

Manappuram Home Finance Ltd.

Registered Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherappu-Thrippayar Road, Thripur, Thrissur, Kerala-680057.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered offices at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherappu-Thrippayar Road, Thripur, Thrissur, Kerala-680057 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 1956 as a Finance Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) read with Notification No. SC 3446 E dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India (hereinafter referred to as the RBI) and in pursuance of purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned call obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(b) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security Rules 2002 of the said Act, hereby calls upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / LKN/BRANCH	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice sent & Outstanding Amount
	NAGHIRIMADUGU MAHARAJA REDDY NAGIR MADUGU SANTHAMA, THATHIGUNTA VENKATSUBAREDDY NLA00376659226/KADAPA	RCO house having D No.10175 with site situated at Annadurai District, Rayachoti Sub-District, Rayachoti Mandal, Andhra Pradesh. It is 564 Acre Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) read with Notification No. SC 3446 E dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India (hereinafter referred to as the RBI) and in pursuance of purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned call obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(b) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security Rules 2002 of the said Act, hereby calls upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.	15-06-2026	Rs.06:2026 & Rs.557210.10
	R CHANDRA, R ANITHA/ MLAP0312047336/ ANANTHAPURAM	House situated with D No.9-36 in RD Puttaparthi & SRD of Kadali and within limits of Donnikotte Village, Post, Mallanadma Mandal, Satyaji Sub District, S.No 533 D No. 436 Asst.No. 496 S.Yards, 200, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:515531. EAST-House and Open space of A Ramanaappu, WEST-House and Open space of Nagappa Nalluri, SOUTH-East House of Nalluri-Lane and West of Narasappa.	14-06-2026	Rs.06:2026 & Rs.477656/-
	PASUPALA MALKARUNA RAJASUJA SHARADA/ MLAP0133074422/ KURNOOL	RCO house having D No.1277, Assessment No.297, with site situated at Nandyal District, Nandankuruvu Sub-District, Juguda Banda Mandal, Juguda Banda Grama Panchayath, Juguda Banda Village, in the village fields of 80 Banam in S.No.392 Pylt in extent of 127.83 s.yds, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:518401, EAST-House of Chaitanya, WEST-Road, SOUTH-East House of Subbarao, NORTH-House of D.M.Ramajamma.	17-06-2026	Rs.08:2026 & Rs.539719/-
	DOTI MADHU BABU, D LAKSHMANA, M RAMESH / NHL0147004717/TRIPATI	RCO Under Construction house having D No.1297 with site situated at Chittoor District, Pakala Sub District, Pakala Mandal, Damalacheruvu Grama Panchayath, Damalacheruvu village, in the village fields of Morara Pylt in S.No.12601 Pylt in extent of 133.33 s.yds, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:517715, EAST-CO. Road, WEST-CO. Road, SOUTH-East House of Nalluri, NORTH-House of D.M.Ramajamma.	17-06-2026	Rs.08:2026 & Rs.728232/-
	VEEMAVARAPU ANANTHAKASHIMI, VEEMAVARAPU DEVIKARASANI, NHL0027063893/ VISHAKAPATNAM	A Site of an extent of 183.33 Sq.yards or 153.263 Sq.mts situated with CC road therein bearing D.No.400. Assessment No.400, covered by Gramankanta S.No.71 of Janakaramanagar Agraharam Village and Panchayath, Rongulunda Mandal, Anaparthi District, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:511145, EAST-Sub house of Lagappa, SOUTHWEST-Sub House of Veerappa, SOUTH-House of S.P. Ramakrishna, C.C. Road, NORTH-House of Veerappa, C.C. Road.	16-06-2026	Rs.06:2026 & Rs.510903/-
	CHAITA VICTORIA, CHAITA ELIJAH/ NHL0130405338/ ONGOLE	Prakasam District, Ongole Registration District, Darisi Sub Registry, Talluru Mandalam, Turpu Gangavathi Village, Panchayata Area, Nagambathopeta Village, R.S.No.74,4, Door No.136, ASST.No.2521, An extent of 72 Sq. Yards of Residential Site consisting of R/CB Daba constructed in a Plinth Area of 43 Sq.Sq.ft, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:523264, EAST-Cement Road; WEST-House of Chaita Benzindim; SOUTH-House of Chaita Samala; NORTH-House of Chaita Subramani.	21-06-2026	Rs.09:2026 & Rs.631137/-
	SINGA NARASIMHA, Singa SIRISHA NARASIMHA, Singa SIRISHA NARASIMHA, Singa ANANTHAPURAM	House with D.No.5-182 situated in RD Ananthapuram, SRD of Tadapatri and within limits of Yelluram Grama Panchayath & Revenue Village Yelluram Mandal and Anantapur District, S.No. 414-9, S.Yards 56, D.No. 5-182 Asst.No.1004, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:515485, EAST-House of D.Narasany, WEST-Road, SOUTH-Road, NORTH-House of D.Narasany.	21-06-2026	Rs.09:2026 & Rs.254529/-
	VELICHARLA AKSHOJKUMAR, VELICHARLA MALATHI/ NHL0130050130/ ONGOLE	Prakasam District, Singarayakonda Sub Registry, Ptl Srm Sri Ramulu Nellore District, Ulavapadu Revenue Mandal, Ulavapadu Village Panchayath, S.C.Colony, Kshaji Palai Village, R.S.No.104, Door No.136, ASST.No.2521, An extent of 72 Sq. Yards of Residential Site consisting of R/CB Daba constructed in a Plinth Area of 378 Sq.ft, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:523292, EAST-House of Desai Narasimha, WEST-House of Gelschika Venkateswarlu; SOUTH-House of Garavali; NORTH-House of Tharad, NORTH-House of Tharad.	26-05-2026	Rs.09:2026 & Rs.357553/-
	GADDAM MAIL, GADDAM SRINIVAS, NLA001946739/ ONGOLE	Prakasam District, Singarayakonda Sub Registry, Ptl Srm Sri Ramulu Nellore District, Ulavapadu Revenue Mandal, Karedu Village Panchayath, 7th Ward, Karedu, R.S.No.68, Door No.770, ASST.No.2059, An extent of 153 Sq. Yards of Residential Site consisting of R/CB Site in 270 Sq.ft therein, ANDHRA PRADESH, PIN:523292, EAST-Panchayath Road; WEST-House of Kareti Palakoti; SOUTH-House of Punnepalle Sekhar; NORTH-Panchayath Bazar.	26-05-2026	Rs.09:2026 & Rs.448152/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown in this public notice to the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") in order to discharge their liability towards MAHOFIN. In the event of failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount within further interest by the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take up 134) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of legal notices as prescribed under the Act and the Rules thereunder. 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AP Govt Hikes Diet Charges for Hostel and Residential School Students by 10%; Effective from 2nd Quarter

Visakhapatnam : The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced a 10 percent increase in diet charges for students studying in government hostels and residential (Gurukulam) schools. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to implement the revised rates from the second quarter of the current financial year, rejecting suggestions to defer the hike until next year. The decision was taken during a review meeting on the Welfare Departments held at the State Secretariat. The Chief Minister said that education is the key to transforming the lives of students belonging to SC, ST, BC and Minority communities, and emphasized



the need to provide them with quality education, better infrastructure and nutritious food.

Mr. Naidu directed officials to prioritize the construction of modern residential schools in place of conventional hostels and develop government educational institutions on par with corporate schools. He also announced an allocation of Rs.100 crore for

the repair and maintenance of hostels and residential schools across the state. The Chief Minister instructed officials to establish special coaching centres for meritorious Intermediate students from SC, ST, BC and Minority communities to prepare them for competitive examinations such as IIT-JEE, NIT and NEET. He stressed the need to

appoint the best teachers and provide high-quality coaching to help students excel in higher education.

He also called for creating a strong alumni network of former students from welfare educational institutions, encouraging NRIs to adopt welfare hostels, and establishing a dedicated medical wing to monitor the health of students in hostels, residential schools and Ashram schools. Highlighting the need to improve the livelihoods of weaker sections, the Chief Minister directed officials to integrate the P4 initiative with Central and State welfare schemes to generate sustainable employment and income. He asked departments to prepare comprehensive proposals to support vari-

ous occupational communities through agriculture, horticulture, dairy, fisheries, handlooms and other livelihood sectors.

During the review, ministers and officials briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of welfare initiatives. They informed him that smart card-based telephone facilities have been introduced in welfare hostels, allowing students who experience homesickness to speak with their parents for four minutes a day. Officials also stated that infrastructure works worth Rs.120 crore, including RO drinking water plants, toilets and other facilities, are being implemented in Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare schools under the SASKI programme. While RO plants have already been completed, the remaining toilet construction is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

AI SET TO TRANSFORM MEDICAL CARE: SVMS DIRECTOR

Tirupati (TSIT): Artificial Intelligence (AI) will play a crucial role in transforming healthcare and improving the quality of medical services, said Dr. R.V. Kumar, Director and Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVMS), while inaugurating a two-day workshop on the role of AI in medical sciences on Wednesday. The workshop aims to create awareness on AI applications in medical education, research, patient care, diagnostics and hospital administration. Experts highlighted AI's role in personalised learning, clinical training, disease diagnosis, drug discovery, precision medicine and intensive care management.

Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Reviews Operational Preparedness of Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS), visited Visakhapatnam from July 5 to 7 to review the operational preparedness and capability development initiatives of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC). During the visit, he was briefed on the Command's operational responsibilities, force levels and ongoing capability enhancement programmes. He also met Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, and discussed operational preparedness, maritime security and future capability development.

The DCNS visited frontline warships INS Agray, INS Dunagiri and INS Mysore to assess their operational capabilities and combat readiness. He inter-

acted with commanding officers and naval personnel, appreciating their professionalism and dedication. Vice Admiral Sobti also visited Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) to review the progress of ongoing shipbuilding, refit and maintenance projects, besides inspecting key infrastructure development initiatives at the Eastern Naval Command. He addressed officers on the Indian Navy Vision 2047, the Indian Navy Maritime Doctrine and the Maritime Security Strategy. The visit reaffirmed the Indian Navy's commitment to maintaining a high level of combat readiness, advancing indigenous defence capabilities under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and strengthening maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

TTD CANCELS VIP BREAK DARSHANS ON SELECT DATES

Tirumala (TSIT): Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the cancellation of VIP Break Darshans on select dates from July to September 2026 due to major religious festivals and temple rituals at the Sri Venkateswara Temple. The cancellations will be in effect on July 14, 17, 19 and 29, August 22 and 24, and September 8, 14, and from September 15 to 23 during the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams. TTD also stated that VIP recommendation letters

will not be accepted on the day preceding these dates, except for Protocol Dignitaries. The restrictions have been imposed to facilitate the smooth conduct of important temple events, including Koli Alwar Tirumanjanam, Anivara Asthanam, Chaturmasya Sankalpam, Pavitrotsavams and Srivari Brahmotsavams. Devotees have been advised to plan their Tirumala pilgrimage accordingly and extend their cooperation to the temple administration.

Tirumala, 08 July 2026: The Secretary to the AP Endowments Department, Sri K. Kannababu, took oath as the Ex-officio Member of the TTD Board of Trustees at the Srivari Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday. The TTD Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary administered the oath of office. Later Sri Kannababu, along with his family mem-



bers, had darshan of Venkateswara Swamy. The Vedic scholars rendered Veda Ashirvachanam at the Ranganayakula Mandapam. The Additional EO presented Srivari laminated portrait and Tirtha Prasadam. TTD CV&SO Sri Murali Krishna, Dy EOs Sri Bhaskar and Smt Prasanthi, along with other officials, were present on the occasion.

AP Endowments Secretary joins TTD Board

GVMC Launches AI-Based 'Project SARTHI' for Smart Traffic Management in Visakhapatnam



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has initiated Project SARTHI (Systematic Augmented Radial Traffic & Hoop Induction) to implement an AI-powered Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) aimed at improving traffic management across the city. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, along with Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Shankabrata Bagchi, reviewed the project's implementation at the Police Command and Control Centre and later conducted a joint field inspection at Maddilapalem Junction. Officials

from Keltron, the ITMS developer, presented the system's AI-based traffic analysis, real-time monitoring, signal optimization, and intelligent traffic management features. The project is designed to reduce congestion at major intersections, optimize traffic signal timings based on vehicle movement, facilitate faster passage for emergency vehicles, and enhance overall road safety. Commissioner Ketan Garg said the initiative, being implemented jointly by GVMC and the Visakhapatnam City Police, will play a key role in transforming Visakhapatnam into a smarter, safer, and more efficient city through advanced AI-driven traffic management.

Internal Rift Surface in YSRCP's Visakhapatnam East Constituency

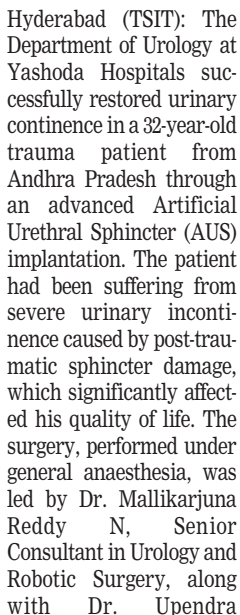
The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Reports of internal differences within the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the Visakhapatnam East Assembly constituency have become a topic of discussion in political circles. According to party sources, differences have allegedly emerged between YSRCP State Secretary and social activist G.V. Ramachandra Rao (GVR) and the party's constituency coordinator Molli Appa Rao, leading to growing speculation over internal coordination within the constituency unit. Sources within the party claim that the developments have also resulted in differences between District President K.K. Raju and G.V. Ramachandra Rao. Party insiders allege that the district leadership's response was influenced by information and feedback reportedly provided by Molli Appa Rao, although no official confirmation has been issued by the party.

Senior party leaders and long-time workers allege that G.V. Ramachandra Rao has been actively organizing several social service and welfare programmes at his own expense, earning considerable goodwill and recognition among the public. According to them, the reported dispute began after attempts were allegedly made to associate the names of other leaders with these independently conducted service activities. Supporters of G.V.



Ramachandra Rao contend that such developments have caused dissatisfaction among a section of party workers. Some party leaders and cadre have reportedly blamed Molli Appa Rao for the ongoing differences, claiming that the situation has affected coordination within the constituency. They argue that instead of encouraging leaders who are actively working for the party and serving the public, internal disagreements have begun to create confusion and disappointment among grassroots workers. Political observers believe that the reported differences come at a crucial time, as political parties are expected to strengthen their organisational structure ahead of future electoral battles.

Yashoda restores urinary control with advanced surgery



Hyderabad (TSIT): The Department of Urology at Yashoda Hospitals successfully restored urinary continence in a 32-year-old trauma patient from Andhra Pradesh through an advanced Artificial Urethral Sphincter (AUS) implantation. The patient had been suffering from severe urinary incontinence caused by post-traumatic sphincter damage, which significantly affected his quality of life. The surgery, performed under general anaesthesia, was led by Dr. Mallikarjuna Reddy N, Senior Consultant in Urology and Robotic Surgery, along with Dr. Upendra

Chowdary P, Dr. Guttikonda Varun and Dr. D. Vasanth. Doctors implanted the advanced VICTO Artificial Sphincter System around the urethra, enabling the patient to regain bladder control. The patient recovered well and was discharged in stable condition. According to the hospital, this is the first reported use of the VICTO Artificial Sphincter System in the Telugu states. The device offers a cost-effective and safer alternative for treating severe urinary incontinence caused by trauma, surgery or neurological disorders.

Pattiseema a Lifeline for Krishna Delta, Says Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme has become a lifeline for the Krishna Delta by diverting surplus Godavari waters

until the completion of the Polavaram Project. He said the project, built at a cost of about Rs.1,300 crore, has so far transferred over 442 TMC of water to the Krishna Delta, generating agricultural benefits worth nearly Rs.50,000 crore. The Minister on Wednesday inaugurated water release by switching on the pumps at the Pattiseema and Tadipudi Lift Irrigation Schemes and offered Jala Harathi to the Godavari River. He described Pattiseema as an example of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's foresight and criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for opposing the

T-Works showcases 42 defence startups at innovation conclave



Hyderabad (TSIT): T-Works Foundation, supported by the Government of Telangana, hosted the National Defence Innovation Conclave 2026 on Wednesday, bringing together senior leaders from the Armed Forces, DRDO, government, industry, investors and startups to strengthen India's defence innovation ecosystem. The conclave was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju in the presence of Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, former DRDO Chairman, and Lt. Gen. Neeraj Varshney. Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu later addressed the gathering, reaffirming the state's commitment to pro-

moting deep-tech innovation and advanced manufacturing. A key highlight of the event was the exhibition of 42 defence startups incubated at T-Works, showcasing indigenous technologies in artificial intelligence, drones, robotics, semiconductors, aerospace, defence electronics, advanced manufacturing and space technologies. The conclave also featured panel discussions and startup pitch sessions, fostering collaboration among innovators, policymakers, investors and defence organisations to accelerate indigenous technology development under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

Registered Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpuram-Thiruprayar Road, Thiruprayar, Thrissur, Kerala-680057.

CORRIGENDUM

This Corrigendum is issued to Auction Sale Notice dated 14-03-2026 published in The South India Times. In the said Auction Sale notice pertaining to the Borrower KASHI VEERA LAKSHMI, Loan Account No. NML01160007941, Please note the following to be read correctly as below:

Auction Sale Notice	PRESENT	TO BE READ
	Reserve Price - Rs.6,17,760/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred SixtyOnly) date of Auction 20-04-2026.	Reserve Price - Rs.5,55,984/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty FourOnly) date of Auction 29-07-2026 (should be 20 days from the date of issuance of the Sale notice).

All other details mentioned in the said Auction sale notice shall remain unchanged.

Date: 09/07/2026, Place: KORUKONDA ROAD RAJAHMUNDRY

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

Registered Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpuram-Thiruprayar Road, Thiruprayar, Thrissur, Kerala-680057.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpuram-Thiruprayar Road, Thiruprayar, Thrissur, Kerala-680057 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFR") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution with the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFR and whereas MAHOFR being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / LAM/Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice sent & Outstanding Amount
1	SHAIK DADACHUR BABJI, SHAIK MAHABUB BHASHA, NANDA SATISH/ NML0116000837/ KORUKONDA ROAD RAJAHMUNDRY	An extent of 41.55. SQ.YDS or RCC HOUSE (277.1 SQ.FTS) with structures there in the property is situated at SURVEY NO. - 2252, WARD No. - 1, Nearest D.No. - 135, Village: DRAKSHAHAR, Mandal: RAMACHANDRAPURAM, District: DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR PRADESH, Pin:516268, EAST-House of N. Subramanyam, SOUTH-Site of S. Sankara	05-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.163190/-
2	DERANGULA RAVINDRA, DERANGULA VENKATALAKSHIMMA, DERANGULA VENKAT RAMANA, NML0036004955/ KADAPPA	Rcc house having D.No. 1/112 with site situated at Annamalai District, Rayachoti Sub-District, Veerabali Mandal, MatlGramPanchayath, Matl Village, in the village fields of Matl in Sy.No.164/- 28 pkye an extent of 145.66 S.Yds, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:516268, EAST-House of N. Subramanyam, SOUTH-Site of Others, NORTH-House of RavuSriniramu	06-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.532527/-
3	TATAPUDI SISHITHA, TATAPUDI SHIVARAJ, NML0116004690/ KORUKONDA ROAD RAJAHMUNDRY	SURVEY NO 236/1, TAX D NO 10-56, PASALAPUDI VILLAGE, RAVAVARAM MANDAL, DR. B R AMBEDKAR KONDA SEEMA DIST. ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:533261 Total extent 145.13 Square Yards, EAST- "33.00" Ft Tiled House of Seelam Chandra Rao, WEST-33.00 Ft Public Road, SOUTH-39.07 Ft. Water Tank And Public Road some extent, NORTH-39.07 Ft Building of PaslakSaiyannarayana	09-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.446452/-
4	SHAIK KALEEL BHASHA, SHAIK ANWAR JAL/ NML013004675/ NELLORE	Sri PotlSreeramulu Notion Registration District, Mulukur Sub-Register, Mulukur Mandal, MulukurGramPanchayath, Mulukur Revenue Village, Chikidakkota, Nearly below colony area Survey No.259-1A1-A1, an extent of 30 ankans or 240 Sq. Yards of Vacant Site in it Consisting Site having Assessment No.3507, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:524344, EAST-Street, WEST-House of Valsamagani Thirupattamma, SOUTH-House of Sandhya Krishna, NORTH-House of Shaik Chinnasa Sahab	10-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.340703/-
5	N SUBRAMANYAM, N SAMPUKUNNAM, NAGARI MARRENNIA/ NML0170046913/TRUPATI	Chittoor District, Karvetinagar Sub-Register, Karvetinagar Mandal, Gajanki Village Accounts, GajankiHarjanawada Village Gramankantam, Survey No.54/26, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:517582 Total Extent an extent of 51 Sq. yards site, EAST-M Ganitsasa House, WEST-N Bakaiah House, SOUTH-N Subramanyam House, NORTH-A C Road and Sandhu Dar	10-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.418419/-
6	PAIDIPUGU SUBBAYAMMA, PAIDIPUGU SIVA, CHATLA ARUNA, NML0131042213/ ONGOLE	Prakasam District Ongole Registration District, Ammanabolu Sub Register Nagul uppalapudi Revenue Mandal, Kanaparthi village Panchayat Area, Kanaparthi village R.S. No. 789-2, Door No7-132, Asst No 487 An extent of 97 Sq.Yards of residential site, consisting of RCCbaba, Constructed in a plinth Area of 180sq.ft., ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:523180, EAST-House of Paidipogu Israel, WEST-House of Paidipogu Pethuru, SOUTH-House of ChatlaDanyaku, NORTH-Road	10-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.229914/-
7	HARI NACHUKURU, NACHANDURU SHOHRA RANI, K GIRI BABU/ NML0170044701/TRUPATI	RCC house having D.No.5-85/-1 with site situated at Chittoor District, Pileru Sub-District, Sadam Mandal, SadamGramPanchayath, Kothapalle Area, in the village fields of Sadam in Sy.No.233/2C1 Pkye an extent of 95.55 S.Yds, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:517129, EAST-House of N. Subarayulu, WEST-CC Road, SOUTH-House of N. Venkataratnam, NORTH-CC Road	10-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.535368/-
8	UMADEV GURRAM, GURAM RAMMOHUN/ NML0132038603/ ANANTHAPURAM	Old S.No. 78 New S.No. 78-1 A.C. 4.75 cents paki, S.Yards 121, D.No. 25-81, House situated with D.No. 25-81 in RD Hindupuram& SRD of Tanakal and within limits of Koturu Harshi, Tanakal Village & Panchayath, Tanakal Mandal and Sri Satya Sai District, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:515571, EAST-Plot No.1, WEST-Plot No.2 of S. Sankara, SOUTH-Site of S. Ramneshy, NORTH-Site of S. Sankara	10-05-2026	02-06-2026 & Rs.548563/-
9	SIRIGIRI INDHU, S Marepogu, NML0132037649/ ANANTHAPURAM	House with D.No. 7-160 situated in RD & SRD of Anantapuram and within limits of Kakkalapalli Revenue Village and Panchayath of Anantapuram, S.NO. 26, A.C. 0.0137, H.S. 0.005, Plot No.150, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:515004 Total Extent : 66.30 Sq.Yards, EAST-Plot No 103, WEST-Road, SOUTH-Plot No 149, NORTH-Plot No 151	12-05-2026	03-06-2026 & Rs.499555/-
10	DASARI LAXMIDEVI, DASARI NARAYANASWAMI/ NML01320035423/ ANANTHAPURAM	House with D.No.2-43 situated in RD Hindupuram& SRD of Dharmavaram and within limits of M. Agraharam Village & Panchayath, Tadimamandi, Sathya Sai District, S.No.267-2, D.No.2-43 Asst.No.305, ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin:515631 Total Extent of site is 83.55 Sq. Yards and House in 336 S.Feets, EAST-Site of D.Lakshmi Narayana, WEST-Site of D. Pedda Narayana, SOUTH-Site of K. Peddaganamma, NORTH-Road	12-05-2026	03-06-2026 & Rs.449463/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFR shall be constrained to take u/s 13(1) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFR at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(b) of the SARFAESI Act. Take note that in terms of S-13 (1) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner

Date: 09/07/2026, Place: ANDHRA PRADESH

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

EDITORIAL

US Charges Lawrence Bishnoi With Ordering Hardeep Nijjar's Killing

New Delhi: Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has been indicted in the United States for allegedly ordering the June 2023 assassination of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, marking the first time that the India-based gang have been criminally charged in connection with the killing that triggered an unprecedented diplomatic rupture between India and Canada.

The allegation forms part of three indictments unsealed on Tuesday (July 7) by the US Department of Justice as part of a coordinated international crackdown on India-based transnational organised crime networks. The operation, dubbed “Operation Hard Ball,” involved law enforcement agencies of three jurisdictions, resulting in the arrest of 24 people across US, Canada and Spain, the execution of 42 search warrants in Southern and Eastern California, and charges against 37 defendants. Latest indictment says Bishnoi, Goldy Brar, ordered assassination of Nijjar

According to the racketeering indictment, Bishnoi and his alleged North American lieutenant, Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, “ordered the assassination” of Nijjar, identified in court papers by his initials “H.S.N.” as “a prominent religious and political leader from the Punjab state of India who was living in British Columbia.” The Indian government had designated Nijjar as a terrorist.

Bishnoi himself allegedly gave one of them, identified only as Co-Conspirator 1, a photograph of Nijjar along with multiple addresses linked to him to help carry out the killing. The document states that Co-Conspirator 1 and a second co-conspirator then shot and killed Nijjar as he was leaving the Guru Nanak Sikh gurdwara in Surrey on June 18, 2023.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme, who took part in the announcement, was more direct about the case at the centre of it. In a separate statement issued by the RCMP, he said the three networks charged had been engaged in “extortions, drug trafficking, kidnapping and widespread violence – namely the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar – in Canada and the United States.”

Meanwhile, Canadian officials stressed that the indictments do not allege any involvement by Indian government officials. They also said the Indian government had cooperated with the organised crime investigation that led to Tuesday’s charges.

Bishnoi accused of directing transnational criminal enterprise from his prison cell

The indictment portrays Bishnoi as cultivating a public image of a “patriot”, “nationalist” and “deeply religious individual” through social media and media interviews, which prosecutors allege he used to recruit members and associates to his syndicate in India, the United States and elsewhere. It further alleges the group recruited minors from impoverished parts of Punjab, a tactic prosecutors say was meant to reduce the sentencing exposure attached to violent crimes carried out on the enterprise’s behalf.

Behind that public persona, prosecutors allege, Bishnoi directed a transnational criminal enterprise from his prison cell using contraband cellphones and internet-based communication devices. The indictment names the enterprise the Lawrence Bishnoi Organized Crime Group and identifies Brar as the North American leader, Rohit Godara as its Europe-based leader, and Sukhraj Singh Kang as a high-level lieutenant based in India.

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VIJAYAWADA
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Edit

Pak Has A Kashmir Crisis - And It May Already Be Planning To Export It To India

The level of anger in what Pakistan chooses to call "Azad Kashmir" is unprecedented. Unlike other regions of unrest, such as Balochistan and the tribal areas, this is truly a people's movement, apparent from the thousands who have thronged the streets demanding justice. The rage is palpable. Clearly, after years of protests and piecemeal concessions, matters have come to a head. Islamabad has, as always, resorted to the usual repressive measures, arresting leaders and starving the landlocked region of basics like food and medicine, leading to open demands from the movement's leaders that India intervene. That's dangerous talk on both sides.

Meanwhile, resistance fronts in other parts of Pakistan, including the Pashtuns and Baloch, are declaring support. In the latter case, that took the form of an unusually heavy strike against the Coast Guard post in Jiwani. It is all at a boiling point.

PAKISTAN HAS MISUNDERSTOOD THE JAAC

First, the protests themselves. It is now common knowledge that 'Azad Kashmir' is anything but free. The whole place is run by a Joint Secretary-level office from Islamabad, and the 'King' of the region is the Prime Minister of Pakistan. True, there is a 'President' and a 'Prime Minister' of sorts, with limited powers. From time to time, constitutional amendments have been made to the 'Interim Constitution' - since it is supposed to be 'reunited' with Kashmir - but in the final analysis, the local administration has little say in anything. This is clear through a list of 38 demands that lie at the core of the protests. None of these are new and have been in place for years, but they were codified after the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) was formed in 2023. This is no political party, and its members are people who suffer daily problems - transporters, shopkeepers, and the like. Proof enough is the list of people who have been punished for supporting them, which includes low-level government employees, including 42 from the education department - among them one lec-



turer and 32 teachers - 12 from the health department, five each from the electricity and public works departments, three from the local government and rural development department, and two each from the agriculture and forests departments. Retired teachers have had their pensions revoked. The leadership is also from middle-class families, like Sardar Aman Khan, who has a bounty of some PKR 10 million on his head after he called for Indian intervention; Khwaja Mehran, an advocate from Punjab University who is unlikely to get off lightly since he accused the Pakistan army of providing guns to Kashmiris; and the now-arrested Shaukat Nawaz Mir, a former trade union leader.

DO THE MATH

Now consider the demands themselves. One is compensation for those killed in protests in the last two years. That includes those who were fired upon by the police for opposing the rising cost of flour and electricity. Things turned ugly by 2025, with security vehicles torched, and some police personnel briefly held hostage. The demands eventually broadened to include putting an end to the privileges given to the elite - that is, all Pakistanis who have been injected into top government positions, not to mention a horde of Punjabis who have settled here, bringing with them the 'Pajero

culture'. Another demand was politically sensitive - an end to the system of 12 reserved seats for refugees in the autonomous region's legislative assembly. These are people who migrated from India and settled elsewhere in Pakistan, mostly in Punjab. Most have never even been to PoK. This suits Islamabad and mainstream political parties, who look at that slice as theirs to use however they see fit. Constituencies are also deeply imbalanced, with roughly 4.3 lakh voters for the six Jammu refugee seats against only about 30,000 voters for the six refugee seats in the Kashmir Valley

Now look at the math. A total of 53 seats in the house, with 45 elected seats, including these 12 outside of PoK entirely, while the eight 'nominated' seats are open to 'direction' and include an overseas Kashmiri. So, roughly 20 seats of a total of 53 are used to influence the outcome in the house. An interesting conclusion was reached by the AJK Supreme Court Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan and Justice Khalid Yousaf Chaudhary in an " advisory opinion", which noted that "the 12 refugee seats ... can be altered, reduced, or abolished only through a constitutional amendment enacted strictly in accordance with Article 33". That article states that no amendment can be made without the assent of the Government of Pakistan. So, it

could be done. Islamabad just has to see the light and give that concession.

THIS IS PAKISTAN'S LIFELINE

Then there are other demands that simply require Islamabad to prod the bureaucracy in the state, which, unsurprisingly, is almost wholly Pakistani.

This includes the entirely justified demand for land, affected by the Mangla dam raising project that was finished in 2009 and which displaced 40,000 people from their ancestral lands. Other demands include an international airport at Mirpur, better hospital facilities, lower taxes on property transfer (which, currently, are almost double what Punjab pays), and an allocation of Rs 10 billion for upgrading a decrepit electricity network.

Remember that even when PoK quite literally holds the key to Pakistan's power, providing the mainland with abundant hydropower potential, it suffers from almost continuous blackouts. If PoK goes 'independent', that quite literally may be the end of Pakistan. As major JACC leaders now ask openly for Indian help, the security scare is only going to grow. Few people realise, or openly acknowledge, that Kashmir is, in fact, Pakistan's 'jugular vein'. That is also why Pakistan's terrorism sponsorship policy in the region has been

going on for decades now. Apparently, for Pakistan, India's over-generous allocation of 80% of the water through the Indus Water Treaty is simply not enough. It wants it all.

INDIA IS IN A VERY TOUGH SPOT

As the protests continue, so does the repression. All this has raised some interesting and uncomfortable points for India.

First, since Delhi sees PoK as its own territory, it has a right to intervene in at least a humanitarian context. Remember, that means a convoy carrying aid, facing up to the inevitable armed opposition at the border. The United Nations has made 'parties to the conflict' legally bound to deliver aid. The question is whether India is a 'party' here. If it is, then international humanitarian law obliges it to provide aid.

The trouble, however, is that none of these laws holds water in actual conflict hotspots. The UN itself has a poor record of enforcing these.

Second, there's the option of pressing other countries to weigh in. Protests in support of PoK have erupted across the UK and also in New Zealand. That could provide space for pressing Islamabad to at least talk to JACC leaders rather than imprison them.

But the final issue is this: If India does nothing at all, then it loses ground on its territorial claims and the moral authority of being the guardian for the people of the area. However, given that people in Kashmir on this side don't seem to be interested in the whole mess, Delhi has little incentive to act. This studied non-interference could also be seen as a signal by Pakistan that Delhi only desires peace and stability, and that adventurism is not on the cards. Let's see if a certain Field Marshal gets that message.

Meanwhile, India ought to be cautious. Rawalpindi might likely try to push people towards the border in a bid to embarrass India and paint it as being uncaring towards Kashmiris on the other side. Pakistan has played this game before - years ago. Might be time for India to think about that, and rather quickly.

India's SpaceX Moment Is Here; Vikram-1 And The Startup Rocket Revolution

A private rocket will attempt India's first orbital launch this month, chasing a milestone that could fundamentally reshape the country's deep-tech landscape. If Skyroot Aerospace succeeds, it will cross a line India has never crossed before. It will be a national space breakthrough achieved by a startup, not the state. Sometime between July 12 and August 4, from the same Sriharikota spaceport that has hosted every ISRO orbital launch since 1979, the Vikram-1 rocket will lift off. The launch arrives during a six-month freeze in India's state-led space program, triggered by the failure of ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket, first in May 2025, and again in January this year. Vikram-1 is a serious technical undertaking, not a symbolic gesture. The seven-storey, carbon-composite rocket has been developed largely in-house, with solid, liquid and upper-stage propulsion technologies under Skyroot's Kalam, Raman and Dhawan programmes, extensive use of 3D-printed components, and a 95% level of indigenisation. The maiden flight, Mission Aagaman, targets a 450-km, 60-degree inclination low Earth orbit and is designed to carry payloads of up to 350 kg for Indian and international customers. It follows Skyroot's successful Vikram-S suborbital technology demonstrator in 2022. Reaching orbit is an altogether harder challenge, and the company has made it clear that this mission is as much about validating flight systems and gathering data as it is about mission success. In May, Skyroot raised \$60 million at a \$1 billion-plus valuation, becoming India's first space-tech unicorn. Launch



vehicles are among the most capital-intensive products any startup can build, requiring years of engineering before generating meaningful commercial revenue. Investors are clearly not betting on a single launch. They are betting on a company that says 90% of its customers are already outside India. For six decades, Indian space capability has largely meant ISRO. Satellites launched on lean budgets, missions to the Moon and Mars, and a reputation for engineering excellence under severe constraints. What India has lacked is not scientific capability but a commercial layer built on top of it: Companies that sell launch services, satellites, geospatial intelligence and downstream applications to customers beyond the government. Unlike frontier AI or advanced semiconductor manufacturing, where India is still building capabilities, space is one of the few deep-tech sectors where decades of public investment have already created a globally credible technological base. The challenge today is prov-

ing that India can build globally competitive space businesses. The 2020 decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to open the space sector to private participation, followed by the creation of IN-SPACe as the regulator and promoter of private activity, made that transition possible. The results are already visible. The number of Indian space startups has grown from one in 2014 to more than 400 today. IN-SPACe has set a goal of expanding India's space economy from about \$8.4 billion in 2022 to \$44 billion by 2033, increasing India's share of the global market from a mere 2% to 8%. The opportunity is substantial. According to Novaspac's Space Economy Report, the global space economy reached about \$626 billion in 2025 and is projected to exceed \$1 trillion over the next decade. Increasingly, space tech value is being created in communications, navigation, earth observation, defence, climate intelligence, agriculture, logistics and financial services. Space is steadily becoming critical economic infrastructure. Two challenges will

determine whether India's growing space startup ecosystem produces globally competitive companies or remains perpetually pre-commercial. The first is capital. Deep-tech hardware companies do not fit conventional venture capital timelines. They require patient investors willing to finance years of research, testing and certification before meaningful revenue arrives. Funding for Indian space startups slowed in 2024, suggesting that average cheque sizes have become smaller even as entrepreneurial interest has grown. The second is procurement. The government must become an effective early customer without becoming the only customer. Public contracts should help Indian companies establish credibility before competing globally, not create long-term dependence on the state. ISRO should increasingly focus on missions whose scientific, strategic or technological value extends well beyond immediate commercial returns: deep-space exploration, breakthrough propulsion technologies.

Prashant Kishor Is Now Facing The Hardest Test Of His Entire Career

For more than a decade, Prashant Kishor has been an unusually visible invisible man. He helped craft campaigns, read voter moods, found language for leaders, shaped alliances, advised parties, and often seemed to understand Indian politics better than many who practised it full-time. Yet his power lay in remaining adjacent to authority. He could influence outcomes without having to suffer the permanent injuries of elected politics. Bankipur changes that. The by-election for Bihar's Bankipur Assembly seat is scheduled for July 30. The seat fell vacant after Nitin Nabin resigned as MLA following, first, his elevation as the BJP National President, and then his subsequent election to the Rajya Sabha. Ordinarily, this may have been treated as a routine vacancy in a safe seat. But it has acquired disproportionate interest because Jan Suraj's Prashant Kishor has announced that he will contest from here, marking his first real plunge into the electoral arena. During the 2025 assembly elections in Bihar, Kishor had repeatedly generated speculation around his own candidature but eventually stayed out of the contest. Jan Suraj contested widely but failed to win a seat. His decision not to contest was widely seen as one of the reasons the party's poor performance hurt its credibility more than it might otherwise have. Bankipur is, therefore, not a debut in the romantic sense. It is a corrective examination after a failed first attempt. The strategist who once told parties how to win must now prove that he knows how to be



chosen. From Congress's War Room To Bihar's Mohalla There is a revealing thread running through Kishor's political journey. In 2021 and 2022, when his talks with the Congress appeared serious, the central issue was not whether he had ideas. The Congress did not doubt his skills. The problem was authority. Kishor reportedly wanted a free hand to revamp the party's political strategy, alliance-making, and election machinery. The Congress, in its familiar style, appeared willing to create panels, but not necessarily the kind of executive freedom he sought. There were old anxieties, too: should he be treated as a consultant, an office-bearer, a member, a strategist, or a disruptor? Kishor's eventual break with the Congress was not just a failed negotiation; it also marked a psychological turn. If established parties would not give him the authority to change them, he would build a vehicle of his own. Jan Suraj came out of that conviction. Bankipur Is An Opportunity And A Trap Bankipur is a tempting battlefield for Kishor. It is one of

Patna's most talked-about and VIP urban seats. It is part of the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha constituency and sits inside the capital's political imagination. It is urban, visible, media-friendly, and politically alert. Voters here are likely to respond to the vocabulary of governance, public services, corruption, jobs, infrastructure, and middle-class aspiration. For a leader who speaks the language of systems and state capacity, Bankipur offers a constituency that can understand his argument. But it is also a trap. Bankipur is not some virgin land. It is a BJP fortress, and, by most measures, an unusually strong one. The seat came into existence after the 2008 delimitation. Before that, this area was part of the Patna West Assembly seat. In the 1980s, the Congress and Janata Dal influence was visible here. But from the mid-1990s, the constituency and its predecessor space began turning decisively towards the BJP. In 1995, BJP leader Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha won from here and remained MLA till 2005. After his death, his son Nitin Nabin inherited the

political legacy. Between father and son, the family has given the BJP a near-continuous hold over this urban seat: Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha won four times, and Nitin Nabin followed with five victories of his own. Since 1985, except for two occasions, the BJP has won every time at Bankipur. Turnout has often been modest, but BJP victories have been emphatic. Credibility Before Power A single bypoll will not alter Bihar's power structure. The government will not fall. The opposition will not be resurrected. Bankipur will not redraw the state's map. But it can redraw Kishor's credibility. The immediate stakes are not legislative power but political seriousness. Jan Suraj's biggest challenge after 2025 is not that it lost. New parties lose. Its deeper problem is that it did not convert intellectual and moral energy into enough electoral weight. It was discussed more than it was voted for. Bankipur can repair that gap. A victory would transform Kishor from commentator to claimant. It would give him an Assembly platform, constant visibility, and a direct constituency. It would also puncture the comfortable argument of his rivals that he is only a vote-cutter or a media-savvy strategist who cannot survive real politics. A respectable performance would also matter. If Kishor disrupts the BJP's margin, consolidates urban anti-incumbency, or overtakes the opposition in a visible seat, he will be able to say that Jan Suraj has found a starting constituency: urban, aspirational, impatient, and open to a governance-first appeal.

Brent Breaches \$80 A Barrel Even As Trump Says Oil Prices 'Will Come Down Very Big'

Brent crude climbed past the \$80-a-barrel mark on Wednesday, even as US President Donald Trump insisted that oil prices would "come down very big" while addressing reporters on the sidelines of the NATO Summit in Ankara. Brent futures peaked to \$80.06 a barrel, up about 8%, as investors weighed fresh geopolitical risks in the Middle East after renewed tensions involving the United States and Iran. Responding to questions on rising crude prices, Trump said that "anytime we hit Iran, oil goes up. It's alright," suggesting that the market reaction was expected. However, he maintained that prices would eventually ease, adding, "Oil is coming down very big." Trump also made a series of remarks on regional security, saying he believes Israel will withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon. He disclosed that he had discussed the issue with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin



Netanyahu during recent talks. On Iran's nuclear programme, Trump asserted that "nobody is able to get Iran uranium except us," while declining to elaborate on possible military plans. Asked whether the United States was considering deploying ground troops in Iran, he responded, "Why would I do that?" The comments came as energy markets remained on edge over the possibility of further dis-

ruptions to oil supplies from the region. Traders have been closely monitoring developments involving Iran, a key producer in the Middle East, with concerns that any escalation could affect production, exports, or shipping routes. Despite Trump's confidence that crude prices will retreat, the immediate market reaction remained bullish, with Brent hovering just below the psychologically impor-

tant \$80-a-barrel level as geopolitical uncertainty continued to support oil prices. Only hours later, President Trump said in the Turkish capital of Ankara — where he is participating in a major NATO summit — that the deal signed by the US and Iran, intended to allow the two sides to find a path to lasting peace, was likely ended. "For me, I think it's over," Trump said early Wednesday morning in Ankara at the annual NATO summit. "As far as I'm concerned, it's just a waste of time." The president also said the US may reimplement its naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, directly interfering with Iranian exports, and that the White House is revisiting the idea of forcibly seizing Kharg Island, Iran's primary crude oil export terminal. The waves of attacks by both sides and President Trump's comments threaten to derail what was already a tenuous situation in the Middle East.

KEJRIWAL WRITES TO 29 CAR MAKERS ON E20 FUEL, SEEKS RESPONSE

New Delhi: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday, July 8, wrote to 29 automobile manufacturers, seeking their response on the impact of E20 fuel on vehicle mileage and performance, and asked them to reply within seven days. Kejriwal wrote separate letters to Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Hero MotoCorp, referring to their recent statements that the use of E20 fuel would not affect vehicle mileage. In his letters, Kejriwal sought a written assurance from these companies that if customers face any reduction in mileage or any impact on their vehicles due to the use of E20 fuel, they would be compensated by the manufacturers. There was no immediate reaction available from the three automobile manufacturers. Kejriwal said he has written separate letters to 26 other automobile companies, seeking their response on



the use of E20 fuel, its possible impact on vehicle mileage and performance, and their views on the concerns being raised by consumers. He also said he would visit petrol pumps and meet automobile mechanics on Thursday to understand their views on the use of E20 fuel and discuss its impact on vehicles. He added that he would also interact with consumers to know their experiences and concerns. He said the three manufacturers had been

asked to respond within a week, clarifying whether E20 is suitable for older vehicles, whether mileage reduction is limited to 4-5%, and whether they would compensate consumers if fuel efficiency declined further or if vehicle components were damaged due to the use of E20 fuel. AAP also said similar letters had been sent to 26 other automobile manufacturers, asking them to publicly state whether E20 can be used in their older vehicles, the

expected impact on mileage, and whether the fuel could result in mechanical damage. Kejriwal said the issue affected millions of vehicle owners and required transparent communication from manufacturers so that consumers could make informed decisions. Plans to gather consumer feedback The AAP chief said he would visit petrol pumps, service centres and mechanics on Thursday to interact with vehicle owners and gather feedback on their experience with E20-blended petrol. He alleged that concerns raised by consumers were being overlooked and questioned the rationale behind expanding the use of E20 fuel without what he described as adequate public clarity. He also said companies should stand by their claims and compensate consumers if their assurances regarding mileage or vehicle safety were found to be incorrect.

Canada invites Telangana CM Revanth to visit for trade, investment ties

AGENCY
Hyderabad: Canada's High Commissioner to India, Chris Cooter, on Wednesday, July 8, met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad and invited him to visit the country. Reddy and Cooter held crucial discussions focused on strengthening Canada-Telangana trade, investment, and innovation partnerships. The deliberations focused on opportunities for enhanced collaboration in major infrastructure and urban development projects underway in Telangana, such as the Musi River Development Project, the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion, and the Future City being developed by the state government on the outskirts of Hyderabad, a state government release said. Cooter highlighted several recent developments reflecting Telangana's growing footprint in Canada, including Firan Technology Group's decision to set up a manufacturing facility and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's opening of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad. He noted CPP Investments'



major investment in Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters, committing up to one billion Canadian dollars under a strategic partnership. Reddy explained Telangana's success story in various sectors such as IT, Life Sciences, Defence and Aerospace. He highlighted Hyderabad's dominance in attracting Global Capability Centres of Fortune 500 companies, the release said. The CM also stressed the state government's commitment to rejuvenate the river Musi, which would promote economic activity along the riverfront. He sought

Canada's support for the state's solar power push and its plans to promote a green economy, the release said. Elaborating on his plans to transform the state into a global knowledge hub, the CM said several top global universities are coming forward to set up campuses in Hyderabad. He pitched the idea of a group of Canadian universities establishing a multi-university campus in Hyderabad. He noted CPP Investments' major investment in Hyderabad-based CtrlS Datacenters, committing up to one billion Canadian dollars under a strategic partner-

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state into a global knowledge hub, the CM said several top global universities are coming forward to set up campuses in Hyderabad. He pitched the idea of a group of Canadian universities establishing a multi-university campus in Hyderabad. The CM welcomed growing Canadian engagement in the state and invited Canadian companies, investors and institutions to participate in the second edition of Telangana's Global Investors Summit, scheduled for December this year, to explore new business opportunities and partnerships. Cooter was all praise for Telangana's forward-looking vision and approach to job creation and development. He said the state holds massive potential given its massive talent pool. Offering to extend all support to the state government's initiatives, Cooter invited the CM to visit Canada and explore further opportunities across sectors. In the coming months, a Canadian trade delegation will visit Telangana and hold extensive discussions on areas like energy, urbanisation, defence and aerospace, Cooter added.

Half of Cotton Farmers Struggle with Weed Management; Godrej Agrovet's Hitweed Maxx Helps Ensure Timely Control

July, 2026: As cotton sowing progresses across Telangana, farmers are navigating increasing weather uncertainty. With forecasts indicating the possibility of El Niño-related weather variability, experts anticipate greater rainfall fluctuations, prolonged dry spells and uneven moisture availability during the crucial crop establishment phase. Such conditions can intensify weed pressure with both grass and broad leaf weeds, often emerging rapidly after intermittent rainfall and competing aggressively with young cotton plants for moisture, nutrients, sunlight and space. According to Godrej Agrovet's farmer study, nearly half of surveyed cotton farmers consider weed management difficult, highlighting the scale of the challenge and the importance of timely weed control during the crop's early growth stages. Hitweed Maxx, Godrej Agrovet's post-emergence selective herbicide for cotton, effectively controls both grassy and broadleaf weeds. Applied at the 2-3 leaf stage at the recommended dosage of 70 ml per pump, it reduces crop-weed competition during the crop's most vulnerable growth phase and provides up to 25-30 days of effective weed control. By



helping maintain a cleaner field during early crop establishment, Hitweed Maxx supports stronger crop growth and helps protect yield potential. Godrej Agrovet recently announced a cashback offer on Hitweed Maxx, combining proven product performance with a direct farmer incentive to drive timely adoption of best-in-class weed management practices reflecting the company's commitment to improving farmer productivity and profitability. Commenting on the importance of timely weed management, Rajavelu N.K., CEO – Crop Care Business, Godrej Agrovet, said: "Telangana contributes nearly one-sixth of India's cotton production and plays a critical role in the country's cotton economy. This season, delayed rainfall and

the possibility of El Niño-related weather variability have increased the importance of scientific weed management. Under such conditions, weeds compete aggressively for moisture and nutrients, making timely intervention essential. At Godrej Agrovet, we remain committed to delivering farmer-centric crop protection solutions that help improve productivity and build resilience against increasingly unpredictable growing conditions." With climate variability emerging as a major challenge for cotton cultivation, Godrej Agrovet continues to promote science-led weed management practices that help farmers improve productivity, profitability and resilience against increasingly unpredictable weather conditions.

US LABOUR DEPT TO PROBE H-1B VISA 'ABUSE' BY COGNIZANT, OTHER IT FIRMS

The US Department of Labor is launching a major investigation into alleged abuse of the H-1B and PERM visa programmes, with IT services firms including Cognizant among those expected to face scrutiny, according to a Fox Business report. Labour Department Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito announced the probe during an interview with Fox Business on Wednesday, describing it as the Trump administration's first major investigation into alleged H-1B and PERM visa fraud, labour trafficking and the displacement of American workers. "This is another example where fraud is fueling violent crime," D'Esposito said. "Much of the visa and the human trafficking that we see when it comes to this foreign labor is tied to cartels, is tied to transnational gangs." He said investigators have already issued dozens of subpoenas as part of the



investigation. The announcement comes ahead of Vice President JD Vance's anti-fraud initiative event in Milwaukee later on Wednesday, as the Trump administration steps up enforcement against immigration-related fraud. An H-1B visa allows US employers to hire foreign professionals in specialised occupations for an initial three-year period, extendable up to six years. The technology sector accounts for the majority of H-1B applications, followed by consulting, engineering, healthcare

and higher education. D'Esposito said the administration wants to ensure that American workers "are not seeing their jobs taken away by foreigners or people who are gaming the system or financially benefiting from bringing these individuals into America." He also alleged that visa-related fraud extends beyond the technology sector. "This is not just people working in factories or actual labor," he said. "These are people working in medical facilities and doctors' offices that are actually putting people in harm's way."

Higher Than India's Sovereign Rating: L&T Joins Elite List Of MNCs With Fresh Moody's Upgrade



Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has received a major rating upgrade from global brokerage Moody's, placing it in an exclusive basket of Indian multinational companies with credit profiles assessed above the sovereign level. Moody's has upgraded L&T to 'Baa1' long-term issuer rating, two notches above India's sovereign rating of 'Baa3'. The Infrastructure player has also secured a 'Stable' outlook from the prime financial services company. Along with L&T, Moody's has assigned an equivalent rating to its wholly-owned subsidiary L&T Hydrocarbon Saudi Company LLC. The 'Baa1' rating signifies a quality investment-grade credit

profile, reflecting strong capacity to meet financial commitments and a low level of credit risk, according to the company's official press release. Further, it outlined certain core strengths areas that L&T has over its peers including its dominant market position and revenue visibility, corporate governance, and favourable industry prospects in the domestic and international infrastructure landscape. Larsen & Toubro reported a 3% fall in consolidated net profit in the fourth quarter of financial year 2026. The bottom line came in at Rs 5,325.60 crore compared to Rs 5,497.26 crore in the same period last year.

Trains and emergency calls affected after major outage at Australia's largest telecoms company

A major outage at Australia's largest telecommunications company has led to cancelled train services, left thousands of customers without mobile coverage, and sparked an investigation into emergency calls that were not connected. Telstra's chief financial officer Michael Ackland apologised for the issue which began at 04:30 local time on Wednesday and affected "some mobile calls and data services". Services were fully restored about 12 hours later, he said. A software defects related to time-keeping servers at data centres in Sydney and Melbourne was to blame - not a cyber attack, Ackland added. Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the outage was "deeply concerning". Telstra described the outage as "intermittent" but acknowledged the impact had been "national". Ackland said the telecoms company had conducted welfare checks on customers who had called emergency services during the outage, with six requiring immediate help. Back-up systems, which divert emergency calls through



other mobile carriers, largely worked as they should, he added. Asked if the country could still rely on its largest mobile network, Ackland said: "Australia can absolutely have faith in its biggest telco... we take these outages very seriously." "Our investment in resilience and cyber security and redundancy in our network is significant but it is a big and complex network and from time to time, issues do occur confirmed that welfare checks were being made for about three dozen calls to emergency services that did not go through but that the "core triple-zero system remains operational". Communications Minister

Anika Wells said the country's telco regulator, the Australian Communication and Media Authority, will investigate the outage. In Victoria, all regional train services were cancelled due to the outage while some regional services in New South Wales were also disrupted. National freight services were also affected. Payment systems were also down with about 80,000 businesses using the Tyro app affected. Last September, a systems outage at Optus - the second largest telecoms company in Australia - led to three deaths after hundreds of people across more than half the country were unable to call emergency services for 13 hours.

Nigeria's president demands to know how fake agency was allegedly set up in his office



Nigeria's president has ordered a corruption investigation into allegations that a fictitious government agency was set up within his own office, complete with public funding worth \$950,000 (£700,000). According to the presidency, the letter from the president's chief of staff creating the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC) had been forged. The police have launched a manhunt for Adeniyi Adeyemi Matthew, who had been presenting himself as the "PFIPC director general", on suspicion of forgery, impersonation and related offences. Before going into hiding, Adeyemi told local media that he was innocent and now feared for his life. He also promised to show up in court to clear his name, saying the body was lawfully established. He accused senior government officials of demanding bribes during the process of his appointment and later attempting to take control of the council's funds. The presidency has denied those allegations. Adeyemi

said the council was set up in 2024 in order to attract foreign investment to Nigeria but there is no record of any deals being done. It has a staff of three, who have been questioned by the police. President Bola Tinubu on Tuesday directed the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to investigate and submit a comprehensive report within 30 days. Checks by BBC News Pidgin showed the agency had secured office space within the Federal Secretariat - the vast government complex that houses many of Nigeria's ministries in the capital Abuja - opened bank accounts with the Central Bank of Nigeria, and appeared in the 2026 Appropriation Act with an allocation of 1.3bn naira (\$950,000; £700,000). The presidency claimed police forensic analysis had confirmed that the signature from the president's chief of staff, Femi Gbajabiamila, on the disputed appointment letter had been forged.



■ Eight killed after landslide hits girls' school in Bangladesh

TRUMP SAYS CEASEFIRE IS 'OVER' AFTER US AND IRAN TRADE STRIKES

US President Donald Trump says the ceasefire agreement with Iran is "over", blasting the country's leadership as "scum" and "cuckoo" after fresh exchanges of fire. Speaking ahead of a Nato summit in Turkey, the president said US negotiators could continue talks "if they want" but said he saw it as "a waste of time". Oil prices jumped after Trump's comments, although are still well below the highs seen during the full closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Tuesday night into Wednesday saw the worst trading of strikes between the US and Iran since they signed an interim deal in June that called for an end to the conflict and safe passage of vessels through the strait. "I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them



anymore they're scum ... they're led by sick people and they're vicious, violent people," Trump said. "We make a deal. They [Iran] go outside, talk to the press, they say 'we never even talked about it'. There's something wrong with them. They're cuckoo. As far as I'm concerned, it's over." US Central Command (Centcom) said on Tuesday it had launched "powerful

strikes in response to attacks on three tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. On Wednesday, Iran said it targeted US military sites in Bahrain and Kuwait in retaliation to the US strikes. The US also said it had revoked its temporary suspension of sanctions on Iranian oil sales. Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf accused the US of

breaching their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on this issue, and others, including the attacks in southern Iran and "violating Iranian adjustments in the Strait". "The era of bullying and extortion is over. It leads nowhere. We don't fold," he said. Nato chief Mark Rutte described the American strikes as "absolutely necessary", saying that Iran was "basically violating the ceasefire". It is not the first time strikes occurred after the MoU was signed on 17 June. The US launched a series of strikes on Iran on 26 June after an Iranian projectile hit a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz. Further US strikes took place on 27 June, following an attack on a tanker.

Will Le Pen rise again? French nationalist leader defiant after court's ruling



France is waking up bleary-eyed on Wednesday, with many still incredulous at the political uproar triggered by right-wing nationalist figurehead Marine Le Pen the night before. Within hours of a court of appeal in Paris confirming her guilty verdict for misuse of public funds, she not only defiantly announced she would be running in next year's French presidential election, but she had already launched her social media campaign, too. Pour la France - For France - reads her online poster, featuring the country's tricolour flag and a smiling Le Pen, her arms outstretched. "Just like (the actress) Kate Winslet aboard the Titanic," muttered a French journalist I was chatting to. "France feels like the Titanic right now - sinking - at least politically!" But Le Pen's campaign promises quite the opposite. "La Renaissance" is its subtitle - rebirth. Le Pen has always claimed to be a woman who listens, a woman of the people. Many in France (as in a lot of European countries) feel disillusioned with politics and traditional politicians. They look at gaping inequalities in society and yearn for change. Le Pen swims happily in these divided waters. You often hear her talk of "The People" versus the "The Metropolitan Elite" or "The Patriots" - whom, she says, she represents - fighting politically for a France that puts French people first, versus those she dismissively labels "Globalists", including her political nemesis, the current French President

Emmanuel Macron. The name of his political party is Renaissance, by the way. The fact that word features so prominently in Le Pen's new online campaign can be no coincidence. It's a dig at the man who, when he was first elected president almost a decade ago, promised he would ensure no French citizen would ever again feel the need to vote for what he called political extremes. He made clear that he put Le Pen's National Rally Party in the extremist camp. It's not without some irony that the decisive round in France's presidential election next year could potentially feature Le Pen versus Jean-Luc Mélenchon of the far left in France. Le Pen lost out twice to Macron in previous presidential elections. He is prevented by law in France from running for a third term, while she has never looked so strong in public opinion polls. Rebirth is also a pertinent concept when it comes to Le Pen because she has been written off as a career politician a number of times (such as after her car crash televised debate against Macron in the lead-up to the 2017 presidential election) only to come back more powerful. Her outstretched arms on the social media campaign poster are perhaps supposed to make us think of a phoenix rising from the ashes. The majority in France had believed the court of appeal would not only reaffirm Le Pen's conviction for embezzlement on Tuesday but also the original sentence condemning her to a five-year ban on running for public office.

NATO ALLIES ANNOUNCE £37BN FOR NEW MISSILE PROJECT

Twelve countries, including the UK, are set to spend more than £37bn (\$50bn) over the next 10 years on a new long-range missile to protect Europe. The Deep Precision Strike project has just been unveiled by No 10 and is due to be discussed later on Wednesday at the Nato summit in the Turkish capital, Ankara. Sir Keir Starmer is there for his final Nato summit as prime minister. He is likely to face some criticism from US President Donald Trump for failing to set out a plan for reaching 3.5% of GDP spent on defence by 2035, a target agreed by nearly all Nato members last year. But on Wednesday the prime minister will convene around a dozen leaders to discuss the new missile programme. Billed as one of Nato's most advanced weapons, it is intended to strike targets nearly 200 miles (300km) away with pinpoint accuracy, possibly extending out to 1,250 miles. Sir Keir said the UK-led initiative would "help bring European allies together to keep Nato safe for years to come". Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said the plan was "part of a recognition that we're in a more dangerous world". "This is about how we make sure we have a stronger Europe within a stronger Nato," she told BBC Breakfast from Ankara. But like many planned military projects in the pipeline, Deep



Strike is not expected to be ready until the 2030s. In June, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced a six-month review of the presence of US forces in Europe. Trump has repeatedly made clear he wants Nato members to contribute more to defence spending in Europe and at last year's Nato summit, members of the alliance agreed to spend 5% of GDP on defence and security by 2035. Sir Keir said he was "determined" to ensure the safety of the UK and its allies, adding: "We must step up to deliver a stronger, more European Nato." The UK government has already committed £300bn by 2030 in the Defence Investment Plan. At the

summit, Sir Keir is expected to underline the threat posed by Russia to the UK and Nato. The government said Nato had scrambled fighter jets to intercept Russian aircraft approaching allied airspace more than 700 times and that Russian military activity around UK waters had surged 30%. Sir Keir is expected to stress that whilst Nato did not seek confrontation with Russia, it must be ready to defend every ally. Cooper said: "With deep precision strike capability, the UK and our allies will be able to hit high value military targets and the logistical engines that drive armies, deterring any aggressor and strengthening our mutual security."

GERMAN DOCTOR JAILED FOR MURDER OF 15 PATIENTS AND SUSPECTED OF MORE



A German palliative care doctor has been sentenced to life imprisonment for killing 15 of his patients. A court in Berlin found the 41-year-old man, named only as Johannes M. in line with German privacy rules, guilty of murdering 12 women and 3 men between September 2021 and July 2024. The authorities believe these killings could be just the tip of the iceberg. Prosecutors are currently investigating dozens of other incidents involving the doctor. His victims were between the ages of 25 and 94. The court heard how they were all critically ill, but that their deaths were not imminent.

Prosecutors said that during home visits, the doctor administered a lethal combination of various medicines without his patients' consent. On several occasions, they said he set fires to cover his tracks. In July 2024, shortly before his arrest, prosecutors said the doctor killed two patients in a single day - a 75-year-old man at his home in central Berlin and, a few hours later, a 76-year-old woman in a neighbouring district. They said the doctor tried to set fire to the woman's house, but failed. For much of the trial, which has gone on for about a year, the doctor said nothing.



US strikes target Iranian military boats

CUBANS PROTEST AFTER THIRD NATIONWIDE POWER CUT THIS YEAR

Cubans in several locations on the island banged pots on Tuesday evening to express their anger about the latest nationwide power cut. While public dissent in the Communist-run country is often punished with long prison sentences, there have been spontaneous protests in areas worst affected by the outages. Fuel shortages have been exacerbated by tight US sanctions and an effective US oil blockade, meaning that even those who have generators often do not have the fuel to run them during power cuts. Cuban officials said on Tuesday that most of the country had had power restored but locals shouted "turn on the lights!" in areas still in the dark. Monday's nationwide outage was the third this year and comes on



top of state-imposed rolling electricity cuts aimed at conserving the little remaining fuel. Some rural areas are plunged into darkness for up to 70 hours at a time, while urban areas have seen planned outages of up to 30 hours. The state electricity company did not say what had caused this latest unplanned incident. The country's second-largest city, Santiago de Cuba, was

among places where power had not yet been restored on Tuesday evening local time. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has acknowledged the spreading discontent among Cubans. "There are shortages of transport, food, medicines, there are lengthy power cuts lasting more than 20 hours, that causes dissatisfaction, nobody can be happy, the people are suffering," he told

reporters from Claridad, a Spanish-language weekly newspaper based in San Juan, Puerto Rico. But he urged Cubans to direct their anger towards the US government instead of his, adding: "People bang pots, some with more anger than others. I say: direct your pot-banging towards our northern neighbours, who are the ones behind these power cuts." The US Ambassador to the United Nations, Michael Waltz, however, placed the blame squarely with the Cuban government. Speaking at a meeting of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, he urged it to "change your ways and turn the lights back on for your people". He added that "there always seems to be enough power for the Cuban dictatorship".

WERE EGYPT TRULY 'ROBBED' BY ARGENTINA?

VAR Controversies In FIFA World Cup Match Explained

The Argentina vs Egypt Round of 16 clash in the FIFA World Cup 2026 concluded in absolute chaos. Egypt, who were leading 2-0 until the 78th minute, saw Argentina make a remarkable comeback to win the contest 3-2. But, as far as the Egypt camp is concerned, the referee and VAR team favoured Argentina too much throughout the game, ensuring they did all they could to leave the fightback gates open for them. Egypt coach Hossam Hassan went on an epic rant in the press conference after the match, highlighting multiple incidents he felt unfairly went in Argentina's favour. While there were many 50-50 calls that Argentina seemed to benefit from, there were two big decisions that played a huge role in defining the complexion of the game. 1. Mostafa Ziko's Disallowed Goal: When Egypt was leading 1-0, midfielder Mostafa Ziko finished off a brilliant counter-attacking move to score what would have given Egypt a 2-0 lead. However, referee Francois Letexier was called to the pitchside monitor by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR). He reviewed the



footage and disallowed the goal, suggesting Egyptian midfielder Marwan Attia had pulled back Lisandro Martinez and stepped on his foot in the build-up. However, what is contentious is the fact that the foul took place deep inside Egypt's half while Argentina was actually the team on the attack. Egypt won the ball from that challenge and ran the full length of the pitch to score. Pundits and fans argued that the incident occurred too far back in time (around 10 seconds

prior) and too far away (nearly 100 yards). 3. The foul on Licha preceding Egypt's disallowed goal. A clear foul. Attia steps on Lisandro's supporting foot, preventing him from continuing the play. While it's not a high-intensity stomp, it's enough to prevent the advance, as the Argentine can't continue with his stride. Hence, to claim that it had a role to play in Ziko's goal is questionable. Critics felt that the VAR went too far. Though Ziko made it 2-0 just minutes later, had the previ-

ous goal been given, Egypt would've had a much more comfortable 3-0 lead, making a comeback even harder. 2. The Late Penalty Decision: Late in the match, as Egypt looked to make a comeback, a major incident occurred inside the Argentinian penalty box after a total of two penalty shouts were made, one for a challenge on Mohamed Salah by Julian Alvarez. There was a shirt pull on the first player and a and potential foot-on-foot contact by Alvarez on Salah. The referee, however, did not blow his whistle and waved play on. Even the VAR chose not to intervene, much to the disappointment of the Egypt camp. This caused immense fury from the Egyptian bench and head coach Hossam Hassan. Critics slammed the refereeing team for extreme inconsistency. Many argued that the VAR was willing to go 100 yards backward to penalise Egypt for a minor offence in the build-up to their goal, but completely ignored the shirt pull on Salah, following which Argentina went on to score their third and final goal of the game.

SOURAV GANGULY THANKS ICC, JAY SHAH FOR INDUCTING HIM IN HALL OF FAME: "HUGE HONOUR"

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday said that it's a huge honour to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and expressed his gratitude to the ICC and Chairman Jay Shah. In a post on X, Ganguly said it is amazing to be part of some great names. "Thank you ICC and Chairman Jay shah @JayShah for inducting me in the hall of fame .. it's a huge honour ..One of the 10 Indians to be inducted in the hall of fame ever .. Amazing to be a part of some great names .. @bcci," Ganguly said in a post on X. The move coincided with Ganguly's 54th birthday. ICC is yet to make an announcement about the decision. The ICC Hall of Fame celebrates the extraordinary achievements of cricketing legends who have shaped the sport's rich and vibrant history. Players are eligible for induction only five years after their final international appearance. The ICC Hall of Fame was launched in January 2009 as part of the ICC's centenary



celebrations and has since celebrated the greatest players to have graced the game. Ganguly took over the captaincy during one of the most turbulent phases in Indian cricket. The left-handed batter transformed the team's mindset, instilling aggression, self-belief and the confidence to compete overseas. Known as the "God of Offside" for his elegant strokeplay through the cover region, Ganguly amassed 18,575 international runs in 424 matches, including 38

centuries and 107 half-centuries. He scored 7,212 runs in 113 Tests and 11,363 runs in 311 One-Day Internationals, making him one of India's greatest batters across formats. As captain, Ganguly led India in 196 international matches, winning 97. His tenure featured several landmark achievements, including the famous 2001 Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph over Steve Waugh's all-conquering Australia, India's maiden Test series victory in Pakistan in 2004.

Why Drop Sanju Samson For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi? Gautam Gambhir Ends Silence On Controversial Call

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was at the centre of another press conference storm after the Indian team suffered a humiliating defeat against England in the third T20I. After India were bowled out for just 76 runs chasing a target of 202, questions arose over the management's decision to drop Sanju Samson, the country's hero at the T20 World Cup 2026. Addressing the media after the match, Gambhir said there was absolute clarity on the topic between him and Samson, but maintained that the conversation could not be made public. Samson, who failed to fire in two T20Is against Ireland as well as the England T20I series opener, was dropped in favour of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who has not hit the ground



running either. However, Gambhir assured that he had given complete clarity to Samson over his role in India's T20I team. "The first thing is that regarding the clarity Sanju Samson needed, he has been given that from my side. That's a conversation strictly between the player and the head coach. That conversation is not going to

come outside," Gambhir said in the press conference on Tuesday. "Regarding Sanju, we are very clear. What he has done for India has been phenomenal, and sometimes you just have to look at the form of a certain player. There is no hard and fast rule that he cannot make a comeback in this series," he added. Gambhir stated that interna-

tional cricket is not about personnel, but team combination. Sooryavanshi was brought into the side because the management believed in the opening combination of him and Abhishek Sharma. However, the fault does not lie with Sooryavanshi alone; the entire Indian team has failed to fire on the tour of the United Kingdom, both against Ireland and in the England series so far. "International cricket is about results, so whatever we feel is the best combination to give us that result, we play that combination and that playing XI. I've always been a big believer that everyone needs to earn their place and the right to play for India." "Regarding adaptability, obviously we haven't adapted well.

"Lost My Focus A Little Bit": Felix Auger-Aliassime Reflects On Loss To Novak Djokovic At Wimbledon

Felix Auger-Aliassime admitted he was left disappointed after narrowly missing out on his maiden Wimbledon semi-final following a five-set defeat to seven-time champion Novak Djokovic in the men's singles quarter-finals on Centre Court, but said he could still take pride in pushing the 24-time Grand Slam winner to the limit in one of the longest matches in the tournament's history. Despite the disappointment of another Grand Slam exit at the last-eight stage, Auger-Aliassime chose to focus on the level he produced against the 24-time major champion, saying the contest offered valuable lessons for future opportunities. "Obviously it's tough for me. Quarters in Paris, here. I had other chances in my



career where tight matches like this didn't go my way. I'll have to see what I can do so it goes my way the next time. For now, I can be proud of the fight and then I move on, move on to what's next," Felix was quoted as saying by ATP. The Canadian had pushed Djokovic to the brink after recovering from a break down in the fourth set to force a deciding fifth.

Reflecting on where the momentum shifted, Auger-Aliassime admitted a brief lapse in concentration proved costly before he fought his way back into the contest. "I had a lot of belief. I don't think belief was a problem. I think after one set all, it was just this one game in the third set, when I lost focus. After more than two-and-a-half hours of being

very focused with him, I lost my focus a little bit. "The fourth set, I was fortunate to come back. He also had a loss of focus, a dip, to give me a chance to come back in the fourth set. Then I thought I played a good, good tie-break," he added. The fifth set remained on serve throughout, with Auger-Aliassime saving every break point he faced before the match was ultimately decided in a 10-point tie-break. The Canadian acknowledged that Djokovic's composure in decisive moments once again made the difference. "But yeah, I think in the end he proves again that he's good when he needs to be. He's solid, more solid than I was, when he needs to be," he said.

HENDERSON HAS SURGERY IN USA AFTER BREAKING ARM

Jordan Henderson has had surgery after breaking his arm during the celebrations of England's win over Mexico on Sunday. The Brentford midfielder suffered the freak injury as he fell awkwardly after attempting to jump over the advertising hoardings at the side of the pitch. Henderson, who did not play during the match, was carried on a stretcher away from the pitch while receiving oxygen. But now Henderson has posted on social media, external to say that he has had surgery in Kansas City, where England's basecamp is for the duration of the World Cup. "Surgery done! Let's get ready for the



The football world went berserk after witnessing arguably the most enthralling game of the FIFA World Cup 2026, as Argentina staged a heroic comeback from being 0-2 down to beat Egypt 3-2 and qualify for

the quarter-finals. Lionel Messi had his penalty saved in the first half but was instrumental in inspiring a once-in-a-lifetime comeback for La Albiceleste. However, the manner of Argentina's come-from-behind victory has triggered a controversy, with the entire Egypt camp claiming that the tourna-

ment has been 'rigged' to favour the defending champions and their captain, Messi. Speaking at the press conference, Egypt coach Hossam Hassan said that 'external factors' decided the game. He even alleged that FIFA wanted Messi to stay in the tournament for long; hence, the decisions on the field were 'influenced'. "We looked better than the reigning champions-better in everything-but the result was influenced by internal factors on the pitch and external factors off it," Hassan told reporters after the game. "Perhaps they

ICC Elections Witness Massive Upset; Imran Khwaja Loses Board Seat

In a major shake-up in global cricket administration, long-serving International Cricket Council (ICC) Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja suffered a shock defeat in the Associate Member Directors' elections held during the global body's Annual Conference on Wednesday. France's Gurumurthy Palani topped the polling charts with 35 votes, while UAE's Mubashir Usmani and Namibia's Dr. Rudie van Vuuren secured 26 votes each to claim the three available spots on the all-powerful 17-member ICC Board. Khwaja, a veteran cricket administrator from Singapore, finished a close fourth with 23 votes, while Malaysia's Mahinda Vallipuram managed to get only 19 votes. The ICC confirmed the development in an official statement, noting



that the three elected Directors will each serve a two-year term on the ICC Board. While Palani and Van Vuuren enter the apex board for the first time, Usmani successfully retained his position. Palani's election to the all-important ICC Board will trigger another administrative change. "The result will require an election for Gurumurthy Palani's position on the Chief Executives' Committee as he is unable to hold both positions," the ICC

stated. Congratulating the newly elected members, ICC Chairman Jay Shah said, "I congratulate Gurumurthy Palani, Mubashshir Usmani and Dr Rudie van Vuuren on their election as Associate Member Directors to the ICC Board. "Associate Members play a vital role in the continued growth and global expansion of our sport, and I look forward to working closely with them as we build on the strong progress being made across all regions."

LONDON CITY SIGN BALLON D'OR WINNER PUTELLAS



London City Lionesses have signed two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas on a three-year deal in one of the biggest scoops in women's football history. Spain midfielder Putellas, widely regarded as one of the game's greatest players, left Barcelona after 14 years in May and attracted interest from almost every top club in the world. The 32-year-old won 38 trophies with Barcelona, including 10 league titles. She was unveiled in New York City alongside London City's US billionaire owner Michele Kang. "I am thrilled to embark on this new chapter with London City Lionesses," said Putellas. "The club's ambition and its steadfast commitment to growing as a women-only independent club resonate

deeply with me. "I look forward to making an impact on the pitch as we challenge for titles. "Off the pitch, building on my passion for youth development, I am equally excited to work with Michele in elevating women's football in England and on the global stage." Putellas captained Barcelona to a fourth Champions League title in her final season, while London City finished sixth in their debut Women's Super League campaign. It is a remarkable feat for London City to have persuaded Putellas to join as they continue to show lofty ambitions. BBC Sport reported last month that Putellas chose London City over Boston Legacy, the final two clubs vying for her signature.

NAGARJUNA: 'LENIN' WILL WIN HEARTS

Audiences Will Give Back the Same Love to 'Lenin' That Was Poured Into Making It - King Nagarjuna Akkineni at the Release Press Meet

We Made 'Lenin' With Utmost Honesty; Our Content Will Speak - Akhil Akkineni at the Release Press Meet

KING NAGARJUNA AKKINENI SAID: The Srirampuram Connection: "The moment Nandu (Director Murali Kishor) told me that this story takes place in Srirampuram, I was



instantly reminded of my father. Nandu has written this story beautifully, and the dialogues are phenomenal. He even took Akhil to his hometown, Srirampuram, where Nandu's family looked after Akhil like their own child." Connecting With the Character's Pain: "Akhil has faced the kind of pain in his own life that his character experiences in 'Lenin'. Everyone works hard for every film, but this time, Akhil's personal pain perfectly synced with the emotional depth of this story. Because I stepped in as a producer, I was highly involved in the

script level. I was shown some footage during the shoot and knew right then that this was going to be a great film." Character Importance & Post-Production: "Every single character holds immense weight in this movie. The character of Bharati (played by Bhagyashri) is the very soul and heartbeat of this film. Nandu wove a brilliant story with so many characters and layers, and Thaman complemented it with an extraordinary re-recording (RR). We believe that we must first love the film we make. We didn't make this

for OTT platforms; that is why we waited until we were completely satisfied. The movie was ready in June, but the technicians requested two more weeks. That extra time made the film even more impactful." A Father's Pride: "The last film I was this deeply involved in was 'Manam', which I did for my father. Now, I have done 'Lenin' for my son. Any father wants his son to achieve victory, and a son's success brings the ultimate joy to a father. I truly hope audiences give back the same love to 'Lenin' that we poured into making it.

THE WAIT IS OVER: Makers Drop the Official Music Video of Toxic's 'Tabaahi'



Monster Mind Creations, KVN Productions, and Zee Music Company bring the first music video from Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups to audiences after the song's chart-topping audio success. 8th July, 2026 : The makers of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups have finally unveiled the much-anticipated official music video for Tabaahi, the film's first song, which became an instant fan favourite following its audio release. Along with the film's official music partner, Zee Music Company, the visual spectacle now brings audiences the immersive experience they have been eagerly awaiting, offering the first glimpse into one of Indian cinema's most anticipated films. Featuring Rocking Star Yash alongside Kiara Advani in a captivating new on-screen pairing, Tabaahi celebrates an unforgettable romance brought to life through their undeniable chemistry and emotionally resonant performances. As the world around them fades away, Tabaahi captures

love in its rawest and purest form, intimate, unwavering, and all-consuming. Set against a grand cinematic canvas with breathtaking visuals, evocative storytelling, electrifying guitar arrangements, and a soaring orchestral score, the music video serves as a stirring introduction to the enigmatic and visually distinctive world of Toxic.

Building anticipation ahead of the launch, the makers treated fans to a playful social media exchange on 7th July. The official Toxic handle posted, "What do you call a forbidden love that only exists in stolen time?", tagging Kiara Advani. Kiara responded with a single word — "Tabaahi." Shortly after, Zee Music Company joined the conversation by quoting her reply with a simple,

"Stay Tuned...", setting the stage for the official music video premiere and sending fans into a frenzy ahead of the release. Composed, sung by musician Vishal Mishra and written by Raj Shekhar in Hindi, Tabaahi has been released in Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam. The song has been adapted across languages by some of the finest lyricists in Indian cinema — Yogaraj Bhat (Kannada), Ramajogayya Sastry (Telugu), Vignesh Shivan (Tamil), and Rafeeq Ahammed (Malayalam)—reflecting the film's truly pan-Indian creative collaboration. The multilingual launch reinforces Toxic's vision of connecting with audiences across languages and geographies, with Zee Music Company leading the nationwide music roll-

out as the film's official music partner. The film stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, and Huma Qureshi in a powerhouse ensemble cast. Opening up about the song, Vishal Mishra Added, "Tabaahi isn't a love song in the conventional sense, it's love as wreckage, as surrender, as fire that doesn't ask permission. Toxic demanded music that could hold that intensity: epic and intimate at once. Yash Bhai brings a rare conviction to the screen that I tried to match note for note. Tabaahi, for me, was about chasing that raw, unfiltered pulse of love, the kind that consumes before it comforts." Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas, and directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film is shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and other languages — reinforcing its global ambitions and expansive cinematic vision. Produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is scheduled to hit theatres on August,26 2026.



Krithi Shetty Slays In Sultry Black Drama

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GRAND LAUNCH OF COMMERCIAL COURTROOM DRAMA DUE DATE

The inaugural ceremony of the commercial courtroom drama Due Date was held in a grand manner on Wednesday in Hyderabad in the presence of several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry. Well-known Telugu film journalist and PRO Eluru Srinu is making his debut as a producer with Due Date, alongside producer Pawan Tarigopula. The film is being produced under the



Varshish Studios banner and directed by Anand K. The muhurat shot featuring lead actors Lomesh Pudi and Jshree, along with key cast members Praneeth

Patnaik and Vignani, was ceremonially launched. Acclaimed director Maruthi sounded the clapboard for the opening shot, while successful producer Bunny Vas switched on the camera. Producers SKN, Dheeraj Mogilineni, and Vamsi Nandipati, who have recently delivered several successful films, handed over the script to the director. The

launch event was attended by directors Vijay Kanakamedala and VI Anand, along with several other filmmakers and producers from the industry. Speaking on the occasion, the producers revealed that Due Date is a commercial courtroom drama inspired by a contemporary burning issue. They said the film will offer an engaging and edge-of-the-seat narrative from start to finish. According to them, everything—from the title to every element of the film—has been designed to provide audiences with freshness, compelling storytelling, and complete entertainment. They also announced that the regular shooting of the film will commence soon.

Janhvi Kapoor Slays In Lilac-Gold Wedding Saree

Janhvi Kapoor is having a golden run, with her film Peddi alongside Ram Charan crossing the 400 crore mark globally. The sports action drama has drawn mixed reviews, with praise for the lead performances, though some scenes drew criticism and were later trimmed by the director. Still, the film has cemented itself as one of Tollywood's biggest hits of 2026, giving Janhvi's Telugu career a big boost. Away from the big screen, Janhvi turned heads at her cousin Anshula Kapoor's wedding festivities, where she and sister Khushi Kapoor turned bridesmaids for the bride marrying Rohan Thakkar. Her look was pure royal glamour, a lilac-gold saree paired with statement kundan jewellery, stacked bangles, and a jhomeer that framed her face beautifully. With Peddi's numbers still climbing and more looks expected from the wedding, Janhvi Kapoor continues to dominate headlines on every front this season. On July 7, Anshula and Rohan Thakkar hosted their wedding reception, attended by close family and friends, including celebrities such as Rekha,

Bhumi Pednekar, and others. Janhvi Kapoor was also present at the festivities, and you should be taking styling cues from her apsara-coded look. While receptions are meant for semi-formal attire, where many opt for stylish sarees or lehengas, Janhvi swapped the expected for a traditional number that also embraced the modern woman's style aesthetics. The silk saree comes with a sleek cummerbund and a strapless blouse. If you're looking to make a classic saree feel instantly more modern without trying too hard, this is the styling trick to borrow.

THE DETAILS

The silk saree in a pleasant mauve hue comes decked with zardozi work, broad embroidered borders, and brocade floral art decorating every inch of the drape.

Janhvi wore the six yards in a traditional style, with the pleats neatly forming on the front and the pallu elegantly placed on the shoulder. The real standout, though, was the strapless blouse. It nodded to the glamorous silhouettes of the '60s. It was a silk mauve

number with a strapless design, a plunging neckline, and a cropped hem length showing off her toned midriff. Janhvi further elevated the look by wearing heavy temple gold jewellery with the saree, including a cummerbund, a choker necklace, chandbaalis, kadhas, statement rings, and bangles, all in gold and decked with diamonds and pearls. Lastly, a small gold clutch and heels rounded off the styling. To match the regal aesthetics of the saree and jewellery, Janhvi Kapoor toned down the glam by opting for a minimal makeup look. She chose a glossy pink lip shade, light shimmery pink eye shadow, light rouge on the cheeks, feathered brows, mascara-adorned lashes, and a bindi, all rounded off with a dewy base.



RAKUL PREET SINGH DAZZLES IN SPARKLING GLAMOUR

