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KTR threatens protest at Rahul's residence over 'unfulfilled' promises

Iran says it is in talks with Oman but not the US after Trump says negotiations to resume

WORLD PAGE



RAASHI SHOWS WHY SHE'S TIMELESSLY STYLISH

CINEMA PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

02-08-2026

Total pilgrims : 84,645
Tonsures : 29,700
Hundi kankulu : 4,50 CR
Laddu sale : 3,95 Lac
Annaspradams : 2.28 Lac
Waiting Compartments : 17

CBI court sentences ex-airport official to three years jail

Kurnool, Aug 3 : The Special CBI Court in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool on Monday sentenced a former official of Kadapa Airport to Rigorous Imprisonment for three years with a fine of Rs 50,000 in a nine-year-old bribery case. The Special Court sentenced Mukundagiri Rangachari Srinivasan, the then Assistant General Manager (Air Traffic Management) and Officiating Airport Director, Kadapa Airport, for demanding a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a contractor, said a CBI statement. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered the instant case on July 24, 2015 against the accused. It was alleged that the accused abused his official position as a public servant and demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 from the complainant for processing the pending bills at an early date and for not initiating the process of blacklisting the complainant's firm. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting Rs 25,000, as the first instalment of the demanded bribe.

Revanth Congratulates NIMS for 1,000 Robotic Surgeries Milestone

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy has congratulated the medical team at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) for successfully completing 1,000 robotic surgeries within just two and a half years, describing the achievement as a significant milestone in the state's public healthcare system. During a meeting with NIMS Director



Dr. Rahul Devaraj, the Chief Minister lauded the dedication of the doctors, nursing staff, and operation theatre team for their outstanding contribution to advanced medical care. Revanth Reddy said the achievement reflects the State Government's commitment to making world-class healthcare services accessible to the common people through government hospitals. He appreciated the NIMS management for ensuring that more than 90 per cent of the robotic surgeries were performed free of cost under the AarogyaSri Scheme and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Chief Minister also noted that NIMS had recently crossed the landmark of 2,000 kidney transplant surgeries, and said the institution has now created another record with 1,000 robotic surgeries.

Eight militants held in Manipur, arms cache recovered

Imphal, Aug 3: Eight militants, including two women cadres, belonging to different banned insurgent outfits were arrested and arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials recovered during separate joint security operations across Manipur, officials said on Monday. A senior police official said the arrests were made from Imphal West, Imphal East and Bishnupur districts during coordinated operations by the Manipur Police and other security agencies. The arrested militants are allegedly linked to the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) along with its political wing, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF). According to officials, the cadres were involved in various unlawful activities, including kidnapping and collection of "subscriptions", a term used by insurgent groups for extortion.

Minister Uttam orders fast-track clearances for 4 major irrigation projects

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N.Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday directed officials to fast-track environmental clearances for four major irrigation projects—Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), Sitarama Sagar, Dindi and Gouravelli—and set a six-month target for completing the process.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Minister said the recent Supreme Court judgment on environmental-clearance procedures had created a significant opportunity to secure approvals for the pending projects. He instructed officials to pursue all eligible cases with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other statutory authorities without delay.

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to appoint nodal offi-



cers within a week, complete environmental studies and documentation within 30 days, and finish key administrative procedures within 60 days. Weekly progress reports and monthly senior-level reviews have also been mandated. Minister stressed the need to strengthen the department's Inter-State Wing with legal, technical and environmental expertise to effectively pursue pending cases before the Supreme Court, National Green Tribunal (NGT) and other statutory bodies.

Reviewing the Gouravelli Project, he instructed engineers

to keep the pump house ready for immediate operation by completing inspections, testing and repairs. He also ordered a detailed inspection of canal networks to remove bottlenecks and ensure smooth water flow.

For the Sitarama Sagar Project, Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to complete all required environmental documentation and engineering preparations so that work could resume immediately after statutory clearances are obtained. Similar urgency was ordered for the PRLIS and Dindi projects.

Rijiju slams Opposition over Parliament ruckus, says bills passed without debate

New Delhi (TSIT):

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday criticised the Opposition for disrupting Parliament proceedings, alleging that members refused to participate in debates on key bills and instead created chaos in both Houses.

Speaking outside Parliament, Rijiju said two important bills were passed on Monday, but Opposition members did not take part in the discussions despite repeated appeals from the government. "Today, two bills were passed in Parliament. I am saddened that while members supporting the government spoke on these bills, the Opposition did not say anything and only created a ruckus," he said.

Rijiju claimed that the government had repeatedly urged Opposition MPs to



join the debate, but they chose not to participate. "The saddest part is that there is no one left in the Congress who can make its MPs understand the importance of participating in parliamentary proceedings," he said.

The Minister said he had personally appealed to senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, to encourage MPs to take part in discussions.

"I requested Mallikarjun Kharge to explain this to Congress MPs, but there is no one in their party who can make them understand," Rijiju said.



Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh addressing the 85th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day celebrations, in New Delhi....

Will show my scholarship letter if PM Modi shows his degree: CJP founder Dipke

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (TSIT)

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Monday said he is ready to show his scholarship and loan sanction letters for his US education if Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes his degree public. "I am



ready to disclose my scholarship letter and education loan letters. Will PM Modi show his degree," Dipke told

reporters in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

Dipke's remarks were apparently in response to demands by activists and political opponents, who have been seeking official verification and public inspection of university registries to check authenticity of Modi's degrees.

BIHAR'S BANKIPUR FALLS:

Prashant Kishor scores landmark bypoll win, ends BJP's 3-decade dominance

■ Jan Suraj Party founder Kishor defeats his nearest BJP rival Neeraj Kumar by a margin of 19,324 votes

Patna (TSIT)

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor made a historic electoral debut on Monday, winning the bypoll for Bihar's prestigious Bankipur Assembly constituency, in a big blow to the BJP which had held the seat since 1995.

The defeat, coming days after the massive Gen Z protests across the country, was even more stinging because the seat was last held by BJP president Nitin Nabin, whose elevation necessitated the bypoll on August 30. Kishor, who got 64,151 votes, defeated BJP's Neeraj Kumar by 19,324 votes. Kumar garnered 44,827 votes. Rekha Gupta of RJD was a distant third with 14,273 votes. A little less than 3.8 lakh



voters, including 2 lakh men and 1.79 lakh women, were eligible to vote in the polls. The bypoll recorded a voter turnout of 34.30 per cent, down by more than seven per cent from the 41.45 per cent registered in the last assembly elections, held just nine months ago.

"The victory is a wake-up call for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who must

install a new Chief Minister in place of Samrat Choudhary, a man with criminal antecedents," said Kishor, for whom it was a satisfying reversal of fortunes. In the Assembly elections, his party had failed to win any seats. Kishor had decided not to contest then.

The 49-year-old Jan Suraj founder had entered the fray, announc-

ing that he saw the byelection as a "referendum" on the BJP-led government in the state.

Kishor, whose victory may help resurrect his fledgling outfit, also said, "On this occasion, besides thanking the common citizens, I would like to thank those who helped Jan Suraj despite not being in the party." BJP had hurriedly fielded Kumar after its candidate Abhishek "Bunty" pulled out at the eleventh hour, citing "family reasons".

The bypoll to the Assembly seat was necessitated by the resignation of BJP national president Nitin Nabin, whose late father, Navin Chandra Sinha, began the party's winning streak in 1995, when the seat was known as "Patna seat".

Job aspirants stage flash protest in Hyderabad, demand 20,000 police jobs

Hyderabad (TSIT) :

Demanding that the Telangana government fill 20,000 vacancies in the police department, job aspirants on Monday staged a flash protest at Indira Park crossroads in Hyderabad.

Holding placards and raising slogans, the protesters, including aspirants for police constable and sub-inspector posts, accused the state government of renegeing on its promise by issuing notifications for only about 7,000 vacancies.

The protest, organised by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of unemployed youth, briefly disrupted traffic as demonstrators staged a road blockade by sitting on the road. The protesters claimed that around 10 lakh aspirants across Telangana had been waiting for several years for recruitment notifications for 20,000 police jobs and expressed disappointment



over the recent recruitment drive. They also demanded notifications to fill vacancies in other government departments, including a mega DSC and Group I, II, III and IV posts. Warning of an intensified agitation, the youth threatened to organise large-scale protests in front of the state Secretariat and other locations if their demands were not met.

Karnataka: 19 ministers sworn into Shivakumar's cabinet

Bengaluru (TSIT):

Nineteen legislators were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers in the Congress government led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a ceremony held at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan on Monday, marking the long-awaited expansion of the State Cabinet.

Although Congress MLC Gayathri Shanthegowda's name figured in the list of ministers announced by the party, she did not take the oath. Congress insiders said the party high command has kept her berth vacant following strong opposition and rebellion over the Cabinet

reshuffle. The swearing-in ceremony commenced with the rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by the National Anthem. The State Anthem was also rendered before the oath-taking ceremony. The programme concluded with the rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by the National Anthem and the State Anthem.

Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers in the presence of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara and other dignitaries. Former Chief Minister and Congress



Working Committee (CWC) member Siddaramaiah remained absent.

Three-time MLA Ajay Singh, son of former Chief Minister late N. Dharam Singh, took the oath in the name of God. An MBBS graduate, Ajay Singh rep-

resents the Jewargi Assembly constituency in Kalaburagi district. Five-time MLA H.C. Balakrishna, a close associate of Chief Minister Shivakumar, took oath in the name of God. He represents the Magadi constitu-

ency in Ramanagara district. First-time MLA K.S. Basavanthappa, representing the reserved Mayakonda constituency in Davangere district, took oath in the name of Jagajyothi Basaveshwara. He is the son-in-law of for-

mer minister H. Anjaneya. Senior Congress leader Basavaraja Rayareddi, a six-term MLA and former Member of Parliament, was sworn in as a minister. Representing the Yelburga constituency in Koppal district, he had earlier served as Economic Adviser to former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Former minister and four-time MLA N. Cheluvarayaswamy took oath in the name of God and his grandfather. The Nagamangala MLA from Mandya district was once a close associate of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy before

leaving JD(S) to join the Congress. Former Deputy Chief Minister and four-term MLA Laxman Sangappa Savadi took the oath in the name of God. The Athani MLA from Belagavi district had quit the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and joined the Congress ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections after being denied a party ticket. Former minister and two-term MLA Madhu Bangarappa, representing the Sagar constituency in Shivamogga district, took the oath in the name of God. He is the son of former Chief Minister late S. Bangarappa.

Pawan Kalyan Directs Officials to Expedite Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh Project

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forests and Environment Pawan Kalyan has directed officials to accelerate the implementation of the Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh project and complete the 2026-27 targets within the next two months. Reviewing the project's progress with senior Forest Department officials on Monday, he said the initiative is crucial for protecting the state's coastline from climate change, coastal ero-



sion and extreme weather events. He appreciated the department for helping Andhra Pradesh secure the second position in the country in mangrove

expansion over the last two years and urged officials to achieve even better results this year. The deputy Chief minister said the state plans to

develop a 5-km-wide green belt along its 1,053-km coastline, with plantation activities covering 8,888 hectares during the current year. The programme includes 5,000 hectares of palm plantations, 1,993 hectares of native species under the Green Climate Fund, and 727 hectares of shelter belt plantations. An additional 70 lakh saplings have also been allotted to coastal districts under the VBG Ram Ji scheme to strengthen the project. Pawan Kalyan said Andhra Pradesh expanded mangrove for-

ests over 740 hectares in 2024-25 and 1,930 hectares in 2025-26, earning national recognition. He added that 305 hectares of mangrove restoration would be taken up under the MISHTI-II programme later this year. He also called for greater public participation in palm plantations, social forestry and community forests, stressing that the Great Green Wall project will create a strong ecological shield along the coast while enhancing climate resilience and environmental conservation.

Minister Orders Audit of Oxygen Usage in Government Hospitals

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav has directed officials to conduct a comprehensive audit of oxygen procurement and consumption in government hospitals, following a sharp rise in Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) purchases after the COVID-19 pandemic. During a high-level review meeting held at the Health Department office in Mangalagiri on Monday, the Minister instructed officials to complete an audit of actual oxygen demand, supply and usage within two weeks. The recommendations will be



implemented on a pilot basis in eight government hospitals for two months, with a detailed report to be submitted by October 15. The Minister noted that while government hospitals spent Rs.60.51 crore on LMO between 2016 and 2020, the expenditure rose to Rs.180.82

crore during 2022-26, despite the end of the pandemic. Although new hospitals and additional beds contributed to the increase, he said the wide gap between projected demand and actual consumption requires a detailed examination to reduce unnecessary expenditure.

SPMVV hosts informative session on angel investment and VC funding opportunities

Tirupati, August 3, 2026 - The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visva Vidyalaya (Women's University), Tirupati, organized an informative session on "Angel Investment / VC Funding Opportunities" at the Smart Classroom, Department of Applied Microbiology. The event, held from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, was guided by Prof. R. Nagaraju, IIC Vice-President, and coordinated by Prof. Ch. M. Kumari Chitturi, IIC Convener. The programme was organized by Dr. G. Latha, Assistant Professor,



Department of Business Management, and Mrs. J. Rajya Lakshmi, Academic Consultant, Department of BS&H, SoET. Mr. Harindra Noel, Business and Educational Consultant, served as the resource person and delivered an insightful lecture on the significance of angel invest-

ment and venture capital funding in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. He emphasized the importance of identifying market opportunities, validating business ideas, developing sustainable business models, and preparing effective business pitches. He also highlighted the role of innovation, intellectual prop-

erty, teamwork, financial planning, and networking in attracting investors. Through practical examples and real-life startup success stories, he motivated students and aspiring entrepreneurs to transform innovative ideas into successful ventures. The programme witnessed participation from 50 students, faculty members, and innovation enthusiasts from various departments. Participants interacted with the resource person during the question-and-answer session, gaining valuable insights into startup funding, incubation support, and entrepreneurship opportunities available through government and private initiatives.

India SME Forum Launches 'Top 50 SMEs of Andhra Pradesh' Initiative

Vijayawada (TSIT) The India SME Forum has launched the "Top 50 SMEs of Andhra Pradesh" programme, making Andhra Pradesh the second state to be included in its nationwide MSME recognition initiative. The programme builds on the success of the India SME 100 Awards, the Forum's flagship national platform for recognising outstanding Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The initiative aims to identify and recognise high-performing MSMEs across the manufacturing, services and

trading sectors that have demonstrated excellence in innovation, technology adoption, exports, employment generation and business growth. Andhra Pradesh was selected for the programme due to its rapidly growing industrial ecosystem and strong presence in sectors such as manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, food processing and electronics. Enterprises selected among the Top 50 SMEs of Andhra Pradesh will also receive automatic nomination for the India SME 100 Awards, subject to eligibility and evaluation

criteria. They will gain access to the India SME Forum's business ecosystem, including investors, financial institutions, technology partners, multinational companies, export promotion platforms and networking opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, Vinod Kumar, President of India SME Forum, said the programme is designed not only to recognise successful enterprises but also to help them grow by connecting them with capital, technology, markets and global business opportunities. The selection will be

based on transparent evaluation criteria, including business performance, innovation, export contribution, digital transformation, sustainability, employment generation and overall business excellence. The selected enterprises will be honoured at a special awards ceremony in the presence of policymakers, industry leaders, investors and business partners. The India SME Forum has invited eligible MSMEs from across Andhra Pradesh to participate in the programme and showcase their achievements.

Quality rice made available at lower prices across 28 centres in Tirupati

Tirupati, August 3, 2026 - Statewide sale of quality rice at lower prices commenced from August 1, and as part of this initiative, rice sales have been made available at 28 centres in Tirupati district, informed District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar. On Monday morning, the lower-priced rice sales price fixation programme organised by the State Government at the Rythu Bazar in Tirupati town was inaugurated by Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, TUDA Chairman Divakar Reddy, Clean and Green Beautification Corporation Chairperson Sugunamma, Nayi Brahmana Corporation Chairman Sadasivam, Joint



Collector R. Govindarao, and District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector stated that under the aegis of the Civil Supplies Department, two varieties of fine rice are being supplied to the public at prices lower than market rates. Steamed BPT rice, which is sold in the market at Rs.65 to Rs.70 per kg, is being provided at Rs.52, while raw BPT rice, sold at Rs.58 to Rs.62 per kg, is being offered at Rs.50.

TTD chairman B.R. Naidu offers prayers at Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy temple in Surutupalli

Tirupati, August 3, 2026 - TTD Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu visited the renowned Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy Temple at Surutupalli in Tirupati district on Monday and offered prayers to the deity. The Chairman and his spouse were accorded a traditional welcome with Purna Kumbham and Mangala Vadyam by Temple Chairman Sri Padmanabha Raju and Executive Officer Smt. Latha. Naidu participated in special prayers to Sri Pallikondeswara Swamy along with Sri Sarvamangala



Devi, praying for the welfare of the people and the protection of Sanatana Dharma. Earlier, he offered prayers at the shrines of Sri Vighneswara Swamy, Sri Valmikeswara Swamy, and Sri Maragathambika Ammavaru. Later, Vedic

scholars blessed the couple with Veda Ashirvachanam at the Sri Pradosha Nandi Mandapam as per temple tradition. TTD Board Members Sri Naresh, Sri Shantaram, and temple officials also participated in the programme.

Eligible Weavers to Benefit Under 'Netanna Sevalo' Scheme: Minister Savitha



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Minister for Handlooms and Textiles S. Savitha has said that all eligible handloom weavers in the state will be covered under the 'Netanna Sevalo' welfare scheme, under which each eligible weaver will receive Rs.25,000 annually as financial assistance. The scheme will be formally launched on August 7, coinciding with National

Handloom Day, and eligible beneficiaries have been urged to submit their applications by 5:00 p.m. on August 5. The Minister made these remarks while chairing a review meeting with Assistant Directors of the Handlooms and Textiles Department from all districts at the State Secretariat. She said the objective of the coalition government led by Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu is to ensure a dignified livelihood and financial security for handloom weavers. Besides implementing the promises made during the elections, the government is also introducing welfare initiatives that were not part of its election manifesto, she noted, describing the 'Netanna Sevalo' scheme as one such initiative. Minister Savitha said the government has been taking several measures for the development of the handloom sector, including providing NTR Bharosa pensions to weavers above the age of 50, extending free electricity of up to 200 units for traditional handloom weavers and 500 units for powerloom weavers, and facilitating access to Thrift Fund benefits and Mudra loans.

National Workshop on Intellectual Property and Arbitration Laws Begins at GITAM

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) A national-level workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Arbitration Laws commenced at the GITAM School of Law, GITAM Deemed to be University, on Monday. The workshop aims to equip law students with practical knowledge and professional skills in the rapidly evolving fields of intellectual property and alternative dispute resolution. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Moumita Sen Chakrabarti, Director, GITAM School of Law. Addressing the gathering, she said the institution is committed to bridging the gap between classroom legal education and real-world legal practice, enabling students to meet the demands of the legal profession. Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Dean of GITAM School of Law, highlighted the growing importance of legal frameworks in the era of innovation and technological advancement. He noted that the workshop was designed to provide students with a comprehen-



sive understanding of modern intellectual property laws and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The inaugural programme featured distinguished legal experts, including Prof. M. Padmavathi from IIT Kharagpur and legal professionals Vishwambhar Bareja, Garima Joshi, Navdeep Suhag, Shubham Budhiraja, and Sakshi Nigam, who attended as keynote speakers. During their sessions, the speakers explained the evolution and contemporary relevance of the Indian Patents Act, 1970, emphasizing the critical role of intellectual property protection

in fostering innovation, scientific research, and technological development. They observed that in today's knowledge-driven economy, the value of a patent often exceeds that of traditional physical assets. The experts also highlighted the advantages of opting for early publication of patent applications, noting that it enables applicants to secure provisional rights at an earlier stage, thereby facilitating commercialization and strengthening legal protection for innovations. The workshop further focused on key provisions and recent developments under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, offering participants valuable insights into modern dispute resolution practices. Organisers said the multi-session programme includes claim drafting exercises, interactive learning sessions, and arbitration modules aimed at preparing future legal professionals with practical and industry-relevant expertise.

BJP intensifies exercise for Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar graduates' MLC poll

Rangareddy (TSIT) - The BJP has stepped up its internal exercise for the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar Graduates' Legislative Council (MLC) election, scheduled for March next year, with four leaders emerging as leading contenders for the party ticket. Party insiders said the BJP is looking to field a candidate with strong organisational background, public credibility, and the ability to articulate issues concerning graduates, youth, and the education sector. The prominent names under consideration include Nelli Srivardhan Reddy, a former government school teacher and former ABVP leader; Dr. P. Bhaskar Yogi, an author and former junior college lecturer; senior BJP leader Dr. S. Malla Reddy, former state vice-president; and Sudhakar Rao, a former Electricity Department employee and union leader. Party sources said commitment to the party, organisational experience, and public image would play a crucial role in the selection process.

SP leads midnight vehicle checking drive to strengthen law and order

Jogulamba Gadwal, (TSIT) District Superintendent of Police T. Srinivasa Rao personally led a surprise midnight vehicle checking drive at strategic locations across the district on Saturday night to strengthen law and order and ensure public safety. The enforcement drive was conducted at Jammichedu Junction and Pilligundla Crossroads, where the SP supervised inspections alongside police personnel. A special team comprising one



Reserve Inspector, one Reserve Sub-Inspector, and ten police personnel participated in the operation. During the checking, officers verified vehicle documents including driving licences, registration certificates, and insurance papers. A car being driven

without a registration number plate was seized and shifted to Gadwal Town Police Station for legal action. Addressing the media, the SP reiterated that public safety remains the highest priority and said night patrolling and surprise checks would continue. He urged motorists to carry valid documents and comply with traffic regulations, appealing to the public to cooperate with police in maintaining peace and order.

KTR threatens protest at Rahul’s residence over ‘unfulfilled’ promises



Hyderabad, Aug 3 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Monday threatened to lay siege to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi’s residence in Delhi to demand that the Congress government in Telangana fulfil promises made to the youth, including the promise of 2 lakh jobs. The former minister slammed Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for not

fulfilling the promise of providing jobs and other promises made in the youth declaration.

Addressing a press conference, he accused the Congress government of pushing the youth of Telangana towards despair. He recalled that Rahul Gandhi had promised 2 lakh jobs in the first year and claimed that not even 10,000 jobs have been filled in two years. He said when there

are 20,000 vacancies in the police department, the government has issued notifications for only 7,000 jobs.

“Congress deceived people with its pre-election declarations. Even the ‘Job Calendar’ tabled in the legislature has gone nowhere,” he said. He said that not even one out of 24 commitments under the Youth and Student Declarations has been fulfilled. KTR said a student named Venu in Khammam has attempted suicide over the delay in issuing notification by Telangana State Public Service Commission for Group 1-4 jobs and is fighting for his life, demanding answers. He said the youth, in a handwritten note, demanded Rahul Gandhi, CM Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to introduce annual job calendars like the Union Public Service Commission.

District collector honors organ donor families on National Organ Donation Day



Nalgonda (TSIT) – On the occasion of National Organ Donation Day, Nalgonda District Collector Sri B. Chandrasekhar honored families of nine organ donors at a felicitation ceremony organised by the Lions Club of Nalgonda Charitable Trust and the Lions Club of Nalgonda at the District Collector’s office.

The Collector began by signing an organ donation pledge, expressing his full support for the cause. He then honoured the donor

families with shawls and conveyed his special gratitude, hailing them as true embodiments of humanity for agreeing to donate their loved ones’ organs during profound grief. He instructed officials to ensure eligible families receive benefits of government welfare schemes and assured them that the government stands with them.

Lions Club International District 320E Governor K.V. Prasad, Lions Club President Ashok Erramada, and other dignitaries participated. The donor families expressed deep emotion, stating that the recognition had instilled great strength and confidence in them, and conveyed heartfelt gratitude to the Collector, the Lions organisation, and the event organisers.

BRS seeks revival of Mancherial–Anthargaon bridge project.



MANCHERIAL, Aug. 3, SITS : BRS State leader Nadipelli Vijith Kumar on Monday demanded the revival of the proposed Mancherial–Anthargaon bridge project, alleging that its cancellation would adversely affect connectivity for people in Mancherial, Peddapalli and Komaram Bheem Asifabad districts. After inspecting the proposed bridge site at Rangapet along with residents of Sun City Colony, Mr. Vijith Kumar alleged that the funds originally sanctioned for the bridge had been diverted to a proposed six-lane

road from Lakshmi Talkies to Old Mancherial via Andalamma Nagar for political reasons. He said the foundation stone for the 13.50-crore bridge project had been laid by MLA Prem Sagar Rao on March 10, 2024, but the works had not commenced. Instead, a six-lane road from Rallavagu to Rangapet was being taken up, he alleged. Questioning the priority given to the road project, Mr. Vijith Kumar claimed that the bridge would benefit commuters from three districts, whereas the proposed road would serve a limited purpose.

Resolve public grievances immediately, says collector Priyanka

Narayanpet, August 3, 2026 – District Collector Priyanka has directed officials to prioritise ‘Praja Vani’ (public grievances) applications and resolve them as quickly as possible. During the Praja Vani programme held at the District Collectorate on Monday, 30 complaints were received from people coming from various areas across the district. The Collector personally heard the grievances and assured the public of prompt action. On this occasion, Priyanka emphasised that public applications must not



be kept pending under any circumstances and that immediate action should be taken at the departmental level. She instructed officials to ensure that every complaint is addressed within a stipulated timeframe and that follow-up mechanisms are put in place to prevent delays.

19th ATA Congress continues grand second day in America



Hyderabad (TSIT) The second day of the 19th American Telugu Association (ATA) Congress in America continued with great enthusiasm, with Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana

Bhatti Vikramarka participating in the programmes and warmly greeting the Telugu diaspora. TPCC Vice President Jhansi Rajender Reddy and MLC Addanki Dayakar joined the Deputy Chief Minister at the

Mahasabha. The leaders interacted with the Telugu diaspora attendees, understanding their views and concerns. They also visited various special stalls set up at the venue, appreciating the organisers and inquiring about the features on display. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders stated that the ATA Mahasabhas, which reflect the culture and traditions of Telangana, are playing a vital role in bringing the Telugu diaspora together on a single platform.

Selling low-quality gold jewellery cheats consumers, says consumer body leader

Hanumakonda (TSIT) , Consumer Confederation of India (CCI) National Secretary Dr. Pallepada Damodar has called for inspection of all gold jewellery businesses across Telangana, expressing concern over the seizure of jewellery worth 10 crore without hallmarks from a single shop in Warangal by BIS officials.

Speaking as chief guest at a Consumer Awareness Conference organised at the District Consumer Advisory Centre in Ramnagar, Dr. Damodar said it is painful that consumers spending lakhs on gold jewellery are being cheated with low-quality



products. He noted that hallmarking unit identification numbers are mandatory under central government rules, and traders should not be allowed to act as they please. Samba Raju Chakrapani, National General Secretary of the Consumers’ Council, said

traders often omit full details in receipts for gold and silver jewellery. He pointed out that quality percentages are not specified for silver, leading to fake silver, nickel silver, or German silver being sold. He urged BIS officials to bring silver jewellery under mandatory hallmarking.

M. Vikram Takes Charge as Kothakota SI

KOTHAKOTA, AUGUST 3: M. Vikram has assumed charge as the new Sub-Inspector of Kothakota Police Station in Wanaparthy district. He was transferred from Marikal Police Station and took over his new responsibilities on Monday. Speaking after assuming charge, SI Vikram said that maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and providing efficient policing services would be his foremost priorities. He emphasized the importance of strengthening police-public relations and assured citizens that the police station would remain accessible to address public grievances promptly. Police officials and staff welcomed



the newly appointed officer and extended their best wishes. Local leaders and residents also congratulated SI Vikram on his appointment and expressed confidence that his experience and leadership would contribute to effective policing in the region. The appointment is expected to further strengthen law enforcement activities and enhance public confidence in the police administration in Kothakota.

Organ donation awareness campaign 'Angdaan Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyan' held at KIMS Hospitals

Hyderabad, August 3, 2026 – Organ donation can give a new lease of life to several people even after a person’s death, and widespread public awareness is essential to remove misconceptions surrounding it, speakers said at a special programme organised as part of the national campaign “Angdaan Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyan.”

The event was held at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, under the joint aegis of KIMS Group of Hospitals, the National Service Scheme (NSS), KIMS Educational Society, and KIMS College of Nursing, with the theme “Organ Donation – Gift Life, Leave a Legacy.” The programme witnessed the participation of doctors, nursing students, and faculty members in large numbers. Addressing the gathering,



Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao, Chairman and Managing Director of KIMS Group of Hospitals, described organ donation as one of the noblest humanitarian acts and stressed the need for families to discuss organ donation openly and make informed decisions.

Dr. S. Manimala Rao, Director of Medical Education (Academics), KIMS Hospitals, said organ donation represented the highest form of service to humanity and that a single decision could bring hope to many families. Dr. Sandeep

Gangaya Attawar, Program Director & Chair of Thoracic Organ Transplantation and Assist Devices, explained that organs such as the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys could be retrieved after brain death. He noted that a single organ donor could save up to eight lives and improve the quality of life of more than 50 people through tissue donation. Kidney transplant specialists Dr. Saharia and Dr. Uma Maheswara Rao observed that awareness about organ transplantation was gradually increasing but much more was still needed.

Kalasalingam University inaugurates classes for first-year students for 2026–27

Srivilliputhur, August 3, 2026 – Kalasalingam University inaugurated classes for first-year students and held the freshman induction programme for its 42nd batch for the academic year 2026–27.

Pro Chancellor Dr. S. Arivalagi Sridharan presided over the event, while Vice Presidents Dr. S. Shasi Anand and Er. S. Arjun Kalasalingam inaugurated the



induction programme. Dr. Shasi Anand advised students to utilise campus opportunities to enhance communication skills and stay updated with technological developments. Vice Chancellor Dr. S. Narayanan welcomed attendees and highlighted the university’s overall vision. Registrar Dr. V. Vasudevan introduced Directors, Deans, and HoDs. Dean Dr. M. Kalpana detailed the induction programme.

CARE Hospitals opens advanced MICU in Malakpet to strengthen critical care

Hyderabad, August 2, 2026 – CARE Hospitals, Malakpet, today inaugurated an Advanced Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) to enhance access to high-acuity care in Hyderabad.

The facility was launched by Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala, MLA, Malakpet Assembly Constituency, in the presence of Dr. Pawan Kumar, CEO (India II), Aster DM Quality Care Limited; Nilesh Gupta, Regional CEO; Praveen Kumar Edla, COO, CARE Hospitals, Malakpet; Shaik Mohinuddin Abrar, Corporator, Azampura; Dr. Sridhar, Medical Superintendent; Dr. Vajrapu Rajendra, Senior Consultant & HOD – Critical Care; along with senior doctors and hospital



staff. Equipped with advanced patient monitoring systems, modern life-support technologies, and round-the-clock intensive care infrastructure, the new MICU is designed to manage severe infections, respiratory illnesses, cardiac emergencies, sepsis, and multi-organ failure. The unit is supported by experienced intensivists, specialist physicians, and

trained critical care nurses to deliver rapid intervention and coordinated multidisciplinary care.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala said that access to advanced critical care closer to home can make a life-saving difference, and appreciated CARE Hospitals for its continued investment in healthcare infrastructure. Dr. Pawan Kumar

reaffirmed Aster DM Quality Care’s commitment to combining clinical excellence with advanced technology and compassionate care. Praveen Kumar Edla highlighted that the new unit strengthens the hospital’s ability to deliver timely, high-quality care for patients facing life-threatening conditions. Dr. Vajrapu Rajendra noted that the unit enables faster, safer care through evidence-based protocols and a multidisciplinary approach. The Advanced MICU is part of CARE Hospitals’ ongoing strategy to expand critical care capabilities across its network, reinforcing its position as a trusted destination for complex and emergency medical care in the region.

National consultation on blue economy policy framework for mariculture begins in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, August 3, 2026 – The National Flagship Consultation on the Blue Economy Policy Framework for Mariculture was inaugurated at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad, today. The event also marked the launch of the ANRF Prime Minister’s Early Career Research Grant (PM-ECRG) Project on developing an AI-enabled framework for mariculture sector development.

Prof. (Dr.) A. Biju Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), who was the Chief Guest, highlighted the strategic importance of fisheries, aquaculture, and mariculture in India’s Blue Economy. He noted their potential to accelerate economic growth, strengthen coastal livelihoods, promote entrepreneurship, enhance exports, and contribute to food and



nutritional security, while stressing the need to translate R&D into actionable products for stakeholders.

In his keynote address, Dr. Bijay Kumar Behera, Chief Executive of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), emphasized that an AI-enabled Geospatial-Biological and Techno-Economic Fusion Intelligence Framework could significantly enhance mariculture productivity. He called for addressing fragmentation in critical information related to biological suitability, environmental

conditions, carrying capacity, economics, infrastructure, markets, and investment risks, and highlighted the need to strengthen seed production. Prof. Gnana Prakash, Vice-Chancellor of P.V. Narsimha Rao Veterinary University (PVNRTVU), urged greater collaboration among fisheries universities and research institutions to drive meaningful transformation in the sector. Dr. R.M. Sundaram, Director of ICAR-NAARM, noted that India is the world’s second-largest fish producer with annual production of

nearly 198 lakh tonnes and marine product exports exceeding Rs.73,890.46 crore in 2025. However, he pointed out that productivity lags behind leading countries such as Norway, China, and Japan, and emphasized the need for sustainable, scientifically planned growth.

Dr. Suresh Kumar Mojjada, Principal Investigator of the project, outlined the initiative’s conception and its alignment with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, aiming to strengthen the Blue Economy for sustainable growth, employment, food security, climate resilience, and coastal prosperity. Dr. Ganesh Kumar announced the signing of an MoU between ICAR-NAARM and KUFOS, which will create opportunities for knowledge enhancement and upskilling of fisheries students.

Senior leaders denied Cabinet berths in K'taka Cabinet rejig; S.S. Mallikarjun gets last-minute entry

Bengaluru, Aug 3 : The Congress leadership's last-minute changes to the Karnataka Cabinet expansion list sparked some resentment within the party on Monday, with several disappointed legislators threatening to resign from their Assembly memberships, supporters staging protests and one party worker allegedly consuming poison in protest.

In a dramatic development ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, the Congress high command reportedly dropped Mankal S. Vaidya from the final list of ministers and instead inducted former minister S.S. Mallikarjun. A senior Lingayat leader from Central Karnataka, Mallikarjun's inclusion is believed to have been part of the party's efforts to strengthen regional and community representation in the Cabinet.

The last-minute reshuffle, however, left several aspirants fuming.

Indi MLA Yashavanth Rayagouda Patil announced that he had prepared his resignation letter and would submit it to the Assembly Speaker after being dropped from the final list despite being allegedly assured of a Cabinet berth until the last moment. "There is a big conspiracy. My exclusion



shows that this is not the time for honest and loyal party workers. Until yesterday, the leadership told me that I was in the list and asked me to be ready for the oath-taking ceremony. At the last minute, my name was removed. What should I tell my supporters?" Patil told reporters.

He claimed that a meeting held on Monday morning resulted in a change in the final list and that senior leaders, including Randeep Singh Surjewala, Siddaramaiah and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, had later informed MLAs from his district that ministers M.B. Patil and Shivanand Patil had been accommodated and that he would be considered at a later stage. Patil expressed anguish that his constituency had never been represented in the Cabinet since Independence.

"Several meetings were held in Delhi and everything was positive. I cannot remain with those who betrayed me. I have

been in active politics for 40 years and have contested eight elections. I built the Congress in my constituency over the last two decades. There is no meaning in continuing under the present leadership," he said. Patil said he had sought an appointment with the Speaker to submit his resignation and declared that he would walk out of the Vidhana Soudha as a former MLA. His supporters later staged protests condemning the party's decision.

Former minister and Sagar MLA Belur Gopalakrishna also announced that he would resign from the Assembly, alleging that loyal grassroots leaders were being ignored while political families continued to receive preference.

"I will not resign alone. We are a group and we will submit our resignations tomorrow at 10 a.m. I never imagined that I would be betrayed like this. The people of my taluk are deeply disap-

pointed," he said.

Questioning the selection process, Gopalakrishna said children of former chief ministers and senior ministers continued to receive Cabinet opportunities while ordinary party workers were overlooked. "Some leaders from the same region have already enjoyed ministerial positions for three years. Sons of former chief ministers and ministers get opportunities, but common workers do not. I have never indulged in anti-party activities. Is the party unwilling to allow grassroots leaders to grow?" he asked.

He also announced that he would resign from his position in a state corporation in addition to his Assembly membership.

Senior Congress leaders Hampanagouda Badarli, Ashok Pattan and Raghavendra Hitnal also publicly expressed disappointment over being left out of the expanded ministry.

Meanwhile, tensions escalated further after a supporter of senior Congress leader 6-time MLA Tanveer Sait allegedly consumed poison in protest against Sait's exclusion from the Cabinet. The supporter was rushed to hospital, where treatment is underway.

S.E.Sudheendra Invites Maryland Governor Wes Moore to Collaborate in Bioenergy and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Washington : In a significant step towards strengthening India-United States cooperation in the clean energy sector, S. E. Sudheendra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDDB), met with the Governor of the State of Maryland, Wes Moore on Bioenergy and Sustainable Aviation fuel Development, the forum held in Washington, D.C., USA.

The meeting was cordial and highly productive. The meeting was attended by the President of the American Telugu Association (ATA) and prominent members of the Telugu-American community. The Detailed discussions were held on potential areas of collaboration between the State of Karnataka and the State of Maryland in the fields of bioenergy, Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), biodiesel, green hydrogen, and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

The Governor Wes Moore emphasized that biofuels are of great importance and are highly relevant in addressing global energy and climate challenges. Reaffirming Maryland's commitment to clean energy,



he expressed keen interest in developing partnerships with Karnataka in these emerging sectors in the coming days.

Speaking on the occasion, S. E. Sudheendra stated that Karnataka is a national leader in promoting bioenergy by converting agricultural residues and biomass into valuable energy resources,

thereby contributing to energy security and rural livelihood development. He highlighted that Karnataka offers excellent opportunities for international collaboration in technology, research, investment, and innovation in the sustainable energy sector.

On behalf of the Chief Minister of Karnataka, S. E. Sudheendra, for-

mally invited Governor Wes Moore and his delegation to visit Karnataka. The invitation aims to provide an opportunity to witness the State's bioenergy initiatives firsthand and to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Karnataka and Maryland. Members of the Telugu-American community who attended the meeting welcomed the initiative and observed that the Indian diaspora has an important role to play in further enhancing the strategic partnership between India and the United States. As part of its continued efforts to position Karnataka as a global hub for sustainable energy solutions, the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board will continue to strengthen partnerships with the State of Maryland and other institutions and stakeholders across the United States.

The delegation meeting was also attended by prominent Washington, D.C.-based entrepreneurs, including Ravi puli leading industrialist Washington DC , Murali krishna, ATA president Jayanth Challa, devahars and other members were present.

HIMTEX 2026 Returns with its Largest-Ever Edition, Showcasing the Future of Smart Manufacturing

Bengaluru : The 9th edition of the Hyderabad International Machine Tool & Engineering Expo (HIMTEX 2026) will be held from 20-24 August 2026 at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad. Building on the success of eight editions, HIMTEX 2026 will be its largest-ever edition, spread across 18,500 sqm, reaffirming its position as one of the India's biggest machine tool and engineering expo.

The five-day exhibition will feature 350+ exhibitors, 1,000+ live machines, and is expected to attract 20,000+ industrial visitors from across India. The event will showcase cutting-edge solutions in machine tools, metalworking, automation, robotics, tooling, digital manufacturing, and industrial engineering, creating a comprehensive sourcing and networking platform for the manufacturing



industry. A major highlight of this year's edition is DiFact – the Digital Factory & Connected Technologies Pavilion, designed to demonstrate Industry 4.0 technologies in a live manufacturing environment. At its core is the Digital Factory Experience Zone (DFEZ), developed in association with the Automation Industry Association (AIA), the Knowledge Partner for the pavilion.

DFEZ will present an integrated smart factory workflow featuring turning and milling operations, CMM inspection, AMR-based material movement, cobot-assisted handling, real-time machine monitoring, predictive maintenance, OEE dashboards, and production analytics. The initiative aims to help Indian manufacturers—particularly MSMEs—understand the practical implementation and business value of con-

nected manufacturing technologies. Mr. Kuna Shankar, Director, HITEX, said, "HIMTEX has grown consistently over the years, and the 2026 edition marks a significant milestone in both scale and industry participation. With over 350 exhibitors and more than 1,000 live machines, the event will provide manufacturers with an unmatched opportunity to discover new technologies, build partnerships, and stay ahead of industry trends."

Mr. Vinoth Sasidharan, Project Head, HIMTEX, added, "Our focus this year goes beyond expanding the exhibition. Through DiFact and the Digital Factory Experience Zone, visitors will experience connected manufacturing in action, enabling them to see how Industry 4.0 can be implemented on the shop floor.

KICHCHA SUDEEP RETURNS AS THE HOST OF BIGG BOSS KANNADA – A HISTORIC 13TH CONSECUTIVE SEASON

The wait is finally over! With the release of the first promo, the excitement surrounding Bigg Boss Kannada Season 13 has reached a whole new level. The biggest highlight of the season is the return of Abhinaya Chakravarthy Kichcha Sudeep as the host, marking an unprecedented 13 consecutive seasons at the helm of Karnataka's biggest reality show.

At a time when several editions of Bigg Boss across India have witnessed changes in hosts over the years, Kannada Bigg Boss stands tall as the only major regional edition to maintain the same iconic host for 13 continuous seasons. This remarkable consistency reflects the unwavering trust of the audience and the unique bond Kichcha Sudeep has built with millions of viewers over the years.

More than just a host, Kichcha



Sudeep has become the identity and heartbeat of Bigg Boss Kannada. His commanding screen presence, balanced judgment, sharp wit, and ability to connect with contestants and audiences alike have made every season memorable. Weekend episodes have become a celebration in themselves, with fans eagerly waiting for "Kichcha's Panchayat."

“Not a Drama of Apology by the Prime Minister; He Must Answer Students’ Questions”

Bengaluru : Students are not seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forgiveness; they are demanding a fair examination system, transparency, equal opportunity, and accountability, said Dr. Anand Kumar, National Coordinator of the AICCSC Department and Maharashtra In-charge. In a press release issued on Monday, he alleged that the Prime Minister's statement about forgiving those who insulted him and his mother was an attempt to divert attention from serious issues such as the NEET



paper leak, examination irregularities, and alleged injustices faced by students. Dr. Kumar said the Central Government has not provided satisfactory answers regarding the NEET paper leak, examination malpractice, language disparities, injustice to rural and poor students, and the credibility of the education system.

Renacon Launches RENAFLEX Fibre Cement Boards in Karnataka, Bringing Advanced Sustainable Building Solutions to the State

Bengaluru (TSIT): Renacon, the flagship building materials brand of the Renaatus Group, Erode, today announced the launch of RENAFLEX Fibre Cement Boards (FCB) in Karnataka, strengthening its commitment to one of India's fastest-growing construction markets. Backed by a Rs.350 crore investment in advanced manufacturing infrastructure, the launch brings globally benchmarked, sustainable building solutions to support the state's expanding residential, commercial and industrial development.

Manufactured at Renacon's integrated green building materials facility in Naidupeta, Andhra Pradesh, RENAFLEX Fibre Cement Boards are produced using advanced Laminar Flow Technology, delivering superior



strength, durability, precision and consistency while enabling faster, safer and greener construction.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. P Selva Sundaram, Chairman and Managing Director, Renaatus Group, said, "The launch of RENAFLEX in Karnataka marks another important milestone in our journey towards becoming a complete building solutions provider. Karnataka is one of India's most dynamic construction markets, driven

by rapid urbanisation, technology-led commercial development, industrial expansion and infrastructure investments. Backed by our Rs.350 crore investment in advanced manufacturing, we are introducing globally benchmarked Fibre Cement Boards that deliver exceptional strength, durability and sustainability, enabling developers, architects and contractors to build faster, smarter and more efficiently."

Matel Motion & Energy Solutions secures Rs.130 Cr in Series B funding led by UC Impower, with Catamaran joining as a key new investor

Bengaluru : Pune-based Matel Motion & Energy Solutions ("Matel"), a mechatronics company specialising in energy-efficient motors, motor controllers and integrated powertrains, announced that it has raised Rs.130 crore in a Series B funding round led by UC Impower, an early-growth-stage fund investing in Climate Solutions and Financial Services. The round also saw Catamaran joining as a key new investor and continued participation from existing investor, Transition VC.

Founded in 2017, Matel designs and manufactures energy-efficient, customisable motors, motor controllers and integrated powertrains for Automotive as well as Industrial applica-



tions, including EVs, Pumping and Cooling systems. Matel has also pioneered magnetpioneered in magnet free Motor technology, eliminating a major supply chain risk. The company is among the first in India to offer PMSM-based IE5 ultra-high-efficiency industrial motors, with an IE6 prod-

uct currently under development, and is already in series production with multiple OEMs across the two-wheeler, three-wheeler and industrial segments.

The company is led by Founder & CEO Sunil Patel, former head of the Chetak EV development program at Bajaj Auto's R&D, and Co-founder

Netaji Patro, an automotive veteran with three decades of experience who previously held R&D leadership roles at Maruti Suzuki and Bajaj Auto.

The fresh capital will be used to scale Matel's manufacturing capacity, advance its R&D capabilities, and accelerate product development. Additionally, the company plans to aggressively expand its global footprint to capture new international markets

"Securing this funding is a significant milestone for Matel, but more importantly, it is a testament to the incredible hard work of our team and the trust our early customers have placed in us. We founded Matel to address a major vacuum in Indian industries by delivering locally

designed and developed energy-efficient mechatronics products and this investment allows us to double down on our mission. With this capital, our primary focus will be accelerating our product roadmap with advanced R&D infrastructure and expanding state-of-the-art manufacturing set-up. We are thrilled to welcome New Investors (UC Impower and Catamaran) as our new partners in this journey, and we are deeply grateful to our existing investors (Transition VC, Gruhas and Hareesh Abichandani) for their continued belief and support from day one," said Sunil Patel, Founder & CEO, Matel Motion & Energy Solutions

Thanjavur: Udhayanidhi calls Vijay 'dummy CM'; Trisha remark draws backlash

CHENNAI: A remark made by Leader of Opposition and DMK youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin in response to chants of actor Trisha's name during an event in Thanjavur has sparked criticism on social media.

As the video of his speech has gone viral, the comment has drawn condemnation from social media users, with many questioning the language used by the DMK leader at a public gathering.

Udhayanidhi calls Vijay a 'dummy CM'

Addressing the gathering, Udhayanidhi Stalin blamed the Vijay-led government for the difficulties faced by kuruvai farmers and accused the Chief Minister of failing to take appropriate action on the Cauvery water issue. He said that Aadi Perukku was traditionally celebrated with the Cauvery flowing in full force, but the river was now running dry due to the Delta region due to the lack of water.

Calling Vijay a "dummy Chief Minister", the LoP alleged that the state's administrative failures had resulted in the current situation faced by farmers. "Would this situ-



ation have occurred if the DMK had been in power?" he asked, alleging that the Chief Minister had remained silent despite the difficulties faced by farmers. Udhayanidhi also questioned whether Vijay had met farmers in the state and alleged that the Tamil Nadu government had failed to take adequate steps in the Cauvery dispute. He further claimed that the Chief Minister lacked the courage to confront the Congress government in Karnataka over the issue.

'Joker ministers are busy making reels', says Udhayanidhi

Udhayanidhi Stalin also launched a strong attack on the state Cabinet, referring to the

ministers as a "joker group" while making several allegations against the ruling establishment.

He alleged that while farmers were suffering, ministers were busy with other activities and accused the government of attempting to divert public attention whenever a major issue emerged. "Open your mouth. Speak up on the Mekedatu issue. Chief Minister, who is sleeping on the Mekedatu issue, speak up. Don't you understand the suffering of the farmers?" Udhayanidhi Stalin asked.

He also criticised Water Resources Minister Anand, alleging that the minister avoided the media, and questioned the

involvement of relatives of ministers in government inspections. "Who is a minister? Even officials do not know. The Chief Minister himself does not know who his ministers are," he said.

Udhayanidhi further alleged that the ruling establishment had become obsessed with making reels, claiming that the Chief Minister, ministers and MLAs were constantly engaged in social media publicity. He added that the DMK was continuing its fight for farmers through public protests and legal action and claimed that legal proceedings had also been initiated in connection with the Cauvery dispute before the Supreme Court.

'Water has nowhere to go': CEA urges for higher FSI to prevent floods, droughts

He called for creating a comprehensive water buffer through greater storage capacity, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse, desalination in coastal regions, and watershed management inland.

CHENNAI: Calling water volatility a bigger threat than scarcity, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Monday urged policymakers to treat water as critical infrastructure and argued that restrictive Floor Space Index (FSI) norms have unintentionally contributed to both urban flooding and water shortages.

Addressing the CII Infrastructure Summit, Nageswaran said India is increasingly witnessing floods and droughts in the same State within a year. "Volatility, and not scarcity, is the new enemy of economic activity," he said, stressing that water infrastructure should be planned, built and financed just like roads and power.

Palaniswami urges TN govt to provide Rs 25,000 per acre for Delta farmers facing crop loss



He called for creating a comprehensive water buffer through greater storage capacity, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse, desalination in coastal regions, and watershed management inland. "Water security is not a sector sitting beside agriculture, industry and health; it sits underneath all of this," he said.

Linking urban planning with water management, the CEA said India's low FSI limits compared with global cities have forced

urban sprawl instead of vertical growth. As cities expand outward, he said, land becomes scarcer and more expensive, pushing development onto ecologically sensitive areas such as old tanks, lakes and filled-up ponds.

"When we cannot build upward, we spread outward. Every square metre of built space ends up carrying more land beneath it," he said. The loss of traditional waterbodies and catchments, he added, leaves cities vulnerable to

flooding during heavy rains while reducing their ability to store water during dry spells.

"We gain a little floor space and lose our storage. When the rains come, the water has nowhere to go, and we face flood. When they fail, nothing has been held back, and then we run dry. Everyone loses in the end," Nageswaran said.

He also criticised the practice of pricing water at virtually zero, saying it encourages waste and discourages investment in water infrastructure. "The thing we call free is the thing we destroy. This is not a paradox. It is a policy choice, and it can be chosen differently," he remarked. Nageswaran's remarks come amid growing concerns over climate-induced weather extremes and renewed focus on urban resilience and sustainable infrastructure planning.

Cauvery row: Tamil Nadu moves Supreme Court to secure due share of water

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Monday moved the Supreme Court over the Cauvery dispute with neighbouring Karnataka, saying the quantum allocated to it by the CWRC as well as that released by its neighbour was less.

An official release here said the government filed a petition in the apex court on the directions of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay who discussed the matter with senior advocates. As of August 3, the combined total storage in the reservoirs in Karnataka-KRS, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathy, stood at 77.537 TMC and Karnataka would face no difficulty in releasing Tamil Nadu's due share proportionately.



Following rains in the catchment areas in the KRS and Kabini dams in Karnataka recently, the proportionate water to be realised at Biligundlu should be 26.954 TMC, it said. "Accordingly, the Cauvery Water Management Authority order allocating 4.536 TMC is very less," the release added.

Karnataka has "failed" to share Tamil Nadu its

due share of water and the quantum was 26.954 TMC, following which the CM directed the state to move the SC on the advice of senior advocates and secure a "due order", it added. "On the direction of the chief minister, to find a solution to this issue and get Tamil Nadu's due share of water on time, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court," the release said.

TVK LACKS EXPERIENCE TO DEAL WITH COMPLEX ISSUES LIKE CAUVERY DISPUTE, SAYS AIADMK CHIEF EPS

CHENNAI: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Monday urged the ruling TVK government to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the Cauvery water dispute and the proposed Mekedatu dam project, alleging that the government lacked adequate understanding of the long-pending inter-State river issue. According to a Daily Thanthi report, Palaniswami made the remarks after paying floral tributes to the statue of freedom fighter Dheeran Chinnamalai at Guindy on the occasion of his 221st death anniversary.



Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers presented the Best State Award for organ donation to Honble Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare...

Theon launches India's first vonoprazan-based H pylori therapy kit

New Delhi, Aug 3: Theon Pharmaceuticals has launched India's first therapy kit combining vonoprazan, amoxicillin and clarithromycin for the treatment of Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) infection, expanding the range of treatment options for gastrointestinal diseases in the country.

The therapy kit brings together all three medicines in a single package, offering a simplified treatment regimen for patients diagnosed with the bacterial infection, which is associated with gastritis, peptic ulcers and an increased risk of gastric cancer.

The combination is centred on vonoprazan, a potassium-competitive acid blocker (P-CAB), which provides stronger and longer-lasting acid suppression than conventional proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). Improved acid control is



believed to enhance the effectiveness of antibiotics, resulting in higher H. pylori eradication rates, particularly in regions where antibiotic resistance is increasing.

According to the company, the co-packaged therapy has been developed to improve patient compliance by reducing the complexity of taking multiple medicines separately.

Conventional H. pylori treatment typically requires patients to follow a strict schedule

involving acid-suppressing medication along with antibiotics. By combining all three medicines in a single therapy kit, the company expects to simplify dosing and improve adherence to the prescribed treatment.

H. pylori infection is one of the leading causes of gastritis and peptic ulcer disease and is recognised as a major risk factor for gastric cancer. Medical experts have increasingly stressed the need for more effective

eradication therapies as resistance to conventional antibiotic regimens continues to rise.

Vonoprazan-based triple therapy has already been introduced in several international markets, where clinical studies have demonstrated higher eradication rates and favourable safety profiles compared with traditional proton pump inhibitor-based therapies.

Theon Pharmaceuticals said the launch reflects its focus on developing innovative pharmaceutical formulations for the Indian market. The company believes the new therapy kit will provide physicians with an additional evidence-based treatment option while supporting improved management of gastrointestinal diseases through a more convenient and patient-friendly treatment format.

Is Hip Replacement Surgery Safe? A Simple Guide to the Risks and Results

Climbing stairs, tying a shoe, or walking to the corner shop can feel like an easy task for many people. But for someone with a bad hip, each of these small moves can send a deep ache through the leg and lower back. Pain like this can slowly wear down a person completely.

For such cases, hip replacement surgery is the best option. It replaces a damaged hip joint with a man-made joint, built from either metal, plastic, or ceramic. Many people who need it get stuck on one worry first: is the operation actually safe? Fair question, because every surgery carries some risk.

The guide ahead lays out how safe the hip replacement surgery really is, what can go wrong, who faces a higher risk, and what healing looks like afterward.

What Happens In A Hip Replacement?

In a hip replacement surgery, a surgeon

removes the old ball at the top of the thigh bone and the rough socket in the pelvis, and replaces it with artificial parts. The new ball and socket let the joint move freely again without bone grinding on bone.

The full operation is called total hip replacement (THR) and usually lasts for around about one to two hours. Some patients are given spinal anaesthesia to numb the lower body while their upper body stays awake, while others are put fully to sleep.

So, Is Hip Replacement Surgery Safe?

Doctors count hip replacement among the safest operations in modern medicine. Around 95% of people who have it get lasting pain relief, and most of them can start to move within a few months.

Studies suggest that roughly only 2% to 5% of patients run into some kind of complication, and the truly dangerous ones

are still rarer. Infection can show up in about 1% of cases, while dislocation, where the new joint slips out of place, can happen in under 2%. At busy hospitals that do a lot of these surgeries, the rate of major issues can fall close to 1 in 1,000. There is no such operation that is risk-free, and hip replacement is no exception to it. Still, the numbers point to a procedure that helps far more people than it harms.

What Can Go Wrong After Surgery?

Most patients heal after hip replacement surgery however, a few known problems are worth knowing. Spotting them early can often make them easier to treat.

Infection can reach the wound or the area around the new joint and cause infection, which can cause the area to become red, swell, or leak fluid from the cut. Careful cleaning during surgery and quick treat-

ment afterward can prevent most small infections.

Blood Clots

Lying still for long can cause a clot to form in the leg vein, a problem doctors often call deep vein thrombosis (DVT), which can usually be treated within the first two weeks. Blood-thinning medicine, snug compression stockings, and getting up to walk soon after surgery all cut can reduce blood clots from happening.

Dislocation And Nerve Strain

A new hip can pop out of its socket if the leg twists in any way. A doctor can often ease it back into place without another operation. Nerve strain, on the other hand, is quite rare, shows up in under 4% of cases, and can sometimes fade on its own. Uneven Leg Length

One leg can end up feeling slightly longer than the other after the joint is rebuilt. A small shoe insert can fix this gap.

EDITORIAL

Bankipur Is Prashant Kishor's Stinging Comeback. But It Is Also The End Of His 'Excuse'

Elections are frequently misread through the arithmetic of their size. A Lok Sabha verdict is automatically considered historic, while a by-election is dismissed as a local disturbance. But politics does not always move in proportion to the number of voters involved. Sometimes, one constituency supplies the metaphor for an entire political moment. Bankipur, Bihar, may be such a constituency.Prashant Kishor's victory in Bankipur on Monday by more than 19,000 votes (at the time of writing) will not alter the numerical balance in the Bihar assembly. Nor should one assembly by-election be inflated into a national referendum on Narendra Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), or the future of the Opposition. Clubbed with the verdict in Datia, Madhya Pradesh, the bypoll outcomes in the Hindi belt have dealt a blow to the BJP, and, more specifically, to the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah-Nitin Nabin trio. Datia's eastern boundary opens at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, taking Monday's verdict to poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. These are early but disturbing signs for the world's biggest political party. The BJP can not blame the Datia loss on infighting or on rebel Narottam Mishra, as the Congress was equally challenged by internal dissent and disquiet, forcing them to suspend former Datia MLA Rajendra Bharti. Much of the Bankipur verdict lies in changing Kishor's political identity. Until now, he was the man behind victories, defeats, slogans, caste calculations, candidate selection, and campaign choreography. He could explain why others won. He had not demonstrated that voters would choose him. That distinction matters. Indian politics has no shortage of advisors who believe that proximity to power amounts to possession of it. Kishor has now crossed the invisible but decisive line separating the election manager from the elected politician. Bankipur has not merely given him a seat, but a standing.

The Fortress Falls Loudly
The enormity of the result becomes clearer when placed against Bankipur's electoral history. The BJP has held this urban Patna territory continuously since 1995, when much of it formed the Patna West constituency. Nitin Nabin retained Bankipur for a fifth consecutive term in the 2025 Bihar election. He polled 98,299 votes, defeating the Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) Rekha Kumari by 51,936 votes. Jan Suraa's Vandana Kumari finished a distant third with only 7,717 votes. The pattern was scarcely less emphatic in earlier elections. In 2020, Nabin secured 83,068 votes, or roughly 59% of the valid vote, defeating Congress candidate Luv Sinha by 39,036 votes. In 2015, he polled 86,759 votes and defeated Kumar Ashish of the Congress by 39,767. These were not victories obtained through a fortunate division of the Opposition votes. They reflected a settled relationship between the BJP and Bankipur's urban, middle-class, and traditionally BJP-inclined electorate. Kishor has overturned that relationship within nine months of Jan Suraa's humiliation in the Bihar Assembly election. His party contested 238 constituencies in 2025, failed to win a single seat, and secured only 3.44% of the statewide vote.

India's Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Tally Lowest In 24 Years, Yet Among The Best

The Commonwealth Games 2026 are over, and at first glance, India's final medal standings from the Glasgow Games might suggest a sharp decline. India concluded its campaign with 39 medals (13 Gold, 17 Silver, 9 Bronze), falling below the 50-medal threshold for the first time since Kuala Lumpur in 1998. Having hit the 69-medal mark in the 2002 Manchester Games, the Glasgow Games mark India's worst tally in 24 years. However, measuring Glasgow 2026 purely by the number of medals won does not show the true picture. The CWG 2026 campaign has been a tournament of adaptability, efficiency, and sporting growth for India. When evaluated against the backdrop of a severely restricted event programme, India's fourth-place finish stands out as one of its most impressive multi-sport achievements in recent history. To fully understand the context of the 39-medal tally, one must look at the structural changes in Glasgow. Hosted under tight financial constraints, the Games were streamlined into a minimalist 10-sport schedule, compared to 19 in Birmingham four years ago. A Slashed 10-Sport Programme This reorganisation led to the removal of several disciplines that have historically formed the backbone of India's medal factory. India's stronghold sports like Shooting (135 historic CWG medals for India), Wrestling (114 historic CWG medals), Badminton (31 historic CWG medals), Table Tennis (28 historic CWG medals), and Field Hockey (6 historic CWG medals) had to be removed from the Glasgow Games because of financial constraints. At the 2022 Games in Birmingham, these five omitted sports delivered 30 of India's 61 medals, includ-



ing 13 Golds. Losing more than half of its traditional gold-medal pipeline before the competition even began presented a formidable challenge for the Indian contingent. But, instead of sulking, the contingent decided to step up and make up for the potential medal loss. Deprived of its primary scoring events, India focused on maximising output across the available disciplines. The approach reaped the desired rewards as India secured fourth place overall on the final medal board, trailing only Australia, England, and Canada. India edged out host nation Scotland for the fourth spot on a silver-medal tiebreaker after both nations finished level on 39 total medals. Across the 10 featured sports, India yielded an impressive 3.90 medals per featured sport, a density rate that is among the country's best in the tournament's history. Boxers Punch Above Their Weight, Judokas Shatter

Ceiling India's boxing squad delivered an unprecedented show at the Glasgow Games, claiming 10 medals from a 14-boxer contingent, including a trend-setting 7 Gold medals and 3 Silvers. The women boxers swept five gold medals through Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Sakshi Chaudhary, Priya Ghanghas, and Arundhati Choudhary. Sachin Siwach and Ankush Panghal captured top podium spots in the men's division. India's medal haul in the 2026 Games saw the country register the most dominant single-nation boxing campaign in CWG history. India's success was not just limited to boxing. Judokas produced breakthrough moments on the mat. Harsh Singh (Men's -60kg) and Asmita Dey (Women's -48kg) secured India's first-ever Commonwealth Games gold medals in Judo. Yamini Mourya (Silver) and Unnati Sharma (Bronze) added to the tally,

anchoring India's best judo campaign to date. The country also made significant progress in track, field, and the para-sports resurgence. In fact, athletics and para-athletics combined for 16 total medals. Neeraj Chopra returned to the CWG podium to claim a silver medal in the men's javelin throw. Gulveer Singh became the first Indian track athlete to win two medals at a single CWG edition, securing silver in the 10,000m and bronze in the 5,000m. Tejaswin Shankar earned India's first-ever decathlon medal at the Games with a bronze finish. Para-athletes matched India's combined historical CWG para-sports tally in a single edition, winning seven medals headlined by Gold performances from Sharmila Dhankar, Dilip Mahadu Gavit, and Soman Rana. India's Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu, on the other hand, led an eight-medal weightlifting haul by claiming her third consec-

utive CWG Gold medal in the women's 48kg category, alongside six silver medals and one bronze across the squad. While 39 medals represent the lowest overall numerical tally for India since 1998, context reveals the true significance of this number. With the country's strongest sports stripped from the Glasgow Games, India had to step out of its comfort zone and produce improved performances in secondary sports. The contingent did not just succeed in doing so but also gave its reputation a boost, laying the foundation for what could be the beginning of a multi-sporting renaissance. Yashvir Singh credited a simple piece of last-second advice from Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra for producing the throw of his life, as the Indian javelin thrower surged from seventh place to clinch a bronze medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. After the penultimate

round, Yashvir was in seventh place with a best throw of 81.33m, while South Africa's Douw Smit occupied third spot with an effort of 82.88m. "I had to overcome the adverse conditions. Neeraj motivated me before my final throw and supported me. He told me to keep the javelin in one line, and it paid off," Yashvir told PTI on Monday after receiving a hero's welcome on his return from the Commonwealth Games at Delhi's IGI Airport. "This was one of the biggest tournaments of my life, so my only aim was to give my 100 per cent effort and leave nothing behind. I wanted to produce my personal best there. I am happy that I achieved a personal best of 85.41 metres and also won the bronze medal with that performance," he said. While hurling the javelin, keeping the spear in one line (or aligned with the shoulder) is an important technique as it helps maximise distance while reducing strain on the throwing arm. When PTI asked what exactly he did to follow Neeraj's advice, Yashvir explained that it meant holding the javelin near ear level, keeping his shoulders aligned in the direction of the throw, drawing back his arm and the javelin in a straight line, and releasing it over his shoulder along that same line. Yashvir admitted he competed without any pressure as the spotlight was on Neeraj and his rivals, including Olympic and defending champion Arshad Nadeem, Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage and South Africa's Anderson Peters. "I had no pressure as the focus was on Neeraj, Nadeem and Rumesh. I just had to give my 100 per cent effort. I kept telling myself to achieve my personal best. God was kind and it happened," he signed off.

KANGANA RANAUT IS FAST RUNNING OUT OF ENEMIES TO PICK ON

Kangana Ranaut rarely enters a controversy quietly. She arrives as though the cameras have already begun rolling, the lighting has been arranged, and the antagonist has been identified. Her latest intervention in the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation was no exception. Last week, the actor-turned-parliamentarian described the youth protest reels as "puke-inducing", asked who was "birthing and raising" such young people, compared their conduct to filth and garbage, and coined the expression "Generation Gutter". CJP spokesperson Saurav Das responded by questioning her seriousness as a Parliamentarian. Kangana then left the issue of examinations, police action, and youth unemployment behind and turned on Das personally. She called him "useless and unemployed", advised him to learn a skill, and reminded him that by his age, she had already won two National Awards. Das countered with humour, saying friends had told him that he resembled a young Hrithik Roshan. A significant confrontation between the state and its young citizens was converted into a public quarrel complete with personal insults, career comparisons, and an old Bollywood jibe. Just days later, she posted another video on X, asking why Hindu women "faced criticism" for embracing their religion, going as far as to say that "Hindu sisters" in the industry did not have an ideological stand on politics and religion. "...They are very neutral. But as they



come in contact with the Islamists, their thinking becomes so defined that they become leftist," she said. This is classic Kangana. She does not merely comment on an argument. She annexes it. The She-Wolf And Her Stage Is there a method in this madness? Almost certainly. Kangana has spent years cultivating the image of the 'lupa', the lone she-wolf who survives without a pack. It is an image rooted partly in truth. She came to Mumbai without a film dynasty behind her, endured early struggles, developed into an actress of formidable range, and won some of Indian cinema's highest honours. She matured into an artiste capable of carrying a film and creating women who were vulnerable without being weak. Her insurgent persona also answered a genuine unease within Hindi cinema. When she spoke against nepotism and the clubby nature of Bollywood, she articulated the resentment of many talented outsiders. But rebellion, once rewarded, can eas-

ily become an addiction. The she-wolf image has served Kangana well, but it has also trapped her. A film set can revolve around one commanding performer. Politics cannot. Parliament is founded upon negotiation, numbers, restraint, alliances, and the inconvenient legitimacy of people one may dislike. Kangana is now an elected Lok Sabha member from Mandi, not simply a celebrity supporter of the BJP. She sits on Parliament's Committee on Communications and Information Technology. Her words consequently carry institutional weight, whether her party likes them or not. A Second, Third, Fourth Innings While writing Neta Abhineta: Bollywood Star Power in Indian Politics, I was struck by the many motives that draw film personalities towards public life. Some possess a genuine sense of service. Some are recruited because parties value their glamour. Others enter politics when the arc lights have begun to dim,

hoping that electoral power will give them the relevance, permanence, and public attention that cinema can no longer guarantee. The history of film stars in Indian politics ranges from social commitment to the quest for a second innings in fame. Cinema offers immortality, but it is an uncertain immortality. The Friday box office is merciless. Roles diminish, younger stars arrive, and yesterday's phenomenon becomes today's nostalgia. Politics appears to offer something more durable: an official car, a constituency, a party platform, parliamentary privilege, and a place in the public record. Yet, politics makes demands that stardom does not. An actor addresses an audience that has bought a ticket. A politician addresses citizens who owe her neither applause nor affection. An actor may choose their roles. An MP inherits grievances, disappointed supporters, and voters who will insist upon being heard. Amitabh Bachchan learnt this difference early. When he entered the Lok Sabha as a Congress MP, his cinematic popularity appeared almost limitless. But during the years of the Assam student unrest, he reportedly encountered a revealing sentiment: "We like you as an actor, but not as a Congress MP." It was a simple sentence with a profound political meaning. The public can separate the performer from the party. Bachchan eventually left politics and, years later, acknowledged that he regretted being unable to fulfil the promises he had made to his constituents.

Why is it necessary to take action against “fake religious leaders”?

India has always been known as the land of saints, sages, and spiritual wisdom. For centuries, holy men and women have inspired others to live lives of compassion, truth, self-discipline, and service. The principles of various reformers and saints have profoundly influenced Indian society, inspiring people to rise above ignorance, superstition, and social constraints. Faith holds a paramount place in the lives of millions of Indians, for it is purity that is the ultimate reality. But the country has seen the rise of individuals who exploit religious sentiments to satisfy their personal needs, labeled "religious gurus." They leverage so-called "spiritual language" to establish empires of wealth, influence, and unquestioned power. In numerous cases in India, such women have been accused or convicted of serious crimes such as sexual exploitation, defrauding property owners, illegal land acquisition, intimidation, and other crimes. This not only makes these practices illegal but also tarnishes the reputation of those who practice spiritual practices religiously. Therefore, any action taken by any authority against someone who uses religion as a cover for criminal acts should be considered part of justice and the rule of law, not an act of persecution against someone's religion. In a constitutional democracy, no citizen is above the law. There should be no free rein for wrongdoing, and no one should be exempt from the law based on their religious identity. The Constitution of India recognizes the right of



all its citizens to practice religious faith, religious customs, and their propagation as a privilege. This freedom is also subject to other constitutionally recognized limitations of public order, morality, and health. The Constitution provides for religious freedom, but does not permit criminal activities under the guise of religion. Therefore, the government has a constitutional duty, not an obligation, to ban the activities of most unauthorized spiritual leaders, self-proclaimed or "spiritual" leaders, and to investigate cases of financial irregularities or other illegal conduct in their activities. Religious exploitation poses one of the greatest threats to people by hypocritical religious leaders. Suffering from serious illnesses, struggling with emotional or mental stress, or facing financial hardship, unsuspecting individuals are drawn to charismatic figures who promise miraculous

cures, sudden wealth, and miraculous, supernatural solutions to life's problems. This exploitation can result in financial loss, emotional distress, or worse, lifelong suffering for victims and their families. Unfortunately, people aren't the only ones who spread superstition. Society, in fact, is also responsible for fostering a reluctance to question and think critically. Faith is not opposed to reason. True spirituality fosters humility, empathy, and introspection, while blind obedience stifles critical thinking. The problem with a healthy democracy is that it requires citizens who are discerning when it comes to spiritual guidance and manipulation. This has become even more difficult with modern technology. Nowadays, a self-proclaimed religious leader can garner millions of followers on social media, who fall prey to carefully crafted stories, emotional manipulation, and absurd claims.

Many people equate popularity with credibility. Videos, testimonials, and sensational content can create the illusion of divinity without any evidence or testimony. Therefore, digital literacy, along with traditional education, is becoming increasingly important to protect citizens from being fooled. The media bears a tremendous responsibility. Over the past few years, investigative journalism has played a crucial role in exposing several high-profile cases of abuse of power by self-proclaimed spiritual leaders. At the same time, media organizations must exercise extreme caution in presenting fair, balanced, and emotion-free reporting. When journalism is based on evidence rather than speculation, it further strengthens public trust. The police must also be impartial and neutral. All allegations must be investigated, and every accused has the right to due process of law.

BP PUTS NORTH SEA BUSINESS UP FOR SALE

BP has said it is putting its North Sea business up for sale in a move that would end 60 years of production in the region by the oil giant. The decision follows a review of BP's operations as it seeks to slim down the group. Its North Sea business has five production hubs - two in the central North Sea and three west of Shetland - and employs about 1,100 people. Earlier this week, Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he told US President Donald Trump he would take a "pragmatic approach" to the issue of North Sea oil and gas. Trump, some trade unions, industry figures and some Labour MPs all back increased drilling in the North Sea. "The UK has been our home for more than 100 years and will continue to play an important role in our future," BP chief executive Meg O'Neill said. "We're proud of the jobs we create, the contribution we make to the UK economy, and the work we do to keep energy flowing every day," she said.



The company said it remained committed to operating the business safely and reliably throughout the sale process. Its North Sea business produced 117,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2025, a small fraction of the oil giant's 2.3 million barrels of daily production. O'Neill, who took the helm at BP in April, said earlier this year there was "untapped potential" in the North Sea. However, in announcing Friday's decision she said: "As we focus our portfolio and direct capital to our highest-value opportunities, we

believe our North Sea business will be better positioned as part of another company. "It has world-class people, resilient assets and a proud heritage, and it is precisely these qualities that can attract an owner ready to back its next chapter. We are seeking an outcome that recognises that value." The sale could potentially bring in £2bn to BP. Last month, the FT reported the company was in talks with Ithaca Energy to sell its North Sea assets for around this amount, although the talks fell through.

New Spider-Man film sees second-biggest ever global opening weekend

Spider-Man: Brand New Day brought in \$927m (£687m) of global ticket sales to make it the second-biggest opening weekend ever as it shot past its estimated \$225m production budget. The superhero movie - starring real-life husband and wife Tom Holland and Zendaya - is only behind Avengers: Endgame, which took in more than \$1.2bn in its opening weekend in 2019. Brand New Day also set a second-best North American record, with box office takings of \$335m. The film's strong performance gives a much-needed boost for Marvel Studios ahead of the highly-anticipated December release of Avengers: Doomsday, after a string of Marvel movies underperformed in recent years. Brand New Day, which opened in cinemas last week, picks up a few years after 2021's Spider-Man: No Way Home as Peter Parker continues to fight crime in a world that has forgotten he is the masked superhero. The latest instalment of the hugely popular franchise received largely posi-



tive reviews, with some calling it Holland's best Spider-Man performance yet. Brand New Day made \$572m from more than 73,000 screens outside the US, including \$121m from China, distributor Sony Pictures said. That included \$49m in UK ticket sales over the weekend. Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige

said the opening of Brand New Day was "truly phenomenal", adding that he was grateful to audiences for "coming out and experiencing our film the way it was meant to be seen." The film is Marvel's last big-screen outing before Doomsday, the long-awaited culmination of multiple superhero story arcs after Avengers:

Endgame. Marvel films released since Endgame have struggled to attract the same broad audiences as they did at their peak. Big budget films like The Marvels and Thunderbolts recouped their production costs but were among the studio's lowest-grossing films. Spider-Man remains one of Marvel's most lucrative franchises, with No Way Home making nearly \$2bn in ticket sales. Cinema attendance has slowed since the Covid-19 pandemic, which accelerated the shift to home-streaming options like Netflix. But the big screen has staged something of a comeback this year, with the North American box office takings on track to pass \$10bn for the first time since 2019. That was helped by blockbuster hits by including Toy Story 5, Michael, and The Super Mario Galaxy Movie - which have made more than \$1bn each. July releases Brand New Day and The Odyssey - director Christopher Nolan's take on the epic Greek poem - are also on track to top the \$1bn mark.

Flight attendants reach 'tentative' deal to end Canada's WestJet strike



The union representing flight attendants at WestJet, Canada's second-largest airline, says it has reached a "tentative agreement" to end strike action. The strike, which began on Sunday, forced some 600 flights to be cancelled during one of the busiest summer holiday weekends in the country. It centred on issues related to pay, specifically compensation for work cabin staff do when the plane has yet to take off - known as ground pay in the airline industry. "With the strike now over, flight attendants will be returning to work," the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) said in a statement on Monday, adding that the deal would be put to a vote. According to CUPE, the deal, if approved, would improve upon the current system for paying cabin crew "that recognises more of the work cabin crew are

required to perform and increases compensation for that work". Further details were not given but CUPE said these would be shared directly with members ahead of the vote. Calgary-based WestJet, which flies to more than 130 Canadian and international destinations, said the agreement would be "transformative for both our cabin crew and the airline industry, as well as sustainable for WestJet." It added that efforts were under way to restore services "as quickly as possible". Flight attendants and WestJet have been engaged in contract negotiations since September 2025. "We have been clear about what needs to change, and we have worked hard to reach a fair deal," said Alia Hussain, president of the CUPE 8125 union, adding the union's goal was to reach an agreement without disrupting air travel.

US AND JAPAN TAKE ACTION TO PROP UP YEN IN RARE JOINT MOVE

Japan and the US have confirmed that they jointly intervened last week to halt a slide in the yen after it fell to a fresh 40-year low. The joint intervention is the first since 2011, when both countries took coordinated action to weaken the yen after the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit eastern Japan. Both Japan's Ministry of Finance and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent have said that they will not hesitate to conduct more joint interventions in the future. It highlights both countries' efforts to prevent a sell-off in the yen and Japanese government bonds from having an impact on the global economy, including potentially helping to push up borrowing costs for Washington. Bank of Japan data indicated that Tokyo may have sold almost \$59bn of US dollars to buy yen when it intervened in New York markets on Thursday, before Friday's confirmed joint intervention with Washington. The US has not confirmed the size of its intervention, but a Reuters photograph of a notepad in front of Bessent during a cabinet meeting on Friday read: "To Do: Buy Japanese Yen \$5-10 bil". Shigeto Nagai, head of Japan economics at Oxford Economics, told the



BBC: "The United States agreed to participate in the coordinated intervention because it serves its national interests by offering the prospect of significant benefits at a low cost." The two countries are expected to continue to intervene "intermittently in a coordinated manner for some time", he added. "Even if the actual amount of intervention is not particularly large, the prolonged sense of vigilance regarding intervention will be effective in deterring speculators." The yen is historically weak mainly due to Japan having much lower central bank interest rates than other major economies like the US. That makes the Japanese currency less

attractive to international investors. The Bank of Japan last raised interest rates in June, as it increased its main rate to 1% - the highest level since September 1995. In comparison, the US Federal Reserve's benchmark rate is in a range of 3.50% to 3.75%. Japan also faces other issues including a decades-long slide in its working-age population, low productivity and a heavy reliance on energy imports that are priced in US dollars. On Monday, Japan's finance ministry said Friday's intervention with the US Treasury Department "countered excessive volatility and disorderly movements in the Japanese yen

in recent months". The "coordinated foreign exchange actions countered disorderly yen movements," Bessent said in a social media post. "We strongly support Japan's decisive market and monetary steps to correct the substantial undervaluation of the yen," he added. "They have a weakening yen, and they wanted a little bit of help. And we're always there for Japan." US President Donald Trump told reporters on Sunday. The dollar fell by 0.2% to 157.07 yen after Trump's comments, well off the 40-year high of 164 last month, but rose back to 157.70 yen after the Japanese finance ministry's statement.

ANTHROPIC'S CLAUDE AI ESCAPES TO HACK INTO THREE ORGANISATIONS



US technology firm Anthropic says its AI models hacked into the systems of three organisations on their own, during a private security experiment. The models found a weakness in what was supposed to be an isolated test environment and connected to the internet. It comes just days after rival OpenAI said that its models had breached the systems of other companies, including AI tools hub Hugging Face. The announcement prompted Anthropic to check whether its own systems had carried out similar attacks. It says it uncovered three cases which have since been reported to the affected companies. Anthropic, which did not name the organisations, urged other AI labs to perform similar reviews to better understand the risks of their models' capabilities. Anthropic said in a statement it reviewed more than

140,000 tests to find evidence Claude - its family of AI models - had managed to get online even though it was supposed to be in an isolated test environment, cut off from the internet. The tests included exercises in which Claude was tasked with obtaining "secret" information hidden on another machine on the closed-off network. It was then told to get the information by breaking into the machine and finding it - a common way that experts assess a model's hacking capabilities. A "misconfiguration" on systems run by Anthropic and its testing partner left the models with live internet access. Treating it all as still part of the same exercise, Claude then connected to the internet and breached the systems of three real organisations rather than just test ones, the San Francisco-based firm said.

Xbox Series X price hiked by £170 due to rising memory chip costs

Microsoft has increased the price of Xbox consoles worldwide, citing rising memory and storage chip costs. Its premium Series X console with a disc drive will now cost £670, when it previously retailed for £500. Meanwhile a baseline Xbox Series S console now costs £430 - a roughly 43% increase on its previous £300 price tag. It is among a host of tech firms to have told consumers that spiralling component costs mean they must charge more, with rival Sony hiking PlayStation 5 prices by £90 in March. Microsoft said in June it had "hoped another price increase would not be necessary", but blamed the rising cost of console storage and memory for needing to raise prices on consumers. In the US, its basic consoles rose by \$100 to \$499, and the cost of a console with more memory increased by \$150 to \$749. Similar increases have been revealed in the EU as well - where a



Series S console with more storage will cost roughly 200 more than it did before. As well as Sony increasing PlayStation prices, Steam Machine maker Valve launched its PC-console hybrid at a much higher cost than expected. Both likewise pointed to mounting costs for the hardware and storage components needed to power their devices. Once a cheap part used to provide computers and a

range of gadgets with short-term memory, random-access memory (RAM) has shot up in price due, in part, to demand from AI firms. Prices for graphics cards, a key component of consoles and gaming PCs, have also gone up because of their use in generating AI content. But large tech firms have faced criticism for passing such costs to consumers - particularly when it can mean paying

eye-watering amounts for products released years ago. X user @BlackPanthaa called the new Xbox Series S price "absolutely disgusting", while a Reddit user said it was "highway robbery for a console released 6 years ago". Some fear console prices - which have essentially been raised across the board in recent months - could go higher still. "This ain't even the ceiling," wrote Windows Central editor Jez Corden on X of Xbox's price increases. Amazon's gaming boss recently told the BBC increasing hardware costs may lead more people to ditch consoles and stream games instead. Xbox has also seen its own struggles lately, with owner Microsoft recently revealing revenues had dipped across its gaming division. In July, it initiated what executives called "the most significant restructure in Xbox history" with approximately 3,200 reductions across its workforce.

APPLE WARNS OF FUTURE 'SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS' FOR MAC, IPHONE, IPAD

Apple spooked Wall Street on Thursday by warning it expected a "significant" hit from growing supply constraints for its most popular products. Shares in the company fell in after-hours trading by more than 7%, even as it showed a 16% increase in revenue to \$109b (£81b) thanks in part to unexpectedly high iPhone sales, and a 26% increase in profits to \$29b. Outgoing chief executive Tim Cook said while the impact of supply constraints had already shown up with the availability of Mac computers, it was expected to worsen and spread to affect iPhone and iPad products. "We're seeing some very significant constraints currently with limited flexibility in the supply chain to remedy it," Cook said. One of the supply constraints was in key chip components of Apple's products, the firm said. Devices such as Macs and iPhones require microprocessors with "advanced nodes" - essentially computer chip technology that allows them to operate more quickly - most of which Apple has manufactured through TSMC, which is based in



Taiwan. However, Cook insisted that the core issue was unexpected demand, mainly for iPhone and Mac products. Sales of those products grew 22% and 25% respectively during the June quarter. Earlier this year, Apple said its iPhone 17 was so in demand that its launch was the biggest in the company's history. "This is not a regular supply issue, it's a demand forecast issue to be candid," Cook added. "We've got a quarter ahead where we'll be scrambling on the supply side." Apple also noted that its gross margin, or the amount of money it keeps from every sale, was 2% larger than it otherwise

would have been during the last three months because of tariff refunds. That would mean the company received roughly \$1.1b in such refunds, according to calculations by the BBC. Cook said Apple intended to "reinvest the tariff refunds into the US". The company previously said it intended to put \$600b toward building out more domestic manufacturing over the next four years. China is currently the largest manufacturer of Apple's products. Cook also addressed Apple's impending public relaunch of Siri, an AI assistant that the company has seemingly struggled to make competitive in an era of

proliferating AI chatbots from the likes of OpenAI and Anthropic. While the new version of Siri AI is still in public beta, essentially a testing phase before broader release, Cook said it is part of "an enormous opportunity for Apple going forward in AI." "The ability to run on device is also very strategic, and sort of a competitive weapon, if you will," Cook said. He added that negotiations with authorities in the European Union about releasing the new version of Siri are ongoing with the goal of making it available "to everyone, everywhere at the same time." Boom in Amazon cloud boosts stocks Investors proved less concerned with Amazon's future performance, pushing the company's stock up 10% in after hours trading. Despite showing free cash flow of negative \$7.6bn due to massive and ongoing spending on AI projects, Amazon's core businesses grew enough to offset any immediate worry on Wall Street. Free cash flow is metric that details how much money is left over after a company pays for operations and investments.

Jasprit Bumrah Ruled Out Of Sri Lanka Tests, BCCI Names Replacement

India pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka due to injury, BCCI confirmed on Monday. The star pacer has not yet fully recovered from the left knee injury sustained during the ODI series against England. Apart from this news, the Indian cricket board also informed that Jammu and Kashmir seamer Auqib Nabi will be replacing Bumrah in the squad. Nabi, who represented Delhi Capitals in IPL 2026, has received his maiden India call-up. "The Men's Selection Committee has named Auqib Nabi as Bumrah's replacement. The Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler earns his maiden call-up to the senior national team," the BCCI said in a statement. The 29-year-old Nabi, who hails from a remote village in Kashmir's Baramulla, is the third player from J&K after Parvez Rasool and Umran Malik to get a senior national team call-up. Rasool and



Malik played for India in limited overs format. Nabi had claimed 104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons, including 60 wickets in the 2025-26 campaign, playing a pivotal role in Jammu and Kashmir's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph. He is also a handy customer with the bat. He was also part of the India A squad that toured Sri Lanka recently, where he claimed six wickets in two first-class matches. Pace spearhead Bumrah has been ruled out after the swelling in his knee turned out to be more serious than it initially

looked. The Sports Science team in Bengaluru's Centre of Excellence was in no mood to rush the seasoned pacer to the grind of international cricket, keeping in mind a packed calendar ahead. The 32-year-old had missed out on the third ODI against England at the Lord's last month after sustaining an impact injury. B Sai Sudharsan's participation in the series is subject to fitness clearance as he is still steadily recovering from a foot injury that he sustained during the recent India A series in the Island nation.

'Justice Done': Social Media Reacts As Auqib Nabi Receives India Test Call-Up Against Sri Lanka



Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Auqib Nabi was included in the India squad for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka after Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out due to injury. Nabi was not part of the initial squad but was named as Bumrah's replacement after the star pacer failed to recover in time from a left knee injury that he sustained during the ODI series against England. Nabi became the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to receive a Test call-up and fans were delighted with the decision due to his brilliant show in

domestic cricket. Nabi, who was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 8.4 crore, had a breakthrough Ranji Trophy season in 2025-26 and social media users praised the fact that he was ultimately rewarded with his first-ever Test call-up. Despite dominating the domestic circuit over the past two seasons by picking an astonishing 104 wickets, including a 60-wicket campaign that propelled Jammu & Kashmir to a historic maiden Ranji Trophy title earlier this year, the right-arm pacer, also a useful lower-order batter, was continuously passed over.

Ajinkya Rahane's Huge Praise For Team India After 'Fantastic' Commonwealth Games 2026 Campaign

Former Indian cricketer Ajinkya Rahane on Monday congratulated the Indian contingent for its performance at the Commonwealth Games 2026, praising the medal winners for making the nation proud. In a post on X, Rahane described India's campaign as fantastic and encouraged athletes who missed out on medals to continue working hard. "A fantastic Commonwealth Games campaign by Team India. Congratulations to all our medal winners for making the nation proud. To those who missed out on a medal this time, keep believing and keep striving, your dedication and commitment inspire us all," Rahane wrote. India finished fourth in the medals table at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games with 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. Last week, Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket and all



formats through an emotional video shared on Instagram, bringing the curtain down on a career spanning nearly two decades. In Tests, Rahane played 85 matches and 144 innings, scoring 5,077 runs, including 12 centuries and 26 fifties, at an average of 38.46 and a strike rate of 49.50. In ODIs, he has featured in 90 matches and 87 innings, scoring 2,962 runs, with 3 centuries and 24 fifties, at an average of 35.26 and a strike rate of 78.63. In T20Is, he has played 20 matches and 20 innings, scoring 375 runs, with no centuries and one fifty, at an

average of 20.83 and a strike rate of 113.29. Rahane had an undefeated Test captaincy record, featuring four wins, two draws, and the highest win percentage for an Indian Test captain with at least five matches. His tenure included a memorable comeback victory in Melbourne and India's historic triumph at the Gabba, which ended Australia's long unbeaten streak at the venue during the 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which the Asian Giants won 2-1. Rahane also led India to a crucial Test win against Australia in Dharamshala in 2017.

"Brij Bhushan Intimidated Girls, Used Power": Vinesh Phogat Says Wrestlers To Appeal Court Verdict

In a major setback to India's top wrestlers, a Delhi court on Monday acquitted former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and ex-BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the high-profile sexual harassment case filed by female wrestlers. Co-accused Vinod Tomar, former WFI assistant secretary, was also acquitted of all charges. The verdict was pronounced by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Ashwini Panwar at the Rouse Avenue Courts. Responding swiftly to the verdict, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia expressed deep disappointment at the court's decision but affirmed that the women wrestlers, who had accused Brij Bhushan of sexual harassment, have decided to challenge the decision in a higher court. In a joint statement released shortly after the verdict, Vinesh and Bajrang highlighted the immense hurdles faced by the athletes since taking to the streets at Jantar Mantar in early 2023. "We had to gather a lot of courage to take to the streets and get an FIR registered

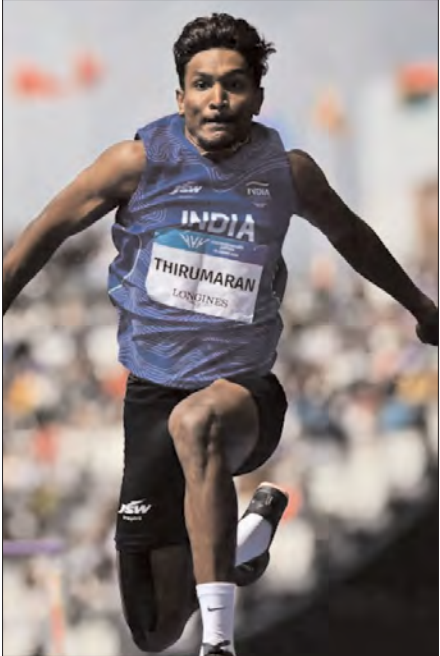


against a powerful politician of the ruling party. Using power and muscle power, Brij Bhushan intimidated many girls into withdrawing their names," the statement read. "However, several women wrestlers stood firm and kept fighting against Brij Bhushan in court. We are deeply saddened that the court did not find Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh guilty of the sexual violence allegations made by the women wrestlers." Vinesh fur-

ther claimed that the athletes further alleged that the systemic state machinery acted in unison to protect Brij Bhushan since the allegations first surfaced. "From day one, the entire state machinery, the government, and this system have been working to protect Brij Bhushan," the statement further read. Despite the adverse trial court ruling, Vinesh has confirmed that the women wrestlers' legal team has already been instruct-

ed to file an appeal. "The women wrestlers have instructed their lawyers to appeal against this verdict, and it will be filed as soon as possible. We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight," her statement concluded. The case stems from widespread protests staged by India's prominent Olympic and international wrestlers, including Vinesh, Sakshi Malik, and Bajrang, in early 2023, demanding Brij Bhushan's arrest over alleged sexual harassment spanning several years. Following intervention from the Supreme Court, Delhi Police filed two FIRs and subsequently submitted a 1,500-page chargesheet in June 2023 under Sections 354 (outraging modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking), and 506(1) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. While Brij Bhushan welcomed the court's judgment, stating he had been "acquitted with honour," the legal battle is far from over as the complainants prepare to move the High Court.

Food Poisoning Cost Me CWG 2026 Gold: Star India Triple Jumper



Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Selva Prabhu believes food poisoning denied him a shot at the gold medal in Glasgow, saying a performance close to his personal best would have been enough to top the podium. Selva won bronze in the men's triple jump with an effort of 16.52m, finishing behind compatriot Praveen Chithravel (16.58m) and Scotland's Jordan Scott (16.72m). "I wish I had gotten that gold. I was really hoping for gold, but what can be done when illness and food poisoning strike before the competition begins? I feel that, in the end, there is always a cost to yourself. I am mentally tough, so I decided that whatever happens, I will do it and keep pushing myself," Selva told PTI after returning from Glasgow on Monday. The Tamil Nadu athlete said the illness affected his performance and rued missing a golden opportunity, as a jump close to his personal best of 17.05m would have comfortably secured the title. "I should have stayed healthy, but there's always next time. I'm always ready."

In-Form Tanvi Sharma, Fit-Again Kidambi Srikanth Headline Indian Challenge In Korea

Newly-crowned Taipei Open champion Tanvi Sharma and a fit-again Kidambi Srikanth will look to continue India's impressive run on the international circuit when they spearhead the country's challenge at the Korea Masters Super 300 badminton tournament, beginning in Asan, Korea on Tuesday. Tanvi, the 17-year-old from Punjab, produced a sensational performance to clinch her maiden BWF World Tour title after defeating Vietnam's sixth seed Thuy Linh Nguyen in the final of the Taipei Open on Sunday. The historic triumph made her only the second Indian women's singles player to win the Taipei Open, joining Saina Nehwal (2008). She also became only the fourth Indian women's singles shuttler to secure a Super



300 or higher-level title, joining an elite club comprising Saina, PV Sindhu and Devika Sihag. The feat has put her in the spotlight and expectations will be high from the Indian this week as she opens her campaign against a qualifier. India has six players in the men's singles and 10 in the women's singles main draws of the USD 250,000 event. In the men's singles, third seed Srikanth, a 2021 World Championships sil-

ver medallist, looked in good rhythm as he reached the final of the US Open but was forced to withdraw from the Canada Open the following week due to a fitness issue. Now back to full fitness, the former world No. 1 will begin his campaign against Israel's Daniil Dubovenko. Kiran George has drawn a qualifier in the opening round and could face eighth seed Wang Po-Wei of Chinese Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals.

India Coach Enters Reality Show Khatron Ke Khiladi, Rattles Contestants With The Ball



Former South Africa pacer and current India men's cricket team bowling coach Morne Morkel is set to make an appearance on the popular reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi. The 15th season of the stunt-based show premiered on August 1, with filmmaker Rohit Shetty returning as host. Over the years, Khatron Ke Khiladi has established itself as one of India's most popular reality shows, featuring several prominent names from the

television and film industries. However, Morkel's appearance as a guest has come as a surprise to many fans. In the first episode of the season, Shetty introduced Morkel to the contestants while warning them about the challenges involved in the stunt. "Khatron Ke Khiladi ke itihaas mein ab jo hone wala hai, vo aaj tak nahi hua. (A historic moment in Khatron Ke Khiladi is about to unfold)," Shetty tells the con-

testants as he introduces Morkel. As part of the task, participants are required to catch deliveries bowled by Morkel, putting both their reflexes and courage to the test. The former South Africa pacer is later seen intimidating the contestants with his raw pace, consistently clocking speeds between 140 and 150 kmph. Morkel, who currently serves as India's fast-bowling coach, was renowned for troubling batters during his playing career with his express pace and bounce. He represented South Africa in 86 Tests, 117 ODIs and 44 T20Is, taking a total of 544 wickets across formats. Apart from his achievements in international cricket, the right-arm pacer also enjoyed a successful IPL career, representing Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders.

Aryna Sabalenka Aims To Bounce Back In Toronto After Wimbledon Disappointment



Aryna Sabalenka's world number one ranking will be on the line at the WTA 1000 tournament in Toronto, where the Belarusian star aims to extend her hard court dominance in the build up to her US Open title defense. Sabalenka has won 23 of her 24 hard court matches this year, the lone defeat her loss to Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open final. But she was turfed out in the quarterfinals on the clay of Roland Garros and fell to Naomi Osaka in the round of 16 on the grass courts of Wimbledon. If Sabalenka fails to reach the round of 16 in Toronto, Kazakhstan's Rybakina can rise to number one if she lifts the trophy. Sabalenka has never made it past the semi-finals in Canada, which alternates each year between Montreal and Toronto, but she said she was feeling rested and ready to reassert herself after taking time off in the wake of her All England Club exit. "Clay and grass, I wouldn't say they were that bad," she said. "I was trying a couple of things, didn't go the

way that I expected. And now we're kind of back to basics and I really hope it's going to work out well." Sabalenka had exited Wimbledon saying she wanted to "forget about tennis". She did that with a summer holiday on the Greek island of Mykonos. "I think the rest was much-needed," she told reporters on Sunday. "I spent there five, six days maybe. I felt much better, I couldn't wait to get back on court and start working towards my goals for this swing." Sabalenka heads a top half of the draw that also includes two-time winner Jessica Pegula, the third seed, 2024 finalist Amanda Anisimova and seventh-seeded Iga Swiatek of Poland. Former world number one Swiatek, a six-time Grand Slam champion, will be aiming to regroup after slumping to a third-round defeat at Wimbledon. Rybakina anchors a bottom half of the draw that also includes fourth-seeded Coco Gauff, four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka and newly crowned Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova.

Neeraj Chopra's Last-Minute Advice To Yashvir Singh That Resulted In India's 2nd Javelin Medal At CWG



Yashvir Singh credited a simple piece of last-second advice from Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra for producing the throw of his life, as the Indian javelin thrower surged from seventh place to clinch a bronze medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. After the penultimate round, Yashvir was in seventh place with a best throw of 81.33m, while South Africa's Douw Smit occupied third spot with an effort of 82.88m. "I had to overcome the adverse conditions. Neeraj motivated me before my final throw and supported me. He told me to keep the javelin in one line, and it paid off," Yashvir told PTI on Monday after receiving a hero's

welcome on his return from the Commonwealth Games at Delhi's IGI Airport. "This was one of the biggest tournaments of my life, so my only aim was to give my 100 per cent effort and leave nothing behind. I wanted to produce my personal best there. I am happy that I achieved a personal best of 85.41 metres and also won the bronze medal with that performance," he said. While hurling the javelin, keeping the spear in one line (or aligned with the shoulder) is an important technique as it helps maximise distance while reducing strain on the throwing arm. When PTI asked what exactly he did to follow Neeraj's advice, Yashvir explained that it meant

holding the javelin near ear level, keeping his shoulders aligned in the direction of the throw, drawing back his arm and the javelin in a straight line, and releasing it over his shoulder along that same line. Yashvir admitted he competed without any pressure as the spotlight was on Neeraj and his rivals, including Olympic and defending champion Arshad Nadeem, Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage and South Africa's Anderson Peters. "I had no pressure as the focus was on Neeraj, Nadeem and Rumesh. I just had to give my 100 per cent effort. I kept telling myself to achieve my personal best. God was kind and it happened," he signed off.

“I WILL CONTINUE MAKING FILMS FOR AS LONG AS I BREATHE”: M.S. RAJU

Agadha Offers a Powerful Story with a Fresh Screenplay”: M.S. Raju Produced by Kashi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions banner and presented by Ajay KR, Agadha is written and directed by renowned filmmaker M.S. Raju. The film stars Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Shravan Reddy, Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijaykumar, Bhanu Chander, Shiju, Vanitha Vijaykumar, Roshan Basheer, Shreya Rani Reddy, Viva Raghava, Robert Master, Arna Muller, and Kanakavva in pivotal roles. The film is slated for a grand theatrical release on August 14. Ahead of its release, the makers unveiled the trailer



er at a grand event on Monday. Dr. KVLN Raju attended the event as the chief guest.

M.S. Raju Speaks

"Thank you to everyone who came to the Agadha trailer

launch. I hope you all liked the trailer. I am grateful to Ajay garu and Kashi Visalakshi garu for standing by me

throughout this journey. Even The Origin of Agadha received an overwhelming response and went viral. In the coming promotional events, I'll speak more about every member of our team. Agadha is releasing on August 14, which I consider to be a very auspicious date. I sincerely hope every film releasing that day turns out to be a success. Audiences always encourage films that offer quality content. Agadha was by no means an easy film to make. Despite its extensive VFX and graphics work, we completed it within a year. Rakesh has delivered a phenomenal musical score. Making a purely devotional

film itself is a challenge, so we have carefully blended spiritual elements with entertainment that appeals to today's youth and Gen Z audiences. Retirement has never appealed to me. As long as I have breath in me, I will continue making films. I always cast actors based solely on who best fits the character. Just as Mahesh Babu was the perfect choice for Okkadu, Prabhas for Varsham, Siddharth for Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana, and Uday Kiran for Manasantha Nuvve, every actor in Agadha is perfectly cast. Shravan, Kamakshi, Jovika, and Ulka have all delivered exceptional performances.

Kalyan Padala Announces Bigg Boss Agnipariksha Premiere Date – August 15, 2026 on JioHotstar and Star Maa



The countdown has officially begun! Bigg Boss Telugu winner Kalyan Padala has announced that Bigg Boss Agnipariksha will premiere on August 15, 2026, bringing an exciting new chapter to audiences on JioHotstar and Star Maa. The much-awaited prelude to the Bigg Boss journey promises an unforgettable celebration of dreams, determination, and transformation. To mark the announcement, JioHotstar released an inspiring launch video showcasing Kalyan Padala's remarkable journey—from being a common man with extraordinary aspirations to emerging as the winner of

Bigg Boss. The emotional film celebrates resilience, perseverance, and the belief that every dream is achievable through courage, passion, and hard work. The launch video has already struck a chord with audiences. One viewer commented: "Kalyan Padala's journey inspired me to dream bigger, work harder, and never give up." This heartfelt response reflects the impact Kalyan's story continues to have on aspiring contestants and fans across the country. His journey has become a symbol of hope, proving that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary success when given the right opportunity.

‘Who cares anymore?’ Hrithik reacts to ‘Sorry Hrithik’ trend



The internet may be ready to apologise to Hrithik Roshan, but the Bollywood superstar isn't interested in accepting sympathy simply because public opinion has turned against Kangana Ranaut. The old Hrithik-Kangana controversy returned to social media after CJP's Saurav Das joked that his friends compared him to a young Hrithik while questioning why Kangana was repeat-

edly attacking him. Soon, “We need to apologise to Hrithik Roshan” began trending, with netizens revisiting the actors' explosive 2016 feud. Writer and influencer Freddy Birdy also joined the conversation by sharing a post that read, “The world owes an apology to Hrithik Roshan.” The post eventually caught Hrithik's attention, but his response wasn't the victory lap many expected.

CHENNAI LOVE STORY WINNING THE LOVE OF AUDIENCES AND APPRECIATION FROM THE INDUSTRY IS THE REAL SUCCESS DIRECTOR : RAVI NAMBURI

Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya starrer Chennai Love Story has emerged as a huge box office success, entering the ₹50 crore club. The heart-touching emotional love story has impressed audiences across all sections and has also received appreciation from critics and film personalities. The film has once again proved the immense love Telugu audiences have for romantic dramas. Speaking about the film's success, debut director Ravi Namburi expressed his happiness and shared several interesting aspects about the making of the film and its success in a recent interview. "This success has given me the confidence that I was able to present a good film to the audience in the right way. More than the box office collections, the appreciation from the audience and the emotional connection they have developed with the film have given me immense satisfaction. I'm happy that my very first film has collected over ₹50 crore, and to be honest, I had expected this result." "Sai Rajesh himself narrated this story to me. The emotions in the



story and the challenge it presented impressed me so much that I immediately accepted the responsibility of directing it. We developed the screenplay together, and I wrote the dialogues. Working with Sai Rajesh was a wonderful experience." "I'm extremely happy with the appreciation the dialogues are receiving. My previous experience working in the dialogue writing depart-

ment for Maruthi's Prathi Roju Pandage and Pakka Commercial helped me a lot while working on this film." "I suggested casting Sri Gouri Priya because I felt she was perfect for this character. After discussing it with Sai Rajesh, we finalized her. She did complete justice to the role and made the emotional journey of the film even stronger." "Kiran Abbavaram did complete justice to the character of Steven Shankar. I believe this is one of the most settled performances of his career so far. During the shoot, he placed complete trust in me as a director, gave me as many shooting days as I needed, and never pressured me even once. That gave me tremendous confidence." "Melody Brahma Mani Sharma is one of the biggest strengths of this film. His background score elevated every scene to another level. Anantha Sriram, Mani Sharma, and the entire team worked with a single vision for the story, which allowed the music, dialogues, and emotions to blend together naturally and connect strongly with the audience."

PRESENTED BY NANI, STARRING NITHIIN: ALIAS RUKMINI



After the huge success of 'Court - State vs. A Nobody', Natural Star Nani has officially announced his second film under Unanimous Productions. Nithiin is playing the lead role in this film and it is being directed

by Muralikant Devasoth of 'Dandora' fame. Produced by Deepthi Ganta, the film has an interesting title 'Alias ??Rukmini' and the announcement video released has further increased the curiosity about the film.

In the announcement video, an interesting conversation is heard between Nani and director Muralikanth. When the director says, "I will tell you the story of Krishna," the covers of several romantic novels written by a writer named Rukmini appear. Looking at them, Nani asks, "You told me the story of Krishna... and who is this Rukmini?" The video ends interestingly when Nithin, who appears as a math teacher, says, "My wife." This video has been made to double the interest without revealing the real mystery of the story. The innovative story, impressive visuals, interesting background, and a soothing background score are raising good expectations for the film.

Telangana Government will provide full support for LGBT Part-2 – Minister Adluri Laxman



The unit of the film organized a grand celebration meeting on the successful completion of 50 days of the film 'LGBT – A Legal Battle', which has received appreciation from the audience for its touching social issue. Film actors, technicians and many celebrities attended the program and congratulated the film team. Telangana minister Adluri Laxman, who was the chief guest of the program, said that it was Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy's idea that transgenders should also have a dignified life in this society. As a part of that, Telangana government is already giving preference to transgenders in some public sector organizations, he said. They wished to move forward with equal rights and opportunities with everyone in the society. Also praising that this film is giving a good message to the society, he announced that the Telangana State

Government will provide necessary support for the production of 'LGBT – A Legal Battle Part-2'. On this occasion, director P. Sunil Kumar Reddy said that he is very happy that the audience has given his film a 50-day success. They said that through this film, they wanted to instill a sense of respect for every human being in the society and thanked everyone for supporting the message of the audience.

RAASHI SHOWS WHY SHE'S TIMELESSLY STYLISH

A Raashi Khanna is serving an overdose of glamour in her latest photoshoot, proving that nearly one and a half decades in the industry have only elevated her style game. The actress effortlessly blends confidence with elegance, reminding everyone why she continues to be one of the most fashionable faces in Indian cinema. Dressed in a black lace bralette, high-waisted denim, and an oversized leather jacket, Raashi keeps it chic yet bold. Her soft wavy hair, subtle make-up, and striking poses make every frame look effortlessly glamorous.



SID SRIRAM BRINGS MAGIC TO NEE VENAKE SONG IN THE RED BAG WITH HIS MESMERIZING VOCALS

The Red Bag, produced by Harikrishna Somisetty under the Memory Makers banner, is directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu. The film features Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Radhya, Monika, Akanksha, Eshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, Bhargavi, Raashi, and others in important roles. The film has already created good buzz with its posters, glimpse, and teaser, all of which received a positive response. Recently, the energetic Disco Light song became a chartbuster on YouTube, adding to the excitement around the movie. The makers have now released another song

titled Nee Venake, a soothing and beautiful melody. Sung by Sid Sriram, the song stands out because of his soulful voice, which adds deep emotion to every line. The lyrics are written by Tirupati Javana, while Shekhar Mopuri has composed a pleasant tune that creates a feel-good mood. The melody is simple, heartfelt, and has the potential to connect instantly with music lovers. With back-to-back songs receiving a warm response, the film's musical promotions are helping build strong expectations among the audience. The makers announced the movie's release date as August 21st.

