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For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)**KARNATAKA CM SHIVAKUMAR ANNOUNCES INDIA'S FIRST GOVT-DRIVEN AI UNIVERSITY**

NATION PAGE

TRUMP REVERSES THREAT OF 20% FEE ON STRAIT OF HORMUZ CARGO AS US PREPARES TO RESUME IRAN PORTS BLOCKADE

WORLD | NEWS

**BHAGYASHREE BORSE: 'BHARATHI' WILL STAY WITH ME FOREVER**

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

13-07-2026

Total pilgrims : 75,836
Tonsures : 34,076
Nandi kavalu : 5,03 CR
Laddu sale : 419 Lac
Annasprasadam : 2.73 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,980
Waiting Consultants : Out side line
Krishna Teja guest house

Appro. Devan Time for Saravandhanam

(with out SSI Tonsure) : 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 PTL. "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.

Immediately after the murders, the accused called his

CM Revanth seeks Centre's nod for RRR north section

Hyderabad (TSIT) :

Telangana Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, on Tuesday requested Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari, to secure Union Cabinet approval to commence work on the northern section of the Regional Ring Road (RRR), noting that 95 per cent of the land acquisition has already been completed. Chief Minister Reddy met Union Minister Gadkari at his residence in Delhi and also urged him to grant the necessary approvals for the Southern Section of the RRR.

CM Reddy stated that if work on both sections of the RRR begins simultaneously, construction would be completed faster and costs reduced. CM Reddy further appealed to Union Minister Gadkari to immediately grant approvals for the Greenfield Highway connecting Hyderabad to Andhra Pradesh's capital Amaravati, a project mandated by the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act. CM Reddy stated that sanc-



tioning a 12-lane highway from Bharat Future City to Bandar Port via Amaravati would reduce the travel distance between Hyderabad and Vijayawada by 100 kilometers. He explained that this would expedite freight transport between Hyderabad and Bandar Port. The Telangana CM requested Union Minister Gadkari to facilitate forest department clearances for the Mannanur-Srisaillam elevated corridor and noted that the Nallamala Sanctuary, Srisaillam Temple, and Srisaillam reservoirs fall within the scope of this corridor.

CM Reddy also appealed to Gadkari to sanction a six-lane

alternative highway from Mancherla to Hyderabad, serving as an alternative to the existing Rajiv Highway. He assured that the Telangana government would undertake the necessary land acquisition for this project, adding that the new highway would create fresh opportunities for agriculture and business.

During the meeting with Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu, CM Reddy urged him to ensure that the upcoming airports at Warangal (Mamnor) and Adilabad are constructed as per international standards. CM Reddy highlighted the strategic and commercial advantages offered by the Warangal and Adilabad airport locations.

K'taka allows hotels, restaurants to remain open till 3:30 a.m. during FIFA WC matches

Bengaluru (TSIT):

In a major relief for football enthusiasts in Bengaluru, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Tuesday that hotels and restaurants in the city will be permitted to serve food until 3:30 a.m. on three days to enable fans to watch late-night FIFA World Cup matches.

The decision has been taken following a representation from the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), which sought relaxation of the usual closing time for eateries during the tournament.

The extended operating hours will be applicable on July 14, July 15 and July 19, when key FIFA World Cup matches are scheduled to be played late at night in India due



to time-zone differences.

Sharing the announcement, Chief Minister Shivakumar described it as good news for football lovers in Bengaluru, saying the state government wanted to ensure fans could enjoy the matches without inconvenience.

The state government has issued the relaxation under the provisions of the Karnataka Police Act, allowing hotels and restaurants to continue serving food until 3:30 a.m. on the specified dates.

In accordance with the

state government's decision, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh has issued the necessary orders permitting late-night screening of the matches and the extended operation of hotels and restaurants on the notified dates.

The FIFA World Cup, one of the premier international club football tournaments, features champion clubs from different continental confederations competing for the world title. The competition attracts millions of viewers across the globe, including a large fan following in India, where football enthusiasts often stay awake through the night to watch marquee matches live because of the time difference with the host nation.

'Will be out soon': Aviation Minister on AAIB's final report into AI171 crash

Dholera/Ahmedabad (TSIT):

The investigation into the Air India Flight AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad has entered its final stages, with the final report expected to be released soon, Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu said on Tuesday, stressing that establishing the exact cause of the accident is more important than issuing the report quickly. Speaking after reviewing the progress of the Dholera International Airport project, Naidu said the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) was conducting the probe transparently and professionally. "Regarding the Ahmedabad plane crash involving the Air India flight, the investigation is currently in its final stages. The AAIB, which is handling the probe, is fully capable and is carrying out the investigation in a completely transparent manner.

Data-driven governance key to better public services: CM Naidu

CM Reviews Governance with Ministers, Secretaries and Heads of Departments**Amaravati (TSIT):**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday urged senior officials to strengthen field-level governance by interacting directly with the public and adopting data-driven decision-making to improve the delivery of government services.

Addressing a review meeting with Ministers, Secretaries and Heads of Departments (HoDs) in Amaravati, the Chief Minister directed all departments to achieve zero pendency in the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). Stressing the need for proactive administration, he said governance should focus on preventing problems rather than merely responding to them.

Chandrababu Naidu said



the government had fulfilled its promise of not increasing electricity tariffs during its tenure so far and noted that the implementation of the True Down mechanism had further reduced the burden on consumers. He also called for promoting induction stoves, expanding solar power generation and exploring alternative energy sources.

Reviewing irrigation projects, the Chief Minister announced that the Polavaram Project would be completed and dedicated to the nation by March 2027. He

said Godavari water would reach Anakapalli through the Polavaram Left Main Canal on August 14, while the first phase of the Veligonda Project would be inaugurated on September 1.

He added that work on 36 priority irrigation projects was progressing on a fast track. The Chief Minister also directed officials to accelerate the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes, particularly the Jal Jeevan Mission, and to regularly monitor governance using the Monthly Economic Reports.

Telangana's Gruha Jyothi Scheme Illuminates 54 Lac Homes,

● Provides Rs.4,600 Crore Annual Relief to Poor and Middle-Class Families**By Suresh Kasyp**

Hyderabad: In a significant move aimed at easing the financial burden on economically vulnerable households, the Telangana Government's flagship welfare initiative, the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, has officially benefited over 5.413 million (54.13 lakh) families across the State. According to official data released by the government, the programme has disbursed a total electricity subsidy of Rs.4,659.91 crore, with Rs.3,900.54 crore already reimbursed to power distribution companies (DISCOMs) to cover the cost of zero bills.

Launched under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who assumed office on December 7, 2023, the scheme fulfils a key electoral promise of the

Congress government. Implemented following Government Order (G.O. Ms. No. 7) issued on February 26, 2024, the programme provides free electricity up to 200 units per month to eligible households holding white ration cards. Beneficiaries began receiving zero electricity bills from March 2024 onward, provided their monthly consumption remained within the prescribed limit.

The initiative addresses a long-standing hardship faced by salaried and lower-income families, who often dread the arrival of the first day of the month due to mounting household expenses. For decades, the cycle of rising prices and stagnant incomes left little room for savings. The Gruha Jyothi Scheme has disrupted this pattern by eliminating a recurring month-



ly cost, enabling families to save between Rs.500 and Rs.1,500 every month.

Residents across Telangana have reported that these savings are now being redirected toward essential needs such as children's education, healthcare, nutrition, and grocery purchases, significantly improving their household financial stability. Notably, the benefit has also been extended to eligible families resid-

ing in rented accommodations, ensuring widespread coverage across urban and rural areas alike.

Eligibility and Conditions

The scheme applies exclusively to domestic electricity connections. Commercial and business connections are not eligible. The free electricity benefit is strictly contingent on consumption remaining within 200 units per month. As per the operational guidelines, if consumption exceeds the limit by even a single unit, the consumer is required to pay the entire monthly bill. The benefit is restricted to one domestic connection per eligible family, and applicants must possess a valid white ration card with Aadhaar linkage where applicable.

Economic Significance and Fiscal Sustainability

Experts note that the subsidy

serves a dual purpose: it directly strengthens the purchasing power of vulnerable groups while sustaining the financial health of the power sector through government reimbursements. However, the scheme also represents a substantial fiscal commitment. Senior Journalist Suresh Kashyap, reporting from Hyderabad, observed, "Electricity is no longer a luxury but a basic necessity. While this welfare measure has brought immense relief to millions, its long-term success will depend on the government's ability to balance public welfare with prudent fiscal management." He emphasised that achieving this equilibrium will require continued reforms in the power sector, an efficient subsidy framework, and greater adoption of renewable energy sources.

India not alone in E20 transition as countries worldwide push higher ethanol blending

New Delhi (TSIT) :

India's transition to E20 fuel is part of a broader global shift towards cleaner transportation fuels, with many developed and emerging economies already adopting higher ethanol-blended petrol to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy security and lower dependence on imported crude oil.

The rollout of petrol containing 20 per cent ethanol (E20) has sparked public debate in India in recent months, with concerns raised over vehicle compatibility and its broader impact. However, global trends indi-



cate that ethanol blending has become a key component of clean energy strategies across several countries, many of which have set ambitious targets to further increase ethanol content in transport fuels. According to various reports compiled in the 'Global Bioethanol Blending Policies Map', governments around the world are accelerating the use of bioethanol-blended petrol as part of efforts to curb fossil fuel consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen domestic energy resilience.

CM Revanth urges Centre to complete Warangal, Adilabad airports by June 2028



Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu in New Delhi on Tuesday and sought the Centre's cooperation to complete the upcoming airports at Warangal and Adilabad by June 2, 2028.

Speaking to media after the meeting, the Chief Minister said the Union Minister was extending full cooperation for the construction of both airports. "We have set a target to complete the work on these two airports and inaugurate them by June

2, 2028," he stated. Reddy noted that Telangana, which accounts for 2.50 per cent of the country's population, contributes 5 per cent to the national GDP, and emphasised that airports meeting international standards are essential for the state's further development.

He added that Kakatiya culture will be given prominence in the design of the Warangal airport. "A spirit of cooperation between the Central and state governments will continue, with development as the primary goal," he said.

Arrest Congress Youth Leaders, Demand BC Organisations

Mahabubabad TSIT District Correspondent Balne Suman July 14:BC organisations staged a protest near the Mahabubabad District Court on Monday demanding the arrest of Congress Youth State President Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy and Prabhakar Reddy over their alleged derogatory remarks against the Goud community and a Yadav woman.Speaking at



the protest, Munjala Rajender Goud, State Convener of the Bahujan Rajyadhikara Samithi, demanded that the two leaders be suspended from the party, booked under criminal charges, arrested, and issue a public apology to the Goud and Yadav communities. Leaders of various BC community organisations participated in the demonstration.

Khammam Govt Hospital needs major upgrade: CPM

Khammam town (TSIT): The CPM has demanded that the Khammam Government General Hospital be upgraded into a 1,000-bed super-speciality hospital, citing inadequate infrastructure and shortage of medical staff. Following a survey conducted at the hospital on Tuesday, CPM state secretary member Nunna Nageswara Rao said the hospital, the only major government referral facility in the district, caters not only to patients from Khammam but also from neighbouring districts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Despite the heavy patient load, basic medical facilities remain inadequate, he alleged.

He said patients are forced to wait for long hours at the outpatient registration and pharmacy counters and urged the government to increase the number of counters to ease overcrowding.Nageswara Rao demanded that the existing 575-bed hospital be expanded into a 1,000-bed super-speciality facility with permanent specialist doctors replacing contractual appointments. He also called for the immediate appointment of gynaecologists at the Mother and Child Health Centre. The CPM leader urged the government to sanction Rs 300 crore for hospital infrastructure, commission the newly constructed building, install the MRI unit already sanctioned at a cost of Rs 6 crore, and revive the defunct CT scanning centre. The absence of MRI and scanning facilities is forcing poor patients to spend thousands of rupees at private diagnostic centres, he said.

He also sought the appointment of a full-time cardiologist, recruitment of additional medical and sanitation staff, faster laboratory and X-ray services, improved facilities for persons with disabilities at Sadaram camps, and uninterrupted supply of medicines in the hospital. Later, a memorandum highlighting the hospital's problems was submitted to Government General Hospital Superintendent Dr Narendra. Several CPM leaders participated in the survey.

Govt rules out private institutions on Telugu University campus



Hyderabad, July 14 (TSIT): The Telangana Government has clarified that no private individual or institution will be allotted space on the Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University campus. The assurance was given during a meeting at the State Secretariat with Higher Education Department officials and university authorities. The government reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the university and expanding programmes related to Telugu language, literature, culture and arts. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nityananda Rao conveyed the decision to protesting students at the Nampally campus, ending their 15-day agitation. Students welcomed the announcement, and the university thanked all those who supported its cause.

Sanitation workers receive Ayushman cards



Husnabad, July 14 (TSIT): Ayushman Bharat health cards and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits were distributed to sanitation and waste collection workers under the Central Government's NAMASTE scheme at the Husnabad Municipal Office. Municipal Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi and Commissioner T. Mallikarjun said the initiative aims to ensure the health, safety and welfare of sanitation workers. They praised the workers' contribution to maintaining cleanliness and assured continued implementation of welfare programmes. Vice Chairperson Chittari Padma, councillors, co-opted members, Municipal Sanitary Inspector Bala Ellam, Environmental Officer Ravikumar and other municipal staff attended the distribution programme.

Collector outlines development priorities

Hyderabad, July 15 (TSIT): Medchal-Malkajgiri Collector Mikkilineni Manu Choudhary said the district administration is prioritising education, healthcare, welfare, infrastructure and transparent governance. He said government schools, hospitals and welfare hostels would be strengthened, while government and assigned lands would be protected from encroachments. Action will be taken against illegal constructions, unauthorised hospitals and fake medical practitioners. The administration is accelerating land acquisition for the Paradise-Shamirpet Elevated Corridor and land pooling under the Musi rejuvenation project. Choudhary said welfare schemes, including Indiramma houses and ration cards, would reach all eligible beneficiaries, while industrial and IT growth would also receive priority.



Goldsmiths seek fulfilment of promises

Sangareddy, July 14 (TSIT): District Goldsmiths' Association Vice President Mamidi Raju alleged that successive governments have failed to fulfil promises made to the goldsmith community and urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to address their long-pending

demands. He said traditional goldsmiths are struggling due to the rapid growth of corporate jewellery showrooms, leaving many artisans without sustainable livelihoods. The association demanded the establishment of a Goldsmiths Corporation, implementation of G.O.

272, Indiramma houses for eligible families, protection from unnecessary police harassment, and financial assistance, including low-interest loans, modern equipment, skill development programmes, and marketing support to revive the traditional profession.

Collector reviews CM visit arrangements

Mahabubnagar, July 14 (TSIT): District Collector Khushboo Gupta reviewed preparations for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies near Divitipally on Wednesday. The Chief Minister is scheduled to inaugurate the newly constructed Customer Qualification Plant. During her inspection, the Collector



reviewed arrangements for the helipad, security, stage, seating, VIP movement, parking, traffic management and other essential facilities. She directed officials and company representatives to ensure seamless coordination and complete all arrangements without lapses. District SP D. Janaki, Assistant Collector Sai Shivani, RDO Naveen, departmental officials and Amara Raja representatives attended the review meeting.

ing, traffic management and other essential facilities. She directed officials and company representatives to ensure seamless coordination and complete all arrangements without lapses. District SP D. Janaki, Assistant Collector Sai Shivani, RDO Naveen, departmental officials and Amara Raja representatives attended the review meeting.

Ten-day Combing Annual Training Camp for NCC cadets commences on KU campus



Hanumakonda, July 14 (TSIT): "Everyone should be ready for the defense of the country. If one wants to live a high life, one should think positively. If one wants to have young blood who have faith in the country, NCC's participation in the security of the country is now necessary," said Camp Commandant Col SS Ramadurai. Addressing the inaugural of a "Combined Annual Training Camp"

organized by the 10th Telangana NCC Battalion on the Kakatiya University campus, Col Ramadurai said that for the unity of the country, the sense of unity should be strengthened in colleges and schools with new ideas. Stating that it is easy to get jobs in the Indian Army, Central Paramilitary and Police departments by knowing about the pros and cons of the uniform organization, he said through a disciplined

NCC, the youth should dream for a bright future and added that NCC means positivity. The ten-day camp includes weapons training, personality development, fire fighting, awareness on national disaster management, cybercrime, women empowerment, army history, classes by special experts on weapons used by the army, drills, and the selection of Warangal group cadets to participate in the 2027 Republic Day will also be held at Kakatiya University till 22 July 2026, Col Ramadurai added. A ten-day camp is being held for 550 cadets of the combined Warangal and Khammam districts. Deputy Camp Commandant, Lieutenant Col Ravi Sunari made the cadres aware of personality development.

Collector outlines district development plan



Hyderabad, July 15 (TSIT): Medchal-Malkajgiri Collector Mikkilineni Manu Choudhary has unveiled a development roadmap focusing on education, healthcare, welfare, infrastructure and transparent governance. He said government schools and hospitals would be strengthened, while welfare schemes for eligible beneficiaries would be

implemented effectively. The district administration will protect government lands, curb illegal constructions and regulate unauthorised hospitals. Civic infrastructure, including roads, drainage and sanitation, will be improved across municipalities. The Collector also highlighted progress in the electoral roll revision, industrial development, and the Musi rejuvenation project, while assuring citizen-centric governance through greater accountability, field monitoring and inter-departmental coordination.

Hanumakonda officials urged to adopt AI tools for efficient governance

Hanumakonda, July 14 (TSIT): Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai on Tuesday urged government officials to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their day-to-day administrative functions, saying the technology can significantly improve the speed, efficiency and quality of public service delivery. Addressing a one-day training programme on "Artificial Intelligence for Enhancing Administrative Efficiency" organised at the District Collectorate in collaboration with T-Fiber, the District Collector said adopting modern technologies had become essential for effective governance. He noted that AI tools could help officials complete routine administrative tasks such as drafting official correspondence, preparing



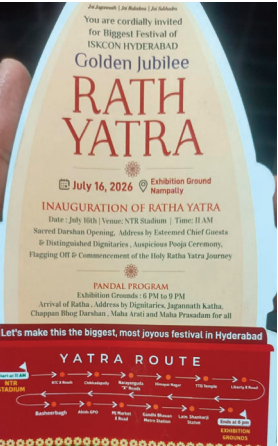
reports, recording meeting minutes, summarising documents, translating content and creating presentations within minutes, thereby saving valuable time. Emphasising that AI is not a substitute for human intelligence, Chahat Bajpai described it as a productivity tool that enables officials to work more efficiently while improving the quality and accuracy of government services. Highlighting a recent example, she said the district

administration had used AI tools to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed street vending zones under the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation after consultancy firms quoted high fee for the assignment. The AI-assisted approach enabled officials to complete the report within a few hours instead of the usual week-long process, resulting in considerable savings of both time and public funds.

Over 1 lac devotees expected at ISKCON's 47th Jagannatha Ratha Yatra

Hyderabad, July 15 (TSIT): ISKCON Abids will celebrate the 47th Annual Sri Jagannatha Ratha Yatra on Thursday, July 16, with over one lakh devotees expected to participate in the grand chariot festival of Lord Jagannatha, Lord Baladeva and Devi Subhadra. The annual festival, being organised since 1979, is one of the largest and longest-running Ratha Yatras in the twin cities. Elaborate arrangements have been made for smooth darshan, prasadam distribution, traffic management and cultural programmes to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees.

The Ratha Yatra procession will commence at 11 a.m. from NTR



Stadium and travel nearly 8 kilometres through RTC X Roads, Himayat Nagar, Liberty, Basheerbagh, Abids, MJ Market and Gandhi Bhavan Metro Station before reaching the Exhibition Grounds at around 6 p.m.

A grand public programme will follow at the Exhibition Grounds,

featuring the ceremonial arrival of the chariot, cultural performances, Jagannatha Katha, Chappan Bhog Darshan, Maha Arati, and distribution of Mahaprasadam. ISKCON will also serve more than one lakh plates of sanctified prasadam to devotees. The procession will be accompanied by vibrant Harinama Sankirtan, with devotees singing devotional hymns and dancing to traditional music.According to ISKCON,theJagannatha Ratha Yatra symbolises the Lord's compassion as He comes out of the temple to bless everyone. Founder-Acharya Srila Prabhupada taught that the darshan of Lord Jagannatha on the chariot bestows immense

spiritual blessings upon devotees.

The Sri Sri Radha Madanmohan Mandir at Abids, inaugurated by Srila Prabhupada in 1976, has grown into a major spiritual centre over the past five decades. ISKCON Abids today has a congregation of more than 5,000 devotees, over 100 Bhakti centres, has distributed over 50 lakh plates of prasadam and 30 lakh spiritual books, and welcomes nearly 40 lakh visitors every year.

Organisers said the 47th Sri Jagannatha Ratha Yatra is not merely a religious procession but a celebration of devotion, unity and spiritual awakening, inviting people from all walks of life to participate in the festival.

Apollo Hospitals Secunderabad Successfully Treats Achalasia Cardia Patients with Advanced POEM Procedure

Hyderabad: Doctors at Apollo Hospitals, Secunderabad have successfully treated patients suffering from Achalasia Cardia, a rare disorder in which the nerves controlling the food pipe (esophagus) fail to function properly, leading to difficulty in swallowing and other digestive complications. Dr. Bhaskar and Dr. Venu Gongati, Consultant Medical Gastroenterologists Apollo Hospitals Secunderabad said, there has been a noticeable rise in such cases in the post-COVID period, with infections believed to be a contributing factor. Patients commonly present with symptoms such as difficulty swallowing, chest pain, regurgitation of food, weight loss and chronic digestive discomfort.

He said Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Age,37, from Warangal, had been suffering from severe



swallowing difficulties for nearly 10 years. Despite undergoing pneumatic dilatation five years ago, her symptoms persisted, significantly affecting her quality of life. Following the POEM procedure, she experienced remarkable relief and is recovering well.Another patient, Mr. Ravinder, Age, 50, from Karimnagar, presented with Achalasia Cardia along with cardiomyopathy and a severely reduced ejection fraction

(EF) of 30 per cent. As he was on dual antiplatelet therapy and considered a high-risk candidate for conventional surgery, treatment options were limited. The minimally invasive POEM procedure offered a safe and effective alternative, leading to successful treatment and recovery.

Dr. Bhaskar said traditionally, surgery has been the standard treatment for Achalasia Cardia. However, Apollo Hospitals is now offering an

advanced minimally invasive endoscopic procedure called Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM). The procedure is performed through an endoscope without any external incisions and enables patients to return home the very next day.Dr. Venu Gongati, Consultant Medical Gastroenterologists Apollo Hospitals Secunderabad said, we are performed the procedure successfully on Vijayalakshmi (37) from Warangal, who had been suffering from the condition for the past three years. Following treatment, she has shown significant improvement and is recovering well. Another patient, Ravinder (50) from Karimnagar, also underwent the procedure successfully and experienced substantial relief from his symptoms.

Karnataka to set up India’s first govt AI University

Bengaluru, July 14 (TSIT): Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday announced that the state will establish India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University and an AI Hub to promote research, innovation and startup incubation, reaffirming Karnataka's ambition to become a global centre for responsible AI.

Making the announcement while inaugurating Google I/O Connect India 2026 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), the Chief Minister said the proposed AI University would nurture world-class talent, advance cutting-edge research and strengthen



collaboration between academia, industry and government. Shivakumar said the state also plans to establish an AI Hub as an incubation centre to support AI research and development by startups, companies and academic institutions.

Intelligence as the defining technological revolution of the present era, he said Karnataka aims to become an AI-native state, where AI is integrated into governance and public service delivery to improve education, healthcare, agriculture and citizen services. "AI must help teachers

teach better, doctors diagnose diseases earlier, farmers receive better advisory services and citizens access government services with dignity and speed," he said. Highlighting Karnataka's leadership in the technology sector, the Chief Minister noted that the state contributes nearly 40 per cent of India's software exports and that Bengaluru is home to more than 17,000 startups and numerous Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

He said the government would continue expanding digital infrastructure, including data centres and advanced computing facilities, to support AI innovation, cloud computing and research.

Congress Setting Up ‘Gruel Centers’ for Party Workers in the Name of Bharat Jodo: Opposition Leader R. Ashok

Bengaluru : Opposition Leader in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok expressed strong anger, stating that under the name of Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas, the Congress is preparing to set up gruel centers (free food centers) for its party workers.

At a press conference on Tuesday, he sharply criticized the government, saying it has withheld assistance and pensions meant for farmers, senior citizens, orphans, widows, and other beneficiaries, while using taxpayers' money to provide rehabilitation exclusively for Congress workers.

"The government has not yet released 5,000 crore under Gruhalakshmi and 750 crore under Annabhagya. Former Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar even shed tears and admitted the truth during the Belagavi session. Yet the money has still not reached the beneficiaries. But the Congress is announc-



ing new schemes every day only for its leaders and workers. The Chairman of the Guarantee Implementation Committee, H.M. Revanna, has been given a house rent allowance of 58 lakh. Including salary, other allowances, facilities, and 12 staff members, the total expenditure comes to nearly 2 crore. The government has not even provided me, the Leader of Opposition, with an official residence. But it has allotted a government house to the Vice-Chairman of the committee and spent 58

lakh. Salaries are being paid to district and taluk committee presidents, allowances to members, and including office expenses in the districts, the monthly expenditure exceeds 150 crore," he said.

Ashok alleged that under the banner of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo, the Congress is creating organizations and providing employment to its unemployed workers. Trainers are being appointed for each committee with a fixed salary of 24,000. The total cost of this scheme is 1,010 crore. He criti-

cized this as a blatant misuse of taxpayers' hard-earned money. "Primary health centers lack medicines and staff. If the same money had been allocated there, it would have helped people. Karnataka has been proven unsafe for new mothers. The government has not increased the honorarium for ASHA workers who are protesting. Pensions have not been paid to beneficiaries for three months. There is a pending amount of 78 crore for orphans for eight months. The money being given to the Youth Empowerment Department could have been used to build good sports facilities in rural areas. Instead, they have chosen to indulge in loot," he charged. "Every taluk already has a Sports Department office. Yet a separate committee has been formed and Congress leaders appointed. With elections just 1.5 years away, the Congress has opened these gruel centers for its workers.

Rotary International District 3191 and Press Club of Bangalore Host First-Ever Rotary Media Falcon Awards 2026; Launch Major Water Conservation Initiative

Bengaluru : Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Irrigation R. Ramalinga Reddy said that the media plays a pivotal role in strengthening democracy by consistently working in the interest of society. Speaking at the first-ever Rotary Media Falcon Awards 2026, jointly organised by Rotary International District 3191 and the Press Club of Bangalore, the Minister presented awards to distinguished journalists and professionals from the corporate communications sector for their outstanding contributions.

Describing Rotary as synonymous with service, Reddy said the organisation's contribution to global polio eradication remains unparalleled. He added that Rotary has also made remarkable contributions to education and community development for over a century, emerging as a global model for humanitarian service. Rotary District 3191 Governor Rtn. Dr. Anil Gupta said that Rotary's service initiatives create a greater impact when they reach the public through the media. He noted that the success of



Rotary's social initiatives, including the global fight against polio, has been made possible through strong media support. He also praised journalists for their invaluable role in bringing about positive social change.

Press Club of Bangalore President R. Sridhar said the collaboration with Rotary District 3191 reflects a shared commitment to promoting ethical, responsible and socially conscious journalism. Recognising and honouring achievers in the media industry, he added, would inspire excellence and uphold professional standards.

On the occasion, Lifetime

Achievement Award was presented to senior Rotarian Rtn. K.A. Kunja in recognition of over four decades of dedicated service to Rotary. The event also marked the launch of Rotary District 3191's flagship water conservation initiative, "Kal Ka Sapna – One Billion Litre Paani Ho Apna." The ambitious project aims to conserve one billion litres of water across Karnataka through the rejuvenation of 20 lakes, promotion of sustainable water management practices and ensuring long-term water security for farmers. Rotary International Director Rtn. K.P. Nagesh said that service is about safeguarding society's future. Stressing

that water security is one of Karnataka's biggest challenges, he described the initiative as a significant step towards creating sustainable water resources for farmers and future generations. The event was attended by noted filmmaker, author and columnist Dr. Nagathihalli Chandrashekhara, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Media Adviser K.V. Prabhakar, Rotary District 3191 Governor Rtn. Dr. Anil Gupta, and several other dignitaries.

The awards were presented to Mohan G.N., Dr. Venkatesh M. Rao, Shyamsundar Vattam, Chidananda Patel, Veeresh K.M., Veeramani, Srinivas, Rakesh M.R., Punyavathi H.P., Peer Pasha Khadri, Ramu Patil, Ramesh Palya, Vanitha, Prakash H.T., Na. Vinay, Rajashekar Murthy, Chetan Belagere, Michelle Kumar, Kishan Cheranda, Hamsaveni N., Bharatheesh Honnali, Rtn. M. Surendran Unni, Dr. Anubha Jain, P. Ramakrishna Upadhyaya, Archana Ravikumar, Ravi S., Fehmi Mohammed and Srishti Kulkreja for their excellence in journalism, communications and media.

Bengaluru : Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda chaired an important review meeting on matters relating to the Revenue Departments of the five City Corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Make all necessary preparations for the Government to undertake door-to-door distribution of e-Khata certificates to approximately 2.3 million properties across the GBA jurisdiction.

Identify properties that remain outside the property tax net and bring them under the tax system to improve property tax collection.

Detect cases where property tax is being underpaid, revise assessments where necessary, and ensure proper collection of property tax.

Ensure that all properties within the GBA jurisdiction are assigned Khatas and brought under an efficient property tax collection system. Expedite the process of converting B-Khatas into A-Khatas. Use GIS, drones and other technologies to integrate property-related



data available with BESCOM, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and other departments in order to identify unassessed properties and bring them within the property tax framework, he said.

Following the implementation of the new advertisement policy, digital advertisements are being installed illegally across the city. All unauthorised advertisements erected without valid licences must be removed without any leniency. Even where licences have been obtained, if the advertisements are being used for commercial purposes contrary to the approved

permissions, appropriate action must also be initiated against such violations.

Mandatory Registration of Construction & Demolition Waste Transport Vehicles

All vehicles engaged in transporting construction and demolition (C&D) waste must be compulsorily registered. Installation of GPS tracking devices in all such vehicles will also be mandatory. Month long Freedom from Waste Campaign

A comprehensive plan should be prepared to organise a month-long "Freedom from Waste" campaign throughout August across the GBA area with the objective

of completely removing garbage, solid waste, construction debris, soil mounds, weeds and other waste materials. To enhance Bengaluru's cleanliness and aesthetics, the City Corporations, K-RIDE, Railways, Metro and other departments should coordinate and jointly implement the campaign during August.

Under the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), approximately 22,732 tonnes of waste have been identified across 1,616 locations within the GBA area. Officials have been directed to prepare a comprehensive plan for its removal.

Property Owners must Clean Vacant Sites

Property owners in the five City Corporations under the GBA will be given time until August 15 to clear weeds, overgrown vegetation and waste from their vacant sites.

If the sites are not cleaned by the deadline, the respective City Corporations will undertake the cleaning and recover the cost by adding it to the property's tax dues.

India should ride AI wave to emerge as a product nation: Industry experts



Bengaluru: Industry experts speaking at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event said India should ride the AI wave to emerge as a product nation. While the country has excelled in engineering and software services, it has yet to fully master the entire product value chain from design and development to engineering and manufacturing, said Kamal Bali, chairman of CII Innoverge 2026, the trade body's flagship national innovation summit scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on July 22 and 23.

Speaking at the curtain-raiser event on Tuesday, he said the focus should now be on transforming India into a globally relevant product powerhouse, with AI embedded across every function and supported by the three pillars of innovation, trust and

technology. India's world-class research institutions, supportive public policy framework, robust domestic market, skilled workforce and scalable manufacturing capabilities provide the ideal foundation for this transformation, Mr. Bali added.

Explaining how India can ride the AI wave to emerge as a product nation, Kris Gopalakrishnan, past president of CII and co-founder of Infosys, said the country should leverage the AI revolution to make the transition. He observed that AI's entry into job markets was creating disruptions, but added that every technological shift also opened up new opportunities.

When asked about India's biggest bottleneck in becoming an AI-led product nation, Mr. Gopalakrishnan identified

investment as the primary challenge. While India has grown from a handful of startups to over two lakh startups, including more than 4,500 deep-tech firms, funding remains limited, he said. Indian startups typically receive 1 crore to 2 crore in funding (around \$100,000 to \$200,000), whereas comparable startups in the United States often secure nearly \$20 million, he noted, highlighting the need for greater domestic and foreign investment in higher education, research and AI infrastructure.

Noting that India's exports continue to be dominated by IT services, Mr. Gopalakrishnan stressed the need to develop indigenous technologies backed by strong research and development and intellectual property. He also underlined the importance of building a robust R&D and innovation ecosystem involving industry, academia, startups and entrepreneurs.

Also speaking at the event, Rabindra Srikantan, past chairman of CII, highlighted India's strong digital foundation, expanding manufacturing ecosystem and supportive policy environment.

Mahakali, the next chapter from the Hanu-Man universe, Enters Final Leg After 125 Days Of Shoot; Rohit Saraf Wraps His Portions!

Mahakali, the highly anticipated next chapter in the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe (PVCU), enters its final phase. Produced by RK Duggal and Riwarz Ramesh Duggal under the RKD Studios banner, Prasanth Varma is the Creator with Puja Kolluru directing, the ambitious mythological epic has now successfully completed 125 days of shooting. Designed as a grand cinematic spectacle, Mahakali is being filmed for IMAX, promising audiences breathtaking visuals and an immersive big-screen experience unlike any other.

The production has also marked a significant milestone with Rohit Saraf completing his portions. Akshaye Khanna, who is playing the powerful role of Shukracharya, has already wrapped filming for his pivotal role, while Rohit Saraf has now finished shooting for his character. Bhoomi Shetty plays the titular role of Mahakali, and her striking first-look

poster showcasing the goddess in a fierce divine avatar received an overwhelming response. Likewise, Akshaye Khanna's first look as Shukracharya generated immense buzz, further raising expectations for his impactful role in the PVCU.

The film also features an ensemble of several acclaimed actors across industries, and is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious mythological spectacles in Indian cinema, combining spiritual grandeur with cutting-edge cinematic scale. The film features music composed by Smaran Sai, cinematography by Suresh Ragutu, and production design by Sri Nagendra Tangala.

With the final leg of shooting now underway, the makers are working at full pace to complete production and move into post-production. Every update from Mahakali continues to build anticipation, with the film shaping up to be one of the most ambitious projects in recent times.



The Purple Turtles, Beruru and Oorjaa Announce the Annual Sale 2026 in Bangalore

Bangalore : Get ready for the Annual Sale 2026, where The Purple Turtles' All-in Purple and Beruru's Root to Roof, Oorjaa's Brightside Sale bring you a thoughtfully curated selection of lighting, furniture, home accents and garden decor, all at irresistible prices for a limited time. Enjoy 30% off on all products and up to 50% off on select items.

Radeesh Shetty, Founder & Director, The Purple Turtles and Beruru, and Co-Founder, Oorjaa - "At The Purple Turtles, Beruru and Oorjaa, our vision



has always been to create spaces that are warm, timeless and deeply personal.

ICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: W Mall Building, 2nd floor, Wexco Homes, Kanjikuzhi, Kottayam - 686004

[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 ICI 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.	Rijas M P (Borrower) Simi Rijes (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHCC000001578152 & LHCC000001578153	Resy 502/1 Nashida Mansil (H), Nadavath Nagar P.O, Aroakutty Villagecherthala Talukalappuzha District Alappuzha- 688549 Kerala	Rs. 1,01,78,298/- June 30, 2026	Rs. 1,12,94,116/- Rs. 11,29,412/-	August 10, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 17, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 14, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till August 14, 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 ICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before August 14, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before August 14, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICI 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 ICI 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.icihfc.com/> Date: July 15, 2026 Place: Alappuzha Authorized Officer, "ICI Home Finance Company Limited", CIN Number- U65922MH1999PLC120106

EDITORIAL

A Quiet Indo-Pacific Revolution Is Underway, And India Is At Its Centre

It seems the building blocks of India's vision for the Indo-Pacific are being put in place rapidly. What's more, its receiving enthusiastic support from key countries that are actually in this region and have strong interests in making it happen. Certainly, there is much more to do, but the process has begun. Its not just the rather dizzying number of initiatives coming out of the visit by the Prime Minister to Indonesia and Australia, but also a squaring of the circle in another event that happened just before his travel. Besides, each of these are cooperating with the other in almost exactly the same areas, in an interlocking mesh of jigsaw moves, about as complicated to fathom. It's a process to watch, with huge implications.

Interlocking Parts

Take these visits in terms of their individual focus. Indonesia lies at the heart of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), and for years, the now rather shaky Quad - comprising India, Japan, Australia and the US - talked about the 'centrality' of ASEAN without anyone actually knowing how this was to be achieved. Now it's a done deal, at least as far as India and two other members of the Quad are concerned. In February 2026, Australian Prime Minister Albanese and Indonesian President Subianto signed the vital Australia-Indonesia Treaty on Common Security (the Jakarta Treaty). It not only commits the two nations to "consult each other on security threats", but also "establishes defense interoperability, and expands military education exchanges". In March, Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae was in Indonesia to sign an enhanced agreement to sanction the export of arms and equipment - a huge change in policy for pacifist Japan - and also signed protocols for exchange of sensitive information. And in July, there was the Indian Prime Minister, signing on to significantly enhanced defence cooperation, not just limited to BrahMos and air-to-air missile deals, but much more besides. Just before that, on July 2, the Japanese Prime Minister in Delhi signed on to a "Partnership of Strategic Convergence and Trust", again shared with the others. One can almost hear an audible 'click' as things fall into place.

The Mechanics On The Ground

Now break that up into its component parts in terms of mechanics on the ground. Australia has now embedded a senior Indonesian officer inside the Australian Defence forces, in addition to a joint training programme. India has just invited Indonesia to be part of the Indian Navy-run Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), a multinational maritime security and information-sharing hub designed to monitor threats like piracy, trafficking, and illegal fishing. That means sharing of data on a real-time basis. Japan and Indonesia signed on to an Integrated Defence Dialogue Mechanism and "enhancing discussions on measures to protect classified military information, with a view to strengthening operational cooperation". Australia is already part of the Fusion Centre, as is Japan. Both are also signed on to vital logistics cooperation agreements, which essentially means each can use the others' ports and airfields.

THE POLITICS OF SATLUJ: A FILM THAT NO PARTY CAN FULLY OWN

The controversy surrounding Satluj has moved far beyond a debate over a film. It has become a political litmus test for every major party in Punjab, exposing decades of contradictions on the issue of justice for the victims of militancy, counter insurgency and the human rights violations of the 1980s and 1990s. For years, Punjab's mainstream parties have largely treated this painful chapter as an issue to be managed rather than confronted. Satluj has disrupted that equilibrium. Every statement, every silence and every political calculation is now being closely scrutinised. The sharpest intervention has come not from a political party but from Paramjit Kaur Khalsa, widow of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa, whose investigation into the alleged secret cremation of unidentified bodies cost him his life. In a strongly worded message ahead of the Harike Pattan remembrance ceremony, Paramjit Kaur Khalsa refused to spare any political formation. She accused the Congress of presiding over widespread human rights violations, alleged that successive Shiromani Akali Dal governments protected and rewarded police officers accused in such cases, charged the Aam Aadmi Party government with failing to ensure that convicted officials were brought to justice, and also referred to allegations against the BJP led Union government over targeted killings abroad. Her intervention is politically significant because it exposes a different vulnerability for each party. For the Congress, Satluj inevitably revives allegations linked to the counter insurgency period under its governments. For the Shiromani Akali Dal, which seeks to reclaim the Panthic space, the film also brings renewed scrutiny of its own tenure in power, when critics allege successive governments did little to pursue accountability against police officers facing serious allegations. The Aam Aadmi Party, despite presenting itself as a break from traditional politics, is now being asked whether it has fundamentally altered the state's approach to these unresolved cases. The BJP, meanwhile, must balance its



national security narrative with its efforts to expand politically among Sikhs, making the debate particularly sensitive. Rather than allowing any one party to claim the moral high ground, her statement places the entire political establishment under scrutiny. The political dilemma is evident. It explains why almost every political party has adopted a guarded approach. Their responses suggest they are still trying to assess how Punjab's Hindu and Sikh voters will react before taking an unequivocal stand. For the BJP, the issue carries particular sensitivity because any perception of endorsing a narrative critical of the state's counter insurgency operations could alienate sections of its core support base. At the same time, appearing insensitive to Sikh grievances risks reinforcing political barriers that have historically limited its expansion in Punjab. The Congress has to balance acknowledging historical wrongs without accepting political responsibility for decisions

taken during its tenure. The Akali Dal cannot afford to alienate its traditional Panthic constituency but also faces uncomfortable questions about its own record in government. The AAP government, which came to power promising clean governance and change, is under pressure to demonstrate that it is willing to revisit unresolved questions of justice rather than merely administer the status quo. Yet, electoral evidence suggests that Panthic politics has not disappeared from Punjab. The victories of Amritpal Singh from Khadoor Sahib and Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa from Faridkot in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections demonstrated that there remains significant political space for candidates campaigning around Sikh identity, justice and unresolved historical issues. Amritpal Singh's victory reflected the continuing appeal of Panthic mobilisation centred on questions of Sikh identity and perceived injustice, while Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa's election carried its own

symbolism. As the son of Beant Singh, one of the two bodyguards who assassinated then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after Operation Blue Star, his victory underscored that the legacy of 1984 and its aftermath continues to influence sections of Punjab's electorate. Together, these victories showed that Panthic politics remains electorally relevant despite repeated assertions that it has receded. Satluj taps directly into that sentiment. For mainstream parties, this creates a dilemma. Remaining silent risks ceding political space to Panthic voices, while taking a clear position could unsettle carefully cultivated support bases across communities. The film, therefore, has the potential to reshape political messaging even if it does not immediately alter electoral outcomes. That is precisely why Satluj has become politically consequential. The film is not merely reopening old wounds; it is reopening unresolved political questions. Every party recognises that an aggressive embrace of the

film's narrative could consolidate one section of voters while alienating another. Conversely, distancing itself from the issue risks appearing indifferent to demands for justice. The result is a carefully calibrated politics of ambiguity. Satluj has already achieved one political outcome: it has forced every major party to revisit questions that have remained politically unresolved for four decades, how Punjab remembers the excesses of the militancy and counter insurgency years, whether successive governments did enough to deliver justice to victims' families, and how the State should reconcile competing narratives of national security, human rights and Sikh identity. These questions have rarely found political consensus, making them among Punjab's most enduring fault lines. In that sense, Satluj is no longer just a film. It has become a test of political credibility, revealing not only how parties remember Punjab's past, but also how they intend to navigate its future.

DIGNITY OF THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE AND CIVIC DECORUM

-Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

The entire structure of Indian democracy rests on four key pillars—the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and an independent media. Among these, the judiciary is the institution to which every citizen turns with ultimate hope. When the administrative system fails, when governance becomes frustrating, and when rights are violated, citizens approach the courts. Therefore, the courts are not only a constitutional institution but also a center of citizens' trust. If unruly behavior, outrage, threats, abusive language, or an atmosphere of chaos prevails during court proceedings, its impact is not limited to the court alone, but impacts the entire credibility of democracy. A recent incident in the Supreme Court has drawn national attention to the importance of maintaining a balance between judicial dignity and civil conduct. Individuals have the right to access justice, the right to express their views, and the right to criticize judicial decisions within constitutional limits. However, this does not mean disrupting court proceedings, showing disrespect to judges, or using the court as a platform for personal outrage. Such incidents violate democratic norms and undermine public confidence in the judicial system. It is equally true that such behavior by a citizen often does not arise overnight. Often, years of litigation, financial burdens, mental stress, social insecurity, and inordinate delays in justice can lead a person to a

state of deep despair. This can lead to dissatisfaction and anger towards the system. However, under no circumstances can this anger justify violating the dignity of the court. In a democratic system, duties and decorum are equally essential as rights. The Indian Constitution grants every citizen freedom of expression. This freedom is the soul of democracy, as a healthy democracy is unimaginable without the expression of opinions. However, the Constitution does not consider this freedom an absolute right. Appropriate restrictions have also been established on matters such as public order, national security, defamation, and contempt of court. This aim is not to suppress expression, but to maintain the dignity of democratic institutions and balance in society. Court decisions can be legally criticized, scholarly debated, and review petitions can be filed, but personal insults, abusive language, and disruption of the judicial process are unacceptable. The judiciary's greatest strength lies not in its police force or punitive powers, but in the public's trust. This trust is what makes every court order effective. If the court's dignity is repeatedly challenged and respect for it diminishes, the fundamental concept of the rule of law will begin to weaken. Therefore, protecting the institutional reputation of the judiciary is not only the responsibility of judges and lawyers, but also the constitutional obligation of every citizen. On the other hand, it must also be acknowledged that the

Indian judicial system faces numerous challenges. Crores of cases are pending in various courts across the country. In many cases, decisions take decades, not years. The process of obtaining justice becomes extremely difficult for the common citizen, both financially and psychologically. The lengthy duration of trials, repeated dates, mounting expenses, and uncertain outcomes drive individuals into despair. In such circumstances, the need for judicial reforms is felt more urgently than ever. Judicial reforms should not be limited to the creation of new laws. Expedient filling of vacancies in courts, maximum use of modern technology, expansion of the e-court system, digital records, timely hearings, and strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms are the need of the hour. Speedy disposal of cases will also enhance citizens' trust and satisfaction with the judicial system. It's also essential that everyone who comes to court isn't viewed solely as a litigant. Many people arrive at court carrying years of social, economic, and psychological suffering. Therefore, counseling services and psychosocial support should be developed where necessary. This can help stressed parties maintain emotional balance and reduce the likelihood of unnecessary conflict. Security arrangements in courts are also a necessity. Courts receive a large number of litigants, advocates, and ordinary citizens daily. Therefore, security arrangements should not be merely formal, but rather effective

and well-trained, so that any untoward situation can be dealt with promptly and with dignity. Ensuring a fear-free, disciplined, and respectful court environment should be a priority in every democratic society. Today, there is also a need to promote judicial literacy in society. Most citizens are not fully familiar with the judicial process, rights, and responsibilities. If awareness about constitutional values and the judicial process is increased through schools, colleges, and social organizations, it will foster both respect and understanding for the courts. Criticism has an important place in democracy. Even the judiciary is not beyond criticism. Many landmark decisions have been subjected to serious debate from time to time by scholars, lawyers, and civil society. This is the hallmark of a healthy democracy. However, criticism must be based on facts, logic, and constitutional norms. Personal sarcasm, indecent behavior, and public insults to institutions undermine democratic culture. It must also be remembered that the court is not just an institution for judges, but for every citizen. Protecting its dignity is as important as protecting freedom of expression. There is no contradiction between the two. True democracy is one where citizens can speak their minds fearlessly while also maintaining the dignity of institutions. Today, as a large portion of social discourse has shifted to digital media, unverified information, emotional reactions, and derogatory comments about judicial institutions spread rapidly.

'Zalengam Diary' And Roads As New Language In Demand To Divide Manipur

Roads are no longer just roads in Manipur since May 2023 when the Meitei-Kuki ethnic violence erupted in the state bordering Myanmar. Every new bridge, bypass or transport corridor is seen as an attempt at setting a narrative for political geography, but not a development project. Infrastructure is no longer about engineering in the state where territory has become deeply contested. It is now connected with questions about identity, administration, security and competing visions of Manipur's future. The absence of official clarity over the approval, regulation and oversight of several such projects has added to the confusion and even raised questions about transparency. This has only deepened public suspicion and intensified the political significance attached to such projects. On July 10, a 270-foot Bailey bridge was inaugurated in Manipur's Chandel district. That has sparked a new debate over territory, mobility and the Kuki tribes' demand for breaking up Manipur. The Kukis say the bridge is a rural connectivity project that serves the underserved between Chandel district and Kuki settlements in southern Manipur's Churachandpur district. They say they had been cut off following the outbreak of the ethnic violence. The bridge took 18 months to complete at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore, all of it crowdfunded with no government help, Kuki organisations say. The Kuki Inpi Manipur has refuted allegations that the bridge would be used as a



route for carrying out unlawful activities, including drug trafficking. The bridge only restored an essential transport link severed by the violence that killed over 260 and displaced thousands. But the controversy refuses to go away because of one question: how did a project like this evade official scrutiny? In December 2025, a 'ring road' allegedly paved without the state government's approval and passing through forests in six districts was found in Manipur. The matter came to light after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered the Manipur government to ensure no more construction work was done on the 'ring road'. After the NGT order, an umbrella body of civil society organisations of the Meitei community told reporters that the road has been locally referred to as "German Road" and at certain stretches as "Tiger Road". 'German' and 'Tiger' are nicknames of Kuki insurgents. Engineers say the 270-foot Bailey bridge needs specialised

steel components, engineered foundations, heavy equipment and professional supervision. They say the cost seems technically plausible if voluntary labour and donated resources were used, but there are no clear answers about the source of the bridge components, engineering certification, statutory approvals and compliance with public safety standards. Soon after the inauguration of the "crowdfunded bridge", several social media accounts that supported the demand for breaking up Manipur into separate territories on ethnic lines, described the bridge as a major achievement in connecting Kuki settlements in Churachandpur with Chandel, Tengnoupal and Moreh along the porous border with Myanmar. The online chatter after the bridge's inauguration showed that infrastructure had become inseparable from the Manipur crisis. The new bridge, called Khulmi, adds another chapter to the long list of contro-

versial projects in Manipur, such as the so-called "Tiger road" or "German road". Named after German H Haokip of the insurgent group Kuki National Front (MNC), the 'road' connects K a n g p o k p i , Churachandpur, Chandel and Tengnoupal, mostly bypassing the state capital Imphal, which lies in central Manipur's valley region. Built and upgraded in phases through mountainous terrain, this 'road' connects Kuki settlements that depended on routes passing through the valley. The Kuki tribes show the road as an example of community initiative undertaken through voluntary contributions and crowdfunding. The Manipur government has questioned the legality and strategic purpose of the road and clarified that it had not officially sanctioned the project. It said legal action would be taken for carrying out the illegal project. The NGT's scrutiny showed the matter's seriousness on the implications it would have on the environment.

CIC ORDERS OIL MINISTRY ARM TO DISCLOSE PETROL, ETHANOL DATA

New Delhi: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the oil ministry's planning arm, to reveal historical data on petrol production and imports, ethanol procurement and blending, and petroleum sector profits. The direction was given to share the information with an RTI applicant after the commission found that the cell provided only "partial information."

Information Commissioner Khushwant Singh Sethi also directed PPAC to provide the web link for ethanol blending notifications, transfer the query on ethanol suppliers to the concerned public authority, and invoke the appropriate exemption under the RTI Act, while responding to the request for company-wise petrol supplier information. The RTI application sought six sets of information relating to India's petrol and ethanol programme, including fuel production and



imports, ethanol blending norms, procurement and consumption of ethanol, supplier details and profits from petrol sales. The commission observed that "the respondent has provided partial information to the appellant" and directed it to furnish a revised response on different queries. The first query sought year-wise details from 2014-15 onwards of petrol purchased, imported, and produced in India, annual expenditure on petrol, and source-wise break-up. PPAC replied that import, export, production and state-wise data were available on its website, but company details were "of

commercial & confidential nature" and exempt under Sections 8(1)(d) and 8(1)(e) of the RTI Act. During the hearing, the appellant said he "could not find the sought information in (sic) the website." The commission directed PPAC to "send soft copy of the sought information, including historical data, as available on the website to the appellant's e-mail ID." On the second query, the applicant sought year-wise norms, guidelines and official notifications prescribing ethanol blending in petrol. PPAC replied that the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, governed ethanol blending and

was available on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas website. The respondent also submitted during the hearing that the notifications were maintained by the ministry and available in the public domain. The commission directed PPAC to "provide the specific website link" for the relevant notifications and orders. The third query sought year-wise details of ethanol procured and consumed for blending, along with reasons for any difference between procurement and consumption. PPAC said Table 14 of its monthly Snapshot of India's Oil & Gas report contained information regarding "ethanol received and blended by PSU OMC's along with the blending percentage." The commission directed the authority to email the available historical data to the appellant. The fourth query related to the ethanol supply chain, with the applicant seeking a year-wise list of ethanol suppliers to oil marketing companies, quantities supplier.

Vivek Venkatswamy backs job security at Hyderabad BRICS summit

Hyderabad: Telangana Labour and Employment Minister Vivek Venkatswamy on Tuesday, July 14, said that workers contribute their best only when they have confidence in the security of their jobs, and called on nations to strengthen social security systems, protect workers' rights and invest in skill development. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the BRICS Trade Union Forum Summit 2026 at the Marriott Hotel in Hyderabad. The three-day international summit, hosted by the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), began on Tuesday and will end on Thursday, July 16. The ceremony was attended by 110 delegates from 14 countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Belarus, Malaysia and Nigeria. Highlighting Telangana's initiatives, the minister said the state gov-



ernment has placed special emphasis on preparing its workforce for future industry requirements by establishing Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) across Telangana. Additionally, to meet the growing global demand for skilled manpower, the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) is facilitating overseas employment opportunities for youth in countries such as Germany, Japan, several European nations and West Bengal. These initiatives, he

said, are enabling young people to secure high-paying international jobs while also strengthening the state's skilled workforce. BRICS can help shape human-centric workplaces. Meanwhile, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said there was immense potential for cooperation among BRICS countries in areas such as social security, skills, artificial intelligence (AI) and decent work. He said the forthcoming BRICS labour and employment ministers' meeting in Hyderabad on

July 15 provides an excellent opportunity to translate the recommendations emerging from the summit into concrete policy cooperation and practical outcomes. Together, BRICS can shape a future of work that is innovative, inclusive and human-centric, he said. 170 million employment opportunities created in India in the last decade. Observing that employment generation remains at the heart of India's growth strategy, he said over the last decade, nearly 170 million employment opportunities have been created.

BANDHAN LARGE CAP FUND: TWO DECADES OF STABILITY, DISCIPLINE, AND COMPOUNDING

Hyderabad 2026 - As Bandhan Large Cap Fund completes 20 years, it marks a significant milestone in delivering disciplined, long term wealth creation built on stability and quality. Over two decades, the fund has navigated multiple market cycles including periods of expansion, correction, and structural change, while remaining anchored to a clear philosophy: investing in fundamentally strong large cap businesses capable of compounding consistently over time. Large caps form the backbone of well-constructed portfolios. With their scale, pricing power, governance standards, and ability to generate steady cash flows, they tend to remain resilient across economic cycles. Instead of relying on short lived rallies, they offer relatively predictable earnings growth, making them essential for investors seeking both capital appreciation and portfolio stability.

Why Large Caps Matter in the Current Context

The current market environment strengthens the case for large cap investing. Following recent corrections, valuation gaps across market segments have widened. Large caps, represented by indices such as the Nifty 100, are trading below their five-year average price to earnings multiples at 21.1 versus 24.5, implying a discount of about 13.98 percent as of May '2026. In contrast, mid cap and small cap indices continue to trade at higher levels relative to their historical averages. This relative valuation comfort



makes large caps an attractive entry point for investors looking to balance risk and return. Large caps demonstrate markedly stronger downside resilience, with significantly lower average and worst drawdowns as compared to Mid and Small Caps. This consistent cushion during market stress makes large caps a more stable core for portfolios, especially in volatile cycles.

Bandhan Large Cap Fund: A Disciplined Approach

Bandhan Large Cap Fund follows a well-defined BMV framework, focusing on Business, Management, and Valuation as the pillars of portfolio construction. Business: The fund invests in sector leaders with established business models, durable competitive advantages, and strong balance sheets. These companies demonstrate the ability to generate sustainable cash flows and adapt to industry changes. Management: Equal importance is given to the integrity, quality, and execution capability of management teams. The fund prioritizes companies with credible, transparent, and shareholder

aligned leadership. Valuation: A disciplined valuation approach ensures that high quality businesses are acquired at reasonable prices, maintaining an appropriate risk reward balance across market cycles. This philosophy has enabled the fund to remain consistent in its investment style while adapting to evolving market conditions.

A Strong Investment Framework

To strengthen stock selection and portfolio quality, the fund uses a structured five parameter framework: Normalized RoE (Return on Equity): Focus on sustainable financial efficiency across cycles, adjusting for one off effects. Long term growth potential: Identify businesses with clear and durable growth drivers. Capital allocation and governance: Assess the ability to generate returns above the cost of capital while maintaining strong governance standards. Management execution: Evaluate leadership capability and operational consistency across different economic environments.

Earnings predictability: Prioritize businesses with stable and visible earnings based on industry structure and regulatory context.

This rigorous approach keeps the portfolio aligned with long term compounding opportunities rather than short term market movements.

Flexibility with Discipline

While maintaining a strong large cap orientation, the fund retains flexibility to allocate up to 20 percent to mid and small cap stocks. This allows participation in emerging growth opportunities when valuations are favourable, without compromising overall portfolio stability.

A 20-Year Journey of Consistent Investing

Over the past 20 years, Bandhan Large Cap Fund has demonstrated the value of discipline, quality focus, and a long-term perspective. In an environment increasingly driven by short term noise, such a structured and patient approach stands out. Looking ahead, large caps continue to play a crucial role especially when valuation differences are significant, and volatility remains elevated. With its proven philosophy, robust framework, and consistent execution, Bandhan Large Cap Fund offers a compelling option for investors seeking stability at the core of their portfolios while participating in India's long term growth story.

Retiring on Your Own Terms with ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings: The Growing Shift Toward Lifelong Financial Freedom



India is undergoing a significant demographic shift. While we celebrate being a young nation, we are rapidly transitioning into a society with a rapidly aging population. By 2036, one in every seven Indians will be a senior citizen and the number is projected to surge to 230 million, according to the National Commission on Population. As life expectancy rises and the traditional social security of relying solely on next-generation support is changing, retirement planning has become a necessity rather than a choice. To address this, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has designed ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings, a bonus-linked pension plan built on the pillars of safety and flexibility. This pension product offers the best of both worlds, allowing customers to accumulate corpus for pension with safety of capital invested and, partial withdrawal to meet liquidity needs in case of major life events or illnesses, ensuring that a fam-

ily's financial future remains secure. Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "At ICICI Prudential Life, we believe retirement should be a milestone of celebration, not financial stress. ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings has been designed to offer certainty, growth through bonuses and the flexibility to access funds to meet life's uncertainties in case of major life events or illnesses. By providing up to 25% emergency withdrawal feature and a corpus for retirement, this plan empowers our customers to transition from 'active earning' to 'retirement income' without compromising their dignity or aspirations. What makes the plan even more relevant to retirement planners is that it also provides health management and wellbeing services in the form of complimentary health check-ups." Let's understand how this product works, consider Prateek, a 40-year-old professional. By saving ₹1.5

lakh annually for 10 years, he was able to build a retirement corpus of ₹44 lakh by the age of 60, assuming an 8% per annum rate of return or ₹25 lakh assuming a 4% per annum rate of return. The plan allows him to take up to 60% of this corpus as a tax-free lump sum to settle immediate goals like travel or a home renovation. He can receive guaranteed regular life-long income with the balance amount by purchasing an annuity product, ensuring he remains financially independent in his golden years. In essence, ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings redefines retirement by combining capital protection, bonus-driven growth, and emergency liquidity feature (up to 25% withdrawal). By including complimentary health check-ups and offering a tax-free withdrawal at maturity, the plan offers a holistic, disciplined and secure path that empowers customers to achieve financial independence and peace of mind during their golden years.

Indian students in Germany have doubled in five years: Shweta Guru, Auxilo

July 14, 2026: The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia still take the bulk of India's outbound students. But the old pecking order is loosening. With rising costs and tighter visa rules, Indian student interest is spilling toward emerging education destinations like Ireland, France, the Netherlands and Germany. In the last 5 years, the number of Indian students in Germany has more than doubled from 28,905 in 2020 to 59,419 in the 2024-25 academic year. India has now passed China to become the country's single largest group of international students, with Turkey a distant third. The Institute for Employment Research projects Germany will need around seven million skilled workers by 2035," informed Shweta Guru, CBO - GlobalEd, Auxilo Finserve. Low-cost education is the single biggest pull for Indian students. A 2025 Leap Scholar survey of more than three million student interactions found about 75% naming cost and affordability as their top concern, ahead of scholarships at 70% and career prospects at



58%; university rankings did not make the top five. Public universities in Germany charge no tuition, even to students from outside the country, leaving little more than a semester fee of ₹16,000 to ₹38,000 (150 to 350) that usually bundles in a local transport pass. The language barrier, long a deterrent, has largely fallen: close to 2,400 degrees are now taught entirely in English, including at master's level. The cost of living is where the money goes, and it is imperative for students to have a full year's living expenses in a dedicated account, as proof they can support themselves, before arriving in Germany. For 2026, that sum is roughly ₹12.9 lakh (11,904) and is

released to the student in 12 equal monthly instalments of about ₹1.08 lakh once they land. A two-year master's course with living expenses would cost an Indian student between ₹22 and ₹28 lakh. The same degree in Britain or the United States can cost ₹45 lakh to ₹70 lakh, sometimes more. Salaries for fresh engineering and IT graduates usually start on ₹49 lakh to ₹70 lakh a year (45,000 to 65,000). International professionals on a work visa who earn more than about ₹49 lakh (45,300) can qualify for the EU Blue Card, which speeds up their work permit and, in time, facilitates permanent residency. "For Indian families, Germany has changed the maths of studying abroad. Germany offers an 18-month window to find work in Europe's largest economy. For a student in engineering, IT or data science, that is a clear path from classroom to career," added Ms. Guru. Germany ranks among the safer, steadier places for students, with low crime rates, compulsory health cover and public services that work.

ONLY 45 PC BENGALURU PROPERTY OWNERS PAY TAX, SAYS MINISTER



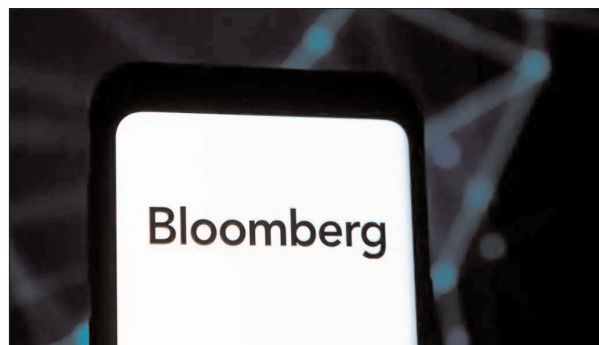
Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has ruled out any immediate increase in property tax in Bengaluru, with Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announcing a technology-driven drive to identify thousands of property owners who are allegedly evading taxes. Addressing reporters after reviewing civic administration with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials on Tuesday, July 14, the minister said Bengaluru has approximately 36 lakh properties, but only about 16 lakh owners currently pay property tax. The remaining properties will

be surveyed using drones, GPS mapping and other digital tools to detect tax evasion. He emphasised that the government's priority is to widen the tax base rather than raise tax rates. According to the minister, if all eligible property owners pay taxes, civic bodies will have adequate resources for infrastructure development and public services without increasing the burden on honest taxpayers.

Krishna Byre Gowda appealed to residents to pay their taxes voluntarily, saying compliance by every property owner would help improve Bengaluru's civic amenities and financial stability. The minister also announced strict action against owners of neglected vacant sites. Property owners have been directed to clean and maintain their vacant plots by August 15. If they fail to do so, the Greater Bengaluru Authority will clean the sites, recover the expenditure from the owners and initiate penalty proceedings as per the rules.

SINGAPORE COURT ORDERS BLOOMBERG TO PAY \$356,000 TO MINISTERS IN DEFAMATION CASE

A Singapore court has ordered Bloomberg and one of its reporters to pay \$460,000 (\$356,000; £266,000) to two ministers who had sued them for defamation over an article referencing their property transactions. Last year, the ministers, K Shanmugam and Tan See Leng, sued Bloomberg and reporter Low De Wei for a 2024 article which had mentioned their property deals. Bloomberg said it did not imply any wrongdoing and had used them as examples of a broader trend. The judge found that when read as a whole, the piece implied wrongdoing by the ministers as it also mentioned secrecy and money laundering. In a statement published by Bloomberg News, the outlet's editor-in-chief John Micklethwait said it was "very disappointed by this ruling but we will of course respect it". "We argued at trial that our reporting was accurate and served an important public interest, and we continue to believe that the ministers have imposed an extremely



strained meaning on what was a solid story," he said. What did the article say? The piece titled "Singapore Mansion Deals Are Increasingly Shrouded in Secrecy" looked at the ways in which some wealthy buyers in Singapore obscured their purchases of Good Class Bungalows - a category of multimillion-dollar mansions in Singapore - such as by using shell companies which hide their identities. It reported that Shanmugam, the Coordinating Minister for National Security and former law minister, had sold a bungalow for \$88m (\$68m; £51m) to an unnamed buyer using a

trust. The piece also noted that Tan, the Minister for Manpower, had bought a Good Class Bungalow for around \$827m - citing him as one example among a list of other public figures who had bought luxury estates through an arrangement known as a non-caveated deal, that makes it harder to track who is involved in the transaction. The article was taken down from Bloomberg's website after the verdict on Tuesday, as ordered by the court. Why did the ministers sue? Days after the article was published in December 2024, the ministers announced that they would take legal action.

How US commerce secretary's Epstein links were uncovered by British whistleblower



A British man has told the BBC how he unearthed evidence indicating that his former employer, Howard Lutnick - now US commerce secretary - failed to disclose a business relationship with the paedophile financier, Jeffrey Epstein. Simon Andriesz, previously a managing director at a Wall Street firm, discovered an email chain from 2018 in which Lutnick and Epstein had discussed the prospects of a start-up business they were both involved in. Andriesz shared his findings - from the millions of released Epstein files - with US politicians on the influential House Oversight Committee, ahead of an appearance there by Lutnick in May. Lutnick told the committee that, to the best of his knowledge, he had only learned this year that Epstein had been an investor in the firm. Speaking on his behalf, the US Commerce Department told us there was no evidence of wrongdoing. Andriesz also discovered

in the files that one of Lutnick's firms had made plans in 2013 to go into business with another figure linked to Epstein, the then-Prince Andrew, by commercially exploiting the contacts the former UK trade envoy had made. "What it involved was a loan to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor of £1m... to basically buy a prince," he tells File on 4 Investigates. Searching 3.5 million documents "I was completely shocked," says Andriesz, describing the moment when he discovered his own name in the Epstein files - a massive collection of documents, photos, video and emails relating to the notorious sex offender, released by the US government in the past year. The specific files in which Andriesz appeared related to interviews he had given to the FBI while in dispute with his former employer, BGC Partners - a financial brokerage firm, part of Lutnick's Cantor Fitzgerald group.



Israeli strike on police post in north Gaza kills 17

Trump reverses threat of 20% fee on Strait of Hormuz cargo as US prepares to resume Iran ports blockade

US President Donald Trump is speaking with Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi at the White House. We'll bring you any remarks relating to the Iran conflict. You can also watch the stream at the top of this page. Kuwait's army says it is confronting "hostile aerial targets" in its airspace. "Any explosion sounds, if heard, are the result of air defence systems intercepting hostile attacks," the military says on X. The US ally has repeatedly come under attack from Iran during the ongoing conflict. The UN's maritime agency, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), says at least two people were killed and several others were injured as a result of the overnight attacks on



tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier, the UAE and Delhi reported that an Indian seafarer had died as a result of Tehran's strikes. Now, the IMO says a second seafarer on the same ship (Al Bahiyah) was also killed. The ship was 13 nautical miles (24 km or 14.9 miles) from the coast of Oman. Another vessel, Mombasa B, was also damaged by Iranian strikes.

Fourteen seafarers were injured during last night's attack. In a statement to the BBC, the maritime agency says it is working with authorities to "confirm the full circumstances" and demands an end to the "cycle of escalation". The IMO says that since the start of the US-Iran war 17 seafarers have died as a result of hostilities in the strait. Donald Trump's latest

Truth Social post suggests that his proposed 20% fee on traffic through the Strait of Hormuz was - at least in part - a bid to secure investment in the US. Foreign investment in the country has been a significant focus for his administration, and one that has cropped up periodically in dealings with foreign countries over the issue of tariffs. While Trump has promised that these deals will be "massive" and will see factories and equipment pour into the US, there are very few details, and we have yet to hear from the Gulf states that he says will be involved. The last line of his post - in which he says that Iran's days of killing protesters are "over" - is also something of a mystery.

TYRANNOSAURUS REX MOST EXPENSIVE DINOSAUR EVER SOLD



A 67 million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex has been sold for £37.4m (\$50.1m) at a Sotheby's auction in New York - the most ever paid for a dinosaur. The fossil of this infamous predator stands more than 12 feet (4m) tall, and with over 60% of its bones recovered is one of "the most complete" specimens ever found, according to Sotheby's. The winning bidder at the sale on Tuesday has not yet been disclosed. Gus, as the T. rex has been affectionately named, was discovered in 2021 on a remote ranch in the US State of South Dakota. "It's really incredible to see and to have the level of public interest," said Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's worldwide head of science and natural history. "I think anytime you've got this, it is good for science. In general, more people are going to go to the museums, it adds dinosaurs and natural history into the conversation." The sale exceeded the previous record set by a stegosaurus in 2024, and is the first to exceed the

\$50m benchmark. Some scientists have told the BBC that the auction may herald a new era in fossil collecting by the ultra-rich. Hatton says the price paid reflects the time and resources that went into uncovering the specimen. The bones were excavated over three summers, when it was warm enough for the ground to have thawed, from 2021 to 2023. But it took a further three years in the lab to piece the T. rex back together. This work revealed the skull had bite marks, and previously broken ribs that had healed in its lifetime. Both injuries were potentially sustained during scavenging or during a battle with other dinosaurs. It may be some time before the buyer is revealed, but Apex, the stegosaurus who held the last record, was loaned out to the American Natural History Museum for four years by its billionaire-owner Kenneth Griffin. So, even if Gus has attracted an ultra-wealthy buyer it still might be coming to a museum near you soon.

Yemen's Houthis launch missiles at Saudi Arabia after strikes on Sanaa airport

Yemen's Houthis said they launched missiles at Abha airport in south-western Saudi Arabia on Monday in response to air strikes on Sanaa's airport that they blamed on the kingdom. The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, which backs the country's internationally-recognised government, said its air defences "dealt with" the missiles and no casualties were reported. The Houthis, who control north-western Yemen and are backed by Iran, earlier accused Saudi Arabia of "blatant aggression", saying it had struck the runway of Sanaa's airport. The strike was claimed by Yemen's government, which said it wanted to prevent an Iranian plane from landing. It was the most significant escalation in the largely dormant conflict between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia since an informal truce took effect four years ago. Yemen has been devastated by a civil war that began in 2014, when the Houthis ousted the government from Sanaa, the capital.



The conflict escalated in 2015, after the Saudi-led coalition of Arab states intervened in an attempt to restore the government's rule. The fighting has reportedly left more than 150,000 people dead and triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 22 million people in need of some form of aid, according to the UN. On Monday afternoon, footage on social media showed plumes of smoke rising above rooftops in Sanaa after the strikes at the city's international airport. The Houthis' al-Masirah TV said the "departure and landing runways" were targeted.

The internationally-recognised Yemeni government, which is based in the southern port of Aden, said its forces had carried out the strikes amid a dispute over the plane used by a Houthi delegation returning from Iran after the funeral of the late supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The terrorist Houthi militias, backed by the Iranian regime, prevented Yemeni national aircraft from landing at the airport in the capital, Sanaa, while insisting on allowing an Iranian plane to violate Yemeni territory; consequently, the airport runway was targeted," the Yemeni

defence ministry said. The Iranian plane had to divert and later landed in the Red Sea city of Hudaydah, about 150km (93 miles) to the south-west, according to the Houthis. For more than a decade, aircraft entering Yemeni airspace have required clearance from the Saudi-led coalition, which says it is acting at the Yemeni government's request. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree accused Saudi Arabia of being behind the Sanaa strikes, which he said had ended "the de-escalation phase" of their conflict and would not go "unanswered or unpunished". Saudi authorities did not comment on the strikes before Saree announced on Monday evening that the Houthis had launched a number of ballistic missiles and drones at Abha International Airport "in response to this criminal Saudi aggression". He also warned airlines against flying through Saudi airspace "until the blockade on Sanaa International Airport is lifted".

Australian police reveal unseen photos 25 years after British backpacker murder

Police in Australia have released previously unseen photographs from their investigation into the murder of British backpacker Peter Falconio 25 years ago. Falconio, from Huddersfield, was shot on a remote stretch of highway near the Northern Territory town of Barrow Creek, about 186 miles (300km) north of Alice Springs on 14 July 2001. His body has never been found and police hope the images could jog memories that could lead to a tip-off. His killer, Bradley Murdoch, died of throat cancer aged 67 in jail last year, without disclosing where Falconio's remains might be. The images include a full length picture of Murdoch staring straight at a camera during the police investigation. Falconio's girlfriend Joanne Lees escaped from Murdoch, hiding in scrubland for several hours before she was able to wave down two men driving a truck. One of the photographs taken by police shows Lees looking traumatised in the hours after the attack. Others show injuries



she sustained, including after her wrists were bound with cable ties. Northern Territory Police Force Commissioner Martin Dole said that 25 years was a "significant milestone" and that he hoped the release of new images could jog memories or lead to a tip-off. "This was a traumatic and horrific event for Ms Lees, and for Peter's family, who have now gone such a long time without the answers they deserve," Dole said. "While a murderer has been held accountable for his crimes, this investigation can never be considered closed until Peter's remains are found and his family can lay him to rest."

HUNGARY PARLIAMENT VOTES TO REMOVE PRESIDENT FROM OFFICE

The Hungarian parliament has voted to remove President Tamás Sulyok from office, who was widely seen as a loyalist of former prime minister Viktor Orbán who lost power in April after 16 years. Prime Minister Péter Magyar's Tisza party used its two thirds majority to steamroll through the 17th amendment to the constitution, ending the term of Sulyok and the head of the Constitutional Court Péter Polt. It was the most dramatic day in parliament since the new government took office in early May, after its surprise landslide victory against Orbán's Fidesz party on 12 April. Sulyok now has five days to sign the amendment - his own political death warrant - or refer it to the Constitutional Court. If Sulyok refers it to the court,



Magyar has said he will launch impeachment proceedings against him, which would suspend him from office automatically. Another option would be to simply resign to avoid a constitutional crisis in the interest of the country, as the new government has been urging him to do. Deputies of the now opposition Fidesz party walked out of parliament before Monday's vote, accusing

ing the Tisza party of building a tyranny. Fidesz argues that the amendment grants the government the arbitrary power to dismiss any public official from office, with immediate effect. The great irony of the situation is that Fidesz have fallen foul of their own concept of power," Péter Rona - a former opposition presidential candidate - told the BBC. The 2011 constitution, written by Orbán's

government, enshrined the principle that "the winner takes all". In office from 2010 until 2026, Fidesz reshaped the Hungarian state to its own will, and filled supposedly independent state positions with party loyalists - using its own two-thirds majority. The 141 Tisza deputies in parliament gave a standing ovation as the results of the vote were announced. The amendment also removes Constitutional Court judges who are over the age of 70, and forbids deputies who have served three terms in parliament from standing again - which applies to more than half the current Fidesz deputies. "I quite agree with the removal of the president," András Baka, former head of the Supreme Court, told the Agency.



Bangkok fire investigation finds locked doors and flammable decor as deaths climb to 30

Lionel Messi's 'Favourite' Referee To Officiate Argentina vs England FIFA World Cup Semi-final - Latest Buzz

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will see a major first - the top four teams in the world, as per FIFA rankings, will be fighting it out for the mega prize. In that way, there is no room for any 'upset' as France take on Spain in the first semi-final while defending champions Argentina take on England in the second last-four clash. FIFA has already announced the referee line-up for the two clashes. Morocco-born American referee Ismail Elfath will officiate the Argentina vs England match. El Salvador's Ivan Barton will officiate the France vs Spain match. The referees have been under intense scrutiny, especially after several VAR-related controversies. Argentina's matches have been under extra focus, with rival teams and social media accusing several decisions of going their way. In such a backdrop, Ismail Elfath's appointment as



Argentina's match referee has added more spice to the contest. Elfath has officiated some big matches in which Messi was involved. Elfath was the fourth official in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and France, where Messi scored twice on the way to his team winning the title. He also

officiated when Messi's Inter Miami won the 2023 Leagues Cup. In this match too, Messi scored his team's only goal in a match where his team won in a penalty shootout over Nashville SC. In Major League Soccer, Elfath has officiated four matches in which Messi played - his team won all of them. In three matches

so far at the FIFA World Cup 2026, Elfath has given eight yellow cards and one red card - Netherlands 2-2 Japan, Spain 1-0 Uruguay and Norway 2-1 Brazil. After the Spain-Uruguay game, the 44-year-old was targeted by the Spanish media for not being firm enough with the Uruguayans. Argentina's journey has been any-

thing but straightforward in the ongoing tournament. The defending champions have had to work hard through every knockout match, surviving stern tests from Cape Verde and Egypt before defeating Switzerland in the quarter-finals. While Messi remains the focal point, this Argentine side appears more balanced than that of four years ago. Julian Alvarez, Lautaro Martinez and Enzo Fernandez have all shared the responsibility, giving Scaloni a team that is less dependent on individual brilliance and more capable of adapting to different opponents. Having already conquered the biggest stage in 2022, the players now carry themselves with the confidence of champions. They remain tactically disciplined under pressure and have repeatedly shown an ability to stage strong comebacks after trailing at half-time.

VIRAT KOHLI ACHIEVES BIG FEAT, JOINS SACHIN TENDULKAR AND RAHUL DRAVID IN ELITE ODI LIST

Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli added another stunning milestone to his already illustrious career during the first ODI encounter against England on Tuesday. He became the fifth Indian cricketer ever to play 300 innings in ODI cricket after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin and Sourav Ganguly. Overall, Sachin tops the list with 452 innings followed by the Sri Lankan duo of Sanath Jayasuriya (433) and Mahela Jayawardene (418). This was the 312th ODI match for Kohli who has scored 14797 runs at an average of 58.71 and a brilliant strike rate of 93.82. Coming to the match, the seasoned Joe Root and plucky Liam Dawson scored half-centuries in a gutsy seventh wicket stand for 121 runs as England posted a respectable 258 in the opening ODI despite Indian pace attack wreaking havoc. From a solid 61 for no loss till the start of 13th over, England slumped



to 107 for 6 before the end of the 22nd over and there seemed no chance of a recovery from that position. However, Root with a run-a-ball 76, fought well alongside Dawson, whose career-best 68 off 83 balls took them to a position where bowlers had a decent total to defend. Root played the field, waited patiently for Bumrah to complete his first two spells and attacked Axar Patel (4/62), Prasidh Krishna once the pitch showed signs of easing out. The best shot was a ramp off a Jasprit Bumrah bounc-

er. He hit six fours and a six in all. While the peerless Bumrah (1/31 in 9 overs) was the best Indian bowler in terms of skills and quality on display, young Gurnoor Brar (2/61 in 9 overs) and the usually profligate Prasidh (2/50 in 10 overs) also chipped in with wickets despite going for runs. Axar ran through the tail after the Dawson-Root stand recording his best figures in ODI cricket. England opted to bat on a pitch that had bounce and carry with good value for shots.

Jasprit Bumrah Returns To ODIs After 968 Days, Shatters Stunning Record Against England

Jasprit Bumrah made a remarkable return to ODI cricket by becoming India's leading bowler in the format on English soil. He achieved this milestone by dismissing England captain Harry Brook during the first ODI at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Tuesday. After 968 days away from ODIs, Bumrah took his 150th wicket and surpassed Ravindra Jadeja's 30 wickets in England, moving into the lead with 31. He now tops the list of Indian ODI wicket-takers in England, ahead of Jadeja (30), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (28), Madan Lal (27), and Mohammed Shami (26). Brook's dismissal marked another achievement for the Indian pace bowler, who became the third Indian to reach 150 ODI wickets in the



fewest balls. Bumrah did this in 4,605 deliveries, only behind Mohammed Shami (4,070 balls) and Kuldeep Yadav (4,513). He finished ahead of Ajit Agarkar (5,027) and Irfan Pathan (5,131). This wicket also earned Bumrah a spot in an exclusive global group. He joined Shakib Al Hasan and Tim Southee as the only crick-

eters to have 200 Test wickets, 150 ODI wickets, and 100 T20I wickets. Currently, Bumrah has 234 Test wickets, 150 ODI wickets, and 121 T20I wickets. Bumrah's record in England highlights his strength in overseas conditions. In 17 ODIs in the country, he has taken 31 wickets with an impressive average of 21.41 and an econ-

omy rate of 4.44. His best ODI performance also came in England when he dominated the hosts with remarkable figures of 6/19 during the 2022 series. Earlier, in the 2019 ODI World Cup held in England, Bumrah secured 18 wickets as India reached the semi-finals. All-rounder Axar Patel brought out his career-best performance of 4-62 as Joe Root was left stranded on the other end at 76 to guide England to 258 all out in 47.5 overs in the first ODI against India at the Edgbaston Stadium. England bounced back from a dramatic middle-order collapse to post a competitive total after Joe Root and Liam Dawson put together a fantastic 121-run partnership for the seventh wicket in the opening ODI against India.

"Winning Medal In Commonwealth Games Harder Than Asian Games": India's Top 400m Runners

India's top 400m runners believe the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will offer sterner competition than the Asian Games later this year, making it an ideal proving ground ahead of the continental showpiece. The scaled-down Commonwealth Games begins on July 23, nearly two months before the Asian Games, and India will field a 32-member athletics squad. Vishal Thennarasu Kayalvizhi, who will be competing in the men's 400m and mixed 4x400m relay at the CWG, said the quality of competition in Glasgow, particularly with athletes from Australia and England in the fray, would push Indian runners to raise their standards. "Commonwealth



Games is hard, it's tough if we don't work. I won't say it's impossible, I will say it is possible (to win a medal) if we work out well. Nothing is easy, whether it is Asian Games or Commonwealth Games since these are big competitions. "It is an ocean out there and I need a chance to prove myself so I will take it as an opportunity and then try to push hard there,"

Vishal told SAI Media before leaving for a government-sponsored international training camp in Spala, Poland. The 22-year-old is part of a 60-member contingent, including 41 athletes and 19 coaches plus support staff, travelling to Poland. Vishal said his immediate target in Glasgow would be to improve on his personal best timings in both events.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)-backed athlete created a national record of 44.98 seconds in 400m during the Federation Cup in Ranchi last month and clocked a personal best of 03:00.32s in 4x400m men's relay at the World Relays in Gaborone, Botswana in May. His personal best in 4x400m mixed relay is 03:14.81s clocked at the World Relays in China last year. Vishal said that he will target a personal best in both his races at the Commonwealth Games. Another national camper, Jay Kumar, agreed that Glasgow would be the tougher assignment, even though the Asian Games remain his primary target this season. "My target for this year is Asian Games.

Ex-Hockey Captain Alleges Intimidation, Sexual Harassment. Sports Ministry Reacts



The Sports Ministry directed Hockey India to investigate allegations of intimidation and harassment levelled by former India captain Asunta Lakra and to share the outcome of the findings with the ministry. Lakra had urged the sports ministry

through an email to intervene urgently against what she described as the institutional protection of sexual harassment, intimidation and victimisation of women athletes in hockey. Accusing HI general secretary Bhola Nath Singh of intimidating her, Lakra alleged that individuals accused of misconduct were being protected while those raising concerns were subjected to intimidation and retaliation. "I am directed to forward the email dated 10.07.2026 received from Ms Asunta Lakra, former captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team and a member of the Executive Board of Hockey India. She has requested the constitution of an independent enquiry into allegations of sexual harassment, institutional intimidation, and related issues concerning women athletes," the letter from the ministry official said. "It is requested that the issues raised in Ms Asunta Lakra's email may be placed before the Internal Complaints Committee (CC) constituted by Hockey India under the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, for its consideration and appropriate action, and the outcome of the same may be shared with this Ministry," it further added.

Brydon Carse Returns To England Squad For India ODIs After Injury Layoff



England have strengthened their squad for the ongoing three-match One-Day International series against India by recalling pace-bowling all-rounder Brydon Carse following his recovery

from wrist and elbow injuries. The 30-year-old returns to the national setup after spending several months on the sidelines, with selectors satisfied by his progress after making three appearances for Durham in the Vitality Blast. His inclusion provides England with an additional pace option as the hosts continue the series against India. Carse's return marks his first involvement with the ODI squad since November 2025, when he featured against New Zealand in Wellington. Having successfully completed his rehabilitation, the seam-bowling all-rounder is now back in contention for international action. England announced the squad update on Tuesday, with Carse joining a group led by captain Harry Brook. Since making his ODI debut in 2021, Carse has established himself as a valuable all-round option. In 30 ODI appearances, he has claimed 34 wickets at an average of 40.44, with his best figures coming in a five-wicket haul. Lower down the order, he has also contributed 264 runs at an average of 17.60, adding depth to England's batting line-up.

Pimblett would have considered retiring if he lost to Saint-Denis



Paddy Pimblett says he would have considered retiring had he lost to Benoit Saint-Denis at UFC 329 last weekend. Pimblett, 31, submitted the Frenchman inside 52 seconds of the pair's lightweight contest at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. The victory reignited Pimblett's pursuit of the title following the Liverpoolian's defeat by Justin Gaethje for the interim belt in January. Speaking after the win, which was his 24th in 28 fights, Pimblett revealed he had told his coach Paul Rimmer he would consider leaving the sport if he couldn't beat Saint-Denis. "This fight camp wasn't easy. About four, five weeks ago I turned to Paul and said: 'If I don't win this fight, what's the point in fighting anymore? I might as well retire'," said Pimblett. "If I can't beat

BSD I'm never going to be world champ and that's what I do this for. I do this to be the best in the world." Last month, American Gaethje beat Ilia Topuria for the undisputed title, setting up a potential rematch with Pimblett. "Justin Gaethje beat Ilia Topuria and it was one of the biggest kicks up the arse I've ever had. It lit a fire underneath me and the last couple weeks of this training camp have been unbelievable," added Pimblett. Saint-Denis, 30, was on a four-fight win streak and was expected to offer Pimblett a test but had no answer for the Briton's high-level jiu-jitsu. Pimblett has moved four places up the UFC's lightweight rankings to fifth following the win, with Saint-Denis slipping to eighth. Although a Pimblett rematch with Gaethje would be an exciting prospect for fans.



The Story Behind Erling Haaland Carrying 'Raccoon' All The Way Home From FIFA World Cup 2026

Norway's historic run at the FIFA World Cup 2026 may have ended in the quarter-finals, but striker Erling Haaland still managed to steal the headlines on his return home, thanks to an incredibly unusual travel companion he brought along from the United States. When the Norwegian team plane touched down at Oslo's Gardermoen Airport on Monday, fans were left stunned to see what Haaland was carrying. Stepping onto the red carpet, Haaland was seen cradling a USD 750 taxidermied raccoon clutching a

whisky bottle under his other arm. The Manchester City striker also shared photos of his airport arrival on social media with the simple, hilarious caption: "It followed me home." But how did Haaland end up flying across the Atlantic with a stuffed forest animal? The story began in early July during Norway's stay in Texas. During a break in the tournament, Haaland visited Wild Bill's Western Store in Dallas. Fully embracing American Southern culture, the striker bought a black cowboy hat, leather boots, and a T-shirt. While

exploring the store, Haaland also took a liking to their quirky taxidermy pieces. He ended up purchasing the stuffed raccoon, popularly nicknamed the "Whisky Raccoon", which features a mounted raccoon holding a glass liquor bottle. The store owners were thrilled by the high-profile visit, posting a picture of Haaland on their website homepage. Thanks to the "Haaland effect," the USD 750 taxidermy animal quickly sold out online, prompting the store to fast-track international shipping options to handle a sudden wave of orders from

across the world. Norway's Historic World Cup Run Haaland truly deserves a souvenir for the prolific World Cup run he and the Norway team achieved. The national team reached the quarter-finals of the tournament for the first time in their history, following stellar performances that included a major Round of 16 victory over Brazil. Though Norway were eventually knocked out by England in a controversial 2-1 quarter-final, Haaland was his country's standout performer, finishing as his country's top scorer with seven goals.

GRAND TEASER LAUNCH OF
UPCOMING ACTION THRILLER '1=100'
HELD AT PRASAD LABS



HYDERABAD: The teaser launch ceremony for the upcoming feature film "1=100" was hosted on a grand scale at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad. Produced under the Shakunthala Productions banner and helmed by director Baba Mylavaram, the film stars Krishna Kumar in the lead role alongside actress Arpitha Lohi.

Renowned producer Rizwan graced the occasion as the chief guest. He officially unveiled the teaser and extended his heartfelt wishes to the entire cast and crew for the film's success. The event, organized under the auspices of Raju Entertainers and Sparkle Dance Studio, saw the participation of the film's unit along with several promi-

nent figures from the film fraternity. The newly released teaser has instantly captured the attention of audiences and industry insiders alike. Boasting slick Western-style visuals, gripping action elements, and an electrifying background score, the promotional cut looks highly promising. The technical brilliance of cinematographer Anil Kumar Veguru, music director Kenny Chaitanya, and editor Nandamuri Hari clearly stands out as the core strength of the film. Speaking at the event, the film's unit expressed their immense happiness over the phenomenal response the teaser has been receiving. The makers stated that this reception has boosted their enthusiasm and assured fans that more details regarding the movie will be revealed very soon.

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma
launches the teaser of the
unique psychological thriller
"FIGHT MAHA"



Fight Maha, starring Sunil, Akhil Uddemari, Dr. Sreevani Gopichand, Vaishnavi, Siddharth, and Srikanth Iyengar in pivotal roles, is an upcoming psychological thriller with the intriguing tagline, "What if dreams become reality... whose truth would it be?"

completed shooting across Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, and Kerala, along with all post-production formalities, and is gearing up for a theatrical release soon. The film's teaser was recently unveiled by renowned filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma at a grand launch event. The occasion was attended by noted filmmaker Vamsy, director and writer BVS Ravi, lyricist Sirashri, and Mrs. Vijaya, sister of Ram Gopal Varma, as special guests.

Written and directed by Anand Chandra, the film is produced by AVS Raju, R. Kumar Raju, and Anand Chandra under the New Eye Movies LLP banner.

HERO SUMANTH
PRABHAS BIRTHDAY
SPECIAL POSTER



Presented by blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, "Romanchakam" is being produced under the Bhadra Kali Pictures banner. Starring Sumanth Prabhaskar and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles, the film is produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga and directed by debutant Venugopal Reddy. The film's first-look poster and glimpse, released earlier, received an encouraging response from audiences and generated strong buzz. "Romanchakam" is now gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on September 3. On the occasion of young and talented actor

Sumanth Prabhaskar's birthday today, the makers unveiled a special birthday poster from the film. Extending their heartfelt birthday wishes, the team expressed confidence that this year will be a successful one for the actor. Expectations are high that "Romanchakam" will mark a significant milestone in Sumanth Prabhaskar's career. Blending romance, comedy, and suspense, the film promises to offer an engaging and entertaining cinematic experience. Positioned as an interesting youthful entertainer, "Romanchakam" aims to captivate audiences with its refreshing storytelling.

SPIRIT IS NOT ONE' Producers React
Strongly to T-Series Legal Notice



The producers of "SPIRIT IS NOT ONE," Mrs. Chinna Boyina Narasamma and Mr. Venkateswarlu, addressed the media regarding the legal notice issued by leading Hindi production house T-Series concerning the title of their film. During the press meet, they strongly objected to the conditions mentioned in the notice and expressed their stand on the issue.

Conditions Mentioned in the T-Series Notice
According to the producers, the notice included the following conditions:
- Since T-Series claims rights over the word "SPIRIT," the film "SPIRIT IS NOT ONE" should be released only in Telugu.
- The producers should not release a Hindi version or sell the Hindi

rights of the film.
- T-Series stated that it would withdraw its legal notice only if the film is promoted and released exclusively in Telugu across theatres, OTT platforms, and YouTube.

Producers' Response
Responding to these conditions, the producers made their position clear during the press conference.

"Our Film, Our Decision"
The producers questioned T-Series, saying: "Whom we sell our film to, where we release it, and on which platform we choose to release it are entirely our decisions. Who is T-Series to dictate terms or impose conditions on us?"

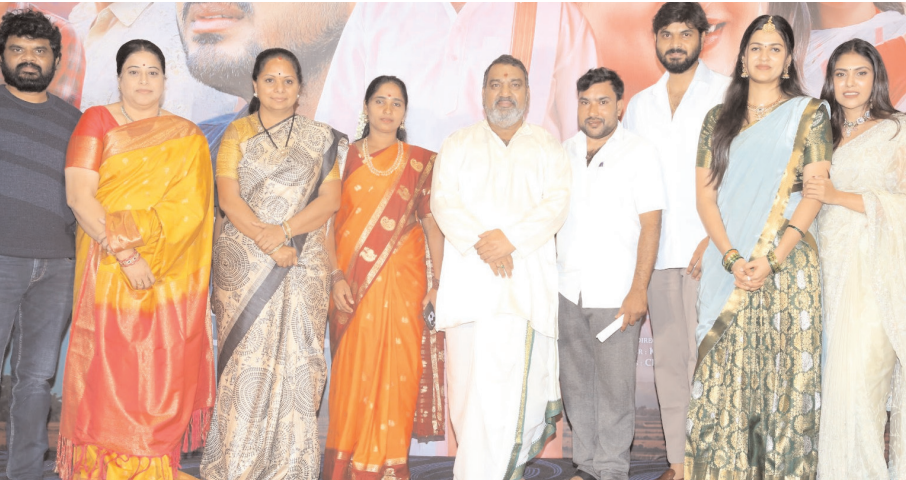
"We Will Release Our Film in Telugu"

They further stated:
"We are releasing our film in Telugu. Let T-Series happily release Prabhaskar and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'SPIRIT' in Hindi—we have absolutely no objection to that."

No Acceptance of One-Sided Conditions
The producers asserted that they would not accept unilateral conditions imposed by any corporate entity. They emphasized that decisions regarding the language, distribution, and rights of their film belong solely to the filmmakers and that they would not bow to pressure or intimidation. The team concluded by stating that they remain committed to protecting the rights and creative freedom of "SPIRIT IS NOT ONE" and will bring the film to Telugu audiences in theatres soon.

GRAND PRE-RELEASE EVENT OF
'VENKATRAMAYYA GARI THALUKA'

Worldwide Grand Release on July 17
Pre-Release Event Held at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad
Support Telangana Activist Komali's Film: Kalvakuntla Kavitha
Government Should Provide Incentives for Small Films: Kalvakuntla Kavitha
"This is the Story of a Daughter's Tears" - Producer Komali
The emotional family drama "Venkatramayya Gari Thaluka," produced by renowned folk singer Komali, is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on July 17. The film introduces Dinesh Kumar as the hero and Divija Prabhakar, daughter of popular actor ETV Prabhakar, as the heroine. The film is written, directed, and scripted by



Satish Awala, while Komali Mahender Thotte and Somesh Saripalli have jointly produced it under the Komali Creations banner. A grand pre-release event of the film was held at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad. Telangana Rakshana Sena Party President

Kavitha attended the event as the Chief Guest and conveyed her best wishes to the entire team. Director Dasarath also attended the event and wished the film a grand success. "Our Party Will Always Stand by Small Films" - Kalvakuntla

Kavitha Speaking on the occasion, Kalvakuntla Kavitha praised folk singer Komali for her dedication and hard work in producing the film. She wished the film tremendous success and urged the government to provide special incentives for small-budget films.

BHAGYASHRI BORSE
TURNS ETHNIC
DIVA IN PURPLE



Bhagyashri Borse is turning heads yet again, this time not on the box office chart but in a stunning purple velvet saree that's got fans swooning. The Lenin actress went full traditional glam for her latest photoshoot, draped in a deep purple silk-velvet saree with silver zari borders, paired with a matching one-shoulder blouse, statement armlet, and dain-

ty jhumkis. With her hair left open in soft curls and a classic bindi-and-mathapatti combo, Bhagyashri channeled pure ethnic elegance, striking dreamy poses with a pink lotus in hand. The look comes at the perfect time, riding high on the success of Lenin, which has been raking in the numbers at the box office alongside Akhil Akkineni.

O.! SUKUMARI' IS A PERFECT FAMILY
ENTERTAINER : HERO THIRUVEER

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

How does it feel to have your films released in a row?
I am very happy as an actor. Also,

the producer who made the film with us should be good, the director should get a good name, and there is also a responsibility that the audience should support every film. This is the second film coming from me this year. Two more films are ready for release. So far, my films have been well received. I hope that the audience likes every one of my films from now on as well.

How did it feel to act with Aishwarya Rajesh?
If our co-stars are good performers, we also try to act better. An actor's chances of acting also increase depending on the reaction of the other actor. In that regard, working with good actresses like Aishwarya Rajesh garu and Nithya Menon garu is always challenging. When we work with them, our acting also improves.



-I had previously worked with Aishwarya in the film "Tuck Jagadish". But acting together as hero and heroine happened only with this film. I felt very comfortable on the set as I had worked with many of the people who worked in

this film in the past. While doing scenes with Aishwarya, we used to discuss many things. She used to share her experiences with me. That was very helpful for me.

What is the reason for setting this story in the backdrop of Telangana?
-Our director Bharat Darshan is from Siddipet. Recently, many directors are showing interest in telling stories and characters from their regions. As an actor, I feel lucky to have the opportunity to act in films from all regions like Telangana, Uttarandhra, Rayalaseema, Guntur...
To tell the story of 'Oh! Sukumari' in one line?
-If a girl's heart rate exceeds the normal level, an electric shock is generated from her body. What

happened after the boy she loved came into her life? Was her love successful or not? This is the story. It is very new and interesting. In fact, this is a story based on a rare situation. The conflict in it is very new.
What is this movie going to be like?
-This is a complete family entertainer. It makes you laugh as much as it makes you emotional. Along with good humor, family emotions also move the audience. As a good commercial entertainer, it will be liked by everyone.

Do you feel like you're in a comfortable place in the industry right now?
-I hear about 20 stories a month. Directors and producers are showing interest in working with me. They come to us only when they are confident that a film with an actor will do business.