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SCAN FOR E-PAPER

**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

12-07-2026

Total pilgrims : 90,130
Tonsures : 38,075
Hundi kankabali : 4,13 CR
Laddu sale : 424 Lac
Annasradams : 3,11 Lac
Medical treatment : 4,104
Waiting Compartments : Out side line
at Silahgram.

Approx. Darshan Time for Saravali Namam (with out

500 Talens). 20- 24 H.

POCSO case accused who allegedly killed 6 people dies by suicide

HYDERABAD (TSIT): A 35-year-old man wanted for allegedly killing six persons in neighbouring Rangareddy district, was found dead on Monday with police suspecting that he committed suicide. P Rajkumar, a farmer who was an accused in a POCSO case, had allegedly murdered six persons-including a minor girl and two members of the family that

had filed the complaint against him besides his wife and two children on the night of July 10.

Some residents alerted the police on 'Dial 100' after noticing the body in an area under Kothur police station limits on Monday, a senior police official told PTI. "His body has been found. One bottle of insecticide/pesticide was found beside the body. We are assuming he consumed it because froth was seen in his mouth," the official said. A police team went to the spot and informed his family members, who identified the body to be that of Rajkumar, the official further said. The man was booked under the POCSO Act in May this year for stalking and harassing the minor girl, based on a complaint filed by the girl's family. The accused had stabbed the six victims and slit their throats.

CM Revanth seeks MPs' support for T'gana's devt.

CM urges Centre-State cooperation for IIM, Metro expansion, RRR, irrigation projects and key infrastructure initiatives

Hyderabad (TSIT Bureau):

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday called for greater cooperation between the Centre and the State, urging Members of Parliament from all political parties to rise above political differences and work together for Telangana's development.

Addressing a meeting with MPs, the Chief Minister said Telangana could achieve faster growth only through constructive coordination between the Union and State governments. He appealed to BJP MPs to take the initiative in securing an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) for Hyderabad. Revanth Reddy also sought the Centre's support for the expansion of the Hyderabad Metro



Rail and requested MPs to help expedite the loan approval process required for the project.

Highlighting major infrastructure priorities, the Chief Minister said land acquisition for the Regional Ring Road (RRR) had reached an advanced stage and urged MPs to secure central funding for its early completion. He also sought their support in obtaining approval for the Urban

Challenge Fund to accelerate the Musi River Rejuvenation Project.

On irrigation, Revanth Reddy said he had discussed key issues with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil during the inauguration of the Tungabhadra gates. He noted that several irrigation projects sanctioned during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era were still awaiting No Objection

Certificates (NOCs) from Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister said the Dindi Project (30 TMC) and the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (90 TMC) together require NOCs for 120 TMC of water allocation. He said the Centre's intervention would help speed up approvals and facilitate the timely completion of these projects.

Revanth Reddy also high-

Rahul calls for 'education revolution', slams Modi govt over corruption

LoP alleges paper leak menace has weakened education system; accuses Centre and Education Minister of remaining silent

New Delhi (TSIT)

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the Centre of remaining silent on corruption in the education sector and called for an "education revolution" to restore fairness and accountability in the system.

Ahead of his second interaction with students under the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' initiative, Gandhi alleged that India's education system had become a "dishonest extortion mechanism" that was burdening students and their families with debt, stress and uncertainty.

In a post on X, the



Congress leader said students themselves were describing the education system as "corrupt, unjust, biased and dishonest." He claimed that the system, which should prepare children for the future, was instead pushing them and their families into financial and emotional distress.

Gandhi alleged that widespread corruption

had fuelled the paper leak menace, depriving millions of students of the rewards of their hard work. He claimed that while those responsible for irregularities continued to receive contracts and promotions, students were left to suffer the consequences with shattered dreams.

The Congress leader also accused the Narendra Modi government and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan of failing to act against corruption in the education sector. He alleged that the government had chosen silence instead of accountability and criticised the media for not giving adequate attention to the issue.

Trump says Strait of Hormuz 'open', declares US its 'guardian'

**New Delhi (TSIT):**

US President Donald Trump on Monday, July 13, declared that the Strait of Hormuz is "open" and announced that the United States would become the "Guardian of the Hormuz Strait", despite Iran rejecting any US role in managing the strategic waterway.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the strait would remain open "with or without Iran" and announced that the US would oversee security in the waterway.

He added that Washington would seek reimbursement equivalent to 20 per cent of the value of cargo passing through the

strait, along with the costs of maintaining security, saying the plan would take effect immediately.

Trump expands on Hormuz plan

Earlier in a phone interview with Fox News' Fox & Friends, Trump said the United States was prepared to assume a long-term role in securing the Strait of Hormuz.

"We're taking over the Strait. They have nothing. They've got nothing," he said, referring to Iran. Trump claimed Iranian negotiators had backed away from an agreement reached during an 11-hour meeting the previous day.

"Yesterday, they had an 11-hour meeting... everything was agreed... then they called back and said they had to make a couple of changes," he said, accusing Tehran of repeatedly breaking agreements.

Naidu reviews progress of Polavaram Project



Amaravati : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday visited the Polavaram project in Eluru district and reviewed the progress of the works.

The Chief Minister conducted an aerial inspection of the project site, Godavari floodwater flow through the spillway, and the ongoing project works between the upstream and downstream coffer dams. He subsequently visited the project site and inspected the

Earth-cum-Rock-Fill Dam (Gap 1 and Gap 2) and the power generation unit works. Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu and senior officials from the department accompanied the Chief Minister. Naidu inquired about the progress of the ECRF Gap 1 works and the construction of the power generation station.

He later held a review meeting regarding the Polavaram Project works and 36 priority projects to be

undertaken across the state. Officials reported that 89 per cent of the civil works of the Polavaram Project have been completed so far.

The Chief Minister directed that the works on Gap 1 and Gap 2 of the Earth-cum-Rock Fill Dam be completed within the stipulated timeline. Officials stated that the tunnel works connecting the right and left canals would be completed by the end of this month.

Naidu ordered the expedited execution of works related to access roads to the dam, the right and left embankments, and the development of the Gandhi Pochamma Temple. He instructed officials to ensure that displaced persons face no difficulties regarding rehabilitation and compensation, and directed that land acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) processes be completed swiftly.

104 Indian airports now operating on 100 pc renewable energy: Civil Aviation Minister

New Delhi (TSIT):

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Monday announced that 104 airports across India are now operating on 100 per cent renewable energy, marking a significant milestone in the country's efforts to make aviation infrastructure more sustainable.

Sharing the update on social media platform X, the minister said the achievement reflects the government's commitment to clean energy and sustainability under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"104 Indian airports are now powered by 100 per cent renewable energy, up from 0 in 2014," the minister said. "New India is walk-



ing the talk on sustainability, advancing towards the Net Zero by 2070 target set by PM Narendra Modi," he added. The milestone means that the 104 airports are now meeting their operational electricity requirements entirely through renewable energy sources, including power generated from on-site solar installations as well as renewable electricity procured through long-term agreements such as hydropower.

DAY 24 OF CJP PROTEST:

Wangchuk loses 8.2 kg as fast enters 16th day; 'lives at stake', says Dipke

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Educator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has lost 8.2 kg since his indefinite hunger strike at the Jantar Mantar began, and his blood glucose level has dropped to 67 mg/dL, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) said on Monday, with its founder Abhijeet Dipke urging the Centre to address the protesters' demands as "lives are at stake".

With Wangchuk's indefinite fast entering Day 16, his health has deteriorated further. According to a health update shared by CJP, Wangchuk's blood pressure



was recorded at 107/70 mm Hg. His total weight loss since the beginning of the hunger strike has reached 8.2 kg.

The CJP protest at Jantar Mantar over alleged examination irregularities entered Day 24 on Monday. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke appealed to the Centre not to turn the issue into "a battle

of egos" and urged it to address the protesters' demands. "Day 16 of Wangchuk's hunger strike. I request the government not to turn this into a battle of egos as human lives are at stake here," Dipke said in a post on X. "Acknowledging a mistake is not a sign of weakness.

K'taka to decide on Cauvery water release after July 15 meeting: CM Shivakumar

Bengaluru (TSIT)

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the state government would take a decision on the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu only after presenting Karnataka's case at the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meeting scheduled for July 15.

Speaking to the media at his home office, Krishna, the Chief Minister said the government must strike a balance between safeguarding the interests of Karnataka's farmers, ensuring adequate drinking water supply, and complying with court directives. He stated that the state's stand would be presented before the Authority, follow-

ing which an appropriate decision would be announced.

Responding to concerns raised by legislators from Mandya over the release of Cauvery water, Shivakumar said MLAs from Mandya and Srirangapatna, along with the district in-charge minister, had met him to discuss the issue. He reiterated that the



government would decide the matter after the July 15 CWMA meeting.

On the suspension of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Chairman, the Chief Minister said the Governor had issued the suspension order and that the senior-most official had been directed to take charge of

the Commission's responsibilities until further arrangements are made.

Shivakumar also announced that Karnataka representatives would continue to enjoy the traditional privilege of offering the first aarti at the Tirumala temple. He said that, instead of only government officials, the opportunity would now be extended to elected representatives, judges, Members of Parliament, mayors, tahsildars, government officials and other eligible dignitaries from Karnataka. He clarified that the facility would be available to representatives of all political parties and that all temple procedures would continue to be governed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams administra-

tion. The Chief Minister further announced that the Karnataka Legislature's Monsoon Session would commence on August 6. He also confirmed that he would soon travel to New Delhi for official engagements, while the Congress leadership would finalise the schedule within the next few days.

Paying tribute to former Rajya Sabha member H. Hanumanthappa, Shivakumar described him as a distinguished Congress leader who served three terms in the Rajya Sabha and made significant contributions to both Karnataka and the nation. He said Hanumanthappa's dedication to public service and the party would always be remembered.

Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool faction challenges prohibitory orders on July 21 rally venue in Calcutta HC

Kolkata, July 13 : The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress faction on Monday approached a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court challenging the advisory from Kolkata Police imposing prohibitory orders for 60 days in front of CESC House near busy Esplanade Crossing, which is the traditional venue of the party's annual Martyrs' Day event. The single-judge bench of Justice Sougata Bhattacharya admitted the petition, and the matter will come up for hearing on July 15. Kolkata Police recently issued an advisory imposing Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (previously Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973), prohibiting the congregation of four or more people in the



area in front of the CESC House near busy Esplanade Crossing in Central Kolkata. Incidentally, the period for which this ban has been issued also includes July 21, the scheduled date of Trinamool Congress' annual Martyrs' Day rally. In its petition, the Mamata Banerjee-led faction has specially questioned the justification of imposing the prohibi-

tory order during that period. The petitioner's counsel, Kalyan Banerjee, a senior advocate and four-time Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha member, has described the prohibitory order as "arbitrary" and "contrary to fundamental rights". Till 2025, Trinamool Congress had organised its annual Martyrs' Day rally in front of the CESC House.

However, now the party has two factions -- the minority one led by Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee and the rebel but majority faction led by expelled party legislator Ritabrata Banerjee. The Ritabrata faction has already announced that it has got the permission to organise the rally on July 21 this year, but at an alternative location in front of the Mahatma Gandhi Statue on the Jawaharal Nehru Road. On the other hand, the Mamata Banerjee faction is adamant about holding the Martyr's Day rally in front of the CESC House. Now it remains to be seen whether this faction gets the Calcutta High Court's permission to hold the rally at the same place or is granted a different venue.

Additional Collector Directs Swift Disposal of Prajavani Petitions



Hyderabad City TSIT July 13: Medchal-Malkajgiri Additional Collector Faizan Ahmed has directed officials of all departments to ensure the prompt scrutiny and disposal of petitions received through the weekly Prajavani grievance redressal programme, stressing that applications should be resolved without any delay. The directions were issued during the Prajavani programme held at the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collectorate Conference Hall on Monday. The Additional Collector, along with District Revenue Officer (DRO) Malathi and Additional

Collector Vijayender Reddy, received 78 petitions from people representing various parts of the district. Addressing the officials, Faizan Ahmed said citizens approach the district administration with the hope that their grievances will be resolved after investing consider-

able time, effort and resources. He said it is the responsibility of every official to uphold that trust by ensuring timely and transparent disposal of every petition. The Additional Collector instructed the concerned departments to immediately examine the petitions received during the

programme and ensure that there is no delay at any stage of the verification and disposal process. He emphasised that all grievances should be addressed on priority and directed officials to closely monitor the progress of each application until it is resolved. He further instructed that if any application is rejected, the concerned department must clearly communicate the reasons for rejection to the applicant in a detailed and transparent manner. Such communication, he said, would enhance accountability and strengthen public confidence in the grievance redressal mechanism.

KIMS doctors save young doctor with advanced ECMO retrieval and critical care

- TRANSPORTED FROM SOLAPUR TO HYDERABAD BY ROAD ON ECMO SUPPORT

- MANAGED ON ECMO AND VENTILATOR SUPPORT FOR A WEEK

- DISCHARGED IN GOOD HEALTH AFTER 25 DAYS OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT



Hyderabad, July 13th, 2026: Doctors at KIMS Hospitals successfully saved the life of a 32-year-old woman doctor from Solapur, Maharashtra, who developed severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) following Influenza pneumonia, using advanced Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) support and comprehensive critical care. Dr. Vishal Kumar Chitikeshi, Lead Consultant, Clinical and Interventional Pulmonology, KIMS Hospitals, said the patient had initially presented with high fever and severe breathing difficulty. She was admitted to a hospital in Solapur, where she was placed on mechanical ventilation. Despite intensive treatment, her condition

continued to deteriorate. Investigations confirmed Influenza pneumonia with severe ARDS, resulting in life-threatening respiratory failure. Considering the severity of her condition, the KIMS ECMO retrieval team, led by Dr. Vamsi Krishna, travelled to Solapur and initiated ECMO support at the referring hospital. The patient was then safely transported overnight by road to KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, while remaining on ECMO support throughout the transfer. Following her admission to KIMS Hospitals, she received intensive treatment on ECMO and mechanical ventilation for nearly a week. A multidisciplinary team comprising

specialists in Pulmonology, Critical Care, Infectious Diseases, Respiratory Therapy, Nursing and Physiotherapy worked together to provide round-the-clock care. After 25 days of intensive treatment and rehabilitation, the patient made a complete recovery and was discharged in stable condition. Dr. Vishal said the successful outcome was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Critical Care and ECMO team led by Dr. Vamsi Krishna, the Infectious Diseases team led by Dr. Prateek, respiratory therapists, nursing staff and physiotherapists. He noted that ECMO serves as a life-saving therapy for patients with

severe respiratory failure who do not respond to conventional mechanical ventilation. The successful retrieval of the patient from another State, initiation of ECMO at the referring hospital and her safe transfer to Hyderabad underscore KIMS Hospitals' expertise in advanced critical care and ECMO retrieval services. The patient's family members, who are also doctors, expressed their gratitude to the treating team and the hospital management. The doctors said that timely clinical decision-making, advanced technology and seamless multidisciplinary coordination played a crucial role in saving the young doctor's life.

VETCONVERGENCE 2026 concludes with roadmap for strengthening livestock, poultry sectors

Hyderabad, July 11, 2026: The second edition of VETCONVERGENCE 2026, the Vice-Chancellors' Conclave organised by the Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU), Nagpur, with the support of the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA)-Poultry India, concluded successfully in Hyderabad after deliberating on strategies to align veterinary education and research with industry needs. Held on July 10 and 11 at Hotel AVASA, the two-day conclave brought together more than 30 Vice-Chancellors from veterinary universities across the country, along with policymakers, scientists, academicians and indus-

try leaders under the theme "Aligning Livestock Research with Industry Demand and Entrepreneurship Development." Former Union Minister and former Governor of Himachal Pradesh Bandaru Dattatreya attended the conclave as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he called for making veterinary education more practical, industry-oriented and outcome-driven. He stressed the need to produce employable graduates equipped with practical skills and an entrepreneurial mindset, while advocating demand-driven research, technology transfer and stronger partnerships between universities and industry.



CPI (AM) flays civic neglect in Chennur.

CHENNUR, JULY 13, TSIT. The district committee of the Communist Party of India (Ambedkar-Marx) [CPI (AM)] has alleged that residents of several colonies in Chennur are facing severe hardship due to the lack of basic civic infrastructure, including roads, drainage facilities and sanitation. A team led by district convener Sanke Ravi and district convening committee member Doolam Srinivas visited several wards and colonies in the town on Monday to assess local civic issues and interact with residents. Addressing the media, the leaders alleged that despite nearly eight decades of Independence, several localities continue to be deprived of basic amenities guaranteed under the Constitution. They claimed that poor maintenance of drains had resulted in foul odour, while sanitation measures such as the application of bleaching powder and anti-mosquito spraying had come to a standstill. According to the party leaders, Ambedkar Colony, Srinagar Colony, Marammawada and the Shishumandir area are among the worst-affected localities. They alleged that clogged drains, unchecked vegetation and accumulated garbage had led to an increase in mosquito breeding and snake movement, posing health and safety risks to residents. They also pointed to the menace of stray pigs and dogs in the affected areas. The leaders alleged that repeated representations made by residents to the municipal authorities had failed to evoke any response, putting public health at risk. They further accused both the previous and the present governments of neglecting the development of civic infrastructure in Chennur. The party demanded that the local MLA, elected representatives and the Municipal Commissioner take immediate steps to lay roads, establish a proper drainage network, clean drains regularly and undertake sanitation measures, including bleaching powder application and anti-larval spraying, to address the problems faced by residents. Party leaders Ratipelli Nagesh, Bondla Saritha, Boyire Ramadevi, Nomula Sambaiah and local residents participated in the inspection.



Mangalya Shopping Mall opens 31st branch in RC Puram



RC Puram, July 13 (The South India Times): Mangalya Shopping Mall, one of South India's fastest-growing textile retail chains, on Monday inaugurated its 31st branch at RC Puram in a grand ceremony attended by popular film actress Raashi Khanna. Founded in Warangal, Telangana, in 2012, Mangalya Shopping Mall has steadily expanded its footprint across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, earning customer trust by offering quality apparel at affordable prices. Actress Raashi Khanna, the chief guest at the inauguration, formally opened the showroom by lighting the ceremonial lamp and cutting the ribbon. She later toured the various sections of the mall and interacted with enthusiastic fans who had gathered in large numbers to witness the event. Speaking on the occasion, Raashi Khanna

expressed confidence that the people of RC Puram would warmly welcome Mangalya Shopping Mall and wished the new branch continued success with the support and blessings of customers. Addressing the gathering, Mangalya Shopping Mall directors Pulluru Narasimha Murthy, Kasam Namasivaya, Kasam Mallikarjuna, Kasam Kedarinath, Kasam Sivaprasad, and Pulluru Arun Kumar said the company's success is built on providing quality clothing for every age group and occasion at affordable prices. They added that the brand has maintained its leadership in the textile sector by introducing exclusive handloom collections designed to match evolving fashion trends. The newly opened showroom features a wide range of fashion collections for women, men, youth, and children, along with an exten-

sive selection of wedding and festive wear. Customers can choose from products priced between Rs.99 and Rs.1 lakh, making the mall a one-stop destination for family shopping. The directors said the RC Puram branch would enable local residents to purchase quality apparel for weddings and special occasions without travelling to distant cities. They also announced that the company plans to launch 10 more projects across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka in the near future, followed by expansion into Tamil Nadu. Expressing confidence in the brand's future growth, the directors said Mangalya Shopping Mall aims to become one of India's leading family shopping destinations and invited customers to visit the new RC Puram showroom with their families and friends.

Private hospitals in Vemulawada face safety concerns

Residents allege narrow access roads, lack of emergency access and possible regulatory violations; seek probe into hospital approvals

Vemulawada, July 13 (The South India Times): Serious concerns have been raised over the functioning of two private hospitals in Vemulawada, with residents alleging that the facilities are operating in a narrow lane without adequate access for ambulances and fire engines, posing a potential risk to public safety. The hospitals—Sahasra Children's Hospital and Mahalakshmi Orthopedic Hospital—are located near the municipal office in Rajanna Sircilla district. According to local residents, the lane leading to the hospitals is too narrow to allow the smooth movement of vehicles, resulting in frequent traffic congestion and delays for ambulances during medical emergencies. Residents alleged that if a fire or any other major emergency were to occur, a fire engine would find it difficult to reach the hospitals, putting patients, attendants and staff at risk.



They questioned whether adequate emergency preparedness measures were in place and who would be held accountable in the event of an accident. Concerns have also been raised over the hospitals' compliance with municipal and fire safety regulations. Residents claimed that commercial buildings and hospitals are generally required to have wider access roads and obtain mandatory fire safety clearances before commencing operations. They alleged that the hospitals may not meet these requirements and questioned how approvals were

granted. Some residents further alleged that authorities had failed to take action despite the hospitals being located close to the municipal office. They also raised allegations that government doctors were associated with the hospitals, a claim that has not been independently verified. Demanding transparency, local residents urged the District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) and municipal authorities to disclose the building approvals, sanctioned plans and Fire Safety No Objection Certificates (NOCs) issued to the hospitals. They called for an immediate and impartial inspection by the competent authorities and appropriate action if any violations are found. The South India Times could not independently verify the allegations. The response of the hospital managements and the concerned authorities was not immediately available.

Beauty Pageants Build Confidence Among Women: Actor Ali



Hyderabad, July 13: Popular film actor Ali said that beauty pageants play a significant role in enhancing confidence, leadership qualities, and personality development among women. He was speaking as the chief guest at the preparatory event for Global Treasure Season-3, held at Daspalla Hotel in Jubilee Hills on Monday. During the event, Ali, along with GBT founder Suhasini Pandya and actor Prudhvi, unveiled the trophy for the upcoming beauty pageant. Addressing the gathering, Ali stated that such competitions provide excellent opportunities for young women interested in the fashion and glamour industry. He noted that participants gain valuable learning experiences and exposure through these platforms. He further emphasized that beauty pageants not only help in improving beauty, talent, and personality traits but also offer contestants a chance to gain recognition at national and international levels. Speaking on the occasion, pageant representative Suhasini Pandya said that the first two seasons of the event were conducted successfully. She announced that Global Treasure Season-3, being organized with the support of Pricus Digital, will be held in the city on September 27 this year. The event was attended by actress Priya Vadlamani, actor Ramki, Suchir India Kiran, P. Bhuvaneshwari, Sheikh Habib Pasha, and several other distinguished guests.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy Reviews Durgapur Steel Plant Operations, Chairs Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting

Durgapur, West Bengal : On the second day of his official visit to West Bengal, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy undertook an extensive review of the Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), inspected key production facilities, chaired the Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Steel, and held a series of interactions with senior officials, Members of Parliament and SAIL leadership to chart the future course of India's public sector steel giant.

Union Minister started his day off by meeting with officials of Durgapur Steel Plant in the presence of Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, Members of Parliament who are members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Steel, Secretary, Ministry of



Steel Sandeep Poundrik, SAIL Chairman and Managing Director Shri Ashok Kumar Panda, and senior officials of the Ministry of Steel and SAIL.

The Minister subsequently chaired the Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting on the theme "Performance of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)", where Members of Parliament engaged in detailed deliberations on SAIL's operational per-

formance, expansion strategy, financial health, technological transformation and long-term growth roadmap.

Addressing the meeting, H.D. Kumaraswamy described SAIL as one of India's most important industrial institutions and a cornerstone of the nation's development.

"SAIL has stood at the centre of India's industrial story for over six decades. It has helped build this nation quite literally,

brick by brick and beam by beam. As India's flagship steel-producing Maharatna CPSE, SAIL continues to play a defining role in strengthening our industrial and economic foundations."

Highlighting the company's performance, the Minister noted that FY 2025-26 marked SAIL's best-ever year across multiple operational parameters, including crude steel production, saleable steel production, finished steel production, blast furnace productivity, coke rate and specific energy consumption.

The record performance achieved during FY 2025-26 reflects not merely higher production but a sustained culture of operational excellence, efficiency, cost optimisation and technological advancement. These achievements provide a strong foundation for SAIL's next phase of growth."

Awaki Opens in Bengaluru, Bringing Japan's Matcha Culture and Contemporary Japanese Cuisine to the Heart of the City

Bengaluru : House of Awaki has officially opened in Bengaluru, introducing the city to a contemporary Japanese tea house dedicated to the craft and culture of Japanese tea. Located in Kalyan Nagar, the intimate destination brings together premium ceremonial Matcha, speciality Japanese teas, signature beverages and an ingredient-led menu, inviting guests to experience Japanese tea beyond the familiar café format.

The name Awaki combines the idea of being "awake" with Ki, the Japanese philosophy of life force and energy, reflecting the brand's belief in mindful hospitality and a more intentional way of experiencing tea.

At the heart of House of Awaki is one of India's



most thoughtfully curated Japanese tea programmes, featuring six ceremonial Matcha cultivars — Ren, Kiyone, Takara, Ajisai, Bara and Yuri — sourced from the renowned tea-growing regions of Mie, Uji, Yame and Kagoshima. Each cultivar offers a distinct origin, flavour profile and character, allowing

guests to discover the diversity of Matcha through every cup.

The experience extends beyond Matcha with three distinctive Houjicha varieties, Akane, Hibisu and Tsubaki, alongside Genmai, Genmaicha and Rikka, offering a broader introduction to Japan's rich tea heritage. The bev-

erage programme further explores these teas through signature creations including Miso Cookie Caramel Matcha, Pandan Palm Candy, Coco Matcha Honey Lemon, Milo Akane and Coco Matcha Float, blending traditional Japanese teas with contemporary flavours.

Complementing the beverages is a curated menu of approximately 20 contemporary Japanese-inspired dishes, created to pair naturally with the teas. Signature plates include Ponzu Prawn Inari, Chicken Karaage, Kale Tempura, Kimchi Udon, Braised Pork Belly and Mayak Egg Toast, while desserts such as the Matcha Basque Cheesecake, Matcha Houjicha Basque Cheesecake and Mocha Babka Toast continue the tea-led experience.

Congress has hijacked the SIR process itself: Leader of Opposition R. Ashok

Chamarajanagar : The Congress is hijacking the entire SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process by issuing Permanent Resident Certificates. This is endangering the country's security, and this process should be stopped immediately, demanded Leader of Opposition R. Ashok.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that the SIR process is meant to give voting rights only to Indian citizens. However, the Congress government is hijacking the SIR process. Even after so many years since Independence, they are now issuing Permanent Resident Certificates. One has to ask — were all of us living here insecurely until now? There are approximately 2 crore Bangladeshi citizens in the country. If certificates are issued to such people, it will become impossible to send them



back. The government has resorted to this conspiracy to appease minorities, he alleged.

The power to grant citizenship rests only with the Central Government. If it is found that someone is not an Indian citizen, it is the Central Government that deports them to the concerned country. In West Bengal, Congress's partner Mamata Banerjee was in power earlier. At that time, many Bangladeshi people had come in, and Congress did not raise any questions about it. The same

problem exists in Assam and Bihar. Even the Naxal problem started because of Congress. Congress leaders kept quiet like donkeys for so many years and are now making allegations against the BJP, he criticised at the press conference held at the Press Club. If the Congress government continues to appease traitors, communal riots will increase. Already, cases against Muslim organisations have been withdrawn. There is no need to issue certificates to appease them, he said.

By now, Chief

Minister D.K. Shivakumar should have declared drought-affected areas in the state. Instead, skipping that, they passed a resolution in the KPCC meeting demanding Rs.10,000 crore from the Central Government. They have not conducted any survey, have not declared drought, have not provided details on fodder and water availability, yet they are demanding money from the Centre. A responsible government must first conduct a survey and submit a report to the Centre to receive relief. The Central Government sends its team of officials, conducts a survey, obtains a report, and only then releases funds. Every year, relief comes under SDRF. The government should account for what has been done with that money. Instead of doing that, they are engaged in blaming the Centre, he said.

L&T Technology Services Global EI Hackathon Sparks the Next Wave of AI-Native Engineering Solutions

Bengaluru : L&T Technology Services a global leader in Engineering Intelligence Solutions & ER&D Consulting Services successfully concluded Engineering Intelligence (EI) OpenHack 2026, a first-of-its-kind global innovation challenge conducted simultaneously across nine locations spanning India, the U.S. and Europe.

The hackathon brought together nearly 4,000 engineers (770+ teams) from Bengaluru, Mysuru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Vadodara, Mumbai, Dallas and Munich to tackle complex engineering challenges through AI-led innovation. More than 500 challenge statements were aligned with company's strategic growth priorities, spanning Software Defined Mobility, Plant Buildout & Modernization, Energy & Automation, Next-Gen Compute & AI Infrastructure, Digital



Manufacturing, MedTech, and Software Platforms & AI. By combining domain expertise with emerging technologies, participants developed AI-powered solutions across industrial automation, cybersecurity, autonomous systems, supply chain intelligence, enterprise optimization, and healthcare - all aimed at helping enterprises reimagine products, operations, and decision-making. An esteemed jury comprising senior LTTS

leaders and technology experts evaluated the solutions through multiple rounds, assessing entries on innovation, technical excellence, scalability, real-world relevance and effective use of AI. Winning teams were awarded cash prizes worth over INR 30 lakh, while standout innovations received opportunities for further development through Project Equinox, an LTTS platform that supports promising, scalable solutions. Patent-worthy

innovations were also shortlisted for special recognition, enabling participants to transform breakthrough ideas into valuable intellectual property. Congratulating the participants and winning teams, Mritunjay Kumar Singh, Chief Operating Officer, L&T Technology Services, said "The EI OpenHack 2026 reflects LTTS' vision of Engineering Intelligence, where engineering expertise and AI come together to solve real-world industry challenges. What stood out was not only the scale of participation, but the ability of our engineers to apply contextual understanding, domain knowledge and AI prowess to develop solutions with tangible business relevance. Initiatives like OpenHack create opportunities for our talent to experiment, collaborate and develop solutions that will shape the future of engineering."

Karnataka Government Accelerates Implementation of 13 Ropeway Projects



BENGALURU : Karnataka Minister for Energy and Tourism K.J. George has directed officials to expedite the implementation of the 13 ropeway projects proposed across the state, emphasizing the need to fast-track statutory approvals and ensure timely execution.

Chairing a high-level review meeting attended by Dr. K.V. Trilok Chandra, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Dr. V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Commissioner, Department of Tourism, senior officials of the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) and the Tourism Department, the Minister reviewed the progress of all proposed ropeway projects across Karnataka.

Expressing concern that

several ropeway projects have remained at the planning stage for years, the Minister instructed officials to obtain all mandatory approvals from the Forest Department, Environment Department and other statutory agencies before floating tenders, so that implementation is not delayed after project award.

The feasibility studies for all 13 ropeway projects have been entrusted to RITES. Of these, feasibility reports for eight projects have already been completed, while officials were directed to expedite the studies for the remaining locations. The Minister also reviewed the Mullayanagiri Ropeway Project, where the feasibility study has been delayed due to pending permis-

sions. He directed officials to facilitate the required clearances immediately and instructed RITES to submit the feasibility report within one month.

Preliminary feasibility studies have already been completed for the ropeway projects at Gokak Falls (Belagavi), Mylara Lingeshwara Temple (Yadgir), Anjanadri Hill (Koppal) and Devaragudda Malatesha Temple (Haveri). The Gokak Ropeway Project has also secured approval from the Finance Department. The Minister directed officials to place the proposal before the next meeting of the State Cabinet for approval.

The ropeway projects are proposed to be implemented under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Stressing the importance of timely implementation, Mr. George instructed officials to accord top priority to securing statutory approvals from the Forest Department and other agencies. He also directed the Tourism Commissioner to visit New Delhi and coordinate with the Union Ministries concerned to expedite the required clearances.

Soult Signs Corporate Partnership with Trescon, Bringing Its Secure Digital Life Vault to Employees Across India



BENGALURU : Soult, India's secure digital life vault for families, has signed a corporate partnership with Trescon, extending its Legacy plan to employees across Trescon's India offices as a company-sponsored benefit. The partnership enables employees to securely organise their financial assets, important documents, passwords, emergency instructions and personal memories in one encrypted platform, with the ability to designate trusted contacts who can be given access when it matters most.

"This partnership reflects a growing recognition that family preparedness is an essential part of employee wellbeing, rather than a personal responsibility employees must manage alone," said Sanketh Kandlikar, Founder & CTO, Soult. "By making Soult available to Trescon's workforce, we are helping families organise what matters most through a secure and trusted platform. We believe this is the beginning of a broader shift towards making digital legacy planning a standard workplace benefit."

"Every organisation talks about employee wellbeing, but very few extend that conversation to what happens to an employee's family in an emergency. It's an uncomfortable topic, which is exactly why it gets ignored. We wanted to change that for our people. Soult gave us a secure, credible way to do it, and rolling it out across our India offices felt like the right place to start, with our global offices next once the platform is available there." — Naveen Bharadwaj, CEO of Trescon.

The partnership represents an important milestone in Soult's growth strategy, expanding its reach beyond individual consumers into the enterprise segment. As organisations continue investing in employee wellbeing, digital legacy planning is emerging as a valuable addition alongside health insurance, financial wellness programmes and mental health support.

BY Vijayendra Demands Rs.50,000 Per Acre Compensation for Farmers Affected by Severe Drought in North and Kalyana Karnataka

Bidar : BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra strongly criticized the state Congress government for its absolute negligence toward the drought-stricken farmers of North and Kalyana Karnataka.

Highlighting the severe distress in districts like Bidar, Gulbarga, and Yadgir, where rainfall has plummeted to a mere 12%, Vijayendra

demanded immediate financial assistance for the agricultural sector.

"Over 30 lakh hectares of agricultural land remain uncultivated because of the failure of rains. Farmers are struggling to survive as major crops like pigeon pea (togari), sunflower, and cotton could not even be sown," Vijayendra stated during a press briefing at the airport.



Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: 1st Floor, Sundar Tower, 24/868(3), Opp. Nissan Pinnacle , Kunnathurmedu Post, Palakkadu 678013
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Aswathy Sivan (Borrower) Savith Kumar T (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHPGT00001366450	Re Sy No 41/1-5 Sreekrishnapuram Palakkad	Rs. 16,57,855.00/- July 03, 2026	Rs. 6,57,073/- Rs. 65,707/-	July 24, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	July 31, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM	July 30, 2026 05:00 PM	Physical Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgages/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 30, 2026, August 13, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before July 30, 2026, August 13, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before July 30, 2026, August 13, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or ValueTrust Centralised HelpDesk No. 6200-22-6200.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>
Date: July 14, 2026
Place: Palakkad

Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number- U65922MH1999PLC120106



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.

INDIA'S OPENING:

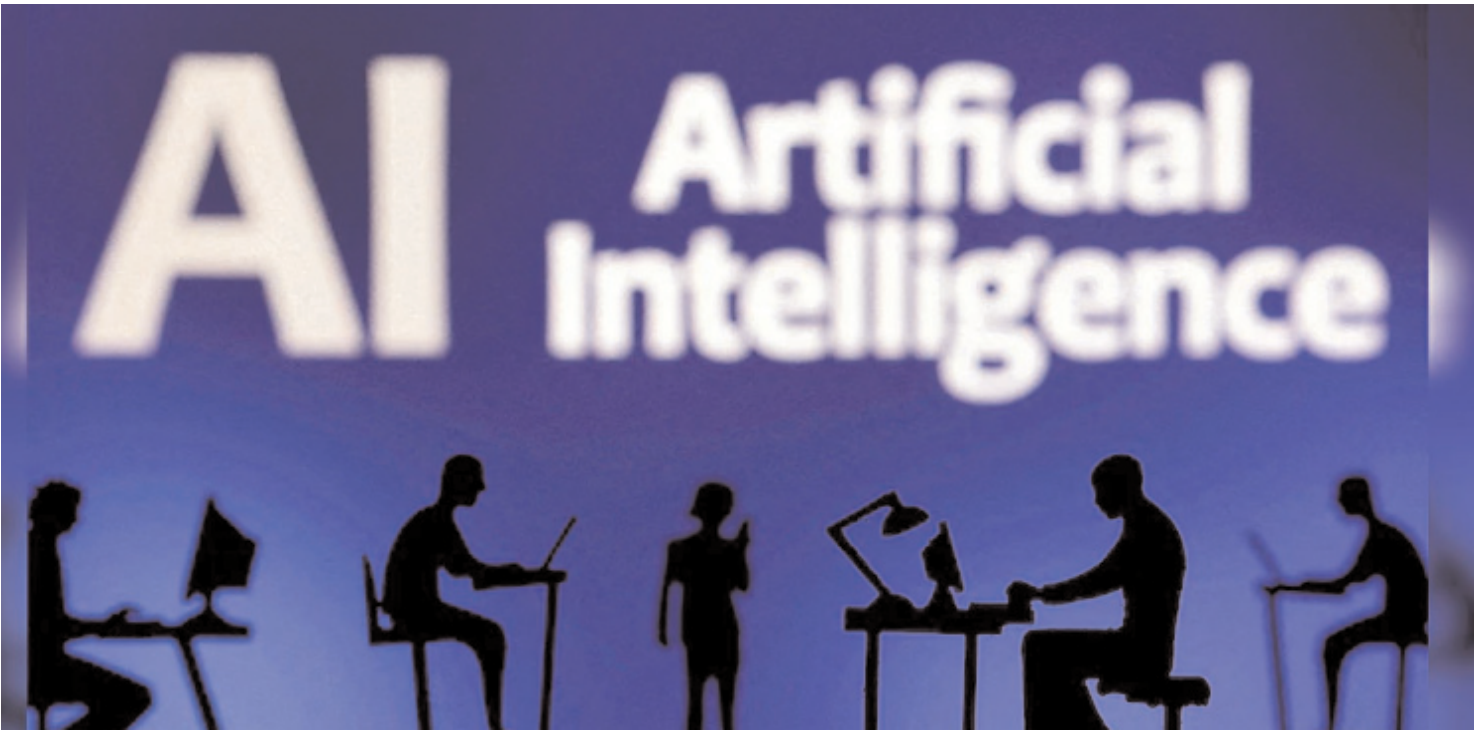
WHAT NEW DELHI CAN ACTUALLY DO IN UN'S AI DIALOGUE

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, Gnanai.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 judiciary and public trust. The judiciary's strength rests on public confidence; if citizens' trust erodes, the concept of the rule of law is also compromised. Therefore, upholding the judiciary's dignity is essential not just for the institution itself, but for democracy as a whole. Achievements of the Judiciary Amidst criticisms 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.



'US WILL TAKE OVER HORMUZ, WILL GET PAID FOR GUARDING IT,' SAYS TRUMP AS IRAN TENSIONS WORSEN

US President Donald Trump on Monday said the United States would take over the Strait of Hormuz and be compensated for securing the vital maritime chokepoint, marking one of his strongest comments yet on Washington's potential role in safeguarding global energy trade amid heightened tensions with Iran. Speaking in an interview with Fox News, Trump said the US would probably run the Strait of Hormuz and become its guardian, arguing that Washington should be reimbursed for protecting one of the world's most strategically important shipping lanes. "We're taking over the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said. "We'll probably run the Strait. We're going to get paid for guarding it. If we run Hormuz, the US will be reimbursed." The remarks come as tensions between Washington and Tehran continue to escalate following the latest US military strikes on



Iranian targets. Trump claimed Iran was in a significantly weakened position after the attacks. "Iran has nothing," he said, adding that the country "didn't get anything from me" and had "no chance" of rebuilding its military capabilities. Despite his criticism of Tehran, Trump acknowledged the negotiating skills of the Iranian leadership, describing them as "professional negotiators." However, he maintained that Iran had failed to secure any concessions from his administration. The Strait of

Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints, with roughly a fifth of global oil consumption passing through the narrow waterway linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman. Any disruption to shipping through the strait has the potential to rattle global energy markets and drive crude oil prices sharply higher. Donald Trump has said the US will "probably run" the Strait of Hormuz, claiming that Iran "broke" a deal that was made with the US. Speaking to Fox News, the US

president says: "We are taking over the strait. They have nothing. They've got nothing." He says the US hit Iran "very hard last night", referencing a series of strikes carried out by US Central Command (Centcom) overnight on military assets in the country. Trump adds: "We have them. We have them in the run. Most of their equipment is gone. Their anti-aircraft stuff is gone." Iran's embassy in the UK said earlier on Monday it has established a temporary safe maritime corridor "free of technical and military barriers" in the strait, but that US military aggression has turned the waterway into a "high-risk zone". The details of the incident at Sanaa Airport remain unclear, but it already appears to be the most significant escalation in the largely dormant conflict between the internationally-backed Yemeni government and the Houthis for several years.

FM Sitharaman Asks Banks To Intensify NRI Outreach To Boost Forex Inflows

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday asked public sector banks to step up engagement with non-resident Indians (NRIs) and roll out innovative foreign currency deposit products to attract higher forex inflows, according to an official statement. At a meeting with the heads of public sector banks, Sitharaman stressed the need to proactively reach out to overseas Indians and fully utilise the opportunities available through GIFT City for mobilising foreign currency resources. The finance minister's remarks come after the Reserve Bank of India unveiled a set of measures aimed at boosting foreign currency inflows and strengthening India's external sector through swap facilities linked to FCNR(B) deposits, External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs). Bank executives told the finance minister that there has been encouraging interest in the RBI's swap



schemes, particularly from NRIs based in the US, the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong and West Asia, the statement said. According to the banks, foreign currency deposit mobilisation under the FCNR(B) route has gained traction, while ECB inflows are expected to gather pace in the third quarter of FY27. The RBI assured lenders of its full support in mobilising eligible deposits and overseas borrowings. It also encouraged

broad participation in the swap facilities to strengthen India's foreign exchange reserves and overall external sector resilience. The central bank's special FCNR(B) swap window will remain open until Sept. 30, while the facilities covering eligible ECBs and OFCBs will be available until Dec. 31. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called upon public sector banks to further intensify outreach to the NRI

diaspora and introduce innovative deposit products. Mrs Sitharaman said this while interacting with Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of Banks, Public Financial Institutions on the Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings swap initiatives in New Delhi today. She also emphasized for enhanced NRI outreach to sustain mobilisation momentum. During the interaction, the MDs and CEOs of the banks and Public Financial Institutions apprised the Minister of the progress under the RBI's swap facility schemes. The participation of banks and public financial institutions underscores the effectiveness of the swap facilities in mobilising foreign currency inflows. Their participation also reinforces India's foreign exchange reserves and strengthening the resilience of the external sector amid global uncertainty.

THE RISE OF INDIA'S MASS AFFLUENT AND THE EVOLUTION OF PREMIUM BANKING

Vishakhapatnam, July 2026: The growing middle class in India has fortuitously created a new segment of the population. Over the years, a shift in the economic story from scale to sophistication has led to a sizeable expansion of the mass-affluent population. Positioned between traditional retail customers and ultra-high-net-worth individuals, the mass-affluent segment is increasingly redefining consumption, aspiration and financial engagement. Mass affluent are currently redefining consumption, aspiration and financial engagement. Besides being globally aware and digitally astute, mass affluents have growing spending power and evolving expectations. Mass affluents with a deep consciousness of value, together with this economic shift, have fundamentally altered the approach towards premium banking. Hitendra Jha, Head of Retail Liabilities, TASC and TPP, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said, Rising incomes, entrepreneurial growth and increased access to global lifestyles via digital platforms led to the rise of mass affluent in India. However, beyond income levels, this segment is defined by a mindset. Mass affluent individuals build wealth, not inherit it, which makes them highly discerning, selective, time-conscious, and attracted to personalised financial solutions. For them, banking is no longer just about transactions or savings. It is about seamless integration with their broader lifestyle, which includes travel, wellness, entertainment and long-term financial planning.

Individual engagement with financial markets has expanded too, as the share of equity and mutual funds in annual household financial savings increased from nearly 2% in FY12 to over 15.2% in FY25, according to India's Economic Survey 2025-26 released by the Ministry of Finance. This financially aware and investment-oriented consumer base is now looking to build wealth, gain experience and expect more from the financial ecosystem. Interestingly, the elite and mass affluent are inclined towards investment-oriented behavior and long-term wealth building.

HOLISTIC BANKING EXPERIENCES

In response, Indian banks are delivering holistic and experience-driven propositions with the idea to transition from standalone products to integrated ones where financial services are complemented by lifestyle benefits. The modern exclusive banking programme is no longer limited to preferential interest rates or faster service. It brings together personalised relationship management, enhanced transaction limits, lifestyle partnerships across travel, dining, and entertainment, health and wellness integrations, and reward ecosystems that extend beyond traditional cashback.



In many ways, the idea of a bank account with lifestyle benefits is becoming central to how this segment evaluates value.

A NEW APPROACH TO PREMIUM BANKING (SUCH AS IVORY BY UJJIVAN)

Banks are launching a new generation programme aimed at their mass affluent customers. For example, Ivory by Ujjivan is built around a simpler but more ambitious idea that banking at this level should feel genuinely different rather than showing up as just another financial product with a premium sticker. Ivory is a premium banking proposition that comes with exclusive offerings, from lifestyle privileges to finances and bespoke services. From dedicated relationship management to global access through a premium metal debit card and from hospitality partnerships to integrated rewards, the programme mirrors the evolving expectations of customers who want their financial relationships to be both efficient and enriching. The elevated experience comes from thoughtfully designed features of the Ivory metal debit card, including accelerated rewards and access to curated lifestyle experiences across dining and leisure. The enhancements of the programme also include

relationship-led engagement with a personalised approach to banking. The dedicated support ensures that modern customers experience convenience in everyday transactions and receive value that matches their evolving aspirations. Cohesive offerings, such as Ivory by Ujjivan, align with customers' lives rather than operating as an individual HNI bank account, the idea is to integrate banking into everyday experiences, emphasizing continuity and convenience.

The Way Forward

From access to global travel and dining experiences to curated lifestyle partnerships, from a savings account with reward points to dedicated relationship management, the intent is to simplify and, at the same time, enrich the customer's financial journey. In addition, concierge-like support and personalised consultation further reinforce the idea that banking is now more relational than transactional. Thus, the value of such offerings lies in the intuitive and elevated experience they offer. India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing wealth markets, reflecting the broader expansion of wealth creation in the country. This trend is also mirrored in the steady growth of the mass-affluent segment, albeit at a different scale and pace. This transition naturally demands more intuitive, experience-led financial solutions. Therefore, more exclusivity and how well it adapts to the evolving lifestyles of its customers will likely define the future of premium banking.

PROTINEX LAUNCHES 'STRENGTH HAI TOH SIMPLE HAI' CAMPAIGN, A CAMPAIGN THAT CELEBRATES EVERYDAY STRENGTH

India, July 2026: Protinex India has launched a new integrated campaign "Strength hai toh simple hai", a celebration of everyday strength that speaks directly to the millennial Indian adult. The campaign is rooted in an insight that is simple, sharp, and deeply felt: from 30s onwards, the body quietly begins to lose muscle strength, and most of us don't get enough protein to keep up. The will to show up for work, for family, for life, never wavers. But when the body can't match it, even the simplest things begin to feel harder than they should. The brand film brings this truth to life with warmth and gentle humour. A mother comes home after a long day her young son spots her from across the room, lights up, and runs straight into her arms. She reaches down to lift him. And in that split second, something that should feel effortless, doesn't. The film ends with a question that lands with quiet sharpness "Chhota kaam lage bhaari? Kahin muscle strength kam toh nahi ho rahi?" (Small tasks feel heavy? Could your muscle strength be slipping?). Before resolving into the ease and joy that everyday strength makes possible. The campaign is anchored in Protinex's core nutritional proposition: delivering



40% of the recommended daily protein intake per serving, + 25 Vital Nutrients for strong muscle health. A healthy adult requires 1.0 - 1.2g of protein per kg of body weight daily (ref: Harris S, DePalma J, Barkoukis H. Protein and Aging: Practicalities and Practice. Nutrients. 2025;17(15):2461. doi:10.3390/nu17152461) and Protinex is designed to meaningfully bridge that gap as part of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle. The campaign goes live across a fully integrated media ecosystem, reaching 53 million consumers pan-India. The brand film has been produced in Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Kannada, and English, and will air across 39 television channels spanning GECs, regional GECs, and movie channels with approximately 182 spots airing every day. On digital, the

campaign activates across YouTube, Meta, JioHotstar OTT, Connected TV, and Mediakart. The brand is also exploring innovative consumer engagement initiatives that extend the campaign's core thought into real-world experiences and will be announced soon. Talking about the concept, Ms. Priyanka Verma, Marketing Director Danone India said: "Strength is often associated with extraordinary feats. But its most important role is far more personal. It's what closes the gap between what you want to do and what your body lets you do. Through 'Strength Hai Toh Simple Hai', we wanted to speak about that quiet, everyday experience, the moment something simple feels heavier than it should. Because when your body matches your will, life doesn't just feel easier.

HCLTECH Q1 ATTRITION RATE RISES TO 12.7%, HEADCOUNT FALLS BY OVER 3,000

HCL Technologies Ltd. announced its first quarter results for fiscal 2026-27 (Q4FY26-27) on Monday and reported that its attrition rate rose 12.7% from 12.5% on a sequential basis, it fell to 12.7% compared to 12.8% on a year-on-year basis. The information technology (IT) services giant's headcount in the first quarter of FY27 decreased by 3,292 employees to 2.24 lakh from 2.27 lakh in the previous quarter, according to the company's earnings results released post-market hours. The company added 1,056 freshers in the first quarter with its management saying that its focus on improving capital efficiency. HCLTech Q1 Results Highlights (Cons, QoQ) HCL Technologies announced its April-June quarter results for fiscal 2026-27 on Monday, reporting a rise of 3% rise in standalone net profit to Rs 4,624 crore, compared to Rs 33,981 crore in the preceding June quar-



ter. The leading information technology (IT) major's revenue from operations rose 1.8% in the quarter at Rs 34,579 crore. According to an average of analysts consensus compiled by Bloomberg, the net profit was expected to be Rs 4,529 crore, while revenue during the quarter-under-review was seen at Rs 34,326 crore. The software services firm's earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) rose 3.8% to Rs 5,831 crore, compared to Rs 5,620 crore in the preceding March quarter of FY26 HCLTech Dividend Declaration HCL

Technologies Ltd. declared a dividend of Rs 12 per share, on Monday as per an exchange filing from the company. This is the company's second interim dividend for the for the financial year 2026-27. The record date for determining the eligibility of shareholders for the dividend payout is July 17, 2026. The amount will paid to the respective stakeholders on July 27, 2026. Share price of HCL Technologies Ltd. saw a 4.91% uptick to Rs 1,221.20, at the end of the day's trade compared to a 0.02% uptick of the NSE Nifty 50.

Delhi HC Temporarily Restricts Supply Of Zydus Cancer Drug Ikra In AbbVie Patent Dispute



The Delhi High Court on Monday temporarily restricted the supply of Zydus Lifesciences' cancer drug Ikra after AbbVie alleged that the product infringes its patent rights.

While passing an interim order, Justice Jyoti Singh allowed manufacturing of the drug to continue but directed that no supplies of Ikra be made to Zydus or any third party from July 14 until further orders. The restriction will remain in place until the parties are heard further in the matter. The dispute arises from a suit filed by AbbVie, which

has accused Zydus of infringing its patent through the launch of Ikra, a cancer treatment drug that, according to Zydus' counsel, has been available in the market since July 2. Importantly, the High Court clarified that it has not reached any conclusion on whether patent infringement has occurred. Instead, the court said a detailed "claim mapping" exercise would be required before examining the merits of the infringement allegations.

Claim mapping is a technical exercise commonly used in patent disputes to com-

Fluctuating Airfares:

Supreme Court Asks Centre To Detail Existing Rules Within 14 Days

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to submit, within two weeks, the rules framed under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, as it considered a petition calling for greater oversight of fluctuating airfares and additional charges imposed by private airlines. According to PTI, a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked the government to submit the rules in a sealed cover, irrespective of whether they have been tabled in Parliament. The matter will next be heard on August 3. The direction came after the Centre informed the court that the draft rules had been prepared and were undergoing translation before being placed before Parliament. The petition, filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, seeks an independent regulatory mechanism to ensure transparency in airline pricing, protect passenger interests and oversee the



civil aviation sector. Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava, appearing for the petitioner, argued that existing rules remain in force until the new framework is notified and called for a stronger, independent regulator to address steep airfare hikes. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, which came into effect in January 2025, is intended to modernise India's aviation sector, though the accompanying rules are yet to be finalised. The plea alleges that the absence of a dedicated reg-

ulator has enabled airlines to impose dynamic pricing, hidden charges and arbitrary fare increases, particularly during festivals, emergencies and weather-related disruptions. It also claims that airlines reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, effectively creating an additional revenue stream. The Centre has previously told the apex court that the Ministry of Civil Aviation is examining the concerns raised in the petition.

'Hero, legend, sweetheart':
Tributes to Jurassic Park
actor Sam Neill,
who has died aged 78



Tributes have been paid to actor Sam Neill, famed for his starring role in Jurassic Park, following his death at the age of 78. The news was announced by his family, who said his death in Sydney, Australia, was "sudden and unexpected". Neill played Dr Alan Grant in Jurassic Park and also appeared in films including The Piano, The Hunt for Red October, Dead Calm and Event Horizon, as well as BBC TV drama Peakay Blinders. New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon described him as "one of the greats", while Australian actress Toni Collette wrote: "I love you, dear Sam. You hero. You legend. You sweetheart. Our great friend. You are already missed so very much." Neill, who was born in Northern Ireland and grew up in New Zealand, died "surrounded by family and passed with the dignity that has characterised his whole life", a statement said. In March 2023, he revealed he had

been undergoing chemotherapy after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. He later said the disease was in remission but he would require monthly chemotherapy for the rest of his life. In April 2026, Neill said a scan showed no cancer in his body, and his family's statement on Monday said he "remained cancer free" at the time of his death. The statement thanked hospital staff and added: "More details will be shared later, but for now, on behalf of the family, we ask that you respect their privacy as they navigate this immeasurable loss." In his tribute, Luxon said: "For more than fifty years he took New Zealand stories to the world and his talents helped make our film industry into what it is today - one of our greatest cultural exports." Former New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern wrote that Neill was "such a thoughtful, curious, and decent person".



■ Wildfire raging south of Paris could have been set deliberately, says minister

New strikes reported in Iran as tracking data
shows limited traffic in Strait of Hormuz

Donald Trump has said the US will "probably run" the Strait of Hormuz, claiming that Iran "broke" a deal that was made with the US. Speaking to Fox News, the US president says: "We are taking over the strait. They have nothing. They've got nothing." He says the US hit Iran "very hard last night", referencing a series of strikes carried out by US Central Command (Centcom) overnight on military assets in the country. Trump adds: "We have them. We have them in the run. Most of their equipment is gone. Their anti-aircraft stuff is gone." Iran's embassy in the UK said earlier on Monday it has established a temporary safe maritime corridor "free of technical and



military barriers" in the strait, but that US military aggression has turned the waterway into a "high-risk zone". The details of the incident at Sanaa Airport remain unclear, but it already appears to be the most significant escalation in the largely dormant conflict between the internationally-backed Yemeni government and the

Houthis for several years. Both sides are supported by rival regional powers - the government by the Saudis and the Houthis by Iran. That's why the Houthis have immediately accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes on Sanaa Airport. A spokesperson for the movement said that it would not pass "without a response

and punishment". That raises the prospect of reigniting direct conflict between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia. Reports of a tanker being approached by several small boats off the coast of Yemen will also raise concerns that the Houthis may be reactivating attacks on shipping. We have an update now on the reports Yemen's army had targeted a runway at Sanaa International Airport to prevent an Iranian plane from landing. Houthi media now says the Iranian plane has landed. As we explained earlier, the Houthis are backed by Iran and control Sanaa, while Yemen's internationally-recognised government is based in Aden in the south of the country.

SENATOR LINDSEY
GRAHAM DIED OF
AORTIC TEAR,
EXAMINER SAYS



US Senator Lindsey Graham died of an "aortic dissection" caused by cardiovascular disease, according to a preliminary finding by the Washington DC medical examiner. An aortic dissection is a tear in the main artery that carries blood to the body. Graham, a close Republican ally of President Donald Trump, died at the age of 71 on Saturday evening. 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. Graham's spokesperson said the death certificate would be pending until "all the toxicological and microscopic testing" was finalised. The senator had just returned from a trip to Kyiv, Ukraine, where he met with President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday. Zelensky said he was "deeply saddened" by Graham's death, writing on X: "Lindsey was a true defender of freedom and the values that make our world safer." Graham was known for his interventionist stance on foreign policy, and had strongly supported the war in Iran. Last month, he told CBS that the US would "obliterate" Iran if it did not submit to US control of the Strait of Hormuz. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu said on Sunday, "Lindsey understood that the security of Israel and America are inseparable." Israel lost "one of its greatest friends", he added. Graham had previously been a critic of Trump, and ahead of the 2016 presidential election said: "If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed... and we will deserve it." However, he voted against convicting Trump in his 2021 impeachment trial, and supported Trump's election in 2024. "There is a dark side to Donald Trump... and he was a very good president. But I am sticking with him because I saw what he did," Graham told the BBC in 2023. Graham cited Trump's record on the US southern border, the killing of Iran's powerful military commander Qasem Soleimani and the appointment of conservative judges. Following Graham's death, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster has the power to appoint a temporary replacement to serve out the remainder of Graham's term, which ends in January. His successor will be chosen in the November midterm elections. Before Graham's death, Republicans held a 53-47 majority over Democrats in the Senate. Both parties are fighting for Senate control in November.

South Africa says more than 53,000 foreign-
ers deported in migration campaign

The South African government says more than 53,000 foreign nationals have been deported or repatriated since launching a "migration management" campaign five weeks ago. Most were from Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique, officials say, and the number is likely to rise as repatriations and deportations continue. South Africa is carrying out one of its biggest crackdowns on undocumented migrants in years, following weeks of anti-immigration protests that have seen violence, intimidation and looting. Protesters have been demanding tighter border controls and mass deportations, accusing migrants of contributing to high unemployment, rising crime rates and collapse of public services. The UN has warned against using migrants as scapegoats for South Africa's socioeconomic challenges. Anti-migrant activists have threatened to stage weekly protests to pressure the government until their demands are met, and there are fears the protests could turn vio-



lent. The demonstrators had set an "unofficial deadline" of 30 June for all undocumented migrants to leave the country, which has seen many foreigners leave to escape violence and intimidation. Several countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya, have flown their citizens home in recent weeks. Justice and Constitutional Development Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi announced on Sunday that 53,499 foreign

nationals have been processed for deportation and repatriation, "which is dominated by the Malawians, followed by Zimbabweans and Mozambicans". "We are striving to achieve an orderly and regular migration which is mindful and sensitive to the concerns raised by our people, while observing human rights and dignity of all people in our country, irrespective of their citizenship and immigration sta-

tus," Kubayi told a news conference in Pretoria. She said the repatriation and deportation process has helped them catch people who were wanted by the police for alleged criminal activity. Authorities will continue to enforce its immigration laws, she added, but warned that protesters should not conduct unauthorised searches of homes and businesses that are suspected of sheltering undocumented migrants.

MEN DISGUISED AS POLICE
KILL ECUADOREAN DRUG
LORD'S BROTHER



A brother of Ecuador's most notorious drug lord was killed on Sunday by gunmen who had disguised themselves as police officers. Police said David Macias, 35, was a regional leader in Los Choneros, the powerful criminal gang which was until recently headed by his brother, Adolfo. Adolfo Macias, also known by the alias "Fito", is awaiting trial in the United States following his extradition from Ecuador last year. Los Choneros has been declared a Foreign Terrorist Organisation by the US and is accused of being one of the crime groups behind Ecuador's skyrocketing murder rate. Officials said David

Macias was killed in the early hours of Sunday local time. Witnesses said men dressed like police officers entered the home Macias had rented in an upscale neighbourhood in the town of Olón, on Ecuador's Pacific coast. The gunmen fled after the attack and so far there have been no arrests in connection with the case. It is not unusual for gang leaders to be targeted either by members of rival criminal organisations or even by members of their own group as part of internal battles for control. Last month, a local gang leader was shot dead by two teenage gunmen as he was leaving the international airport in Guayaquil.



At least 28 killed, 25 critically injured after fire engulfs Bangkok bar

GERMAN COURT CONVICTS IRAQI COUPLE OF ENSLAVING YAZIDI GIRLS

A court in Germany has convicted an Iraqi couple of enslaving two Yazidi girls in Iraq. The Munich Higher Regional Court also found them guilty of membership of the Islamic State group (IS). The man, named only as Twana H.S. in line with German privacy rules, was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and severe sexual abuse of children. His wife, Asia R. A., was handed a juvenile sentence of nine and a half years. The couple was arrested in Bavaria in 2024. The Yazidis, a Kurdish-speaking minority, were persecuted by IS after the jihadist group seized large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq beginning in 2014. Thousands of men were



killed and women and children were enslaved and raped when IS fighters stormed into the ancestral heartland of the Yazidis in northern Iraq. Germany recognises these acts as genocide. The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office accused the two defendants of having been part of this systematic campaign, "the Islamic State's objective to destroy the Yazidi religion."

Twana H.S. first came to Germany in the early 2000's as an asylum seeker. He worked in Munich as a hairdresser and had a child. According to Der Spiegel magazine, he was denied asylum but was given permission to stay as the parent of German child. After becoming radicalised at a Munich mosque, Der Spiegel says he return to Iraq in 2015. Prosecutors

say Twana H. S. and Asia R. A. were married there according to Islamic law and became members of Islamic State between October 2015 and December 2017. They said that in the autumn of 2015, Twana H. S. bought a five-year-old Yazidi girl as a slave at a bazaar in Mosul, at the request of his wife. The couple bought a twelve-year-old Yazidi girl, in early October 2017. Prosecutors said Twana H. S. "repeatedly raped both children." They said his wife "put make-up on one of the girls" and prepared the room for him. The couple were accused of forcing them to do household work and childcare, and forbade them to practise their own religion. The children were beaten, sometimes with solid objects.

Argentina Face Reputation-Shattering Accusation Before FIFA World Cup Semi-Finals

=Lionel Messi and Argentina have been at the receiving end of brutal social media attacks, which have often stemmed from rivals too. The bone of contention has been the apparent 'advantage' that Argentina allegedly get from FIFA referees and VAR. It all started with Messi not getting a red card despite appearing to step on the calf of Algeria skipper Aissa Mandifor. Then, in a Round of 16 match against Egypt, Argentina made a miraculous escape after being 2-0 down until the 78th minute. Messi's Argentina won 3-2. In that match, Egypt had one goal disallowed after a contentious VAR decision. If that goal had been allowed, the score would have been 3-3 at the end of regulation time. They are incredibly provocative. They came out looking to set the whole place on fire, looking to get under your skin. They get right in your face... There



was even a red card. He came out with the sole intention of provoking you," Egypt coach Hossam Hassan told Kora Plus. "There are things that are simply out of our control. The referee completely disrupted the game... It created absolute chaos. Every two minutes there were arguments with the play-

ers, yellow cards flying, and refereeing decisions consistently going against us," the head coach explained. Egypt head coach Hossam Hassan also reacted strongly after the defeat, announcing a personal boycott of the remainder of the FIFA World Cup 2026 while claiming his side had not

received "fair play" or "justice" during the tournament. The Pharaohs appeared on course for one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history after Yasser Ibrahim gave them a 15th-minute lead with a powerful header. Goalkeeper Mostafa Shobeir then produced another memorable

moment by saving Messi's first-half penalty before Salah played a pivotal role in Mostafa Ziko's strike that doubled Egypt's advantage in the 67th minute. Argentina, however, staged a dramatic late comeback. Cristian Romero reduced the deficit with a header in the 79th minute before Messi equalised four minutes later with his ninth consecutive World Cup scoring appearance. Deep into stoppage time, Lautaro Martinez delivered a cross that Enzo Fernandez converted to complete a remarkable 3-2 turnaround. The encounter was overshadowed by controversy after Egypt had an earlier second-half goal ruled out following a VAR review for a foul in the build-up. The decision, along with several other refereeing calls, fuelled accusations from sections of the Egyptian camp that they had been denied a famous victory.

CSK END 18-YEAR ASSOCIATION WITH HEAD COACH FLEMING AFTER 'HONEST' DISCUSSION

After 18 years of association, the Chennai Super Kings and Stephen Fleming have decided to mutually part ways, the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise confirmed in a release on Monday. CSK last won the IPL title in the 2023 season and failed to qualify for the playoffs in the 2024, 2025, and 2026 seasons. The franchise's repeated failures had triggered questions about Fleming's future with the franchise over the last couple of years. It seems the franchise has finally decided to move on from the former New Zealand captain. In a statement on social media, the Super Kings confirmed that the decision was not imposed on either party but was reached with mutual respect and gratitude after "open and honest" discussions. In a release, CSK said: "The Super Kings and Stephen Fleming have decided to mutually part ways, bringing to a close one of the most successful and enduring partnerships in



the history of the Indian Premier League. The decision was reached with respect and gratitude, following a series of open and honest discussions between Fleming and the Super Kings management." Fleming joined the Chennai Super Kings as a player in the IPL's inaugural year (2008) and took over as head coach in 2009. Over the next 17 years, the association built one of the most respected and consistent setups in franchise cricket. Under Fleming, CSK won 5 IPL tro-

phies as well as 2 Champions League Twenty20 tournaments. The team has entered the playoffs a record 12 times while also being part of 10 IPL finals. CSK owner Rupa Gurunath paid tribute to Fleming as his departure from the franchise was confirmed. "Stephen Fleming has been the heartbeat of our coaching unit for almost the entire journey of this franchise. For nearly two decades, he has helped shape our identity, vision, and pursuit of excellence," the franchise owner said.

Alcaraz 'Explosive', Djokovic 'Elastic': What Makes Jannik Sinner Special?

The modern tennis landscape is being shaped by two talismanic players: Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz. While Novak Djokovic still has what it takes to go the distance, Sinner and Alcaraz are the two dominating the sport at the moment, with Alexander Zverev showing a late surge to remain part of the discussion. With Alcaraz out injured, Sinner showed his class yet again, winning his second consecutive Wimbledon title by beating Germany's Zverev in the final. The ease with which Sinner outlasted Zverev in the decider on Sunday has made even the most ardent fans of the sport dig deep into his playing style, shots,, and the weapons the Italian stores in his arsenal.



Usually, tennis has been a sport dominated by two distinct physical archetypes. In today's times, on one hand, there is Carlos Alcaraz, a Spaniard with explosive athleticism capable of turning a casual rally into a chaotic sprint. On the other is Novak Djokovic, the ultimate rubber band, whose historic elasticity allows

him to slide into extreme corners, bend his frame, and absorb an opponent's best shot. Jannik Sinner is neither of these. Instead, the World No. 1 has carved out his place at the pinnacle of men's tennis by operating in a zone that can be called "controlled violence." Sinner does not rely on heavy topspin arcs or defen-

sive scrambling to win matches. The secret to his match-winning ability lies in a structurally flawless, mechanical baseline game that is extremely tricky for an opponent to counter. What Makes Jannik Sinner Special? Where Sinner truly separates himself from other top players is his positioning and contact point. He stands glued to the baseline, taking the ball remarkably early on the rise. By meeting the ball at its apex before it can push him back, Sinner completely suffocates his opponents. There is no comfortable place on the court to escape his pace. Almost every return comes back heavy and faster than the last, forcing rivals into a state of panic from which they can't recover.

Rahul Dravid A Candidate For England Test Coach's Job, Report Reveals India Great's Stance

Indian great 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 T20 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. "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. Among the leading candidates is Zimbabwe great Andy Flower, England's most successful coach in the modern era, having led the side to three Ashes series victories and the No. 1 Test ranking. Flower has also enjoyed considerable success in franchise cricket, including consecutive IPL titles with Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Dawson, currently head coach of Glamorgan, is also viewed as a serious option after impressing with his tactical acumen and coaching credentials at both county and international levels. Other names mentioned in the report include Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara, England Lions coach Andrew Flintoff, Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson and former Australia coach Justin Langer.



8 Indians In Finals, 7 Bronze Medals Secured In Asian U-19, U-23 Boxing Championships



Indian boxers remained a strong force at the Asian U-19 and U-23 Championships with eight of them advancing to the finals across men's and women's U-23 categories and seven others securing bronze medals after semifinal finishes in Jakarta. In the U-23 women's category, five Indian boxers progressed to the finals. Nisha (54kg) defeated Hyeju Lee of Korea, while Nikita

Chand (60kg) registered a win against Sari Kokufu of Japan. Kajal (65kg) sailed past Gulzina Melsvek of Kyrgyzstan on Sunday. In all the bouts referees had to stop the contest due to the Indians' overwhelming domination. In the higher weight categories, Muskan (75kg) won 5:0 against Toirova Oysha of Uzbekistan while Priyanka (80kg) recorded a dominant 5:0 win

over Panar Seitkhankyzy of Kazakhstan. In the U-23 men's category, three Indian boxers advanced to the finals. Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) delivered a commanding 5:0 win over his Philippines opponent, while Ganga (55kg) edged past Japan with a 3:2 split decision. Vanshaj (65kg) also impressed with a 4:1 victory over a Kyrgyzstan opponent to secure his place in the final. India also added seven bronze medals from semifinal finishes. In the U-23 women's category, bronze medals were secured by Tanu (51kg), Prachi (57kg), Shivani (70kg), and Naina (80kg). In the U-23 men's category, bronze medals were won by Hitesh (70kg), Neeraj (75kg), and Ishan Kataria (90kg).

Minakshi Hooda Moves To Quarter-Finals Of Boxing World Cup



Indian boxer Minakshi advanced to the quarterfinals of World Cup (Stage 2) in the women's 51kg category at Guiyang, China on Thursday. Minakshi, the reigning 48kg world champion and cur-

rent World No. 1 in that division, is transitioning into the Olympic 51kg weight class in the ongoing event. She registered a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Poland's Natalia Kuczevska to move ahead in the competition. In the other contest on day four, Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) bowed out after suffering a 0-5 defeat to Kyrgyzstan's Mirzokhid Imamnazarov. So far in the tournament, five Indian boxers have advanced to the quarterfinals. Nikhil (55kg), Deepak (70kg), Minakshi (51kg), Prachi (57kg), and Saneh (65kg). Meanwhile, Jyoti (48kg) and Jugnoo (85kg) have already assured medals for the country by progressing into the semi-finals. Four Indian boxers will take the ring in their quarterfinal bouts. In the women's section, Minakshi (51kg) will square off against Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova. Saneh (65kg) will face Poland's Kinga Krowka, and Prachi (57kg) will take on Chinese Taipei's Shih Yi Wu. In the men's section, Nikhil (55kg) clashes with Azerbaijan's Amin Mammadzada.

"Drilled Daily For Months": Conor McGregor's Coach Shocked By UFC Icon's Knee Injury



Conor McGregor's UFC comeback ended in disappointment as his fight against Max Holloway in Las Vegas lasted just 69 seconds. Competing for the first time in five years, McGregor was forced to retire from the contest after suffering a knee injury while attempting an opening-round roundhouse kick. The incident sparked speculation among fans, with many suggesting that the Irish fighter may have entered the bout carrying an injury. However, those claims were dismissed by McGregor's manager, John Kavanagh, who stated in a social media post that the former champion was fully fit heading into UFC 329. "That opening jump switch kick was drilled daily for months, multiple times in warmup. Never an issue," John

Kavanagh wrote on Facebook. "Knee went when he (threw) the very first kick. Doesn't get any worse than this." McGregor himself also addressed the rumours, rejecting the speculation in a post on X and insisting that he had stepped into the Octagon in peak condition. "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. He 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. I will not be deterred. I will return," shutting down claims that he was carrying an injury before the bout.

Gautam Gambhir "Has Certain Favourite Players": India Star Questions Coach's Logic Defying Selection After England Loss



The Indian cricket team is going through an unprecedented slump in T20Is. The current T20 World Cup champions have lost two successive series against England and Ireland, both under new captain Shreyas Iyer. The series saw a musical chairs-like situation in the opening position. Sanju Samson was tried in the two T20Is against Ireland and the first T20I against England. After three poor scores, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was tried, but the wonderkid could not go beyond 15 in the three matches that he played.

Then Samson was again given a chance for the fifth T20I, which India lost, just like the previous matches. Out-of-favour India star Hanuma Vihari also questioned coach Gautam Gambhir's other selection calls, particularly his preference for Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar despite their poor form. "Gautam Gambhir has certain favourite players and he wants to take them and play them. I don't see any value in these players being added to the side," Vihari said on his YouTube channel, as quoted by the Indian Express. "I

don't understand what some players are doing in the team. Dube does not bowl, cannot field, and has not shown that form in batting either. Shedge was also not impressive in bowling or batting. I have no idea why Washington Sundar is still continuing in the team. If you look at his contributions over the years, they have not been that great." Vihari also questioned the musical chairs approach to selection that was evident in the team. "Spinners were the problem, whether Varun Chakravathy or Axar Patel.

It's a pleasure to produce a film with Fahadh Faasil.: Producer S.S. Karthikeya at the teaser launch event of ‘Don’t Trouble the Trouble’



Starring versatile actor Fahadh Faasil as the lead, ‘Don’t Trouble the Trouble’ is presented by S.S. Rajamouli and produced by Shobu Yarlagadda, Prasad Devineni, and S.S. Karthikeya under the banners of Arka Media Works and Showing Business. The film marks the directorial debut of Shashank Yelethi. The movie is set to release

on September 11. The teaser of the film was unveiled on Monday. Speaking at the teaser launch event, the team shared their thoughts. Producer S.S. Karthikeya said, “It is a pleasure to produce a film with Fahadh Faasil. I hope you have watched the teaser of ‘Don’t Trouble the Trouble’ and liked it. This film is something that will touch your heart. Once you

watch the content we are bringing forward, you will understand that. ‘Don’t Trouble the Trouble’ was supposed to be completed before the launch of ‘Varanasi’, but due to certain reasons, we started this project a little later. Fahadh is related to my wife’s family. I have always admired him. We met him once during the shooting of ‘Pushpa’. At that time, we were working on a few scripts. We had prepared a script titled ‘Oxygen’ specifically for him. We also told him that we had another script. He immediately agreed to do ‘Don’t Trouble the Trouble’ after the very first narration. A film in this genre has not come out in recent times. The movie has extensive VFX work. The script was locked only after getting Rajamouli garu’s approval and inputs. Once the film is completely finished, we will show it to him again and take his suggestions.”

Vishal Celebrates Major Milestone As 10 Foundation-Supported Students Graduate, Deepika Wins Gold Medal



Versatile Actor Vishal expressed immense pride and happiness as 10 students supported through the Devi Social & Educational Foundation successfully graduated at the 35th Convocation of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology. Making the occasion even more special, M. Deepika secured a Gold Medal in Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), bringing further recognition to the foundation’s educational initiative. Hailing from Banruti and belonging to a farmer’s family, Deepika’s achievement stood out as a shining example of determination and hard work. Sharing his joy, Vishal stated that witnessing these young students achieve their dreams was one of the happiest moments of the year. He noted that their success has made his team and,

more importantly, his parents immensely proud, while also inspiring him to continue expanding educational opportunities for deserving students. The actor revealed that all 10 students supported under the Anbu Foundation Scholarship through the Devi Social & Educational Foundation graduated with outstanding academic records, earning First Class, First Class with Distinction, or First Class with Exemplary honors. Reflecting on the journey, Vishal recalled that the initiative began in 2017 with just four scholarship seats at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology under the Anbu Foundation Scholarship. Over the years, it has grown into a meaningful platform that has helped transform the lives of many students through education.

Srinivasa Mangapuram Trailer Packs Love, Action & Emotion

Ashwini Dutt Presents P Kiran and Chanda m a Kathalu’s Srinivasa Mangapuram: Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, Rasha Thadani, Ajay Bhupathi’s Gripping Trailer Packs Love, Action, And Powerful Emotions Bringing together legacy, fresh talent, and experienced performers, Srinivasa Mangapuram is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu films on the horizon. The film serves as the grand launchpad for Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary superstar Krishna and nephew of Mahesh Babu, while acclaimed filmmaker Ajay Bhupathi helms the project. Rasha Thadani, daughter of Bollywood star Raveena Tandon, makes her Telugu cinema debut as the female

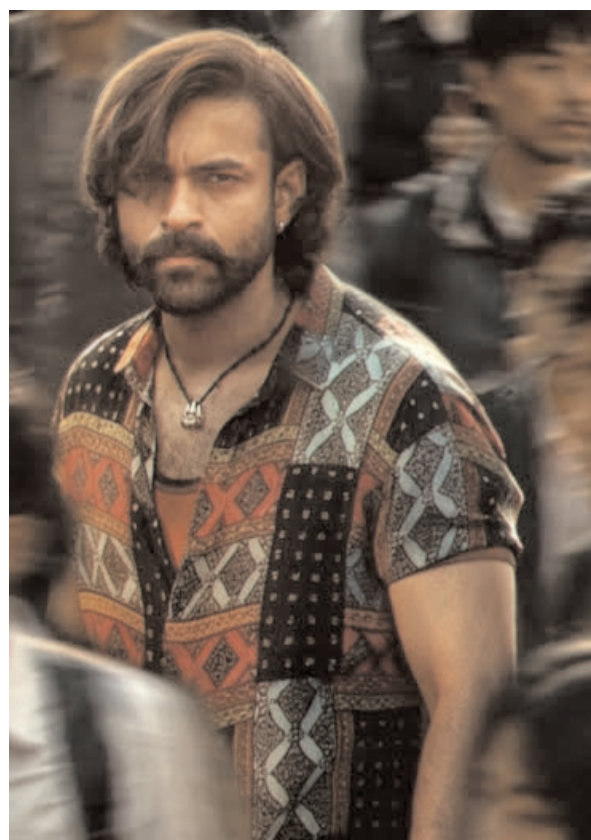


lead. Senior actor Dr Mohan Babu plays the formidable antagonist. Produced by P Kiran and presented by Ashwini Dutt, the film has steadily built strong anticipation, with every promotional update receiving an encouraging response. Meanwhile, the makers

launched the film’s theatrical trailer. Srinu is deeply in love with Manga, though she doesn’t initially reciprocate his feelings. Moved by his sincerity and affection, she gradually falls in love with him. Just when their relationship begins to blossom, their hap-

piness is shattered by the arrival of Venkatappayya Naidu, the feared king of Bellari, who emerges as the biggest obstacle in their love story. Director Ajay Bhupathi, known for his distinctive storytelling and emotionally charged narratives, crafted Srinivasa Mangapuram as an intense romantic action drama that seamlessly blends love, action, and powerful emotions. The trailer effectively captures the film’s core essence, offering a compelling glimpse into its gripping narrative while raising curiosity about the conflicts that drive the story. Making his acting debut, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni delivers a confident and promising performance that lives up to the anticipation surrounding him.

KOREAN KANAKARAJU TEASER PROMISES HORROR, COMEDY & FUN



Mega Prince Varun Tej is all set to entertain with Korean Kanakaraju, an out-and-out horror comedy directed by Merlapaka Gandhi. Produced by UV Creations in association with First Frame Entertainment, the film is in the final stages of post-production. The promotional campaign has already generated strong buzz, with the title glimpse sparking curiosity and the first single, Kamsahamnida, turning into a chartbuster. Today, Rebel Star Prabhas unveiled the film’s much-awaited teaser. The teaser begins with a voiceover by Kanakaraju, introducing his hometown of Penukonda in Rayalaseema. A carefree and mischievous youngster, Kanakaraju’s life changes dramatically when he falls head over heels for a Korean girl. But things take a bizarre turn when a mys-

terious vessel arriving from Korea brings with it supernatural forces. Possessed by a Korean spirit, Kanakaraju transforms into the eccentric Korean Kanakaraju, leading to a series of hilarious, action-packed, and spooky events. Varun Tej slips effortlessly into the role, delivering the Rayalaseema dialect with impressive authenticity. His command over the slang lends tremendous credibility to the character, while his rugged long-haired makeover enhances his mass appeal. The stylish transformation into Korean Kanakaraju towards the end of the teaser stands out as a whistle-worthy moment. He also shines with his impeccable comic timing, particularly in his scenes with Satya, which are among the biggest highlights of the teaser. Ritika Naik looks charming and fits the role of the Korean girl perfectly.

Bhagyashree Borse: 'Bharathi' Will Stay With Me Forever

I will never forget the love and support shown by the audience for the character of Bharathi in ‘Lenin’. I feel lucky that the audience supports me like a Telugu girl. The success of ‘Lenin’ has given me great happiness: Heroine Bhagyashree Borse “The success of ‘Lenin’ has given me great joy. The role of ‘Bharathi’ will be remembered for the rest of my life,” said heroine Bhagyashree Borse. ‘Lenin’, starring Akhil Akkineni as the hero and Bhagyashree Borse as the heroine, was produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Nagavamsi and directed by Murali Kishore Abbur. The recently released film has received praise from the audience and critics and

is performing successfully at the box office. At a press conference organized on the occasion, Bhagyashree Borse shared many interesting things about the success of the film, the response she is getting for her role, and the film. How are you enjoying the success of ‘Lenin’? -I am very happy to see the response from the audience. Everyone is sending very good messages about the film and my performance. This success has given me a lot of satisfaction. You got very emotional about this film. What did you like

the most about it? -We do every film with great passion. Every film is special to us. We found a good story in the case of ‘Lenin’. We all believed strongly in this film. This success felt even more emotional as our belief came true. -Since the beginning of my career, the audience has shown me a lot of love. They look at me like a Telugu girl. I am always grateful for their admiration. -You said that you will stay in

Hyderabad until your last film and continue in this industry. Why is Hyderabad so special to you? -Telugu cinema gave me a chance as an actress. My first film journey started from Hyderabad. Telugu audience has loved me very much. They treat me like a Telugu girl. That is why Hyderabad and Telugu film industry are very special to me. I want this connection to continue for the rest of my life. When the director told the story, did you expect the character of ‘Bharathi’ to receive such a good response? -This is a beautiful story. The moment the director told the story, it touched my heart. I felt that there was a good opportunity for me to act in this role.



Will never forget the love and support shown by the audience for the character of Bharathi in ‘Lenin’. I feel lucky that the audience supports me like a Telugu girl.