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CM VIJAY HAILS TAMIL CINEMA'S NATIONAL AWARDS SWEEP

NATION PAGE

HUNGARY'S PRESIDENT AGREES TO STAND DOWN AFTER PARLIAMENT BACKS REMOVAL

WORLD | NEWS



Mythri Movie Makers Produces, Prashanth Neel Presents- 418 Set For July 31 Release

CINEMA | PAGE



Students must learn one additional Indian language besides mother tongue: HM Amit Shah

Kolkata (TSIT):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday urged students to learn at least one additional Indian language besides their mother tongue to appreciate the country's diversity.

"The language diversity in India carries the rich heritage of the country. Only through language can one understand a nation's culture. Hence, it is necessary for every student to learn at least one additional Indian language besides his or her own mother tongue," Shah said while addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the Museum of Word at the National Library campus in Kolkata.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah said the Museum of Word is a new feather in Kolkata's crown. Its largest gallery is the 'Timeline of Languages'.



"This museum will showcase the evolution of 22 Indian languages. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of this museum in 2020. It has been created as per his instructions and plans. There is no place for narrow-mindedness in our country. Narrow-mindedness cannot be the identity of Indian culture. We cannot create obstacles in anyone's way of judging," the Union Home Minister said. Also present on the occasion was West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, who said the current Union

Government was placing special emphasis on establishing the Bengali language in its full dignity and making it more widely recognised globally.

The first phase of the museum, which is being built under the Union Ministry of Culture, cost around Rs 14 crore. The total cost of the entire project is estimated at around Rs 41 crore. There are nine galleries, each showcasing the history of Indian languages from a different perspective. Each gallery features a collection of preserved words, ancient manuscripts, inscriptions, documents on the evolution of various scripts, and interactive presentations of language development using modern digital technology. Visitors will get the opportunity to see thousands of years of linguistic evolution under one roof.

CM Revanth warns Congress leaders against negligence in SIR

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has once again asked all the party leaders to focus on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and warned that negligence will not be tolerated.

During a virtual meeting on SIR on Sunday, he directed the leaders to remain on the field to monitor the SIR process to ensure that the voting rights of all genuine voters are protected.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Goud, State Party Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, ministers, MLAs, MLCs, MPs, constituency in-charges, and SIR coordinators attended the meeting. The Chief



Minister said ministers, MLAs, in-charges, corporation chairpersons, and party in-charges appointed for the SIR process must go to the field. Stating that ministers-in-charge must fully supervise the SIR process, he remarked that the ultimate responsibility lies with them.

He said PCC President Mahesh Goud and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka must take greater responsibility in coordinating the ministers-in-charge, MLAs, and

party in-charges.

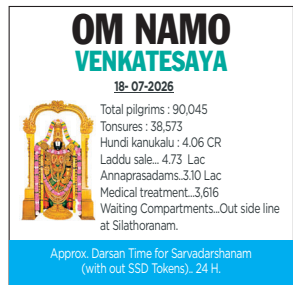
The Chief Minister said that with the deadline for SIR being extended to August 3, this should be viewed as an opportunity.

He announced that on Monday, 10 in-charge ministers will conduct review meetings on SIR across all districts. The Chief Minister said MPs must conduct regular reviews, even while attending Parliament sessions. He said that strict action will be taken if MPs fail to perform their duties in the

areas where they are acting as in-charges.

He said those designated as SIR in-charges for the party must ensure constant coordination.

He noted that a total of 489 meetings regarding SIR have been conducted by the Congress party across the 119 constituencies. The Chief Minister said that immediate action is required, especially in constituencies that are lagging. He said that some leaders are merely staying in Hyderabad and not actively working. The CM asked the party leaders not to roam around Gandhi Bhavan (state Congress headquarters) seeking chairman posts or party positions, saying appointments will not be granted to such individuals. He said leaders should not visit Gandhi Bhavan from Monday till August 3. A comprehensive review meeting will be held again on July 30, where reports will be collected on an Assembly-



11 dead, seven missing as flash floods batter J&K

Jammu, Jul 19: At least 11 people were killed and seven others remain missing after flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall caused widespread devastation in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Continuous rain since Saturday night triggered landslides, house collapses and overflowing rivers, leaving several villages cut off and damaging roads. Rescue teams have launched extensive operations to trace the missing and evacuate stranded residents. Officials said Surankote tehsil in Poonch district was the worst-affected area, accounting for most of the fatalities. One of the worst incidents occurred in Lower Murrah village, where a landslide caused a house to collapse. Five members of a family, including two-year-old Sofian Yasar, were killed, while rescue teams continued searching for the remaining missing occupants. In Sangla village, flash floods swept away another house, leaving four members of a family missing. They have been identified as Abdul Hameed, his wife Sharifa Begum, daughter Aareba and sister Manira Begum. Twenty-eight-year-old Nazia Kousar was killed when her house collapsed in Noonabandi village. Her husband and three young children sustained injuries and were admitted to hospital.

Wangchuk under close medical care after prolonged fast



New Delhi (TSIT): Activist Sonam Wangchuk is undergoing required medical intervention at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, where a multidisciplinary team of specialists is closely monitoring his condition. Although his vital signs are stable, his blood parameters remain marginally altered due to the physiological stress and systemic effects of prolonged fasting, the hospital said on Sunday. The update comes a day after the hospital stated that Wangchuk had refused intravenous fluids, oral rehydration solution and all medications despite repeated counselling by the treating team and an independent expert from AIIMS. The hospital had also said his family was yet to provide consent for the recommended medical intervention. Wangchuk was taken to Safdarjung Hospital by the Delhi Police on Saturday, the 21st day of his hunger strike.

Chalo Sansad eve:

Jantar Mantar comes alive as nearly 20,000 gather

New Delhi (TSIT):

Ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's proposed march to Parliament on Monday, July 20, to press for education reforms, political leaders, actors and common people thronged the protest site at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das claimed that nearly 20,000 people were "at and around Jantar Mantar" even before the scheduled mobilisation. In a post on X, Das said, "20,000 people are at and around Jantar Mantar. And it's not even July 20 yet. Dharmendra Pradhan — your day of reckoning is here." CJP members shared photographs and videos on social media showing the protest site



packed with supporters, claiming people from different parts of the country had begun arriving for Monday's mobilisation.

They expressed apprehension over possible police action ahead of Monday's march. It appealed to protesters not to respond to any provocation and to ensure the march remained peaceful. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke,

addressing supporters through a video message, urged them to remain at Jantar Mantar through the night, saying their presence was essential to ensure the Parliament march proceeded peacefully. "Our protest is going on. Please come here in large numbers. Stay here for the night. If you don't come, they will try to end the protest," he said.

Telangana govt inspects private universities under SC order

Hyderabad (TSIT):

A committee appointed by the Telangana government to inspect private universities in compliance with the Supreme Court order is visiting and thoroughly inspecting every private university in the state. The committee, chaired by the Commissioner of Collegiate Education (CCE), comprises the Secretary of the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) as the Convener; the Registrar of JNTU as the Member-Convener; and the Registrar of Palamuru University, the Chief Finance and Accounts Officer of Osmania University, and the Assistant Director (Academic-C) from the



Department of Technical Education as members.

The state government has also authorised the committee to appoint a subject expert if deemed necessary. This committee is visiting and thoroughly inspecting every private university in the state, focusing on the nine specific aspects mandated by the Supreme Court. According

to a statement by the Chief Minister's Office, the Supreme Court has turned its attention to the underlying motives behind the proliferation of private universities and the actual objectives of the institutions or individuals establishing them. It is also examining the educational qualifications of the faculty teaching at these universities.

OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-2)

WHAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION?

Self-Enumeration is an online process in which you fill and submit your household details on the SE portal (se.census.gov.in) yourself, without waiting for an enumerator

- ❖ **What are the benefits of Self-Enumeration?**
 - Fill details conveniently
 - Ensures privacy
 - Makes the Census process faster and efficient
- ❖ **How to log in to the Self-Enumeration portal?**
 - Select State/UT
 - Enter name of head of the family, mobile number and email (optional)
 - Verify through OTP
 - Start Self-Enumeration
- ❖ **How to mark the correct location of your house?**
 - Select district/PIN code
 - Enter area/landmark
 - Zoom on map and mark location near your house (Do not worry if exact address is not displayed)
 - Correct location marking is necessary
- ❖ **Can I edit my information later?**
 - Yes, you can edit before final submission during State/UT SE period
 - After final submission changes can be done during enumerator's visit
- ❖ **Can SE portal be accessed outside India?**

No, this facility is available only within India's geographical boundaries
- ❖ **What if an error is found after submission?**

Correction can be made when the enumerator visits your house
- ❖ **Can I save and complete the form later?**

Yes, you can save progress and complete the form within the stipulated time

TOLL FREE - 1855

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Cabinet approves Governor’s order to suspend Karnataka Public Service Commission Chairman

Bengaluru: The Cabinet has approved the Governor's order suspending the Karnataka Public Service Commission Chairman. Several decisions were taken in the cabinet meeting held on Sunday, including approval to undertake the construction of the Governor's Administrative Office, Special Secretary's Residence and Indoor Stadium at the Lok Bhawan premises in Bengaluru at an estimated cost of Rs. 27 crores. Approval

has been given to implement the Karnataka Agritech Mission-2026, which will provide agriculture/horticulture/veterinary and other related crop monitoring and integrated digital advice, crop survey to farmers in the state at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.99 crores.

Administrative approval has been given to purchase 7,500 two-tier cots and 15,000 beds for newly sanctioned hostels operating under the Backward Classes Welfare

Department at a total estimated cost of Rs. 29.98 crores. For the comprehensive development of nomadic/semi-nomadic colonies, approval has been given for construction of houses with basic amenities including 380 sq ft area at a unit cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. Administrative approval has been given for setting up of Centre of Excellence in AI (CoE-AI) at Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Raichur over a period

of 5 years at a total estimated cost of Rs. 12 crores.

Administrative approval has been given for construction of boys hostel building for MBBS and BDS students of Medical and Dental Colleges, Bangalore at an estimated cost of Rs. 83.50 crores. Administrative approval has been given to undertake the development works of State Highway SH-156 [including Kattisangavi, Yanagunti, Naribola, Mal-K Cross villag-

es and District Main Road (Kellore-Andola)] in Kalaburagi district under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Plan for the year 2025-26 at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crores.

The draft notification of "Karnataka Education Department Services (Public Education Department) (Recruitment to Certain Teaching Posts) (Special) Rules, 2026" issued on 14.07.2026 has been given ex-

post facto approval.

Karanja Right Bank Canal Km. Administrative approval has been given to undertake the works of modernization of main canal, distribution canal, sub-distribution canal from 100 to 131 and modernization of distribution canal/sub-distribution canals left out in the modernization work from km 0 to 100 at an estimated cost of Rs. 180 crores. In Nanjangud city limits of Mysore district, administrative approval has been given to undertake the

river front development works from Government Guest House to Sri Parashurama Temple at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 crores to prevent the sewage water from Nanjangud city limits from entering the Kapila river and prevent flooding. Administrative approval has been given to the works of filling 116 tanks and Griyatri reservoir of Javangondanahalli Hobli Irrigation Water Board and groundwater development at an estimated cost of Rs. 244 crores.

FIFA World Cup Final: CM D K Shivakumar appeals to football fans to show restraint



Bengaluru : CM D K Shivakumar said that Considering the wishes and requests of all youngsters, special permission has been granted for hotels and restaurants to operate until 3:30 AM for the screening of today's FIFA World Cup final match. He appealed to football fans to show restraint. He spoke to the media at Vidhana Soudha on Sunday. The Chief Minister said that the police have installed cameras everywhere. Whichever team wins, the youth should watch the football game without losing their patience. Drought Situation: There is no Sunday or holiday for us and you There is no Sunday for Ministers, DCs , and the Police. They must work 24 hours a day. Therefore, a video conference is being conducted with DCs and CEOs regarding the preparations to handle the drought situation, he informed. Drinking Water: One crore rupees for each taluk He also stated that arrangements have already been made to release a grant of Rs.1 crore to each taluk specifically for drinking

Government property worth Rs 100 crores transferred to private individuals: Lokayukta raids Rajinikanth's house

Bengaluru: Even though the Lokayukta department has worked hard to bring down corrupt officials and register FIRs, it is a matter of concern that only corrupt officials continue to hold office. Thus, the Lokayukta department has become a toothless snake.

Recently, the Lokayukta had raided former Special Deputy Commissioner M.K. Jagadish, former Tahsildar of Yelahanka B.R. Manjunath, and an officer named Rajinikanth, on charges of illegally transferring 15 acres of government land worth more than Rs 100 crores in Hunasamaranahalli and Marenahalli to private individuals.

The fact that all the officials, including the main kingpin, the head of the department, Rajinikanth, are continuing their posts has led to many doubts.

In particular, the fact that Rajinikanth, who is accused in the corruption case, is now continuing his handiwork in the Chikkaballapur Revenue Department highlights the shortcomings of the government.

This corrupt Rajinikanth has returned to Chikkaballapur with the grace of MLA Dr. Sudhakar. If a model politician like Dr. Sudhakar, who is known for his honesty, shows kindness to such a corrupt official, there is no doubt that his face will be blacked.

Background of the case

The same Rajinikanth is the head of the Revenue Department who had alienated government land worth about Rs. 100 crore to private individuals. The Lokayukta police had raided and shocked three officials who had shared about 50 crore.

The former Special Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore City District

M.K. Jagadish, former Tahsildar of Yelahanka B.R. Manjunath, and Shirastedar Rajinikanth were searched by the Lokayukta police.

The houses of K.M. Jagadish, who is currently the Managing Director of Food and Civil Supplies, near Yelahanka and Hunasamaranahalli, the Special DC office of the Revenue Bhavan, two offices in Yelahanka and Devanahalli, and the residences of Tahsildar Manjunath and Rajinikanth were searched for a whole day. During this, Lokayukta officials had said that documents related to the transfer of 15 acres of land that had been made separately were found.

13 acres of government land allotted in violation of rules There were allegations that 13 acres of government land in Survey No. 179 of Hunasamaranahalli in Yelahanka taluk was illegally allotted to 9 private individuals between 2015 and 2020. The then Special Deputy Commissioner K.M. Jagadish, Tehsildar B.R. Manjunath, and Shirastedar Rajinikanth were involved in this illegality. When the preliminary inquiry was conducted on the complaint, it was found that there was an illegality.

In this regard, permission was granted when a request was made to the government for prior permission under Section 17(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act against all three. Therefore, an FIR was registered against all three and a search was conducted in the first stage to collect documents and evidence, said Lokayukta officials. Two acres of Marenahalli illegalThen the Special DC Jagadish has been responsible for illegally allocating two acres of government land in Marenahalli to private parties. A sepa-

capacity of 885-litres that is expandable up to 2,090-litres, the Tayron Life has been positioned as a 5-seater premium SUV focused on performance, comfort, technology and versatility.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Nitin Kohli, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "The Tayron Life reflects our commitment to introduce global products that resonate with Indian customers. In line with our plans, we are introducing the 3rd product action for this year, with Tayron Life that is locally assembled. With its spacious layout, premium comfort, advanced technology including Level 2 ADAS and signature German engineering. It strengthens our premium SUV portfolio while delivering a compelling proposition

Volkswagen India launches the Tayron Life, a spacious 5-seater SUV for premium lifestyle & mobility experiences



Bengaluru : Volkswagen India has introduced the new Tayron Life, a premium 5-seater SUV that brings together spaciousness, comfort and technology with the brand's hallmark German engineering. The Tayron Life has been launched at INR 41.99 Lacs (ex-show-room). Developed for urban customers who value refined design, everyday space and practicality, the Tayron Life offers exceptional comfort and performance, while delivering a superlative mobility experience.

Built on generous proportions with a length of 4,792 mm, wheelbase of 2,789 mm and a luggage

Personality, a spirit of service, and hard work made Mallikarjun Kharge a flower that bloomed through fire.

Bengaluru: Dr. Anand AICC, national coordinator and incharge of Maharashtra SC department stated that, Mallikarjun Kharge, who is recognized as a symbol of simplicity, struggle, and social justice in Indian politics, has led an inspiring life. Despite facing hardships in childhood, social inequality, financial difficulties, and political challenges, he emerged as one of India's most respected political leaders through his courage, hard work, and dedication.

In his press statement he has stated that, Kharge was born in Varavatti, a small village in Bhalki taluk of Bidar district, to Mapanna, a landless agricultural laborer. The small one-room house with a coconut-leaf roof where he was born still exists today. After losing his first wife Sabavva and two children in a riot, Mapanna carried the infant Mallikarjun Kharge and fled to Gulbarga. There, he worked as a laborer in the MSK Mill and educated his son to become a lawyer.



Dr. Ananda Kumar
National Co-Ordinator & I/C Maharashtra SC Department, AICC, New Delhi.

Kharge's childhood was filled with sorrow and hardship. Although this tragedy left an unforgettable scar on his heart, it also shaped him into a determined and resilient leader.

Growing up in a financially disadvantaged family, he began his career as a lawyer and became a voice for the poor, workers, and the oppressed. This spirit of service brought him into politics. As a labour leader, an Ambedkarite, and a follower of Buddha's Dhamma, Kharge won local body elections through Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Republican Party of India (RPI) and was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1972. He continued to win Assembly elections without defeat and earned a reputation as an undefeated leader. Through transparency, honesty, and a people-oriented approach, he gained the trust of the public. He later entered national politics and successfully handled several important ministries, including Railways, Labour, and Environment.

In 2022, Kharge became the President of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), a milestone in the party's history. With his vast political experience, organisational skills, and ability to connect with leaders and people from all sections of society, he has earned great respect at the national level. Mallikarjun Kharge's life sends an inspiring message to the youth. It shows that birth, poverty, or circumstances do not determine a person's future. Rather, hard work, education, self-confidence, and a commitment to serving society are the true foundations of success. Challenges did not weaken him; instead, they made him stronger. In 1999, when the Congress high command chose S.M. Krishna instead of Kharge for the post of Chief Minister, Kharge responded, "I have no disappointment that I did not become Chief Minister. Nothing comes before the right time, and no one receives more than what destiny has written." Later, when the Congress-JD(S) coalition government was formed, he again had an opportunity to become Chief Minister. However, JD(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda supported Kharge's close associate Dharam Singh for the position. Even then, Kharge did not express disappointment.

Bengaluru Bisons Unveils Team Identity Ahead of Inaugural Karnataka Kabaddi Premier League

Bengaluru : Bengaluru franchise Bengaluru Bisons officially unveiled its team name and logo at a grand launch event held on Saturday evening at Kings Club, Nagarbhavi, marking its entry into the inaugural edition of the Karnataka Kabaddi Premier League (KKPL).

The launch marks a significant milestone in Karnataka's sporting landscape, with KKPL becoming the first-ever state-level franchise-based kabaddi league. The league aims to identify and nurture talented kabaddi players from across Karnataka's districts and taluks, providing them with a professional platform to showcase their skills and progress to higher levels of the sport. Owned by Anand DS, Managing Director of AVA Solutions and Aishwarya Anand, Addition Director of AVA Solutions the Bengaluru Bisons unveiled their official logo and franchise identity in the presence of distinguished guests from the sporting, political and business communities. The event celebrated Bengaluru's rich sporting heritage and its strong connection with one of India's oldest indigenous sports. The evening commenced with a traditional cultural performance, followed by guest introductions and an audiovisual presentation highlighting AVA Solutions and the vision behind the Bengaluru Bisons franchise. The official unveiling of the team's logo and promotional video introducing the franchise identity was the highlight of the programme.



WHEN WILL THE SPURIOUS TODDY MAFIA BE CURBED? Raids on Illegal "CH" Manufacturing Units Raise Bigger Questions

Mahabubnagar, July 19 (TSIT): The organized network behind the manufacture and distribution of adulterated toddy has once again come under the spotlight. A joint team of the Hyderabad Excise Eagle Force and the Hyderabad Narcotics Unit raided an illegal "CH" manufacturing unit operating near Tatikonda village in Bhoothpur mandal of Mahabubnagar district. The team seized machinery, raw materials, and large quantities of the prohibited substance used in the preparation of adulterated toddy.

According to preliminary information, officials found that a person from Addakal mandal had established the unit using specialized machinery and was allegedly supplying the substance to various districts across Telangana. Acting on information gathered from suspects arrested in other districts, the Eagle Force conducted a surprise raid



in the early hours of Sunday. Twelve persons have been arrested, and further investigation is underway.

Small Operators Booked... But What About the Masterminds?

The raid has once again raised several important questions. If illegal "CH" manufacturing units equipped with sophisticated machinery have been operating on such a large scale, how did they remain unnoticed for so long? The existence of a statewide supply network has also raised concerns about possible gaps in surveillance and enforcement.

Allegations of Official Nexus Demand a Thorough Probe

For years, allegations have surfaced that certain individuals within the Excise Department have turned a blind eye to the manufacture and sale of adulterated toddy in exchange for illegal gratification. Whether these allegations are true or not can only be determined through a fair and comprehensive investigation. If any officials are found to have acted negligently or colluded with the illegal network, appropriate legal action should be taken against them.

A Serious Threat to Public Health

Adulterated toddy prepared with prohibited chemicals poses a serious risk to public health. Medical experts have repeatedly warned that the consumption of such substances can lead to severe health complications and even life-threatening conditions. Despite these risks, illegal operators continue the trade for financial gain, putting countless lives at risk.

Will the Investigation Reach the Real Kingpins?

The action taken by the Excise Eagle Force and the Hyderabad Narcotics Team in identifying and raiding the illegal manufacturing unit is a welcome step. However, the investigation should not stop with the workers and manufacturers alone. It must extend to those who finance, organize, transport, distribute, and purchase the prohibited substance, as well as anyone who may have facilitated the operation. Only by identifying and prosecuting the entire network can authorities effectively dismantle the adulterated toddy mafia and prevent its resurgence.

Prajavani at District Collectorate today

WARANGAL, July 19, TSIT : District Collector Dr Satya Sharada said in a statement that a Prajavani programme will be held at the District Collectorate on Monday.

The district collector has ordered that the district level officials and revenue division level officials of the revenue division should participate in this Prajavani and examine the applications received from the people and solve them quickly.

The district collector said through the announcement that people should take advantage of this opportunity.



EDITORIAL

Garry Sobers: Quite Simply the Greatest

Sir Garfield St Aubren Sobers, who passed away on July 17 at the age of 89, was quite simply the greatest cricketer the world has ever seen. His was a multiple talent rolled into one. Any other description of him, including calling him ‘one of the great all-rounders’ is not only nonsense, but reeks of ignorance.

An all-time great batsman is one who averages above 50 after a substantial number of Test appearances. Similarly, an all-time great bowler is he who averages below 25, again, after a significant number of caps at the highest level of the game. Sobers achieved the former; and although he didn’t accomplish the latter, this was partially because the West Indies’ burgeoning bowling strength reduced the burden with the leather on him. That notwithstanding, he proceeded to become the first all-rounder to capture 200 wickets in tests. He could swing the ball at high velocity, bowl left-arm orthodox as well as a wrist spin. A cricketer is incomplete unless he is also a capable fielder. In this respect, Sobers was brilliant anywhere, albeit most conspicuously at short-leg to Lance Gibbs’ off-spin. In the riot-marred 1966-67 test match at the Eden Gardens, an Indian batsman edged a ball skyward to thirdman. Sobers, fielding in the slip cordon, appeared to glance at his colleagues as if to check if any of them was going to attempt the catch. Then, raced back himself like a cheetah to almost pull off an impossible pouch. In the same match, rather worryingly for Indian supporters, he raced to 70 off 85 balls, at which stage the deceptive Bhagwat Chandasekhar induced a mistimed stroke. Over and above, Sobers earned seven wickets in the match taking the new ball. One can be forgiven for being mesmerised by such omnipotence!

AT HIS PEAK

Sobers was at that time at the peak of his powers. His glamour and fame enveloping the cosmos. In Mumbai, during the 1st test of the series, he was introduced to Anju Mahendru, an attractive young actress. They even got engaged, before going their different ways. He later married Australian-born Prudence Kirby.

Sobers, like several West Indians of his generation, was reputed to drink and dance into the early hours even during a test match. He would return to his hotel for a short nap, wake up an hour before start of play, skip furiously with a rope to sweat out the alcohol, have a shower and turn up at the ground just in time.

I once saw him padded up at the Eden Gardens, while he was fast asleep. By the time a wicket fell and it was time for him to fill the breach, he would be woken up. Bleary-eyed, loosening and stretching his arms and legs he walked out to bat; and unerringly middle the first ball he faced.

Sobers made his test debut against England at Kingston, Jamaica in 1954 at the age of 17. He batted at number nine; but bowling left-arm orthodox, he returned figures of four for 75 in his very first innings. His hidden genius as a flamboyant left-handed batsman would only surface four years later. In the opening engagement in the spring of 1958 against Pakistan, he did not get an opportunity to bat at his home ground of Bridgetown, Barbados. In the second at Port of Spain, Trinidad he notched 52 and 80.

ASPIRING TO RAMARAJYA?

THE VALMIKI RAMAYANA HAS SOME INSIGHTS FOR OUR TIMES

I have turned to the Ramayana of Valmiki in difficult times for over 40 years. When I was unable to sleep for months after the 1984 anti-Sikh violence, waking up in a sweat every night on hearing gunshots in my nightmares, my father’s aunt, a Sanskrit scholar and tennis player who played and won a match or two at Wimbledon in the 1930s, taught me half a verse from the Ramayana which, she told me, had been the mantra she recited before matches, during phases of debilitating illness, and indeed, every day. She assured me it would help me fight fear. Since then, yatra ramo bhayam natra nasti tatra parab-havah (where there is Rama, there is neither fear nor defeat) has been my mantra, too. The Ramayana’s poetry has captivated me, and I have a quote from the text for all occasions – even earthquakes, for those occur, the Ramayana tells us, when the mighty elephants Virupaksha, Mahapadma, Saumanasa and Bhadra, who support the earth, get tired and shake their heads for a moment to relieve their weariness. So, does the Valmiki Ramayana contain insights on the burning issues of our time – the dharma of those who rule a realm and the character of those who lead religious establishments? It does. For these insights, we need to turn to the Uttarakanda, the seventh and last book of the Valmiki Ramayana. The sixth book, the Yuddhakanda, culminates in Rama’s long-delayed ascension to the throne of Kosala, and contains a few verses about the perfection of Rama’s reign. We are told that there was no fear of disease or poisonous snakes, the old never had to perform the funeral rites of their children. No one heard the wailing of widows. Everyone lived for a thousand years. Everyone was content. Trees yielded fruit and flowers all year. The rains always came at the right time, and the touch of the wind was always pleasant. Everyone was devoted to dharma. Rama’s subjects adhered to their own occupations and were satisfied with their own duties. People followed Rama’s example and did not



harm one other. But we learn virtually nothing of what Rama actually did as ruler. What, for instance, were his judicial acts as king that make us long for the re-establishment of Ramarajya? We learn something about the administration of justice during Rama’s rule in the Uttarakanda. This book contains the controversial Shambuka-vadha episode. When a brahman boy died in childhood during Rama’s reign, the boy’s grieving father accused the king of a transgression that resulted in his son’s untimely death. When the sage Narada informed Rama that the child’s death was the result of a shudra performing austerities, Rama immediately swung into action – he went in search of the culprit, located Shambuka and cut off his head. Shudras were not entitled to practise austerities, and Shambuka’s tapas was a threat to the dharma of Rama’s kingdom. The beheading of Shambuka restored dharma and the brahman boy came back to life. This episode has shaped the reception of the Uttarakanda, and indeed, the Valmiki Ramayana as a whole, from pre-modern times, and its story has been repeatedly chal-

lenged by low-caste groups who have criticised the upper-caste ethics that allow Rama to kill Shambuka. Justice for the brahman and maintenance of the varna hierarchy trump Shambuka getting a full and fair hearing. But another episode of the Valmiki Ramayana suggests that even the lowliest creature was treated fairly during Rama’s reign. Two prakshipta sargas or interpolated cantos of the Uttarakanda can be cited here. The two sargas do not appear in some editions of the text or are explicitly marked in them as interpolations, but they are well known, and versions of the episode they recount feature in later Ramayanas, such as the medieval Sanskrit Ananda Ramayana. In these prakshipta sargas of the Valmiki Ramayana, the absence of grievances among Rama’s subjects is highlighted, for Ramarajya meant that there was no adharma anywhere, and no one was discontent. People did not suffer from mental and physical ailments. Everyone lived long, happy lives. Everything was governed in accordance with dharma, so the king had no complaints to deal with. Rama sent Lakshmana again and again to

find someone, anyone, with a matter that needed adjudication by the king. Finally, Lakshmana located a crying, injured dog with a grievance – he had been beaten without reason by a brahman mendicant. The dog entered Rama’s assembly hall hesitantly, for dogs are degraded creatures and he did not wish to do anything above his station. Once in the assembly hall, he spoke eloquently of the duties of the king – protection of his subjects and protection of dharma. Then he told Rama that he had been thrashed mercilessly by a brahman named Sarvarthasiddha. Sarvarthasiddha was summoned and admitted that he had committed an offence. The aggrieved dog suggested that the culprit be made the head of a religious establishment in Kalanjara as punishment, and Rama appointed Sarvarthasiddha to the position. Sarvarthasiddha was delighted, and Rama’s ministers were astonished by the judgment, which seemed like an honour rather than a punishment. The dog then explained that leadership of a religious establishment is a curse rather than a boon. In his past life, he had headed one. He had been righteous, pious and

devoted to the welfare of all beings, he had guarded the wealth of the gods scrupulously, yet he had been reborn as a dog. Sarvarthasiddha, on the other hand, had already abandoned dharma, was cruel and violent, and his conduct would surely lead several generations of his family to hell. The dog concluded that a position of authority with respect to gods, cows and brahmins has dire consequences. And whoever siphons off donations to gods falls into hell after hell. The wise dog, who had been defiled merely by leading a religious sect, then fasted unto death in Varanasi. In Rama’s realm, therefore, a dog got a fair hearing, though a shudra did not. Heading a religious establishment resulted in a low birth. Misappropriating the property of deities could keep one in hell indefinitely. But that was the Tretayuga. What of the Kaliyuga? Who is entitled to justice in our times? Humans of all kinds? Dogs and other creatures? And which Rama should we choose? The one who helps us fight fear, or one whose name instills fear? Naina Dayal teaches history at St. Stephen’s College, University of Delhi.

How EC Has Quietly Changed Form 6 During SIR, Evading Parliament

New Delhi: It is the government and parliament that are the sole competent authorities which decide on what changes, if any, are to be made in Form 6, the form Indians need to fill in order to demand inclusion in the electoral rolls. The Wire has tracked how the Election Commission, since its Special Intensive Revision drive has quietly changed this crucial Form. The Election Commission first added a new declaration to be submitted along with Form 6 during the Bihar SIR. Another page was added in the second round of the SIR. During the present round of SIR, the Form 6 itself has been changed for online applications. Former Election Commission officials The Wire spoke to said that rules and forms can be amended only by the government and after amendment, this has to be approved by parliament. Altering Form 6 without this amendment renders the Election Commission’s actions “ipso facto illegal”. Transparency activists said that use of Form 6 both to enrol new voters and by those who failed to fill enumeration forms in Bihar, and the Election Commission’s failure to provide segregated data of how many Form 6 additions were new voters and those unable to fill enumeration forms, is only one among the “series of arbitrary and sudden shifts” characterising the SIR. While the Supreme Court has once again reiterated earlier this week, that the Election Commission is not an



arbitrer of citizenship, exclusion from the rolls resulting in the termination of state welfare benefits, even denial of passports, has made scrutiny into how new voters are being taken onto the rolls even more important. What is Form 6? Before June 24, 2025, Form 6 was simply an application that new electors used to apply for their inclusion in the electoral rolls. It required no proof of citizenship, and only needed Aadhaar details for authentication of entries, and self attested documents of age and ordinary residence. Such was the flexibility of the Form 6 that the guidelines also provided that if none of the documents sought in the Form as age and residence proof was available the applicant could enclose some other document in support of age proof by mentioning its name in the Declaration part of the Form following which the applicant was required to appear personally before Electoral Registration Officer or any other officer designated by

him for verification. Since June 24, 2025 when the Election Commission of India announced SIR of the electoral rolls, not only has the accompanying declaration sought in Form 6 changed but the Form itself has undergone a change. The changes have come despite the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 that flows from the Section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 requiring that any change or amendment can only be made by the government and are subject to parliamentary oversight. The journey of the Form 6 and the statutory changes brought in it through the SIR, done quietly by the Election Commission through instructions, without going to parliament have once again raised questions about the opaque manner in which the procedures under the SIR have been adopted, even as it has asked citizens to furnish proof after proof subjecting them to a virtual citizenship drive. Former Election Commission officials The Wire spoke to said

that rules and forms can be amended only by the government and after amendment, this has to be put in the parliament, calling the Election Commission’s actions “ipso facto illegal”. Transparency activists said that the changes to Form 6, its use to both enrol new voters and by those who failed to fill enumeration forms in Bihar, and the Election Commission’s failure to provide segregated data of how many Form 6 additions were new voters and those unable to fill enumeration forms is only one among the “series of arbitrary and sudden shifts” characterising the SIR, evading parliamentary and public scrutiny. How Form 6 changed course In the SIR’s pilot edition in Bihar that commenced on June 25, 2025 the Election Commission in its instructions said that new voter applications, voters who failed to fill enumeration forms in time, could also fill Form 6. In both cases they were required to attach the prescribed Declaration Form.

MAA BEHEN, OBSESSION, AND THE GAZE THAT EATS ITSELF

In a certain colony, a woman lives alone. Stories about her, however, are everywhere. She lures men, scans them like QR codes, and some even lie buried in her garden. Widowed early, she has a daughter with her late husband. But in a tryst shrouded in mystery, she birthed another with a man no one knows about. Her tainted character is further infected by the recurring visuals of her waist peeking out from the cotton saris and the sleeveless blouses she continues to wear, and by the place she chooses to work at: an alcohol shop. Therefore, when the self-appointed moral guardian of the neighbourhood is found dead in her house, the implication is clear as day. Rekha, the eternal seductress, has committed the murder. A premise such as this can largely go two ways. It can either confirm the rumours and craft a narrative of a woman doubling down on her reputation, or it could dispel hearsay and culminate as a tale of a woman killing a moral custodian to vindicate her disrepute. Suresh Triveni’s latest film, Maa Behen, playfully smart, does neither. Instead, the outing finds a near-impossible middle ground where the social prejudice is replicated only to be critiqued. The filmmaking, too, responds through heightened tonality and camp. A male journalist, trained in sensationalisation, is the narrator. He briefs the viewer about the notoriety of Rekha (Madhuri Dixit)



as flashbacks of her mas-saging her husband on the terrace as a newly-wed and men gathering to see splash on the screen. More incriminating images follow: Rekha flirting with the neighbour, Charitra Gupta (Ravi Kishan), the same man who her husband had taken a loan from, and who later was found dead in her house. The walls of her house are scribbled with choice words - "Did you see Rekha's?", "Witch". And then, there are daughters. As Charitra Gupta lies motionless in her house, a panicked Rekha summons her two daughters - Jaya

(Triptii Dimri) and Sushma (Dharna Durga) - for help. The mother claims it was an act of self-defence, but her story - him coming on to her, her pushing her away, his head hitting on the cupboard - is so neat that it feels orchestrated. Further probing only weakens her case. It was Rekha who had called Charitra at night to play cards, it was Rekha who had taken money from the liquor shop, and Charitra knew about it. Sitting with her daughter at the dinner table and wearing a sleeveless blouse, it was Rekha who seemed capable and

culpable of murder. And then, Charitra Gupta gains consciousness. From here, Maa Behen embarks on a wilder ride, with the three women, each with a shadier past than the other, constantly bickering but also helping each other. Jaya, a homemaker, had seduced her husband when the latter had come to see her friend for marriage; Sushma, an influencer, gained popularity after uploading a video of kissing a boy for five minutes. But soon, this turns out to be a smokescreen. The Tragedy Of The 'Femme Fatale' With his latest, Triveni not just depicts cautionary women but mimics the gaze that makes them one. The excessive tone is revealed to the conceit and the slant of their story once the women take charge of their past. In a fleeting moment, Rekha shares that it was her husband who wanted to be massaged in full view, implying in the subsequent silence that her objectification was an offshoot of his desire and not the result of her deliberation. Similar subtext arrives with Jaya and Sushma, wherein they both admit that it was the men whose decisions altered their lives. In any other film, such women would have lurked in the background, and their infamy, at best, would be rebranded as forced autonomy. Maa Behen flips the script in that it inherits and imitates the male gaze, outlines the extent of it, and then ekes out agency from that.

HUNGARY'S PRESIDENT AGREES TO STAND DOWN AFTER PARLIAMENT BACKS REMOVAL



Hungarian President Tamás Sulyok has agreed to step down, signing an amendment to the country's constitution which will end his presidency at midnight on Sunday. Prime Minister Péter Magyar's Tisza party had steamrolled the law change through parliament to oust Sulyok - widely seen as a loyalist of former prime minister Viktor Orbán who lost power in April after 16 years. Sulyok had five days to sign the amendment or risk a protracted constitutional crisis and impeachment proceedings. He confirmed he would agree to the law change as the deadline passed on Saturday evening, but in a statement accused Magyar's government of violating the rule of law. He said the amendment marked a "breaking point in Hungarian constitutional democracy" and said the "core values of a free society... have been trampled underfoot for the sake of political power". It marks the latest and most dramatic move by the Tisza government, which saw

Sulyok as a puppet of the former government and had pushed for his resignation. It has swept through major constitutional changes since winning a landslide victory in April. The 17th amendment, passed with an overwhelming majority on Monday, ends the president's term citing "serious loss of confidence" in him. It also removes the head of the Constitutional Court and forbids MPs who have served three terms from standing again - which applies to more than half the current deputies from Orbán's Fidesz party. Orbán had described the amendment as an act of tyranny and called for protests. Since the April election, Fidesz has been in free fall, reeling from the shock defeat. Orbán himself has hardly been seen in public, and refused to take his seat in parliament. In office from 2010 until 2026, Fidesz reshaped the Hungarian state to its own will, and filled supposedly independent state positions with party loyalists using its own two-thirds majority.



■ Russia launches major ballistic missile attack on Ukrainian cities

RUSSIANS TURN TO CASH, PUTTING MORE STRAIN ON SLOWING WARTIME ECONOMY

Russians are returning to cash, as mobile internet shutdowns disrupt card payments, and more businesses seek to dodge tax under mounting financial pressure more than four years into the war with Ukraine. Russia has added 1.56tn roubles (£14.8bn; \$20bn) in cash into circulation since the start of the year - the biggest rise for the equivalent period in any year outside the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Central Bank figures analysed by the BBC. The spike comes amid a wave of Ukrainian drone attacks, which have repeatedly led the Kremlin to shut down mobile internet across large swathes of the country, leaving many unable to pay by card. The government says the aim of the shutdowns is to counter the drone strikes. "Having cash on hand gives you some



sense of control and security," one woman in Moscow told the BBC on condition of anonymity. "If there's an emergency in the city, I know I'll still be able to buy basic necessities, even if the mobile network goes down." The latest increase follows several earlier wartime surges in cash withdrawals as Russians have sought a buffer against uncertainty. Cash in circula-

tion jumped after President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilisation in September 2022 and during a brief mutiny by the Wagner mercenary group in June 2023. Now, the shift is making it harder for the state to collect tax, just as it faces a widening budget deficit and needs every rouble it can raise to fund the war in Ukraine. Although Russia's oil and gas sector, which accounts for about a quarter of state revenues, has benefited from a recent rise in oil prices following the Iran war, the broader economy is slowing. In May, the Russian economy ministry cut its GDP growth forecast to 0.4% for 2026, putting the country on course for its weakest economic growth since 2022. To boost revenues, the Kremlin hiked VAT from 20% to 22% in January, and lowered the threshold at which small and medium-sized businesses have to pay it, pushing many already struggling firms to the brink. With margins squeezed by higher taxes and a slowing economy, pharmacies, restaurants, beauty salons and corner shops are increasingly steering customers towards cash to keep more income off the books.

CUBAN DISSIDENT LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA GOES INTO EXILE IN US



One of Cuba's most prominent dissidents has gone into exile in the US, after leaving Cuba where he had served a five-year prison sentence. Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, 38, is the leader of the San Isidro Movement (SIM), a group of artists, journalists and intellectuals who have campaigned for freedom of speech and democracy in the communist country. He was arrested in 2021 during Cuba's largest anti-government protests in decades and spent five years in the maximum-security Guanajay prison near Havana. His whereabouts have been unclear in recent days as Cuban authorities held him in an unknown location while the US approved a parole request. Emerging from the airport in Miami, the 38-year-old was greeted by supporters who sang the Cuban national anthem as he held up his forefinger and thumb in the shape of the letter L to represent "Libertad" - meaning freedom, a recognised anti-government symbol. "I believe the dictatorship has to end, and the Castro dynasty has to end, as well," Otero Alcántara later told journalists. "Because as long as there is a Castro in power, there will be corruption." Cuban authorities allege the SIM is funded by Washington and has been used to subvert the state, claims the movement denies. Many members say they have

been constantly targeted by the security forces, and some arbitrarily detained. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the Cuban government's "brutal crackdown against its own people five years ago is yet another reminder of the unique misery and evil that is innate to the communist system". "Otero Alcántara's only 'crime' was refusing to stay silent and using his art to demand the basic freedoms everyday Cubans have been denied for almost seven decades," he said in a statement. The cases of Otero Alcántara and fellow SIM member Maykel Castillo, known as "Osorbo", who is serving an eight-year prison sentence, have been a recurring source of diplomatic tension between Washington and Havana. That tension has swelled in recent months, with the Trump administration hitting Cuba with an oil blockade, sanctions and openly threatening military intervention. Last week the BBC's US news partner CBS reported that the Pentagon was looking at military options in Cuba, although it quoted officials as saying the briefings did not mean any decision to carry out an operation had been made. The US oil blockade has exacerbated an ongoing fuel crisis, with Cubans facing extended blackouts and food shortages in recent months.

Tate brothers arrested in US as further UK charges take total to 59

Controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan have been arrested in the US after British authorities issued 38 new charges against the pair. The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Andrew was being charged with seven further counts of rape, as well as charges relating to sex trafficking and indecent images of a child. Tristan's charges include two counts of rape and three counts of arranging or facilitating trafficking for sexual exploitation. The total number of charges against the brothers is now 59, police said. The alleged offending is said to have taken place between July 2010 and August 2017. The Tates have previously denied any wrongdoing. Following their arrest, prosecutors will begin legal proceedings to extradite the brothers, who are dual British-US citizens, to the UK, the CPS said. "These charging decisions followed receipt of a further file of evidence



from Bedfordshire Police and bring the total number of alleged victims in this case to seven," Malcolm McHaffie, Head of the Special Crime Division at the CPS, said. Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police have been investigating a number of offences in what it called a "complex investigation". As a result, 38 new charges were authorised against the brothers, meaning Andrew, 39, faces a total of 42 charges in the UK and Tristan, 37, faces 17. The US Marshals confirmed to the BBC that the Tates had been taken into custody, while a US Department of

Justice spokesperson said the arrests were "pursuant to extradition proceedings". A lawyer who represents the Tates, Joseph McBride, said "the world knows Andrew and Tristan are innocent" in a statement released after their arrest on Saturday evening. "Their enemies know it best of all. That is exactly why they have been attacked," McBride continued, describing the new UK charges as a "political hit". He said the new charges were designed to counter a defamation action filed by the brothers in the US. "We are confident that once a

competent judge sees the facts, and once the Department of Justice confronts this egregious abuse of its own authority, Andrew and Tristan Tate will walk free. America does not do Britain's political dirty work," he continued. In 2024, Bedfordshire Police secured European arrest warrants for the pair to have them returned from Romania, where they are based and are under criminal investigation. In June, the brothers lost a legal bid to be told the names of their UK accusers, after the CPS decided it was necessary to withhold the names of their alleged victims until legal action formally started. Lawyer Matt Jury, who represents several alleged British victims of Andrew, welcomed the charges and said: "Andrew and Tristan Tate are accused of some of the most serious offences, including multiple counts of rape and human trafficking. It is time they face justice".

PRIVATE JETS FLOCK TO MONTANA - BUT LOCALS CAN'T AFFORD THE TRAILER PARK



Grandmother Sara Folger sits in the kitchen of her single-wide trailer, the Rocky Mountains looming in the distance, and remembers the Bozeman, Montana she fell in love with decades ago. Back then, Folger says, the rural western outpost was filled with "back-to-the-land hippies, college students, cowboys and ski bums". But nowadays, the formerly sleepy streets are awash with diggers, orange construction cones and out-of-state licence plates. Since the pandemic, Bozeman's population has grown by about 20% - a huge jump for a town that had fewer than 50,000 people in 2019. The influx was fuelled by a unique set of drivers. The state had for years been

drawing in conservatives from around the country, who were attracted to the state's historic emphasis on rugged individualism and self-reliance - as well as its lack of sales, luxury and inheritance taxes. Their numbers increased exponentially as droves began "fleeing the Covid mess ... on the East Coast and West Coast," says Mark Corner, president of Southwest Montana Realtors. And that made housing prices soar. A recent rent strike by two mobile home parks has epitomised the ongoing socioeconomic culture clash between the haves and have-nots - while highlighting a growing grassroots effort to fight for the survival of the working class.



US and Iran exchange strikes after two US soldiers killed in Jordan

NEW EU BORDER SYSTEM TRIPLING TIME AT PASSPORT CONTROL, AIRPORT BOSS SAYS

The EU's new border system has nearly tripled the time it's taking for Brits to get through passport control even after improvements have been made, a boss at Rome's main airport has said. It comes as Ryanair has warned passengers travelling to Europe this summer to prepare for extended waits. Border police at Portugal's Faro airport also told the BBC the Entry Exit System technology suffered from bugs, but insisted any queues there would go down quickly. The European Commission (EC) has said in most EU airports disruption is limited, and added that it will continue to support member states in the system's implementation. It added: "This support will continue to the fullest extent possible." The digital Entry



Exit System (EES) requires non-EU citizens entering the Schengen area - made up of 29 European countries - to register fingerprints and a photo when they arrive. The information is checked as they leave. It's often done using standalone, automated machines known as "kiosks" and sometimes with border officers - for example, for children under 12. The new process and machines have

been phased in since October. Some European airports have seen hours-long queues at passport control. Passengers have even reported missing flights home. This week, Ryanair said "the failed EES rollout" was causing unnecessary delays and long queues. The airline said UK passengers should "allow extra time for their journey and be prepared for extended waits at

passport control." In Rome, a perennially popular destination for tourists from the UK and around the globe, everyone we spoke to in the Piazza di Spagna had an EES story. Carl and his family travelled to Rome from Yorkshire. "It was two hours queuing, from getting off the plane to getting through with children. I knew it was going to be bad, but not as bad as that." David, visiting from the US with his wife Marlo, said the queue took about an hour. "We actually missed our car, our driver." We met people who'd flown into other airports too. One group had landed in Barcelona before a cruise brought them to Rome. Barry, from Bracknell, said passport control had taken 45-50 minutes because some machines weren't working.

Why India And England Players Observed Silence, Wore Black Armbands During 3rd ODI?

England captain Harry Brook won the toss and elected to bat in the third and final ODI of the three-match series against India at Lord's in London. Before the match got underway, players from both sides observed a minute's silence in tribute to West Indies legend Sir Garfield Sobers, who passed away on Friday at the age of 89. The players also wore black armbands as a mark of respect for the iconic all-rounder, widely regarded as one of the greatest cricketers in the history of the game. Players of both teams, along with the match officials, lined up on the field to honour Sobers, widely regarded as the greatest all-rounder in cricket history, with a minute's silence. The perfectly observed minute's silence drew deep respect from the packed Lord's crowd, thus evoking a wave of nostalgia and respect for Sobers. Born in Barbados, Sobers was an unparalleled titan of the game whose international career ran from 1954 to 1974. He amassed 8,032



runs in 93 Tests at a staggering average of 57.78, while also claiming 235 wickets and holding 109 catches. He was also famously the first batter in first-class cricket history to smash six sixes in an over, a feat achieved in 1968. "To the community of West Indies cricket, he is a legend-one of the greatest all-rounders ever. I saw him a couple of months ago when I was at home in Barbados and he said he was moving well

for his age. I was very sad to hear the news (of his passing)," England pacer Jofra Archer had said to broadcasters ahead of the third ODI. Apart from captaining West Indies in 39 Tests, Sobers is also one of only two players, alongside Jacques Kallis, to achieve the double of 8,000 runs and 200 wickets in Tests. Young batting all-rounder Jacob Bethell, talking to the broadcasters, remembered Sobers as a 'larger than life'

figure and recalled how he helped him play for England. "He was a larger-than-life character, whether around the golf club when I used to go and play a couple of rounds with him or in and around the cricket stuff that I witnessed. First of all, he was a very humble guy that just everybody gravitated towards. "Every time he walked into anywhere, the place would come alive. It was unbelievable to be able

to spend a bit of time with him and be around someone of that calibre. The major helping point for me personally was helping me get over to England. (The reference he wrote) helped me a lot to get over here and do what I'm doing now." Prasidh Krishna gave India their third breakthrough of the day by dismissing Harry Brook for a superb 14. Joe Root, who brought up his half-century in 39 balls, is now joined at the crease by Jos Buttler as England look to capitalise on their strong start and post a

formidable total. Meanwhile, Shubman Gill and his men will be aiming to strike again and regain some control over the contest. Earlier, England captain Harry Brook won the toss and elected to bat first. The Gill-led Indian side made three changes to the playing XI, with Jasprit Bumrah ruled out due to a knee injury.

Kimi Antonelli Beats Max Verstappen To Take Pole At 2026 Belgian Grand Prix

Championship leader Kimi Antonelli roared to pole position for Mercedes on Saturday when he beat Red Bull's four-time champion Max Verstappen in the final seconds of

Belgian Grand Prix qualifying. The 19-year-old Italian clocked a superbly-executed best lap in one minute and 44.361 seconds to outpace the Dutchman by 0.317sec with defending champion Lando Norris third for McLaren. Norris has a 10-place grid penalty for Sunday's race after taking a new engine. It was Antonelli's sixth pole this year and extended Mercedes run to 10 consecutive poles this season. His success came with the biggest pole-winning margin of the season. "Let's go man," cried Antonelli on team radio. "Let's go!" Reminded it was his father Marco's birthday, he added: "Happy birthday, Dad." In his on-track interview, the Italian said he was happy with his display. "The last lap was good. It was a nice lap. It was very clean, so very happy," he said. "Tomorrow is another day, with Max starting next to me it will be important to

get a good start and be ahead into Turn 5." George Russell was fourth for Mercedes ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, who had crashed earlier in the day, with Oscar Piastri seventh in the second McLaren. Racing Bull's rookie Arvid Lindblad was eighth ahead of Audi's Gabriel Bortoleto and Isack Hadjar, in the second Red Bull, who also faces a penalty and will start from the back of the grid.



"One Can Only Feel Bad": R Ashwin Slams India's Playing XI Call Against England

Former Indian cricket team spinner R Ashwin questioned the decision to not include Kuldeep Yadav in the playing XI for the third ODI encounter against England on Sunday. Kuldeep did not feature in any of the three matches against England and even during the home ODI series against Afghanistan, he played just one game where he went wicketless. Ashwin said that such exclusions can end up impact Kuldeep's rhythm and confidence before pointing out that India's batting looked quick even after not including Kuldeep. India went with four fast bowlers and only one spin bowling all-rounder in Axar Patel. "The only



defense for not playing Kuldeep usually is that the batting finishes at number 7, wonder how it feels to have Arshdeep at number 8 today! Adding Bumrah's absence to that, one can only feel bad for Kuldeep. Trust me, this can affect the rhythm and confidence of a bowler," he posted on X (formerly Twitter). The

only defense for not playing Kuldeep usually is that the batting finishes at number 7, wonder how it feels to have Arshdeep at number 8 today! Adding Bumrah's absence to that, one can only feel bad for Kuldeep. The Indian team management has usually preferred Axar and Washington as they bol-

ster batting depth. While Axar and Washington have justified their selection with all-round performances, Kuldeep's primary skill continues to be overlooked due to his lower-order batting limitations. The left-arm wrist-spinner has endured a tough run lately after having a challenging IPL 2026 campaign for Delhi Capitals. Post the tournament's end, Kuldeep made a switch to Lucknow Super Giants via a trade deal which saw Rishabh Pant moving back to Delhi Capitals. While Kuldeep boasts an incredibly impressive career record of 194 wickets in 121 ODIs, his continuous non-selection still leaves many people curious.

Argentina Star Cristian Romero Sends Emotional Message Ahead Of World Cup Final vs Spain

Argentina centre-back Cristian Romero issued an emotional rallying cry to his teammates and fans just hours before the FIFA World Cup 2026 final, saying the defending champions are ready to fight "until the very last day" as they prepare to face Spain at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on Sunday (local time). The Tottenham Hotspur defender shared a picture of the entire Argentina squad on X, highlighting the unity that has carried Lionel Scaloni's side to a second consecutive World Cup final. He wrote, "Once again, defending these colours until the very last day. How beautiful it is to be part of this amazing family. Behind every training session, every effort, and every



step, there is something that makes us stronger: this incredible group and a family that chose to journey together. Thank you to all the Argentines who, wherever you may be, will be with us and cheering us on tomorrow. All together once more. Let's go Argentina! @Argentina." Romero has been a cornerstone of Argentina's defence through-

out the tournament and has also made his presence felt at the other end of the pitch. The 27-year-old scored a crucial 79th-minute header in the Round of 16 against Egypt, igniting Argentina's remarkable comeback from 2-0 down before Lionel Scaloni's side completed a dramatic 3-2 victory. The centre-back has also picked up one yellow card during the

tournament while forming a formidable defensive partnership with Lisandro Martinez. Argentina head into the final after another trademark comeback, defeating England 2-1 in the semi-finals. Enzo Fernandez equalised before Lautaro Martinez struck a stoppage-time winner to send the defending champions into their seventh FIFA World Cup final. Scaloni's men have now won 14 consecutive matches, equalling the longest winning streak by a South American nation, and are aiming to become the first team since Brazil in 1962 to successfully defend the World Cup title. Standing in their way is a Spain side that has enjoyed a near-flawless campaign.

"MEDALS VERY IMPORTANT FOR COUNTRY TO GLORIFY ITS NAME": SWIMMER SAJAN PRAKASH AHEAD OF CWG 2026

India's senior swimmer Sajjan Prakash said striking a balance between chasing personal best timings and winning medals is essential, stressing that while personal milestones reflect an athlete's progress, medals bring glory to the country on the world stage. The 2026 Commonwealth Games will get underway with the Opening Ceremony on July 23 in Glasgow. The multi-sport event will be held over 11 days across four existing venues before concluding on August 2. The swimming events will be held from July 24 to July 29. Ahead of the multi-sport event, Sajjan, speaking in an interview, lauded the Sports Authority of India (SAI), saying personal best performances and medals complement each other. "Personal best is always knowing that you have progressed. In training, a lot of times, that will replicate in the competition. And medals are very important for the country to glorify its name on the world stage. So both go hand in hand," Sajjan told reporters. The 32-year-old Olympian also spoke about the responsibility of representing India as one of the country's senior swimmers ahead of the Commonwealth Games, saying the responsibility remains the same irrespective of seniority, though experience brings added



accountability. "I've always been responsible when representing the country, irrespective of whether I'm a senior or not. But definitely, yes, I should know what to talk about, when to talk and how to talk to the media and everyone else. That is one. And my performance needs to be on point on the day of the race because there are many things that can spoil that, but I need to be much more prepared months before and days before.

Indian Olympic Association Ensures Woman Support Staff For Minor Para Cyclist



The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Saturday stepped in to ensure that Commonwealth Games-bound para cyclist Lisha Das will have a female support staff member accompanying her in Glasgow after the 16-year-old raised concerns. Lisha, the youngest athlete in India's contingent and the lone para-track cyclist to qualify for the Games, had

expressed concern after neither her personal coach nor a female support staff member was initially assigned to accompany her. The Commonwealth Games begin in Glasgow on Thursday. PTI had highlighted the issue on Monday. "As soon as we were made aware of this issue, we took cognisance and made arrangements for the female physiotherapist whom Lisha had

requested to accompany her at the Games," India's Chef de Mission Rohit Rajpal, who is also an Executive Committee member of the IOA, told PTI. "The safety, well-being and dignity of every athlete are non-negotiable. We remain fully committed to providing all our athletes with a safe, respectful and supportive environment at all times," he added.

PV Sindhu Feels Blessed As She Clinches Japan Open Title During 'Jagannath Rath Yatra'



Fresh off scripting history as the first Indian shuttler to conquer the prestigious Japan Open, double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu

the Japan Open 2026 badminton title, ending a two-year wait for a BWF World Tour crown in an emotional triumph for the Indian shuttler. The title win coincided with Odisha's sacred Jagannath Rath Yatra, an alignment the badminton ace described as "truly poetic." After Sindhu's win, former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the former world champion via an X post, "Congratulate @Pvsindhu on her historic win over Japan's #AkaneYamaguchi to lift the Japan Open 2026 women's singles badminton title, the first Indian to clinch the title. Her flawless performance in the final helped her defeat the home favourite and three-time world champion in straight sets.

Why Is Jasprit Bumrah Not Playing In 3rd ODI Against England?

Indian cricket team star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was not included in the playing XI for the third ODI encounter against England at Lord's on Sunday. India captain Shubman Gill revealed that Bumrah had picked up an injury and was not fit for the series decider. "Jasprit Bumrah had an impact injury on his left knee while fielding in the second ODI in Cardiff. He was not available for selection for the third ODI due to reactive swelling in his left knee," BCCI posted on social

media. Coming to the match, England skipper Harry Brook won the toss and opted to bat. With Bumrah and Washington Sundar, who was ruled out due to hamstring strain, unavailable, India have brought in Prince Yadav and Arshdeep Singh. Wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul is fit again after missing the second ODI in Cardiff due to illness and replaces Shivam Dube. "We were in a great position in Cardiff but then lost too many wickets in the middle

overs so hopefully we can get good runs today. We're not the one who rely on stats so much. We think he's (Arshdeep) a great bowler, and we were looking for four seamers on this ground. We have seen in the middle overs, spinners don't really offer much as compared to the fast bowlers," said India skipper Shubman Gill. England, meanwhile, have brought Josh Tongue in place of Saqib Mahmood in their playing eleven. "It looks a good surface so

hopefully we can get runs on the board and put India under pressure. I thought we did really well in the middle overs (in the second ODI) to restrict India, while the way Joe Root batted set a great template. It would be beautiful to win and lift the trophy at the end of the day but we have to assess conditions and adapt," Harry Brook said. Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the third ODI against England on Sunday (July 19) after suffering from a knee injury. At the toss, cap-

tain Shubman Gill confirmed that Bumrah had been left out due to a knee issue, one of three changes India made from the second ODI. Having lost the Cardiff game, and with the series level 1-1, India welcomed back KL Rahul from illness, and also included Prince Yadav and Arshdeep Singh at Lord's.



expressed deep gratitude and spiritual joy, dedicating her monumental victory to Mahaprabhu Jagannath. Sindhu defeated home favourite Akane Yamaguchi to win

'COMMITTEE KURROLLU' SCRIPTS HISTORY WITH TWO WINS AT THE 72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS; CROWNED BEST TELUGU FEATURE FILM

Committee Kurrollu has scripted history at the 72nd National Film Awards, winning Best Telugu Feature Film, the highest honour for Telugu cinema at India's most prestigious film awards. Adding to the celebrations, P. Ravi Kumar has been honoured with the Best Make-up award, making it a landmark double victory for the film and its entire team.

The National Film Awards represent the highest recognition for cinematic excellence in India, honouring films that make a lasting artistic, cultural, and social impact. Being named Best Telugu Feature Film is a defining milestone for Committee Kurrollu, recognizing not only its cinematic merit but also its powerful storytelling, rooted cultural identity, and meaningful social message.

Presented by Niharika Konidela and produced by Padmaja Konidela and Jayalakshmi Adapaka under the banners Pink Elephant Pictures and Shree Radha Damodar Studios, Committee Kurrollu marked Niharika Konidela's debut as a feature-film producer. Choosing to back a rooted, content-driven story over conventional commercial formulas, she placed her faith in debut director Yadhu Vamsee and an ensemble featuring 16 newcomers. That belief has now culminated in Indian cinema's highest honour.

Written and directed by Yadhu Vamsee, Committee Kurrollu is set in a small Andhra village and explores how a seemingly simple disagreement among a close-knit group of friends gradually evolves into a larger conflict that exposes issues of caste, class, identity, and collective responsibility. Seamlessly blending humour, nostalgia, emotion, and social commentary, the film struck a deep emotional chord with audiences while earning widespread acclaim from critics for its authenticity, sincerity, and powerful storytelling.



telling. The National Award also stands as a fitting recognition of Yadhu Vamsee's remarkable directorial debut. With a distinct cinematic voice rooted in Telugu culture, he crafted a film that resonated far beyond regional boundaries while remaining deeply connected to its native soil. Following the phenomenal success of Committee Kurrollu, Yadhu Vamsi is now directing Bhari, starring 'Mega Prince' Varun

Tej, reaffirming the industry's confidence in one of Telugu cinema's most promising young filmmakers. The film's second National Award celebrates the exceptional contribution of P. Ravi Kumar, who has won Best Make-up. His meticulous work played a significant role in authentically portraying the film's expansive timeline and large ensemble cast, enhancing the realism that became one of the film's defining visual strengths. Released on August 9,

2024, Committee Kurrollu emerged as both a critical and commercial success. Made on a budget of ₹9 Crores, the film went on to collect ₹18.5 Crores at the theatrical box office while earning ₹6 Crores through non-theatrical business, taking its total revenue to ₹24.5 Crores. The film proved that compelling storytelling rooted in local culture could achieve remarkable commercial success without relying on established stars.

Long before its National Award triumph, Committee Kurrollu had built an extraordinary record of recognition across prestigious award platforms. The film won Best Feature Film on National Integration, Communal Harmony and Social Uplift of Depressed Classes and Best Debut Director for Yadhu Vamsee at the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards 2024. It continued its winning journey internationally at the Gulf Academy Movie Awards (GAMA) 2025 in Dubai, where Niharika Konidela was honoured as Best Debut Producer and Yadhu Vamsee received Best Debut Director.

The accolades continued at the SIIMA Awards 2025, where Niharika Konidela won Best Debutant Producer (Telugu) while Sandeep Saroj received Best Debutant Actor (Telugu). The film further earned national recognition when Yadhu Vamsee was nominated for Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Most recently, at the 70th Filmfare Awards South, the film secured two major honours with Best Debut Director for Yadhu Vamsi and Best Debut Male for Sandeep Saroj.

With its triumph at the 72nd National Film Awards, Committee Kurrollu has completed an extraordinary journey from a modest debut production to one of the most celebrated Telugu films of recent years.

"BRAMAYUGAM" WINS TWO AT THE 72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2024



Night Shift Studios and YNOT Studios are delighted to announce that 'Bramayugam' has been honoured with two prestigious awards at the 72nd National Film Awards (2024).

The film has received the following honours:
• Best Actor in a Leading Role – Mammooty
• Best Cinematography – Shehnad Jalal
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Mammooty for his extraordinary performance as Kodumon Potti, and to Mr. Shehnad Jalal for his exceptional visual craftsmanship, both of which played a pivotal role in shaping the

film's artistic vision and impact.

We also express our sincere gratitude to the Directorate of Film Festivals, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, the National Film Development Corporation, and the distinguished Jury of the 72nd National Film Awards for this recognition. We also congratulate all the winners of the 72nd National Film Awards. Their remarkable work continues to inspire filmmakers across the country and collectively raises the bar for Indian cinema.

These two National Film Awards stand as a proud milestone for both Night

Shift Studios and YNOT Studios, reaffirming their shared commitment to producing distinctive, culturally rooted, and globally resonant cinema.

Since its release, Bramayugam has earned widespread critical acclaim in India and internationally. The film was an Official Selection in the Indian Panorama at the 55th International Film Festival of India, was showcased at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles, received multiple honours at the Kerala State Film Awards 2024, and continues to be celebrated across national and international platforms.

NAG ASHWIN'S 'KALKI 2898 AD' NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST POPULAR FILM

Kalki 2898 AD' has won National Awards in two categories at the 72nd National Film Awards announced for the year 2024. 'Kalki 2898 AD' has been nominated for the

Kalki 2898 AD' has won National Awards in two categories at the 72nd National Film Awards announced for the year 2024. 'Kalki 2898 AD' has been nominated for the National Award in the 'Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment' category.

National Award in the 'Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment' category. Nitin Jihani Chowdhury, who worked on the film 'Kalki 2898 AD', was also nominated for the National Award in the 'Best Production Designer' category. Vyjayanthi Movies' science fiction visual wonder 'Kalki 2898 AD', directed by Nag Ashwin and starring Prabhas in the lead role, has been a huge success with praise from audiences and critics worldwide. Now that it has won two National Awards, audiences and fans are congratulating the film's team.



NAMIT MALHOTRA'S RAMAYANA BEGINS ITS JOURNEY FROM BHARAT TO THE WORLD



Ahead of its worldwide trailer premiere on 24 July, the makers of Ramayana mark the ceremonial beginning of its global journey with an exclusive first unveiling in New Delhi. There has never been a more important moment to share India's greatest cultural inheritance with the

world. For generations, the Ramayana has lived far beyond the pages of an epic. It continues to shape our festivals, our values and the stories we pass from one generation to the next, remaining an enduring part of everyday life across Bharat and Indian communities around the world. Today, that journey

enters a new chapter. Ahead of its worldwide trailer premiere on 24 July, the makers of Ramayana hosted an exclusive first unveiling of the film in New Delhi. The evening marked Pratham Sankalp, the ceremonial beginning of Ramayana's journey from Bharat to the World. In Indian tradition,

a Sankalp is the conscious intention and commitment made before embarking on a great undertaking. For the makers of Ramayana, it represents a shared commitment to honour one of India's greatest cultural treasures and present it to the world with authenticity, artistic excellence and deep reverence.

Hero Kiran Abbavaram's "Chennai Love Story" Trailer

I became a fan of Chennai Love Story right from the release of its glimpse" – Producer Ravi Shankar
"The trailer gives complete confidence that Chennai Love Story will surely become a success" – Producer Allu Aravind
"What you have seen in the trailer is only a small glimpse; the film has many more surprises" – Director Ravi Namburri
"We are enjoying Kiran and Gouri Priya's performances every day while watching Chennai Love Story" – Story Writer and Producer Sai Rajesh
"Chennai Love Story is a pure and beautiful love story" – Actress Sri Gouri Priya
"Chennai Love Story is going to bring a big



success to all of our lives" – Co-Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni
"The film will be a hundred times more interesting than the trailer, and that's my guarantee" – Producer SKN
"Chennai

Love Story is a film that will make all my fans feel proud" – Hero Kiran Abbavaram
Starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead roles, Chennai Love Story is being

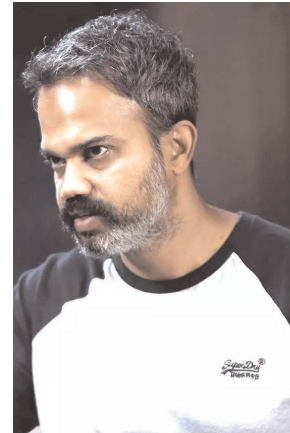
produced by SKN and Sai Rajesh under the banners of Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers. The film marks another collaboration from the makers who delivered cult classics like

Colour Photo and Baby. Sai Rajesh has provided the story, while Ravi Namburri has directed the film. Melody Brahma Mani Sharma has composed the music for Chennai Love

Story. The movie is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on July 24. The trailer launch event was held grandly in Hyderabad, with star producers Allu Aravind and Mythri Movie Makers' Ravi Shankar attending as chief guests. The trailer was unveiled by Allu Aravind. On the occasion, Ravi Shankar's birthday was also celebrated with a cake-cutting ceremony. Actor Mahender said, "We hope everyone loved the trailer of Chennai Love Story. We started shooting this film exactly a year ago, and it is now ready to meet audiences on July 24. We request everyone to support our film by watching it in theatres."

Mythri Movie Makers Produces, Prashanth Neel Presents- 418 Set For July 31 Release

Mythri Movie Makers' much-awaited horror thriller 418, which is in the final phase of post-production is now all set to hit theatres worldwide on July 31, as officially announced by the makers. Presented by blockbuster filmmaker Prashanth Neel, the film is written and directed by Kirtan Nadagouda, while Naveen Yerneni and Yalamanchili Ravi Shankar bankroll the project under the Mythri Movie Makers banner. Starring Surya Raj, Charan Lakkaraju, and Preethi Pagadal in pivotal roles, 418 promises an intense horror experience that relies on fear, suspense, and psychological



tension rather than comedy. The makers are positioning it as a spine-chilling entertainer designed to keep audiences on the edge of their seats from start to finish.