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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

15-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 82,255
Tonsures - 32,683
Hundi kankulu - 5,76 CR
Laddu sale - 4.43 Lac
Annasrasadams - 2.64 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,496
Waiting compartments - Out side line
at Silathoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sreevaradhanam (with out SSD Tonsure) - 20-24 H.

Telangana Congress bans milk, water ablations during party events

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has banned milk and water ablations during party programmes, party sources said on Thursday. The ruling party has also banned garlanding leaders with JCBs and bulldozers. State Congress Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud has issued instructions to the party cadres not to perform 'palaabhishekam' (milk ablations) and 'jalabhishekam' (water ablations) under any circumstances at any Congress party programme, irrespective of the occasion or venue. He said that such programmes go against the principles of the Congress party. He warned that those violating the party directions would face disciplinary action. TPCC Vice-President T. Kumar Rao on Thursday issued a circular in this regard. It states that the decisions have been taken in accordance with the directions of AICC In-Charge for Telangana, Meenakshi Natrajan.

1 dead, many ill in crowd surge during Rath Yatra in Puri



PURI: (Jul 16) One person died and many fell ill in a temporary crowd surge during the Rath Yatra celebrations in Odisha's Puri on Thursday, official sources said. In an unrelated incident, another person died of cardiac arrest, they said. Lakhs of devotees joined the annual Rath Yatra festival in the seaside temple town. The 'Pahandi' ritual, the ceremonial procession of the sibling deities - Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath - is currently underway.

CM Revanth felicitates TG20 winners, unveils sports vision



Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday, July 16, said sports enthusiasts in the state should pursue a career in sports with genuine passion, asserting that without focus, excellence eludes any field, including sports.

The Chief Minister was speaking after the Hyderabad E-Champions, winners of the inaugural TG20 League, paid a courtesy call on him here. Reddy handed over cheques to the team, which was accompanied by badminton coach Pullela Gopichand. Addressing the team, Reddy said his government had

The Hyderabad E-Champions won the inaugural edition of the Sreenidhi University TG20 League.

unveiled a vision to promote sports in the state and restore Hyderabad's standing as a venue for national-level sporting events, a status the city held years ago.

He said the newly introduced state sports policy reflected the importance his government attached to the sector and that jobs and cash incentives were already being

extended to those who won medals at national and international events. Describing the TG20 League as a valuable platform for players from villages to showcase their talent, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the tournament's winners would go on to bring laurels to the country.

Infrastructure push under way Reddy said the government was focused on strengthening sports infrastructure across the state, pointing to the establishment of a dedicated sports university and the upgrade of the Gachibowli Stadium to international standards as part of that effort.

The Hyderabad E-Champions, led by skipper Abhirath Reddy, won the inaugural edition of the Sreenidhi University TG20 League, organised by the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), beating Anvita Khammam Aces by six wickets in the final at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on July 12.

Rajnath Singh stresses border infrastructure



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Even as advanced weapons and platforms are being inducted into the armed forces to tackle the evolving nature of warfare, critical infrastructure such as ports, roads and tunnels will continue to play an indispensable role in the future, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday. In his address at Strategic Infrastructure Conclave hosted by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) here, he also emphasised that while the outcome of war is largely determined by military prowess, precision capabilities and modern technologies, basic infrastructure is central to enabling military operations.

Opposition leaders back Wangchuk protest

Samajwadi Party, AAP and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait extend support; MP Dharmendra Yadav describes paper leaks as a 'national crisis'



New Delhi (TSIT):

Opposition leaders, including former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Samajwadi Party MPs and farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, visited Sonam Wangchuk and student protesters at Jantar Mantar on Thursday and

extended support to the proposed July 20 Parliament March.

The protest, organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), focused on examination reforms, accountability for repeated paper leaks and action against those responsible for irregularities in com-

petitive examinations.

Dimple Yadav said the Samajwadi Party stands firmly with students and youth, while Kejriwal called for systemic reforms and greater accountability. Tikait urged protesters to continue their agitation peacefully and assured support from farmers for the movement.

PM greets nation on Rath Yatra



New Delhi (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted the nation on the sacred occasion of Rath Yatra, describing the annual festival as a shining symbol of India's timeless spiritual

and cultural heritage and praying for the health, happiness and prosperity of all. In a post on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said the traditions associated with the Rath Yatra have inspired generations across India and across the world, while embodying the values of humility, collective participation and selfless service. "Greetings to everyone on the sacred occasion of Rath Yatra.

India, EU come together to create semi conductor behemoth

New Delhi (TSIT)

India and the European union agreed to expand cooperation in strategic technologies, clean energy, semiconductor supply chains and trade resilience at the third meeting of their Trade and Technology Council (TTC), as the two sides seek to strengthen economic ties amid growing geopolitical uncertainty.

CM Naidu Reviews PPP Projects Worth Rs.1.23 Lakh Crore in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam (TSIT)

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday reviewed the progress of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects being implemented across Andhra Pradesh and the government's expenditure on various initiatives. During the review meeting, officials informed the Chief Minister that the State Government is currently undertaking 260 projects under the PPP model, covering sectors such as ports, shipyards,



airports, tourism, industries, infrastructure, municipal services, medical colleges, roads, and solar energy. The projects, collectively valued at Rs.1,23,229 crore, are at various stages of implementation and are expect-

ed to significantly strengthen the state's economic and infrastructure landscape. Chandrababu emphasized the need to develop PPP projects through a sustainable model to ensure long-term viability and maximum public benefit.

T'gana eyes UK trade opportunities

Hyderabad (TSIT):

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday said Telangana is preparing a roadmap to maximise benefits from the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

During a meeting with a UK delegation led by Deputy Trade Commissioner Chandru K. Iyer, the leaders said the agreement would boost trade and investment opportunities. Sridhar Babu highlighted Telangana's



strengths in pharmaceuticals, IT, aerospace, electronics and semiconductors, inviting UK companies to invest in the State. He said Telangana's exports to the UK currently stand at Rs.3,553 crore and are expected to grow significantly under the new agreement.

Cong finalises Monsoon Session strategy

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Congress on Thursday held a high-level Parliamentary Strategy Group meeting at 10 Janpath in New Delhi, chaired by Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, to finalise the party's floor strategy for the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning July 20.

The meeting was

attended by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, senior leaders P. Chidambaram, Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor, Gaurav Gogoi and Kumari Selja, among others.



The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh at the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Strategic Infrastructure Conclave, in New Delhi...

BJP eyes two-thirds majority ahead of Monsoon Session

New Delhi (TSIT) :

With Parliament's Monsoon Session scheduled to begin on July 20, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is reportedly reviving its 'Mission 360' strategy to secure the two-thirds majority required to pass key constitutional amendment Bills, including those relating to women's reservation and the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies.

According to political sources, the Centre is considering reintroducing legislation on women's reservation and delimitation after similar efforts during the special session of Parliament in April reportedly fell short due to insufficient numbers. As the BJP intensifies efforts to



strengthen its position in Parliament, the Congress and other Opposition parties have also begun coordinating their strategy for the upcoming session.

Despite political developments involving the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Nationalist Congress Party led by Sharad Pawar, the NDA is believed to remain six MPs

short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass a constitutional amendment. Against this backdrop, the Centre has convened an all-party meeting on July 19, with political observers speculating that the government may use the occasion to build consensus on the proposed Bills. The BJP has also stepped up internal consultations ahead of the ses-

sion. Over the past week, senior leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh, held a high-level meeting at the Prime Minister's residence.

According to sources, the discussions focused on the government's parliamentary strategy, while B L Santhosh's presence also fuelled speculation that the BJP may soon announce its new national team under the leadership of Nitin Nabin.

Sources said consultations have been held across states to identify prospective office-bearers, with the new organisational team expected to be finalised shortly.

Jagannath Rath Yatra draws thousands

Sangareddy, July 16: The Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra, organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in Sangareddy on Thursday.

TPCC Working President and former MLA T. Jaggareddy attended the event as the chief guest, offered special prayers and flagged off the grand procession. The yatra began from the New Bus Stand and passed through the town's main streets before concluding at PSR Garden.

Thousands of devotees participated, chanting "Jai Jagannath" and "Hare Krishna" while devotional songs, Harinama Sankirtan, bhajans and cultural programmes created a vibrant spiritual atmosphere. Women devotees performing the traditional Kolatam dance and the



distribution of theertha prasadam by ISKCON volunteers were major attractions.

Addressing the gathering, Jaggareddy described the Rath Yatra as a symbol of India's rich spiritual heritage and appreciated ISKCON for promoting devotion and cultural values. Several Congress leaders, ISKCON representatives and devotees attended the celebrations.

Collector asks students to revise lessons daily



Siddipet, July 16: District Collector K. Haimavathi advised students to revise the lessons taught by their teachers every day and use their time wisely to achieve academic success. During a surprise visit to the Zilla Parishad High School at Velkatur village in Siddipet Urban Mandal on Thursday, the Collector inspected the campus and appreciated the school authorities for maintaining a clean and green environment. Interacting with Class 10 students, she enquired about regular teaching and the quality of the mid-day meal. Students informed her that classes were being conducted regularly and the meals were being conducted regularly and the meals were satisfactory. The Collector encouraged students to read Telugu grammar, English tenses, mathematics formulas and science concepts displayed on classroom walls every day to improve memory.

District Collector calls for immediate crop plan

Mahabubnagar, July: District Collector Khushboo Gupta has directed Agriculture Department officials to immediately implement the Contingency Crop Plan for the Kharif season in view of drought-like conditions caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

Chairing a review meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday, she instructed officials to create awareness among farmers about alternative, low water-consuming crops such as pulses, millets and oilseeds instead of relying on paddy cultivation. She said crop diversification would help improve farm incomes while conserving groundwater and soil fertility.

The Collector asked officials to prepare crop planning based on available water



in the Koilsagar Reservoir and cautioned against indiscriminate drilling of borewells. She directed Agriculture officials to conduct Gram Sabha meetings, provide scientific guidance, and encourage progressive farmers to share their successful experiences with others. Officials informed the meeting that the contingency crop plan is being implemented in phases, promoting drought-tolerant and short-duration crops.

Mamata tells TMC rebels to quit before Jul 21 rally

Kolkata, Jul 16: Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asked party leaders planning to leave the organisation to do so before the July 21 Martyrs' Day rally, asserting that defections would not weaken the party.

Addressing supporters through a Facebook Live session, hours after TMC Rajya Sabha MP Rukmini Mallick, popularly known as actor Koel Mallick, resigned from the Upper House and met Union minister Bhupendra Yadav, Banerjee said the actor had informed the party leadership of her decision through an email before formally submitting her resignation.

"Today I saw that another MP, who is also a respected and talented film artist, met a BJP leader and resigned. I respect her as an artist. For everyone's information, she had already sent her resignation by email, and I thank her for personally submitting it today," Banerjee said. She alleged that several party members were facing pressure from central agencies and law enforcement authorities and urged those unwilling to withstand such pressure to leave the party before the July 21 event.

"Those under pressure from the BJP and the police, or due to court cases, the ED, CBI, CID, local police officers, or the STF, I request that you make your decision before July 21. If you believe you can only survive by bowing to such pressure, please go wherever you wish, even if it means joining the BJP. But do not tarnish the party that we built together. You have every right to exercise those freedoms. But let me assure you, we will not be weakened because of it," she said. Banerjee claimed that while some leaders had chosen to quit, many of them continued to remain in touch with the party leadership.

"Those who are leaving us are also in touch with us in secret," she claimed. The latest resignation follows the exit of former TMC MPs Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Sushmita Dev and Prakash Chik Baraik, who joined the BJP and were subsequently fielded in Rajya Sabha by-elect-



tions. The party has also suffered a major setback in the Lok Sabha after 20 rebel MPs, including senior leaders Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakali Ghosh Dastidar, broke away from the TMC, merged with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), and extended support to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Within West Bengal, the Ritabrata Banerjee-led rebel faction has stepped up its challenge by inducting senior leaders and staking claim to the Trinamool Congress' identity. Several prominent leaders, including Firhad Hakim, Aroop Biswas and Madan Mitra, have also distanced themselves from Banerjee's faction in recent weeks. Banerjee further alleged that families of those killed during the July 21, 1993 police firing were being pressured not to attend the TMC's annual Martyrs' Day rally. "They are being encouraged to support what I call the BJP-sponsored 'pillow' camp, where they will allegedly be rewarded with money and gifts," she said, referring to the rival Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction.

She said the martyrs' families had stood by the party for four decades and were now being targeted through intimidation and financial inducements. "Remember that for 40 years you have stood with us. Times have changed temporarily. Fear is temporary. Terror is temporary. Money is temporary. Agency pressure is temporary. We do not misunderstand you - we know you are under tremendous pressure. Whether you stand with us this year or not, you will always remain in our hearts," she said. Appealing to the administration to remain impartial, Banerjee warned that the political situation could change rapidly.

MP M. Bharat Donates Furniture Worth Rs.1 Crore to IIIT Srikakulam

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament and G I T A M University President, Shri M. Bharat, visited the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), IIIT Srikakulam campus on Thursday and donated furniture worth nearly Rs.1 crore for the benefit of students.

During his visit, Shri Bharat planted a sapling in the auditorium premises and interacted with engineering students. He reviewed the ongoing campus development works and enquired about the facilities available in the hostels and dining halls. Addressing the students, he emphasized the importance of quality education and modern infrastructure in shaping a successful future.

Later, he participated in an interactive session with the students and discussed various aspects



related to higher education, career opportunities, and campus life.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lakshminarayana Rao appreciated Shri Bharat's contribution, stating that the donation would significantly benefit students, particularly those from rural backgrounds. He noted that the furniture includes chairs for the auditorium, dining hall tables, and classroom seating, helping improve the learning environment on campus.

University Registrar Prof. Amarendra Kumar said that the government is taking all necessary

steps to develop the institution with the highest academic standards. Director Prof. Giridhar Madarasu thanked Shri Bharat for responding promptly to the university's request and extending support for the development of the campus.

Administrative Officer Dr. Sivarama Krishna, Finance Officer Dr. Vasu, Dr. Muni Ramakrishna, Dean Dr. Sivarama Sastry, Dr. Mohan Krishna Chowdary, Welfare Deans Dr. Prakash Rao and Yogeshwari, along with faculty members, coordinators, and students, were present on the occasion.

12 COVID Cases Reported in the State; Four Deaths Recorded

Visakhapatnam : COVID-19 cases are being reported sporadically across the state, and there is no need for the public to panic, said Medical and Health Department Secretary and Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Veera Pandiyan. He stated that a total of 12 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the state between June 26 and July 16. Of these, four patients died, and all of them had pre-existing serious health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, kidney ailments, and other severe diseases. The first COVID-19 case of this year was reported in Kadapa district on June 26. Subsequently, 11 more cases were detected between July 1 and July 16. Of the total cases, Kadapa district recorded the highest number with eight cases, followed by Guntur with two cases, and Visakhapatnam and Kakinada with one case each. Officials clarified that these cases were reported from different areas and that there has

been no clustering of cases in any one location. Between June 26 and July 15, COVID-19 tests were conducted on 67 individuals across the state, of whom 11 tested positive. Another case was confirmed in a person from Kakinada district through a test conducted at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Among those who tested positive for COVID-19, three persons from Kadapa district and one person from Kakinada district died. At present, three individuals are in home isolation, while two are undergoing treatment in hospitals. Another three patients have recovered and been discharged. To identify the genetic characteristics of the virus, five samples were sent on July 9 to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for genome sequencing, Veera Pandiyan said. He added that doctors and hospital staff across the state have been alerted. Across the country, 339 COVID-19 cases have been recorded since July 1.



Mahabubabad TSIT District Correspondent Balne Suman July 16: Students of the Telangana Minority Residential School, Mahabubabad, brought laurels to the district by winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the First National Taekwondo Open Championship held recently at Proddatur in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district.

School Principal Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao and PET Naseeruddin Mohammed said SK Saif Ali clinched the gold medal in the junior boys' 33 kg category, while P. Kanishk Tej secured bronze in the 38 kg category. In the senior division, SK Sadakhat Ali won the silver medal in the 45 kg category and M. Sathvik bagged the bronze medal.

The medal winners were congratulated by Minority Residential Society State Sports Officer Someshwar, District Minority Sports Coordinator A. Ravi Kumar, District Youth and Sports Officer O. Jyothi, and Rambabu for their outstand-

Rare kidney-tumour condition treated in a 6 yrs old kid

'FUSED KIDNEY' SAVED THROUGH KEYHOLE SURGERY FOR COMPLEX KIDNEY TUMOUR

Hyderabad, July 16th, 2026: In a remarkable demonstration of advanced paediatric urological surgery, doctors at the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU), Hyderabad, successfully removed a kidney tumour from a six-year-old boy, native of Hyderabad, born with one of the rarest congenital kidney abnormalities - a crossed fused ectopic kidney - using a highly specialised minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure. The surgery preserved the child's healthy kidney tissue and function despite the exceptionally complex anatomy.

The child was brought to AINU after passing blood in his urine for two days. Detailed investigations revealed a tumour arising in a crossed fused ectopic kidney, an uncommon congenital condition in which both kidneys are fused together and located on the same side of the body. Such anomalies are extremely rare and present a formidable surgical challenge because the kidneys possess distorted collecting systems and an



unpredictable network of blood vessels, making conventional surgical approaches risky.

To overcome these challenges, the surgical team employed advanced three-dimensional imaging before the procedure to meticulously map the child's unique vascular anatomy and plan a customised surgical strategy. During surgery, laparoscopic intraoperative ultrasound was used to accurately identify the exact location, depth and margins of the tumour within the fused kidney.

The cutting-edge imaging technologies allowed

surgeons to selectively control only the tumour-feeding blood vessels and remove the tumour through tiny keyhole incisions while preserving blood flow to the remaining healthy kidney. The tumour was excised completely with clear surgical margins, the child experienced no major complications, retained normal kidney function and made a smooth recovery before being discharged in good health.

Commenting on the rare condition and the surgery, Dr. Syed Md. Ghouse, Director - Robotics and Minimal Access Urology,

AINU, who led the surgical team said, "Operating on a tumour in a crossed fused ectopic kidney is among the most demanding procedures in paediatric urology because every patient's anatomy is unique and conventional surgical landmarks are absent. Success in such cases depends on meticulous planning and the intelligent use of advanced technologies. Three-dimensional reconstruction, intraoperative ultrasound and ICG fluorescence imaging allowed us to precisely identify the tumour and preserve the healthy kidney, giving the child the best possible long-term outcome while avoiding the trauma of open surgery."

Speaking about the procedure *Dr. Mallikarjuna C, Managing Director, Chief Consultant Urologist & Robotic Surgeon, AINU said, "Managing tumours in a fused kidney is exceptionally complex due to the abnormal anatomy and shared blood supply. Using advanced keyhole surgical techniques, we

were able to precisely remove the tumour while preserving maximum kidney function—something that is critical, especially in such rare cases." Doctors at AINU said the successful outcome highlights how modern minimally invasive surgery, when combined with surgical expertise, can safely treat even the rarest and most anatomically challenging paediatric kidney tumours while preserving organ function.

The case also reinforces the growing role of precision-guided surgery in improving outcomes for children with complex congenital urological disorders. A rare 'fused kidney' with a complex tumour was successfully treated using advanced keyhole surgery by a multidisciplinary team comprising Dr. Syed Md. Ghouse, Director - Robotic & Minimal Access Urological Surgery; Dr. Mallikarjuna C, Managing Director & Chief Consultant Urologist and Robotic Surgeon; and Dr. Rajesh Kumar Reddy Adapala, Consultant Uro-Oncologist.

SC orders policy for early release of elderly prisoners

New Delhi, Jul 16: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed all States and Union Territories to frame and notify a comprehensive policy within three months for the premature release of elderly and terminally ill prisoners, stressing that the criminal justice system must uphold the constitutional right to live with dignity.

A Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed that prolonged incarceration of vulnerable prisoners amounts to needless suffering and is incompatible with the values of a constitutional democracy.

"Punishment must remain anchored in proportionality, humanity and the possibility of reform. Incarceration cannot be permitted to degenerate into institutional neglect," the Bench said while delivering its judg-



ment on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The court emphasised that the right to life and dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution does not end with conviction.

"Prisons are not zones where constitutional protections are suspended. The guarantees of dignity, fairness and humane treatment continue to operate with full force even behind prison walls," the Bench observed.

Manohar slams Kumaraswamy

B e n g a l u r u : Kumaraswamy is a selfish politician, there is no need for the Chief Minister, the government or the Congress party to learn lessons from a Union Minister who is only there to protect his family, said KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar.

In a press release, he said that H.D. Kumaraswamy, the father of Bidadi Township, has questioned the Chief Ministers and the government of the state and has therefore urged them to answer some questions.

Who issued the notification for Bidadi Township in 2006? What is the reason for keeping this Bidadi



Township zone in the red zone? He has already openly stated that 75 percent of the farmers in the township will give land and are now also getting compensation. So, is your fight against these farmers?

Why have you been

silent for 20 years, do you remember how many times you have been the Chief Minister?

Do you remember when Yediyurappa, who was stripped of the BJP chief ministership in 2006, spat on you, saying that you had broken your oath and did not give power to the BJP? Do you remember what you planted during that time when the BJP government was in power in this state from 2008 to 2013? Your favorite Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought a new plan to build smart cities. Why were you sleeping in the Taj Westend Hotel without asking questions at that time?

Cabinet expansion talks intensify



New Delhi: The Congress high command on Thursday held crucial discussions on the proposed Karnataka Cabinet expansion, with senior leaders deliberating on the allocation of vacant ministerial berths.Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal and Karnataka in-

charge Randeep Singh Surjewala attended the meeting. Party sources said the final list of ministers is expected to be prepared after consultations with senior leadership.With nearly 20 Cabinet vacancies and more than 40 aspirants, the selection process is said to be based on regional, caste and seniority considerations, while giving significant representation to new faces and younger legislators.

Sanjay Ghodawat Group and Nordstar Estates Join Forces to Power India's High-Growth Real Estate Markets

Bengaluru : Sanjay Ghodawat Group (SGG), a diversified conglomerate, has partnered with Nordstar Estates (Nordstar) to launch “NEVORA”, a next-generation institutional real estate development platform, marking its strategic expansion into India's real estate sector. The joint venture will focus on developing residential and commercial projects across Bengaluru and Mumbai and their respective micro-markets and plans to achieve a GDV of over INR 5,000 crores in the next few years.

NEVORA brings together SGG's diverse operational capabilities and strong



financial expertise spanning Aviation, FMCG, Education, Energy, Retail and Real Estate, with Nordstar's proven track record in institutional capital management and large-scale real estate development across India and the United States.

The JV has been established to tap into India's

evolving real estate market, where institutional capital, technology adoption, and higher governance standards are redefining the sector. The move comes as the country's real estate market is projected to expand nearly nine-fold from USD 650 billion in 2025 to USD 5.8 trillion by 2047, according to a FICCI-KPMG report. The partners will focus on delivering developments that emphasize quality, transparency, and sustainability. The JV will market its projects under NEVORA, a dedicated consumer-facing brand identity to be unveiled in the coming months.

Star Health strengthens Virtual Doctor Consultations and Home Health Care in Karnataka

Bangalore : As Karnataka gears up for the monsoon season, when dengue, malaria, fever and other infectious diseases typically rise, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited, one of India's leading standalone health insurance companies, is stepping up its monsoon healthcare outreach in the state.

Star Health's FY26 Karnataka data shows a 3X increase in Home Health Care utilisation for fever and infectious diseases. Alongside this growth, the company has seen strong demand for its Virtual Doctor Consultation service across the state, with a growing number of customers choosing it as their



first point of medical consultation.

Karnataka recorded a 3X increase in Home Health Care utilisation in FY26 compared with FY25. The state saw the highest number of Home Health Care cases for dengue, viral fever and lower respiratory tract infection.

The outreach focuses on early investigation and timely medical advice by connecting policyholders to “Talk to Star” and Home

Health Care support, while enabling the general public to access free 24/7 Virtual Doctor Consultations through the Star Health Customer app.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Aditya Omprakash Biyani, Business Head, Karnataka, Star Health Insurance, said: “Behind every monsoon infection is a family managing uncertainty, disrupted routines and concern for a loved one. The threefold rise in Home Health Care utilisation in Karnataka during FY26 shows the growing need for timely support that is easier to access, particularly for children, senior citizens and patients who may find hospital visits difficult.

IIMBue 2026 to Convene India's Top Business Minds to 'Change the Orbit' of Leadership

Bengaluru : As businesses confront unprecedented disruption driven by artificial intelligence, shifting geopolitics and rapidly evolving markets, IIMBue 2026 is set to bring together some of the country's most influential minds to explore one compelling question: How do leaders change their orbit and that of the companies they run, instead of simply staying on course. Organised by the IIM Bangalore Alumni Association (IIMBAA), the two-day leadership conclave will be held on August 1-2, 2026, at The Leela Bhartiya City, Bengaluru. Built around the theme "Changing the Orbit," the event will bring together more than 1,500 delegates and an influential mix of innovators, policymakers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, investors, academicians

and alumni from across the world to explore new pathways for growth, leadership and transformation.

Unlike conventional leadership conferences that focus on managing change, "Changing the Orbit" challenges leaders to rethink their trajectory altogether—to break free from incremental progress, embrace bold thinking and move to a higher orbit of innovation, impact and sustainable growth.

Recognised as one of India's largest alumni-led leadership platforms, IIMBue has become a vibrant forum where leaders from business, government, healthcare, technology, finance, media, sports and the creative industries come together to exchange ideas that influence the future of enterprise and society. The 2026 edition will feature an

impressive line-up of speakers, including Mr. Noel Naval Tata, Chairman, Tata Trusts, Mr. Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts; Mr. G.V. Prasad, Co-Chairman & Managing Director, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories; Mr. Anand Ramamoorthy, Founding Managing Director, Micron India; renowned diplomat Ambassador Deepak Vohra; acclaimed actors Mr. Boman Irani & Ms. Bhumi Pednekar, alongside several other distinguished leaders from industry, public policy and academia. This year's programme will revolve around three defining themes:

New Geometry of Power – Understanding the shifting global economic and geopolitical landscape. Redesigning Trajectory – How organisations can reinvent themselves to remain resilient and com-

petitive. Tech for Future Orbits – Exploring how artificial intelligence, deep technology and digital innovation are reshaping industries and leadership. The conclave will feature keynote addresses, fireside conversations, interactive panel discussions and networking sessions covering some of today's most pressing issues, including:

From Influence to Impact: Shaping Society for Tomorrow

From Molecules to Markets: Scaling Healthcare Across Borders

The Gravity Shift: Leadership in a Multipolar World

Frontier Technologies Reshaping India's Future

Rewiring the System in the Era of AI

Beyond the Screen: Stories, Stardom & the Art of

Reinvention
The New Architecture of Growth

Beyond the Scoreboard: Sport's Next Growth Orbit

Speaking about the event, Harish Mittal, President, IIM Bangalore Alumni Association, said: "The pace of change today demands leaders who are willing to rethink assumptions, challenge established models and create entirely new growth trajectories. IIMBue 2026 is designed to inspire exactly those conversations. With leaders from boardrooms, venture capital, private equity, entrepreneurship, academia and public policy coming together, the conclave offers a unique opportunity to understand emerging trends, identify new opportunities and shape the future of leadership."

Crusher Owners Announce Rs.10 Lakh Compensation for Families of Deceased, Rs.5 Lakh for Injured in Quarry Rock Collapse

Bengaluru : The Karnataka State Stone Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Federation has commenced the distribution of compensation to the families affected by the tragic rock collapse that occurred on July 1 at S.R. Basaveshwara Stone Crusher in Madapatna village, Ramanagara district.

As part of the relief initiative, the Federation has decided to provide 10 lakh each to the dependents of the seven workers who lost their lives in the accident and 5 lakh each to the four workers who sustained injuries.

The first phase of compensation distribution was held today at the Department of Mines and Geology office, Khanija Bhavan, Bengaluru, where MLA S.T. Somashekar handed over a 10 lakh cheque to Sakhibai, wife of the late Ramu Chauhan of Yadgiri district, who was among those killed in the incident.

Speaking on the occasion, S.T. Somashekar said he would make every effort to ensure that the affect-



ed families also receive the maximum possible compensation from the State Government. He added that the government stands firmly with the bereaved families during this difficult time.

Addressing the gathering, Siddaraju, President of the Karnataka State Stone Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Federation, said the Federation has begun the process of identifying the rightful legal dependents of all the deceased workers to ensure that compensation

reaches the genuine beneficiaries. He stated that the Federation is coordinating with crusher owners to facilitate the distribution of compensation and is taking all necessary steps to ensure that every eligible family receives financial assistance.

The event was attended by S. Rangappa, Director, Department of Mines and Geology; Krishnaveni, Deputy Director; Umashankar, General Secretary of the Federation; Chowdhary, Secretary of the Federation; and other officials.

Build Bidadi Township on Government Land Only": Basavaraj Bommai Demands

Haveri: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai questioned the government's insistence on pushing forward with the Bidadi township project despite fierce opposition from farmers, suggesting that an "internal agenda" is driving the move. He asked why the Chief Minister holds so much affection for this particular project.

Speaking at a press conference in Haveri, he said, "The Chief Minister claims that the Bidadi township project was initially started by H.D. Kumaraswamy and that no progress was made during B.S. Yediyurappa's tenure. If Kumaraswamy was the one who started it, why is the current Chief Minister

showing so much love for it now? Why is the Chief Minister, who criticizes Kumaraswamy on every other issue, following his footsteps only on this township project?"

Suspicions of an Internal Agenda Behind the Project

Referring to the government's notification to acquire 4,000 acres of land, Bommai lashed out, saying, "The government's personal interest and an internal agenda are hidden behind this move. Even though the farmers are explicitly saying they don't want it, the government is giving them a two-month window to try and convince them. What is the hidden motive behind this?" Build Townships on Government Land

Law and Order Has Collapsed in Haveri District": Basavaraj Bommai Lashes Out at the Government

Haveri: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai lashed out at the state government, stating that law and order in the district has completely collapsed, and criminals no longer fear the police or the law.

Speaking at a press conference in Haveri, he expressed concern that despite bringing the continuous criminal activities in the district to the attention of the district administration and top police officials, no action has been taken. He lamented that a series of unprecedented crimes are now occurring back-to-back in Haveri district.

Series of Crimes

Highlighting recent major incidents in the district, Bommai said it is alarming that a murder took place in broad daylight at 12 noon on a busy street in Shiggaon. "In the Hanagal gang-rape case, after the accused were released on bail, they took out a public procession as if they had won a major war. This is proof that criminals have no fear of the law. In Ranebennur, the police arrested Bajrang Dal and Hindu activists who were protesting peacefully demanding the closure of illegal slaughterhouses. Recently, a murder took place in Pyatihah village as well," he stated.

Bommai added that despite serious cases like 'Love Jihad' and murders happening continuously in the district, the government and the police department have remained mute spectators. Against this background, a massive protest has been organized today in Haveri to condemn the failure of the district administration.

Corruption and Nepotism

Among Local Police

Bommai alleged that corruption among the local police is the primary reason for the deteriorating law and order situation in the district. He accused the police of succumbing to political pressure from leaders and misusing their authority. He warned that various forms of agitation will continue until the people get justice and police atrocities are stopped.

Defunct Irrigation Department

"Despite the state having more than 350 lift irrigation schemes, the Irrigation Department has become completely defunct over the last three years. Even though the current Chief Minister previously held the portfolio for this department, no significant progress has been achieved," Bommai criticized.

Failure to Utilize River Water

Bommai pointed out that due to good rainfall in the Western Ghats and various parts of the state, the Tunga reservoir was full. Additionally, rivers like Varada, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, and Krishna had abundant water. However, the department failed to utilize this water through lift irrigation schemes.

Pending Bills and Lack of Maintenance:

He noted that projects have ground to a halt because electricity bills (power charges) have not been paid. Furthermore, the department has failed to execute even basic maintenance, such as desilting canals. "Leave alone launching new projects; this government is incapable of even maintaining the existing ones properly," Bommai slammed.

Stop illegal Kerala lottery sales: Association

Bengaluru : The Karnataka State Retail Lottery Sellers Association has urged the Karnataka Government to immediately curb the illegal sale of Kerala lottery tickets in the state and reintroduce a legally regulated Karnataka State Lottery Scheme.

Addressing a press conference, the Association's Founder State President C. Ramakrishna alleged that illegal lottery ticket sales are being carried out across Karnataka, resulting in the loss of thousands of crores of rupees in potential tax revenue. He stated that if the Karnataka Government revives a legally regulated state lottery, it could generate an estimated 5,000-6,000 crore in annual revenue

for the state exchequer. He also called for the revival of a dedicated Lottery Department, similar to the one that existed earlier, to regulate and administer lottery operations.

Ramakrishna said that the Karnataka Government had completely banned lottery sales in 2007, citing the menace of single-digit lotteries. He described the decision as unscientific and taken without adequate study. As a result, nearly 10,000 to 12,000 families that previously held licences through MSIL (Mysore Sales International Limited) have been deprived of their livelihood and continue to face severe financial hardship due to government inaction.



He further alleged that Kerala lottery tickets are being sold illegally in Karnataka, with transactions worth hundreds of crores of rupees taking place every day. The Association demanded immediate action to stop the illegal sale of Kerala

lotteries and urged the State Government to restore the Karnataka State Lottery Scheme to safeguard the livelihoods, employment, and rights of thousands of lottery retailers. Ramakrishna pointed out that the Kerala Government

reportedly earns 10,000-12,000 crore annually through its lottery scheme. He noted that although the Karnataka Government has issued three notifications under the Lottery (Regulation) Act since 2007, illegal lottery sales have continued unabated. Referring to the Lottery (Regulation) Act, 1998, and Section 4 of the Act, he said that the Karnataka High Court has permitted the reintroduction of a state lottery in accordance with the law.

However, he expressed disappointment that the State Government has not acted on the matter so far. Advocate Bhaskar Babu, who also addressed the press conference, said there would be no legal impediment to restarting

a Karnataka State Lottery Scheme. He urged the government to revive the scheme, stating that it could generate thousands of crores of rupees in revenue and provide substantial financial support for public welfare programmes.

Bhaskar Babu also clarified that lottery buyers should not be viewed as gambling addicts. He alleged that Kerala lottery tickets are currently being sold in the black market across Karnataka and appealed to the Chief Minister to take immediate steps to stop the illegal trade. He further urged the government to establish a dedicated State Lottery Department and permit the sale of a traditional, legally regulated Karnataka Lottery.

EDITORIAL

Why Britain Is Finding It So Hard To Deport A Pakistani 'Grooming Gang' Leader

This could almost be the plot of a political thriller. Britain's home secretary, herself of Pakistani origin, wants one of the country's most notorious grooming gang ringleaders deported after he completed a 22-year prison sentence recently. But Pakistan, his country of origin, is refusing to take him back.

Britain is in a bit of a fix. A legal loophole has so far prevented Shabir Ahmed's deportation. The government now wants to change the law. But even if Parliament closes that loophole, what if Pakistan still refuses to accept him? Now the plot thickens. What happens when a country decides that a convicted foreign criminal should no longer remain within its borders, but the country of origin refuses to take one of its own nationals back? You might say Britain can change its own laws. That's easy and it's being proposed. But changing another country's mind is much harder. The British parliament may discover that rewriting legislation is the easy part. Persuading Pakistan to cooperate could prove far more difficult. For now, Britain has been left looking after a man nobody wants. The justice system has punished him. The government wants to deport him. Society abhors him. Yet the country Britain wants to send him to is refusing to take him back.

A String Of Lapses

A quick word about the background. Popularly known here in the media as the Rochdale case, of which Shabir Ahmed's case is a part, is one of the darkest chapters in Britain's grooming gangs scandal. Over the past two decades, investigations in towns including Rochdale, Rotherham, Oxford, Telford, and Newcastle uncovered organised groups that sexually exploited and trafficked vulnerable girls, often over many years.

Successive inquiries exposed shocking failures by police, councils, and social services. Time and again, authorities were accused of ignoring victims or failing to intervene despite repeated warning signs. While the majority of the most notorious gangs involved men of Pakistani heritage, the government has cautioned against treating child sexual exploitation as a crime linked to any one ethnic group. The Home Office found offenders came from a range of ethnic backgrounds, including local White folks. At the same time, the organised nature of many of the Pakistani-origin gangs has fuelled a continuing political debate over whether fears of being labelled racist prevented the authorities from acting sooner.

The Shabir Ahmed Story

Whatever the official figures may say, perception matters in politics. Today, many people associate Britain's grooming gangs primarily with offenders of Pakistani origin. Whether that perception is entirely fair or not is almost beside the point. It has shaped public opinion and political debate. Earlier this year, even Elon Musk entered the controversy, accusing the British establishment of going soft on the grooming gangs because of the ethnic background of some of those involved.

REAL SKILLS, NOT REELS, SHAPE THE FUTURE



The digital age has expanded the world of opportunities like never before. Today, with a simple smartphone and internet connection, anyone can showcase their talent to millions. Social media has elevated freedom of expression to new heights. Many young people, through their hard work, creativity, and persistent efforts, have achieved recognition, respect, and even financial success through this medium. This change is certainly a positive aspect of the technological revolution. But this dazzling world also has a flip side, one that is often overshadowed by the glitz of likes, views, and viral videos. This is why a growing number of young people today view social media as the easiest and fastest path to success, rather than traditional education, professional skills, and long-term career planning. This approach is as attractive as it is risky. Today, on social media, we see only those people who have earned millions and crores of rupees, bought expensive cars, built luxurious homes, and reached the heights of popularity in a few years. But behind the camera, there is a vast world where millions of people create videos every day, spend hours editing, and explore new ideas, yet they find neither sufficient audience nor financial stability. Success stories go viral, while stories of struggle get buried in statistics. This selective view creates the illusion among young people that if a few people have transformed their lives through social media, then everyone can do the same. The reality is that success on digital platforms is highly unevenly distributed. A small percentage of

top creators command the majority of viewership, advertising, and revenue, while millions of others compete for limited opportunities. This situation is not just in India but worldwide. Most content creators are unable to generate a sustainable and respectable income from their content. Therefore, considering social media as a guaranteed career path can be a financially risky decision. This doesn't mean that social media is bad or that building a career on it is wrong. The problem arises when young people, without any prior skills, education, or professional qualifications, risk their future solely on the hope of going viral. Achieving internet fame and achieving long-term financial success are two different things. A video that is being watched by millions today may find itself attracted to a new audience in a few months. The cycle of popularity in the digital world changes at a very rapid pace. The biggest challenge of social media is its uncertainty. Your future here depends not only on your talent, but also on the platform's algorithms, advertising policies, copyright rules, technological changes, and changing audience preferences. A small algorithmic change can suddenly reduce the reach of an account with millions of followers. A policy change can eliminate a major source of income. A technical error or account suspension can undo years of hard work. Such uncertainty cannot provide the basis for long-term financial security for anyone. In contrast, the world of real skills is much more stable. A doctor's medical qualifications, a teacher's knowledge, an engineer's technical ability, a lawyer's legal experience, a farmer's agricultural expertise, or the professional skills of a plumber, electrician, or machine operator are not dependent on any social media platform. Technology may change over time, but the

need for real skills remains. This is why the fundamental structure of society remains based on education, science, medicine, agriculture, industry, and technological prowess, not just digital popularity. Today, many young people are spending more time creating Reels, tracking trends, and increasing their followers than studying. Even in schools and colleges, it's often seen that students are more concerned with their social media profiles than preparing for exams. This trend is worry-

ing, as tion, discipline, patience, and consistent practice, whereas social media creates expectations for immediate results. It's also true that content creation itself is a valuable skill. Video editing, storytelling, camera operation, graphic design, digital marketing, and communication skills are all useful skills today. If a young person systematically learns these skills and integrates them into a profession, business, or expertise, social media can become a highly effective platform. For example, a doctor can share health information, a teacher can provide online education, a farmer can explain modern agricultural techniques, and an engineer can offer technological solutions. In these cases, social media becomes not a career but an extension of it. The problem arises when the medium itself becomes the purpose. A mobile camera is merely a tool, not a profession in itself. Just as a pen is not a writer, a camera is no guarantee of success. Success depends on the knowledge, experience, and value that one conveys to their audience. Popularity will not be sustainable if there is no genuine expertise behind the content. Today, India has one of the world's youngest populations. This demographic strength can only be leveraged if young people have access to quality education, technical training, professional skills, and the ability to innovate. If large numbers of young people, driven by dreams of digital fame, forego the process of acquiring real skills, it will impact not only their personal lives but also the country's productivity and economic growth. The government, educational institutions, and families all play a vital role in

this direction. Schools and colleges should place greater emphasis on digital literacy, as well as career counseling, financial awareness, and skill development. It's essential to educate young people that social media is an opportunity, but not the only path to success. Families should also provide balanced guidance to children by understanding their interests rather than imposing only traditional career paths on them. It's also important to keep in mind that the future job market is rapidly changing. Artificial intelligence, automation, and new technologies are transforming many traditional jobs. In these times, those who possess continuous learning and the ability to adapt to new technologies while possessing basic skills will be most valuable. Social media can be a contributor to this process, but not a substitute. Young people need to understand that fame and success are not synonymous. Being recognized by millions doesn't necessarily provide financial security. Conversely, there are many people who are virtually unknown on social media, yet are highly successful, respected, and financially secure in their professions. Therefore, career choices should be made not based on popularity, but on aptitude, interest, opportunity, and long-term stability. The need today is to neither completely reject social media nor make it the ultimate goal of life. It is a powerful platform that can be used for learning, teaching, growing businesses, sharing ideas, and connecting with society. However, if young people, captivated by its glamour, begin to neglect education, skills, and professional development, it will be detrimental on both personal and societal levels. Ultimately, it's important to remember that civilizations are built not by instant popularity, but by knowledge, labor, skill, and innovation. A successful social media reel may become a topic of discussion for a few days, but the contributions of an outstanding doctor, scientist, teacher, engineer, farmer, entrepreneur, or skilled artisan shape society for generations.



WHEN EARNINGS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN RELATIONSHIPS



In Indian society, the family has been not merely a collection of blood relations, but a vibrant institution of trust, sacrifice, partnership, and mutual responsibility. The greatest strength of this institution was that it encompassed both rights and duties. As times changed, education expanded, and women's participation expanded beyond the confines of the home, reaching education, administration, medicine, justice, the military, science, and industry. Economic independence gave women new confidence, the ability to make decisions, and social respect. This change was not only necessary but also a significant step towards a just society. But every social change brings with it new challenges. Today, as both husband and wife earn, the question of sharing responsibilities alongside financial sharing has become more important than ever. Unfortunately, this balance appears to be deteriorating in many families. In some cases, there is an overemphasis on rights, while in others, duties are neglected. As a result, relationships are losing the ease and closeness that once characterized joint families. For a long time, in Indian society, the man was considered the economic pillar of the family. His wife, children, and par-

ents were considered to have a moral right to his earnings. He considered his income not personal property but the family's capital. On the other hand, women's contributions were more visible in domestic labor, child rearing, and family management. In modern times, circumstances have changed. Women are contributing as much financially as men by working hard. Therefore, the natural expectation was that economic responsibilities would be shared equally. However, in practice, the picture is often not so simple. Today, in many families, it's common knowledge that the husband's income is still considered the primary source of income, while the wife's income is considered a means of personal savings, personal investment, or personal independence. This isn't the case in every family, but where it exists, it causes dissatisfaction. If the husband bears every major household expense, but the wife's income is kept separate from family responsibilities, the principle of equality remains incomplete. Similarly, if the husband expects the wife to work, manage the household, and yet lack independence in financial decisions, this is also unjust. The problem isn't one party's, but one of double standards. Equality doesn't just mean equal rights. It also means equal responsibility. If both earn, they should share responsibility for the family's needs, future plans, children's education, elderly care, and emergencies. Financial partnership means not only combining income, but also building trust. The other aspect of the problem is psychological.

Money not only provides comfort, it also gives confidence. But if this confidence turns into arrogance, it creates distance in relationships. Sometimes, it is seen that those with higher incomes begin to feel more empowered to make decisions. This tendency has been seen in men and is now visible in some women as well. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that financial arrogance is a problem of only one gender. The arrogance of wealth changes the person, not their gender. Today, in social media and public discourse, male-female relationships are often presented as a conflict. One side asserts its rights, while the other laments the injustices it has suffered. In this tug-of-war, family, communication, and partnership are left behind. Any ideology that aims to establish balance should be welcomed. However, if its interpretation limits rights to the exclusion of duties, it is natural for imbalance to arise in society. It's also true that millions of women today spend their entire income on their families. Along with their jobs, they also shoulder the responsibilities of home, children, and the elderly. There are many families where husbands and wives share their earnings without any accounting and make decisions together. Therefore, blaming any one group is neither fair nor factual. The aim of social analysis should not be to make accusations, but to understand trends and find solutions. The problem becomes serious when financial transparency between husband and wife disappears. When income, savings, invest-

ments, and expenses become separate worlds, suspicion begins to creep into the relationship. Financial secrecy sometimes turns into emotional distance. Marriage is a partnership, not a business contract. Trust is its greatest asset. The greatest irony of modern life is that conveniences have increased, but satisfaction has decreased. Incomes have risen, but communication has diminished. Independence has increased, but partnerships have weakened. In the past, families lived together even with limited resources because decisions were made collectively. Today, resources are plentiful, but a mindset of "mine" and "yours" often divides relationships. Here's another important question. Is domestic labor less valuable than economic income? If the wife manages the home and the husband earns outside, is the breadwinner the sole breadwinner of the family? Absolutely not. Similarly, if the wife also works, is it appropriate to leave all the household responsibilities to her? The answer to this is also no. A family will remain balanced only when both economic and domestic labor are equally respected. This changing environment is also affecting children. When they see their parents embroiled in economic competition, their own definitions of relationships begin to shift. They learn a language of rights rather than cooperation. This is a matter of concern for future generations. Family not only creates the present, it also shapes the future. What is the solution? The solution lies not in blaming one party, but in strengthening family communication.

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

Russia dispatched a Tupolev Tu-214PU airborne command post, often referred to as a "doomsday plane", to Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. A Tu-214PU aircraft took off from Moscow and landed in Tehran at around 10:10 am (IST) on July 13. The deployment coincided with escalating US and Israeli airstrikes on Iranian military infrastructure after the collapse of a regional ceasefire. The heavily modified Tupolev Tu-214 is operated by the Rossiya Special Flight Squadron and contains advanced, hardened communication and command systems. It enables senior officials to coordinate state affairs and military operations from the air in high-threat environments. The arrival is widely interpreted as a signal of high-level crisis diplomacy and tightening strategic cooperation between Moscow and Tehran. Analysts and commentators have pointed out that while this move doesn't mean Russian troops are entering the fight, it's a massive power signal to Washington, that Russia remains closely aligned with Iran and is prepared to support coordination at a high level. During the ongoing Ukraine war, at least on five occasions, President Putin or his foreign minister has used the 'N' word. Putin's nuclear sabre-rattling has been part of the Russian escalate-to-deescalate strategy that he himself was the author of as a young official. In late 2022, Putin even ordered a drill of Russia's strategic deterrence forces, which included intercontinental ballistic missiles



(ICBMs), submarines, and heavy bombers, the entire Russian nuclear triad. Interestingly, both the US and Russia have special airborne presidential command posts to manage major hostilities, especially a nuclear war. These are appropriately called the "Doomsday" airborne command and control aircraft. Doomsday aircraft are essentially large transport aircraft fitted with special, long-range communication equipment, along with some other security features. Russian Doomsday Aircraft "Maxdome" The Russian President's "Doomsday" aircraft is a specially configured Ilyushin Il-80 "Maxdome", which is also referred to as "Flying Kremlin". Interestingly, it was seen flying low over Moscow in early May 2022 during a rehearsal for Victory Day celebrations. Given the repeated threats of nuclear weapon use in the early days of the Ukraine war, such a flypast raised concerns in the strategic community. Earlier, Russian

President Putin had said that he won't "brag" about nuclear weapons but will use them "if necessary". The Maxdome had last participated in such a flypast in 2010. The Il-80 Maxdome is a modified Ilyushin Il-86 airliner converted into an airborne command-and-control centre and a presidential office in the sky. The aircraft reportedly made its first flight in 1985 and was inducted in 1987. Four were built, and three are still in service. Such aircraft are required for cases when the ground-based command infrastructure may be destroyed in the event of nuclear war or a major disaster. The Il-80 aircraft has no windows, except cockpit windcreens and direct-view side panels. This is meant to protect the sensitive electronic equipment and the people inside from nuclear radiation and the ensuing electromagnetic pulse. There is only the upper deck forward door on the left and the aft door on the right. There is only one air-stair door, instead of the normal three.

Even the aft cockpit windows are blocked with baffles. Like the E-4B, the aircraft has a dorsal SATCOM canoe, believed to house advanced satellite communications equipment and a trailing wire antenna mounted in the lower aft fuselage for very low frequency (VLF) radio transmission and reception. These could be for communication with ballistic missile submarines. The aircraft can be refuelled in flight. Il-96-400M Russia's next doomsday plane would be the Il-96-400M. It is an upgraded version of the four-engine civil airliner. The plane is currently under development by Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC). Designated under "Project Zveno-3S", at least one prototype airframe has been completed and is being converted to replace the aging fleet of Ilyushin Il-80 aircraft. The flight range of the new aircraft will be double that of its predecessor, and it will communicate effectively with strategic nuclear forces within roughly 6,000 kilometres.



CM Revanth inaugurates lithium-ion cell plant in Mahabubnagar

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday, July 15, inaugurated Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies' Customer Qualification Plant in Mahabubnagar district. With an initial capacity of 60 MWh, the facility will manufacture lithium-ion cells that customers can test and validate ahead of commercial production, Amara Raja said in a release. Built with an investment of Rs 500 crore, the facility forms part of the company's broader Rs 9,500 crore, 16 GWh Gigafactory programme, it said. The facility will manufacture lithium-ion cells in cylindrical and prismatic formats, using multiple chemistries, for qualification and approval by Original Equipment Manufacturers customers across the industry, the release said. Cells from the facility are expected to be supplied to customers for validation beginning in August 2026, it



added. Together with the advanced research and engineering centre, ePositive Energy Labs, and the upcoming Giga 1 manufacturing facility, the Customer Qualification Plant brings Amara Raja close to completing the first phase of its Giga Corridor investment in Telangana, the release said. Lithium-ion cells are used, among other applications, to power portable consumer electronics and electric vehicles. "As the world reconfigures energy supply chains

around resilience, security and advanced manufacturing, India's ability to develop, validate and manufacture advanced battery technologies will shape its role in the global energy transition," Jayadev Galla, Co-founder and Chairman, Amara Raja, said. "Our CQP is a significant step towards creating these capabilities and laying the foundation for a trusted, world-class energy ecosystem," he added. Describing Amara Raja as a "glocal" organisation,

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said it was "trying to compete globally with local talent". He praised the company for drawing inspirations from countries such as China, Japan, Germany and South Korea while competing with China in the electric vehicle sector. Highlighting that the "Telangana Rising 2047" growth story was unstoppable, he said the state government was improving infrastructure to attract more investments.

Telangana flags off UK-bound shipments under India-UK trade agreement

Hyderabad: The Union government on Wednesday, July 15, flagged off UK-bound export consignments from Telangana, marking the launch of the India-UK trade pact. India and the UK operationalised a free trade agreement under which a host of domestic goods will enter the British market at zero duty. Export flag-off events were organised at Nizamabad and Hyderabad to mark the entry into force of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Flagging off the consignments at the Inland Container Depot (ICD) here, Telangana government's Special Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Krishna Aditya, said the agreement marks a significant milestone in India-UK economic relations and will substantially improve market access for Indian



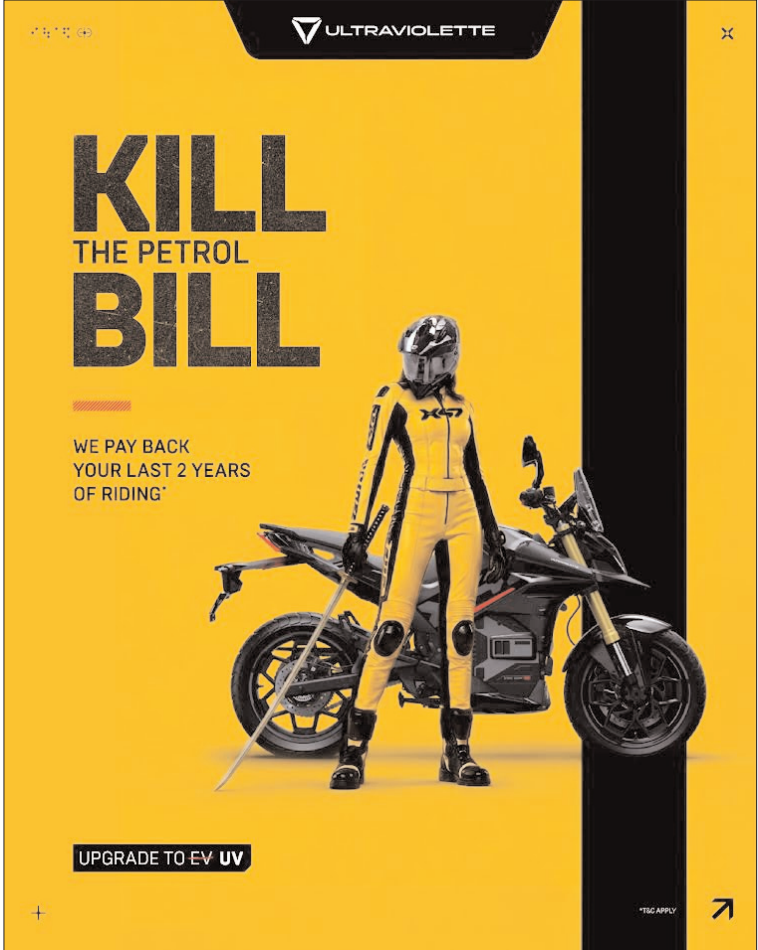
exporters, an official release said. He said the reduction of tariffs on a large number of products would enhance the competitiveness of exports from Telangana and create new opportunities for export-oriented industries. Sampath Kumar, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade, Hyderabad, said the India-UK CETA would provide preferential tariff access across a wide range

of products and significantly enhance export opportunities for Indian businesses in the UK market. National Turmeric Board Secretary Bhavani Sri said the benefits of the Agreement would extend to industries of all sizes, including MSMEs. She noted that Telangana's strengths in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics and food processing position the State to leverage the opportunities cre-

ated under the Agreement. Siddharth Viswanathan, Head of Trade and Investment, UK High Commission, described the India-UK CETA as a "landmark agreement" that would facilitate trade through improved market access, streamlined customs procedures and simplified documentation, thereby strengthening bilateral trade and investment. RP Naidu, Regional Head, APEDA (Telangana and Andhra Pradesh), said the agreement offers significant opportunities for exports of APEDA-scheduled products, including agricultural products, processed foods, dairy products, confectionery and millets, the release added. Export flag-off events were organised at Nizamabad and Hyderabad to mark the entry into force of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

With Rising Petrol Costs, Ultraviolette Makes the Transition to EVs More Compelling Than Ever

Bengaluru, July 2026: As petrol prices continue to exert pressure across India, Ultraviolette today announced a new initiative aimed at making the transition to electric mobility more accessible and rewarding for prospective two-wheeler buyers nationwide. As buyers increasingly evaluate the cost of vehicle ownership, Ultraviolette is reinforcing the economic and performance advantages of transitioning to electric mobility, while making the switch more rewarding than ever before. Under this proposition, riders can unlock benefits of up to ₹30,000 towards the purchase of an Ultraviolette motorcycle, based on their riding history and vehicle usage. By translating kilometres already ridden on petrol into ownership benefits, Ultraviolette is highlighting one of the most compelling advantages of electric mobility, the freedom from recurring fuel expenses without compromising on performance, technology, reliability, or riding experience. Commenting on the announcement, Narayan Subramaniam, CEO & Co-founder, Ultraviolette, said "The rising cost of petrol has been a topic of widespread discussion for some time now, but there has been relatively little action that directly helps consumers transition away from fuel dependency. At Ultraviolette, we believe the shift to electric mobility needs to be supported by tangible measures that make EV ownership more accessible and compelling,



which is also in line with our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of fast-tracking EV transition. Through this programme, we are enabling prospective two-wheeler owners across India to make that switch with greater confidence, while

benefiting from significantly lower running costs, advanced technology, and a superior ownership experience. As electric mobility continues to mature, our focus remains on accelerating adoption by making the transition easier and more rewarding for riders

nationwide." Ultraviolette has continued to strengthen its position as one of India's leading EV brands through sustained product innovation, expansion of its retail footprint, growing customer adoption, and continued progress in international markets. As the category matures, the company remains focused on building products that combine advanced technology, exhilarating performance, and superior ownership value.

■ ABOUT ULTRAVIOLETTE AUTOMOTIVE:

Ultraviolette (UV) is an innovator in future-ready Electric Vehicle Platforms and Battery Technology. Infused with Aviation DNA, this enterprise was conceived in 2016 by the founders, Narayan Subramaniam and Niraj Rajmohan. Ultraviolette is backed by a spectrum of global investors, including Lingotto, TDK Ventures, Qualcomm Ventures, Zoho Corporation, TVS Motors, and Speciale Invest. It is the first Indian electric manufacturer to secure a European certification for its motorcycles. Ultraviolette has expanded its global footprint, exporting to 19 countries across Europe including Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, the UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Scotland, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic.

South Indian Bank Posts a Robust Net Profit of Rs. 377.63 Cr. in Q1 FY 2026-2

South Indian Bank declared net profit of Rs. 377.63 Cr. for Q1 FY 2026-27 registering a growth of 17.29% compared to Rs. 321.95 Cr. in Q1 FY 2025-26.

Key Highlights of Q1 FY 2026-27

GNPA came down by 177 bps from 3.15% to 1.38% on Y-o-Y basis NNPA dropped by 42 bps from 0.68% to 0.26% on Y-o-Y basis PCR excl. write off increased by 247 bps from 78.93% to 81.40% Y-o-Y basis PCR including write off increased by 569 bps from 88.82% to 94.51% Y-o-Y basis Highest ever Net Interest Income of Rs. 1,025 Cr. with a growth of 23.05% on Y-o-Y basis o Deposits Retail Deposit grew by Rs. 14,938 Cr. from Rs. 1,09,368 Cr. to Rs. 1,24,306 Cr., showing an increase of 13.66% on Y-o-Y basis NRI Deposit grew by Rs. 4,139 Cr. from Rs. 32,293 Cr. to Rs. 36,432 Cr., showing an increase of 12.82% on Y-o-Y basis CASA grew by 14.61% on Y-o-Y basis with growth in Savings Bank by 16.51% and Current Account by 6.95% respectively Advances Gross advances grew by Rs. 15,170 Cr. from Rs. 89,198 to Rs. 1,04,368 Cr., showing an increase of 17.01% on Y-o-Y basis Corporate Segment grew by Rs. 4,594 Cr. from

Highlights

■ South Indian Bank declared net profit of Rs. 377.63 Cr. for Q1 FY 2026-27 registering a growth of 17.29% compared to Rs. 321.95 Cr. in Q1 FY 2025-26.

Rs. 37,110 Cr. to Rs. 41,704 Cr. showing an increase of 12.38% on Y-o-Y basis, in well rated borrower accounts Gold Loan portfolio grew by Rs. 7,484 Cr. from Rs. 17,446 Cr. to Rs. 24,930 Cr. showing an increase of 42.90% on Y-o-Y basis Business Segment grew by Rs. 1,731 Cr. from Rs. 12,660 Cr. to Rs. 14,391 Cr. showing an increase of 13.67% on Y-o-Y basis Mortgage loan grew by Rs. 2,578 Cr. from Rs. 3,278 Cr. to Rs. 5,856 Cr. showing an increase of 78.65% on Y-o-Y basis Vehicle Loan Segment went up by Rs. 280 Cr. from Rs. 2,217 Cr. to Rs. 2,497 Cr., showing an increase of 12.63% on Y-o-Y basis 98.81% of large corporate segments are rated A and aboveStatement by Mr. P R Seshadri, MD & CEO of the Bank: "While announcing the financial results, I am pleased to share that our strategy continues to

center around sustained profitability, superior asset quality, a resilient loan book, and a robust retail liability portfolio. We are sharpening our organizational structure and leveraging digital technology to effectively achieve our business objectives. During the reporting period, the Bank witnessed consistent growth across all targeted segments, with a sharp focus on acquiring quality assets in verticals such as Corporate Lending, Auto Loans and Gold Loans. Aligned with our strategic intent of 'Profitability through Quality Credit Growth', we have successfully onboarded new advances with low-risk profiles, ensuring a well-balanced and healthy credit portfolio." The Bank's financial results include the financial results of its wholly owned subsidiary SIBOSL.

WIPRO ADRS SLIP INTO RED AS IT FIRM PROJECTS UP TO 1.5% DEGROWTH IN Q2

The American Depository Receipts of Wipro Ltd. slipped after the company released its first quarter earnings report for the financial year 2027 on Thursday. Wipro ADRs traded 0.28% lower at \$1.83 as of 9:55 a.m. EST. Earlier in the day, the Indian IT giant posted a sequential 4.3% decline in its consolidated bottom-line for the quarter under review, while revenue only went up marginally. The profit decline was slightly higher than street expectations. Analysts' on Bloomberg expected Wipro's profit to come in at \$3,466 crore, 1% lower than the previous quarter. Further, the management has forecasted an up to 1.5% degrowth in its IT services revenue. For the second quarter of FY27, Wipro expects revenue from its IT Services business to be in the range of \$2.57 billion to \$2.63 billion. The company has guided for IT services



growth of -1.5% to +0.5% on a sequential basis. Earnings before interest and taxes declined 8.4% to Rs 3,829 crore from Rs 4,181 crore and margin narrowed 160 basis points to 15.6% from 17.2%. On the operational front, Wipro's total bookings declined 2.4% quarter-on-quarter in constant currency to \$3.37 billion. IT services revenue fell 1.4% sequentially to \$2.62 billion, while the IT services operating margin stood at 16% in the first quarter. The company's trailing 12-month attrition stood at 13.9% at the end of the

quarter and total headcount stood at 2.43 Lakh In Q1. Wipro CEO and Managing Director Srini Pallia said AI disruption is expanding the addressable market rather than shrinking it, while adding that the company's deal pipeline remains healthy. He said the technology and communications vertical continued to show momentum, with the BFSI segment also expected to gather pace in the second quarter. However, the energy and manufacturing verticals remained soft.

Tech Mahindra Q1 Attrition Slips To 11.8%; IT Headcount Falls Below 75,000



Tech Mahindra Ltd.'s attrition during the three-month period ended June 30, 2026 slipped to 11.8%, according to the disclosure made by the IT major on Thursday. This marks a decline as compared to the attrition rate of 12.1% in the preceding quarter. The rate of attrition has improved even significantly as compared to the year-ago quarter, when it stood at 12.6%. In terms of headcount, the overall staff employed by Tech Mahindra fell by 688 employees to 146,760. The IT headcount, comprising of employees linked to the company's core operations, slipped below 75,000

in the April-June period. The count in this segment, as of June 30, stood at 74,689, as compared to 75,377 as of March 31. The overall IT staff count has dwindled by 5,298 employees when compared to the year-ago period. In the year-ago period, the company had employed 79,987 persons in its IT division, the press release showed. In the business processing services (BPS) segment, Tech Mahindra's employee count slipped by 250. It stood at 64,080 as of June 30, as compared to 64,330 on March 31. In the sales and support division, the headcount has increased from 7,916 to 7,991.

'Unverified Speculation': OnePlus Dismisses Reports Of Quitting Indian Market

A Bloomberg report story claimed that OnePlus intended to shut down operations in the US and Europe as soon as possible. The report also added that by 2027, a global closure is expected to extend to India, the company's biggest overseas market. It is believed that Oppo seeks a global overhaul of its many sub-brands across the globe, which include OnePlus and Realme. Over the years, industry observers have debated speculations of the blurring lines between OnePlus and Oppo, which was eventually proven once OnePlus became a sub-brand of Oppo. As part of the changes, OnePlus told NDTV Profit that it will replace its OxygenOS software with Oppo's ColorOS. OxygenOS has long been a key differentiator for OnePlus, thanks to its clean, near-stock Android experience. The company said the move is aimed at streamlining software development while making better use of shared engineering and research-and-development resources across Oppo and OnePlus. Bloomberg also claimed that by this year, OnePlus will start to wind down its activities in



the US and Europe. OnePlus is expected to completely withdraw from the international market by 2027, operating solely in China. Each brand will have distinct duties in different markets as part of Oppo's reorganisation initiatives. OnePlus will withdraw from international competition in order to concentrate solely on China. Realme will completely withdraw from the intensely competitive Chinese market, focusing instead on the Nordic area and other global markets. Oppo will emerge as the main flagship brand, growing its market share and concentrating its efforts mostly on Central Europe. The purported reorganisation is thought to be an

attempt to avoid internal cannibalisation, simplify supply chains, and reduce overhead expenses as needed. Oppo's R&D facilities are shared by OnePlus and Realme for their products, including the proprietary Android software that is based on Oppo's ColorOS. India has been an important market for OnePlus since its founding, despite the seemingly minor consequences of a global market withdrawal. OnePlus, which operated as a distinct brand for nearly 10 years, established itself in the high-end smartphone market with its "flagship killer" approach before branching out into the midrange and low-cost markets with the Nord series handsets.

IRAN TARGETS MILITARY BASES AS US LAUNCHES WAVE OF STRIKES



Tehran has launched fresh attacks on US military bases in neighbouring Gulf states, while Washington continued to strike sites across Iran overnight. Tehran said it had struck targets in the region, including in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain, as a sixth day of renewed hostilities strained their preliminary deal to end the war. Meanwhile, the US military said it inflicted a six-hour wave of strikes in multiple locations to "degrade Iran's ability to threaten innocent mariners" in the Strait of Hormuz. The latest exchanges came after US President Donald Trump warned Iran it had "better behave" or face further military action should Iran not return to negotiations. On Tuesday, Trump threatened to target Iran's energy infrastructure if Tehran failed to return to talks. Iran's top negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, told state media Tehran had "no reason" to abide by any agreement that did not benefit the country. He added that Iran's national security

depended on maintaining what he described as "Iranian arrangements" in the Strait of Hormuz. In the latest attacks, the US targeted command centres, air defence sites, and coastal surveillance facilities across Iran - including in the port city of Bandar Abbas and Greater Tunb Island - US Central Command (Centcom) said. Explosions were heard across Iran and air defences were triggered in Tehran, Iranian state media reported. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said a children's cancer treatment centre in the western city of Ahvaz had been evacuated after strikes on a nearby location. BBC Verify has authenticated video footage of strikes on three coastal cities in Iran - Chabahar, Ahvaz and Bandar Abbas. Shortly after, US allies in the Gulf reported attacks. Kuwait's military said it intercepted drone attacks, while Bahrain's interior ministry told citizens to remain calm and head to the nearest safe place.



■ Protests in Ukrainian cities against Zelensky's removal of defence minister

ITALIAN OFFICIALS HANDED JAIL TERMS FOR GENOA BRIDGE DISASTER THAT KILLED 43

The former head of Italy's motorway operator has been given a 12-year prison sentence over the collapse of Genoa's Morandi bridge in August 2018. Prosecutors had asked for a far longer jail term for Giovanni Castellucci, ex-chief executive of Autostrade per l'Italia (Aspi). Forty-three people died when the motorway bridge running through the city came down in a rain storm at the height of the holiday season, sending cars and lorries plummeting to the ground. Castellucci, who is already serving a six-year jail term for a 2013 road disaster, was one of 57 defendants on trial in Genoa. Another top motorway official, Michele Donferri Mitelli, has been given 11 years in jail. Emmanuel Diaz, whose brother Henry died in the



bridge collapse told Italian TV he was "very satisfied" with the verdict, while Egle Possetti, whose sister and her family were all killed, said she thought the 12-year term handed to Castellucci was "acceptable". Castellucci was not in court to hear the verdicts, read out by Judge Paolo Lepri. The former number two at the motorway operator, Paolo Berti, was handed a five-and-a-half-year jail

term, seven years less than prosecutors had sought. In total, prosecutors had asked for the 57 defendants to be given 400 years in jail for failing to maintain the viaduct, which was built by Riccardo Morandi in 1967. All the defendants had denied doing anything wrong. While prosecutors had argued that maintenance of the ageing structure had been repeatedly delayed and that warning

signs had been ignored, defence lawyers blamed the disaster on a design flaw, and the fact that a specific cable was encased in concrete. Among the defendants on trial were engineers from the maintenance firm Spea and former officials from both the transport ministry and the Aspi motorway operator's parent company Atlantia. Spea's former chief executive, Antonino Galatà, was given a five-and-a-half-year prison term, while Mauro Coletta, the former top official in charge of the ministry's motorway directorate, received five years. On the eve of the trial, the current head of Aspi, Arrigo Giana, made his company's first public apology for the bridge collapse, saying that "the actions and decisions of some people left indelible scars".

'MOMENT OF JOY' AS UGANDA DISCHARGES LAST EBOLA PATIENT



The last patient being treated for Ebola in Uganda has been discharged from hospital, leaving the country with no active confirmed cases of the deadly disease. At a ceremony marking the occasion Health Minister Dr Chris Baryomunsi described it as "a moment of joy". The first case in this outbreak of the Bundibugyo species of the virus in Uganda was confirmed in May. The patient was a man who had travelled from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, the outbreak's epicentre, for medical treatment. The authorities there are battling to contain the spread and the US has extended travel restrictions on US citizens who have been to DR Congo. In Uganda, a 42-day countdown has now begun before it can officially be declared Ebola-free, as long as no new infections emerge. "It demonstrates that with early detection, prompt treatment and a strong health system, Ebola can be defeated," the health minister said. Nevertheless, his ministry has urged people to "remain vigilant". "If you develop symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained bleeding, seek immediate medical care," it said in a statement on X. In all, Uganda recorded 20 confirmed cases, mostly among visitors from DR Congo, and two deaths. Uganda has experienced several Ebola outbreaks over the last two decades and now has

well established protocols to deal with the virus. These include isolation of suspected cases and contact tracing as well as targeted public health messages. There have been more than 2,000 confirmed infections and 796 deaths in DR Congo, according to government data. But it is thought that it could have been in the community undetected for months before the outbreak was officially declared two months ago. Earlier this week, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said the true number of infections could be four times larger than recorded. In response to the latest situation, the US has announced that citizens who have been in DR Congo and want to return home must spend 21 days in a third country before being allowed into America. Previously, they had been able to enter at select airports, where they were went through a screening process. The new rule could affect recruitment of US medics who want to work in Ebola-affected areas and the scale of operations, Franklin Graham, the CEO of an organisation that runs Ebola treatment centres, told the Reuters news agency. Ebola is caused by a virus which attacks the body's immune system and organs. It normally infects animals, typically fruit bats, but outbreaks among humans can sometimes start when people handle infected animals. It is spread through bodily fluids like blood.

Volunteer firefighter suspected of starting devastating France forest fire

A volunteer firefighter has been placed under formal investigation in France on suspicion of starting a fire in a forest south of Paris, officials say. He is one of at least six people questioned over the Fontainebleau fire that has burned more than 2,000 hectares (some 5,000 acres) and led to about 1,000 people being evacuated. Although the fire has been contained, it has not been fully extinguished. Visiting the area on Thursday, President Emmanuel Macron said there would be no leniency for arsonists. France - like many other European countries - has been experiencing a series of unusual heatwaves. Macron said there had not been so many fires in France since World War Two. Prosecutor Diane Ngomsik told AFP news agency that the volunteer firefighter, 18, had initially confessed to "setting fire to twigs with a lighter and petrol" before retracting it. BFMTV said a second 18-year old man had also been placed under formal investigation - a stage in French



criminal procedure which may lead to formal charges and a subsequent trial. The Fontainebleau forest blaze partially closed the country's main north-south motorway since it started last Sunday. President Macron said 10% of the forest had been burned, and hailed the fact that there had been no victims so far. The forest is home to the Palace and Park of Fontainebleau, a Unesco World Heritage site since 1981. France has registered nearly 11,000 fires since the beginning of the year. Climate change is driving up temperatures around the world, and Europe is the fastest warming continent,

heating up twice as fast as the global average, according to the Copernicus climate service. This is causing increased summer heatwaves, greater pressure on Europe's water supply, and more intense wildfires. The record-breaking temperatures across Europe this summer have led to major wildfires, most notably in Spain where at least 13 people have been killed. And in the UK, firefighters have been battling to contain a "large-scale" wildfire that has spread across more than two miles (3.5km) of dry land in the Cairngorms National Park in north-east Scotland. The suspect, aged 18, initially

confessed to "setting fire to twigs with a lighter and petrol" before retracting his confession, prosecutor Diane Ngomsik told Agence France-Presse, confirming a report on BFMTV. In all, six people have been arrested as part of the investigation into the wildfires, which burned more than 2,000 hectares of the sprawling forest some 60 kilometers southeast of Paris. About 1,000 local residents were forced to leave their homes as the fires spread, and the main A6 motorway from the capital to the southeast was shut. The local authorities said on Tuesday evening that hundreds of firefighters had managed to contain the flames but the fires were not fully extinguished. France has been sweltering under another heatwave, with the high temperatures contributing to wildfires. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez has said 32,000 hectares have been hit by fires since the start of this year - more than during the entire 2025 fire season.

TEENAGER ACCUSED OF CARRYING OUT SABOTAGE ACTIONS IN POLAND FOR RUSSIA



Prosecutors in Poland have charged an 18-year-old Ukrainian man with carrying out sabotage acts on behalf of Russian intelligence aimed at inciting tensions between Poland and Ukraine. The suspect, identified as Illia K, under Polish privacy laws, was charged with 47 criminal acts between November 2024 and August 2025, when he was arrested. The alleged sabotage included desecrating memorials to Polish victims of the UPA, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army that took part in the murder of tens of thousands of Poles during the Second World War known as the Volynia massacre. "The

aim was to incite ethnic tensions between Poland and Ukraine," Poland's Internal Security Agency (ABW) said in a statement. Prosecutors said that although the suspect himself had acted for financial rather than ideological reasons most of the alleged acts were "for the benefit of foreign intelligence". The ABW said in May that it had launched 48 espionage investigations last year, more than double the number in 2024. Russia's secret services had focused on discrediting Poland internationally and exploiting "historical ethnic antagonisms, mainly in Polish-Ukrainian relations", it said.



More than 800 Canadian wildfires burning as air quality alerts extend to US

CHILDREN AMONG DEAD AT ALGERIA FOSTER CARE HOME BLAZE - PRESIDENT

Eleven people have died in a fire at a foster care facility in Algiers, Algeria's capital city. The country's civil protection department said 19 others were injured in the blaze, which firefighters began to tackle at 03:30 local time (04:30 GMT) on Thursday. They were still attempting to extinguish the fire just over three hours later, when the authorities released an update on the situation. The civil protection department's statement did not specify the ages of those killed or injured, but in a statement Algeria's president said children were among the dead. The authorities have not said what caused the fire. Ten fire engines and 16 ambulances were deployed to the facility in Mohammadia, an eastern suburb of Algiers. Algeria



has been experiencing a heatwave for several days, and nearly 1,000 fires have been recorded in the space of a week, the AFP news agency has reported. On Thursday morning, the civil protection department said it had recorded 115 wildfires over the past 24 hours. Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune expressed his condolences following the fire at the chil-

dren's home, calling the incident a "tragic loss". Prime Minister Sifi Ghrieb travelled to two hospitals in Algiers to visit individuals injured in Thursday's fire, state media reported. The report was accompanied by a picture of Ghrieb next to a child in a hospital bed. Amid the fire, five people with special needs were "taken into care and transported to a safe location", the authori-

ties said. Algeria has been sweltering under a heatwave for several days, and nearly 1,000 fires have been recorded in the space of a week. From July 8 to 15, the civil defence reported 932 fires, according to state media. Most had been extinguished but a small number were still burning. One municipal worker died battling a blaze in the northern province of Setif, a local mayor said Wednesday. The civil defence said it had mobilised more than 19,000 personnel and 700 trucks to battle forest fires, as well as six helicopters and 12 water-bombing aircraft. It has also evacuated some residents in the provinces of Bejaia, Guelma, Bouira and Mila, according to the APS state news agency.

Lionel Messi Beats 5 England Players, Triggers Chaos With Exceptional Dribbling

Lionel Messi played an instrumental role in Argentina's 2-1 comeback victory over England in the FIFA World Cup 2026 semi-final at Atlanta on Wednesday. The superstar didn't score a goal, but his brilliant assists decided the fate of La Albiceleste. Messi provided a pass to Enzo Fernandez, who scored the equaliser. After that, the 39-year-old football icon delivered a sensational cross to Lautaro Martinez for Argentina's winning goal in stoppage time. While the England players kept Messi heavily marked, with players surrounding him, the veteran still showed his brilliance on the ground multiple times. In one of the standout moments from the game, Messi beat five players in England's half with his dribbling skills. Such great was the run from Messi that Elliot Anderson had to commit a deliberate foul to stop him. With one more win, he'll be delivering



another World Cup trophy to Argentina. Messi didn't add to his tournament-leading goal total, but the 39-year-old assisted on two late strikes that carried La Albiceleste to another stunning comeback. Eight days after an improbable rally against Egypt in the round of 16, Messi returned to

Atlanta to produce another stellar moment in a career that might already be the best of anyone to play the sport. England were surely envisioning their first World Cup title since their only triumph six decades ago after a 55th-minute goal from Anthony Gordon. But Messi and his blue-clad

teammates, as they have shown over and over again, are never done. Now it's on to face Spain in the final on Sunday, with a chance of becoming the first repeat champion since Brazil in 1958 and 1962. In the 85th minute, with England hanging on for dear life, Messi played a short corner,

immediately received the return pass and spotted Enzo Fernandez lurking in the middle of the field, 25 yards from goal. Fernandez ripped a curling shot past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford to level the score. At that point, it seemed inevitable that Argentina would pull out the victory. And that's just what happened, with Messi again the orchestrator. Two minutes into stoppage time, he suddenly turned on the speed as he raced towards the byline, gaining enough space to send a pinpoint cross into the area at the back post. The ball cleared six English players, setting up Lautaro Fernandez to effortlessly head home the winning goal after slipping between two defenders. From there, it was just a matter of protecting the lead, which Argentina did comfortably. When the final whistle blew, Messi dropped to his knees in the middle of the field, pumping his fists.

Why KL Rahul Is Not Playing For India vs England In 2nd ODI

Wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan has replaced an ill KL Rahul in the playing eleven as England skipper Harry Brook won the toss and elected to bowl against India in the second ODI at Sophia Gardens on Thursday. Looking to bounce back from their defeat in the series opener at Edgbaston, England have made two changes to their side - bringing in fast bowlers Gus Atkinson and Saqib Mahmood in place of Josh Tongue and Liam Dawson. "It's a nice, even spread of grass. Hopefully, we can get a bit of seam movement and swing up front. We need to execute slightly better. I've always said we are never out of games, and I thought we put up a really good fight in the last game to take it that deep. It was an awesome effort from the guys, and we need some more of that," said England captain Harry Brook. India, who lead the three-match series 1-0, were forced to make the solitary change with Kishan don-



ning the wicketkeeping gloves in Rahul's absence. "KL Rahul was unavailable for selection due to illness," said the BCCI in an official update. India captain Shubman Gill said his side is seeking another near-perfect performance. "We'd have bowled first as well. We're doing well. We had a near-perfect game last time out; hopefully, we're going to have another good one. We started well, and it was great to see fast bowlers do well. Very good memories

here," he said. Playing XIs: India: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill (captain), Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Washington Sundar, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Gurnoor Brar, Jasprit Bumrah, and Prasidh Krishna. England: Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Harry Brook (captain), Jos Buttler (wk), Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Gus Atkinson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, and Saqib Mahmood.

Thomas Tuchel's Tactical Self-Destruction: How England Threw Away Their World Cup Final Dream

History has a cruel way of repeating itself for England. In the highly anticipated 2026 FIFA World Cup semi-final against Argentina in Atlanta, the Three Lions stood on the cusp of a spot in the final, but saw their dream being shattered just minutes later. For a long period, England had the defending champions exactly where they wanted them. The first half was a tense, cagey affair marked by relentless physical battles, resulting in a minuscule expected goals (xG) split of 0.05 for England and 0.03 for Argentina. The match erupted into life in the 55th minute when Anthony Gordon, the man who is set to join FC Barcelona in Spanish La Liga after the World Cup, met a beautiful



Morgan Rogers cross to put England 1-0 up, sending the stadium into absolute mayhem. Down 0-1, Argentina looked confused about their strategy. Aware of England's pace on the counter-attack, La Albiceleste knew that they couldn't shift to 5th gear

directly. With both of their centre-backs - Lisandro Martinez and Cristian Romero carrying yellow cards - Argentina couldn't get close to England attackers, as one reckless challenge would've seen them go down to 10 men and their chances of a comeback

would be blown. Yet, instead of exploiting this vulnerability, England chose to self-destruct. The crux of Argentina's late comeback lay in England's approach, as manager Thomas Tuchel pulled the handbrake and started to substitute his attackers with defenders. Thomas Tuchel Hit Self-Destruct In the 72nd minute, Tuchel made the baffling decision to substitute the energetic goalscorer Anthony Gordon for defender Ezri Konsa, shifting into an incredibly passive back-five formation. Instead of maintaining a high press or punishing the booked defenders, England opted to hang off their own crossbar, inviting wave after wave of Argentine pressure.

CC Takes Big Step Against India Pacer Ahead Of 2nd England ODI

Indian cricket team fast bowler Gurnoor Brar was given a warning for breaching level one of the ICC Code Of Conduct during the first ODI encounter against England on Tuesday. The ICC said that Brar was found to have breached Article 2.9 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. It relates to "throwing a ball at or near a player in an inappropriate and or dangerous manner during an international match". He was also handed one demerit point for the incident. The incident took place during the eighth over of the England innings when Brar picked up the ball off his own bowling and threw it towards England batter Ben Duckett. It was deemed to be



'inappropriate and dangerous' by the match referee. The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Mike Burns, third umpire Sam Nogajski, and fourth umpire Russell Warren. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum

penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. When a player reaches four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, they are converted into suspension points and the player faces a ban. Two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test, two ODIs, or two T20Is, whichever comes first. These demerit points remain on a player's disciplinary record for a period of 24 months from their imposition, after which they are expunged. India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series with a six-wicket win over England, where Brar picked two wickets for the visitors. The two teams will next face in the second ODI in Cardiff on Thursday. "Brar admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, and as such, there was no need for a formal hearing," the ICC said on Thursday.

RECORD CROWD AS KERR RETURNS TO GOTHAM FC

Former Chelsea forward Sam Kerr began her second spell with Gotham FC in front of the largest ever crowd for a women's sporting event in New York City. Over 42,000 fans turned out at Citi Field for Gotham's 1-0 victory against Washington Spirit in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). Usually home to Major League Baseball team the New York Mets, the official attendance was announced as a sell-out 42,715. Kerr, who came on as a second-half substitute, played for Gotham between 2015 and 2017 when they were known as Sky Blue FC. "In many ways this is like a full circle moment when Sam Kerr coming here and being able to experience this on her first night," NWSL commissioner Jessica Berman said. American



midfielder Rose Lavelle scored the winner in the first half. Gotham's previous best attendance for a game was 15,560 in 2024 and the record crowd for a NWSL game remains the 63,000 who watched the Denver Summit play the Spirit at the NFL Denver Broncos' home Empower Field last March. Gotham recently announced they will move from Sports

Illustrated Stadium in New Jersey to Etihad Park in Queens, a ground they will share with MLS outfit New York City. The move is said to be designed to help Gotham become accessible to more fans. "We know that with investment, if you build it, they will come. And this is a proof point for that," Berman said. "My favourite thing about tonight is that it isn't transactional.

Harshit Rana Injury Related To Being 'Overweight'? Report Sparks Big Concern



Harshit Rana's hamstring injury in his first series after coming back from a knee surgery has raised concerns over his fitness regimen as top sources revealed that the burly fast bowler gained weight during his rehabilitation which probably contributed to the latest breakdown. According to sources, the 24-year-old Rana was found to be "overweight" on his comeback for the T20I leg of the UK tour and was eventually

ruled out due to the hamstring injury after playing just five T20 games - two versus Ireland and three against England. "Rana reported a sudden onset of discomfort in his right hamstring during the third T20I against England at Trent Bridge. Subsequent scans revealed a Grade 1 hamstring injury," the BCCI had stated in the release which ruled him out of the three-match ODI series where he was supposed to play a very

vital role. However, what must be a worrying issue for both Gautam Gambhir's team management and the national selection committee is why the fast bowler added extra kilos on comeback which he should have been able to reduce during his knee rehabilitation and subsequent 'Return To Play' protocols at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. "Harshit is a very important member of this team going into the 2027 World Cup. He is being looked at as a potential number eight batter along with his 140 click average speed.

Deepika's Fight: How the hockey star returned more powerful than before



As the Indian women's hockey

goal scorer in the tournament, the moment marked the glorious end to a gruelling year-long battle against her own body. Her nightmare began on 29 August last year when she picked up a Grade III hamstring tear during a match. The hamstring was completely ruptured and it required an intensive rehabilitation process. While her teammates battled on the field over the next ten months, Deepika waged a quiet, solitary war inside the gym. She was trapped in a frustrating, repetitive cycle of rest and rehabilitation, while also grappling with the heavy mental toll that came with it. "It is easy to get demoralised in such a situation," said Deepika in a conversation with The Bridge, days after guiding India back to the FIH Pro League.

PV Sindhu Stuns World No. 5 Han Ye To Enter Japan Open Quarterfinals

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu produced one of her best performances of the season to out-class world No. 5 Han Yue of China in straight games and storm into the quarterfinals of the Japan Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Thursday. The world No. 10 Indian needed just 35 minutes to register a commanding 21-16, 21-14 win over the higher-ranked Chinese shuttler in their second-round contest. After a sluggish start, the unseeded Sindhu found her rhythm midway through the opening game, striking the shuttle cleanly and dictating the rallies to take the lead. The former world champion then completely dominated the second game, racing to an 8-0 advantage

before comfortably sealing the contest. With the victory, Sindhu improved her head-to-head record against Han to 8-1. The 31-year-old will next face familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, who received a walkover after top seed An Se-young of South Korea withdrew from their second-round match. Sindhu is now India's lone survivor in the tournament after the mixed doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals. The Indian duo fought hard before losing 20-22, 17-21 to top seeds Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping of China in their round-of-16 clash in 47 minutes. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's recurring shoulder

problem forced him and Chirag Shetty to retire from their Japan Open opener even as P V Sindhu eased into the women's singles second round with a straight-game win over Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching on Tuesday. The world No.4 Indian pair, who ended a two-year title drought by winning the Singapore Open but had to withdraw from Indonesia Open last month, retired after losing the opening game 19-21 to Denmark's Daniel Lundgaard and Mads Vestergaard. Chief doubles coach Tan Kim Her said the Indian duo will be skipping the China Open next week and focus on rehabilitation to get back to shape for the home World Championships in

August. "It still needs some time to recover. We have at least four weeks to get back in shape ahead of World Championships," Tan told PTL. Two-time Olympic-medallist Sindhu, who is currently world no. 10, produced a compact performance to notch up a 21-14 21-11 win over 37th-ranked Wong Ling Ching of Malaysia in the opening round of the BWF Super 750 event.



team celebrated the FIH Nations Cup title win last week, earning a well-deserved promotion back to the top tier FIH Pro League, Deepika Sehrawat took a moment for herself. For Deepika, who was the joint highest

PRABHAS’S FAUZI RELEASING WORLDWIDE ON DECEMBER 3RD

Rebel Star Prabhas is all set to ignite the big screen with the most-awaited Pan India Project Fauzi, as the makers have officially announced that the grand period action spectacle will arrive in cinemas worldwide on December 3, 2026. Directed by creative filmmaker Hanu Raghavapudi, produced by Mythri Movie Makers, and presented by T-Series, the film is bankrolled by Naveen Yerneni, Y. Ravi Shankar, and Bhushan Kumar. The project has already made a solid impression with its striking title poster. To accompany the release date announcement, the team unveiled an epic new poster that has sent social media into overdrive. It captures the brutal soul of Fauzi while offering a glimpse into the film's gigantic scale and emotional intensity. The poster showcases Prabhas in perhaps his most rugged and emotionally charged look yet. Blood-soaked, scarred, and exhausted after what appears to be a brutal war, he sits silently amidst a battlefield littered with fallen soldiers. Clutching a rifle with his head lowered, his battered appearance speaks volumes about the sacrifices, pain, and resilience of a warrior who refuses to bow to destiny. His long, unkempt hair, thick beard, battle-worn physique, and blood-stained white dhoti present an extraordinary transformation unlike anything audiences have seen before. Without uttering a



single word, Prabhas conveys grief, determination, courage, and an unbreakable spirit through his commanding screen presence alone. The haunting landscape surrounding him elevates the impact even further. Smoke engulfs the battlefield

deep. What makes the poster even more exciting is that it is said to be from one of the film's biggest action episodes, a sequence expected to become one of the major theatrical highlights. The image suggests that Fauzi is not merely another war drama but an emotionally driven cinematic spectacle where larger-than-life action meets compelling storytelling. The release date announcement has further amplified expectations surrounding the project. If a single poster can generate this level of excitement, the theatrical experience promises to be nothing short of explosive. Everything unveiled so far points towards a film packed with spectacular action, stirring emotions, breathtaking visuals, and world-class technical brilliance. Fauzi stars Imanvi opposite Prabhas, with veteran actors Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Jaya Prada, and Bhanu Chander playing pivotal roles. The film boasts cinematography by Sudeep Chatterjee, music by Vishal Chandrasekhar, production design by Anil Vilas Jadhav, and editing by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao. With its release date now locked, unprecedented hype surrounding Prabhas' never-seen-before transformation, and a poster that promises cinematic grandeur on every level, Fauzi is rapidly shaping up to be one of the biggest pan-India spectacles and a potential box-office phenomenon of 2026.

'AMEN' SET FOR A GRAND WORLDWIDE RELEASE ON JULY 24

"People with heart conditions should avoid watching this film!" – Filmmaker SK Basheed's sensational warning

Acclaimed filmmaker SK Basheed, known for his distinctive storytelling and experimental approach to cinema, is all set to terrify audiences with his latest horror suspense thriller, AMEN. Produced under the SBK Film Corporation banner, presented by Regula Neerajarani, and released worldwide by RNR Distribution & Production, the film is scheduled for a grand global release on July 24, 2026. Having established himself as a filmmaker who consistently delivers unique and unconventional subjects, SK Basheed has earned recognition across multiple languages for his creative vision. With AMEN, he is once again making headlines by promising an entirely new horror experience unlike anything audiences have seen before. "People with heart conditions should stay away!" – SK Basheed



cinematic experience. Despite featuring a cast of newcomers, the film has been made with uncompromising technical excellence and high

production values. The film is so frightening that I sincerely advise people with heart conditions not to watch it. No one will dare to watch it alone inside a theatre. We have complete confidence in the film's output, which is why we are releasing it worldwide on our own."

Poster Creates Huge Buzz

The recently released official poster of AMEN has gone viral across social media platforms. The striking tagline, "Warning: Leave your parents safely at home before coming to watch this movie...", has generated tremendous curiosity among movie lovers. Featuring a haunting crusader-themed design, eerie hands emerging from water, and chilling visuals, the poster has significantly raised expectations among horror fans. The film's trailer, scheduled for release soon, is also creating considerable excitement. With its fresh concept and terrifying presentation, AMEN is expected to introduce a new wave of horror in Telugu cinema. Industry circles are eagerly waiting to see the impact the film will make when it hits theatres worldwide on July 24.

Kriti Sanon Dazzles In Sequin Winter Glamour

Kriti Sanon has every reason to celebrate this month, and her latest ELLE India cover, marking the magazine's 30th anniversary issue, perfectly captures that winning energy. Styled in a sleek black blazer with a statement Bottega Veneta-style clutch, the actor looks every bit "The New Benchmark" the cover proclaims her to be. The glow comes at a great time. Her romantic drama Cocktail 2, co-starring Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna, has struck gold at the box office, pulling in roughly ₹143 crore worldwide. Between a career-best box office run and a striking magazine cover celebrating three decades of ELLE, Kriti Sanon is undeniably having a moment, one that blends critical style credibility with commercial success on screen. Kriti Sanon is one of the talented actors who debuted in Telugu first and later went on to make a wonderful career in Bollywood.

The actress even won a National Film Award for her performance in the film Mimi. During the film's shoot, the actor had to gain weight, and around the same time, she decided to freeze her eggs. Kriti Sanon decided to do this to cope with the physical changes that come with egg freezing. "I froze my eggs very smartly, and I did it during that time when I had to gain weight for Mimi. It makes you bloat, and I was anyway gaining weight. I spoke to someone who told me this is the best thing you can do for yourself if you can. It's the best gift that you can give yourself. It stayed on my mind. Then, when I was told to gain weight, I



thought this was the right time to do it," she said in a recent interview. Egg freezing is a medical procedure in which a woman's eggs are collected, frozen, and stored for future use, allowing her

Mangli's Energetic Track 'Tonga.. Tonga' from Hushaar Pittalu Released



The makers of the upcoming youthful entertainer Hushaar Pittalu, starring Anshu and Vasavi Ganesan in the lead roles, have unveiled the film's energetic promotional track, "Tonga.. Tonga," sung by popular playback singer Mangli. The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on August 15. Presented by Padma Amma and BVG Studios,

Hushaar Pittalu is being produced by Venkat Yadav under the Rudra Kranti Pictures banner and directed by Bikshu. The film has completed production and will be released by leading distribution houses Asian Suresh Films. The recently released teaser received an overwhelming response, creating significant buzz around the project.

Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi Unveils the First Look Poster of 'Feel My Love'



Feel My Love, a feel-good romantic emotional entertainer, is being produced by A.N. Balaji under the Sri Lakshmi Jyothi Creations banner. The film stars Aadithya Baaskar, Ayraa, Ammu Abhirami, Madhusudhan Rao, Rajayyappa, Noble James, and Priyanka in key roles. Written and directed by Hari Prakash M, the film promises a wholesome blend of romance, comedy, emotions, and youthful entertainment. The title poster, which was released earlier, received a positive response from audiences. The makers have now

unveiled the film's first look poster through Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi. Sharing the poster on social media, Vijay Sethupathi extended his best wishes to the entire team for the film's success. With a heartwarming love story and an engaging narrative that appeals to audiences of all age groups, Feel My Love is expected to offer a refreshing cinematic experience. The film has been extensively shot in picturesque locations across Chennai and Puducherry, while nearly 90% of the shooting has been completed in the scenic locales of

Munnar and Kodaikanal. The film is currently in the final stages of post-production, and the makers are planning a grand theatrical release in August or September. M.S. Sathesh has handled the cinematography, while Rajaravivarma S and Balasubramanian G have composed the music. Ajay Manoj serves as the editor. The film is set for a Pan-India release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi. The makers will announce more exciting updates soon.

ZEE5
EXPANDS ITS
KIDZ
UNIVERSE
WITH
MYTHICAL
ANIMATION
"SHIVLOK KE
KUNDAKKA
MANDAKKA"

KidZ on Zee 5, children's favourite safe, fun and guilt-free screen time destination, has further strengthened its kids' content portfolio with the launch of mythological animation, Shivlok Ke Kundakka Mandakka (SKM). Adapted from acclaimed author Anand Neelakantan's bestselling children's book, The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids, Shivlok Ke Kundakka Mandakka brings the much-loved mythological world to life on screen. Premiering on July 17, the story revolves around Kundakka and Mandakka, two mischievous Asura twins whose playful antics lead them on an extraordinary adventure of courage, friendship and self-

discovery. Set in a fascinating world of mythology that goes beyond the familiar tales of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, the series introduces children and families to fresh characters, unexplored worlds and magical adventures inspired by India's rich mythological heritage. Blending humour, action and vibrant animation, the series reimagines mythology for today's young audiences while celebrating the idea that heroes are defined by the choices they make, not by perfection. Designed as the first of a much larger universe waiting to unfold, Shivlok Ke Kundakka Mandakka lays the foundation for an expansive world that will grow through new characters, adventures and stories ahead.

