siwani appears to be more closely connected to Hisar. Regular bus services, shared vehicles, and other modes of transport are relative-ly more readily available to Hisar. People can easily commute to and from Hisar for daily work, education, employment, and business. In con-

trast, traveling to Bhiwani can often prove time-consuming and inconvenient, requiring many to change buses or wait for long periods. Administratively, connecting an area to a district that requires less time and less expense for the public to reach is considered in keeping with the spirit of good governance. The situation becomes even more clear when we consider the educational and healthcare needs of the Siwani region. A large number of students travel to Hisar for higher education. Universities, colleges, technical institutes, and other educational facilities are concentrated in Hisar. Similarly, Hisar is the primary reliance of the population for specialized medical services, major hospitals, and specialist doctors. When the majority of a region's population naturally gravitates toward a single city to meet its primary needs, the administrative system must also recognize this reality. Currently, administrative orders are administered from Bhiwani, while the necessities of life are met from Hisar. This contradiction has been causing inconvenience to the public for years. Siwani also has deep economic ties with Hisar. Farmers' agricultural produce, merchants' business relationships, market activities, and employment opportunities are heavily linked to Hisar. Hisar is a major hub of regional economic activity, and the people of Siwani are naturally connected to it. The administrative structure of any region should be considered to reflect the direction in which the economic flow is directed. This facilitates the implementation of development plans and accelerates regional development. Siwani and Hisar also share a deep social and cultural connection. Family ties, social contacts, marriage ties, educational exchanges, and cultural activities connect the two regions. Considerable similarities are also evident in folk life, language, and social behavior. Communication between the public and the government becomes more effective when administrative boundaries reflect social realities. Conversely, if administrative boundaries do not reflect the actual lifestyles of the people, they

become merely formal boundaries. Another hallmark of this movement is that it has been entirely peaceful, democratic, and constructive. Over the years, people have attempted to convey their views to the government through memorandums, meetings, public dialogues, and social campaigns. Keeping a public issue alive without any form of confrontation or violence is an example of democratic maturity. This is why this demand is no longer just the opinion of a few individuals, but has become a widespread public opinion. This movement was given a clear identity by the slogan that has been giving voice to the public sentiment of the Siwani region for years—"We refuse Bhiwani, we want Hisar district." This is not just a slogan written by Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, but a concise declaration of the region's geographical reality, administrative convenience, and public aspirations. This is why this slogan became popular in community gatherings, social meetings, and public meetings, and became the ideological identity of the movement. Today, when governments talk about "ease of living" and "ease of governance," the Siwani issue poses a true test of those principles. If an administrative change can save thousands of people time, facilitate access to government services, stimulate economic activity, and provide greater public convenience, it deserves serious consideration. Administrative restructuring is also aimed at bringing governance closer to the people and minimizing hardship for citizens. The demand to include Siwani in Hisar district is not a political protest, but rather a demand for convenience, practicality, and administrative justice. This demand is not a question of raising or lowering the prestige of any district, but rather a request to acknowledge the real needs of the people. In a democracy, the sensitivity of government is evidenced by its courage to listen to the public's problems and make decisions based on the circumstances. This voice, which has been raised for nearly a decade, remains as relevant today as it was in 2016. Over time, its support has grown, and the arguments in its favor

have become stronger. It is no longer merely a slogan—"We refuse Bhiwani, we want Hisar district"—but has become a symbol of the collective aspiration, geographical reality, and demand for administrative justice in the Siwani region. This is an opportunity for the government to seriously consider this issue, taking into account public sentiment, geographical realities, and administrative practicalities. If the government is truly committed to public convenience and the principles of good governance, it is time to listen to this decade-old, peaceful, and just demand of Siwani and take a positive decision on it. Bhiwani is refused, Hisar district is required. People should do Siwani but refuse Bhiwani. This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district. Hisar is just a short distance from Siwani. If we go to Bhiwani, it will take many hours. Public convenience says, listen to the right call. This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district. The bus tracks say, where is the world connected? Life goes on with Hisar, every day again and again. Why are you still maintaining distance, the rights of the people? This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district. Education, market, hospital, got admission in Hisar. Everyday life, special things related to it. Time and money are wasted, only a burden is created. This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district. Relationships, public opinion, behavior remained the same. The same foundation was found for culture and society. Now public sentiments get their due and expansion – This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district. The voice of the people has been rising for ten years. Look at this style of peaceful struggle. Save the dignity of democracy, listen, O government— 'This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district. 'Saurabh' the public asks, when will we be saved. Accept this geographical truth as appropriate. This time, take a decision in the interest of Siwani. This is the demand of every person, now Hisar should be a district.

From Driver to People’s Singer...
“Nalgonda Gaddar” in the Village Hearts

Dr. Edikoju Srinivasachari

From Driver to People's Singer... "Nalgonda Gaddar" in the Village Hearts Every movement born on Telangana soil has a voice. That voice is more than a song — it is the heartbeat that marks the time. It is the cry born of a farmer's sweat, the pain buried in a laborer's stoop, the anger of an unemployed youth, the life-struggle hidden behind a village woman's tears. Not every generation produces such voices. Only rare voices that rush into a generation's heart and stay there become history. One such rare popular voice now on everyone's lips is "Nalgonda Gaddar." Hearing that name brings to people more than a throat — it brings a roar. A folk blaze. A breath that stirs assemblies. Courage to the flag-carrying worker. A song that turns a farmer's silence into words. Filled with the earth-scent of Telangana, the breath of village life, and the zeal of movements, this voice has become a distinct identity across the two Telugu states. His real name is Kasala Narsireddy, but people know him more by the title "Nalgonda Gaddar." That's because the force in his singing reminds listeners of the people's poet Gaddar. The passion in his voice, the natural rural tongue he sings in, and his stance on the people's side led people to award him this epithet. The name ceased to be just a label; it became a mark of popular respect. He was born in Gundrapalli village of Chandur mandal in Nalgonda district. Growing up on soil that carried the history of Telangana's armed struggle, he saw village truths early. He was born on May 3, 1976 to Kasala Ashireddy and Bhadramma, the second of their four children, into a middle-class farming family. Life meant looking to the sky for rain; harvests brought joy, failed crops brought tears. Raised in such hardship, Narsireddy learned life's struggles from a young age. In those days, arts in the village were not confined to stages; they were part of life. Songs at Bathukamma festivals, dappu at Bonalu, folk tales at fairs, burra katha at night, rhythm even



in the farmer's plowing voice — he grew up amid those sounds. Whenever songs were sung in the village, he ran to listen and then sang them repeatedly. That devotion shaped him into a folk singer. Because of family circumstances his formal education did not go far; he studied up to inter (higher secondary) and then entered life's struggle. He did small jobs and later became a driver. He drove a vehicle for politician Komatireddy Venkatareddy for 15 years. But even with hands on the steering wheel, a singer lived within him. Words kept forming in his mind as he drove. Whenever he got a chance at meetings or gatherings, he sang. His rural style, natural passion and emotional intensity immediately won people's hearts. The biggest influence that shaped him was the people's poet Gaddar. As a child he listened to Gaddar's songs on an old tape recorder at home. Those songs — full of movement spirit, village-flavored flame, and fearless advocacy for people — left a deep imprint on his heart. When he sang Gaddar songs at school programs people would exclaim, "He sings just like Gaddar." Later, village gatherings invited him to sing. Once, when he was introduced as "now Nalgonda Gaddar Narsanna will sing," the name took hold across Telangana. However, he didn't

merely imitate Gaddar. He absorbed Gaddar's spirit and built his own distinctive voice. His singing carries the roar of movements while also conveying a mother's tenderness. He can sing a farmer's pain, ignite activists with zeal, enliven political meetings, and uphold the village person's self-respect. A song he sang for his mother Bhadramma moves every heart. In that song, the bond shown is not only a son's love, but the life of rural families. Likewise, a song about his father Ashireddy evokes the farmer's entire existence: the bond with the soil, the companion that is the land. These lyrics reflect peasant life and human ties to the earth. During the Telangana movement his voice became a drumbeat of activism. Traveling from village to village, he carried Telangana's necessity to the people through song. Hearing him stirred youth, raised activists' morale, and electrified gatherings. During the RTC strike he sang "If your bus doesn't move, our lives can't go on," a song that instilled new courage among workers and awakened public sentiment. Times changed and election campaigns did too. Now DJs, social media reels, and WhatsApp statuses dominate campaigning. In this new political culture, Nalgonda Gaddar became a brand. From village council polls to parliamentary elections, his songs played in every hamlet. Remarkably, even rival candidates within the same constituency used his songs. His tunes filled WhatsApp statuses, campaign vehicles, and ringtones because his lyrics are simple and his language instantly understandable to village folk. Crucially, his voice emotionally anchors a candidate's image for listeners. His song sung for KCR — "Galagala Paretti Gangamma thallanti..." — earned a distinct recognition in Telangana politics. Hearing it immediately recalls Kaleshwaram, water abundance in Telangana, and KCR's leadership as the state's first chief minister. Similarly, "Thalli Telangana tyagalu mattilo poosina punnami vo..." revived the Telangana movement's spirit among people.

Cockroach Party, Toolkit and the conspiracy to incite Gen-G – who is behind the scenes?



Today is an age of information and communication. The internet, social media, and digital platforms have accelerated the exchange of ideas at an unprecedented pace. There was a time when the formation of public opinion was limited to newspapers, magazines, and television. Now, with a simple mobile phone and internet connection, anyone can reach millions. This change has given new strength to democratic dialogue, but it has also created new challenges. Amidst these challenges, new words and concepts emerge that gradually become part of public discourse. In recent years, "cockroach party" has emerged as one such term, establishing its place in the social media vernacular. The term is not the name of any formal political party, but rather a symbolic expression. It is used to describe groups, campaigns, or online activities that suddenly create a significant amount of buzz around an issue. Viral posts, memes, videos, and trending hashtags on social media are often associated with the term. Many consider it part of an organized digital campaign, while others simply view it as a natural consequence of

social and political reactions. This is why serious discussion on this topic is needed. First, it's important to understand that social media works differently from traditional media. Here, the success of any content depends more on its emotional impact than its factual value. If a post angers, frightens, excites, or emotes people, its chances of going viral increase exponentially. This is why even small issues can sometimes escalate into massive public debates. Algorithms also promote content that generates the most reactions. As a result, real issues are often overshadowed, and emotional noise takes center stage. Psychologist experts explain that humans are more influenced by stories than facts. If an event is presented in a compelling story or narrative, people are more likely to accept it. This same principle is used in digital campaigns. A small incident is presented as a symbol of a broader social injustice, political conspiracy, or cultural conflict. People then take a stand for or against that narrative without further investigation. This process often gives rise to mob mentality. It is in this context that the term "toolkit" came into discussion. A toolkit is typically a guide designed to guide a campaign. It may include suggested hashtags, sample posts, promotional materials, video links, contact information, and program information. This is not a new concept. Social movements, non-governmental organizations, political parties, and citizen campaigns have long pro-

duced such documents. In the digital age, their reach and impact have increased. Problems arise when a toolkit's purpose appears to be more than just raising awareness, but rather to incite public sentiment or increase social polarization. In such cases, allegations are made that a particular group or force is attempting to systematically influence public opinion. However, it is equally important to emphasize that it would not be appropriate to dismiss every toolkit as a conspiracy document. Sometimes, these are simply common campaign management tools. Therefore, any document or campaign should be evaluated based on its purpose, content, and impact. Gen-Z, the current young generation, appears to be at the center of this entire discussion. This generation was born and raised in a digital world. Their information-seeking habits differ from previous generations. Instead of reading newspapers or listening to lengthy debates, they acquire information through short videos, memes, reels, and social media posts. Consequently, they absorb new information quickly, but often don't take the time to verify its veracity. This is why Gen-G is considered the most effective target for any campaign. If a message addresses young people's emotions, identity, concerns about the future, or a sense of social justice, it can spread very quickly. Sensitive images, emotional videos, powerful music, and inspiring slogans are widely used to appeal to young people.

Sometimes these become a vehicle for positive social change, but sometimes these same techniques also popularize misinformation and extremist ideas. This raises an important question: Is there truly an organized conspiracy at work to incite the younger generation? The answer to this question is not simple. History shows that foreign powers, ideological organizations, and political groups in various countries have attempted to influence public opinion. The digital age has made these efforts easier. Through fake accounts, bot networks, sponsored content, and coordinated campaigns, any topic can be artificially popularized. This is a real challenge that cannot be completely dismissed. But on the other hand, it would be wrong to assume every social unrest is the result of a foreign conspiracy. Issues like unemployment, economic inequality, educational problems, administrative failures, and social injustice naturally breed discontent among people. If these problems are not addressed, any campaign or narrative can easily gain popularity. Therefore, to understand any movement or digital campaign, it is essential to consider its social and economic context. It's also important to distinguish between foreign interference and international collaboration. In a globalized world, organizations, research institutes, and civil society groups from different countries interact with each other. This collaboration can be a normal part of democratic processes.

Elon Musk becomes world's first trillionaire as SpaceX soars in stock market debut

Elon Musk on Friday became the world's first trillionaire after shares in his SpaceX rocket company soared during the biggest-ever stock market debut. The Tesla and SpaceX founder comfortably cemented his status as the world's richest man, with his total net worth standing at \$1.11tn (£828bn) according to the Bloomberg rich list. It came as the rocket, telecommunications and artificial intelligence (AI) company listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange with a value of \$2.2tn. The company said its shares would be offered at \$135 each, but trading opened at \$150 and briefly reached \$176.50 in a show of investor enthusiasm for potential business related to space and companies associated with Musk. SpaceX shares closed on Friday at about \$161. The initial public offering (IPO) of SpaceX raised \$75bn from investors and underwriters of the deal before shares of the company hit the open stock market on Friday. Musk's 42% ownership stake in SpaceX gives him essentially unilateral control over everything it does. He can spend the money being invested however he likes. According to Bloomberg, his shares in SpaceX were worth \$767.1bn at close of trade, and he has another \$53.8 in



SpaceX options. He also has \$168bn in Tesla shares, and a further \$116.4bn in Tesla options. Musk's status as the world's first trillionaire immediately sparked debate about wealth inequality. His wealth is now similar to the entire economic output of Poland or Switzerland. Such unheard of wealth has already turned Musk into a powerful and divisive figure in global politics. He gave hundreds of millions of dollars to the re-election campaign of US President Donald Trump after criticising the country's leadership, and for several months last year, Musk led the Department for Government Efficiency (Doge). Through drastic cuts

to government spending, Musk was responsible for the closure of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Such cuts could cause more than 14 million additional deaths by 2030, according to a warning published by researchers in the Lancet medical journal. He has also criticised leadership in the UK and elsewhere, often on topics of immigration and promoting of racial divisions. Musk has repeatedly clashed with UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, including over the murder of 18-year-old British student Henry Nowak. Democratic US senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren were among a slew of politicians to

condemn the trillionaire milestone. Warren said it should be a "wake up call" and argued it underlines the need for wealth taxes. However, Musk is a trillionaire only on paper, as it is almost entirely tied to the value of his stockholdings in Tesla and now SpaceX. He is unable to sell any of his SpaceX stock for at least a year. SpaceX's public listing is also expected to have made millionaires of more than 4,400 of its current and former staff through the shares in the company they had been given as part of their pay. SpaceX's valuation is largely based on optimism about its potential future earnings, as opposed to

financial results it has demonstrated so far. It is currently not profitable, meaning it loses more money from its operations than it makes. The company lost more than \$9bn in 2025 and 2026 so far, according to its financial filings, due to its huge spending on AI and other infrastructure investments. The biggest focus of its business is the manufacture and launch of rockets with reusable parts. SpaceX also manufactures and launches Starlink internet satellites, and through this year's acquisition of xAI, another company Musk owned and operated, SpaceX entered into the AI business, too. SpaceX has said it will use the money to "fuel its growth strategy" around rockets, satellites for its growing Starlink internet service, and AI, including speculative plans to build data centres in orbit. Nancy Tengler, who heads Laffer Tengler Investments and put in an order to buy shares of SpaceX, called the company's AI business a "cash incinerator" despite Musk's ambitions for the segment. "It's important to take some of the projections with a grain of salt," Tengler said. Nevertheless, she is buying into the company for its long-term potential.

L'Oreal leases 90,000 sq ft in Hyderabad for its global tech hub



Hyderabad: French beauty giant L'Oreal India has leased 89,628 square feet of office space at Meenakshi Eco Park in Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, in what marks a concrete step toward establishing the company's first global Beauty Tech Hub in the city. According to documents reviewed by RE Journal, the lease covers the third floor of the development and was registered on 4 March 2026, with effect from 1 February 2026. The agreement runs for 60 months, with a lock-in period of 36 months. The starting monthly rent has been fixed at Rs 74 per square foot, with a 15 per cent escalation clause every three years. In addition to the leased space, L'Oreal has secured a hard

option on a further 85,813 square feet at the same development, giving the company room to scale up its Hyderabad operations. The lease comes weeks after L'Oreal announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2026 that it would invest over Rs 3,500 crore (approximately Euro 350 million) to set up a global Beauty Tech Hub in Hyderabad. The hub, announced in partnership with the Telangana government, is positioned as a flagship centre for artificial intelligence, data, and digital innovation. L'Oreal CEO Nicolas Hieronimus described it as a "landmark" collaboration and said the facility would sit "at the heart" of the company's AI and digital ambitions globally. The centre

is expected to generate around 2,000 highly skilled jobs, including AI specialists, tech engineers, and data scientists, by 2030, and will be operational by November 2026. It will join L'Oreal's existing network of tech hubs across France, the United States, China, Singapore, Spain, Poland, Canada, Brazil, and Mexico. Nanakramguda, part of Hyderabad's Financial District, has emerged as a preferred destination for global capability centres and multinational firms, with companies such as TCS, Wipro, ICICI, Broadridge, and Infosys among those based in the area. The starting monthly rent has been fixed at Rs 74 per square foot, with a 15 per cent escalation clause every three years.

Warner Bros \$111bn sale to Paramount approved by US justice department

Paramount Skydance's \$111bn (£82.8bn) acquisition of Warner Bros Discovery has been approved by the US Department of Justice. The approval marks a key development in the merger that will reshape media, allowing the takeover bid of the Hollywood studio, which owns CNN and HBO, to continue. The pending sale has been filled with contention, from Paramount's battle with Netflix over the company to scrutiny over industry consolidation and worries about politics. David Ellison, the leader of Paramount, is the son of Larry Ellison, a major donor to President Donald Trump. But it's not a done deal yet, as states like California are reviewing the sale and could sue to block it. In a statement on its decision, the justice department said it had conducted a "rigorous" investigation of the proposed deal and found it was "not likely to result in harm to competition or American consumers." Instead, the department said it found the deal would likely "increase competition across



the media and entertainment ecosystem, with benefits for American consumers and workers." Rob Bonta, California's Attorney General, said in late February that he was concerned any takeover of Warner Bros would further consolidate and limit competition in the entertainment industry, which has seen layoffs and cuts in recent years. Earlier this month, Bonta said he would soon decide on taking formal legal action to block the merger. A spokesperson for Bonta told the BBC said there was no

update on that review and said it "remains under investigation". More than 1,400 Hollywood actors, directors and filmmakers in April signed an open letter opposing the merger. "The result will be fewer opportunities for creators, fewer jobs across the production ecosystem, higher costs, and less choice for audiences in the United States and around the world," the signatories said. Skydance merged with Paramount in 2025 and cut about 10% of its workforce in the process. While people in Hollywood

fear jobs cuts and the impacts of fewer studios being in power, Paramount executives have said it was looking forward to what they say will be billions of dollars in cost-savings. By taking over Warner Bros, Paramount will become one of the most powerful forces in Hollywood, adding news network CNN, TV networks HBO, TBS, TNT, TCM, as well as studios DC Studios and New Line Cinema to its current stable of assets. Those include Paramount Pictures, CBS, Showtime and Nickelodeon.

Anthropic suspends new AI tools over US government security concerns

Anthropic has suspended its powerful new AI model after US authorities raised security concerns just days following its public release. In a statement published on its website, Anthropic said it was ordered to suspend foreign nationals from using Claude Fable 5, a program that the company self-described as "too powerful". "The net effect of this order is that we must abruptly disable Fable 5 and Mythos 5 for all our customers to ensure compliance," the company wrote. Anthropic and the Trump administration are involved in a separate ongoing lawsuit over an order to stop government agencies using the company's AI tools. The BBC has approached the US Department of Commerce for comment. Claude Fable 5 is a version of Anthropic's Claude Mythos, an AI program rivalling competitors OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. Anthropic said US national security authorities had not identified specific concerns. "Our understanding is that the government believes it has become aware of a method of bypassing, or 'jailbreaking' Fable 5,"



the company said. Jailbreaking is a process of getting past software restrictions designed to protect a cyber network, allowing hackers to access sensitive information or unblock features. "We reviewed a demonstration of this specific technique being used to identify a small number of previously known, minor vulnerabilities," Anthropic said. "These vulnerabilities all appear relatively simple, and we have found that other publicly-available models are able to discover them as well without requiring a bypass." Ahead of the release of Claude Fable 5, the company touted various "safeguards" it had implemented to prevent cyber hacking.

Finance, technology and government leaders had expressed concerns about its public rollout, following a private release in April for pre-viewing and testing vulnerabilities within its own system. Anthropic said it enabled pre-release access for a handful of organisations because the tool was so intelligent that it could be dangerous because of its ability to exploit or hack computer systems. The company self-proclaimed that it was "too powerful to release" before Claude Fable 5 was publicly released, which some critics questioned as inflated hype and marketing spin. "Fable's capabilities exceed those of any model we've ever made generally available," the com-

pany said. Gina Neff, Professor of Responsible AI at Queen Mary University London, told the BBC that the decision to restrict access to the model could limit the development and safe testing of these AI systems. She warned it could also restrict collaboration with governments around the world. "We're in uncharted territory at this point," she said. "People within the AI industry have been warning us that these tools are getting better very rapidly and that we have to be able to build up capabilities to keep our companies safe from cyber attacks. She said the UK government's AI Security Institute found in its tests that the model could exploit defences and systems 73% of the time. "It's a step change in capability in cyber security," she added. Anthropic has found itself in the crosshairs of the Trump administration recently. Donald Trump has criticised the company publicly and then US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth labelled it a "supply chain risk" – the first time a US company has ever publicly received such a designation.

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. The pricing methodology has also been refined to make procurement more responsive to market conditions, he added. The Centre had earlier revised the price to Rs 15.80 per kg from Rs 12.70

per kg, citing market dynamics and the need to protect farmers. Onion procurement for the current season commenced on May 15. Onion output is estimated at 307.37 lakh tonnes in 2025-26 as compared to 307.67 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, as per the latest government data. Earlier this week, farmers in Maharashtra demanded a minimum procurement price of Rs 3,000 per quintal (Rs 30 per kg).

HYDERABAD'S MANAM BETS USD 9 MN ON HOMEGROWN CHOCOLATE

Hyderabad: Manam Chocolate, a Hyderabad-based bean-to-bar craft chocolate company, has raised USD 9 million in a Series A funding round led by venture capital firm Omnivore, with participation from the Turner Morrison consortium, as the brand moves to take on imported Belgian and Swiss chocolates in India's fast-growing premium confectionery market. The company said the fresh capital will be deployed to expand its retail footprint, with an immediate focus on launching new experiential store formats across the Delhi-NCR region over the next 12 months. Further expansion into Mumbai or Bengaluru is planned in subsequent phases. The company aims to increase its revenue from Rs 53 crore to Rs 260 crore. Founded in 2021 by Chaitanya Muppala, Manam currently operates three outlets: its flagship Manam Chocolate Karkhana in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, a beverage bar in Knowledge



City, and a recently launched store at Eldeco Centre in New Delhi. Unlike conventional chocolate manufacturers that rely on imported cocoa, Manam builds from the ground up. Through its parent company, Distinct Origins Pvt Ltd, the brand works with a network of over 250 farmers cultivating more than 3,000 acres of cacao across three states, with a significant presence in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari dis-

trict, one of India's largest cacao-growing regions. The company also runs the Distinct Origins Cacao Fermentery in Tadikalapudi, West Godavari, described as one of the largest fine-flavour cacao fermentation facilities in the world, where proprietary, science-led processes are used to develop distinct Indian cacao profiles. Gifting accounts for approximately 65 per cent of the company's revenue, according to Indian

Startup Times, catering to corporate, social, and personal occasions. The company plans to scale from its current three stores to 18 outlets over the next two years, while diversifying its product portfolio. Commenting on the fundraiser, Muppala said the investment marks a milestone in the company's efforts to build a globally respected Indian craft chocolate brand. "We have focused on strengthening every part of

the value chain, from cacao cultivation and fermentation to chocolate making. This investment will help us scale further, expand into key markets and continue showcasing the potential of Indian cacao," he said. Omnivore partner Reihem Roy said the investment reflects growing interest in origin-led consumer brands that create value at the farm level. "Premium consumer brands like Manam Chocolate demonstrate how farmer-linked supply chains can improve livelihoods while building resilient food systems. As climate pressures reshape global cacao supply, investment in alternative, high-quality origins such as India represents both a commercial opportunity and a contribution to a more resilient global food system," he said. India's premium chocolate market is estimated at USD 1.64 billion as of 2025 and is projected to grow at an annual rate of over six per cent through 2030, according to industry estimates.

Israel carries out air strikes on Lebanon, state media says, as Iran claims deal with US near

Israel has carried out air strikes in the south of Lebanon after ordering people to leave about 20 locations, Lebanese state media has said. At least one person has been killed following a strike on the town of Marrakeh, in Lebanon's Tyre district, according to the Lebanese National News Agency. Israel's prime minister had previously warned his country would strike Hezbollah if it continues attacks against northern Israel. The strikes come as Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country is mediating talks between the US and Iran, wrote on X "we are closer to a peace deal than ever before", Finalisation is "likely expected in the next 24 hours", he added. Iran's foreign minister said earlier that a deal to end fighting with the US is close. The agreement also envisages an end to the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, Seyed Abbas Araghchi also said. Araghchi said the deal



includes reopening the Strait of Hormuz and told state TV it includes the lifting of a US blockade of Iran. However, he said talks on Iran's nuclear programme would begin later. US officials have confirmed some of the details of the agreement, saying economic benefits for Iran would depend on Tehran meeting its obligations. Previous reports from the US have suggested Lebanon may not be part of this deal - with Iran reported-

ly insisting on it. The war began with US and Israeli strikes across Iran on 28 February, prompting Iran to attack Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf - as well as 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. US

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he had cancelled "scheduled attacks" against Iran, because negotiators had "just made a great settlement" - a deal that was likely to be signed imminently. On Friday, Iranian media published some details from the alleged 14-point deal which Trump said had "nothing to do with the terms that were agreed to" and "bears no relation to the truth". A few hours later, Pakistan's prime

minister said the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the US and Iran had been agreed and awaited finalising. On Saturday, Sharif wrote on X that his country "is preparing for the electronic signing of the peace deal... followed by technical level talks next week". Iran's Araghchi was quoted in state media saying there are "supporters and opponents" of the latest terms of the deal among Iran's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council. However, he added that a collective decision had not been reached. "For now, we must wait. If approved, the agreement will be signed remotely," he said. Israel is not involved in the talks which are meant to lead to an extension of the ceasefire and the start of negotiations on key issues, including Iran's nuclear programme. For decades, Iran has been accused by Western countries of trying to build a nuclear weapon. It has denied the

accusations saying its programme is for peaceful purposes - to generate electricity and for research purposes. In a detailed briefing with journalists on Friday afternoon, US officials said the deal would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, in return for the US lifting its blockade on Iranian shipping. Those steps would come into effect more or less immediately. This would be followed by a 60-day period of negotiation - focusing on Iran's enriched uranium - an essential ingredient to make a nuclear bomb. Officials said that this would result in all that material being destroyed on site and then removed from the country, though the precise mechanism for doing so is still to be worked out. On the economic side, officials stressed there would be no money provided up-front - an apparent rejection of earlier Iranian news reports suggesting some Iranian assets would be unfrozen before substantial negotiations had begun.

WOMAN SERIOUSLY INJURED IN SHARK ATTACK AT SYDNEY BEACH



A woman has been seriously injured after being bitten by a shark at a beach in Sydney, police have said. New South Wales Police said emergency services were called to Coogee Beach in the east of the city on Saturday morning. The woman, 35, was "pulled from the water by members of the public who commenced first aid", police said, and suffered "serious arm and leg injuries". She was then airlifted to hospital by helicopter. Several beaches in the area were closed as a precaution. Attack eyewitness Nicola Logan told Reuters news agency that she saw a "massive pool of blood" in the water, then "a lady kind of motioning to swim, lots of

splashing, and then a ski paddler was out trying to bring her in". It comes after a male diver died last week after being bitten by a suspected 4.5m (14.8ft) shark south-east of Perth, Western Australia. In May, a father-of-two who was killed by a shark near Perth. Shark attacks around Australia are more common than in many other parts of the world, though they are often not fatal. Since records began in 1791, there have been almost 1,300 recorded shark attacks in Australia, with more than 260 of them resulting in death. Popular swimming and surfing spots in Australia tend to have measures to protect against shark attacks.

US KILLS LEADER OF VENEZUELA'S TREN DE ARAGUA GANG IN AIRSTRIKE, TRUMP SAYS



The US military has killed the leader of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua in an airstrike, President Donald Trump has announced. "At my direction, the United States Southern Command delivered a swift and lethal kinetic strike to successfully execute Niño Guerrero," Trump wrote on social media. Niño Guerrero, whose full name is Héctor Rusthenford Guerrero Flores, was the longtime leader of Tren de Aragua. The gang is one of the most notorious criminal groups in Latin America and has been a target of the Trump administration. The president has accused the group of engaging in "irregular warfare" against the US and declared it a foreign terrorist organisation. Trump posted footage of what appears to be the airstrike, showing a green building with a nearby shed being blown up, debris flying into the air. Trump said the military action was "coordinated closely with our friends in Venezuela, with whom we are working very well". Venezuelan authorities con-

firmed their involvement in what they described as a "joint operation". In January, American forces seized then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from his compound in a dramatic overnight raid to face criminal charges in New York. The US accused him of collaborating with the gang. The indictment named Guerrero Flores as a co-conspirator. Since then, the US has sought to tighten ties with Maduro's successor, Delcy Rodríguez, lifting sanctions on her and pushing to collaborate on the extraction of Venezuela's oil reserves - the most plentiful on earth. Under Guerrero's leadership, Tren de Aragua expanded into Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile and diversified from extorting migrants into sex-trafficking, contract killing and kidnapping. It was originally a prison gang that Niño Guerrero turned into a "transnational criminal organisation", according to the US state department, which had offered millions for information leading to his arrest.

KING LEADS TRIBUTES TO 'GIANT OF THE ART WORLD' DAVID HOCKNEY



The King has joined the art world in paying tribute to David Hockney, one of the UK's most important and popular artists, who has died at the age of 88. In a personal message, King Charles said he and the Queen were "greatly saddened" to learn of the death of "a giant of the world of art and painting, a Yorkshireman through and through, and a dear

friend and inspiration to so many". Artist Dame Tracey Emin said she felt privileged to have known Hockney, adding: "A great artist and a wonderful man, who with the power of art changed the perception of Britishness. A proud chain-smoking homosexual, who flew the flag higher than any other British artist."

SWITZERLAND TO VOTE ON PLAN TO CAP POPULATION AT 10 MILLION

Can a country put a fixed limit on its population? That is the question Switzerland will be answering on Sunday when voters go the polls to decide on a proposal to cap their population at 10 million, a move that has exposed divisions about immigration in the Alpine nation. The move is backed by the right-wing Swiss People's Party, which describes it as a "sustainability initiative" aimed at easing pressure on housing, public services and the environment. Dubbing it a "chaos initiative", the government, other political parties, business leaders and trade unions argue it will deprive hospitals and hotels of much needed staff, and damage hard-won relations with the European Union, leaving non-EU member Switzerland isolated in a



very risky world. Switzerland's population has grown rapidly since 2002, when it stood at 7.3 million. Now it is 9.1 million, 27% of whom are Swiss residents who were born abroad. Switzerland's system of direct democracy means all major decisions are taken via the ballot box. Campaigners sim-

ply have to gather 100,000 signatures to ensure a nationwide vote. Many voters are concerned by overcrowded trains, expensive apartments and rising health costs. The latest opinion polls indicate this could be a very close vote. They suggest voters are inching towards a no vote by a wafer thin margin, with 52%

opposed - but polls remain divided, with 45% saying they are in favour of the proposal and a significant number of voters still undecided. Helin Genis and Nils Fiechter have a good deal in common, but their diametrically opposed views on limiting the Swiss population are indicative of the polarised nature of this referendum. Both are young local politicians from immigrant families. Fiechter is 29 and Genis is 31. Helin's parents are originally from Turkey, while Nils's mother is from Canada and he holds dual citizenship. "We have lost control," complains Fiechter, who represents the Swiss People's Party in canton Bern's parliament. "Unchecked immigration is leading to Switzerland no longer being Switzerland."

Married at First Sight Australia stars not told partners had drug and violence convictions

Married at First Sight Australia stars say the show left them feeling unsafe and unprotected because their on-screen partners had criminal pasts which they were not told about, a BBC investigation can reveal. It comes after the British version of the show, known to many as MAFS UK, was plunged into crisis after BBC Panorama reported rape allegations from two women contestants - allegations the men involved have denied. One woman from last year's Australian series says she was not told the man she had been matched with had a previous drug conviction and only found out after the show ended. "There should be informed consent," she told us. We can



also reveal that another groom from the same series had a past conviction for affray, which we understand his on-screen bride was not made aware of. Nine former cast members from MAFS Australia have spoken to the BBC and are now calling on the show to improve its background checks and to stop

allowing individuals with previous convictions or allegations on the show. MAFS Australia is not made by the same production company as MAFS UK. Endemol Shine Australia is behind the show, which airs in Australia on Channel 9. In a joint statement, Channel 9 and Endemol Shine

Australia said they had "strong protocols in place to ensure participant safety and wellbeing". As well as being a huge hit in Australia, the show is popular in the UK and is shown on Channel 4. The broadcaster has pulled all the UK episodes of MAFS from its streaming service All 4, but MAFS Australia remains available to watch. Both programmes show single people agreeing to "marry" total strangers after meeting for the first time at their mock weddings. The marriages are not legally binding, but viewers see the couples go on "honeymoons", before moving in together and navigating their relationships - all while being filmed, almost every day.

Trump's name being removed from Kennedy Center after judge order



Workers have begun taking down US President Donald Trump's name from the front of the Kennedy Center in Washington, a day after the court deadline for its removal. The president's name had been added to the performing arts venue unlawfully, a federal judge found last month, ordering it to be taken down by Friday 12 June. Crews erected scaffolding on Friday as onlookers gathered into the evening, though thunderstorms delayed the work until early on Saturday. A last-minute attempt by the Trump administration to pause the order was rejected by the judge. The case stems from a broader legal dispute over the renaming of the cultural institution, which US law designates as a memorial to President John F Kennedy. In the early hours of Saturday, workers hung long plastic sheeting from the structure, obscuring the removal of the letters. Some onlookers chanted

"take it down", according to the BBC's US partner CBS. US District Court Judge Christopher Cooper ruled in late May that the venue in central Washington DC cannot be renamed without congressional approval. He also blocked the centre's temporary closure during upcoming proposed renovations. An appeals court declined to intervene immediately, allowing the removal to proceed pending further arguments. The Trump administration had argued that changing the centre's name could create confusion if the decision were later overturned. The US president announced the addition of his name to the institution, among other rebranding measures across the nation's capital, last year. In February 2025, he replaced several trustees on the centre's board and appointed himself as a trustee before being voted in as the arts centre's chairman.



Tornadoes, severe weather hit US Midwest

Kidnapped Nigerian retired general dies in captivity



A retired Nigerian army general who had been kidnapped by gunmen in the country's north-west has died while being held captive, the military has said. Maj Gen Rabe Abubakar, who had a high-profile job as military spokesman between 2015 and 2017, was abducted with his wife while travelling in Katsina state last month. No group has said it was behind the kidnappings. The abduction and death of Abubakar high-

lights the continuing security challenges facing parts of north-west Nigeria, where criminal gangs known locally as "bandits" frequently carry out kidnappings for ransom, as well as cattle rustling and attacks on rural communities. Some militant jihadists have also operated in the region. An alleged militant camp in Sokoto state was the target of a US airstrike on 25 December last year. Katsina has been one of the states most affected by the violence. Local media reported that the retired officer had been going to a wedding on 30 May when armed men attacked his vehicle and seized him, his wife and their driver. Days before news of his death emerged, a video shared on social media appeared to show Abubakar in captivity.

Gill Surpasses Kohli, Dhawan To Script History; India Cruise In Chase

Shubman Gill keeps three-down India going in the chase of 195 against Afghanistan in the first ODI at Dharamsala. Earlier, Rahmanullah Gurbaz scored a century but debutants Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey shared six wickets among them to help the hosts bowl out Afghanistan for 194 in 24.5 overs. India got off to a brilliant start by reducing Afghanistan to 25 for 3 in 4.3 overs after opting to bowl first. However, Gurbaz's fiery knock put the batting team back in the game. He slammed 102 runs in 51 balls, with the help of eight fours and as many sixes. Dubey picked three wickets for 47 runs, while Brar conceded only 27 while claiming three scalps. Gill's innings is now the highest score by an Indian at Edgbaston, surpassing the previous record of 149 set by Virat Kohli during the 2018 tour. It also stands as the highest score by an Indian captain at the

venue. Interestingly, Kohli was leading the side when he played that memorable knock in Birmingham. Gill also surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most runs by an Indian captain in an away series at the age of 25. Gill has so far scored an unbeaten 323 runs in the series, going past Tendulkar's 290-run tally from the 1997 tour of Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, Ravindra Jadeja played a composed and impressive innings on Day 2, scoring 89 before falling just 11 runs short of what could have been his second century at Edgbaston. Having already scored a ton at this venue, another hundred would have made him the first Indian to register multiple centuries at Edgbaston. Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal set the tone for a strong total with a blazing knock of 87 off 113 deliveries, providing India with a powerful start. Though he narrowly missed out on a well-

earned century, his innings gave India early momentum. For those unaware, India made three changes to the playing XI, bringing in Akash Deep, Washington Sundar, and Nitish Reddy in place of Jasprit Bumrah, Sai Sudharsan, and Shardul Thakur. Notably, the 25-year-old was under tremendous pressure before arriving in England for the five-match series. He had an average of 14.66 in England, and there was immense criticism after being appointed as captain. Gill was dropped from the fourth Test against Australia and there were questions whether he had done enough overseas to be named the leader of the locker room. In the ongoing series against England, Gill proved his worth with back-to-back centuries. In the first Test at Headingley, the youngster scored 147 runs in the first innings, and at Edgbaston, he played to his merit, scoring a dashing double century.



ROHIT SHARMA EMULATES VIRENDER SEHWAG'S HUGE FEAT, JOINS ELITE LIST OF OPENERS

Former India captain Rohit Sharma on Saturday completed 16,000 runs in international cricket to join an elite list of openers. By doing so, he became the seventh opener overall and the second Indian opener to breach the landmark of 16,000 runs as an opening batsman in international cricket. The all-time list is led by Sri Lanka great Sanath Jayasuriya, who finished his legendary career with 19,298 runs at the top of the order. Sehwag, meanwhile, hung his boots after amassing 16,119 runs in exactly 400 games. Rohit was run out for 16 after a horrible mix-up with captain Shubman Gill. The 39-year-old was struggling a bit after copping a blow to his wrist while batting. Earlier today, Rohit (39 years and 44 days old) also became the oldest player to feature in an ODI for India, breaking a record that stood for nearly 37



years. That milestone previously belonged to 1983 World Cup hero Mohinder Amarnath, who was 39 years and 36 days old when he made his final ODI appearance against the West Indies in Mumbai on October 30, 1989. Rohit's fitness was a huge concern heading into the series,

having recently featured for Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026. However, the former India captain was cleared to feature in the squad. In the second ODI, Rohit will have the opportunity to overtake Sehwag as the batter with the most runs for India as an opener in international cricket.

WWE Confirms Secret Referee For Huge Title Match After Gunther Makes His Decision

A major question hanging over next week's WWE SmackDown finally got an answer after Gunther revealed who he wants overseeing his Undisputed WWE Championship match against Cody Rhodes. The identity of the special guest referee had been kept under wraps, but by the end of the night, the decision was official. The announcement puts Sami Zayn in an unusual position. Instead of competing or standing in either man's corner, he will now be the person responsible for enforcing the rules when Rhodes and Gunther meet again. With tensions already running high between Zayn and the champion, the decision immediately changes the feel of the upcoming title



match. Gunther's rematch demand was rooted in what happened during his last title challenge. The issue goes back to Gunther's previous meeting with Cody Rhodes at WWE Clash in Italy. Rhodes left that match with the championship still

never saw it. His view was blocked during the sequence, and the match continued until the three-count was completed. Gunther protested afterwards, but the result stood. That controversy stayed with him. Since then, he has continued pushing for another opportunity against Rhodes and wanted extra oversight for the rematch. Not just another referee. A special guest referee. Sami Zayn's fallout with Cody Rhodes created an unexpected opening. Earlier in the same night, Zayn's relationship with Rhodes took another hit. Despite referring to Rhodes as his best friend, Zayn confronted the champion and slapped him across the face.

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"MY BIGGEST FEAR HAPPENED":

Jade Cargill Breaks Silence After Unexpected Wardrobe Mishap During SmackDown Match

Jade Cargill walked into SmackDown with a chance to move one step closer to championship gold. By the end of the night, though, fans weren't only discussing the Queen of the Ring tournament. A completely different moment from the match ended up becoming one of the most talked-about parts of her appearance. The former AEW star competed against Charlotte Flair, Lyra Valkyria, and Sol Ruca in a Fatal Four-Way Queen of the Ring tournament match. Cargill's night didn't go according to plan inside the tournament, but after the show, she grabbed attention with a social media post where she openly joked about an unfortunate wardrobe



issue that happened during the contest. A top-roping sequence led to an unexpected moment during the match. The incident happened while Charlotte Flair and Jade Cargill were battling on the ropes. Flair was setting up for a superplex and eventually connected with the move.

During the landing, Flair's shoulder ended up on top of Cargill's hair. The contact accidentally pulled Cargill's wig off in the middle of the match. Cargill reacted quickly and put it back on almost immediately. The match continued, but viewers could see her frequently keeping a hand

near her head afterwards as she tried to make sure everything stayed in place. Jade Cargill later admitted it was the situation she always worried about. After SmackDown ended, Cargill addressed the moment herself on social media rather than ignoring it. She posted a lighthearted message, admitting that losing her wig during a match had been her "biggest fear." Cargill also joked that she survived the situation, adding that her wig came out on top. Instead of turning the mishap into a bigger issue, the WWE star appeared to laugh it off publicly and move on from an awkward moment that happened live in front of the audience.

Brazil Receive Neymar Blow Ahead Of FIFA World Cup 2026 Opener vs Morocco



Among the biggest stars at the FIFA World Cup 2026, Neymar is definitely one. Not only is he a class footballer, but also a crowd-puller. The fact that he is a key part of Brazil's redemption journey at the FIFA World Cup makes him even more important. However, Brazil will be without Neymar for their opening FIFA World Cup group-stage match against Morocco, with coach Carlo Ancelotti admitting that the superstar forward could miss the entire group phase as he continues his recovery from a calf injury. Speaking before Saturday's clash against the 2022 World Cup semi-finalists in New Jersey, Ancelotti said Neymar is making progress but is not ready to return yet. "He is working hard to be fit again as quickly as possible. We hope he can return to full training next week," Ancelotti said.

Brazil also face Haiti on June 19 and Scotland on June 24 in Group F. However, the coach did not guarantee Neymar's availability for either game. The 34-year-old Santos striker was absent from training again on Friday and has not played since being unexpectedly called up by Ancelotti. Neymar also missed Brazil's warm-up matches against Panama and Egypt as he continued his rehabilitation from the injury. Despite concerns about his fitness, Ancelotti explained why he included the veteran in his World Cup squad. "He can be a good example for the younger players in our squad," the Italian said. Ancelotti, who is the first non-Brazilian manager to lead the five-time world champions, believes Neymar's influence goes beyond his on-field performances.

IRAN BEGIN WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS AMID SECURITY CONCERNS AND UNCERTAINTY BACK HOME

Iran's preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup have already begun in team's training base in Tijuana, Mexico with heavy security surrounding them. US President Donald Trump claims that the deal to end Iran war is close, while Tehran says 'nothing' finalised. For its football team Outside Estadio Caliente, where Iran are training ahead of the tournament, armed security personnel patrol the area throughout the day. Open-top security vehicles are circling the complex, while officers equipped with rifles are guarding key access points. Away from the security presence, however, the team has received a warm welcome from local residents. Messages in

Farsi and Spanish have been placed around the training base, and football fans have gathered outside hoping to see the Iranian players. For many in Tijuana, hosting a World Cup team has become a source of excitement. However, access to training sessions remains tightly restricted. Captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh has been one of the few players to speak publicly about the experience of being in Mexico. He even sat down for an interview. Reflecting on an earlier visit to the country, Jahanbakhsh recalled an incident in which he and a friend were confronted by armed robbers. He said the situation changed when the attackers discovered they were



Iranian. "They love Iranians," Jahanbakhsh said, describing an encounter that ended without serious harm. The story has now attracted attention across international media and has briefly shifted focus away from the challenges sur-

rounding the team's preparations. Local club officials in Tijuana had little time to prepare. Work was carried out over several weeks to meet FIFA requirements, while security measures around the site were increased. Iran did not get the kind of preparation

they had hoped for. They had to make do with a recently organised match against Club Tijuana, when they defeated their Under-21 side 3-0 in a training match. A proposed friendly against Grenada was cancelled too. Iran will open their World Cup campaign against New Zealand on June 16 before facing Belgium and Egypt in matches scheduled to be played in the United States. There had been uncertainty over whether the Iranian squad would be allowed to enter the U.S. because of ongoing political tensions. American authorities have since confirmed that players and officials will be permitted to travel for tournament matches. Questions however remain for sup-

porters hoping to follow the team. Iran's World Cup ticket allocation was temporarily suspended because of complications linked to U.S. sanctions. FIFA says it is working to help Iranian fans attend matches, but many supporters are still waiting for clarity on travel and ticket access. There have been recent signs that diplomatic efforts are continuing. U.S. President Donald Trump has said progress is being made towards an agreement that could reduce tensions. But a formal deal is still awaited. For the moment, under the shadow of the patrol vans, and armed guards, the Iran players continue to prepare in their bubble in Mexico, ahead of the tournament.



Raducanu battles into Queen's semis but Boulter goes out

Emma Raducanu overcame an injury scare to reach the Queen's semi-finals but Katie Boulter's title bid ended with a straight-sets loss to Donna Vekic. British number one Raducanu went off court for medical treatment in the second set of her quarter-final but came through to beat Kamilla Rakhimova 6-3 7-5. The match was also interrupted in the first set because of the noise of a series of military aircraft flying overhead as part of the King's Trooping the Colour flypast in central London.

Raducanu has matched her best WTA Tour-level result on grass, the semi-final at Nottingham in 2024, as well as her career-best result at a WTA 500 event when she reached the semi-finals at Washington in 2025. The 23-year-old will return later on Saturday to face American teenager Iva Jovic at 17:20 BST for a place in Sunday's final of the weather-hit championships. She has yet to lose a set in the tournament but now faces the prospect of having to win two matches in a day to con-

Alpine's Pierre Gasly Reinstated To Monaco Grand Prix Podium



I wish Transfer Trimurthulu becomes a big hit: Blockbuster director V. V. Vinayak at Trailer Launch Event



Produced under the Vadde Creations banner by actor-producer Vadde Naveen and presented by Vadde Jishnu, Transfer Trimurthulu marks the directorial debut of Kamal Teja Narla. The film features Vadde Naveen, Rashi Singh, Shilpa Tulaskar, Vivek Raghuvanshi, Raghu Babu, Siva Narayana, Vadlamani Srinivas, Jwala Koti, Devi Prasad, Surya, Baba Bhaskar, Pramodini, Sathvik Raju, Anjali Priya, Gayatri Chaganti, and others in key roles. The film is scheduled for release on June 19. As part of the promotions, the trailer was launched on Friday in the presence of renowned director V. V. Vinayak, who attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, V.

V. Vinayak said, “Thank you to Vadde Naveen garu for inviting me to this event. I worked as an assistant director and co-director on one of his films. It was during my association with Naveen garu that the foundation for Aadi was laid. He always treated me with great affection and respect. I know that nearly 90 percent of the films in his career were not projects he did with complete personal satisfaction. He has never truly been content with the films he worked on. On one occasion, I was shocked by the level of influence and reputation he enjoyed. Going forward, I hope he continues to make only the films he genuinely believes in. I wholeheartedly wish Transfer Trimurthulu becomes a huge success.”

“Vinayak was humble then, and he remains the same today. His journey makes me feel immensely proud. I thank him for taking the time to be here for us. The entire team worked on this film with great passion and dedication. The industry has undergone tremendous technical changes over the past decade. Along with a strong courtroom drama, this film also offers an engaging suspense element. No Friday ever belongs to a single film. It is not about competing with others; audiences support good content. We have ensured that this film stays close to realism, and its content is very strong. We are also receiving excellent support from the Zee team. Our film is arriving on June 19, and I hope everyone enjoys it.”

Deva Katta Clarifies Rumours, Says He Is Focused on Developing His Next Film

Filmmaker Deva Katta has addressed recent speculation surrounding his professional commitments, clarifying that he is currently focused on writing and developing his next film. In a social media post on Thursday, the director shared that he has been spending most of his time working on his upcoming project and expressed enthusiasm about the journey ahead. While stopping short of revealing further details, Katta indicated that he looks forward to sharing updates about what he described as his “most ambitious work yet” when the time is right. The filmmaker also used the opportunity to dismiss rumours suggesting that he is directing portions of other projects. Calling such reports rumours circulated “in bad taste to get clicks,” Katta stated that he is “not at all



directing even a single shot from any other films.” The clarification comes at a time when the filmmaker remains associated with multiple creative ventures, including his work as a dialogue writer on Varanasi and the recently released political drama series Mayasabha.

Rakul Preet Singh Launches Intriguing First Look Of Natasha Singh As Reporter Sakshi in Hit & Run

Hit & Run, starring Sanjay RRao and Natasha Singh in the lead roles, is an upcoming crime thriller. Presented by Sri Urukunda Eeranna Swamy, the film is being produced by Satish Reddy Allam and K Shekar under the banners of Satish Reddy Allam Entertainment and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Creations. Sai Krishna Sagar is directing the project. The recently released first-look poster featuring Sanjay RRao received an encouraging response from audiences. The poster, which hinted at the film's intriguing concept, significantly raised expectations for the movie. Today, actress Rakul Preet Singh has unveiled the first-look poster of the film's female lead character. Natasha Singh will be seen playing the role of reporter Sakshi in Hit & Run. She gazes over her shoulder with an intriguing expression, while the intense red-and-black backdrop creates a gripping crime-thriller atmosphere. The torn-paper design, shattered car windshield, traffic signal, and investigation-board visuals subtly hint at a complex mystery and dangerous events linked to the story.



Police Complaint' movie success celebrations in grand style

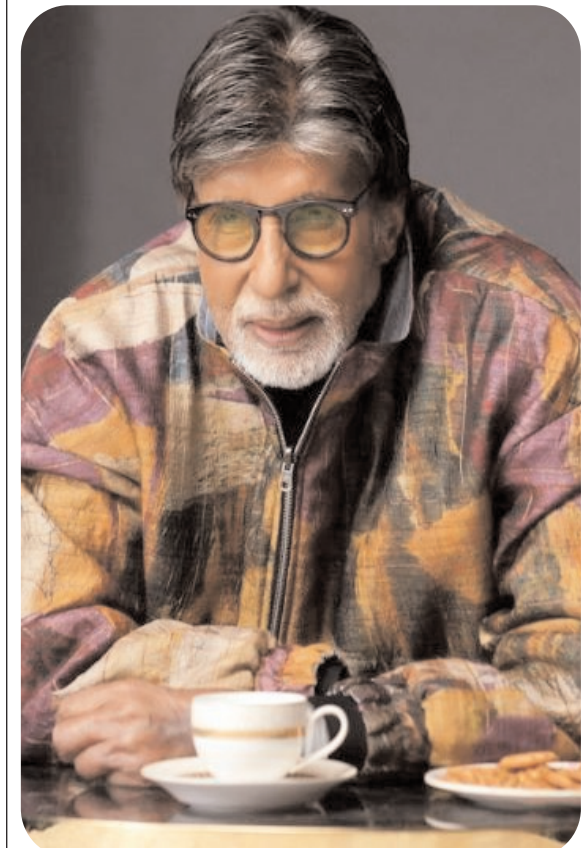


Varalakshmi Sarathkumar, Naveen Chandra, Krishnasai, and Ragini Dwivedi in the lead roles, the horror-action thriller 'Police Complaint' produced by Balakrishna Maharana under the banner of MSK Pramidha Sri Films, hit the screens on June 12 and received positive reviews. The film, directed by creative director Sanjeev Megoti, is impressing the audience and is performing successfully. In the wake of the film receiving a good response from all sections of the audience, the film crew held a grand success celebration at the

Hyderabad Film Chamber. They celebrated the film's success by cutting a cake. Speaking on the occasion, Producers Council Secretary Prasanna Kumar said that the film's heroine Varalakshmi Sarathkumar contacted the Producers Council in the wake of the film unit's allegations that she did not participate in the film's promotion. I told her that we resolved this dispute positively with the intervention of the elders. With this, director Sanjeev Megoti apologized to Varalakshmi even though it was not his fault. He said that the humility and

patience he displayed were another reason for this success. He said that the film's progress with good collections is also a good development for the industry. Director Sanjeev Megoti said, “Our knowledge is more than the knowledge of our heroine Varalakshmi Sarath Kumar. That is why we apologized to her only on the advice of elders like Prasanna Kumar. Moreover, I cannot say that the problem has been completely solved. All in all, we were satisfied with a controversy. We feel that the success has finally come as a good sign.

Age is just number:
Amitabh Bachchan, 83,
shoots 12 films in 1 day



KEERTHY SURESH WANTS ANOTHER ‘MAHANATI’



Actress Keerthy Suresh has expressed her desire to take on more performance-driven roles similar to her National Award-winning portrayal in Mahanati. While balancing

commercial entertainers, she hopes filmmakers continue offering strong, content-rich characters that challenge her as an actress and leave a lasting impact on audiences.

OH..! 'SUKUMARI' IS A PERFECT FAMILY ENTERTAINER. AUDIENCE WILL DEFINITELY ENJOY IT: HERO THIRUVEER AT THE TEASER LAUNCH EVENT

Thiruveer, Aishwarya Rajesh, Bharat Darshan, Maheshwar Reddy Mooli, Ganga Entertainments' 'O..! Sukumari' hilarious teaser launch Young talent Thiruveer and versatile Aishwarya Rajesh are teaming up for the first time in a romantic comedy set in a rural setting called 'O..! Sukumari'. Bharat Darshan is making his directorial debut with this film. It is being produced by Maheshwar Reddy Mooli under the banner of Ganga Entertainments, who produced the critically acclaimed film 'Shivam Bhaje'. After releasing the first look of the lead actors, the team has now brought out the teaser of the film. Thiruveer, who is actively involved in local politics, dreams of marrying a kind-hearted girl. When he sees a girl named Damini, he immediately considers her as his life partner and starts arranging the wedding. However, her family hides a strange secret: anyone who touches her will receive an electric shock. Director Bharat Darshan has crafted an entertaining story with a rural setting, local politics and an innovative twist. Cinematographer CH Kushender has captured the rural backdrop with beautiful visuals. Music by Bharat Manchiraju



has given the teaser an upbeat feel. Balagam fame Tirumala M. Tirupati is the art director, Ka fame Sri Varaprasad is the editor, and Swayambhu fame Anu Reddy Akkati is the costume designer. Poornachari has written the lyrics. Thiru Veer has naturally settled into his role and impressed with his excellent comedy timing. Aishwarya Rajesh has brought an interesting twist to her

role by appearing as a village girl. Muralidhar Goud, Mad fame Vishnu Oy, Jhansi, Aamani, Anandkota Jayaram and others have played key roles. Overall, the teaser is captivating the audience with its entertainment, interesting concept, and humorous scenes. The film will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada languages.

A Heartwarming Tale Awaits: “Illu” to Stream on ETV Win from June 14

Manohara Arts and ETV Win have jointly presented Illu, a heartfelt drama produced by Kishore Mariseti and directed by Rohit and Shashi. Featuring music by Vivek Sagar, cinematography by Shashank Raghavula, and editing by Avanti Ruia, the film stars Harshavardhan and Bindu Chandramouli in pivotal roles, alongside Anish Kuruvilla, Pawan Ramesh, Camp Sashi, and others. Ahead of its streaming premiere on ETV Win from June 14, the makers organized an exclusive screening and press meet for the media. Actor-director Rahul Ravindran, who attended the event as a special guest, praised the film, saying,



“Presenting a simple story in a natural and beautiful manner is a very difficult task. Illu achieves that effortlessly and offers a deeply calming and soulful experience. I am sure audiences will connect with it when it starts streaming on

June 14.” Actress Bindu Chandramouli expressed her happiness about being part of the project. “I have known directors Rohit and Shashi for a long time, and I thank them for giving me this opportunity.

AHEAD OF WEDDING, AAMIR KHAN MAKES APPEARANCE WITH WIFE-TO-BE GAURI SPRATT



Aamir Khan is once again in the spotlight, and this time it is his personal life that has grabbed attention. The actor recently made a public appearance with his wife to be Gauri Spratt, and the video has quickly become a talking point online. In the clip shared by Viral Bhayani, Aamir and Gauri can be seen arriving together at an event, holding hands as they posed for the cameras. Their appearance comes amid reports that the actor is set to marry Gauri in a private ceremony on July 5 On the work front, Aamir continues to stay busy as both an actor and producer. His banner

is backing Lahore 1947, starring Sunny Deol and Preity Zinta, which is scheduled for an August 13, 2026 release. Reports have also stated that he is involved with Ek Din, starring his son Junaid Khan and Sai Pallavi, while 3 Idiots 2 is also in development with Rajkumar Hirani and Abhijat Joshi working on the project. With his personal life making headlines and multiple projects keeping him in the news, Aamir Khan is clearly entering another eventful phase, both on and off screen. Aamir and Gauri can be seen arriving together at an event, holding hands as they posed for the cameras.