

CHENNAI | BENGALURU | HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)AP secured
Rs 19,619 cr under
SASCI in 2.5 yearsMASS FUNERAL IN GAZA
FOR 112 PALESTINIANS
KILLED IN 2023
ISRAELI STRIKE

WORLD PAGE

AVIKA GOR
DAZZLES IN CHIC
VINTAGE SETTING

CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

05-08-2026

Total pilgrims : 78,561
Tonsures : 33,361
Hundi kamukalu : 4,31 CR
Laddu sale : 3,85 Lac
Annaspradams : 2,05 Lac
Aashwi hospital : 2,689
Waiting Compartments : 30

Approva. Dandan Time for Saravali/Annam

(with out SSS Tonsure) 15 M

25 tonnes of adulterated
spices seized in
Hyderabad, 3 held

Hyderabad, Aug 4 : The Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST) of the (Police) Commissioner's Task Force seized 25 tonnes of spices containing dangerous chemicals and arrested three accused. Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar said on Tuesday that H-FAST, in joint coordination with the Food Safety Department of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), conducted a major enforcement drive against certain spice trading and processing establishments across the Hyderabad Commissionerate limits. The special crackdown was aimed to curb use of harmful-to-human chemicals as adulterants, eliminating misbranding, ensuring strict adherence to food safety standards, and protecting public health. During the operation, carried out based on credible information from the public, enforcement teams inspected 13 business establishments and independent business locations which were actively engaged in the procurement, processing, and wholesale or retail trading of spices and also indulging in certain offences affecting human health.

LS approves
Appropriation Bill amid
Opposition din

New Delhi (TSIT) : The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026, which seeks to authorise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India towards excess spending incurred during the financial year ended on March 31, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday by a voice vote, amid protests from the Opposition. Amid the chaos, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill in the House for consideration. The Bill seeks to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Finance Act, 2026. The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day on Tuesday, amid persistent protests and an ongoing deadlock over opposition-led issues. Proceedings were disrupted multiple times due to opposition sloganeering and protests before the Lower House was adjourned. It will reconvene on Wednesday at 11 am. There were multiple adjournments in both the Houses of Parliament amid noisy protests by the Opposition over various issues on Tuesday. Opposition MPs staged protests at the Parliament premises over multiple issues, including the embezzlement of Ram Mandir donations, police action on protesters during the Parliament March on July 20 in the national capital, and the Cauvery water dispute.

Govt likely to question
Meta Executives on CSAM,
WhatsApp usernames

New Delhi, Aug 4 : The Centre is expected to meet senior executives from Meta on August 5 to seek explanations on a range of concerns, including the handling of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), risks associated with WhatsApp usernames, and the treatment of verified and prominent accounts across its platforms, it was announced on Tuesday. Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of Voice of India, an independent multimodal artificial intelligence evaluation platform developed jointly by AI4Bharat and Josh Talks AI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S Krishnan said the meeting would cover several issues that have recently raised concerns within the government. Among the key topics likely to be discussed is Meta's handling of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Indian vessel sinks after attack in
Red Sea, 13 Indian sailors rescued

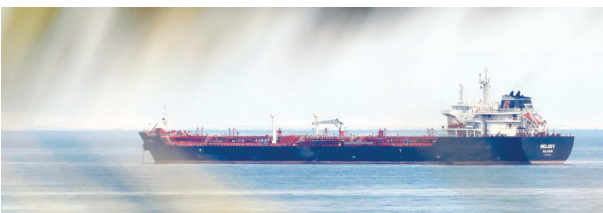
ADEN (YEMEN) (TSIT) :

An India-flagged cargo vessel sank after being attacked by an explosives-laden boat in the Red Sea off Yemen's western coast.

Yemeni forces rescued 14 crew members; 13 of them are Indian sailors, while one is from Yemen, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The government-affiliated National Resistance Forces (NRF) said in a statement that coast guard and naval units carried out a joint operation for the crew of the vessel Faize Noore Oliya after it was attacked about 13 nautical miles south of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeidah.

The statement did not specify when the attack occurred. All 14 people aboard were rescued and taken to safety, the statement said, adding that they received medical assistance and no casualties were reported. The NRF blamed



Yemen's Houthi group for the attack, while the Houthis have yet to comment. Last month, a Saudi company-owned tanker was attacked and caught fire while sailing in the Red Sea, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, citing an official source at Saudi Arabia's Transport General Authority (TGA).

The source said the attack caused a consequent fire at the ship's bow and all crew members aboard the vessel, Encelia, were safe. Relevant authorities in the Gulf country have taken all necessary measures to secure the vessel and its crew, and protect the marine environment, it said. According to a United Kingdom Maritime Trade

Operations (UKMTO) advisory, the attack occurred about 70 nautical miles (130 km) southwest of Al Shuqaiq, Saudi Arabia, in the southern Red Sea.

In a statement aired on July 23, Yemen's Houthi group said it had attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, identified as Encelia and Layla, using "ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as drones," claiming that the vessels had violated its recently announced maritime restrictions. The group had announced a maritime ban on Saudi-linked vessels earlier, citing what it described as Saudi Arabia's long-running blockade on areas under its control.

Prez Droupadi
Murmu to present
Handloom
Awards on Aug 7

NEW DELHI (TSIT) :

President Droupadi Murmu will present the Handloom Awards during the National Handloom Day celebrations on August 7. A total of 22 awardees, comprising 3 Sant Kabir Handloom Awardees and 19 National Handloom Award recipients, will be hon-



oured for their exceptional contribution towards preserving, promoting and advancing India's rich handloom traditions, the Textile Ministry said. The function will be attended by the Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh, senior dignitaries, representatives of the handloom industry, master weavers, designers, exporters, artisans and other distinguished guests.

CM Naidu calls for 15% economic growth

● Releases White Paper on State Finances and Two-Year Progress Report of NDA Govt



VISAKHAPATNAM (TSIT) :

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday called for collective efforts

to achieve a 15 per cent economic growth rate, saying it is essential to build a healthy, wealthy and happy Andhra Pradesh. Releasing the White

Paper on the State's finances and the NDA Government's two-year progress report, he said the government is pursuing balanced regional development by combining welfare with wealth creation.

Naidu said the recent inauguration of the Bhogapuram International Airport reflected growing public confidence in the government and would serve as a major growth engine for North Andhra. He noted that Andhra Pradesh's GDP growth declined from 13.5 per cent during 2014-19 to 10.3 per cent during 2019-24, resulting in an estimated loss of Rs.6.94 lakh crore, while liabilities had risen to Rs.9.74 lakh crore.

India hands over 500 litres of
Technical Malathion to Sri Lanka

Colombo (TSIT) :

Reaffirming India's support to Sri Lanka in its ongoing efforts to control the spread of dengue, High Commissioner Santosh Jha handed over 500 litres of Technical Malathion to the island nation's Health Minister Nalinda Jayatissa



on Tuesday. "India stands with Sri Lanka in its fight against dengue. Glad to

hand over 500 litres of Technical Malathion to Hon. Minister of Health, Dr Nalinda Jayatissa, as a gift from the Government and people of India to support ongoing dengue control efforts in Sri Lanka," Jha posted on X.

GEN Z VOICES SHOULD LEAD
DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH: DIPKE ON
BHAGWAT'S STUDENT MEET

CHHATRAPATI SAMBAHJINAGAR (TSIT) : Dialogue with youth is welcome, but it will be even better if led by young or Gen Z voices, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke said on Tuesday ahead of an interaction scheduled between RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and students in Mumbai.

Bankipur result more about
BJP's defeat than our victory:
Prashant Kishor

PATNA (TSIT) :

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Tuesday said that the outcome of the Bankipur by-election should be viewed more as a rejection of the BJP than merely a victory for his party, claiming that its voters had sent a strong message to the BJP leadership regarding governance and leadership in Bihar.

Speaking to IANS after his by-election victory, Kishor said: "One should focus more on the BJP's defeat than on the victory in this election. The people of Bihar, especially the voters of Bankipur, have sent a message to the BJP and its leadership. They were given an opportunity to form a government with a massive majority and should not squander that mandate. They should not entrust the leadership of the government to the wrong person."



He said that Bihar requires capable leadership that can address key issues such as education, employment, and migration. "The people of Bihar want progress. For years, the BJP has sought votes by invoking the fear of 'Jungle Raj,' and they have received public support on that basis.

However, if someone associated with that very 'Jungle Raj' is brought into power after being draped in saffron, the people will not accept it. BJP supporters have now voted against the party for this reason," he said.

Govt Acts Against
1.83 Lakh Telecom
Resources, Blacklists
263 Senders

New Delhi (TSIT) : The government on Tuesday said that action was taken against 183,000 telecom resources, along with blacklisting of 263 senders in the first quarter this fiscal (Q1 FY 27), as part of the enforcement action against Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC).

Enforcement targeted multiple layers – outgoing barring, long-term disconnection, sender blacklisting across all operators and SMS header blocking – to curb repeat violations, according to the Ministry of Communications.



Against 730.82 billion total calls originated in the telecom network in the country in Q1 FY27, total UCC complaints stood at 1.085 million -- approximately 1.5 complaints per million calls.

The TRAI DND App accounted for 89 per cent of all UCC complaints received by the Access Providers, said the Ministry. Notably, AI-based spam detection flagged 24.43 billion suspected spam calls/SMSs, enabling consumers to exercise choice of either ignoring such communication or picking such communications with caution. Over 243,000 warning notifications were issued to the suspected senders within one week of commencement of the sending warning notifications, the ministry informed.

No plans to seek Udhayanidhi's remand, says TN govt

Madras HC directs police to release him on bail after questioning

CHENNAI (TSIT) :

After the State government submitted that it had no intention of seeking Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin's judicial remand over his objectionable comment against actor Trisha while attacking Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, the Madras High Court on Tuesday directed the Thanjavur police to release him today (August 4) itself on station bail after questioning.

Appearing for the Thanjavur police, Advocate General Vijay Narayan informed Justice GK

Ilanthiraiyan that Udhayanidhi had been arrested and taken to Thanjavur, but that the police did not intend to remand him in judicial custody. The police only intended to question him and release him on station bail.

The Advocate General added that the State's only intention was to protect the interests of women. The court observed that since the petition was one for anticipatory bail, it would not be maintainable after the arrest. However, the court added, it could grant bail considering the materials placed before it.



Recording Advocate General Narayan's submissions, the court directed the police to question Udhayanidhi and release him on station bail on the same day. The FIR stems from an



objectionable speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition at a public meeting that the DMK conducted in Thanjavur on August 3 in connection with the Cauvery water-sharing dis-

pute. During his speech, Udhayanidhi picked cue from a comment from one among the audience and made a comment loaded with double entendre against actor Trisha Krishnan and Chief Minister Vijay.

Following this, S Bairavi, the TVK's Central District Women's Wing Organiser for Thanjavur, filed a complaint at the Thanjavur East Police Station. Based on this, the police registered a case against Udhayanidhi under Sections 196, 192, 352, 79, 296(b), 61 and 351(2) of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, and arrested him.

Meanwhile, Udhayanidhi filed an anticipatory bail petition before the High Court, claiming that his speech was a political one on the Cauvery water issue, protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, and that his remark referred only to the water dispute with Karnataka.

Hyderabad to Host International MMA Championship on August 22

Hyderabad, TSIT: Hyderabad will witness high-octane Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) action as the Legacy Fighting Championship (LFC-2) is set to be held on August 22 at the Katedan Sports Complex, featuring leading domestic and international fighters.

Ahead of the championship, Sheikh Khalid, Joint Secretary of the National Mixed Martial Arts Association, met K. Shivasena Reddy, Chairman of SATG, at LB Stadium and invited him to grace the event as the Chief Guest.

Congratulating the organisers, Shivasena Reddy said bringing an international-standard MMA event to Hyderabad would boost the sport's popularity and provide valuable exposure to



local athletes. He noted that MMA has emerged as one of the fastest-growing combat sports globally and expressed confidence that such championships would encourage more youth to take up the sport. He appealed to sports lovers, martial arts enthusiasts and athletes across Telangana to attend the championship in large numbers and support

the participants. The LFC-2 championship will feature 24 fighters, including 12 international competitors, three fighters from Telangana, and several top athletes from different parts of India. Organisers said the event aims to promote MMA in Telangana while providing fans with an exciting international sporting spectacle.

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Participates in Bonalu Celebrations

Hyderabad TSIT: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud participated in the Bonalu celebrations organised by the Are Katik Sangham in Nizamabad town on Monday.

On the occasion, he offered special prayers to Goddess Mahankali and prayed for the peace, prosperity, good health and well-being of the people of Telangana.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud said Bonalu is a symbol of Telangana's rich culture and traditions and called upon people to celebrate the festival with devotion and unity. He said such traditional festivals strengthen communal harmony, brotherhood and social cohesion, while preserving the cultural heritage of the State.

The celebrations were



attended by MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana, Nizamabad Mayor Uma Rani, DCC President Nagesh Reddy, Ramakrishna, Mallikarjun, Corporation Chairmen Shekhar Goud and Kesha Venu, former MLC Akula Lalitha, Dayakar, representatives of the Are Katik Sangham, Congress leaders, party workers and a large number of devotees. The festival was celebrated with traditional fervour and religious devotion.

SCR collects Rs.30.53 lakh in ticket drive

Hyderabad (TSIT) : South Central Railway (SCR) conducted a massive ticket checking drive across the Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded divisions on August 3, covering 169 trains with the participation of 186 ticket checking staff.

During the day-long drive, officials detected 4,121 passengers travelling without valid tickets, irregularly or carrying unbooked luggage, and realised Rs.30.53 lakh in ticket checking revenue. The drive also targeted offences such as littering, smoking and unauthorised hawking. SCR imposed fines of Rs.7,300 on 35 passengers for littering, Rs.38,000 on 19 unauthorised hawkers and Rs.4,000 on two passengers for smoking on railway premises. Ticket checking staff also educated passengers about penalties for various offences and highlighted the fire hazards of smoking and the importance of maintaining cleanliness at railway stations and on trains. South



Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava appreciated the Commercial Department for successfully conducting the intensive drive and creating awareness among passengers. He said regular ticket checking helps curb ticketless travel, ensures a comfortable journey for genuine passengers and strengthens confidence in the railway system.

SCR appealed to passengers to travel with valid tickets, cooperate with ticket checking staff and follow railway rules to ensure safe, secure and comfortable journeys.

Priority to Education: Tirupati MLA

Tirupati, Aug. 4: MLA Arani Srinivasulu stated that the government is implementing several schemes to provide quality education, adding that under NDA rule, government schools are now on a par with private schools. On Tuesday, the MLA inspected Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Municipal High School in Korlagunta and interacted with students, who reported facing no difficulties. He also inspected classrooms and toilets. Under the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme, the MLA served food to students and partook of the meal himself, expressing satisfaction



with the quality. Srinivasulu said the government is providing uniforms, bags, books, shoes, and belts under the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Student Friend Scheme to prevent dropouts. Midday meals are being provided from Class 1 to Intermediate, and sanitary napkins are being supplied to girl students under the Balika Raksha Scheme.

Officials Should Focus on Stress Management: Leadership Coach

Tirupati, Aug. 4: Joint Collector R. Govinda Rao and renowned Leadership Coach Karthik Poovanam jointly stated that effective leadership requires professional skills along with inner awareness, emotional balance, and the ability to manage stress. A special motivational workshop on "Inner Awareness – Creating Deep Emotional Harmony for Meaningful Leadership" was organised at the Collectorate for heads of various district-level



departments. The Joint Collector said meaningful leadership is possible with inner awareness. He advised officers to adopt self-introspection, breathing exercises, and emotional control to handle stress. He stressed the importance of spending time with family, listening

to staff problems, and working with team spirit. Leadership Coach Karthik Poovanam said officers should focus on stress management and emotional control. He emphasised that more important than the situations one faces is the response given to them. He advised officers to break problems into smaller parts, practise calm breathing, and avoid comparing themselves with others. He also suggested noting down things one feels grateful for every day.

Hyderabad Hospital Gives New Life to 8-Month-Old African Baby with Rare Heart Defect

Hyderabad, Aug. 4: An 8-month-old baby girl from Africa is recovering well after undergoing a complex heart surgery at Medicovert Hospitals, Financial District.

Baby Maiza was born with multiple heart defects that prevented normal blood flow to her lungs. She had low oxygen levels, struggled to feed, and frequently experienced breathlessness.

A team led by Dr. Amol Gupta, Senior Consultant – Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, successfully performed a Bidirectional Glenn procedure on July 14. The surgery rerouted blood flow

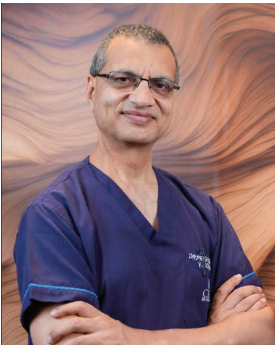


directly to the lungs, improving oxygen supply and reducing strain on the baby's heart. Remarkably, the infant breathed on her own soon after surgery without prolonged ventilator support. She is now being discharged in stable condition. Dr. Gupta advised parents not to ignore warning signs in infants such as

bluish lips, fast breathing, poor feeding, or failure to gain weight, stressing that early diagnosis can be life-saving. The successful outcome highlights Hyderabad's growing reputation as a destination for world-class pediatric cardiac care, with the hospital attracting patients from several countries.

Free Vascular Health Camp on Thursday

Hyderabad (TSIT): In observance of National Vascular Day, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, will offer a free Vascular Health Check on Thursday, August 6, 2026, aiming to promote early detection of often-overlooked circulatory disorders. The one-day initiative will provide complimentary Doppler testing and consultations with Dr. P. C. Gupta, Clinical Director and Head of the Department of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery, Vascular IR & Podiatric Surgery at the hospital. Vascular diseases, which affect the arteries and veins responsible for carrying blood throughout the body, frequently develop without obvious warning. Medical experts note that early indicators—such as leg cramps during



walking, persistent swelling, numbness in the feet, or wounds that resist healing—are often dismissed by patients, leading to delayed diagnosis and severe circulatory impairment. According to the Vascular Society of India, these conditions remain significantly under-recognised despite constituting a major health burden.

Physicians stress that timely intervention can prevent disability, preserve mobility, and reduce the risk of limb-threatening complications. Ahead of National Vascular Day, Dr. P. C. Gupta urged the public to take warning signs seriously. "Many people believe leg pain while walking is simply part of ageing, but it can be an early warning sign of blocked arteries. Similarly, persistent swelling, cold feet or wounds that do not heal should never be ignored," he said. "Early diagnosis enables timely treatment and, in many cases, helps prevent serious complications." Dr. Gupta further identified high-risk groups, including individuals with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smokers, and adults above 50 years of age.

Agastya Agro Launches New Patented Products in Rajahmundry

Rajahmundry, Aug. 4: Agastya Agro Limited has launched its new line of agricultural products at a ceremony held at SP Function Hall, attended by around 400 dealers from East and West Godavari districts.

Company Director Chunduru Veera Srinivas said the products aim to help farmers achieve better crop yields and higher profits. He announced the launch of a newly patented product called "3D MAXX" and revealed that the company has partnered with Chemley Agri-tech for manufacturing.

Company Vice President Narsaiah detailed three key products: Eugloria (Patented Granules): A combination of two insecticides and one fun-



gicide. Applied at 3 kg per acre within 25 days of paddy transplanting, it controls stem borer, leaf folder, sheath blight, BPH, and blast disease while promoting healthy tillers. Nuphora (Patented Insecticide): Controls chewing pests like green and tobacco caterpillars. Recommended dosage is 200 ml per acre as a foliar spray.

Free Bone Strength Tests Conducted at GITAM Hospital on National Bone and Joint Health Awareness Day

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The Department of Orthopaedics at the GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSAR), affiliated with GITAM University, conducted free bone strength tests on Tuesday to mark National Bone and Joint Health Awareness Day. The programme was organised at the GITAM Urban Health Centre, Pedajalaripeta, under the theme "Healthy Bones, Healthy Joints, Healthy India." The medical camp offered free Bone Mineral Density (BMD) tests, neuropathy screening, and other health examinations. Medicines were also distributed free of cost to beneficiaries. The camp was held under the guidance of Dr. P.V. Shyam Prasad, Head of the Department of Orthopaedics. Addressing the partici-



pants, he highlighted the importance of maintaining healthy bones and joints, advised people on lifestyle modifications to prevent bone weakening, and stressed the need for regular health check-ups. Medical experts also created awareness about bone health, preventive care, and measures to reduce the risk of osteoporosis and other bone-related disorders. Doctors, medical students, and staff members of GIMSAR participated in the programme.

Premia Academy Announces YOLO Summit 2026, a Two-Day Learning Experience for Future-Ready Minds

Hyderabad: 04th August, 2026: Following the remarkable success of its previous editions, The Premia Academy is set to host the third edition of its flagship YOLO Summit on 7th and 8th August 2026 at IIT Hyderabad. Designed exclusively for students of Grades 8-12, the two-day summit returns with an expanded agenda that aims to equip young minds with the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to thrive in an increasingly dynamic and technology-driven world.

In an era where rapid technological advancements, evolving career opportunities, artificial intelligence, financial uncertainty, and changing workplace expectations are redefining success, the YOLO Summit has been conceptualised



as a launchpad that empowers students to move beyond conventional career guidance. Instead of merely discussing these challenges, the summit is designed to provide practical solutions, actionable strategies, and meaningful interactions with accomplished professionals and thought leaders.

To be hosted at IIT Hyderabad, an Institute of National Importance renowned for technologi-

cal innovation, research, and entrepreneurship, the summit will provide students with an inspiring environment to engage with ideas that will shape the future of education, careers, and leadership.

Over the course of two immersive days, participants will experience a carefully curated blend of keynote masterclasses, interactive workshops, networking sessions, and experiential learning

opportunities. The programme has been thoughtfully designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, enabling students to develop practical skills alongside academic excellence.

The summit agenda features an exciting line-up of sessions including Vision Board to Action Plan, Brain Bluechip Investment, and Algorithm vs. Authenticity: Navigating the Human Premium in the Age of AI, Gen Z Navigation Guide, alongside several other workshops and masterclasses that explore entrepreneurship, financial literacy, emerging technologies, leadership, communication, personal branding, and future career readiness.

Ex-CBI Officer to HITAM Grads: Don't Compete with AI, Compete with Yourself

Hyderabad (TSIT) : A powerful message of self-improvement, ethical leadership, and responsible use of technology marked the Graduation Day celebrations of the Hyderabad Institute of Technology and Management (HITAM), where former CBI Joint Director and former Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra, Sri V. V. Lakshminarayana, IPS (Retd.), urged graduates to focus on becoming better versions of themselves rather than competing with Artificial Intelligence.

The Graduation Day Ceremony for the Batch of 2026, held at Tara Convention, Gowdavally, was part of HITAM's celebrations marking 25 Years of Excellence in Engineering Education. The event witnessed the graduation of students in the presence of their parents, faculty members, academic leaders,



and distinguished guests. The ceremony was attended by Prof. Sanjay Dhande, Chairman of the Governing Body, Dr. G. K. Viswanadh, Director, Dr. Arvind S., Principal, Governing Body members Brig. Ganesham, Mrs. Nirmala Sambamoorthy, and Ms. Krupali, besides the Registrar, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, parents, and graduating

students. The programme began with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by addresses from Director Dr. G. K. Viswanadh and Governing Body Chairman Prof. Sanjay Dhande, who congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to pursue excellence with integrity, innovation, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Delivering the keynote address, Sri V. V. Lakshminarayana described graduation as a defining milestone that marks the transition from academic life to a life of responsibility and service. Drawing from the Indian philosophy of the four stages of life, he said every phase brings new responsibilities and opportunities, urging students to embrace them with discipline and purpose. Highlighting the challenges faced by today's youth, he expressed concern over the increasing prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension among young professionals. He advised graduates to dedicate 40 to 45 minutes every day to physical exercise, while also practising meditation and breathing exercises to maintain emotional balance and mental clarity.

CM Vijay reviews operations at Renault, Saint-Gobain plants



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday (August 3) reviewed the operations of two of Chennai's major manufacturing units Saint-Gobain and Renault during visits to their facilities.

The Chief Minister began his visit at the Saint-Gobain manufacturing plant, where he inspected various production units,

including those manufacturing float glass, coated glass and laminated glass.

According to an official statement, he interacted with senior officials of the company and enquired about its manufacturing processes and future expansion plans.

He also reviewed the company's skill development initiatives, including the 'Learn While Earn'

programme and the Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF).

During the visit, he interacted with students undergoing training under these programmes.

To commemorate the visit, the Chief Minister planted a tree sapling on the factory premises.

Later, Vijay visited the Renault manufacturing plant, where he inspected

the production facility and drove the new variant of the Renault Duster on the company's long test track. Ministers S Keerthana, K Thennarasu and RV Ranjithkumar, chief secretary M Sai Kumar, and additional chief secretary (Industries) S Vijayakumar accompanied the Chief Minister during the visits.

Stalin slams Udhayanidhi's arrest, accuses TVK govt of diverting attention from Cauvery crisis

Chennai, Aug 4 : DMK President and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday strongly condemned the arrest of Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin, accusing the Vijay-led TVK government of using police action to divert public attention from its alleged failure to protect the state's interests in the Cauvery water dispute. In a strongly worded statement, Stalin said Udhayanidhi Stalin had raised a series of questions over the government's handling of the Cauvery issue, including its inability to secure adequate water for Tamil Nadu and prevent Karnataka from proceeding with the proposed Mekedatu dam.

He alleged that farmers were suffering while the Chief Minister and his ministers had failed to provide convincing answers to the issues raised by the Opposition. Stalin claimed



the arrest was an attempt to shift focus from the Cauvery dispute. A police team arrived at Udhayanidhi Stalin's Chennai residence on Tuesday morning, arrested him and subsequently took him to Thanjavur in connection with a case registered over remarks he allegedly made during a DMK protest there. Questioning the timing of

the action, Stalin pointed out that the Tamil Nadu Assembly is scheduled to convene on Wednesday for the presentation of the state Budget, alleging that the government deliberately acted a day before the session to prevent Udhayanidhi Stalin, as Leader of the Opposition, from attending the House.

Following protests by DMK cadres across Tamil

Nadu, the government informed the Madras High Court that there was no intention to keep Udhayanidhi Stalin under arrest and that he would be released after questioning, Stalin said. He questioned why Udhayanidhi Stalin had to be taken all the way to Thanjavur if the police merely wanted to question him. He also criticised the registration of cases under several sections, including non-bailable provisions.

Stalin welcomed the High Court's direction to release Udhayanidhi Stalin after questioning, describing the order as a setback to what he termed the TVK government's authoritarian approach.

Turning his attack on Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, Stalin alleged that since assuming office, Vijay had focused more on creating social media content than fulfilling the promises made to the people.

TTV Dhinakaran condemns arrest of LoP Udhayanidhi, criticise his remarks

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-tender is invited by Chief Bridge Engineer, Eastern Railway, 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001 from reputed and eligible contractors for the under mentioned work: **E-Tender No.: W2_623_16_02_SDAH_2026-27, Date: 30.07.2026. Name of the work:** Replacement of girders of Br.No. 209 over DN/Howrah-Bardhaman Chord and DN/Main between stations Gangpur and Bardhaman on Main Line section of Howrah Division. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 13,48,34,432. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 26,96,700. **Period of completion:** 12 months. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 21.08.2026 at 14:00 hrs. The details of tender documents are available at website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer on line on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (MISC-122/2026-27)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.ireps.gov.in) [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.ireps.gov.in)



CHENNAI: AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran on Tuesday condemned the arrest of Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin, while also criticising the remarks that led to the police action. In a statement, Dhinakaran said it was irresponsible for a person holding the constitutional position of Leader of the Opposition to make such remarks in public. At the same time, he criticised the Tamil Nadu government's decision to arrest Udhayanidhi, alleging that the police had acted in undue haste.

Southern Railway changes train schedules; Cholan Express to be diverted

Southern Railway said the rescheduling was necessitated by the late running of the respective pairing trains.

CHENNAI (TSIT): Southern Railway has announced a series of changes to long distance train services originating from MGR Chennai Central railway station and Egmore railway station to facilitate maintenance and infrastructure works.

Among the trains rescheduled on August 4 from the MGR Chennai Central railway station, Kanniyakumari-Dibrugarh Vivek Express will leave at 9 pm instead of 5.25 pm, MGR Chennai Central-Howrah Superfast Mail will depart at 9.30 pm instead of 7 pm, and MGR Chennai Central-Shalimar Express, originally scheduled to leave at 6.45 pm, has been deferred to 7 am on Wednesday (August 5).

Southern Railway said the rescheduling was necessitated by the late running of the respective pairing trains. Chennai Egmore-Tiruchy



Cholan Superfast Express will be diverted via Cuddalore Port, Vriddhachalam, and Tiruchchirappalli on August 5, 12, 14, 21, and 26, and September 2 to facilitate fixed-time corridor blocks for safety and maintenance works in Tiruchchirappalli Division.

During the diversion, the train will skip stoppages at Chidambaram, Sirkazhi, Vaitthisvarankoil, Mayiladuthurai, Aduturai, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Budalur and Tiruverumbur,

while additional halts will be provided at Vriddhachalam, Ariyalur, Lalgudi, and Srirangam. The Tiruchchirappalli-Chennai Egmore Cholan Superfast Express will also depart 35 minutes later, at 12.45 pm instead of 12.10 pm, on August 4, 11, and 18.

In addition, the Jodhpur-Mannargudi Express will be regulated by about one hour between Chennai Egmore and Mundiampakkam on August 6, 20 and 27.

Left parties condemn Udhayanidhi's remarks, CPM seeks political civility

CHENNAI: Left parties on Tuesday strongly condemned the alleged remarks made by Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin in public, saying political leaders must maintain civility and avoid using language that demeans women. Speaking to reporters, CPM State Secretary P Shanmugam said the remarks were "obscene" and "disgusting" and deserved strong condemnation. He said political leaders, especially those holding responsible positions such as the Leader of the Opposition, had a greater responsibility to uphold political decency while addressing the public. Shanmugam said women had repeatedly been subjected to derogatory references in political discourse over the years and stressed that such practices must come to a permanent end. He said political parties should ensure that their members refrain from making such remarks. Referring to the Left parties, he said they had consistently upheld women's rights and



approached such issues with seriousness. He alleged that some parties had people who routinely made such comments at public meetings, and said party leaderships should first discipline their own members. He added that if anyone from the Left parties made such remarks, they would not be retained in the party. CPI State Secretary M Veerapandian said social reformer Periyar had championed women's liberation, while poet Subramania Bharati, Bharathidasan, Pattukkottai Kalyanasundaram and Tamil cultural traditions

Chennai: Petrol bombs hurled at woman's house in Periamet; police launch hunt for suspects

CHENNAI: Police have launched an investigation after unidentified persons allegedly hurled petrol bombs in front of a woman's house on Periamet High Road in Chennai on Monday night, triggering panic in the neighbourhood. According to a Daily Thanthi report, the incident occurred at around 8 pm near Nehru Park on Periamet High Road. Three unidentified persons are said to have arrived near the residence on a motorcycle before throwing three petrol bombs in quick succession at the front of the house. The three petrol bombs exploded immediately after being hurled, causing flames to erupt in front of the residence.

Study suggests fasting before tracheostomy may not always be necessary

New Delhi, Aug 3: Continuing enteral nutrition (EN) before elective tracheostomy may be a safe alternative to routine pre-procedural fasting in critically ill patients, according to a prospective study that found no statistically significant increase in aspiration pneumonia among patients who remained on continuous feeding.

Pre-procedural fasting is widely practised before tracheostomy to reduce the perceived risk of aspiration. However, interrupting nutritional support can compromise calorie intake and metabolic stability in critically ill patients, raising questions about whether fasting is always required.

Researchers conducted a prospective observational study involving mechanically ventilated adults undergoing elective percutaneous tracheostomy in the intensive care unit of a tertiary hospital. A total of 91 patients were included in the analysis. Of these, 45 continued receiving enteral nutrition



until the procedure, while 46 followed the conventional fasting protocol. The primary outcome assessed was the incidence of aspiration pneumonia within 72 hours after tracheostomy. Aspiration pneumonia occurred in 6.7 per cent of patients who continued enteral feeding compared with 4.4 per cent in the

fasting group. Although the incidence was slightly higher among patients who continued feeding, the difference was not statistically significant, and researchers noted that the wide confidence intervals indicated uncertainty in the findings.

The study found that baseline characteristics, disease

severity and respiratory status were comparable between the two groups before the procedure. After tracheostomy, patients in the fasting group required significantly higher inspired oxygen concentrations (FiO2), while other respiratory parameters and arterial blood gas measurements remained similar in both groups. Researchers also observed that patients who continued enteral feeding showed greater improvement in arterial oxygen levels (PaO2) and maintained more stable lactate concentrations after the procedure, suggesting that uninterrupted nutritional support did not adversely affect physiological recovery.

No significant differences were found between the two groups in procedure-related complications, intensive care unit or hospital length of stay, or mortality. The findings indicate that maintaining enteral nutrition before elective tracheostomy does not appear to compromise short-term clinical

outcomes when passive nasogastric drainage is used. However, the researchers cautioned that the study recorded relatively few aspiration events, limiting the precision of the results. They said clinically meaningful differences could not be ruled out and recommended larger, adequately powered prospective studies to determine whether routine fasting before tracheostomy is necessary and to help develop evidence-based nutritional protocols for critically ill patients.

IDBI BANK
CIN: L65190MH2004GOI148838

IDBI BANK LIMITED
NPA Management Group, Hyderabad, No. 5-9-89/182, 2nd floor, Chapel Road Branch, Hyderabad-500001. web site: www.idbibank.in

Show Cause Notice
Bartronics India Limited,
Registered office: Sy.No. 351, Raj Bollaram Village, Medchal Mandal, T.G-501 401.
Notice is hereby given to the persons mentioned below that the proceedings for classification as fraud as per RBI Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management in Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks) and All India Financial Institutions dated July 15, 2024 ('Master Directions'), has been initiated and the Show Cause Notice issued by the Bank to the following persons has been returned un-served.

Name	Address	Designation
Shri. Reddyreddy Satish Reddy	a) 3-6-584/H, Street No. 8, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad - 500029 and b) H. No. 3-10-73/A, Opp to TV studio, Behind Telephone Exchange, Ramanathapur Colony, Hyderabad - 500013.	Promoter and Personal Guarantor
Shri. Venkateswara Rao Tummalapalli	a) GF-1, Tapasvi Apartments, Plot No. 4, Subhashnagar, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad - 500073, b) Indusind Bank, 652-656, Avanashi Road, Coimbatore, 641037 and c) 8-3-214/7, 3rd Floor, Srinivas Nagar Colony (West), S. R. Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 038.	Director

The above persons, if they so desire, (a) may immediately collect the copy of the Show Cause Notice either in person or by duly authorized person by producing proof of identity, from the undersigned at the address as given above. (b) may Show Cause within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice as to why their name should not be classified as fraud in terms of Master Directions and subsequent actions be taken.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
Bhagabat Prasad Patra,
Deputy General Manager,
NPA Management Group

Date: 05.08.2026

BAJAJ FINANCE Registered Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune - 411014. Branch Office : Bajaj Finance Ltd, 2nd Floor, Gurusarjan Complex, 165-D, Railway Lines, Saat Rasta, Solapur, Maharashtra 413001.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMovable PROPERTY)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand by registered post ("Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned hereunder to repay the amount mentioned in the notice U/s.13(2) of the said Act within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors named below having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Sec. 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 5 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealing with this property will be subject to the charge of the Bajaj Finance Limited. For the amount mentioned herein below along with interest thereon at contracted rate. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Immovable Property	Date of Notice U/s.13(2) and U/s.13(2) Notice Amount
H403FBL0335151 HARSHA ENTERPRISES (BORROWER), AT HARSHA ENTERPRISES TOWER NO 14 DOOR NO 146 DLF, GARDEN CITY, CHENNAI, TAMILNADU-600119. DLF OMR TOGETHER WITH A 346,782 SQ.FT. UNDIVIDED SHARE IN ALL THAT WINFREEE HTJ, (CO-BORROWER), SYLVIA (PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING TO AN 16.63 ACRES COMPRISING AN EXTENT OF 1.84 ACRES IN SURVEY NOS. 178/1(A) 4.79 ACRES IN S.NO. 178/2 (PART) 5.00 ACRES IN S.NO. 179/1 AND 5.00 ACRES IN S.NO. 179/2 SITUATED IN THAZHAMBUR VILLAGE CHENGALPATU TALUK AND SANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT, BOUNDED AS-NORTH-100 FEET PUBLIC ROAD, SOUTH-LAYOUT IN S.NO.180, EAST-LAND IN S.NO.177 AND PART OF CSR IN S.NO. 178/1(PART) AND 178/2 (PART), WEST -O/S IN S.NO. 178/1(A) (PART).	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY A APARTMENT MEASURING 1212 SQ.FT. (INCLUSIVE OF SHARE IN COMMON AREAS) BEARING APARTMENT NO.5 ON THE FLOOR NO.13 OF TOWER NO.41 AT GARDEN CITY DOOR NO.146 DLF, GARDEN CITY, CHENNAI, TAMILNADU-600119. DLF OMR TOGETHER WITH A 346,782 SQ.FT. UNDIVIDED SHARE IN ALL THAT WINFREEE HTJ, (CO-BORROWER), SYLVIA (PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING TO AN 16.63 ACRES COMPRISING AN EXTENT OF 1.84 ACRES IN SURVEY NOS. 178/1(A) 4.79 ACRES IN S.NO. 178/2 (PART) 5.00 ACRES IN S.NO. 179/1 AND 5.00 ACRES IN S.NO. 179/2 SITUATED IN THAZHAMBUR VILLAGE CHENGALPATU TALUK AND SANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT, BOUNDED AS-NORTH-100 FEET PUBLIC ROAD, SOUTH-LAYOUT IN S.NO.180, EAST-LAND IN S.NO.177 AND PART OF CSR IN S.NO. 178/1(PART) AND 178/2 (PART), WEST -O/S IN S.NO. 178/1(A) (PART).	28/12/2024 & Rs. 34,82,516/- (Rupees Thirty-Four Lakh Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred and Sixteen Only) as on 27/12/2024

Date - 01.08.2026, Place - CHENNAI
Authorized Officer, For M/s BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED



EDITORIAL

*The Panic In Rawalpindi:
Why Pakistani Generals
Suddenly Sound So Afraid*

Some really curious events are taking place in Pakistan, unusual even for that volatile country. First, there was Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's lecture on the virtual collapse of government and references to the dangers of 'cockroach' protests. Then came the formidable Director-General of Inter Services Public Relations (DG-ISPR), who delivered a two-hour briefing, most of it in English and with figures galore. That was clearly also aimed at foreign audiences, even as his own country virtually collapsed in an orgy of violence. All of this was echoed by others, including prominent journalists, with dire warnings about the dangers from frustrations among the youth. Apparently, a certain insect emerging next door had come to epitomise the fears of the elite in Pakistan.

The Interior Minister's Advice

First, the unusual - and probably unworkable - suggestions from an Interior Minister who apparently wants to 'reform' the country bottom-up, so as to improve governance and appease the youth. That's odd, coming from a former Punjab Chief Minister who led the 2024 midnight crack-down on protesters from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The incident left four dead and more than 90 injured. There are also allegations of serious corruption, to the tune of millions. Whatever the truth, he hardly has a reputation for model governance. Referring to the 'Cockroach Janata Party' protests in Delhi, he warned, quite rightly as it happens, that Pakistani youth were no longer to be pacified with free laptops and the like, but wanted structural change. His solution was to create more administrative units for better governance. For instance, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has long been demanding that Karachi be designated a province separate from Sindh. This is strongly opposed by the PPP, which rules Sindh. Both are also allies of the PML-N government at the Centre. Similarly, the PPP and the PTI have also long called for a South Punjab province, which was opposed by the PML-N. Naqvi also knows well that such a move for new administrative units requires constitutional changes, which can only be done through a two-thirds majority in the House, which the PML-N doesn't have. But it could, if the army says so. Nothing on that yet, but Naqvi was criticised heavily. Interestingly, Naqvi was addressing a group of top businesspersons at the Pakistan Economic Summit 2026, and he quipped that it was, after all, they who were running the country, with their funding worth millions for political parties. He should know. He has been there, done that.

DG ISPR Hits A Poor Six

Then there was the far more controversial and potentially dangerous marathon briefing by Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Choudhry, the DG-ISPR. The objective of his lecture was to blame everyone else - primarily India - for the violence in Balochistan. That blame-game included very obviously lip-synced videos of girls alleging abduction and threats to become suicide bombers, and a clip of a local alleging that all those involved were 'Fitna al Hindustan' terrorists. Another set of allegations was against the Taliban, who are accused, ironically, of being entirely different from Pakistanis in their culture. Pity they didn't remember the three decades that they armed the Afghans.

Inside The Cabinet Drama That Has Shaken The Congress In Karnataka

Even after getting a lion's share of the berths on offer for his supporters in the expanded DK Shivakumar Cabinet on Monday, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's decision to 'boycott' the swearing-in ceremony because of a perceived 'insult' over the appointment of a woman candidate not chosen by him, clearly indicates that the Congress government in Karnataka will have tumultuous days ahead of the state elections in May 2028. Coming exactly two months after he took over as Chief Minister from a reluctant-to-leave Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar's attempt to stem the unrest among legislators and have a full-fledged Cabinet received an unexpected jolt hours before the swearing-in. Siddaramaiah's 'tantrums' over

Gayathri Shathgowda, an MLC, being named in the Cabinet list not only delayed the ceremony by one hour, but her name being pulled out at the last minute also caused embarrassment to the party. It appears that Siddaramaiah wanted Basavaraj Shivannavar from Bagalkot to join the Cabinet on the Kuruba 'quota', but the party high command instead chose Gayathri without consulting him. Not only this meant defying Siddaramaiah's 'prerogative' to name a person from his community, but he was also upset that Gayathri had been chosen ahead of his nominee, Umashri, for the women's slot. The party has named Umashri for the Council Deputy Chairperson's post, but neither Umashri nor Siddaramaiah is happy with that. In another episode, Mankala Vaidya, the lone nominee



from Uttara Kannada district, was replaced - hours before the swearing-in - by SS Mallikarjun, a party dynast from Davanagere whose father was a treasurer of the Congress party for decades, while the wife is currently a Lok Sabha member. The son is also an MLA. Mallikarjun claimed that DK Shivakumar had telephoned him, asking him to join the Cabinet; he claimed did not know anything about the last-minute change. Congress sources say that when Shivakumar received the list of ministers from the party headquarters in Delhi, he was shocked to see that his staunch supporter, HC Balakrishna, the Magadi M.L.A., was not on it. After he protested the exclusion, Balakrishna replaced M Krishnappa, a big-time realtor and a former minister from Bengaluru. Even after all this, there's

one close associate, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, whom Shivakumar has not been able to accommodate and who is now reportedly sulking. Questions About The 'List' Considering that in a caste-ridden and region-sensitive state like Karnataka Cabinet compositions are always tricky, the Congress leadership had held a series of meetings with Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, and BK Hariprasad, the newly appointed Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president. They were asked to submit their respective lists of names to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Karnataka and has intimate knowledge of state politics. The lists were vetted by the party general secretary, KC Venugopal, and AICC's Karnataka in-charge, Randeep

Surjewala, and shown to Rahul Gandhi before being released.

The fact that the final list of names typed on the AICC letterhead reached media outlets around the same time as the Chief Minister's office - and much before being sent to the Lok Bhavan (formerly, Raj Bhavan) for the Governor's approval - has kicked up a row. The opposition BJP and the JD(S) have accused the Congress of taking away the Chief Minister's right to name his cabinet and reducing him to a 'rubber stamp'. The leader of the Opposition, R Ashok, has questioned the Congress party's 'ethical standards' in choosing the nominees for the posts of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and also Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council, when

this is the 'mandatory duty' of the legislators. It appears that with less than two years to go for assembly polls, the Congress high command tried to micro-manage the Cabinet formation by getting caste combinations right and giving a major slice of power to numerically strong and influential communities. The 'Ahinda' group led by Siddaramaiah has garnered nearly 60% of the berths, while the Lingayats, scheduled castes, and OBCs have seven representations each. The Vokkaligas have six, the Muslim minorities four, and the Scheduled Tribes three. The Congress is also not unaware of the risk of the JD(S) reclaiming some of its former members, and has thus tried to accommodate at least five of them currently in the party.

Rein In The Discontent

Even so, while the election arithmetic may have been aimed at arriving at a 'winning combination', the ground situation betrays a vast amount of discontent among the legislators, which is bound to have an impact on the final outcome.

The Congress has 136 MLAs across the state. Despite that, due to a skewed selection, seven districts have gone without any representation, while Bengaluru urban and rural have nine faces. Yashwantreygouda Patil from Indi and Sangamesh from Bhadavati have resigned as MLAs to protest against their exclusion from the cabinet.

A few more disgruntled MLAs may or may not join the list of deserters in the days to come, though whether this immediately threatens the stability of the Shivakumar government remains to be seen. Nonetheless, the sea of discontent over the exclusion of many seniors from the cabinet, such as HK Patil, Dinesh Gundu Rao, HC Mahadevappa, TB Jayachandra, CS Nadagouda, Tanveer Sait, Shivananda Patil, BR Patil, RB Thimapura, S h a r a n a b a s a p p a Dharshanapur, and others, is rising and could soon trigger a washout if it boils over as the polls approach.

It is important to remember that Siddaramaiah is still smarting at the "humiliation" of being abruptly asked to step down as Chief Minister. Not one to take such things lightly, it won't be surprising if he keeps his doors open to all those who are willing to walk with him. His boycott of the swearing-in is just the first signal.

Did the Three Assembly By-election Seats Send a Political Message?

Saurabh Varshney

In Indian democracy, by-elections are often viewed merely as a process to fill vacant seats, yet the reality is far more significant. Often, a by-election heralds major political shifts to come. The recent results from the Bankipur (Bihar), Datia (Madhya Pradesh), and Manjalpur (Gujarat) assembly seats have signaled exactly this. Among these three seats, the victory of Prashant Kishor—founder of 'Jan Suraj'—in Bankipur, the Congress party's success in Datia, and the BJP's win in Manjalpur have introduced new discourses into Indian politics. The results have also made it clear that voters are no longer satisfied with traditional political equations alone; instead, they are seriously evaluating factors such as local leadership, credibility, and alternative politics. Of these elections, the Bankipur seat in Bihar garnered the most attention, as Prashant Kishor—an election strategist turned politician—secured his first assembly election victory. This was not merely the win of a single candidate but the first major success for the brand of alternative politics he has been advocating for years. Bankipur has long been considered a BJP stronghold. A victory for a relatively new party like 'Jan Suraj' in such a region demonstrates that with a strong organization, a candidate with personal credibility, and a public ready for change, even established political parties can be challenged. Reports indicate that the BJP faced an unexpected

defeat in this stronghold. A defining characteristic of Prashant Kishor's political journey is that, despite having devised election strategies for various parties over the years, he chose to anchor his own political agenda in systemic change, education, employment, and administrative reform. Critics may dismiss this as idealistic politics, but the people of Bankipur have sent a message that if a leader remains consistently engaged with the public and maintains credibility, a political foothold can be established. This result is particularly significant in the context of Bihar's politics, where direct contests between the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan have long been the norm. The success of Jan Suraj has strengthened the prospects of a third alternative within this bipolar political landscape, potentially compelling both major alliances to rethink their strategies in the future. On the other hand, the Congress party's victory in the Datia constituency of Madhya Pradesh has demonstrated that, despite the BJP's robust organizational structure, the opposition has not been completely wiped out. While the BJP's influence in Madhya Pradesh politics has appeared to grow steadily over the past few years, the voters of Datia sent a clear message to the ruling party that ignoring local issues can come at a political cost. For the Congress, this victory represents not merely the gain of a single seat but also a morale booster for its party workers. Having faced a series of electoral challenges in recent years, the Congress

can view such results as an opportunity to revitalize its organization. If the party succeeds in strengthening its local leadership and effectively championing public issues, it could put up a stronger performance in future elections. However, the Congress must avoid complacency; mistaking success in a single by-election for a broad mandate would be a political blunder. The party needs to realize that voters do not extend support based solely on opposition to the ruling party; they also seek a positive alternative. Meanwhile, the BJP's victory in the Manjalpur constituency of Gujarat demonstrated that the party retains its organizational edge in its traditional strongholds. Although the BJP lost two seats, by retaining Manjalpur, it sought to convey that its support base remains intact. Acknowledging the results, the BJP leadership has also called for introspection regarding the outcomes in Bankipur and Datia. Viewed collectively, these results reveal that the Indian electorate no longer exhibits uniform political behavior. In Bihar, voters gave a chance to a new alternative; in Madhya Pradesh, they backed the opposition; and in Gujarat, they maintained their faith in the ruling party. This serves as a testament to the maturity of Indian democracy. These results also present several challenges for the BJP. Over the last decade, the party has achieved consistent electoral success driven by a strong organization, effective election management, and popular leadership. However,

these by-elections indicate that organizational strength alone is not enough; sensitivity towards local grievances, candidate selection, and regional issues is equally crucial. The results, particularly in Bihar, could influence future political equations for the BJP. If Prashant Kishor succeeds in transforming this success into a broad-based mass movement, the state's politics could shift into a three-way contest. This could alter the electoral arithmetic of traditional alliances. Meanwhile, these results offer several lessons for the opposition as well. The opposition has long been seeking a strategy to counter the BJP's formidable electoral machinery. These by-elections demonstrated that the ruling party can be challenged if there is strong local leadership, an active organization, and a focus on genuine public issues. Another significant takeaway is that voters now clearly distinguish between national and local issues. The notion that a party supported in the Lok Sabha elections will inevitably triumph in Assembly or by-elections appears to be weakening; voters are making decisions based on different criteria in each election. Prashant Kishor's victory has also added a new dimension to the debate regarding electoral strategy versus genuine mass leadership. While he was previously viewed primarily as a successful election strategist, his biggest challenge now—as an elected legislator—will be to translate his promises into action. The public will now expect solutions from him, not just criticism.

Kanwar Yatra and the issue of unemployed youth: The gap between faith and opportunity

-Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Every year during the holy month of Shravan, the streets of North India are filled with saffron as millions of Kanwariyas participate in the Kanwar Yatra. They walk hundreds of kilometers carrying sacred Ganga water from pilgrimage sites like Haridwar and Gangotri to offer it to Lord Shiva. This is a remarkable example of devotion, discipline, tolerance, and collective faith. These pilgrims comprise a significant number of young people. Their enthusiasm and physical strength are a testament to the immense energy of India's youth. However, a major question arises with these young pilgrims: how many of them look for jobs during the rest of the year and try to build a stable future? This isn't an insult to religious faith. Rather, it's a way to raise awareness about one of India's most pressing socio-economic issues. Faith nourishes the mind, and employment provides dignity, security, and purpose. Asking young people to choose between the two isn't the nation's problem. Rather, the problem is cultivating an environment where faith and opportunity coexist harmoniously. India has a large youth population. This demographic dividend is seen as a strength of the country. Every year, millions of young people graduate from schools, colleges, and universities with hopes and dreams of gainful employment. They prepare for competitive exams, apply for numerous jobs, and await recruitment notifications. A large number of people have degrees but either do not have jobs or work part-time. This is

not just an economic problem, but can also have psychological and social implications. Unemployment can undermine self-confidence, delay economic independence, increase pressure on families, and in some cases, lead to despair and frustration. The Kanwar Yatra is associated with this generation, one of the youngest. These people come from villages, towns, and cities. They include students, children of farmers, daily wage laborers, young professionals, and unemployed graduates. Their participation in the pilgrimage symbolizes their faith and culture. Therefore, to say that unemployment motivates people to engage in religious activities or that religious pilgrimages cause unemployment would be simplistic and unfair. These assumptions are inaccurate because they do not take into account the complexity of social behavior and economic realities. However, this presents an interesting paradox. The determination and perseverance displayed by young people walking hundreds of kilometers under challenging conditions is exemplary, and they also possess the discipline, endurance, and commitment essential for the development of any nation. If equal opportunities are available in the areas of education, innovation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, scientific research, and employment, this vast human resource could be one of the biggest drivers for India's economy. Not only are there not enough jobs available, but there's also a huge gap between what's taught in schools and what workers expect. Even for

graduates with the necessary skills, employment opportunities are often limited, and industries face a shortage of skilled workers. This contradiction reflects the mismatch between human resource needs and the education system. Therefore, schools must focus on skills, critical thinking, digital literacy, and industry-oriented training, not just academic knowledge. The central and state governments have launched numerous initiatives and policies to promote skill development, self-employment, the startup ecosystem, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship. These efforts have resulted in new opportunities for many young people. However, given India's large youth population, much remains to be done. Policies alone are not enough to address this problem. But society also has a duty. In many families, getting a government job remains the primary criterion for success. In the modern economy, many alternatives to government employment exist, and all should be considered. New sectors of the economy are creating jobs, especially entrepreneurship, digital services, renewable energy, agribusiness, tourism, creative industries, and technology-based companies. Teens should be encouraged to consider these opportunities, not just "normal" ones. The media also plays a crucial role in shaping public discourse. Reporting on the Kanwar Yatra is typically done either in terms of its religious grandeur or in the context of specific issues. Social issues related to youth participation are rarely addressed. Instead of sidelining the idea of faith and action, public

appeals should focus on the fact that the commitment and dedication displayed by these organizations or pilgrimages can be channeled into social work, environmental protection, disaster relief, blood donation drives, and nation-building initiatives. In Indian civilization, karma and spirituality have never been in opposition to each other. Rather, it has been a celebration of the balance between purity and duty. Meditation, discipline, simplicity, and inner strength are all symbolized by Lord Shiva. His teachings remind devotees that spiritual growth always accompanies responsible action. Governments cannot solve the problem of unemployment. Industries must invest and create employment opportunities. School curricula need to be restructured to suit changing market needs. Business and society must recognize and value human resource skills. Most importantly, young people must embrace lifelong learning and adapt to constantly changing technologies. New job opportunities are emerging in the fields of artificial intelligence, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, digital commerce, biotechnology, and green industries. Preparing young people for these sectors is crucial for India's future competitiveness. It is not possible for India to choose between faith and development; the question is how to integrate them. Faith provides individuals with emotional strength and moral guidance. Work provides individuals with independence and dignity, and gives them self-respect and the confidence to fulfill their role in society.



boltt Set to Launch Evo and Ace 5G Smartphones on August 25

4th August 2026: boltt, the homegrown smartphone brand from the house of Fire-Boltt, today officially announced the upcoming launch of its much-anticipated smartphones, the Evo and Ace 5G, scheduled for August 25, 2026. The brand also revealed its strategic partnership with Flipkart as the Title Sponsor for the Freedom Sale 2026. While the smartphones will officially launch later this month, boltt is taking on the sponsorship now to build strong nationwide awareness and brand recall ahead of the product debut. As part of its broader market entry strategy, the sponsorship serves as a high-impact platform to engage millions of consumers across metro hubs as well as Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets ahead of the device launch. The Freedom Sale 2026 runs from August 7 (early access for members) through August 15 (general sale). The introduction of the Evo and Ace 5G marks a defining chapter in boltt's brand journey. Designed specifically for



modern Indian consumers, both devices combine reliable performance, sleek design, and everyday usability with meaningful innovation to support an evolving digital lifestyle. Further details regarding pricing, full

specifications, and nationwide availability will be revealed closer to launch. Further details regarding pricing, full specifications, and nationwide availability will be revealed closer to launch.

OIL PRICES FALL ON HOPES STRAIT OF HORMUZ COULD REOPEN

Oil prices fell to a three-week low on Tuesday as senior US officials raised hopes of a deal with Iran to reopen the key Strait of Hormuz waterway. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent both announced talks had progressed to allow shipments to potentially resume as soon as this week. The cost of a barrel of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil prices, fell by almost 5% to under \$80 on the news of supply disruptions potentially being eased. But the failure of previous negotiations in recent months to de-escalate the conflict between the US and Iran has led to a volatile oil market, with drivers ultimately being hit by higher fuel prices at the pumps. On Tuesday, along with the drop in Brent crude, US West Texas Intermediate prices were down more than 5%, to \$76 a barrel. Both contracts dropped to their lowest levels since 13 July. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there had been progress made in discussions on getting more ships through the Strait with Iran and Oman. "There's been progress made in those talks, but not finality yet. We're hoping that will happen very



shortly," he told reporters at the State Department. Bessent said a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz could be agreed as soon as Tuesday or Wednesday. There was a "chance we may have a deal today or tomorrow to open the strait and move towards a more normalized position in this conflict," he told CNBC. "It would be freedom of movement," he added, when asked whether Iran would be allowed to charge for ships passing through. While senior figures in the US government have announced talks have been pro-

gressing, no details of what a potential deal may look like have been released. The Strait of Hormuz has been a central point in negotiations between the US and Iran. Before the conflict began in late February, the waterway handled about one-fifth of global daily oil and liquefied natural gas supplies. The disruption has sent prices at the pumps up across the world. In the UK petrol prices are now at levels seen at the start of the conflict, with the average cost of a litre of petrol hitting £1.60, according to the RAC motoring group. In the

US, gasoline prices are on average above \$4 a gallon, according to the AAA. Diesel is almost \$5.40 a gallon. Qatar, which is one of the key mediators between Washington and Tehran, said it was continuing efforts with other mediators to try to achieve a diplomatic resolution to the war, but admitted no direct talks were currently planned. On Monday, President Donald Trump warned Iran faced its "last chance" to agree a deal to allow commercial shipping to resume in the Strait. He said he had called off "massive" strikes on the country for talks to resume. But Iran has said it was not negotiating with the US - and had no plans to do so - and is instead talking to Oman. The government will continue its efforts to strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation, enhance energy security through diversification of crude oil import sources and expansion of strategic petroleum reserves, promote alternative and cleaner fuels, and improve energy efficiency, which will reduce the economy's vulnerability to external energy shocks while supporting sustainable and resilient economic growth, the minister said.

AVERAGE COST OF DATA BREACH IN INDIA HITS RECORD RS 25.5 CR: IBM



Hyderabad: The average cost of a data breach in India has hit an all-time high of Rs 25.5 crore in 2026, a rise of nearly 16 per cent from Rs 22 crore last year, according to IBM's annual Cost of a Data Breach Report released on Monday, August 3. The report, conducted by the Ponemon Institute and analysed by IBM, is based on breaches experienced by 602 organisations globally between March 2025 and February 2026. The average breach in India also grew in scale, with 39,500 records compromised on average, up from 38,200 in 2025. Phishing, including voice and SMS phishing, was the most common initial attack vector in India, accounting for 19 per cent of malicious breaches, followed by drive-by compromise at 16 per cent and supply chain compromise at 15 per cent. The report also found that 26 per cent of malicious breaches in India were artificial

intelligence (AI)-generated, underlining how AI is reshaping the threat landscape by enabling attacks to become faster, more sophisticated and increasingly scalable. "India's accelerating AI adoption is creating immense opportunities for innovation, but it is also enabling cyber threats to evolve rapidly," said Gaurav Agarwal, Vice President, Technology, IBM India and South Asia. "Today, most organisations apply AI in limited ways, often focused on detection. To keep pace, AI with agentic capabilities must be embedded across the full security lifecycle — from detection and analysis to prioritisation and remediation," he said. Despite the growing threat, 68 per cent of Indian organisations surveyed reported limited or no use of AI and security automation, a gap the report says is directly reflected in breach costs and response times.

ASUS Expands its Chromebook Portfolio in India with their all new Chromebook CX15

Vijaywada, August 2026: ASUS, a Taiwanese tech giant, today announced the launch of the ASUS Chromebook CX15 (CX1505CTA) in India, expanding its Chromebook portfolio with a device designed to deliver an effortless cloud-first computing experience for students, young professionals and first-time laptop buyers. Powered by ChromeOS and enhanced with Google AI, the ASUS Chromebook CX15 combines dependable everyday performance, intelligent productivity, immersive entertainment and enterprise-grade security in a lightweight, durable design. The ASUS Chromebook CX15 is priced at ₹47,990 and will be available across ASUS Exclusive Stores (AES), ROG Stores, ASUS Authorised Retail Partners, Reliance Digital, ASUS eShop, and other leading retail outlets across India. Powered by ChromeOS and deeply integrated with Google's ecosystem, ASUS Chromebook CX15 enables users to enjoy secure cloud-first experiences, seamless collaboration and AI-powered productivity that simplifies everyday tasks. Whether researching, creating presentations, attend-



ing online classes or collaborating with colleagues, users can accomplish more with Google's latest AI experiences while building practical AI skills for the future. Consumers can also benefit from financing solutions through ASUS Easy Pay, including 0% No Cost EMI starting from ₹3,999 per month, making the Chromebook experience even more accessible for students, families and young professionals. Additionally, ASUS is also offering a 1 year standard warranty and 1 year of accidental damage protection. Addressing the launch, Arnold Su, Vice President, Consumer and Gaming Business System, ASUS India, said, "As digital learning, hybrid work and AI continue to transform everyday computing, users are looking for

devices that combine simplicity, security and intelligent experiences without unnecessary complexity. Chromebooks have emerged as an increasingly compelling choice for students, young professionals and families seeking reliable everyday computing, and with the ASUS Chromebook CX15, we are making that experience even more accessible. Beyond introducing a new AI-powered Chromebook, this launch also marks our first expansion into the offline retail market, allowing more consumers across India to experience ChromeOS and Google AI through our expanding retail network." By combining Google AI, ChromeOS, enterprise-grade security and dependable everyday performance, ASUS Chromebook CX15 helps users learn, cre-

ate and collaborate more effectively while building confidence with AI-powered tools that are becoming increasingly important in everyday life.

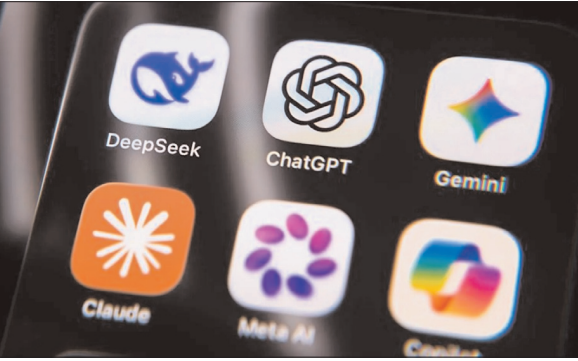
Smart & Effortless

Powered by ChromeOS and enhanced with Google AI, the ASUS Chromebook CX15 delivers a fast, secure and cloud-first computing experience for everyday learning, productivity and entertainment. Whether researching, creating presentations, attending online classes or collaborating with colleagues, users can work smarter with Google's latest AI experiences while building practical AI skills for the future.

Intelligent Productivity

The ASUS Chromebook CX15 comes with a three-month Google AI Pro membership, unlocking premium AI experiences across Gemini, Gmail, Docs, Sheets and Gemini Notebook, along with 5TB of cloud storage. Users can also access Google Flow for AI-powered video creation, advanced Google Photos editing tools, Nano Banana image generation and YouTube Premium Lite, making it easier to create, learn and collaborate from day one.

Tokenomics: Why making AI pay is tricky



If you have used a free version of ChatGPT or any of its AI rivals, then you are obviously getting a good deal. Firms like Microsoft, Google and Anthropic have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in developing Large Language Models (LLMs) the tech behind those services. So getting, ChatGPT, Claude or Gemini to help with your speech or holiday plans is a bargain. But, naturally, those firms want to recoup their investment, so they offer paid-for versions of their AI, which have extra features for tasks like coding or billing. Meanwhile, third party firms are building and selling services based on AI agents, usually based on an LLM, which are trained to do specific tasks. But setting a price for those services is surprisingly difficult. "Trying to tie someone into a cost model for the next 12 months, two years, three

years, it doesn't make any sense, honestly, because we don't know," says Simon Gooch at Saviynt, an identity management company which is incorporating agentic AI into its services. That's because of rapidly changing economics around tokens, the building blocks of LLMs and agentic AI. When a user asks an LLM, like ChatGPT or Anthropic's Claude to answer a question, generate software code, or automate a process, that prompt is broken down into mathematical chunks called tokens, which can be processed by the model. The LLM's response also comes in the form of tokens, which are converted back into text, software code, or a set of commands to automate a process. The problem is this process is not entirely predictable. Subtle variations in the prompt can produce different answers.

What will happen when a SpaceX rocket collides with the Moon?

The Moon has endured countless blows over millions of years. Asteroids and meteors have given the satellite its signature pockmarked surface and network of craters. More recently, it has also experienced impacts from the plucky little probes and landers that Earthbound space agencies have sent hurtling its way. Now on Wednesday, scientists expect the Moon will experience yet another collision, this time from a drifting SpaceX rocket that has been travelling at around 2.43 kilometres per second, or about 5,400mph. The upper stage (section) of one of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets will "impact" the Moon on 5 August, according to NASA's Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS). The US space agency reached the conclusion after independent astronomers, using public data, noted that a portion of the rocket from a January 2025 launch was on an accidental collision course with the Moon. "There is no danger to Earth," said spokesperson Jimi Russell. "Nasa will continue to track the booster



for training purposes, as well as later observe the impact site for scientific purposes." SpaceX launched this specific Falcon 9 rocket as part of a US and Japanese mission to carry a pair of lunar landers and scientific equipment to the Moon last year. Part of the Falcon 9 is reusable and designed to return back to Earth for its next mission. But parts of the rocket are shed in space and remain there, stuck in orbit unless they eventually collide with another celestial body. The piece in question is the

upper stage of the rocket, and is about the size of a five-storey building, with a weight on Earth of at least 4,000kg (8,800 lbs). Astronomer Bill Gray, who first discovered the trajectory, says the object will land near the Einstein Crater, which is on the part of the Moon that receives daylight and is visible from Earth. He predicts it will create a crater more than 17m (56ft) in diameter. The impending collision - predicted to happen at about 02:35 EDT (06:35 GMT) on Wednesday - is

expected to captivate astronomers, both amateur and professional. "It's something really huge smashing into the Moon. It's not remotely dangerous, we can just watch the show," says Dr Matt Bothwell, public astronomer at the University of Cambridge. "It's going to impact and its going to send up a huge plume of dust, maybe 50km into the air or more, and that's going to spread sideways over time," Bothwell said. Given the Moon's lack of atmosphere and far weaker gravitational pull, the moment of impact will be "more impressive than any [similar] explosion on Earth", Bothwell said. Nothing will slow the object down, like the atmosphere would do here on Earth - and nothing will prevent the estimated million kilograms in debris from rocketing up into space. While the impact will not be visible from Earth with the naked eye, people with access to a sophisticated telescope may be able to see a flash radiating off the Moon's surface, Bothwell said.

Hyderabad's Culinary Culture Emerges as the City's Defining Cultural Identity, Reveals Skyscanner

Hyderabad, August 4th 2026: Leading global travel app Skyscanner today unveiled findings from The India Culture Travel Index, revealing a growing appetite for culture-led travel among Hyderabad travellers. Regional food experiences emerged as the biggest cultural travel draw (56%), followed by festivals and celebrations (54%) and spiritual journeys (51%). The findings underscore a shift beyond traditional sightseeing, with travellers increasingly seeking immersive experiences that connect them with a destination's food, traditions, heritage and local communities. Neel Ghose, Travel Trends and Destinations Expert, Skyscanner India, said: "For Hyderabad travellers, culture is no longer just part of the destination, it's increasingly becoming the reason for the trip. Food is leading that shift, reflecting a growing desire to experience places through their local flavours, traditions and communities. At the same time, Hyderabad's strong connection to spiritual heritage and Telugu culture shows that travellers are looking for



experiences that feel authentic and meaningful. As more people plan holidays around festivals, local cuisine and cultural moments, staying flexible with travel dates and comparing options can help them make the most of these journeys." Culture is increasingly shaping where Hyderabad residents choose to travel. Interest in culture-led travel is increasing amongst travellers from Hyderabad, with more than half (51%) now planning holidays primarily around cultural experiences, while a further 36% say culture enriches their trips even when it is not the main reason for travel. The shift is also translating into travel behaviour. Nearly all Hyderabad travellers (95%)

have travelled beyond Telangana for a cultural experience, while 87% say they are willing to travel outside their home state or to lesser-known destinations in search of authentic cultural experiences. Growing pride in India's heritage (49%) and the increasing popularity of food, craft and heritage trails (43%) are among the biggest factors fuelling this trend. When asked which Indian states offer the richest cultural experiences, Hyderabad residents ranked Telangana alongside Kerala (18%), followed closely by Andhra Pradesh (17%).

Festivals are becoming a powerful reason to travel
Major cultural celebrations are increasingly influencing

travel plans, with nearly three in four Hyderabad residents saying they would consider travelling specifically for a cultural or religious festival. Durga Puja (38%) and Diwali (37%) top the list of festivals people would travel for, followed by Kumbh Mela (33%), Pongal (33%), Bathukamma (32%), Navratri Garba (31%) and Bonalu (31%). The biggest motivations include experiencing celebrations that only happen once a year (31%) and immersing themselves in local traditions and spirituality (30%).

Hyderabad residents are looking beyond borders for cultural experiences
Interest extends overseas too. One in four (25%) have already taken an international culture-focused holiday, while another 37% say they would definitely like to do so, and 28% are open to the idea, taking overall interest in international cultural travel to 90%. Among the most sought-after cultural destinations, Japan (22%) ranks first, followed by Thailand and Vietnam (17%), France (16%) and the United Kingdom (15%).

Arson arrest made over largest of Washington state's wildfires



A man has been arrested on suspicion of arson over the largest of the wildfires that have forced more than 60,000 people to evacuate from the city of Spokane in Washington state. Three major fires have been burning around the north-western state's second-most-populous city since the weekend, with firefighters still working to contain the flames. Aaron Farinacci, 37, was allegedly seen kneeling near grass at the site of the fire and later found to have matches and a lighter, the Spokane County Sheriff said. More than 700 buildings in the area have been destroyed, and thousands of acres of land have been burned near Spokane, a city of some 230,000 people about 280 miles (450 km) east of Seattle.

Washington Governor Bob Ferguson said it was a "nightmare situation", adding: "This is likely the worst natural disaster in Spokane history." The city's mayor Lisa Brown said there was still "the potential for lives to be lost" and that it was too early to say when people

might be able to return home. No deaths or injuries have been confirmed. The destruction, however, has left local residents in shock and despair. "I shouldn't have been back here, but I had to see my house," Ken Anderson told NBC News, standing near the skeletal remains of his home. His wife, Lisa, said: "It seems like it's a nightmare that we are just gonna wake up from and it's all gonna be okay, but I don't think it's going to be okay." Online fundraisers for those affected by the wildfires tell similar stories. Jane Biernat, who is six-months pregnant with her second child, safely escaped the wildfire but lost "everything" when her apartment in Spokane burned down, according to a verified GoFundMe page set up by her family.

"In just a few minutes, their home, clothes, furniture, baby's belongings, and all their cherished memories were gone," the account said. "Without renters insurance, they are now faced with the daunting task of starting over from nothing."



■ More than 150 migrants rescued after boat catches fire in Channel

EU COMMENDS SPAIN'S 'SWIFT RESPONSE' TO CEUTA MIGRANT CRISIS

The European Union has praised Spain's "swift response" to the migrant crisis in Ceuta, following a meeting of the bloc's interior ministers on Tuesday. Around 72,000 migrants crossed into the Spanish territory in North Africa between 30 and 31 July, Spain's Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said. He added that an estimated 70,000 have since been returned to Morocco. At least 75 people died on the Spanish side of the border, while 11 deaths were reported in Morocco. Irish Justice Minister Jim O'Callaghan, who chaired Tuesday's meeting, said the EU stood in solidarity with Spain and that migration required "a united European response". The meeting had been



expected to draw some tension, following earlier criticism of Spain from several EU nations. On Thursday, Italy's right-wing Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni described the images from Ceuta as "shocking", writing on social media that such "uncontrolled immigration" was a security threat to Europe. Italy suspended the Schengen zone agreement

with Spain on free movement on Friday. Since the two countries do not share a land border, this would only apply, effectively, to flights - which appears simply to mean extra checks for passengers. The Schengen agreement eliminates border checks and now encompasses more than 450 million people and 29 countries in Europe. Finland and

Denmark backed Italy's move, while Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš urged a temporary suspension of Spain's Schengen membership. Italy, along with Denmark and 20 other nations, later sent a letter expressing their concern over the Ceuta migrant crisis, and calling for a meeting of EU ministers. In response, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said he had "serious concerns" about some European governments and pointed out that Ceuta was not part of the Schengen area. While most had shown "support and solidarity", he said other European governments had chosen to attack Spain, "driven by prejudice, fake news, ignorance, or political interest".

Bono, Eddie Vedder and Hozier among mourners at Glen Hansard's funeral



=Stars from the world of music including U2's Bono, Pearl Jam's lead singer Eddie Vedder, and Hozier, attended the funeral of Glen Hansard on Tuesday. The 56-year-old Oscar-winning Irish singer and songwriter died in a motorcycle crash in Dublin last week. Hansard, who shot to prominence in 1991 musical comedy film The Commitments, was long-time frontman of acclaimed rock band The Frames. News of his sudden death shocked the music world and fans alike, with tributes being paid from the likes of Ed Sheeran and Bruce Springsteen, who said he was "heartbroken". Many people also paid their respects at a public wake in the city on Monday. The funeral was held in St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin on Tuesday and featured musical performances by friends and family. Mourners included Bono, Eddie Vedder, Hozier, The Edge, Steve Coogan, Imelda May, Paddy Casey, Declan O'Rourke, and Angeline Ball, who starred alongside Hansard in the BAFTA-winning comedy-drama The Commitments. Representatives of the President of Ireland Catherine Connolly and the Taoiseach (Irish PM) Micheál Martin were also among the mourners. At the start of the service, a guitar was brought up to the altar by Colm Mac Con Iomaire, a former Frames band member. Mac Con Iomaire went on to perform a song for those gathered alongside Liam Ó Maolai. Irish traditional musician Breandán Ó Beaglaioich said Hansard

"was so well known on the big stages of Ireland and all over the world". He described him as an "ordinary kind-hearted Ballymun man... a true Dub." Ó Beaglaioich also performed a song. Other musicians who performed at the funeral included Bono, Eddie Vedder, The Edge, Lisa O'Neil, Joseph Doyle, Damien Dempsey, and Michael Buckley. Glen Hansard's widow, the Finnish poet Maire Saari, thanked her late husband "for the life we shared, searching for truth and beauty side by side". Fighting back tears, she said they found that truth and beauty in their three-year-old son, Christy. "He cannot be here today, he is too young to witness or understand an event of such scale," she says. But she added: "The bright spirit he inherited from his father is with us." Irish superstar Bono recited U2's song A Beautiful Day as the recital ended he began to sing the song, urging the congregation to join in. U2's lead guitarist The Edge also attended the service and approached the microphone to join in the version of Beautiful Day as his band-mate Bono finished his recital. At the end of the service, the coffin left the church to a musical send-off, with mourners inside the building continuing to sing along to a rendition of Bob Dylan's Forever Young. Hansard's life was steeped in music, from first picking up a guitar as a teenager right until the final hours of his life, when he was performing in a traditional music session.

MASS FUNERAL IN GAZA FOR 112 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN 2023 ISRAELI STRIKE

Large crowds turned out in Gaza City for a mass funeral for 112 people, mostly women and children, who were killed in an Israeli strike on a residential block in late 2023, early in the Gaza war. The bodies - belonging to members of two extended families - have only recently been recovered from under the rubble in a two-week-long operation. Dramatic footage showed the remains lined up in rows, each victim covered with a Palestinian flag and some with a photo of the dead, before relatives carried them away. The funeral is said to be the biggest of its kind to have taken place in Gaza. "I think this is a feeling that was supposed [to be felt], a feeling of pain, grief and loss," said one mourner, Ali Abu Sharia. "After we managed to retrieve them and bury them, perhaps we can be partially relieved despite the pain of loss and all we're still living through." Forty children, 38 women and seven people with disabilities were listed among the dead from the Abu Sharia and Hassayna families, who



are one clan. They were killed when a residential block in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City was attacked by Israel on 22 November 2023. It was a day of heavy bombardment, six weeks after the 7 October Hamas-led assault on southern Israel, which led to 1,200 people being killed and 251 being taken hostage. The BBC has asked the Israel Defense

Forces (IDF) for information on what was targeted but has not yet received a response. Since the start of the war, at least 73,377 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the UN. In Gaza, the recovery work was carried out by the Civil Defence, which operates under the Hamas-run

interior ministry. Its efforts have been supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). "We provide material support - literally the gloves, shovels, protective equipment and body bags they use," said Patrick Griffiths, spokesperson for the ICRC. "We provide training, supporting them to do their work safely, in line with pro-

fessional practice ensuring the deceased are treated with dignity. And we've supported them by renting - for hundreds of hours - two of the only excavators available for this work in Gaza." It's not an answer any family wants to receive - confirmation that your loved one has been killed," Griffiths added. "But it's essential towards them receiving closure and being able to mourn their loss in their own way." Last month, the BBC filmed the start of the operation to uncover bodies in Sabra. A single bulldozer picked through the rubble and then more delicate work was done by hand. "This multi-storey building has been levelled. There were maybe more than 180 civilians inside. Most of them, around 90%, were killed," Civil Defence spokesman Mohammed Basel said at the time. "On that day [of the strikes], the Civil Defence crews couldn't get to the site because it needed co-ordination [with Israel via a third party such as the ICRC] and there was great danger in

reaching the area." Relatives of the dead were at the scene to guide the recovery crews during the recovery work. They said they had retrieved as many bodies as they could immediately after the attack and were relieved to be able to give others a proper burial. "It's a devastating and sad feeling that resonates with everyone who was here," said Nahed al-Hassayna, as he showed the BBC the rubble of his family's living room. "The kids - what did they do?" he asked, holding up the possessions of two of his young relatives. "This was a school backpack for Omar, and this was Ibrahim's shoe. Why? Why were they killed?" "I'm the sole survivor of my family," said Yousef Abu Sharia, standing nearby. "Today, I'm talking to you [as] the one who lost my mother, my father, my uncle and my cousins and all my family. I lost them under this rubble." It is believed that dozens more bodies are yet to be recovered at the site. Across the Gaza Strip, thousands more people are unaccounted for.

WORLD'S OLDEST PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES ARMY AS HIS ABSENCE STOKES UNEASE

Cameroon's veteran leader Paul Biya - who has not been seen in public for nearly two months - has reshuffled the country's military amid growing concerns over his prolonged stay abroad. The 93-year-old president appointed officials to key positions within the army and promoted five colonels to the rank of brigadier general. One of the newly promoted brigadier generals is Raymond Jean Charles Beko'o Abondo, who was immediately reappointed as commander of the elite presidential guard - responsible for protecting Biya - a position he has occupied since 2013. Such shake-ups are not unusual under Biya's administration, particularly at times of intense public scrutiny or perceived weakness. After an unexpected coup three years ago in neighbouring Gabon, which toppled the Bongo dynasty sending shockwaves across the continent, Cameroon immediately reshuffled its military leadership. Then, while running for a controversial eighth term in power at last year's presidential election, Biya reshuffled the top brass of the army. Again in



June this year, he promoted several members of the defence and security forces to higher ranks. The circumstances under which the latest changes were made have sparked debate, especially among social media users. Biya made the appointments in separate decrees on Monday from the Swiss city of Geneva, where he has been staying since leaving Cameroon on

7 June for what his team described as a "brief private stay". Many in Cameroon have criticised the lack of information about his activities and the uncertainty surrounding the duration of his foreign trip. After last year's election, he promised to name a new cabinet, but has yet to do so. A new post of vice-president that was created this April remains unfilled. During his nearly 60-day period abroad so far, he has signed several other decrees, including some authorising his government to sign loan agreements with international financial institutions. His absence sparked further speculation about his health, but the government has continually debunked reports that the head of state has been in hospital.



Ukraine hits more Wildberries sites as strike kills five in Moscow region

NEERAJ CHOPRA MOVES ON FROM CWG SILVER, SET TO CLASH WITH ARSHAD NADEEM, RUMESH PATHIRAGE AGAIN

After a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026, Neeraj Chopra has already set his sights on his next target. The 2-time Olympic medallist is gearing up to compete at the Lausanne Diamond League, also known as Athletissima, which is to be held on August 21. The Indian javelin star will face a formidable field of international athletes, with the competition for the top podium spot expected to get tougher, in comparison to the Glasgow Games. Leading the pack is Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage, the newly crowned Commonwealth Games champion and current world leader, who beat Neeraj to the gold medal with a massive 89.75-metre throw in the CWG Men's Javelin Throw final. The line-up features several other high-profile rivals, including Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, reigning World champion Keshorn Walcott



of Trinidad and Tobago, and former World and Olympic winner Anderson Peters. They will be joined by Tokyo silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch, Germany's Julian Weber, and World Championship competitor Curtis Thompson. With five of these throwers having faced each other in the Commonwealth Games final only days prior, the event promises to be another thrilling high-stakes battle. Neeraj Chopra Happy Despite CWG 2026 Silver In

the men's javelin throw final, Neeraj opened with 80.97m before improving to 85.83m in his second attempt, which eventually stood as his best throw of the competition. His remaining valid throws measured 81.29m and 80.73m, while his final two attempts were fouls. "I am very happy. I am always happy whenever the national anthem is played. But it's ok [to win silver] as I did my personal best and my comeback is getting better," he said after the silver medal win.

BCCI PENSION SCHEME DETAILS, BENEFICIARIES, EXACT AMOUNT ONE RECEIVES



Ajinkya Rahane's retirement from international cricket once again brought to the fore the BCCI's unique initiative of providing pensions to former cricketers. Rahane, who played 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is, is eligible for the highest pension bracket. A monthly pension for former cricketers is a scheme that is rarely heard of in the world of sports. However, the BCCI took this initiative over 20 years ago. When did the pension scheme start? According to a report in Cricinfo, the BCCI started the pension scheme in April 2004. The report quoted PTI

as stating that 174 former players and officials would receive a monthly pension of Rs 5,000. At that time, it was mandatory for a player to have played at least one Test match to be eligible for the monthly pension scheme. What is the current structure of the BCCI pension scheme? In June 2022, the BCCI announced an increase in the monthly pensions of former cricketers and umpires. Jay Shah, the then BCCI secretary, had said: "The welfare of our cricketers, be it former or present, is a top priority, and increasing pension amounts is a step in that direction.

'Prioritise Women Boxers': Akhil Kumar's Appeal To BFI Ahead Of 2028 Olympics

India's women pugilists are a stronger bet for an Olympic medal than their male counterparts and should be prioritised in the overall planning for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, says boxer-turned-police officer Akhil Kumar, lauding their record-shattering Commonwealth Games performance. In a telephonic interview to PTI, Akhil, who was the only Indian boxer to strike gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, said he was quite impressed with the country's performance in Glasgow where it finished with its best ever tally of seven gold medals in boxing, six of them coming from women. Women's boxing came into the CWG only in 2014 and featured just three categories - 51kg, 60kg and 75kg - to start with. This was two years after it entered the Olympics programme in the same three divisions. M C Mary Kom (2012, London) and Lovlina Borgohain (2021, Tokyo) have won Olympic medals for India in women's boxing. "They (the women boxers) are clearly delivering better results. The weight categories are also increasing, they deserve to be prioritised? Among the cur-



rent crop of male boxers, I don't really think there is anyone who can be an Olympic medallist at this stage. If there is a drastic improvement going forward, which I hope there is, I will change my view," the Haryana Police ACP said. "At this point, it's the women boxers who have the advantage. We have adapted to the expansion of the sport quite well and given how it has grown, I guess India is better positioned to deliver more than one Olympic medal in women's boxing in 2028," he added. The CWG programme in Glasgow featured seven weight categories for women, one more than last time. The men's event also comprised seven categories, achieving gender parity for the first time. The weight divisions were also

the ones that would be at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The Indian women won medals in all seven categories, six gold and a silver. The men, on the other hand, managed two gold, and a silver. The competition in the women's event featured 70 boxers from 43 countries, 11 more than previous edition's 59 participants from 55 countries. The male competition, however, shrank to 131 from 43 countries instead of 172 from 55 nations in 2022. Asked to name the boxers who stood out during the competition, the former Asian champion and Olympic quarterfinalist said the gold-winning duo of Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Sakshi Chaudhary (51kg) displayed an all-round game which was also fairly gutsy.

Who Is Owais Yaqoob? The Fighter From Pulwama Making Waves In Global MMA

Indian sports fans who follow mixed martial arts (MMA) know that a rising star from Jammu & Kashmir is taking the combat sports world by storm. Owais Yaqoob is laying the foundation to become a household name in India, aiming to bring MMA to mainstream television sets across the country-an ambition bolstered by his recent statement victory over Delyan Georgiev, the training and sparring partner of world-renowned UFC champion Ilia Topuria, at BRAVE CF 107. For the unversed, Topuria, popularly known as "El Matador", is one of the most feared fighters in modern MMA history. He is famous for his ruthless boxing and undefeated run across the UFC's featherweight and lightweight divisions. By defeating a high-caliber training partner who help prepare a world champion like Topuria, Yaqoob sent a clear message that he belongs on the elite global stage. Hailing from a small village in Pulwama, Yaqoob has swiftly transformed from a regional prospect into



a fighter training alongside some of the biggest names in the sport. Born in 1998 in Murrn, a village in the Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, Yaqoob began his athletic journey around 2012 when he picked up Taekwondo and kickboxing. He took to combat sports like a fish to water. His natural talent was undeniable, and through relentless dedication, he honed his skills to win over a dozen national medals across various

martial arts disciplines in India. However, as MMA gained global traction, Yaqoob transitioned to the cage, determined to prove himself on the global arena. Despite his rising trajectory, Yaqoob has remained committed to giving back to his community. In 2015, he established the Lion's Den Martial Arts Academy in Pulwama to support local youth. Over the years, the academy has trained over 200 young athletes, providing them with

a platform to hone their skills and find purpose through fitness and martial arts. In the years ahead, the academy promises to develop India's next generation of MMA talent. While Yaqoob made waves across the Indian sporting spectrum with his first-round stoppage of Georgiev at BRAVE CF 107, his journey had its share of early hurdles. He made his professional debut in 2023 at Matrix Fight Night (MFN) 11 in New Delhi-a tough outing where he lost via a third-round submission. Rather than letting the defeat stall his career, Yaqoob used it as fuel to address the glaring gap in his skill set: ground fighting and wrestling. To bridge this gap, he took a high-risk step by traveling to Dagestan, Russia-the world-renowned breeding ground for dominant wrestlers and world champions like Khabib Nurmagomedov and Islam Makhachev. The intensive training paid off. Yaqoob tightened his wrestling defense and takedown control, returning to the cage with renewed composure.

Boxers Sachin Siwach, Preeti Pawar Eye Asian Games Gold After CWG 2026 Triumph



Indian pugilists Sachin Siwach and Preeti Pawar have their eyes set on Asian Games gold following their gold medal wins at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow. The Indian boxing contingent, which pulled off the country's best CWG 2026 medal haul with seven gold medals and overall 10 medals, received a warm welcome at the Delhi Airport. Speaking to ANI, Sachin, who secured a gold medal in the men's 60 kg final, said that seeing the national flag hoisted after the gold medal win is a "different kind of happiness" and a reason why they all play sport. "When the national flag is hoisted, there is a different kind of happiness. This is what we play for. I want to bring gold from the Asian Games. I want to tell everyone to keep believing like this and keep encouraging us," said Siwach. Sachin staged a remarkable comeback to defeat Namibia's Tryagain Morning Ndevelo by a 3-2 split decision in a thrilling men's 60 kg final.

Ajit Agarkar Sends Clear Selection Message For Mohammed Shami Through Bumrah Replacement

Jasprit Bumrah might be India's marquee pacer across formats, but his inability to remain fit for extended periods has become a riddle the team management is struggling to solve. Although the pacer featured for India in the three-match ODI series against England, he was ruled out of the subsequent two-match Test series against Sri Lanka due to yet another injury. This situation prompted the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to name Aqib Nabi as his replacement. While many were happy to see Nabi rewarded for his hard work in domestic cricket, the decision also highlights the harsh reality of Mohammed Shami's current situation. Shami, who last featured for the Indian team in a T20I against England in 2025, has not played Tests for



the national side since 2023. His last ODI appearances for India came last year against New Zealand. While fitness concerns initially saw Shami sidelined, even consistent performances in domestic cricket over the last year have failed to revive his chances of a national recall. What Next For Mohammed Shami? When BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar was asked about Shami's potential return, he stated that the veteran pacer

lacks the fitness required to play Test cricket. However, it is worth noting that across his last seven Ranji Trophy matches, Shami bowled 1,383 deliveries and took 37 wickets at an average of 16.72. During this period, he bowled 50 maidens and registered three five-wicket hauls, including his career-best First-Class figures of 8 for 90. In that same Ranji Trophy campaign, Nabi stood out above the rest, taking 60 wickets at an average of 12.56.

Arshdeep Singh Says "Sorry" To R Ashwin, Promises To Message Him "Personally"



Star India pacer Arshdeep Singh recently appeared in an interview and picked five bowlers according to their skills and talents. He named the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Ravichandran Ashwin. Arshdeep apologised to Ashwin for naming him as the last player on the list. In a light-hearted tone, the pacer also said that he would message the legendary spinner personally.

Arshdeep, who plays only white-ball cricket for India, is currently out of action as the team gears up to play a two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, starting August 15. "Bhuvi bhai is at the top because he is my personal favourite as well. I really like him, so I'm a little biased. I'll rate all the fast bowlers first. At number two, I'd go with Shami bhai because, as you know, he can seam the ball on any wicket. His bowling is excellent, and he presents the

seam perfectly," Arshdeep said on Krishnank Atrey's YouTube channel. "Third would be Kuldeep Yadav because he has a very rare skill set, a left-arm Chinaman. Then there's Yuji bhai, as we are teammates in the Punjab team, and his record is also excellent. He has taken so many wickets. I wouldn't want to rate Ash bhai last, but there were no positions left, so he comes in at number five. He is great, but Ash bhai was also my first captain in the IPL with Punjab. Sorry, Ash bhai, I'll personally message you," he added. Arshdeep was last seen in India's three-match ODI series against England, which the Shubman Gill-led side lost 2-1 after suffering a 27-run defeat in the deciding match. The left-arm pacer had a forgettable outing in that game, conceding 72 runs without taking a wicket.

PV Sindhu Seeded Ninth At BWF World Championships, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/ Chirag Shetty Fifth



Two-time Olympic medallist Indian shuttler PV Sindhu was on Tuesday seeded ninth in women's singles, while the star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has been handed the fifth seeding for the upcoming BWF World Championships to be played at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here from August 17-23. Sindhu is the current Japan Open champion, while Satwik and Chirag are the 2022 Asian Games gold medallists. India have two entries each in all the five categories of the championships with at least one seeded entry in four of the five categories. Apart from Sindhu and Satwik Chirag, former world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen has been seeded 14th in men's singles and the mixed doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto are seeded 15th. While the players qualified for the prestigious champi-

onships based on their world rankings of April 28, 2026, the seedings were decided on the basis of world ranking on July 28, 2026. Men's singles world champion Shi Yuqi of China and South Korea's women's singles star An Se Young are the top seeds in their respective categories. Women's singles world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan is seeded second while the third and fourth spots have gone to Wang Zhi Yi and Chen Yufei of China. The draw for the championships will take place here on Wednesday and the final seedings could change in case any of the seeded players withdraw before that. South Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae are at the top of the men's doubles seeding chart with China's Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning got the top billing in women's doubles. Their compatriots Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping are seeded number one in mixed doubles.

UFC loses \$30m on Freedom 250 event at White House



UFC owners lost \$30m (£22m) staging the Freedom 250 event, which was attended by US President Donald Trump, at the White House in June. Despite the event's losses, which UFC expected, the organisation still saw an increase of revenue for the second quarter of 2026, parent company TKO Group Holdings said on Monday. An estimated 4,300 people including president Trump and Vice-President JD Vance were present for the invite-only event on the South Lawn of the presidential compound, which formed part of celebrations to mark 250 years of American independence. Tickets were not sold to the general public for the event, and initial costs were predicted to be more than \$60m (£44m). However, UFC was able to

recoup some money through sponsorships, media exposure and other partnerships. In May, reports suggested 'high-roller' guests would need to spend \$1.5m (£1.1m) for special access, and while UFC sources confirmed to BBC Sport the existence of such packages for the event, they did not confirm how much they cost. Trump has a long-standing friendship with UFC president Dana White and the event coincided with his 80th birthday. Andrew Schleimer, chief financial officer of TKO Group, told investors on Monday they incurred significantly higher than normal costs for Freedom 250, which they "partially offset with sold-out global partnerships inventory." He added: "Given the event's profile, which as anti-

pated, resulted in an approximate \$30m loss, our margins at UFC as well as on a consolidated basis were meaningfully impacted." Last year, TKO Group signed a \$7.7bn (£5.7bn), seven-year contract with Paramount for the US channel to become the new home of UFC starting in 2026, with the White House event shown exclusively on its subscription streaming platform Paramount+. The event attracted an average of 34 million viewers worldwide, making it one of the most watched mixed martial arts events of all time. TKO reported UFC's revenue increased 29% year over year to \$535.7m (£398.7m) for the second quarter of this year. This includes a \$64.7m (£48.2m) increase in media rights driven by the TV deal with Paramount.

Anakapalli is an Action-Family Drama with a Strong Message: Producers Thrinadha Rao Nakkina & Kandregula Naidu

Anakapalli is a raw and rustic action-family drama produced by Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives, with Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina as producers.

The film stars Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishtha, and Tarak Ponnappa in lead roles, while Khagesh Thammineni directs the project. Kandregula Kumar Raja serves as the co-producer. Along with writing the story and screenplay, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina also plays an important role in the film. Anakapalli is set for a grand theatrical release on August 7. Ahead of the release, the producers shared interesting insights about the film.

How did your association with Kandregula Naidu begin?

Thrinadha Rao Nakkina: Naidu has always been involved in many social service activities in Anakapalli. He often told me he wanted to enter the film industry, but I initially discouraged him. However, he remained determined and eventually became a producer.

Why did you decide to make Anakapalli now?

Thrinadha Rao Nakkina: I wrote the story long ago but kept it aside. Once I became a director, priorities changed. We decided to produce the good stories I had under our own banners. In a way, I feel



like I have directed this film too. (Laughs)

Where was the film shot?

Thrinadha Rao Nakkina: The entire film was shot in Anakapalli. We wanted real locations, so we filmed it in our hometown. It's a love story set in a small town with strong family emotions. The title perfectly suits the story,

and I also chose it because of my emotional attachment to my hometown.

How was the experience of shooting in Anakapalli?

Kandregula Naidu: Shooting in our hometown was a wonderful experience. Everyone extended great support, including the police department. Using natural locations made the film look more authentic and effective.

How much were you involved in the story discussions?

Kandregula Naidu: I loved the story the moment Thrinadha Rao narrated it. I immediately agreed to produce it without suggesting any changes.

Did you know the challenges of the film industry before entering?

Kandregula Naidu: A film is the result of the hard work of many people. When we invest in a project, it also provides employment to many. Even though countless people work behind the scenes, the recognition comes to us as producers. That's one reason we started these banners, and we plan to continue producing films regularly.

How has this filmmaking journey been?

Kandregula Naidu: Making a film in our own hometown has been a memorable experience. We shot at nearly 75 locations, and the film has turned out on a grand scale.

The Family Blockbuster of the Year, Vijay Antony's 'Vandha Devullu' Premieres on Telugu ZEE5 on August 7



After emerging as the Family Blockbuster of the Year and winning hearts in theatres with its heartfelt storytelling and emotionally resonant narrative, Vijay Antony's Vandha Devullu is all set to make its digital premiere on Telugu ZEE5 from August 7. Written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sasi, the film marks his reunion with Vijay Antony nearly a decade after the blockbuster Bichagadu, bringing another emotionally driven story that celebrates family, relationships and second chances. Inspired by true events, Vandha Devullu tells the story of a widowed mother who has devoted her life to raising her family. When she

decides to embrace a new phase of life, she finds herself battling deep-rooted social expectations and difficult personal choices. With its emotionally layered narrative, the film explores motherhood, dignity, acceptance and the courage to choose happiness while staying rooted in family values. Vandha Devullu stands apart for its refreshing portrayal of the mother-son relationship. Instead of celebrating sacrifice alone, the film focuses on understanding, compassion and the emotional strength that binds a family together. Director Sasi brings his signature storytelling style to a subject that is both socially relevant and universally relatable.

TABU GOES EFFORTLESSLY ICONIC FOR LATEST COVER



Tabu is having a stellar year, and she is celebrating it in true fashion. Fresh off the success of her Bollywood blockbuster Bhooth Bangla, the actress graced the cover of The Peacock Magazine's July/August 2026 issue, and the pictures are already going viral. Styled as Effortlessly Iconic, Tabu switched between dramatic silhouettes, from a floral pan-

ther-embroidered ballgown skirt to a sculpted black cape jacket, proving once again why she remains one of Bollywood's most versatile style icons. The shoot comes at an exciting time for Tabu, who is currently busy shooting for her upcoming Telugu film Slumdog: 33 Temple Road, marking her much-anticipated re-entry into Tollywood.

VETERAN DIRECTOR S.V. KRISHNA REDDY UNVEILS THE TEASER OF 'DHATRI' – A HORROR THRILLER POWERED BY THE MYSTIQUE OF AGHORAS

The teaser of the upcoming horror thriller 'Dhatri' was unveiled by veteran filmmaker S.V. Krishna Reddy, who extended his heartfelt wishes to the film's team. Impressed by the teaser's intriguing concept and striking visuals, he expressed confidence that the film would entertain audiences and wished the entire team grand success.

Produced under the Sanjana Films banner, 'Dhatri' is written and directed by Giri Payyavula, who is also producing the film. Sai Charan is presenting the project. The film stars Lucky Venkat, Shravani, Adhya Sharma, Giri Payyavula, and Jabardasth Jeevan in pivotal roles. The film revolves around an orphaned girl who is raised by a group of Aghoras in the sacred city of Kashi (Varanasi). She grows up to become Dhatri, a fearless woman destined to confront evil. When a village falls prey to the atrocities of powerful anti-social forces, Dhatri rises to protect its people. How she battles these



dark forces and saves the village forms the crux of this gripping horror thriller. Blending horror, mystery, suspense, and thrilling action, 'Dhatri' promises to offer audiences a unique cinematic experience. The film has been extensively shot across picturesque locations including Kashi (Varanasi), Bapatla, Hyderabad, and Komuravelli.

The recently released teaser has already generated positive responses and heightened curiosity among movie lovers. The makers are gearing up to announce the film's release date soon.

Gutta Productions & Kamalakar Film Corporation releases magical melody Seethakokala song from Abhiram Naidu's 'Happy Journey'



Unlike routine commercial films, the film 'Happy Journey' is mainly made with women's emotions in mind. This story revolves around the lives of seven women and stars Annapurnamma, Aamani, Anchor Jhansi, Payal Radhakrishna, Jinisha Alisetty, Rupa Srinivas and Sunaina in the lead roles.

The film team, which raised huge expectations with the first single and teaser, has now released the song Seethakokala. The tunes provided by Shekhar Chandra are heart touching. The lyrics written by Suresh Baniseti are meaningful. Chinmayi Sripada's vocals are mesmerizing. This song, which reminds all women that they have no boundaries, connects immediately upon hearing it. Set in the backdrop of Paris, Montpellier and other beautiful European locations, the film is going to deliver stunning visuals as well as heart-warming emotions. Even though the story is set in a foreign setting, the human connections and feelings in it will feel close to everyone. The natural acting of the actors and the chemistry between them have added further strength to the film.

Unique Survival Drama Thriller Chiranjeevi Unveils Intriguing Sneak Peek

Film Set for a Grand Theatrical Release on August 28



Chiranjeevi, a unique survival drama thriller starring Kiku Yanamala and Kashish Khan in the lead roles, is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on August 28. The film also features Eeswari Rao, Tanikella Bharani, Srikanth Bharat, Viva Raghava and others in pivotal roles. Produced by Deepti Nadiminti under the Kiku Entertainments banner, the film is directed by Shubha Sai Venkat. The makers unveiled the film's sneak peek today, offering audiences an intriguing glimpse into its unique premise.

The sneak peek introduces Chiranjeevi, a young man suffering from dextrocardia, a rare

medical condition in which the heart is located on the right side of the chest. He is deeply loved by the female lead, and during an intimate moment between the two, she is surprised to notice his heartbeat on the left side, just like any normal person. This unexpected twist creates curiosity and hints at a mysterious layer to the story.

The sneak peek concludes by presenting the protagonist in a grey-shaded avatar, teasing an intense and suspenseful narrative. Packed with mystery, emotions and thrilling elements, the film promises an engaging cinematic experience when it arrives in theatres on August 28.

“80% MOVIE DIRECTORS MIGHT FAIL IF THEY ATTEMPT A MICRODRAMA”

The series 'Dhandha', which emerged from Chai Shots in the vertical storytelling space, has turned out to be a sensational hit. With Dhandha, director Aditya Devulapally has impressed audiences widely. In this context, he shared several insights about his cinematic journey and background. Here's what he said:

Tell us about your background?

Even though I was a topper in studies, I've loved films since childhood. That passion led me to drop out of engineering in a radical decision. Later, I told my family about my interest in cameras, and they bought me a small one. I didn't know anyone in the industry. I am a 100% outsider, a lot of people claim they are but they are somehow related to someone in the industry. I am not. I learned photography and

came here. I joined Mass Communication at St. Mary's College. There, my professor Amrit sir was also passionate about cinema. Because of him, I was exposed to world cinema, including French and English films. Later, I entered journalism and built contacts. I eventually narrated a violent story to Anurag anna from Chai Biscuit.

How did your entry into Chai Shots happen?

Anurag anna liked my story a lot. He said such a story wouldn't normally be produced in Telugu. Later, he called me again to discuss it. Around that time, I was in journalism and he had just started Chai Shots and asked me to join as a creative producer. I worked on several shows there, but I felt it was becoming too routine and not exciting anymore. That's when I

went straight to Anurag anna and said I will direct a crazy show for him. That's how Dhandha began.

How much was your involvement in the story of 'Dhandha'?

The original story was written by Vijay Kumar, but it had several issues. I rewrote it entirely and brought completeness to it. I made about 40% changes, including the backgrounds of Ganesh Thakur, Aravind, and Prakash Thakur. Later, Dora Sai Teja joined the project.

What about the appreciation 'Dhandha' is receiving?

So far, Dhandha hasn't received a single negative review. Everyone is praising its fresh making style and strong content. Many are talking about the music too. Not a single person has said the entire series is bad.



AVIKA GOR DAZZLES IN CHIC VINTAGE SETTING

Avika Gor is on a glamour spree lately, and she's showing no signs of slowing down. From a stunning crop top look to her latest outing, the actress continues to prove she has serious style range. Her newest look features a chic one-shoulder black top paired with a striking animal-print black skirt, finished off with matching black heels. The draped, asymmetric silhouette of the top gave the outfit a soft, elegant edge, while the leopard-print skirt added a bold, statement touch.

