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GOVT WORKING
on 15 pc isobutanol
blending in diesel to
cut oil imports:
Nitin Gadkari

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LARGE CROWDS
gather in Tehran on first
day of Ayatollah
Khamenei's funeral

WORLD | NEWS



SAMANTHA
TEASES AN EXCITING NEW
CHAPTER WITH SONY LIV TAMIL

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

02-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 66,304
Tonsures - 31,881
Hundi kumbhaka - 4,51 CR
Laddu sale - 4,05 Lac
Annasradams - 1,93 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,392
Waiting Consultants - Outside line
at Krishna Teja Guest house

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens) - 12 H.

Mamata announces
herself as Trinamool's
Bengal chief



Kolkata (TSIT) : In a swift political move aimed at consolidating her control over the party organisation amid a deepening internal crisis, former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress national chairperson Mamata Banerjee on Saturday took over as the party's West Bengal state president, hours after Chandrima Bhattacharya resigned from the post following her decision to join the rebel faction led by expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee. Shortly after Bhattacharya officially announced her resignation from that post on Saturday afternoon, Mamata Banerjee went live on Facebook, announcing her decision not to appoint anyone to the post of state president and instead to operate from that chair herself. At the same time, she announced the names of the party legislators, namely Kunal Ghosh and Madan Mitra, who continue to be loyal to her, as the two state general secretaries of Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. In her Facebook Live message, the former West Bengal Chief Minister also issued an appeal to those legislators and leaders who have united under the "rebel by majority" faction under the leadership of the expelled party legislator Ritabrata Banerjee, to directly join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), instead of continuing to claim themselves as the "real Trinamool Congress".

CM REVANTH MARKS 20 YEARS IN PUBLIC LIFE AT MIDJIL

LAUNCHES RS. 47-CRORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



Hyderabad
TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday celebrated 20 years in public life by returning to Midjil, where he began his electoral journey as an Independent ZPTC member in 2006. Addressing a thanksgiving meeting, he described the occasion as one of the most emotional milestones of his political career.

Expressing gratitude to the people of Midjil, the Chief Minister said, "The sapling you planted 20 years ago has today grown into a mighty tree

standing before you as the Chief Minister of Telangana." He credited the people of the mandal for their unwavering support throughout his political journey.

Earlier, Revanth Reddy unveiled the statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and former MLA Dyapa Gopal Reddy at Veljala Cross Road. Paying tribute to the region's political legacy, he recalled the contributions of former Hyderabad State Chief Minister Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, veteran parliamentarian Jaipal Reddy, and Dyapa Gopal Reddy to public life.

On the occasion, the

Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for development works worth Rs.47.08 crore in Midjil mandal. The projects include Rs.10 crore for the development of the Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple at Urukondapeta and Rs.17.08 crore for the construction of three check dams and restoration works aimed at improving irrigation facilities and groundwater resources. He said Midjil and neighbouring Gattu, once known as groundwater-stressed "dark mandals," would be transformed into model regions through focused development.

PM Modi inaugurates petrochemical refinery complex

Jaipur (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the country's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra in Rajasthan's Balotra district, marking a significant milestone for India's energy and petrochemical sectors.

Addressing a gathering at Balotra, Modi said the project reflected India's progress towards becoming a developed and self-reliant nation. "Today, a refinery has been dedicated to the nation from this land. Thousands of people in the region will benefit from employment opportunities created by this refinery. I especially congratulate the youth of Rajasthan. Today is proof that BJP governments do not merely lay foundation stones and abandon projects. We work tirelessly to ensure they are completed," the Prime Minister said. Built at an investment of over Rs 79,450



PM Modi, Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy CM Diya Kumar during the foundation stone-laying and inauguration of various development projects, including the Pachpadra refinery site, in Balotra.

crore, the 9 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical complex has been developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Rajasthan Government.

Says the project reflects India's progress towards becoming a developed and self-reliant nation

CM Naidu distributes DKT pattas to Kangundi farmers



Kuppam (TSIT)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday distributed D-Form (DKT) pattas to 326 eligible farmer families in Kangundi village, providing a permanent solution to a six-decade-old land dispute involving Ambapuram D-Form-7 lands. Speaking during his three-day Kuppam tour, the Chief Minister described the patta distribution as one of the happiest moments of his political life.

Naidu said the government resolved the long-pending issue through legal and humanitarian mea-

sures by reclassifying the land from forest lineage to Assigned Waste and issuing title deeds to eligible cultivators. He said land ownership provides security, dignity and stability to farming families.

The Chief Minister announced plans to develop Kangundi into a hub for tourism, industry and green development. He said Kangundi Fort and the surrounding forest area would be transformed into a world-class tourist destination with trekking facilities, homestays, resorts and other infrastructure to generate local employment.

Building collapses in Chandigarh's Industrial Area:

● 1 feared dead; rescue op underway

Chandigarh (TSIT)

One person was feared dead and several were rescued after a commercial under-construction two-storey building collapsed at Industrial Area, Phase 2, in Chandigarh on Saturday afternoon, prompting a rescue operation by NDRF, police administrative officials and fire brigade teams. The rescue teams and emergency services rushed to the spot and are carrying out debris clearance and search operations.

As many as eight people were trapped under the debris, of whom seven were rescued, officials said. They were rushed to a hospital.

The search for more survivors is still underway. According to nearby workers, the building collapsed suddenly with a loud noise around 4.30 pm. The build-

Rescue operations are underway to clear the debris; it is yet to be ascertained how many people were inside the building at the time of the incident



ing, which adjoins a hotel, housed multipurpose offices and reportedly had several workers present on a daily basis.

However, it is yet to be ascertained how many people were inside the

building at the time of the incident.

Rescue operations are under way to clear the debris, and the police have cordoned off the area. Nearly five cranes, two JCB machines and

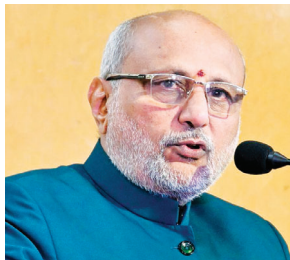
one bulldozer have been deployed for the rescue operation. The office was also shared by a scrap dealer. NDRF teams have also reached the spot to assist in rescue operations.

CJP RAISES STUDENTS' PROTEST, WANGCHUK STRIKE

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has written an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to respond to the ongoing student protest at Jantar Mantar and the indefinite hunger strike of educationist Sonam Wangchuk. In the letter dated July 4, the organisation accused the Centre of remaining silent on students' demands concerning alleged exam paper leaks, examination cancellations and broader issues in the education system. Claiming that the protest has entered its 15th day while Wangchuk's hunger strike has completed seven days, the organisation questioned the government's silence.

V-P Radhakrishnan calls for public cooperation in Special Intensive Revision of electoral roll



New Delhi (TSIT)

Submitting his duly filled enumeration form under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Delhi, Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan today urged all eligible voters to actively participate in the exercise, emphasising that an accurate and updated electoral roll is essential to strengthening India's

vibrant democracy.

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, Ashok Kumar along with Election Officials, facilitated the enumeration process at the Uprashtrapati Bhawan as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of the electoral roll in Delhi.

On the occasion, the Vice-President called upon citizens to extend their full cooperation to the election authorities to ensure the success of the Special Intensive Revision.

The exercise, aimed at ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll, began on June 30, 2026, and will continue till July 29, 2026.

At 15, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi shatters Sachin Tendulkar's 37-year-old record

Manchester (TSIT)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the 15-year-old boy wonder from Bihar's Samastipur district, on Saturday became India's youngest debutant in international cricket surpassing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar who held the record for nearly 37 years. The contrast in eras and personalities could not be starker though. At 16 years and 205 days, Tendulkar walked into the nation's collective consciousness with a game that was built on solid defence and artistic offence, defined by Mumbai's school of 'Khadoos' batsmanship.



From Midjil ZPTC to Telangana CM Revanth's Phenomenal Political Rise in Just 20 Years

By M. Rajanikanth
Hyderabad:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday completed 20 years in public life, marking a political journey that began with his election as a Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) member from Midjil in the then undivided Mahbubnagar district on July 4, 2006, and culminated in his taking charge as the State's second Chief Minister in December 2023. Over the past two decades, Revanth Reddy has emerged as one of Telangana's prominent political leaders, rising from grassroots politics to occupy the highest elected office in the State. His political trajectory—from a local body representative in Midjil to Chief Minister within 20 years—is



regarded by many as one of the most significant political success stories in contemporary Telangana politics.

To mark the milestone, the Chief Minister visited Midjil, widely regarded as the starting point of his electoral career. During the visit, he interacted with party workers, supporters

and local residents who had backed him during his maiden election campaign. The visit carried symbolic significance as he returned to the constituency where his public life began.

Revanth Reddy entered electoral politics by winning the ZPTC election as an independent candidate in 2006. The fol-

lowing year, he was elected to the Legislative Council as an independent under the Local Bodies quota before joining the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He subsequently won the Kodangal Assembly constituency in 2009 and retained the seat in 2014, establishing himself as an outspoken and effective legislator.

A major turning point in his political career came in 2017 when he joined the Indian National Congress. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Malkajigiri constituency in 2019 and was appointed President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) in 2021. Under his leadership, the Congress strengthened its organisational network across the State and secured victory in the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections, enabling the party to

return to power and paving the way for Revanth Reddy to become Chief Minister.

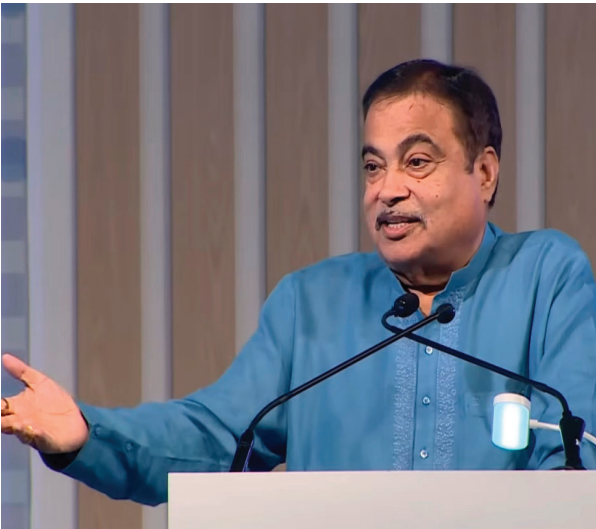
Political analysts attribute his rapid rise to a combination of grassroots engagement, organisational abilities, strategic political positioning and effective public communication. Having completed two decades in public life, Revanth Reddy now leads the State government with a focus on governance reforms, infrastructure development, attracting investments, employment generation and implementing the Congress government's welfare programmes. Marking the milestone, Revanth Reddy also shared an emotional message on X, describing his two decades in public life as "an unforgettable journey" filled with cherished memories.

Govt working on 15 pc isobutanol blending in diesel to cut oil imports: Nitin Gadkari

New Delhi, July 4 : Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has said that the government is working on introducing up to 15 per cent isobutanol blending in diesel, describing the biofuel as a potential alternative to conventional diesel that could help reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports.

Speaking during the launch of India's first flex-fuel passenger vehicle by Maruti Suzuki India Limited on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 4, in the presence of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Gadkari said ethanol cannot be blended directly with diesel and the government is therefore developing isobutanol from ethanol.

"Isobutanol can be an alternative to diesel. We



are also working on allowing 15 per cent isobutanol blending in diesel," the minister said.

Gadkari said testing of isobutanol has already begun for construction and agricultural equipment, while successful trials have demonstrated the fuel's viability.

"I have launched two generator sets running 100 per cent on ethanol and isobutanol. This proves engines can be developed to operate on these fuels," he has said.

Moreover, the minister has said the proposed diesel blending programme forms part of the govern-

ment's broader strategy to promote alternative fuels, reduce fossil fuel imports and move towards energy self-reliance.

Besides isobutanol, the government's focus on ethanol, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), bio-CNG, methanol, biodiesel, LNG, hydrogen and electric mobility was also highlighted by the minister as part of India's clean energy transition.

He said that despite rapid progress in alternative fuels, India still imports large quantities of fossil fuels, making it imperative to diversify the country's energy basket.

Gadkari had urged automobile manufacturers to accelerate the development of flex-fuel technologies and explore the conversion of existing Euro-VI vehicles into flex-fuel-compatible models through authorised service centres.

Hyderabad Hosts First-Ever National Youth Congress Legal Cell Conclave

Hyderabad, TSIT: National Legal Cell Conclave organised by the Youth Congress Legal Cell concluded successfully in Hyderabad, bringing together lawyers, legal experts, constitutional scholars and political leaders from across the country to deliberate on key legal and constitutional issues.

Addressing the gathering chief guests spoke on the protection of the Constitution, the role and independence of the judiciary, the misuse of legal institutions, social justice and the responsibilities of young lawyers in safeguarding democratic values. They stressed the need for legal professionals to uphold constitutional principles and strengthen public confidence in the justice system.

Speakers hailed the initiative as the first-ever national-level conclave of the Youth Congress Legal Cell to be organised in the country, describing it as a significant platform for exchanging professional experiences, discussing contemporary legal issues

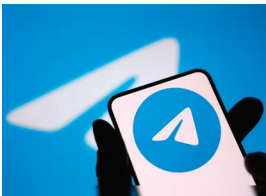


and encouraging meaningful dialogue among young advocates. The conclave was attended by TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, Indian Youth Congress National President Uday Bhanu Chib, All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba, Telangana Ministers Ponnampalapati and Vivek Venkataswamy, Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru, Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Vivek Tankha, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, Telangana Youth Congress President Jakkidi Shivacharan Reddy, National Youth Congress Legal Cell Convener Rupesh, Telangana Youth Congress Legal Cell Convener Guduru Nikhil Reddy, senior advocates Nandita Rao and Sanjay Ghosh, along with several legal professionals and Youth Congress leaders.

Centre directs Telegram to curb film piracy

New Delhi, July 4: The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed Telegram to take immediate and effective measures to prevent the spread of pirated films and infringing audio-visual content on its platform. In a notification issued on Friday, the Ministry said newly released films and other copyrighted content continue to be shared through public channels, groups and bots, causing significant losses to the creative industry and violating the Copyright Act, 1957, Cinematograph Act, 1952, and Information Technology Act, 2000.

The government noted that despite repeated notices and takedown directions, pirated content continues to reappear through mirror channels, successor groups and other evasion methods. It stated that Telegram's current channel-by-channel takedown approach is inadequate and called for stronger platform-wide anti-piracy measures. The Ministry directed



Telegram to establish robust grievance redressal mechanisms, promptly remove infringing content, prevent re-uploads, take action against repeat offenders, preserve evidence for law enforcement, and strengthen coordination with government agencies.

Telegram has been asked to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) within 15 days, detailing measures adopted to curb piracy, grievance handling procedures, compliance protocols, and safeguards against repeat violations. The government warned that failure to comply with due diligence obligations could lead to legal action, including proceedings under the Information Technology Act, Copyright Act and Cinematograph Act, and possible restrictions on access to offending channels and groups.

KVK College holds grand Pharm.D convocation



Hyderabad, July 4: KVK College of Pharmacy celebrated the graduation ceremony of its Pharm.D Batch of 2026 with great enthusiasm at Pista House, Vanasthalipuram, on Friday. Degrees were awarded to students who successfully completed the programme in the 2026 academic year.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. M. Sunitha Reddy, Professor and Principal of JNTUH College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dr. A. Chiranjeevi Rao, Medical Superintendent of AIG Hospitals, as chief guests. KES Society Secretary and Correspondent Satish Kadiyala congratulated

the graduates, while College Principal Dr. A. Satish Chandra urged them to use their knowledge for community welfare.

Addressing the graduates, the chief guests highlighted the growing opportunities in clinical pharmacy, research and pharmacovigilance, emphasizing the vital role of clinical pharmacists in ensuring safe and effective patient care. They encouraged students to pursue continuous learning, uphold professional ethics and develop advanced skills to excel in national and international healthcare sectors.

The event was attended by faculty members, students, parents and management, making the convocation a memorable celebration of academic achievement.

30 Years. One Trusted Kitchen Companion. Sunpure Unveils New Multimedia Brand Campaign with Kiccha Sudeep & Priyamani

Bengaluru, July 4, 2026: Sunpure, the flagship edible oil brand from MK Agrotech (A Masoom Group Company), today unveiled its landmark brand campaign celebrating 30 years of purity, trust, and happiness in millions of Indian homes. Featuring Superstar Kiccha Sudeep and National Award-winning actress Priyamani, the campaign shines the spotlight on India's only Physically Refined Sunflower Oil - Sunpure Refined Sunflower Oil, the brand's flagship product that has been a trusted choice for generations of consumers across South and West India.

For three decades, Sunpure Refined Sunflower Oil has remained a trusted companion in kitchens across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha, earning the confidence of millions of households through its unwavering commitment to purity, quality, and consistency. The new campaign is a tribute to this enduring relationship, celebrating the simple



moments of love, togetherness and happiness that begin around every dining table.

Built around the heartwarming tagline "SunpureEllide, Santhosha Allide" (Where there is Sunpure, There is Happiness), the television commercial captures the warmth of everyday family life through a nostalgic jingle, engaging storytelling and relatable family moments. More than a product

campaign, it celebrates the emotional bond Sunpure has built with consumers over the last three decades, reinforcing why Sunpure Refined Sunflower Oil continues to be a preferred choice for millions of Indian families.

At the heart of the campaign lies a unique and authentic connection between the brand and its ambassadors. As Sunpure celebrates 30 years of enriching dining

tables across India, Kiccha Sudeep also marks three remarkable decades of entertaining audiences, making the association a natural celebration of two enduring legacies built on trust and consistency. Complementing him is Priyamani, whose warmth, grace, and relatability beautifully represent the modern Indian homemaker, creating an authentic emotional connect with families and reinforcing the values that have defined the Sunpure brand for generations.

Coinciding with its 30-year milestone, Sunpure has expanded its portfolio with the launch of Sunpure Champion Refined Canola Oil - a premium edible oil rich in MUFA (monounsaturated fatty acid) and Omega 3 and designed for today's health-conscious consumers. Also, its neutral taste and aroma makes it suitable for all kinds of Indian cooking. The new offering reflects the brand's continued focus on innovation and delivering healthier, high-quality cooking solutions while complementing its trusted range of edible oils.

Pallavi International School holds investiture ceremony



Hyderabad, July 4: Pallavi International School, Bachupally, celebrated its Investiture Ceremony 2026-27 with great enthusiasm, formally inducting the newly elected Student Council in the presence of dignitaries, parents, teachers and students. The ceremony featured a Guard of Honour, flag unfurling, lamp lighting, oath-taking by student leaders, and the presentation of badges and sashes.

Principal Sudeshna Mairal welcomed the gathering and stressed the importance of nurturing responsible and compassionate leaders. Chief Guest Col. Dr. V.R.K. Prasad (Retd.), a 1971 Indo-Pak War veteran and educa-

tionist, inspired students to uphold discipline, integrity, patriotism and selfless service.

Guest of Honour V. Narasimha Rao, Inspector of Police and SHO, Jeedimetla Traffic Police Station, encouraged students to become responsible citizens by following traffic rules and respecting the law. Academic Auditor Neelima congratulated the Student Council and appreciated their commitment to school activities. The programme also featured cultural performances, a yoga display, the Harihararam Plantation Drive, and concluded with the National Anthem and a group photograph, marking the beginning of a new chapter of student leadership.

Breaking the Silence on Bladder Health Apollo Workshop Encourages Elderly Women to Seek Help for Pelvic Floor Disorders

Hyderabad, July 4: Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, on Saturday organised a one-day awareness workshop titled "Aging with Confidence - Solutions for Bladder & Pelvic Floor Problems" at its premises, bringing together elderly women, caregivers and family members to promote awareness on bladder and pelvic floor health and encourage women to seek timely medical care. The programme brought together elderly women, caregivers and family members for expert sessions on urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, bladder health and preventive measures to maintain pelvic floor strength. Participants also benefited from free Bone Mineral Density (BMD),



blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, physiotherapy demonstrations and interactive counselling sessions.

The workshop was led by Dr Nirmala Papalkar and Dr Shreeja Gurralla from the Department of

Urogynaecology, along with Dr Dharshitha, Consultant in Geriatric Medicine. Experts from Neurology, Rheumatology and Cardiology also participated in a multidisciplinary panel discussion,

highlighting the importance of comprehensive care for elderly women.

Beyond the medical sessions, the programme's most impactful outcome was the willingness of participants to share their personal experiences with urinary leakage, pelvic organ prolapse and other bladder-related conditions many for the first time. The discussions underscored how embarrassment, social stigma and lack of awareness often delay timely medical consultation. The anonymous question-and-answer session further encouraged women to discuss concerns they had long kept private, helping them understand that these conditions are common, manageable and, in many cases, treatable.

Yashoda launches advanced PFA technology for heart disorders



Hyderabad, July 4: Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, has introduced the advanced Pulse Field Ablation (PFA) technology for the treatment of complex heart rhythm disorders, becoming one of the early adopters of the globally advanced Medtronic PulseSelect™ Pulse Field Ablation System in India.

The hospital's Electrophysiology team successfully treated two patients aged 31 and 84 suffering from complex cardiac arrhythmias using the new technology. Both patients recovered well after the procedure, with their heart rhythm restored to normal and significant improvement in their clinical condition.

Unlike conventional ablation methods that use heat or extreme cold, Pulse Field Ablation uses precisely controlled electrical pulses to target abnormal heart tissue while preserving surrounding healthy structures. This significantly reduces the risk of damage to nearby organs, lowers complications and enables

faster recovery.

The procedures were performed by Dr. M. S. Chandramouli, Senior Cardiac Electrophysiologist and Heart Failure Specialist, along with the Electrophysiology team at Yashoda Hospitals.

Dr. Chandramouli described PFA as a major advancement in the treatment of atrial fibrillation and other complex cardiac rhythm disorders, offering greater precision, improved safety and better patient outcomes. He said the hospital remains committed to bringing world-class cardiac technologies to patients in India.

The Department of Cardiac Electrophysiology at Yashoda Hospitals provides comprehensive treatment for atrial fibrillation and other rhythm disorders, including catheter ablation, pacemaker implantation, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT), leadless pacemakers and advanced heart failure management.

Pruthvi Toyota opens new dealership in Bhimavaram

Bhimavaram : Pruthvi Toyota, an authorized dealer partner of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, proudly inaugurated its new world-class dealership and service facility in Bhimavaram, marking a significant milestone in strengthening Toyota's presence in the West Godavari region. The grand inauguration was graced by Hon'ble Shri K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative

Assembly, as the Chief Guest.

The event was further honored by the presence of distinguished Guests of Honour:

- Shri P. Ramanjaneyulu (Anji Babu), Hon'ble MLA, Bhimavaram

The inauguration commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a warm welcome address from the Managing Director of Pruthvi Toyota. In his speech, he high-



lighted the company's commitment to delivering Toyota's globally renowned standards of quality, safety, reliability, and customer satisfaction to the people of Bhimavaram and neighboring

districts.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest appreciated Toyota's continued investment in Andhra Pradesh and lauded Pruthvi Toyota for creating employment opportunities, strengthening the local economy, and bringing world-class automotive sales and after-sales services closer to customers in the region.

The dignitaries congratulated the Pruthvi Toyota management

on this important milestone and expressed confidence that the new dealership would contribute significantly to the economic growth of the region while providing exceptional customer experiences.

As a token of gratitude, Pruthvi Toyota presented commemorative mementoes to the Chief Guest and Guests of Honour in recognition of their esteemed presence.

EDITORIAL

ISRAEL’S GENOCIDE IN GAZA REPRESENTS THE MORAL BANKRUPTCY OF THE HUMAN RACE

There is a line in the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry report, released on June 23, 2026, that ought to stop the world cold. The commission’s chair, Srinivasan Muralidhar, stated without qualification, “By targeting children, Israel is attacking the very capacity of the Palestinian people to exist and to determine their future.” This is not the language of diplomatic reprimand. It is the language of genocide and the commission uses that word deliberately, having already concluded in September 2025 that Israel had committed genocide against the Palestinian population of Gaza. The June report adds the unbearable specificity: it is the children who are the primary instrument and target of this genocide.

Between October 7, 2023, and March 31, 2026 – a period spanning two years and five months – at least 20,179 Palestinian children were killed, with a further 44,143 injured. Children constituted approximately 30% of the total death toll, a proportion higher than any previous conflict involving Israel and higher than the comparative averages from the 2008-2009 and 2014 Gaza wars, when children made up approximately 24% of the fatalities. The targeting was not only individual, but also infrastructural and existential. The report records the systematic destruction of hospitals, schools, orphanages and neonatal care centres – all facilities that enjoy special protection under international law and that in Gaza collectively constituted the entire material basis of Palestinian childhood. Starvation, imposed through blockade and siege, caused deaths among children and severely impaired the development of those who survived. Immunisation rates collapsed as the healthcare system was dismantled. The commission noted that nearly all children remaining in Gaza require psychological support; it identified a condition it calls the “occupied psyche,” an intergenerational mental state in which the freedom to play, to imagine, to hope and to construct an identity has been structurally eroded. “Even if the bombs and guns fall silent,” Muralidhar said, “Palestinian children will not simply recover overnight. The destruction of their health, education and development is irreversible.”

Read this and then ask yourself: What exactly is the international community doing? And before that, ask something harder: How did we arrive at a world in which this question is required asking? The answer to the second question has a long history and a very specific institutional architecture. Israel has operated, for over seven decades, under the assumption, validated repeatedly by events, that it is above international law. This assumption was constructed by the United States veto in the UN Security Council and deployed without exception to block accountability for Israeli actions since 1967. It was enforced by the peculiar grammar of Western political discourse in which any criticism of Israeli state policy is immediately labelled anti-Semitism, a charge whose moral authority derives from the Holocaust and whose political function has rendered Israel uniquely immune to the standards applied to every other state.

CONGRESS AT AKAL TAKHT: A New Chapter But Not Historical Closure

For decades, references to the Indian National Congress from the platform of Akal Takht have largely been linked to the pain of June and November 1984. Against this historical background, the collective appearance of Punjab Congress MLAs on June 29 appeared to open a new chapter. They shared the venue with representatives of the Aam Aadmi Party, the Shiromani Akali Dal and other political and religious leaders during proceedings on the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026. The Akal Takht had objected to certain provisions and asked the Punjab government to make corrective amendments within one month. Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa was given ample time to present the Congress party's position, while Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj also invited Pargat Singh to speak. Although non-Sikh ministers had only been asked to submit written explanations, non-Sikh MLAs were not called. But Congress legislators Aruna Chaudhary from Dinanagar and Naresh Puri from Sujampur also arrived at the Secretariat. They were not turned away and were allowed to participate in the proceedings. Congress legislators were also invited to partake in langar alongside other Sikh religious and political leaders present at the gathering. The focus remained firmly on legislative accountability rather than personal appearance or religious observance. The Human Weight Of The Occasion The seriousness of the moment was visible even before the proceedings began. I met senior Congress MLA Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, who represents Fatehgarh Churian, shortly before he was to appear before the Jathedar. He seemed visibly perturbed by the controversy that had followed the legislators' support for the law. The weight of the occasion, as well



as the historical baggage carried by his party, appeared evident on his face. When I asked him about the legislation, he said, at that moment, he had come only to present himself unconditionally before the Akal Takht. He would answer political and media questions after fulfilling what he regarded as his immediate and foremost duty. The second example was Rana Gurjeet Singh, the Congress MLA from Kapurthala. He arrived at the gurdwara complex with his beard open. This was noticeable because he is usually seen in public as a formally dressed politician, with his beard tied and moustache carefully styled. When I asked him about it, he said it had not been consciously planned. While leaving home, his only thought was to reach the Guru's place at the earliest. Whether by emotion, instinct or destiny, he had arrived in that form. These may seem like small personal observations, but they captured the atmosphere. The legislators did not appear to be attending an ordinary political meeting.

Many seemed conscious that they were entering a sacred institutional space carrying the burden of history, community expectations and personal accountability. The Burden Of 1984 Its pertinent to mentioned that the military operation at the Sri Darbar Sahib complex in June 1984, during Indira Gandhi's government, and the anti-Sikh violence that followed her assassination in November remain deeply embedded in Sikh memory. No serious examination of the Congress's relationship with Sikh institutions can avoid 1984. In June that year, the Indira Gandhi government ordered Operation Blue Star inside the Sri Darbar Sahib complex. The military action caused heavy loss of life and severe damage, including to the Akal Takht. The government described it as necessary to remove armed militants, but for Sikhs worldwide, the army's entry into their holiest shrine remains a profound and unresolved wound. The pain deepened after Indira Gandhi's assassination on October 31, 1984. Organised

anti-Sikh violence followed in Delhi and other parts of India. Thousands were killed, homes and businesses were destroyed, and many survivors waited decades for justice. The Justice Navavati Commission recorded testimonies alleging the involvement of some local Congress leaders and workers in inciting or assisting mobs. Official figures placed before Parliament recorded 2,146 Sikh deaths in Delhi alone. This history explains why the Shiromani Akali Dal, the SGPC and other Sikh organisations continue to invoke the Congress record. For many Sikhs, it is a question of justice and accountability, not merely politics. Yet, 1984 has also been used electorally. Its political use does not make the pain less real, but neither should that pain become a permanent political weapon. Rahul Gandhi's Sewa Rahul Gandhi's extended visit to Sri Darbar in October 2023 must be viewed against this difficult background. The visit was presented as personal and spiritual rather than political.

He washed utensils, served langar, peeled vegetables and performed sewa at the footwear section. Senior Congress leaders were largely kept away from accompanying him. The visit appeared to generate some goodwill towards Rahul Gandhi personally. It communicated humility and avoided the usual political spectacle of slogans, speeches and large entourages even media too. The Congress later won seven of Punjab's 13 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 parliamentary election. It would, however, be an exaggeration to attribute that result primarily to Rahul Gandhi's sewa. Electoral outcomes were also influenced by candidate selection, farmers' concerns, anti-incumbency, dissatisfaction with the state government and the decline of the traditional Akali political base. His visit may have softened some perceptions, but personal gestures cannot substitute for institutional accountability. Another symbolic moment followed Dr Manmohan Singh's death in December 2024, when

Shiromani Akali Dal leaders visited the Congress headquarters in New Delhi to pay tribute. They stressed that the visit was solely to honour the former prime minister. Even so, their presence there was significant, showing that personal respect and shared Punjab sentiment can sometimes rise above long-standing political hostility. The 2027 Political Test Although the Congress MLAs appeared before the Akal Takht over a specific legislative issue, the matter was directly connected with the honour and sanctity of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Their respectful appearance may therefore carry significance beyond the immediate controversy. With the 2027 Punjab assembly election approaching, the Congress will hope that such engagement can help rebuild trust among Sikh voters. That possibility, however, is now being tested by renewed unease within the Punjab Congress following the announcement of its election-related committees. The party retained Amarinder Singh Raja Warring as PPCC president and Partap Singh Bajwa as Leader of the Opposition, while appointing Charanjit Singh Channi as chairman of the Campaign Committee and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa chairman of the Core Committee. The Congress high command may have achieved an organisational accommodation on paper, but the real challenge will be converting this arrangement into collective leadership on the ground. Punjab Congress has previously suffered when competing chief ministerial ambitions and personal differences overshadowed its political message. The coming months will reveal whether Channi, Warring, Bajwa, Randhawa and other senior leaders can work within a shared strategy or whether unresolved rivalries will once again weaken the party before an election.

RS 250 PETROL, RS 5,000 LPG CYLINDERS:

KANGPOKPI PAYS THE PRICE OF MANIPUR'S LATEST BLOCKADE

New Delhi: Rs 250 for a litre of petrol. Rs 5,000 for an LPG cylinder. A 50-kg bag of rice for nearly Rs 3,000. These are the prices many residents of Manipur's Kangpokpi district say they are paying as a month-and-a-half-long blockade has choked the supply of essential commodities into Kuki-Zo majority areas. Sixteen months after the Union government announced “free movement” in violence-hit Manipur, residents of Kangpokpi say that while people may be allowed to travel under security arrangements, food, fuel and cooking gas are not moving freely. As essential supplies dry up, many now fear that hunger could become the next humanitarian crisis. The shortages come amid a month-long blockade imposed by Naga groups, which has disrupted the movement of goods into Kuki-majority areas as tensions between the two communities have escalated. Kangpokpi depends on two major supply routes. One connects the district to Imphal, the capital, through Kanglatongbi, while the other links it to Dimapur in Nagaland through Senapati district. Residents say supplies from both directions have been disrupted, leaving trucks carrying food, fuel and other essentials unable to reach the district.

KANGPOKPI RESIDENTS SUFFER AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES FAIL TO REACH THEM

Since then, for the people liv-

ing in Kangpokpi, the political dispute has translated into an everyday struggle for survival. In Saikul, a town in Kangpokpi district. With LPG cylinders becoming nearly impossible to obtain, many families have returned to cooking on wood-fired stoves, finding firewood has become part of life's daily struggles. For Goupu, a local volunteer who helps residents of Saikul and people living in relief camps, the crisis never ended – it has only entered a new phase lately. “Some use electric induction stoves to cook food, but Saikul power station could not bear the load. And whenever the lights are cut, we lose internet connections – problems on top of problems.” The frequent power cuts combined with LPG cylinders becoming unaffordable is forcing many households to move towards firewood. “Getting a cylinder can cost Rs 5,000, sometimes Rs 6,000, because of the economic blockade for the Kangpokpi district,” says Goupu. According to him, cooking-gas supplies have almost completely stopped since May 13. “There has been no [LPG gas] supply in Saikul since May 13. All essential stocks have been exhausted too. There are no gas cylinders, no ration supplies and no petrol or diesel are available either. We could get some essential items with the help of our Muslim and Nepali friends, but at extremely high prices. For example, petrol costs Rs 250

per litre, a gas cylinder costs Rs 5,000 and a 50-kg bag of rice costs Rs 3,000.” Like a spider's web, the crisis has spread across the entire Kangpokpi district, affecting people from all walks of life. Rahul [name changed], a non-Manipuri who runs a departmental store in Kangpokpi city area, says the current situation is unlike anything he has witnessed since the ethnic violence erupted between the Meitei and Kuki communities in May 2023. “The violence has been going on since 2023 but I had not seen the supply for the food get blocked since then [until now]. What is the government doing?” “I can go and buy food for my family from Imphal or anywhere in the state, but I am only allowed to cross the buffer zone with food once a month. If I go twice, Nagas on the buffer zone will not only question me but might keep the entire supply – and I am even afraid of getting beaten.” In March 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the resumption of “free movement” across Manipur – though it was to be under security arrangements, he described it as a step towards restoring normalcy. But in Kangpokpi, residents say free movement has not translated into the free movement of essential goods. “I have two employees to pay salaries to, a family and sisters to take care of. I am managing till now but for how long will it continue?” Rahul said. Like Rahul, the situation is

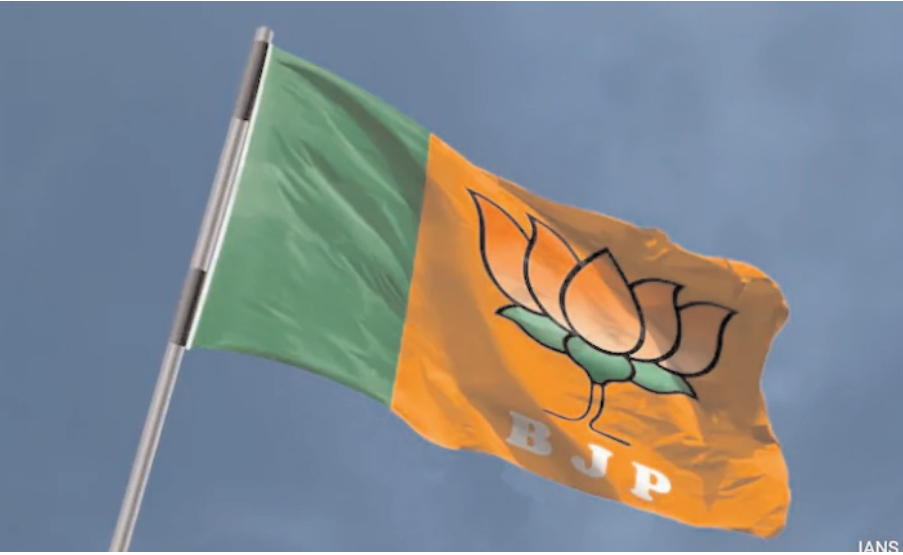
no different for Sumi [name changed], who runs a café in Kangpokpi. The shortage of essential supplies has forced her to close her business. “It goes like that: We have chicken but we don't have rice to make our chicken fried rice! We cannot serve half-cooked food.”

WHY IS EVERYTHING UNAFFORDABLE?

The Wire spoke to residents to understand why an LPG cylinder costs Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 and petrol is selling for nearly Rs 250 a litre. Many said it was because only members of a handful of communities can travel relatively freely between Manipur's hills and valley. These include the Meitei Pangal, Nepali and some non-Manipuri residents from north India – the so-called mainlanders living in the state. These few communities have now, willy nilly, become intermediaries who purchase goods from Imphal, transport them through the multiple checkpoints and blockades that have come up or become stricter since the conflict, and pay the “informal charges” at many locations along the way before they can reach Kangpokpi in the hills. Every step in the transportation ladder and every “checkpoint” adds to the final cost, and it is the consumers in the hilly district who are paying the price. Essential commodities have become unaffordable for many families. Routine household purchase have become luxuries.

Karnataka's Factionalism And Goa's Baggage Are BJP's Next Electoral Tests

The BJP has built its electoral success over the past decade on three pillars - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity, a formidable organisational structure and the perception of disciplined leadership. Yet, as the party prepares for the 2027 Goa Assembly election and the 2028 Karnataka Assembly election, the biggest threat may not come from the Congress or regional rivals but from growing internal fissures that risk undermining its electoral machinery. Recent developments have exposed cracks in both states. In Karnataka, the fresh controversies surrounding former Karnataka chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda - allegations surrounding an audio tape; the embarrassing episode of cross-voting in the Karnataka Legislative Council elections have triggered a full-fledged introspection within the party. The central leadership reportedly sought explanations from the state unit and is considering disciplinary action. In Goa recently, BJP's own internal assessment is said to have flagged nearly half of the seats in North Goa as vulnerable because of anti-incumbency against sitting MLAs and dissatisfaction with their performance. The message is unmistakable - organisational strength cannot indefinitely compensate for factionalism and governance-related discontent. Discord in Karnataka Karnataka presents, perhaps, the more serious warning. Ever since the BJP lost power in the 2023 Assembly elections, the



state unit has struggled to project unity. Multiple power centres continue to exist around senior leaders, while the younger leadership has found it difficult to command universal acceptance. Similarly, the alliance with JD(S) has strengthened the opposition numerically but has also created competing centres of influence in the state. The recent MLC election cross-voting episode was particularly damaging because it questioned the BJP's internal cohesion. Reports suggested that legislators had defied the party line, forcing the central leadership to order an inquiry. State leaders were summoned to explain the setback, and even symbolic exercises aimed at identifying the rebels reflected the seriousness with which the leadership viewed the issue. The subsequent emergence of an audio clip purportedly of Sadananda Gowda went viral, featuring a voice discussing the removal of

Karnataka BJP State President BY Vijayendra. The clip exemplifies the continuous intense factionalism and internal rifts within the state BJP. Whether the allegations ultimately prove consequential or not, the episode has reinforced the perception of a divided organisation. Factionalism has repeatedly hurt the BJP in Karnataka. The split engineered by BS Yediyurappa in 2012 contributed significantly to the party's defeat in 2013. Although Yediyurappa eventually returned and reunited the organisation, the underlying factional culture never entirely disappeared. Personality clashes have frequently overshadowed ideological mobilisation. The emergence of multiple factions-those loyal to Yediyurappa, leaders seeking a post-Yediyurappa order, and regional stalwarts with independent ambitions - has often overshadowed the BJP's campaign against the Congress

government. Instead of presenting a united opposition, the party has periodically appeared preoccupied with internal leadership debates. Managing generational transition without alienating established leaders will be one of the BJP's toughest organisational tasks before 2028. Equally significant is the challenge of maintaining cohesion with JD(S). Alliances often maximise electoral arithmetic but complicate internal equations. Seat-sharing inevitably produces dissatisfied aspirants, especially in regions where both parties have strong local organisations. Unless carefully managed, such tensions can translate into sabotage during elections. Discontent in Goa Goa presents a different but equally complex picture. The BJP has governed Goa for over a decade and has successfully expanded its political footprint by attracting leaders from rival parties.

Gold posts first weekly gain since May as Fed rate hike expectations ease

Mumbai: Gold recorded its first weekly gain since May as trader expectations for further US Federal Reserve rate hikes moderated, pushing bullion prices around 3.1 per cent for the week. Soft US job numbers and lower energy prices led to investors reducing the expectations of monetary policy tightening. However, on Friday, MCX gold August futures eased 0.01 per cent while MCX silver July futures inched up 0.04 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,47,365, while silver futures at Rs 2,37,499 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,46,344 on Friday, up from Rs 1,41,911 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). India economic analysis “Gold extended its recovery for the fourth consecutive session and touched a 10-day high on Friday. The



rebound comes after more than a month of sustained selling following the May 13 import duty hike, with improving sentiment supported by a softer US dollar,” an analyst said. The analyst said that the recent pullback in the Dollar Index has encouraged fresh buying in bullion, and forecasted that the bullion is expected to trade in the Rs 1,45,000–1,49,000 range, with global cues continuing to drive sentiment. Market

participants said softer US labour data and easing energy costs reduced the probability of further Fed tightening. US hiring slowed sharply in June and traders trimmed the probability of a quarter-point rate increase at the Fed's next meeting to below 20 per cent, down from roughly one-third earlier in the week. Lower energy costs and softer job growth have led analysts to forecast a gradual easing of inflation-

ary pressures in coming months. Oil prices have witnessed their sharpest quarterly correction since 2020 as shipments from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates near pre-war levels. US President Donald Trump and allies have renewed efforts to clear the way for more of the president's own picks at the Federal Reserve after the Supreme Court blocked an attempt to remove Governor Lisa Cook. Similar efforts last year, challenging Fed's independence, helped fuel gold's rally as investors sought protection against potential policy shifts. Gold recorded its first weekly gain since May, rising over 3 per cent as weaker US jobs data and lower energy prices eased expectations of further Federal Reserve rate hikes. Analysts expect bullion prices to remain supported by global economic and monetary policy developments.

Telegram Gets Government Notice Over Widespread Film And OTT Piracy; Seeks Report In 15 Days

The government has issued a notice to Telegram over widespread piracy of films and content from streaming platforms, according to officials. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed the messaging platform to take immediate measures against the unauthorised circulation of pirated films and OTT content. Telegram has also been asked to submit an Action Taken Report within 15 days, detailing the measures taken to address the issue, officials said. The move comes amid concerns over the widespread circulation of newly released films, web series and other copyrighted content through channels and groups on the platform. Pirated copies of premium content are often shared through links and files, making messaging platforms a key focus of anti-piracy efforts. Further details on the action sought from Telegram were not immediately available.



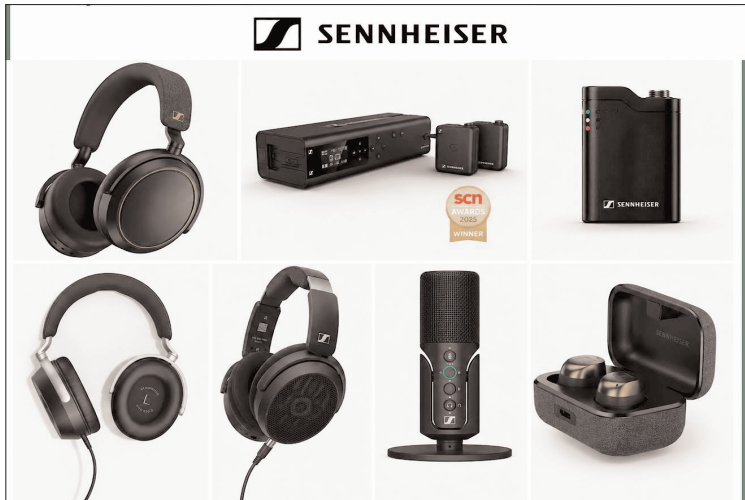
Earlier, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had blocked Telegram in India till June 22 as a precautionary measure ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-exam. “Both measures have been taken in the interest of public order, in response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026,” the National Testing Agency (NTA) said last month. Significantly, the Delhi High Court had upheld the

Centre's decision to temporarily suspend Telegram's services across India ahead of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination, ruling that the government had strictly followed the procedure prescribed under law while invoking emergency blocking powers and that the restrictions satisfied the test of proportionality. Dismissing a petition filed by Telegram FZ LLC challenging the MeitY blocking order, a single-judge Bench of Justice Tejas Karia held that the temporary suspension of the messaging platform till June 22 and disabling of its

message-editing feature till June 30 were justified in the circumstances surrounding the nationwide medical entrance examination. Google had reinstated the application on the 'Play Store' in India after June 22. The I&B Ministry's latest directive to Telegram comes days after the Centre issued a notice to Meta over the proposed rollout of its username feature on WhatsApp, the Meta-owned company. The government asked Meta not to roll out the “usernames” feature in India until consultations on the matter are completed, the sources added. In response to the Centre's notice, messaging platform WhatsApp has clarified that its upcoming username feature will be optional and reiterated that several safeguards have been built in to prevent impersonation, scams and unwanted contact as it prepares for a wider rollout later this year.

Enjoy Great Deals from Sennheiser during Amazon Prime Day's 10th Edition

New Delhi, July 2026: Sennheiser, a global leader in audio innovation, has announced exciting offers on its premium audio products as part of Amazon Prime Day's 10th Edition, starting July 4, 2026. Customers can enjoy discounts of up to 40% on select Sennheiser products, including the HD 630, HD 490 PRO Plus, Profile Wireless 1-Channel Set and 2-Channel Set, MOMENTUM True Wireless 4, Profile USB Microphone and MOMENTUM 4 Wireless Special Edition, among others. Shoppers can also avail No Cost EMI options, along with additional discounts on select bank cards, making it an ideal opportunity to experience Sennheiser's renowned audio performance at exceptional value.



MOMENTUM 4 WIRELESS SPECIAL EDITION
Upgrade your audio game with Sennheiser's flagship MOMENTUM 4 Wireless. Engineered with precision 42mm transducers, these premium headphones deliver the brand's signature sound with rich detail. Enjoy Adaptive Noise Cancellation, Transparency Mode, and up to 60 hours of battery life in a lightweight, ergonomic design with ultra-soft ear cushions for all-day comfort. The Smart Control App lets you personalize your sound, while intuitive features like Smart Pause and Auto On/Off make every moment seamless. Available at ₹21,990, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Great Summer Sale.

HD 490 PRO PLUS
Elevate your audio production work-

flow with the Sennheiser HD 490 PRO Plus, a professional reference headphone designed for creators and audio professionals seeking precision and clarity. Featuring an open-back design, it delivers an expansive, natural soundstage with ultra-accurate, uncoloured audio - helping eliminate blind spots and ensuring full control over every detail. Powered by advanced dynamic drivers and an innovative low-frequency cylinder system, it offers tight, well-defined bass and balanced sound across the spectrum. Built for extended sessions, the lightweight, ergonomic design with interchangeable ear pads enhances comfort and adaptability, making the HD 490 PRO Plus a reliable, high-performance solution for modern studio workflows. Available at ₹27,999, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Prime Day Sale.

HDB 630
Upgrade your audio experience with Sennheiser's HDB 630, built for audiophile-grade sound on the go. Featuring a precision 42mm transducer, these closed-back headphones deliver balanced, high-resolution sound with rich detail. Enjoy Adaptive Noise Cancellation, up to 60 hours of battery life, and enhanced wireless performance with the included BT 700 Bluetooth® USB-C dongle. Available at ₹44,990, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Great Summer Sale.

PROFILE WIRELESS SERIES
Capture professional-quality audio wherever your creativity takes you with the Sennheiser Profile Wireless series, a versatile wireless microphone solution designed for content creators and videographers on the move. The

Profile Wireless 2-Channel Set is an all-in-one creator audio toolkit featuring a compact 24 GHz receiver, two clip-on microphones, and a portable charging bar that also functions as a handheld interview microphone. Designed for flexibility, it supports cameras, smartphones, and computers, offering a versatile solution for a wide range of content creation workflows. The Profile Wireless 1-Channel Set [SP1] offers a streamlined single-microphone solution tailored for solo creators who require a lighter, more compact setup while maintaining the same professional-grade wireless audio performance. Each clip-on microphone delivers up to 7 hours of runtime and features 16 GB of memory for up to 30 hours of internal recording. Combined with 32-bit float recording, built-in backup recording, and reliable wireless transmission, the Profile Wireless series delivers clear, distortion-free audio with minimal setup. The Profile Wireless 1-Channel and 2-Channel Sets are available at ₹14,990 and ₹20,990, respectively, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Prime Day Sale.

MOMENTUM TRUE WIRELESS 4 (BLACK COPPER)
Experience next-gen audio with Sennheiser's MOMENTUM True Wireless 4 (Black Copper), combining signature sound, lossless audio, and future-ready tech. Powered by the TrueResponse transducer system, it delivers high-fidelity 24bit/96kHz sound with Adaptive Noise Cancellation.

TRENDS, INDIA'S LARGEST FASHION DESTINATION NOW OPENS IN SRIKALAHASTI

Srikalahasti, 2026: India's largest and fastest growing apparel and accessories specialty chain of Reliance Retail, TRENDS, announced the launch of its new Store in Srikalahasti town of Tirupati district in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Trends is truly democratizing fashion in India, by strengthening its reach & connect with consumers in India - right from Metros, mini metros, to Tier 1, 2 towns and beyond & is India's favorite fashion shopping destination. The Trends store at Srikalahasti boasts of modern looks and ambience featuring an exciting range of good quality and fashion merchandise that is relevant to the consumers of the region and at prices that are affordable and seen as high value for money. sss Customers of this town can look forward to a uniquely special and superlative experience of shopping for trendy Women's Wear, Men's Wear, Kids Wear & Fashion Accessories, at delightful prices. This 7000 sq. ft store, which is the first store in the Srikalahasti town has a



special inaugural offer for its customers, besides great relevant fashion and amazing prices: - Shop for Rs.3499 and get an attractive gift absolutely free.

US REMOVES FOUR INDIAN FIRMS FROM SANCTIONS LIST

Washington: The US has de-listed four Indian companies from its sanctions list, which were accused of supplying advanced technology and equipment for Russia's military-industrial base. The companies have been deleted from the Office of Foreign Assets Control's (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List. The four companies include Hyderabad-based RRG Engineering Technologies Private Limited and Lokesh Machines Limited, Ahmedabad-based Galaxy Bearings and New Delhi-based Shaurya Aeronautics Private Limited, according to details shared by the US Department of the Treasury on Tuesday. The US had sanctioned Galaxy Bearings Ltd in October 2024, accusing it of exporting dozens of high-priority dual-use equipment, including roller bearings and roller assemblies, to Russian entities. Shaurya Aeronautics Private Ltd was sanctioned for



allegedly sending shipments of radar apparatus, radio navigational aid apparatus, radio remote control apparatus and electrical apparatus to Russia. The US had accused RRG Engineering Technologies of sending over 100 shipments of microelectronics to SDN-listed, Russia-based Arteks Limited Company. Lokesh Machines had been accused of sending dozens of shipments of machine tools to various Russian manufacturing companies. The United States has removed four Indian companies from its

sanctions list, previously accused of supplying advanced technology and equipment to Russia's military-industrial base. The firms — Hyderabad's RRG Engineering Technologies and Lokesh Machines, Ahmedabad's Galaxy Bearings, and New Delhi's Shaurya Aeronautics — were de-listed from the Office of Foreign Assets Control's Specially Designated Nationals list. The Treasury had also alleged that Lokesh Machines employees coordinated with sanctioned Russian procurement agent Dmitrii

Vladimirovich Alikhanov and his company, Newton-ITM, to import Italy-origin CNC machines from sanctioned manufacturer Fagima SPA. Ahmedabad-based Galaxy Bearings was sanctioned for allegedly exporting dual-use equipment, including roller bearings and assemblies, to Russia, while Shaurya Aeronautics was accused of supplying radar equipment and radio navigation apparatus. The Treasury did not specify the reasons for removing the four companies from the sanctions list. The companies were designated in October 2024 as part of a broader US sanctions package targeting entities accused of supporting Russia's military-industrial base following the Ukraine conflict. The sanctions blocked any property or interests in property of the designated entities that came within US jurisdiction and generally prohibited transactions involving them by US persons.

HYDERABAD IS THE THIRD MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSING MARKET IN INDIA

Hyderabad: Hyderabad remains the third most expensive residential market among the country's top eight cities, with households needing to spend 41 per cent of their income towards home loan EMIs, according to property consultant Knight Frank India's Affordability Index for the first half of 2026. The index, which measures the proportion of household income that goes into servicing the equated monthly instalment (EMI) of a housing unit, showed that affordability in Hyderabad has stayed largely unchanged compared with the end of 2025, when the ratio also stood at 41 per cent. Six of the eight cities tracked by the index remained within the affordability threshold of 50 per cent, a level beyond which banks typically become reluctant to underwrite home loans. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region and the National Capital Region (NCR), however, continued to stay above this mark, at 69 per cent and 67 per cent, respectively. Ahmedabad most affordable, Mumbai least Ahmedabad retained its position as the most affordable housing market among the top eight cities at 23 per cent, followed by Kolkata at 25 per cent and Pune at 28 per cent. Chennai stood at 29 per cent and Bengaluru at 35 per cent. Affordability worsened marginally in Bengaluru and the NCR compared



with 2025, the report noted, while other markets remained largely stable through the period. The report traced how affordability had improved steadily between 2016 and 2021 and strengthened further during the pandemic as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut rates to decadal lows, before deteriorating in 2022 when the central bank raised the repo rate by 250 basis points over nine months to tackle inflation. Rate stability since early 2023 has helped hold affordability levels steady, even as rising property prices, particularly in the NCR, kept

the ratio elevated in some markets. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held the repo rate at 5.25 per cent at both its February and June 2026 meetings, citing risks from the West Asia conflict on energy prices and uncertainty over monsoon conditions. With FY27 GDP growth projected at 6.6 per cent and the consumer price index (CPI) forecast raised to 5.1 per cent, the report said near-term rate stability appeared to be the most likely scenario, even as the accumulated benefit of past rate cuts continued to support affordability in most markets.

ALL OF US WILL NEED
TO DO OUR PART TO
CREATE THE NEXT 250
YEARS OF AMERICAN
GREATNESS - VANCE



Vice President JD Vance has thanked President Donald Trump as he delivers a speech on USS Kearsarge in New York City. He says the US celebrates 250 years of "American daring and American naval excellence". "Today we celebrate 250 years of America, facing the future without fear. We celebrate 250 years of proving what a free people can achieve," he says. Vance pays tribute to the US' sailors, police officers, emergency workers as well as the dozens of Navy chiefs who are visiting the country from around the world. He then proceeds to read the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights and among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Vance says that 250 years later these words remind US citizens who they are

as a people, noting that the words still carry tremendous power. Vice-President JD Vance is kicking off celebrations this morning with a speech aboard the USS Kearsarge in New York Harbor. You can watch live at the top of this page. Officials say the USS Kearsarge will be the "centrepiece" of the day's festivities in the harbour, with Vance speaking following the International Naval Review 250, led by the Navy's acting Secretary Hung Cao. Vance will deliver remarks "commemorating America's 250th birthday", honouring service personnel and celebrating the "strength, leadership and freedom" that has made the US the "greatest nation in the history of the world," say officials. Events to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday are being organised by two competing entities. America250 was established by Congress a decade ago to plan nonpartisan events.



■ Ukraine strikes St Petersburg oil terminal, naval base as Putin's 'Davos' gets under way

US marks 250th independence anniversary with
nationwide celebrations as temperatures soar

US history is built on "carving a great civilisation out of the wilderness", he says as he adds that everything the US has done, it has done together - not as citizens divided against each other. Vance says that all US citizens have played their part before referencing the US' role in World War Two and when its astronauts went to the moon. "All of us have a part, all of us had our part... All of us will need to do our part to create the next 250 years of American greatness," he adds. He says he is proud of all Americans and says happy birthday to the nation before wrapping up. On the other side of the Atlantic, King Charles has hailed the relationship between the US and the UK in a message commemorat-



ing the US's 250th birthday. "Through centuries of shared challenge and achievement, our nations have built a relationship founded on friendship, trust and a belief in liberty, the rule of law and the dignity of all people," His Majesty says in a statement shared on X. "I have no doubt we will continue to defend our shared values," he adds.

The connection between our people is one I trust will only grow stronger." Celebrations are taking place across the US today to mark its 250th birthday. Large-scale fireworks, a fly-over of fighter jets, and a Trump rally are among the events marking Independence Day in Washington DC alone. Elsewhere, artists includ-

ing Christina Aguilera, Mary J Blige and the Smashing Pumpkins are set to perform at celebratory concerts - in Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles respectively. But some planned events have already been disrupted as forecasters warn of extremely hot temperatures and thunderstorms, as a sweltering heatwave grips parts of the eastern and central US. Multiple events across the country have already been cancelled - with some pushed back to later in the day. In a speech at the iconic Mount Rushmore last night, US President Donald Trump called the holiday "one of the most extraordinary days in the history of the world".

Pope urges Europe to do
more for migrants while
visiting gateway island



Pope Leo XIV has called on European leaders to rise to the "momentous challenge" of handling migration as he visited the Italian island of Lampedusa. The pontiff urged Europe to help new arrivals integrate better and improve conditions in their home countries, during a mass on the island, which receives tens of thousands of migrants a year. "Those who have lost their lives in this sea are victims both of decisions that were made and of decisions that were not made," the Pope said. Since becoming the head of the Catholic Church in May 2025, the Pope has repeatedly called for greater support for migrants and criticised anti-migrant policies. His trip comes two weeks after the EU approved tougher migrants rules that allow stricter border controls and broader detention powers. It marks a wider trend of governments hardening their stance on undocumented migration, with many, including the UK and Italy, adopting measures aimed at deterring it. The Pope began the trip with a visit to a cemetery on Lampedusa and prayed at the graves of migrants who had died while making the dangerous journey from Africa to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea. He also stood at the "Door of Europe" memorial for those who had perished attempting the crossing and spoke to a migrant family. "From this far-flung corner of Europe on the Mediterranean Sea, one can more clearly perceive the momentous challenge that the phenomenon of migra-

tion poses to European societies," the Pope told Catholics on the island. "Europe is capable of addressing the crisis in this region in a comprehensive manner, integrating immediate relief efforts into a long-term strategic plan capable of receiving, protecting, supporting and integrating migrants" while "assisting developing countries so that no one is forced to emigrate", he said. The island of Lampedusa - which sits 90 miles (145km) off Tunisia's coast - is home to a migrant reception centre that is overcrowded with challenging living conditions. Those who make the journey often travel in poorly maintained and overcrowded vessels, making sea crossings more perilous for those aboard. More than 1,400 people have died or gone missing while attempting to cross the Mediterranean this year, including 28 children, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration. New migrants, rescue officials, members of aid groups and the Italian Coast Guard were among those to gather to see the Pope. The Pope "continues to accompany you, support you and encourage you", he told the gathering. "The pope's visit speaks to every one of us," Kandeh Abdourahman, a migrant who arrived in Lampedusa in 2015, told news agency Reuters. It was "a reminder that our stories are seen, that welcome is not just a word but an act of humanity", said Abdourahman, now a cultural mediator with the International Rescue Committee.

Large crowds gather in Tehran on first
day of Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral

Large crowds of black-clad mourners have gathered outside Tehran's main mosque to pay their respects to Iran's former supreme leader on the first day of his funeral commemorations. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's body is currently lying in state at the Grand Mosalla, ahead of his eventual burial in his hometown of Mashhad next Thursday. Authorities expect 15-20 million people to attend the ceremonies across Iran and Iraq over the coming days, which take place more than four months after Khamenei was killed in US and Israeli strikes. Masses of supporters of the Islamic regime turned out on Saturday morning, reportedly chanting slogans against the US and in support of revenge for the ayatollah's killing. "We came [to the funeral] because we promised the supreme leader we would stand by him to the very end," 37-year-old professor Reza told news agency AFP in the Grand Mosalla's courtyard. "For a long time, we shouted that we would



sacrifice our lives for the leader, but it was he who sacrificed himself for us." Arash Rahimi, 40, told Reuters: "Everyone here has come to avenge the blood of their supreme leader. "As our leader has said, we have a blood feud with the United States. Our relations with the United States will never be good." Khamenei was killed during joint Israeli and US strikes on Iran in late February, in what quickly spiralled into a wider region-

al conflict. US President Donald Trump said Iran's government was "dying to settle" a peace deal to end the war after a preliminary agreement was struck between the two, adding on Friday: "We gave them [Iran] a week off for a funeral because we're nice." Much of central Tehran will be locked down over the weekend as the funeral ceremony gets under way. It is expected to be the largest funeral ever in terms of attendees as a pro-

portion of the country's population. Khamenei's body will lie in the Grand Mosalla for three days, alongside the remains of family members who were also killed in the air strikes. There will then be three further days of events outside of the capital. On Tuesday, his body will be moved to Qom, to the south of Tehran, where a senior Shia cleric will lead funeral prayers at Jamkaran, one of Iran's most prominent and symbolic religious sites.

Keiko Fujimori declared winner of Peru's presidential election weeks after vote

Right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori has been declared the winner of Peru's tight presidential election, nearly a month after the vote took place. The 51-year-old won 50.135% of voters' support in the runoff, held on 7 June, to 49.865% for left-wing candidate Roberto Sánchez - a margin of less than 50,000 votes, figures certified by Peru's electoral court show. It is the fourth time the daughter of disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori has sought the South American nation's presidency, promising this time to oversee a crackdown on organised crime. Her election, coinciding with the election of Abelardo de la Espriella in Colombia, marks a shift towards the right in Latin American politics. Fujimori said she would assume the role of president "with responsibility, humility and a deep sense of duty". "Each day of this transi-



tion process is an opportunity to listen, engage in dialogue and arrive prepared at the start of the new government," she added, with what appeared to be a nod to her thin mandate. Sánchez, 57, has alleged the runoff election had been "seriously compromised" and threatened legal action, arguing that strong support for Fujimori among Peruvian voters abroad was a sign of irregularities. After the result was declared on Friday, his party appealed against the electoral court's proclamation, calling for the vote to be nullified.



Brutal heat cancels Fourth of July events, from DC to Philadelphia

Taylor Swift marries Travis Kelce in NYC
ceremony officiated by Adam Sandler

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce have officially tied the knot at New York's Madison Square Garden, in a star-studded ceremony officiated by actor Adam Sandler. The pair wore Christian Dior, Swift's publicist said, and did not have bridesmaids and groomsmen. Swift's brother, Austin Swift, served as her man of honour, and Jason Kelce, Travis's brother, was his best man. The event shuttered one of Manhattan's busiest corridors and brought out Hollywood A-list stars, such as actors Hugh Grant and Jason Sudeikis, singer Benson Boone and model Gigi Hadid. Fans huddled outside the venue throughout the day, with some onlookers climbing scaffolding to



try catch a better view. The wedding celebrations began on Thursday with a much smaller "pre-party" event, according to permit filed with New York City officials. The ceremony on Friday was much a larger event, with a stream of blacked-out SUVs seen driving through a pop-up tent erected outside the stadium to shield guests' arrival.

Some celebrity guests were still spotted upon their arrival, including model Gigi Hadid, her actor boyfriend Bradley Cooper, actress Dakota Johnson, and members of Kelce's football team, the Kansas City Chiefs. As Swift's publicist, Tree Paine, said confirmed the pair had officially wed, an announcement appeared on a display outside

Madison Square Garden that read "JUST&T MARRIED" - a play on Taylor and Travis's names. Jonathan Anderson, a creative director at Dior, designed Swift and Kelce's outfits, Paine said. "This is the designer's first couture wedding dress for a world-renowned celebrity," Paine said in a statement. Their shoes were custom made by Christian Louboutin, she added, and Swift wore Cartier jewellery. The New York City Police (NYPD) closed the streets around the arena midday, closing them off to vehicles and pedestrian traffic. Swifties - the singer's legion of fans - lined nearby blocks around the arena, braving sweltering temperatures of up to 37C (98.6F).

VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI BREAKS SACHIN TENDULKAR'S RECORD

The wait is over. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has made his debut for India at the age of 15 years and 99 days, making him the youngest debutant in senior cricket - men's or women's. Before Sooryavanshi, Shafali Verma was the youngest player (15 years and 239 days) to represent India. In men's cricket, Sachin Tendulkar (16 years and 205 days) held that record. Sooryavanshi now holds that historic distinction. The anticipation had been building from the time Sooryavanshi was named in the squads for the Ireland and England series. He was not given an opportunity in the two India-Ireland T20Is that the Shreyas Iyer-led team lost. India then persisted with the proven opening combination of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma in the first T20I against England as well. That stance divided the cricketing world. Samson's failure in all three innings only strengthened Sooryavanshi's case. Ultimately, captain Shreyas



Iyer and coach Gautam Gambhir took the big call. The debut cap was handed to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi by Tilak Verma ahead of the 2nd India vs England T20I in Manchester. With that, a new chapter began in Indian cricket. Youngest Debutants For India (men's) Vaibhav Sooryavanshi vs Ireland (15 years, 99 days), vs England (July 4, 2026) Sachin

Tendulkar vs Pakistan (16 years, 205 days), vs Pakistan (Nov 15, 1989) Piyush Chawla vs England (17 years, 75 days), vs England (Mar 9, 2006) Laxman Sivaramakrishnan vs West Indies (17 years, 118 days), vs West Indies (Apr 28, 1983) Parthiv Patel vs England (17 years, 152 days) vs England (Aug 8, 2002) Maninder Singh vs Pakistan (17 years, 193 days) vs Pakistan (Dec 23,

1982) Shreyas Iyer, India captain, highlighted at the toss that they expected big things from Sooryavanshi. "Absolutely... you've seen him in the last few months, the way he's been batting. Not really. I feel that he completely deserves to be in the squad. He's someone who doesn't take pressure at all. Has an unflinching nature. He's very well aware of what's going to

come in these coming matches. The way he bats in the nets and takes on the bowlers, shows what kind of player he is," Iyer said. Sooryavanshi's Journey Sooryavanshi earned his maiden national call-up following a sensational IPL 2026 campaign with Rajasthan Royals, where he amassed 776 runs at a staggering strike rate of 237.30, including a century and five fifties. His explosive season saw him finish as the tournament's leading run-scorer while smashing a record 72 sixes. The youngster also swept multiple post-season honours, including the Orange Cap, Most Valuable Player, Emerging Player, Super Striker and Super Sixes awards. In the recent trination in Sri Lanka, featuring SL A and Afghanistan A, Sooryavanshi made 211 runs in five innings at an average of 42.20, with a strike rate of almost 201, with the best score of 94, his solitary fifty coming in the final.

'ECSTATIC' LEWIS HAMILTON ROLLS BACK THE YEARS WITH SILVERSTONE SPRINT POLE

A beaming Lewis Hamilton rolled back the years with a vintage display for Ferrari at Silverstone on Friday as he topped every session and took pole position for Saturday's sprint at the British Grand Prix. The 41-year-old seven-time world champion thrilled a big crowd with a final best lap in one minute and 28.376 seconds to outpace championship leader Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes by 0.011 seconds. "I'm so happy, just so happy," said Hamilton, who on Sunday will seek to add to his record nine wins in his home event's main race. "We didn't expect we would be competing for the front row so it's an amazing surprise. I'm ecstatic. "This track is still just phenomenal and so great to drive – and we didn't have the engine drop-off (in power output) that we had anticipated. "It all goes back to the work of everyone at the factory. They are pushing so hard. Last year, we were



in a rut, but this season is so different – we have a real synergy now and we are adding small bit to add performance every week. "And Silverstone is so great – it's the best track in the world to drive!" Hamilton's sprint pole is the third of his career and could earn him important points if he wins to boost his bid to win a record eighth drivers' world title. He told a fans event at Silverstone on Friday evening that he would carry on racing until he had

achieved that ambition. His successor at Mercedes, when he left for Ferrari at the end of 2024, 19-year-old Antonelli, hugged him after qualifying. "It was so close between us," the Italian said. "So for me, it is a shame. In SQ1, I felt a bit bad and we made a slight balance adjustment and it was night and day and we were back on the pace "In the end, there was a little left on the table for my last lap and I was super-close to Lewis... But, of course, congrats to him." -

Aakarshi Kashyap, Tanya Hemnath Lose In Second Round, Indian Challenge At Canada Open Ends

Tanya Hemnath and Aakarshi Kashyap lost their women's singles second round matches to draw curtains to the Indian challenge at the Canada Open at Markham, Canada. Tanya lost to third seed Riko Gunji of Japan 11-21 11-21 in 31 minutes while Aakarshi went down fighting to fourth seed Beiwen Zhang of USA 22-20 17-21 in the second round match that lasted one hour and seven minutes. Earlier, Tanya had prevailed 21-16 21-18 over USA's Disha Gupta in the opening round while Aakarshi saw off Anna Tataranova of France 21-14 21-12. With the ouster of Tanya and Aakarshi, the Indian challenge ended at the Super 300 tournament. Kidambi Srikanth retired early from his opening match due to fitness issues even as Tanya



Hemnath and Aakarshi Kashyap emerged as the only Indian shuttlers to progress to the women's singles second round at the Canada Open Super 300 event badminton tournament at Markham, Canada. The 33-year-old Srikanth, who registered a runner-up finish at the US Open Super 300 last Sunday,

was lagging 10-11 against Paris Olympic bronze medalist Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the men's singles opening round when he decided to throw in the towel after consulting with coach B Sai Praneeth. Aakarshi saw off Anna Tataranova of France 21-14, 21-12 to set up a meeting with fourth seed Beiwen Zhang of

the USA, while Tanya prevailed 21-16 21-18 over USA's Disha Gupta in another match. She will face Japan's Riko Gunji next. It was otherwise a dismal show for India as seven out of nine shuttlers failed to cross the opening hurdle on Wednesday. Fifth seed Devika Sihag, who claimed her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 title at the Thailand Masters in Bangkok earlier this year, lost 14-21 15-21 to Chinese Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong in the opening round. Rakshitha Ramraj, winner of this year's Vietnam International Challenge, went down fighting 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 against Canada's Rachel Chan, while Shriyanshi Valishetty, who won her maiden BWF Super 100 title at the Al Ain Masters in Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

Defending Wimbledon Champion Iga Swiatek Loses In 3rd Round To Alexandra Eala

Iga Swiatek's title defence at Wimbledon ended Saturday in a 7-6 (9), 6-2 third-round loss to 21-year-old Alexandra Eala, who continues to make history for the Philippines. Eala is the first Filipino player, male or female, to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam singles tournament. Swiatek earned her first Wimbledon women's title a year ago when she beat Amanda Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 in the final. Former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina suffered a shock third-round exit in a 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 defeat against Elise Mertens on Saturday. Rybakina was hoping to follow her Australian Open triumph in January by winning



Wimbledon for the second time. But the world number two was unable to emulate her 2022 victory at the All England Club as

early departure from the recent French Open, losing to Yulia Starodubtseva in the second round. The Russia-born Kazakhstani, who beat Ons Jabeur to win Wimbledon four years ago, has failed to make it past the third round on her last two visits to south-west London. Mertens is a two-time Wimbledon doubles champion and has now reached the last 16 in the All England Club singles on four occasions. She will play Czech 21st seed Marie Bouzkova for a place in the quarter-finals. The 30-year-old's best run in a Grand Slam singles tournament is a 2018 Australian Open semi-final appearance.

SERENA WILLIAMS PULLS OUT OF WIMBLEDON DOUBLES WITH KNEE INJURY

Serena Williams' Wimbledon comeback is over after the American legend pulled out of the doubles due to a knee injury on Saturday. Williams and her sister Venus were due to play in the first round on Saturday, but Serena announced just hours before the match that her knee had not healed enough to play. "I'm heartbroken to have to withdraw from doubles," the 44-year-old said on Instagram. Serena, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, suffered the injury during her defeat against Australia's Maya Joint in the first round of the Wimbledon singles on Tuesday. That was her first singles match since the 2022 US Open after four years in retirement. The sisters, who won the Wimbledon doubles six times, were



scheduled to face Solana Sierra and Camila Osorio after being given a wild card entry into the event. But no court was specified by tournament organisers in the order of play, raising the possibility that seven-time Wimbledon singles winner Serena could withdraw. To the disappointment of her legion of fans, Serena did just that, revealing the fluid on her injured knee made it impossible to

continue her sensational return to Wimbledon. "Coming back to compete again has been a gift, and the opportunity to play alongside Venus once more meant the world to me," she said. "I did everything I could to be ready, but unfortunately my knee just isn't ready to compete." "The photo of the syringes shows the fluid they drained from my knee after my singles match...yikes!"

Lamine Yamal's "Ego Yamal" Headband Had A Hidden Message For His Critics

Lamine Yamal has been one of the biggest stars of the FIFA World Cup, dazzling fans with his fearless dribbling, creativity and match-winning performances as Spain marched into the Round of 16. But with fame has also come scrutiny. Over the past few months, the Barcelona wonderkid has found himself at the centre of criticism from sections of fans on social media, with some accusing him of being arrogant because of his confidence on and off the pitch. During Spain's commanding victory over Austria, Yamal appeared to send a message to those critics, wearing a headband that instantly became one of the tournament's biggest talking points. The 18-year-old was seen wearing a headband carrying the words "Ego Yamal", leaving fans wondering whether it was a hid-



den message or simply a fashion statement. According to Spanish radio station COPE, it was anything but random. The report said the slogan was a direct response to criticism Yamal has

received on TikTok, where some users have mockingly nicknamed him "Ego Lamine", claiming the Spain international has developed an inflated ego. Rather than ignore the criticism, Yamal chose to embrace it.

Sabalenka beats Ostapenko to set up blockbuster Osaka meeting



World number one Aryna Sabalenka battled past Jelena Ostapenko to set up a blockbuster fourth-round meeting with Naomi Osaka at Wimbledon. Sabalenka and Ostapenko, two of the biggest hitters on the WTA Tour, went blow for blow in an entertaining evening encounter on Centre Court. But Belarusian Sabalenka kept her cool against the increasingly frustrated 2017 French Open champion to secure a 6-4 6-4 victory and keep her hopes of a first Wimbledon title alive. Her reward is a meeting with fellow four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka, who thrashed Daria Kasatkina 6-1 6-3 in just 65 minutes to reach the last 16 at SW19 for the first time. "Another aggressive player. Another very powerful match," Sabalenka said of Osaka, who she has a leading 4-1 head-to-head record against. "I'm ready to fight and do whatever it takes to get through." Sabalenka showed her fighting spirit against Latvia's Ostapenko, striking decisively in the

fourth game of the first set and wrapping it up with a 111mph ace. Ostapenko grew annoyed as she was unable to hold in her first three service games of the second set, gesturing wildly and directing angry shouts towards her team. But - even at a set and 4-1 up - doubts remained over Sabalenka's ability to close out the match after her French Open collapse from a similar position last month. The 28-year-old capitulated from a set and 4-1 up in her quarter-final against Diana Shnaider before losing the deciding set 6-0 in a match that she joked made her want to quit tennis. But, after missing a match point on Ostapenko's serve at 5-3, Sabalenka held her nerve in the next game to seal the win after just an hour and 32 minutes on court. All four of Osaka's major titles have been won on hard courts, and she has struggled to play her natural, big-hitting game on the French Open clay and All England Club grass.

Messi Stunned As Cape Verde's Sidney Lopes Cabral Scores 'Goal Of The World Cup'

The FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 32 clash between Cape Verde and Argentina was a classic David-and-Goliath battle that saw the island nation, with a population of just half a million people, come agonisingly close to stunning the defending champions on Friday (local time). Lionel Messi's Argentina pulled themselves ahead three times during the match: once in normal time and twice in extra time. While a resilient Cape Verde side responded with equalisers on the first two occasions, they could not find a third. Yet, for a significant period, it looked as though the Blue Sharks would drag the footballing giants to a penalty shoot-out, spearheaded by a Sidney Lopes Cabral strike that is

certain to contest for 'goal of the tournament'. Lionel Messi opened the scoring for Argentina in the first half, but Deroy Duarte deservedly equalised for Cape Verde at the hour mark. With the game locked at 1-1 at the end of regulation time, the referee signalled for an additional 30 minutes of extra time. Lisandro Martinez, who had earlier set up Messi's opener, briefly restored Argentina's lead early in the first period of extra time. However, Cape Verde struck back almost immediately when Cabral unleashed a stunning, rocketed shot into the top corner to level the scores at 2-2, in what arguably was the goal of the tournament so far. Lionel Messi, who had been highly influential in the game

so far, was absolutely stunned seeing Cape Verde score the equaliser again, that too in such a fashion. The breakthrough finally arrived from an Argentina corner. Cristian Romero rose highest to head home Messi's cross, with the ball taking a cruel deflection off Diney Borges for an own goal. La Albiceleste will face Egypt next on Tuesday in Atlanta, but the performance will leave manager Lionel Scaloni with plenty of concerns, despite what looks like a favourable draw on paper. Celebrating his 100th match in charge of the national team, Scaloni could only wipe the sweat from his brow in sheer relief when Borges' own goal crossed the line. Even then, an exhausted Argentina had

to ride their luck during a fierce Cape Verde onslaught in the final seconds. Emiliano Martinez, who had been a spectator in the first half but was forced into a smart save by Duarte earlier in the second, rescued his side by tipping another sweet Cabral strike over the crossbar. Cape Verde had already served warning of their capabilities during the group stage, holding European champions Spain, Uruguay, and Saudi Arabia to draws in Group H to reach the knockouts in their debut World Cup appearance.



SAMANTHA TEASES AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER WITH SONY LIV TAMIL

Something exciting is on the horizon for Samantha Ruth Prabhu. After a year marked by fresh beginnings, bold choices, and creative reinvention, the actress is all set to embark on yet another exciting journey. Sony LIV Tamil has officially announced a new collaboration with Samantha, hinting at a project that promises to surprise and entertain audiences. While the makers have kept the details under wraps, the announcement has already sparked curiosity among fans eager to know what's in store. Over the years, Samantha has established herself as one of India's most celebrated actors and entrepreneurs. Known for constantly pushing boundaries and taking fearless creative decisions, she has built a reputation for choosing projects that stand out. Every new venture in her career has generated significant buzz, and this latest collaboration appears to be no exception. The partnership brings together Samantha's immense popularity and Sony LIV Tamil's commitment to delivering engaging and high-quality entertainment. Though the streaming platform has revealed very little about the project, it promised audiences something fresh



and memorable. Expressing her excitement about the collaboration, Samantha said, "This year has reminded me to embrace change, trust the journey and welcome new beginnings. I'm so happy to be starting this new chapter with Sony LIV Tamil. We've been working on something really exciting, and

I'm looking forward to sharing it with all of you very soon." With anticipation steadily building, fans can expect more updates in the coming days as Sony LIV Tamil and Samantha prepare to unveil what could be one of the platform's most exciting announcements of the year.

Karunada Chakravarthy Dr. Shiva Rajkumar, Daali Dhananjaya and Hemanth M Rao's 666 Operation Dream Theatre - Teaser Out Now



The much awaited 666 Operation Dream Theatre held a screening of its teaser just for the media. The event was studded with the entire cast, led by Dr. Shiva Rajkumar, Daali Dhananjaya, Priyanka Mohan, Aditi Balan, and the crew led by Director Hemanth M Rao, Producer Vaishak J Gowda, DOP Advaita Gurumurthy, Music Director Charan Raj, and Production Designer

Vishwas Kashyap. The teaser sets up the world of 666 Operation Dream Theatre beautifully. The makers had positioned this as a spy drama, a homage to the CID 999 series starring the legendary Dr. Rajkumar. The era, a mission, a veteran agent, an aspiring agent, a masked man, the 'Flap on the Eyes' bad guy, a mother and her fairy tale, and Dhananjaya adding the twist at the end.

Prithviraj Sukumaran's Action Thriller I, Nobody to Release in Telugu on July 10; Paid Premieres Planned on July 9

Malayalam superstar enjoys a strong fan base among Telugu audiences for his distinctive choice of films and powerful performances. Rather than following the conventional commercial route, Prithviraj has consistently delivered content-driven cinema that has earned him widespread acclaim. The actor will also be seen in a pivotal role in the much-awaited Mahesh babu starrer Varanasi, directed by SS Rajamouli. Prithviraj's latest Movie I, Nobody, is a gripping action thriller directed by acclaimed filmmaker Nissam Basheer. The film also stars National Award-winning actress Parvathy Thiruvothu in a leading role. I, Nobody is all set for a grand theatrical release in Malayalam on July 9, followed by its Telugu release on July 10. Renowned banners Sri Sravanti Movies and Mythri Movie Distributors are releasing the film in Telugu across the Telugu states. The recently released teaser and trailer have received an overwhelming response, creating strong anticipation among audiences. Promising an edge-of-the-seat cinematic experience, the film combines an intriguing narrative, fast-paced screenplay, and intense action sequences. The story follows Raju, an ordinary bank employee whose life is turned upside down after he is accused of



executing a massive bank robbery. As he struggles to protect his family, he is forced to take a violent path under extraordinary circumstances. Is Raju truly a criminal, or is he an innocent man caught in a dangerous conspiracy? The answers unfold in this riveting action thriller. Blending emotion, suspense, and action seamlessly, I, Nobody promises to keep audiences engaged throughout. Prithviraj Sukumaran and Parvathy Thiruvothu are expected to deliver compelling performances, while director Nissam Basheer brings

his signature storytelling style to the film. The film also features and in prominent roles. Technical Crew: Director: Nissam Basheer Story, Screenplay & Dialogues: Sameer Abdul. Cinematography: Dinesh purushothaman Music: Jakes Bijoy. Paid Premieres on July 9 With tremendous buzz surrounding the Telugu release, the makers have planned paid premiere shows across the Telugu states on July 9, a day ahead of the film's official Telugu theatrical release on July 10.

Birthday Special Poster of Super Talented Actress Jyothi Poorvaj Released from Sensational Sci-Fi Thriller "Killer"



Business discussions with top distributors and buyers generating strong buzz in trade circles "Killer" gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon The sensational sci-fi thriller "Killer", starring Jyothi Poorvaj and Poorvaaj in the lead roles, is creating significant buzz in the industry. The film also features Manish Gilada, Chandrakanth Kollu, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth, and Gautham

Chakradhar Koppishetti in pivotal roles. Produced by Poorvaaj and A. Padmanabha Reddy under the Think Cinema and AU & I Studios banners with the blessings of Dhyanam Nannagaru, the film is presented by Urvish Poorvaaj and directed by Poorvaaj. Having completed its entire post-production process, including extensive VFX work, the film is now gearing up for a grand theatrical release.

Legendary Production EVV Cinema Production No.10 & NVR Entertainments Production No.1 begins with Pooja Ceremony: Stars Harsh Roshan & Priyanka achar

One of Telugu cinema's most iconic and celebrated production houses, EVV Cinema, founded by legendary filmmaker E.V.V. Satyanarayana, is making a prestigious comeback. The banner, which delivered memorable entertainers such as Chala Bagundi, Maa Aavida Meeda Ottu Mee Aavida Chala Manchidi, Thotti Gang, Athili Sattibabu LKG, and Fitting Master, Nuvvu ante naku istam, Kithakktalu, is now being revived by Aryan Rajesh, son of the late filmmaker. Joining hands with N.V. Krishna Reddy of NVR Entertainments, Aryan Rajesh is backing an intense love drama inspired by a real-life



story, carrying forward the rich legacy of EVV Cinema. The film stars Harsh Roshan in the lead alongside Priyanka Achar. Harsh, who won widespread appreciation with Court and estab-

lished himself as one of the most promising young actors in Telugu cinema, is set to headline another emotionally driven story. The project marks the directorial debut of Arun

Balaji and Shree Ranjani, who have crafted a love story rooted in real-life emotions and relationships. The film began with an auspicious pooja ceremony recently and the shoot begins soon. Backed by EVV Cinema and NVR Entertainments, the film promises a refreshing blend of realism, intense emotions, and strong storytelling. With the revival of one of Telugu cinema's most respected banners and a compelling true story at its heart, the makers are confident that the film will resonate with audiences across generations. More details regarding the title, first look, and release plans will be announced soon.

Tiruveer, Aishwarya Rajesh, Bharat Darshan, Maheshwar Reddy Mooli, Ganga Entertainments' 'O..! Sukumari' song 'Prema Premaiya' released

Young hero Tiruveer and talented heroine Aishwarya Rajesh starrer 'O..! Sukumari' is a village entertainer. Bharat Darshan is making his directorial debut with this movie. Maheshwara Reddy Mooli is producing this movie under the banner of Ganga Entertainments. This is the film being made under this banner after 'Shivam Bhaje'. The movie is going to be grandly released on July 17. The first looks, teaser and song that have already been released have received a good response. In this sequence, a romantic and melodious song called 'Prema.. Premaayyyy' from the film was released. This



song was sung by James Takara. The lyrics by Poornachari are very

good. The lyrical video for this song is impressive to everyone. The vil-

lage atmosphere, hero-heroine track, and simple choreography make the song beautiful. C.H. Kushender, who did cinematography for Rajakar and other films, is the cameraman for this film. Bharat Manchiraju, a disciple of M.M. Keeravani, will compose the music. Balagam fame Tirumala M. Tirupati is the art director, and Sri Varaprasad, who edited the film, is the editor. Anu Reddy Akkati, who worked on the film Swayambhu, is the costume designer for this film. Popular lyricist Poornachari is writing the songs for this film. This film will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi languages.

POOJA HEGDE POSES IN STUNNING SHIMMERY LOOK



Pooja Hegde added another feather to her cap by winning the Pan-India Style Icon of the Year award, celebrating her fashion-forward presence across the industry. The actress expressed gratitude for the recognition, reflecting on her journey and how far she has come in her career. Sharing new pictures, Pooja looked effortlessly glamorous in a sequinned maroon cord set, striking a

relaxed pose. She kept her look simple with soft waves and minimal accessories, letting the shimmering outfit and her radiant makeup do the talking. On the work front, Pooja recently featured in Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai alongside Varun Dhawan, though the film failed to make a mark at the box office. She now has an interesting lineup ahead, including Kanchana 4 and her upcoming Telugu film with Dulquer Salmaan.