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THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)Priyanka Gandhi
slams Centre over education
policy, questions action
against student protesters

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UKRAINE OVER ARMY
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SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

20-07-2026

Total pilgrims : 80,214
Tonsures : 36,994
Hundi kankaku : 4,61 CR
Laddu sale : 4.18 Lac
Annaspradams : 2.25 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,356
Waiting Compartments : Outside line
at Silathopuram.

Approx. Dargan Time for Saravandhanam
(with out SSD Tonsure) : 24 H.No plans to approve IIM
for Telangana, says Centre

Hyderabad, July 21 : The Central government has made it clear that it has no plans to approve an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) for Telangana, as the state already hosts numerous higher education and management institutes. The government stated this in reply to a question in Lok Sabha on Monday. Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar, told Congress MP Mallu Ravi that the government has received a request for sanction of an IIM in Hyderabad. The MoS stated that the Government of India periodically establishes new institutions of national importance, including Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), across India, after taking into account regional balance and resource availability. Presently, there are 22 IIMs functioning in 21 States.

Five FIRs registered
in violent Delhi pro-
test clashes

New Delhi, July 21 : Delhi Police have registered five FIRs so far in connection with the violent clashes that erupted in the National Capital between the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) supporters and the security officials, officials said on Tuesday. The clashes erupted on Monday as thousands of supporters of the CJP and students marched from Jantar Mantar towards Parliament, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over recurring examination irregularities, including the NEET-UG paper leaks. FIRs have been registered at Connaught Place and Parliament Street police stations, as well as other stations in the area. According to the police, more FIRs could be registered in the areas where violence took place. Currently, efforts are underway to identify the accused using video footage. Investigators are examining more than 250 videos, including mobile phone recordings, CCTV footage, drone camera visuals and footage captured through police body-worn cameras, to trace the individuals allegedly responsible for the violence.

CM Revanth prioritises roads and
rural infrastructure in KodangalHyderabad,
TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy has directed officials to expedite the development of roads and other essential infrastructure across the Kodangal Assembly constituency, stressing that every village should have access to quality civic amenities.

During a review meeting on constituency development Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure that no tribal thana is left without road connectivity. He said every village must be connected to its respective mandal headquarters through a BT (blacktop) road, enabling better transportation and access to public services.

Chief Minister also directed the authorities to construct Gram Panchayat



buildings for all newly formed Gram Panchayats at the earliest to strengthen local governance and improve administrative infrastructure.

To ensure effective execution of development works, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to appoint an Executive Engineer (EE)-level officer to exclusively monitor and supervise the implementa-

tion of projects on a continuous basis.

Expressing concern over the possible impact of El Niño conditions, the Chief Minister asked officials to prepare comprehensive contingency plans to prevent any drinking water shortage in the constituency. He emphasized that advance planning and timely implementation of water

supply measures should ensure that people do not face hardship during the summer months.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to balanced rural development Chief Minister said improving connectivity, strengthening infrastructure and ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply remain among the state's top priorities.

Parliament remains paralysed for second
consecutive day amid Opposition protests

New Delhi (TSIT) : Proceedings in both Houses of Parliament were disrupted for the second consecutive day of the Monsoon Session as Opposition members staged protests over the alleged NEET paper leak, police action against students in the national capital, and the alleged theft of donations meant for the Ram Temple.

The repeated protests led to multiple adjournments in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. As a result, normal

business could not be conducted in Parliament.

In the Lok Sabha, members of the Opposition began raising slogans as soon as the House assembled for Question Hour. What the Opposition was insisting on was an immediate discussion on the alleged examination irregularities apart from the police crackdown on students protesting the education system. Speaker Om Birla assured MPs that they would be given an opportunity to raise their concerns.

Major win for CJP protesters: Delhi
police releases all detainees

New Delhi (TSIT) In a big win for the ongoing students' protest at Jantar Mantar, Delhi police on Tuesday released all detainees who had been held after the agitation against NEET-UG paper leak went violent on Monday. Newspaper Archives Access Cockroach Janata Party spokesperson Saurav Das made the announcement and asked everyone to maintain

peace. "Our lawyers have told us that all detainees have been released. The dharna outside Delhi police headquarters has therefore been called off. Everyone is requested to maintain peace," Das said.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke had earlier announced they would march to Delhi police headquarters if all detainees were not released by 8 PM tonight.

'Govt stands with Yuva Shakti': NDA backs PM
Modi's 'swift action' stand on NEET paper leak

New Delhi (TSIT):

Amid the Opposition's criticism over the violence during the NEET-UG paper leak protest, the National Democratic Alliance leaders on Tuesday came in support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that the government took swift action over the exam irregularities, asserting that the Centre stands with the country's 'Yuva Shakti' (youth power).

During the NDA's 'Mangal Milan' programme, PM Modi stated that the issue of paper leaks is "not limited" to a single state or the Central government; rather, it is a



"matter of concern for the entire nation", while adding that the government has acted promptly, resulting in the arrest of 13 individuals related to the case so far. Responding to the same, Union Minister and Republican Party of India (A) chief Ramdas Athawale said: "The Prime Minister has explained about the NEET exam that whatever has happened is not right, and lakhs of students have faced difficulties. Those

who have made such an attempt have all been caught, and they should be punished severely."

"He (Prime Minister) has said that along with the Central government, it is also the responsibility of the state governments and their administration to ensure that such instances don't occur during exams," Athawale told IANS outside Parliament House.

He asserted that the "government stands with Yuva Shakti".

"We are in the government due to the youths. Whatever Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is saying is baseless," the Union Minister added.

UAE minister meets Chandrababu Naidu, discusses
proposed food cluster in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati (TSIT):

UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu here on Tuesday and discussed the proposed establishment of a food cluster in the state.

The delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held discussions with the Chief Minister and senior officials at the State Secretariat.

The state government said that a decision has been taken to establish a value chain for exporting various horticultural products—including mangoes,



bananas, and cocoa—to international markets.

An agreement for establishing a food cluster was reached at the World Economic Forum meet at Davos early this year.

According to an official release, the UAE had expressed its readiness to set up the food cluster in



House, the Congress MP said that the students are raising their voice against the "broken education system" and using force to quell their stir was beyond all reasoning.

Taking a direct shot at the government as well as PM Modi, he demanded that the latter apologise for

stop this nonsense (police thrashing students for raising their voice)," Rahul said, while flanked by party MPs including Priyanka Gandhi. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police came under fire after scores of students and youngsters were lathi-charged and tear-gassed

Police evict Rahul, Akhilesh Yadav
from dharna near PM's residence

New Delhi (TSIT): Police forcibly removed Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and several opposition MPs from their dharna site near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence in New Delhi on Tuesday, after they marched towards Lok Kalyan Marg demanding action over alleged examination paper leaks and police action against student protesters.

ordering a lathi charge on the agitating students and advised the Centre to rather take an honest review of the education system.

"People are being beaten and thrashed; this is completely unacceptable. Why is the Prime Minister silent? He should speak up. He should apologise and

during the CJP's march to the Parliament on Monday. The CJP said several people were badly injured and left bleeding after the action by the police forces. The Delhi Police, on the other hand, accused the protesters of displaying "unruly, aggressive and violent behaviour".

said. Industries Minister TG Bharat and senior officials from the Food Processing, Industries, and EDB departments attended the meeting.

Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri had a meeting with Chandrababu Naidu on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos in January.

It was then announced that the UAE Dubai Food Cluster would work together with the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing sector. The UAE minister had also assured to extend support to the State in the establishment of around 40 institutions from the UAE in Andhra Pradesh.

Priyanka Gandhi slams Centre over education policy, questions action against student protesters

Chennai, July 20 : Marking World Chess Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay extended his greetings to chess players, coaches and enthusiasts across the world, while reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening the state's position as India's and the world's leading chess hub.

In a message released on the occasion, the Chief Minister praised Tamil Nadu's remarkable contribution to Indian chess, noting that the state has produced the highest number of young grandmasters in the country and continues to dominate the international chess arena



through its emerging talent. Vijay recalled that Tamil Nadu's journey to becoming a global chess powerhouse began with Viswanathan Anand, who became India's first

Grandmaster in 1988 and inspired generations of young players to take up the sport.

He said Anand's achievements laid the foundation for the state's

sustained excellence in chess and transformed Tamil Nadu into the country's most successful breeding ground for world-class players.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the new generation of chess stars, including World Champion D. Gukesh, Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa and Grandmaster Vaishali Rameshbabu, for their outstanding performances in international tournaments. He said their achievements had brought immense pride not only to Tamil Nadu but also to the entire nation and had further elevated India's standing in world chess.

Udhayanidhi condemns arrest of rapper Therukkural Arivu over NEET protest

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Assembly Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday condemned the arrest of rapper Therukkural Arivu for protesting against the NEET examination. According to videos and reports, Arivu was detained by the police while protesting outside the Tamil Nadu Secretariat in Chennai but was later invited to meet Chief Minister Vijay in person and discussed the issue with him. After the meeting, he was accompanied by Minister Aadhav Arjuna till the exit, as seen in videos.

Therukkural Arivu had staged the protest demanding that Chief Minister Vijay raise his



voice against NEET. He was detained by the police and later brought back to the Secretariat before meeting Vijay.

Udhayanidhi condemns TVK government. In a post on X, Udhayanidhi criticised the Vijay-led Tamil Nadu

government for arresting Therukkural Arivu, whom he described as his dear brother. He said Arivu's voice reflects the feelings and demands of lakhs of people across Tamil Nadu and the country. Udhayanidhi also said the arrest came at a

time when protests and rallies against NEET were intensifying across India.

Centre notifies 3 key rail lines in TN as Special Railway Projects

'Voices against NEET should not be suppressed'

Udhayanidhi said the action against Arivu sends a worrying message to Tamil Nadu's youth who are planning to take to the streets in support of young people protesting against NEET in Delhi. He alleged that the NEET examination is not only filled with irregularities but has also become a major scam. "The voices raised against NEET should be heard and not suppressed," he said.

Chandan Roy and Rajeev Mehta judge workplace theatre IP Office Drama



Bengaluru (TSIT): Acclaimed actors Chandan Roy and Rajeev Mehta joined hands to judge Office Drama, India's first theatre-led workplace storytelling IP launched by Onsurity. The initiative brings together theatre, workplace experiences and creative storytelling to build a long-term platform for artists and audiences.

The inaugural edition featured nine original plays inspired by modern workplace challenges and was attended by over 300 founders, HR leaders, CXOs, creators and media representatives in Bengaluru. The event marked a unique collaboration between India's startup ecosystem and independent theatre community.

Designed as a year-round creative platform, Office Drama will support participating theatre

groups through paid creative opportunities, healthcare benefits and long-term collaborations. Over the next nine months, the plays will be developed into films, short-form videos and digital content formats.

Chandan Roy and Rajeev Mehta also conducted mentoring sessions with theatre groups, sharing insights on storytelling, performance and creativity while highlighting the role of theatre in improving communication and workplace culture.

Onsurity Co-Founder and COO Kulin Shah said the initiative aims to transform workplace experiences into meaningful stories while creating opportunities for India's theatre community. The company plans to take Office Drama to startup hubs across India and later expand it to Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

Centre notifies 3 key rail lines in TN as Special Railway Projects

CHENNAI: The Ministry of Railways has notified three major railway infrastructure projects involving Tamil Nadu as Special Railway Projects (SRPs). The projects include the 77 km Arakkonam-Renigunta third and fourth line, 90 km Gummidipundi-Gudur third and fourth line, and the 147 km Hosur-Omalur doubling project.

Anitha's brother joins CJP protest in Delhi, says Tamil Nadu has been opposing NEET since 2017. The notifications declare the projects as national infrastructure for a public purpose, enabling land acquisition for their implementation.



The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Arakkonam-Renigunta third and fourth line has been completed and submitted to the Railway Board for approval. The project proposes extending the additional railway lines beyond the existing four line Chennai-Arakkonam section. Similarly, the Gummidipundi-Gudur project is proposed as an extension of the third and fourth line works already sanctioned between Athipattu and Gummidipundi. While the Chennai-Athipattu section already has four railway lines, work on the Athipattu-Gummidipundi stretch is expected to commence shortly. Extending the additional lines up to Gudur is expected to enhance freight capacity and improve traffic movement.

sion of the third and fourth line works already sanctioned between Athipattu and Gummidipundi. While the Chennai-Athipattu section already has four railway lines, work on the Athipattu-Gummidipundi stretch is expected to commence shortly. Extending the additional lines up to Gudur is expected to enhance freight capacity and improve traffic movement.

Tamil Nadu: Over 1,600 special buses to operate for weekend rush

CHENNAI: To manage the expected surge in passenger traffic during the upcoming weekend, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations (TNSTC) will operate 1,635 special buses across the State, according to the General Manager (Operations) of the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC). he special services will be operated on July 24-26 (Friday to Sunday) in addition to the regular schedules, as travel demand is expected to increase.

So far, 15,963 passengers have booked tickets from Chennai and other cities to their native places, with the number expected to rise further.

Bioenergy programmes to gain momentum in Karnataka



Bengaluru (TSIT): Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board Chairman S. E. Sudheendra has said that the state's bio-energy action programmes will receive greater momentum with the implementation of the new Bioenergy Policy and upcoming initiatives.

A review meeting was held at the Board's Administrative Office to discuss the bioenergy action plan for 2026-27, establishment of Centres of Excellence and implementation of recommendations submitted by the committee comprising Board Members Divakar Rao and Dr. Balakrishna Gowda.

The committee's report focuses on developing collection systems and supply chains for Tree-Borne Oils (TBOs) and cellulosic biomass. Sudheendra said the advancement and commercialisation of bioenergy ini-

tatives have received support from former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister Priyank Kharge. He expressed confidence that the programmes would progress further under the guidance of Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and Minister Eshwar Khandre.

He directed officials to prepare guidelines for the collection, storage, transportation and continuous supply of biofuel feedstocks, including non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil and other biomass, to enable large-scale biofuel production.

The Chairman also instructed officials to upgrade existing bioenergy demonstration centres and biofuel parks and initiate renewal of accreditation for the Bioenergy Research and Quality Assurance Laboratory. The meeting was attended by board members, officials, researchers and technical experts.

Zigly Foundation Partners with Praana Foundation to Promote Preventive Healthcare for Community Dogs in Bengaluru

Bengaluru : Zigly Foundation, the CSR arm of Zigly Pet Care, joined hands with Praana Foundation to conduct community feeding drive and distribute anti-rabies vaccination coupons across Bengaluru.

The initiative was supported by Ms. Samyukta Hornad, acclaimed actress and Founder of Praana Foundation. It brought together volunteers, animal welfare advocates and members of the local community to promote compassionate care, responsible co-existence with community animals and greater awareness around preventive healthcare. The drive covered JP Nagar and BTM Layout, with the main event being held at JP Nagar. The initiative mobilised 50 volunteers, facilitated the distribution of 250 complimentary Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) coupons for community dogs and supported the donation of 200 kilograms of dog food for community feeding efforts. Local residents also had the opportunity to



engage with volunteers from Zigly Foundation and Praana Foundation, who encouraged conversations around responsible community animal care, preventive healthcare and the importance of timely anti-rabies vaccination.

Speaking on the initiative, Ms. Yamini Kumar Jaipuria, Managing Trustee, Cosmo Foundation and Whole time Director (Corporate Strategy, ESG and CSR), Cosmo First said, "At Zigly Foundation, we believe meaningful impact begins with compassion and collective action. Preventive healthcare is one of the most important yet often overlooked aspects of animal welfare. In fact, our recent research found that 75% of

first-time Gen Z and Millennial pet parents missed at least one vaccination for their pets in the past year, reinforcing the need for greater awareness around timely vaccinations. We are proud to partner with Praana Foundation, who share our belief that the welfare of every animal is a shared responsibility. We hope this initiative inspires more individuals and organisations to come together to build safer, healthier and more compassionate communities."

Ms. Samyukta Hornad, Founder, Praana Foundation Said. "Community animals are an inseparable part of our neighbourhoods, and it is a collective responsibility to

take care of them. Every meal served, every conversation about awareness, and every vaccination supported is a step in building safer and healthier communities for both animals and people. We hope this will inspire more citizens to get involved in improving the lives of community animals."

The initiative marks the beginning of an ongoing collaboration between Zigly Foundation and Praana Foundation, with weekly community feeding and preventive healthcare awareness drives planned across Bengaluru. As part of this sustained effort, both organisations will continue mobilising volunteers, distributing Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) coupons and supporting community feeding initiatives to strengthen awareness around responsible community animal care. This is another step in Zigly Foundation's continued commitment to building healthier, safer and more compassionate communities for both people and animals.

Arthan brings the People Leaders Conclave 2026 to Bengaluru, convening leaders to shape the future of People Leadership

Bengaluru : As Arthan marks ten years of strengthening leadership and organisations across the social impact sector, they hosted the People Leaders Conclave 2026 - Bengaluru Edition under the theme "Making the Next Decade of People Leadership Visible."

Over the past decade, Arthan has supported 1,800+ leadership hires, delivered 60+ organisational development engagements, and brought together 1,200+ founders, senior leaders and practitioners through cross-sector conversations.

Building on this journey, the Bengaluru edition brought together founders, CEOs, HR leaders and organisational development practitioners from across the social impact sector to explore how organisations can strengthen leadership, talent and organisational development while preparing for an AI-enabled future. Following the Delhi edition earlier this year, the conclave continued creating space for leaders to exchange ideas and shape the future of people leadership across the sector.



Opening the conclave, Rahul Balakrishnan, Co-founder, Arthan, reflected on a pattern he has observed over a decade of working with mission-driven organisations. While organisations invest significant effort in hiring talented people, they often overlook the systems that help those people succeed. He encouraged leaders to invest as much in building their organisations as they do in building their programmes, highlighting the importance of clear roles, decision-

making, processes and feedback. As he put it, "Strong systems actually free up people. They don't constrain them." Reflecting on Arthan's ten-year journey, Gayathri Shastri, Team Principal, Arthan, spoke about the organisation's work alongside mission-driven organisations to strengthen leadership and organisational capacity, sharing how these milestones have shaped Arthan's understanding of what organisations need to grow and endure.

EDITORIAL

THE REVANTH BLUEPRINT: Balancing High-Stakes Governance with Realpolitik in Telangana



- By Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula
Bureau Chief, The South India Times

HYDERABAD,Telangana’s political landscape has shifted from a one-party hegemony into a fiercely competitive, multi-polar battleground. Since steering the Indian National Congress back to power, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has operated not merely as an administrative steward, but as a political architect intent on fortifying his party’s hold on the state for years to come. As the government moves past its initial honeymoon period, a clear, high,stakes reelection strategy is coming into focus. Confronted by an aggressively expanding BJP on one side and a resilient BRS fighting for its survival on the other, Reddy’s playbook is a calculated mix of civic toughness, mega-infrastructure projects, targeted rural welfare, and unyielding political realpolitik. Governance as Political Muscle: The HYDRAA and FTL Precedent The creation of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) stands out as one of the most defining governance initiatives of this administration. By granting HYDRAA broad authority to identify and demolish unauthorized encroachments within Full Tank Level (FTL) zones and lake buffer boundaries across Greater Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy has seized the narrative on urban governance. The Political Dividend: Tackling lake encroachments directly addresses the recurring urban floods that plague Hyderabad’s middle class during the monsoon. The Image Projection: Demonstrating a willingness to bulldoze structures linked to influential real estate cartels,regardless of party affiliation,is designed to project the Chief Minister as an uncompromising leader who puts public interest above political expediency.

■ Transforming the Capital: Musi Rejuvenation and Beyond

To counter opposition criticisms that a welfare-focused Congress government would neglect big,ticket development, the administration has pivoted toward transformative urban infrastructure. The Musi Riverfront Development: Envisioned as a multi-billion-dollar rejuvenation of the river stretch, the project aims to clean, restore, and commercialize the riverbed, turning it into an economic corridor inspired by global riverfront models. Future City & Skills University: By expanding urban planning beyond the Outer Ring Road and launching the Young India Skills University, Reddy is signaling to global investors that Telangana’s economic momentum remains on track, while offering young voters a clear path toward employment. The Welfare Anchor: Streamlining the Guarantees Welfare remains the foundation of Telangana’s electoral politics. The Congress party’s Abhaya Hastham promises,ranging from free transit for women under the Maha Lakshmi scheme and subsidized LPG cylinders to crop loan waivers,were vital to winning the mandate. Reddy’s focus has shifted from making promises to institutionalizing delivery mechanisms. By ensuring reliable, direct.benefit payouts to farmers, women, and low-income families, the government aims to build a dependable rural voter base and counter BRS claims that only KCR’s party understands state welfare. Neutralizing the BRS and Squeezing the Opposition Administrative reform is only half the battle; the other half is raw political organization. Revanth Reddy’s approach to the opposition is methodical. Eroding the BRS Base: Through strategic inductions of senior BRS leaders, legislators, and key municipal operators into the Congress fold, the administration is eroding the opposition’s booth.level machinery in key districts. Focused Accountability Probes: Active investigations by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and judicial commissions into past deals most notably the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme,keep the BRS leadership on the defensive. Engineering a Bipolar Race: Congress vs. BJP Following recent parliamentary elections where the BJP made notable gains in Telangana, Revanth Reddy’s long-term goal has been to reframe the political landscape into a direct Congress vs. BJP contest. By pushing the BRS into a secondary position, the administration hopes to consolidate backward classes, minorities, and undecided voters behind Congress. Framing the contest around national vs. state priorities forces voters to choose between the ruling state party and the central power in New Delhi, leaving little room for a third regional contender. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is executing a calculated political strategy designed for durability. By pairing strict urban enforcement (HYDRAA and FTL restoration) with ambitious development projects (Musi Riverfront), targeted social safety nets (guarantees), and assertive political maneuvering, he is building a comprehensive framework for the next election. Whether this strategy successfully carries Congress through to the next mandate will depend on how effectively these ambitious projects are delivered on the ground. However, one thing is clear: Revanth Reddy is setting the terms of engagement, forcing both the BRS and the BJP to play on a field of his making.

Edit

FOOTBALL TAKES BACK SEAT:

THE UNTOLD COST OF SPAIN'S WORLD CUP 2026 TRIUMPH

The FIFA World Cup 2026 promised to open new doors, reach a wider audience, and mark the beginning of a new chapter with 48 teams participating for the first time. While there's no denying that the expanded tournament gave hope to several of those nations that had stopped dreaming of participating in the 'Greatest Show on Earth', it also hinted at how catastrophic it could be if politics were allowed to infiltrate sports. As the tournament concludes with Spain's triumphant performance against defending champions Argentina in the final, the sporting world isn't only buzzing about the footballing drama that unfolded in North America, but also about the precedent set when commercial expansion and geopolitical realities diluted the most loved game on the globe. For decades, international football federations have balanced the global expansion of the game against accessibility for local and international supporters. In 2026, the sheer cost of attending-from elevated ticket pricing to dynamic surges in host city accommodation-raised pertinent questions about whether traditional fans were being forced out of the game.

Even if the financial barrier was crossed, non-sporting political friction became the second hurdle that saw many fall. The case of Somali referee Omar Artan, who was named the CAF's Referee of the Year, drew international attention. Despite holding valid travel documentation, Artan was denied entry by US immigration authorities in Miami under strict border-vetting protocols. Even FIFA couldn't intervene, leaving Artan with no option but to return home. Similar geopolitical tension affected the Iranian national team, whose delegation faced stringent visa and logistical restrictions that required them to base operations in Mexico and commute under tight timelines for fixtures held in the US. Iran



was even asked to return to its base in Tijuana immediately after the game, creating a logistical nightmare for players that they found tough to recover from between matches. FIFA and global bodies have often advocated open-access ideals, but implementation is frequently overlooked.

Political Neutrality Blurred

In its rulebook, FIFA mandates political neutrality and states that football governance must remain independent of state interference. However, the lifting of USA striker Folarin Balogun's one-match ban is a prime example of how the line between politics and sports was blurred in this tournament. After receiving a red card during

a Round of 32 fixture against Bosnia and Herzegovina, Balogun was facing an automatic one-match ban. US President Donald Trump intervened and reportedly called FIFA chief Gianni Infantino three times, asking for his intervention in the matter. Eventually, FIFA's Disciplinary Committee froze the suspension under Article 27 of its code, placing Balogun on probation and clearing him to play in the Round of 16 against Belgium. Though the decision arguably ended up putting more pressure on the US team and Balogun, European football authorities (including UEFA) and rival associations expressed concern over the precedent, saying the action was strictly against FIFA's own

anti-politics protocol.

A World Cup Broken To Suit US Taste

From an operational standpoint, the 2026 edition of the World Cup was broken and re-moulded into a format to match American broadcast and event-management standards.With matches scheduled across extreme climate conditions and designed to maximise prime-time advertising slots, mid-half cooling breaks became standard practice, functionally altering the match rhythm into distinct quarters-breaking a flow that has been central to the way football is played for years. What was mind-boggling was the fact that the FIFA World Cup final saw the half-time window being

broadened to accommodate a show that purists, including Wayne Rooney, branded 'crap'. The half-time break in the final lasted for nearly 30 minutes to accommodate large-scale musical performances, often witnessed in models used by North American sports leagues. Critics strongly believe that this over-commercialisation prioritises broadcast revenue and corporate sponsors over the traditional integrity and physical demands of the 90-minute game. If the trend continues, football as we know it may start to go extinct.

What Next For Football?

While this World Cup has clearly demonstrated FIFA's capability to stage an unprecedentedly large event, it has also exposed how far the sport's governing body is willing to go to suit its commercial and political interests.

When financial growth and geopolitical influence dominate the conversation surrounding a World Cup, the reputation of an international sport like football is eroded. Restoring confidence before future expansion cycles will require FIFA to establish stronger safeguards, ensuring the soul of the game continues to be protected from outside interests. Argentina stood on the cusp of becoming the third team to defend its FIFA World Cup title. It did not happen. They were completely dominated by Spain and lost in extra time. After the loss, Argentina received a grand welcome at the airport, complete with a red carpet and a military band, when they returned home. Despite the team failing to defend the title, the fans showed their support for the national team, as thousands gathered outside the Argentine Football Association (AFA) office near Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza. After landing, the aircraft was moved to the private flight area (FBO) to facilitate the arrival of the delegation.

Will the Government Yield to the Massive Protest at Jantar Mantar?

Saurabh Varshney

In India's democratic history, Jantar Mantar has evolved from a mere geographical location into a symbol of the expression of public sentiment. The anti-corruption movement launched in 2011 under the leadership of Anna Hazare propelled this site to the center stage of national politics. Today, the voices of students, youth, and social activists are once again echoing at Jantar Mantar. This raises a natural question: could this movement also take a historic turn similar to the Anna movement? And if so, would the government be compelled to yield? There are clear similarities between the two movements. The first is the element of public sentiment. Just as there was widespread discontent regarding corruption in 2011, today there is significant resentment over issues such as the examination system, alleged question paper leaks, the future of the youth, and accountability. The ongoing protest at Jantar Mantar has recently captured the attention of students and youth across the country, creating a possibility for dialogue between the government and the protesters. The second similarity lies in symbolic leadership; Anna Hazare used the hunger strike as a tool for exerting moral pressure. Similarly, the current movement has sought to

garner public sympathy through hunger strikes and peaceful demonstrations. The third similarity is that both movements generated widespread discourse through social media and mass communication channels. Today, the power of digital media is far greater than it was in 2011, allowing the movement's reach to expand rapidly. Nevertheless, it would be premature to assume that every major sit-in protest will transform into an "Anna movement." The central issue of the Anna movement was corruption—a problem that affected virtually every segment of society—and it was backed by a clear national agenda: the Jan Lokpal. On the other hand, the current movement focuses primarily on issues related to education, the examination system, and the youth. While these issues are extremely important, it remains unclear whether they can garner sustained, widespread social support. Another major difference lies in the political climate. In 2011, the then-government was besieged by allegations of numerous scams, and the opposition reaped significant political dividends from the movement. The current political landscape is different; the central government enjoys a strong parliamentary position, and its strategy for handling protests is considered more organized than in the past.

Hidden cameras in changing rooms

(There is a need for strict checks on misuse of technology)

-Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Every civilized society is defined by the importance it places on the dignity, privacy, and security of its citizens. Protecting the privacy of women, in particular, is a fundamental responsibility of any democratic system. However, when privacy is violated in places where people feel most secure—like changing rooms, trial rooms, photo studios, gyms, beauty parlors, or hotels—it becomes not just a criminal incident but a warning to society as a whole. The discovery of a hidden camera in the changing room of a photo studio on Nirankari Road in Hisar has shocked every sensitive citizen. According to reports, a young woman who had arrived for a photo shoot noticed something suspicious on the wall while changing clothes. She checked the room with her mobile phone's flashlight and discovered a hidden camera. She immediately informed the police, who then took action, confiscating the camera, and arresting the studio operator. This action is commendable, but more importantly, this incident should not be dismissed as merely a police case, but should be viewed as a serious warning to society, the administration, and the law. This incident leaves many questions unanswered. Was this the first camera installed? Has anyone been recorded before? If so, where is it stored? Was it shared with anyone? Could other people have been victims of

this crime? Scientific and digital forensic investigation of all these aspects is crucial. In such cases, simply recovering the camera is not enough; examining every digital evidence associated with it is equally important. Technology has made our lives easier, but its misuse has become a dangerous weapon in the hands of criminals. Today, ultra-small cameras are readily available. They can be hidden in watches, pens, chargers, smoke detectors, bulbs, hooks, power banks, or decorative items. They are difficult for the average person to detect. This is why such crimes are increasing rapidly, and victims often remain unaware for years that their private activities have been recorded. Such crimes not only violate privacy but also have a profound impact on a person's mental health. If a woman discovers that someone has made a video recording of her changing clothes, she is not only a legal victim but also experiences long-term mental stress, fear, shame, and social pressure. In many cases, victims also face depression, guilt, and social isolation. Therefore, such crimes should be considered not merely technical offenses but an assault on human dignity. Another important aspect of this incident is the breakdown of trust. Anyone entering a photo studio believes their privacy will be protected. If people begin to feel unsafe in such establishments, the foundation of trust in society weakens. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every photo studio, beauty parlor, gym, trial room, and hotel operator to ensure transparency and

security within their establishment. If an employee or operator engages in such behavior, it has a detrimental effect on the entire business. The law takes such crimes seriously. Recording, preserving, sharing, or broadcasting a person's private activities without their permission is a punishable offense under various legal provisions. If the recording is for the purpose of creating pornographic material or blackmailing, the offense becomes even more serious. Therefore, prompt investigation, preservation of digital evidence, and timely justice are essential in such cases. The role of the police should not be limited to registering an FIR. Investigating agencies should also ensure that all digital devices, including cameras, are seized, including hard drives, memory cards, computers, mobile phones, and cloud storage. If any content has been uploaded to the internet or social media, the process of removing it immediately and obtaining cooperation from the relevant platforms should also be expedited. The government must also take concrete steps in this direction. Periodic safety audits should be made mandatory for establishments such as photo studios, trial rooms, beauty parlors, hotels, and gyms. Surprise inspections should be conducted by local authorities, and strict action should be taken if safety standards are found to be violated. Simply issuing licenses is not enough; monitoring is also essential. Raising awareness about digital security among women and youth is also the need of the hour. Conducting a general

inspection before entering any changing room, paying attention to walls, mirrors, chargers, smoke detectors, or other unusual objects, and immediately reporting any suspicious items to management and the police—these small precautions can prevent many major crimes. However, it should be clear that the primary responsibility for security lies with the establishment, not the customer. Educational institutions should also offer special courses or awareness programs on digital ethics and the right to privacy. Today's youth need to understand that taking, sharing, or misusing someone's private photos or videos is not a prank, but a serious crime. Education on digital citizenship is now as important as education on road safety or environmental protection. The role of the media is also crucial. Protecting the identity and privacy of victims should be a top priority when reporting such cases. Sensationalism or presenting events as entertainment should be avoided. The media's objective should be to raise awareness and strengthen the justice process. Society also needs to change its mindset. Often, in such cases, the victim is questioned—why she went there, what she was wearing, how many times she changed clothes, etc. This approach is completely unfair. The perpetrator is the one who violated privacy. Victim blaming emboldens the perpetrators and discourages victims from filing complaints. In the Hisar incident, the young woman's vigilance may have uncovered a major crime.

War Toll:

India's Crude Import Bill Shoots 61% In April-June Despite Slip In Volume

India's crude oil import bill surged 61.2% year-on-year to \$49.8 billion in the April-June quarter despite a 4.5% decline in import volumes, as crude prices stayed above \$100 a barrel amid the West Asia conflict. Data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) showed that India imported 59.8 million tonnes of crude oil in the first quarter, down 4.5% from 62.6 million tonnes in the corresponding period last year. Despite the decline in volumes, the import bill ballooned as benchmark crude prices stayed above \$100 a barrel for much of the quarter amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The higher import cost underscores the vulnerability of India's energy import bill to fluctuations in global crude prices, given that the country relies on imports for



more than 85% of its oil requirements. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports also reflected a similar trend. LNG supplies declined 8.6% year-on-year to 7,674 million standard cubic metres (MSCM) during the April-June period. However, the LNG import bill rose nearly 6% to \$3.6

billion, as international gas prices remained elevated. Meanwhile, imports of petroleum products witnessed a sharp contraction. Volumes fell 42% year-on-year to 7.1 million tonnes, indicating lower overseas purchases of refined fuels during the quarter. The latest PPAC data suggests that

while India curtailed physical imports of crude and LNG, elevated international energy prices significantly inflated the country's import expenditure. The trend could keep pressure on the trade deficit and fuel import costs if geopolitical tensions continue to support high global oil prices.

INDIAN HOTELS Q1 RESULTS: PROFIT JUMPS 27% AS MARGINS IMPROVE; REVENUE CROSSES RS 2,300 CRORE

The Indian Hotels Co. Ltd. saw a 26.8% uptick in its consolidated net profit to Rs 376 crore, compared to Rs 296 crore in the year ago period, as per an exchange filing from the company on Tuesday. The firm's revenue increased by 14.6% to Rs 2,339 crore, compared to Rs 2,041 crore in the preceding financial year.

The firm's Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) saw a 16.8% increase to Rs 673 crore from the previous fiscal's Rs 576 crore. The company's Ebitda Margin expanded to 28.8% from 28.2%.

Indian Hotels Q1 Result Highlights (Cons, YoY) Net profit rises 26.8% at Rs 376 crore versus Rs 296 crore. Revenue rises 14.6% at Rs 2,339 crore versus Rs 2,041 crore. Ebitda rises 16.8% at Rs 673 crore versus Rs 576 crore. Margin at 28.8% versus



28.2%. Indian Hotels Stock Price Movement

The Indian Hotels Co. Ltd.'s share price saw a 0.90% uptick to Rs 731.60, at the end of the day's trade, compared to a 0.21% downturn of the NSE Nifty 50.

The stock opened at Rs 729.00, compared to its previous close of Rs 725.05. During today's trading session, The Indian Hotels Company Ltd. share price moved in the range of Rs 716.00 to Rs 750.00. Looking at its last 52-week performance, the stock

has touched a low of Rs 565.00 and a high of Rs 811.95. On the performance front, The Indian Hotels Company Ltd. share price is down 5.20% on a year-on-year basis. The market capitalization of The Indian Hotels Company Ltd. is Rs 1.10 Lakh Cr, with a P/E ratio of 66.23. Indian Hotels' Q1 FY26-27 revenue increased by 14.6% to Rs 2,339 crore, compared to Rs 2,041 crore in the preceding financial year. ndian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) presented its first-quarter fis-

cal 2027 results on July 21, 2026, showcasing what the company described as its 17th consecutive best-ever quarter. The presentation highlighted sustained momentum across its diversified hotel portfolio despite facing headwinds from geopolitical tensions, reduced airline capacity, and higher fuel costs. The company's stock rose 0.9% to \$731.60 following the presentation, positioning shares near the upper end of their 52-week range of \$565 to \$811.95. IHCL's performance demonstrated the resilience of India's hospitality sector, with domestic demand offsetting weakness in international markets. The presentation emphasized the company's tagline "Diversified by Design, Built to Compound," reflecting its strategic approach to balancing owned, leased, and managed properties across multiple brand segments.

FROM CAMPAIGNS TO DECISIONS:

Mobavenue AI Unveils New Brand Identity and Launches the Mobavenue Neural Engine

Mumbai, July 21, 2026. Mobavenue AI Tech Limited (BSE: INE622Q01027), an AI-native technology company operating across advertising, marketing and consumer growth, today unveiled its new brand identity and announced the launch of the Mobavenue Neural Engine, an AI intelligence layer built across its advertising technology platforms. The announcement marks a shift the company has been working towards for years: from executing campaigns to helping marketers make decisions. The business moved first. The brand followed. Mobavenue's story begins before the company did. Two 17-year-old engineering students, Tejas Rathod and Kunal Kothari, experimenting with code and digital advertising, wanted to understand how technology shapes consumer attention. That curiosity became a digital marketing agency in 2017. In the years that followed, as the business began rebuilding itself from a services model into a product platform, Ishank Joshi joined as the third founder, and the pivot gathered pace. Today, Mobavenue is a product-led AdTech and consumer



growth platform with 200+ employees serving more than 150 brands across 10+ markets. The company stayed bootstrapped through that entire journey, listing publicly in 2025 while continuing to invest in its proprietary technology stack, GMP 360. The rebrand, the company says, is not the start of a transformation. It is an acknowledgement of one that has already happened. Ishank Joshi, Founder, MD and CEO, Mobavenue AI Tech Limited, said: "Every major shift in advertising has been driven by technology. Search changed discovery,

social changed distribution, programmatic changed decisioning, and AI is now changing direction by transforming advertising towards intent, intelligence, and impact. We found ourselves building for that shift long before we changed our logo. The new identity simply catches up with the company we have become, and the Neural Engine is the clearest expression of where we are headed: AI-powered advertising and consumer growth infrastructure, built from India, that helps brands achieve measurable outcomes at scale."

The Mobavenue Neural Engine

At the center of this next chapter is the Mobavenue Neural Engine, an AI intelligence layer that unifies the advertising lifecycle within a single system. Built on Mobavenue's core growth platforms, it enables marketers to move from planning to a live campaign in under 59 seconds. The engine is not a standalone assistant. It sits across Mobavenue's A3 framework of Awareness, Acquisition and Activation, empowering the company's products across the full marketing funnel through four integrated capabilities:

- Planning: generates marketing plans from brand objectives, audience insights and market intelligence, customised by budget, category or objective
 - Execution: launches campaigns directly from the platform, compressing launch timelines from days to under a minute
 - Creative Intelligence: generates advertising creatives and recommends placements across Connected TV, OTT, music and youth platforms
 - Conversational Reporting: lets marketers ask performance questions in natural language and receive instant insights across impressions, conversions, audiences and channels
- Tejas Rathod, Founder and CTO, Mobavenue AI Tech Limited, said: "Marketing teams lose an extraordinary amount of time to fragmented workflows. Plan in one tool, launch in another, brief creative separately, then dig through dashboards to understand what happened. Much of the industry's current research on AI maturity in marketing, a conversation we have contributed to as practitioners, points to the same gap: adoption is high, but integration is not.

On World Cleft Awareness Day, Smile Train India Marks 800,000+ Free Surgeries and a Renewed Push for Early Diagnosis of Clefts

July 21, 2026: As India marks a major surgical milestone, Smile Train India's network of 2 active partner hospitals in Andhra Pradesh has supported over 8,000 free cleft surgeries, underscoring the need to shift the focus from treatment to early diagnosis and awareness. World Cleft Awareness Day (WCAD), observed globally on July 20, was introduced by Smile Train in 2025 to bring cleft lip and palate into mainstream public health conversations and ensure every child born with a cleft has access to timely, comprehensive treatment. This year, Smile Train India, the country's leading cleft-focused NGO, celebrates a proud milestone: over 800,000 free cleft surgeries supported for children across the country since 2000. Building on this achievement, the organisation is now turning its attention to the next frontier of impact, raising awareness so that every child born with a cleft is identified early and given the chance to thrive. Nearly 35,000 children are born with clefts in India every year, yet many miss the critical window for treatment due to myths, misinformation, and stigma. Delayed care can lead



to feeding difficulties, malnutrition, speech and hearing impairment, and long-term social and emotional challenges. Early diagnosis and timely surgery are key to better outcomes and access to comprehensive care. World Cleft Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness, dispel misconceptions, and ensure every child born with a cleft receives timely treatment. Smile Train India treats surgery as one part of a larger picture. Its holistic model includes nutritional support, speech therapy, and orthodontic treatment, helping children thrive fully in life. Underpinning this is a sustainability-first strategy: Smile Train India trains and empowers local surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses, and multidisciplinary cleft teams to deliver care locally. By strengthening

partner hospitals, the organisation ensures children can access high-quality, free cleft care close to home, while building healthcare capacity that outlasts any single intervention. This year's awareness push has drawn wide-ranging support, with partners, donors, ambassadors, cleft affected individuals and families, well-wishers, and the broader community coming together to mark WCAD, many taking to social media and other platforms to share their voices and extend the conversation beyond the medical community and into everyday households. We've made real progress expanding access to treatment, but awareness remains our toughest battle," said Mamta Carroll, Senior Vice President and Regional Director – Asia, Smile Train.

Cars24 Strengthens Presence in Visakhapatnam with New Customer Hub at Celest Mall



Visakhapatnam, July 20, 2026: Cars24, India's leading AutoTech platform, today announced the launch of its newest customer hub at Celest Mall, expanding its retail network in Visakhapatnam and bringing its technology-led car buying and selling experience closer to customers across the city. The new hub reflects Cars24's continued investment in Visakhapatnam, making its services more accessible while enhancing the overall customer experience through a stronger on-ground presence. The Celest Mall hub will serve as a key cus-

tomers touchpoint for Cars24, enabling buyers and sellers to access the company's integrated automotive ecosystem. Customers will benefit from end-to-end support across buying and selling, vehicle inspections, financing assistance, and an ownership journey that seamlessly combines digital convenience with the assurance of physical touchpoints. Speaking on the launch, Vikram Chopra, Builder, Cars24, said: "Visakhapatnam is an important and fast-growing market for us, and we're seeing customers increasingly value

a seamless, technology-enabled car buying and selling experience. The new hub at Celest Mall allows us to serve more customers across the city while making our services even more accessible. As we continue to invest in our retail network, our focus remains on delivering a simpler, faster and more trustworthy end-to-end ownership journey for every customer." Located at Shop No. 11, 1st Floor, Celest Mall, Old Gajuwaka, Chaitanya Nagar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh – 530026, the facility will provide customers

with access to Cars24's comprehensive suite of services, including vehicle buying and selling support, inspections, financing assistance and a seamless digital-to-physical experience. The new hub is part of Cars24's broader strategy to invest in high-potential automotive markets while bringing its integrated ecosystem closer to customers. As the company continues to expand its retail footprint, it remains focused on simplifying every stage of car ownership through technology, trust and convenience.

Paramount and Warner Bros mega merger paused by judge

A US federal judge has temporarily blocked the proposed \$110bn (£85bn) merger between media giants Paramount Skydance and Warner Bros Discovery. The decision follows a lawsuit brought by a coalition of 12 US states, including California and New York, aiming to halt the deal over concerns it would stifle competition and raise consumer prices. Prosecutors representing the states said merging two major studios would cause "substantial harm on movie theatres, basic cable distributors, and, ultimately, audiences nationwide". In response, the media giants argued that the states had misread the market and that merging would improve streaming efficiency. US district judge Araceli Martínez-Olguin issued the temporary restraining order on Monday following legal arguments heard last week. Under the 14-day injunction, neither company can finalise the deal or start joining the businesses



together. In her ruling, the judge noted that the state coalition raised "serious questions" regarding the deal's impact on movie distribution. She warned that allowing the merger to proceed now would make it "extraordinarily difficult to unscramble the egg" if the court decided later to block it all together. Judge Martínez-Olguin also pushed back against the companies' arguments, highlighting that "public's vital interest in antitrust

enforcement" outweighed any temporary delay to the merger. She said that Paramount and Warner Bros "will continue to operate as separate, viable companies competing in the marketplace" while legal proceedings continue. Combining Paramount and Warner Bros would end a century of fierce rivalry between two of Hollywood's biggest hit-makers. Between them, they own legendary franchises like Harry Potter,

Batman, Mission: Impossible, and Top Gun, as well as TV channels CNN, MTV and Nickelodeon. If the deal does end up going ahead, the new company would account for over a quarter of major film releases. The decision delivers a sharp temporary blow to both media giants as they seek to navigate an increasingly tough streaming landscape. The next court hearing dates have been set for August.

LEBANESE ARMY SAYS TROOPS DEPLOYING IN 'PILOT ZONE' AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL



Lebanon's army says its troops have begun deploying to a "pilot zone" in the south of the country following the withdrawal of Israeli forces under a US-brokered agreement reached last month. A statement from the army command said units had entered the village of Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh in Nabatieh district on Tuesday morning. On Monday night, Israel's military confirmed the start of the pilot zone plan, which should see Israeli troops pulling out of a small part of the territory occupied during their conflict with Hezbollah as well as the disarmament of the Iran-backed group. It comes ahead of a meeting in Washington between US President Donald Trump and his Lebanese counterpart, Joseph Aoun. Aoun is expected to urge Trump to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from the rest of southern Lebanon and to

provide support to the Lebanese army to take full control of areas where Hezbollah holds sway. The US state department announced on Monday afternoon that "pilot zone operations" had begun in Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh and two other Lebanese villages, Froun and Srafa, in line with the Trilateral Framework agreement between Israel, Lebanon and the US. It said the "milestone" was the direct result of discussions last week between Israeli and Lebanese representatives in Rome. Later on Monday, an Israeli military official confirmed that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) would "adjust its force posture in one of the pilot areas" to allow the Lebanese army to carry out its mission, while also "safeguarding the security of IDF soldiers and preserving its right to self-defence and to remove threats".



■ Dozens hurt in Bologna protests after man dies while being restrained by police

Trump slaps 50% tariffs on Canada and Carney vows to 'intensify' trade talks

US President Donald Trump has imposed a 50% tariff on a wide range of goods imported from Canada, in retaliation for what he called "unequal treatment" of US cars, dairy and alcohol. Everyday consumer items like wine and hockey sticks and industrial goods such as cement are among the goods targeted. However, several key exports will be spared, such as energy, potash, critical minerals and fish. Prime Minister Mark Carney responded by saying Canada stood ready to "intensify" trade talks with the US in the coming weeks. The White House said the duties would take effect in 30 days. It marks a major escalation in trade tensions between the North American neighbours.



Trade tensions have been simmering since Trump returned to office in January 2025 and unleashed a wide-ranging global programme of tariffs, sometimes to pursue objectives not directly linked to trade. Tariffs are taxes on imported goods that are paid to the government by companies bringing in the foreign prod-

ucts. The US Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that many of Trump's tariffs imposed globally under emergency powers were illegally enacted. But Trump has recently sought other legal avenues through which to enact his agenda, and his latest action on Monday night uses a different, obscure law that is untested

in court. Canada, which is one of the US's closest trading partners, was one of the few countries to retaliate last year against Trump's tariffs. It placed a 25% levy of its own on about C\$30bn (£16bn; \$21.7bn) worth of US goods being brought into Canada. Carney later dropped some of them. A White House fact sheet published on Monday discussing the new tariffs said they applied regardless of whether the product was included under the existing free trade agreement between Canada, the US and Mexico, known as the USMCA. The new tariffs add to trade barriers already in place between the two nations. The US has been maintaining active tariffs ranging from 15% to 50% on Canadian steel, aluminium and copper.

ROW ESCALATES IN UKRAINE OVER ARMY CHIEF'S FUTURE



Protesters in Ukraine have threatened nationwide demonstrations if Mykhailo Fedorov is not reinstated as defence minister, as President Volodymyr Zelensky scrambles to quell outrage over the decision to oust him. Over the past week, thousands in Kyiv and other cities have taken to the streets to protest against Fedorov's removal and demand the dismissal of Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander of Ukraine's armed forces. Army veteran Dmytro Koziatynskyi said in a social media post that if Syrskyi is not dismissed by Friday and Fedorov reinstated, "we will begin an open-ended nationwide protest". No protests are scheduled before then, and Ukraine is waiting, anxiously, for a resolution. Over the weekend, Ukrainian media reported that Zelensky was consulting ministers and generals in an effort to resolve the crisis. Amid a welter of rumours, the general staff was forced to deny reports that Gen Syrskyi was about to be – or even had already been – sacked. Another report suggested that Fedorov had refused an offer to return to a different position in government. Kyrylo Budanov, head of the president's office, urged Ukrainians to remain calm. "The situation surrounding the latest internal changes has caused strong emotions," he wrote on Tuesday. With the noisy calls of angry protesters echoing around the tight confines of Ivana Franka Square, within earshot of the presidential

palace, Budanov said the government was taking note. With large numbers of demonstrators directing their anger towards Gen Syrskyi – seen by many as representing outdated Soviet-era military doctrines, Budanov, a former head of military intelligence, warned people "not to hate anyone". "The enemy is closely monitoring our every internal dispute and is waiting for us to start fighting among ourselves," he wrote. "The work is under way. There will be results." On Monday, the beleaguered but usually silent 60-year-old Gen Syrskyi hit back against his critics, publishing a long defence of his record and urging readers not to focus on his widely-reported rivalry with 35-year-old Mykhailo Fedorov. Despite Zelensky's claim last week that the two men could not even bear to sit in the same room, Syrskyi said it had been a surprise to learn that he had a conflict with the minister. "I perceived our relationship as a working one," he wrote in an op-ed for the Military website. "If I offended anyone, Mykhailo Albertovych [Fedorov], I'm sorry." The general said the issues of military contracts, procurement and mobilisation currently being aired in the press and boiled down to pithy slogans on pieces of cardboard carried aloft by protestors were a great deal more complicated than most people realised. "Decisions on which people's lives depend are not made with slogans," he said.

US launches fresh strikes on Iran, as Trump warns of retaliation for deaths of soldiers

The US military says it launched another round of strikes against Iran to "further degrade" its capabilities to attack ships in the Strait of Hormuz. The 10th consecutive night of strikes took place after US President Donald Trump vowed to punish Iran for the deaths of US soldiers. In response, Iran said it struck two oil tankers in the waterway, as well as US military assets in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, state news agency IRNA reported. President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran was now fighting a "full-scale war" with the US. Trump earlier said Iran had been hit "very hard" the previous night "in honour" of three US soldiers killed recently - two in Jordan and one in Iraq. US Central Command (Centcom) said its latest strikes had hit Iranian "military command centres, maritime capabilities, missile and drone launch sites, and air defence systems". Explosions were reported near the north-



western city of Tabriz, where state media said one person was killed and several wounded, as well as the Gulf ports of Bandar Mahshahr and Bandar Imam Khomeini and the south-eastern ports of Chabahar and Konarak. Centcom also insisted that commercial vessels were continuing to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran meanwhile said its forces struck two oil tankers as they attempted to transit through what it called the strait's "unsafe and hazardous southern route" and rescue teams were picking up their crews, according to state media.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency (UKMTO) said a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz had reported being struck by an unknown projectile, forcing its crew to abandon the vessel and board a lifeboat. It was not clear whether the tanker reported by UKMTO was among those cited by Iran. Six fuel tankers and cargo ships crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, according to preliminary data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler. Two of these vessels had previously been sanctioned by the US for links with Iran. This

is down from eight vessels crossing on 19 July, the data shows. All but one of the crossings made on 20 July were via the northern route near Iran. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also claimed to have targeted a data centre belonging to the US company Amazon in Bahrain, according to state media on Tuesday. The IRGC "attacked and destroyed the central data infrastructure of the American company Amazon in Bahrain with several cruise missiles," state news agency IRNA reported. Jordan said on Tuesday that it had intercepted five drones after saying it had shot down three missiles late on Monday. Bahrain said drones launched by Iran had targeted its air navigation systems - but traffic remained unaffected. Kuwait's armed forces also said they had intercepted Iranian drones. Later on Tuesday Kuwait said Iran had hit several power and water desalination plants the previous day.

Shock and anger after top Ghanaian politician sentenced to 20 years for illegal mining



Ghana's main opposition party has reacted with anger after one of its most influential leaders was sentenced to 20 years in jail, with hard labour, for illegal mining offences. The New Patriotic Party (NPP) alleged that the landmark judgement against Bernard Antwi Boasiako, the party's chairman for the Ashanti region, was politically motivated. Popularly known as "Chairman Wontumi", Boasiako is the first senior politician in Ghana to be convicted of illegal mining since the government began a crackdown on the practice in 2017. As well as receiving a jail sentence, Boasiako,

who had denied the charges, was ordered to pay more than \$10,000 (£7,450) in fines. He looked visibly shocked when the judge handed down the sentence in a court in the capital, Accra, on Monday. The NPP politician was found guilty of "assigning mineral rights without approval" and "facilitating an unlicensed mining operation" through his company, Akonta Mining. Ghana is Africa's leading gold producer, but a large portion of the country's waters and environment have been polluted by illegal mining, known as locally as "galamsey". Over the years, governments have attempted to tackle the problem, even deploying the military, to little effect. Following Boasiako's conviction, NPP general secretary Justin Kodua Frimpong told reporters: "The fight against illegal mining cannot become credible only when it targets political opponents in respect of whom evidence of wrongdoing does not exist."



Israeli air strike in Gaza City kills family of six, medics say

'Anti-ICE' army veteran started fire outside Manhattan federal building, say officials

A former US Army soldier has been arrested after igniting a fire in front of a federal building in New York City, says the FBI. Andrew Arrabaca, 43, allegedly shot a pellet gun and set off fireworks on Monday morning at 26 Federal Plaza, where the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and US Citizenship and Immigration Services have offices. Federal agents tackled the suspect, who they say was armed with a machete and other weapons. Three people sustained minor injuries in the incident, including an immigrant who was attending a status hearing, said the FBI. The lower Manhattan site has become a flashpoint for protests against President Donald



Trump's immigration policies. The suspect, whom the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) called an "anti-ICE rioter", launched fireworks before pouring an accelerant on the stairs of an entrance to the building, causing a fire. The BBC has contacted DHS for comment. The fire department put out the blaze. Arrabaca "made several anti-government and anti-ICE state-

ments during the incident", the FBI said. FBI New York Assistant Director James Barnacle said during a news conference that Arrabaca was armed with two axes, a machete, three knives and fireworks. He fired about five to seven pellets from an airsoft gun in the direction of the building, Barnacle said. Of those injured, two were government employees, Barnacle

Spain's Postal Service Honours FIFA World Cup 2026 Winners With Special Commemorative Stamp



Tilak Varma Gives Blunt Reply On 'Strike Rate' Chatter: "Doesn't Make Lot Of Sense"



The fall of early wickets in the UK and Ireland did not give middle order batters like him the license to go all guns blazing from the get go, said India T20 vice-captain Tilak Varma on Tuesday, insisting that his play is based on condi-

tions and match situations. Ahead of the first T20 against Zimbabwe on Thursday, Tilak was asked about the team's winless run in Ireland and England, its first tour after winning the T20 World Cup at home. Tilak's approach against slow bowlers too was questioned besides his strike rate though he did make a 25-ball 53 in the final T20 at Southampton. "In this game, you have to bat in different places, and especially in such conditions, it's not easy. At the same point, I always say that I do whatever is required for the team. If I have to play the waiting game for the team, then I will play accordingly. If I have to hit, then I hit and play.

Argentina's Premier League Trio Could Have UK Visas Revoked Over World Cup

Argentina's FIFA World Cup trio, Lisandro Martinez, Christian Romero and Enzo Fernandez, could have their UK visas revoked for their participation in the Falklands banner controversy that erupted after their team's win over England in the semi-finals. The incident triggered national outrage in the UK, with several politicians demanding that FIFA, the sport's governing body, sanction Argentina for mixing politics with sport. While FIFA has stated that it is investigating the matter, a formal sanction has yet to be issued. However, the English Premier League could suffer the consequences of Martinez, Romero and Fernandez's actions, even if Argentina escapes FIFA's wrath. According to a report in the Express UK, a legal expert has addressed whether the Argentinian



Premier League players could see their visas revoked, which would prevent them from rejoining their respective clubs for the 2026-27 Premier League season. Nile Gardiner, a former aide to Margaret Thatcher (who deployed British armed forces to reclaim the South Atlantic islands in 1982), wants the Argentinian duo's visas revoked: "Every Argentine player in the English Premier League who took part in this ugly anti-

British display should be stripped of their UK work visa. There should be zero tolerance for this." Fans in the UK have also been outraged by the Argentinian players' actions. One fan remarked: "I am deadly serious when I say any Argentina player who knew about the banner should have their visa revoked until they issue a full apology." A total of three players from Argentina's 2026 World Cup squad cur-

WHY LIONEL MESSI DID NOT TRAVEL WITH TEAM TO ARGENTINA AFTER FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 FINAL LOSS

Argentina stood on the cusp of becoming the third team to defend its FIFA World Cup title. It did not happen. They were completely dominated by Spain and lost in extra time. After the loss, Argentina received a grand welcome at the airport, complete with a red carpet and a military band, when they returned home. Despite the team failing to defend the title, the fans showed their support for the national team, as thousands gathered outside the Argentine Football Association (AFA) office near Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza. After landing, the aircraft was moved to the private flight area (FBO) to facilitate the arrival of the delegation. Coach Lionel Scaloni and the rest of the team were welcomed on the tarmac with a red carpet by the Grenadier Regiment to the rhythm of "Muchachos" and then by a multitude of fans in the surrounding area. Fans were holding white and blue umbrellas and wearing the No. 10 jersey of their team captain, Lionel Messi. However, the 39-year-old, who might have played his last game for the national team, was not present with the squad. The AFA had earlier announced that several team members would not be travelling, and Messi was among them. Messi's club, Inter Miami, will play its first match of the upcoming Major League Soccer season on July 23. Hence, Messi decided to stay back in the US to focus on his mental and physical recovery. However, he may not play in the initial matches after a hectic World Cup. As per some reports, Messi and



his Argentina and Inter Miami teammate Rodrigo De Paul will miss the matches against Chicago Fire FC on Wednesday, July 22, and CF Montreal on Saturday, July 25. Among the members of the delegation who returned to the country were players Emiliano Martinez, Juan Musso, Nicolas Otamendi, Lisandro Martinez, Nicolas Tagliafico, Gonzalo Montiel, Marcos Senesi, Valentin Barco, Leandro Paredes, Alexis Mac Allister, Exequiel Palacios, Giovanni Lo Celso, Thiago Almada, Cristian Medina, Nicolas Gonzalez, and Jose Manuel Lopez. The Argentine national team delegation was escorted under heavy security, and the players and members of the coaching staff travelled to the Lionel Andres Messi grounds in an open-top bus, greeting fans who had

gathered to offer a unified message of gratitude amid flags and chants. Along the route, hundreds of families, groups of friends, and fans gathered with jerseys, flags, and drums to greet the players. Many waited for several hours, hoping to catch a glimpse of the team and thank them for their efforts throughout the World Cup. Upon arriving at the Lionel Andres Messi Training Center, the members of the delegation were greeted by officials from the Argentine Football Association and staff from the complex. There, the return operation officially concluded for the national team. Lionel Messi says he felt he had "let everyone down" after his penalty miss against Egypt before inspiring Argentina to a 3-2 comeback win to reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

Quarter-miler Vishal TK Eyes Strong Debut In Commonwealth Games 2026

Riding high on confidence after a historic season that has firmly established him as one of the country's premier sprint talents, Indian quarter-miler Vishal TK is focused on delivering his best in his debut Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The 22-year-old created history earlier this year by becoming the first Indian man to break the 45-second barrier in the 400m, clocking 44.98 seconds to set the current Indian National Record in the event. A four-time national champion, Vishal has rapidly emerged as one of Asia's leading quarter-milers and now heads into his maiden CWG confident of producing a breakthrough performance. Vishal played a pivotal role in India's relay teams at the Asian Athletics Championships, winning



gold in the mixed 4x400m relay and silver in the men's 4x400m relay. Ranked among the top 60 men's 400m runners in the world, the 22-year-old is now one of India's leading hopes in the sprint events. "I'm entering the Commonwealth Games with a mindset to win. Months of hard work, honesty, discipline, consistency and self-belief have brought me to this stage, and I trust the process and my coach Jason

Dawson completely. My focus is on performing at my highest level and making every second count on the track," he said in a release issued by Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS). "I don't set limits on what I can achieve. I believe in pushing my boundaries every time I compete. Representing India is the biggest motivation, and I'll give everything I have to make the nation proud."

Kavya Maran Refuses To Comment On Row Over Signing Pakistan Star In The Hundred



Sunrisers Hyderabad and Sunrisers Leeds owner Kavya Maran refused to comment on the controversy surrounding Pakistan cricket team players in the Hundred. The move by the franchise to sign spinner Abrar Ahmed sparked a huge row, Maran was present during the auction and she decided to sign him for 190,000 Pounds (around Rs 2.45 crore). In a recent interview, Maran was asked about the incident but she just said that she was happy with both the men's and women's squads. "We are really happy with both our squads; we

have so many bases covered," Maran said in an interaction with The Telegraph. Meanwhile, England all-rounder Jacob Bethell has been ruled out of this year's The Hundred with a right knee injury, casting doubt over his availability for next month's Test series against Pakistan and depriving the rising star of a valuable opportunity to captain Birmingham Phoenix. Bethell suffered the injury during England's recent ODI series win over India and withdrew from the tournament after an MRI scan on Monday morning. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has not shared a timeline for his recovery. England's opening Test against Pakistan at Headingley is set to start on August 19.

'Asian Games Will Be Tougher Than CWG': Mary Kom On Indian Boxing Prospects



Ask her about the current state of Indian boxing and M C Mary Kom is not quite sure how to respond but the six-time world champion is hopeful that the pugilists will deliver a reasonably good medal haul at the Commonwealth Games even though a gold might just elude them. The six-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist (2012) is also a gold-winner at both the Commonwealth Games (2018) and the Asian Games (2010). In an exclusive interview to PTI, she opened up about her views on the current crop of boxers and how they are being shaped. "We will win medals but I don't expect gold. If it comes, I will be

happy. Asian Games is very tough though. In Commonwealth Games, we should be in at least the gold medal bouts. I pray we win everything," the 43-year-old Manipuri trailblazer said. "Boxing gave me everything in life and after getting so much from the sport how is it possible that I don't pray for those who would be competing? We are one family," she added but refused to take names that she feels have the best chance of being in the finals. Indian boxers had won seven medals at the previous CWG, including three gold and one silver. The contingent for the Glasgow Games, beginning July 23, comprises seven men and as many women.

Cristiano Ronaldo Fuels "FIFA Bias" Talks On Anti-Argentina Post

Claims of FIFA favouring Argentina over the course of the FIFA World Cup 2026 aren't new. However, the allegations have reached an unprecedented high after Cristiano Ronaldo was accused of 'liking' a post on Instagram that claimed as much. Ronaldo, who was eliminated in the Round of 16 with Portugal by eventual champions Spain, is said to have liked a video on an Instagram account named 'espejopublico', where the panellists spoke about different instances over the course of the World Cup where referees and the VAR (Video Assistant Referee) team seemingly favoured Lionel Messi's Argentina. In the video,

Spanish journalist Pilar Rodriguez Losantos compiled a clip highlighting multiple such instances. Losantos even stated: "Argentina should have been eliminated at least five matches ago! They're still in the tournament thanks to FIFA's help! So I'm not afraid of Argentina at all. I'm more afraid of Infantino. I don't think we're going to be playing against Argentina, but against the whole of FIFA, who want to hand the World Cup to Lionel Messi." Fans claimed that Ronaldo had liked the video, suggesting that he too believes the sport's governing body favoured Argentina. However, when NDTV conducted a fact-check, no like from the Portuguese icon's

account was found on the post. There are two possibilities here: either Ronaldo removed his like, or there never was one in the first place. Why do people feel FIFA favoured Argentina? In the 48-team FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign, Argentina didn't have a single VAR decision go against them. Suggestions of a possible FIFA bias towards Messi's men intensified during their Round of 16 clash against Egypt. Mohamed Salah's team believed they had doubled their lead in the second half, only for VAR to rule out the goal because of a foul committed more than 10 seconds before the strike. The Egyptians also had a strong penalty shout turned

down in the final stages of the game. In the quarter-final between Argentina and Spain, the sending-off of Breel Embolo also became a major factor in the South American side's triumph. FIFA, however, has consistently rejected these allegations, dismissing the notion that decisions on the field were influenced. "Constructive discussion about decisions will always be part of football, but unfounded allegations have no place in our sport.



A film that will be remembered forever by the fans of Jana Nayakku CM Vijay garu. Producer Venkat K. Narayana (KVN)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and top hero Vijay's 'Jana Nayaku' movie is eagerly awaited by the movie audience. Directed by H. Vinod, this movie stars Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, and Mamita Baiju in key roles. Venkat K. Narayana has produced it under the banner of KVN Productions. This highly anticipated movie is set to release grandly worldwide on July 23. On this occasion, producer Venkat K. Narayana shared the details of the movie at a press conference.

Did you face some difficulties with the release of this film? Did you anticipate this in advance?

We thought that there might be some problems in advance. Vijay had also said in advance, "This is my last film. After this, I am going into politics completely. Therefore, there is a possibility of some problems." However, we only thought that there might be some obstacles in terms of theaters during the release. But some unexpected situations came up. Life always takes unexpected turns. The film, which was supposed to be released in January, has now been moved to July 23. Overall, we did not expect that there would be so many problems like release, piracy, court cases... If not, if we want to see the good in this, the film is coming after Vijay becomes the Chief Minister. That will give more excitement to the fans.

You have risen to a very high level in the business. How did the idea of ??getting into films come about?

I have loved movies since I was a child. Movies contain many great things that are not found in academic books. Songs, lyrics, stories... all these have a great impact on our lives. In the recently released movie Peddi, there is a dialogue "Why such a big birth to live like one?". I liked that dialogue a lot. Such great ideas can be strongly conveyed to the society only through movies. Even after handling many responsibilities in the business, I have set a goal to enter the film industry on my bucket list. I am on this journey to work with everyone who inspires me,

You entered the film industry during Covid, right?



-Covid impacted many people. At that time, we started the 'Feed My City' program through KVN. We provided food to those who lost their jobs due to Covid and daily wage workers. We continued this program for about 45 days and were able to provide food to lakhs of people. That service program has become a very satisfying experience in our lives.

The film industry also suffered severely during Covid. There were people from the film industry around us. When we talked to them, we found out how many films had been stopped and how many people had lost their jobs. That's when we got the idea to do something for this industry. First we entered film finance, then distribution. We distributed Rajamouli garu's film 'RRR' in Karnataka. I have great respect for Rajamouli garu and his family. After distribution, we also entered production. How did your journey with Vijay begin? This is my first Tamil film. I was already acquainted with Vijay's manager. We had discussions during the film 'Leo'. I came to know that Vijay was going to do another film after Goat. I like his films a lot. That's why I expressed my interest to his manager. The film was approved in just one meeting. That's how my journey with Vijay began.

'Krishna From Brundavanam' – Adi Saikumar and Veerabhadram Mullapudi Reunite for a Complete Family Entertainer



After delivering the successful entertainer Chuttalabai, the hit combination of Hero Adi Saikumar and Director Veerabhadram Mullapudi is back with another exciting project titled "Krishna From Brundavanam." The film is being produced under the prestigious Lakshmi Prasanna Productions banner.

Directed by Veerabhadram Mullapudi, who has also penned the story and screenplay, the film promises to be a wholesome family entertainer packed with comedy, emotions, and unexpected twists and turns. The makers are confident that audiences of all age groups will thoroughly enjoy this enter-

taining ride. Kashika Kapoor stars as the female lead opposite Adi Saikumar in a role that offers significant scope and importance to the story. The film also features a talented supporting cast including Murali Goud, Shivaji, Getup Srinu, Raghu Babu, Aadhya Reddy, Sridevi, and Roopa Lakshmi, who play pivotal roles. The film's first shooting schedule has been successfully completed across picturesque locations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The team is delighted with the output, and the remaining schedules will commence soon. Adding further strength to the film is an experienced technical team.

Acclaimed cinematographer Shyam is handling the visuals, while popular music director Anup Rubens is composing the soundtrack. The makers are highly confident that Anup Rubens' music will elevate the film to the next level. Veteran editor Chota K. Prasad is overseeing the editing, and Dragon Prakash is choreographing the action sequences. With a successful hero-director combination returning, an engaging family-oriented story, entertaining screenplay, strong performances, and a talented technical crew, "Krishna From Brundavanam" is shaping up to be one of the most awaited family entertainers.

Proud to see Akhil as an elder brother and a fan - Naga Chaitanya Akkineni at blockbuster event



Very happy that 'Lenin' broke even in three days - Akhil Akkineni at Blockbuster Vaibhavam event 'Lenin' is produced by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sitara Entertainments and presented by Annapurna Studios alongside Akhil

and Bhagyashree Borse. This movie is directed by Murali Kishore Abburu. This movie has a grand release on 10th July and is doing well. In this sequence, Akkineni's fans and distributors celebrated the Blockbuster Vibhavam event on Monday. Shields were given to the distributors and the film team in this blockbuster celebrations.

RUHANI SHARMA SERVES DENIM CHIC IN NYC



Ruhani Sharma is currently exploring New York City in style, and her recent pictures are giving major travel fashion goals. In her New York diaries, she was seen in a chic denim vest paired with a flowy white maxi skirt, along with sunglasses and gold hoop earrings, giving off an easy, breezy summer look. She was also spotted enjoying a fun tech moment, trying out a VR headset at an Apple Store, adding a playful

touch to her trip. The city's iconic streets and buildings made a perfect backdrop for her candid clicks. On the work front, Ruhani was last seen in the Tamil film Mask, playing the role of Radhi opposite Kavin, directed by Vetrimaaran's team. Unfortunately, the film did not perform well at the box office. As of now, Ruhani seems to be taking a relaxed break, enjoying her time exploring New York City, away from the big screen.

Marvel Studios Drops the Explosive Avengers: Doomsday Trailer Ahead of 18th December Release

The wait is over! Here's highly-anticipated trailer of Avengers: Doomsday, confirming multiple crossovers including Thor and Captain America, Fantastic Four and Black Panther, will take place. The film is set to release on 18th December across English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. An all-new trailer and poster for Avengers: Doomsday, Marvel Studios' highly anticipated December 18 theatrical release, has now been released. After months of anticipation, speculation, and tantalising glimpses, Marvel Studios treated fans to an epic trailer! The trailer offered fans their first thrilling look at the next chapter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The film marks the much-awaited return of Robert Downey Jr. to the MCU—but in a stunning twist, as the formidable Doctor Doom, along-



side Earth's Mightiest Heroes, in an epic battle that promises to redefine the future of the franchise. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, the visionary duo behind Avengers: Infinity War and Avengers: Endgame, Avengers: Doomsday unites generations of Marvel icons in what promises to be one of the biggest cinematic events in history. The film sees Steve Rogers alongside Thor. At the same time, fan-favourite X-Men char-

acters also join the battle, including Patrick Stewart as Professor X, Ian McKellen as Magneto and James Marsden as Cyclops. The Fantastic Four are also set to play a pivotal role. Marvel Studios' Avengers: Doomsday is directed by Anthony and Joe Russo; produced by Kevin Feige, Louis D'Esposito and Jonathan Schwartz; and stars Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Pedro Pascal, Paul Rudd, Anthony

Mackie, Florence Pugh, Vanessa Kirby, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Wyatt Russell, Channing Tatum, Simu Liu, Ian McKellen, Tom Hiddleston, James Marsden, Patrick Stewart, Joseph Quinn, Sebastian Stan, David Harbour, Letitia Wright, Lewis Pullman, Kelsey Grammer, Kathryn Newton, Danny Ramirez, Winston Duke, Alan Cumming, Hannah John-Kamen, Rebecca Romijn, Mabel Cadena, with Tenoch Huerta Mejia. In Avengers: Doomsday, beloved heroes from three distinct universes will be set on a deadly collision course and face an existential threat unlike anything they've ever encountered. Avengers: Doomsday will release exclusively in theatres across India on 18th December in premium formats. The film will be available in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

EESHA REBBA SLAYS AWARD NIGHT IN BLUE



Rocking Star Yash and Tara Sutaria Reveal a New Layer of Raya and Rebecca's Story in Toxic's Madhosh

Following the phenomenal success of Tabaahi, Monster Mind Creations, KVN Productions and Zee Music Company present the film's second song, with Yash and Tara Sutaria taking center stage. Following the record-breaking response to Tabaahi, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups returns with Madhosh, the film's second song that unveils a new shade of love. While Tabaahi celebrated the intoxicating rush of passion, Madhosh turns inward, embracing quieter emotions—tenderness, yearning and everything left unsaid. Expanding the emotional landscape of Toxic, the song reminds us that every love story is layered, with each chapter reveal-

ing a different shade of love. Featuring Rocking Star Yash alongside Tara Sutaria, Madhosh presents Raya and Rebecca's relationship through a completely different lens. Their chemistry carries a playful ease, yet underneath it lies emotional conflict and unspoken longing. Raya remains the same man audiences met in Tabaahi, but the way he loves Rebecca reveals a softer, more carefree side of him, while hinting at the chaos he continues to carry within. Composed by the acclaimed trio of Tanishk Bagchi, Arslan Nizami, and Faheem Abdullah, the romantic anthem is brought to life by the soulful vocals of Siddharth Basrur, who lends his voice across all five language

versions. Released as a true pan-Indian offering, the song is titled Madhosh (Hindi), Manamohaka (Kannada), Manasaagadhe (Telugu), Thadumaarudheyy (Tamil), and MadhuMohini (Malayalam). The lyrics have been crafted by celebrated writers Pramod Maravanthe (Kannada), Arslan Nizami and Syed Murad Gilani (Hindi), RamaJogaiah Sastry (Telugu), Vignesh Shivan (Tamil), and Rajeev Govindan (Malayalam). Starring Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, and Huma Qureshi, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups brings together a powerhouse ensemble cast. Speaking about the track, composer Tanishk Bagchi

said,"Madhosh is incredibly close to our hearts since Arslan, Faheem and I have come together once again, and it's even more special because it's for a film as massive as Toxic. We also had the pleasure of collaborating with the immensely talented Siddharth Basrur, who brought so much depth to the song. The track beautifully captures the emotional journey of Raya and Rebecca's characters, expressing love, longing, and the playful nuances of romance. We hope audiences connect with its heartfelt emotions as much as we enjoyed creating it." Speaking about the track, playback singer Siddharth Basrur said,"Madhosh isn't just about heartbreak, it's about everything

that's left unsaid between two people. There's longing and vulnerability running through the song, and I wanted the vocals to reflect that honesty rather than just the pain. It's emotional, but it also has a certain intensity that keeps building, which is what makes it such a special track for me." Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and several other languages. Produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, the film is set to release in theatres on August 26, 2026.