

KOCHI | VIJAYAWADA | CHENNAI | BENGALURU | HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit

epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in

AIRPORT SECURITY
FIRST, SAYS SUVENDU
ON KOLKATA
MOSQUE ACCESS

NATION PAGE

US SENATOR AND
CLOSE TRUMP ALLY
LINDSEY GRAHAM DIES
AFTER 'BRIEF AND
SUDDEN ILLNESS'

WORLD | NEWS

ACTRESS SHRUTI
HAASAN'S METALLIC
LOOK STEALS
THE SPOTLIGHT

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

11-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 92,017
Tonsures - 47,949
Hundi kankaku - 1,93 CR
Laddu sale - 4.63 Lac
Annasprasadam - 3.23 Lac
Medical treatment - 4,032
Waiting Compartments - Out side line
at Swasthyan.

Approx. Duration Time for Saravali darshan
(with out SSD Tonsure), 24 H.Pahalgam receives
highest rainfall in J&K
at 42.6 mm

Srinagar : The tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded the highest rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir during the last 24 hours, receiving 42.6 mm of precipitation, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar. The heavy rainfall in Pahalgam, reportedly triggered by a localised cloud-burst, struck the forest areas of Awoora and Dehwaathu on Saturday evening.

Legendary singer S Janaki cremated
with full state honours

Mysuru: Legendary playback singer S Janaki was cremated with full state honours at her Kaniyanahundi farmhouse here on Sunday evening. The singer died in a private hospital at the age of 88 fol-

lowing a respiratory problem on Saturday evening. Prior to being taken to Kariyanahundi, Janaki's mortal remains were kept for public viewing at Maharaja College Ground, where several film actors, actresses, playback singers from Kannada and southern film industry along with thousands of general people paid their last respect.



lowing a respiratory problem on Saturday evening.

As announced by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, a police team offered her a gun salute amid the national anthem. Janaki's granddaughter Apsara Vidyula performed the last rites by lighting her grandmother's pyre amid the chanting of Vedic hymns.

Carrying the earthen pot, she circumambulated

passed away on January 22, this year.

Prior to being taken to Kariyanahundi, Janaki's mortal remains were kept for public viewing at Maharaja College Ground, where several film actors, actresses, playback singers from Kannada and southern film industry along with thousands of general people paid their last respect.

One-sided deals are OVER:
Iran's warning to US amid
escalating conflict**Dubai (TSIT):**

Iran on Sunday, July 12, claimed to have hit the command-and-control centre and hangars housing MQ-9 drones of Jordan's Prince Hassan Air Base. The damage was limited to minor property losses, reported Jordan's state-run Petra news agency reported. The developments came after the US carried out a third round of strikes on radar, missile and drone sites in southern Iran. Iran's state-run IRNA

news agency cited the governor of Qeshm island, located near the strait, as saying that under a dozen projectiles had been fired at military targets there, with no casualties. There was no immediate comment by the US military. The largest island in the Persian Gulf is home to about 150,000 people.

The US military's Central Command on Sunday said it hit some 140 targets, including missile and drone launch sites, ammunition dumps, communication equipment

and other sites. It said the attacks, heavier than in recent days, would weaken Iran's ability to threaten shipping. "We bombed the hell out of them last night," President Donald Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Semi-official Iranian news agencies reported that a navy officer was killed. Iran retaliated by attacking nations in the region hosting US military forces, while insisting it alone must control the strait and potentially charge vessels for travelling through it. "The era of one-sided deals is OVER," Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the speaker of Iran's parliament and a main negotiator, wrote. "We told you: keep your word or pay the price. Reality is knocking." The US military and Trump asserted that the strait remained open Sunday. Iran said it was closed until calm is restored, and Tehran would consider targeting "additional enemy bases in the region" if it faced more attacks.

Rahul Dravid among
contenders for England
Test coach's job**London (TSIT):**

Former India batter Rahul Dravid has emerged as one of the contenders to succeed Brendon McCullum as England's Test coach after the New Zealander was removed following the team's disappointing run in the longest format. According to a report in the Daily Telegraph, Dravid features among a list of potential candidates including former England coach Andy Flower and ex-England spinner Richard Dawson.

McCullum's four-year tenure as Test coach ended after England's 1-2 home series defeat to New Zealand, with the England and Wales Cricket Board deciding that "the time is right to make a change" ahead of next year's Ashes. He will remain in charge of the ODI and T20I sides. The 53-year-old Dravid, who guided India to the 2024 T20



World Cup title and the 2023 World Test Championship final, is seen as an attractive candidate because of his "meticulous" approach and deep understanding of the game.

However, the newspaper did point out that Dravid has "no desire" to coach full-time. PrintNewspaper Delivery "Dravid has no desire to coach full-time, but the England Test job would allow him extended periods at home and the chance to help keep alive his favourite format of the game. England, at the very least, should gauge his interest," according to the report.

NO DOCUMENTS NEEDED IF NAME ALREADY FIGURES
IN ELECTORAL ROLL DURING SIR: ECI**Bengaluru (TSIT):**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified that voters whose names already appear in the existing electoral roll will not be required to submit any additional documents during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The clarification comes amid public concerns over documentation requirements as the Commission undertakes the revision exercise. According to the ECI, electors whose names are already included in the electoral roll only need to verify their details and submit the Enumeration Form. No supporting documents will be sought from such voters unless there is a mismatch in records or further verification becomes necessary.

Officials said that if the details furnished by an elector match the existing electoral database, the verification process will be completed without



seeking any additional proof. However, documents may be requested in cases where discrepancies arise or the information cannot be verified. The Commission has urged voters to cooperate with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during the house-to-house verification exercise and ensure that their personal and family details are accurate. The SIR exercise is aimed at updating electoral rolls by removing duplicate, deceased and ineligible entries while ensuring that all eligible citizens remain enrolled. The revision is being carried out in phases and will culminate with the publication of the final electoral roll after disposal of claims and objections.

Central security forces planted 7 crore
trees in 7 years, says Amit Shah**Ahmedabad (TSIT):**

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday highlighted the Centre's large-scale afforestation efforts, saying India's Central Armed Police Forces had completed the planting of seven crore trees over the past seven years, while urging citizens to sustain similar public participation in environmental conservation. Addressing a gathering during a plantation drive in Ahmedabad, HM Shah said the nationwide effort reflected the growing emphasis on environmental protection alongside development.

"The Central Paramilitary Forces of the Central government completed the task of planting seven crore trees over



seven years only yesterday," HM Shah said.

He added that 43 lakh trees had also been planted in Delhi Ridge two days earlier, describing both initiatives as part of wider efforts to expand the country's green cover.

HM Shah said the saplings selected under the campaign were native species suited to Indian conditions and capable of surviving for more than 100 years. "If you plant them

today, even your grandchildren will sit in their shade. Not a single one of these trees has a lifespan of less than 100 years. We have deliberately selected trees that live for more than a century," he said.

He said species such as banyan and peepal not only absorb carbon dioxide but also provide food and shelter for birds and support biodiversity.

"Plant a banyan tree or a peepal tree, and that one

tree alone provides shelter, food and water for thousands of birds," he said, adding that the Oxygen Parks inaugurated in Ahmedabad would also provide habitats for butterflies and other wildlife. HM Shah said the campaign in Ahmedabad had evolved into a people's movement after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, with more than 1,37,000 people in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency registering online to plant five trees each.

"Saplings had been delivered directly to participants through a scientifically planned distribution system, while another 28,544 residents from Ahmedabad's other two parliamentary constituencies had also joined the drive," he emphasised.

US bases in Jordan, Qatar,
Oman hit, says IRGC**Tehran (TSIT):**

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it targeted US bases in Jordan, Qatar, and Oman on Sunday in retaliation for US attacks against southern Iranian provinces earlier in the day.

In statements published on its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said the US Army had carried out airstrikes against several coastal military bases and communications towers along Iran's southern coasts. In the first phase of its retaliatory operations, the IRGC said its forces hit "important" US infrastructure and facilities at the Prince Hassan Air Base in Jordan, destroying the base's command and control centre and the hangar for MQ-9 Reaper drones, Xinhua news agency reported.

In the second phase of its strikes, the IRGC targeted and stopped a "violating" vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, and hit the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, devastating its command as well as fighter aircraft overhaul and maintenance centres. In the third phase, it noted, the logistical

support centres and refuelling platforms of US aircraft carriers in the Omani port city of Duqm were targeted and demolished in a "heavy and surprise" attack.

The Iranian Army also targeted drone attacks early Sunday on what it described as "terrorist" US Army bases and centres in Kuwait and Bahrain in response to the US "aggressions" earlier in the day.

It added that in Kuwait, a Patriot air defence system, an ammunition depot, and a radar site belonging to the US Army were hit by Iranian kamikaze drones, while in Bahrain, the US Army's communications system and a radar site were targeted. The IRGC warned of more severe responses if the United States repeats its attacks against Iran. The IRGC's Navy stressed that given the insecurity in the Strait of Hormuz caused by "foreigners' illegal interference," the strait will remain closed until further notice, and that until the United States stops its interventions in the region, no vessel will be allowed passage.

One Indian missing, 10 rescued after ship attack near Oman; India calls for de-escalation

New Delhi (TSIT)

India on Sunday condemned the attack on a commercial vessel GFS Galaxy, saying its embassy in Oman was coordinating with Omani authorities in the ongoing search and rescue operation. "We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel GFS Galaxy off the coast of Oman earlier today. Of the 11 Indian nationals on board, 10 have been rescued so far, while one Indian national is reportedly missing," the MEA said in a statement. "The Indian Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing Search and

The Indian government condemned the attack on the commercial vessel GFS Galaxy, saying its embassy in Oman was coordinating with Omani authorities in the ongoing search and rescue operation.

"We condemn the attack on the commercial vessel GFS Galaxy off the coast of Oman earlier today. Of the 11 Indian nationals on board, 10 have been rescued so far, while one Indian national is reportedly missing," the MEA said in a statement. "The Indian Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing Search and



Rescue operation," it added, while thanking Omani authorities for their assistance. The ministry expressed concern over repeated attacks on commercial shipping in the region and called for an immediate reduction in tensions.

"The continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the

region are deeply worrisome. We reiterate our call for immediate de-escalation of tensions, and the conclusion of ongoing negotiations for a diplomatic solution so that peace and stability can return to the region," the MEA said.

It said attacks on commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure must

end, urging all sides to restore free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law.

The latest incident has renewed concerns over the safety of seafarers and commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, which has emerged as a key flashpoint in the escalating tensions between the United States and Iran. Caught in the crossfire of geopolitical rivalries, commercial ships and their crews have increasingly become vulnerable targets as military operations and maritime restrictions intensify in the strategic waterway.

The incident comes as the

United States and Iran launched fresh attacks and counterattacks on Sunday in an escalating confrontation over control of the Strait of Hormuz, with Washington saying it carried out a new wave of large-scale strikes on Iranian military targets and Tehran saying it retaliated by attacking US military facilities across the Gulf as it declared the strategic waterway closed. India has previously raised concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers and commercial vessels operating in the region. The government had repeatedly called for an end to attacks on commercial shipping after Indian-crewed tankers were hit during the United States' Israel war against Iran.

Airport security first, says Suvendu on Kolkata mosque access

Kolkata: Firming up the West Bengal government's stand on the emerging controversy over suspension of entry passes for congregational prayers at a mosque inside the Kolkata airport, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday, July 12, said gates of the vital installation that has critical geo-political importance cannot be kept open for outsiders.

Emerging from a BJP's special organisational meeting at Tamluk in Purba Medinipur district, Adhikari told reporters that national security and security of the Kolkata international airport took precedence over everything else.

"National security and security of the airport will



gain priority over everything else. As a chief minister, I will not comment further. The location of the Kolkata international airport is critical since both China and Bangladesh are close by. It cannot keep its gates open for outsiders," Adhikari said.

wasn't any problem. Obey the law and act as good citizens. Observe your religions as a personal matter, without trying to influence others. Then everything will run smoothly," he added. The CM was responding to a question on the opposition to the temporary suspension of prayers at the mosque, which stands in close vicinity to the secondary runway on airport premises, by Siddiquallah Chowdhury, president of the mosque committee and a former minister in the erstwhile Mamata Banerjee cabinet.

Referring to Chowdhury, the CM said his objections were "raised in a mild tone" since he was speaking to the new government.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Lays Foundation Stone for Rs.339.59-Crore Bhongir Chityal Four-Lane Highway Project

Hyderabad TSIT: Telangana Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the Bhongir-Chityal four-lane road development project, being taken up at a cost of 339.59 crore under Stage-I, Package 2/7.

The project involves the development of a 109.3-km road corridor, aimed at significantly improving road connectivity and transportation infrastructure in the region. Foundation stone was unveiled by Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy in the presence of Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Government Whip and Aler MLA Beerla Ilaiyah, Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham, and District Collector Anurag Jayanti. Addressing the gather-



ing, the Minister said that people had been waiting for the Bhongir-Chityal four-lane highway for several years and that the people's government had fulfilled this long-pending demand. He stated that the project would reduce travel time, improve road safety, and provide faster, safer, and more convenient transportation for commuters. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the highway would also accelerate regional economic growth by strengthening trade, agriculture, and industrial activity. He reiterated that the Telangana Government is giving top priority to the development of road infrastructure and is implementing major projects across the state to provide high-quality public infrastructure and improve connectivity.

Mature roadside trees allegedly felled near school in Vemulawada



Rajanna Sircilla, July 12 (TSIT): Allegations have surfaced that several mature roadside trees were cut down near a private school in Vemulawada after they reportedly obstructed the visibility of the school building. The incident has drawn criticism from local residents and environmental activists, who have demanded strict action against those responsible.

The trees, planted nearly five years ago under the Hariitha Haram programme, had grown into fully mature trees along the Vemulawada-Kamareddy Road, behind the Ayyappa Temple within the Vemulawada municipal limits. According to allegations, the school management had the trees removed as they obstructed the view of the newly established multi-storey school building.

Critics have questioned the inaction of municipal

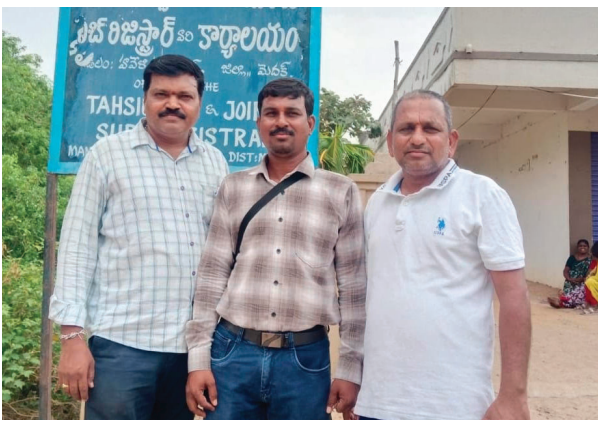
authorities, alleging that no action has been initiated by the Municipal Commissioner and that no police complaint has been registered despite the alleged illegal felling. The school is reportedly owned by the head of an educational institution operating across the erstwhile Karimnagar district, who is also said to be associated with the ruling party. Locals allege that this political connection has resulted in official silence over the incident.

Residents and environmental activists have demanded that the district administration conduct a thorough inquiry and, if violations are established, initiate action under the Water, Land and Trees Act (WALTA) and other relevant legal provisions. They have urged the Rajanna Sircilla District Collector to ensure accountability and protect the region's green cover.

PRTU demands amendment to GO No. 25 to strengthen primary schools

Medak, July 12 (TSIT): Telangana State Primary Teachers' Union (PRTU) State Associate President L. Mallareddy has urged the State Government to amend GO No. 25, stating that the order has weakened government primary schools and affected the quality of education.

Addressing a meeting at Haveli Ghanapur mandal headquarters on Sunday, Mallareddy said strengthening primary education is essential for building a strong education system in Telangana. He called for reducing the student-teacher ratio, creating subject-wise teacher and headmaster posts, and ensuring the appointment of one teacher for every



class in government primary schools.

He appealed to education department officials to recommend amendments to GO No. 25 and take steps to improve staffing in primary schools in the interest of students.

Mallareddy pointed out

that many government primary schools across the state are functioning with only one or two teachers handling classes from Grades I to V, making it difficult to deliver quality education and implement academic programmes effectively.

Hanamkonda Hosts Telangana's First-Ever 'Sports Knowledge on Wheels' Initiative Vishnuvardhan Reddy

Hanamkonda TSIT: In a first for Telangana, the "Sports Knowledge on Wheels" programme has been launched at the JNS Ground in Hanamkonda, marking a significant milestone in the state's efforts to promote sports awareness and physical fitness among students and youth said Vishnuvardhan Reddy.

Organised with the support of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, and Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, the initiative aims to bring sports education closer to every student while fostering a strong sporting culture across the region.



The mobile awareness programme educates participants on the importance of warm-up exercises, stretching techniques, injury prevention, physical conditioning and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Sports experts are engaging with students through interactive sessions, highlighting the role of fitness and regular physical activity in overall well-being.

The initiative is expected to inspire young people to actively participate in sports while strengthening Telangana's vision of creating a healthier and fitter society under the "Fit Telangana" mission. It also reflects the State Government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and promoting fitness awareness at the grassroots level.

Former Yedupayala temple chairman Balagoud celebrates birthday

Medak, July 12 (TSIT): Former Yedupayala Devasthanam Chairman Balagoud celebrated his birthday with party leaders and supporters in Medak town on Sunday. The celebrations were organised under the leadership of BRS district leader Kanthareddy Tirupatireddy. Balagoud



cut a cake and was felicitated with a shawl as party leaders and well-wishers extended birthday greetings. Speaking on the occasion, Kanthareddy Tirupatireddy lauded Balagoud's contributions to public service and his efforts in strengthening the BRS at the grassroots level.

Telangana Rythu Sangham seeks action on RDS, fake seeds and Kharif preparedness



Jogulamba Gadwal, July 12 (TSIT): The Telangana Rythu Sangham has urged the State Government to safeguard farmers' interests by protecting the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), opposing alleged illegal irrigation projects in Karnataka, withdrawing the proposed Farmers' DISCOM, and stepping up Kharif awareness programmes in view of the anticipated El Niño conditions.

Addressing a meeting of the Sangham at Aiza on Sunday, District Secretary A. Venkataswamy alleged that the State Government had failed to effectively protect the interests of farmers dependent on the RDS. He claimed that irrigation projects being taken up in Karnataka

were affecting the scheme and questioned the government's response.

He said the region had not been receiving its entitled share of 15 TMC of water through the RDS for several years and warned that the new projects could further reduce water availability, threatening agriculture in the Alampur Assembly constituency. He demanded that the government initiate immediate legal and administrative measures to safeguard Telangana's water rights. Venkataswamy also opposed the proposed Farmers' DISCOM, alleging that it would place an additional burden on farmers, and urged the government to withdraw the proposal. Expressing

concern over the expected impact of El Niño, he called on the Agriculture Department to conduct extensive awareness programmes on suitable Kharif cropping patterns and efficient water management practices.

The farmers' leader further demanded strict action against those allegedly involved in supplying counterfeit cotton seeds in Jogulamba Gadwal district and sought criminal cases against the offenders. He also urged the government to ensure an uninterrupted supply of urea, fertilisers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs during the ongoing Kharif season. The meeting was attended by Telangana Rythu Sangham District Treasurer Sankapuram Mallesh, District Vice-President Bingidoddi Narasimhulu, leaders Pedda Veeranna, Keshanna, Battalayya, Jagadish Goud and Parashuram, along with CITU District Secretary V.V. Narasimha, Mandal Secretary Eshwar and others.

MLA Murali Nayak calls for greater awareness on sickle cell and thalassemia

Mahabubabad, July 12 (TSIT): Mahabubabad MLA Dr. Bhukya Murali Nayak has called upon the public to be vigilant about sickle cell disease and thalassemia, stressing that awareness and early diagnosis are key to preventing complications.

He was speaking at a sickle cell and thalassemia awareness programme organised on Sunday at Dr. M. Arjun Reddy Hospital under the joint auspices of the Lions Club and the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Mahabubabad, in collaboration with Nirma Health Care. The programme was presided over by hospital director Dr. Malgireddy Sudharjun Reddy.

Inaugurating the programme, Dr. Arjun Reddy explained that sickle cell disease and thalassemia are inherited blood disorders passed from parents to children and are not contagious. He urged people to under-



go timely screening and seek medical advice when necessary.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Murali Nayak said awareness about these disorders is essential as cases are being reported in the Mahabubabad region. He advised people to undergo specialised blood tests and consult doctors for early diagnosis and treatment. He also said the government is providing free treatment facilities for eligible patients at NIMS and Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital in Hyderabad.

Dr. Sudharjun Reddy said the awareness programme was organised in association with Nirma Health Care, the Lions Club and IMA as part of activities marking

World Population Day. Lions Club of Mahabubabad President Lion Karunakar Reddy said the programme was organised on the instructions of District Governor Lion Narahari Sudhakar Reddy to educate the public about the causes, symptoms and prevention of sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

Club Secretary Parupalli Ramesh, Parkala Srinivas Reddy, Kondapalli Kesava Rao, P.V. Prasad, Anumala Venkateswarlu, Dr. B. Nehru Rathod, Dr. B. Veeranna, Dr. B. Roop Lal, Vemiseti Ekambaram, Male Kalinath, Parkala Ravinder Reddy, Nawab, Dr. Indra Sena Reddy, Lion Dr. Chandrasekhar, Chapala Ranjith Reddy,

TMU honours P. Srinivas Reddy on retirement



Medak, July 12 (TSIT): Telangana Mazdoor Union (TMU) State General Secretary Ashwathama Reddy said retirement marks the end of official service but not the end of one's contribution to society, and lauded the services of P. Srinivas Reddy in safeguarding workers' rights and supporting the Telangana movement.

Speaking at a retirement felicitation programme held at Sri Sai Balaji Gardens in Medak town on Sunday, Ashwathama Reddy described Srinivas Reddy's contributions to labour welfare as invaluable. He said his commitment to protecting employees' rights, addressing workers' grievances with the management, and pursuing legal remedies for labour issues earned him lasting respect.

He also recalled Srinivas Reddy's active participation in the Telangana statehood movement, during which he mobilised employees and workers in support of the cause. His dedication to social service alongside his professional responsibilities, Ashwathama Reddy said, serves as an inspiration to others. Colleagues, labour union leaders, and well-wishers felicitated P. Srinivas Reddy on his retirement after decades of service as an accountant and wished him an active and meaningful role in public and social service in the years ahead.

BMI demands abolition of roster system

Kazipet, July 12 (TSIT): Bhima Mission Ideology (BMI) State President Damalla Sarvaiah has demanded the abolition of the roster system, alleging



that its implementation is causing injustice to the Mala community. Addressing a programme on "Protection of the Constitution - Roster System" organised at the Greater Warangal Press Club on Sunday, Sarvaiah urged the government to suspend all notifications relating to government recruitment, admissions and promotions until the roster system is abolished.

People's Representatives and Dignitaries from Karnataka to Get Access to Tirumala Temple's First Aarti: Shivakumar

Bengaluru : Chief Minister D K Shivakumar today said the State government would issue a new protocol order to allow people's representatives and other dignitaries from Karnataka to participate in the first aarti at Tirupati.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for Sri Shanmukha Subramanya Temple at Banashankari, the CM said, "The first aarti performed daily at Tirupati belongs to Karnataka. As per protocol, an order will be issued by the state government to ensure that the people's representatives, officials, and other dignitaries from Karnataka are allowed access to first aarti." "Only the Chief Minister of the State had that privilege till now. On a daily basis, the aarti was



witnessed by a special officer of the Karnataka government in Tirupati. I have instructed officials to issue an order to extend this privilege to any dignitary who visits — be it ministers, MLAs, senior officials, judges, or anyone representing the government," he said.

"Many MLAs and public representatives have gone to Tirupati and returned

without getting darshan. Now, they will be given the opportunity to stand before the deity and receive the aarti. This opportunity has been provided so that those who serve this state can pray to God. This is the major announcement that will happen during my tenure," he said. "Ever since I was released from jail, our family deity had not been

taken to Tirupati. During my recent visit, I thought about this. S M Krishna had formed a Karnataka Trust at Tirupati and made me its Chairman with the intention of building a grand structure. But our government's term ended before that could be done. Since I wasn't continued, that work couldn't be carried out. There was a seven-acre plot there, granted back in the era of the Maharajas," he said.

A Prediction Made by Dwarakanath Would Be Big News if Revealed "Dwarakanath had long spoken about building a Subramanya temple. I had told him the right occasion would come. Now that occasion has arrived. Dwarakanath is like a revered guru to me. Dwarakanath had once made a prediction.

Karnataka rolls out mobile forensic labs; CM DKS announces Rs 10 lac reward for drug crackdown team

Bengaluru, July 12: In a major push to strengthen scientific crime investigation in Karnataka, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday launched 32 state-of-the-art Mobile Forensic Science Laboratories designed to deliver faster evidence collection and on-the-spot analysis at crime scenes.

Shivakumar flagged off the mobile units near the steps of Vidhana Soudha, along with 75 Bolero vehicles for district police units across the state. The initiative aims to make investigations more scientific, reduce delays in forensic examinations and improve the efficiency of evidence handling. Designed as mini-laboratories on wheels, the mobile forensic units will reach crime scenes quickly to collect scientific evidence and



conduct preliminary tests on-site. Officials said the immediate response mechanism would help minimise the chances of crucial evidence being damaged or destroyed, while significantly improving the quality of criminal investigations. According to senior police officials, the customised vehicles are equipped to handle a wide range of cases, from routine offences to complex cybercrimes. Each unit has specialised forensic kits for instant testing, a generator for

uninterrupted power supply, a refrigerator to safely preserve biological samples and essential equipment required to cordon off and secure crime scenes.

The 32 mobile laboratories will be deployed across district police units in Karnataka and are expected to substantially reduce the pendency of forensic examinations. Officials said the new infrastructure would also strengthen the work of Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO), raising

standards in evidence collection, documentation and preservation.

At the event, the chief minister announced a Rs 10 lac cash reward for the police team that successfully busted a major drug network in Karnataka. He also issued a stern warning that officers involved in corruption, illegal dealings or criminal activities would face strict action.

"No police officer should be involved in deals or crimes. If anyone gets involved in such matters, strict action will be taken without any hesitation. Consider this either as my request or as an instruction," Shivakumar said. Highlighting the importance of the police force, the chief minister said modern infrastructure was essential to strengthen law enforcement.

S. Manohar challenges BJP to provide information on 40 percent corruption money

Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar has challenged that he will provide information of Bjp's 40 percent corruption during corona and the money given money to Prime Minister Modi and Amit Shah.

Responding to the allegations made by Opposition Leader R. Ashok against the Chief Minister through a press statement, he said that the tender irregularities, land scams, lake encroachment, and theft of farmers' land during R. Ashok's tenure are always haunting him. He is making such allegations by remembering the 40 percent corruption information of the BJP government. R. Ashok should answer all these allegations.

The people already know that the party leaders who took 40% of the tax money of the state and went to jail. The people of the entire



country know that corruption and the BJP are inseparable.

He said that if he gets time from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release a book about the corruption that took place during R Ashok's tenure, he will provide information about the

BJP's corruption at a record level.

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases that corruption book, Ashok fame will rise to the top, corruption, rape, POCSO case, all the contributions should go to the corrupt leaders of the BJP. The corrupt

people who went to jail after looting during the BJP government have been revealed by the BJP party leaders in the BJP office. What more evidence is needed than this, opposition leader Nalayak.

BJP President and R. Ashok are making many false statements to secure their position, the BJP central leaders know that you two are incompetent and are making such false allegations in the light of the fact that it has now been proven that you two are incompetent. The people have already given a befitting reply to this in all the by-elections. S. Manohar said that the people of the state will give a befitting reply to BJP for making such vile statements about Chief Minister and the Congress party organization and administration by without tolerating them.

IISCO Steel Plant Embarks on a New Growth Trajectory Under PM Modi's Vision: H.D. Kumaraswamy

Burnpur, West Bengal : Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday commenced his three-day visit to West Bengal with an extensive review of the IISCO Steel Plant (ISP), Burnpur, one of the country's oldest and most significant integrated steel plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

The visit covered a comprehensive assessment of the plant's ongoing expansion projects, production facilities, infrastructure, sustainability initiatives and workforce welfare, reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to strengthening India's public sector steel ecosystem under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Upon his arrival at the plant, the Union Minister was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. He was received by SAIL Chairman and Managing Director Shri Ashok Kumar Panda, the Director



In-Charge of IISCO Steel Plant and senior officials of SAIL. The Minister began his visit with an inspection of the COB-12 (Stamp Charge Coke Oven Battery) Project, one of the flagship capacity augmentation initiatives at IISCO. Senior officials briefed him on the progress of the project, including the Battery Proper, Coke Dry Cooling Plant (CDQ), By-Product Plant and advanced environmental protection systems that

are expected to significantly enhance operational efficiency while promoting sustainable steel production.

Reviewing the project, Kumaraswamy emphasised that timely completion of strategic expansion projects would play a crucial role in strengthening India's steel manufacturing capabilities.

"India's journey towards becoming a global steel powerhouse depends not only on expanding capaci-

ty but also on building modern, sustainable and technologically advanced steel plants. Every strategic investment we make today strengthens the foundation of a self-reliant India," the Union Minister said. As part of his visit, Kumaraswamy inaugurated a newly constructed Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Water Reservoir with a storage capacity of 84,000 cubic metres, developed to meet the water requirements of COB-10 while also supporting the future 4.08 MTPA Expansion Project at IISCO Steel Plant.

Officials informed the Minister that the integrated system comprises a newly constructed Booster Pump House, a dedicated Pump House for COB-10 and a Process Water Pump House, currently under construction, which will establish a closed-loop water circulation system to maximise water conservation, minimise losses and significantly improve operational efficiency.

Society and Government are Always Committed to Supporting Senior Citizens': Basavaraj Bommai



HAVERI: The Central and State Governments are working jointly for the welfare of senior citizens, and both society and governments are always committed to supporting elders facing age-related challenges, stated former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai.

He was speaking after inaugurating the distribution program of free physical aids and assistive devices for senior citizens under the Central Government's "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana." The event was organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, at the G.H. College auditorium in Haveri.

"Seeing my elderly fathers and mothers together on a single stage brings me immense joy," he expressed. He noted that the Central and State Governments have jointly implemented pension schemes to help senior citizens. Currently, more than 140,000 senior citizens in the district are benefiting from this pension facility. There are approximately 160,000 senior citizens and 39,000 persons with disabilities in the district, all of whom are an integral part of our society and government, he added.

A Supportive System These free equipment distribution programs have been organized to ease the physical and mental challenges that come

naturally with age. Bommai reassured the elders, saying that life's journey becomes smoother when society and governments stand by you.

"Respecting elders and taking care of parents with love is the most vital aspect of our country's culture and core values," he remarked, noting how family structures differ in Western countries. "Parents sacrifice their everything selflessly while raising their children. Every parent wishes for their children to study well, secure good jobs, and live happily. However, in their old age, there is often no one to look after them, leading to a higher number of old age homes there. But in India, our family-centric values foster deep and meaningful emotional bonds among all family members," he stated.

Quoting the English proverb, "Child is the father of man," he explained that everyone expects familial love and care in their later years. "In Western countries, children go their own way after turning 18. Similarly, when parents grow old, there is often no one to look after them, leading to a higher number of old age homes there. But in India, our family-centric values foster deep and meaningful emotional bonds among all family members," he stated.

Artificial Limb Fitment Camp for Senior Citizens and Differently-Abled : Basavaraj Bommai Announces

HAVERI: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai announced that a mega camp for fitting artificial limbs will be organized in Haveri district in the coming days under the auspices of his father Somappa Bommai Trust for the welfare of senior citizens and the differently-abled.

He was speaking while participating in a program organized to distribute free assistive devices to senior citizens under the Central Government's 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana.' Bommai recalled that within just four hours of taking charge as Chief Minister, he had taken major decisions to launch the 'Raitha Vidyanidhi Scheme' to provide scholarships for farmers' children and to increase the monthly pension of senior citizens, widows, and the differently-abled by Rs.200 each.

Artificial Limb Fitment Project "Within the next one or two months, the first artificial limb fitment camp will commence in the district on behalf of our trust. Subsequently, these camps will be expanded to all taluks of Haveri, working toward providing support to everyone who is unable to walk," he announced.

Message of Enthusiasm for Life

Addressing the senior citizens, he offered words of encourage-

ment, saying, "No one should lose heart; instead, live life with enthusiasm and happiness. We must honestly do whatever work is within our hands. When challenges arise, pray to God, as it gives us the strength to face them."

Anything Can Be Achieved with Courage

Sharing an inspiring anecdote of a senior citizen in his speech, Bommai said, "An 88-year-old elderly man courageously overcame his illness and possessed the enthusiasm to see the weddings of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His self-confidence inspired me deeply."

"Even as we age, our enthusiasm should not diminish. I too am a former youth, but I would like to call all of you the future youth. No matter how many nights (hardships) come in life, another beautiful dawn always awaits. Therefore, always remain persevering," he urged the elders.

Assurance of Establishing an Office in Haveri

To prevent senior citizens and the differently-abled from traveling to Hubballi, Dharwad, or Davanagere for their required equipment and services, he assured on this occasion that all necessary steps would be taken in the coming days to set up an 'ALIMCO' office right within Haveri district.

RSS reviews centenary plans, focuses on shakha expansion and social initiatives

Belagavi, July 12: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) concluded its three-day All India Province Propagators' Meeting in Belagavi on Saturday, with senior leaders reviewing organisational activities, centenary year programmes, and future expansion plans.

The meeting, held from July 10 to 12, was attended by 226 functionaries, including RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat and Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale. The gathering reviewed the Sangh's training programmes conducted after March 2026. A total of 83 Sangh Shiksha Vargs and 12 Karyakarta Vikas Vargs were organised across the country, providing training to 18,842 swayamsevakas in areas such as shakha management, organisational methodology, rural development, family awareness, disaster management, and environmental initiatives.

Participants also discussed action plans for strengthening shakha-level activities and outlined strategies for expanding the Sangh's network during September. The meeting reviewed programmes completed as part of the RSS centenary year and planned the remaining events, with emphasis on engaging people connected



through centenary activities in social service and the organisation's fivefold transformation initiatives.

The meeting further deliberated on Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat's travel schedule for 2026-27 and discussed issues relating to the national census, demographic changes, the growing menace of drug abuse, and the need to intensify de-addiction efforts. Plans were also reviewed to mark the 650th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Ravidas Maharaj.

The attendees expressed concern over the reported irregularities in the counting of donations at the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Temple and said they were confident that the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) and police investigation would reach a conclusive stage. They also expressed hope that measures would be taken to prevent any recurrence of such incidents and to preserve the faith of devotees in the Ram Mandir.

EDITORIAL

Why Courts Need to Repeat the Assertion that Citizens Have the Right to Question the Government

“If people protest, you slap cases,” Bombay high court admonished the prosecution. “All citizens are being made slaves of the Indian government... They cannot stage protests, they cannot agitate – what is all this?” Justice Madhav Jamdar asked. Earlier this July, he quashed the externment of activist Sayeed Ahmed Waheed Chaudhury. Going through the bunch of first information reports against Ahmed Chaudhuri, the judge asked whether shouting slogans like “BJP government murdabad” and “Amit Shah murdabad” is treason. “Can’t citizens raise such slogans? It’s a right of the citizen if he chooses so.” Justice Jamdar reminded the police that they were public servants and “not servants of the PM or CM.” Justice Jamdar was only stating a well accepted constitutional and legal position. High courts, the Supreme Court and eminent jurists have been repeatedly emphasising that Article 19 of the constitution gives the right to free speech – which includes the right to criticise the actions of the state. Listen to what Justice D.Y. Chandrachud emphasised when he was the Chief Justice of India. Right to question the government, he had reiterated, is an inherent right. He did not give any room for misinterpretation of this right. Prime minister Narendra Modi himself, in his happier days in 2015, had said that questioning government is a citizen’s right and vital for democracy. Inaugurating the tenth annual convention of the Right to Information Act, he said, “People should have a right to question the government. This will increase their faith in democracy.” But this was when his supporters believed that Modi had a solution for every problem and whatever he touches becomes gold. In two years, things changed. The Central Information Commission and Right to Information were rendered toothless. A revision of the rules gave him powers to fix the salary of the information commissioner and other commissioners, and also the powers to change their tenure. Simultaneously, all other statutory watchdog panels such as the University Grants Commission, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Comptroller and Auditor General were made dormant. Meanwhile, the enforcement arms of the government were undergoing massive changes. The Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, the National Investigation Agency and narcotics control agencies – which were always essentially under the government’s direct control – became fierce tools to harass and punish opposition leaders in the hands of Modi and Amit Shah. Intolerance to criticism by citizens, minimising of people’s and parliament debates on government policies, arbitrary announcements of public policies without prior consultations and their hasty endorsement, have become the preferred items in the authoritarians’ playbook. Here is the most disturbing truth: since 2019, no one from the ruling hierarchy – Narendra Modi, Amit Shah or their minions — have denied the regime’s well-defined authoritarian blueprint. The last assertion by the PM was in 2015. Since then, there has been a meaningful silence. On the other hand, its focus has been on citizens duties. Forget rights. In fact, each of this government’s initiatives – like One Nation, One Election, delimitation to proportionately reduce the opposition-dominated South’s representation in parliament.

The inaugural Global Dialogue on AI Governance was held in Geneva on 6-7 July and India was represented by the Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh. Mandated by UN General Assembly resolution 79/325 and rooted in the Global Digital Compact agreed at the 2024 Summit of the Future, the Dialogue was deliberately chaired by two small states - Ambassador Egriselda López of El Salvador and Ambassador Rein Tammsaar of Estonia rather than by any AI superpower. India arrived as a state that had, five months earlier, hosted the largest AI gathering yet held anywhere - the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, which drew more than twenty heads of government and participants from over a hundred countries. The UN's new Dialogue, mandated by General Assembly resolution 79/325 and modelled on the non-binding Internet Governance Forum, hands every nation a seat but no gavel. Its currency is influence, not enforcement and influence is precisely the resource India has spent the past two years accumulating. India's claim to shape global AI rules rests on something few developing economies possess: a working, at-scale demonstration that AI can be built for public purpose rather than private capture. Its Digital Public Infrastructure - Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, the BHASHINI language stack already reaches hundreds of millions, and AI is now layered onto it in concrete ways, from MuleHunter.AI flagging fraudulent "mule" bank accounts to the automated translation of court judgments into regional languages. This is the template India carries to Geneva: governance framed around access and delivery, not only restriction. Behind the pitch sits real capacity. The IndiaAI Mission, backed by over ₹10,000 crore, is expanding national compute from roughly 38,000 GPUs toward nearly 60,000, and is funding sovereign models - the government-backed BharatGen, Bengaluru's Sarvam



AI, Gnani.ai's Vachana speech systems spanning a dozen Indian languages, designed to keep data and cultural representation within national borders. With one of the world's largest AI talent pools and an ecosystem projected to add several hundred billion dollars to GDP by 2030, India can speak as both consumer and producer, a rare vantage in a debate otherwise polarised between Silicon Valley and Shenzhen. India's substantive contribution is a reframing. Where Bletchley (2023), Seoul (2024) and Paris (2025) fixated on catastrophic and existential risk, New Delhi's summit pivoted the conversation toward present-day harms, equity and deployment, organised around three "sutras" - People, Planet, Progress. In Geneva, Singh pressed the same line: close the capacity gaps of the Global South, or watch AI become a multiplier of inequality rather than an equaliser. "Machines do not quarrel over borders, ideology, or pride; humans do," he told delegates. This development-first framing is India's genuine value-add to a forum where, tellingly, governments were the only stakeholder group to rank capacity-

building above safety in more than 1,500 pre-session submissions. The geopolitics of AI is also shaping fast and here India's timing is fortunate. The United States has largely stepped back from multilateral AI diplomacy, preferring instruments it leads - the G7 Hiroshima Process, the AI Safety Summit series and, under a deregulation-minded administration, resisting binding global rules. China, conversely, champions the UN as the sole legitimately universal venue, courting the Global South with low-cost models and infrastructure. Into that bipolar gap steps India - non-aligned by instinct, credible to both camps, and unwilling to be pressed into either technological sphere as the risk of a "digital iron curtain" grows. India is already hedging in exactly this register. On the margins of its own summit it joined the US-led Pax Silica semiconductor initiative and signed an India-US AI Opportunity Partnership, while simultaneously launching a trilateral with Italy and Kenya to co-design "sovereign AI" pathways for Africa, linked to a G7-

endorsed AI Hub for Sustainable Development. That portfolio displaying one foot in Western supply chains, one in South-South cooperation is the essence of the swing-state role. India's impact in the Dialogue lies less in any single speech than in its capacity to broker between blocs that no longer talk easily to each other. However for India to make the forum to matter, four moves follow. First, it can become the lead advocate for the Secretary-General's proposed Global Fund for AI, offering its DPI experience as the delivery model and giving capacity-building a concrete institutional home. Second, it can push for interoperable testing and evaluation standards, the practical safety tools it foregrounded in New Delhi, so that governance converges on shared instruments even where national laws diverge, as they will when the EU's AI Act reaches full application in August. Third, it must convert pledges into architecture: the summit's headline investment figures, exceeding \$250 billion, are market signals, not commitments, and India's strength depends on translating

them into measurable Global South deployment before the Dialogue reconvenes in New York in May 2027. Fourth, it should use the intervening months to consolidate a coalition - Brazil, the African Union, ASEAN partners - so that the next session carries a Global South negotiating bloc, not a scatter of individual voices but at the same time keeping its partnerships with France and USA growing. The deeper test is philosophical. The world does not need another AI declaration; it needs architecture - standing institutions, funded mechanisms, enforceable red lines. India, uniquely, has the political weight, the technical stack and the market scale to help build it, plus the diplomatic latitude to bridge a fracturing order while doing so. Emmanuel Macron, speaking in New Delhi, argued that the smartest AI is not the most expensive but the one built by people for the right purpose. India's opportunity in Geneva was to make that sentiment operational and prove that a Global South convener can move a non-binding dialogue toward binding substance.

Railway station bookstalls are deserted: Has the internet era taken away the culture of reading?

-Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Indian railway stations have not only been hubs for passenger traffic, but they have also long symbolized the nation's cultural and intellectual consciousness. Book stalls like Wheeler's used to attract travelers' attention upon entering any railway station, big or small. Buying a newspaper before embarking on a journey, selecting a magazine, or picking up a novel for the journey was a common practice. Rail travel and books were seemingly complementary. But today, those same book stalls appear deserted. Places that once thronged with book and magazine buyers now see only a handful of customers. At many stalls, books have been replaced by water bottles, biscuits, chips, cold drinks, and other edibles. This scene reflects not only the changing nature of the market but also the changing reading culture of society. Over the past two decades, technology has profoundly transformed human life. Smartphones, the internet, and social media have made access to information easy, fast, and accessible. Today, nearly every piece of information in the world is available on a mobile screen within seconds. News, books, research papers, magazines, videos, podcasts, and audiobooks—everything is integrated into a single device. This technological revolution is undoubtedly one of the greatest achievements of human civilization. But it also raises a significant question: has this digital convenience reduced the need for printed books and magazines? The deserted book stalls at railway stations make this ques-

tion even more relevant. There was a time when readers eagerly awaited new copies of magazines like Dharmayug, Saptahik Hindustan, Kadambini, Sarika, Navneet, Ravivar, Hans, Sarita, Mukta, Grihashobha, Vanita, Meri Saheli, Pratiyogita Darpan, Chandamama, Madhu Muskan, Mayapuri, Manohar Kahaniyaan, Reader's Digest, India Today, and Outlook. Railway station bookstalls were the biggest selling points for these magazines. Millions of passengers traveling long distances purchased magazines according to their interests. Comics for children, competitive exam material for youth, home and family magazines for women, and novels and story collections for literature lovers were readily available. This wasn't just a business, but a vibrant reading culture. Today, the situation has completely changed. Many prestigious magazines have closed. The circulation of many magazines has been limited. Even those that continue to be published, print far fewer copies than before. Booksellers say that now travelers' first choice is not books, but mobile phones. Most people waiting on train platforms are seen engrossed in their mobile screens rather than looking at the bookshelves. The Internet is considered the biggest reason for this change. It has democratized knowledge and information. Previously, one had to visit a library or purchase a book to obtain information on a topic. Today, that same information is freely available online. Thousands of books are available in PDF format. Kindle and other e-book platforms have transformed the way books

are read. Audiobooks have also provided a reading option for those with limited time. From this perspective, the habit of reading has not disappeared, but rather, its medium has changed. But this is only half true. The real concern is the tendency to over-read through reading. Most content available on digital media is designed for quick consumption. Social media platforms don't allow users to focus on any one topic for long. Reels, short videos, and short posts constantly move people from one content to another. As a result, the tendency for in-depth study, reflection, and analysis is weakening. Psychologists also believe that constantly changing digital content affects human concentration. People used to spend days reading a novel or book. Now, it's becoming increasingly difficult to concentrate on a single topic for more than a few minutes. The amount of information has increased, but the depth of knowledge seems to be decreasing. This is why it's important to understand the difference between reading and watching. Watching a video and reading a book are two different mental processes. Books encourage the reader to imagine, analyze, and reflect, while videos present most of the visual content directly. The changing landscape of railway station book stalls not only tells the story of technology, but also reflects changing lifestyles. Today, people have less time and more busy schedules. Even long train journeys have become a medium for mobile entertainment. Previously, a four-hour journey would have meant reading a book; now that same time is spent on

social media, web series, games, and watching videos. The education system has also been affected by this change. Students' studies are becoming increasingly exam-oriented. The habit of reading outside the curriculum is steadily declining. School and college libraries lack the same hustle and bustle as before. Digital notes and online coaching have significantly reduced the need for printed study materials. While this change is convenient, it has weakened the tradition of literary and general reading. Even within families, the reading environment is no longer what it once was. Children were once gifted storybooks on their birthdays. Homes used to have small bookshelves. Newspapers were read by the entire family. Today, children have smartphones and tablets in their hands from a young age. Digital entertainment options are so abundant that books are losing their appeal.It's also true that the publishing industry itself hasn't fully adapted to the times. It was slow to develop a balanced strategy, combining content, attractive presentation, and digital platforms with the changing interests of younger readers. As a result, social media has captured a significant portion of the reader-ship.However, the picture isn't entirely bleak. The large participation of young people in India's World Book Fair, Jaipur Literature Festival, regional book fairs, and literary events indicates that the interest in good books hasn't waned. Online book sales are also steadily increasing. This suggests that readers exist, but their purchasing and reading habits have changed.

Growing Dissatisfaction with the Judiciary is Detrimental to a Healthy Democracy

Saurabh Varshney

The success of Indian democracy rests on its four key pillars: the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and the independent media. Among these, the judiciary is regarded as the guardian of the Constitution and the ultimate protector of citizens' fundamental rights. The judiciary is not merely an institution for resolving disputes; it is a system that upholds the supremacy of the Constitution, the rule of law, and democratic values. When citizens fail to secure justice from the government, the administration, or other institutions, the judiciary remains their last resort. However, in recent years, dissatisfaction, criticism, and debate regarding the judiciary have intensified across various sections of society. Political reactions to judicial verdicts, the mounting backlog of cases, the process of judicial appointments, questions concerning transparency, and the spread of incomplete information on social media have further fueled this discourse. In this context, a crucial question arises: is the growing dissatisfaction with the judiciary undermining its dignity and credibility, or is it part of the natural process of reform within the democratic system? Such dissatisfaction was recently witnessed when a petitioner in the Supreme Court, Prabal Pratap, referred to judges as "judicial servants," used abusive language against the Chief Justice (CJ) Surya Kant, and even tossed papers inside the courtroom. Although security personnel removed the lawyer from the courtroom, the Court

declined to take punitive action against him. The presiding judge deserves praise for maintaining composure, upholding the dignity of the Supreme Court, and forgiving the individual for this act. This matter requires a detailed examination. Key Reasons for Dissatisfaction 1. Excessive Delay in Justice The greatest challenge facing the Indian judicial system is the delay in delivering justice. Millions of cases have remained pending for years across various courts in the country. Many civil and criminal cases drag on for decades. There is a famous saying: "Justice delayed is justice denied." When an individual does not receive timely justice, their faith in the judiciary begins to waver. 2. Vacant judicial posts and a lack of resources Thousands of judicial posts remain vacant for long periods in many courts across the country. Furthermore, there is a noticeable lack of modern technology, adequate judicial staff, infrastructure, and digital facilities within the courts. The combination of a rising caseload and limited resources slows down the judicial process. 3. Controversy surrounding the judicial appointment process The Collegium system has long been a subject of debate. Proponents believe it safeguards judicial independence, while critics argue that it lacks sufficient transparency and accountability. Delays in appointments and periodic disagreements between the executive and the judiciary also create confusion and dissatisfaction among the public. 4. Controversies regarding sensitive cases Judicial verdicts in cases of political,

social, or religious significance often elicit varied reactions across different sections of society. Court rulings are frequently evaluated through political or ideological lenses rather than on legal grounds. This can create an atmosphere of undue pressure and mistrust regarding the judiciary. 5. Social media and the spread of misinformation In the digital age, social media has become the fastest medium for information dissemination. However, incomplete information, false claims, misleading videos, and misinterpretations of judicial verdicts create public confusion. Often, conclusions are drawn based on mere excerpts without reading the full judgment. This impacts the image of the judiciary. Does dissatisfaction affect the dignity of the judiciary? Criticism of any institution is not unusual in a democracy. Since the judiciary is an integral part of the democratic system, citizens have the right to question its decisions and functioning. However, such criticism must be grounded in facts, constitutional values, and a legal understanding. Constructive criticism paves the way for improvement. Conversely, if criticism manifests as personal allegations, political propaganda, misinformation, or baseless questions regarding the integrity of judges, it undermines both the dignity of the judiciary and public trust. The power of the judiciary rests on public confidence; if citizens' trust erodes, the very concept of the rule of law is compromised. Therefore, upholding this dignity is essential not only for the judiciary but for

democracy as a whole. Achievements of the Judiciary Does dissent affect the dignity of the judiciary? Criticism of any institution is not unnatural in a democracy. Since the judiciary is also a part of the democratic system, citizens have the right to question its decisions and functioning. However, such criticism must be grounded in facts, constitutional values, and a legal understanding. Constructive criticism paves the way for improvement. Conversely, if criticism manifests as personal allegations, political propaganda, misinformation, or baseless questions regarding the integrity of judges, it undermines both the dignity of the Indian judiciary, it would be inappropriate to overlook its historic contributions. The Supreme Court and High Courts have consistently safeguarded the basic spirit of the Constitution. Indian democracy has been strengthened by numerous landmark judgments concerning the protection of fundamental rights, environmental safety, women's and children's rights, freedom of expression, the right to information, and social justice. The mechanism of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has provided an effective means for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable sections of society to access justice.

Trade Setup For July 13:

Nifty Eyes Fresh Support At 23,400 As Middle East Tensions Escalate

Indian stock markets may see volatility due to fresh escalations between the US and Iran over the past week. The US stated that it had forces positioned and was prepared to ensure freedom of navigation of the Strait. This development took place after Tehran announcing Strait of Hormuz closure following latest round of attacks. The Nifty 50 staged a strong recovery from lower levels during the week, with technical analysts indicating that the index remains in a consolidation phase while continuing to attract buying interest near key support zones. Analysts at Bajaj Broking believe the key short-term support for the Nifty is placed in the 23,400-23,600 zone, which coincides with the 61.8% Fibonacci retracement of the previous up move from 23,070 to 24,530 and a trendline connecting the April and June 2026 lows. According to



the brokerage, a breakout above 24,350 will signal strength and resumption of up move towards 24,600 levels being the high of April 2026 and then towards 24,800 levels in the coming weeks being the trendline resistance joining the previous major breakdown area and 200 days SMA. Nandish Shah, Deputy Vice President at HDFC Securities, said the index held firmly above its 50-day simple moving average (SMA) at 23,829 throughout the week, signalling sustained buying at

lower levels. "The immediate swing low of 23,805 and swing high at 24,530 remain crucial levels to monitor. Continued strength in midcaps and smallcaps points to healthy underlying market participation," Shah said. "We believe that the short-term market texture is volatile and non-directional; hence, level-based trading would be the ideal strategy for traders," Amol Athawale, Vice President – Technical Research at Kotak Securities said.

Bank Nifty Outlook

For the Bank Nifty, Athawale said the 20-day SMA at 57,500 will serve as the immediate reference point for traders. According to him, a move above 57,500 could push the index towards the 58,500-59,000 zone, while a fall below this level would weaken the ongoing uptrend, prompting traders to consider exiting long positions. Bajaj Broking noted that Bank Nifty formed its second consecutive bullish candlestick with a higher high and a higher low, indicating a continued pullback. The brokerage said the index also closed above Wednesday's gap-down area, reflecting improving strength in banking stocks. The brokerage expects Bank Nifty to consolidate in the 56,500-58,700 range. A break below Wednesday's low of 56,550 could trigger further downside towards the 55,500-55,000 support zone.

TCS Bets Big On AI, Plans Up To 8,900 Forward-Deployed Engineers, Eyes Acquisitions



Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. is building a specialised team of up to 8,900 forward-deployed engineers and evaluating acquisitions in artificial intelligence, data security and cybersecurity, as India's largest IT services company doubles down on AI-led growth despite fears that the technology could disrupt the outsourcing industry. Speaking to Reuters, TCS Chief Executive Officer K Krithivasan said the company

plans to have 1% to 1.5% of its workforce serve as forward-deployed engineers (FDEs), professionals who work closely with clients to accelerate AI adoption and tailor AI solutions to business needs. Based on TCS' end-June headcount, that translates to roughly 5,900 to 8,900 employees. Krithivasan did not specify whether the company would recruit externally or retrain existing employees for these roles. The move comes as

investors worry that generative AI could reduce demand for large engineering teams, shorten project timelines and put pressure on pricing across India's \$315 billion IT services industry. "We would be ... ensuring that we have as many as 1% to 1.5% of our associates who could be what you would call FDEs," Krithivasan told Reuters. Forward-deployed engineering has emerged as one of the fastest-growing AI roles global-

ly, with companies such as OpenAI, Anthropic and Microsoft expanding similar teams to help enterprise customers deploy AI technologies. TCS is also considering acquisitions after largely relying on organic growth for years. "We are looking at where we can find things which will help us enable or enhance our strategic positioning," Chief Financial Officer Samir Seksaria told Reuters. Krithivasan dismissed concerns that AI would weaken the traditional outsourcing model, arguing that enterprises will continue to rely on companies such as TCS to integrate AI models with existing technology infrastructure. He added that enterprises increasingly use multiple AI models, creating demand for partners that can integrate those systems and manage complex data flows. While TCS continues to expand its AI capabilities, growth in its AI business has moderated. Annualised AI revenue growth slowed to 13% in the June quarter from 28% in the previous quarter.

L&T Finance Reports Record Q1 Profit of Rs. 902 Crore, Loan Book Crosses Rs. 1.29 Lakh Crore

L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) records highest ever consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 902 Crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2026 (Q1FY27), up 29% Year-on-Year (YoY), while also achieving its highest ever consolidated book of Rs. 1,29,634 Crore, up 27% YoY. Robust Q1FY27 Retail Disbursements at Rs. 23,852 Crore, up 36% YoY. Accelerates technology deployment to transform to an AI-native lender. L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF), one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India has recorded consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 902 Crore, up 29% Year-on-Year for the first quarter ended June 30, 2026. During the quarter, LTF achieved a milestone of highest-ever consolidated book of Rs. 1,29,634 Crore, up 27% Year-on-Year. The retail book size during the quarter reached Rs. 1,27,535 Crore, up 28% YoY. The Company has recorded robust retail disbursement of Rs. 23,852 Crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2026, up 36% YoY. The Company has accelerated technology deployment to transform to an AI-native lender. The Company's customer-facing PLANET app, which has emerged as a powerful



digital channel for customers, crossed more than 2.5 Crore downloads as of June 30, 2026, comprising more than 20 Lakh customers on the Rural side. As of June 30, 2026, this channel has done collections of over Rs. 11,500 Crore while servicing over 14 Crore requests and has sourced loans of around Rs. 34,462 Crore. Additionally, the Company's Partner PLANET app continues to strengthen digital engagement with its dealer network. As of June 30, 2026, the platform has onboarded over 4,400 dealers, facilitated more than 51,000 logins, and enabled trade advance (TA) withdrawals of over Rs. 590 Crore. Commenting on the financial results Mr. Sudipta Roy, Managing Director & CEO, LTF, said, "Q1FY27 was another quarter where we remained focused on disciplined execution amidst an

evolving macroeconomic environment marked by geopolitical uncertainties, inflationary pressures and elevated borrowing costs. Despite these external factors, our diversified retail franchise continued to demonstrate resilience, delivering strong business momentum and healthy book growth in line with the goals of our Lakshya 31 strategic plan. Our consistent investments in technology, analytics and AI continue to be a key differentiator, both in terms of customer experience as well as credit outcomes. In our bid to transform into an AI-native organization, we are increasingly embedding our proprietary AI ecosystem across the entire lending stack from sourcing and underwriting through our in-house AI credit engine 'Project Cyclops' to portfolio monitoring through 'Project Nostradamus' and our

expanding suite of in-house developed AI co-pilots and agents. These capabilities are enabling superior credit selection, improved customer experience, faster turnaround times and enhanced operating efficiencies, while strengthening the quality and sustainability of our growth. The economy continues to exhibit resilience, supported by healthy government spending, improving infrastructure and sustained consumption trends. We are also pleased to note that our Rural Business Finance vertical has resumed its growth trajectory, with healthy business parameters across new customer acquisition, disbursement growth and collection efficiencies. As we embark on the first full year of our Lakshya 31 journey, our focus remains on delivering consistent, profitable and high-quality growth. We will continue to

invest in innovation, strengthen our distribution capabilities and enhance customer experience as we build a future-ready, AI-native financial institution that will be resilient across economic cycles."

Key Highlights:

Building a diversified retail franchise:
Rural Business Finance:
Book size up 22% YoY to Rs. 32,493 Crore vs. Rs. 26,616 Crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2025 (Q1FY26)
Quarterly disbursements for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, at Rs. 6,961 Crore vs. Rs. 5,618 Crore, up 24% YoY

Farmer Finance:

Book size up 11% YoY to Rs. 17,514 Crore vs. Rs. 15,756 Crore in Q1FY26
Quarterly disbursements for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, at Rs. 2,453 Crore vs. Rs. 2,200 Crore, up 11% YoY

The Most Trusted Person in the Room Is Always the Most Alone: Strategist Sandeep N Challenges 720+ GCC Leaders to Rethink How Decisions Are Made

HYDERABAD, July 2026: At the GCC Leadership Conclave held on July, brand and business strategist, Sandeep N delivered a keynote to a room of more than 720 Global Capability Centre leaders, challenging one of the most widely held assumptions in corporate leadership. According to him, organisations succeed or fail on the quality of their decisions. He argued that companies succeed or fail much earlier, in the quality of thinking that surrounds a leader before any decision is made. An organization's success or failure is not determined solely by the quality of its decisions, but by the quality of thinking that shapes those decisions. The companies succeed or fail long before a decision is made—through the depth, clarity, and rigor of the thinking that surrounds a leader. Speaking on the theme that the most trusted person in the room is often the most alone, Sandeep argued that this loneliness is not personal but structural. He explained that leadership often isolates individuals, not because of who they are, but because of the responsibilities they carry and the decisions they must make. Recounting a conversation with a chairman, Sandeep shared a striking observation: "People trust me for the decision," the chairman told him. "Very few people think with me before the decision." He explained that as leaders rise through the ranks, organisations increasingly place their trust in the leaders' judgement, while fewer people feel empowered to challenge, refine, or strengthen their thinking. As a result, the most senior person is often left thinking alone at precisely the moment when the stakes are highest. Sandeep said that the most dangerous position is not failure itself, but succeeding while pursuing the wrong question, even as the real decisions shaping an organisation's future are made elsewhere. He then offered leaders a simple but powerful diagnostic



framework for decision-making. Before making any major decision, he said, organisations should ask three questions: What are we choosing to believe? What are we choosing to ignore? And who is genuinely allowed to change our thinking? These questions, he suggested, help leaders test the assumptions underlying their decisions and ensure that critical perspectives are not excluded before it is too late. "A company is not shaped by the decisions made inside the boardroom," he told the audience. "It is shaped by the quality of the thinking that walked in before the decision did." Sandeep N is the Founder and Brand Architect of Magsmen Strategy Consultants, the Strategic Partner of the GCC Leadership Conclave. A TEDx speaker and a recognised voice in brand and business strategy, he advises founders, business leaders, and enterprises across India on building resilient brands, sharpening strategic thinking, and driving sustainable growth.

FPIs reverse selling trend with Rs 15,157 cr inflow in July

New Delhi: After four straight months of selling, foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in July, investing over Rs 15,157 crore so far this month, supported by improving domestic macroeconomic indicators, a stable rupee and better global risk sentiment. The latest inflow follows net outflows of Rs 49,340 crore in June, Rs 32,963 crore in May, Rs 60,847 crore in April and a massive Rs 1.17 lakh crore in March, according to data from the Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL). Prior to the selling spree, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) had invested Rs 22,615 crore in Indian equities in February. Despite July's turnaround, foreign investors have pulled out a net Rs 2.6 lakh crore from Indian equities so far in 2026, exceeding the Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn in the same period of 2025. According to Himanshu Srivastava, Principal Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, the reversal in July reflects improving global risk appetite, easing concerns over energy prices following the de-escalation of



geopolitical tensions earlier this month, and renewed confidence in India's macroeconomic fundamentals. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said improving domestic macroeconomic conditions and the rupee's stability have played a key role in attracting foreign inflows. He added that weakness in the semiconductor trade and FPIs turning sellers in markets such as South Korea also redirected flows towards India. Srivastava noted that after a period of market consolidation, valuations have become more reasonable, prompting foreign investors to selectively increase exposure to high-quality Indian firms. He, however, cautioned that

while July's sharp reversal is encouraging, the sustainability of FPI inflows will depend on global developments and the resilience of India's domestic growth story. Meanwhile, debt continues to attract growing foreign interest. FPIs invested Rs 6,625 crore in debt securities through the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) and Rs 3,228 crore through the general route during July. Vijayakumar said the government's changes to the taxation of debt investments have made Indian debt more attractive to FPIs while contributing to the rupee stability. Prior to the selling spree, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) had invested Rs 22,615 crore in Indian equities in February.

ICICI Prudential Life introduces 10-year life cover proposition tailored for short-term financial obligations

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has introduced ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Plus with a 10-Year Life Cover designed for customers with defined financial commitments such as home loans, business loans and children's education goals. The product provides life cover during a period when financial responsibilities and dependence on income are often at their highest. For many individuals, the first decade after taking on a major financial commitment can be a phase of heightened financial responsibility. The proposition is particularly relevant for self-employed individuals with business loans of a defined duration, home loan borrowers and parents planning for their children's education. The 10-Year Life Cover has been designed to align protection with this critical phase, offering an affordable life cover solution. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief

Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "Many financial goals such as purchasing a home, building a business or funding a child's education are linked to defined time horizons. ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Plus has been designed to provide protection during these important years, helping customers safeguard their financial commitments while securing their loved ones' financial future. It reflects our focus on offering protection solutions that address evolving customer needs at different life stages. Thus, driving insurance penetration in India and contributing to the 'Insurance for All by 2047' goal." A key feature is that the life cover remains constant throughout the 10-year policy term. This ensures that families have access to the full life cover amount, enabling them to manage not only loan-related obligations but also broader financial needs and future goals.

Gold, Silver Face Volatility Amid US-Iran Tensions, Crude Oil Spike: Analysts

Fresh escalation in the US-Iran conflict is expected to keep gold and silver prices volatile in the coming week, with investors closely tracking crude oil prices and inflation data that could reshape expectations for global interest rates, according to PTI. Fresh hostilities in West Asia have once again put markets on edge. The latest round of tensions began after Iran said it had struck a vessel travelling on an unapproved route before announcing the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The US Central Command later said it carried out strikes on Tehran, following which Iran retaliated by targeting American-linked installations in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain. Analysts believe any further escalation in the conflict could drive crude oil prices higher, revive inflation concerns and strengthen safe-haven assets such as the US dollar and Treasury yields, limiting the upside for precious metals. "For gold and silver, momentum remains down and corrective. Focus will again turn back on the



US-Iran conflict. Any big escalation would again push oil prices higher and strengthen safe-haven assets like the US dollar and Treasury bond yields," Pranav Mer, Senior Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services Ltd., told PTI. Apart from geopolitical developments, markets will closely watch inflation data from India, the European Union and the United States for fresh clues on the monetary policy trajectory of major global central banks, he said. On the domestic front, MCX gold futures for August delivery declined by Rs 3,900, or 2.65%, during the week to settle at Rs 1.43 lakh per 10

grams. Silver futures for September delivery also dropped Rs 14,746, or 6.2%, to settle at Rs 2.22 lakh per kilogram. "Gold witnessed another subdued week, declining more than 2 per cent, as a combination of a stronger US dollar, firm crude oil prices, and expectations of higher interest rates continued to weigh on investor sentiment," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, told PTI. Despite intermittent recovery attempts, bullion failed to sustain gains, with every rally attracting fresh profit booking, he said. "The Indian rupee also witnessed a mild correction, which offered limited support to MCX gold.

US SENATOR AND CLOSE TRUMP ALLY LINDSEY GRAHAM DIES AFTER 'BRIEF AND SUDDEN ILLNESS'



Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, a close ally of US President Donald Trump, has died at the age of 71. He died on Saturday evening following a "brief and sudden illness", according to his office. Elected to the Senate in 2002, the South Carolina politician was one of Washington's most influential voices on foreign policy, often pushing for US military intervention overseas. Donald Trump said Graham was a "true American Patriot" who would be "greatly missed". Graham had just returned from Kyiv, where he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday. There were no known health concerns ahead of his trip. Trump told NBC News that he had spoken with Graham hours before his death and the sen-

ator "sounded great" but a little tired. "He was a tough cookie in many ways," Trump told NBC on Sunday. "If he wanted to get something, if he thought he was right and he had people against him, he could be very tough, actually. But he was a good person." According to US media, transmissions from emergency medical personnel at a home he owns in Washington DC said a man at the house was suffering from cardiac arrest. Graham was previously a vocal critic of Donald Trump, calling him a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot" in 2015. The next year, ahead of the 2016 presidential election, he said: "If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed... and we will deserve it."

Trump administration subpoenas New York Times journalists over Air Force One reporting

Several New York Times journalists were summoned to testify under oath after they reported alleged security concerns involving President Donald Trump's new Air Force One plane, the US newspaper said. Federal agents delivered subpoenas to some reporters' homes demanding they appear before a federal grand jury investigating a potential crime, the Times said. The paper had published stories alleging that the Qatari-gifted plane was not secure enough, and the Secret Service urged Trump to switch planes on his way home from a Nato summit in Turkey. The Justice Department told the BBC it was investigating illegal leaks, adding: "Reporters are not the targets, those leaking classified information are." David McCraw, the Times's top newsroom lawyer, called the summons a "brazen act" and "nothing more than an attempt to prevent the public from knowing what is happening in their country by intimidating journalists from doing their jobs". The



subpoenas - a legal requirement from a court or government agency that compels a person to appear or produce records or evidence - say the reporters' testimony is required "in regard to an alleged violation of federal criminal law", the Times reported. The summonses require the reporters to appear before a grand jury in Manhattan on Wednesday, the Times said. Grand juries are composed of members of the public and convened by

the US government to examine evidence and decide if there is enough to charge a person or persons with a crime. The New York Times reported on security concerns about the president's plane citing unnamed sources. While speaking to media about classified information is a crime, the US Constitution protects the freedom of the press to report information in the public interest. "We value and appreciate the important

role that the press plays in this country, but DoJ also plays an important role to make sure that the people entrusted with our nation's secrets do what they're supposed to do with that information, which means not sharing classified information," the Justice Department (DoJ) said in a statement provided to the BBC. The Times reported on Wednesday that while Trump flew to the Nato summit in Turkey on the new Air Force One.



Badly burned British couple rescued from ravine during Spain wildfires



China evacuates nearly two million people as powerful typhoon makes landfall

US INSISTS STRAIT OF HORMUZ IS OPEN AS IT EXCHANGES STRIKES WITH IRAN

The US insists the Strait of Hormuz is open, despite Iran saying it has closed the waterway amid renewed strikes. Hostilities, which flared up again this week, continued on Saturday after the US said it had struck more than 140 targets across Iran. The attacks were a response to Iranian forces hitting a ship passing through the strait, which it said was using an unapproved route. Iran has been trying to assert control over the waterway, and early on Sunday said it was closed until further notice. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also launched wide-ranging attacks on US bases and allies across the region on Sunday, marking an escalation in the scale of hostilities.



It said it had hit a US base in Jordan, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain all said they had responded to missiles and drones from Iran. The BBC has approached US Central Command for comment on the attack in Jordan. Qatar, a mediator in ceasefire talks, had not been attacked since April, while the UAE had not

been attacked since May. The renewed fire has put in jeopardy an interim ceasefire agreement signed last month, which aimed to reopen the Strait and eventually bring a permanent end to the conflict. Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump declared the Iranian attacks meant the ceasefire was over, while Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghchi accused the US of violating the deal. However, Trump said talks would still continue and mediators were trying to revive the process. US media reported that Iran told American officials attacks on tankers earlier this week were a mistake and blamed a rogue internal group. The latest hostilities were sparked after the IRGC said it had fired a naval cruise missile at a vessel that was attempting to sail along an unapproved route. US Central Command (Centcom) said the IRGC "blatantly attacked" a Cyprus-flagged vessel which was "unable to continue its journey" due to damage to the engine room. A crew member from the MV GFS Galaxy ship was missing, it added.

At least two killed in Toronto street festival shooting



At least two people have been killed in gunfire at a street festival in Toronto. Police in the Canadian city initially received reports of an active shooter on St Clair Avenue at approximately 20:12 local time (01:12 BST), where a salsa festival was being held. Six victims with gunshot wounds were found by police, who said two people had been pronounced dead at the scene. At a press conference hours after the shooting, police said there had been an exchange of gunfire at the festival between two individuals, and two firearms had been recovered from the scene. Police were yet to arrest anyone in connection with

the shooting, and investigations were ongoing. Toronto Deputy Police Chief Francisco Barredo described the scene as "very chaotic", and said there was an estimated 13,000 people at the festival when the shooting happened. He said police were managing three separate crime scenes in connection with the shooting, and the public would be updated once more information was available. People were told to stay away from the area, where a large police presence remained. Anyone with information in connection with the shooting, including witness statements, have been urged to call police.

T. rex could become most expensive fossil ever - but it's a problem for scientists



In 1997, Sotheby's hosted a natural history auction selling wonders of our prehistoric world - but for the first time a dinosaur was on the books. It was a niche event mostly attended by the world's museums looking for specimens to add to their collections. The dinosaur in question was a Tyrannosaurus Rex called Sue - she was eventually sold for \$8m (£6m) to the Field Museum in Chicago. Nearly 30 years later, on Tuesday, another T. rex will make an appearance at the annual auction - one of the most complete specimens of this kind ever found. And this time it is not just scientists who are dinosaur-hunting but also the super-rich. The new specimen, known as Gus, has already been valued at \$30m but it could fetch more, possibly even becoming the most expensive dinosaur ever sold. It adds to a growing debate in the natural history world - should specimens of such scientific importance be reserved for museums and their scientists? Or - as auctioneers would argue - should fossil hunters be rewarded for

their discovery of dinosaurs lost to science and saving them from a second extinction? Cassandra Hatton, global head of natural history at Sotheby's, knows very well the lengths some fossil scientists - palaeontologists - are willing to go to in the search for these creatures. "People die on excavations," she says. And for many of these hunters, the ultimate prize is the Tyrannosaurus Rex. This dinosaur that lived millions of years ago hardly needs describing, having been immortalised in our culture by appearances in films like King Kong and Jurassic Park, and as the namesake of an English rock band. "The people that look for these fossils will spend months out in the field with tents and their food in their backpacks and they're camping out in the middle of nowhere with the rattlesnakes and the bugs and the mountain lions," she explains. This is South Dakota - Badlands country - where Gus was eventually discovered 67 million years after roaming our planet.

US DEMOCRAT RO KHANNA SAYS HE WAS DETAINED BY ARMED ISRAELI SETTLERS

US congressman Ro Khanna says he was detained for 90 minutes by armed Israeli settlers during a visit to the occupied West Bank. Khanna, 49, had been in a van with his team when they were surrounded by settlers wielding M4 rifles on Wednesday, he told Reuters news agency. Writing on X, Khanna said that when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) arrived, "they sided with the settlers and continued our detention". The BBC has reached out to the IDF for comment. The Israeli military said in a statement troops and police officers took action after getting a report settlers had blocked vehicles in the area. "Upon their arrival, the troops dispersed the Israeli civilians and allowed the vehicles to



continue on their way," the IDF said. Khanna was visiting the ruins of Khirbet Zanuta, on a fact-finding visit to look at the impact of Israeli occupation of the area. The politician, a father-of-two, is mulling over a presidential run in

2028. "We were at a village that Israeli settlers had destroyed, they had destroyed the school, they had destroyed that village, and we were just looking at it," he said. "And these hoodlums come in with machine guns - M4, an

American-made machine gun - and they detain us. They block off the road. And then they call the IDF and ?the IDF is on their side, not on the side of the Americans," Khanna said. While they were detained, an aide who was with Khanna said they made appeals to the US Embassy in Jerusalem for help, and were released after a group of police officers intervened. Israel has built about 160 settlements housing 700,000 Jews since it occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem - land Palestinians want, along with Gaza, for a hoped-for future state - during the 1967 Middle East war. An estimated 3.3 million Palestinians live alongside them. The settlements are illegal under international law.

Argentina Star Escapes Red Card, England Semi-Final Gets Massive Twist

Argentina's 3-1 win over Switzerland in extra time was marred by several controversies, as the defending champions secured a place in the semi-finals of the FIFA World Cup 2026. After playing a man down for nearly 50 minutes, the Swiss hopes were shattered by late goals from Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez in the second period of extra time. Alvarez hit a screamer in the 112th minute before Martinez scored in injury time to spark wild celebrations from the Argentine fans in Kansas City. Martinez jumped over the advertising boards before climbing the fence to celebrate with the crowd. However, he escaped a second yellow card and a potential sending-off as the referee decided not to book him again. Notably, Martinez was already on a yellow card, which he had picked up during the 98th minute of the match. Had he been sent



off, he would have missed the blockbuster semi-final clash against England. While the Portuguese official decided to overlook the incident, fans were quick to point that the referee might've handed Argentina a huge favour by not send-

ing Martinez off. Argentina netted in their 15th successive World Cup game. The only teams with longer scoring streaks in the competition are Uruguay (16 games from 1930-1962), Hungary (17 games from 1934-1962), Germany (18

games from 1986-1998), Germany (18 games from 1934-1958) and Brazil (18 games from 1930-1958). Lionel Scaloni's side will now face fierce rivals England in the second semi-final at Atlanta Stadium on Thursday as

they look to book their place in the final for the second consecutive time and give themselves a strong chance to defend their title and script history, becoming the first team to defend their title in FIFA WC history after Brazil in 1962.

India's Yastika Bhatia Makes History, Scores Sensational Test Hundred At Lord's Against England

Wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia became the first woman to score a Test century at Lord's as India declared their second innings at 341 for seven at the stroke of tea on day three, setting England an improbable target of 457 in four sessions to win the one-off Women's Test here. Resuming the post-lunch session on 91 on Sunday, Yastika reached the three-figure mark in the very first over after the break, taking a single off Issy Wong to bring up a memorable maiden Test hundred. The left-hander eventually made 113 off 158 balls, laced with 14 fours, before becoming one of three wickets to fall after lunch. After the dismissals of Deepti Sharma and Yastika, Richa Ghosh shifted gears with an aggressive unbeaten half-century, smashing 50 not out off 52 balls (8x4) - her third Test fifty - as India declared after 86.3 overs. For England, spin great Sophie Ecclestone was the pick of



the bowler picking 5/118, having toiled for 33.3 overs. It was her fourth fiver. In the first session, India suffered early setbacks after resuming on 154/1. Lauren Bell (2/27) dismissed overnight batter Smriti Mandhana for 70, with the opener adding just one run to her overnight score before removing Jemimah Rodrigues (3) soon after. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur also failed to convert her

start, falling lbw to Sophie Ecclestone (2/84) for 16 off 34 balls. However, Yastika, who had resumed on 39 overnight, stood firm amid the collapse before converting it into a landmark century to put India in the driver's seat. Brief Scores India 285 and 341/7 declared; 86.3 overs (Yastika Bhatia 113, Smriti Mandhana 70, Richa Ghosh 50 not out; Sophie Ecclestone 5/118, Lauren Bell 2/27).

Gautam Gambhir's Support Staff Faces Uncertainty After England Debacle. BCCI Unhappy With This Coach: Report

India head coach Gautam Gambhir and his support staff have come under fire following back-to-back T20I series defeats to Ireland and England, respectively. The T20 world champions were humbled by Ireland in a two-match series last month, before suffering a heavy 4-0 loss to hosts England in a five-match series on Saturday. The defeats have put Gambhir and the team management under immense pressure heading into the three-match ODI series against England, starting Tuesday. According to a report, Gambhir's assistant Ryan ten Doeschate and bowling coach Morne Morkel are contemplating moving on from their roles once their contracts end after the upcoming three-match ODI series. As per



The Times of India, the BCCI is in discussion with the duo to sort out their futures. "Doeschate isn't very sure of continuing with this job. He has conveyed his problems with travelling with the team throughout

the year. Morkel is still weighing his options. The board is discussing the matter with the two coaches and will try to see if things can be sorted out," the report said. The report also said that ten Doeschate is in talks

with an IPL franchise, while Morkel hasn't decided anything yet. "If things aren't resolved with Doeschate and Morkel, the BCCI may be forced to send Lakshminarayanan Balaji, who was recently appointed as the fast bowling coach at the CoE, to Sri Lanka," the report added. Both ten Doeschate and Morkel were handpicked by Gambhir when he took charge of the team in 2024. The report also added that fielding coach T Dilip could lose his job due to the deteriorating fielding standards of the Indian team in recent times. "The board is not happy with the team's deteriorating fielding standards. Dilip got a reprieve last year after being sacked along with Nayar," the report further claimed.

BCCI Forced To Make Two Late Changes To India's Squad For England ODIs, Zimbabwe T20Is

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been forced to make two changes to the Indian team for the ODI series against England and T20Is against Zimbabwe. Just a day after the conclusion of the T20I assignment against England, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee had to alter the squad for the 50-over assignment. In a release, the BCCI confirmed the addition of Prince Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi to the squad, as replacements for Harshit Rana and Varun Chakaravathy, both of whom are injured. Harshit Rana's injury prompted the selectors to pick Prince Yadav for India's ODI team. Prince, who impressed everyone with his bowling in the Indian Premier



League (IPL) 2026 for the Lucknow Super Giants, did well in phases against England in the recently concluded T20I series. Though India didn't win a single game in the series, Prince's performances strengthened the selectors' belief in him. As for Varun, who has been

facing repeated injury issues since the conclusion of the T20 World Cup 2026, this marks as another setback. He will miss the Zimbabwe T20Is, with Bishnoi being named as his replacement. The BCCI release read: "The Men's Selection Committee has

named Prince Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi as replacements for Harshit Rana and Varun Chakaravathy in India's ODI and T20I squads, respectively. Rana reported a sudden onset of discomfort in his right hamstring during the third T20I against England at Trent Bridge.

FIFA TO INCREASE WORLD CUP TEAMS FROM 48 TO 64 GIANNI INFANTINO SAYS, "EVERY NATION SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DREAM"



FIFA president Gianni Infantino has revealed that the governing body will explore the possibility of expanding the FIFA World Cup to a 64-team tournament for the 2030 edition. The World Cup is already set to undergo a major expansion in 2026, with the tournament increasing from 32 to 48 teams for the finals hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The 32-team format had been in place from 1998 through the 2022 World Cup. Infantino, the

president of world football's governing body, confirmed talks would take place over the proposed format after this summer's tournament. "It (a 64-team tournament) is definitely an issue that will be examined and discussed in the relevant committees after this World Cup," Infantino said in an interview with Swiss media outlet Bluewin as per The Athletic. "Every nation should be allowed to dream of participating in the World Cup. You can see that the quality of the teams is extremely high, and it's getting higher and higher, all over the world. If you don't give smaller countries a chance to participate in the World Cup, they'll lack the incentive to keep improving," he added. The 56-year-old FIFA president also described the expansion of the World Cup to 48 teams as "100 per cent a success", highlighting the positive response to the larger format ahead of its introduction at the upcoming edition. The 2030 World Cup will be a historic multi-continent tournament, with matches scheduled across six nations spanning three continents. Uruguay, the host of the inaugural 1930 World Cup, along with 2022 champions Argentina and Paraguay, are set to stage one opening match each.

Brendon McCullum Quits As England Test Coach Days After Ben Stokes' Retirement



The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Sunday announced that Brendon McCullum will stand down as head coach of the Test team, but will continue to work with the team in the white-ball formats. The development comes close on the heels of Ben Stokes' retirement from international cricket following a nightclub brawl and a subsequent one-Test ban. McCullum didn't hide that he is disappointed not to continue as the Test team head coach which seemed more like a

removal rather than bowing out at his own volition. "Of course, I'm gutted not to be continuing, but I respect the decision. My focus now is on giving everything I've got to the White Ball teams and helping England keep moving forward," McCullum was quoted as saying in a release issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board. "I wish the Test team nothing but success. There's a hell of a lot of talent in that dressing room and they're a special bunch of lads. I'll always be backing the boys, with a smile on my face, and hoping they keep taking the game on. I know they'll continue to make people proud," the former New Zealand opener added. England will have a new Test team head coach when they face Pakistan in a three-match series, which is a part of the World Test Championship. England lost the recent Test series against New Zealand 1-2 but thrashed India 4-0 in the just-concluded T20I series.

"Don't Think He Captained Poorly": Shreyas Iyer Gets Backing Despite Poor Start As India's T20I Skipper



The pressure is truly on Shreyas Iyer as he continues to yearn for his first win as India's T20I captain despite leading the side in seven matches. It all started with India suffering a 2-0 whitewash at the hands of Ireland. The problems kept increasing for the Iyer-led side afterwards. India lost the five-match T20I series to England by a 4-0 margin. After the first game got washed out, the Three Lions simply outplayed the visitors in the next four contests to register their first-ever bilateral T20I series win over India. Former India batter Wasim Jaffer backed Iyer despite his poor start as T20I captain. He said that Iyer did nothing wrong

with his leadership and held the team responsible for the defeat against England. "I don't think he captained poorly. No one suddenly becomes a bad captain overnight. We've been praising him for a long time, and the results are there for everyone to see, especially the way he led his IPL team. This is his first opportunity to captain India in international cricket, so he's in new territory. I think he'll handle it. He has the confidence and self-belief to do so. He scored runs as well. Collectively, as a team, we played poorly. But I think Shreyas Iyer is not a bad choice going forward. In my opinion, he did a decent job," Jaffer said on his YouTube channel. The former international further said that India played the series with the aim of testing their combinations, keeping the next T20 World Cup in mind.

Slow-Motion Video Shows Brutal Moment Conor McGregor's Comeback Ends

Conor McGregor's UFC comeback lasted just over a minute, but it is one brief sequence from the opening exchanges that has become the biggest talking point online. Videos circulating across social media capture the exact moment McGregor appeared to injure his right leg during his UFC 329 showdown with Max Holloway in Las Vegas. Fans have been slowing down the footage frame by frame, trying to pinpoint when the injury occurred. The clip shows McGregor exploding forward with a

jumping kick in the opening seconds before landing awkwardly on his right leg. While he initially continued fighting, his movement appeared noticeably restricted almost immediately. Seconds later, he stumbled while throwing a left hand and struggled to plant his right foot as Holloway pressured him. Rather than pressing the attack, Holloway noticed something was wrong. The former featherweight champion stepped back and pointed toward McGregor's injured leg, prompting ref-

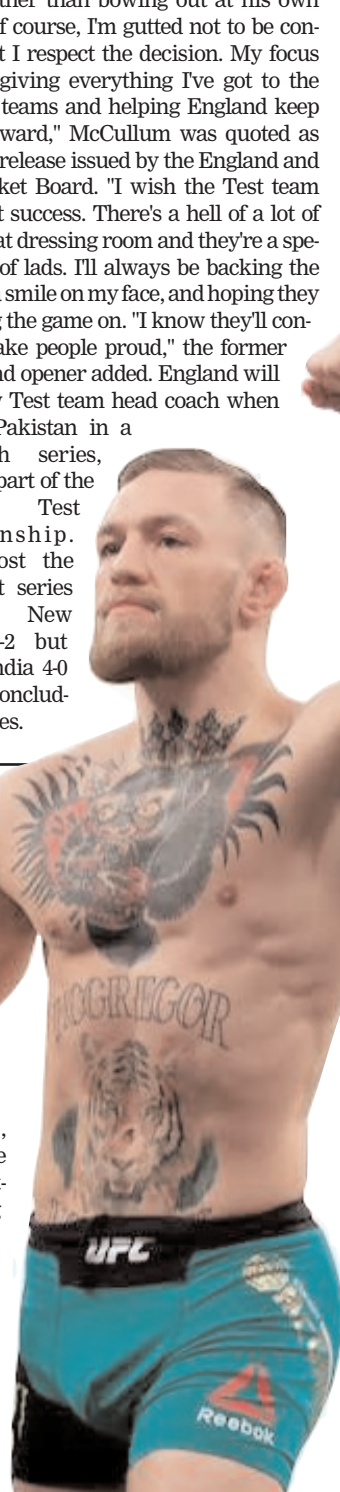
eree Mike Beltran to take a closer look. Seeing McGregor unable to put weight on his right leg, Beltran immediately stopped the contest, awarding Holloway a first-round TKO. The footage has since sparked widespread discussion among fans, with many claiming the video suggests McGregor's knee gave way the instant he landed from the jumping kick. Others have pointed to clips from before the stoppage, speculating the Irishman may have been compromised earlier in the fight.

However, there is no official evidence that McGregor entered the Octagon carrying an injury. McGregor later dismissed the speculation in a post on X, insisting he had entered the Octagon fully fit. "I was so sharp and so ready for this fight I cannot believe what has happened. The talk of me being off while walking in to the fight is nonsense. I was calm, ready, and confident. I am in shock what has taken place," he wrote. The former

two-division champion



added, "The devil is literally staring at me right in front of my face here. I am not engaging. I will be at church tomorrow. I will overcome this."



Chora Shikamanulu Launched with Grand Pooja Ceremony; Regular Shoot Begins from July 25



A new action-crime-comedy entertainer, **Chora Shikamanulu**, has been officially launched with a grand pooja ceremony today. The film is being presented by Sreehari-Vivaan and produced by Banuru Nagaraju under Shreehari Creations banner. Anand Kurma has penned the story, screenplay, and dialogues, besides directing the film. The movie features Ram Tej, Jabardasth Emmanuel, Naresh, Ajay Ghosh, Sampurnesh Babu, Muralidhar Goud, Appu, Karan, Jabardasth Satya Sri, and several other notable actors in key roles. The launch ceremony was attended by noted filmmakers Trinadha Rao Nakkina, Damodar Prasad, and Prasanna

Highlights

- A new action-crime-comedy entertainer, **Chora Shikamanulu**, has been officially launched with a grand pooja ceremony today.
- The film is being presented by Sreehari-Vivaan and produced by Banuru Nagaraju under Shreehari Creations banner. Anand Kurma has penned the story, screenplay, and dialogues, besides directing the film.

Kumar as chief guests. During the auspicious muhurtham, Damodar Prasad, Prasanna Kumar, and Trinadha Rao Nakkina handed over the script to the team, while Trinadha Rao Nakkina directed the ceremonial first shot. The film's technical team includes Anand Rajavikram as the music composer, Jagadeesh Komari as the cinematographer, and Dragon

Prakash as the stunt choreographer. The makers announced that regular shooting will commence on July 25, with the first schedule beginning with the filming of a vibrant song. They also revealed that several exciting updates will be unveiled in the coming days to further build anticipation around the project.

WHY DHURANDHAR HEADING TOWARDS DISASTER IN JAPAN?



After shattering numerous box office records in India and North America, Bollywood's smash hit **Dhurandhar** landed in theatres in Japan on July 10th. Unfortunately, despite the substantial hype surrounding its arrival, the spy thriller failed to make a powerful initial impact on the competitive Japanese box office. On its opening day, **Dhurandhar** struggled to find its footing and ultimately missed out on securing a spot among the top 25 films currently running in the country. Early tracking numbers from reliable box office data suggests that the film took a disastrous opening on the first day. Despite releasing around 80 screens across Japan by the end of the evening, the Aditya Dhar directional stumbled on the first day with disappointing footfalls overall which are

less than 900 viewers. The lukewarm response appears to be due to lack of proper release strategy from the makers. Despite the fact the Indian films have a substantial market in Japan, there are no promotions from **Dhurandhar** team. Also, they failed to choose a perfect release season for the film. All these factors resulted in a shocking start at the box office on the first day. What is more surprising is that the film couldn't even get a place in the list of top 10 biggest opening Indian films in Japan. This underwhelming performance of **Dhurandhar** is similar to that of **Pushpa 2**, which also missed the top 10 by landing in 14th place. For context, **SS Rajamouli's RRR** still comfortably sits at the top for the biggest Indian opening day in Japan with a massive 8,230 footfall.

Hero Naveen Chandra Unveils the Title of "Ori Nayano"



The title of "Ori Nayano", along with the film's production office, was officially unveiled by actor Naveen Chandra at a grand ceremony held at the Veeranjanya Productions office in Madhapur, Hyderabad.

Hyderabad: A promising new Telugu film is all set to make its mark on the silver screen. The title of "Ori Nayano", along with the film's production office, was officially unveiled by actor Naveen Chandra at a grand ceremony held at the Veeranjanya Productions office in Madhapur, Hyderabad. Produced by Sai Abhishek under the banner Veeranjanya Productions, the film is written and directed by Gondi Maniteja. The film carries the intriguing tagline: "Every Life Will Have an Ori.Nayano! Moment." The launch event was attended by Maa Oori Polimera director Anil Viswanath, actors Satyam Rajesh and Raja Ravindra, cinematographer Vetri Palanisamy, along with members of the film's cast and crew. Speaking on the occasion, director Gondi Maniteja said, "Every great journey begins with faith.

Today's pooja ceremony marks the first step in bringing a story that is very close to my heart to the audience. We are committed to delivering a film that not only entertains but also offers memorable characters and unforgettable moments." Producer Sai Abhishek stated that the film is being mounted with high production values and a talented technical team. He added that Veeranjanya Productions aims to encourage unique stories while delivering commercially engaging films that appeal to audiences across all sec-

tions. The makers revealed that "Ori Nayano" blends entertainment, emotions, and contemporary storytelling into a refreshing cinematic experience. Featuring unexpected twists and relatable characters that reflect today's society, the film promises to offer an engaging and memorable experience for Telugu audiences. The casting process is currently underway, and the makers will soon announce the lead cast and the remaining technical crew. The intriguing title "Ori Nayano" has already generated curiosity among movie lovers. The production team is preparing to unveil more exciting updates as filming progresses. The film is slated for a December 2026 theatrical release.

JANHVI KAPOOR'S DESI LOOK IS TURNING EVERY HEAD



HAPPY JOURNEY UNVEILS FEEL-GOOD FIRST SINGLE 'ANANDAME'

A Song That Feels Like Freedom, Gutta Productions & Kamalakara Film Corporation's Happy Journey, Directed by Abhiramm Naidu, Beautiful First Song Anandame Released

Breaking away from the familiar commercial format, Happy Journey brings a refreshing perspective to Telugu cinema by placing women and their emotions at the heart of its story. The narrative follows the intertwined lives of seven women, portrayed by Annapurnamma, Amani, Anchor Jhansi, Payal Radhakrishna, Jinisha Alishetty, Roopaa Srinivas, and Sunaina, while Prudhvi Dandamudi, Wamce, and Ravi Siva Teja Paila play pivotal supporting characters. The film weaves together



multiple personal stories, giving every character a meaningful presence and emotional depth. Backed by producers Balaji Gutta and Koushik Reddy under the Gutta Productions and Kamalakara Film Corporation banners, Happy Journey also introduces Abhiramm Naidu as a

director, with Tharun Reddy serving as the co-producer. After creating strong anticipation with its first look and heartwarming teaser, the makers have now kickstarted the film's musical promotions by unveiling the first single, Anandame. Brimming with positivity

and carefree energy, the song captures the spirit of freedom as people from different age groups embrace every moment of their memorable trip to Paris. Shekar Chandra delivers a vibrant composition packed with lively orchestration that instantly creates feel-good vibes.

SARA ARJUN MASTERS MODERN ELEGANCE



Sara Arjun is back in the spotlight with another stunning magazine cover shoot, proving that style alone is enough to keep her trending. Dressed in a series of chic designer ensembles, the young actress effortlessly blends elegance with contemporary fashion, striking confident poses that showcase her growing presence as a style icon. From glamorous white outfits to bold monochrome looks accessorized

with statement jewelry, every frame reflects sophistication and youthful charm. Although Sara appeared earlier this year in **Dhurandhar**: The Revenge, she has not announced any new film projects since then. Despite the absence of fresh movie updates, her back-to-back magazine covers and high-fashion editorials continue to generate buzz across social media.

Actress Shruti Haasan's Metallic Look Steals The Spotlight

Shruti Haasan turned heads with her striking appearance at the world premiere of Christopher Nolan's **The Odyssey** in Mumbai, making a stylish statement on the red carpet. Dressed in a shimmering silver-grey gown, the actress exuded elegance with her minimal accessories, soft makeup, and effortless smile. Her sophisticated look perfectly complemented the grandeur of the historic event, which marked the first-ever India premiere for a Christopher Nolan film. Shruti's fashion choice quickly became a talking point across social media, earning praise for its modern and graceful appeal.

The actress continues to balance fashion and cinema with ease, captivating audiences wherever she appears. On the work front, Shruti has an exciting slate of projects ahead. She is part of the Telugu film **Aakasamlo Oka Tara**, which is under production right now along with Tamil film **Train**, which is currently in post-production. After weeks of speculation, the makers of Ram Charan's highly anticipated upcoming film, **Peddi**, have finally locked Shruti Haasan for

the special song. Several names of leading actresses have surfaced in the media as the potential fore-runners to share screen space with Charan in this song, but it was Shruti Haasan who made the cut in the last minute, leaving everyone surprised. A lot has been discussed about this particular song since many months because moviegoers are very eager

to see what is in store from director Buchi Babu in terms of making and presentation on the big screen. Now that Shruti Haasan is finalized, the shooting of this special song is going to commence shortly and this portion is likely to call it a wraps for the entire filming. Buchi Babu now has a big challenge to make sure that Shruti Haasan's brief presence turns out to be visually appealing as item songs usually garner more attention of other numbers in the album in terms of both audio and video. From casting to lyrics, from music to cinematography, everything pertaining to item songs should be spot on without giving any room for criticism.



Shruti Haasan turned heads with her striking appearance at the world premiere of Christopher Nolan's **The Odyssey** in Mumbai, making a stylish statement on the red carpet.