

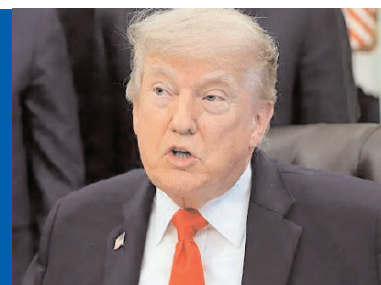


SHAH MASTERMINDED
'ILLEGAL' BREAKAWAY
OF TMC MPS, WANTS TO
MUSTER 2/3RD MAJORITY
FOR NDA: CONG

NATION PAGE

IRAN AND US
AGREE DEAL TO END WAR AS
TRUMP SAYS STRAIT OF
HORMUZ WILL BE REOPENED

WORLD | NEWS



NEERAJ CHOPRA
TO RETURN TO ACTION
AT DOHA DIAMOND LEAGUE

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

14-06-2026

Total pilgrims: 95,094
Tonnes: 35,909
Mandi Kankali: 3,93 CR
Laddu sales: 4,66 Lac
Annaprasadam: 3,23 Lac
Medical treatment: 4,72
Welfare Campments:
Out side line at Srikalahasti

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshnam
(with out SSD tokens): 20-24 H

DISHA PATANI
IS WILD, BOLD
& ABSOLUTELY
ON FIRE!



CINEMA PAGE

CM Naidu meets Singapore PM Lawrence Wong, discusses investment and tech cooperation

SINGAPORE (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, during his two-day visit to Singapore, met Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on Monday and held detailed discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation in key sectors including economy, technology, education, and infrastructure.

The meeting, held at the Singapore Prime Minister's official residence for about half an hour, focused on exploring new opportunities for collaboration between Andhra Pradesh and Singapore. The Chief Minister requested Singapore's cooperation in importing horticultural produce grown through natural farming methods and aquaculture products from Andhra Pradesh. He also informed that systems for international-standard certification and traceability of such products are being developed in the State.



Chandrababu Naidu sought Singapore's support in areas such as semiconductor manufacturing, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and uni-

versity-level research, along with skill development initiatives to build a future-ready workforce. He also highlighted the importance of Singapore's expertise in urban governance and requested support for the development of Amaravati and other cities in Andhra Pradesh. Reports suggest that Prime Minister Lawrence Wong expressed interest in the progress of the Amaravati Capital City project and sought details on ongoing infrastructure and institutional development.

Both leaders also discussed public healthcare systems, affordable housing, childcare models, and population management strategies. The Chief Minister informed that Andhra Pradesh is targeting 160 GW of green energy capacity and emphasized the state's focus on sustainable development.

The two leaders noted that India's manufacturing and supply chain sectors are expected to witness significant growth in the coming years, alongside the services sector, and expressed optimism about deeper cooperation in the future.

PM Modi welcomes US-Iran peace deal, hope it helps restore peace and stability in West Asia

BRATISLAVA (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the understanding reached between the US and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia and expressed India's hope that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce. We look forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement," he added.

Announcing the deal, the US President in a post on Truth Social wrote: "The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all! I hereby fully authorize the toll free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and, simultaneously herewith, authorize the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade. Ships of the World, start your engines."

caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries", PM Modi said in a post on X.

"India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce. We look forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement," he added.

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DRDO conducts flight test of long-range land attack cruise missile



New Delhi, June 15: In a major boost to India's defence capabilities, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the successful flight-test of the indigenously developed Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) on Monday. The flight test was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. "All the test objectives were fully met, as per the data captured by various tracking instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur," said the R&D wing of the Defence Ministry in a statement.

India-bound LNG carrier sails safely out of Hormuz



NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Malta-flagged LNG carrier DISHA, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium, safely transited the Strait of Hormuz on Monday with a cargo of 62,370 metric tonnes of LNG bound for Dahej in Gujarat, and is likely to reach India on June 18, according to an update issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. The Ministry, through the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping), remains in continuous coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shivakumar rejects guarantee rollback talk, plans ID drive

BENGALURU (TSIT):

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday ruled out any rollback of the Congress government's flagship guarantee schemes, asserting that the welfare programmes would continue uninterrupted, while announcing that beneficiaries would soon be required to possess proper photo identification to ensure benefits reach eligible recipients.

Addressing reporters here, Shivakumar said the move was aimed at streamlining the delivery of benefits and preventing misuse, following reports of payments being credited to incorrect accounts due to discrepancies in beneficiary details.

"We will not stop the guarantee for anyone under any circumstances.



Stopping them is not our programme," he said, dismissing speculation that the government was planning to scale down the schemes due to financial pressures.

The Chief Minister said the government had detected cases where beneficiaries had provided incorrect mobile numbers or account details, resulting in funds being transferred to unintended recipients.

"For the guarantee schemes, we need proper

photo identification of who is receiving them. We want the money to go directly into the correct person's account. We have records showing that in some cases others are withdrawing the money," he said.

Shivakumar also maintained that the benefits were intended exclusively for Karnataka residents and alleged that some people from outside the state were availing themselves of welfare schemes meant for local citizens.

India looks to renew trade with Gulf, wrapping up fertiliser deals and re-use of strategic Chabahar port as war winds down

New Delhi, Jun 15: With a peace deal between the US and Iran likely to be signed on Friday, India is looking towards renewing its trade links with Tehran and other Gulf states, including oil purchases, participating in the reconstruction of war-ravaged infrastructure in the Gulf area, as well as resumption of cargo operations at the strategic Chabahar port. India is particularly looking forward to wrapping up negotiations for the import of fertilizer crucial to the success of its Monsoon crop from West Asia and East Europe at favourable rates now that the two sides will allow ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz without hindrance.

Top officials said New Delhi has been following the agreement diplomacy and will be looking closely at the deal and working with Indian industry and missions in West Asia to boost trade, which was severely hit by the ongoing crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, and "in participating in infrastructure reconstruction work."

"Our interest in Iranian oil and use of Chabahar port remains. We will, however, have to study the nitty-gritty closely," Pinak R Chakravarty, former Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The diplomat also pointed out that with 15 per cent of India's global trade going to or coming from the Gulf, the three-month-long crisis had caused enormous losses to Indian businesses and added: "If the peace holds, then we will get a chance to recoup the losses and access supplies of crude, gas and fertilizer vital to our economy". India's exports to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar had dropped drastically as the war progressed, with both exports



and imports being impacted. Exports to the UAE alone plunged by 62 per cent in the month of March alone. India needs 17 million tonnes of urea by August 2026, when the country's Kharif or monsoon crop is sown. However, domestic production and stocks held by states, farm cooperatives, and the fertilizer companies are insufficient to meet demand. A shortfall of about 2 million tonnes has to be brought in within the next month and a half to make good the needs of Indian agriculture.

"We expected prices of fertilizer, which had shot up from roughly USD 419 per metric ton to peaks exceeding USD 850 in the spring, to come down, and we expect the rupee to strengthen against the dollar, reducing our bill. The end of the blockade will also make it easier and cut time in bringing in our fertilizer needs of urea, potash etc.," said Prof Biswajit Dhar, former WTO Chair at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

India also holds a 10-year operational contract for the Shahid Behesti Terminal at Chabahar, which runs till 2034, but operations at the port have been severely hit by US sanctions. "We will have to see whether sanctions will be lifted in the final deal that is signed," said

Chakravarty. India, which has sunk some US \$ 120 million into the strategically located port at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, can, of course, transfer control to a local Iranian firm, but would prefer to run the port in its own way, using it not only for trade with Iran but also with central Asian countries.

"India used to be a regular buyer of Iranian crude, and it accounted for about 13 per cent of the country's total crude imports in 2006-17. It fell to negligible amounts as US sanctions tightened and has resumed in April this year as the US waived sanctions to stabilize crude prices... we hope we can buy more crude from Teheran to balance our basket where we take about a third from Russia, and the rest from Africa, West Asia and the Americas," said petroleum ministry officials. The United States and Iran announced a preliminary framework agreement aimed at ending more than three months of hostilities, lifting the US naval blockade against Iran, and restoring commercial navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, in the early hours of Monday IST time.

The breakthrough, which still requires formal ratification, triggered an immediate decline in global oil prices as markets

reacted to the prospect of reduced tensions in the Gulf region. However, the future of Iran's nuclear programme remains unresolved and will be addressed in a separate round of negotiations.

Iranian media outlets reported that under the terms of the agreement, there will be an immediate and complete lifting of the naval blockade imposed on Iran. Brent crude futures price for August delivery fell by over 5 per cent to USD 83.94 a barrel at 5 pm IST. The benchmark crude price had crossed USD 120 a barrel in March in the early days of the conflict.

High crude prices strained India's balance of payments situation and saw the rupee falling against the dollar by nearly 12 per cent in one single year. Shipping freight rates and insurance also increased as the conflict saw oil tankers and cargo vessels becoming collateral damage. However, commerce ministry officials said that with the rupee gaining strength and trading for 94.63 to the dollar against Rs 96.57 three weeks back, "we expect rates to moderate and exports to show signs of a fresh pick up." India's merchandise exports in March 2026 had fallen to USD 38.9 billion compared to USD 42 billion in March 2025, a fall of 7.7 per cent.

Cockroach Janta Party to stage protest in Nagpur



NAGPUR (TSIT):

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will stage a protest here on Tuesday demanding resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, its founder Abhijeet Dipke announced. He would be arriving in the city on June 16, Dipke said in a video message on social media on Monday, and asked Nagpur residents including students and the youth to gather at Samvidhan Square at 4 pm for a peaceful demonstration. The CJP has been demanding Pradhan's resignation over the last month's NEET (UG) paper leak scandal.

Cong asks PM to break silence on killing of Indian seafarers, raise issue with Trump

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The Congress on Monday attacked the government over the killing of three Indian seafarers in American attacks on ships and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi raise the issue with President Donald Trump as well as take diplomatic action to ensure the US pays a price for breaching the Geneva Conventions.

Cockroach Janta Party to stage protest in Nagpur. The opposition party strongly condemned the killing of the three Indian seafarers and questioned Prime Minister Modi's silence on the tragedy. The party accused Modi of compromising the country's sovereignty, independence and dignity by not even registering a strong protest



against such "brutal murders". Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete condoled the death of Aditya Sharma, Shivanand Chuarasiya and Patnala Suresh and expressed profound sympathies with the bereaved families.

She slammed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's remarks while speaking with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as "rubbing salt into Indians' wounds".

Jaipur police allow CJP protest with cap of 800 participants

JAIPUR (TSIT):

Jaipur Police on Sunday granted permission to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) to hold a protest in the Rajasthan capital on Monday, reversing its earlier decision to deny approval on law-and-order grounds. The permission, however, comes with several conditions, including a cap of 800 participants, a ban on rallies and DJs, and strict instructions to avoid disruption to traffic and public movement. According to the permission order, the protest will be allowed between 3 pm and 7 pm and must be conducted in a peaceful, disciplined and culturally appropriate manner. "The programme should be completely decorous and should keep Indian culture in mind. It should be limited and restrained so that traffic and public movement are not disrupted and unnecessary crowding is avoided.

Shah masterminded 'illegal' break-away of TMC MPs, wants to muster 2/3rd majority for NDA: Cong



NEW DELHI: With 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs announcing their merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India, the Congress on Monday claimed that Home Minister Amit Shah masterminded the "illegal breakaway" of the legislators, and the "bizarre move" was part of his strategy to engineer a two-thirds majority for the NDA in the Lok Sabha.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that decency, decorum, and devotion to constitutional values and principles remain vulnerable and threatened every day Shah continues in the office. "A desperate Union

home minister - who is an absolute disgrace to the position once held by Sardar Patel - has taken Indian democracy to new lows in a shameless manner," Ramesh said on X.

"He has masterminded the illegal breakaway of 20 TMC MPs and their wholly questionable fusion with an unheard of and reportedly registered but unrecognised political outfit formed just three years back," the Congress general secretary (communications) said.

The Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) could well end up becoming the second-largest (constituent) in the NDA, ahead of even the long-

established and long-experienced TDP and JD(U), who should actually be protesting their "downgrade" through such "underhand tactics" and in such a "disgusting" manner, Ramesh said. "This bizarre move is part of the Union home minister's strategy to engineer a two-thirds majority for the NDA in the Lok Sabha. Decency, decorum and devotion to constitutional values and principles remain vulnerable and threatened every day he continues in office," the Congress leader said.

On Sunday, 20 rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and announced that they were merging with the NCPI, a Tripura-based registered unrecognised political party. Rebel TMC MP Arup Chakraborty on Monday said the breakaway faction is trying to "rectify" the party, and would fight for the control of its election symbol, even as the Mamata Banerjee-led outfit termed the move illegal under the anti-defection law.



Tirupati Ex MLA, Ex TTD Board member EX tuda chairman A. Mohan birthday celebrations grandly celebrated in tirupati TDP leaders, ttd association leaders participated in this event.

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg Launches 'Cycling Day' Initiative

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Commissioner Ketan Garg has initiated a voluntary "Cycling Day" programme to be observed every Monday within the GVMC limits. Marking the launch of the initiative on Monday, the Commissioner travelled by bicycle from his official residence to the GVMC headquarters to attend office duties. GVMC officials and staff members also participated in the programme by commuting to their workplaces on bicycles, extending their support to the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Ketan Garg said that the decision to observe every Monday as "Cycling Day" was aimed at promoting pollution control, fuel conservation, public health and environmental protection. He urged officials and employees of all departments under GVMC to commute to their offices by bicycle every Monday,



as far as possible. The Commissioner noted that cycling contributes to physical fitness and mental well-being, while also helping reduce obesity and prevent lifestyle-related diseases. He further explained that decreased dependence on motor vehicles would result in lower air pollution levels and significant fuel savings.

Ketan Garg appealed to the residents of Visakhapatnam to voluntarily participate in the initiative and adopt cycling as part of their daily lives. He emphasised that by giving

importance to cycling, every citizen could play a meaningful role in the protection of nature and the environment. He stated that it is a collective social responsibility to ensure that future generations inherit a green, clean and healthy Visakhapatnam. Calling upon officials, employees and citizens to become active partners in achieving the vision of "Green Vizag - Healthy Vizag," the Commissioner encouraged everyone to embrace a healthy lifestyle and transform cycling into a people's movement.

Mukesh Ambani offers prayers at Kedarnath & Badrinath, donates Rs 5 cr to each temple

Dehradun: Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani on Monday visited the sacred shrines of Badrinath and Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, where he offered prayers and made donations of Rs 5 crore each to the two temples.

He arrived for darshan in a traditional outfit and greeted people with folded hands. He was accorded a traditional welcome by officials of the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) upon his arrival at the temple.

Ambani's helicopter landed at the Badrinath helipad around 10 am. About 20 minutes later, he arrived at the sanctum of Lord Badrivishal, where he performed rituals and offered prayers. After the worship, he met with officials from the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee.



'Jalabhishek' of Lord Kedarnath

Following his visit to Badrinath, his helicopter departed for Kedarnath Dham at 10:40 am and landed there around 11:15 am. From the helipad, Ambani reached the temple of Lord Kedarnath within just 10 minutes. There, he performed the "Jalabhishek" (a sacred Hindu ritual where devotees ceremonially pour holy water) of the deity in the sanctum sanctorum and participated in a special prayer ceremony.

When pilgrims present in the temple complex saw the prominent industrialist among them, the entire area resonated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram."

Ambani graciously acknowledged the greetings of the devotees with folded hands. After completing his prayers and paying obeisance to Lord Kedarnath, he departed directly for Delhi around 12 noon.

Chittoor MP Prasada Rao urges united effort to counter criticism with development

Chittoor: TDP Politburo Member and Chittoor MP Daggamalla Prasada Rao has said that the development and welfare initiatives being implemented by the Central and State Alliance Government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu are the strongest response to opposition criticism.

He made these remarks while addressing the "Super Six Super Hit" two-year alliance government victory celebrations and review meeting held at the Telugu Desam Party office in Chittoor district on Monday. The meeting was organised to discuss preparations for welfare victory celebrations under the joint leadership of MP Prasada Rao, MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan, and senior alliance leaders.

Calling upon party leaders and workers, the MP stressed the need to take welfare and development schemes to the people effectively and to work in coordination with a clear focus on the 2029 general elections and upcoming local body



polls. He also urged cadre to highlight how government benefits are reaching citizens and who is implementing them.

MP Prasada Rao praised MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan for his role in driving development in the Chittoor Assembly constituency, stating that the constituency had been placed among the top performing segments due to coordinated efforts of elected representatives and administration. The leaders paid floral tributes to TDP founder and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao at his statue before the meeting. Beneficiaries of welfare schemes such as Talli Ki

Vandanam, NTR Bharosa pensions, Deepam 2.0, Stree Shakti free bus travel, and auto drivers' welfare schemes shared their experiences and expressed satisfaction over government support. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan said the alliance government had delivered unprecedented welfare and development over the last two years, including pension reforms, farmer support schemes, LPG subsidies, and infrastructure projects. He also highlighted ongoing road expansion works, Anna Canteen inauguration, Kendriya Vidyalaya establishment, TIDCO housing.

BHATTI CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY WITH KGBV STUDENTS, LAUNCHES BREAKFAST SCHEME



RANGAREDDY (TSIT) Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka celebrated his birthday with students at the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Moinabad, Ranga Reddy district, on Monday. Along with Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar, he shared lunch with students and interacted with them. Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka announced the launch of the Breakfast Scheme for 29 lakh government school students across Telangana from Monday. He said the government was committed to improving educational and welfare facilities for students and ensuring access to nutritious food. Ponnampati Prabhakar lauded the Deputy Chief Minister for celebrating his birthday among government school students, describing it as a reflection of his simplicity and commitment to public service.

South Central Railway steps up monsoon preparedness to ensure safe train operations

Secunderabad, June 15: South Central Railway (SCR) has intensified its monsoon preparedness measures across the zone to ensure passenger safety and uninterrupted train operations during the rainy season. A comprehensive safety review meeting was conducted under the leadership of South Central Railway General Manager Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, on Monday.

The high-level meeting focused on assessing the zone's readiness to tackle challenges arising from heavy rainfall, sudden gusty winds, and adverse weather conditions. Additional General Manager Shri Satya Prakash, Principal Heads of Departments, and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) from Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Nanded divisions participated in the review.

During the meeting, the General Manager stressed strict adherence to safety protocols and reviewed the condition of critical railway infrastructure, including bridges, tunnels, Road Under Bridges (RUBs), flood-prone locations, and embankments vulnerable to soil erosion. He directed officials to maintain ade-



quate stocks of essential materials such as sand, gravel, cement, and boulders to facilitate swift response during emergencies. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava also emphasized proactive field inspections and instructed officials to undertake regular footplate inspections from locomotive cabins to assess ground conditions and take immediate corrective measures whenever required.

The General Manager called for prompt rectification of deficiencies identified during inspections to ensure seamless train operations and passenger safety. He also directed railway officials to strengthen safety measures in freight operations and take preventive steps to avoid accidents involving cattle on railway

tracks.

Highlighting the risks posed by dense vegetation during the monsoon, he instructed teams to trim or remove trees located near railway tracks and Overhead Equipment (OHE) installations to prevent service disruptions. He further urged field-level supervisors to remain vigilant and address operational issues without delay.

Reaffirming South Central Railway's commitment to safety and efficiency, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava said that pre-monsoon preparedness reflects the organization's dedication to passenger safety and the strengthening of railway infrastructure. He urged all railway personnel to carry out their responsibilities with urgency, precision, and a strong focus on safety.

Andhra Pradesh engineer lands 300% salary hike after switching to tech

Andhra Pradesh: Bendu Manohar Naidu, an engineering graduate from Andhra Pradesh, has achieved a remarkable career turnaround by securing a 300 percent increase in compensation within just seven months of entering the technology sector. After completing his degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), Manohar spent nearly a year searching for opportunities in the core electronics industry. Despite persistent efforts, suitable roles remained elusive, leaving him uncertain about his career prospects while many of his peers moved ahead with jobs and higher studies.

Determined to change his circumstances, Manohar decided to explore opportunities in the technology sector despite having no formal background in computer science. To acquire the necessary skills, he enrolled in the Software Engineering programme offered by Scaler. The transition proved challenging, as coding concepts were entirely new to him and competition in the field was intense. However, Manohar remained committed to his goal, making it a habit to solve at least one coding problem every day, regardless of the difficulties he faced. Throughout the journey, he received unwavering support



from his family, which helped him stay focused and motivated. His dedication eventually paid off when he secured his first role in the technology industry. Today, Manohar works as a Software Development Engineer-1 (SDE-1) with Swiggy.

Within just seven months of joining the sector, his compensation increased by more than 300 percent, marking a significant milestone in his professional journey. For Manohar, the achievement represents more than financial growth—it is a testament to perseverance, patience, and the importance of family support in overcoming setbacks. His story serves as an inspiration to aspiring professionals, demonstrating that with determination and continuous learning, career transitions can open doors to new opportunities and long-term success.

Hyderabad Chai Company opens third branch in Mehdiapatnam

Hyderabad, June 15: Hyderabad Chai Company (HCC), a rapidly growing café brand known for its tea, snacks, and unique vegetarian meals, has inaugurated its third branch in Mehdiapatnam, Hyderabad. The grand opening ceremony was attended by prominent political leaders, influencers, and celebrities.

Founded in 2025, Hyderabad Chai Company started with a limited customer base and has quickly expanded across the city, building a strong following among food and tea enthusiasts. The new Mehdiapatnam outlet marks another

milestone in the brand's growth journey. The inauguration ceremony was graced by chief guests Jaffer Hussain, MLA of Yakutpura; Majid Hussain; and former Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali. Several social media influencers and celebrities also attended the event.

Among the notable guests was Faheem Ul Haq, who appreciated the café's innovative concept, distinctive recipes, and diverse menu offerings. He praised Hyderabad Chai Company for creating a unique dining experience that has resonated with customers across the city.

The official opening was conducted by the founders of the company—Mumtaz Hussain, Majaz Hussain, and Malik Hussain. Speaking on the occasion, the founders expressed their gratitude to the guests, well-wishers, and customers for their continued support and for making the launch event a grand success.

They also invited residents of Hyderabad to visit the new Mehdiapatnam outlet and experience the café's signature tea varieties, snacks, and specially curated vegetarian meal options that have contributed to the brand's growing popularity.



Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Meets Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan

Visakhapatnam (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan and held extensive discussions on strategic partnership opportunities between Andhra Pradesh and Singapore. During the nearly 30-minute meeting, several key issues, including state development, investments, air connectivity, green energy and the establishment of data centres, were discussed.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu briefed the Singapore Foreign Minister on the development plans for the Amaravati Capital City Project. He stated that the Government was taking special measures to transform Amaravati into a "Quantum Valley." The Chief Minister noted that Andhra Pradesh was emerging as one of the leading states in the country in both the manufacturing and services sectors. He further explained that the State possesses vast land resources required for industrial development, while also having an abundant pool of skilled human resources to support the growth of the services sector. Chandrababu Naidu highlighted Andhra Pradesh's growing role in the production of green energy, green



ammonia and green hydrogen. The Chief Minister pointed out that the State's extensive coastline and strategically located ports offered significant advantages for cargo transportation and international trade.

He informed the Singapore Foreign Minister that the data centre ecosystem was expanding rapidly in regions such as Visakhapatnam, with undersea cable connectivity linking data services with countries across the globe. Chandrababu Naidu also informed Vivian Balakrishnan about the

proposed establishment of a major steel plant by global steel giant ArcelorMittal in North Andhra Pradesh. The two leaders further discussed the expansion of air services between Andhra Pradesh and Singapore, including the possibility of providing direct flight connectivity to various airports in the State.

State Minister P. Narayana, Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, and other senior officials participated in the meeting. Following the discussions, Singapore Foreign Minister

Vivian Balakrishnan presented Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu with a copy of the book titled "Fifty Secrets of Singapore's Success," which highlights the factors behind Singapore's remarkable development journey. Officials expressed the view that the meeting would further strengthen bilateral relations between Andhra Pradesh and Singapore and provide fresh momentum for future investment opportunities and development partnerships between the two sides.

Unprecedented Progress in Women, Child and Tribal Welfare Sectors in the Last Two Years: Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : State Minister for Women Development, Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare Gummidi Sandhya Rani stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and with the support of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, the State Government has accorded the highest priority to the welfare of women, children and tribal communities, implementing welfare and developmental programmes on an unprecedented scale over the past two years. The Minister said that welfare is not merely about providing financial assistance, but ensuring safety for every woman, nutritional support for every child, development opportunities for every tribal family and quality education for every student.

She stated that through 56,746 Anganwadi Centres across the State, nutritional support, healthcare services and pre-primary education are being provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. Nearly 20 lakh beneficiaries are availing these services. Strengthening the Anganwadi system, the Government has recruited 5,389 teachers and 5,287



helpers, creating employment opportunities for more than 11,000 people, she said. To improve infrastructure in Anganwadi centres, facilities such as drinking water supply, RO plants, sanitation amenities and cooking equipment have been provided with an expenditure of Rs.100 crore, the Minister explained. She further stated that the services offered through Anganwadi centres have been digitised by distributing 5G smartphones to Anganwadi staff at a cost of Rs.72 crore. Emphasising the Government's commit-

ment to women's safety, the Minister said that One Stop Centres have been established in all 26 districts of the State, providing legal,

medical, psychological and police assistance under one roof. She revealed that 3,393 child marriages had been prevented during the last two years. In the tribal welfare sector, the Minister stated that quality education is being imparted to thousands of students through 2,715 educational institutions across the State. Necessary infrastructure, nutritious food and stationery are being provided to students residing in hostels and Ashram schools.

NOTICE REGARDING LOST CERTIFICATE(S) OF Amara Raja Energy & Mobility Ltd					
Regd Office: Karakambadi, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, 517520					
I, KODALI RADHALAVANYA residing at H NO : 7-14-3, BATTIA, TENALI, NEAR, BUS STAND GANGANAMMA PET, TENALI, GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH - 522201 the registered holder(s) of the under mentioned shares held in the above said company, hereby give notice that the share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares have been lost and I have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate certificate(s). Any person having claim in respect of the said shares should lodge claims with the Company at its above referred address within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) and no further claim will be entertained by the Company thereafter.					
Folio No.	Face Value	Certificate No.	Distinctive No. From	No. of Shares	Name of Share holder
00024863	10	51127	4504101 - 4504200	100	Kodali Radhalavanya
00024863	2	864	14269406 - 14269905	500	Kodali Radhalavanya
00024863	2	2717	69652799 - 69653048	250	Kodali Radhalavanya
Date: 16-06-2026 Place: Tenali Kodali Radhalavanya Name Of Shareholder					

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Office: Unit No. 1101, 11th Floor, Cignus, Plot No. 71 A, Powai, Pasopli, Mumbai - 400087

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

30 days' Notice of Sale of Immovable Secured Asset Assets is hereby given by Fedbank Financial Services Limited (Secured Creditor) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned as Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor has taken over the possession of the Secured Asset(s) under SARFAESI Act 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co - Borrowers/Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Fedbank Financial Services Limited, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "wherever there is" on 23/07/2026 from 10 am to 10.30 am, for recovery of Rs. 41,79,080.00/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand And Eighty Only) in Loan Account No. FEDVJH00531201 as on 11-08-2025 with interest and expenses thereon from 12/08/2025 due to Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor, from MR. NARENDRA KUMAR GORIGE S/O. HANUMANTHA RAO (Borrower); MRS. RAJESWARI GORIGE W/O. NARENDRA KUMAR GORIGE (Co-Borrower).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Guntur Dist, Mangalagiri SRO Area Mangalagiri Mandal, Nowluru Grama Panchayat, Nowluru Village bearing D.No.811/A, an total Extent of Ac.3.51cents, in which 145.0 Sq. Yards of Site in which 675Sq.ft RCC Building along with being bounded by (Old Door No:4-25) (New Door No:21-4-381), Assessment No: 1023040356 boundaries, EAST: Sarkar Road, 20.0ft, SOUTH: Property belongs to K. Indira Bai, 65.3ft, WEST: Site Belongs to G. Venkateswara, 20.0ft, NORTH: Bazar, 65.3ft

RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)	Rs. 52,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lac Only)
EARNED MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.) THROUGH DD/P/RTGS IN FAVOR OF 'FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED'	Rs. 5,20,000/- (Rupees Five Lac Twenty Thousand Only)
BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS WITH SEALED OFFER/TENDER WITH EMD	Till 22nd July, 2026 latest by 05:00 PM. at - Fedbank Financial Services Limited, D. No. 6-10-40/A, Ward 4, Block -1, 1st Floor, Chitti Nagar, KI Road, Tailor Pet, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520009
INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES	16th July, 2026 Before 5 PM
LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF 25% OF ACCEPTED HIGHEST BID FOR CONFIRMED SUCCESSFUL BIDDER (INCLUSIVE OF EMD)	The payment should be made latest by next working day from the date of bid confirmation
LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF BALANCE 75% OF HIGHEST BID	Within 15 days from the date of bid Confirmation

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Fedbank Financial Services Limited (FEDFINA) Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.fedfina.com & Link <https://www.fedfina.com/public-notice-for-auction-cum-sale/> under Auction. For any enquiry, information, support, procedure and training kindly coordinate with Authorized Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited i.e. Mr. Riyaz Syed - 9848133554. Email: riyaz.syed2@fedfina.com.

Date: 16/06/2026, Place: Guntur Sd/- Authorised officer For Fedbank Financial Services Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400059
Branch Office: 23B-5-7, Shop No. 2, 4th Floor, Vasavi Plaza, Eadaravari Street, Ramachandra Rao Pet, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh-534002.

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sambashvarao Paluri (Borrower), Paluri Dnmalleswara Prasad (Co-Borrower), D.No. 4 70 8 Mamidi Thota Beti Vari Street, Tadepalligudem West Godavari, Tadepalligudem, Tadepalligudem - 534101 Andhra Pradesh, LHELU00001677326	West Godavari District, Tadepalligudem S.R.O. and Mandal, Kunchanapalli Village and Grampanchayath Area, an Extent of Southern 171.2/3 Sq.yards of Site With R.C.C Building From Out of 176/2.3 Sqyds In Plot No. 16 In R.S. No. 374/4 and D.D.S. No. 299/2014. Bounded By - North By : Site of Soyayad Asif, South By: Plot No. 15 Site, East By: Plot No. 13 Site, West By: 24 Feet Wide Road./ Date of Possession 11-Jun-26	16-03-2026 Rs. 27,12,435/-	Eluru
2.	Sambashvarao Paluri (Borrower), Paluri Dnmalleswara Prasad (Co-Borrower), D.No. 4 70 8 Mamidi Thota Beti Vari Street, Tadepalligudem West Godavari, Tadepalligudem, Tadepalligudem - 534101 Andhra Pradesh, LHELU00001677373	West Godavari District, Tadepalligudem S.R.O. And Mandal, Kunchanapalli Village and Grampanchayath area, an Extent of Southern 171.2/3 Sq.yards of Site With R.C.C Building From Out of 176/2.3 Sqyds In Plot No. 16 In R.S. No. 374/4 and D.D.S. No. 299/2014. Bounded By - North By: Site of Soyayad Asif, South By: Plot No. 15 Site, East By: Plot No. 13 Site, West By: 24 Feet Wide Road./ Date of Possession 11-Jun-26	16-03-2026 Rs. 86,824/-	Eluru

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: June 16, 2026
Place: Tadepalligudem
Authorized Office,
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

Foundation Stone to be Laid for Rs.142-Crore Road Over Bridge at Mangalagiri on June 17

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, VISAKHAPATNAM: The foundation stone for the Road Over Bridge (ROB) proposed at Mangalagiri under the Guntur Railway Division will be laid on June 17, 2026 (Wednesday). The ROB will be constructed in place of Level Crossing No.14 at Mangalagiri. Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Government of India, and Shri Nara Lokesh, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resources Development, Information Technology, Electronics, Communications and RTG, Government of Andhra Pradesh, will participate in the programme as chief guests and lay the foundation stone. The event will also be attended by Shri Kandula Durgesh, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography and Guntur District In-charge Minister, Shri Nadendla Manohar, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer

Affairs, along with several public representatives and senior railway officials. Level Crossing No.14, located on the Namburu-Mangalagiri main railway route in Guntur Division, is popularly known as the Mangalagiri Gate. A large number of motorists traveling between Mangalagiri and Amaravati use this route, leading to frequent traffic congestion. To facilitate has-free movement for the public and to ensure uninterrupted road and rail transportation, a Road Over Bridge will be constructed at this level crossing at an estimated cost of Rs.142 crore, entirely funded by the Railway Department. Upon completion of the ROB, both road and rail transportation are expected to become significantly smoother. The project will provide seamless connectivity to the State Capital, Amaravati. The travel distance and time between Mangalagiri and Amaravati are expected to reduce considerably, and the project is also anticipated to contribute to the region's social and economic development, railway officials said. The Road Over Bridge, which is set to become a crucial infrastructure project for the development of the State Capital Region, will not only enhance public transportation facilities but also strengthen infrastructure to meet future requirements.

L&T Finance Limited
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch Office: Narasaraopet

Public Notice

This is to inform the public in general and customers in particular that L&T Finance Limited having its registered office at Brindavan, Plot No. 177, C.S.T Road, Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 400098 shall cease to operate at its Branch Office located at D No 5-108 & 5-108-1, 1st Floor, Gandhi Chowk, Beside Panduranga Swamy Temple, Near Shivudubomma Center, Narasaraopet, Andhra Pradesh-522601 with effect from 14-09-2026. The said closure is [on account of business requirements] and all operations of the said branch shall be shifted to D No 9-6-29/14, 1st Floor, Arundelpet Road, Revenue Ward No-6, Narasaraopet, Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh-522601, India., effect from 14-09-2026.

It is clarified that due care is being taken by L&T Finance Limited to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the customers during the process of closure of the said branch(es). The accounts of all the customers shall be transferred to the transferee branch referred above and all such customers shall be serviced from that branch from the effective date. Customers are hereby requested to take note of the aforesaid change. In case of further clarification and/or in case of any difficulty, customers may contact 9346204353.

Date: 16.06.2026
Place: Narasaraopet
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T FINANCE LIMITED

L&T Finance Limited
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch Office: Bapatla

Public Notice

This is to inform the public in general and customers in particular that L&T Finance Limited having its registered office at Brindavan, Plot No. 177, C.S.T Road, Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 400098 shall cease to operate at its Branch Office located at D No 4-2-74/A, Near Ramalayam Cheel Road, Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh-522101 with effect from 14-09-2026. The said closure is [on account of business requirements] and all operations of the said branch shall be shifted to D No 11-1-12, 1st Floor, GBC Road, Revenue Ward No. 7, Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh-522101, India., effect from 14-09-2026.

It is clarified that due care is being taken by L&T Finance Limited to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the customers during the process of closure of the said branch(es). The accounts of all the customers shall be transferred to the transferee branch referred above and all such customers shall be serviced from that branch from the effective date. Customers are hereby requested to take note of the aforesaid change. In case of further clarification and/or in case of any difficulty, customers may contact 9346204353.

Date: 16.06.2026
Place: Bapatla
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T FINANCE LIMITED

Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bangalore South
4th Floor, Vijaya Tower, 41/2, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001, Phone No: 080-25584066,
Extn: 441, 080-25011710, E-mail ID: SARBES@bankofbaroda.com, Website: www.bankofbaroda.in.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

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 6 (2) & 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, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below .

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagees	Short Description of the Immovable Property With Known Encumbrances, if any	A.Branch Name B.Account Number C. Total Dues	Date & Time of e-Auction	A.Reserve Price, B. EMD Amount C. Bid Increase Amount D. Status of Possession	Property Inspection Date (With Prior Permission From Authorised Officer)
1	Mr. Rohit Chilukuri S/o Mr. Prasad Naidu Chilukuri No. B-G04, Vandana Alpyne Apartment, Yellukunte Village, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru Also Residing at: 3165, Main Road, J Panguluru Mandal, Janakavaram, Panguluru, Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh PIN 523261	Property Details: Residential Flat No:B-G04 (3 BHK) in Block B on the ground floor, the residential building known as "Vandana Alpyne" measuring 1725 Sq. ft. of super built up area together with one covered car parking, (common area includes proportionate share in the common area such as passage, lobbies, lifts, staircase, clubhouse and enjoyment of all the facilities of the club and other areas of common use) and bounded by : East by: Flat No. B-G03, West by: Road, North by: Corridor and Flat No. B-G05, South by: Private Property. KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES TO BANK -NIL	A.ROSARB (BASE BRANCH JAYANAGAR (DB JAYA) B.7271060001146 7271060001149 C. Rs. 2,16,46,772/- as on 14.06.26 with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs charges and expenses till date of payment	07.07.2026 FROM 2.00 PM TO 6.00 PM	A. Rs.1,10,66,220/- B. Rs.11,06,622/- C. Rs.25,000/- D. Symbolic	AFTER 16.06.2026 (CMM Order obtained and Physical possession is under process)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction> and online auction portal Baanknet.com. Pending Charges regarding Property Tax, Electricity charges, E khata making charges and any other applicable charges to be borne by the highest bidder. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 080-25011441 and Mobile No.9137960132.

Date: 15.06.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda

EDITORIAL

How Choice of Political Successors Led to the Decline of Regional Satraps

Odd as it may sound, many regional satraps in India have bitten the dust or look like they are on the decline. All for the want of a credible successor. The latest glaring example is that of former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who has not only lost power in West Bengal, but her world is coming crashing down since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ousted her her government last month after 15 years at the helm. Her promotion of her controversial nephew Abhishek Banerjee tore the Trinamool Congress (TMC) asunder as newly elected MLAs are abandoning the sinking ship of TMC in droves, leaving Mamata stunned. Through his brash actions and statements, Abhishek had brought an invisible split in the party with his supporters and opponents ranged against each other. Now Banerjee and the leaders still loyal to her are a beleaguered lot amid reports that Ritabrata Banerjee could emerge as the "Eknath Shinde" of Bengal. In Maharashtra, 85-year-old Sharad Pawar, once known as the Maratha strongman, is now like the legendary Bhisma lying on the battlefield strewn with arrows. His fault was choosing not the right successor, as his powerful nephew, the late Ajit Pawar, should have been the ideal candidate. However, the senior Pawar opted for his daughter Supriya Sule, who has hardly gone through the rough and tumble of politics. The result was a split in the party aided and abetted by an ambitious BJP. With Ajit Pawar's tragic death, his Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), too, is in turmoil, after senior leaders like Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare, have been sidelined by Sunetra Pawar, who took over the party from her late husband. Reports have it that her sons, Parth and Jai, call the shots in the organisation.

It is the same sob story in the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray, in the last four years after the BJP split the party by engineering a revolt by Eknath Shinde. The party founded by Bal Thackeray is being emaciated day by day with the rise of a resurgent BJP, which wants to further its footprint. Former Telangana CM, K. Chandrashekar Rao, who once dreamt of becoming the prime minister from a third front government, not only lost power but also failed to address the succession issue properly, resulting in squabbles in the family.

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) chief and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, having a record of more than two decades at the helm, saw himself lose power in the last assembly polls for failing to throw up a successor. His close advisor and a controversial IAS officer from Tamil Nadu was seen as his successor, and it cooked the goose of Naveen. Almost the same applies to the late Jayalalitha, who once ruled Tamil Nadu with an iron hand. Her party has faced divisions and a split, and the advent of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in power in last month's polls has further accentuated the crisis. Former Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin's Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which lost power, could be equally affected by the rise of TVK supremo and matinee idol Vijay, as the assembly polls virtually rejected Stalin's successor and son, Udhayanidhi Stalin. Doubts are being raised in Jammu and Kashmir over the competence and capability of chief minister Omar Abdullah, who has been anointed successor by National Conference (NC) chief Farooq Abdullah, as the son lacks the ability to take everyone along.

Hormuz Is Reopening, But It May Never Matter Quite The Same Way Again

US President Donald Trump recently announced that the US and Iran had reached a deal and that the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened soon. Coming over three months after the war started, however, many countries have by now explored alternate pathways to keep their economies running and to hedge against future disruptions.

THE INDIA-OMANI PARTNERSHIP

India has been one of the worst hit countries by this war, in particular by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, as much of her energy imports from the Middle East transit through this critical waterway. While oil and gas are the most important, there are other major imports, like fertilizers, that also transit through Hormuz. Recently, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, revealed that India's oil marketing companies were losing Rs. 16,000 crore a day, something the recent fuel price hikes aim to address, to an extent. The rupee has fallen to a historical low to touch 95 to the dollar. Amidst these shocks, the news that the India-Omani Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been actualised was met with much glee. CEPA paves the way for more buoyant trade with the Oman Sultanate, especially facilitating Indian exports - a critical need for the economy currently. Most importantly, the location of Oman is significant now with all the tension around the Strait of Hormuz. Oman is located outside the Strait, directly on the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman, and thus, goods can enter and exit its ports of Salalah and Duqm easily without having to go through Hormuz. Moreover, India also had a historical presence at Duqm. India's imports from Oman actually increased by 246.4%, rising from USD 430 million to nearly USD 1.5 billion, driven by higher purchases of crude oil and urea. The countries are now seeking to reactivate the proposal for the Rs.40,000-crore Oman-Gujarat deep-sea gas pipeline. The 2,000-km subsea project would bypass the Strait of Hormuz, offering a potentially safer and more direct route for natural gas imports, hedging against any similar disruptions in future.



OMAN'S SWEET SPOT

In fact, Oman is in a sweet spot now with its location outside the Strait of Hormuz as countries seek alternatives. One fifth of the world's energy supplies pass through Hormuz from countries of the Gulf like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE to mainly Asian markets. Consequently, Oman has increased its oil exports to unprecedented levels, given that its ports are located outside Hormuz, enabling it to pump supplies to Asian markets. Beyond this, the gains from customs declarations have been remarkable. For example, revenues from declarations for shipments destined for Dubai alone jumped from \$270 million in March to \$2.16 billion in April. More important is the Sultanate's new positioning as a reliable hub for maritime and air transport and shipping through its ports and airports. For instance, food exports to Gulf countries through Hormuz have also been disrupted. Currently, shipments are travelling from Omani ports through the Hatta border crossing between Oman and the UAE and further into the wider Gulf region and markets. This will enable Oman to reap continuous benefits even after the Hormuz crisis ends. It will also attract massive investments for strategic road and railway projects linking the Gulf states to Oman, and oil and gas pipeline projects that bypass the Strait of Hormuz, like the one with

India. Oman will definitely aim to preserve the economic and geopolitical gains it achieved in the war.

THE FUJAIHRAH TERMINAL

Other countries, too, are hedging. For many like the UAE, whose economy depends majorly on energy exports, it is an existential threat. The world has lost 1 billion barrels of oil due to Iran's closure of the Strait, according to Dr Sultan Al Jaber, the UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology. Therefore, the country is now accelerating the construction of the West-East oil pipeline to double its oil export capacity to 4 million barrels per day by 2027 via the port of Fujairah, which lies around 70 nautical miles outside the Strait of Hormuz. The Fujairah Oil Terminal FZC (FOT) is a premier, 1.177 million cubic meter independent onshore storage facility in the UAE, specialising in crude oil and refined products. With the disruptions in Hormuz, its strategic significance for global supply through it has increased manifold. This is just as significant for India, as the Fujairah oil terminal can still send supplies to us while also ramping up oil production. According to data, UAE oil exports to India rose to around 619,000 barrels per day in April this year, a 43% increase from previous averages.

SAUDI AND IRAQI LOOK ELSEWHERE, TOO

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's second largest oil producer has, similarly, diverted exports through its port of Yanbu on the Red Sea, via its East-West Pipeline. It consists of twin pipes that carry oil more than 1,200 km from the Abqaiq oil field in the Kingdom's Eastern Province to Yanbu. Interestingly, this pipeline, also known as Petrolina, was built in 1981 during the Iran-Iraq war as an emergency route, with the singular objective of bypassing the Strait of Hormuz to avoid any crisis there and promote energy security. That has now paid off, with the pipeline reported to be operating at full capacity. In fact, Saudi exports of jet fuel to Europe through Yanbu has actually increased after the war broke out this year.

Like them, Iraq, another major oil producer, is also diversifying. As a major exporter through Hormuz, the Strait's closure has made it look elsewhere. It has begun exporting oil through Syria's Baniyas oil port, since early April. Iraqi fuel crossed through the Al-Tanf border crossing into Syrian territory, where from Baniyas on the Mediterranean coast Iraqi oil will make its way to global markets. With Syria's stabilisation and reconstruction, this route is sure to become a permanent one for at least some of Iraq's oil exports even after Hormuz reopens.

TWO UNINTENDED BENEFICIARIES

An unhappy fallout of the closure of Hormuz has been that it is essentially Asian markets that have been affected the most. These relied most on supplies through the strait, unlike, say, Israel, which together with the US began the war. While the US has benefited from oil sales, countries like India, Japan, South Korea have been vulnerable to the Hormuz crisis. They, too, have been looking for alternatives and have turned to non-traditional sources.

Two such "non-traditional" sources that have become beneficiaries are Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. On May 2, a Japan Times report noted how a tanker carrying some 45,000 kilolitres of crude oil from Azerbaijan arrived at an Eneos refinery in Yokohama, quoting officials at Eneos. The shipment of Azerbaijan oil arrived in Japan for the first time as it sought to diversify supply sources. Like India, Japan had also imported mostly Middle Eastern crude, and now has also procured US and Russian oil. This marks a major shift in its energy procurement as it diversifies its supply chains. It also stands to reason that once Hormuz reopens, Japan will no longer be totally reliant on the supplies through that route, at least not as much as pre-war levels. It has now also turned to Kazakhstan as an alternate source, which, logistically, will be cheaper for procurement than Middle-Eastern supplies. Kazakhstan has also become a beneficiary of the Hormuz crisis. The loss of Middle-Eastern oil in global markets has translated into a surge in demand for Kazakh oil, and disruption in traditional trade routes has meant greater traffic along the country's Middle Corridor or the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, which traverses through Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, and the South Caucasus to reach Turkey, Black Sea and Mediterranean ports to Europe. Kazakhstan has ramped up supplies to European markets as well as to Japan and countries like Bangladesh. Jihad Azour, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Middle East and Central Asia Department, recently described Central Asia as a "transit hedge", offering alternative routes for trade and energy flows amid rising geopolitical uncertainty.

Telangana: Emerging as India's Annapurna

The true measure of a state's progress lies in the welfare of its farmers. A prosperous farming community strengthens the rural economy, and a robust rural economy, in turn, accelerates overall development. Telangana's remarkable transformation in the agricultural sector stands as a testament to this enduring truth. Once known for irrigation challenges, market uncertainties and agrarian distress, the state has today emerged as one of the most significant contributors to India's food security, earning the distinction of being the nation's modern-day "Annapurna." The scale of Telangana's achievement is reflected in the numbers. During the 2025-26 financial year, the state recorded a historic procurement of 15 million tonnes of paddy. More significantly, Rs.35,537 crore was directly transferred into the bank accounts of 2.643 million farmers, ensuring that agricultural prosperity translated into tangible economic gains at the grassroots level. These figures are not merely statistics; they represent a governance model that prioritizes the farmer and recognizes agriculture as the backbone of economic growth.

For decades, farmers across India have struggled with issues ranging from delayed payments and exploitative middlemen to inadequate procurement infrastructure. Telangana has sought to address these challenges through a systematic and farmer-centric approach. The establishment of procurement centres at the village level, transparent purchasing mechanisms, and technology-driven payment systems have significantly reduced the burden on cultivators. Farmers are no longer compelled to travel long distances to market yards or wait endlessly for their dues. Payments are being credited directly to their accounts within 48 to 72 hours of procurement,



instilling confidence in the agricultural ecosystem. A major factor behind this success has been the extensive network of 8,575 paddy procurement centres established across the state. By taking procurement closer to the farmer, the government has reduced transportation costs, minimized dependence on intermediaries, and ensured that cultivators receive fair compensation for their produce. The efficiency demonstrated by the administrative machinery at the grassroots level has played a critical role in making the procurement process seamless and farmer-friendly. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, agriculture has emerged as a central pillar of public policy. The government's commitment to farmer welfare is evident in its efforts to streamline procurement, strengthen market access and ensure timely financial support. The coordinated efforts of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy have further reinforced the state's capacity to manage procurement, transportation, storage, milling and payments with remarkable efficiency. However, Telangana's agricultural success did not materialize overnight. It is the outcome of sustained investments in irrigation infrastructure, rural development, agricultural support systems and market reforms. The expansion of irrigation facilities, reliable power supply to the farm sector, improved rural connectivity and enhanced access to technology have collectively transformed Telangana into one of the country's leading food-producing states.

At the same time, the state



must prepare for the challenges of the future. Agricultural growth cannot rely solely on paddy cultivation. Climate variability, water sustainability concerns and changing market demands necessitate greater diversification. Encouraging farmers to cultivate pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops can reduce dependence on water-intensive farming while enhancing income opportunities. Equally important is the expansion of agro-processing industries in rural areas, which can create value addition, generate employment and increase farmers' share in the agricultural value chain. The infusion of thousands of crores into farmers' accounts is already generating positive ripple effects across rural Telangana. Increased purchasing power is stimulating local markets, strengthening small businesses and creating new avenues of employment. When farmers prosper, the benefits extend far beyond individual households; they strengthen the entire rural economy and contribute to broader social and economic development.

At a time when agriculture faces multiple challenges across the country, Telangana offers an instructive example of what can be achieved through effective governance and political commitment. The state's experience demonstrates that when farmers are assured of market support, timely payments and responsive administration, agricultural productivi-

ty and rural prosperity can rise simultaneously.

Yet, sustaining this momentum will require a long-term vision. Enhancing storage infrastructure, promoting agricultural exports, strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and encouraging value-added agricultural products must become policy priorities. Building resilience against climate change and ensuring sustainable income growth for farmers will be critical to maintaining Telangana's leadership in agriculture. The record procurement of 15 million tonnes of paddy is ultimately the result of the hard work of millions of farmers. It is also the product of a governance framework that respects their labour, values their produce and places their welfare at the centre of development policy. This combination of farmer effort and administrative commitment has positioned Telangana not merely as a state with high agricultural output, but as a crucial pillar of India's food security. A prosperous farmer is the foundation of a prosperous state. Telangana's recent achievements demonstrate that when governments place farmers at the heart of their development agenda, transformative outcomes are possible. By ensuring value for every grain produced, guaranteeing timely payments and strengthening rural livelihoods, Telangana is charting a path that other states may well seek to emulate. If this commitment continues with the same determination and foresight, Telangana will not only remain a leading contributor to the nation's food basket but also emerge as a national model for farmer welfare and agricultural governance. In giving practical meaning to the age-old belief that "the farmer is king," Telangana is steadily reinforcing its identity as the true Annapurna of India.

Setbacks Have Followed Since 2024, but INDIA Looks Ahead

All the criticism at the INDIA bloc meeting of June 8 in New Delhi was, appropriately, directed at Rahul Gandhi - and this points to his centrality to the grouping, not just to his party. This had not been evident in January 2023, at the inaugural meet of INDIA in Patna, although the senior Congress leader was then just coming off his 4,000-km long Bharat Jodo Yatra which established his credentials as the signifier of the opposition. What has brought clarity now is Gandhi's relentless ideological energy and drive, his unerring homing in to challenge the Hindutva ideology which, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is being sought to be made the nerve centre of the nation's political life, its new point of departure and the new narrative that permeates the country. Hindutva in the Modi scheme and domain seeks incessantly to negate the influence or even the reality of India's anti-colonial freedom struggle which defined and crowned composite Indian nationalism as modern India's leitmotif. Hindutva, in contrast, aims to make the country's religious minorities suspect, and thus to disable India emotionally, socially, materially. It is Gandhi's defining characteristic of challenging the regime's ideological edifice paired with his conceptual clarity on, and sharp intellectual analysis of, key national issues pertaining to nearly every aspect in the public sphere, which keeps his own



party going. And in turn it is the Congress which, not wholly but in large measure, binds opponents of the BJP together - no matter that they have grouses against the party based on local political grievances or circumstances or perceptions. This was revealed amply on June 6, as was the aspect that the Congress remained the fulcrum of the nation's opposition dynamics (and hence is the primary focus of regime attacks). In fact, the INDIA meeting after a hiatus of two years was called at the request of former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee in her hour of despair. It is useful to pay heed to CPI(M)'s John Brittas who pithily summed up the expectations from Congress. He pointed to something that is subtle, relevant, and catches the essence of INDIA. The Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala said that while the Congress-CPI (M) political competition in Kerala was understandable,

there would be no issue if a Congress leader from Kerala, such as K.C. Venugopal, the influential Congress general secretary, politically sought to take on the Left in the state. However, the complexion of the Congress' criticism/opposition - indeed the spirit of it - changed if it came from Rahul Gandhi (or Congress president Mallikajurna Kharge) who, in the ideological sense, is the progenitor of INDIA. The tremendous national enthusiasm generated by Gandhi's long march, and the coalescing of anti-regime grievances from all parts of the country at the time, provided the moment - and the scaffolding - for the subsequent coming together of opposition voices, their contradictions notwithstanding. What had been brought forth in 2023 was the idea of a national coordinated opposition to the Narendra Modi government in parliament. For that reason, the criticism Brittas makes applies to all states,

although now it is only in Kerala that two INDIA constituents compete for power. For all the serious setbacks INDIA has faced in the two years since its spectacular showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, which reduced the Narendra Modi government to a minority in the parliament from its earlier lofty numbers, bloc leaders noted at the meet that the Congress remained the glue to hold the framework together. CPI (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation leader Dipankar Bhattacharya put it with finesse when he said that INDIA needed to move from being (just) an "idea" to becoming an "identity". The first necessary step in this direction, of course, is to work to make composite Indian nationalism prevail over religion-based ideas of pseudo-nationalism which are taking India back centuries. That triumph is a necessary condition for national advance, but not a sufficient one.

Oil prices fall and shares jump after US-Iran deal announced

Oil prices have fallen and shares risen after the US and Iran said they had agreed a framework deal to end the war, which US President Donald Trump said would see the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz shipping route. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 4.7% to \$83.24 (\$61.94) a barrel, and shares in Asia and Europe jumped in reaction to the deal. Pakistan, which has been mediating an end to the US-Iran war, said an official signing ceremony would be held on Friday, 19 June in Switzerland. Iran's deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi confirmed in a phone call on state TV that a deal with the US had been finalised, while Trump posted on social media "let the oil flow". But Vandana Hari from energy markets analysis firm Vanda Insights said a lack of detail on what has been agreed was "likely to inject unease and uncertainty into the market". This could mean a week of uncertainty and volatility for the oil market, she added. The Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed since shortly after the US and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran on 28 February. After the conflict began, Tehran



threatened to attack vessels using the crucial waterway, through which around 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) normally passes. Global energy markets have been on a wild ride in recent months, with prices often rising or falling sharply in response to developments in the US-Israel war with Iran. Brent crude, which was trading at around \$70 a barrel before the conflict started, peaked at about \$120 during the war. Asian stock markets surged on Monday as investors welcomed the framework deal.

Japan's Nikkei 225 share index closed 5% higher, while the Kospi in South Korea ended up 5.2%. The region was hit particularly hard by higher energy prices as it is heavily reliant on the Middle East for its oil and LNG supplies. In Europe, both Germany's Dax and France's C40 indexes were up by about 1.7% and in London the FTSE 100 rose 0.6%. Energy market experts have also warned that the movement of oil through the strait is unlikely to immediately return to pre-war levels. Andrew Lipow from consult-

ing company Lipow Oil Associates said mines would first need to be cleared from the waterway, which could take from a few weeks to up to six months. He also said there is a large backlog of tankers waiting to use the waterway and that restarting oil production and getting the loading of ships back to normal levels could take weeks. Admiral Mark Montgomery, a retired US Navy rear admiral and senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defence of Democracies, told the BBC's Today programme that getting back to

normal would not be "an overnight thing". "I would say that's going to take a month or 45 days to kind of fully get till you're at a normal pumping balance, and vessels moving in and out smoothly," he said. "The market has bought time, but the reality is that inventories are a lot lower," Wirth said in an interview Friday, referring to backup sources of energy like the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. "We've moved from comfortable inventories under normal times to what would soon be uncomfortable," Wirth told Bloomberg. "I think that's the real question is, 'How much longer can these measures kind of ameliorate the risk?' At some point they may not be able to." Wirth suggested that efforts to offset even higher oil prices by dipping into strategic reserves could begin to lose their impact by July. "The evidence would say you shouldn't fully believe" any announcement of an Iran deal "until you see the agreement signed and the actions come into effect." Meanwhile, shipowners, insurers and vessel crews will need to be convinced that it is safe to pass through the Strait of Hormuz before full-scale maritime transit could resume.

Lanka Premier League promoters IPG Group announce multimillion-Dollar strategic funding from Nasdaq-listed partner

June 15, 2026: The Season 6 of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) is about to roll on 10th July, and right before that the league has got a major financial booster. LPL promoters, the Innovative Production Group FZ, LLC ("IPG") has received multi-million-dollar funding support from a United States based listed entity. IPG has completed its strategic all-stock merger with Flash Sports & Media, Inc. ("Flash") bringing its portfolio of T20 league commercial rights — including the LPL to the NASDAQ-listed platform UGRO (NASDAQ: UGRO). The move marks a significant moment for IPG and the leagues it manages, positioning them within a publicly governed structure built for scale. Backed by this new institutional structure, IPG will invest USD 20 Million to carve out bigger and better version of LPL over next two years. For the LPL, the transition signals the start of a more structured and growth-driven phase. While the LPL remains, intellectual property owned by Sri Lanka Cricket, IPG continues to hold exclusive commer-

cial and media rights — now backed by institutional capital, enhanced governance standards, and long-term expansion planning. Anil Mohan, Founder & Chairman of IPG Global, said: "LPL will be the biggest beneficiary of this new development. The integration into a publicly governed structure strengthens our ability to scale the league responsibly. With enhanced transparency, capital access, and governance standards, we are positioned to grow franchise value while maintaining long-term commercial discipline." Other than LPL, the IPG Group has long term exclusive agreements to develop Malaysia and Zimbabwe T20 leagues. IPG and the investors has also outlined expansion plans into these new leagues, extending its footprint across these high-growth cricket markets. The aim is to evolve standalone tournaments into an integrated, multi-market cricket enterprise spanning South Asia and other emerging territories. Bradley Natrass, Chief Executive Officer, Flash Sports & Media shares: "We believe this combina-

tion accelerates our ability to execute across multiple cricket economies simultaneously. With centralized commercial control and aligned franchise incentives, we intend to drive deeper sponsor integration, stronger broadcast partnerships, and greater fan engagement across markets. Our focus now is on operational execution, scaling the platform with speed and precision, and long-term shareholder value creation." Eric Sherb, Chief Financial Officer, Flash Sports & Media, added: "The public-market structure enables phased capital deployment into league infrastructure while maintaining strict ROI discipline. Our focus will be on strengthening long-term commercial development and building recurring revenue streams across the portfolio. The aim is to create combined platform for commercial monetization. The IPG has announced that the focus will be on long-term asset appreciation, centralizing sponsorship revenue across leagues, upgrading broadcast production to 4K standards, and creating predictable recurring revenue streams.

Ai+ Smartphone Turns Launch Into Open Trial: Nova2 Neo & Pro Reviewed Before Retail

No Embargo. No Talking Points. No Influencer Kits. No Sale Until Reviewers Have Spoken.

New Delhi, India June, 2026: In a first-of-its-kind move for the Indian smartphone industry, Ai+ Smartphone today announced that it will send its upcoming Nova2 Neo and Nova2 Pro smartphones to reviewers, creators, journalists, and members of the technology community across India before we open sales for trusted consumers - critique and review the devices without restrictions. In an industry built around launch events, Ai+ Smartphone is choosing something different - A conversation before a campaign, Feedback before a sale and Consumers before marketing "At a time when product launches are often accompanied by carefully controlled narratives, Ai+ is taking a different approach: putting consumer interest ahead of launch-day marketing. We don't want validation. We want unbiased feedback for user benefits," said Madhav Sheth, CEO of Ai+ Smartphone and Founder of NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. There will be no embargo, no review guide-



Ai+ NOVA SMARTPHONE
Project Open Review
Nova 2 Neo 5G | Nova 2 Pro 5G
NO Embargo.
NO Review Guidelines.
NO Influencer Kits.
NO Sale until feedback.

lines, no scripted messaging and no curated launch experiences and most importantly, the devices will not go on sale until reviewers have had seven days to share their feedback. Reviewers are being encouraged to test every aspect of the devices — from hardware and software performance to cameras, battery life, data transfer, reliability, and overall user experience. "As a young brand, we are still learning, still improving, and still earning consumer trust every day. If there is something we've missed, we'd rather hear it

from reviewers before consumers spend their money. That's why Nova2 Neo and Nova2 Pro will not go on sale until this feedback window is complete," added Madhav Sheth. Reviewers will be free to publish their opinions immediately at their own will once they receive the device within 7 days. Positive feedback, critical feedback, and everything in between will be welcomed by the brand as part of its commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. The reviews will be available realtime on the

brands website for everyone to view the feedback. The initiative reflects Ai+ Smartphone's belief that the future of technology must be built through Accountability, Transparency, and a willingness to listen. The Nova2 Neo and Nova2 Pro represent the next expansion of the Nova Series portfolio positioned under the Nova2 Ultra bringing the Nova experience to a wider audience while continuing Ai+'s mission of making technology more accessible, transparent, and trustworthy.

Stock markets surge tracking global rally, drop in oil prices

Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Monday, June 15, mirroring a rally in global equities and a sharp decline in crude oil prices, after the US and Iran finalised a deal to end their 107-day war. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,112.70 points to 76,648.74 in early deals. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 335.55 points to 23,956.40. The US and Iran finalised a deal to end their 107-day war and open the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway used to ferry one-fifth of the global oil supplies, on Friday after an in-person signing of the agreement in Switzerland. US President Donald Trump made the announcement on Truth Social on Sunday evening, easing pressure on the global energy markets, as officials said the peace agreement would be signed on June 19 in Switzerland. From the 30-Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Eternal, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, and



Larsen & Toubro were among the major winners. Sun Pharma emerged as the only laggard from the blue-chip pack. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 4.55 per cent to USD 83.36 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi jumped nearly 6 per cent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed more than 5 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's

Hang Seng index were also quoting higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Friday. "With the dawn of peace in West Asia, hopefully, and the consequent sharp correction in Brent crude to below USD 84 in early trade, the prospects for the Indian economy and stock market have turned for the better," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments

Limited, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,082.18 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the Sensex jumped 1,695.40 points, or 2.30 per cent, to settle at 75,527.95. The Nifty ended sharply higher by 461.30 points, or 1.99 per cent, at 23,622.90. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,112.70 points to 76,648.74 in early deals.

Vedanta Creates History; Lists Four Independent Companies at BSE and NSE

Mumbai, June 15, 2026: Vedanta Group today marked a defining milestone in Indian corporate history with the listing of four newly demerged companies on the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange). The landmark listing creates a portfolio of focused, world-class businesses spanning strategic metals, critical minerals, aluminium, oil & gas, power, and iron & steel sectors. These businesses sit at the centre of India's long-term industrial, infrastructure and self-reliance ambitions. The listing of Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel and Vedanta Power, represents the culmination of a future-ready transformation designed to unlock value, sharpen business focus and create sector leaders aligned with India's emergence as a global economic and manufacturing powerhouse. These newly listed entities begin trading today alongside Vedanta Limited, the Group's flagship listed entity anchored by Hindustan Zinc and a globally significant portfolio of

critical minerals businesses. **SPEAKING AT THE LISTING CEREMONY, MR. ANIL AGARWAL, CHAIRMAN, VEDANTA GROUP, SAID:** "Today is a historic day for Vedanta, and a deeply emotional one for me. 24 years ago, Vedanta became the first Indian company to list on the London Stock Exchange and went on to become a FTSE100 company. The seed we sowed that day has grown into a vast banyan tree, and the saplings nurtured under it are now ready to become giants in key sectors and contribute significantly to India's rapid growth. The next stage of unprecedented growth is now being unveiled here in Mumbai, the city where my own business journey began. Throughout our journey, we have been deeply committed to our shareholders. Over the last five years, we have delivered a total shareholder return of more than 300 per cent, nearly five times the return of the Nifty, while also providing a cumulative dividend yield of over 70 per cent. Tomorrow's economy, with AI, advanced manufacturing



and energy transition at the forefront, is going to be highly mineral, metals and energy intensive. Today, India imports 50 percent of its requirements. Tomorrow we must be self-sufficient. The companies we have listed today will play a significant role in bridging the huge demand-supply gap for these vital raw materials. These companies have been built to serve the nation for genera-

tions, create long-term value for shareholders, strengthen India's self-reliance and support its ambition of Viksit Bharat. But the next chapter of Vedanta's growth cannot be written by us alone. It will require the trust of our shareholders, the support of the government, and the aspirations and partnership of 1.5 billion Indians. There is no place like India. And this is India's time."

A NEW CHAPTER FOR INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL FUTURE
The listing comes at a time when India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. Demand for the essential materials that power modern economies, including oil & gas, gold, silver, zinc, aluminium, iron and steel, copper and coal, is expected to grow

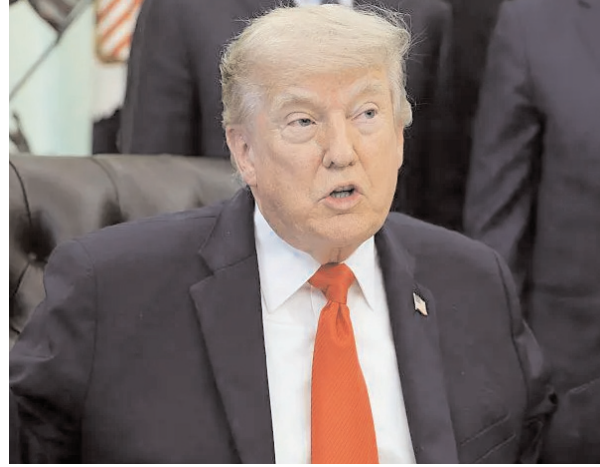
sharply as India accelerates its journey towards becoming a developed economy. Against this backdrop, Vedanta's businesses are positioned at the centre of one of the largest industrial growth opportunities of our time. Together, they will support India's aspirations across energy security, infrastructure creation, high-tech manufacturing, digitalisation, AI-led growth, electric mobility, green technologies,

energy transition and long-term national development. **VEDANTA ALUMINIUM (BSE: 544780 & NSE: VAML) - BUILDING A GLOBAL ALUMINIUM CHAMPION** Vedanta Aluminium begins its independent journey as India's largest aluminium producer and the third-largest globally outside China. It is anchored by the world's largest aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, Odisha. What began with just 1 lakh tonnes of production at BALCO has grown into a 30 lakh tonnes per annum business, making Vedanta one of the world's largest and lowest-cost aluminium producers. The company plans to double capacity to 60 lakh tonnes per annum over the next three years, with a clear ambition to become the world's largest and lowest-cost, fully integrated aluminium producer. Beyond primary metal production, Vedanta Aluminium aims to foster the growth of thousands of downstream industries and manufacturing enterprises, supporting India's broader industrialisation agenda.

VEDANTA OIL & GAS (BSE: 382914 & NSE: VOGL) - FUELING INDIA'S ENERGY SECURITY Vedanta Oil & Gas enters the market as India's largest private-sector oil and gas producer and one of the country's most strategically important energy businesses. With India expected to witness some of the strongest growth in hydrocarbon demand globally over the coming decade, the company is uniquely positioned to support the nation's energy security ambitions and reduce import dependence. Entering its next phase of growth with a debt-free balance sheet, the company combines financial strength with significant operational scale and resource potential. Vedanta plans to invest approximately US\$5 billion over the next three to five years to scale production to 500,000 barrels per day at globally competitive costs. Its growth portfolio spans tight oil, shale gas, shallow-water and deep-water assets, satellite fields as well as significant acreage in Assam and the North-East - the region where Asia's first oil well was drilled.

Iran and US agree deal to end war as Trump says Strait of Hormuz will be reopened

Ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic this morning shows there are more than 230 tankers and 250 cargo ships in the Gulf west of the Strait of Hormuz alongside large numbers of smaller vessels such as fishing boats and tugs. Only a minority of tracked tankers appear to be fully laden with cargo while most are empty or partially loaded. About 70% of the tankers in the data are stationary rather than moving. Many are gathered near major oil export terminals in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE. Most have remained in the Gulf over the past month. The total number of vessels in the area is likely to be higher, as many ships are not broadcasting their location and do not appear in the data. Natural gas prices in the UK have fallen by around 6% since the US-Iran deal was announced. But at around 110p per therm, they remain about 50% higher than they were before the conflict, and there is still plenty of uncertainty in the market. Qatar is normally a major producer of liquefied natural gas, or LNG. The loss of those supplies due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has increased competition for shipments from elsewhere, and pushed up prices in Europe. Even though the UK gets only a small part of its gas from Qatar, the knock on effect of the reduction in global supplies has been significant. If Qatari shipments resume, pressure on prices should ease. But it will take time. Getting an LNG production 'train' up and running is a complicated process that can take up to a month. Then transporting the gas to where it's needed can take several weeks. So experts say it could be six weeks from when the process begins before the new supplies become available. In the meantime Europe is working to refill its reserves in preparation for next winter, which is keeping demand relatively high. This was always a three-



party war, and Trump told the Wall Street Journal on Sunday that he was furious at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for ordering strikes on Lebanon this weekend that he believed might torpedo the almost-completed Iran deal. The deal held - at least long enough for it to be publicly announced. But if Israel begins new military operations in Lebanon, Iran could decide to close Hormuz again

and again jeopardise the global economy. Energy market experts warned that moving of oil through the strait is unlikely to immediately return to pre-war levels. Clearing a large backlog of tankers, removing mines and restoring regular oil shipping and production could take weeks. At minimum, however, Sunday's deal should help alleviate, if not entirely remove, some of the economic strain from the ongoing conflict. Far-right Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich says the deal is "bad for Israel and for the entire free world". He says Israel "will have to continue the campaign to bring down the regime ourselves" and "ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons," in a post on X, translated by the AFP news agency. "The joint [US-Israeli] campaign achieved many successes in weakening Iran, and those achievements have not been in vain," Smotrich says. Earlier, far-right Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also criticised the deal, and said: "We are not partners to this agreement that does not ensure our security, and it does not bind us in any way." Like Ben-Gvir, Smotrich has had sanctions imposed on him by the UK and other countries for "repeated incitements of violence against Palestinian communities". The front-page headline of Israel's biggest selling daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth this morning was "Confrontation". Not between the US and Iran, but between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. America and its strongest ally in the Middle East are not on the same page when it comes to this deal. Israel was told, not consulted. In a conversation with the New York Times last night, President Trump called Netanyahu "a very difficult guy". Under pressure in the opinion polls at home and with mid-term congressional elections coming up in November, Trump has clearly been keen to bring an end to this unpopular and costly war. But in Israel, Netanyahu has been under pressure to keep it going. He is also facing elections in a few months' time which opinion polls suggest could see an end to his time in office and increase the likelihood of him being jailed on corruption charges which he denies.

South African TV star arrested after allegedly kidnapping man in girlfriend dispute

South African TV presenter and rapper Molemo Maorohanye, also known as Jub Jub, has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a taxi driver and shooting a gun in his direction. Maorohanye is said to have confronted the driver in Edenvale, a town roughly 25 km (16m) from Johannesburg, accusing him of forming a relationship with his girlfriend. According to the police, Maorohanye allegedly forced the unnamed man into his vehicle on Sunday and fired his gun towards him. The man escaped unharmed and immediately drove to a nearby police station, the police statement says. Maorohanye has not yet commented. The alleged confrontation took place at 07:30 local time (05:30 GMT), after the driver had dropped off a passenger. Maorohanye, who was at one time one of South Africa's most popular musicians, will appear in Germiston Magistrate's Court on Wednesday for an initial hearing, police say. It is not his first encounter with the



law - in 2012 he was convicted of murder and attempted murder after killing four schoolchildren and wounding two others while drag-racing. South Africa's high court overturned the verdicts two years later, convicting Maorohanye of manslaughter instead. In 2023, the musician was arrested on charges of rape, attempted murder and assault following allegations made by an ex-girlfriend. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) withdrew the charges in 2024, as there were "no reasonable prospects of a successful prosecution". Maorohanye currently presents Uyajola 9/9, a reality TV show that attempts to expose cheating partners.

UK announces sweeping social media ban for under-16s



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday he would ban social media sites for under-16s and impose restrictions on gaming and livestreaming platforms, in some of the world's most far-reaching online restrictions to date. The sweeping changes will reflect Britain's values, helping to protect children online while pushing back against the power of big technology companies, Starmer told a press conference. "It is clear to me a full ban is the right choice," he said. "This will change the conversations that parents have and the expectations of children over time. It will make a huge difference, it will make our children safer, it will make our children happier, it will give them more time, more security, more freedom to grow up, more opportunity". As well as a ban on sites such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, he said he would take action against gaming and livestreaming services

that allow children to talk to strangers. "Is there a situation in the offline world where you would just let your child pair up with a stranger, an adult that you don't know anything about? No, so we're taking action on that," Starmer said. The government already has the powers to take the first steps in any ban, he said, with regulation to follow by the end of the year and a prohibition in place around next spring. Britain has increasingly toughened its approach to tech companies in recent years, urging or forcing them to impose age verification, adapt their algorithms and, most recently, prevent children from circulating nude images taken on mobile phones. But with a growing awareness of the mental health risks posed by children spending too much time online, Starmer has decided to go further after speaking to parents and considering evidence from Australia.

A MAN WAS JAILED FOR MURDER. 15 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, HE WILL GET A RETRIAL

Tokyo — When a Japanese court granted Hiromu Sakahara a retrial, there was no defendant in the dock celebrating the prospect of freedom. Instead, family members gathered around his grave to share news that he had longed to hear in life after a decades-long fight for justice. Sakahara died in 2011 while serving a life sentence for murdering a store manager in the rural town of Hino in 1984 - based on a confession that he said was forced. A rare posthumous retrial is expected to begin soon, but the long delays in Sakahara's case added momentum to calls for reform to speed up the excruciatingly long process people must go through to seek redress in Japan. "I regret that we could not save



my father from prison," his son Koji Sakahara told CNN. "While I am happy about the decision to grant a retrial, it's still incredibly painful," said Koji, now 64 with hair that's turned grey during the long campaign to prove his father's innocence. Japan has a reputation for "hostage justice," a term used to describe the detention of suspects for questioning.

Norwegian crown princess's son found guilty of two counts of rape

Marius Borg Høiby, the 29-year-old son of Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit, has been found guilty of two counts of rape and sentenced to four years in prison. The three judges in courtroom 250 at Oslo District Court cleared him of two other counts of rape, but found him guilty of many of the other offences of which he had been accused. Høiby was not in court for the verdict for unspecified health reasons, but joined the session via video link. Prosecutors had called for Høiby to be given seven years and seven months in prison. His defence lawyers had called for a lesser term of 18 months and have said he intends to appeal. Even though Marius Borg Høiby is not himself a royal figure, the trial has cast



a shadow over the broader royal family. His mother married Crown Prince Haakon when he was four, and he grew up within the family. The palace has said it will not comment on Monday's verdict. Mette-Marit is very ill with a form of pulmonary fibrosis and has recently been placed on a

lung transplant list. Her son's lawyers have repeatedly sought his release from prison so he could spend time with his mother because of her declining health. After the verdict, Høiby's defence lawyer Petar Sekulic again asked the court for his release. Although Oslo district court initially

granted his release last week, the decision was overturned by the court of appeal. One of the three judges in the trial, Judge Jon Sverdrup Eijestad, began the session early on Monday with a summary of their conclusions, before going into a 128-page ruling explaining the verdict. Høiby had denied all four counts of rape, but the judges convicted him of raping two women, including one on the Crown Prince's estate at Skaugum in 2018 and another involving a woman in Oslo in 2024. He was also convicted of abusing an ex-girlfriend, Norwegian influencer Nora Haukland and of causing serious bodily harm to another partner, in whose flat he was arrested in the upmarket Frogner area of Oslo in August 2024.

BRAZIL WOMAN DIES AFTER ROPE-JUMPING INSTRUCTORS FAIL TO ATTACH CORD

A woman has died in what appears to be a tragic extreme sports accident in Brazil. Three men have been arrested over the incident, in which instructors failed to attach a rope to her before helping her jump from a bridge in São Paulo state. Footage went viral over the weekend of Maria Eduarda Rodrigues de Freitas being carried to the edge of the abandoned bridge before being let go on Saturday. She fell 40m (130ft) and emergency services pronounced her dead at the scene. Police are now investigating whether the men are culpable of homicide with eventual intent - when someone does not have the direct intention



but assumes the risk of killing - local news site Globo reports. The incident happened in Ponte do Esqueleto, on the border of Limeira and Cordeirópolis, in the interior of São Paulo, Brazil. In the footage posted on social media, two men in white helmets can be seen holding

Freitas was buried the following day. Rope-jumping is an extreme sport that differs from bungee jumping. It uses low-stretch climbing ropes that convert the fall into a horizontal, pendulum swing, while bungee jumping uses an elastic rubber cord that creates a vertical, bouncing effect. The bridge, called "Skeleton Bridge" has been abandoned for years and falls under responsibility of the federal government. Brazil's Secretariat of Federal Assets (SPU) said it was "available to assist the authorities in the investigations". The City Hall of Limeira (SP) announced it would sue the federal government for failing to adequately manage the bridge.

US MUSICIAN OLIVER TREE DIES IN HELICOPTER COLLISION IN BRAZIL



The alt-pop US musician and internet personality Oliver Tree was among six people who died when the helicopter he was travelling in collided with another in Brazil. The 32-year-old had been on a world tour when the crash occurred over Rio de Janeiro on Sunday. One of the helicopters then fell onto the car park of a dealership, setting around 20 vehicles ablaze. Footage published by Brazilian media shows one of the helicopters dropping from the sky, as well as flames and thick smoke rising from the crash site. Authorities say an investigation into the cause of the collision is now under way. The Military Fire Department of the State of Rio de Janeiro said it was called to the crash site around 09:00 local time (12:00 GMT). Argentine content creator Gaspar Prim Diaz - also known as Gaspi -

was also believed to have been in one of the helicopters, according to the Associated Press. The other passengers on the helicopter's manifest were Lucas Brito Chaves, Lucas Vignale and pilot Alexandre Souza. The crew manifest for the second aircraft lists only the pilot, Charles Marsillac. Tree - born Oliver Tree Nickell in Santa Cruz, California in 1993 - first rose to fame in 2016 after going viral on social media. With his distinctive bowl haircut, he was known for hits including Life Goes On, Miss You and Alien Boy. Tree had just begun a world tour, with his most recent show in São Paulo, Brazil on 6 June. He was next scheduled to perform in Lisbon, in Portugal, on 1 July and had been due to play dates in Glasgow, Manchester and London in September.



Russian strikes kill 11 and set historic cathedral in Kyiv ablaze

China detains two leaders of influential underground church



An influential Protestant church in China has said two of its leaders were detained after more than dozens of congregants, including children, were rounded up for interrogation. They were midway through Sunday service in the south-western city of Jiangyou, when armed police officers stormed the room they were in. Early Rain Covenant said in a statement on Monday. Founded in 2008 in Chengdu city, the church has long been on the

Chinese Communist Party's radar given how religion is tightly controlled in the region. Founding pastor Wang Yi was detained in a raid in December 2018 and is serving a nine-year jail term for "inciting subversion of state power" and "illegal business operations". The grounds for detaining two of its leaders, Yan Hong and Wu Wuqing, on Sunday are still unclear, the church said in its statement posted on Telegram.



GAETHJE WINS AT TRUMP'S UFC WHITE HOUSE SHOW

Justin Gaethje provided the perfect ending for American fans at the White House as he shocked Ilia Topuria to win the UFC undisputed lightweight title. American Gaethje, 37, shrugged off his underdog tag as he stopped Topuria at the end of the fourth round to become undisputed champion for the first time. Gaethje hurt Topuria multiple times in a brutal contest as the Georgian-Spaniard retired on his stool before the fifth round for the first defeat of his 18-fight career. The one-of-a-kind show, billed as UFC Freedom 250, took place on US President Donald Trump's 80th birthday as part of celebrations to mark 250 years of American independence. After securing victory, which UFC commentator Joe Rogan called "one of the biggest upsets in the history of the sport", Gaethje did his signature backflip from the top of the cage before shaking hands



with Trump. In a rousing post-fight interview, Gaethje compared his underdog status to Americans who once fought for their country's independence. "I'm from America, 250 years ago we were way bigger than 6-1 dogs, and look at us thriving now," said Gaethje. "To all the current, former and future military service members, thank you so

much." In the co-main event, Ciry! Gane ended Alex Pereira's hopes of becoming the UFC's first three-division champion with a second-round stoppage in their interim heavyweight title fight. The White House has hosted recreational sports and events before, but the event on the South Lawn marked the first professional live sporting show to take

place on the grounds. There were worries in the build-up that thunderstorms in Washington DC could cause delays, and although rain postponed the start of the event by around half an hour, it ran smoothly from there. The show opened with President Trump and beaming UFC president Dana White walking through the White House to the Truman

Balcony overlooking the octagon, before a rendition of the national anthem took place while US Air Force jets cruised overhead. About 4,300 people watched the event on the South Lawn, most of whom were members of the US military, who chanted "USA" in support of the American fighters on the card. Trump watched the event octagon-side alongside White, while the United States Marine Band serenaded fighters during their walkouts, which started from inside the White House. Gaethje started his walkout in the Oval Office, where he took a moment to soak in the occasion, before walking past portraits of previous US presidents. Topuria, who is a former champion at featherweight before he moved up to claim the lightweight belt, struggled to impose the power he has shown in previous bouts as Gaethje traded shots in the first round.

Neeraj Chopra To Return To Action At Doha Diamond League

Fit-again Indian javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra will return to competitive action at the Doha Diamond League on June 19. The 28-year-old has been recuperating from a back injury which has prevented him from competing so far in the season. "First throw of 2026 lands in Doha! Neeraj Chopra returns to competitive action on June 19," his management firm Vel Sports announced on Instagram. Chopra is a late addition to the event as his name was not in the list announced by the organisers on June 12. In May last year, the two-time Olympic medallist India had breached the coveted 90m mark at the same venue. He had recorded 90.23m to finish second behind Julian Weber (91.06m) of Germany. Chopra was on Sunday named in India's athletics squad for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, subject to achiev-



ing the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) qualifying standard of 82.61m. The Doha Diamond League was to be originally held on May 8 as the season-opening event but was postponed due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

'Snicko' In FIFA World Cup 2026? Cricket Technology Makes Stunning Debut In Sweden vs Tunisia Clash

Sweden started their FIFA World Cup 2026 on the perfect note with a 5-1 win over Tunisia at the Stadio Monterrey on Monday. Yasin Ayari scored twice while Viktor Gyokeres, Mattias Svanberg and Alexander Isak scored one each to guide Sweden to a commendable victory. While the performance by Sweden was enough to grab headlines, what left fans buzzing was the use of 'Snicko' technology when it came to Svanberg's goal. It took just 18 seconds for the Swedish footballer to find the back of the net after coming on as a substitute as he latched onto a Yasin Ayari set-piece. However, the goal was denied by the assistant referee who ruled



it to be offside - a decision that left the Swedish dugout fuming as they argued that the ball touched Isak before falling to Svanberg. In order to check the deflection, the officials used a ball contact technology which is extremely similar to the 'Snicko' used in cricket. The ball showed a clear spike when it came close to Isak

and as a result, the goal was allowed. Tunisia head coach Sabri Lamouchi called the team's FIFA World Cup 2026 opener loss against Sweden "difficult" and "painful". His team suffered a 1-5 loss to Sweden on Sunday (Local Time) as only Omar Rekik was able to find the net. Tunisia endured a difficult outing,

with several costly mistakes proving decisive. Goalkeeper Mouhib Chamakh was responsible for Sweden's opening goal in the 18th minute after misjudging a long clearance, while captain Ellyes Skhiri committed an error that led directly to Viktor Gyokeres's strike in the 59th minute. In the match, Sweden's Yasin Ayari opened and completed the scoring, and substitute Mattias Svanberg also scored a goal. It was Alexander Isak and Gyokeres who consistently troubled Tunisia's back line throughout the match. For Tunisia, Rekik was the only name on the scoresheet. Speaking at the post-match press conference.

Wheelchair-Bound Japan Fan Collects Trash After FIFA World Cup Match, Wins Internet

Japan began their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign with a thrilling 2-2 draw against the Netherlands in a Group F clash on Sunday. Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk opened the scoring with a powerful header in the 51st minute, but Japan quickly responded through Keito Nakamura. Crysenio Summerville later restored the Dutch lead with a brilliant curled finish just after the hour mark. However, Japan had the final say as Daichi Kamada scored a dramatic last-minute equaliser to seal the draw. Amid the on-field excitement, a heartwarming gesture by Japanese fans won widespread praise. After the match, they stayed back to clean up the litter in the sta-



dium, a tradition they have consistently followed across venues. The moment became even more special at the Dallas stadium when a differently-abled fan joined in. In a video that went viral on social media, a wheelchair-bound Japanese supporter

was seen picking up trash in the stands, with others stepping in to assist him. The touching act quickly captured attention online and left fans deeply impressed. In another video shared by FIFA, a Japanese fan explained the reason behind

this practice. "It's about showing respect - to the players, the supporters, and even the stadium. We are honoured to be here, so we don't want to leave a mess behind," the fan said. Talking about the match, Japan and the Netherlands are missing key players through injury, but on paper this was still one of the more attractive fixtures in the group stage. Both have been touted as dark horses capable of going far at the tournament - the Dutch have been runners-up three times whereas Japan have never gone beyond the last 16. "We are not completely satisfied with the draw," said Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu, whose side face Tunisia on Saturday in a competitive-looking Group F.

Real Madrid Confirm Marc Cucurella Signing From Chelsea On Six-Year Deal



Real Madrid announced the signing of Spanish defender Marc Cucurella from Chelsea on Monday, for a fee reported to be 55 million euros (\$63.8 million). "Real Madrid and Chelsea have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Marc Cucurella, who will join our club for the next six seasons, until June 30, 2032," said Los Blancos in a statement. The 27-year-old left-back joined Chelsea from Brighton in 2022 after coming through La Liga champions Barcelona's academy and moving to Getafe. Cucurella is at the World Cup with Spain, and becomes the only Real Madrid player in Luis de la Fuente's squad. Real Madrid president

Florentino Perez was re-elected earlier in June, following two seasons without winning a major trophy and appointed Jose Mourinho as coach this week. Los Blancos are set to sign Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate at the end of his contract at Anfield and have been linked with Bernardo Silva and Inter Milan's Denzel Dumfries. Chelsea finished 10th in the Premier League last season in a disappointing campaign, with Cucurella critical of the decision to sack Enzo Maresca in January. Cucurella had two years left on his deal at Stamford Bridge, where he won the Club World Cup and UEFA Conference League in 2025.

World Cup "Less Joyful" For Iran As Team Lands In US For World Cup 2026 Match

Iran's coach Amir Ghalenoei said on Sunday political tensions and visa issues have damaged his side's preparations for the World Cup but insisted his players will not "pay attention to any of the hype." Iran have arrived at the tournament under the shadow of a bitter diplomatic row, after the United States - in military conflict with Iran for months - refused to issue visas for some team support staff. They play their opener against New Zealand in Los Angeles on Monday, marking the first time that a World Cup host has hosted a country with which it is at war. Protests are planned outside the stadium by members of the Iranian diaspora opposed to the nation's hardline regime, and there have been threats



that the Iran team could walk off the pitch if anti-government banners are displayed. "We are here to perform a good match, a high-quality match. We don't pay attention to any of the hype and anything that goes on around us," Ghalenoei said in a press conference in response to a question from AFP. "Naturally, all teams have their own problems, and in

many countries, many things happen that have nothing to do with football." The coach said his team are simply at the World Cup to "represent the respectful people of Iran, be it the Iranians inside Iran or the Iranian diaspora." "We are not political people... football is separate from politics," said Ghalenoei. The press conference took place barely an hour after a peace

deal between the US and Iran was announced, bringing an "immediate and permanent" end to military operations on all fronts. Controversy surrounding the Iran team has drawn headlines but is far from the only political issue affecting the World Cup that the US is co-hosting with Mexico and Canada. Somali referee Omar Artan was denied entry to the US for the World Cup, as have been many fans. "It's not just Iran that has been impacted, as you know," said star striker Mehdi Taremi. "Others, including a referee, have been impacted." He said the tension surrounding the tournament "undermines that joy and it undermines the message of FIFA or people, which is about football that brings about peace."



Emperor Naruhito, King Willem-Alexander Witness Japan vs Netherlands Clash

'Was Depressed, Wanted To Give Up Cricket': India's T20 World Cup Star Drops Bombshell



India off-spinner Shreyanka Patil has revealed that she struggled with depression and even considered quitting cricket during a challenging injury layoff that kept her out of action for more than a year. The off-spinner, who delivered an economical spell in India's 64-run victory over Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup on Sunday, credited her strong support system for helping her navigate the difficult period and make a successful return to the national side. Shreyanka spent nearly 14 months on the sidelines after a fractured finger sustained

during an Asia Cup match against Pakistan in July 2024. Her injury woes continued with severe shin issues in both legs and a fractured left thumb, before she finally returned to action for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the WPL earlier this year. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't depressed or that I didn't think about giving up cricket. That's how I felt initially during the injury phase. But there was a voice inside me saying, 'No matter what, I love playing this sport. I'm here only because I love playing it,'" Shreyanka told JioStar.

Rockstar Anirudh Marks A New Chapter With 'Aravindh', The First Release From Albuquerque Records And Universal Music India



Music sensation Anirudh Ravichander has unveiled "Aravindh", marking the first release under his exclusive partnership with Universal Music India through his independent label, Albuquerque Records. Released in Tamil and Telugu, the track marks a new creative chapter for Anirudh as he steps beyond film music to explore original pop- and hip-hop-driven storytelling. Anirudh first shot to nationwide fame with the 2012 viral hit "Why This Kolaveri Di?", and has since composed music for blockbuster films including Jailer, Coolie, Vikram, Leo and Devara: Part 1. He also made his Bollywood music debut with Shah Rukh Khan starrer Jawan, one of

2025's biggest blockbusters. Over the years, Anirudh Ravichander has risen to phenomenal fame, earning the title of "Rockstar Anirudh" from fans and the industry alike. With "Aravindh", Anirudh shines a light on the struggles of an independent artist trying to survive in today's fast-evolving digital music landscape. At the heart of the song is Aravindh, Anirudh's alter-ego, a passionate musician who has dedicated his life to music despite the odds stacked against him. While access to releasing music has become easier than ever, sustaining a career as an independent artist remains a challenge, especially in the South Indian music space. Yet, Aravindh continues to hold onto the hope that his music will

find the right audience. Talking about the song Anirudh says, "Aravindh is everybody in some way. We all have an Aravindh in our lives, but this song speaks about an independent artist who yearns for that one chance to show what they've got. It is also a satirical take on the challenges an independent artist faces while trying to make it big amidst the sea of content on the internet." The track is deeply personal for Anirudh, reflecting a phase of his own life when he too was once "Aravindh." Through the song, he hopes to connect with fellow artists and creatives navigating similar journeys, while also making a bold and introspective commentary on his own rise, struggles and the industry itself.

PRIME VIDEO UNVEILS the Explosive Trailer for Isakapatnam, the Gripping Crime Drama Starring Samuthirakani and Aishwarya Rajesh, Premiering July 2

Prime Video, India's most loved entertainment destination, unveiled the captivating trailer of its upcoming Telugu Original series, Isakapatnam, at an immersive event in Hyderabad today. Directed by Garry BH, written by Prashant Ragathi, and dialogues by Tajuddin Syed, the seven-episode crime thriller is produced by Rahul Tamada and Saideep Reddy Borra under the banner of Tamada Media Productions. Headlined by Samuthirakani and Aishwarya Rajesh, the series boasts a stellar ensemble cast including Sunil, Naresh Agastya, Merin Philip, Sudhakar Komakula, Rajeev Kanakala, Mime Gopi, Rohini, Banerjee, Rajwa Koti, Ravi Varma, and Raja Chembolu in pivotal roles. Isakapatnam will premiere exclusively on Prime Video in Telugu with dubs in Tamil and Hindi and subtitles in 15 languages, including English, across India and over 240 countries and territories worldwide on July 2. The trailer offers a glimpse into the gripping crime saga unfolding in a fictional port town where crime, politics, and loyalties collide, setting the stage for an unmissable tale of ambition and revenge. Packed with intense action, high emotional stakes, and heart-stopping twists, the series explores how greed, unchecked ambition, and the relentless hunger for power can reshape lives, fuel rivalries, and trigger far-reaching, often violent consequences.



Director Garry BH said, "Isakapatnam is a fictional series driven by deeply authentic characters and universal human emotions. While the story is rooted in a unique world, themes of greed, ambition, love, loss, and revenge make it extremely relatable. Promising to entertain and enthrall audiences, the story is filled with unexpected twists and turns as the characters cross paths in their pursuit of absolute power. Working alongside Tamada Media Productions, Prime Video, and our exceptional cast and crew has been a truly fulfilling experience, and I can't wait for audi-

ences worldwide to immerse themselves in the world of Isakapatnam." Samuthirakani shared, "What immediately drew me to the series was the strength of its storytelling and the complexity of my character, Naidu. Beyond the action and drama, the narrative delves into themes of greed, revenge, and ambition and how they can drive people to make life-altering decisions. I'm grateful to have been part of this journey and look forward to audiences experiencing the series and seeing me in a role unlike any I've played before." "Portraying Bharati was both challenging and deeply rewarding. What appealed to me was

her resilience, complexity, and the strength with which she navigates a world shaped by power and conflict. She is a woman with immense agency and conviction, refusing to be defined by her circumstances while embracing both vulnerability and courage. That balance is what makes her feel so authentic, and I'm excited for audiences to experience her journey," said Aishwarya Rajesh. Sunil, who plays CI Varma, elaborated, "The world of Isakapatnam is raw, immersive, and deeply layered, with every character carrying their own ambitions, conflicts, and motivations. And I was most fascinated by

how the story and characters came together to create a rich and compelling narrative. As an actor, the series challenged me to step into a character unlike any I've portrayed before, and working alongside such an exceptional cast and crew made the experience even more fulfilling." Playing the role of Pedanna, Naresh Agastya shared, "What excited me about my character and the series were the strength of its storytelling and the depth of its character arcs. The series is constantly evolving, keeping viewers engaged and guessing while remaining firmly rooted in the motivations, conflicts, and struggles of its characters. As the story unfolds, audiences will discover new layers at every turn and experience a narrative filled with unexpected twists and surprises." "The character of Ammaji resonated deeply with me because of her quiet strength and resilience. As the story unfolds, she evolves in unexpected ways, finding the courage to make her own choices and stand her ground. Portraying that transformation was both challenging and immensely rewarding," added Merin Philip. Isakapatnam joins Prime Video's blockbuster lineup for Prime Day. This July, Amazon Prime Day is back in India for its tenth edition. Prime members can look forward to great deals, bigger savings, exciting new launches, blockbuster entertainment, and more.

Deewana Is the Story of a Young Man Completely Immersed in Love; the Interval Twist Will Shock Audiences with a Fresh New Point – Actor Harshith Reddy



Young and talented actor Harshith Reddy, who recently scored a success with Shubham, is now gearing up for the release of his new film Deewana. The film is being produced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the Arha Media and

V Studios banners. Actress Sneha Manimegalai and director Srikanth Sangishetty are making their debut with this beautiful love story. Deewana is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on the 19th of this month through Geetha Film Distributors. In a recent interview, Harshith Reddy spoke about his career journey and shared several highlights about the film. "My father is originally from Miryalaguda, but I was born, raised, and educated in Hyderabad. I am very familiar with the city's culture and lifestyle. Initially, I used to create videos for YouTube and Instagram. After watching those videos, the team at Vjayanthi Movies selected me for Mail. It was during the COVID period, so the audition was conducted online.

Vanda Devullu Beautifully Captures The Girl Within Every Mother: Niharika Konidela At Pre-Release Event

Presented by Fatima Vijay Antony under Vijay Antony Film Corporation and produced by Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji under the Sarvanth Ram Creations banner, Vanda Devullu stars Vijay Antony, Swasika, Ajay Dhishan, Lijamol Jose, Karunas, Shakti, and Kavya Anil in key roles. Directed by Shashi, who previously collaborated with Vijay Antony on the blockbuster Bichagadu, the film is set to release on June 19. The teaser and trailer released so far have generated a positive response from audiences. As part of the promotions, the makers organized a grand pre-release event on Monday. Mega producer Niharika Konidela and director Thirinaadha Rao Nakkina attended as chief guests. Speaking at the event, Vijay Antony said, "Twenty years ago, Shashi garu introduced me as a music director. Ten



years ago, he gave me a new life as a hero through Bichagadu. Now, we are coming together once again with Vanda Devullu. After listening to the story, I was moved to tears and simply couldn't stop crying. My character in this film is completely different and unique. I would like to thank

Bhashyasree garu, who has been part of my journey since Bichagadu. Sasi garu has introduced a fresh technical team through this project. I also thank Subba Reddy garu and Mythri Shashi garu for distributing the film, and my producer Fatima garu for her support. I hope Telugu audiences embrace Vanda

Devullu when it releases on June 19." Niharika Konidela shared, "I have already watched Vanda Devullu. When I watched Shashi garu's Sreenu, I was deeply emotional. He later delivered a remarkable film like Bichagadu. It is evident that every member of this team

has poured their heart into this project. After marriage and motherhood, a woman becomes a mother, but there is still a girl within her. The film beautifully explores this idea. Swasika has delivered an outstanding performance, and Ajay, Kavya, and the rest of the cast have also done a wonderful job. I instantly loved the title Vanda Devullu. It grabs attention and carries a strong emotional appeal. Vijay Antony garu is a director, actor, producer, editor, and music director, but above all, he is a genuinely good human being. After meeting him personally, my

respect for him has grown even more. Everything in this film, from a fan to a tea cup, has its own significance and character. It is highly emotional yet equally entertaining. Vijay Antony's role is exceptional, and the film leaves audiences with meaningful thoughts. The makers have blended the message with commercial elements beautifully. Everyone who has a mother should watch Vanda Devullu. I sincerely hope it becomes an even bigger success than Bichagadu."

DULQUER SALMAAN'S STYLISH AVATAR 'I AM GAME' TO HAVE A WORLDWIDE GRAND RELEASE ON AUGUST 20TH



The latest poster released from Dulquer Salmaan's most awaited movie 'I Am Game' is impressing the audience. In the new poster, Dulquer Salmaan is seen in a very stylish avatar, further increasing the expectations on the movie. The makers, who have already announced the release date, will release the movie grandly worldwide on August 20, 2026 as an Onam gift. Currently, the post-production work of the film is going on at a fast pace. Produced by Dulquer Salmaan's own production company Wayfarer Films, this big-budget action thriller is shaping up to be the biggest film of his career. Directed by Nahas Hidayat, the film is being co-produced by Dulquer Salmaan and Jom Varghese. The story and screenplay for the film are written by Shabbaz Rashid and Adarsh Sukumaran. Shot across over a hundred locations in South India, 'I Am Game' is currently one of the most eagerly awaited projects in the Malayalam film industry.

SAMANTHA TURNS PRODUCER TO BREAK THE CYCLE

Samantha is back in the game and is making some strong statements. "Female filmmakers have always been sidelined. Even though we question this, we still cannot break the cycle. Tralala is my way of breaking the cycle," says filmmaker Samantha, speaking about her banner Tralala moving pictures and passion project Maa Inti Bangaaram, directed by Nandini Reddy. The film marks another significant step in promoting women-led storytelling in

Telugu cinema. Produced under Samantha's Tralala banner, Maa Inti Bangaaram reflects a conscious effort to create more opportunities for women both in front of and behind the camera. Samantha's statement highlights the challenges female filmmakers continue to face despite growing conversations around equality and representation in the industry. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the action-family drama features Samantha in a powerful lead role and has already generat-

ed considerable buzz through its teaser and trailer. The film showcases a woman who fights to protect her family while navigating a hidden past, blending action, emotion, and family drama. For Samantha, Tralala is more than just a production house, it is a platform to encourage fresh voices and challenge long-standing industry norms. By backing projects helmed by women and driven by strong narratives, she hopes to inspire meaningful change in the filmmaking landscape. With anticipation building among audiences, Maa Inti Bangaaram is poised to be one of the most talked-about releases of the season.

