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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

05-07-2026
Total pilgrims : 81,692
Tonsures : 35,361
Hundi kumbhaka : 4,72CR
Laddu sale : 417 Lac
Annaprashadams : 2,05 Lac
Medical treatment : 2,793
Waiting Compartments : 29

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravali Maham (with out SSSD Tonsure) : 12 H.

Crude oil surges over 6 pc to near \$80 as Trump says Iran ceasefire is 'over'

New Delhi (TSIT): Global crude oil prices surged more than 6 per cent on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran was effectively over following a fresh round of American military strikes on Iran, intensifying concerns over energy supplies from West Asia.

Six Andhra fishermen presumed dead; search operation called off

Visakhapatnam : Authorities have called off the search operation for six fishermen who went missing off the coast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, after their boat capsized on July 4, dashing the hopes of finding them alive. The fishermen remained untraced after a four-day-long search and rescue operation by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

Building More New Bengalurus Beyond Bengaluru: Shivakumar

Bengaluru (TSIT) :

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that the State government was trying to develop the rest of Karnataka by building growth centres outside Bengaluru.

Speaking at the Target India event held at Manyata Tech Park, the CM said, "Our government is moving forward to build more Bengalurus beyond Bengaluru. We are committed to providing all the facilities available in Bengaluru to the state's tier-2 and tier-3 cities as well." "Office space rent in Bengaluru is between \$1 and \$1.5. In tier-2 and tier-3 cities, it's available for half a dollar.

We are moving forward to offer double FAR there, thereby enabling the construction of multi-storey buildings in those cities too. We are providing high-quality education in Karnataka. We remain open to your suggestions," he said.

"We are ready to give you all the support you need to grow strong. If you become strong, we too can become strong. All of you are partners



and ambassadors of Karnataka's progress. We will work with you for the progress of this State and the country. We are all one team — 'Team Karnataka'. Let's all work together. Coming together is a beginning, thinking together is progress, working together is success," he said.

Rs 1.5 Lakh Crore to Be Spent on Bengaluru

Development "Every month, 30,000 new vehicles are being registered in Bengaluru. That's why we are prioritizing smooth traffic movement. We have already planned 350 km of metro connectivity, and aim to extend it to 500 km by next year," he said. You are all facing traffic congestion near Hebbal. That's why we have

Congress appoints new General Secy, state in-charges to strengthen organisation

New Delhi, Jul 8 : In a significant organisational reshuffle, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Wednesday announced fresh appointments of senior party functionaries as General Secretary and state in-charges with immediate effect. The decision was taken by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge to strengthen the party's organisational structure in key states.

According to an official press statement issued, two important appointments were made. Ghulam Ahmed Mir has been appointed as Congress General Secretary In-charge of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, while Prakash Joshi has been named as Congress In-charge of West Bengal. The appointments come at a time when the Congress is looking to revamp its presence in southern and eastern states.

KTR hails world bank report as Telangana's pride

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao said on Wednesday that the World Bank placing Telangana among India's top five upper-middle-income states was a matter of pride for its people.

Rama Rao attributed the achievement to the efforts of the people of Telangana and the measures taken by BRS during its 10-year rule under the leadership of K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR).

Reacting to reports on the World Bank's per capita income classification, the BRS leader also stated this is a fitting response to those alleging that Telangana was financially bankrupt. According to reports, five states have crossed the threshold of the World Bank's upper-middle-income category based on per capita income.

India 'deeply concerned' with escalation of tensions in West Asia, calls for restraint

New Delhi, July 8 : India on Wednesday said that it remains "deeply concerned" over the recent attacks and escalation of tensions in West Asia, following fresh targeting of commercial shipping transiting international waterways in the region. Global crude oil prices surged more than six per cent after US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire between Washington and Tehran was effectively "over" following a fresh round of American military strikes on Iran, intensifying concerns over energy supplies from West Asia.

The US President's remarks came amid renewed tensions in the region following a series of attacks on vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil shipping route. "India is deeply concerned over the recent attacks and escalation of tensions in West Asia, which have followed fresh targeting of commercial shipping transiting international waterways in the region. These developments risk undermining regional peace, security and stability," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal late Wednesday.

"India calls upon all parties to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and ensure protection of civilians as well as the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies and commerce. We urge the parties to return to dialogue and diplomacy to achieve a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict," it added. International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed as much as 6.52 per cent or \$4.69 to trade near \$80 a barrel. Similarly, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) advanced more than six per cent or



\$4.85 to around \$75 a barrel.

Trump on Wednesday warned Iran that the United States was prepared to launch further military strikes and even reimpose a naval blockade if Tehran continued its attacks, while declaring that he no longer believed negotiations over its nuclear programme were worth pursuing despite leaving the door open for his envoys to keep talking.

Speaking during separate appearances with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and later Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Ankara, Trump defended the latest US military action against Iranian targets, accused Tehran of violating a pause requested for funeral ceremonies and suggested the current diplomatic framework had effectively collapsed. Trump said Iran had resumed hostile actions after the United States had temporarily held back military operations. "They said to us, please don't kill us during the funeral. I said I won't. We didn't. In fact, we made it safe for them, actu-

ally," Trump said. He added that Iran had instead resumed attacks. "They started shooting rockets at ships yesterday," he said. "So we hit them very hard last night, very hard. I would say 20 to one, 20 times tougher. And I told them, 'Every time you hit, we hit.'" Asked whether his earlier remarks meant a return to full-scale hostilities, Trump repeatedly avoided giving a direct answer, but warned that more strikes could follow. "We'll probably hit 'em hard tonight, I'll give 'em a little warning," he said. Later, he said he had instructed the US military to broaden its targeting during the latest operation.

"I told the military to don't hit the pipes but hit everything else" on Kharg Island, Iran's principal oil export terminal. He also disclosed that Tehran had sought what he described as a "time out" during funeral proceedings before resuming attacks. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said US forces had targeted Iranian military assets involved in threatening commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Sensex crashes 1,600 points after Trump says Iran ceasefire is 'over'

Mumbai (TSIT): Indian benchmark equity indices witnessed a sharp selloff on Wednesday, with the Sensex and Nifty falling more than 2 per cent each, as rising crude oil prices, weak global cues and renewed geopolitical tensions dented investor sentiment.

The market decline gathered pace during the second half of the trading



session after US President Donald Trump said that an interim agreement with Iran to end the conflict was "over", triggering

fresh concerns over escalating tensions in the Middle East and their potential impact on global energy supplies.

During noon trade, the Nifty was down nearly 500 points, while the Sensex had declined more than 1,600 points. Broad-based selling was evident across the market, with 45 of the 50 Nifty constituents trading in the red.

DRDO carries out successful flight-test of Pinaka long-range guided rocket

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday conducted a successful flight test of the Pinaka long-range guided rocket at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur on India's east coast, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence.

"The rocket was tested for a user-defined minimum range of 60 kms. Demonstrating all in-flight manoeuvres as planned, the long-range guided rocket (LRGR) impacted on the target with textbook precision exactly following the predicted trajectory. All the deployed range instruments tracked the flight



throughout its trajectory," the statement said. The Pinaka LRGR rocket is designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment in association with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, with support

from the Defence Research and Development Laboratory and Research Centre Imarat. The flight trial was coordinated by ITR and Proof & Experimental Establishment. The rocket was launched from the in-

service Pinaka launcher, demonstrating its versatility and providing launch capability of Pinaka variants of different ranges from the same launcher, it said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO, the Indian Army and the industry on the successful flight-test. He described it as a major milestone in indigenous design and development capability for long-range guided rockets.

Defence Secretary and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Rajesh Kumar Singh closely monitored the trials and complimented all the teams associated with the successful test.

India and Kuwait discuss enhancing ties in several key sectors during EAM Jaishankar's visit

Kuwait City, July 8 : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Wednesday called on the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, thanking him for supporting the Indian community's welfare and well-being while welcoming his vision for stronger



and mutually beneficial India-Kuwait cooperation. The EAM also held a meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. "A pleasure to meet FM Kuwait Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Discussed the impact of Gulf conflict on the region and beyond.

Donation 'theft' at Ram temple has tarnished India's image, says Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple have "angered" the followers of Sanatan Dharma worldwide, particularly those who made the contributions, and accused the BJP of tarnishing India's image abroad.

Yadav claimed the news of the embezzlement has spread across the world.

"The news of theft of offerings, donations and contributions from the Ayodhya temple has spread across the world. Followers of Sanatan Dharma living in different countries are ashamed because of the dispute caused by the BJP and its associates. They are also hurt because many of them had donated to the temple or personally offered



contributions," he said in a post on X. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister claimed the country was suffering a loss of reputation because of the alleged actions of the "BJP's irreligious elements."

Yadav also claimed that investor confidence was

being affected by the controversy. "Investors across the world are withdrawing because they feel that if a government cannot safeguard even donations made to its own deity, how can it protect our investments tomorrow? The BJP government has completely lost its

religious, cultural, political and economic credibility," he said. In a separate post on X, Yadav rejected allegations levelled against him by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who had linked him to Ramshankar alias Tinnu Yadav, an accused in the alleged temple donation theft case.

Describing the allegations as "false", Yadav said the BJP had made a mistake by relying on people whose "personal record has historically been discredited."

"The BJP committed a mistake by getting false allegations made through people whose personal record has historically been infamous and whose deeply corrupt social and political image is such that even leaders of their own party do not want them around," he said.

Ponguleti inaugurates Indiramma houses in Gadwal

Jogulamba Gadwal TSIT.

Stating that the Indiramma Housing Scheme is a symbol of dignity and self-respect for economically weaker sections, Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the State Government is implementing welfare programmes with people's welfare as its foremost priority.

The Minister was addressing a public meeting after inaugurating newly constructed Indiramma houses at the Ryala m padu Rehabilitation Colony in Dharur mandal on Wednesday. Animal Husbandry and Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari attended the programme as the guest of honour.

The ministers were accorded a grand welcome by Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik, public representatives and officials.



Villagers also received the dignitaries with traditional music and celebrations.

During the visit, the ministers unveiled the plaque of the housing project and inaugurated houses belonging to several beneficiaries by cutting ribbons. As many as 26 beneficiary families performed housewarming ceremonies on the occasion. The ministers personally visited the homes of beneficiaries, interacted with their families and presented gifts to mark the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Ponguleti Srinivasa

Reddy said the State Government has completed two-and-a-half years in office and has remained committed to fulfilling its election promises while introducing several new welfare initiatives. He said the first phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme has covered the construction of 4.5 lakh houses across Telangana and announced that eligible beneficiaries in the second phase would receive 5 lakh financial assistance for house construction. He added that the scheme would continue in the third

and fourth phases to ensure housing for all eligible poor families.

Highlighting the government's commitment to farmers, the Minister said even rain-soaked paddy had been procured from farmers and payments were credited to their bank accounts within a week. He also announced the sanction of new Tahsildar office buildings in various mandals of the Gadwal Assembly constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vakiti Srihari described the displaced families of submergence villages as equal to "living deities" for their sacrifices towards irrigation projects. He said the government is committed to providing all essential amenities in rehabilitation colonies and ensuring that no displaced family faces hardship. He also stated that the Indiramma Housing Scheme would benefit all eligible poor families, including those living in huts and thatched houses, irrespective of political affiliations.

Collector directs steps to prevent seasonal diseases

Jogulamba Gadwal TSIT : District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik has directed officials to launch intensive preventive measures against seasonal diseases and ensure coordinated action across all departments to safeguard public health during the monsoon season.

a review meeting on seasonal disease prevention and the National Deworming Programme at the IDOC Conference Hall on Wednesday, the Collector instructed officials to remain vigilant and conduct coordination meetings at the mandal level to strengthen disease surveillance and preventive measures.

He stressed that Dry Day



activities should be conducted every Tuesday and Friday without fail to eliminate mosquito breeding sources. Officials were directed to maintain proper records of sanitation drives and ensure regular cleanliness activities in villages and municipal wards to prevent water stagnation.

The Collector instructed departments to take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya and filariasis. He also directed officials to ensure sanitation in schools, hostels and Anganwadi centres, besides identifying tuber-

culosis (TB) cases at an early stage and providing timely treatment.

Emphasising the need to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Rizwan Basha Shaik asked health officials to focus on screening and treatment for hypertension and diabetes, ensuring that those diagnosed receive appropriate medical care.

Reviewing the National Deworming Programme, the Collector instructed officials to administer Albendazole tablets to all eligible children studying in government and private schools, SC, ST, BC and Minority hostels, residential educational institutions and Anganwadi centres.

Bank of Baroda opens second phygital branch in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (TSIT): Bank of Baroda on Tuesday inaugurated its second phygital branch in Hyderabad at Punjagutta, strengthening its digital banking network while continuing to offer personalised customer service. The branch was inaugurated by Lalit Tyagi, Executive Director of the bank, in the presence of senior



officials, customers and staff. The new branch integrates advanced self-service digital banking facilities with in-branch assistance, enabling customers to access a wide

range of banking services through self-service kiosks while receiving support from relationship managers whenever required. Speaking on the occasion, Tyagi said the new branch marks another milestone in the bank's digital transformation journey and reflects its commitment to delivering technology-driven, customer-centric

banking solutions. He said the initiative aims to make banking simpler, smarter and more accessible while maintaining the trust and personal service valued by customers. The launch reinforces Bank of Baroda's focus on expanding its digital banking ecosystem and enhancing customer experience across the country.

Indian Olympic Association President P.T.Usha Arrives in Hyderabad for Major Sports Events

Hyderabad TSIT: Indian Olympic Association President and Rajya Sabha MP P. T.Usha arrived in Hyderabad on Wednesday to participate in a series of major sports initiatives being organised by the Telangana Government's Sports Department.

As part of her visit, P.T.Usha will join Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy at the Young India Physical Education and Sports University in Gachibowli to unveil the university's official logo, launch its website and formally inaugurate various academic courses.

She will also participate in the launch of several flagship sports programmes of the Telangana Government, including the National Para Athletics Support Programme, the



National Inter-District Junior Athletic Meet to be held in Hyderabad, and the announcement of the Khelo India Youth Games 2026. In addition, she will formally inaugurate various sports leagues being organised by the Telangana Sports Department.

As part of the State's

efforts to promote sports awareness and grassroots participation, P.T. Usha will flag off the "Sports Knowledge on Wheels" vehicles, which will travel across district headquarters in Telangana under the aegis of the Sports Authority.

Earlier on Thursday

morning, P.T. Usha will inaugurate the newly modernised Telangana Olympic Bhavan at the LB Stadium along with Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari. She will also unveil the statue of Major Dhyani Chand installed within the Olympic Bhavan premises.

P.T.Usha received a warm welcome on her arrival at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad from Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Shivaseena Reddy, Managing Director Dr.A.Soni Bala Devi, Young India Physical Education and Sports University Vice-Chancellor Dr.Kishore Gopinath, representatives of the Telangana Olympic Association and senior officials of the Sports Authority.

TGSRTC Emerging as Country's Best Public Transport System: Ponnam Prabhakar

Nagarkurnool (TSIT) Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar undertook an extensive tour of Nagarkurnool district on Wednesday, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for several development projects. He was accompanied by Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Nagarkurnool MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy, and MLC Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy.

The minister began his visit by laying the foundation stone for a new TGSRTC bus stand at Timmajipet. He later made a surprise visit to the BC Residential School at Uyyalawada, where he interacted with students,



enquired about their academic facilities and grievances, and instructed officials to address their issues promptly.

Later, he unveiled the statue of former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in Nagarkurnool town and inaugurated the newly constructed Regional Transport Authority (RTA) office. He also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new TSRTC

bus stand in Nagarkurnool town.

Addressing a public meeting, Ponnam Prabhakar said Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has emerged as one of the best public transport organizations in the country. He stated that TSRTC currently operates 10,170 buses through 97 depots and 364 bus stations, serving nearly 6.5 million passengers every day with the support of around 55,000

employees.

The minister said the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme for women has become a historic success, with over 326 crore free journeys recorded so far. According to him, women have collectively saved 11,377 crore in travel expenses under the scheme, providing significant financial relief to families.

Criticizing the previous government, he alleged that TSRTC had been neglected for a decade, with no new buses purchased during that period. He said the present government resolved the key demands of RTC employees soon after assuming office and reinstated 355 employees who had lost their jobs under various circumstances.

Telangana's Rumana Sinha Sehgal Recognised Among India's Top Trending Mentors in Defence & Aerospace Innovation

Hyderabad, (TSIT): Telangana-based entrepreneur and innovation leader Rumana Sinha Sehgal, Founder and CEO of Serendipity, has been recognised among India's Top Trending Mentors on the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog, Government of India, for the second consecutive year. The recognition highlights her significant contribution to mentoring entrepreneurs, innovators, startups and emerging leaders in the defence, aerospace, technology and innovation sectors.

With more than 26 years of experience in information technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and ecosystem development, Rumana Sinha



Sehgal has established herself as a respected thought leader in India's innovation landscape. Through Serendipity, she has played a key role in

promoting innovation-driven growth, capacity building, sustainability and entrepreneurship across diverse sectors.

Over the years, she has actively collaborated with leading national institutions, including the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), CDIC, IIM-K LIVE, T-Works, IIT Bombay, T-Hub and several startups, contributing to the growth of India's innovation ecosystem.

The consecutive recognition reflects her continued impact in mentoring innovators working in defence technologies, aerospace innovation, emerging technologies and sustainability. Her mentorship philosophy focuses on knowledge

sharing, nation-building and enabling innovators to transform ideas into practical solutions with strategic and societal value.

The achievement is also a matter of pride for Telangana, which has emerged as one of India's leading innovation and startup hubs. Through her efforts, Rumana Sinha Sehgal has helped strengthen collaboration between industry, academia, government and entrepreneurs, empowering innovators to build impactful and sustainable solutions. Her latest recognition reinforces the growing importance of mentorship in shaping India's innovation ecosystem and inspiring the next generation of founders, researchers and technology leaders.

Dr. Priyanka Varghese The Forest Officer Driving Telangana's Green Transformation

Hyderabad, TSIT: In an era where climate resilience and ecological restoration have become central to sustainable development, Dr. Priyanka Varghese, a 2003-batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, has emerged as one of Telangana's most accomplished environmental administrators. With over two decades of distinguished service, she has combined scientific expertise, technology-driven governance and grassroots participation to advance forest conservation and urban greening across the state.

Currently serving as Chief Conservator of Forests (IT & Working Plan) in the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana, Dr.Varghese also serves as Secretary of the Telangana IFS Officers' Association, where she continues to contribute to policy formulation and institutional strengthening. An outstanding academic, Dr. Varghese graduated with a B.Sc. in Forestry from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, earning a Gold Medal for academic excel-



lence. She secured All India Rank 3 in the Indian Forest Service examination and later earned a Doctorate in Environmental Science from Osmania University, reflecting her strong foundation in both science and public administration. Throughout her career, she has served as District Forest Officer in Adilabad, Karimnagar and Kamareddy, where she implemented several conservation, biodiversity and community forestry initiatives. Her administrative capabilities came into national prominence in 2014, when she was appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Chief Minister's Office to help steer the landmark Telangana

Haritha Haram programme one of India's largest afforestation initiatives aimed at significantly increasing the state's green cover.

Beyond state administration, Dr.Varghese has contributed to environmental policymaking as an expert committee member for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the National Biodiversity Authority, bringing international perspectives to India's conservation efforts. Known for her hands-on leadership, she actively engages with students, academic institutions, civil society organisations and industry forums to promote environmental awareness, sustainable urban ecology and biodiversity conservation. Dr.Priyanka Varghese represents a new generation of public administrators who combine scientific knowledge with visionary governance. Her work continues to strengthen Telangana's reputation as a leader in environmental sustainability, demonstrating how committed civil servants can transform ecological conservation into a people's movement.

BESCOM EMERGES CHAMPIONS AT THE INTER-ESCOM SPORTS MEET IN BENGALURU

BENGALURU: The Inter-ESCOM Sports Meet (2025-26) concluded successfully at the Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru, held over two days on July 7 and 8.

Employees from four ESCOMs including BESCOM, MESCOM, GESCOM, HESCOM, CESC, and KPTCL, actively participated in the multi-sport event.

The sports meet was officially inaugurated by Dr. N. Shivashankar, Managing Director of BESCOM. Speaking at the event, he emphasized the importance of work-life balance for utility employees.

"Electricity company employees must prioritize both their physical and mental health alongside their demanding duties. It is crucial to engage in at least one



sport during leisure time to stay fit and rejuvenated," BESCOM MD advised.

The tournament saw fierce but healthy competition among the corporations, with host BESCOM taking top

honors. Overall Champions: BESCOM (Secured 1st Place)

Runners-Up: CESC (Secured 2nd Place)

Individual Dignitaries in Attendance

Men's Joint Champions: G.K.

Byresh Murthy (BESCOM) & Mubarak (HESCOM)

Women's Champion: Mamata H.R.

The event was graced by several prominent

leaders and association representatives from the power sector, including:

Shrikanth M. Sasalamatti, President of the Sports Meet & Chief Engineer (Elec.)
Giridhar Kulkarni, Director (Planning), KPTCL

H.J. Ramesh, Technical Director, BESCOM

Balaram, President, KPTCL Engineers' Association

C. Basavanna, President, Engineers' Association

Girish, President, Accounts Officers' Association

V.G. Sarvesh, Sports Secretary, BESCOM

Michael Washington, General Secretary, KPTCL Sports Council
D.H. Umesh, along with other senior officials and staff members.

HDK Chairs High-Level Stakeholder Consultation on Advanced Chemistry Cell Components

New Delhi : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive stakeholder consultation on promoting the domestic manufacturing of components for Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC) in India and stressed the need to build a robust, integrated and globally competitive battery manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and over 25 stakeholders representing battery and component manufacturers, research institutions, government bodies and industry associations participated in the consultation.

The meeting focused extensively on the present status of India's ACC industry, domestic manufacturing capabilities, critical component requirements, investment and expansion plans, technology access and the challenges confronting manufacturers. Addressing the stakeholders,



Kumaraswamy said India was at a crucial stage in its energy transition journey, with demand for advanced batteries rising rapidly across electric mobility, grid storage, consumer electronics, telecommunications, data centres and other emerging sectors.

"India's requirement for Advanced Chemistry Cells is projected to reach nearly 196 GWh by 2030 and further increase to approximately 236 GWh by 2032. This represents an enormous industrial and economic opportunity, but it also presents a strategic

challenge that must be addressed with urgency," the Union Minister said.

Kumaraswamy observed that manufacturing battery cells alone would not be sufficient to build a self-reliant domestic battery industry. He underlined the need to strengthen the entire value chain, covering raw and intermediate materials, critical battery components, manufacturing equipment, testing infrastructure, recycling, research and development and skilled manpower.

BESCOM to Issue Average Bills for July Due to Gruha Jyothi Verification

Bengaluru: Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has announced that regular meter readings will not be done for the billing month of July due to deployment of BESCOM meter readers for the door-to-door verification of Gruha Jyothi Scheme beneficiaries. Consumers will receive average bills for July, which will be calculated based on their electricity usage over the last three months, said BESCOM release.

However, this average billing will not apply to the following categories. They will continue to receive bills based on actual meter readings: High Tension (HT) consumers, Low Tension (LT) consumers with a load of 40 HP and above, Solar Rooftop (SRTPV) consumers and Temporary electricity connections will receive actual bills in July. July's average bills will be sent to consumers only through SMS and email. Regular meter readings

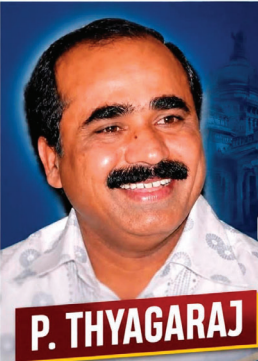
and billing based on actual consumption will commence from August. Any difference in the units during this average billing period will be adjusted in the upcoming bills once actual meter readings resume, BESCOM stated. Consumers can avail all modes of payment (including subdivision cash counters, BESCOM website, and all other third-party apps) as existing to make payment for their July electricity bills.

KUWJ Congratulates Three Media Secretaries

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) has congratulated

P. Thyagaraj, Jayaprakash, and Raghavendra Bhat on their appointment as Media Secretaries to the Chief Minister.

Extending his best wishes, KUWJ State President Shivanand Tagadur expressed hope that their tenure would contribute significantly



cantly to the development of the media sector and ensure greater attention to the issues and welfare of journalists.

He also expressed confidence that the three Media Secretaries would work effectively to further strengthen coordination between the government and the media, while taking decisions that safeguard and promote the interests of the journalism fraternity.

Study explores primordial magnetism's role in life's origin

The perplexing phenomenon of homochirality in life, where biomolecules exist in only one of two mirror-image forms, remains unexplained despite historical attention from scientific figures like Pasteur, Lord Kelvin, and Pierre Curie. Recent research suggests the combination of electric and magnetic fields might influence this preference through experiments showing enantioselective effects on chiral molecules interacting with magnetized surfaces, offering indirect evidence towards understanding this mystery. The phenomenon known as homochirality of life, which refers to the exclusive presence of biomolecules in one of their two possible mirror-image configurations within living organisms, has intrigued several prominent figures in science. This includes Louis Pasteur, who first identified molecular chirality, William Thomson (also known as Lord Kelvin), and Pierre Curie, a Nobel Laureate.

A conclusive explanation is still lacking, as both forms have, for instance, the same chemical stability and do not differ from each other in their physicochemical properties. The hypothesis, however, that the interplay between electric and magnetic fields could explain the preference for one or the other mirror-image form of a molecule – so-called enantiomers – emerged early on.

It was only a few years ago, though, that the first indirect evidence emerged that the various combinations of these force fields can indeed "distinguish" between the two mirror images of a molecule. This was achieved by studying the interaction of chiral molecules with metallic surfaces that exhibit a strong electric field over short distances. If only left-handed helix molecules are deposited on the cobalt-copper surface, they clearly prefer cobalt islands with a certain direction of magnetization. In the image, the two triangular cobalt islands have opposite magnetization; the left-handed helix molecules bind almost exclusively to the island on the right and avoid the island on the left (except for a few molecules at the edge of the island). Credit: Peter Grünberg Institute/Jülich The surfaces of magnetic metals such as iron, cobalt, or nickel thus allow electric and magnetic fields to be combined in various ways – the direction of magnetization is simply reversed, from "North up – South down" to "South up – North down". If the interplay between magnetism and electric fields actually triggers "enantioselective" effects, then the strength of the interaction between chiral molecules and magnetic surfaces should also differ, for example – depending on whether a right-handed or left-handed molecule "settles" on the surface.

Mirror images prefer opposing magnetic fields And this is indeed the case, as a team of researchers led by Karl-Heinz Ernst from the Empa's Surface Science and Coating Technologies lab and colleagues at the Peter Grünberg Institute



at the Forschungszentrum Jülich in Germany recently reported in the scientific journal Advanced Materials. The team coated a (non-magnetic) copper surface with small, ultra-thin "islands" of magnetic cobalt and determined the direction of the magnetic field in these using spin-polarized scanning tunneling microscopy; as mentioned before, this can run in two different directions perpendicular to the metal surface: North up or South up. They then deposited spiral-shaped chiral molecules – a 1:1 mixture of left- and right-handed heptahelicene molecules – onto these cobalt islands in an ultrahigh vacuum. Then they "simply" counted the number of right- and left-handed helix molecules on the differently magnetized cobalt islands, almost 800 molecules in total, again using scanning tunneling microscopy. And lo and behold: Depending on the direction of magnetic field, one or the other form of the helix molecules had settled preferentially (see right side of the graphic). How Chirality Induced Spin Selectivity Manifests Itself This is how chirality-induced spin selectivity (CISS effect) manifests itself: Electrons (e- or red and green spheres with arrows indicating electron spin, either up or down) with the "wrong" direction of rotation (spin) are held back or filtered out when tunneling through spiral molecules, depending on the handedness of the spirals (left- or right-handed), so that one type of electron spin predominates (electrons with the arrow pointing downwards on the left side). The electric field of a metallic surface (E, pointing upwards, right side) shifts the electrons in the bound heptahelicene molecules; these accumulate slightly in the lower part of the molecule near the surface. In the case of chiral molecules, electrons with different spins are also shifted differently depending on the handedness of the molecule. The molecule becomes "spin-polarized", i.e. also magnetic.

Depending on the direction of magnetization of the metallic surface, chiral molecules therefore interact with it to different degrees. In this example, the purple spiral therefore binds more strongly to the surface than the yellow one, as opposite spins "attract" each other (the red and green electrons with different spins sitting on top of each other). Credit: Empa

Moreover, the experiments showed that the selection – the preference for one or the other enantiomer – not only occurs during the binding on the cobalt islands, but already beforehand. Before the molecules take up their final (preferred) position on one of the cobalt islands, they migrate long distances across the copper surface in a significantly weaker bound precursor state in "search" for an ideal position. They are only bound to the surface by so-called van der Waals forces. These are merely caused by fluctuations in the electronic shell of atoms and molecules and are therefore relatively weak. The fact that even these are influenced by magnetism, i.e. the direction of rotation (spin) of the electrons, was not known thus far.

Electrons with the "wrong" spin are filtered out

Using scanning tunneling microscopy, the researchers were also able to solve another mystery, as they reported in the journal Small last November. Electron transport – i.e. electric current – also depends on the combination of molecular handedness and magnetization of the surface. Depending on the handedness of the bound molecule, electrons with one direction of spin preferentially flow – or "tunnel" – through the molecule, meaning that electrons with the "wrong" spin are filtered out.

This chirality-induced spin selectivity (CISS effect, see left side of the graphic) had already been observed in earlier studies, but it remained unclear whether an ensemble of molecules is necessary for this or whether individual molecules also exhibit this effect. Ernst and his colleagues have now been able to show that individual helix molecules also exhibit the CISS effect. "But the physics behind this is still not understood," admits Ernst. The Empa researcher also believes that his findings eventually cannot fully answer the question of the chirality of life. In other words, the question that the Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and ETH chemist Vladimir Prelog described as "one of the first problems of molecular theology" in his Nobel Prize lecture in 1975. But Ernst can imagine that in certain surface-catalyzed chemical reactions – such as those that could have taken place in the chemical "primordial soup" on the early Earth – a certain combination of electric and magnetic fields could have led to a steady accumulation of one form or another of the various biomolecules – and thus ultimately to the handedness of life.

Greenizon Agritech Consultancy PRIVATE LIMITED

711, TRADE CENTER, BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, BANDRA EAST, MUMBAI - 400051

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publication of Photograph & Details of Defaulters Notice is hereby given to the public at large, banks, financial institutions, creditors, business associates, suppliers, customers, investors and all concerned persons that Mr. Hanumanth Halaki, proprietor of Gokul Organics Farm, a proprietorship firm having its registered office at P No. 38, CTS No 4099, S No. 40, Hanuman Nagar, Belgaum, Belagavi (Belagavi), Karnataka, 590001, since 06-08-2021, have wilfully defaulted to Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited and its Lender Partner, Kudos Finance and Investment Private Limited, in respect of financial facilities/loans facilitated through Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited.



It is stated that substantial outstanding amounts remain unpaid by the aforesaid person for an amount of Rs. 4,66,46,596/- (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Six Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Six Only). The aforesaid person is liable for the repayment of the outstanding dues and liabilities. It is further stated that, let legal proceedings be pending in relation to the aforesaid dues and arrest warrants were reportedly been issued by the Learned Judicial Magistrate against the aforesaid person in the concerned proceedings. Accordingly, the public at large and all stakeholders are hereby cautioned to exercise appropriate diligence and caution while dealing with the aforesaid person in relation to any commercial, financial or business transactions. Any person dealing with the aforesaid parties shall do so at their own risk, costs and consequences.

For and on behalf of:

Sd/-
Issued by: Asset Recovery Team/Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited, Mumbai
For clarification, please contact the Asset Recovery Team of Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited or email compliance@jai-ksan.com

Greenizon Agritech Consultancy PRIVATE LIMITED

711, TRADE CENTER, BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, BANDRA EAST, MUMBAI - 400051

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publication of Photograph & Details of Defaulters This notice is issued in the public interest. The undersigned wishes to inform the public at large, banks, financial institutions, creditors, business associates, suppliers, customers, investors and all concerned persons that Mr. Iranganouda Patil, a resident of Belgaum, Karnataka, since 06-08-2021, has defaulted to Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited and its Lender Partner Kudos Finance and Investment Private Limited in respect of financial facilities/loans facilitated through Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited.

Name of Borrower: Mr. Iranganouda Patil, Residing at: Bungalow No. 52 sanskriti palms Mandoli road Bhavani Nagar Belgaum Talikwadi Hukeri Belgaum, 590006



It is stated that substantial outstanding amounts remain unpaid by the aforesaid person for an amount of Rs. 79,10,767/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Seven Only). The aforesaid person is liable for the repayment of the outstanding dues and liabilities. Despite repeated requests and demands, the said outstanding amount remains unpaid. It is further stated that, in relation to the aforesaid transaction and the fraudulent acts connected therewith, an FIR has been registered against Mr. Iranganouda Patil and eight other related parties of the transaction and the matter is presently under investigation before the appropriate authorities. This notice is based on the records available with us and is issued without prejudice to our legal rights and remedies. Accordingly, the public at large and all stakeholders are hereby cautioned to exercise appropriate diligence and caution while dealing with the aforesaid person in relation to any commercial, financial or business transactions. Any person dealing with the aforesaid parties shall do so at their own risk, costs and consequences.

For and on behalf of:

Sd/-
Issued by: Asset Recovery Team/Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited, Mumbai
For clarification, please contact the Asset Recovery Team of Greenizon Agritech Consultancy Private Limited or email compliance@jai-ksan.com

AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:
Saturday, 11th July 2026; 11:15 a.m. Onwards.
at Hotel Sankama, Shamarur Road, Siddaveerappa Layout, Davangere - 577 004, Karnataka.
For registration, please contact: Narasimha Murthy K, Mobile : 98446 31500.
Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
No walk-ins will be allowed.



Visit <https://www.hdfcmutual.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-know-your-customer> (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMC's. If they are not satisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's, they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.sebi.gov.in>. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMC's or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://amarodr.in/odv>.

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MANGALURU MAIN BRANCH K2 Habitat:

Apartment, Mangaladevi Temple Road, Pandeshwara, MANGALURU - 575001 Dakshina Kannada - Karnataka 0824 - 2440093 / 2410615

APPENDIX- IV-A*See proviso to rule 8 (6)

Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical (constructive / Symbolic (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken on 28.11.2025 by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Mangalore branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 27.07.2026, for recovery of Rs. 76,16,503/- (Rupee Seventy Six Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred and Three only) (as on 07.07.2026 and the said amount carries further interest and charges at the agreed rate from 8.07.2026 till date of repayment) due to the Indian Bank, Mangalore branch, from Secured Creditor, 1. M/s Akriti Trading Corporation, 1st floor Nanditha Building, Door no 3-T/28/2(8) Malemar road Kottara, Mangalore- 575013 (F-19, 1st floor Commercial complex, Empire Mall building, JI G Road Mangalore 575001), 2.Mr.Hemachandra S/o Datta Suvama - 7-9-1015/1 Sesamma Compound Near Bockkapatna Church Gate, Kodabali Mangalore 575003 (GUARANTOR). 3.Mrs.Veenakshi W/o Gokul Das House Anuraksha BRB Compound, Bhagwati Temple Road, Uppala Gate, Manjeshwara Kasargod 671322(PARTNER/ GUARANTOR) 4.Gokul Das S/o Rajiva Bappange, House Anuraksha, BRB Compound, Bhagwati Temple Road, Uppala Gate, Manjeshwara Kasargod 671322(PARTNER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR). The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed description of the Property	All the part and parcel of Residential building bearing Door no 2/92, "ANURAKSHA" BRB Compound, Bhagavathi Temple road, Uppala Gate, Uppala Village Manjeshwara Taluk Kasargod, Kerala-671322, belongs to Mr.Gokuldas, Sy no 63/2 (part) Area -13 cents, Boundaries: East: Road, South: Remaining portion of same sy no, Tiled road way, West: Portion of the same sy no, Vacant Land, North: Portion of the same sy no, Vacant Land. The above said property Door no 2/92 with right of way, water and easement rights and every thing attached thereto.
Encumbrances on property	NIL
Reserve Price	Rs. 48,80,000/-
EMD Amount	Rs. 4,88,000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs. 50000/-
Date and time of e-auction	27.07.2026, 11AM to 4pm.
Property ID No.	IDIB6674478078

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.ebkay.in>) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support@ebkay@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.ebkay.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use the Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://www.ebkay.in>

Date: 07.07.2026
Place: MANGALORE
Authorised Officer,
Indian Bank

EDITORIAL

US Charges Lawrence Bishnoi With Ordering Hardeep Nijjar's Killing

New Delhi: Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has been indicted in the United States for allegedly ordering the June 2023 assassination of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, marking the first time that the India-based gang have been criminally charged in connection with the killing that triggered an unprecedented diplomatic rupture between India and Canada.

The allegation forms part of three indictments unsealed on Tuesday (July 7) by the US Department of Justice as part of a coordinated international crackdown on India-based transnational organised crime networks. The operation, dubbed “Operation Hard Ball,” involved law enforcement agencies of three jurisdictions, resulting in the arrest of 24 people across US, Canada and Spain, the execution of 42 search warrants in Southern and Eastern California, and charges against 37 defendants. Latest indictment says Bishnoi, Goldy Brar, ordered assassination of Nijjar

According to the racketeering indictment, Bishnoi and his alleged North American lieutenant, Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, “ordered the assassination” of Nijjar, identified in court papers by his initials “H.S.N.” as “a prominent religious and political leader from the Punjab state of India who was living in British Columbia.” The Indian government had designated Nijjar as a terrorist.

Bishnoi himself allegedly gave one of them, identified only as Co-Conspirator 1, a photograph of Nijjar along with multiple addresses linked to him to help carry out the killing. The document states that Co-Conspirator 1 and a second co-conspirator then shot and killed Nijjar as he was leaving the Guru Nanak Sikh gurdwara in Surrey on June 18, 2023.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme, who took part in the announcement, was more direct about the case at the centre of it. In a separate statement issued by the RCMP, he said the three networks charged had been engaged in “extortions, drug trafficking, kidnapping and widespread violence – namely the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar – in Canada and the United States.”

Meanwhile, Canadian officials stressed that the indictments do not allege any involvement by Indian government officials. They also said the Indian government had cooperated with the organised crime investigation that led to Tuesday’s charges. Bishnoi accused of directing transnational criminal enterprise from his prison cell

The indictment portrays Bishnoi as cultivating a public image of a “patriot”, “nationalist” and “deeply religious individual” through social media and media interviews, which prosecutors allege he used to recruit members and associates to his syndicate in India, the United States and elsewhere. It further alleges the group recruited minors from impoverished parts of Punjab, a tactic prosecutors say was meant to reduce the sentencing exposure attached to violent crimes carried out on the enterprise’s behalf.

Behind that public persona, prosecutors allege, Bishnoi directed a transnational criminal enterprise from his prison cell using contraband cellphones and internet-based communication devices. The indictment names the enterprise the Lawrence Bishnoi Organized Crime Group and identifies Brar as the North American leader, Rohit Godara as its Europe-based leader, and Sukhraj Singh Kang as a high-level lieutenant based in India.

4

BENGALURUTHURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Edit

Pak Has A Kashmir Crisis - And It May Already Be Planning To Export It To India

The level of anger in what Pakistan chooses to call "Azad Kashmir" is unprecedented. Unlike other regions of unrest, such as Balochistan and the tribal areas, this is truly a people's movement, apparent from the thousands who have thronged the streets demanding justice. The rage is palpable. Clearly, after years of protests and piecemeal concessions, matters have come to a head. Islamabad has, as always, resorted to the usual repressive measures, arresting leaders and starving the landlocked region of basics like food and medicine, leading to open demands from the movement's leaders that India intervene. That's dangerous talk on both sides.

Meanwhile, resistance fronts in other parts of Pakistan, including the Pashtuns and Baloch, are declaring support. In the latter case, that took the form of an unusually heavy strike against the Coast Guard post in Jiwani. It is all at a boiling point.

PAKISTAN HAS MISUNDERSTOOD THE JAAC

First, the protests themselves. It is now common knowledge that 'Azad Kashmir' is anything but free. The whole place is run by a Joint Secretary-level office from Islamabad, and the 'King' of the region is the Prime Minister of Pakistan. True, there is a 'President' and a 'Prime Minister' of sorts, with limited powers. From time to time, constitutional amendments have been made to the 'Interim Constitution' - since it is supposed to be 'reunited' with Kashmir - but in the final analysis, the local administration has little say in anything. This is clear through a list of 38 demands that lie at the core of the protests. None of these are new and have been in place for years, but they were codified after the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) was formed in 2023. This is no political party, and its members are people who suffer daily problems - transporters, shopkeepers, and the like. Proof enough is the list of people who have been punished for supporting them, which includes low-level government employees, including 42 from the education department - among them one lec-



turer and 32 teachers - 12 from the health department, five each from the electricity and public works departments, three from the local government and rural development department, and two each from the agriculture and forests departments. Retired teachers have had their pensions revoked. The leadership is also from middle-class families, like Sardar Aman Khan, who has a bounty of some PKR 10 million on his head after he called for Indian intervention; Khwaja Mehran, an advocate from Punjab University who is unlikely to get off lightly since he accused the Pakistan army of providing guns to Kashmiris; and the now-arrested Shaukat Nawaz Mir, a former trade union leader.

DO THE MATH

Now consider the demands themselves. One is compensation for those killed in protests in the last two years. That includes those who were fired upon by the police for opposing the rising cost of flour and electricity. Things turned ugly by 2025, with security vehicles torched, and some police personnel briefly held hostage. The demands eventually broadened to include putting an end to the privileges given to the elite - that is, all Pakistanis who have been injected into top government positions, not to mention a horde of Punjabis who have settled here, bringing with them the 'Pajero

culture'. Another demand was politically sensitive - an end to the system of 12 reserved seats for refugees in the autonomous region's legislative assembly. These are people who migrated from India and settled elsewhere in Pakistan, mostly in Punjab. Most have never even been to PoK. This suits Islamabad and mainstream political parties, who look at that slice as theirs to use however they see fit. Constituencies are also deeply imbalanced, with roughly 4.3 lakh voters for the six Jammu refugee seats against only about 30,000 voters for the six refugee seats in the Kashmir Valley

Now look at the math. A total of 53 seats in the house, with 45 elected seats, including these 12 outside of PoK entirely, while the eight 'nominated' seats are open to 'direction' and include an overseas Kashmiri. So, roughly 20 seats of a total of 53 are used to influence the outcome in the house. An interesting conclusion was reached by the AJK Supreme Court Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan and Justice Khalid Yousaf Chaudhary in an " advisory opinion", which noted that "the 12 refugee seats ... can be altered, reduced, or abolished only through a constitutional amendment enacted strictly in accordance with Article 33". That article states that no amendment can be made without the assent of the Government of Pakistan. So, it

could be done. Islamabad just has to see the light and give that concession.

THIS IS PAKISTAN'S LIFELINE

Then there are other demands that simply require Islamabad to prod the bureaucracy in the state, which, unsurprisingly, is almost wholly Pakistani.

This includes the entirely justified demand for land, affected by the Mangla dam raising project that was finished in 2009 and which displaced 40,000 people from their ancestral lands. Other demands include an international airport at Mirpur, better hospital facilities, lower taxes on property transfer (which, currently, are almost double what Punjab pays), and an allocation of Rs 10 billion for upgrading a decrepit electricity network.

Remember that even when PoK quite literally holds the key to Pakistan's power, providing the mainland with abundant hydropower potential, it suffers from almost continuous blackouts. If PoK goes 'independent', that quite literally may be the end of Pakistan. As major JACC leaders now ask openly for Indian help, the security scare is only going to grow. Few people realise, or openly acknowledge, that Kashmir is, in fact, Pakistan's 'jugular vein'. That is also why Pakistan's terrorism sponsorship policy in the region has been

going on for decades now. Apparently, for Pakistan, India's over-generous allocation of 80% of the water through the Indus Water Treaty is simply not enough. It wants it all.

INDIA IS IN A VERY TOUGH SPOT

As the protests continue, so does the repression. All this has raised some interesting and uncomfortable points for India.

First, since Delhi sees PoK as its own territory, it has a right to intervene in at least a humanitarian context. Remember, that means a convoy carrying aid, facing up to the inevitable armed opposition at the border. The United Nations has made 'parties to the conflict' legally bound to deliver aid. The question is whether India is a 'party' here. If it is, then international humanitarian law obliges it to provide aid.

The trouble, however, is that none of these laws holds water in actual conflict hotspots. The UN itself has a poor record of enforcing these.

Second, there's the option of pressing other countries to weigh in. Protests in support of PoK have erupted across the UK and also in New Zealand. That could provide space for pressing Islamabad to at least talk to JACC leaders rather than imprison them.

But the final issue is this: If India does nothing at all, then it loses ground on its territorial claims and the moral authority of being the guardian for the people of the area. However, given that people in Kashmir on this side don't seem to be interested in the whole mess, Delhi has little incentive to act. This studied non-interference could also be seen as a signal by Pakistan that Delhi only desires peace and stability, and that adventurism is not on the cards. Let's see if a certain Field Marshal gets that message.

Meanwhile, India ought to be cautious. Rawalpindi might likely try to push people towards the border in a bid to embarrass India and paint it as being uncaring towards Kashmiris on the other side. Pakistan has played this game before - years ago. Might be time for India to think about that, and rather quickly.

India's SpaceX Moment Is Here; Vikram-1 And The Startup Rocket Revolution

A private rocket will attempt India's first orbital launch this month, chasing a milestone that could fundamentally reshape the country's deep-tech landscape. If Skyroot Aerospace succeeds, it will cross a line India has never crossed before. It will be a national space breakthrough achieved by a startup, not the state. Sometime between July 12 and August 4, from the same Sriharikota spaceport that has hosted every ISRO orbital launch since 1979, the Vikram-1 rocket will lift off. The launch arrives during a six-month freeze in India's state-led space program, triggered by the failure of ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket, first in May 2025, and again in January this year. Vikram-1 is a serious technical undertaking, not a symbolic gesture. The seven-storey, carbon-composite rocket has been developed largely in-house, with solid, liquid and upper-stage propulsion technologies under Skyroot's Kalam, Raman and Dhawan programmes, extensive use of 3D-printed components, and a 95% level of indigenisation. The maiden flight, Mission Aagaman, targets a 450-km, 60-degree inclination low Earth orbit and is designed to carry payloads of up to 350 kg for Indian and international customers. It follows Skyroot's successful Vikram-S suborbital technology demonstrator in 2022. Reaching orbit is an altogether harder challenge, and the company has made it clear that this mission is as much about validating flight systems and gathering data as it is about mission success. In May, Skyroot raised \$60 million at a \$1 billion-plus valuation, becoming India's first space-tech unicorn. Launch



vehicles are among the most capital-intensive products any startup can build, requiring years of engineering before generating meaningful commercial revenue. Investors are clearly not betting on a single launch. They are betting on a company that says 90% of its customers are already outside India. For six decades, Indian space capability has largely meant ISRO. Satellites launched on lean budgets, missions to the Moon and Mars, and a reputation for engineering excellence under severe constraints. What India has lacked is not scientific capability but a commercial layer built on top of it: Companies that sell launch services, satellites, geospatial intelligence and downstream applications to customers beyond the government. Unlike frontier AI or advanced semiconductor manufacturing, where India is still building capabilities, space is one of the few deep-tech sectors where decades of public investment have already created a globally credible technological base. The challenge today is prov-

ing that India can build globally competitive space businesses. The 2020 decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to open the space sector to private participation, followed by the creation of IN-SPACe as the regulator and promoter of private activity, made that transition possible. The results are already visible. The number of Indian space startups has grown from one in 2014 to more than 400 today. IN-SPACe has set a goal of expanding India's space economy from about \$8.4 billion in 2022 to \$44 billion by 2033, increasing India's share of the global market from a mere 2% to 8%. The opportunity is substantial. According to Novaspac's Space Economy Report, the global space economy reached about \$626 billion in 2025 and is projected to exceed \$1 trillion over the next decade. Increasingly, space tech value is being created in communications, navigation, earth observation, defence, climate intelligence, agriculture, logistics and financial services. Space is steadily becoming critical economic infrastructure. Two challenges will

determine whether India's growing space startup ecosystem produces globally competitive companies or remains perpetually pre-commercial. The first is capital. Deep-tech hardware companies do not fit conventional venture capital timelines. They require patient investors willing to finance years of research, testing and certification before meaningful revenue arrives. Funding for Indian space startups slowed in 2024, suggesting that average cheque sizes have become smaller even as entrepreneurial interest has grown. The second is procurement. The government must become an effective early customer without becoming the only customer. Public contracts should help Indian companies establish credibility before competing globally, not create long-term dependence on the state. ISRO should increasingly focus on missions whose scientific, strategic or technological value extends well beyond immediate commercial returns: deep-space exploration, breakthrough propulsion technologies.

Prashant Kishor Is Now Facing The Hardest Test Of His Entire Career

For more than a decade, Prashant Kishor has been an unusually visible invisible man. He helped craft campaigns, read voter moods, found language for leaders, shaped alliances, advised parties, and often seemed to understand Indian politics better than many who practised it full-time. Yet his power lay in remaining adjacent to authority. He could influence outcomes without having to suffer the permanent injuries of elected politics. Bankipur changes that. The by-election for Bihar's Bankipur Assembly seat is scheduled for July 30. The seat fell vacant after Nitin Nabin resigned as MLA following, first, his elevation as the BJP National President, and then his subsequent election to the Rajya Sabha. Ordinarily, this may have been treated as a routine vacancy in a safe seat. But it has acquired disproportionate interest because Jan Suraj's Prashant Kishor has announced that he will contest from here, marking his first real plunge into the electoral arena. During the 2025 assembly elections in Bihar, Kishor had repeatedly generated speculation around his own candidature but eventually stayed out of the contest. Jan Suraj contested widely but failed to win a seat. His decision not to contest was widely seen as one of the reasons the party's poor performance hurt its credibility more than it might otherwise have. Bankipur is, therefore, not a debut in the romantic sense. It is a corrective examination after a failed first attempt. The strategist who once told parties how to win must now prove that he knows how to be



chosen. From Congress's War Room To Bihar's Mohalla There is a revealing thread running through Kishor's political journey. In 2021 and 2022, when his talks with the Congress appeared serious, the central issue was not whether he had ideas. The Congress did not doubt his skills. The problem was authority. Kishor reportedly wanted a free hand to revamp the party's political strategy, alliance-making, and election machinery. The Congress, in its familiar style, appeared willing to create panels, but not necessarily the kind of executive freedom he sought. There were old anxieties, too: should he be treated as a consultant, an office-bearer, a member, a strategist, or a disruptor? Kishor's eventual break with the Congress was not just a failed negotiation; it also marked a psychological turn. If established parties would not give him the authority to change them, he would build a vehicle of his own. Jan Suraj came out of that conviction. Bankipur Is An Opportunity And A Trap Bankipur is a tempting battlefield for Kishor. It is one of

Patna's most talked-about and VIP urban seats. It is part of the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha constituency and sits inside the capital's political imagination. It is urban, visible, media-friendly, and politically alert. Voters here are likely to respond to the vocabulary of governance, public services, corruption, jobs, infrastructure, and middle-class aspiration. For a leader who speaks the language of systems and state capacity, Bankipur offers a constituency that can understand his argument. But it is also a trap. Bankipur is not some virgin land. It is a BJP fortress, and, by most measures, an unusually strong one. The seat came into existence after the 2008 delimitation. Before that, this area was part of the Patna West Assembly seat. In the 1980s, the Congress and Janata Dal influence was visible here. But from the mid-1990s, the constituency and its predecessor space began turning decisively towards the BJP. In 1995, BJP leader Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha won from here and remained MLA till 2005. After his death, his son Nitin Nabin inherited the

political legacy. Between father and son, the family has given the BJP a near-continuous hold over this urban seat: Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha won four times, and Nitin Nabin followed with five victories of his own. Since 1985, except for two occasions, the BJP has won every time at Bankipur. Turnout has often been modest, but BJP victories have been emphatic. Credibility Before Power A single bypoll will not alter Bihar's power structure. The government will not fall. The opposition will not be resurrected. Bankipur will not redraw the state's map. But it can redraw Kishor's credibility. The immediate stakes are not legislative power but political seriousness. Jan Suraj's biggest challenge after 2025 is not that it lost. New parties lose. Its deeper problem is that it did not convert intellectual and moral energy into enough electoral weight. It was discussed more than it was voted for. Bankipur can repair that gap. A victory would transform Kishor from commentator to claimant. It would give him an Assembly platform, constant visibility, and a direct constituency. It would also puncture the comfortable argument of his rivals that he is only a vote-cutter or a media-savvy strategist who cannot survive real politics. A respectable performance would also matter. If Kishor disrupts the BJP's margin, consolidates urban anti-incumbency, or overtakes the opposition in a visible seat, he will be able to say that Jan Suraj has found a starting constituency: urban, aspirational, impatient, and open to a governance-first appeal.

Brent Breaches \$80 A Barrel Even As Trump Says Oil Prices 'Will Come Down Very Big'

Brent crude climbed past the \$80-a-barrel mark on Wednesday, even as US President Donald Trump insisted that oil prices would "come down very big" while addressing reporters on the sidelines of the NATO Summit in Ankara. Brent futures peaked to \$80.06 a barrel, up about 8%, as investors weighed fresh geopolitical risks in the Middle East after renewed tensions involving the United States and Iran. Responding to questions on rising crude prices, Trump said that "anytime we hit Iran, oil goes up. It's alright," suggesting that the market reaction was expected. However, he maintained that prices would eventually ease, adding, "Oil is coming down very big." Trump also made a series of remarks on regional security, saying he believes Israel will withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon. He disclosed that he had discussed the issue with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin



Netanyahu during recent talks. On Iran's nuclear programme, Trump asserted that "nobody is able to get Iran uranium except us," while declining to elaborate on possible military plans. Asked whether the United States was considering deploying ground troops in Iran, he responded, "Why would I do that?" The comments came as energy markets remained on edge over the possibility of further dis-

ruptions to oil supplies from the region. Traders have been closely monitoring developments involving Iran, a key producer in the Middle East, with concerns that any escalation could affect production, exports, or shipping routes. Despite Trump's confidence that crude prices will retreat, the immediate market reaction remained bullish, with Brent hovering just below the psychologically impor-

tant \$80-a-barrel level as geopolitical uncertainty continued to support oil prices. Only hours later, President Trump said in the Turkish capital of Ankara — where he is participating in a major NATO summit — that the deal signed by the US and Iran, intended to allow the two sides to find a path to lasting peace, was likely ended. "For me, I think it's over," Trump said early Wednesday morning in Ankara at the annual NATO summit. "As far as I'm concerned, it's just a waste of time." The president also said the US may reimplement its naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, directly interfering with Iranian exports, and that the White House is revisiting the idea of forcibly seizing Kharg Island, Iran's primary crude oil export terminal. The waves of attacks by both sides and President Trump's comments threaten to derail what was already a tenuous situation in the Middle East.

KEJRIWAL WRITES TO 29 CAR MAKERS ON E20 FUEL, SEEKS RESPONSE

New Delhi: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday, July 8, wrote to 29 automobile manufacturers, seeking their response on the impact of E20 fuel on vehicle mileage and performance, and asked them to reply within seven days. Kejriwal wrote separate letters to Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Hero MotoCorp, referring to their recent statements that the use of E20 fuel would not affect vehicle mileage. In his letters, Kejriwal sought a written assurance from these companies that if customers face any reduction in mileage or any impact on their vehicles due to the use of E20 fuel, they would be compensated by the manufacturers. There was no immediate reaction available from the three automobile manufacturers. Kejriwal said he has written separate letters to 26 other automobile companies, seeking their response on



the use of E20 fuel, its possible impact on vehicle mileage and performance, and their views on the concerns being raised by consumers. He also said he would visit petrol pumps and meet automobile mechanics on Thursday to understand their views on the use of E20 fuel and discuss its impact on vehicles. He added that he would also interact with consumers to know their experiences and concerns. He said the three manufacturers had been

asked to respond within a week, clarifying whether E20 is suitable for older vehicles, whether mileage reduction is limited to 4-5%, and whether they would compensate consumers if fuel efficiency declined further or if vehicle components were damaged due to the use of E20 fuel. AAP also said similar letters had been sent to 26 other automobile manufacturers, asking them to publicly state whether E20 can be used in their older vehicles, the

expected impact on mileage, and whether the fuel could result in mechanical damage. Kejriwal said the issue affected millions of vehicle owners and required transparent communication from manufacturers so that consumers could make informed decisions. Plans to gather consumer feedback The AAP chief said he would visit petrol pumps, service centres and mechanics on Thursday to interact with vehicle owners and gather feedback on their experience with E20-blended petrol. He alleged that concerns raised by consumers were being overlooked and questioned the rationale behind expanding the use of E20 fuel without what he described as adequate public clarity. He also said companies should stand by their claims and compensate consumers if their assurances regarding mileage or vehicle safety were found to be incorrect.

Canada invites Telangana CM Revanth to visit for trade, investment ties

AGENCY
Hyderabad: Canada's High Commissioner to India, Chris Cooter, on Wednesday, July 8, met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad and invited him to visit the country. Reddy and Cooter held crucial discussions focused on strengthening Canada-Telangana trade, investment, and innovation partnerships. The deliberations focused on opportunities for enhanced collaboration in major infrastructure and urban development projects underway in Telangana, such as the Musi River Development Project, the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion, and the Future City being developed by the state government on the outskirts of Hyderabad, a state government release said. Cooter highlighted several recent developments reflecting Telangana's growing footprint in Canada, including Firan Technology Group's decision to set up a manufacturing facility and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's opening of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad. He noted CPP Investments'



major investment in Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters, committing up to one billion Canadian dollars under a strategic partnership. Reddy explained Telangana's success story in various sectors such as IT, Life Sciences, Defence and Aerospace. He highlighted Hyderabad's dominance in attracting Global Capability Centres of Fortune 500 companies, the release said. The CM also stressed the state government's commitment to rejuvenate the river Musi, which would promote economic activity along the riverfront. He sought

Canada's support for the state's solar power push and its plans to promote a green economy, the release said. Elaborating on his plans to transform the state into a global knowledge hub, the CM said several top global universities are coming forward to set up campuses in Hyderabad. He pitched the idea of a group of Canadian universities establishing a multi-university campus in Hyderabad. He noted CPP Investments' major investment in Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters, committing up to one billion Canadian dollars under a strategic partner-

ship. Reddy explained Telangana's success story in various sectors such as IT, Life Sciences, Defence and Aerospace. He highlighted Hyderabad's dominance in attracting Global Capability Centres of Fortune 500 companies, the release said. The CM also stressed the state government's commitment to rejuvenate the river Musi, which would promote economic activity along the riverfront. He sought Canada's support for the state's solar power push and its plans to promote a green economy, the release said. Elaborating on his plans to transform the

state into a global knowledge hub, the CM said several top global universities are coming forward to set up campuses in Hyderabad. He pitched the idea of a group of Canadian universities establishing a multi-university campus in Hyderabad. The CM welcomed growing Canadian engagement in the state and invited Canadian companies, investors and institutions to participate in the second edition of Telangana's Global Investors Summit, scheduled for December this year, to explore new business opportunities and partnerships. Cooter was all praise for Telangana's forward-looking vision and approach to job creation and development. He said the state holds massive potential given its massive talent pool. Offering to extend all support to the state government's initiatives, Cooter invited the CM to visit Canada and explore further opportunities across sectors. In the coming months, a Canadian trade delegation will visit Telangana and hold extensive discussions on areas like energy, urbanisation, defence and aerospace, Cooter added.

Half of Cotton Farmers Struggle with Weed Management; Godrej Agrovet's Hitweed Maxx Helps Ensure Timely Control

July, 2026: As cotton sowing progresses across Telangana, farmers are navigating increasing weather uncertainty. With forecasts indicating the possibility of El Niño-related weather variability, experts anticipate greater rainfall fluctuations, prolonged dry spells and uneven moisture availability during the crucial crop-establishment phase. Such conditions can intensify weed pressure with both grass and broad leaf weeds, often emerging rapidly after intermittent rainfall and competing aggressively with young cotton plants for moisture, nutrients, sunlight and space. According to Godrej Agrovet's farmer study, nearly half of surveyed cotton farmers consider weed management difficult, highlighting the scale of the challenge and the importance of timely weed control during the crop's early growth stages. Hitweed Maxx, Godrej Agrovet's post-emergence selective herbicide for cotton, effectively controls both grassy and broadleaf weeds. Applied at the 2-3 leaf stage at the recommended dosage of 70 ml per pump, it reduces crop-weed competition during the crop's most vulnerable growth phase and provides up to 25-30 days of effective weed control. By



helping maintain a cleaner field during early crop establishment, Hitweed Maxx supports stronger crop growth and helps protect yield potential. Godrej Agrovet recently announced a cashback offer on Hitweed Maxx, combining proven product performance with a direct farmer incentive to drive timely adoption of best-in-class weed management practices reflecting the company's commitment to improving farmer productivity and profitability. Commenting on the importance of timely weed management, Rajavelu N.K., CEO – Crop Care Business, Godrej Agrovet, said: "Telangana contributes nearly one-sixth of India's cotton production and plays a critical role in the country's cotton economy. This season, delayed rainfall and

the possibility of El Niño-related weather variability have increased the importance of scientific weed management. Under such conditions, weeds compete aggressively for moisture and nutrients, making timely intervention essential. At Godrej Agrovet, we remain committed to delivering farmer-centric crop protection solutions that help improve productivity and build resilience against increasingly unpredictable growing conditions." With climate variability emerging as a major challenge for cotton cultivation, Godrej Agrovet continues to promote science-led weed management practices that help farmers improve productivity, profitability and resilience against increasingly unpredictable weather conditions.

US LABOUR DEPT TO PROBE H-1B VISA 'ABUSE' BY COGNIZANT, OTHER IT FIRMS

The US Department of Labor is launching a major investigation into alleged abuse of the H-1B and PERM visa programmes, with IT services firms including Cognizant among those expected to face scrutiny, according to a Fox Business report. Labour Department Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito announced the probe during an interview with Fox Business on Wednesday, describing it as the Trump administration's first major investigation into alleged H-1B and PERM visa fraud, labour trafficking and the displacement of American workers. "This is another example where fraud is fueling violent crime," D'Esposito said. "Much of the visa and the human trafficking that we see when it comes to this foreign labor is tied to cartels, is tied to transnational gangs." He said investigators have already issued dozens of subpoenas as part of the



investigation. The announcement comes ahead of Vice President JD Vance's anti-fraud initiative event in Milwaukee later on Wednesday, as the Trump administration steps up enforcement against immigration-related fraud. An H-1B visa allows US employers to hire foreign professionals in specialised occupations for an initial three-year period, extendable up to six years. The technology sector accounts for the majority of H-1B applications, followed by consulting, engineering, healthcare

and higher education. D'Esposito said the administration wants to ensure that American workers "are not seeing their jobs taken away by foreigners or people who are gaming the system or financially benefiting from bringing these individuals into America." He also alleged that visa-related fraud extends beyond the technology sector. "This is not just people working in factories or actual labor," he said. "These are people working in medical facilities and doctors' offices that are actually putting people in harm's way."

Higher Than India's Sovereign Rating: L&T Joins Elite List Of MNCs With Fresh Moody's Upgrade



Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has received a major rating upgrade from global brokerage Moody's, placing it in an exclusive basket of Indian multinational companies with credit profiles assessed above the sovereign level. Moody's has upgraded L&T to 'Baa1' long-term issuer rating, two notches above India's sovereign rating of 'Baa3'. The Infrastructure player has also secured a 'Stable' outlook from the prime financial services company. Along with L&T, Moody's has assigned an equivalent rating to its wholly-owned subsidiary L&T Hydrocarbon Saudi Company LLC. The 'Baa1' rating signifies a quality investment-grade credit

profile, reflecting strong capacity to meet financial commitments and a low level of credit risk, according to the company's official press release. Further, it outlined certain core strengths areas that L&T has over its peers including its dominant market position and revenue visibility, corporate governance, and favourable industry prospects in the domestic and international infrastructure landscape. Larsen & Toubro reported a 3% fall in consolidated net profit in the fourth quarter of financial year 2026. The bottom line came in at Rs 5,325.60 crore compared to Rs 5,497.26 crore in the same period last year.

Trains and emergency calls affected after major outage at Australia's largest telecoms company

A major outage at Australia's largest telecommunications company has led to cancelled train services, left thousands of customers without mobile coverage, and sparked an investigation into emergency calls that were not connected. Telstra's chief financial officer Michael Ackland apologised for the issue which began at 04:30 local time on Wednesday and affected "some mobile calls and data services". Services were fully restored about 12 hours later, he said. A software defects related to time-keeping servers at data centres in Sydney and Melbourne was to blame - not a cyber attack, Ackland added. Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the outage was "deeply concerning". Telstra described the outage as "intermittent" but acknowledged the impact had been "national". Ackland said the telecoms company had conducted welfare checks on customers who had called emergency services during the outage, with six requiring immediate help. Back-up systems, which divert emergency calls through



other mobile carriers, largely worked as they should, he added. Asked if the country could still rely on its largest mobile network, Ackland said: "Australia can absolutely have faith in its biggest telco... we take these outages very seriously." "Our investment in resilience and cyber security and redundancy in our network is significant but it is a big and complex network and from time to time, issues do occur confirmed that welfare checks were being made for about three dozen calls to emergency services that did not go through but that the "core triple-zero system remains operational". Communications Minister

Anika Wells said the country's telco regulator, the Australian Communication and Media Authority, will investigate the outage. In Victoria, all regional train services were cancelled due to the outage while some regional services in New South Wales were also disrupted. National freight services were also affected. Payment systems were also down with about 80,000 businesses using the Tyro app affected. Last September, a systems outage at Optus - the second largest telecoms company in Australia - led to three deaths after hundreds of people across more than half the country were unable to call emergency services for 13 hours.



WERE EGYPT TRULY 'ROBBED' BY ARGENTINA?

VAR Controversies In FIFA World Cup Match Explained

The Argentina vs Egypt Round of 16 clash in the FIFA World Cup 2026 concluded in absolute chaos. Egypt, who were leading 2-0 until the 78th minute, saw Argentina make a remarkable comeback to win the contest 3-2. But, as far as the Egypt camp is concerned, the referee and VAR team favoured Argentina too much throughout the game, ensuring they did all they could to leave the fightback gates open for them. Egypt coach Hossam Hassan went on an epic rant in the press conference after the match, highlighting multiple incidents he felt unfairly went in Argentina's favour. While there were many 50-50 calls that Argentina seemed to benefit from, there were two big decisions that played a huge role in defining the complexion of the game. 1. Mostafa Ziko's Disallowed Goal: When Egypt was leading 1-0, midfielder Mostafa Ziko finished off a brilliant counter-attacking move to score what would have given Egypt a 2-0 lead. However, referee Francois Letexier was called to the pitchside monitor by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR). He reviewed the



footage and disallowed the goal, suggesting Egyptian midfielder Marwan Attia had pulled back Lisandro Martinez and stepped on his foot in the build-up. However, what is contentious is the fact that the foul took place deep inside Egypt's half while Argentina was actually the team on the attack. Egypt won the ball from that challenge and ran the full length of the pitch to score. Pundits and fans argued that the incident occurred too far back in time (around 10 seconds

prior) and too far away (nearly 100 yards). 3. The foul on Licha preceding Egypt's disallowed goal. A clear foul. Attia steps on Lisandro's supporting foot, preventing him from continuing the play. While it's not a high-intensity stomp, it's enough to prevent the advance, as the Argentine can't continue with his stride. Hence, to claim that it had a role to play in Ziko's goal is questionable. Critics felt that the VAR went too far. Though Ziko made it 2-0 just minutes later, had the previ-

ous goal been given, Egypt would've had a much more comfortable 3-0 lead, making a comeback even harder. 2. The Late Penalty Decision: Late in the match, as Egypt looked to make a comeback, a major incident occurred inside the Argentinian penalty box after a total of two penalty shouts were made, one for a challenge on Mohamed Salah by Julian Alvarez. There was a shirt pull on the first player and a and potential foot-on-foot contact by Alvarez on Salah. The referee, however, did not blow his whistle and waved play on. Even the VAR chose not to intervene, much to the disappointment of the Egypt camp. This caused immense fury from the Egyptian bench and head coach Hossam Hassan. Critics slammed the refereeing team for extreme inconsistency. Many argued that the VAR was willing to go 100 yards backward to penalise Egypt for a minor offence in the build-up to their goal, but completely ignored the shirt pull on Salah, following which Argentina went on to score their third and final goal of the game.

SOURAV GANGULY THANKS ICC, JAY SHAH FOR INDUCTING HIM IN HALL OF FAME: "HUGE HONOUR"

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday said that it's a huge honour to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and expressed his gratitude to the ICC and Chairman Jay Shah. In a post on X, Ganguly said it is amazing to be part of some great names. "Thank you ICC and Chairman Jay shah @JayShah for inducting me in the hall of fame .. it's a huge honour ..One of the 10 Indians to be inducted in the hall of fame ever .. Amazing to be a part of some great names .. @bcci," Ganguly said in a post on X. The move coincided with Ganguly's 54th birthday. ICC is yet to make an announcement about the decision. The ICC Hall of Fame celebrates the extraordinary achievements of cricketing legends who have shaped the sport's rich and vibrant history. Players are eligible for induction only five years after their final international appearance. The ICC Hall of Fame was launched in January 2009 as part of the ICC's centenary



celebrations and has since celebrated the greatest players to have graced the game. Ganguly took over the captaincy during one of the most turbulent phases in Indian cricket. The left-handed batter transformed the team's mindset, instilling aggression, self-belief and the confidence to compete overseas. Known as the "God of Offside" for his elegant strokeplay through the cover region, Ganguly amassed 18,575 international runs in 424 matches, including 38

centuries and 107 half-centuries. He scored 7,212 runs in 113 Tests and 11,363 runs in 311 One-Day Internationals, making him one of India's greatest batters across formats. As captain, Ganguly led India in 196 international matches, winning 97. His tenure featured several landmark achievements, including the famous 2001 Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph over Steve Waugh's all-conquering Australia, India's maiden Test series victory in Pakistan in 2004.

Why Drop Sanju Samson For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi? Gautam Gambhir Ends Silence On Controversial Call

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was at the centre of another press conference storm after the Indian team suffered a humiliating defeat against England in the third T20I. After India were bowled out for just 76 runs chasing a target of 202, questions arose over the management's decision to drop Sanju Samson, the country's hero at the T20 World Cup 2026. Addressing the media after the match, Gambhir said there was absolute clarity on the topic between him and Samson, but maintained that the conversation could not be made public. Samson, who failed to fire in two T20Is against Ireland as well as the England T20I series opener, was dropped in favour of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who has not hit the ground



running either. However, Gambhir assured that he had given complete clarity to Samson over his role in India's T20I team. "The first thing is that regarding the clarity Sanju Samson needed, he has been given that from my side. That's a conversation strictly between the player and the head coach. That conversation is not going to

come outside," Gambhir said in the press conference on Tuesday. "Regarding Sanju, we are very clear. What he has done for India has been phenomenal, and sometimes you just have to look at the form of a certain player. There is no hard and fast rule that he cannot make a comeback in this series," he added. Gambhir stated that interna-

tional cricket is not about personnel, but team combination. Sooryavanshi was brought into the side because the management believed in the opening combination of him and Abhishek Sharma. However, the fault does not lie with Sooryavanshi alone; the entire Indian team has failed to fire on the tour of the United Kingdom, both against Ireland and in the England series so far. "International cricket is about results, so whatever we feel is the best combination to give us that result, we play that combination and that playing XI. I've always been a big believer that everyone needs to earn their place and the right to play for India." "Regarding adaptability, obviously we haven't adapted well.

"Lost My Focus A Little Bit": Felix Auger-Aliassime Reflects On Loss To Novak Djokovic At Wimbledon

Felix Auger-Aliassime admitted he was left disappointed after narrowly missing out on his maiden Wimbledon semi-final following a five-set defeat to seven-time champion Novak Djokovic in the men's singles quarter-finals on Centre Court, but said he could still take pride in pushing the 24-time Grand Slam winner to the limit in one of the longest matches in the tournament's history. Despite the disappointment of another Grand Slam exit at the last-eight stage, Auger-Aliassime chose to focus on the level he produced against the 24-time major champion, saying the contest offered valuable lessons for future opportunities. "Obviously it's tough for me. Quarters in Paris, here. I had other chances in my



career where tight matches like this didn't go my way. I'll have to see what I can do so it goes my way the next time. For now, I can be proud of the fight and then I move on, move on to what's next," Felix was quoted as saying by ATP. The Canadian had pushed Djokovic to the brink after recovering from a break down in the fourth set to force a deciding fifth.

very focused with him, I lost my focus a little bit. "The fourth set, I was fortunate to come back. He also had a loss of focus, a dip, to give me a chance to come back in the fourth set. Then I thought I played a good, good tie-break," he added. The fifth set remained on serve throughout, with Auger-Aliassime saving every break point he faced before the match was ultimately decided in a 10-point tie-break. The Canadian acknowledged that Djokovic's composure in decisive moments once again made the difference. "But yeah, I think in the end he proves again that he's good when he needs to be. He's solid, more solid than I was, when he needs to be," he said.

HENDERSON HAS SURGERY IN USA AFTER BREAKING ARM

Jordan Henderson has had surgery after breaking his arm during the celebrations of England's win over Mexico on Sunday. The Brentford midfielder suffered the freak injury as he fell awkwardly after attempting to jump over the advertising hoardings at the side of the pitch. Henderson, who did not play during the match, was carried on a stretcher away from the pitch while receiving oxygen. But now Henderson has posted on social media, external to say that he has had surgery in Kansas City, where England's basecamp is for the duration of the World Cup. "Surgery done! Let's get ready for the



The football world went berserk after witnessing arguably the most enthralling game of the FIFA World Cup 2026, as Argentina staged a heroic comeback from being 0-2 down to beat Egypt 3-2 and qualify for

the quarter-finals. Lionel Messi had his penalty saved in the first half but was instrumental in inspiring a once-in-a-lifetime comeback for La Albiceleste. However, the manner of Argentina's come-from-behind victory has triggered a controversy, with the entire Egypt camp claiming that the tourna-

ment has been 'rigged' to favour the defending champions and their captain, Messi. Speaking at the press conference, Egypt coach Hossam Hassan said that 'external factors' decided the game. He even alleged that FIFA wanted Messi to stay in the tournament for long; hence, the decisions on the field were 'influenced'. "We looked better than the reigning champions-better in everything-but the result was influenced by internal factors on the pitch and external factors off it," Hassan told reporters after the game. "Perhaps they

ICC Elections Witness Massive Upset; Imran Khwaja Loses Board Seat

In a major shake-up in global cricket administration, long-serving International Cricket Council (ICC) Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja suffered a shock defeat in the Associate Member Directors' elections held during the global body's Annual Conference on Wednesday. France's Gurumurthy Palani topped the polling charts with 35 votes, while UAE's Mubashir Usmani and Namibia's Dr. Rudie van Vuuren secured 26 votes each to claim the three available spots on the all-powerful 17-member ICC Board. Khwaja, a veteran cricket administrator from Singapore, finished a close fourth with 23 votes, while Malaysia's Mahinda Vallipuram managed to get only 19 votes. The ICC confirmed the development in an official statement, noting



that the three elected Directors will each serve a two-year term on the ICC Board. While Palani and Van Vuuren enter the apex board for the first time, Usmani successfully retained his position. Palani's election to the all-important ICC Board will trigger another administrative change. "The result will require an election for Gurumurthy Palani's position on the Chief Executives' Committee as he is unable to hold both positions," the ICC

stated. Congratulating the newly elected members, ICC Chairman Jay Shah said, "I congratulate Gurumurthy Palani, Mubashshir Usmani and Dr Rudie van Vuuren on their election as Associate Member Directors to the ICC Board. "Associate Members play a vital role in the continued growth and global expansion of our sport, and I look forward to working closely with them as we build on the strong progress being made across all regions."

LONDON CITY SIGN BALLON D'OR WINNER PUTELLAS



London City Lionesses have signed two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas on a three-year deal in one of the biggest scoops in women's football history. Spain midfielder Putellas, widely regarded as one of the game's greatest players, left Barcelona after 14 years in May and attracted interest from almost every top club in the world. The 32-year-old won 38 trophies with Barcelona, including 10 league titles. She was unveiled in New York City alongside London City's US billionaire owner Michele Kang. "I am thrilled to embark on this new chapter with London City Lionesses," said Putellas. "The club's ambition and its steadfast commitment to growing as a women-only independent club resonate

deeply with me. "I look forward to making an impact on the pitch as we challenge for titles. "Off the pitch, building on my passion for youth development, I am equally excited to work with Michele in elevating women's football in England and on the global stage." Putellas captained Barcelona to a fourth Champions League title in her final season, while London City finished sixth in their debut Women's Super League campaign. It is a remarkable feat for London City to have persuaded Putellas to join as they continue to show lofty ambitions. BBC Sport reported last month that Putellas chose London City over Boston Legacy, the final two clubs vying for her signature.

NAGARJUNA: 'LENIN' WILL WIN HEARTS

Audiences Will Give Back the Same Love to 'Lenin' That Was Poured Into Making It - King Nagarjuna Akkineni at the Release Press Meet

We Made 'Lenin' With Utmost Honesty; Our Content Will Speak - Akhil Akkineni at the Release Press Meet

'Lenin' is a film starring Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse as the lead pair. Presented by Annapurna Studios, the movie is produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments. Directed by Murali Kishor Abbooru, the movie is slated for a grand release on July 10. In this context, a grand release press meet was organized on Wednesday. Highlights from the event:

KING NAGARJUNA AKKINENI SAID: The Srirampuram Connection: "The moment Nandu (Director Murali Kishor) told me that this story takes place in Srirampuram, I was



instantly reminded of my father. Nandu has written this story beautifully, and the dialogues are phenomenal. He even took Akhil to his hometown, Srirampuram, where Nandu's family looked after Akhil like their own child." Connecting With the Character's Pain: "Akhil has faced the kind of pain in his own life that his character experiences in 'Lenin'. Everyone works hard for every film, but this time, Akhil's personal pain perfectly synced with the emotional depth of this story. Because I stepped in as a producer, I was highly involved in the script level. I was shown some footage during the shoot and knew right then that this was going to be a great film."

Character Importance & Post-Production: "Every single character holds immense weight in this movie. The character of Bharati (played by Bhagyashri) is the very soul and heartbeat of this film. Nandu wove a brilliant story with so many characters and layers, and Thaman complemented it with an extraordinary re-recording (RR). We believe that we must first love the film we make. We didn't make this for OTT platforms; that is why we waited until we were completely satisfied. The movie was ready in June, but the technicians requested two more weeks. That extra time made the film even more impactful." A Father's Pride: "The last film I was this deeply involved in was 'Manam', which I did for my father. Now, I have done 'Lenin' for my son. Any father wants his son to achieve victory, and a son's success brings the ultimate joy to a father. I truly hope audiences give back the same love to 'Lenin' that we poured into making it.



Krithi Shetty Slays In Sultry Black Drama

Audiences Will Give Back the Same Love to 'Lenin' That Was Poured Into Making It - King Nagarjuna Akkineni at the Release Press Meet

We Made 'Lenin' With Utmost Honesty; Our Content Will Speak - Akhil Akkineni at the Release Press Meet

'Lenin' is a film starring Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse as the lead pair. Presented by Annapurna Studios, the movie is produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments. Directed by Murali Kishor Abbooru, the movie is slated for a grand release on July 10. In this context, a grand release press meet was organized on Wednesday. Highlights from the event:

KING NAGARJUNA AKKINENI SAID: The Srirampuram Connection: "The moment Nandu (Director Murali Kishor) told me that this story takes place in Srirampuram, I was instantly reminded of my father. Nandu has written this story beautifully, and the dialogues are phenomenal. He even took Akhil to his hometown, Srirampuram,

THE WAIT IS OVER: Makers Drop the Official Music Video of Toxic's 'Tabaahi'



Monster Mind Creations, KVN Productions, and Zee Music Company bring the first music video from Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups to audiences after the song's chart-topping audio success.

8th July, 2026 : The makers of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups have finally unveiled the much-anticipated official music video for Tabaahi, the film's first song, which became an instant fan favourite following its audio release. Along with the film's official music partner, Zee Music Company, the visual spectacle now brings audiences the immersive experience they have been eagerly awaiting, offering the first glimpse into one of Indian cinema's most anticipated films.

Featuring Rocking Star Yash alongside Kiara Advani in a captivating new on-screen pairing, Tabaahi celebrates an unforgettable romance brought to life through their undeniable chemistry and emotionally resonant performances. As the world around them fades away, Tabaahi captures

love in its rawest and purest form, intimate, unwavering, and all-consuming. Set against a grand cinematic canvas with breathtaking visuals, evocative storytelling, electrifying guitar arrangements, and a soaring orchestral score, the music video serves as a stirring introduction to the enigmatic and visually distinctive world of Toxic.

Building anticipation ahead of the launch, the makers treated fans to a playful social media exchange on 7th July. The official Toxic handle posted, "What do you call a forbidden love that only exists in stolen time?", tagging Kiara Advani. Kiara responded with a single word — "Tabaahi." Shortly after, Zee Music Company joined the conversation by quoting her reply with a simple,

"Stay Tuned...", setting the stage for the official music video premiere and sending fans into a frenzy ahead of the release.

Composed, sung by musician Vishal Mishra and written by Raj Shekhar in Hindi, Tabaahi has been released in Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam. The song has been adapted across languages by some of the finest lyricists in Indian cinema — Yogaraj Bhat (Kannada), Ramajogayya Sastry (Telugu), Vignesh Shivan (Tamil), and Rafeeq Ahammed (Malayalam)—reflecting the film's truly pan-Indian creative collaboration. The multilingual launch reinforces Toxic's vision of connecting with audiences across languages and geographies, with Zee Music Company leading the nationwide music roll-

out as the film's official music partner. The film stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, and Huma Qureshi in a powerhouse ensemble cast. Opening up about the song, Vishal Mishra Added, "Tabaahi isn't a love song in the conventional sense, it's love as wreckage, as surrender, as fire that doesn't ask permission. Toxic demanded music that could hold that intensity: epic and intimate at once. Yash Bhai brings a rare conviction to the screen that I tried to match note for note. Tabaahi, for me, was about chasing that raw, unfiltered pulse of love, the kind that consumes before it comforts."

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas, and directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film is shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and other languages — reinforcing its global ambitions and expansive cinematic vision. Produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is scheduled to hit theatres on August,26 2026.



GRAND LAUNCH OF COMMERCIAL COURTROOM DRAMA DUE DATE

The inaugural ceremony of the commercial courtroom drama Due Date was held in a grand manner on Wednesday in Hyderabad in the presence of several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry. Well-known Telugu film journalist and PRO Eluru Srinu is making his debut as a producer with Due Date, alongside producer Pawan Tarigopula. The film is being produced under the



Varshish Studios banner and directed by Anand K. The muhurat shot featuring lead actors Lomesh Pudidreddi and Jshree, along with key cast members Praneeth

Patnaik and Vignani, was ceremonially launched. Acclaimed director Maruthi sounded the clapboard for the opening shot, while successful producer Bunny Vas switched on the camera. Producers SKN, Dheeraj Mogilineni, and Vamsi Nandipati, who have recently delivered several successful films, handed over the script to the director. The

launch event was attended by directors Vijay Kanakamedala and VI Anand, along with several other filmmakers and producers from the industry. Speaking on the occasion, the producers revealed that Due Date is a commercial courtroom drama inspired by a contemporary burning issue. They said the film will offer an engaging and edge-of-the-seat narrative from start to finish. According to them, everything—from the title to every element of the film—has been designed to provide audiences with freshness, compelling storytelling, and complete entertainment. They also announced that the regular shooting of the film will commence soon.

Janhvi Kapoor Slays In Lilac-Gold Wedding Saree

Janhvi Kapoor is having a golden run, with her film Peddi alongside Ram Charan crossing the 400 crore mark globally. The sports action drama has drawn mixed reviews, with praise for the lead performances, though some scenes drew criticism and were later trimmed by the director. Still, the film has cemented itself as one of Tollywood's biggest hits of 2026, giving Janhvi's Telugu career a big boost.

Away from the big screen, Janhvi turned heads at her cousin Anshula Kapoor's wedding festivities, where she and sister Khushi Kapoor turned bridesmaids for the bride marrying Rohan Thakkar. Her look was pure royal glamour, a lilac-gold saree paired with statement kundan jewellery, stacked bangles, and a jhoomeer that framed her face beautifully. With Peddi's numbers still climbing and more looks expected from the wedding, Janhvi Kapoor continues to dominate headlines on every front this season. On July 7, Anshula and Rohan Thakkar hosted their wedding reception, attended by close family and friends, including celebrities such as Rekha,

Bhumi Pednekar, and others. Janhvi Kapoor was also present at the festivities, and you should be taking styling cues from her apsara-coded look. While receptions are meant for semi-formal attire, where many opt for stylish sarees or lehengas, Janhvi swapped the expected for a traditional number that also embraced the modern woman's style aesthetics. The silk saree comes with a sleek cummerbund and a strapless blouse. If you're looking to make a classic saree feel instantly more modern without trying too hard, this is the styling trick to borrow.

THE DETAILS

The silk saree in a pleasant mauve hue comes decked with zardozi work, broad embroidered borders, and brocade floral art decorating every inch of the drape.

Janhvi wore the six yards in a traditional style, with the pleats neatly forming on the front and the pallu elegantly placed on the shoulder. The real standout, though, was the strapless blouse. It nodded to the glamorous silhouettes of the '60s. It was a silk mauve

number with a strapless design, a plunging neckline, and a cropped hem length showing off her toned midriff. Janhvi further elevated the look by wearing heavy temple gold jewellery with the saree, including a cummerbund, a choker necklace, chandbaalis, kadhas, statement rings, and bangles, all in gold and decked with diamonds and pearls. Lastly, a small gold clutch and heels rounded off the styling. To match the regal aesthetics of the saree and jewellery, Janhvi Kapoor toned down the glam by opting for a minimal makeup look. She chose a glossy pink lip shade, light shimmery pink eye shadow, light rouge on the cheeks, feathered brows, mascara-adorned lashes, and a bindi, all rounded off with a dewy base.



RAKUL PREET SINGH DAZZLES IN SPARKLING GLAMOUR

