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SCAN FOR
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02-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 66,304
Tonsnes - 3181
Hundi kavalab - 4.51 CR
Laddu sale - 4.05 Lac
Annasradams - 193 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,392
Waiting Consultants - Outside line
at Krishna Teja Guest house

Approx. Darsan Time for SarvaDashnam
(with out SSD Tokens) - 12 H.US retains top
spot as India's
largest LPG
supplier in June

New Delhi, July 3: The United States retained its position as India's largest supplier of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in June, extending its lead over traditional Gulf exporters as the country continued to diversify energy imports in response to geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia. According to data from commodity analytics firm Kpler, India imported 773.78 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) of LPG from the US in June, marking a 19.4 per cent increase from May. Overall, India's LPG imports rose 3 per cent during the month to 1,191 TMT, compared with 1,155 TMT in May. The UAE emerged as the second-largest supplier, with shipments increasing 16.6 per cent to 157 TMT from 134.7 TMT in the previous month. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait each supplied 64 TMT of LPG during June. India's growing reliance on US LPG comes as part of a broader effort to diversify supplies following disruptions caused by the recent West Asia conflict. State-run refiners have already signed a long-term agreement to import 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US beginning in 2026, strengthening bilateral energy ties and reducing dependence on Gulf producers. Industry sources said India has secured adequate supplies of both crude oil and LPG through August, easing concerns over domestic availability after the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz restored the movement of Gulf energy cargoes.

Telangana DGP reviews
policing, issues key directives

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand on Friday directed police officers across the state to strengthen people-centric policing by enhancing field presence, effectively using technology, and ensuring faster public service delivery.

During a statewide review meeting with Commissioners, SPs, Unit Officers and SHOs, the DGP reviewed visible policing, cybercrime investigations, CCTNS implementation, narcotics

control, road safety and criminal investigations. He instructed officers to remain accessible to the public, conduct regular police station inspections and avoid unnecessary interference in civil disputes.

Emphasising the use of technology, Anand directed officials to fully utilise CCTNS, e-Sakshya and the Lathi App for efficient investigations. He also called for intensified action against cybercrime and drug trafficking, noting that 825 students have

received counselling and rehabilitation under anti-drug initiatives.

Reviewing the Arrive Alive road safety programme, the DGP said road accident fatalities have declined across

Telangana and announced that the 112 Emergency Response Service would soon be integrated with drone technology. He also announced rewards for police personnel who displayed exemplary service in saving lives, solving major crimes and arresting wanted offenders.

CM Naidu Inaugurates Rooftop
Solar Systems for 7,489 SC/ST
Families in Kuppam

Chittoor TSIT:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday inaugurated 2 kW rooftop solar systems installed for 7,489 SC/ST beneficiaries under the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana at a public meeting held at the Pogurupalle Industrial Area in Gudupalle Mandal of Kuppam Constituency, Chittoor district. During the event, the Chief Minister also felicitated SM Renergy Pvt. Ltd. for successfully executing the landmark rooftop solar project.

The initiative reflects the State government's commitment to transforming Kuppam into a model constituency for sustain-

able development and clean energy. The project is regarded as one of India's first large-scale village-level rooftop solar initiatives, providing clean, affordable electricity to thousands of economically weaker households while promoting renewable energy adoption.

Officials said the Kuppam model has since become a reference for the expansion of rooftop solar and solar village programmes across Andhra Pradesh and several other states. The project demonstrated the feasibility of implementing renewable energy solutions on a large scale in rural areas and is expected to encourage similar initiatives across the country.

Centre Summons Meta
Over Instagram Ads

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Central government is set to summon Meta after reports that advertisements promoting child sexual abuse material appeared on Instagram. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed officials in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to seek an explanation from the company, according to official sources.

Centre expands National Capital Region,
brings 5 Rajasthan districts under it

New Delhi (TSIT)

In a significant move aimed at strengthening planned regional development around the National Capital, the Central Government has expanded the National Capital Region (NCR) by revising the list of areas covered under the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) Act, 1985. South Asians & Diaspora The Centre has amended the Schedule to the NCRPB Act after obtaining the consent of the concerned states and consulting the National Capital Region Planning



Board. Under the revised notification, the entire districts of Alwar, Khairthal, Tijara, Bharatpur and Deeg in Rajasthan have been brought within the ambit of the NCR. The notification also provides for the partial inclusion of Kotputli-Behrur district. The tehsils of Behror, Bansur, Neemrana, Mandan and Narayanpur have been included in the NCR, while Kotputli, Viratnagar and Pavta tehsils have been kept outside the NCR limits.

CM Shivakumar Directs Emergency Plan to Tackle
Possible Power Shortage Amid Rain Deficit

Bengaluru (TSIT)

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has directed the Energy Department to prepare a special emergency action plan to address the possibility of reduced hydroelectric power generation due to deficient rainfall and the impact of the El Niño phenomenon. He instructed officials to take proactive measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the state. Chairing his first review meeting of the Energy Department after assuming office, the Chief Minister sought a detailed assessment of the department's prepared-



ness to tackle drought conditions and the anticipated impact on power generation. He instructed officials to focus on maintaining adequate electricity supply by strengthen-

ing power generation from alternative sources and ensuring sufficient energy reserves. To enhance the state's energy security, Shivakumar directed officials

to operationalise government-reserved coal mines and maintain adequate coal stocks on a continuous basis.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that Karnataka's current water storage levels for power generation are better than those of the previous year and that the state has successfully avoided power cuts over the past three years. However, Shivakumar stressed the need to fast-track the implementation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) to efficiently manage the increasing share of renewable energy.

KTR demands
notification to
fill 20,000 police
constable posts

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K T Rama Rao on Friday, July 3, urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to issue a notification immediately to fill 20,000 police constable posts. Rama Rao wrote an open letter to the Chief Minister Revanth on behalf of police constable aspirants.

The BRS leader brought to the CM's attention the demands and hardships of police constable and sub-inspector (SI) aspirants. Stating that the unemployed youth of Telangana have been let down, KTR mentioned that the majority of the youth competing for police constable and SI examinations hail from poor and middle-class families in rural areas. Living away from their parents, they stay in PGs and hostels in Hyderabad for years, working day and night to prepare for these competitive exams.

The state government bears the responsibility of ensuring justice for these underprivileged youths rather than dashing their hopes, he said. Recalling that "water, funds, and jobs" was the rallying cry of the Telangana movement, KTR said it was entirely inappropriate to turn a deaf ear to the demands of unemployed police aspirants who have been fighting for an increase in the number of posts over the past few days. "Simply issuing a notification for 5,000 police jobs and washing one's hands of the matter is not the right approach.

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on Thursday dismissed as false and misleading information being spread on social media platforms that ethanol blended petrol (E20) is harmful for vehicles, causes higher pollution, and leads to water wastage in the production of crops for ethanol.

The Ministry said that it "categorically assures all vehicle owners that these fear-mongering claims are false, baseless, scientifically unfounded and inconsistent with

extensive technical studies conducted by leading automotive research institutions". As far as pollution is concerned, ethanol-blended petrol causes significantly reduced carbon tail-pipe emissions from vehicles, it said. Also, emissions owing to carbon molecules in ethanol are biogenic, i.e do not cause any net increment in carbon emissions in the environment at the vehicle's tail-pipe level.

It said that claims of ants or bees getting attracted towards the fuel tanks of the vehicles because of E20 fuel



circulating on social media have been examined by BPCL, noting that fuel-grade ethanol used for petrol blending is produced through fermentation and distillation processes that eliminate residual sugars

from the final product. Further, fuel ethanol contains denaturants, which are repellent to insects.

The factsheet also rejects as false claims such as a drastic drop in mileage of the vehicles because of the

use of E20 fuel, engine parts getting damaged or corroded due to the use of E20 fuel, insurance companies or car manufacturers denying insurance or warranty claims if E20 fuel is used. It points out that a study undertaken by Indian Oil, ARAI, IIP-Dehradun and SIAM shows that the carbon monoxide emission decreased by about 50 per cent in two-wheelers and 30 per cent in four-wheelers. Unburnt hydrocarbon emissions reduced by about 20 per cent with E20 as compared to normal gasoline in both two-wheelers and passenger cars.

No issues were reported in most parameters, including drivability, startability, metal compatibility, and plastic compatibility.

The factsheet states that scientific evidence shows that the use of E-20 fuel gives better acceleration, better ride quality and lowered carbon emissions by approximately 30 per cent as compared to E10 fuel. RON 95 with blending of Ethanol 20 results in better anti-knocking properties and performance. Vehicles tuned for E20 fuel deliver better acceleration, which is a very important factor in city driving conditions. Additionally, ethanol's higher heat of

vaporisation reduces intake manifold temperatures, increasing air-fuel mixture density and boosting volumetric efficiency, and claims that E20 causes a "drastic" reduction in fuel efficiency are misplaced. It highlights that, speaking on behalf of the Indian automobile industry, SIAM has also categorically stated that the applicable warranty coverage for gasoline vehicles, as per warranty terms & conditions specified by the respective vehicle manufacturer (OEMs), will continue to be honoured for vehicles operating with E20 fuel meeting the required specifications.

CJP PROTEST: Wangchuk’s hunger strike enters Day 6

New Delhi: As activist Sonam Wangchuk’s hunger strike at Jantar Mantar entered the sixth day on Friday, July 3, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) said he appeared “far weaker and more exhausted” and urged supporters across the country to observe a one-day fast in solidarity with the protest.

Sharing Wangchuk’s latest health update on X, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said his blood pressure was recorded at 110/75 mmHg, pulse rate at 72 beats per minute and blood sugar level at 61 mg/dL.Dipke said Wangchuk’s condition was worsening with every passing hour despite the activist maintaining that he was feeling fine.

“It is Day 6 of Sonam Wangchuk’s hunger strike. Today, he looks far weaker and more exhausted than he did a few days ago. For the first time, I could see the pain on his face as his health continued to deteriorate. He told us he is fine and there is nothing to worry about, but the reality is different,” Dipke said.

In another post, Dipke described Wangchuk as “a great educationist” risking his life for students and asked when the government would respond.“A great educationist is risking his



own life to seek justice for students. When will the government wake up?” he asked.

Dipke also appealed to supporters across the country to join the protest by observing a one-day fast at their homes.

“Today is Day 6 of Sonam Wangchuk’s fast, and our team is fasting with him in solidarity. We appeal to everyone to observe a one-day fast from their homes to support this movement and share a video on social media,” he said.

Six students associated with the All India Students’ Association (AISA) also continued their indefinite hunger strike from a separate stage at the protest site.

On Thursday, AISA said the health condition of the fasting students has worsened,

with Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union joint secretary Danish’s blood sugar level dropping to 50 mg/dL, while that of another student, Deepak Kumar Verma, fell to 59 mg/dL.

Among the other fasting students, Manish and Aameen recorded blood sugar levels of 63 mg/dL each, while those of Neha and Hrishikesh were at 68 mg/dL, AISA said, alleging that most of the students were at risk of losing consciousness but would continue their fast until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned.

The protest entered its 14th day on Friday after receiving support over the past week from several political leaders and civil society mem-

bers, including CPI(M) General Secretary M A Baby, senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat, CPI General Secretary D Raja, CPI(ML) Liberation General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, social activist Yogendra Yadav, Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhusan, CPI leader Nikhil Dey and TMC MP Sagarika Ghose.

The CJP protest began on June 20 over alleged irregularities in the examination system, including NEET.

Dipke has said the agitation would also raise other accountability-related issues, including electoral matters such as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Indian Naval Officers honour fallen soldiers at Singapore's Kranji War Memorial

Singapore, July 3 : Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, Rear Admiral Alok Nanda, and commanding officers of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet ships visited Kranji War Memorial and paid tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Indian Naval Officers also met Colonel Ang Chun Hou Bertram, Fleet Commander, Republic of Singapore Navy, with discussions focussed on strengthening maritime defence partnership between the navies of the two nations.

In a post on X, Indian High Commission in Singapore stated, "Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Ships visiting Singapore. In a solemn ceremony, FOCEF RAdm Alok Ananda along with the Commanding Officers of visiting Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet ships paid homage at the Kranji War Memorial, Singapore honouring the fallen soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice defending shared values of freedom and peace."

"They also interacted with Colonel Ang Chun Hou Bertram, Fleet Commander, Republic of Singapore Navy. Their discussion focused on further strengthening maritime defence partnership between Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy," it added.

Indian Navy's Eastern



Fleet Ships - INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti and INS Kavaratti - have arrived at the Changi Naval Base in Singapore on Wednesday as part of their operational deployment to South East Asia, reaffirming India's commitment to strengthening maritime partnership between the two nations.

"Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Ships INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti and INS Kavaratti, led by RAdm Alok Ananda, FOCEF arrived at the Changi Naval Base in Singapore as part of their operational deployment to South East Asia," High Commission of India in Singapore posted on X.

"As we celebrate 2026 as ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, the visit reflects India's commitment to strength-

ening maritime partnerships in the region in line with its Act East Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR," it added.

India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, visited INS Udaygiri and met Rear Admiral Alok Ananda.

"High Commissioner visited Flag Ship INS Udaygiri and interacted with FOCEF RAdm Alok Ananda. High Commissioner was briefed about the capabilities of visiting indigenous Indian Navy ships and the activities of Eastern Fleet during their ongoing operational deployment to South East Asia," High Commission of India in Singapore posted on X.

During the port call, the ships will engage with Singapore Navy

through professional interactions, cross-deck visits, and discussions on issues of mutual maritime interest. These engagements will provide an opportunity for personnel of navies of both nations to exchange operational experiences and Best Practices, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Defence.

"The visit exemplifies the strong and long-standing ties between the two navies and forms part of the Indian Navy's ongoing operational deployment in the South East Asia Region, which is in consonance with the Government of India's Act East Policy, the vision of MAHASAGAR, and also furthers the objectives of the ASEAN

ASTHRA 2.0 National Innovation Fest Begins at BVRIT; IIT Hyderabad Backs Young Innovators

Narsapur, July 3: The national level innovation and technical competition 'ASTHRA 2.0 (2026)' got off to a grand start at BVRIT, Narsapur, on Friday with the objective of encouraging innovation, research, and creative problem-solving among engineering students. The two-day event is being organized by the Department of Chemical Engineering and has attracted participation from leading institutions across the country. Inaugurating the event, Prof. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Hyderabad, urged students to convert their classroom knowledge into practical innovations capable of addressing real-world challenges. He encouraged aspiring engineers to make effective use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, and Machine Learning (ML) to drive research and technological advancements.



Prof. Sharma assured participants that IIT Hyderabad would extend all possible support to young innovators and researchers in developing their ideas into impactful solutions.

Guest of Honour Prof. A.V.N. Swamy, retired professor from JNTU Anantapur, said that ASTHRA provides an ideal plat-

form for students to strengthen their technical knowledge, enhance innovation, and develop teamwork and leadership skills. He appreciated the organisers for creating opportunities that bridge the gap between academic learning and industry-oriented problem solving.

One of the major attractions of the inaugural day was the exhibition of innovative student projects. Models such as 'React-O-Car,' 'Tech-O-Car,' and 'Cube-X' drew appreciation from the guests and participants. Students also showcased technical solutions for pressing environmental issues, including water purification and carbon dioxide capture, highlighting the practical application of engineering concepts. The competition has brought together 24 teams from prestigious institutions, including NIT Surat, NIT Nagpur, and IISER Bhopal, making it one of the significant student innovation events in the region.

Mahabubnagar, July 3 (TSIT): Demonstrating his commitment to the welfare and empowerment of girl students, Regional Joint Director (RJD) of School Education, Hyderabad, M. Somi Reddy, took a significant initiative to improve facilities at the Urban Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Mahabubnagar. Through his efforts, SVS Hospital, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, donated modern equipment worth nearly 1 lakh to benefit the students. The donated items included three 25-litre water geysers, a 15-kg automatic roti-making machine, a 16-kg stainless steel cooker, and eight 20-litre cool water bottles, which were formally handed over to KGBV Special Officer Shankaramma in the pres-



ence of District Educational Officer I. Vijayakumari and GCDO Astrakhadri.

Addressing the gathering, RJD M. Somi Reddy said that KGBVs are not merely schools but institutions that transform the lives of girls from rural and economically weaker families. He urged the students to make the best use of the quality education, free residential facilities, nutritious food, digital learning, career guidance, and special coaching provided by the gov-

ernment.

He encouraged every student to set ambitious goals and excel in competitive examinations such as NEET, EAMCET, and JEE, enabling them to become doctors, engineers, scientists, civil servants, and other professionals. He emphasized that discipline, determination, and self-confidence are the keys to achieving success and that students from government institutions are equally capable of excelling at the national level. Highlighting the importance of girls' education, the RJD remarked that educating a girl transforms not only her family but also future generations. He reiterated the government's commitment to providing every possible opportunity for girls to pursue higher education and build successful careers.

Over 2.5 lakh Aadhaar email updates recorded in 1st two days via new app: Govt

New Delhi, July 3 : The government on Friday said more than 2.5 lakh residents updated their email IDs in Aadhaar within the first two days of the launch of the new facility on the Aadhaar App. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has enabled residents to add or update their email IDs in Aadhaar directly through the Aadhaar App, eliminating the need to visit an Aadhaar enrolment or update centre. The facility, which became effective from July 1, 2026, is being offered free of cost through the Aadhaar App for a period of six months. "This is a free service via the Aadhaar App only, effective 1 July 2026 for a period of six months, making it easier than ever for residents to keep their Aadhaar information up to date," the Ministry of Electronics & IT said.

The initiative is aimed at making Aadhaar services more accessible while reducing the need for physical visits, in line with the government's Digital India vision and the goal of building a Viksit Bharat.

Linking an email ID with Aadhaar enables residents to receive real-time email alerts whenever an Aadhaar authentication request is carried out. The feature enhances transparency and adds an extra layer of security by keeping Aadhaar holders informed about the use of their identity credentials. The new Aadhaar App has been designed to simplify access to multiple Aadhaar-related services through smartphones. Apart from email updates, residents can also update their mobile numbers and addresses using the app. The government said over 40 lakh people have already updated their mobile numbers through the Aadhaar App.

Bhadradri Co-operative Urban Bank Celebrates Cooperation Week, Reaffirms Commitment to Customer-Centric Banking

Bhadradri Kothagudem, July 3: Bhadradri Co-operative Urban Bank Limited celebrated Cooperation Week with an awareness programme for its members and customers on Friday, highlighting the role of cooperative banking in promoting financial inclusion and community development.

The programme was attended by District Cooperative Officer Gangadhar as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of the cooperative movement and said cooperative banks have earned the trust of customers through their personalized and people-centric services. He noted that Bhadradri Co-operative Urban Bank has been serving the common public for the past 29 years by providing reliable deposit and loan facilities. He also assured that the Cooperative Department would extend all possible sup-



port to the bank in the recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) and bad debts.

The keynote address was delivered by Rajaiah, a noted expert in the cooperative sector, who spoke about the growing

importance of cooperative banks and highlighted the support being extended to the sector by the Central Government. He also explained the latest developments aimed at strengthening the cooperative

banking system.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhadradri Bank Chairman Cherukuri Krishnamurthy said the bank has grown steadily over the last 29 years by serving the weaker sections of society

and supporting their financial needs. He expressed confidence that the bank would continue its expansion and achieve its target of operating 25 branches with a business turnover of Rs. 1,035 crore.

Assistant Registrar Ushasree and Bhadradri Bank Vice Chairman Sanne Uday Pratap also addressed the gathering and highlighted the significance of cooperative institutions in rural and urban development.

Bank In-charge CEO Srinivasa Rao proposed the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the customers, members and well-wishers for their continued trust and support. During the programme, the chief guest and members of the bank's Board of Directors, including Devata Raja Rao, Maddi Picchaiah, Ranga Naga Srinivasa Rao and Jeevan Ram, distributed fixed deposit receipts and loan sanction letters to customers. Bank staff, members and well-wishers participated in large numbers, making the Cooperation Week celebration a grand success.

EDITORIAL

How Texas Became Hub Of A Terror-Link Kashmiri Outfit's Activities

In 2022, Yasin Malik, the leader of a Kashmiri group declared by a US federal appeals court as a terrorist organisation involved in killings, bombings and kidnappings, was sentenced by an Indian court to life in prison. While Malik continues in principle to be re-elected as chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) while incarcerated, JKLF's actual operations have since been managed and supported by a network of radical Kashmiri and Pakistani activists thousands of miles away - in Texas. For many years, until May 2026, Dallas-based Raja Muzaffar served as JKLF's "acting chairman". Through his organisations, the Kashmir Global Council and the South Asia Democracy Watch, Muzaffar partnered with Texas institutions, policymakers, Islamist groups and radical activists across the state. At a JKLF conference in Dallas in 2024, organised by the group to "highlight the struggle" of its terror leader Yasin Malik, guests included city councilors, along with state representatives and a federal lawmaker. Following a partnership with Dallas-based Southern Methodist University, in 2025, the Dallas leader of the JKLF terror movement appointed "Dr. Rick Halperin, a renowned Human Rights Advocate and Director of the Human Rights Program at Southern Methodist University" as "Head of the Justice for Yasin Malik Campaign." Most commonly, however, Muzaffar and other JKLF leaders partner with Islamist operatives. In 2025, Muzaffar and other JKLF leaders organised a joint event from Dallas with Ghulam Nabi Fai of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum to honour the late terrorist leader and JKLF founder Amanullah Khan. Decades ago, Amanullah Khan oversaw a terror campaign against Indian targets, carried out, as admitted by Khan himself, by "militants" trained at terror camps in Pakistan in collaboration with the Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's terror-tied intelligence agency. Later, in 1984, Khan reportedly kidnapped and murdered an Indian diplomat in the British city of Birmingham. In the 1990s, Khan explicitly refused to renounce violence against Indian targets and moved his JKLF operations to Pakistan. Participants in the Dallas event praised the JKLF terror leader's "legacy of resistance and unity". Alongside senior JKLF officials, leading American-Kashmiri Islamist activist Ghulam Nabi Fai spoke at the Dallas webinar. Fai has long been involved with the violent Jamaat-e-Islami movement and its American proxies. In 2011, federal prosecutors charged Fai with serving as an agent of the Pakistani government. Fai, prosecutors proved, accepted \$3.5 million from Pakistani intelligence to influence American policy on Kashmir. Dallas JKLF leader Raja Muzaffar seemingly continues to consort with Pakistani intelligence operatives today, such as former ISI director Asad Durrani. The Dallas-based leadership of the JKLF also relies on support from an Islamist-controlled Kashmiri and Pakistani diaspora in Texas. One participant at the 2025 event and a longstanding supporter of the JKLF is Mujeeb Kazi, a Kashmiri businessman and head of the North Texas Islamic Council, "an umbrella group for mosques in the Dallas-Fort Worth area." Kazi runs several nonprofit organisations in the area, including Voice of Kashmir TV.

Edit

STATE AS AI SHAREHOLDER: The Washington Model India Can't Ignore

There is a quietly radical idea moving through Washington. It deserves close attention in New Delhi. OpenAI has opened talks about handing the US government a 5 per cent equity stake in the company. Sam Altman and other executives have proposed something larger, too: a government vehicle that holds a minority stake in each of America's leading AI developers. That could span Anthropic, Google, Meta, Nvidia and beyond. Altman first raised the issue of government equity with Trump personally in early 2025, according to reports. He has suggested that the Alaska Permanent Fund could serve as a model for ensuring Americans share in the wealth created by AI, potentially through public ownership or equity stakes in AI companies, rather than simply distributing corporate profits as cash dividends. Trump recently told reporters aboard Air Force One that taking stakes in American AI companies could become "a partnership with the American public." An OpenAI policy paper has already proposed a "Public Wealth Fund" to hold such stakes and distribute proceeds to citizens broadly, whether they own shares or not. Anthropic, notably, is not part of the current talks. None of this is happening in isolation. The Trump administration has already taken direct equity positions in several companies this term, including Intel and IBM and a handful of quantum-computing and critical-minerals firms. Senator Bernie Sanders has gone further. He has proposed a one-time 50 per cent stock levy on major AI firms. Across the American political spectrum, the state-as-stakeholder idea is gaining traction. The idea has serious critics on both sides of the aisle. Nat Purser of Public Knowledge



has warned that a government which is simultaneously shareholder and regulator faces a conflict of interest. It could grow reluctant to enforce safety rules if doing so dents its own holdings' value. Jennifer Huddleston of the Cato Institute argues that government equity in private firms erodes norms around the separation of state and market, with Washington effectively picking winners. Washington is testing a completely new model. The government is not running businesses, nor is it just acting as a regulator. Instead, it is stepping in as a long-term, minority investor. It helps private companies build and compete by opening up international markets, using diplomacy, and buying their services. In exchange, the government takes a cut of the financial upside it helped create. India should study this model closely. It may be exactly what a handful of India's own strategic sectors need. Historically, India's instinct

in sectors of national importance was to build large public sector enterprises. That approach may have served in an era of scarce capital and thin private capability. But today's technology race rewards speed, entrepreneurial risk-taking and relentless innovation. This applies to AI, drone tech, space tech, semiconductors, quantum computing and rare earth minerals. Public-sector ownership structures rarely reward those qualities. And Indian companies in these sectors are no longer competing on capability alone. Increasingly, they compete against state-backed ecosystems, China's most visible among them, where the line between private enterprise and state support is far thinner than in most free market economies. Picture a framework where private companies and startups build world-class capability while the government backs them with procurement commitments, patient capital, diplomatic support, export facili-

tation and regulatory predictability. In return, the government would take a minority equity stake in a carefully chosen bunch of strategically important firms. Governance would need the same care that Purser and Huddleston are demanding of the American proposal, to avoid distorting markets or blurring the state's roles as backer and regulator. Interestingly, India already has a case study that shows such a model can work. Titan was set up in 1984 as a joint venture between the Tata Group and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. More than four decades on, TIDCO still holds about 27.8 per cent of Titan, a stake now worth close to Rs 1 lakh crore. It is arguably one of the most successful long-term equity investments any Indian state government has made. The lesson from Titan is that patient minority ownership in the right sector, held for decades rather than quarters, can generate enormous

public value while leaving innovation, execution and competitive discipline entirely in private hands. There is a sharper, more urgent reason for India to think about such an idea now. A government that merely regulates AI is, in theory, a referee. A government that owns equity in it has a direct stake in that industry's success. Washington has already shown it is willing to use state power to shape the global reach of its AI companies. Last month, a US Commerce Department export-control action forced Anthropic to suspend global access to two of its newest models. Access was restored only once the controls were lifted. Washington can extend or restrict the footprint of AI models as an instrument of statecraft. An equity stake would give the American state a direct financial reason to use it more assertively, in exactly the markets, including India's, where those companies compete for infrastruc-

ture deals and enterprise adoption. This reflects an unequal dynamic for India. While the US relies on India as its primary engine for data and market growth, it restricts or monopolises the very compute and semiconductor infrastructure India needs to build its own sovereign AI. India, then, needs to hold two ideas about this moment at once. The first is caution. As AI, cloud and compute increasingly resemble the pipelines and telecom networks of an earlier era, a more financially invested American state has a sharper incentive to see its companies dominate globally on its own terms. The second is opportunity. The same model, adapted to India's own strategic sectors, could help build the national champions that reduce that dependency. It would also give Indian firms bidding for defence contracts, satellite launches or clean-energy partnerships abroad the credibility of a serious government stake standing behind them.

The first representative collection of Haryanvi short stories: 'Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar'

—Dr. Vijay Garg

"Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar" is a significant collection that, for the first time, brings together the creative spirit of 33 Haryanvi short story writers active in India and abroad in a single work. Featuring 99 short stories, this book emerges as a vivid document of Haryana's folk culture, public life, human sensibilities, and social reality. Dedicated to the memory of young inspiration, Mr. Manumukt 'Manav', IPS, this work was compiled by Dr. Priyanka Saurabh under the guidance of Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav', edited by Dr. Satyawar Saurabh, and published in 2026 with an attractive cover design by Surendra Bansal. This 121-page book is priced at ₹275. It is undoubtedly a must-have for scholars of Haryanvi language and folklore, as well as literature lovers. The true power of every language lies in its soil, and from that soil its letters are born. "Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar" is a collection of short stories that captures this sweet fragrance, not only introducing the vibrant Haryanvi dialect but also giving a powerful voice to one of the most influential genres of contemporary Hindi literature—the short story—with Haryanvi expression. This collection, edited by Dr. Satyawan Saurabh and compiled by Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, includes a total of 99 short stories by 33 short story writers. This number is not merely a statistic, but a powerful indication of the evolving nature of the

Haryanvi short story. For a long time, Haryanvi literature was largely limited to folk songs, ragas, and storytelling, but this collection proves that this dialect is now making its strong presence felt in modern literary genres as well. The greatest characteristic of a short story is its brevity, but reading this collection, one realizes that while the words are few, the impact is profound. Each work is centered on a single event, emotion, or social situation, instantly engaging the reader. These stories are not only read, but also felt—and this is the greatest success of this collection. The book's greatest strength lies in its diverse subject matter. It reveals life's many shades—the sweetness of relationships, the harsh realities of society, the simplicity of rural life, and the complexities of changing times. "Tadakai Ki Maa" reflects maternal sensitivity, "Izzat Ki Paribhasa" questions social norms, "Bahu Bihar Ki" exposes social prejudices, while works like "Mati Ki Sondh" and "Ghungnat Aur Ghadi" vividly portray Haryana's deep connection to its cultural roots. The simplicity and straightforward nature of the Haryanvi language make these short stories even more impressive. There's no artificiality or pretense in the language, but rather a natural flow that reaches directly to the reader. This collection reinforces the belief that the depth of literature lies not in the complexity of language, but in its sensitivity. However, there is one

aspect of this book that draws attention—the lack of linguistic uniformity. Since it contains works by numerous authors, diverse forms of Haryanvi emerge. In some places, the language is pure folk, while in others, the influence of Hindi is clearly visible. While this diversity makes the collection comprehensive, it also lacks a uniform linguistic flow. Nevertheless, this should be viewed as a natural state of the evolving nature of the Haryanvi language rather than a shortcoming. Many of the works in this collection sharply attack social anomalies. Short stories like "Dogla," "Kagzi Samaj Seva," "Leader," and "Bheed Aur Neta" effectively criticize the hypocrisy, pretense, and hollow leadership prevalent in society. Works like "Beti Ka Maan," "Sherni Maa," and "Lugaiyaan Ke Haq" effectively present women's struggles, self-respect, and changing social roles. The speciality of these stories is that they present the reality directly, without unnecessary sentimentality. Another important aspect of this book is that it features both new and experienced writers. This not only maintains literary balance but also provides an opportunity for new talents to express themselves. The emergence of a new generation of writers is crucial for the development of any language, and this collection is a meaningful effort in that direction. Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav's' preface provides the ideological foundation for this collection. The clarity with

which he presents the current state of the Haryanvi short story, its challenges, and possibilities, makes the reader understand the seriousness of this genre. Meanwhile, Surendra Bansal's article, "Creative Enterprise Nai Sadhuwad," commends this effort and establishes it as a positive literary initiative. When evaluated holistically, "Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar" is not just a collection of short stories, but an important milestone in the development of Haryanvi literature. It is a meaningful effort to fill a literary void where no comprehensive and representative collection of Haryanvi short stories was available until now. This work not only documents current creativity but also lays the groundwork for future literary discussions. Undoubtedly, this book fully achieves its objective. It not only entertains readers but also inspires them to reflect on social reality, understand human values, and view the literary potential of their folk language from a new perspective. This is an important and must-have work for scholars, researchers, writers, and general readers of Haryanvi language and folklore. "Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar" is a remarkable literary venture that, with its earthy fragrance, the intimacy of folk life, and contemporary sensibilities, provides a new identity, new energy, and a new direction to the Haryanvi short story. In the future, this collection will prove to be a milestone in the history of Haryanvi short stories.

The Story Of Congress And Its Never-Ending Obsession With 'Committees

Committee Raj continues in the Congress but not everyone is happy with jumbo panels and duplication of work. After much deliberations, the Congress announced poll panels for election-bound Punjab, triggering both astonishment and disquiet. Instead of changing the PCC chief, the grand old party decided, in its great wisdom, to have a campaign committee chief and an Election Management and Coordination head, in addition to Punjab Congress party president and a Congress Legislature Party [CLP] leader. It is baffling how Vijay Inder Singla, who is heading the single-member Election Management and Coordination panel, would share the workload with state PCC chief Amrinder Raja Warring. Singla continues to be joint treasurer of the AICC. Manish Tewari's Disappointment Senior Congress leader and Chandigarh member of parliament Manish Tewari is sulking. His grudge is manifold. Apparently, he was not consulted when a panel headed by Ajay Maken toured Punjab to speak to various stakeholders. Well-placed sources say AICC general secretary in charge of Punjab, Bhupesh Baghel, has also not spoken to Tewari for months. So, when Tewari used microblogging platform X to vent his frustration, saying, "Wish I had an antidote for the insecurities of individuals and institutions", it is evident that he had someone bigger in mind than Maken or Baghel. Much like Shashi Tharoor, Tewari dif-



fers with the Congress leadership on nuanced foreign policy issues. But inherently, he remains a die-hard Congressman steeped in Nehruvian ideology. If Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal and others care to read his edit page articles and columns, they would notice his deep anxiety and opposition to the 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' culture of defections. Describing Paragraph 4 in the Tenth Schedule as a weapon of mass defection, Tewari added, "In light of the grotesque emasculation of democracy that is today on display, the time has come for Parliament to pass a single-line anti-defection law that any member who voluntarily gives up membership of a political party to which he belongs, or who defies the whip (in matters of confidence and no-confidence motions, adjournment motions, financial business, and money Bills) should forthwith cease to be a member of the House." It is evi-

dent that Tewari himself is not going anywhere. A Confused Campaign In Punjab At another level, the Congress's Punjab drive appears bereft of ideas. The BJP may not have a chief ministerial face in the state, but the Congress camp has a crowd. Former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi thinks he is numero uno in the race for the post of Chief Minister if the grand old party wins Punjab. But at least half a dozen party leaders in the state, including Pratap Bajwa and Amrinder Raja Warring, harbour similar wishes, counting on Rahul-Kharge-Venugopal to fulfil their dream. Just today, a total of 67 Congress leaders participated in the meeting called by Channi amidst growing uncertainty over the post of Punjab Congress President. In 2020, the Congress had dished out a 'dad's army' running into 17 pages, accommodating anyone and everyone in Delhi Pradesh Election Committee,

Campaign Committee, Manifesto Committee, Publicity Committee, Election Management Committee and Media Coordination Committee. There were 607 members - yes, 607 - figuring in these committees. The composition of these panels was deprived of any organisational hierarchy, age, political stature and other parameters of parliamentary democracy. The present-day Congress works on a mantra that says loud and clear - when in doubt, set up a committee. Venugopal, considered to be Rahul Gandhi's eyes and ears and a man of all seasons, would be aware that reports of panels set up to study poll debacles in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh [polls were held in December 2023] have not been discussed in the Congress Working Committee. There has been no follow-up action either. Committees have been a quick fix solution for the Congress for decades now.

Iran begins public mourning for Ayatollah killed in February



Iran has begun several days of public mourning and funeral processions for its former Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, more than four months after he was killed in strikes launched by the US and Israel. The former Ayatollah's body will lie in state in Tehran's Grand Mosalla from Friday, ahead of his burial in his hometown of Mashhad next Thursday. Iranian authorities said 12 to 20 million people were expected to attend, which they are calling the "funeral of the century". It comes as Iran and the United States observe a fragile ceasefire after signing a preliminary deal to halt their conflict in June. Six days of ceremonies will start at 06:00 (03:30 BST) on Saturday, at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla, which visitors can visit to pay their respects until Sunday afternoon. There will be an official funeral ceremony in Tehran on Saturday, which the Tehran-based Mohammad Rasulullah Corps is leading. The group's commander Hassan Hassanzadeh said Khamenei's coffin

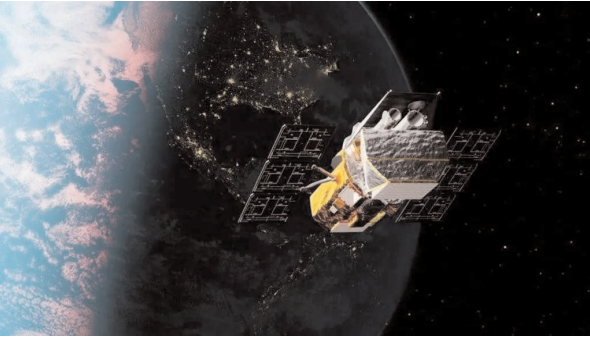
would be displayed on an elevated platform, with crowd flows designed to allow visitors to enter and leave within 15 to 20 minutes. Khamenei's body will lie in the Grand Mosalla for three days, alongside the remains of family members who were also killed in the US and Israeli strikes in February. Authorities have ordered public and private offices in Tehran to close from Saturday through Monday, while traffic restrictions will shut down most of the city centre to private vehicles, AFP reported. The airspace over Tehran will be partially closed from Friday and fully closed on Monday. On Tuesday, events will move to Qom, just south of Tehran, where a senior Shia cleric will lead funeral prayers at Jamkaran - one of Iran's most prominent and symbolic religious sites. Khamenei's body will then travel to Najaf in Iraq on Wednesday. Following a procession at the shrine of Imam Ali, Shia Islam's first imam, ceremonies will continue in Karbala before the body returns to Iran.



■ France records 2,025 excess deaths at peak of heatwave as Europe braces for more extreme weather

NASA LAUNCHES MISSION TO SAVE FALLING SPACE TELESCOPE

A Nasa-funded spacecraft has been sent into space to catch a falling telescope. The Swift observatory detects some of the most powerful explosions in the Universe - but is at risk of crashing back to Earth in the coming months. The small space telescope will be intercepted by the LINK craft, which will attempt to grab it with three robotic arms, and try and lift it back to a safe orbit. The rescue mission, launched on Friday, has never been attempted before, and Dr Simeon Barber, a space scientist, has said it is "high risk". "But Nasa obviously thinks it's worth a go. And the science community is hopeful about this because it's an important telescope that enables us to study super high-energy phenomena that we have no other means to study," said Barber, a senior research fellow at the Open University. The Swift observatory is falling because increased solar activity has pushed out the Earth's atmosphere such that it touches Swift. This drags on the observatory and slows it down as it orbits the Earth, lowering its altitude. When it was first launched it



na that we have no other means to study," said Barber, a senior research fellow at the Open University. The Swift observatory is falling because increased solar activity has pushed out the Earth's atmosphere such that it touches Swift. This drags on the observatory and slows it down as it orbits the Earth, lowering its altitude. When it was first launched it

sat in an orbit at 373 miles (600 km) and has now lowered to around 220 miles (360 km), with most of that descent in the past two years. Satellites, fall to Earth and burn up on re-entry all the time. But Swift is scientifically special, beloved by the researchers who use it to peer into the very dawn of the cosmos. The observatory, which is the size of a

large car, was launched in 2004, with three telescopes aboard, to study the most powerful explosions in the Universe. These are caused by the final, violent deaths of giant stars and by the collisions of the embers they leave behind. They release in just a few seconds the same energy as the Sun will give out over its entire 10-billion-year lifetime. And because these precious cataclysmic moments are so brief the spacecraft has to be quick and nimble - hence its name. In short, there is nothing like Swift, and Nasa deemed that it was a spacecraft worth saving. The engineers of a young company, Katalyst Space Technologies, from Flagstaff, Arizona, were given the task of saving the observatory.

A mayor in Japan announced her maternity leave - and got the whole country talking



When the mayor of a small town in western Japan announced she was taking maternity leave, she expected some raised eyebrows. But the reaction was far stronger - and more divided - than Shoko Kawata had ever anticipated. The 35-year-old has been plunged into a national debate about whether elected officials should take time off for childbirth, in a country that's struggling to lift birth rates. "I was so surprised because the reaction was so big," Kawata tells the BBC. Sitting on a blocky, cushioned armchair, she's flanked by two older men - her deputies - in a fifth-floor meeting room at City Hall in Yawata, a town south of Kyoto known for its shrines and cherry trees. As there is currently no legal framework for local elected officials to take time off when they have babies, Kawata won't be taking maternity leave officially. Instead, she is assigning the man on her left, Shigeto Nose, to temporarily carry out her role. She laid out her plans at a news conference in May, where she said she'd be off two months before and two months after her mid-September due date. She will be making history as Japan's first ever mayor to take maternity leave. Everyone at work, where the average age is 39, was supportive, she says. But that wasn't the case among members of the public, who've expressed varying views in thousands of X

posts and several YouTube videos. Some say having a baby is tough and Kawata is doing her best. Japanese society has failed to design systems with pregnancy in mind, one claims. Another says Kawata is setting a wonderful example by putting her family first and making it easier for other women to enter politics. But critics argue that stepping away from public duties is "irresponsible", and if she wanted to get pregnant "she should have done so before taking office". One says top officials wanting to take extended leave "should resign". Others insist salaries should be cut during maternity leave. Kawata has brushed off the criticisms, proudly declaring she enjoys her job and believes now is the time for her to have a child and start a family. "If we were to criticise politicians taking maternity leave, it means we are effectively excluding all women in their 20s through 40s - women who are capable of becoming pregnant - from public office." Shinji Ishimaru, the former mayor of Akita city in the Hiroshima prefecture, believes the real issue is figuring out how to make sure duties are carried out during maternity leave. People agree maternity leave is good, he suggests on his YouTube channel, but he wants this case to spark a constructive discussion on finding a solution that doesn't disrupt municipal work.

New York braces for star-studded Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce wedding

Travis Kelce tries to shoot his shot with the famous pop star at a concert. On his podcast, he told his brother Jason that he'd made her a friendship bracelet with his number and attempted to present it to her, but failed. In an interview, months later, Swift said: "This all started when Travis very adorably put me on blast on his podcast..." September-November 2023: Going public Swift is spotted attending a Kansas City Chiefs NFL game in September 2023, where Kelce plays as a tight-end. She watched alongside Kelce's mother, Donna. At an Eras Tour concert two months later, she swapped lyrics to one of her songs, giving Travis a shout-out. When the concert wrapped, she ran into his arms for a kiss. Early 2024: Temperature rising The pair is seen supporting each other at multiple major events. Swift attended the Super Bowl, and celebrated the Chief's win with Travis and his family. Soon after, the football player attended



the singer's Eras Tour concert in Sydney. He wore multiple friendship bracelets on both arms. June 2024: 'Tayvis' hits London Travis join Taylor on stage for one of her concerts. After the show, Swift and Kelce pose with Prince William, Prince George and Princess Charlotte in a behind-the-scenes selfie from the singer's London concert. It's their first social media post together as a couple. August 2025:

Engagement announced The pair officially announce their engagement in a joint Instagram post. Kelce got down on one knee in a lush garden surrounded by flowers. "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married," they captioned the post. Prince William and Catherine won't be there in the US for the wedding of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce. So royalty won't be joining pop royalty for their big day. But even if

not a guest at the wedding, Prince William is going to be a guest on Travis Kelce's podcast. Which is another kind of closeness. Travis's brother Jason, trailing the podcast, gave listeners a slight clue in saying their special guest would be "six-foot-three prince from London, England", which narrows it down somewhat. The podcast is due to appear at about 17.00 UK time, so we'll keep you updated later on what's said.

Ukrainian woman named by Interpol as main suspect in Monaco bomb attack

A Ukrainian woman has been identified as the main suspect for a parcel bombing in Monaco that seriously wounded a sanctioned Ukrainian multi-millionaire and two others. Monaco's deputy public prosecutor told reporters that Anastasiia Berezovska, 39, is suspected to have been "disguised as a man" and may not have acted alone. An Interpol Red Notice has been issued for Berezovska, who speaks German and is wanted for attempted murder, placing an explosive device on a public road with criminal intent, and criminal conspiracy. Just before 21:00 (19:00 GMT) on Monday, an individual left a package in the entrance hall of a small apartment building, followed by an explosion shortly afterwards. Police are looking into identifying any possible accomplices as they continue to search for the named suspect. Officials in Monaco believe Berezovska had spent some days casing out the residence. The explosion happened just as three resi-



dents were entering the building on Monday evening, a couple and a 13-year-old. Deputy public prosecutor Morgan Raymond said the suspect, pictured on CCTV cameras wearing a dark bucket hat, left the scene on foot but then is believed to have picked up a hire car and driven to Italy and on to Germany. Interpol's photo of Berezovska shows a woman with dark shoulder-length hair. The notice adds that she has a tattoo on her right arm which is "possibly" depicting a snake. Monaco's prosecutor thanked police from Monaco and France for their co-operation which made it possible "to identify, in a particularly short time.



At least 32 dead after overcrowded bus plunges into ravine in Pakistan

BOMB BLAST AT DAMASCUS CAFE KILLS NINE, SYRIAN STATE MEDIA SAY

A bomb blast at a crowded cafe in central Damascus has killed at least nine people and injured 22 others, Syrian state media say. The interior ministry said an explosive device was planted inside the cafe, which is located only 100m (330ft) from the Palace of Justice, a major government building in the capital's Hejaz district. There was no immediate claim from any group for the attack. It was the deadliest bombing in Damascus since a suicide attack on a church in June 2025 killed 25 people. A shadowy jihadist group, Saraya Ansar al-Sunnah, said it was behind that bombing, but authorities blamed the Islamic State (IS) group. Mohammed al-Dahabi, the owner of a glasses shop located next to



the cafe, said Thursday's bombing was reminiscent of those seen in Damascus during Syria's civil war. "I felt strong pressure, and the whole place shook," he told the AFP news agency. "I ran to the place and saw people lying on the floor with blood pooled around them everywhere." Graphic video footage posted on social media showed at least two men lying motionless on the

floor of the cafe's outdoor terrace. During a visit to the scene, Damascus Governor Maher Marwan Idlibi said those responsible for the bloodshed would be punished. "Each time the country sees a period of stability, malicious parties try to destabilise it," he added. There have been several attacks in Damascus since Islamist-led rebel forces overthrew Bashar al-Assad

Highlights

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in December 2024, ending 13 years of devastating civil war. Interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa has struggled to consolidate control over the whole country and restore security since he came to power. There have been several bouts of deadly sectarian fighting between government forces and members of Syria's Alawite and Druze religious minorities.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026:

FIFA Clarifies Why Croatia's 2nd Goal Against Portugal Was Disallowed By VAR

After Croatia thought they had equalised against Portugal in a Round of 32 clash, but VAR intervened and ruled it out for offside, FIFA clarified that an IMU sensor inside the official match ball detected a faint touch from Croatian forward Igor Matanovic. Ivan Perisic had given Croatia the lead shortly after the break, but Cristiano Ronaldo's third goal of these finals drew Portugal level. Goncalo Ramos then rose highest to send a Rafael Leao cross home in the fourth minute of stoppage time. A Hail Mary pass into the Portugal box fell to Mario Pasalic to square for Josko Gvardiol to tap home in 103 minute. After a VAR review, however, Pasalic was deemed to have been in an offside position. The ball was crossed in by Ivan Perisic, and it appeared that Mario Pasalic had gotten in



behind before chesting it down for Gvardiol to finish with a sliding effort. It looked as if Croatia had rescued itself right at the end, just like it has done so many times before. But VAR intervened. Initially, it looked like Pasalic had chested the ball off a deflec-

tion from Portugal's Renato Veiga, which would have kept him onside. But after the VAR review, it showed that Croatia's Igor Matanovic got a slight flick on the ball before it reached Veiga. At the point the ball made contact with Matanovic's head, Pašalic

was in an offside position, which negated the goal in heartbreaking fashion for this Croatian side. FIFA later confirmed through a social media post that Matanovic's contact was determined using the data provided by Connected Ball Technology placed in the

official match ball. "According to the data provided by Connected Ball Technology housed within the @adidasfootball Trionda, the official match ball of the @FIFAWorldCup, it was proven that contact was made by Croatia's #20 Igor Matanovic in the build up to the goal against Portugal, allowing the referee to correctly determine offside and disallow the goal. "IMU sensors housed within the Trionda ball are capable of determining any slight contact, displayed to viewers in the broadcast as a 'heartbeat graphic', and allowing officials an unprecedented level of data to make fast, accurate decisions," FIFA Media shared on X. Ronaldo's second-half goal and a late winner from Ramos as Portugal came from behind to sneak this tug-of-war Toronto tussle at the FIFA World Cup 2026.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Stat Shows Cristiano Ronaldo's True Reality At Age Of 41

For the first time since the start of the FIFA World Cup 2026, Cristiano Ronaldo was subbed off during a match as Portugal manager Roberto Martinez looked for fresh legs in the middle of a stalemate with Croatia. Ronaldo opened the scoring for Portugal after defender Renato Veiga earned a penalty in the second half. Ronaldo, who hadn't had a single touch in Croatia's penalty box all game, finally had the opportunity to make his inclusion in the starting XI count. As expected, Ronaldo didn't miss from the spot, scoring his first-ever goal in the FIFA World Cup knockouts. However, Ronaldo's lacklustre performance in the game remained a major talking point. The 41-year-old, playing in his sixth World Cup, scored a brace for Portugal against Uzbekistan in a match that Portugal won 5-0. Yet, barring that game, Ronaldo's performances on the pitch have been poor. He was blamed for Portugal's twin



draws in the group stage of the tournament against DR Congo and Colombia. Before being subbed off against Croatia in the 81st minute, Ronaldo had registered only one touch in the opposition team's penalty box-which was the 68th-minute strike he converted from the spot. For a team like Portugal, who arguably possess one of the finest midfields in the World Cup, having a striker who is not on the same wavelength as his teammates and not operating on the same frequency is a huge concern. It was this

worry that prompted Martinez to sub him off in the 81st minute for Ruben Neves. The tactical change shifted Goncalo Ramos into Ronaldo's central role, while Neves took a spot in the centre of the midfield. What happened moments later was Ramos rising above the Croatian defenders to head home the winner for his team in stoppage time. The Paris Saint-Germain striker, who is set to join AC Milan in the summer, did exactly what Ronaldo was unable to do, and needed only minutes to pull it off.

Novak Djokovic Has History In Sights At Wimbledon

Novak Djokovic can move another step closer to history at Wimbledon in the third round on Friday. Defending champion Jannik Sinner is also in action in the last 32, while women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka faces former French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko. AFP Sport looks at three matches to watch on the fifth day of the tournament (x denotes seeding): Novak Djokovic (SRB x7) v Arthur Rinderknech (FRA x25) First meeting Djokovic was in vintage form during his second-round demolition of Stefanos Tsitsipas on Wednesday, underlining his determination to finally win that elusive 25th Grand Slam crown. The 39-year-old Serb delivered a statement of intent to his Wimbledon title rivals with a masterful straight-sets victory on



Centre Court. Djokovic was so enamoured with his display that he even found time to prank a ball-girl - pretending her repair work on his shirt had hurt him - before jokingly challenging golf star Rory McIlroy, who was watching from the royal box, to a tennis match. The seven-time Wimbledon champion's good mood was understandable. Djokovic,

seeded seventh, is now just one match win away from equalling Roger Federer's Wimbledon men's singles record of 105. But Djokovic has greater goals in his sights, aiming to equal Federer's men's record of eight Wimbledon titles - which would break his tie with Margaret Court for the most Grand Slam crowns by either a man or woman.

Winning Wimbledon would also make Djokovic the oldest man to lift a Grand Slam trophy in the Open era. As Djokovic said after beating Tsitsipas; "age is just a number". Next up for the ageless Serb is a first ever meeting with French 25th seed Arthur Rinderknech. Aryna Sabalenka (BLR x1) v Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) Sabalenka leads head to head 3-1 Bidding to win Wimbledon for the first time, Sabalenka faces a tricky test against Ostapenko in one of the ties of the round. The four-time Grand Slam champion, who has reached 14 successive major quarter-finals, has not been at her over-powering best so far in the tournament. The 28-year-old has never won Wimbledon, losing in the semi-finals on each of her past three visits.

Amanda Anisimova Avoids Wimbledon Upset; Iga Swiatek, Alexander Zverev Also Advance

Amanda Anisimova served three of her 20 aces in the deciding tiebreaker to hold off Sofia Kenin 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (3) and reach the third round at Wimbledon on Thursday as Kate, the Princess of Wales, visited the All England Club. Anisimova, who was consoled by Kate a year ago after being routed by Iga Swiatek in the final, trailed 3-1 in the third set before she broke back in the sixth game against her fellow American, the 2020 Australian Open champion who is now ranked No. 105. "Some moments were really awful. I'm just so happy through to the next round," Anisimova said on No. 2 Court. "I never thought that I'd be saying this - but thank you to my serve today," she added. "I'm not an amazing



server. Now, I can finally say I can serve pretty good." The sixth-seeded Anisimova whacked her racket on her leg at one point in the deciding set. "I was down 3-1 and I told myself to just keep fighting and this might be your last moments at Wimbledon ... just try and maybe have fun and enjoy it," said Anisimova, who will next

face another American, 26th-seeded Madison Keys. "I try to remind myself, just have fun, you are playing at Wimbledon. I do get hard on myself sometimes." Swiatek, who beat Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 for the 2025 title on Centre Court, needed just 70 minutes to get past 2021 Wimbledon finalist Karolina Pliskova 6-1, 6-3. The defending cham-

pion next gets Filipino rising star Alexandra Eala, who rallied to beat Maya Joint 3-6, 6-2, 6-0. On Tuesday, Joint spoiled Serena Williams' singles comeback. Second-seeded Elena Rybakina, the 2022 champion at the All England Club, made quick work of Caty McNally 6-1, 6-2 and will face Belgium's Elise Mertens, seeded 25th, for a spot in the last 16. A well-dressed Taylor Fritz impressed again, beating compatriot Patrick Kypson 6-2, 6-2, 7-5 to reach the third round. Fritz's white blazer and NBA-style warmup pants for his walk-on at No. 2 Court drew attention but his play wasn't bad either - he fired 19 aces and avoided getting pushed into a fourth set.

Harry Kane Tipped To Miss Out On Ballon d'Or By Ex-England Star Despite World Cup Heroics

Former England defender Jamie Carragher has ruled out the possibility of Harry Kane winning the Ballon d'Or despite his heroics at the FIFA World Cup 2026. Kane scored a brace in the second half as England left it late to edge past DR Congo 2-1 in their Round of 32 clash in Atlanta on Wednesday. The England captain took his tournament goal tally to five following a brilliant club season with Bayern Munich, where he recorded 61 goals and 7 assists in just 51 appearances. While Carragher admits that few can match Kane's numbers over the past 12 months, he believes the striker's chances of winning the Ballon d'Or are unrealistic because he doesn't see England winning the World Cup. In his column for the Telegraph, Carragher feels



that the Ballon d'Or will most certainly be given to someone from the tournament's winning side. "If the vote for the Ballon d'Or was being held right now, Kane would be the worthy winner, his heroics for England against DR Congo absorbing his 72nd goal of this season. Only Lionel Messi has recently hit those kinds of numbers. Not even Cristiano Ronaldo was so prolific in one campaign.

Based on the past 12 months, Kane should win the Ballon d'Or. Unfortunately, he probably won't because in a World Cup year, it is bound to go to the star player of the winning nation. Much as I want to believe England can still win it, there is nothing to support that opinion, especially after recent performances. If Argentina retain the cup, Messi will win the Ballon d'Or.

Jurgen Klopp 'Signals Willingness' To Take Over As Germany Coach Julian Nagelsmann Resigns

Julian Nagelsmann has resigned as Germany coach after his team failed to make the World Cup round of 16 for the third tournament running, and former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is in line to take over. Nagelsmann's departure, announced on Friday by the national soccer federation, comes four days after Paraguay stunned Germany on penalties in the round of 32 and follows talks with his bosses. The federation said it planned to speak to Klopp and "he has already signaled his willingness in general to take on the role." It would be Klopp's first coaching job since leaving Liverpool in 2024. Nagelsmann initially said he'd stay on with Germany on a contract which had another two years to run and reportedly made him among the highest-paid coaches at the



World Cup. He faced mounting criticism over his tactics and team selection at the tournament. "In the days since we went out I've done a lot of thinking and spoken with trusted people in my personal life and at the (federation)," Nagelsmann said in a statement. "This decision was anything but easy for me. My main aim has always been the team's success. After such a bitter disappointment, they've earned the chance for a completely fresh start." Germany's

defeat by Paraguay followed group-stage losses at the 2018 World Cup in Russia and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, when it was a 32-team tournament. It has not won a men's World Cup knockout game since beating Argentina in the 2014 final. Nagelsmann originally said after his side's exit that he was "not one to walk away" but he then returned home for crisis talks with the federation on Thursday. His departure drew a tribute from the head of the German government. "The chancellor thanks Julian Nagelsmann for his commitment and service in recent years as national team coach," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's spokesperson, Stefan Kornelius, told reporters at a government news conference that was taking place as the news arrived.

Max Verstappen To McLaren? Lando Norris Makes Blunt Admission

Lando Norris says reports that Max Verstappen has considered a move to McLaren are "a cool thing" to hear but "not a serious thing" as speculation swirls in Formula 1 about a switch which could create a lineup of two champions. Reports from media including Sky Sports indicated last week that Verstappen's management had requested, and held, a meeting with McLaren ahead of the Austrian Grand Prix. The content of any discussions wasn't reported and the Dutch driver has yet to comment. "It's a cool thing, it's a good thing that a four-time world champion wants

to come on board and wants to potentially join the team," Norris said Thursday as he prepares for his home British Grand Prix. "I don't know how much of it's true, but it's a cool thing and if there's an opportunity for me to drive with other people, it's something I've always looked forward to. But it's not a thing for now. It's not a serious thing." McLaren chief executive Zak Brown said on the Up To Speed podcast released Wednesday that Norris and teammate Oscar Piastri are "not going anywhere" and he'd only consider Verstappen if McLaren had



an opening. Besides Verstappen, "quite a few others" in F1 are interested in a potential McLaren drive too, Norris said. "I'm also just excited for my future with McLaren. I'm still going to be here for many, many more years, so

I'm excited for whoever I get partnered with," he added. "But for the time being, me and Oscar are still working very well together. We're excited to work together for more years too, so that's our focus for now." Verstappen remains under contract

with Red Bull until the end of 2028 but there have been signs the deal includes options to exit earlier under certain conditions. A planned move to McLaren for his long-time race engineer GianPiero Lambiase increased the speculation of a potential move to McLaren for the Dutchman. Mercedes has been interested in Verstappen in the past but team principal Toto Wolff has said he wants to keep title rivals George Russell and Kimi Antonelli. Verstappen's also previously suggested he'd consider leaving F1. Norris said he believed he could hold his

own if Verstappen, a friend and on-track rival for the title last year, is ever his teammate. "I do believe I can beat any driver. I think what makes Max so incredible is how he is over the course of a season, every single weekend, performing to the level that he does is what's impressive," Norris said. "I believe whether it's him or having a chance to go against Lewis (Hamilton) or Fernando (Alonso), any of the drivers that people know are some of the best, I think it's a cool opportunity for me at the same time. So, excited for whatever may come my way in the future."

"I Won't Be Driving": ExtraEmily Breaks Silence On Recent Twitch Ban Due to Distracted Driving Incident



ExtraEmily is back on Twitch after a 24-hour suspension, and unlike the last two times this happened, she came back with something to say. The near-miss clip from her June 28 stream had already spread far enough to pull in Asmongold's reaction and a wave of calls for Twitch to ban streaming while driving entirely. What she said when her account was restored was quieter than any of that, and considerably more personal. What ExtraEmily Said When Her Account Came Back She addressed it directly on her July 2 stream, starting with the ban itself. "I completely understand why I was suspended because it's very dangerous," she said, "and I want to learn from my mistake and do better in the future. So from now on, I'm going to try to minimize the amount of driving that I'm doing on stream." She went further than a standard apology. "If I do drive on stream, I'm definitely gonna have chat off," she said, "and I just want to do bet-

ter and not make the same mistake again. I do feel really bad for being distracted and not being safe on the road. And I totally understand why ppl are like, what the heck." The most concrete part came at the end. "So I won't be driving on stream for at least a few weeks," she said. "Even if I do drive, I'm gonna take steps to improve. Things need to change, so I shall." Why This Is the Third Time Having This Conversation Emily Xuechun Zhang, who goes by ExtraEmily on Twitch, has 978,000 followers on the platform and has now been suspended for driving-related incidents three times. The first was in October 2023, when viewers reported her using her phone while driving during an IRL stream. The second was in April 2025, after she ran a red light on camera and appeared distracted while doing it. This latest ban, a 24-hour suspension following the June 28 near-collision with a Mazda SUV while making a left turn, is the third.

TFI FANS EXPECT NATIONAL AWARD GLORY FOR KALKI VFX

As the 2024 National Film Awards are expected to be announced this evening, Telugu cinema fans are eagerly backing Kalki 2898 AD for major honours. Many believe the Prabhas-starrer deserves either Best Film or Best Visual Effects recognition, calling it one of the most technically accomplished films ever produced in TFI history. Rebel Star Prabhas's Kalki 2898 AD is a 1000 Crore film and the second part of the film is one of the most-hyped sequels in Indian Cinema. Two schedules of the film are completed and the next schedule will begin from August/September. Ahead of the film's release, the team is planning to do 1-hour films

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with the main characters of the film like Dulquer Salmaan for OTT. These films will release before the movie release and each is being planned with 20 Crore Budget. The challenge in that is the approval of OTT and the remunerations of stars. However, if cracked, these films will explain the backstories of the characters even better because runtime of the film restricts proper explanation. Also, the films will create more excitement and interest about the main film before the release. If Netflix or any platform approves this, it will be a big achievement for the makers and also the brand 'Kalki' because these are the days even stars are struggling to get proper deals for their films. Now that Sing Geetham duties are completed, Nag Ashwin will begin intense pre-production of Prabhas portions. The idea is to shoot non-stop for the film provided Prabhas schedules work out. The buzz around Kalki 2 continues to grow, and the sequel is shaping up to be even bigger and more ambitious than the first installment. Following the massive success of Kalki 2898 AD, fans are eagerly waiting to see what director Nag Ashwin has planned next. One of the biggest talking points is the reported casting changes. According to ongoing industry speculation, Sai Pallavi is expected to replace Deepika Padukone. While there has been

no official confirmation yet, the rumor has already sparked discussions among fans across social media. Adding to the excitement, Alia Bhatt is reportedly being considered for a special role in the film. If the reports turn out to be true, her inclusion could bring another layer of star power to the highly anticipated sequel. Disha Patani, who appeared in the first film, is also expected to return and continue her journey in the futuristic universe. On the male front, the lineup remains incredibly strong. Prabhas will once again lead the story, while Kamal Haasan and Amitabh Bachchan are expected to play crucial roles. There is also speculation that Vijay Deverakonda could return, especially if the sequel explores flashback sequences connected to the events of the first film. With such exciting possibilities, Kalki 2 is already generating enormous anticipation among movie lovers. The ongoing debate around Ramayana has unexpectedly brought Kalki 2898 AD back into the spotlight. After the teaser of Ramayana received mixed reactions, particularly criticism over a few VFX shots, film lovers, especially from the South, began drawing comparisons with other big-budget spectacles.

Netizens Declare Rishabh Sawhney the Biggest Highlight of Nagabandham; Praise His Powerful Aura as Mega Villain Abdali

As Nagabandham hits theatres, one performance that has caught everyone's attention is Rishabh Sawhney's portrayal of the formidable Abdali. While audiences are discussing the film's grand scale and mythology,



social media has been flooded with appreciation for the actor's commanding screen presence, with many calling him one of the biggest highlights of the film. Social media is flooded with reactions praising the his impactful act. One fan wrote, "Just watched Nagabandham and I could not take my eyes off #RishabhSawhneyy." Echoing similar sentiments, a viewer posted, "Just saw #Nagabandham and I just want to say this to the directors - more power-packed roles for #RishabhSawhneyy pleaseeeee." Several

viewers were especially impressed by the actor's commanding screen presence. One tweet read, "#RishabhSawhney kya aura kya dominance! Abhi dekha Nagabandham and bro his screen presence was next level!!!" Another fan wrote, "Whenever #Rishabh entered the scene you just know something big is gonna happen. #Nagabandham." A moviegoer added, "Watched Nagabandham with fam rn and this #RishabhSawhney guy has a madd aura!! He looked soo powerful as Abdali." Many fans believe Rishabh's performance lingered long after the film ended. "Rishabh Sawhney's screen presence in Nagabandham?," read one reaction. Another fan commented, "#RishabhSawhney really knows how to hold your attention. Watched him after Fighter and his presence stayed with me even after the film ended #Nagabandham."

RAMJI DOTT: THE VFX SUPERVISOR REDEFINING CREATIVE VISUALS IN TOLLYWOOD



A new name is quietly earning serious respect among Telugu cinema's technical circles — Ramji Dott, a VFX Supervisor whose recent body of work is turning heads for its creative ambition and cinematic finish. While many technicians deliver clean, functional visual effects, Ramji Dott belongs to a rarer category: an artist who treats VFX as storytelling, not just problem-solving. Over a remarkably short span, his name has become familiar to industry professionals who value craft over shortcuts.

A Track Record Built on Landmark Films

Ramji Dott has contributed his visual effects expertise to some of Telugu cinema's most talked-about titles, including Mahanati, 118, Masooda, and Mirai. Each project demanded a different visual language — from the period elegance of Mahanati to the tension-driven texture of Masooda — and he adapted his approach to serve the story every time. His most defining creative achievement came with Rao Bahadur, a project that showcased the full range of his abilities. Of the film's nearly two hours of visual effects work, roughly thirty minutes were pure creative 3D VFX — fully imagined,

designed, and executed sequences that went far beyond routine clean-up or enhancement. The results were widely regarded as some of the most striking creative VFX to come out of a Telugu production in recent memory.

Pushing the Frontier: Hybrid Live-Action Technology

What truly sets Ramji Dott apart is his commitment to the future of the medium. He recently developed a teaser titled Mahaveer Karna using hybrid live-action technology — a technique that blends real performance capture with advanced digital craft. The teaser's visuals are strikingly realistic, achieving a level of believability and scale that is difficult to produce even in far larger productions. It stands as a statement of intent: proof that ambitious, world-class cinematic imagery can be created with vision, technical mastery, and the intelligent use of emerging tools.

A Filmmaker's Sensibility

Ramji Dott's work is memorable not because of technical polish alone, but because of the creative instinct behind it. He approaches every frame with a filmmaker's eye — asking what the shot should make the audience feel, not simply how to render it.

SRINIVASA MANGAPURAM VV THEATRICAL RELEASE ON JULY 30

Marking the debut of Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary superstar Krishna and nephew of Mahesh Babu, Srinivasa Mangapuram is the latest directorial venture from Ajay Bhupathi. The film also introduces Bollywood actress Rasha Thadani, daughter of Raveena Tandon, to Telugu cinema. Senior actor Dr Mohan Babu takes on the role of the powerful antagonist in this ambitious project. Backed by producer P Kiran and presented by Ashwini Dutt, the film has been generating considerable buzz with widely appealing promotional material. Today, the makers came up with the film's release date. The movie will grace



the cinemas worldwide on July 30th, as officially announced by the makers. As of now, they released three songs, a couple of teasers, and posters, which all received positive reception.

Ajay Bhupathi has taken a refreshing route with Srinivasa Mangapuram, weaving together a beautiful love story with powerful action and his trademark intensity. Both Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni and Rasha Thadani impressed with their cute looks and wonderful performances in teaser and songs. The movie boasts top-notch technical qualities. Jayakrishna ISC handles the cinematography, GV Prakash Kumar provides the music. Madhav Kumar Gullapati is the editor, while production designer is taken care by Sahi Suresh. Since the movie will arrive in less than a month, the makers are planning to intensify the promotional activities in the coming days.

'VADALA' SET FOR JULY 17 THEATRICAL RELEASE

Jagapathi Babu, Laya, Akella V Krishna, Kishore Naidu Chirumamilla, Tammareddy Bharadwaj, Charita Chitra Productions' 'Vadala' to release in theaters on July 17th Versatile actor Jagapathi Babu will be seen in an intense role in the psychological thriller 'Vadala', which is a mix of suspense, mystery and strong emotions. Directed by Akella V. Krishna, the film also stars Laya and Hritika Srinivas in key roles. Produced by Kishore Naidu Chirumamilla and Tammareddy Bharadwaj under the banner of Charita Chitra Productions, the film has already generated interest with its 'First Glimpses' and the teaser has further



increased the expectations. The film is set to hit the theatres on July 17. On this occasion, the team has released a new poster that is eye-catching. The poster captures the mysterious atmosphere of the film in an interesting way. Hritik Srinivas is seen in a red backdrop with an expression that seems to hide many secrets. Jagapathi Babu and Laya are seen on either side of her with intense emotions, arousing curiosity about the bond between these three characters. With the release date set, the film's promotions will intensify in the coming days. The theatrical trailer will be released soon. Chhota K. Naidu is handling the cinematography for the film, while Karthik Kodakandla is composing the music. Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor, Lakshmi Bhupala is the story writer, and Bajja Brahmayya is the production designer.

MOST ANTICIPATED ODYSSEY TRAILER: WHY 80% DISLIKES?



One of the most anticipated films in the global cinema is coming up shortly in the form of Odyssey. This film is directed by the legendary Christopher Nolan, and it is preparing for release on July 17. The promotional material of this film has been rather questionable till now. This is due to the fact that people have been finding fault with the casting choices as there are performances that extreme wokism has been identified in filling crucial roles. The desper-

ate effort to diversify the races of the actors and cast multiracial actors is looking artificial. Now, this film is facing extreme backlash on social media as the newly released trailer has received multiple times more dislikes than likes on YouTube. The fact that the trailer has gained over 100,000 dislikes as opposed to just 47K likes is instating this fact and the shocking thing is that the volume of dislikes is consistently climbing up. Over 100K dislikes and it's still climbing.