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SAAMANA EDITORIAL TARGETS MAHA GOVT OVER RESPONSE TO MARATHWADA TREMORS

NATION PAGE

EAST ASIA BRACES FOR DESTRUCTIVE TYPHOON AS LANDSLIDES KILL 15 IN PHILIPPINES

WORLD | NEWS



"WE FACED MANY CHALLENGES DURING THE FILMING OF 'I, NOBODY.' WE WORKED VERY HARD ON THE ACTION SEQUENCES."

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPER

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

10-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 73,265
Tonsures - 39,690
Hundi kumbhala - 4,26 CR
Laddu sale - 4,09 Lac
Annasprasadam - 2,98 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,899
Waiting Compartments - Out side line
at Panchajanya Gangamma Temple

Approx. Darshan Time for Saravali Maham
(with out SSD Tokens) - 24 - 30 H.

4 killed, 2 critically injured in tempo-truck collision on Bihar highway

Patna (TSIT):

Four people lost their lives and two others suffered critical injuries after a passenger tempo collided head-on with a Hiwa truck on National Highway-139 near Madhuban village in Bihar's Arwal district on Saturday. According to police, the three-wheeler was traveling from Arwal to Parasi Bazaar with six occupants.

10 Tamils among 15 dead after tourist boat capsizes in Vietnam



Chennai (TSIT):

Fifteen people, including 10 tourists from Tamil Nadu, were killed after a tourist boat carrying Indian visitors capsized off Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island on Saturday, turning what was meant to be a reward trip into a major tragedy.

According to preliminary reports, the boat was carrying around 32 Indian tourists, including 17 from Tamil Nadu and others from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala when the accident occurred in waters south of Phu Quoc, a popular tourist destination in southern Vietnam.

The vessel reportedly overturned during the morning while cruising near the island. The exact

cause of the accident has not yet been officially disclosed, and local authorities have launched an investigation into the circumstances leading to the tragedy. Rescue teams, local residents and emergency personnel rushed to the spot soon after the accident.

Several passengers were pulled from the water, while rescuers performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on those found unconscious in an effort to revive them. Despite the emergency response, 15 people were confirmed dead after the boat capsized.

CM Revanth Challenges BRS BJP on Kaleshwaram Convince NDSA Expedite CBI Probe

Hyderabad, TSIT:

Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Saturday strongly defended the State Government's stand on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and challenged BRS and BJP leaders to convince the National Dam Safety



Authority (NDSA) if they believed water could be safely lifted from the damaged barrages. Responding to statements by BRS lead-

ers and BJP MP Etela Rajender, the Chief Minister said there was a clear difference between the presence of water flow

and the minimum water level required for pumping operations. He maintained that the State Government would strictly follow the recommendations of the NDSA and the Central Water Commission (CWC) regarding the restoration of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

INS Mahendragiri commissioned into Indian Navy



Visakhapatnam (TSIT):

India on Saturday commissioned INS Mahendragiri, an advanced indigenous stealth frigate built under Project-17A, into the Indian Navy, further strengthening the country's maritime defence capabilities. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated the warship to the Eastern Fleet at a commissioning ceremony held in Visakhapatnam. Addressing the gathering, Rajnath Singh said INS Mahendragiri is a symbol of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reflects India's growing capability in designing and building advanced warships

using indigenous technology. He said that while emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, drones, cyber warfare and hypersonic weapons are reshaping modern warfare, conventional military strength remains the backbone of national security. He added that the Indian Navy has earned global recognition as the "First Responder" and the "Preferred Security Partner" in the Indo-Pacific region. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan said the induction of INS Mahendragiri would significantly enhance the Navy's operational capabilities.

Prakash Raj visits CJP protest site; Wangchuk distances himself from Gandhi comparisons



Chennai (TSIT)

Actor Prakash Raj joined the protesters of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Saturday, expressing solidarity as the agitation entered its 22nd day. Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is on the 14th day of his indefinite hunger strike, said that he is "just an ordinary citizen," not a "modern Gandhi" or a

hero.

Former Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac and CPI(M) leader and Leader of Opposition in Tripura Assembly Jitendra Chaudhury also visited the protest site and expressed support for the agitation over alleged examination irregularities, according to the CJP. According to a health update shared by the outfit, Wangchuk's blood pressure was recorded at 109/72 mm Hg while lying down and 106/74 mm Hg in the sitting position. His heart rate was 81 beats per minute, blood glucose level 78 mg/dL and weight 58.45 kg, taking his total weight loss since the start of the hunger strike to about 7.5 kg.

This Monsoon,
Let's come together for



Catch the Rain campaign

take pledge for water
conservation ...

As we cannot live without water.

Tasks, we have to perform

Adopt Rain Water Harvesting system in every home, society and workplace.

Install Recharge Pit and Shaft at appropriate places and repair the unused borewells for enabling ground water recharge.

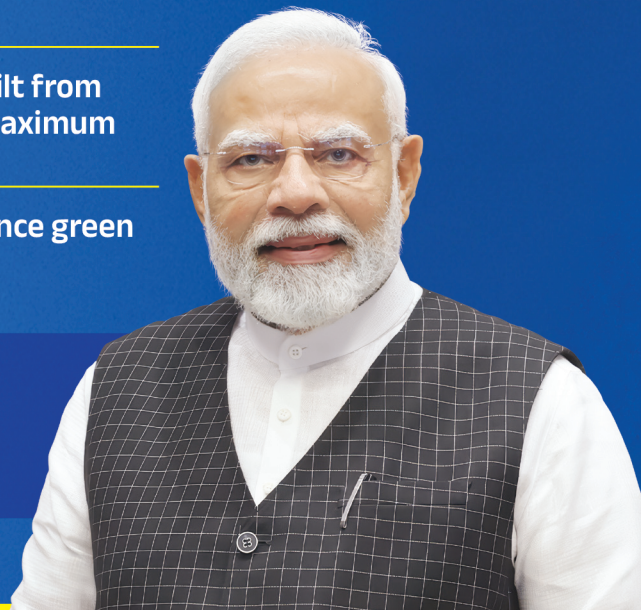
Restore Baolis, Wells and traditional Water Bodies and make them usable.

Enhance water retention capacity by removing silt from ponds and water reservoirs in your vicinity for maximum Monsoon water conservation.

Please ensure maximum tree plantation to enhance green coverage in water retention areas.

" Catch the Rain-Through this mission, we have to collectively save every drop of rainwater. My special appeal to save every single drop of rainwater collectively."

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

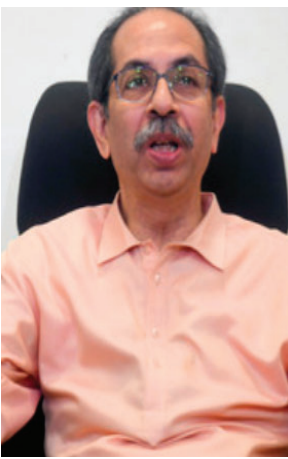


Government of India

CBC 45101/13/0011/2627

Saamana editorial targets Maha govt over response to Marathwada tremors

Mumbai, July 11 : Amid a series of earthquakes in the Marathwada region, Shiv Sena (UBT) on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Maharashtra government, accusing it of prioritising publicity exercises in Mumbai while ignoring growing seismic concerns in parts of the state. The criticism came through an editorial in the party mouthpiece Saamana, which alleged administrative apathy towards repeated tremors reported in Hingoli, Parbhani and Nanded districts. The Thackeray camp contrasted the government's high-decibel public relations exercise during the Mumbai rains with its complete silence on the seis-



mic threats looming over rural Maharashtra. "Mr. Show-Off, do you even understand? An earthquake has hit Marathwada!" the editorial taunted, aiming squarely at

the Chief Minister and his Disaster Management Minister. The editorial heavily criticised the ruling dispensation for prioritizing media spotlight over genuine crisis management. It claimed that while heavy rains lashed Mumbai, the Disaster Management Minister and the Chief Minister rushed to the emergency war room solely for a "photo-op" and a "public relations show". In stark contrast, the administration remains "completely unfazed and indifferent" to the tremors gripping Marathwada, where four consecutive tremors rattled Hingoli, Parbhani, and Nanded districts in the early hours of

Thursday, July 9, it said. The editorial noted that the tremors were powerful enough to be felt across a massive geographic expanse stretching 200 to 300 km - reaching as far as Bidar in Karnataka, and Adilabad and Nizamabad in Telangana. For the people of Marathwada, the ground shaking is not a minor event - it is a deeply traumatizing trigger. The Thackeray camp pointed out that the region has still not healed from the horrific wounds of the catastrophic September 30, 1993, Latur-Killari earthquake, which wiped out an entire generation and stands as one of the worst seismic disasters in independent India's history.

MLA seeks probe into alleged funding behind religious conflict claims

Tirupati (TSIT): Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Saturday demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged international funding behind conspiracies aimed at creating religious tensions in the State. Addressing a press conference at his office, the MLA alleged that the YSRCP was attempting to incite religious discord and claimed there were financial links between certain individuals and Tadepalli Palace. He urged the police to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the alleged sources of international funding, stating that such a probe would identify those responsible for the alleged conspiracy.



Mr. Srinivasulu referred to remarks reportedly made by former Minister Ambati Rambabu at a meeting in Vijayawada and claimed they indicated the YSRCP's involvement in attempts to create religious conflict. He also criticised CPI leader Narayana and former

senior police officer A.B. Venkateswara Rao over their alleged support for the party. The MLA further alleged that Joseph Ravana had earlier been arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with various offences and later

obtained bail in cases relating to alleged remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He accused YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of being behind alleged campaigns targeting Pawan Kalyan, a charge for which he did not present evidence. Expressing confidence in his party's prospects, Mr. Srinivasulu predicted a sharp decline in the YSRCP's electoral performance in the next Assembly elections. Janasena United Chittoor District President Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, City President Raja Reddy and party leaders were present at the press conference.

Awake Brain Surgery Helps Remove Tumour without Neurological Damage

Visakhapatnam, July 11, 2026: In a significant medical achievement, doctors at KIMS ICON Hospital, Sheelanagar, successfully performed a complex brain tumour removal surgery while the patient was awake and conversing, ensuring no neurological damage. The brain, being one of the most delicate and vital organs in the human body, requires extreme precision during surgery. Even minor errors can lead to complications such as paralysis or loss of speech. However, the surgical team led by Consultant Neurosurgeon Dr. K.A. Naidu managed to remove a tumour located in a highly sensitive region without affecting the patient's normal functions. The patient, a 25-year-old woman from Visakhapatnam, approached the hospital with complaints of seizures two months after childbirth. Following evaluation and brain imaging, doctors identified a tumour in the motor cortex on the right side of the brain - an area responsible for controlling movements on the left side of the body.



Given the critical location of the tumour, the surgical team informed the patient's family about the high risks involved, including potential weakness or paralysis of the left limbs. After detailed counselling and consent, the team decided to proceed with an awake craniotomy, a specialised procedure performed while the patient remains conscious. Doctors explained that

keeping the patient awake during surgery allows continuous monitoring of neurological functions such as speech and movement, thereby reducing the risk of permanent damage. Prior to the surgery, the anaesthesia team conducted extensive counselling sessions over a week to mentally prepare the patient. Advanced neuro-navigation scans were also carried out to map the tumour pre-

cisely. The surgery, performed on March 23, lasted nearly eight hours. Using state-of-the-art neuro-navigation technology, the surgeons carefully removed the tumour while continuously interacting with the patient to monitor brain function and protect critical areas. Post-surgery, the patient showed remarkable recovery with no neurological deficits. She regained normal movement and was discharged from the hospital on the fifth day. Doctors emphasised that seizures occurring after childbirth should not be ignored and require immediate medical evaluation. They highlighted that advancements in surgical techniques now make it possible to safely treat even highly complex brain tumours. Dr. Naidu noted that awake brain surgery represents a major advancement in treating tumours located in critical areas of the brain. He added that this is the first such procedure performed in Visakhapatnam and marks a significant step forward in preserving patients' quality of life.

Godavari Pushkarams-2027 to be Conducted as a Model Event in the Country: Ministers Narayana and Durgessh

SIT, Visakhapatnam. Municipal Administration Minister Dr. P. Narayana and Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgessh said that the Godavari Pushkarams-2027 would be conducted as a model event in the country with coordinated efforts from all departments. Reviewing the arrangements at the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation (RMC) office, the Ministers said that while around four crore devotees took holy dips during the previous Godavari Pushkarams, nearly 68 lakh devotees participated in a single day. This time, around 10 crore pilgrims are expected to visit the Godavari banks during the 12-day festival, requiring advance planning and comprehensive arrangements. Dr. P. Narayana said that under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the experience gained from previous Pushkarams would be utilised to make better arrangements. He stressed that the works taken up for Pushkarams should become permanent assets for the city rather than temporary facilities. He said plans were being prepared to take up development works worth around



Rs.200 crore, including Rs.48 crore from RMC funds, Rs.32 crore through LRS, and an additional Rs.120 crore grant. He directed officials to prepare action plans covering roads, drainage, sewage systems, junction development, sanitation, electricity, and drinking water facilities in accordance with government guidelines. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgessh said that comprehensive development of Rajamahendravaram, Kovvur, Nidadavole, Dowleswaram, and surrounding areas was essential for successful conduct of the Pushkarams. He appreciated the release of an additional Rs.60 crore for development works in addition to the previously announced Rs.580 crore. He called for development of

important ghats in Nidadavole region, including Pendyala, Mukkamala, and Tipparru, and sought necessary funds for Kovvur and Nidadavole municipalities. He also highlighted the importance of developing the 38-km road between Kovvur-Vijeswaram-Nidadavole for tourism and transport connectivity. MLC Somu Veerajulu stressed that all departments should work in coordination to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience and that priority should be given to permanent infrastructure. He said efforts would be made to secure central funds through the Chief Minister and MP Daggubati Purandeswari. Rajamahendravaram Rural MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary said

around Rs.88 crore was required for widening four major roads and urged the government to expedite works related to roads, drainage, sanitation, electricity, and other infrastructure. He also requested special attention for the development of the Janardhana Swamy Temple at Dowleswaram. Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas said officials should complete all required facilities in time and transform Rajamahendravaram into an ideal Pushkar city. Ruda Chairman Boddu Venkata Ramana, Joint Collector Y. Megha Swarup, Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena, Assistant Collector K. Aditya Sharma, and officials from various departments attended the review meeting.

Yoga is the path to a holistic concept of health: Justice Dr. V. Sreeshananda

Bengaluru, July 10 : "Health is not just the absence of disease; it is a state of balance of body, mind and soul. Since the physical nature of each person is different, the health of everyone cannot be measured by a single yardstick," observed Justice Dr. V. Sreeshananda of the Karnataka High Court. Speaking as the chief guest at the International Yoga Day function organised by the Sri Prasanna Veerananeyya Yoga Kendra, a wing of SPV Seva Trust, at the city's Ravindra Kalakshetra, he said that according to Ayurveda, the human body is based on three basic elements - vata, pitta and kapha. The balance of these elements is the basic characteristic of health and when there is a difference in their proportions, illness appears. The physical nature of one person is not the same as another; Even in the same family, everyone's body nature is different. Therefore, it is not appropriate to measure health by mechanical standards alone, he said. He humorously mentioned the increasing number of caesarean deliveries in recent days and gave a message that more importance should be given to the natural laws of nature.

Explaining the importance of yoga, the judge said that thousands of years ago, Indian sages had used yoga as a means of physical and mental health. Maharishi Patanjali gave a scientific and systematic form to yoga, which is still a beacon for mankind. It is a happy development that people's inclination towards yoga is increasing day by day across the world. He said that every Indian should be proud of this valuable contribution that India has given to the world. In his lecture, he explained in detail the importance of the eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga - Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi - and called for adopting yoga as a life value, not just asanas. Padma Shri Dr. Shubha Venkatesh Iyengar's achievements were appreciated. Padma Shri Dr. Shubha Venkatesh Iyengar, who participated as a special guest in the program, recalled her journey of success and gratefully remembered the four elders who guided him at various stages of her life. She humbly said that the blessings and inspiration of her teachers, parents and mentors are the



main reason behind her achievements and honors. She has shown excellent performance at every stage from primary education to Ph.D. and has contributed immensely to the field of Indian science and technology. Having served at the National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL), she played a significant role in the development of micro-technical components required for the Agni missile, the development of the 'Drishiti' device that

allows pilots to see the runway even in dense fog at airports, and the design and supply of many scientific instruments useful in the field of education. At the end of her speech, she made a heartfelt appeal to the society. "Do not send our parents, who raised us, to old age homes in their old age; it is our duty to look after them with love, respect and care in their final days," she pleaded with concern. These words deeply touched the hearts of the audience.

The Padma Shri award bestowed upon her this year has further enhanced the respect of the country. Despite all these achievements, her simple personality, devoid of any pride or arrogance, was appreciated by all. "Great Sculpture Created with Devotion and Love": Shri Arun Yogiraj Shri Arun Yogiraj, the sculptor of the divine idol of Balarama installed in the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya, and renowned artist, was honored

on this occasion by the Shri Prasanna Veerananeyya Yoga Trust. Speaking after receiving the honor, he said, "To create a beautiful idol, mere hard work is not enough; along with that, there should be devotion, devotion and love for the work." He opined that sculpture is not just a profession, it should be a passion and penance. Explaining about the state-of-the-art Kalamandir and Sculpture Training Center that he has newly built on the outskirts of Mysore, he said that state-of-the-art carving facilities have been built there with the aim of imparting classical and quality sculpture education to the new generation of youth and art enthusiasts. Calling for the younger generation to show more interest in preserving and developing the heritage of Indian sculpture, he said that it is a happy development that stone sculptors have been getting good recognition and respect in the society in recent years. Honoring senior practitioners in the field of yoga Senior practitioners who have made unique contributions in the propagation and service of yoga were honored on this occasion by the Sri Prasanna Veerananeyya Seva Trust. Sri Virupaksha

Belawadi was presented with the "Yoga Ratna" award in recognition of his unique service in yoga education, training and conveying the values of yoga to various sections of the society for decades. Similarly, Shri Ashoka V. was felicitated with the "Yoga Shri" award in recognition of his significant service in the field of yoga practice, yoga promotion and creating health awareness in the society. The dignitaries who spoke on the occasion opined that it is an ideal for the society to recognize and honor the practitioners who are serving silently in the field of yoga and that such honors will inspire the next generation. Yoga performances attract attention Senior yoga teachers, yoga practitioners and dignitaries who have rendered significant service in various fields of society were felicitated in the program. Group yoga performances, individual yoga asana performances and cultural programs performed by yoga students were appreciated by the audience. More than five hundred yoga enthusiasts, dignitaries, students and the general public participated in the program held in line with the theme of this year's International Yoga Day, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing".

AIADMK slams Tamil Nadu CM Vijay for 'hand in gloves' remarks in Karur, alleges governance failures

IT ACCUSED THE TVK OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT THROUGH "SHEER POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM" BY POACHING THE DMK'S ALLIANCE PARTNERS.

CHENNAI: The AIADMK on Saturday (July 11) launched a blistering attack on the TVK government in Tamil Nadu, accusing it of “failing” the state across critical sectors, ranging from public safety to economic growth. Madras HC orders checkpoints on roads adjoining Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to monitor Jeep safaris

Taking to X, the AIADMK on Saturday said, “The current Chief Minister Vijay, who rode to power on the heels of a tragedy that claimed 41 innocent lives, has used the derogatory term hand in gloves.” In a public meeting at Karur on Friday (July 10), the CM had attacked both the Dravidian parties, dismissing the DMK as an “evil force” and AIADMK as a “spent force”.He alleged that in every government department, both parties were work-



ing together to plunder the state under the guise of collecting party funds. “The evil force and spent force are not separate entities, they are working hand in glove,” the CM alleged and challenged them to prove otherwise in the upcoming bypolls.

Tamil Nadu government sets deadlines to clear pending NHIS insurance claims The AIADMK pointed out that it fought the DMK across all 234 constituencies and continues to function as a distinct, independent opposition party to this very day.

It accused the TVK of forming a government through

“sheer political opportunism” by poaching the DMK’s alliance partners. Questioning Vijay’s track record, the AIADMK asked, “In the two years since you launched your party, how many people have you actually met? What people-centric policies have you discussed?”

Tears turn to hope for Karur stampede victims’ families as CM Vijay hands over jobs “While you (Vijay) were busy singing in Karur, reports have emerged that a massive Rs 38,000-crore investment by Hyundai has left Tamil Nadu,” said the party, challenging the TVK chief to address the economic loss. The opposition party charged the TVK with “failing” to alleviate the daily suffering of citizens dealing with constant power cuts and a deteriorating law-and-order situation.

Madras HC orders checkpoints on roads adjoining Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to monitor Jeep safaris



CHENNAI: Expressing anguish over videos showing Jeep drivers chasing wild animals and elephants at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, the Madras High Court ordered stricter regulation of private Jeep Safari operations and directed the establishment of check posts. The Special Bench comprising Justices N Sathish Kumar and D Bharatha Chakravarthy made the observations during a hearing on the uncontrolled private Jeep Safari operations in the

Mudumalai Buffer Zone and the surrounding roads connected to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

Expressing concern over several videos showing violations in wildlife areas, the Bench observed that Jeep drivers were seen chasing wild animals even in the middle of the night and repeatedly interfering with their natural habitat.The court particularly took exception to incidents of drivers continuously honking and chasing elephants, observ-

ing that such acts were being carried out as though they were a sport. Stating that the issue caused deep concern and anguish, the court emphasised that wildlife must be preserved and protected, as forests are the animals’ natural habitat.

The Bench directed that check posts be established on the roads leading to Moyar, Chemmanatham, Singara and Bokkapuram to regulate and monitor vehicular traffic.

Tamil Nadu government sets deadlines to clear pending NHIS insurance claimsThe court further directed that Jeeps operated by residents and members of tribal communities shall be given preference and registered with the Forest department, and only registered vehicles shall be permitted to transport tourists on the said roads.

Consumer forum raps TASMAC outlet for overcharging, orders Rs 6,000 compensation



CHENNAI: The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Chennai (North), has held a TASMAC retail outlet guilty of overcharging a customer above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and directed it to pay Rs 6,000 as compensation and litigation costs, while dismissing the complaint against the state-run liquor retailer’s Managing Director.

The Commission ruled that collecting even Rs 10 in excess of the printed MRP and failing to issue a purchase receipt amounted to both deficiency in service and an unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The case arose from a complaint filed by G Devarajan, who alleged that he purchased a 180 ml bottle of MCLENE Original Brandy from TASMAC Shop No. 8924 at Madhavaram on October 13, 2025. Although the bottle carried an MRP of Rs 140, he was charged Rs 150 through a debit card transaction. He claimed the shop neither refunded the excess amount nor issued a receipt,

prompting him to issue legal notices and approach multiple authorities before moving the Consumer Commission.

TASMAC contested the complaint, arguing that liquor sales did not fall within the ambit of the Consumer Protection Act and that its centralised, barcode-based billing system eliminated any possibility of overcharging. It also questioned the maintainability of the complaint, contending that the complainant was not a “consumer” as defined under the Act. Rejecting the contention, the Commission held that TASMAC had failed to prove that the purchase was made for resale or any commercial purpose. It further observed that the corporation had not produced any system-generated bill or documentary evidence to establish that the transaction had been carried out strictly at the notified MRP. On the other hand, the complainant had substantiated his claim through his bank statement, MRP details and records of legal notices issued to the authorities.

Tamil Nadu government sets deadlines to clear pending NHIS insurance claims

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Treasuries and Accounts Department has directed officials to expedite the disposal of all pending claims under the New Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for government employees and pensioners by fixing strict timelines for their clearance through District Level Empowered Committee (DLEC) meetings. In a circular, Director of Treasuries and Accounts T Charusree, instructed all Joint



Directors of Health Services and District Treasury Officers to convene DLEC meetings immediately to dispose of pending claims

under NHIS 2021 (Employees) and NHIS 2022 (Pensioners), including claims arising from court orders.

According to the circular, all claims received up to May 31 must be placed before the DLEC and disposed of on or before July 31.

Claims received up to June 30, should be cleared by August 31, 2026. The department directed that no claim should remain pending beyond the prescribed timelines.

Madras HC orders checkpoints on roads adjoining Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to monitor Jeep

safarisThe circular also instructed Joint Directors of Health Services and District Treasury Officers to coordinate the DLEC process, while the Personal Assistant (Accounts) to the District Collector will serve as the nodal officer for convening committee meetings. The department clarified that the revised claim-processing procedures introduced under NHIS 2026 would apply only to hospital admissions from July 1.

73-year-old man arrested for raping, impregnating granddaughter in Ramanathapuram

RAMANATHAPURAM: A 73-year-old man was arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly sexually assaulting his 15-year-old granddaughter, who was later found to be pregnant, according to a Daily Thanthi report.

Madras HC orders checkpoints on roads adjoining Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to monitor Jeep safarisThe accused is a resident of a village near Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district. Police said the survivor, a Class 10 student, had been



living with her widowed mother near the accused’s house.

According to the report, the elderly man used to visit his daughter’s house frequently. During the past few months, he allegedly sexually assaulted his granddaughter on several occasions.

When the girl informed her mother about the

alleged abuse, she confronted her father and warned him against visiting the house. However, the accused allegedly continued to harass the minor.

Police said the repeated sexual assault resulted in the girl becoming three months pregnant.

Tamil Nadu government sets deadlines to clear pending NHIS insurance claims After learning about the pregnancy, the survivor’s mother lodged a complaint with the Paramakudi All-Women Police Station seeking action against her father.

Karur headmaster screens CM Vijay’s speech inside classroom, suspended

Vijay’s July 10 address in Karur marked his first visit to the region following the stampede tragedy that claimed 41 lives during a TVK rally last September. His speech was shown to students at the Panchayat Union Middle School (Girls) in Krishnarayapuram, as seen in a viral video.

CHENNAI: A headmaster of a government middle school in Karur district has been placed under suspension allegedly screening the live telecast of Chief Minister and TVK chief C Joseph Vijay’s public address for students inside a classroom, in violation of School Education Department guidelines. Vijay’s July 10 address in Karur marked his first visit to the region following the stampede tragedy that claimed 41 lives during a TVK rally last September. His speech was shown to students at the Panchayat Union Middle School (Girls) in Krishnarayapuram, as seen in a



viral video.Minister says inquiry confirmed violation

School Education Minister Rajmohan, in a post on X, said the department had already issued clear instructions that, except for official government programmes, no political party events should be screened for students inside

school premises. He said it was improper to telecast the live broadcast of a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) event to students at the Krishnarayapuram Panchayat Union school, following which he ordered an immediate inquiry. According to the minister, the inquiry confirmed that the headmaster had acted independently in violation of departmental rules and government orders. Based on the findings, disciplinary proceedings were initiated and the headmaster was placed under suspension.

Suspension order cites disciplinary proceedings

The suspension order issued by the District Educational Officer (Elementary), Karur, on July 10 states that disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against S Malliga, headmaster of the Panchayat Union Middle School (Girls), Krishnarayapuram, over grave charges and alleged negligence of duty, with reference to the School Education Department circular issued on July 9. The order states that she has been placed under suspension with immediate effect under Rule 17(e) of the Tamil Nadu Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules until further orders.

Frozen embryo transfer linked to higher hypertension risk in IVF pregnancies

Beijing, Feb 10: Frozen embryo transfer has been found to be associated with a higher risk of pregnancy-induced hypertension compared to fresh embryo transfer, even though both methods show similar perinatal complication rates in ongoing pregnancies conceived through assisted reproductive technologies, according to a recent study.

The findings are based on a prospective cohort study conducted within a hypothetical randomised controlled trial framework. Researchers analysed data from 2,856 pregnant women recruited during the first trimester from 50 centres across 17 provinces in China between 2017 and 2021. All participants conceived through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) and were equally



assigned to either frozen embryo transfer or fresh embryo transfer groups.

The primary outcome assessed was the rate of perinatal complications, defined as perinatal death or birth defects. Results showed comparable rates between the two groups, with 5.0 per cent in the frozen embryo transfer group and 4.6 per cent in the fresh embryo transfer group. Researchers noted

that the difference was not statistically significant.

Secondary neonatal outcomes, including preterm birth, small or large size for gestational age, low birth weight and macrosomia, were also similar across both groups, indicating comparable neonatal safety profiles for frozen and fresh embryo transfer in ongoing IVF and ICSI pregnancies. However, the study high-

lighted a notable difference in maternal outcomes. Women who underwent frozen embryo transfer faced a significantly higher risk of developing pregnancy-induced hypertension compared to those who received fresh embryo transfer. No significant differences were observed between the two groups in terms of abortion rates, gestational diabetes mellitus or gestational thyroid dysfunction.

Researchers said the findings underline the need for careful and individualised counselling when choosing an embryo transfer strategy in assisted reproductive treatment. While neonatal outcomes appear largely similar, the increased maternal risk associated with frozen embryo transfer should be factored into clinical decision-making, they added.

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APPENDIX IV-A

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (“SARFAESI Act 2002”) read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Mortgagee(s) and Guarantor(s) that a proposal for sale of the below-mentioned secured asset by way of Private Treaty has been received by **Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. [CIN: U65993DL2002PLC115769] (“Secured Creditor”).**
A prospective purchaser has offered to buy the secured asset and has submitted a Demand Draft towards initial deposit.
In compliance with the proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, this public notice is issued to invite bids, if any, for the purpose of inter se bidding among eligible bidders, including the prospective purchaser, for finalization of the Private Treaty.
The below described Immovable Properties mortgaged/charged to Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Assignor Bank/ Original Lender, having since been assigned to the Secured Creditor under the provisions of SARFAESI Act 2002, will be sold on “as is where is”, “as is what is” and “whatever there is” basis for the recovery of amount due to Secured Creditor from the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Mortgagee(s) and Guarantor(s) as per the details mentioned below:

DETAILS OF SECURED ASSET					
Sr. No.	Loan Account No / Trust Name	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagee(s)/Guarantors	Total Outstanding Dues (in Rs.)	Offer Received under Private Treaty (in Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Deposit for Inter se Bidders (in Rs.)
1	H403HHL0192223, H403VPL0204736 & H403HLT0204735 / ACRE 178 TRUST	1) Mr. A Aslam Sayed (Borrower & Mortgagee)	Rs.1,40,76,972.23/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two and Twenty Three Paise Only) as on 09.07.2026 along with applicable interest, charges and expenses till the date of payment and realization.	67,50,000/-	6,75,000/-

ACCOUNT NAME: ACRE-178-TRUST
Account Number: 0901102000041876
Bank: IDBI Bank
IFSC Code: IBKL0000901

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET: All That Property House, Ground And Premises Bearing Plot No. 11, New Door No. 55, Old Door No. 20, Foxen Street, Perambur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600011 Comprised In Survey No. 32, Q.S. No. 20/19A, 20/5 Part, T.S.No.2, Block No. 16, Of Sivugalur Village, Purasawalkam – Perambur Taluk, Presently Ayavaram Taluk, Admeasuring In All 840 Sq. Ft. Area Of Land And Building Thereon Together With Electricity Service Connection And Water And Sewerage Service Connection Thereon Which Is Situated Within The Limits Of Sub-Registration District Of Sembiam And Registration District Of North Chennai, **Bounded On The East:** Property Belonging To Annamalai, West: Foxen Street, North: Property Belonging To Vincent And South: Property Belonging To Egavalli.

The above Loan Account(s) along with all right(s), title(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and/or guarantee(s), including the Immovable Properties, mentioned hereinabove had been assigned to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd., acting as a trustee of trust mentioned clearly in column provided above.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS

1 Last date for submission of bid	28-07-2026 on or before 4:00 pm
2 Place for submission of BIDs	Assets Care and Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. 1st Floor, Prestige Nugget, Office Unit No. 101, Infantry Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560001. OR Email us at: Rohan.Sawant@acreindia.in
3 Date and time of Inter Se Bidding (in case of bidders) / Confirmation of Sale	29-07-2026 from 02:30 pm to 03:30 pm
4 Place of Inter Se Bidding (Web Site for Inter Se Bidding)	www.bankeauctions.com
5 Contact Details	Toll Free No. - 1800-209-2989
6 Date & time of Inspection of the Property	On prior appointment basis
7 For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please visit the website	www.acreindia.in / www.bankeauctions.com

DATE: 12-07-2026
PLACE: Tamil Nadu

Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER
ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.

EDITORIAL

Meat Consumption and Spending Rise

Meat, poultry, seafood and eggs are widely consumed in India. About eight out of ten people aged 15-49 eat some form of animal sourced protein (excluding dairy). The share of people who eat meat is higher among men, at 87% than among women (75%).

Over the years, the share of Indian adults who eat meat has increased slightly, rising from 74% in 2006 to 80% in 2021. Who eats meat in India?

The consumption of meat is more common among lower-income groups. Nearly nine out of ten people belonging to the poorest 20% of India's population eat meat, compared to about seven out of ten among the wealthiest 20%.

This difference is larger among women, especially in rural areas. Most women belonging to the wealthiest group in rural India, just over half eat meat, whereas three-quarters of men do. Consumption patterns also vary by social and religious groups. Religion also plays a role in dietary habits. Nearly all of the Muslim (99%), Christian (99%) and Buddhists/neo-Buddhist (97%) populations eat meat. Among Hindus, a little over three-quarters consume meat, while Jains and Sikhs have the highest share of vegetarians. Only one-quarter of Jains and half of Sikhs have ever eaten meat.

Among Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), 87% and 88% respectively consume meat, while the figure is lower at 72% for other groups.

Only three states have a vegetarian majority – Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Most coastal states have very few vegetarians, with less than 5% of the population reporting that they had never eaten meat, except in Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra. What kinds of meat are commonly consumed?

The NFHS classifies different types of meat into 3 broad categories – eggs, fish, and chicken/meat. Eggs are the most widely eaten animal source protein with 78% of people having eaten them, followed by chicken/meat (75%) and fish (72%). Most people do not eat meat every day. Overall, one in ten people eat some form of meat daily, while six in ten do so weekly. Both the share of meat consumers and their frequency of consumption are higher in urban areas. For instance, in 2006, nearly half of those who ate eggs consumed them only occasionally. By 2021, this share had dropped to a third, while the share of weekly egg consumers rose to over half. In 2006, a third of consumers of chicken/meat ate it weekly, but by 2021, this had increased to over half. Spending on meat

On an average an individual spends Rs. 216 per month on meat items, accounting for 10% of total food expenditure. In rural areas, the average spending is just over Rs. 200 per month, while in urban areas, it is close to Rs 250 per month. The share of total food expenditure spent on meat on an average has doubled from 5% in 1988 to 10% by 2023. Among rural households, the share of food expenditure on meat increases with income. However, in urban areas, this trend is reversed, with the wealthiest groups spending a smaller share of the net food expenditure on meat items. Not just in relative terms, even in terms of absolute spending on meat, the median amount rises with wealth, except among the richest households, where it declines. In fact, urban households in the highest wealth quintile spend less on meat than those in the third and fourth wealth quintiles. In some states, a significant share of the average food expenditure is on meat. The northeastern states, for instance, spend almost 20-25% of their food budget on eggs, fish, and meat-the highest in the country.

Modi's Visit Seeks 'Nap Times' and 'Venues Without Stairs', Reports New Zealand Media

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to New Zealand will feature specific logistical accommodations due to his age, along with stringent security measures, according to local media reports. Media reportage in New Zealand states that "Modi's age (75) provides extra complexities". A report by the New Zealand news outlet Stuff detailed the extensive requirements laid out by the prime minister's advance security and logistics teams. Beyond physical security, the advance team has submitted highly specific requests regarding Modi's daily itinerary. Organisers have been instructed to structure a schedule that "allows for nap times" or dedicated rest periods for Modi, who turned 75 on September 17, 2025.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, himself 75 now, had said in July 2025 that once they attain the age of 75, leaders should think of retiring and yield to younger colleagues. He later backtracked and claimed that he never said someone should retire. Additionally, the host government has been requested a "preference for venues without stairs he'd need to use". The report suggests that this "likely stems from when he fell on stairs during an event six years ago". Modi was visiting Kanpur to review the progress of the Namami Gange project on December 14, 2019 at the Atal Ghat when he fell forward while climbing the steps of the ghat. The Special Protection Group personnel immediately rushed to his aid and helped him back to his feet. A few days later, local authorities in Kanpur announced that the



a specific uneven step on the staircase would be demolished and reconstructed to properly align with the rest of the stairs to prevent future accidents. As per the report, New Zealand authorities are adding extra layers of security, which reportedly includes the positioning of police snipers at key engagement sites. While New Zealand is generally considered a low-risk destination, these enhanced security protocols reflect standard operational procedures for the Indian prime minister to account for any potential risks. Modi's visit to New Zealand is expected to focus on strengthening bilateral ties, advancing ongoing trade discussions, and interacting with the Indian diaspora living in the country. India and New Zealand on Saturday (July 11) elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership with a strong maritime and security focus, signing a series of defence agreements and establishing new security dialogues even as a recently concluded free trade agreement (FTA) remains some distance from

taking effect. Modi's visit to Auckland, the first by an Indian prime minister since Rajiv Gandhi travelled to New Zealand in 1986, came less than three months after the two countries signed an FTA that both governments have cast as the foundation for a broader strategic partnership. The Indian PM arrived in New Zealand on Friday (June 10) night, at the end of a three-nation tour that included Indonesia and Australia.

Announcing the upgrade, New Zealand prime minister Christopher Luxon said the Strategic Partnership reflected the two countries' "shared ambition to do more together" and that the leaders had "backed that ambition with action." He said the accompanying Roadmap to 2030 would guide cooperation across trade, investment, technology, maritime security, education, tourism, agriculture and people-to-people ties.

Maritime Cooperation Arrangement between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force Modi, who thanked Luxon for per-

sonally driving the trade negotiations, said it was rare for an FTA to be concluded "in such a short time" and described the Strategic Partnership as a milestone that would give bilateral ties "greater energy and greater confidence." Referring to India and New Zealand as maritime democracies, he said closer cooperation between the two countries could contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. While trade provided the backdrop, the visit's substantive outcomes centred on maritime security and the Indo-Pacific. The two sides announced a Maritime Cooperation Arrangement between the Indian Navy and the New Zealand Defence Force, a reciprocal logistics support arrangement and an implementation arrangement on hydrography and nautical cartography.

They also agreed to establish an annual Maritime Security Dialogue and welcomed New Zealand's decision to join the maritime security pillar of India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. Speaking at a media briefing after the talks, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (East) Mudrendra Tandon said the strategic upgrade reflected India's growing engagement with the Pacific. "As an Indian Ocean country, the Pacific is a very important maritime zone for us," he said. "This whole visit is about strengthening the rules-based Indo-Pacific order." The joint statement reaffirmed support for a "free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific", freedom of navigation under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, ASEAN centrality and a rules-based regional order.

Israel's Gender Segregation Bill for Academia Is a Trojan Horse for Racial Segregation

Just before Israel heads to the polls, the Netanyahu-Ben Gvir government is racing to complete legislation that, officially, is intended to circumvent a ruling by Israel's Supreme Court and establish gender-segregated academic programs, with women and men studying separately. Although the legislation is presented as a way to integrate ultra-Orthodox Jews into universities and, ultimately, the workforce, gender segregation is a Trojan horse that could pave the way for racial segregation, with profound implications for Israel's Arab minority. Today, about 21% of university students in Israel are Arabs who study alongside Jewish students. The Bill's sponsor, Knesset member Limor Son Har-Melech, said during a December 4, 2024, parliamentary debate in which the proposal passed its preliminary reading: The proposal is not directed at any particular sector but is open to anyone interested for reasons of religion, culture or personal preference. True equality is not achieved by forcing everyone into a single mould, but by creating a variety of options that respect the differences within society... They tell you that this law is taking us towards Iran, but gender-segregated education is not unique to Israel. It is common practice in many countries around the world, including Western countries such as Australia. Yet Har-Melech herself evokes anything but equality, pluralism and respect for others. Instead, she is associated with her membership in the Kahanist Otzma Yehudit [Jewish Power] party and a social



media post showing her in the Palestinian village of Huwara while hundreds of far-right activists were setting fire to homes and vehicles. The accompanying caption said she had come there “to support the justified outcry of the hundreds of Samaria residents who came out to protest”. Har-Melech also chairs the Knesset lobby “For Religious and Haredi [ultra-Orthodox] Women” that spearheaded the gender-segregation Bill. One of its leaders is Anat Gopstein, the wife of Bentzi Gopstein, a leading Otzma Yehudit activist, founder of the Lehava organization, who was convicted last year of incitement to terrorism. In a video interview with Channel 7 published on December 8, 2024, Anat Gopstein explained that “the law is good news because it allows everyone to study in gender-segregated settings [...] The people frightened and disturbed by such a move are those who tell me how to live my life. If I want to study separately, I have that right, and they will not define what is

right for me. These are people who place themselves above us and want to educate us, and I am not prepared to accept that. We have the right to do what we believe in." Her husband, Bentzi Gopstein, shared the interview on his Telegram channel, titled "Bentzi Gopstein – Kahane Was Right!" where he regularly posts inflammatory quotations by Rabbi Meir Kahane. In November 2023, he also used the channel to urge his supporters to attend an event calling for the removal of Arab students from university dormitories. Anat and Bentzi Gopstein are not only spouses but also ideological and political partners. After exit polls from the November 1, 2022, election showed major gains for Otzma Yehudit, Anat told reporters, "Lehavava has returned to power." The organisation's website also features an interview with her under the headline, "Anat Gopstein: The Woman Behind Lehava." In February 2024, Channel 7 published a video interview identifying her as the "head of the treatment

division of the Lehava organisation, which deals with assimilation". On December 19, 2024, she shared a post featuring an illustration of "Eyal, 26," described as "a reserve commander in Gaza" who was allegedly rejected from medical school, alongside "Ahmad, 20", who was allegedly accepted to medical school despite "not serving in the IDF, supporting the October 7 massacre" and receiving a lower score on Israel's national psychometric entrance exam than "Eyal". Lehava is the modern-day, more sophisticated successor to the Kach and Kahane Chai movements, which Israel designated as terrorist organisations in 1994 following the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. It promotes an agenda of complete racial segregation. Lehava activists have been convicted of setting fire to Jerusalem's bilingual school, and the organisation periodically stages marches during which its members verbally and physically assault passersby they identify as non-Jews.

Edit

AYODHYA AFTER THE TEMPLE:

FAITH, POWER AND THE Embezzlement of Ramdhan



(God's wealth) have no bearing on the minds of Hindus? If invoking Ram's name created huge political capital for the BJP, will the alleged embezzlement of the chad-hawa and chanda for Ram not jolt people's faith in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, manned by RSS functionaries – all reportedly picked by the prime minister's Office and the Union Home Ministry?

GRASSROOTS REALITY

The recent travels of yours truly through the remote hinterlands of Purvanchal – Siwan in Bihar, and Mehrauna and Bhatpar in Deoria district of eastern Uttar Pradesh brought to the fore a drastic change in socio-economic relationships at the grassroots level. Advani's first Ram Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya and his arrest by the Lalu Prasad Yadav government's police took place in 1990. The Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992. It was still a pre-digital, pre-internet, pre-Android phone and pre-information technology revolution era, in which the pre-market economy and community life largely guided the thinking process of the people,

particularly at the grassroots level. Political leaders – Advani, A.B. Vajpayee, Joshi and Uma Bharti – and their speeches were distant phenomena, discussed only when they visited and addressed the people. Welfare measures like allotment of houses to the poor, subsidies during floods, droughts and other disasters, and special financial assistance to the deprived and marginalised sections existed. But the beneficiaries depended heavily on the physical infrastructure of the block and panchayat administration to deliver these benefits. Be it Yadav or Advani or any other political figure, people discussed them at community gatherings – village chaupals, under the shade of old trees in summer and around bonfires in winter – far removed from today's bombardment of information and rhetoric on mobile phones.

Others who attracted and influenced the communities were local folk and ballad singers and village melas (fairs). The villages still had Ramlila actors and singers of Alha-Udal, Birha, Sorathi and Lorikayan to entertain them. The residents who played Ram and

Ravana in the Ramleela also extolled the sacrifice of Hussein at Karbala during Muharram, known in these parts as Tazia. The one use of technology that seems to have had an enormous impact on the socio-economic order at the grassroots is linking over 540 million people with the banking system (known as the Jan Dhan Yojana), involving the linking of Aadhaar, bank accounts and mobile phones, and the direct transfer of subsidies – old-age pensions, seasonal subsidies and poll-time bonanzas – to the beneficiaries. The State Bank of India (SBI) and some other rural banks have opened Customer Service Points (CSPs) in almost all villages. Now, these CSPs have emerged as new places where people gather on designated days to withdraw old-age pensions and subsidies. Parallel to the CSPs have come up ubiquitous computer and internet centres issuing KYC (Know Your Customer) documents and submitting online applications for caste, residence and domicile certificates, which have become primary requirements for people in this digital era. It is not that these

digital outlets are free from corruption. Similar to the pre-digital era, when block and panchayat officials demanded bribes, these CSPs and computer centres often ask for Rs 200 to Rs 300 for KYC or other certificates. But it is easier for the beneficiaries, who receive their dues directly in their accounts and are notified through the Short Message Service (SMS) on their mobile phones after paying the “bribe”, which is apparently far less than the “free dole” they receive.

Facebook and Instagram have witnessed an enormous surge of folk and ballad singers and storytellers, creating an illusion that they continue to flourish at the grassroots. But this writer found few Alha-Udal, Birha and Lorikayan singers in the villages of Purvanchal. Traditional sports and games that once attracted local youth, too, have largely vanished.

Movement against corruption?

By all accounts, the alleged loot of Ramdhan is perhaps the biggest scam in the history of Hindu, or Sanatan dharma. Will it impact the BJP's political prospects?

India-NZ Free Trade Agreement to Boost Economic Ties: PM Modi



Auckland: The landmark India-New Zealand free trade agreement would add depth and dynamism to the bilateral economic ties and open new opportunities for market access, investment and talent mobility, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, July 11. In an interaction with a select group of CEOs and business leaders, PM Modi emphasised that the two nations' shared demo-

cratic values, diversity, and commitment to sustainable development provide a robust foundation for an ambitious, forward-looking economic partnership. The prime minister made the remarks shortly after holding wide-ranging talks with his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon that produced 18 key outcomes including elevation of the bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership.

Modi landed in Auckland on Friday on the final leg of his three-nation tour that largely focused on expanding economic and security cooperation. It is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister after a gap of 40 years and comes after the recent finalisation of a free trade agreement. "A stronger economic partnership between India and New Zealand will create new

opportunities for businesses, innovators and our youth," Modi told the business leaders. The prime minister said India and New Zealand have taken a historic decision to elevate the relations to the level of strategic partnership. "Under this, we will move forward in every sector with clear goals and concrete outcomes," he said. Modi described the India-New Zealand free trade agreement as a "landmark" initiative that would add depth and dynamism to the bilateral economic ties, and open new opportunities for market access, investment, services, technology and talent mobility. The prime minister underscored that India's sustained high growth coupled with young and skilled workforce, expanding middle class, digital revolution, next-generation infrastructure push, and continuing economic reforms, offer significant opportunities for trade and investment for companies in New Zealand.

NATIONWIDE PROTESTS ERUPT AGAINST ETHANOL BLENDING IN PETROL



APPLE SUES OPENAI, ITS EMPLOYEES CLAIMING THEFT OF TRADE SECRETS

Apple has accused OpenAI of gaining access to valuable inside information through the hiring of its former employees. In a federal lawsuit filed on Friday, Apple sued the artificial intelligence (AI) company, two of its employees, as well as io Products, claiming it has engaged in "a pattern of theft" of Apple's confidential product development and related work. At least two long-time Apple workers who left the company to join OpenAI allegedly took part in this pattern by, in part, emailing themselves internal Apple information. Drew Pusateri, a spokesman for OpenAI, told the BBC: "We have no interest in other companies' trade secrets." Pusateri added that the company, which is currently reviewing Apple's complaint, is "focused on building innovative technology that empowers people everywhere." An Apple spokesman told the BBC the lawsuit is the result of "significant evidence." It represents a major shift in relations between Apple and OpenAI, creator of the popular AI chatbot ChatGPT. Tim Cook, Apple's outgoing CEO, had added ChatGPT into Apple



devices as the company was looking to offer more AI features. This year, Apple shifted more of its AI features to run on Google's Gemini model and tools. Yet, when Cook revealed in April that he was stepping down, Sam Altman, co-founder and CEO of OpenAI, publicly praised him as "a legend", adding he was "very thankful for everything he has done". Now, Apple is accusing OpenAI of undertaking a "strategy to extract Apple's confidential information". Along with OpenAI, Apple is suing io Products, the design startup founded by Jony Ive, a long-time Apple executive. OpenAI

acquired the company last year. It is also suing Chang Liu, a senior electrical engineer who worked at Apple for eight years, and Tang Yew Tan, a vice president of design for iPhone and Apple Watch who spent 24 years with the company. Tan is now OpenAI's chief hardware officer. Through these former employees and their access to "sensitive projects, trusted partner relationships, proprietary manufacturing techniques, and unreleased products," Apple claims OpenAI has been able to glean details of its product plans and operations. Apple added that when OpenAI interviews

current Apple employees for potential jobs the company allegedly tries to extract further information from them. OpenAI interviewers allegedly have told the prospective hires to "bring 'actual parts' as 'props' from Apple for 'show and tell'" during their interview. Apple accused all of the parties it was suing of "acting in concert and as an enterprise, exploiting Apple's confidential information to advance OpenAI's efforts to enter the consumer hardware market". OpenAI is expected to release its first hardware product, a type of keyboard to be used with its AI tools, this month. It is also plan-

Highlights
■ Apple has accused OpenAI of gaining access to valuable inside information through the hiring of its former employees. In a federal lawsuit filed on Friday, Apple sued the artificial intelligence (AI) company, two of its employees, as well as io Products, claiming it has engaged in "a pattern of theft" of Apple's confidential product development and related work.

ning to become a publicly traded company. Apple said in its lawsuit that, because OpenAI's "misconduct is normalized and exemplified by leadership" its "nascent hardware business now rests on the shakiest of foundations, rotten to its core by its illegal reliance on misappropriated trade secrets". The company also said that it had attempted to discuss its concerns with OpenAI in February, but was ultimately ignored. Apple has asked the court to immediately prohibit OpenAI from obtaining or using any alleged confidential information and it is seeking unspecified monetary damages.

META SAYS IT REMOVED 1,60,000 ADVERTISER ACCOUNTS IN INDIA AFTER INSTAGRAM AD SCRUTINY

New Delhi: A BBC World Service report that demonstrates an Indian user account was "pushed" to find more child and adult sex and abuse advertising on Instagram, followed by a stern note from the Indian government asking for action against such content, has prompted Meta to respond with steps it has taken to curtail the abuse by advertisers on its platform. On Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Meta said in a blog post that it has blocked over 1,60,000 such advertiser accounts in India over the last year. It also said Meta had removed "36 million pieces of content" (not accounts) globally last year that specifically had content exploitative of children. It removed 4 million accounts globally, Meta said. Acknowledging the BBC report without naming the platform, Meta said it had been made aware of the concerns about "Instagram ads in India that violated our policies against child exploitation". "And we want to be clear: we take these concerns seriously, we never want this content on our platforms, and we're committed to improving our efforts to combat it," it said. "We're in a constant battle with criminals who hide among our 3.5 billion users

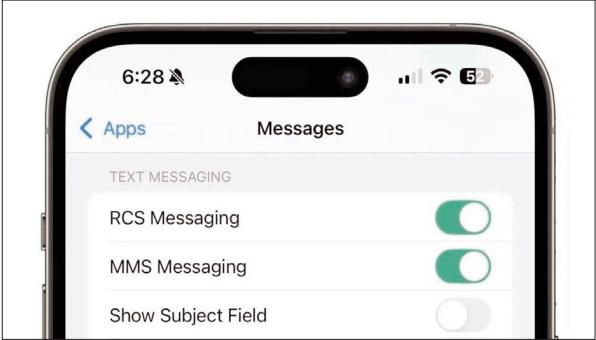


and try to evade our detection," the statement said, detailing the steps it takes to prevent and control illegal and abusive content on Instagram. Experts on cybercrime cited by BBC for its story said Meta's platform receives a high number of complaints from users also because of the large scale of its operations in India. A report on CNBC (US) said in May that in an earnings report from April 2026, Meta said that nearly 98% of its \$56.3 billion in first-quarter revenue came from advertising. BBC's report The BBC report, published Friday (July 3), was based on an Instagram account that staffers created to assess Meta's response to

advertisements featuring or linking to child abuse content: It took Meta 24 hours to respond to the user's complaint, the report says. When BBC reached out to Meta, the company said it had removed the reported content, as well as other content violating its policies and reported the accounts. "The BBC reported an advert to Instagram showing a very young girl in tears, with wording indicating that she had been sexually assaulted," said the report. "But 24 hours later, Instagram replied saying it hadn't removed the advert because 'our review team found that the advertiser's ad does not go against our community standards.

WHY AIRTEL IPHONE USERS STILL DON'T HAVE RCS

Hyderabad: Bharti Airtel's partnership with Google finally brought Rich Communication Services (RCS) to its network on March 1, ending years of resistance over spam and fraud concerns. But three months on, one group of Airtel customers remains left out: iPhone users. While Airtel subscribers on Android can use RCS through Google Messages, there is no confirmed RCS support for iPhone customers. Reliance Jio, by contrast, was reported to have reached an RCS deal with Apple as early as August 2025. The gap raises a straightforward question: why is Airtel's RCS rollout Android-only? What RCS is, and is not RCS is a GSMA-backed messaging standard. It upgrades the legacy SMS experience with read receipts, typing indicators, high-resolution media sharing and group chat. Since iOS 26.5, released in May this year, RCS also supports end-to-end encryption between iPhone and Android. The feature is still in beta and only activates when both users and carriers support it. That



makes the technical case for iPhone RCS simple: if the network supports the standard, and Apple supports the same standard, the feature should work. Yet, on Airtel, it does not. Airtel's stated reason: Spam control Airtel has been public about its condition for adopting RCS. The company wanted all RCS traffic to pass through its own AI-based spam filters before reaching subscribers. Google agreed and the March 2026 deal was announced as a "carrier-backed" RCS deployment with built-in spam protection. "We had not onboarded Google because we first wanted RCS messages to be routed through the Airtel spam filter," an Airtel spokesperson told

TechCrunch at the time. Apple's role: The certification gate Apple added RCS support in iOS 18 and expanded it with end-to-end encryption in iOS 26.5. But the company does not switch RCS on for every carrier automatically. Operators typically need to be tested and activated in Apple's carrier profiles. Jio was reported to have reached an agreement with Apple in 2025. Industry observers say Apple has little commercial incentive to rush. iMessage remains a powerful lock-in feature, especially in markets with high iPhone penetration. Where Apple does enable RCS, it blurs the blue-bubble/green-bubble divide that helps keep users inside its ecosystem.

PHONE CALLS FROM 1600 NUMBER SERIES CANNOT BE BLOCKED: TRAI



New Delhi: No app can block phone calls originating from 1600 number series that are meant for communications by regulated entities and the government to citizens, telecom regulator Trai said in a statement on Friday. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has also clarified that promotional calls originating from 140 number series cannot be tagged or filtered by an app and can only be blocked by DND registry which is managed by the regulator. TRAI has also clarified that promotional calls originating from 140 number series cannot be tagged or filtered by an app and can only be blocked by the DND registry. "Under the Telecom

Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulation (TCC-CPR), any tagging, blocking or filtering of the calls originating from 1600 series numbers is not permitted," Trai said. The regulator said that it has mandated the use of 1600 series numbers for service and transaction calls by regulated entities of banking, financial services and insurance entities regulated by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA to their existing customers and by government entities for government-to-citizen communication. The key objective of assigning designated series for these important communications is to make such calls trustworthy for the citizens.

IN 12 YEARS, INDIA'S ENERGY DEPENDENCY HAS SHARPLY ZOOMED

India's vulnerability was quick to show. Within two weeks of the US and Israel attacking Iran on February 28, Indians were queuing for cooking gas. A woman, probably in her mid-forties, came close to breaking down in front of a reporter. "We have not cooked at home for 56 days now," she said. "We have been running around for a week looking for gas. Cylinders are now selling for Rs 7,000. How are we supposed to feed our children? Hum duty karein ya gas ki line mein lagey (Should we work or stand in queues for LPG)?" She wasn't the only one ambushed by the energy shortage. In the initial weeks of the war, as eateries slashed menus, switched to coal or firewood, or even contemplated closure, their suppliers, food delivery agents and employees wondered what lay in store. Farmers wondered if they would get enough urea. Industrial units running on LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) or CNG (compressed natural gas) – or those using industrial inputs made from petroleum – worried about shortages as well. By the end of the first month itself, some



of these fears had metastasised into reality. Units in industrial clusters like Gujarat's Morbi began closing. In Surat, five years after COVID-19, migrant workers queued once more outside train stations. "We have not eaten for the last four days," one textile worker said. Across India, prices of coal and firewood began climbing, taking the country into higher pollution and accelerated tree loss, even deforestation. The worst, however, was yet to come. The crises listed above had resulted from delayed oil shipments from the Gulf. Three months into the war, as the last of the pre-loaded cargoes reached India, the larger costs of slashed oil/gas production – as much as 40% of the refin-

ing capacity in the Gulf had been damaged – began to make themselves felt. Poorer families were spending as much as a third of their earnings on LPG or falling back on firewood. Between scarcer inputs like petroleum-based industrial feedstock and a mounting struggle to get diesel for trucks, industrial production dropped. Job losses rose. Along the way, the costs of energy dependence came home to roost in India. Today, as the world hopes the peace deal will last and India starts to reckon with the economic, ecological and social costs it has incurred, a question needs to be asked: How did we get here? The answer doesn't just lie in the US-Israel attack on Iran.

Indian tourists among 15 killed as speedboat capsizes in Vietnam



Fifteen people have died after a speedboat carrying Indian tourists capsized near a island in the south of Vietnam, according to local media reports. Local authorities say 32 Indians and four crew were on board the vessel, which overturned about 400 metres (1,312 ft) from Hon May Rut Ngoai island in rough sea conditions on Saturday. Several tourist vessels operating in the area quickly came to the rescue, finding many passengers trapped inside the speedboat, Vietnam's VnExpress reported. Twenty one people were later saved. Hon May Rut Ngoai - a pristine island in the An Thoi Archipelago in the Gulf of Thailand - attracts many tourists from around the world for island-hopping boat tours. Hon May Rut Ngoai is located about 10km (six miles) south of

Phu Quoc, Vietnam's largest island. Nguyen Tien Hai, a senior Communist official in the area, said the authorities were still working to confirm the exact number of those who died as well as the survivors. He is quoted by VnExpress as saying that the speedboat may have capsized due to heavy winds and high waves. "The top priority is rescue, bringing all victims ashore and focusing all efforts on providing emergency care to those who are still alive," Hai said. The Indian embassy in Vietnam described the incident as "tragic", publishing the full list of the 32 Indian nationals who were on board the capsize boat. The embassy also set up the telephone hotlines to "provide information and assistance to affected families".



China braced for second typhoon in a week as Bavi approaches landfall

US wants Iran to pledge to stop shooting at ships in Strait of Hormuz

The US wants Iran to publicly state that the Strait of Hormuz is open and to pledge to stop firing on commercial ships as part of negotiations due to be held in Oman on Saturday. US media cited unnamed officials as saying Tehran had privately acknowledged to President Donald Trump's advisers that the shooting at ships was a mistake, though the Iranians reportedly pinned the blame on a rogue internal group. Trump has said both sides have agreed to continue indirect talks despite this week's fighting over the Strait of Hormuz, which the White House saw as a violation of the ceasefire. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said his country had "kept its word" on the ceasefire, saying on X the US had violated the



deal. In June, the US and Iran signed a ceasefire agreement where Iran would, in part, give safe passage to commercial ships. Tehran said that an "errant" sect of hardliners was trying to undermine negotiations by firing on the commercial ships, senior US officials told CBS News, the BBC's US partner. One official told the TV network: "They [the Iranians] came

back to the table and said, 'We screwed up. We made a mistake. Let's keep talking.'" Vice-President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and two people who have been heavily involved in Middle East talks - special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner - are expected to lead Saturday's negotiations. Araghchi is also expected to

attend the talks. In a briefing for reporters on Friday, the US officials said a message to Tehran's leadership had been conveyed through regional mediators demanding Iran release a statement declaring the strait open and that it will stop shooting at commercial ships, according to multiple media reports. "They're either going to give us that statement or we're not having a good outcome for them," said one official, quoted by Reuters news agency. The White House also wants Iran to publicly acknowledge that firing on the shipping was a mistake, CBS reports. Meanwhile, a delegation from Qatar travelled to Iran on Friday for talks aimed at defusing tensions and easing navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

US pays out \$3m to victims of mysterious Havana Syndrome



The US government has paid nearly \$3m (£2.2m) in compensation to victims of so-called Havana Syndrome, a mysterious neurological condition reported by spies, diplomats and their families. The payments are the first to be made to US agency staff in relation to the illness, reports of which began emerging a decade ago by CIA officers working in the Cuban capital. Since then, American staff based elsewhere, including China, have reported "anomalous health incidents". Sufferers have described symptoms such as hearing a low hum, clicks, squeals and "grinding metal" while others reported intense pressure on the skull, dizziness and nausea. The US Department of Defence said it would continue to prioritise "the care of affected personnel" as it announced the compensation, paid out under the Havana Act which was signed into law in 2021. There has been widespread speculation for many years over what - and who - is responsible for Havana Syndrome. Some have claimed the illness is caused by microwaves, prompting further speculation that a foreign power may have used some kind of sonar weapon to attack US over-

seas staff and their dependants. "My brain is broken," former CIA analyst Erika Stith told CBS News in 2022. "We got this as a result of serving our country. And we deserve to be taken care of," she said. Last year, most US intelligence agencies and departments surmised that it was "very unlikely" that a foreign actor used "a novel weapon or prototype device to harm" US personnel and their families. Although, a small component of the US intelligence community did not completely dismiss the theory. The report, by the National Intelligence Council, said none of the agencies or departments it spoke to "call[ed] into question the experiences or suffering" of US workers and their families. The community believed that they "experienced genuine, sometimes painful and traumatic, physical symptoms and sensory phenomena and honestly and sincerely reported those events as possible anomalous health incidents". What is Havana Syndrome? Havana Syndrome was first publicly reported in 2016, when US diplomats in Cuba reported getting sick and hearing piercing sounds at night. Other cases have been reported around the world.

Thousands attending Orange Order parade in Rosstown

The annual Orange Order parade in Rosstown is taking place in County Donegal. Large crowds are in the seaside village for the demonstration which attracts visitors from across the island. The Grand Master in Donegal David Mahon said there are stalls and food on offer and "a very relaxed atmosphere". "It's always a carnival type of day with lots of families here enjoying a really good time," he added. The Rosstown demonstration always takes place each year on the Saturday before the main Twelfth of July commemorations in Northern Ireland. The Twelfth commemorates the Battle of the Boyne, when Protestant William of Orange defeated Catholic King James II in 1690. Lodges from across Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim and Monaghan are taking part. "It's very important because it's part of our culture and part of our faith. The grand master said the Orange Order in Donegal always had a good relationship with its Catholic neigh-



bours. "That's in terms of co-operation and some of them would be ringing us to see if we need the fields or land again for car parking or whatever." Gardaí (Irish police) are visible, mainly for traffic duties during a busy parading day. Mahon said the order was going from strength to strength in

the county. The sun is shining' Lorna Walker, from Randalstown in County Antrim, said: "I always love coming to this annual parade every year. I like supporting the lodges in County Donegal. "Today the weather is going to make it as the sun is shining from early morning. Let's hope everyone has

an enjoyable day." Samantha Bates said: "We're from Lisnaskea in Fermanagh and we enjoy it and love it every year. "This is the first year our boys Matthew (13) and Jacob (7) are on parade with Cornafanog flute band so they are very excited and we are very proud as a family."

META PULLS NEW AI IMAGE FEATURE AFTER DAYS OF BACKLASH



Meta has abruptly taken down a new feature that allowed people to use its artificial intelligence (AI) tool to make fake images from user content on Instagram. The feature was part of a broad rollout of Muse Image, a new AI image generation tool Instagram's parent company released on Tuesday. It allowed users of the Meta AI chatbot to tag public-facing accounts on Instagram and quickly use content on those accounts to create AI-generated or altered content and images. The feature quickly sparked backlash due to privacy concerns, leading Meta to admit it had "missed the

mark" so it was "no longer available". Muse Image was the tech firm's first foray into AI image generation but faced backlash as Instagram users were opted in by default. It meant that anyone with a public account could have their likeness used without their knowledge or permission. Hollywood union Sag-Aftra described the U-turn as a "win". It had previously urged its members and "all Instagram users" to take action to protect their likeness stating that there had been an "utter miscalculation of public sentiment regarding the obvious dangers and harms inherent in such use".

SMALL PLANE CRASH IN BAHAMAS KILLS 10 PEOPLE

Nine passengers and a pilot have died in a small plane crash in the Bahamas, officials said. The light aircraft was making a short trip from Lynden Pindling International Airport, near capital Nassau, San Andros Airport when it "reportedly encountered difficulties" and crashed into bushes prior to landing, the country's Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority said in a statement. The fatal crash is occurred on the day of the Bahamas' 53rd independence anniversary. "Today is a day of celebration but it has become a day of mourning," Prime Minister Philip Davis told a media conference. He added: "Once again, a chapter in our nation's story has been marked by tragedy." Davis initially said there



was one survivor, although he confirmed hours later that the person had died from their injuries. The details of the people on board, including their age and names, have not been

released. The Cessna 402 aircraft was operated by Flamingo Air, a Bahamas-based airline. The Ministry of Aviation said it was temporarily suspending the airline's air operator certification

"as a precautionary safety measure." The grounding measure "should not be treated as an adverse compliance action against Flamingo Air," the ministry said. It noted there had been "two safety incidents" that had occurred on Friday. Aviation Minister JoBeth Coleby-Davis told reporters a plane had earlier routed back to Nassau when the pilot reported an issue. A fire broke out on board once the aircraft landed and passengers had disembarked, the BBC's US partner CBS News reported. The BBC has contacted Flamingo Air for comment. In remarks to local media, the airline said: "At this time, the details are being gathered, and we are committed to cooperating with the relevant authorities."

Spain battles to contain one of its deadliest wildfires as at least 12 killed

Argentina Ends Silence On FIFA World Cup 'Fixing' Allegations

From favourable refereeing decisions to being drawn on the 'right side' of the FIFA World Cup fixtures bracket, Argentina have had plenty going their way in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. In fact, a win over Switzerland in the quarter-finals of the tournament would take the team to the last four without facing a single opponent ranked among the top 10 teams in the world. Both on-field and off-field factors have led many to suggest that the defending champions are being favoured by FIFA in the World Cup. In fact, after Argentina came from being 2-0 down to beat Egypt 3-2 in the Round of 16, the opposing team's camp claimed that the World Cup is 'fixed' to favour Argentina. As La Albiceleste prepare to take on Switzerland in their quarter-final match on Saturday, manager Lionel Scaloni broke his silence on the matter, admitting that



the outside noise has even reached the players. Scaloni, however, isn't thinking too much about these suggestions, calling it a 'staged rebellion' by people who don't want Argentina to win two World Cup titles in a row. "The thing is, we might have a lot more people who don't want us to win

because we won the last one, and well, we take that into account. And yeah, it gets to the players. We use criticism or comments to rebel. To stage a rebellion and make the players play even better," Scaloni told reporters on Saturday. "It's been a long time-40 years as you just said, since 1986, right? They were saying we

were favoured back then, too. So it's not something new. As far back as I can remember, Argentina has always been one of the teams that stir up the tournament, always. And in a way, as you rightfully pointed out, it's used to show the players that there are people who don't want Argentina to win. But

that's normal, just like there will be people who don't want another national team to win," said Scaloni. The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) has also been under the spotlight, especially after Egypt's second-half strike was chalked off for an incident that took place more than 10 seconds before the goal was scored. Scaloni, however, said that the VAR team is only following the rules that were set before the tournament started. "I think with VAR and all these things, it's very hard for them to help you. Very hard, very hard. There's no double interpretation with VAR. Plus, they made it crystal clear to us in that course they gave us before the World Cup started. They showed us all the footage. This is how it's going to be, it's going to be like this, like that. And it's been followed to the letter," he added.

Virat Kohli 'Secretly Filmed' In UK, RCB Teammate Shares Harrowing Details

Star India batter Virat Kohli is set to return to action in the upcoming ODI series against England. Kohli, who scored more than 600 runs during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title-winning IPL 2026 campaign, missed the ODI series against Afghanistan due to a hamstring injury. However, he has now recovered and is expected to feature in the opening match of the series against England in Birmingham on July 14. Ahead of the first ODI, England batter Jordan Cox shared a surprising anecdote about his meeting with Kohli in London. Cox, Kohli's teammate at RCB, had met the star batter in London last month, with a photograph of their meeting quickly going viral on social media. Speaking recently about the encounter, Cox revealed that both of them tried their best to keep the meeting low-key, but were still photographed by someone, leaving him stunned. "The upsetting thing for him is that people are following him without him knowing.



Hundreds of people walked past us, no one stopped, no one did anything. But then, about two hours later, he's texting me, going 'Have you seen all these photos? I was like 'what the hell?,' Cox told the Guardian. "It's just a shame how many people want a piece of him. He just wants to go under the radar, have fun and live a normal life. Unfortunately, that's not always possible," he added. The 25-year-old England star also praised Kohli for the support and guidance he received from the former India captain during his stint with RCB in

IPL 2026. "The thing that I found the most special during the IPL is how much time he gave me as a player and, for someone who's achieved so much, how much he gives back generally. Some guys focus on their own game, but he is someone who always wants to help others before he helps himself. That is very rare," said Cox. India are currently facing England in the five-match T20I series, which the visitors have already lost with a 3-0 trail. The last match of the series will be played on Saturday in Southampton.

Jannik Sinner's Heartfelt Message For Rival Novak Djokovic After Reaching Wimbledon Final

Jannik Sinner hailed Novak Djokovic as a "true inspiration" as the defending Wimbledon champion revealed he had to raise his game to end his rival's title bid on Friday. Sinner produced one of his best performances this year to rout Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in a one-sided Centre Court semi-final. The world number one will face French Open champion Alexander Zverev in the final on Sunday. Sinner's dynamic display avenged his Australian Open last-four loss to Djokovic in January. Djokovic once again fell short in his quest to make history with a record 25th Grand Slam singles title, which would break his tie with Margaret Court. The seven-time Wimbledon champion might be in the



twilight of his career. But the 39-year-old showed in his five-hour victory over third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime - the longest quarter-final in Wimbledon history - that he can still compete with far younger players. Full of admiration for Djokovic's longevity, Sinner said: "Even when I had this small winning streak from last

year, you always feel pressure before playing against Novak. "This is why I practise. I like challenges. Playing against Novak in Grand Slams, they are very different than playing in Masters events. "It's so amazing to see him still producing this kind of level. The match he has played with Felix, I was watching.

The level was so high. "It's a true inspiration for all of us and also the younger generation, how much a good mindset can do to your body and mind as well." "An honour to play against him' Brushing away talk of retirement, Djokovic said after losing to Sinner that he plans to return to Wimbledon at least one more time. Sinner would welcome Djokovic extending his remarkable career, but for now he hopes his latest victory over the Serb will propel him to a fifth Grand Slam title on Sunday. "Seeing him around and having the honour to play against him, feeling the pressure against him, these matches, they hopefully can help me and also in the future," he said.

High Jumper Sarvesh Kushare Finishes Third On Diamond League Debut In Monaco

National record holder high jumper Sarvesh Kushare finished third in his Diamond League debut in Monaco as he joined an exclusive four-member club of Indians to have achieved the feat of making the top-three in the prestigious event. The 31-year-old Kushare cleared 2.12m, 2.16m, 2.20m, 2.023m and 2.26m in his first try. But he failed to clear 2.28m in three attempts to take the third spot in the star-studded field. With his stunning show, Kushare, who set the national record of 2.31m in the National Inter-State Championships last month, became the only fourth Indian to finish in top-three of a Diamond League after javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra, long jumper



Murali Sreeshankar and former discus thrower Vikas Gowda. World leader and world indoor champion Oleh Doroshchuk of Ukraine won the title after clearing 2.32m, while Great Britain's Jack Kimani was second with 2.30m. Kimani could not clear 2.32m in

three-time world champion and Tokyo Olympics gold winner Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar, who finished joint eighth with 2.20m effort, 2023 World Championships silver winner JuVaughn Harrison of the USA, who finished joint fourth, and Tokyo Olympics gold winner Gianmarco Tamperi of Italy. However, Tamperi, who finished joint sixth with 2.23m, has been struggling of late. On June 27, Kushare broke Tejaswin Shankar's eight-year-old previous national record of 2.29m with an effort of 2.31m. He became the first Indian high jumper to clear 2.30m. Before Friday, Kushare was at joint fourth in the global season best jumps and number one among Asian athletes.

The Football Coach Who Returned From Dead and Rebuilt Norway

Stale Solbakken 'died' for seven minutes in 2001. Today, his team is preparing to become the first FIFA World Cup side from Norway to enter the semi-finals. This is the story of a football coach who plays 'chess' on the field. It is a much-told story, but every time it seems as marvellous as before. Back in 2001, Stale Solbakken was a midfielder for FC

Copenhagen in



Denmark. On March 13 that year, his life changed forever. Solbakken's heart stopped beating. For seven minutes, he was 'clinically dead' after suffering a heart attack. Team doctor Frank Odgaard revived him and saved his life. Solbakken later recalled the experience on the Drivkraft podcast. "I remember seeing a blue light and then a tunnel. I remember thinking that I would like to stay there a little longer," he said. Solbakken remained unconscious for 26 hours and was placed on life support in a hospital. As his family came to know about the incident, Solbakken told La Gazzetta dello Sport that his mother was thinking about how to organ-

ise his funeral on her way to the hospital. "My parents flew to Denmark straight away. I was told that on the plane my mum started planning my funeral. At first they worried whether I would survive, then whether my brain would be damaged. Those were the thoughts that tormented my family and team-mates, who witnessed me collapsing, dying and being brought back to life," tribuna.com quoted him as saying. He was placed in a medically induced coma to protect his brain. Though he recovered without neurological damage, his playing career was over. It was discovered that Solbakken had been born with a heart defect. "Something like that definitely changes some things," Solbakken said later.

Rapper Drake's Rs 10 Crore Gamble On Conor McGregor Could Turn Into A Fortune

Conor McGregor's highly anticipated return to the Octagon has attracted a seven-figure wager from one of the biggest names in music. Canadian rapper Drake has placed \$1 million (approximately Rs 9.5 crore) on the Irishman to defeat Max Holloway in the UFC 329 main event. If McGregor emerges victorious, the bet is expected to return \$2.85 million (approximately Rs 27.16 crore), putting the internet's infamous "Drake Curse" back in the spotlight. Drake shared a screenshot of the bet on Instagram along with a trademark McGregor-inspired caption. "THE MAC IS BACK????? The proper twelve drinking, tailored suit wearing, Lambo Yacht riding man with the Dubai tan that once had both belts in both hands...Say less @stake." The wager adds another storyline to one of



the biggest fights of the year. McGregor will make his first UFC appearance since breaking his leg during his trilogy bout against Dustin Poirier in 2021. The former two-division champion faces old rival Holloway in a rematch that fans have waited years to see. Holloway enters the fight fresh off his spectacular last-second knockout of Justin Gaethje at UFC 300, making the clash one of the most anticipated bouts of 2026. Drake has

become almost as famous for his high-stakes sports betting as he is for his music. The Grammy-winning rapper has routinely placed bets worth hundreds of thousands, and sometimes millions, of dollars on UFC, boxing, football and NBA events. His betting record has also given rise to the internet's famous "Drake Curse", a tongue-in-cheek belief that athletes and teams publicly backed by the rapper often end up losing.

Sprinter Animesh Kujur Becomes First Indian To Achieve This Historic Feat



India's national 200m record holder Animesh Kujur continued his rapid rise as one of the country's premier sprinters by clocking a personal best 10.14 seconds to finish second in the men's 100m final at the PUMA Fast Arms Fast Legs 2026 meet on Saturday. The Odisha athlete's performance is the fastest 100m ever recorded by an Indian on foreign soil and the second-fastest by an Indian overall, only behind Gurindervir Singh's national-leading 10.09 seconds. Animesh had shown his form earlier in the day by winning his heat in 10.19 seconds. He improved in the final, shaving one hundredth of a second off his previous personal best of 10.15 seconds. This continues a season in which he has consistently lowered his times. Already the national record holder in the men's 200m, Animesh has established himself among India's fastest-ever 100m runners. He now

owns three of the five fastest 100m times by an Indian, with the all-time list as follows: Gurindervir Singh (10.09s), Animesh Kujur (10.14s), Animesh Kujur (10.15s), Gurindervir Singh (10.17s), and Animesh Kujur (10.18s). His progress in the shorter sprint comes after he secured qualification for the Asian Games 200m at the Inter-State National Athletics Championships in June. He clocked 20.74 seconds, comfortably below the Athletics Federation of India qualifying standard of 20.88 seconds. Despite achieving the qualifying mark easily, Animesh admitted he was not happy with the timing, saying qualification was his only goal. "Honestly, I was not here for timing. The idea was to secure the qualification mark for the Asian Games. Since I have got it now, I will focus on improving before the Asian Games," he said after the race.

Days After World Cup Exit, Cristiano Ronaldo's Social Media Post Has Internet In Shock

Just days after Cristiano Ronaldo's social media activity has left the internet completely bemused. Ronaldo, who rated the UEFA European Championships as highly as the World Cup, after Portugal's elimination from the tournament, posted on his social media accounts: "A victory of millions", reminiscing about Portugal's triumph at the

UEFA Euro 2016, the biggest title the country has won in its history. Though the post from Ronaldo came on the occasion of the tournament's 10th anniversary, a large section of fans weren't pleased as Portugal were eliminated from the FIFA World Cup only a few days ago. Some even criticised Ronaldo for 'living in the past'. While it's common for athletes to recall their glory days and relive past titles, it was the timing of the post from Ronaldo that made him a subject of trolling and mockery on social media. In fact, right after Portugal

were eliminated by Spain from the World Cup, Ronaldo had said that the Euro Championship is as big as the World Cup. "I have won three titles for Portugal; before Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal hadn't won a single title," Ronaldo said. "The biggest title the national team has ever won was in 2016, the European Championship, which, to be honest, is just as significant to me as a World Cup." Ronaldo remains Portugal's all-time leading appearance-maker and goalscorer, having guided the national side to multiple international

honours, including the UEFA Euro 2016 title and the inaugural UEFA Nations League crown. Portugal, hailed as one of the favourites to finally lift the trophy, ended their FIFA World Cup journey, falling way short again, in the round of 16. Cristiano, playing his last-ever FIFA World Cup as he had announced ahead of the Spain clash, was once again made to leave with the pitch with sorrow on his face and tears in his eyes as a late winner from Mikel Merino and plenty of missed chances by his side.

Audience always supports a good movie.. Producer King Nagarjuna at 'Lenin' success meet



Thanks to Telugu audience for supporting 'Lenin'. Akhil Akkineni in success meet I am happy when everyone says that Akhil is a hit..Producer Surya Devara Nagavanshi at 'Lenin' success meet 'Lenin' is produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sitara Entertainments and is presented by Annapurna Studios starring Akhil Akkineni. Bhagyashree Borse is the heroine. Directed by Murali Kishore Abburu. This movie has a grand release on 10th July and is running successfully with blockbuster talk. In this order, the film unit organized a victory ceremony on Saturday. In this success meet Producer King Nagarjuna said that after making 'Annamaiya', I did not ask God for anything. But after the event in Tirupati, when I visited Swami, I asked him not to give a hit. Later I came to know that Bhagyashree also wanted the same. First of all thanks to that Venkateswara Swamy. Thanks to my elder son Tarak for giving voice to 'Lenin'. We came to 'Tandel' success meet a year and a half ago. Now I have come to the success of 'Lenin'. Both of them are like my two eyes. Seeing the 'Lenin' team is envious. Everyone loved it and worked hard. We all did the films 'Shiva', 'Ninne Pelladutha' and 'Annamayya' together.

V.V. Vinayak Launches Third Single “Adukunnadhikkade” Lyrical Song from Venkatramayya Gaari Thaluka



"Venkatramayya Gaari Thaluka" a heartwarming family entertainer that highlights the values of family bonds and human relationships, is all set for a grand theatrical release on July 17. As part of the film's promotions, the makers unveiled the third lyrical song, Adukunnadhikkade through renowned director V. V. Vinayak. Releasing the song, V.V. Vinayak conveyed his best wishes to the entire team and expressed confidence that the film would achieve great success. Speaking on the occasion, the film's team said, "The teaser and the songs released so far have received an overwhelming response from the audience. We are confident that 'Adukunnadhikkade' will also touch the hearts of listeners. The song beautifully reflects the emotions of the story and is sure to resonate with audiences of all age groups." The film stars Dinesh Kumar and introduces Divija Prabhakar as the female lead. Directed by Satish Aavala the film is jointly produced by Komali Mahender Thotte and Somesh Saripalli under the Komali Creations banner. Filled with family emotions, parental love, and heartfelt relationships, Venkatramayya Gari Thaluka is gearing up to entertain audiences worldwide on July 17.

Oh! Sukumari is a good family entertainer. The movie turned out amazing. It will entertain with a new concept that will connect with everyone: Producer Maheshwar Reddy Mooli

Young hero Thiruveer and talented heroine Aishwarya Rajesh are going to entertain the village family entertainer 'O! Sukumari'. Directed by debutant Bharat Darshan, the film is being produced by Maheshwar Reddy Mooli under the banner of Ganga Entertainments. This is the film being made under this banner after the critically acclaimed first film 'Shivam Bhaje'. The first looks, teaser, songs and trailer that have already been released have received a good response. The film will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi languages ??on July 17. On this occasion, producer Maheshwar Reddy Mooli shared the features of the film in a press conference.



How is 'Oh..! Sukumari' going to be?
This is a good family entertainer. Emotion, comedy, and fun are all in balance. The movie turned out very well.

How did this movie start?
Our DOP introduced director Bharat Darshan. He told the story. I liked the story a lot. After working on the script for almost a year, we started the film.

What did you like most about this story?
There is a unique point in this movie. The entertainment and emotions surrounding the concept of 'shocking' are very new. They give a good feeling to the audience.

Whose idea was it to choose Tiruveer and Aishwarya Rajesh?
I felt that Tiruveer and Aishwarya Rajesh would be a good fit for the story. We waited for Aishwarya Rajesh for almost three months. We started shooting only after she said okay. We spoke to her after the success of the film 'Sankranthiki Yaaraam'.

What will you tell the audience about the film?
The audience will get a full-fledged entertainment for every rupee they spend on the ticket. This is a good family entertainer that every family can watch together.

Was this film made with theaters in mind?
Yes. I have been a distributor since the begin-

ning. That is why we made this film keeping in mind the theater experience. The digital rights of this film have been acquired by Amazon Prime.

What is the reason for the pan India release?
Thiruveer is well-known in Telugu. We are also releasing it in Tamil for Aishwarya Rajesh. We are releasing it because it has good content in other languages ??as well. We have taken this decision with the aim of reaching a wider audience in OTT as well as in theaters.

What is special about this story?
"This is a film with a unique point that connects everyone. The village backdrop and emotions are close to everyone. There is also a logic to the 'shock' problem shown in it. In fact, every human body has electric energy. However, it is at a different level in each person. We have shown the same point in an interesting way in the story.

Did you complete the film within the planned budget?
I spent more than I thought. These days, audiences want value for every rupee. That's why there was no compromise on casting, production values, or technical quality.

Ramya Krishna Joins Director Rathan Rishi’s ‘Queen’ in a Powerful Role

Ramya Krishna to Play Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Lakshmi Pranathi in 'Queen' Veteran actress Ramya Krishna has come on board for a pivotal role in the upcoming women-centric Telugu film "Queen," directed by talented young filmmaker Rathan Rishi. The film introduces popular social media influencer ER Yamini as the lead actress and is being produced under the One Circle Films banner. The makers have officially announced that Ramya Krishna will portray Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Lakshmi Pranathi, a powerful and influential character that is expected to be one of the major highlights of the film. With her commanding screen presence and



exceptional acting skills, Ramya Krishna is set to impress audiences in this strong political role. Inspired by real-life incidents and personalities

while presenting a fictional narrative, "Queen" is set between 2006 and 2010. The film combines political drama with an engaging love story that reflects contemporary social issues, promising a unique cinematic experience. The film also stars Dialogue King Sai Kumar as the heroine's father, while Ajay Ghosh and Kalakeya Prabhakar play the antagonists. Tanikella Bharani, Naveen Bethiganti, and several other notable actors are part of the ensemble cast. The makers warmly welcomed Ramya Krishna to the team and expressed confidence that her addition will further strengthen the film. The regular shoot of "Queen" is currently progressing at a brisk pace.

Rasha Thadani: 'Manga' is a role close to my heart in Srinivasa Mangapuram

I am fortunate to be introduced to Telugu through the film 'Srinivasa Mangapuram' by Vyjayanthi Movies. Director Ajay Bhupathi has crafted the story and characters wonderfully. The role of Manga that I have played in this is very close to my heart: Heroine Rasha Thadani Superstar Krishna's grandson and Mahesh Babu's nephew Jayakrishna Ghattamaneni is making his debut as a hero with the film 'Srinivasa Mangapuram' directed by Ajay Bhupathi. Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani is also being introduced to the Telugu audience through this film. Senior actor Dr. Mohan Babu is playing a powerful role in this prestigious film. Producer P. Kiran is producing this film and Vyjayanthi Movies Ashwini Dutt is presenting it. The three songs, teasers and posters released so far have received a wonderful response from the audience. The film will be released in theaters worldwide on July 30. On this occasion, heroine Rasha Thadani shared the features of the film at a press conference.



calm girl. You will see that if you watch the movie in the theater. There are two different aspects to my character. -I understand Telugu. But I can't speak clearly. For this film, director Ajay Bhupathi taught me every dialogue and emotion in it. He took great care in everything. The character of Manga is very close to me.

How was it working with Jayakrishna Ghattamaneni?
-Jayakrishna is a very sweet and cool person. He is very fun on the set. It was a lot of fun during the shooting.

How was it working with Mohan Babu?
-My mother also worked with Mohan Babu. Working with him was a very fun experience. He is very funny on the set. He always tells jokes. His experience was very useful for us. I learned a lot from him.

This is your first film in Telugu. What challenges did you face?
-I don't know Telugu. Initially, I had a hard time understanding the dialogues. But director Ajay Bhupathi helped me a lot. He used to explain the dialogues in Telugu and Hindi.

When did you hear the story of 'Srinivasa Mangapuram'?
-I heard this story in July last year. I really liked the way director Ajay Bhupathi narrated the story, the characters, the love and emotion in it. While listening to the story, I understood how much he loved each character. I also felt that emotion. This is a very wonderful story.

What will your character be like in this?
-My character has two shades. On one hand, she is very bubbly and excited. On the other hand, she appears as a very methodical and

Trikaala' Now Streaming on JioHotstar, Amazon Prime & Sun NXT



After receiving an encouraging response in theatres, the Telugu mythological dark thriller 'Trikaala: A Script of God' is now making waves on leading OTT platforms. The film is currently streaming on JioHotstar, Amazon Prime Video, and Sun NXT, where it has emerged as one of the trending titles with impressive audience ratings. It has also garnered an outstanding 9.1 rating on IMDb, further strengthening its growing popularity among viewers. Starring Shraddha Das, Mahendran, and Ajay in lead roles, Trikaala is directed by Mani Tellagooti. Rather than relying solely on conventional storytelling, the film explores profound themes such as the law of karma, the significance of cow protection, and the concept of reincarnation, presenting them through a visually compelling narrative. Blending mythology, psychological horror, and dark fantasy with a contemporary backdrop, director Mani Tellagooti has crafted the film into a unique cinematic experience. His meticulous visual planning from the scripting stage is evident in every frame, showcasing his technical expertise and creative vision. The film's immersive atmosphere is further elevated by Pawan Channa's striking dark visuals and Shajid Humayun's powerful background score, both of which have received widespread appreciation from audiences. With its distinctive storytelling, technical brilliance, and strong OTT reception, "Trikaala: A Script of God" has now become one of the most talked-about Telugu films on digital platforms.

TAMANNAAH MESMERIZES IN CHIC BEIGE LOOK EFFORTLESSLY

Tamannaah Bhatia has once again grabbed attention with her latest pictures, showcasing effortless elegance in a soft beige knitted outfit. Seated gracefully on the studio floor, the actress kept her look minimal yet striking, accessorizing with layered pearl necklaces, gold bangles, and statement rings. Her sleek hairstyle and subtle make-up perfectly complemented the earthy aesthetic, making the photoshoot a blend of sophistication and timeless charm. On the work front, Tamannaah has an exciting slate of films across multiple languages. She will be seen in the Telugu and Tamil projects Purushan and Ragini 3, while her Hindi film Vvan, co-starring Sidharth

Malhotra, is slated to hit theatres on August 28. Tamannaah Bhatia has shared her candid views on the differences between Bollywood and the South Indian film industry, shedding light on the challenges women often face in cinema. Having worked extensively in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu films, Tamannaah said her experiences across industries have given her a unique perspective on how women are perceived and represented. According to her, Bollywood offers space for different kinds of female performers. She noted that some actresses focus on performance-driven roles, while others successfully balance commercial glamour with strong acting careers.

