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NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER



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SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

14-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 75,485
Tonsures - 30,939
Kundi kankula - 4,36 CR
Laddu sale - 3,70 Lac
Annasprasadam - 2,99 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,928
Waiting Consultants - Out side line
at Silahgramam

Approx. Duration Time for Served pilgrims
(with out SSD Tonsure) - 5- 18 H.**Lalu Prasad Yadav
hospitalised after health
deteriorates**

Patna (TSIT) : Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) national president and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav was admitted to the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) in Patna on Friday after his health reportedly deteriorated suddenly. According to hospital sources, he was rushed to IGIMS after experiencing complications earlier in the day. A specialised team of doctors has been assigned to monitor his condition and provide necessary medical care. His wife and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, along with his daughter and Rajya Sabha MP Misa Bharti, accompanied him to the hospital and remained there while doctors conducted medical evaluations.

**Sir Garry Sobers,
cricket's greatest
all-rounder, dies at 89**

New Delhi (TSIT): Cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers (Garry), widely regarded as the greatest all-rounder the game has ever produced, has died at the age of 89, bringing to an end the remarkable life of one of the sport's most celebrated figures. Former West Indies captain Sobers leaves behind an unmatched legacy built on remarkable achievements with both bat and ball.

PM Modi launches 75 redeveloped rail stations from Jalandhar

Jalandhar (TSIT):

In a major push to rail and road infrastructure projects, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 5,470 crore, aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving passenger convenience and accelerating economic development, besides connecting India's most revered spiritual and cultural centres.

Before inaugurating 75 redeveloped railway stations and launching two trains, PM Modi met and interacted with Dera Sachkhand's dera's head, Sant Niranjana Dass, marking an outreach to the Dalit community, particularly in Punjab where elections are due in early next year, besides interacting with passengers onboard a train. PM Modi also received the blessings of



Sant Niranjana Dass, a significant meeting. The inaugurated redeveloped railway stations, including Jalandhar Cantonment, across 20 states marked a milestone under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, one of the world's largest station redevelopment programmes.

Developed at a cost of about Rs 1,570 crore, these stations have been transformed into modern, passenger-friendly facilities. Redeveloped in the spirit of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi',

the stations incorporate elements reflecting local culture, heritage and architecture.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Daulatpur Chowk-Kartoli new rail line, constructed at a cost of about Rs 830 crore as part of the Nangal Dam-Talwara-Mukerian New Rail Line Project. It will significantly strengthen rail connectivity between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, benefiting the districts of Hoshiarpur and Una.

Telangana Cabinet clears drought relief,

● Dharani probe and bullet train plans

Hyderabad
(TSIT Bureau):

The Telangana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, on Friday approved a series of key decisions covering drought relief, governance reforms, infrastructure development and social inclusion.

With the state facing nearly a 40 per cent rainfall deficit due to the El Niño effect, the Cabinet decided to seek financial assistance from the Centre and request a special team to assess the drought situation. Officials were directed to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply, continuous power without load shedding, and imple-



ment contingency plans for agriculture, irrigation and employment. Farmers were advised to take up low water-intensive crops.

The Cabinet approved the formation of a Special Enquiry Team (SET) to investigate alleged irregularities in the Dharani land records portal, includ-

ing land transactions, record changes, assigned land transfers, and the role of portal developer IL&FS.

It also cleared the establishment of a High-Level Committee under the Chief Secretary to streamline project appraisal, land acquisition, tendering and contract management. The

Cabinet approved amendments to enable the nomination of transgender persons as co-opted members in municipal corporations and allowed Gram Panchayats to deposit funds in nationalised, cooperative banks and post offices.

The Cabinet also approved plans for high-speed rail corridors linking Hyderabad with Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai, including a major rail hub near Shamshabad, and sanctioned completion of the Mukteshwar Lift Irrigation Scheme, which will irrigate 45,000 acres in Manthani constituency using 4.5 TMC of Godavari water.

Banks Must Become Partners in Andhra Pradesh's Growth: CM Naidu

Visakhapatnam (TSIT)

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday called upon banks to become active partners in Andhra Pradesh's development, stating that access to credit empowers farmers, youth, women and entrepreneurs to achieve economic self-reliance. Addressing the Mega Credit Outreach Programme organised jointly by the Union Finance Ministry and public sector banks at Narasaraopet, alongside Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Chief Minister said the State had saved Rs.1,538 crore by restructuring high-interest loans inherited from the previous government with the Centre's support.

At the programme, loans worth Rs.3,216 crore were distributed to 1,03,246 beneficiaries across Palnadu dis-



trict, including DWCR women, farmers, students and entrepreneurs. Chandrababu said the government aims to transform every eligible citizen into an entrepreneur through easy access to institutional credit and highlighted the 'One Family-One Entrepreneur' initiative to promote women-led enterprises.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has strengthened the banking sector through major reforms and ensured easier access to credit for

small entrepreneurs and rural communities. She said banks are now proactively reaching beneficiaries through outreach programmes.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister and the Union Finance Minister also distributed loan sanction letters and inaugurated several CSR-supported initiatives, including an ambulance for a government hospital, mobile demonstration vehicles, bicycles for girl students, battery-operated vehicles for the Tourism Department and tricycles for persons with disabilities.

Terror sponsor Pakistan has no locus-standi to comment on India's internal matters: MEA

New Delhi, July 17 : India on Friday yet again slammed Pakistan for its support and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism while using it as an instrument of state policy.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that that investigation continues in last year's heinous Pahalgam terror attack carried out by Pakistan-backed terror groups.

"The Pahalgam terror attack took several innocent lives. You all saw its barbarity. Our authorities have begun investigations in the matter and it continues. As far as cross-border terrorism is concerned, you are well aware of



Pakistan's decades-long sponsorship and support for it as also its continued use as instrument of state policy," he said in response to a question.

The terror attack in Pahalgam took place on April 22, 2025. The Pakistan-backed attackers singled out victims after asking about their religion, forcing them to recite the Islamic 'Kalma' to identify non-Muslims. Among those killed were

25 tourists and one local pony ride operator who tried to save the tourists. The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack.

During the briefing, Jaiswal also said that Pakistan has no locus-standi to comment on matters internal to India.

When asked about Pakistani leaders expressing support for Hurriyat leaders after National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed chargesheets against them, Jaiswal responded, "Pakistan has no locus-standi to comment on matters which are internal to India."

Sensex jumps 965 points, Nifty tops 24,300 on buying in banks, IT stocks

Mumbai (TSIT) : Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply higher on Friday, supported by strong buying in private banking, information technology and auto stocks. The Sensex rallied 964.58 points, or 1.25 per cent, to close at 78,151.45. The Nifty also ended firmly in the green, rising 261.55 points, or 1.09 per cent, to settle at 24,334.30. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,400 level remains the immediate resistance and coincides with the 200-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA), making it a crucial hurdle for the index. "A sustained breakout above this zone could reinforce bullish momentum and pave the way for an advance towards the 24,500-24,600 region.

Govt employee remanded in harassment case

Accused municipal employee sent to judicial custody after police investigation; case was first highlighted by The South India Times.

Mahabubabad (TSIT):

A government employee accused in a harassment case was remanded to judicial custody on Friday following a police investigation into allegations of sexual exploitation, financial cheating, workplace harassment and criminal intimidation. The case came into public focus after The South India Times published an exclusive front-page investigation on May 18, 2026, detailing the allegations made by a woman government employee. The report stated that the victim

alleged she was promised marriage, persuaded to arrange Rs.5 lakh, and later subjected to harassment and intimidation after seeking the return of the money. Following the victim's complaint, Maripeda Police registered Crime No. 147/2026 on June 4 under Sections 69, 318(4) and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and initiated an investigation.

As part of the probe, police examined the complaint, recorded evidence and carried out the investigation in accordance with legal procedures. The

accused, Itikala Swamy, a Senior Assistant in the Mahabubabad Municipality, appeared before Maripeda Police on July 17. He was later produced before the jurisdictional court, which ordered his judicial remand.

Police also informed the Mahabubabad Municipal Commissioner about the arrest and the accused's production before the court after completing the required legal formalities.

The case has drawn considerable public attention in Mahabubabad district. Police said the investigation is continuing.

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT	
Crime No. 147/2026	
Date of Report: 18/07/2026	
Place of Incident: Mahabubabad	
Name of Victim: [Redacted]	
Name of Accused: Itikala Swamy	
Address of Accused: [Redacted]	
Occupation of Accused: Senior Assistant, Mahabubabad Municipality	
Date of Arrest: 17/07/2026	
Place of Arrest: Maripeda Police Station	
Name of Investigating Officer: [Redacted]	
Rank of Investigating Officer: [Redacted]	
Signature of Investigating Officer: [Redacted]	
Date of Report: 18/07/2026	
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Women Safety Wing Launches Statewide 'Stand With Her' Campaign Through Master Trainer Programme

Hyderabad, TSIT: The Women Safety Wing (WSW), Telangana Police, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme under its flagship 'Stand With Her' campaign at the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME), Yousufguda, to prepare Master Trainers for the statewide implementation of the initiative. Programme brought together lecturers and assistant professors from Government Degree Colleges and Universities across Telangana, who will now lead awareness programmes in their respective institutions to promote gender-sensitive and inclusive campuses.



Inaugural session was attended by Charu Sinha Director General, Women Safety Wing, Parimala Hana Nutan, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Women Safety Wing Dr.Rajendra Singh, Joint Director, Department of Education; Dr.Soundarya Joseph, Department of School Education; and Asiya Sherwani, Head of Training, Women Safety Wing. Addressing the participants, Charu Sinha emphasised that preventing gender-based violence

requires the active participation of men and boys and highlighted the crucial role educational institutions play in fostering equality, dignity and mutual respect.Dr. Rajendra Singh stressed the responsibility of teachers in nurturing values that create safe and respectful learning environments. The training included interactive sessions on gender sensitivity, identifying inappropriate behaviour, bystander intervention, facilitation techniques and practical strategies for implementing the campaign effectively in higher educational institutions.

KIMS restores child's eye function after rare surgery



Kurnool, July 17 (TSIT): Doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Kurnool, successfully restored the eyelid anatomy and tear drainage function of a six-year-old girl after performing a complex three-hour microsurgical reconstruction following a severe eye injury. Consultant Plastic Surgeon Dr. Navya Kothacheruvu said the

child suffered extensive eyelid lacerations and a rare canalicular injury after falling onto a gate while playing. Surgeons performed emergency microsurgery using specialised instruments and reconstructed the tear drainage channel with an Intracath stent. The child recovered without complications and regained normal eyelid function. Doctors urged parents to seek immediate specialist care for eye injuries to prevent lifelong complications.

Mangalya opens 32nd store in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, July 17: Mangalya Shopping Mall on Friday inaugurated its 32nd outlet at Dilksukhnagar, marking another milestone in its retail expansion. Actress Meenakshi Chaudhary inaugurated the new showroom and expressed confidence that the store would receive strong support from customers.Established in Warangal in 2012, Mangalya now operates across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The new outlet offers a wide range of apparel for men, women and children, including exclusive wedding collections, with prices ranging from Rs.99 to Rs.1 lakh. The management also announced plans to open 10 more stores and expand operations into Tamil Nadu.

Yashoda sets Guinness record for IBD awareness

Hyderabad, July 17: Yashoda Hospitals, Somajiguda has entered the Guinness World Records™ by conducting the world's largest awareness session on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), with 578 participants attending both in person and online simultaneously. The initiative aimed to improve public awareness about IBD, encourage early recognition of symptoms and promote timely medical consultation. The record was officially verified by Guinness World Records™ adjudicator Rishi Nath, who presented the certificate to Dr. Kiran Peddi, Senior Gastroenterologist and Director, Centre for IBD, and Dr. S. Prashanth

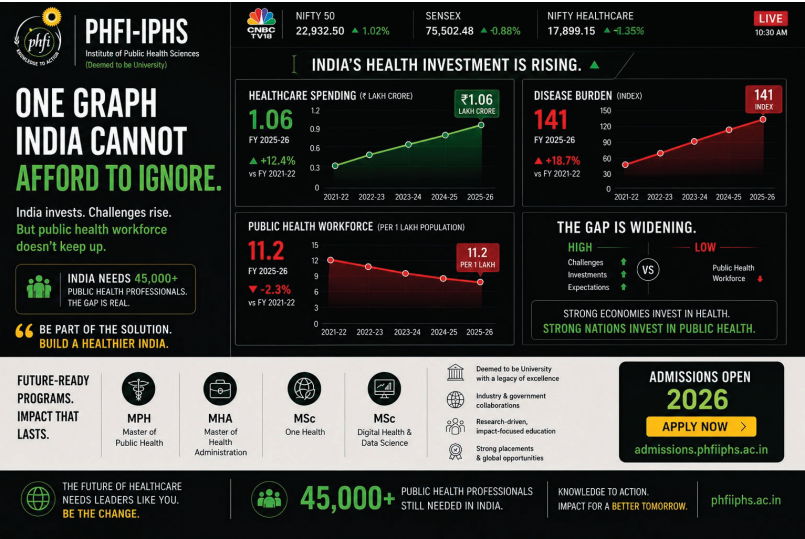


Reddy, Unit Head, Yashoda Hospitals, Somajiguda. Following the record-setting event, the hospital organised IBD Conclave 2.0, an international scientific conference attended by more than 300 delegates, including international faculty and over 50 national experts. The conclave focused on the latest advances in IBD treatment, including biologic therapies, advanced surgical techniques, intestinal ultrasound and the use of artificial intelligence in diagnosis and patient care. Dr. Kiran Peddi said the achievement reflects the hospital's commitment to patient-centric care, research and public awareness, while emphasising the importance of early diagnosis and con-

tinuous treatment for chronic bowel diseases. Yashoda Hospitals Director Dr. Pavan Gorukanti said the recognition highlights the institution's efforts to combine clinical excellence with medical education, research and community outreach. Congratulating the hospital, Guinness World Records™ adjudicator Rishi Nath described the initiative as a meaningful public health campaign that successfully combined large-scale community participation with medical awareness. He said the achievement had not only set a world record but also educated hundreds of people about IBD and its timely management.

PHFI-IPHS focuses on public health workforce

Hyderabad: India is investing in healthcare like never before. From Ayushman Bharat and the Digital Health Mission to AI-enabled healthcare, disease surveillance, pandemic preparedness, climate health and preventive care, the country is building a stronger healthcare system for the future. Yet, experts believe one major challenge could slow this progress—the shortage of trained public health professionals. According to estimates by the PHFI Institute of Public Health Sciences (PHFI-IPHS), India currently requires more than 45,000 additional public health professionals to support its growing healthcare needs. While investments in healthcare infrastructure and services have increased significantly over the past few years, the availability of trained professionals capable of planning, managing and strengthening public health systems has not kept pace.Recognising this need, PHFI-IPHS, formerly known as the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), is preparing the next generation of public health professionals through multidisciplinary education, research and practical training. Recently recognised as a Deemed-to-be University under the Ministry of Education's Distinct Category of the UGC Regulations, PHFI-IPHS builds on the two-decade legacy of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in strengthening public health education, research and policy in the country. "India's healthcare ambitions require more than infrastructure. They require skilled public health professionals who can strengthen



health systems, shape evidence-based policies and improve healthcare delivery. PHFI-IPHS is committed to preparing professionals who can meet these emerging national and global health challenges," said a representative from PHFI-IPHS. Healthcare today extends well beyond hospitals and clinical care. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of professionals who can monitor disease outbreaks, analyse health data, design health programmes, develop policies and strengthen healthcare systems before crises emerge. As healthcare challenges continue to evolve, countries are increasingly investing in epidemiologists, health economists, implementation scientists, public health managers, digital health specialists and policy researchers capable of improving health outcomes at the population level.India is also entering a period where public health expertise will

play an increasingly important role. Rising healthcare expenditure, changing disease patterns, rapid urbanisation, climate-related health risks, ageing populations, antimicrobial resistance and digital transformation are creating new demands on the healthcare system. Experts say meeting these challenges requires professionals with expertise in disease surveillance, population health, health economics, healthcare management, digital health, public policy, community engagement, implementation research and environmental health. PHFI-IPHS believes that without this skilled workforce, even the best healthcare infrastructure cannot achieve its full potential. To help bridge this gap, PHFI-IPHS offers multidisciplinary programmes that reflect the changing nature of healthcare. These include the Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Health Administration (MHA), MSc in One Health, and MSc in Digital Health & Data Science.

SRM University-AP unveils student-built air taxi DOXI

Amaravati, July 17 (TSIT): SRM University-AP has unveiled DOXI, an indigenous electric air taxi developed by 10 B.Tech students under Team Skyworks with mentor Dr. Pradyut Kumar Sanki. The eVTOL prototype features a 16-motor electric system, carbon-fibre frame, 80-kg payload capacity, 50 kmph top speed, 25-minute flight endurance and an operating cost of Rs.3.5 per km. Designed for urban mobility, air ambulance



services, emergency response and disaster relief, DOXI successfully demonstrated vertical take-off and landing during its launch. AP State Quantum Mission Director C.V. Sridhar and SRM University-AP Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar hailed the project as a major step in indigenous aerospace innovation and advanced air mobility.

NEET crisis sparks fresh calls for education reforms

New Delhi (TSIT): India's competitive examination system is facing renewed scrutiny following a student suicide linked to the NEET-UG examination, continuing allegations of exam irregularities, and education reform advocate Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike demanding greater accountability in the country's examination process. An 18-year-old NEET aspirant from Faridabad, Haryana, allegedly died by suicide after estimating her score using the National Testing Agency's (NTA) provisional answer key. According to reports, the student was distressed after finding her expected marks lower than anticipated. The incident has once again highlighted the immense psychological pressure faced by students preparing for one of India's most competitive entrance examinations. Mental health experts have repeatedly warned that prolonged academic stress, fear of failure, uncertainty surrounding examination outcomes, and societal

expectations are contributing to growing emotional distress among students. The tragedy comes amid continuing controversy over NEET-UG, with allegations of question paper leaks, examination irregularities, legal disputes, re-tests and delays affecting admissions. The developments have raised concerns among students, parents and educators over the credibility of the country's medical entrance examination system. Meanwhile, educationist and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has continued his indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in support of the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a satirical movement demanding accountability and reforms in competitive examinations. The protest has called for action over alleged examination irregularities, including the NEET paper leak controversy, and has also demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. According to reports, Wangchuk's health has dete-

riorated as the fast has continued, with doctors monitoring his condition warning of potential health complications associated with prolonged fasting. The Union Government has informed the Delhi High Court that his medical condition is being regularly monitored. The ongoing developments have drawn widespread attention from students, parents, educators and civil society groups, many of whom have called for transparent investigations into examination irregularities, stronger safeguards against paper leaks, independent oversight of national examinations and enhanced mental health support for students.Education experts believe the present crisis extends beyond a single examination and underscores the need for systemic reforms to restore public confidence in India's examination system. They argue that ensuring fairness, transparency and student welfare must remain central to future education policies.

India, Japan agree on phased rollout of Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train

New Delhi: India and Japan have agreed to begin operations of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor with Indian high-speed trains, while Japan's next-generation E10 series trains, currently under development, are expected to be introduced in the early 2030s. The decision follows progress in bilateral discussions on the ambitious high-speed rail project, with both countries reaffirming their commitment to launching services at the earliest. Construction of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor has advanced rapidly, and the first section of the project is expected to become operational in 2027. Officials said the phased approach would allow commercial operations to



commence without waiting for the completion of the E10 series, which is still under development in Japan. The E10 series, regarded as Japan's next-generation Shinkansen train, is expected to be supplied to India in the early 2030s, further strengthening technological cooperation between the two countries. The move reflects the shared objective of India and Japan to expedite the implementation of the country's first high-speed rail project while ensuring a smooth transition to advanced rolling stock once the E10 trains become available.

Indian Silk Expo opens in Hyderabad

Rashmi Thakur to Inaugurate "Indian Silk Gallery Expo 2026" in Satya Sai Nagamam Wedding Season Special Silk Collection on Display from 15th to 22rd July 2026



Hyderabad (TSIT): Miss Asia International Rashmi Thakur inaugurated the Indian Silk Gallery Expo 2026 at Satya Sai Nigamam, Hyderabad, showcasing India's rich handloom heritage and wedding season silk collections. The eight-day exhibition, running till July 22, features over 80 stalls displaying Kanjeevaram, Gadwal, Banarasi, Tussar, Muga and Ikat silk sarees from leading weaving clusters across the country. Organised in association with the Handloom and Textiles Department, the expo aims to provide direct



market access to weavers, promote GI-tagged products and support the 'Vocal for Local' and 'Handloom to Global' initiatives. Entry to the exhibition is free.

CM Vijay's surprise stop at MC Rajah hostel; students flag food, hygiene issues

CHENNAI: Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Friday made a surprise inspection of the MC Rajah Students' Hostel in Saidapet, where students complained about poor food quality and inadequate maintenance of the hostel premises, prompting him to seek explanations from officials.

The unannounced visit came after the Chief Minister concluded review meetings at the Secretariat. The hostel is run by the Department of Social Justice, formerly known as the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department.

According to official sources, students told the Chief Minister that the quality of food improved only temporarily after complaints were raised with higher authorities



and deteriorated again within a week. They also flagged poor maintenance of hostel rooms and the surrounding premises.

The Chief Minister sought details from Social Justice Minister Vanni Arasu, who accompanied him during the inspection.

Vijay also inspected the hostel kitchen, toilets and the 10-storey hostel building, which was constructed at a cost of Rs 44.50 crore during the previous DMK regime.

Official sources said action is likely to be initiated against those respon-

sible for lapses in maintaining food quality and cleanliness at the hostel. Speaking to reporters after the inspection, Vanni Arasu said he was informed of the Chief Minister's visit only 10 minutes before he left the Secretariat.

"This was an important inspection aimed at ensuring good governance. Students at the hostel directly conveyed their demands and grievances to the Chief Minister," the minister said.

He added that the Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure that students were provided with quality food.

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare V Sampath Kumar also accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection.

GBA polls by December-end, local body elections within March: CM D.K. Shivakumar

Cabinet expansion to be decided after consultations with party high command: Chief Minister

New Delhi : Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said discussions have been held with the Congress high command in New Delhi regarding the expansion of the State Cabinet. As AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge was unavailable today, the Chief Minister said he would meet him and proceed with the necessary preparations after receiving guidance from the party leadership.

He was speaking to the media after meeting AICC General Secretary in New Delhi. Local body elections by March-end

Responding to a question regarding the elections for the five Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) municipal corporations, the Chief Minister said that the Supreme Court was approached seeking time until December 31 to conduct the polls due to the ongo-



ing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. The Supreme Court has granted the extension.

He added that, besides the GBA elections, polls to district, taluk, gram panchayat and

municipal local bodies are expected to be completed by the end of March.

Opportunities for youth and new faces

The Chief Minister said the Congress would provide oppor-

tunities for youth and new faces in the forthcoming local body elections, from Gram Panchayats to municipal corporations. He added that the government is committed to implementing the spirit of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments to strengthen local self-governance and deepen decentralisation of power.

AICC office is our temple

Describing the AICC office as a place of great significance for Congress workers, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "The AICC office is like a temple for us. We have grown up in the party, and it is our duty to meet our party leaders there." Responding to questions on the BJP and JD(S) protest at Freedom Park over the proposed Bidadi Township project, the Chief Minister said he would address the issue separately.

ALLEN Bengaluru students Diganth BS has secured AIR-64 and Shreyankh J has secured AIR-94

Bengaluru | ALLEN Bengaluru students have once again proven their excellence in the NEET-UG 2026 results declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Allen Bengaluru classroom student, Diganth BS has achieved AIR 64 in NEET-UG 2026 results and Shreyankh J has secured AIR-94.

Allen South Zone Head, Mahesh Yadav said that Allen is known for its excellent results, and maintaining this reputation, Allen has achieved excellent results this year in NEET-UG 2026 as well. Yadav stated that overall, ALLEN South's stellar NEET UG 2026 performance was led by four outstanding classroom programme students who secured positions among the All India Top 100. Vanisha Satish (AIR 51), Diganth B S (AIR 64), Navithana B (AIR 88), and Shreyankh J (AIR 94) showcased the impact of ALLEN South's rigorous classroom coaching, consistent mentorship, and student-centric academic ecosystem.



Top Performers – NEET UG 2026 (ALLEN South)
AIR 51: Vanisha Satish (6-Year Classroom Student)
AIR 64: Diganth B S (2-Year Classroom Student)
AIR 88: Navithana B (5-Year Classroom Student)
AIR 94: Shreyankh J (6-Year Classroom Student)
National Results
5 Allen Students in Top 10 and 44 in Top 100
Allen Shines in NEET-UG 2026 Results

The National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the results for NEET-UG 2026—the country's biggest medical entrance exam—late Thursday night. Students from Allen Career Institute

have once again achieved success. Five Allen students have featured in the top 10 AIR Ranks, and based on results analyzed so far, 44 Allen students are in the top 100. Among the declared results, Aryan Gupta and Panshul Bansal jointly secured 715 out of 720 marks. Based on tie-breaker rule priorities, Aryan Gupta was awarded All India Rank 1, while Panshul Bansal secured All India Rank 2. Aryan Gupta is associated with Allen Career Institute through distance learning, whereas Panshul Bansal has been a regular classroom student at Allen for two years.

Additionally, Allen classroom student Ayush Bhalotia secured All India Rank 4 with a score of 710. Aryan Dubey, a student of Allen's online test series, achieved All India Rank 7, and Allen classroom student Gaurav Singh secured All India Rank 9.

Allen CEO Nitin Kukreja congratulated all the students on these outstanding results. Allen has once again demonstrated its excellence. Results analyzed so far show 5 Allen students in the top 10 and 44 in the top 100. Of these, 36 are classroom students, while 8 are from the Distance Learning Program (DLP) and online test series.

Raptee.HV Expands to Bengaluru with the T30, India's First HV-TEC Motorcycle

Bengaluru : Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based OEM behind India's first motorcycle with Electric Car DNA, today announced its expansion to Bengaluru, marking its first step beyond its home market. The move brings the company's technology platform and customer-centric ownership experience to India's technology capital, as Raptee.HV enters the next phase of its national growth journey.

Over the last six years, Raptee.HV has reimaged electric motorcycling from first principles by developing HV-TEC, a platform that brings Electric Car



DNA to motorcycles. Backed by more than 200 patents, the company's vertically integrated technology platform spans battery systems, power electronics, embedded software and vehicle intelligence developed with a singular focus on solving real-world rider challenges around charging convenience, performance, reliability and long-term ownership confidence.

At the heart of this expansion is the new Bengaluru Experience Centre, where customers can explore the technology behind the T30, experience the motorcycle through test rides, and benefit from dedicated service support and after-sales care delivering an ownership experience built around convenience and long-term support.

Commenting on the expansion, Dinesh Arjun,

CEO & Co-Founder of Raptee.HV, said:

"Bengaluru is a city that appreciates meaningful innovation, making it the perfect place for our first expansion. At Raptee.HV, we've always believed that technology is only as good as the experience it creates for customers. That's why every decision we've made from our Electric Car DNA platform to our dedicated customer support and Roadside Assistance has been guided by one objective: giving riders complete confidence at every stage of their ownership journey."

At the heart of this experience Centre is the Raptee.HV T30, built on HV-TEC, compatible with the widely adopted CCS2 charging standard, the motorcycle gives riders access to more than 30,000 public charging points across India.

Zithara.AI Partners with Palmonas to Strengthen AI Led Revenue Growth and

Bengaluru : Zithara.AI, an AI native customer engagement platform for offline retailers, announced a strategic partnership with Palmonas to enhance customer engagement through data driven solutions across the brand's retail operations.

As part of the partnership, Palmonas will implement Zithara.AI's AI native CRM platform to unify customer data across multiple touchpoints, enabling a single, consolidated view of customer interactions. The platform will support intelligent customer segmentation, automated engagement workflows, and personalised communication designed to improve customer retention and increase repeat purchases. The deployment is aimed at creating a more structured and consistent approach to customer engagement as the brand continues to scale.

The integration will allow Palmonas to capture and analyse customer data across online and offline touchpoints, enabling targeted campaigns, timely follow ups, and more relevant communication across the customer life-

cycle. By helping bridge the gap between digital customer enquiries and physical store visits, the platform will support improved customer conversions, strengthen retention, and enable more effective customer journeys that contribute to revenue growth.

Speaking about the partnership Mr. Hitesh Magoo, CMO, Demifine Fashion Pvt Ltd. said, "At Palmonas, our focus has always been on creating meaningful customer experiences while expanding our retail presence. As more customers discover brands through digital channels, one of the biggest opportunities for offline retailers is converting that interest into store walk ins and lasting customer relationships. We were looking for a platform that could intelligently manage customer engagement across multiple stores while helping us improve walk in conversions and long term customer retention. Zithara.AI's AI native platform aligns with these objectives by enabling more personalised customer interactions that support stronger conversions, increased store walk.

system, and no student should suffer because of administrative negligence or systemic failures. He further stated that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan must accept moral responsibility for these repeated failures and resign immediately. According to him, accountability is an essential principle of democratic governance, and repeated examination failures cannot continue without those responsible being held answerable.

S. Manohar called upon the Central Government to immediately institute a comprehensive, impartial, transparent, and time-bound investigation into every examination paper leak reported

across the country. He demanded that all individuals, officials, institutions, and organized networks involved in these crimes be identified

and prosecuted under the strictest provisions of law. He stressed that merely cancelling examinations or announcing fresh tests.

SURYODAY
A BANK OF INDIA

Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector - 11, CBD Belapur, New Mumbai - 400044, CN: 165923MII200PLC261472.

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrowers / Guarantors. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrowers / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith:

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	08.11.2025
257000010315 & 257000010333. 1) INDIURANI S W/O SATHASIVAM, 2) MR. SADHASIVAM S	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs. Date of Possession	Rs.31,22,983.30/- as on 04.11.2025 15.07.2026 (Symbolic)

Description Of Secured Asset(S) / Immoveable Property (ies) : ALL THE PEACE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PUDUKKOTTAI REGISTRATION DISTRICT, ILLUPPUR SUB REGISTRATION DISTRICT, ILLUPPUR TALUK, ILLUPPUR VILLAGE, COMPRISED IN SURVEY NO.129/1A & NEW SURVEY NO.129/1A/10 MEASURING AN EXTENT OF HEC.0.010 AREES EQUIVALENT TO AC.0.03 CENTS (1308 SQFT) PF PLOT AND BOUNDARY ON THE BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER - EAST BY : LAKSHMI PLOT, WEST BY : MARIVA LUIS PLOT, NORTH BY : ROAD, SOUTH BY : PATHWAY.

The Borrowers / Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the M/s Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd, for an above mentioned demanded amount and further interest thereon.
Date : 18.07.2026, Place : Tamil Nadu
Authorised Officer, Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited

CREDIT SAISON INDIA

Registered Address:- Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited, IndiQube Lexington Tower, First Floor, Tavarekere Main Rd, S.G. Palya, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560029

DEMAND NOTICE

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagees have availed loans from Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited, by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as Non-performing Asset, whereas **Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand notice calling upon the Borrower's/Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's as mentioned in column No.3 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within 60days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co Borrower/ Guarantor	Notice date, NPA Date & Amount	Description of the Immoveable Properties
1.	1. Sukumar S (Borrower/Mortgagor) Having Address At: 138 Kanadhasan Street Vasantham Nagar, Avadi Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600071. Also At: Plot No 103-Sri Dhandayudhanani Nagar Veerapuram, Near Saibaba Temple Morai Tiruvallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600055. 2. Babitha S (Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor) Having Address At: 138 Kanadhasan Street Vasantham Nagar, Avadi Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600071. Also At: Plot No 103-Sri Dhandayudhanani Nagar Veerapuram, Near Saibaba Temple Morai Tiruvallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600055. 3. Chakra Cultural Centre Through its Proprietor Sukumar S (Co-Borrower) Having Address At: 23/13 Mettu Street Thiruvarkadu Thiruvallur Near Petro Bunk, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600077. Also At: Plot No 103-Sri Dhandayudhanani Nagar Veerapuram, Near Saibaba Temple Morai Tiruvallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu -600055	09-07-2026 & Rs. 66,58,268/- (Rupees Sixty -Six Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Only) due as on 09-07-2026 NPA Date: 1st June 2026	DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Plot No. 103, Sri Dhandayudhanani Nagar, Morai Village, Avadi Taluk, Thiruvallur District, comprised in Survey No 52/12, Patta Nos. 588 & 579, and sub division Survey Nos. 52/12A/1A/1A Patta No. 7691, as per patta nos. No. 52/12/1, measuring an extent of 3240 Sq Ft, together with building thereon and bounded by - On East Side: - 30 Feet wide road, On West Side: - Plot No. 102, On North Side: - Plot No. 104, On South Side: - 24 feet wide road.

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.3, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within 60 days of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No.3. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount payable with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Place: THIRUVALLUR
Dated: 18.07.2026
Authorized Officer,
(Kisetsu Saison Finance (India) Private Limited,)

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

Regd. Off: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreemats Swami Temple, Cherpu, Thiruprayar Road, Thiruprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number / Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of possession
1	SANTHI NAMBI S, Manonambi, NAMBI RAMASAMY/ MHL00840037605/ TUTCORN	Tirunelveli Registration District, Panagudi Sub Register Office, Thandayarkulam Village, Panagudi Panchayat, Ayanpuzha Survey No: 644/28 (as per Patta) now a Re-Survey No: 644/3, Site to the extent of 1.31.00H A = 3 Acre 23.50 Cents, excluding Southern side East West Pathway, 47.50 Cents, balance Northern side Site to the extent of 2 Acre 76 Cents, excluding Western side 1 Acre, Eastern side South North Site to the extent of 30 Cents, excluding pathway, balance site to the extent of 26 Cents, within this, Southern side 4th Part Site to the extent of 175.56 Sq.Mtr = 4.337 Cent in TAMIL NADU Pin:6227109. EAST-Remaining Property in Survey No.644/28, WEST-Passage, SOUTH-Property Saravanan, NORTH-Property Rukman	16-04-2026 & Rs.722,382/-	16-07-2026
2	CHARLES LIVINGSTON PRABHU, MAHALAKSHMI C, POLINGAM R/ MHL00840034435/ TUTCORN	Palayankottai Registration District, Sattankulam Sub-Registration District, vacant site to the extent of 3051 Sqft = 0.698 segment = West side 7 cents out of Eastern side 40.75 cents out of 91.50cents = 0.32.90H A in Ayanpuzha Re-survey No 1375/3 in Subburayapuram, Sattankulam Village, Sattankulam Taluk, Thoothukudi District, TAMIL NADU Pin:628704 As per Patta No. 3351, property Comprised is in Survey No.1375/382, extent of 0.2.83 Hectare, EAST- Land belongs to Dharmasekhar, WEST- Land belongs to Divagar, SOUTH-East west Road, NORTH-Land belongs to Jyashudra Nadar and Ganesa Nadar	16-04-2026 & Rs.997,757/-	16-07-2026
3	SARASWATHI M. MANI K/ MHL00420016098/ VELLORE	Thiruvallur Revenue District, Thiruvallur (Before Kanchipuram Registration) District, R.K.Petta Sub-Register Office, R.K.Pet(Before Pallipattu) Taluk, Kathananagar Revenue Corp, Balapuram Revenue Village, Melbapuram Village, Puzha Survey No:153/8A, 1.67 Acres, Door No.122, measuring in total 1200-Sq.ftet and constructions therein, TAMIL NADU Pin:631102. EAST-Land belongs to Ramesh, WEST-Cement Road, SOUTH-Plot belongs to Manokaran, NORTH-Plot belongs to Manokaran	16-04-2026 & Rs.520,45/-	16-07-2026
4	RAHMAN KHAN, ASHAKKA BANU, HIBHATHULLAH/ MHL01400041347/ RAMANATHAPURAM	All that piece and parcel of the land measuring 1307.25 square feet, together with a residential building to be constructed thereon, situate at Ambalakara Street, within Ward No.9 of Mandabam Town Panchayat limit, comprised in New Survey No.85/34 (previous Survey No.85/32 (old Survey No.85/81A) then Survey No.85/2A/1B) of Mandabam Town Panchayat, Ramanathapuram Taluk, Ramanathapuram District, TAMIL NADU Pin:623518. EAST-Land belongs to M.MohamedShajahanMaraiakay, WEST-Land belongs to M.Mohamed Shajahan Maraiakay, SOUTH-Land belongs to A.Abdul Ahad & Govindaraj, NORTH-Land belongs to M.MohamedShajahanMaraiakay	17-04-2026 & Rs.758,550/-	16-07-2026
5	ANANTHAVALLI S, Selvaraj R/ MHL00420038335/ RAMANATHAPURAM	In Pudukkottai Registration District, Gandarvakottai Sub-Registration District, Gandarvakottai Taluk, Northland belongs to K.MuthusK. Muthurami, NORTH-North land belongs to PMuthu	17-04-2026 & Rs.310912/-	16-07-2026
6	J N JOHNCHIRANJ, JAYAKUMAR D/ MHL00180014841/ THANJAVUR	Vellore District, Vellore Registration District, Gudiyattam Sub-District, Gudiyattam Taluk, Erbangal Village, Nathan Old S.No.303, New S.No.303/8, measuring in total 1024 Sq.ftet, TAMIL NADU Pin:632601. EAST-Land belongs to Lakshmanan, WEST-plot belongs to Rajivraj and Natesan, SOUTH-Land belongs to Periyasami	13-04-2026 & Rs.376,113/-	16-07-2026
7	MEENA R, RAJIKIRAN R, RASU K/ MHL00180014841/ THANJAVUR	In Pudukkottai Registration District, Gandarvakottai Sub Registration District, Gandarvakottai Taluk, Viralipatti Revenue Village, R.S.No.118/1B to an extent measuring of punja 0.8.50 Ares (1e) cent 0.21 (1e) 9149.32 Sq Ft, TAMIL NADU Pin:613301. EAST-Kallipatti Road, WEST-Pandyan Land, SOUTH-Ammami Land, NORTH-Minyan Land	13-04-2026 & Rs.530520/-	16-07-2026

Date: 18-07-2026, Place : TAMIL NADU
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

EDITORIAL

Why Was A Russian Doomsday Plane In Iran Recently? Inside The 'Tu-214PU'

Russia dispatched a Tupolev Tu-214PU airborne command post, often referred to as a "doomsday plane", to Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. A Tu-214PU aircraft took off from Moscow and landed in Tehran at around 10:10 am (IST) on July 13. The deployment coincided with escalating US and Israeli airstrikes on Iranian military infrastructure after the collapse of a regional ceasefire. The heavily modified Tupolev Tu-214 is operated by the Rossiya Special Flight Squadron and contains advanced, hardened communication and command systems. It enables senior officials to coordinate state affairs and military operations from the air in high-threat environments. The arrival is widely interpreted as a signal of high-level crisis diplomacy and tightening strategic cooperation between Moscow and Tehran. Analysts and commentators have pointed out that while this move doesn't mean Russian troops are entering the fight, it's a massive power signal to Washington, that Russia remains closely aligned with Iran and is prepared to support coordination at a high level.

During the ongoing Ukraine war, at least on five occasions, President Putin or his foreign minister has used the 'N' word. Putin's nuclear sabre-rattling has been part of the Russian escalate-to-deescalate strategy that he himself was the author of as a young official. In late 2022, Putin even ordered a drill of Russia's strategic deterrence forces, which included intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarines, and heavy bombers, the entire Russian nuclear triad. Interestingly, both the US and Russia have special airborne presidential command posts to manage major hostilities, especially a nuclear war. These are appropriately called the "Doomsday" airborne command and control aircraft. Doomsday aircraft are essentially large transport aircraft fitted with special, long-range communication equipment, along with some other security features.

Russian Domsday Aircraft "Maxdome"
The Russian President's "Domsday" aircraft is a specially configured Ilyushin Il-80 "Maxdome", which is also referred to as "Flying Kremlin". Interestingly, it was seen flying low over Moscow in early May 2022 during a rehearsal for Victory Day celebrations. Given the repeated threats of nuclear weapon use in the early days of the Ukraine war, such a flypast raised concerns in the strategic community. Earlier, Russian President Putin had said that he won't "brag" about nuclear weapons but will use them "if necessary". The Maxdome had last participated in such a flypast in 2010.

The Il-80 Maxdome is a modified Ilyushin Il-86 airliner converted into an airborne command-and-control centre and a presidential office in the sky. The aircraft reportedly made its first flight in 1985 and was inducted in 1987. Four were built, and three are still in service. Such aircraft are required for cases when the ground-based command infrastructure may be destroyed in the event of nuclear war or a major disaster.

PAKISTAN'S IRAN PROBLEM ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE

As fighting between the US and Iran returns to March 2026 levels, the Islamabad MoU that both sides signed on June 17-18 is under severe strain. Barring the possibility of ground operations in Iran by the US and its allies, both Washington and Tehran will inevitably return to the negotiating table, given the pressures on the global energy economy. While it remains to be seen how much the current fighting will force Washington to comply with the MoU's terms (especially vis-à-vis Hormuz), the MoU itself has a principal third signatory - the Prime Minister of Pakistan. This article does not debate the degree to which Pakistan has succeeded or failed at "mediating" the conflict between the US and Iran. Rather, it explores a crucial secondary question: what has Pakistan's unanticipated diplomatic blitz meant for the Iran-Pakistan relationship? The two states, which were once staunch but competitive allies within America's Cold War security architecture, have remained fundamentally at odds since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran. Pakistan's role in the current conflict does not necessarily generate long-term strategic trust between the two, but rather entrenches the complicated outlook that these two Islamic Republics have long adopted towards each other.

Not Your Typical Mediator

At the outset, it is important to recognise that Pakistan has not acted as a traditional mediator in the current conflict. It is not like the Middle East's traditional mediators, such as Oman, which has deep institutional memory and the credentials to act as an objective third-party actor bringing good faith between disputing parties. In fact, Islamabad's call-up to the mediating role was the result of a new and personal rapprochement between key figures from the Trump administration (and family) and the Pakistani administration, led de facto by Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces, Asim Munir, and de jure by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.



Catalysed by a crypto deal (signed with much ceremony in Islamabad) in January 2026, US-Pakistan ties had already evolved sufficiently enough since mid-2025, when President Trump hosted an unprecedented lunch meeting with Munir at the White House in June that year. This coincided with the 12-day war that saw Israel striking Iranian military and nuclear facilities. The relationship was nourished further as Trump's own appreciation of Munir grew, and, finally, matured as Islamabad became the site of talks to end the March war.

For Tehran, this arguably meant little, until Pakistan emerged as the US's preferred mediator - especially over Oman, which had publicly expressed frustration with America's negotiating methods. However, given its overtly positive ties with Islamabad, and with Washington conceding on the Iranian demand to have the US Vice-President himself as lead negotiator, Tehran had little reason to deny Pakistan the role. Where Pak's Influence Really Lies For Pakistan, the benefits it sought and still seeks to accrue from its mediatory role are actually rooted in its relationship with Washington, not Tehran. The instrumental element for Pakistan is the degree to which it can persuade Iran to make concessions.

For that, it naturally needed to gain Iran's good faith. For this, it went beyond the traditional ambit of a mediator-at-the-table by influencing the facts on the ground. For instance, across April, it enabled the transshipment of Iranian oil through Pakistani ports, helping Tehran bypass the American blockade of Iranian ports. That this did not fatally degrade Washington's trust in Islamabad proved the resilience of the new US-Pakistan ties. It also proved that Islamabad's actions were meant to reinforce its value in Tehran; they also cushion the fallout from Pakistan's advocacy of Washington's demands during negotiations - something that was explicitly mentioned by Iranian MP and National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Spokesperson, Ebrahim Rezaei.

The Afghanistan Chapter

The question of whether mediation of this nature generates long-term trust between Pakistan and Iran is answered by Pakistan's own precedents in Afghanistan. Despite having initially supported Taliban's guerrilla action against US/NATO troops in Afghanistan (both during and after Pakistan's principal regional partner in the Afghanistan theatre of the Global War on Terror), the ties between

Pakistan and Taliban are now at an all-time low, with Pakistan accusing the latter of orchestrating separatist/militant attacks on its territory.

While the Iran-Pakistan relationship is fundamentally different, the Afghanistan-Pakistan experience shows that playing a brokered role does not inherently generate long-term strategic benefits with either party. In the case of Afghanistan, the US ultimately pivoted away from Afghanistan to focus on the Indo-Pacific, while the Taliban sought a more equitable relationship with Islamabad and is still asserting itself to that end.

In the Pakistan-Iran case, apart from Iran's dissatisfaction with Pakistan over not curbing anti-Iran terror groups within its territory, it is Tehran's vastly different outlooks towards both the United States and Afghanistan that form the basis of the differences with Pakistan. Note that while Iran helped organise Pakistan-based Shia volunteers during the fight against the Islamic State in Syria (the Zainabiyyoun Brigade, which Pakistan designated as a terror group in 2024), sectarian differences have often contributed to an undercurrent of bilateral mistrust.

A Complicated Past

BEYOND RUNWAYS:

THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR TIER-2 AND TIER-3 AVIATION

India's domestic aviation market is now the world's third largest. Airlines have ordered more than 1,500 aircraft. The number of airports has more than doubled since 2014, from 74 to 159. By the usual scorecard, this is a remarkable success. Look closer at what those assets actually do, and the story becomes more nuanced. Of the 669 routes launched under UDAN, the flagship scheme to connect smaller cities by air, only about half are still flying. An audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General found that once the subsidy supporting a route ends, about one in ten routes continues on its own. The easy explanation is that India's regional aviation market simply is not ready. But almost everything else moving between tier-2 and tier-3 cities is booming. Trains run close to capacity. Highways carry more traffic than planners expected. Business travel by road and rail continues to rise. The challenge, then, is not simply demand. It is that an airport is only one layer of the aviation stack, and the next phase of growth depends on getting two other layers right: what a route is designed around, and what kind of aircraft flies it. The government's recently revamped UDAN policy, often referred to as UDAN 2.0, acknowledges some of this by placing greater emphasis on airport viability, economic potential and industry participation. The next leap in regional aviation



will come from designing an integrated network around economically vibrant corridors, hub connectivity and the aircraft best suited to serve them. UDAN's original unit was the route: start a flight and keep it airborne for a certain period of time. But viability depends on whether that flight plugs into a wider network of onward connections. The smarter unit is the corridor: the business, tourism, healthcare and trade traffic already moving between two economic centres by road and rail. Even a strong corridor can fail if the route was never designed to connect beyond its destination. Another challenge is the aircraft flying on a corridor. India's regional fleet is effectively limited to two options, and neither fits many of the regional routes it is expected to serve. At the smaller end, ATR turboprops carry up to 70 passengers. They are efficient on short

haps but too slow to operate more than a couple of trips a day on regional corridors. At the larger end, airlines fly A320s and 737s seating 150 to 190 people, superbly efficient but only when a route is busy enough to fill that many seats several times a day. Even when IndiGo expanded into regional connectivity, it turned to ATRs, leaving the gap in the middle largely unaddressed. What India needs is the aircraft in between: the 70-to-120-seat category represented by the likes of Embraer's E-Jets and rivals such as the Airbus A220. These aircraft exist precisely for corridors too thin to fill a 180-seat plane several times a day, but too important to be served only by a slow turboprop. Consider corridors like Coimbatore to Pune, Indore to Nagpur, or Lucknow to Bhubaneswar. These have real, growing demand that still cannot sus-

tain a mainline jet at high frequencies. The logic is simple: a 90-seat jet flying a route four times a day serves passengers better than a 180-seat jet flying it once. The total number of seats is the same, but the odds that a business traveller finds a flight that fits their schedule improve dramatically. On a mid-density corridor, what people value most is frequency, not size. Brazil built much of its domestic network around this. Embraer is a Brazilian company that grew up solving this problem for a country whose economy, like India's, is spread across dozens of mid-sized cities rather than concentrated in three or four. The United States similarly relies on regional jets to serve markets too large for turbo-props and too small for mainline aircraft. IndiGo built its dominance by primarily operating A320s, one aircraft family.

Why A Post By A Senior US Defence Official About 'Allies' Should Worry India

There is a great deal of hubbub about a collective 'middle powers' strategy these days ... we are more concerned that a few allies and partners will think it is and waste valuable time, money and political capital on a distraction." Elbridge Colby, the United States Under-Secretary of War for Policy, posted these words on July 14, a week after the NATO Summit in Turkey. His immediate target was Canada. Prime Minister Mark Carney has made collective middle-power action the bedrock of Canadian foreign policy, telling a recent forum that the countries in between must combine to create a third path or find themselves on the menu. Colby's reply dismissed the entire approach as detached from the realities of power. The exchange deserves attention in India as it has structural implications. Colby's response to Ottawa is relevant to every state that is building networks of capable partners, including New Delhi. His post frames what could become the next major strategic question in India-US relations. India has embraced the idea that a network of capable middle powers can shoulder a larger share of Indo-Pacific stability. Washington, in Colby's words, will support stronger partners while remaining deeply sceptical of any framework that diminishes American centrality. Today, the difference is theoretical. Over time, it has the potential to become a structural source of friction between two otherwise converging partners. A Blunt Exposition About Power



Colby's argument rests on a straightforward realist proposition. Countries align because they face common threats, possess complementary capabilities, and pursue shared interests. Geography, economics, military strength, and threat perception determine alignments. Labels matter little. From that perspective, a coherent middle-power bloc is unviable. India worries about China and Pakistan. Australia watches the Western Pacific. Saudi Arabia's principal concern remains Iran. Canada's anxieties centre on its southern neighbour. These countries share only a notion and a label, nothing that matters. Colby's second argument is more important. The United States remains the indispensable military and technological hub of the democratic world. Its defence industrial base, intelligence and military machine and capacity to undertake large-scale operations independently are unmatched. He rejected the suggestion that frustrat-

ad partners will buy their weapons elsewhere, calling the idea neither feasible nor accurate. He further revealed increased demands for American engagement. Allies, he concluded, should build their own defence industries in ways that are collaborative with America. That final phrase summarises his argument. Washington welcomes stronger partners. Washington expects those partners to strengthen the existing American-led system. Capability is encouraged. Alternative centres of strategic gravity are unwelcome. India's Networked Approach India is moving on a different trajectory. Over the past decade, New Delhi has expanded its partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. The Quad has matured into a platform for maritime cooperation and critical technologies. The India-France partnership now encompasses defence production, space, artificial intelligence, and the Indian Ocean. The India-France-

UAE trilateral has introduced a new model of mini-lateral cooperation, and engagement with ASEAN, the Gulf, Europe and Africa have deepened simultaneously. Together, these initiatives reflect a coherent philosophy: India is constructing a networked regional order. In this system, several capable powers contribute to stability, free of formal alliances and hierarchical leadership. The purpose is to expand India's options: diversified partnerships, stronger indigenous capability, and insurance against dependence on any single external power, no matter how close. This philosophy has deep roots. Non-alignment faded as a slogan while its central objective endured. Successive governments have sought maximum freedom of action while engaging every major centre of power. Today's minilaterals are the latest evolution of that tradition. Colby's realism is valid in one aspect that must be acknowledged. Middle-power networks currently lack the hard-power depth to function without the American hub. Remove the United States from the Indo-Pacific equation, and the calculation against China collapses. India's planners know this. Their networks are hedges tacked onto the American relationship and designed as insurance rather than substitution. Dangerously, for the middle powers, Colby's post suggests Washington may come to read insurance itself as disloyalty. Two Organising Principles Therein lies the emerging tension.



RUPEE RISES 14 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 96.28 AGAINST US DOLLAR

Mumbai: The rupee rose 14 paise to settle at 96.28 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday on possible intervention from the Reserve Bank of India after four consecutive sessions of decline. Elevated tensions in West Asia, which pushed up global oil prices, maintained pressure on the local unit, forex traders said. In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 96.35 against the greenback and traded in a narrow range of 96.27-96.41. Eventually it settled at 96.28 (provisional), up 14 paise from its previous close. The rupee depreciated for the fourth straight day on Thursday, shedding 17 paise to settle at 96.42 against the US dollar. The US expanded its airstrike campaign against Iran early on Friday by increasingly hitting bridges, part of President Donald Trump's threats to start striking infrastructure to pressure Tehran to



ease its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz. Iran launched new missile attacks against US-allied nations in West Asia and warned that its attacks would escalate. "The rupee was broadly steady on Friday after a likely Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervention halted its four-day decline," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. "With no major domestic triggers,

the currency continued to consolidate after recent weakness. However, the broader bias for the rupee remains weak as elevated crude oil prices and cautious foreign fund flows continue to weigh on sentiment. "Market participants will closely monitor global developments, crude oil movement, and FII activity for the next directional move," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities,

said. Technically, the rupee is expected to trade in the 96.00-96.55 range, with the overall trend continuing to favour weakness, Trivedi said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally down by 0.01 per cent at 100.75. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.60 per cent higher at USD 85.58 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 964.58 points to settle at 78,151.45, while Nifty surged 261.55 points to 24,334.30. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 4,205.56 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data. The rupee depreciated for the fourth straight day on Thursday, shedding 17 paise to settle at 96.42 against the US dollar.

Telangana Cheers Three New Super-Premium Spirits from ABD Maestro

Hyderabad 17th July 2026: ABD Maestro Pvt. Ltd., the super-premium and luxury spirits subsidiary of Allied Blenders & Distillers Limited (ABD) has arrived in Telangana with the launch of 3 award-winning whiskies – AODH Irish Whiskey, WOODBURNS Contemporary Rare Indian Whisky and YELLO Designer Whisky. ABD Maestro is co-founded by Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh. AODH is a classic Irish whiskey — triple-distilled for that famously smooth, easy-drinking character. WOODBURNS is India's award-winning pride; the first-ever Indian brand to win the Revelation Blended Whisky Award and Grand Gold at the 27th Spirit Selection by Concours Mondial de Bruxelles (2025). YELLO breaks the rules altogether — a bold, design-forward cross-continental blend of Scotch and Indian malts crafted for the modern Indian. The launch of the 3 super-premium whiskies marks a significant step in ABD Maestro's journey in the strategic market of Telangana. Announcing the debut at a launch event in Hyderabad, Bikram Basu, Managing Director, ABD Maestro, said: "Telangana, and



Hyderabad in particular, has evolved into a market where super-premium alcohol beverage consumption is driven by consumers looking to drink better. Consumers here understand quality and great craftsmanship, given its own heritage. This is an exciting market for ABD Maestro, as all 3 brands, Aodh Irish Whiskey, Woodburns Contemporary Indian Whisky and Yello

Designer Whisky offers very distinct experiences for consumers who are reimagining modern luxury." Hyderabad has become one of India's most future forward drinking capitals — a place where a strong pub, bar and restaurant culture, a young cosmopolitan crowd and a taste for global experiences mean new brands are sought. That curiosity extends beyond the capital, with super-premium spirits finding growing audiences in cities like Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, and other towns. Where to find them: All 3 whiskies are now available at leading retail outlets in Hyderabad — AODH at Rs. 3,470, WOODBURNS at Rs. 2,500 and YELLO at Rs. 2,630 respectively for a 750ml bottle. The brands will also be available at premium bars and restaurants.

Narco-Terror Will Be Eliminated Through 'Detect, Disrupt and Destroy': Home Minister Unveils Three-Year Roadmap

When it comes to decisive leadership on complex and critical issues concerning India's internal security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stands out prominently. A clear strategy, time-bound planning, and result-oriented execution have become the hallmarks of his leadership. After steering several major national security initiatives to decisive outcomes, his next mission is to free India from the entire ecosystem of drugs and narco-terror. To achieve this objective, the Home Minister has laid out a comprehensive three-year roadmap aimed not merely at increasing drug seizures, but at dismantling the entire network from production and trafficking to financing and distribution. With this vision, the 10th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) was convened in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. During the meeting, the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029) was released, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Annual Report was presented, and an online Drug Disposal Fortnight Campaign was launched to destroy 209,500 kilograms



of seized narcotic substances worth approximately ₹6,000 crore. Far from being a routine government event, the meeting marked a significant step toward achieving the vision of a "Drug-Free India" through a structured, time-bound strategy backed by concrete action. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India), Amit Shah has formulated a clear, multi-layered strategy founded on the principle of "Detect, Disrupt and Destroy." The approach begins with accurately identifying drug networks, followed by disrupting their supply chains, financial infrastructure, and operational mechanisms, and ultimately

dismantling the entire ecosystem in a manner that prevents its resurgence. This framework will serve as the cornerstone of India's national anti-drug strategy over the next three years. Under Amit Shah's leadership, India's campaign against narcotics has gained unprecedented momentum in recent years. Guided by a policy of zero tolerance and a network-centric enforcement approach, the country has, since the Modi government assumed office in 2014, seized narcotic substances valued at approximately ₹1.84 lakh crore, destroyed drugs worth nearly 290,000 crore, recovered millions of kilograms of narcotics, and carried out record action against illegal opium cultivation.

These figures reflect not only the effectiveness of law enforcement but also Amit Shah's results-driven strategy and firm resolve to eradicate the narco ecosystem at its roots. A defining characteristic of Amit Shah's leadership has been his commitment to translating ambitious objectives into measurable outcomes. His approach consistently combines clear goals, time-bound execution, and rigorous implementation to address some of India's most challenging national security issues. Landmark decisions such as the abrogation of Article 370, decisive action against Left-Wing Extremism, and several initiatives aimed at strengthening India's

Highlights

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internal security exemplify this governance model. These measures have significantly addressed challenges that had persisted for decades. Now, with the same determination, Amit Shah has placed the vision of a Drug-Free India at the forefront of the national agenda. The three-year roadmap is not confined to curbing drug trafficking alone; it seeks to dismantle the entire narco-terror ecosystem from its foundations. If implemented according to the prescribed timeline, the strategy has the potential to mark India's most comprehensive and decisive success yet in its fight against drugs and narco-terror.

MAHINDRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW HIGHLIGHTS B.TECH LL.B. AS A PARADIGM SHIFT IN LEGAL EDUCATION

Mahindra University School of Law has highlighted the growing relevance of its integrated B.Tech LL.B. programme as a future-facing response to the changing nature of law, technology, innovation and policy. Traditionally, legal education has been viewed through the lens of statutory interpretation, judicial precedents, advocacy and courtroom practice. However, rapid developments in science and technology have given rise to entirely new areas of legal practice and regulation. Contemporary legal challenges now extend to artificial intelligence governance, cybersecurity, digital privacy, fintech regulation, data protection, emerging technologies, intellectual property, platform accountability and technology-enabled business models. In this evolving environment, the B.Tech LL.B. programme situates itself at the intersection of law, engineering, technology, innovation and public policy. The programme is designed to equip students with a dual understanding of technical systems and legal principles, enabling them to appreciate how technologies are built,



deployed, regulated and governed. By combining the analytical thinking, problem-solving orientation and innovation mindset of engineering education with legal reasoning, regulatory interpretation and institutional understanding, the programme prepares students for a rapidly transforming professional landscape where law and technology are increasingly inseparable. Speaking on the significance of the programme, Mahindra University School of Law noted that the future of legal education lies in creating professionals who can engage meaningfully with both the technical and legal dimensions of emerging issues. The B.Tech LL.B.

therefore seeks to bridge the long-standing gap between science and jurisprudence, creating a new generation of tech-savvy legal professionals who can contribute to policy-making, regulatory design, corporate advisory, technology disputes, compliance, innovation governance and digital transformation. The programme reflects a shift from conventional discipline-based legal education to an interdisciplinary, innovation-driven and future-ready model of legal learning. In that sense, the B.Tech LL.B. is not merely a new integrated degree, but a significant step towards reimagining legal education for the technology-led economy.

MakeMyTrip files IPO papers with Sebi via confidential route

New Delhi: NASDAQ-listed travel booking platform MakeMyTrip on Friday, July 17, said it has confidentially filed draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) papers with capital markets regulator Sebi for its proposed initial public offering (IPO) of its Indian subsidiary. The company said its wholly-owned subsidiary, MakeMyTrip (India) Ltd (MMT India), has submitted the confidential filing with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), BSE, and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) for listing on the main board of the stock exchanges. The proposed IPO is expected to involve a sale of equity shares in MMT India by MakeMyTrip and its wholly owned subsidiary, ibibo Group Holdings (Singapore) Pte Ltd, the Gurugram-headquartered firm, said in a regulatory filing on NASDAQ. Following completion of the proposed IPO, MMT India will continue to remain a subsidiary of



MakeMyTrip and its financial results will continue to be consolidated with those of the parent company, it said. "MakeMyTrip expects the proposed initial public offering and listing of MMT India to enhance its brand visibility and support MMT India's ability to incentivise and promote talent in a competitive technology recruitment landscape," the filing stated. Net proceeds received by MakeMyTrip and ibibo Holdings from the sale of shares in MMT India will further strengthen the cash position of

MakeMyTrip and are expected to be utilised for long-term growth, strategic inorganic initiatives and repurchases of different classes of securities (including convertible securities) by MakeMyTrip, the company said in the filing. Subject to regulatory approvals, MakeMyTrip and MMT India may evaluate alternatives in medium-term to enable our respective shareholders to enjoy the benefits of a security at MMT India level that is fungible and listed across India and US capital markets, the company said.

Mumbai's Small Dairies Seek 2-Month Reprieve From Tukaram Mundhe's New Milk Hygiene Norms



Representatives of Mumbai's small dairy operators on Friday sought a two-month extension from the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to comply with the state's new milk hygiene norms, arguing that an immediate shift away from loose milk sales would severely disrupt their businesses. A delegation from the Mewar Ekta Mandal, led by Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Nirupam, met FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe after the regulator cancelled licences of loose milk sellers and directed immediate compliance with the new

rules, NDTV reported. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Nirupam said the delegation was representing nearly 50,000 small dairies across Mumbai. "No one in the world can oppose hygiene and cleanliness. There must be proper cleanliness. We are not opposed to the drive launched by FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe," Nirupam said. He said traders had requested a two-month grace period to transition to the new packaging norms. "Fresh milk can be sold in plastic packaging, but milk brought in tankers cannot be sold loose.

OnePlus begins exiting US, Europe; India could follow in 2027

Hyderabad: OnePlus, one of the most recognisable Android smartphone brands in India, could wind down its India operations as early as 2027, according to a Bloomberg report, even as the company begins shutting down its business in the US and Europe this week. The immediate move, confirmed by OnePlus itself early Thursday, July 16, sees the brand exit two of its biggest Western markets as part of a sweeping restructuring at parent company Oppo. Bloomberg, citing a person familiar with the matter, reported that the decision stems from a mix of declining sales, rising component costs and mounting geopolitical friction over Chinese phone brands operating in the West. Existing users won't be left stranded. OnePlus has said current users in the US and Europe won't be affected immediately and the company will continue offering after-sales support and software updates as devices transition to Oppo's ColorOS. However, no new OnePlus phones, tablets or wear-



ables will launch in these markets going forward. The brand's own OxygenOS is expected to be phased out entirely in favour of ColorOS, alongside sister brand Realme's UI. India's warning signs Speculation that OnePlus was preparing to scale back or exit key global markets, including the US, Europe and India, first surfaced in January this year, though the company publicly denied it at the time. The rumours resurfaced in March, around when OnePlus India CEO Robin Liu abruptly stepped down, officially to "pursue personal passions," fuelling further speculation about

the brand's future in the country. India has been one of OnePlus's most important markets outside China, powered in large part by the mid-range Nord series. But as per Bloomberg's reporting, that hasn't been enough to offset weaker demand, rising costs and supply-chain pressures now weighing on the business. For now, OnePlus will keep operating in India and China as usual, but sources told Bloomberg that the global pullback could extend to India and other markets by 2027. Part of a larger Oppo shake-up The changes extend well beyond OnePlus.

Trump alleges China meddled in 2020 election and questions voting security ahead of midterms



US President Donald Trump has delivered a primetime address in which he accused China of interfering in the 2020 election and alleged "shocking vulnerabilities" in American voting systems. Trump, who spoke from the White House on Thursday, has repeatedly made unsubstantiated claims about voter fraud and foreign meddling in the 2020 election, which he lost to Joe Biden. In the half-hour speech, delivered three months before the midterm elections, he said he had declassified hundreds of intelligence files which supported his claims that Beijing had tried to sway the election in Biden's favour. The US intelligence community has previously concluded China did not interfere in the 2020 election. In response to his speech, China's foreign ministry strongly denied the allegations of Chinese meddling in the 2020 presidential election, saying they were "entirely fabricated". Trump's claims are "malicious smears" which have "long been proven to be groundless", foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said. Trump spoke in front of

several members of his top team as he gave his address, but journalists were unable to put questions to the president. In his remarks, he accused China of the "illicit acquisition" of 220 million voter files including personal information. Trump said voter data in 18 states was "bought, stolen or hacked by China" and accused "those responsible for sounding the alarm" of not disclosing the discovery to government officials or Congress. A lot of voter data is publicly available and Trump did not in his speech present any evidence that China had used this information to alter voting systems or to influence election outcomes. Hundreds of pages of intelligence documents were released by the White House during Trump's address, many of them heavily redacted. The BBC is in the process of reviewing them. Democrats, meanwhile, accused Trump of attempting to sow doubts about the security of the upcoming November midterms which will decide control of Congress for the remainder of his presidency.



■ US hits civilian infrastructure in Iran

JAPAN RELAXES ROYAL SUCCESSION RULES - BUT BAN ON FEMALE EMPERORS REMAINS

The Japanese parliament has approved a bill to relax imperial succession rules, amid concerns over the dwindling size of the imperial family. The bill, passed by the upper house on Friday, allows the imperial family to adopt distant male relatives over the age of 15 and lets women keep their royal status after marrying outside the family. But it does not change the law barring women from ascending the throne despite wide public support for a female emperor, meaning Princess Aiko, the only child of the current emperor, is still not eligible to succeed the throne. The bill cleared the lower house last week, and will move through the final legal procedures before the changes take effect. Japan has the world's oldest continuous



hereditary monarchy, with a lineage that's believed to span more than 2,600 years. Currently first in line to the throne is 60-year-old Fumihito, the emperor's younger brother. Fumihito's son, 19-year-old Prince Hisahito, is second in line. Third-in-line, and the last eligible candidate for the throne, is the emperor's 90-year-old uncle. Without any amendments to the law, the

line of succession will end if Prince Hisahito does not have a male child. However, with the new bill, male descendants of 11 former imperial branches could be adopted back into the family. These family branches had been removed following the Second World War. Female members of the imperial family will also be able to retain their royal status if they marry commoners.

They were previously made to give up their titles and leave their families - which is what Princess Mako did in 2021 to marry her college sweetheart. This allows for a larger royal family who will be able to keep up with official duties like attending court ceremonies and making public appearances. However, descendants of female members with commoners will still not be able to inherit the throne. The bill, the first amendment to the main text of the Imperial House Law since 1949, marks the biggest overhaul to Japan's imperial system in decades. There has long been public concern over the lack of male heirs in the imperial family - along with debate over whether women should be allowed to take the throne.

CHINA HITS OUT AT BRITISH STEEL NATIONALISATION



China has hit out at the nationalisation of British Steel, saying it "firmly opposes and is strongly dissatisfied with the British government's decision". On Thursday, the UK government said that taking the loss-making firm into public hands would protect jobs and safeguard a "vital national capability". The UK took control of British Steel's operations in Scunthorpe last year, though it was still owned by China's Jingye Group, limiting the government's ability to steer its future. China's commerce ministry said on Friday that the moves "seriously infringed upon Jingye's legitimate rights and interests and severely undermined the confidence of Chinese companies investing in the UK". It also called on Britain to "faithfully fulfil" its obligations under the China-UK Bilateral Investment Treaty. "Disregarding Jingye's significant contribution to the UK economy and society, the British side forcibly took control of the company in the name of national security," the ministry said. The statement added that Beijing would monitor developments closely and support Chinese firms to protect their rights, but did not specify what protecting Chinese companies' rights might involve. The decision to nationalise British Steel threatens to strain the relationship between London and Beijing just as Andy Burnham is set to

become the prime minister on Monday. The incoming PM will have to weigh his approach to the issue with the economic benefits of ties with the world's second largest economy. The China-UK Bilateral Investment Treaty is a legally binding agreement that was signed in 1986. It was designed to promote and protect investments between the two countries. The nationalisation came after Parliament on Wednesday passed legislation allowing the government to bring the steel industry into public ownership under circumstances where it met a public interest test. Jingye is seeking compensation, having previously said the business was losing £700,000 a day. The BBC has been unable to get a response from Jingye itself to Thursday's announcement. Small Business Minister Blair McDougall told the House of Commons on Thursday that the government will appoint an independent valuer in the autumn "to make a judgment on any compensation that is due, and that could be nil". By taking British Steel into public ownership the government now has the power and freedom to decide on the future of the plant, while keeping the blast furnaces going. It is unlikely the government will want to continue running the business in the long term as it is costing it more than a million pounds a day.

Canada fires prompt US air quality alerts as smoke blankets major cities

More than 800 wildfires are burning across Canada, with air quality alerts now extending south into multiple US states. A thick blanket of smoke clouded skylines from Detroit and Toronto to New York and across New England, causing "hazardous" air quality alerts across much of the region. Many outdoor events were cancelled as officials urged for people to stay indoors, stressing the dangerous health ramifications of inhaling the fumes. In Canada, one fire in northern Ontario forced residents from local First Nations to evacuate, with one chief saying that her community has been "burnt to ashes". Hazardous air quality alerts have been issued in cities, including Chicago and Grand Rapids in Michigan, Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania and Toledo in Ohio, according to the US Air Quality Index program. Many outdoor activities were cancelled on Thursday, including events for children's summer camps, and beaches were shuttered along popu-



lar lakes. An outdoor concert for the rock group The Black Keys was being rescheduled in Chicago due to the dangerous air quality. There are currently 858 fires actively burning in Canada, including 30 new fires that sparked on Thursday, according to the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System. The vast majority are burning out of control. The large cluster of fires affecting northwestern areas of Ontario are responsible for sending thick plumes of smoke and poor air quality across Thunder Bay and Toronto, with lower concentrations of smoke high in the atmosphere drift-

ing over the Great Lakes and above New York with hazy skies. "We're in a very serious health situation right now," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said in an announcement on Thursday. She noted thick smoke was "blanketing" much of the state, making it "very unhealthy to be outdoors" in many areas. "This is bad news for every New Yorker," she said. "There will be great impacts." In western regions of New York state, the air quality on Thursday is considered "very unhealthy", while in the New York City metro area the air quality is "unhealthy". Many across

the city - the most populous across the US - were wearing masks over their mouths and nose hoping to protect themselves. A thick haze of smoke blocked views across the city of sights including the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty. New York has extended its heat emergency plans and activated its air quality emergency protocols - with hundreds of cooling centres and KN95 masks being made available citywide. In Ontario, there will be quite widespread thunderstorms over the next few days, but the rain may not be enough to make much of a difference. Northwestern winds will continue to blow the smoke into northern US states for the rest of this week and into the weekend, leading to concerns smoke will drift into New Jersey where Sunday's World Cup final is due to take place. A change in the wind direction by Monday means that the smoke will tend to be steered across Quebec with an improvement in air quality further south in the US.

GERMAN POLITICIAN FACES CALLS TO RESIGN OVER SURROGACY CHILD



German centre-right politician Jens Spahn has been accused of double standards, after he revealed he and his husband had become parents using a surrogate mother in the US. Surrogacy is banned in Germany - a policy firmly backed by his Christian Democrat party, and several years ago by Spahn himself. Although there is no German ban on bringing up a child born to a surrogate mother abroad, Spahn, 46, has been criticised by politicians from several parties, including his own. "Politicians who set standards for others must be measured by them too," said Marion Rosin, a Christian Democrat in Thuringia and part of the Women's Union. "If that credibility is gone,

resignation is a matter of consequence." Spahn, the parliamentary group leader of the Christian Democrats and Christian Social Union, announced on Wednesday that he and his husband Daniel Funke had become parents. "Georg is our greatest joy. This feeling is almost impossible to put into words," he told tabloid newspaper Bild. Then his husband posted a picture on Instagram of the couple with Spahn pushing a pram along with the words "We Are Family". Under the 1990 Embryo Protection Act, surrogacy in Germany is punishable with three years imprisonment or a fine, so Spahn and his partner looked to the US for a surrogate mother.



Uganda suspends school trips after 20 pupils die in bus crash

MORE THAN 500 ROHINGYA VANISHED AT SEA - WHAT HAPPENED?

Two boats carrying an estimated 530 Rohingya asylum seekers left Myanmar's Rakhine state on 29 June, and have not been heard from since. The equivalent of a jumbo jet full of people has vanished. It is very likely that they both capsized. The monsoon has started, the seas are rough, and the boats - usually old fishing trawlers converted to carry as many people as possible - are barely sea-worthy with unreliable engines. It is also very likely that there were few, or no survivors. Half of them may have been women and children. But we will never know for certain. Rakhine has been in a state of war for many years, with the insurgent Arakan Army driving the Myanmar military out of most of it and besieging its last stronghold in the state capital Sittwe, which is now



accessible only by air and sea. Almost all telecommunications have been cut by the military. Chris Lewa, who runs the Arakan Project that campaigns to improve the situation of Rohingyas, has been trying to piece together what may have happened to the two boats. This is extremely challenging. She no longer has contacts she can reach in Sittwe, or in Sin Tet Maw, the Arakan Army-controlled village from

where the boats departed. But through a series of other contacts, combined with other snippets of information, she is confident that both boats did leave on 29 June, one in the morning, the other later in the day. She says they would have been heading for the southern coast of Myanmar, where they would unload their human cargo. From there they would be transported by road, via rough transit camps in the for-

est, through Thailand to the Malaysian border. Normally their families would expect to hear from them within a week or 10 days. Nearly three weeks later, they have heard nothing. The Bangladesh authorities have recovered the body of one woman, washed up from the sea. Fishermen working the sea between the Irrawaddy delta and the coast of Mon state found several other bodies nine days later. Chris Lewa believes all this suggests that the boats capsized, one several hours after leaving Sin Tet Maw, the other after several days of sailing south east. There are more than a million Rohingyas living in overcrowded camps in southern Bangladesh, where aid is drying up, there are almost no jobs, and organised crime gangs operate freely. They are not allowed to leave.



ONE MORE SUCCESSFUL PRODUCER FROM ALLU ARJUN’S CAMP

For over a decade, Sarath Chandra Naidu has been one of the key minds behind the marketing and digital campaigns of some of Telugu cinema’s biggest films. After years of helping build successful campaigns, he has now taken a successful leap into filmmaking as a producer. His debut production, Gurthukosthunnayi, has been receiving an encouraging response from audiences, marking a promising start to his journey as a producer. Beyond producing the series, Sarath chandra naidu also made a significant creative contribution by writing several portions of the series alongside director Vinod and the writing team. His understanding of audience emotions and storytelling found its way onto the screen, adding another dimension to his role in the project.

How did the web series begin?
The journey began with my Instagram podcast page, Relangi Mavayya, where I share nostalgic stories from the '90s in my own voice. Over time, the page received immense love from audiences and built a strong connection with people who grew up during that era. After watching the content, Sai garu and Nitin garu from ETV Win felt there was potential to turn those emotions into a web series. That’s how Gurthukosthunnayi was born. What makes this mile-



stone even more special is the support he received from Allu Arjun. Delighted by Sarath’s new journey, the Icon Star personally congratulated him and publicly wished him success, expressing his happiness at seeing one of his longtime team member’s take the first step as a producer. The gesture reflected the strong bond they have built over the years and the culture of nurturing talent within the Allu Arjun camp. From crafting successful film campaigns to writing, producing, and bringing a heartfelt story to life, Sarath Chandra has shown that his journey extends far beyond marketing. With the success of Gurthukosthunnayi, he has emerged as yet another successful producer from Allu Arjun’s camp, and many believe this is just the beginning of an exciting new chapter in his filmmaking career.

Kalyanam Kamaniyam Jeevitham" Movie Teaser Launch Event



Under the banner of Vivifi Media Film Factory, Khan Durani and Sahithi Avancha are the hero and heroines of the movie "Kalyanam Kamaniyam jeevitham" which is being jointly produced by Paila Prasad Rao Kishore Gundala under the direction of Ravi Lokireddy. The film is getting ready

Promising Hero Kiran Abbavaram Unveils the Lyrical Video of 'Oopirantha Ivalle' from Tatvam



The makers of the upcoming murder mystery suspense thriller 'Tatvam' have released the lyrical video of the melodious track 'Oopirantha Ivalle Oogesthundi Ooyale', which was unveiled by promising hero Kiran Abbavaram through his social media handles. Featuring a fresh storyline and an edge-of-the-seat screenplay, Tatvam promises to offer audiences a unique cinematic experience. The film's recently released trailer received an encouraging response, further raising expectations. The soulful melody has been composed by Chetan Bharadwaj, with lyrics penned by Bhaskarabhatla and beautifully rendered by Anurag Kulkarni. Starring Dinesh Tej and Dashvika K. in the lead roles, Tatvam is directed by Arjun Kola. The film is jointly produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Shwetha Pasupuleti under the banners of Trayathi Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions. The film is slated for a theatrical release soon. Speaking on the occasion, the producer said, "Tatvam is an emotional thriller with a strong emotional connect. Music plays a significant role in the film, and we are confident that this song will appeal to everyone. The trailer, which was released recently, has already received a wonderful response. Every element has come together perfectly in this film, and we are grateful for the tremendous support we've received. Director Arjun Kola has been waiting for this day for a long time, and he has brought the story to life far beyond our expectations. This is a film that will deliver a memorable theatrical experience to audiences." Director Arjun Kola said, "Music is one of the major strengths of Tatvam. Chetan Bharadwaj has composed exceptional tunes that perfectly complement the story. The film is inspired by incidents happening around us, making it highly relatable and engaging. The narrative will keep audiences hooked throughout, much like Vamsy's investigative thrillers. The twists in the film will leave the audience genuinely shocked."

ANNAPURNA STUDIOS & EPIC STUDIOS ANNOUNCE TELUGU FILM PALLABURUSU'; SET FOR A GRAND RELEASE ON AUGUST 14, 2026

Annapurna Studios, in association with EPIC Studios, has officially announced its upcoming film Pallaburusu with the unveiling of a striking first-look poster. The highly anticipated project is locked to hit screens worldwide on August 14, 2026. To mark the announcement, the makers unveiled a striking first-look poster that gives audiences a taste of the film's unique flavor. Rooted deeply in regional cultural essence, the Telugu film promises a refreshing, laugh-out-loud blend of comedy and drama. The film features Sudhakar Reddy and Muralidhar Goud in lead roles as father and son, alongside Prajwal Yadma and Gomathy Reddy in key roles. The first-look poster features the two



lead characters seated back-to-back on a giant toothbrush resembling a balancing scale outside a district courtroom. The striking visual creates intrigue and leaves audiences eager to discover

the story behind Pallaburusu. The feature film is written and directed by Uday Chauhan, and it is presented and produced jointly by Annapurna Studios and EPIC Studios. Aditya Pittie and Vivek Krishnani serve as producers for EPIC Studios. Backed by a stellar technical lineup, Pallaburusu brings together top-tier talent to ensure a visually and aurally rich cinematic experience. The film features cinematography by Vinod K Bangari, music composed by Pawan CH, and production design by Kshitij Jeevan Randhir. With its distinctive concept and eye-catching first look, Pallaburusu is set to offer a refreshing cinematic experience. More updates on the film will be announced in the coming days.

Prestigious Banner SLV Cinemas #KJQ King - Jackie – Queen, starring Deekshith Shetty, Shashi Odela, Yukti Thareja, Releasing On August 7



After delivering a string of acclaimed and commercially successful films, SLV Cinemas, led by producer Sudhakar Cherukuri, is gearing up for yet another exciting project. The banner is bankrolling #KJQ – King

Jackie Queen, a period crime drama set against the backdrop of the 1990s, promising an engaging narrative packed with intense drama and nostalgia. The film features Deekshith Shetty, who directed by late KK won wide-



spread appreciation for his standout performance in Dasara and The Girlfriend, in the lead role, alongside newcomer Shashi Odela and actress Yukti Thareja. The film was written and directed by late KK who passed away last year. This film is a celebration of his craft and passion for cinema.

Ayesha Khan Proves Style Never Takes A Break

Bollywood beauty Ayesha Khan, who went viral last year with the special song "Shararat," seems to be taking a break from the big screen this year. Despite featuring in movies like Jaat and Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2 last year, both of which failed to work at the box office, Ayesha isn't slowing down when it comes to her style game. In her latest pictures, Ayesha is seen in a stunning peach embellished gown, with her hair styled in an elegant updo, giving off pure glamour vibes. Her radiant makeup and confident poses have caught the attention of fans online. While movie offers may be on pause for now, Ayesha continues to stay in the spotlight with her fashion moments, proving she doesn't need a film release to make headlines. In a recent incident,

who went viral last year with the special song "Shararat," seems to be taking a break from the big screen this year. Despite featuring in movies like Jaat and Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2 last year, both of which failed to work at the box office, Ayesha isn't slowing down when it comes to her style game. In her latest pictures, Ayesha is seen in a stunning peach embellished gown, with her hair styled in an elegant updo, giving off pure glamour vibes. Her radiant makeup and confident poses have caught the attention of fans online. While movie offers may be on pause for now, Ayesha continues to stay in the spotlight with her fashion moments, proving she doesn't need a film release to make headlines. In a recent incident,

lary when unexpected obstacles arise. This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of situational awareness in crowded environments, where clear communication and cooperation are essential for safety. Observers noted that such occurrences are not uncommon, emphasizing the need for better traffic management strategies in densely populated spaces. Bollywood celebrities have come out in support of educator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is currently on an indefinite hunger strike at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The protest is being held by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities and paper leaks in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) conducted on May 3. Ayesha Khan was the latest celebrity to voice her concern. Khan took to Instagram to reshare a video of

3 Idiots actor Omi Vaidya expressing support for Wangchuk. She said, "I request the paps and the media to highlight this news; only you can make people aware of what's happening in the country." "It's so unfortunate that I had no idea about this too. We are so lost in glamour, beauty, and controversies that we often end up being avoidant of the things that actually need our attention." Actor Abhay Deol also expressed concern over W a n g c h u k ' s hunger strike.