

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)**PM MODI**
praises 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' in Jakarta, Karan Johar reacts

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SCAN FOR
E-PAPER**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**05-07-2026
Total pilgrims - 81,692
Tonsures - 35,361
Hundi kankabali - 4,72CR
Laddu sale - 437 Lac
Annaspradams - 2,05 Lac
Medical treatment - 2,793
Waiting Compartments - 29

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravalihamam (with out SSS Toilers) : 12 H.

Landslide hits Wayanad tunnel project site; several feared trapped

WAYANAD (TSIT): A major landslide was reported at Kalladi near Meppady in Wayanad on Tuesday, with apprehensions that some people may be trapped under the debris, Fire and Rescue Services officials said. According to officials, the landslide occurred near Meenakshi Bridge at Kalladi, where work on a tunnel road project connecting Malappuram and Wayanad districts was underway.

PM Modi, Indonesian President Prabowo elevate India-Indonesia ties with new agreements

New Delhi (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Tuesday pledged to deepen the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, announcing a series of initiatives spanning defence, healthcare, technology, agriculture, critical minerals, digital payments and cultural cooperation, while describing the bilateral relationship as entering a "golden new chapter." Addressing a joint press statement after bilateral talks in Jakarta, Modi said the partnership established in 2018 had gained fresh momentum and was expanding across multiple sectors.

"Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, established in 2018, is now reaching new heights. We are taking significant steps forward in every field—development, security, technology, culture



and education. I am confident that today marks the beginning of a golden new chapter in the India-Indonesia partnership," the prime minister said. Earlier in the day, Modi was conferred Indonesia's highest civilian honour.

Accepting the award, he dedicated it to the people of India and described it as a reflection of the enduring friendship between the two nations.

"This morning, I had the privilege of being conferred Indonesia's highest civilian honour with great warmth and affection. This honour belongs to the millions of people of India. It reflects

the goodwill of the people of Indonesia and symbolises the historic and deeply cherished ties between India and Indonesia," he said, thanking President Prabowo, the Indonesian government and its people for the recognition.

Highlighting growing strategic convergence, Modi said increasing trust between the two countries was reinforcing cooperation in defence, maritime security and disaster management. "The growing trust between our two countries is strengthening our cooperation in defence, security and maritime affairs.

Name any car that faced issues due to ethanol-blended petrol: Gadkari

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Amid criticism of the mandate for E20 petrol (20 per cent ethanol-blended) sales and complaints about reduced fuel efficiency of vehicles, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday dared critics to identify a single car that faced problems due to the mixed fuel. Addressing the 'Viksit



Bharat Conclave' here, Gadkari further said that India's dependence on fossil fuels is both an economic burden - as Rs 22 lakh crore is spent annually on fuel imports - and an environmental hazard, making clean energy adoption crucial for the nation's progress.

"There is no case of any car facing issues due to E20 petrol. Has there been any car in the country that faced issues due to the use of E20 petrol? Just name one."

CM Revanth challenges KCR to Kaleshwaram debateHyderabad
TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Tuesday challenged former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to a comprehensive debate on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) in a special session of the State Legislature, accusing the previous BRS government of engineering failures and financial mismanagement in the execution of the project. Speaking at Praja Bhavan after Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy made a detailed presentation on the condition of the Kaleshwaram project, Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS leadership was attempting to shift responsibility for the project's shortcomings to preserve its political relevance.

The Chief Minister said the original Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Project, initiated during the Congress regime to irrigate nearly 16.4 lakh acres, was redesigned by



the previous government despite technical objections. He claimed that an expert committee constituted in 2015 had advised against constructing a barrage at Medigadda, but its recommendations were ignored.

According to Revanth Reddy, the redesign led to a sharp escalation in the estimated project cost from about Rs.38,000 crore to over Rs.81,000 crore, without any significant increase in irrigation potential or water availability. He alleged that deficiencies in planning, design, construction quality and maintenance resulted in structural problems at the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Referring to reports of the

National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) Chief Minister said the barrages suffered due to poor construction quality, inadequate maintenance and non-compliance with engineering standards.

He added that engineers had flagged concerns over the Medigadda Barrage soon after its commissioning, but the issues were not addressed. Revanth Reddy said the present government was working with technical experts to scientifically rehabilitate the Kaleshwaram project and protect the substantial public investment made in it. Issuing a direct challenge to KCR.

Andhra Pradesh approves 11 projects worth Rs 9,076 crore investment

Amaravati, July 7: Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on Tuesday approved 11 projects with Rs 9,076 crore investment.

The State Level Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, cleared the projects which are expected to generate 10,531 jobs.

The approved proposals include Adani Foundation's project at Kapuluppada in Visakhapatnam district, with a proposed investment of Rs 2,200 crore, said an official release.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officials to promote industrialisation to provide additional income opportunities for farming families and enable them to emerge as entrepreneurs. He emphasised attracting investments to strengthen the rural econ-



omy and called for leveraging the growing demand for ethanol. The Chief Minister said that increasing ethanol blending to 40 per cent would provide significant additional income to maize farmers.

He instructed officials to actively encourage investments in the ethanol manufacturing sector, noting that ethanol demand would increase substantially for blending with petrol and diesel.

CM Naidu also directed

officials to formulate a comprehensive policy covering ethanol, methane and aviation fuel.

Reiterating that wealth creation and a circular economy are key pillars of the government's development strategy, the Chief Minister stressed the need to promote food processing industries on a large scale.

Highlighting the immense potential of the tourism sector, the Chief Minister proposed the establishment of 100 Experience Centres at major tourist destinations across the State, including Thimmamma Marrimanu.

He said tourist destinations such as Polavaram, Dindi, Gandikota, Lambham Cheruvu and Lambasingi should be developed into world-class attractions. The CM informed the meeting that the Jindal Group has expressed interest in establishing a resort near Lambasingi and Araku.

Five killed in Wayanad mudslide, rescue teams search for missing persons

Thiruvananthapuram/ Wayanad, July 7 : At least five people were killed in a major mudslide at the Meppadi-Kalladi tunnel construction site in Kerala's Wayanad on Tuesday, while three persons remained missing and seven others were undergoing treatment in hospital, as rescue teams pressed ahead with a massive search operation involving personnel, heavy earth-moving machinery, and sniffer dogs.

Authorities said the rescue efforts would continue through the night in the hope of tracing the missing workers buried under the huge mound of earth that collapsed at the construction site. Meppadi police have registered a case in connection with the incident, and investigations are under way.

The mudslide occurred



near Meenakshi Bridge at Kalladi, where the Wayanad end of the tunnel road project is under construction. Preliminary reports indicate that incessant rain triggered the collapse of massive heaps of excavated earth stacked at the site, burying parts of the work area.

The incident followed exceptionally heavy rainfall in Meppadi, which recorded 226 mm of rain in the past 24 hours.

The area is a popular tourist stop, and several private vehicles, along with a bus used to transport construction workers, were parked nearby when the mudslide occurred.

The massive mudslide also swept away a church and a nearby house. Fortunately, the house was locked as its occupants had left on a pilgrimage to Mecca, while no one was inside the church when the incident

occurred. A couple who were waiting at the local bus stop witnessed the mountain of stacked mud crumbling down.

"We were waiting at the bus stop, and suddenly we saw the mud coming down; we both ran. Had we remained there, we would have been buried in the mud. While my husband did not suffer any injuries, my hands were bruised as I fell down. We are both happy that our lives were saved," the woman said. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan, who reviewed the situation with senior officials at the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, said all available agencies had been pressed into service for the rescue operations. He said that he has directed that every possible effort be made to trace the missing persons and ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured.

Twin blasts near Macron's Damascus Hotel, French President safe

Damascus (TSIT) At least 18 people were injured after two explosions occurred near the Four Seasons Hotel in Damascus on Tuesday, where French President Emmanuel Macron had stayed ahead of his meeting with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa. A security source said the blasts were caused by two devices. Syrian state media reported that 18 people, including four police officers, were wounded. Macron was unharmed and was already at the Presidential Palace when the blasts occurred, the Élysée Palace said in a statement. French broadcaster BFMTV reported that the president had been staying at the Four Seasons Hotel. Explosions occurred near the Ministry of Tourism and the hotel where Macron was expected to stay during his visit to the Syrian capital for talks with President Ahmed al-Sharaa.

Centre dismisses reports of E-25 petrol rollout

New Delhi (TSIT) :

The Centre has dismissed reports of an imminent rollout of E-25 petrol, clarifying that no decision has been taken to increase ethanol blending beyond the current E-20 level and that any future move will be based on scientific testing and technical validation, according to a report.

Citing government sources, NDTV reported that there is absolutely no need to worry about E-20 petrol, which has been in use for more than two-and-a-half years following extensive testing and evaluation.

The clarification comes amid growing public discussion over the impact

of higher ethanol blending on vehicle performance and fuel efficiency.

The report further said the transition to ethanol-blended petrol has been carried out in a phased manner.

Nearly 20 crore petrol-powered two-wheelers and around 20 lakh petrol-powered four-wheelers are already running on ethanol-blended fuel, according to the report.

Earlier in July, the government issued a 10-point clarification on ethanol blending, stating that petrol containing up to 20 per cent ethanol is supported by scientific studies, international experience and regulatory safeguards.



Rejecting claims that producing one litre of ethanol requires 10,000

litres of water, the ministry said only surplus rice, cleared after meet-

ing national food security requirements, is diverted for ethanol pro-

Citing government sources, NDTV reported that there is absolutely no need to worry about E-20 petrol, which has been in use for more than two-and-a-half years following extensive testing and evaluation.

duction. It added that ethanol distilleries typically use around 3-5 litres of processed water to produce one litre of ethanol and are increasingly adopting Zero Liquid Discharge systems to recycle water.

The ministry also said maize, which now accounts for more than 40 per cent of ethanol supplied under the programme, requires significantly less irrigation than paddy and is being promoted through higher minimum support prices. Dismissing claims that E-20 is an untested fuel, the government said ethanol-blended fuels have been used globally for decades.

PM Modi praises 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' in Jakarta, Karan Johar reacts

Mumbai, July 7 : Filmmaker Karan Johar expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a special mention to his iconic film 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' during his address in Jakarta. On Tuesday, KJo thanked the PM for making the song 'live forever'.

During his address, PM Modi stressed the massive popularity of Indian cinema in Indonesia with a special mention to the title track of 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', featuring Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, and Rani Mukerji.

PM Modi was heard saying, "Yahan Bharat ka gana 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' bahut hi lokpriya hai. Aaj maine is par kaha ki jab Bharat aur Indonesia saath milkar chalte hain,



toh 'kuch kuch' se bhi aage badhkar 'bahut kuch' hota hai. (Here, India's song 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' is very popular. When India and Indonesia move forward together, a lot more will happen."

The witty wordplay by the Prime Minister points out the potential for a

strong collaboration between the two nations.

Overwhelmed by the mention of his movie, Karan re-shared the video on the Stories section of his official Instagram handle. The 'Dharma' head wrote, "Elated & honoured to have our esteemed Prime Minister @naren-

dramodi ji speak about Kuch Kuch Hota Hai in Jakarta. There is indeed a language that transcends all it's love. Thank you for embracing & making this song live forever!!! (sic)"

Talking about 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', the film marked Karan Johar's debut as a director.

Backed by Karan Johar's father, Yash Johar, 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' stars Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, and Rani Mukerji in the lead, along with Salman Khan and Sana Saeed in significant roles.

Considered to be one of the most celebrated romantic dramas in Bollywood, the songs and dialogues of the movie remained ingrained in the memory of movie buffs across generations and borders.

Calcutta HC declines urgent hearing for Mahua Moitra, takes up Sujit Bose plea



Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday dealt with three separate urgent mentions involving Trinamool Congress leaders and granted different relief in each case. While the court rejected an urgent hearing plea by Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra, it agreed to hear former state minister Sujit Bose's bail petition later in the day. Meanwhile, the anticipatory bail plea of former Kolkata Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh is likely to be heard on Thursday.

Mahua had approached the High Court seeking legal protection after alleging that she was attacked with eggs, bricks and burnt brinjals during a political programme in Nadia's Kaliganj on July 1.

Her counsel, Ayan Bhattacharya, sought an urgent hearing before Justice Sougata Bhattacharyya. Rejecting the request, the judge observed, "Such cases are being filed in gallons."

He said the petition could be filed and would be heard in due course following the prescribed procedure. The MP had earlier obtained the court's permission to file the petition, alleging that while

the police were actively pursuing an FIR registered against her, they had failed to act on her complaints regarding the alleged attack.

Moitra has accused BJP workers of surrounding the party office, hurling raw eggs and raising slogans against her during a preparatory meeting for the July 21 programme.

She also alleged police inaction despite the incident unfolding in their presence.

In a separate matter, former Fire Services Minister Sujit Bose, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, sought an urgent hearing of his bail plea.

His counsel, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, mentioned the matter before the court, which agreed to hear it at 2 pm on Tuesday.

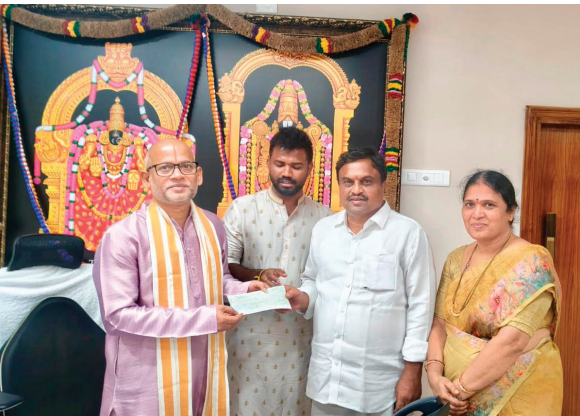
Former Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh, who has sought anticipatory bail in connection with the alleged land scam, also requested an early hearing. However, Justice Joy Sengupta declined the plea, observing that many cases involving ordinary citizens were pending. The matter is expected to be heard on Thursday.

Garuda Vahanam marks grand finale of Avatara Mahotsavams

Tiruchanoor, July 7: The three-day annual Avatara Mahotsavams of Sri Sundararaja Swamy concluded on a grand note at Tiruchanoor with the Garuda Vahanam procession on Tuesday. Special Abhishekam was performed to the deity with milk, curd, honey, coconut water, turmeric and sandalwood paste, followed by Unjal Seva in the evening. Later, Sri Sundararaja Swamy, mounted on Garuda Vahanam, was taken in a grand procession through the temple streets, blessing devotees amid chants of "Govinda... Govinda." Temple Deputy EO Sri Harendra Nath, AEO Sri Devarajulu, officials, priests and a large number of devotees participated in the celebrations.



Rs.11 Lakh donation to TTD



Tirumala: SK Enterprises, Hyderabad, donated Rs.11 lakh to the TTD Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust on Tuesday. The representatives of the organization handed over the donation cheque to TTD Additional EO Sri Ch.Venkaiah Chowdary, at the Additional EO's Camp Office in Tirumala.

SVIMS hosts physiotherapy training workshop



Tirupati, July 7: Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) Physiotherapy College is conducting a three-day training workshop on Aerobics, Swiss Ball and Theraband from July 6 to 8. Speaking at the inaugural session, SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor Dr. R.V. Kumar said aerobic and muscle-strengthening exercises are essential for improving heart health and aiding rehabilitation of cardiac patients. Resource person Dr. Surjit Chakravarthy stressed that scientifically supervised fitness training by qualified physiotherapists ensures safe exercise practices. Principal Dr. K. Madhavi said the workshop aims to enhance physiotherapy skills and improve community health through evidence-based rehabilitation practices.

Collector stresses strengthening cooperative sector

Tirupati, July 7: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed officials to strengthen the cooperative sector and ensure transparent, efficient functioning of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS). Chairing the District Cooperative Development Committee meeting, he emphasized making cooperative societies financially sustainable and delivering benefits to the grassroots through better coordination. Reviewing the implementation of the HRMS system, the Collector said 102 of 111 employees in 53 PACS have been brought under the system and instructed officials to resolve technical issues affecting the remaining employees. Joint Collector R. Govinda Rao and other district officials attended the meeting.



GITAM scholar earns Ph.D. for research on mathematical modelling of molecular structures

Hyderabad, July 7: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has congratulated Dr. Jaina Pranavi on being awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics and Statistics for her innovative research on mathematical modelling of molecular structures using graph theory.

Dr. Jaina Pranavi pursued her doctoral research as a full-time scholar under the guidance of Dr. J. Vijayasekhar, Associate Professor, School of Science. Her thesis, titled "Mathematical Modelling of Molecular Structures Using Topological Indices: A Graph-Theoretic Approach," focuses on applying graph theory to



model molecular structures and accurately predict their physical and chemical properties without relying on computationally intensive quantum-chemical methods.

As part of her research, she developed mathematical models based on topo-

logical indices to study different classes of molecules, including aliphatic ketones, fatty acids and anticancer compounds. The models demonstrated a high degree of accuracy in predicting important molecular properties such as boiling point, melting point, molar volume, enthalpy and polarisation.

The study establishes graph theory as a simple, reliable and computationally efficient tool for molecular modelling, offering significant applications in computational chemistry, pharmaceutical research, materials science and drug discovery. The findings are expected to contribute to the growing field of mathematical chemistry by strengthen-

ing the relationship between graph theory and molecular science. The research also provides a strong foundation for future studies integrating artificial intelligence and machine learning to advance molecular modelling and predictive analysis. Congratulating Dr. Jaina Pranavi on her academic achievement, Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director, Dr. M. Reza, Director of the School of Science, and Dr. Jadav Gandesh, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, praised her dedication and acknowledged the significance of her contribution to scientific research.:::

Baruipur rape-murder case: Bengal Police intensify probe, examine shack as possible crime scene

KOLKATA: Investigators probing the alleged rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl at Baruipur in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Tuesday said that one of the accused is suspected to have taken the victim to a shack where two other accused were already present before the crime took place. The three arrested accused were being questioned even as investigators were awaiting the forensic and viscera examination reports, a senior police officer said.

"An investigation is underway on the basis of evidence collected from the spot, witness statements and scientific examination. We are verifying the exact sequence of events and the individual roles of each accused," he said. One of the accused allegedly took the

minor to the shack, where two others were present, he said, adding that the three accused allegedly consumed intoxicants before the assault.

"The preliminary post-mortem report revealed injuries on the victim. Investigators are examining the circumstances that led to the injuries and are awaiting the final medical opinion," he added.

The accused allegedly attempted to dispose of the victim late on Saturday night, the officer of the investigating team said. "It is suspected that she was kept inside the shack before an attempt was made to dispose of her. Circumstantial evidence indicates that they tried to carry her in a plastic sack, but after it got torn, they allegedly threw her into a nearby pond," he said.

SBI Collectorate Branch Manager Kalva Bhaskar transferred to Hyderabad

Mahabubnagar, July 7: SBI Collectorate Branch Manager Kalva Bhaskar has been transferred to Hyderabad following orders issued by the State Bank of India Chief General Manager (CGM). He was officially relieved from his responsibilities at the Collectorate branch on Tuesday.

On the occasion of his transfer, district officials and colleagues accorded him a warm farewell in recognition of his dedicated service and valuable contributions to the district. They felicitated him and extended their best wishes for success in his new assignment in Hyderabad.

Kalva Bhaskar served as the Lead Bank Manager (LBM) in Mahabubnagar district from June 2022 to June 2025. During his tenure, he earned appreciation from district officials for his proactive approach in strengthening coordination between banks and various government departments. His efforts played a significant role in facilitating the smooth implementation of government welfare and development schemes by ensuring timely sanction and disbursement of loans to eligible beneficiaries.



Following his tenure as Lead Bank Manager, Bhaskar assumed charge as the Branch Manager of the SBI Collectorate Branch in July 2025. In this role, he continued to maintain close coordination with district administration officials and provided efficient banking support for official requirements. He was also actively involved in creating awareness about cybercrimes and digital banking safety during various government meetings and public interactions, encouraging citizens and officials to remain vigilant against online fraud.

District officials lauded his professionalism, commitment, and cooperative attitude throughout his service in Mahabubnagar. They expressed confidence that his experience and leadership would continue to benefit the bank in his new posting. Among those who felicitated Kalva Bhaskar were P. Srinivas, Assistant Director of the Information Department, K. Ravinder, District Chief Planning Officer, Gampa Srinivas, District Civil Supplies Officer, and several other district officials and well-wishers.

Hi Life Exhibition to showcase luxury fashion and lifestyle collections in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, July 7: Hyderabad is set to host the prestigious Hi Life Exhibition, offering fashion enthusiasts and shoppers an opportunity to explore an exclusive range of luxury designer collections from across India.

Scheduled to be held on July 9, 10 and 11 at Novotel HICC, Hyderabad, the exhibition will feature a carefully curated selection of designer fashion, statement jewellery, handcrafted accessories and premium lifestyle products. Renowned designers from different parts of the country will present their latest creations, bringing together contemporary trends and timeless craftsmanship under one roof. The exhibition promises an immersive shopping experience, showcasing exclusive collections that cater to diverse tastes and preferences. Visitors can explore elegant ethnic and contemporary wear, exquisite jewellery, unique handcrafted accesso-



ries and a variety of lifestyle products designed to reflect style, sophistication and quality. Hi Life Exhibition has established itself as one of India's leading luxury fashion and lifestyle showcases, attracting designers, brands and discerning shoppers with its exclusive offerings and premium shopping environment. Organisers have invited fashion lovers, lifestyle enthusi-

asts and shoppers to visit the exhibition and discover the latest trends, exclusive designs and handcrafted creations from some of the country's finest designers. The Hi Life Exhibition will be open to visitors from July 9 to July 11 at Novotel HICC, Hyderabad, offering a unique platform to experience luxury shopping and premium designer collections.

South Coast Railway GM Reviews Safety and Punctuality

The South India Times,
Visakhapatnam : South Coast
Railway General Manager Shri
Sandeep Mathur conducted a com-
prehensive review meeting with
the Principal Heads of Departments
(PHODs) at the Zonal Headquarters
and the Divisional Railway

Managers (DRMs) of all four divisions to assess train safety and punctuality. During the meeting, the General Manager reviewed various safety aspects of train operations and reiterated that punctuality remains the highest priority in railway functioning. He directed

officials to ensure strict compliance with all safety protocols across the zone and stressed that there should be no compromise on safety standards. Shri Mathur also reviewed train movements with a focus on improving punctuality and ensuring smooth operations.

Government Focuses on Welfare of Neera Tappers; Special Plan for Sustainable Livelihoods



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, said the State Government is giving special priority to the welfare of Neera (toddy) tappers and has drawn up a comprehensive plan to ensure sustainable income opportunities for them. He was speaking at a review meeting with Neera tappers held at the Rampa Krishi Vigyan Kendra under the chairmanship of District Collector Dinesh Kumar. The Minister described Neera as a healthy natural beverage rich in vitamins and essential minerals. He said that with modern processing and preservation techniques, Neera can be made available throughout the year, creating greater market opportunities for the product. He added that value-added products such as palm jaggery and other palm-based products could

significantly improve the income of toddy tappers.

State ST Welfare Committee Chairperson and ML Miriyala Sirisha Devi said Neera offers several health benefits and has applications in traditional Ayurvedic medicine. She noted that promoting Neera-based products as an organised industry would generate stable employment and strengthen the livelihoods of thousands of toddy tapper families. She also stated that the coalition government is committed to supporting the sector through dedicated initiatives.

During the programme, a brochure on the Neera project was released, and the Minister inspected the Neera processing unit and various palm-based products developed at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Pawan Kalyan Promises Boost to Handicrafts Tourism

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday announced that the State will promote Handicrafts Tourism on the lines of temple and eco-tourism to preserve and showcase traditional art forms. Launching the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Mahotsavam-2026 in Vijayawada, he said every handicraft product would be tagged with a QR code carrying details of the artisan to ensure proper recognition. He also directed officials to produce documentaries highlighting the hard work and heritage of artisans. Pawan Kalyan assured that Common Facility Centres would be established under the VBG Ramji Scheme and cluster-wise medical camps would be organised for artisans.

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

(See Regulation-15(1)(a)/16(3)
Summons under sub-section (4) of Section
19 of the Act, R/W Sub-Rule (2A) of Rule 5
of the DRT (Procedure) Rules 1993
BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY
TRIBUNAL-II, 1st FLOOR, TRIVENI
COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD-500001.
I.A.No.791/2026 in S.A.No.477 of 2024

Between:
M/s. Sona Poultry Farm
.....Petitioner/Applicant
And
Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Branch at
Kadapa & another,
...Respondents/Respondents

To
Sri Shaik Thamim Ansar, S/o: Mahaboob Shareef,
R/o: Flat No.103, Ashok Avenue, Palakotalla
Street, Ashok Nagar, Kurnool District, Kurnool,
Andhra Pradesh-518005.

Whereas I.A. No.791/2026 IN S.A.
No.385/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding
Officer on 16-06-2026.

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said I.A. to implead you as a Respondent No.2 and posted the S.A. on 27-07-2026 for your appearance
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 17 of the **SARFAESI Act** you, the defendants are directed as under.

- (i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
- (ii) To disclose particulars of properties or asset other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application.

(ii) You are not retained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.

(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business, any property or interest in which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.

(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposits such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and appear before **PRESIDING OFFICER** on **27-07-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the tribunal on this date of 7th July, 2026.

Signature of the Authorised Officer
to issue Summons

**SBFC FINANCE LIMITED**

Registered Office : Unit No. 103, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, Andheri Kurla Road,
Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400059
Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | www.sbfci.com | **CIN :** L67190MH2008PLC178270

Rajahmundry branch gold branch to be discontinued

Dear Customers,
We are closing Gold Loan business at **Rajahmundry Branch** and will be merged with **Eluru Branch** with effect from **10th Oct. 2026**. However we will continue Gold Loan business at the Rajahmundry Branch will continue as usual.

Current Branch Address	New Branch address
SBFC Finance Limited, H.No. 6-3-1, 1st Floor, Challapalli Vari Street, T-Nagar, Rajahmundry Urban, East Godavari, Rajahmundry Andhra Pradesh-533101.	SBFC Finance Limited, 23B-593/1, Savithru Complex, 1st Floor, Edaravari Street, Beside Axis Bank, R.R.Pet, Eluru Andhra Pradesh-534001

For any queries, please feel free to contact at our new branch

For SBFC Finance Limited

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of Arcil – Trust-2026 – 011 ("Arcil") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("said Rules") calling upon the following borrower to repay the amount mentioned against their respective name together with interest rates thereon at the applicable rates mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

And whereas, the said "Original Lender" has unconditionally and irrevocably assigned, transferred and released in favour of the Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil), in our capacity as the sole Trustee of "Arcil – Trust-2026 – 011" all its rights, title and interest, in the financial assets along with the underlying securities, in terms of section 5 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 vide Assignment Agreement dated 09/09/2025.

Sr. No.	Loan No	Name of the Borrower/Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Outstanding Due	Date of Notice 13(2)	Date of Possession	Type of Possession	Description of Secured Assets
1	0176SB ML01403	Mr./Ms. Moulali Shaik (Borrower) Mr./Ms. Fatima Munnisa Shaik (Co Borrower)	₹ 16,95,265.77/- as on 19/01/2026.	20/01/2026	03-07-2026	Symbolic	All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Admeasuring An Extent Of 50 Sq. Yds Of Site Including With Ground Floor Rec And First Floor Ace Shed Therein Bearing House No. 8-33- 127, Comprised In Nts No. 409, Revenue Ward No.8, Block No.11, Municipal Ward No.36, Old Asst No.74661, New Asst No.1073030086, Situated In Yusuikhan Street, Wynchipet, Vijayawada Town, Within The Limits Of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, District Registrar, Vijayawada, Ntr District and bounded as follows: North: John Pal South: Shaik Khasima East: Municipal Road [Yusuf Khan Street] West: Chilaka Elisha

With further interest as applicable, Incidental expences, costs, charges etc. incurred till date of payment and/ or realisation.

However since the Borrowers mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and in public in general that the Authorised Officer of ARCIL have taken possession of the properties/ Secured Assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above.

The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 08-07-2026
Place: Vijaywada-AP

SD/-, Authorised Officer
For Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited
(Trustee of Arcil – Trust -2026 – 011)

**ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.**

CIN: U65999MH2002PLC134884 [Website: www.arcil.co.in](http://www.arcil.co.in)

REGISTERED OFFICE: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai- 400028, Tel: +91 2266581300

EDITORIAL

Satluj, Jaswant Singh Khalra, And When Disappearance Is The Story

Some films are released. Some films are resisted. And some films are released only to be silenced again. Satluj, the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer earlier known as 'Punjab '95', has now entered the third category. After years of delay, title changes and censorship battles, the film finally reached audiences on ZEE5. But within days, it was taken down or "paused" for viewers in India. ZEE5 has said the film is temporarily unavailable in India "in light of current developments" and that the platform is exploring due process to bring it back at the earliest opportunity. The removal has invited sharp criticism. Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal condemned the move, calling it an assault on collective memory, truth and freedom of expression. His reaction is politically important because it places the film not merely in the world of cinema, but directly inside Punjab's moral and political debate. The timing gives the film an added resonance. Punjab is already moving towards the 2027 Assembly election. The bugle has not merely been sounded by political parties; it is being heard in villages, social media debates, diaspora conversations and Panthic spaces. In such an atmosphere, a film on Jaswant Singh Khalra is not just a cinematic event. It becomes part of Punjab's larger political and moral conversation. Khalra's story carries a message from the past to the present generation. He was the human rights activist who documented alleged illegal cremations and disappearances during Punjab's militancy and counter-insurgency years. For those who lived through that period, his name is linked with courage, fear and unfinished justice. For many young Punjabis, Satluj may be their first serious introduction to a chapter that shaped Punjab's conscience. The film reportedly revisits disappearances, alleged extra-judicial killings and illegal detentions linked to Punjab's troubled period of the 1980s and 1990s. A film about history, but also about public memory Punjab's militancy years are often remembered through terrorism, police operations, security challenges and national integrity. But another story lived beneath that narrative: missing sons, unidentified bodies, cremation grounds, fear and silence. Jaswant Singh Khalra's work emerged from this darkness. He followed municipal records, cremation registers and names of those allegedly cremated without informing families. Human Rights Watch recorded that Khalra exposed mass secret cremations by Punjab Police in Amritsar district, which then included Tarn Taran, Patti and other border areas. After his disappearance, the Supreme Court ordered a CBI investigation. The CBI identified 2,097 cremations at three crematoria grounds in Amritsar district. Activists, however, believe the scale was much larger. This is where cinema begins to do what courts, commissions and books often cannot. It converts documented history into public memory. Satluj does not merely tell the story of one man. It takes the audience into a period when fear had become normal and documentation itself became resistance. Jaswant Singh Khalra and Ram Narayan Kumar. The moral force of Khalra's story lies in its simplicity. He asked a basic question: if these bodies were "unclaimed", who were they? Who killed them? Why were their families not informed? Why were names and records hidden?

America, Trump, And The Politics Of Belonging In A Connected World

The world's richest technology entrepreneur increasingly speaks about borders. His companies are built on technologies designed to overcome geography, connect communities and ultimately carry humanity beyond Earth. Around the same time, an influential American conservative commentator suggested sterilising foreign women before they entered the United States. The proposal was outrageous and unlikely ever to become public policy. Yet it reflected a political mood that is becoming increasingly familiar across democracies. America, the country that has done more than any other to build a connected world, is today consumed by debates over birthright, immigration, citizenship and belonging. The recent controversy surrounding birthright citizenship is therefore much more than a constitutional dispute. It is a glimpse into a deeper transformation reshaping democratic politics. The world's richest technology entrepreneur increasingly speaks about borders. His companies are built on technologies designed to overcome geography, connect communities and ultimately carry humanity beyond Earth. Around the same time, an influential American conservative commentator suggested sterilising foreign women before they entered the United States. The proposal was outrageous and unlikely ever to become public policy. Yet it reflected a political mood that is becoming increasingly familiar across democracies. America, the country that has done more than any other to build a connected world, is today consumed by debates over birthright, immigration, citizenship and belonging. The recent controversy surrounding birthright citizenship is therefore much more than a constitutional dispute. It is a glimpse into a deeper transformation reshaping democratic politics. Advertisement - Scroll to continue I call this the Technology-Belonging Paradox. Technology seeks universality. Politics seeks belonging. The tension between these two organising principles may explain why an increasingly connected world is also becoming an increasingly fragmented political one. Many commentators view the current debate as another chapter in Donald Trump's political story. That explanation is incomplete. Trump recognised an emerging political current, amplified it and transformed it into a successful electoral movement. The forces driving it extend well beyond one politician, one court judgment or even the United States. Technology and Political Time For nearly three decades after the end of the Cold War, the prevailing assumption was that technology and globalisation would steadily weaken the importance of borders. The internet dissolved distance. Air travel compressed geography. Digital platforms connected billions of people. Artificial intelligence is beginning to transform knowledge itself into a global resource. A world that became more connected, many believed, would also become more open. History has taken a different course. Technology and politics solve different problems. Technology rewards scale, interoperability and efficiency. It functions best when systems communicate seamlessly across borders. Politics performs a different task. It allocates rights, responsibilities and resources within a defined community. It therefore asks a question technology cannot



answer: who belongs? Technology evolves at an extraordinary speed. Political communities evolve over generations. Nations are not software waiting for an update. They are built upon history, memory, language, culture and shared experience. These foundations change slowly, even when the technologies surrounding them change with astonishing speed. The surprise is, therefore, not that technology connected humanity. It has done so beyond anything imagined a generation ago. The surprise is that political identity has remained remarkably resilient. Technology has transformed the environment in which politics operates. Social media organises political tribes as efficiently as it builds global communities. Artificial intelligence accelerates scientific collaboration while strengthening border management. Digital technologies expand the reach of globalisation even as they provide governments with increasingly sophisticated tools to define membership and administer identity. Technology can tell us who we are with extraordinary precision. It cannot answer the question that ultimately matters in politics: to whom do we belong? A passport, biometric authentication, Aadhaar or facial recognition can establish identity with remarkable accuracy. None

can determine whether an individual belongs to a political community or enjoys the rights of citizenship. Those remain political decisions, shaped by history, law and collective choice rather than technological capability. The Return of Belonging Few individuals embody this transformation more vividly than Elon Musk. His companies depend upon global talent, global capital and technologies designed to transcend geography. Yet his political interventions increasingly revolve around borders, immigration and civilisational identity. The contradiction is less personal than structural. The builders of the world's most connected technologies have become some of the strongest advocates of rebuilding political boundaries. The United States is far from unique. Europe has witnessed the steady rise of parties organised around immigration and national identity. India's debates over citizenship, illegal migration and the integrity of electoral rolls similarly revolve around competing ideas of political membership. South Africa, despite its history of pan-African solidarity, has experienced repeated violence against migrants from neighbouring African states. China has embraced global commerce while simultaneously strengthening narratives of civilisational identity and national rejuvenation. These examples differ in history, institutions and political context. What connects them is not ideology but a common political question: who belongs within the community? Globalisation did not erase identity. It heightened its political significance. Greater migration, rapid technological change and economic disruption expanded opportunity while simultaneously generating insecurity. The faster societies changed, the stronger the search for stable markers of belonging became. Lessons for India For India, this transformation deserves careful attention. Much of Indian strategic analysis still examines the United States through the familiar lenses of military power, alliances and competition with China. Those remain indispensable. Increasingly, however, American domestic politics shapes trade, immigration, industrial policy, technological leadership and even foreign policy itself. Understanding how America defines belonging may become as important as understanding how it exercises power. The lesson is equally relevant at home. India has built one of the world's most sophisticated digital public infrastructures, from Aadhaar to rapidly expanding digital governance systems. At the same time, political debates over citizenship, migration, electoral rolls and identity have become cruder and more salient. Technology can make identity verification easier. It cannot make belonging easier to agree upon. The American experience reminds us that once technology becomes deeply intertwined with identity politics, disputes over administration can quickly become contests over the meaning of citizenship itself. For India, the challenge is not to slow technological progress but to recognise its limits. Technology can strengthen governance. It cannot substitute for the political consensus on which democratic citizenship ultimately rests. The twentieth century connected humanity in ways earlier generations could scarcely imagine. The twenty-first is discovering that connectivity alone cannot answer the oldest political question. Technology seeks universality.

Portugal's Greatest Mistake Was Making The World Cup About Cristiano Ronaldo

Portugal did not lose because Cristiano Ronaldo played for them. They lost because everything they did was about him. Roberto Martinez had a crack team when they came to the World Cup. They had a team that could win it all. And it was not because of Cristiano Ronaldo. It was because of all the players they had. Vitinha was one of the midfielders in Europe. Bruno Fernandes was playing well. Bernardo Silva was one of the top players in the world. Rafael Leao could score against any team. Joao Neves had a lot of energy. Was not afraid to try new things. This was not a team that relied on one player. They had a lot of players. But something changed. People started talking about Cristiano Ronaldo all the time. They talked about his goals, his records and his last games. The World Cup was no longer about Portugal, it was about Cristiano Ronaldo. BBC pundit Chris Sutton said, "He's waddling around the field like a grandad, that's why Portugal are out". The game was no longer the thing, it was all about Cristiano Ronaldo. When Portugal played against DR Congo they had the ball most of the time. They did not do much with it. They did not have a rhythm, and their movements seemed forced. Every time they tried to attack it seemed like they were asking themselves "Can we get the ball to Cristiano Ronaldo?" Thierry Henry pointed out one time when Bruno Fernandes was about to make a play. Then Cristiano Ronaldo got in the way hoping to get the ball. Henry said, "The team needs to score, not you." He was not trying to be mean he just wanted to remind everyone that great



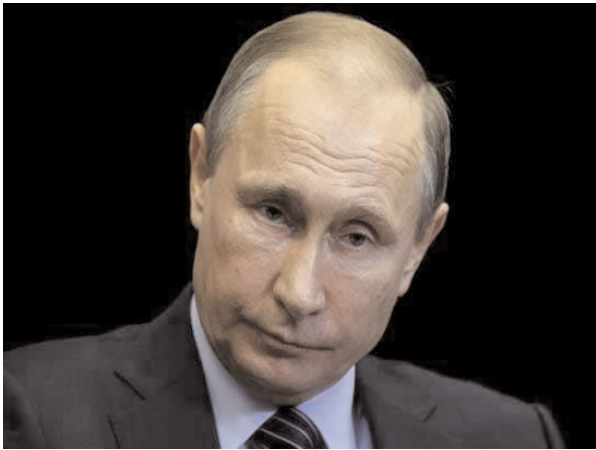
teams play together, they do not just follow one player. The coach, Roberto Martinez did not make the decisions. He did not want to take Cristiano Ronaldo out of the game even when it seemed like a good idea. Fernando Santos, the former coach, had taken Cristiano Ronaldo out of a game during a World Cup match in 2022. Roberto Martinez did not do that. Infact, BBC pundit Chris Sutton said, "What is Roberto Martinez doing? Why is he giving so much attention to one player?" Martinez said, "When you need a goal, you cannot take out Cristiano Ronaldo." That is not how it works in international football. You have to be able to change and adapt. Portugal

did not do that. They just kept playing the way with Cristiano Ronaldo as the main player. Their front line did not move much. Their midfielders just looked for ways to get the ball to Cristiano Ronaldo. They stopped creating their chances and just waited for something to happen. The numbers show what happened. When Cristiano Ronaldo was not playing, Portugal was a team. They passed the ball faster they moved around more. They scored more goals. Cristiano Ronaldo is still a great player, but he is nowhere near where he used to be. Other teams do not fear him as much as they used to. Every time Portugal played, it felt like the game was not the thing. It was all

about Cristiano Ronaldo. People wore his jersey and masks. They cheered every time he touched the ball. Even when Portugal won, people still talked about why Cristiano Ronaldo had not scored. The team was hidden behind their captain. Perhaps the team's story got lost. Their midfield was great, their positioning was smart, and their technical skills were amazing. Nobody talked about that. They just talked about Cristiano Ronaldo. The players who could have been the stars of this team were relegated to the background. When Portugal played against Spain, they were great for a while. Then they started to fall back and defend. They lost the ball, and Spain scored. After the game Bruno Fernandes said that they had made mistakes and that the team had not played to their strengths. Roberto Martinez was fired after. Cristiano Ronaldo wasted no time to talk up his contribution to the nation. He said, "I have won three titles for Portugal. Before me Portugal had not won anything." That was not what this World Cup was about. It was about the team, not one player. Cristiano's place in football history is secure. But it is the team that wins games, not just one player. Portugal spent the World Cup trying to make Cristiano Ronaldo happy. They forgot about the great team they had. That is the greatest irony. The best way to honour Cristiano Ronaldo would have been to build a team that could win without him. Instead of doing that, they just built a team, around him. What will hurt them more than the loss to Spain is the way they lost their identity.

Vladimir Putin Hasn't Looked This Desperate In Over 25 Years

As NATO leaders meet in Turkey for their annual summit, the Russia-Ukraine war is a top issue on the agenda. On the eve of the summit, Moscow bombed Kyiv, killing at least 24 people and causing heavy damage to the city's infrastructure. Monday's bombardment was the second deadly attack on the Ukrainian capital in four days, exposing the country's helplessness against powerful Russian ballistic missiles. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is expected to plead at the summit for more air-defence batteries from the US and other NATO members. Ukraine, however, is not doing too badly at the moment in the war. In fact, it has managed to push the war deep into Russia, with escalating attacks on energy infrastructure that have created nationwide fuel shortages and miles-long queues at petrol stations. Only two of Russia's 83 regions have avoided such shortages. Last week, Russia began importing petrol from India to try to mitigate the deepening crisis. Although the Kremlin didn't comment on imports from India, it did confirm that Moscow was in talks with other countries to purchase petrol. The fact that Russia, the world's second-largest exporter of crude oil and third-largest exporter of refined petroleum products, has been forced to import petrol suggests the tide may be turning in favour of Ukraine in the conflict, now in its fifth year. The Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, has not looked so vulnerable since he came to power more than 25 years ago. The Ukraine war



has shattered the myth of Russia's strength and invincibility as well as Putin's image as a strong leader. The conflict he called a "special operation" in the hope of quickly occupying Ukraine has already lasted longer than the First World War and the Soviet Union's fight against Nazi Germany in the Second World War. In WW2, Russia pushed back Hitler's forces by up to 1,800 kilometres west, from the outskirts of Moscow to Berlin, but in Ukraine its gains are limited to tens of kilometres from the Russian border in the east and south. Russia has been unable to capture the Donbas region, which it has claimed since 2014.

range drones have been highly effective at penetrating Russian air defences, hurting Moscow economically and psychologically, particularly in recent weeks. Last month, Kyiv launched two major attacks in Putin's hometown, St. Petersburg, and the capital, Moscow, both of which have huge symbolic and strategic significance. St. Petersburg was attacked as Putin was about to start an important international economic conference. Guests saw large plumes of smoke rising from a nearby burning oil terminal. Two weeks later, a massive attack on Moscow targeted the capital's largest oil refinery, reportedly disabling it for at least six months. On Saturday, Ukraine's drones struck a prominent oil depot and a military base in St. Petersburg, undeterred by Moscow's major attack on Kyiv two days earlier. Kyiv has even attacked oil refineries in Siberia, nearly 2,000 kilometres from its borders. Several refineries across multiple Russian regions have been repeatedly hit. In the Black Sea city of

Novorossiysk, home to Russia's largest oil export terminal, authorities have suspended petrol sales to individuals. Petrol shortages have affected businesses as well as individual households. According to the Russian newspaper Kommersant, up to a fifth of the nation's taxi drivers are staying home because of long queues at petrol stations. Russia's older population may remember food rationing during Soviet rule, but younger people have never experienced anything like it.

Crimea, The Russian Jewel

In an attempt to persuade Putin to resolve the conflict, President Trump last year agreed to recognise Russia's claim to Crimea, which it annexed from Ukraine in 2014, along with other major concessions. Putin and Zelensky didn't agree for different reasons. The annexation of Crimea has been a major success for Putin, boosting his popularity in the country. Since the days of Catherine the Great, Crimea has served as a Russian military stronghold. It has also been the main supply route to Russia's military in occupied southern Ukraine. Thus, Ukraine's targeting of Crimea has hit Russia's nerve. Attacks on the peninsula have risen sharply in recent weeks, prompting questions about whether Russia can retain what it considers its crown jewel. Crimea's biggest city, Sevastopol, once the proud home of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, has seen the fleet withdraw after repeated Ukrainian strikes.

MICROSOFT CUTS 4,800 JOBS, INCLUDING MANY AT XBOX

Redmond: Microsoft is cutting 4,800 jobs, about 2.1 per cent of its global workforce, including a large number of workers at its Xbox video game business. The layoffs included 1,600 Xbox workers, with more to come this year in a broader reorganization designed to “reset” Xbox as it faces heightened competition, the company said Monday. “Our business today is not healthy,” said a memo from Xbox CEO Asha Sharma, who took over the gaming division earlier this year. “We are operating at margins that are 3-10x lower than comparable platform and publishing businesses.” Sharma said the industry, in which Xbox competes with Sony’s PlayStation and Nintendo’s Switch, is facing a severe “hardware crisis” as costs soar for console components. She said to expect another 1,600 job cuts over the course of the fiscal year that began last week. The company is also



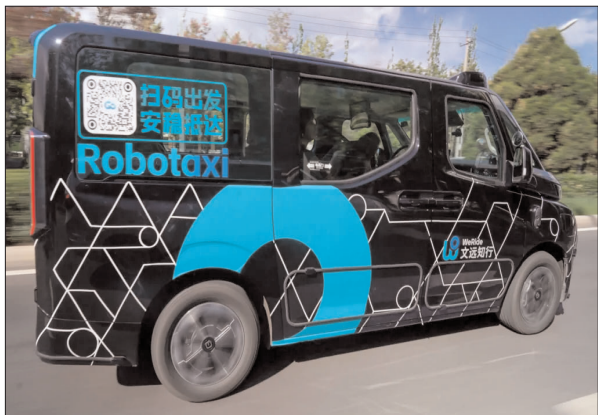
spinning off four video game development studios previously acquired by Microsoft. The Xbox cuts are in addition to broader Microsoft layoffs that the software giant’s chief people officer Amy Coleman tied to unspecified changes in customer needs. “I also want to be direct that the roles eliminated today are not being replaced by AI,” Coleman wrote in a blog

post. The layoffs followed voluntary buyouts that Microsoft began offering to about 8,750 people in May. More than 30 per cent of eligible workers accepted those voluntary retirement offers, Coleman said Monday. The layoffs included 1,600 Xbox workers, with more to come this year in a broader reorganization designed to ‘reset’ Xbox as it faces heightened competi-

tion, the company said Monday. The company has increasingly shifted its strategy toward distributing its games across more platforms rather than relying on console-exclusive titles ?to drive Xbox hardware sales. The Xbox restructuring will involve divestment of four studios, Xbox’s new head, Asha Sharma, said in ?a note to employees. ‘South of Midnight’ producer Compulsion Games and ‘Psychonauts’ maker Double Fine Productions will become independent studios, while Ninja Theory and Undead Labs will ?be spun off to grow ‘Senua’ and ‘State of Decay 3’, Sharma said. The management of Arkane Studios, which developed ‘Dishonored’ and is currently working on a game based on ‘Marvel Comics character Blade, has started consultations with its workers union in France to review options, she added.

CAN CHINA REPEAT ITS EV SUCCESS WITH ROBOTAXIS?

In Beijing’s Yizhuang district, driverless vehicles have become a common sight. Robotaxis weave through traffic alongside ordinary cars, while autonomous delivery vans glide along the inside lane as they carry packages to collection points. The district has become one of China’s testing grounds for autonomous driving, with companies including Baidu, WeRide and Pony.ai operating commercial robotaxi services within designated areas. Booking a ride requires little more than opening an app. Within minutes, a robotaxi pulls up with nobody behind the wheel. After confirming the journey on a touch-screen, the vehicle merges into Beijing’s dense traffic, navigating buses, cyclists, scooters and pedestrians with little hesitation. The technology is still evolving. But a bigger question now looms: can Chinese companies turn robotaxis into



another sector they dominate globally, as they have with electric vehicles (EVs)? Riding China’s EV boom China’s autonomous driving companies already have a powerful advantage - the industrial ecosystem that helped turn the country into the world’s largest EV market. Unlike Tesla, which designs much of its technology in-house, China’s self-driving industry is built around a network of companies. Established carmakers

including BYD, Chery, Geely, and SAIC build the cars, while specialist firms develop the software. Autonomous vehicles rely on many of the same batteries, sensors, chips and onboard computers as electric cars. Because those supply chains already exist at enormous scale, companies can develop technology faster and at a lower cost. “What you see is a pace of innovation and adaptation in the Chinese EV industry that I don’t

think is matched anywhere else around the world,” says Kyle Chan, a foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution. “China’s EV capacity doesn’t just stop there. It actually spills over into other related industries through something that I call these overlapping tech industrial ecosystems.” New productive forces Government policy has also played a role. Pilot programmes in several cities allow companies to test the technology on some public roads. But China also offers something else to firms that are trying to make the technology smarter: complex driving conditions. A single journey through Beijing can require an autonomous vehicle to deal with buses, scooters, cyclists, pedestrians and unpredictable traffic. “The traffic environment here in China is very complex,” Maev Zhang, chief marketing officer at WeRide, told.

US COURT UNLIKELY TO REJECT DOJ BID TO DROP ADANI CASE

New York: US legal experts said it would be highly unusual for a federal court to reject the Department of Justice’s request to dismiss the criminal case against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, after prosecutors set out detailed legal and policy reasons for seeking to drop the indictment. Under Rule 48(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Justice Department must obtain the court’s permission to dismiss an indictment. While judges may seek additional information or hold hearings before ruling, legal experts said there is little modern precedent for compelling prosecutors to continue pursuing a case the executive branch has decided to abandon. “It would be very unusual if the courts were to do anything more than accept the department’s reasoning and dismiss the case,” Adam Goldberg, Corporate Investigations Partner at Pillsbury, told PTI Videos. “The Department of Justice has provided tremendous amounts of detail not just with respect to a host of reasons why it does not want to prosecute, but reasonable and supported explanations for why it doesn’t want to move forward.” The US

Highlights
■ New York: US legal experts said it would be highly unusual for a federal court to reject the Department of Justice’s request to dismiss the criminal case against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, after prosecutors set out detailed legal and policy reasons for seeking to drop the indictment.



Justice Department, in a 10-page written submission, told the New York court that criminal charges against Adani and others should be dismissed because the conduct occurred abroad and involved foreigners, the case is difficult to prove, and it is inconsistent with US priorities. The letter came in response to an order on June 26 from US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis directing the government to explain its reasoning for dismissing the charges. “In that case, it would be incredibly unusual for the court to do anything other than dismiss. The court might try to extend it further, but it really doesn’t

have the authority to force the Department of Justice to prosecute a case that the department does not want to prosecute. So I would expect the court to approve this dismissal and the case would be dismissed,” Goldberg added. The DOJ, in 2024, under the previous Biden administration, indicted Adani and others for allegedly being involved in a scheme to bribe Indian government officials to the tune of USD 250 million and to lie to investors to receive billions more in investments from other entities – during which alleged scheme Adani Green Energy Ltd raised at least USD 175 million from

charges, including that the alleged conduct was overwhelmingly centred in India, Indian authorities had investigated the allegations and found no actionable misconduct, investors suffered no financial losses, key evidence and witnesses were located abroad, the defendants were unlikely to ever appear before a US court, and the prosecution faced significant evidentiary hurdles. Chris Man, a senior US lawyer familiar with federal criminal practice, said it is not unusual for a judge to seek additional briefing before ruling on a Rule 48(a) motion. “That, by itself, is not unusual,” Man said. “Judges have little discretion. There is effectively no modern precedent for a judge forcing the Department of Justice to prosecute a case that the executive branch has determined should be abandoned.” He said criminal prosecutions are constitutionally an executive function and courts have historically given substantial deference to prosecutorial decisions. Seeking additional information allows the court to satisfy itself that the government’s request is being made in good faith and is consistent with Rule 48(a).

NBC BEARINGS EXPANDS AFTERMARKET PORTFOLIO WITH LAUNCH OF NEW AUTOMOTIVE PARTS RANG

Delhi, India – 7th Jul, 2026: Strategic move aimed at accelerating growth and serving evolving needs of India’s automotive aftermarket NBC Bearings, brand of National Engineering Industries Ltd., India’s leading bearing manufacturer and a trusted mobility solutions partner, today announced the launch of an extensive new range of automotive aftermarket products, marking a significant milestone in the company’s growth and diversification strategy.

Building upon its strong legacy in bearings and allied engineering products and services, NBC Bearings is now entering multiple high-potential automotive aftermarket categories, including wiper blades, brake pads, belts, steering rods, and several other critical vehicle components for Two/ three Wheelers and Passenger Cars The strategic expansion reflects NBC Bearings’ commitment to delivering comprehensive automotive solutions while capitalizing on the rapidly growing Indian automotive aftermarket.

■ Strategic move aimed at accelerating growth and serving evolving needs of India’s automotive aftermarket NBC Bearings, brand of National Engineering Industries Ltd., India’s leading bearing manufacturer and a trusted mobility solutions partner, today announced the launch of an extensive new range of automotive aftermarket products, marking a significant milestone in the company’s growth and diversification strategy.

Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Saboo, President & CEO said: “The Indian automotive aftermarket is witnessing unprecedented growth driven by increasing vehicle ownership, longer vehicle life cycles, and rising demand for quality replacement parts. As a trusted brand with decades of engineering excellence, NBC Bearings is uniquely positioned to leverage this opportunity. The launch of our expanded auto parts portfolio is a strategic step towards diversifying our business, strengthening our market presence, and creating new avenues of growth beyond bearings.” The newly launched product portfolio has been offered to

meet the stringent quality, performance, and reliability standards that customers associate with the NBC brand. The products will be made available through distribution network across India, ensuring widespread accessibility for dealers, workshops, and end customers. This expansion aligns with NBC Bearings’ long-term vision of becoming a comprehensive mobility solutions provider while enhancing value for channel partners and customers alike. With this launch, NBC Bearings reinforces its commitment to innovation, customer-centricity, and sustainable growth, while further strengthening its position in India’s dynamic automotive ecosystem.

17-floor Hyderabad project gets notice over Hussain Sagar FTL

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued a show-cause notice to Pradeep Constructions proposing cancellation of the building permission granted for a multi-storied group housing project on Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda, near the Park Hotel, after officials found that the structure has come up within the Full Tank Level (FTL) limits of Hussain Sagar lake and on land that is seriously disputed. According to local reports, the notice issued under Section 450 of the GHMC Act, 1955, states that the permissions for the project were obtained through material misrepresentation and suppression of material facts. Real estate businessman Pradeep Reddy Badvelu owns the company. The alluring Hyderabad project, comprising two towers with two cellars, stilt parking and 17 upper floors along with a clubhouse, has been under scrutiny since a joint inspection by Hyderabad Disaster



Response and Asset Protection (HYDRAA), GHMC and the Hyderabad Collector’s office on Monday, July 6, prompted by a complaint from the Irrigation Department that it had never cleared construction within the Hussain Sagar FTL. GHMC has kept the builder’s application for an Occupancy Certificate in abeyance pending the outcome of the cancellation proceedings, and no OC has been issued for the building so far. Under the law, occupying or living in a building without an Occupancy Certificate is not permitted, and officials note that essential services such as

electricity and water connections cannot be granted to the building in the absence of an Occupancy Certificate. The notice will leave homebuyers who had booked flats in the Hussain Sagar-adjacent project, many relying on bank loans and life savings, uncertain about the future of their purchase. With the building permission itself now at risk of cancellation, buyers face the prospect of neither being able to move into their flats nor recovering clarity on the project’s legal status until Pradeep Constructions responds to the notice and GHMC completes its inquiry.

Vedanta Power Limited Production Release for the First Quarter ended June 30, 2026

Particulars	1Q			4Q	
	FY 27	FY 26	% Change	FY 26	% Change
Power Sales (In million units)	5225	3784	38%	5530	-6%
Talwandi Sabo Thermal Plant	2723	2715	0%	2386	14%
Sakti Thermal Plants	465	0	-	1087	-57%
Meenakshi Energy Ltd.	1350	391	245%	1161	16%
Jharsuguda Thermal Plant	687	678	1%	89%	-23%
Plant Availability Factor					
Talwandi Sabo Thermal Plant	86%	90%	-	77%	-
Jharsuguda Thermal Plant	93%	66%	-	94%	-

Mumbai, July 7, 2026: Vedanta Power Limited today announced its sales numbers for the first quarter ended June 30, 2026. “Strong Quarter for Vedanta Power Limited as Sales Surge 38% YoY to 5,225 Million Units”

Editor’s Synopsis
· At Meenakshi, Q1 power sales grew by 245% YoY & 16% QoQ to 1,350 million units.
· At Talwandi Sabo Thermal Plant (‘TSTP’), Plant Availability Factor

(PAF) increased from 77% to 86%, on sequential basis. TSTP PPA with the Punjab State Government compensates based on normative plant availability at 80%, and TSTP’s availability for Q1 stood well above 86%.
· The decline in power sales at Sakti Thermal Plant was primarily due to reduced plant availability following a boiler incident on April 14th, which significantly impacted operations during the quarter.

STOCK MARKETS CLIMB IN EARLY TRADE ON FOREIGN FUND INFLOWS

Mumbai: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early deals on Tuesday, July 7, helped by foreign fund inflows and crude oil prices coming back to the pre-war levels amid easing tensions in the West Asia. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 176 points to 78,461.16 in opening trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 34.1 points to 24,464.45. From the Sensex pack, Titan, Infosys, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major winners. From the laggards, Trent tumbled 9.8 per cent. Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics, ITC and Tata Steel were also among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 243.03 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, quoted at



USD 72.45 per barrel level. “There are distinct signs of an uptrend in the market. Two factors which were weighing on Indian markets – the crude price hike and sustained FPI selling- are now behind us and has reversed. Crude is back to the pre-war level and FPIs have turned buyers,” VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The FPI buying is not yet a strong trend, but the fact that they have stopped selling and turned buyers is a

significant shift, which is likely to sustain supported by fundamentals, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea’s Kospi tanked 7 per cent. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index were also trading lower. US markets ended higher on Monday. On Monday, the Sensex jumped 521.16 points, or 0.67 per cent, to settle at 78,285.07. The Nifty climbed 159.50 points, or 0.66 per cent, to end at 24,430.35.

ERIKA KIRK COMES FACE-TO-FACE IN COURT WITH HUSBAND'S ALLEGED KILLER



The family of Charlie Kirk and his widow Erika have come face-to-face in court for the first time with the US conservative activist's alleged killer. Prosecutors in Utah laid out their evidence for the murder case against Tyler Robinson, 23, on Monday. The hearing, which is set to continue all week, is set to determine whether Robinson will stand trial. Kirk, a key ally of US President Donald Trump and founder of youth organisation Turning Point USA, was fatally shot on 10 September 2025 as he spoke on the campus of Utah Valley University, kicking off an intense manhunt. Robinson was arrested days later on a slew of charges, including murder. He has not entered a plea. Prosecutors in the case are seeking the death penalty. During their first appearance in court since the case began, Kirk's family were joined by the president's son, Donald Trump Jr. The family of Kirk, a 31-year-old father of two, released a statement to local media in advance of Monday's proceedings,

which are scheduled to last through Friday. "Every court proceeding serves as a painful reminder of his death and the loss that has irrevocably impacted our lives and the lives of his children," said the statement from Erika Kirk. Kirk's parents Robert and Kathryn, and his sister Mary. They thanked people for the outpouring of prayers and kindness since Kirk's death. "Out of respect for the judicial process, we will not be commenting further at this time. We ask for continued privacy as we navigate this process and immense grief." New footage, evidence and witness testimony was presented during the hearing, including surveillance footage that law enforcement said showed Robinson on the Utah school's campus four times the day of the shooting - including hours after Kirk's death. The preliminary hearing acts as a way for a judge to decide whether prosecutors have enough evidence to present their case before a jury at trial. Both prosecutors and Robinson's defence team questioned witnesses who took the stand throughout the hours-long hearing.



■ Resistance and revenge - Iran wanted to send a message with its farewell to Khamenei

ZELENSKY PRESSES NATO FOR AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS AFTER INTENSE RUSSIAN STRIKES

Ukraine's president has used a speech at the Nato summit in Turkey to urge allies to deliver the air defence systems Kyiv urgently needs to protect it from escalating Russian attacks. "We are capable of doing everything else ourselves, but when it comes to air defence, we need our partners' determination," Volodymyr Zelensky said on Tuesday morning. Zelensky's call for help rings with extra intensity after Russian missiles rained down on the Ukrainian capital twice in less than a week, crashing into blocks of flats and killing more than 50 civilians. The summit in Ankara will also be a chance for Zelensky to hold a crucial meeting with Donald Trump and press home his case that Russia's "brutal" attacks are



a show of weakness, not strength, and that Vladimir Putin should be pressured into talks towards a "dignified" peace. The latest strikes on Ukraine come as it has been stepping up its own long-range drone attacks against Russia, hitting oil refineries and military targets there and causing significant fuel shortages and power cuts. Underscoring that threat, Moscow's mayor

Sergei Sobyannin said anti-air defences intercepted "most" of the 430 unmanned aerial drones fired by Ukraine towards the capital overnight. The severity of the damage was not immediately clear. Russian social media accounts are full of videos of people queuing for hours to buy petrol and fighting over what little they're allowed. Speaking before the summit, Nato Secretary

General Mark Rutte has urged member states to "pull their weight" and ensure Ukraine gets what it needs "to defend its sovereignty". He underlined that Kyiv was "changing the dynamic on the battlefield", referring to efforts to stall Russian ground troops in the east. That's also about the recent drone strikes, apparently giving Ukraine an edge. ? The phrase of the month here is "window of opportunity". But as the war in the skies has intensified, Russia's ballistic missiles are causing Kyiv real problems. Ukraine's air force issues a daily tally of the weapons Moscow launches alongside the number intercepted. On Monday, almost all drones were blocked successfully but the failure rate for missiles was glaringly obvious.

French court clears way for Marine Le Pen to run for president but orders her to wear electronic tag



Today's appeal verdict was supposed to fire the starting pistol on the presidential race. We now have to wait for a clear-cut decision from Marine Le Pen, whether she will run or not. The first round of elections is on 18 April 2027 and the run-off if no candidate secures a majority vote is on 2 May. Le Pen has already run for president three times and came second to Emmanuel Macron in 2022 and 2017. With under 10 months to go before the vote, she leads in the polls. If she does not run, her young lieutenant, Jordan Bardella, will stand in her place, so her interview on French TV this evening will have far-reaching consequences for France. "Whatever happens I won't be dead; whatever happens I'll continue to fight for my ideas," Le Pen told news channel LCI before today's verdict. The difference is that if she does hand the reins to Bardella, she would become a mere activist, not a presidential candidate. Marine Le Pen must now decide whether she will run for president. While an effective ban on doing so has now been removed, she has previously indicated she would not do so with an electronic tag - a condition that remains. If she decides against running, Jordan Bardella is set to become the National Rally (RN) candidate. Bardella joined what was then the National Front (FN) as a 17-year-old in 2012, later dropping out of university to focus on his political career. He became part of Le

Pen's campaign team in 2017, then in his early twenties, and has been party chairman since 2022. Due to turn 31 in September, Bardella - if he were to win the presidency - would succeed Emmanuel Macron as France's youngest president and become the first hard-right head of state in modern French history. If Le Pen were to become president, she said Bardella would be prime minister - but that she was prepared to hand the presidential role to him "if justice bars me from standing". Bardella has previously dismissed suggestions the arrangement had sparked tensions between him and Le Pen, telling the BBC last December that he will "fight by her side so she can win the appeal". Marine Le Pen has arrived at the headquarters of her National Rally party - she did not take any questions from journalists. She is yet to make a statement on today's verdict, but is scheduled to appear on French TV tonight at 20:00 local time (19:00 BST). This is a judgment of Solomon that leaves Marine Le Pen's political future still hanging in the balance. On the one hand, the panel of appeal judges has been significantly more lenient than the original court on the question of ineligibility. The five years handed down at the original trial has been cut, in effect, to 15 months. This is time already served (since the original sentence) so Le Pen is now, juridically, able to run. However, there's a but.

CHINA SENTENCES OFFICIAL TO DEATH FOR TAKING \$325M IN BRIBES

A court in eastern China has sentenced a former city official to death for taking more than 2.2bn yuan (\$325m; £243m) in bribes over 30 years. Yang Youlin, who served in various positions in Nanjing city from 1993 to 2023, was also convicted of embezzlement, abuse of power and money laundering, with his ill-gotten gains amounting to one of the highest in recent years. The 69-year-old exploited his roles to help others secure engineering contracts, land transfers and financing, in exchange for money and valuables, said state media. Yang was investigated as part of President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption crackdown which has cut through military ranks and high-level banking, among other sectors. Yang, who spent much of his career working on economic and technological development in Nanjing, had committed offences "of an extremely serious nature" and "caused exceptionally heavy losses to the interests of the state and the people", a court in Changzhou city said on Monday. Since coming to power, President Xi has launched waves of anti-corruption drives, which critics say have also been used as a tool to purge political rivals. Death sentences for white collar crimes however remain rare, though they are meted out occasionally, typically if the cases involve large



sums exceeding 1bn yuan. For instance, former finance chief Lai Xiaomin was executed in 2021 for taking 1.8bn yuan in bribes over a 10-year period. Li Jianping, a former Inner Mongolia official, was executed in 2024 for embezzling and taking bribes totaling more than 3bn yuan. In many other cases, the courts handed out jail terms or suspended death sentences, which get commuted to life imprisonment after a specified dura-

tion. The courts have also reduced sentences in some cases where the convicted individuals reported on other offenders. But while Yang provided similar assistance to authorities, his offences were so "grave" that his assistance "was insufficient to warrant a more lenient punishment", the Changzhou court said. Yang pleaded guilty and "expressed remorse in his final statement", according to state media.

UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK LAUNCHES MUTUAL FUND DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

Vishakhapatnam, July 2026: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank recently launched its Mutual Fund distribution services, marking a significant milestone in the Bank's journey towards offering comprehensive banking solutions. This offering is designed to provide customers with a seamless and digitally enabled investment experience that is supported by curated fund options, simplified onboarding processes along with in-depth analytics for better financial planning. The platform offers easy onboarding with minimal customer input, multi-channel access through Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, and RM channel. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with leading AMC's to offer customers a wide range of investment options. Commenting on the launch Mr. Hitendra Jha, Head of Retail Liabilities - TASC & TPP, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said, "At



Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, we are committed to empowering our customers with accessible and transparent wealth creation opportunities. The launch of our Mutual Fund distribution platform marks an important milestone in our journey of providing comprehensive financial solutions. With a seamless digital experience, wide range of mutual fund offerings across channels, we aim to simplify investing and help customers make informed financial decisions aligned with their goals."



Explosions injure 18 in Damascus during Macron's visit

Top Democrats press Maine senate candidate to drop out of race over sexual assault allegation

Top Democrats are calling for Graham Platner, Maine's Democratic candidate for the US Senate, to drop out of the race after a woman he previously dated accused him of sexual assault. The woman detailed the alleged assault in a series of interviews with Politico, which were published on Monday. Platner, a former combat marine and oyster farmer, denied the allegation, calling it "categorically false" but said he was "taking the time to reflect on the best path forward" in the race, which is pivotal to Democrats' chances of gaining control of the Senate. His campaign has been rocked by multiple scandals, including the discovery of a tattoo on his chest resembling a Nazi symbol. "Regardless of the inaccuracy of the reporting, but mindful of the political



reality it will inflict, we are taking the time to reflect on the best path forward for the state that I love, the people that I love, the movement I belong to and the goal of defeating Susan Collins," Platner said in a video statement on social media shortly after the story was published by Politico. Prominent Democrats in the Senate, along with Maine's Democratic party, have

called on Platner to "immediately withdraw". Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said in a statement: "The allegations reported today are incredibly disturbing - violence, abuse and sexual assault are absolutely unacceptable." The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee - which provides millions of dollars in support to the

party's candidates - "will not invest in the Maine Senate race if Platner remains on the ballot", they added. The list of Democrats calling on him to drop out grew on Monday night, to include Senators Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Elissa Slotkin, while three supporters in the party withdrew their endorsements - Congressman Ro Khanna and Senators Martin Heinrich and Ruben Gallego. Platner's campaign has postponed several events that were scheduled for this week. The BBC has reached out to the campaign for comment. Platner is set to take on the incumbent senator, Republican Susan Collins, who has beaten back political challenges for three decades, in November's congressional elections.

Alvarez starts alongside Messi as Argentina face Egypt

Mohamed Salah is much more than a footballer, he is pride, joy and inspiration. He inspires millions of Egyptians every day. His story, from a small village in Nagrig to the biggest football stadiums in the world, makes every Egyptian feel proud. He shows us that with hard work and belief, anything is possible. People see him and feel hope, not just in football, but in life. What makes Salah even more special is who he is as a person. He is humble, calm and respectful. No matter how big he becomes, he never forgets where he came from. He always represents Egypt in the best way, and this is something we all truly value and admire. Today, as we watch Egypt in the World Cup, the feeling is different when Salah is on the pitch. When Egypt beat Australia in a tough match decided by penalties, the whole country was living every second together. Hearts were beating fast, families were gathered, and when we won, it felt like one big celebration across Egypt. Salah was at the centre of that feeling - leading, inspiring and giving confidence to everyone. Egyptians love Salah deeply. He brings people together and gives us moments we will always remember. When he plays, you can feel the whole country behind him, proud and hope-

ful. To me personally, Salah inspires strength, patience and belief. He reminds us to always keep going and to stay true to ourselves. Salah is not just a football star, he is a symbol of pride for every Egyptian. The most frequently mentioned word in Argentina right now is 'bicampeonato' (back-to-back World Cup championship). But the question everybody is thinking, and nobody wants to mention, is 'what will we do when Messi retires?' Every new match the national team plays in the World Cup - such as the one against Egypt - is another step towards glory, a chance to achieve a feat only two other countries have managed (Italy in 1934 and 1938; Brazil in 1958 and 1962). Yet, each match also brings us closer to the retirement of Argentine football's greatest icon: the national team captain, Messi. His goals in this tournament (seven), his new records (playing his sixth World Cup, scoring in eight consecutive World Cup matches), and dramatic encounters like the game against Cape Verde, have kept the country focused solely on the present moment. To top it off, Messi is playing as if he were 25, not 39 years old. But we all know that the man who led us to a World Cup victory (Qatar 2022) and two Copa America

titles (Brazil 2021 and the United States 2024) is dancing his final tango in the albiceleste jersey. So, every victory represents progress in the tournament but also one more opportunity to enjoy the man who managed to reach the same heights as Diego Maradona in our pantheon of football gods. Interestingly, many Argentine sports journalists have criticised the fact that, in this World Cup, the national team has once again become "Messi-dependent". Argentina face Egypt in Atlanta for a place in the 2026 World Cup quarter-final. It is also a meeting of two of the game's greatest players. Messi, 39, and Salah, 34, are both in the autumn of their careers.



SANJU SAMSON DROPPED FOR ZIMBABWE SERIES? REPORT REVEALS SELECTORS STANCE

Despite being named Player of the Tournament at the 2026 T20 World Cup, Sanju Samson has been left out of India's squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe. According to ESPNcricinfo, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee opted not to include Samson as the Zimbabwe tour is being treated as an opportunity to test fringe players. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on July 6 announced the 15-member squad for the three-match T20I series, with Ashok Sharma, Prabhsimran Singh and Yash Thakur earning their maiden India call-ups. "The Ajit



Agarkar-led selection panel did not consider Samson only because Zimbabwe tour is a fringe series," the report said. With Samson already included in the Indian squad for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan this September, the selectors decided to hand an opportunity to another wicketkeeper-batter, Prabhsimran Singh, who has impressed with his T20 performances, particularly during the last two IPL seasons for Punjab Kings (PBKS). Singh, who featured in three matches for India A

during the tri-series in Sri Lanka in June, has been named as the second wicketkeeper-batter in India's squad for the Zimbabwe T20I series, alongside Ishan Kishan. Following a brilliant run in the T20 WC earlier this year, where he was the third-highest run-maker, Samson made two centuries and was the leading run scorer for Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2026. Samson endured a lean run during India's tours of Ireland and England, managing scores of just 5, 0 and 1.

Gautam Gambhir, Ajit Agarkar Slammed Over Big Sanju Samson Call: "Doesn't Feel Right"

Former Indian cricket team batter Robin Uthappa was left stunned by the team management's decision to leave Sanju Samson out of the squad for the upcoming T20I series against Zimbabwe. Uthappa questioned the lack of consistency shown by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee as they decided to drop Samson even after his brilliant show in the T20 World Cup 2026. The committee went with Ishan Kishan and Prabhsimran Singh as the specialist wicket-keeping options. When it comes to the openers, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is expected to become Abhishek Sharma's partner at the top of the batting order. "When I first saw the squad, I genuinely thought it was one of those fan-made teams circulating



online because Sanju's name wasn't there," Uthappa said on YouTube. "Then I realised it was the actual squad, and my first thought was: how long are you going to keep treating one player like this? It just doesn't feel right." Samson did not enjoy a brilliant run of form in T20Is after the T20 World Cup but Uthappa believed that leav-

ing him out from the squad altogether did not make sense and was an overreaction of sorts. "Here's a player who helped win you a World Cup just four months ago. Maybe he has been told he's being rested, but does someone deserve to be left out because of two first-ball dismissals and another low score? That doesn't make

sense to me. It feels like the decisions are becoming reactive instead of being part of a clear plan." Meanwhile, Ajinkya Rahane expressed surprise over the omission of wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson from India's T20I squad for the Zimbabwe tour, saying he hoped the selectors had communicated the decision to the player. Sharing an Instagram Story, Rahane backed Samson and said he expected the wicketkeeper-batter to return to the national side soon. "Hope there has been some communication with @imsanjusamson. Find it odd that the hero of our recent T20 WC win has been left out of the T20 squad to Zimbabwe. Hope to see him back in the team soon," Rahane wrote on his Instagram Story.

"Would Love To Play Some Cricket And Tennis With Virat Kohli": Novak Djokovic

Serbian tennis great Novak Djokovic shared his admiration for Indian cricket stalwart Virat Kohli, saying he would love to play some cricket with the batting great and adding that he is planning to visit India in the near future. Last year at Wimbledon on July 7, Kohli, alongside his wife and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, witnessed Djokovic's thrilling Round of 16 win against Australia's Alex de Minaur and later took to Instagram to share his excitement, posting a heartfelt story for the Serb. "What a match. It was business as usual for the gladiator, @djokernole," Kohli had posted. "I would love to play some cricket and tennis with Virat Kohli. I am planning to visit



India in the near future, and we have been communicating about it. I know Virat is a global star, but especially in India, he is incredible. I would love for him to be my host and show me around. I have a lot of respect for him and for Indian cricket. "Cricket is not big in Serbia, where I come from. But some of the people in my team are

British, and they love cricket. So I have been learning about the game over the last 10 to 15 years. I still need to work on my cricketing skills. Maybe Virat can help me with my technique and bat swing. But seriously, I have great respect and admiration for him. I would love to get the chance to meet him in his home country, India," Djokovic said on

JioStar. Djokovic, who added another remarkable chapter to his glittering career on Sunday by becoming the most successful men's singles player in Wimbledon history, opened up about what the tournament means to him and said it was the event he dreamt of winning as a child. When the seven-time champion defeated Roman Safiullin 7-6(6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in a thrilling fourth-round match, he surpassed Roger Federer's record of 105 Wimbledon men's singles victories. The win sent Djokovic into his ninth consecutive Wimbledon quarter-final and the 17th of his impressive career. "A lot of my legacy is built on what I have achieved here at Wimbledon.

Taylor Fritz Powers Past Alexander Bublik, Into Wimbledon Last Eight Again

Taylor Fritz eased into the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the fourth time in five years on Monday with a dominant straight-sets win over Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik in the fourth round. The American sixth seed, beaten by Carlos Alcaraz in the semis last year, took control of the match in a first-set tie-break en route to a 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 6-4 success. Fritz will face either French open champion Alexander Zverev or Czech 13th seed Jiri Lehecka for a place in the last four. "When you have two guys who are serving big, with quick points, it's going to come down to these key moments in the match and I thought I dealt with it really well," said Fritz, after needing only an hour and 39 minutes to see off



Bublik on Court One. He hammered 23 aces and 47 winners past Bublik, who ended the match visibly deflated as he struggled to get any foothold during Fritz's service games. Fritz holds a 10-5 winning record against second seed Zverev and has won four of six meetings with Lehecka. The 28-year-old is still bid-

ding for a maiden Grand Slam title, having come closest when he lost the 2024 US Open final to Jannik Sinner. He has threatened a title challenge at Wimbledon in recent years, losing a five-set epic in the 2022 quarter-finals against an injured Rafael Nadal, who then withdrew from the tournament.

LA LIGA CHIEF CRITICAL OF 'COMPLICATED SILENCE' SURROUNDING FIFA

La Liga president Javier Tebas has criticised the "complicated silence" which surrounds Fifa after United States striker Folarin Balogun was controversially spared from suspension at the 2026 World Cup. Balogun was able to play in the 4-1 defeat to Belgium in the last 16 after Fifa's disciplinary committee opted to suspend his one-game ban for 12 months. Uefa, which has been at loggerheads with Fifa over a number of issues, strongly criticised the decision on Monday, calling it "unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable". But outside of Europe there has been little noise about Fifa's decision from football officials. Conmebol, the South American football confederation, issued a statement to back its referee, Raphael Claus, after US president Donald Trump called the Brazilian "a bit suspect". But it did not criticise Fifa or Trump,



who revealed he asked for the ban to be reviewed. Claus was the referee who showed Balogun the red card against Bosnia-Herzegovina following a video assistant referee review. Tebas said that the Balogun decision was the "tip of the iceberg" following a series of events which had been "eroding the credibility of Fifa and football in general for many years". The 63-year-old accused Fifa of being a closed

shop in which decisions have been made before any vote takes place and without consultation with domestic leagues.

SAFETY CAR DECISIVE AGAIN IN CONFUSING END TO CHAOTIC RACE



This time, Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff was able to joke about a safety car having a decisive role at the end of a chaotic and dramatic grand prix. Nearly five years have passed since Wolff watched his then driver Lewis Hamilton have a record-breaking eighth world title wrenched from his grasp as a result of the FIA race director failing to apply the rules correctly during a safety-car period. Back then, Michael Masi - who was fired a couple of months later for his error - made that call to override his organisation's own regulations in a misguided attempt to not have the race finish under a safety car. At Silverstone on Sunday, that's exactly what happened. It might - for some - have been an unsatisfactory way to end a British Grand Prix that had gone from tense racing to extraordinary upheaval in the final few laps. But as Wolff said: "I would have preferred for this to happen in '21. That was more important. It's good that the regulations have been followed." Sometimes it doesn't give for the most exciting final. But this is a

sport. Show follows sport and not the other way around. So it's good the FIA made that call." How the confusing end unfolded The late drama was enhanced because shortly before the cars approached the end of the penultimate lap, a message flashed up on the timing screens saying that the safety car was about to pull off, restarting the race. This was one of the ways in which Masi messed up in Abu Dhabi. The rules say that the cars have to do one more lap behind a safety car before a restart once lapped cars have unlapped themselves, a process that was only just beginning at the time. In Abu Dhabi, two errors were made - only some lapped cars were allowed to unlap themselves, and the race restarted as soon as those were out of the way, allowing Red Bull's Max Verstappen, on fresh tyres, to pass Hamilton on the final lap to win his first world title. This time, a few seconds after the initial message, a second flashed up, that the safety car would stay out. It led to a confusing end to the race - and a disappointing one for some, because a dramatic climax was in waiting.

Cristiano Ronaldo After World Cup Exit: "Before Me, Portugal Hadn't Won Anything"

Cristiano Ronaldo was heartbroken as Portugal were eliminated from the FIFA World Cup 2026, in a Round of 16 defeat to Spain on Monday. While Ronaldo has already confirmed that this was his last World Cup, the record goalscorer in international football isn't keen on making a rash decision on hanging up his boots. As Ronaldo bides his time and analyses his next step, he was quick to rewind and sum up his international career in the Portugal shirt. While the dream of lifting the World Cup remains unfulfilled for the 41-year-old, winning the 2016 European Championship is equally satisfying, if not more so. Speaking to the media after the game, Ronaldo shared a

clear plan regarding his international career. Though his sister had said before Portugal's Round of 16 match that the former Real Madrid man would hang up his boots after the World Cup, he isn't keen on taking such a big step immediately after the exit from the tournament. "I am sad to be leaving the World Cup like this. I gave it my all. I did my best, and I am leaving with a clear conscience. It was my last World Cup, yes, but I will now have time to reflect and be with my family. I will not be making any rash decisions." "I don't make decisions in the heat of the moment," he added. Looking back at his international career, Ronaldo said that he is responsible for helping Portugal win three titles - one

European Championship in 2016 and two UEFA Nations Leagues in 2019 and 2025 - whereas they had no silverware before that. "I have won three titles for Portugal; before Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal hadn't won a single title. The biggest title the national team has ever won was in 2016, the European Championship, which, to be honest, is just as significant to me as a World Cup," he added. "I've won three titles with Portugal. Before Cristiano, Portugal hadn't won anything. Ronaldo also spoke highly of Portugal coach Roberto Martinez, who decided to resign immediately after the team's World Cup exit. "I loved working with him," he said. "A great manager, a great human

being, and what he's done for Portugal is to be commended. I want to thank him and wish him every happiness... It is always sad to be knocked out of a major tournament. It is the World Cup. The team was really coming into its own. We played well, in my view. It could have gone either way, but that's football. We have to pick ourselves up and carry on," Ronaldo signed off.



CHIRANJEEVI POWERS THROUGH MASSIVE ACTION SCHEDULE

Megastar Chiranjeevi, Most Successful Director Bobby Kolli, Leading Production House KVN Productions' #ChiruBobby2 / #Chiru158 Shoot Progresses At A Brisk Pace In Hyderabad; Massive Action Schedule Underway Production is progressing at a brisk pace on #ChiruBobby2 / #Chiru158, which reunites Megastar Chiranjeevi and blockbuster director Bobby Kolli after the massive success of Waltair Veerayya. Bankrolled by Venkat K Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, the big-budget entertainer is currently filming an extensive schedule in Hyderabad. One of the film's biggest highlights is a massive, high-octane action sequence being shot under the choreography of the renowned Ram-Lakshman Masters. Mounted on a grand scale with a large contingent of



fighters, the sequence is set to present Megastar Chiranjeevi in a powerful and dynamic avatar. The superstar is actively participating in this schedule

experience. The makers are gearing up to unveil the film's title teaser very soon, an eagerly awaited update for fans and audiences. The film boasts a stellar technical team. Thaman S is composing the music, while acclaimed cinematographer Vijay Karthik Kannan is capturing the film with a striking visual aesthetic. Production design is handled by Avinash Kolla, and Antony Ruben is overseeing the editing. The screenplay is penned by Kona Venkat and K. Chakravarthy Reddy, with additional screenplay by Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri. Popular writing duo Bhanu-Nandu are crafting the dialogues, promising a perfect blend of entertainment, emotion and mass appeal. The film is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Mass entertainers in production.

VICTORY VENKATESH JOINS THE SHOOT OF NANDAMURI KALYAN RAM, ANIL RAVIPUDI'S #VENKYANIL5 #NKRAR2



Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, and blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi have joined forces for the much-

awaited film #VenkyAnil5 / #NKRAR2. Produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner on a grand scale, the prestigious venture is presented by Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana, and Zee Studios. Kalyan Ram's traditional first-look poster was unveiled on his birthday to tremendous response. It is known that the team recently completed filming a song featuring Kalyan Ram and others. Keerthy Suresh and Krithi Shetty are also participating in the film's first shooting schedule. Meanwhile, Victory Venkatesh has joined the sets, and the team is currently filming key sequences featuring the principal cast on a massive specially erected set. Kalyan Ram is also taking part in the shot alongside Venkatesh, Keerthy Suresh, and Krithi Shetty. This lengthy schedule marks one of the film's most important phases. The combination scenes featuring Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram are going to be one of the major highlights of the entertainer, with both actors sharing an

engaging on-screen camaraderie that perfectly complements Anil Ravipudi's signature style of entertainment. Keerthy Suresh plays the female lead opposite Venkatesh, while Krithi Shetty is paired with Kalyan Ram. The film also boasts a strong technical crew, with GV Prakash Kumar composing the music, Sameer Reddy handling the cinematography, Tammiraju overseeing the editing, and AS Prakash serving as the production designer. S Krishna is the executive producer. Mounted on a lavish scale, #VenkyAnil5 / #NKRAR2 promises the trademark blend of humour, family emotions, entertainment, and festive celebrations that Anil Ravipudi is known for, making it one of the most anticipated releases of Sankranthi 2027.



Mirnaa Menon Slays In Timeless Black

Mirnaa Menon is winning hearts once again with her latest fashion photoshoot. The actress looks breathtaking in a stylish black corset mini dress featuring elegant floral textures, perfectly paired with her natural curly hair and subtle makeup. The chic outfit highlights her confidence and effortless glamour, making

the new pictures an instant hit among fans on social media. Beyond her stunning fashion statement, Mirnaa has an exciting slate of films ahead. She will next be seen in the Telugu thriller Don Bosco, directed by Shankar Gowri and produced by Venkat Upputuri under Krishna Entertainments. Co-starring

Rushya Datta, the film revolves around a tense 2014 class reunion where hidden secrets, suspense, and a search for redemption drive the story. Mirnaa is also gearing up for the highly anticipated Jailer 2,

adding another major project to her growing filmography. With a striking new style and promising releases lined up, the actress is creating buzz both on the fashion front and at

the box office. Mirnaa Menon, the Tamil actress who garnered the attention of Telugu audiences with her remarkable performance in the recent Tamil blockbuster alongside Superstar Rajinikanth in "Jailer," has been making waves in the South Indian film industry. While her Telugu films "Crazy Fello" and "Ugram"

from the previous year didn't quite set the box office on fire, her acting prowess and screen presence continued to captivate viewers. Today, Mirnaa once again left her fans and followers in awe with a striking appearance on social media.

'RAJA DI RAJA' TRAILER UNVEILED AHEAD OF JULY 17 RELEASE

Raja Di Raja' trailer is amazing with grand visuals. Ruthvik's performance seems to be done by a very experienced actor: Mythri Movie Makers producer Ravi Shankar at the trailer launch event Ruthvik, Visakha Dhiman launch stunning theatrical trailer of 'Raja Di Raja' 'Raja Di Raja', starring Ruthvik and Visakha Dhiman, is gearing up for its theatrical release. Directed by Anil Boydapu, this period romantic entertainer will impress with its blend of emotions related to love, entertainment and youth. Produced by K. Niharika Dasari under the banner of Brindavan Creations, the film is being presented by K. Srilatha Reddy. The film is set to hit the



screens on July 17. With Mythri Movie Distributors bagging the distribution rights, the film is set to hit the screens on a large scale. After creating good expectations with interesting promotional activities, the film team has now launched the film's theatrical trailer. The trailer introduces the

story in an interesting way. Sai Kumar appears as Raja Veerata Varma Devaraya during the royal period. In a kingdom that respects traditions, the hero, who loves Adhya dearly, is accused of being the cause of the turmoil in the kingdom and sentenced to death. After that, the hero is reborn in the

present as a fashion designer and Adhya as a model. Fate gives them another chance. Will their love win this time? Will it bring an end to the story left behind in the past life? The main plot of the film is. Despite being his first film, Ruthvik impressed with his matured performance in two different roles. In the periodic episodes, he portrayed the dignity of a prince and a stylish and energetic young man in the present era. Visakha Dhiman also impressed in both roles. The chemistry between the two was a big plus for the trailer. While Saikumar impressed with his screen presence, Dr. Naresh Vijayakrishna also gave a good performance in his role.

'Lenin' Will Be a Gunshot Blockbuster: Actor Sivaji at the Pre-Release Event



Actor Sivaji expressed immense confidence in Lenin during the film's pre-release event, calling it a "gunshot blockbuster" and one of the closest films to his heart. Reflecting on his journey, he recalled that his career began with an opportunity from Annapurna Studios through Nagarjuna and thanked the actor along with

director YVS Chowdary for their support. Shivaji said audiences will see only the characters in Lenin, not the actors, and described it as the perfect film for Akhil, delivering exactly what fans have been waiting for. Speaking about Akhil, Sivaji said he had personally witnessed Nagarjuna's unwavering dedication towards his son's success and that Lenin reflects the passion of a father who wants to see his son excel. Having known Akhil since childhood, Sivaji said it was a proud moment to see him evolve into the powerful character of Lenin. He also praised Bhagya Shri Borse's performance and said audiences would be talking about his own character, Yathiraju, after watching the film, while adding that Thaman's music is another major highlight.

ESHA GUPTA'S PARIS DIARIES GO CRAZY VIRAL



Just when fans thought they had seen the boldest celebrity fashion moments this season, another actress has set social media buzzing. Esha Gupta is once again going viral, this time for her striking appearance in a sheer lace ensemble. Her latest photos have sparked conversations online, with many praising her fearless fashion choices while others call the look daring and unconventional. The actress looked effortlessly elegant in a soft blush-toned lace gown featuring intricate detailing and a flowing silhouette.

Paired with statement earrings, sleek hair, and minimal makeup, Esha balanced glamour with sophistication. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Paris, the photos perfectly captured timeless luxury and high-fashion charm. Esha has always been known for experimenting with bold styles, and this latest look is no exception. Whether admired for its elegance or debated for its daring appeal, the photos have once again placed her at the center of fashion conversations, proving that she continues to be one of Bollywood's most talked-about style icons.

Regina Cassandra Turns Up The Glam In Bold Blue Gown



PRAGYA'S SENSUOUS POSE ON BED STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT

Pragya Jaiswal has stayed away from the big screen in 2026, with no releases to her name so far. However, she has pinned her hopes on her upcoming Telugu film Tyson Naidu, which could prove to be a crucial project in reviving her career. After a long gap, all eyes are on whether the actress can make a strong comeback and reclaim her place in Telugu cinema. Meanwhile, Pragya has set social media ablaze with her latest photoshoot. In the new pictures, she is seen striking a sensual pose on a bed, wrapped in white sheets under warm golden lighting. With her soft expression, flawless makeup, and voluminous hair adding to the mood, the actress effortlessly blends elegance with glamour,

making the photos impossible to ignore. The actress also faced disappointment in Bollywood as Khel Khel Mein failed to make the desired impact at the box office. With that setback, her Hindi film journey has slowed down, making Tyson Naidu an even more important release for her career. Pragya Jaiswal may not have a movie release this year, but the actress continues to keep her fans engaged with her glamorous social media updates. Known for her stunning fashion choices, Pragya once again grabbed attention with a fresh photoshoot that quickly went viral online. In the latest pictures, the actress is seen sporting a stylish lace bralette paired with a light blue oversized shirt.

