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Mamata faces protest in Kolkata after Bijpur incident

Kolkata, Aug 11 : Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday afternoon faced protest slogans at Shyamabazar five-point crossing in North Kolkata, just two days after she was targeted by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers while visiting the family of a Trinamool Congress worker who allegedly died in police custody in Kanchrapara, North 24 Parganas district.

Trump hid in catering truck in secret plane swap over Iran threat, reports say



Nayantara Leaves No Chance To Happening Beauties



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SCAN FOR E-PAPER

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

10-06-2026
Total pilgrims : 81,064
Tonsures : 33,136
Hundi kankulu : 5,36 CR
Laddu sale : 4,09 Lac Annaprashadam : 2,82 Lac
Aaravil hospital : 3,309 Waiting Compartments...
Outside line at Silathoranam.
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tolems) : 18 H.

IN SHORT

Infant's body goes missing from burial ground in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (TSIT): The body of a six-month-old girl went missing from the Punjagutta Hindu Graveyard hours after it had been buried, police said on Tuesday, August 11. The child belonged to a couple from Ghansi Bazaar and was born prematurely along with its twin. The two children had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Banjara Hills, but one of the twins passed away on August 9.

India rejects China's Arunachal naming claims

■ India has consistently rejected Beijing's territorial claims and its attempts to assign Chinese names to places in Arunachal Pradesh



New Delhi (TSIT) : India on Tuesday hit back at China's rejection of New Delhi's decision to formally identify 27 places and geographical features in Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the northeastern state was an "inalienable and integral part of India" and that "nothing can change this indisputable reality". Responding to China's description of India's move as "illegal, null and void", Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi's position on

Arunachal Pradesh remained unequivocal.

"Arunachal Pradesh is an inalienable and integral part of India and this is a fact which is self-evident. At the same time, let me also underline that nothing can change this indisputable reality," Jaiswal said at the weekly media briefing.

His remarks came days after India formally identified 27 locations in Arunachal Pradesh on the Survey of India map using their standard names, in a move that assumes signifi-

cance amid Beijing's repeated attempts to rename places in the state. China had on Monday rejected the Indian exercise, with Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun saying Beijing does not recognise Arunachal Pradesh, which it refers to as "Zangnan". Describing India's decision to use its own names for the locations as "illegal, null and void", Guo asserted that the move could not alter China's claim over the region.

India, however, has consistently rejected Beijing's territorial claims and its attempts to assign Chinese names to places in Arunachal Pradesh, calling such exercises "vain and preposterous" and maintaining that nomenclature could not alter the ground reality. The 27 locations identified by India include Long Ju, an early flashpoint along the Line of Actual Control in 1959, and Maja village in Upper Subansiri district. The list also covers strategically significant high-altitude passes, including Dzo La, Riza La, Pukur La and Thag La.

■ Iridium Treasure Beneath Tekkali?

Srikakulam's mineral exploration points to valuable deposits

SRIKAKULAM: For a district long identified with migration, unemployment and economic backwardness, a potentially game-changing discovery may be waiting beneath its soil.

Srikakulam, at the northern tip of Andhra Pradesh, has traditionally been known for its long coastline and rich beach-sand mineral deposits, particularly ilmenite and monazite. Now, preliminary exploration in and around Tekkali is reportedly pointing to the presence of iridium, one of the world's rarest and most valuable metals, deep beneath the ground.

According to information available from sources familiar with the exploration, iridium-bearing zones have been identified at depths of around 20 to 25 metres below the surface, particularly in areas around granite and road-metal quarries within a radius of approximately five kilometres from Tekkali.

The reported mineralised zone is spread over nearly three hectares, with indications of other minerals, including manganese and thorium,



as well. If the findings are subsequently confirmed through detailed geological assessment and official exploration, they could place Tekkali and Srikakulam on India's strategic map of critical and rare minerals.

From granite country to critical-mineral zone

Tekkali has long been synonymous with granite. Its granite hills and quarries have provided livelihoods to sections of the local population and contributed to the regional economy. But what lies beneath these granite formations could be considerably more valuable.

Preliminary findings

reportedly suggest that deposits of iridium may occur below some of the existing granite and road-metal quarry areas. The possibility is particularly significant because iridium is an extremely scarce metal with specialised applications in high-technology industries.

The reported discovery, therefore, has the potential to transform the economic significance of the Tekkali region—provided the deposits are scientifically established, economically viable and developed in an environmentally responsible manner.

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India to import oil from diversified sources

New Delhi (TSIT) : India is focused on securing its energy needs through diversified sources in order to meet its national priorities amid the supply chain disruptions due to the West Asia conflict, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

"Our energy security, what it is predicated on, is meeting our national priorities, which is securing the needs of our 1.4 billion people," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "This remains the cornerstone of our energy security approach. And this is what we want to achieve through diversified sources. We want to source our energy through diversified sources," he told journalists in answer to a query.

The statement comes against the backdrop of the US Senate passing legislation which grants President Donald Trump authority to levy tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods exported by top buyers of Russian oil, including India.

Western countries see these oil imports helping Russia finance its war against Ukraine. "As far as tariffs are concerned, talks are ongoing between the United States and India on a bilateral trade agreement," the MEA spokesperson added. India has diversified its sources for the import of crude oil to 41 countries compared



with 27 earlier, following the outbreak of the Iran war and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas exports transit during normal times. India's imports of crude from Russia have shot up, and during July, accounted for more than half of the country's total oil imports.

Similarly, India has also diversified its liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from six countries earlier to a total of 15 countries in order to secure its energy supplies.

The US now accounts for a major chunk of these LNG imports. India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement, which makes it crucial for the country to ensure supply chain resilience and access to multiple sources of energy in order to reduce the risk of sudden disruptions during a period of geopolitical uncertainty in which the global energy market has turned highly volatile.

Prakash Raj claims name deleted from Bengaluru voter list

Bengaluru (TSIT)

Noted actor Prakash Raj on Tuesday claimed that his name has been deleted from the electoral rolls in Bengaluru during the ongoing SIR process. In a video post he shared on his 'X' account, the actor said claimed that he was one of the 65 lakh voters whose voting rights have been deleted after the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

However, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation clarified that the actor's name is actively registered at Serial Number 970, Part Number 1 of the 163 Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency as of June 16, 2026 (the date on which the electoral roll data was frozen for SIR activities). ".....I want to share a joke with you."

I am one of the 65 lakh voters whose vote rights have been deleted from Bangalore constituency after SIR. nice joke no? I was born in this constituency. I lived in this constituency, I had my schooling, college, theatre here and for your kind information, I was an MP candidate of this constituency," the National award winning multi-lingual actor said.



Prez Trump, PM Modi will settle tariff row: White House adviser Peter Navarro

Washington (TSIT) : White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on Tuesday that US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would work directly to resolve differences over India's purchases of Russian oil and the threat of steep US tariffs.

"The President and your prime minister have a very good working relationship," Navarro told reporters at the White House. "They are going to work that out amongst themselves, and it's not for me in any gaggle to get between that."

Navarro was responding to a question about legislation associated with the late Republican senator Lindsey Graham. The measure could lead to tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries buying Russian energy. The reporter asked whether the proposed tariff, combined with continuing trade negotiations, could further strain India-US relations.

Navarro did not address the possible tariff directly. He instead referred to an opinion article he had written for the Financial Times several months ago about India's energy trade with Russia.

Navarro said he had argued in the article that India's Russian oil purchases expanded after Moscow invaded Ukraine. "Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, India was not involved in the oil trade with Russia, but afterwards it got



heavily involved," he said.

Navarro also accused India of selling products linked to Russian oil and said the trade had helped finance Moscow's war effort. He offered no supporting figures during the exchange. He said the issue had since been resolved but did not explain what action had been taken or whether he was referring to India's oil purchases, the sale of petroleum products or another aspect of the trade.

"And that issue has been resolved," he said. "Maybe I had a little bit to do with that with that op-ed."

His remarks came as Washington and New Delhi continued negotiations over trade.

Earlier in the gaggle, Navarro

defended the Trump administration's broader tariff policy. He said tariffs were encouraging foreign companies to build factories in the United States and were also stimulating domestic investment.

"The signature there are the tariffs, which are bringing onshore both dollar investment from foreigners when they're building here to avoid the tariffs, but also indigenous investment here," he said. Navarro acknowledged that Americans continued to face economic hardship because of inflation. But he argued that the administration's tax, trade and deregulation policies were beginning to produce results, particularly in construction and manufacturing.

Bihar: Prashant Kishor announces 10,000 private jobs for Bankipur youth in 2 years

PATNA (TSIT):

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor, who was recently elected as the Bankipur MLA in Bihar, on Tuesday announced that he would ensure private jobs for at least 10,000 youths of his assembly segment in the next two years. Kishor was elected as the MLA in the by-election to the Bankipur assembly seat, which was vacated following the resignation of BJP president Nitin Nabin after he was elected to the Rajya Sabha.

He said he would leverage his contacts across the country to provide jobs to qualified youth in different parts of India. In a public address in



Bankipur, Kishor said, "If your children are educated yet unemployed, bring their CVs to our office. We will arrange jobs for at least 10,000 of them within the next two years. Through the big contacts I have, and the people I have helped in the past, I will make sure they get job in different parts of the country."

Kishor said he will facilitate jobs within Bihar once Jan Suraj Party comes to power but "for the time being, you will have to settle for jobs both within and outside the state".

The Bankipur MLA said that apart from facilitating jobs, he will work towards improving the education system, and providing food grains and social security pensions for the needy.

KTR alleges tesseract land deal bigger than MUDA scam

Hyderabad (TSIT):

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Tuesday alleged that the Tesseract Advanced Systems land deal, which he claimed was linked to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's brother Kondal Reddy, was a bigger scam than the MUDA controversy in Karnataka.

Addressing the media, KTR alleged that Tesseract Advanced Systems was allotted five acres of government land near Raviraj, close to Future City, valued at around Rs.200 crore for Rs.7 crore. He



questioned how a company with a reported paid-up capital of just Rs.1 lakh and allegedly no employees could secure such a land allotment. KTR questioned the ownership and financial credentials of Tesseract Advanced Systems and alleged that Kondal Reddy had represented himself as the company's chairman at various forums.

Bangladesh PM, Indian envoy meeting signals positive shift in bilateral ties

Dhaka, Aug 11 : The meeting between Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi signals a positive shift following a period of diplomatic strain between the two countries. The cordial engagement suggests a willingness on both sides to set aside recent irritants and place greater emphasis on the broader India-Bangladesh relationship, a report has stated. "The latest strain in Bangladesh-India relations should concern both governments, but it need not become a crisis of their own making. Geography, history, trade, rivers, security and deep peo-



ple-to-people ties bind the two neighbours in ways neither can wish away. Political disagreements are inevitable; allowing them to overwhelm the larger relationship is a choice. There are now signs that both Dhaka and Delhi understand the need to prevent that from happening," a report in Bangladesh's 'Daily Sun' highlight-

ed. The report noted that former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent address to journalists in New Delhi has triggered strong reactions in Dhaka. However, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reiterated that the Indian government had no involvement in Hasina's recent virtual media interaction and that it does not endorse any remarks made at the event, particularly those concerning the duly constituted government in Dhaka. According to the report, while the development may not fully address Dhaka's concerns, diplomacy requires governments to acknowledge and build upon constructive signals when they emerge.

Mulugu constituency 100 percent complete in SIR process : Collector

Mulugu, August 11, TSIT: District Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadeva Rao said in a statement on Tuesday that the enumeration of voters in Mulugu constituency as part of the Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR) process has been completed.

Speaking on this occasion, he mentioned that the programme of special comprehensive revision of voter list started on June 25, and in the first phase, enumeration forms were distributed to voters from June 25 to June 30.

Later, from July 1 to August 10, BLOs went door-to-door and collected the completed enumeration forms, as well as



checking the details of the voters and taking up the process of digitization of the forms, he said.

It has been revealed that the process of collection, verification and digitization of enumeration forms has been completed 100 percent in Mulugu constituency.

He said that there are 2,36,970 voters in Mulugu constituency, out of which

2,09,128 voters have digitized their enumeration forms. It is stated that it is 88.25 percent of the total voters. He said that the remaining 27,842 voters were identified as uncollectible. Of these, 8,354 died, 4,015 were double entrants, 14,207 were permanently displaced and 1,219 were unaccounted for. He said that the percentage of those identified as uncollectible is 11.75 percent. The Collector clarified that the process of SIR enumeration is 100 percent complete in Mulugu constituency with 88.25 percent digitization completed and 11.75 percent identified as uncollectible due to various reasons.

District Collector Priyanka Inspects Custard Apple Processing Unit; Orders Land Allocation for New Groundnut Oil Processin:

Narayanpet, August 11 (TSIT): In a major push toward rural women empowerment, District Collector Priyanka visited the women-led Custard Apple Processing Unit at the Damaragidda mandal headquarters.

During her field visit, the District Collector closely inspected the processing mechanisms and praised the Mandal Mahila Samakhyas for their operational efficiency. District Project Manager (DPM) Jayanna briefed the Collector, stating that the unit has been running successfully every season since



2019. He highlighted that the high-quality custard apple pulp produced by the local women is actively exported to international destinations, generating consistent livelihood opportunities.

Acknowledging its impact on local employment, the District Collector instructed offi-

cials to ensure that the current season's operations continue smoothly. To address immediate space limitations for storing bulk fruits and setting up high-capacity refrigeration units, she issued orders to locate alternative buildings or additional rooms for expansion.

KITS Warangal Organised Guest Lecture on "From Smart Sensing to Smart Living : The Era of AI/ML, IoT and Data Science"



Hanumakonda, TSIT : The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning) (CSE-AIML), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW), organised a guest lecture on "From Smart Sensing to Smart Living: The Era of AI/ML, IoT and Data Science" at the Civil Seminar Hall, KITS Warangal campus, as informed by the Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. Regarding today's guest speaker, Professor Sajal K. Das is the Curators' Distinguished Professor and Daniel St. Clair Endowed Chair in the Department of Computer Science at Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA.

On this occasion, the guest speaker, Curators' Distinguished Professor, Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA, Prof. Sajal K. Das has delivered an insightful technical session on the convergence of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Internet of Things and Data Science, demonstrated projects on early detection of dementia and Parkinson's disease, smart agriculture and

other smart solutions. talk showcased how emerging technologies can address societal challenges and improve quality of life. Shared valuable insights into current research trends, technological advancements and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

According to the Guest of honor, NIT Warangal Dean, International Relations & Alumni Affairs (IRAA), Prof. T. Kishore Kumar, stated that the technical session offered valuable exposure to the latest developments in AI, IoT and Data Science and encouraged faculty members to make use of such academic interactions for research collaboration, higher studies and professional development as part of KITSW MoU with NIT Warangal.

On this occasion, the Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy gave the presidential remarks. He emphasised the importance of continuous learning, research collaboration and adapting to rapidly evolving technological advancements to strengthen academic and research capabilities.

As per the promise.. Niranjan Reddy arranged lunch for the students

Wanaparthy (TSIT): The former minister participated in the "Sir" program organized at Anjanagiri Government School recently. Niranjana Reddy warmly greeted the students. On that occasion, he promised the children that "soon I will prepare delicious and quality food for you with my own hands and serve it to you". According to his promise, he himself arranged the food facility and served the food to the



children standing in a line. The children were ecstatic as the leader stood in front of them and served the ingredients affectionately. The teachers and villagers cheered at this generosity. Later, the students were

given chocolates and bananas to cheer them up. During the program, Nandi Malla Ashok, K. Manikam, Sarpanchi, Nenuvath Shanthamma Devakumar, Raghuvardhan Reddy, Dharmanayak, Ravi Prakash Reddy, Madhav Reddy, Maheshwar Reddy, Naresh, Chityala Ramu, Upasarpachi Raju, Dharmender, Yadagiri, Vasu, Tirupatiah, Swami and others participated.

SIR digitisation reaches 87.31 %

Khammam (TSIT): The digitisation process under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has reached 87.31 per cent in Khammam district. Palair topped the five Assembly constituencies with 92.21 per cent, followed by Sathupalli with 91.81 per cent, Wyra 91.27 per cent, Madhira 90.87 per

cent and Khammam 75.42 per cent.

In Khammam constituency, 2,47,540 of the 3,28,203 electors have been digitised. The corresponding figures are 2,26,729 of 2,45,885 in Palair, 2,05,488 of 2,26,126 in Madhira, 1,79,322 of 1,96,475 in Wyra and 2,26,848 of 2,47,092 in Sathupalli. Of the total 12,43,781 electors across 1,460 poll-

ing parts in the district, 10,85,927 have been digitised so far. The report shows 43,131 electors under 'no mapping', while 33,380 have been marked deceased and 1,01,549 as permanently shifted. A total of 11,004 are already enrolled, 11,371 are marked absent and 550 fall under other categories.

RPF Band Performs Patriotic Show at Necklace Road



Hyderabad, August 11 (TSIT): As part of the Independence Day celebrations, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) band team of South Central Railway (SCR) performed a musical programme at Necklace Road Railway Station on Tuesday.

The RPF band presented several patriotic tunes along with popular songs to mark the 80th year of Indian Independence, entertaining passengers

and members of the public at the railway station.

The programme was attended by Narendra Kumar Verma, ASC, RPF, Secunderabad; D. Srinivasa Rao, ASC, RPF, TC/MLY; S. Suresh Babu, Inspector, RPF, Nampally, Hyderabad, and other railway officials. Students, passengers and members of the public witnessed the musical performance, adding to the festive atmosphere at the station.

Fake Degree Allegation Sparks Controversy at Mahabubabad Gurukul

Mahabubabad, August 11: Allegations of irregularities in the appointment of an outsourced computer operator at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Backward Classes Welfare Residential Girls' School at Gummuduru in Gudur mandal have triggered controversy, with complainants alleging that a fake degree certificate was used to secure the job.

According to documents and complaints submitted to the authorities, the individual was appointed as an outsourced computer operator at the residential school in 2019 after allegedly producing a B.Com (Computers) degree certificate as proof of educational qualification.

The complainants have



questioned the authenticity of the certificate, pointing to records that reportedly show the same individual enrolled in B.Com (Computers) through a Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University study centre in 2022. They have questioned how the individual could have enrolled for the same degree in 2022 if the qualification had already been completed in 2019 and used for employment.

The complainants have submitted the relevant

documents to the authorities and demanded verification of the original degree certificate with the concerned university.

Three Complaints Before Collector

The complainants alleged that they had submitted written representations along with supporting documents to the Mahabubabad District Collector's grievance forum on three occasions, seeking a detailed inquiry into the appointment.

Coordinated steps must be taken to organise the 80th Independence Day celebrations in a grand manner District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar

Tirupati, August 11: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed officials to examine the applications received from the public through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) within the prescribed time limit and provide quality and satisfactory resolution. On Tuesday evening, in the Video Conference Hall of the local Collectorate, the District Collector, along with District Revenue Officer G. Narasimulu, reviewed various issues including resolution of PGRS applications, public positive perception on pension distribution, arrangements for the 80th Independence Day celebrations, Har Ghar Tiranga programme, tree plantation drive, illumination of offices, election-related matters, and applications under welfare schemes. The review was held with district officials in person and virtually with Municipal Commissioners, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, MPDOs, EROs and other officials in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector stated that public grievance redressal and positive public perception on pensions must be strengthened. He noted that while public positive perception on pension distribution had earlier been as high as 91 per cent, it has now declined to 86 per cent, which is a matter of concern. He directed MPDOs, Municipal Commissioners and concerned officials to treat this issue with the highest priority and take special measures to restore and improve public positive perception. Although Secretariat staff have been working efficiently in pension distribution, the decline in public perception is due to reduced supervision over the past few months. The Collector instructed that continuous reviews must be held on this matter hereafter.

He directed all departments to work in coordination to organise the 80th Independence Day celebrations on August 15 in a grand manner. Programmes already suggested by the Joint Collector and District Revenue Officer must be completed within the stipulated time. As part of the



publicity campaigns from August 10 to 15 in connection with Independence Day, under the theme "Ane Nenu", officials, Secretariat staff, teachers, students and staff of various departments should prepare videos stating their personal goals in accordance with their responsibilities and widely publicise them on social media. Officials should formulate their own targets related to their duties, services to be provided to the public, development programmes and implementation of welfare schemes. Through these videos, the programme should be conducted in a manner that fosters patriotism and responsible citizenship among the people. The Collector also directed that the Collectorate and all government department offices should be illuminated with electric lights on the occasion of Independence Day.

He instructed that a mega tree plantation programme should be organised across the district on August 14. Departments of Forest, Horticulture, Rural Development, DWAMA, Panchayat and others should take up the programme in coordination. The programme should be designed to ensure large-scale participation of public representatives, officials and the public, and available saplings should be kept ready in advance.

As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga programme from August 13 to 15, steps should be taken to ensure that the national flag is hoisted on every house, commercial establishment, office, industry, factory and other places. In addition to government departments, commercial organisations, industries, hospitals, medical shops,

homestays, tourism establishments, handloom and textile units and other organisations should also be involved in the programme, he directed the concerned department officials.

He suggested that special videos with patriotic messages featuring prominent sports persons in the district, individuals who have received national and state-level recognition in the handloom sector, awardees and other dignitaries should be prepared and publicised on social media. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tourism, Handloom and Sports departments should also involve prominent persons from their respective domains. On the occasion of Independence Day on August 15, patriotic messages should be widely disseminated to the public through IVRS and WhatsApp blast, he directed the concerned officials. Special stalls should be set up during the Independence Day celebrations to explain the government's Super-6 schemes to the public. District-level officials and heads of departments must mandatorily attend the Independence Day celebrations, the Collector stated. In the scrutiny related to electoral rolls, EROs, AEROs and Additional AEROs should take special care to ensure proper receipt of required documents. Applications should be examined as per norms with self-attestation and parents' documents according to date of birth, and defective applications should be corrected and resubmitted. Clear proceedings should be issued with details of officials conducting inquiries polling station-wise, those issuing notices and those issuing speaking orders, he instructed.

Pregnant Women and New Mothers Should Fully Utilise the Free Transport Facility— District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar

Tirupati, August 11: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar stated that the State Government has introduced '102 Mother-Child Express' vehicles to provide safe medical services to pregnant women and new mothers, to ensure they reach the hospital on time, and to safely take mother and child home after delivery.

As part of the statewide launch of the '102 Mother-Child Express' vehicles, the 16 Mother-Child Express vehicles allotted to Tirupati district were flagged off on Tuesday morning in the premises of the local Collectorate by District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar, Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, former Union Minister Panabaka Lakshmi, AP Yadava Welfare Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav and other public representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar advised that high-risk pregnancy cases and pregnant women suffering from anaemia should specially utilise these services. He said the 'Mother-Child Express' services can be used to travel to hospitals for necessary antenatal check-ups, related medical tests, and treatments such as iron sucrose as advised by doctors. The vehicles can also be used to safely take the mother and child home after discharge from the hospital following delivery. He urged women who deliver in government hospitals and pregnant women to fully utilise this free transport facility. The Collector informed



that the 'Mother-Child Express' services can be booked by calling the 102 number through the concerned government medical officer, ANM or ASHA worker. He stated that timely availability of transport for pregnant women and new mothers will further improve their access to medical services. Continuous monitoring of high-risk pregnant women, reduction of anaemia, and ensuring that pregnant women attend medical tests at the prescribed times can help reduce the incidence of low-birth-weight babies, and thereby these services will contribute significantly to reducing maternal and infant mortality. The Collector directed health department offi-

cials and field staff to create widespread awareness so that pregnant women and new mothers in Tirupati district fully utilise this facility. Regarding inter-district borders, he said that although these services are generally available within the concerned district, since Tirupati has major medical institutions such as the government maternity hospital, pregnant women and new mothers from neighbouring districts may also come for medical services. Depending on need, the services can be utilised to reach the nearest government hospital.

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu said that the State Government is taking special measures for the

welfare of pregnant women and new mothers with the cooperation of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan, Health Minister Satyakumar and others. As part of these efforts, the '102 Mother-Child Express' vehicles have been made available.

He informed that of the 16 vehicles allotted to Tirupati district, 15 vehicles will be available in the Tirupati area and one vehicle in the Srikalahasti area. These vehicles will help pregnant women safely reach the hospital from home, attend necessary medical tests, and safely take mother and child home after delivery. He said this facility will be highly useful in enabling women to receive medical services on time without any difficulties.

District Medical & Health Officer Dr. Balakrishna Naik, District Coordinator of Hospital Services Dr. Anandamurthy, District Transport Officer Muralimohan, AP Yadava Welfare Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, former Union Minister Panabaka Lakshmi, JB Srinivas, public representatives, health department officials, medical staff and other concerned officials participated in the programme.

Karnataka SIR hits 100% digitisation; 1.09 crore electors flagged under ASDDO

Bengaluru, Aug 10: Karnataka's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has crossed the 100% mark in digitisation of enumeration forms, with forms of all 5.54 crore electors in the state now digitised, according to data from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

The enumeration phase completed the digitisation on Sunday, August 9. Of the state's 5,54,32,314 electors, enumeration forms of 4,45,18,538 electors were signed and received by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), while 1,09,13,776 electors, or 19.69%, were marked under the Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others (ASDDO) category.

Of those placed under ASDDO, 15,65,838 electors (2.82%) were recorded as absent or untraceable, 65,85,791 (11.88%) as permanently shifted, 16,35,759 (2.95%) as dead, and 6,92,272 (1.26%) as duplicate or already enrolled. Another 4,27,119 electors (0.77%) were placed in the 'others' category, which includes those unwilling to sign the enumeration forms.



The digitisation data showed that 1,76,88,045 electors (31.87%) had self-mapped their names to previous electoral rolls, while 2,34,54,791 (42.31%) were mapped through their progeny. A further 33,61,876 electors, or 6.06%, fell under the 'no mapping' category, indicating that they could not find their own or their family members' names in the 2002 electoral rolls. The CEO's office has also received applications from electors seeking inclusion in the rolls, corrections and other changes

during the ongoing revision. Between June 16 and August 8, a total of 12.68 lac applications were received. Of these, 3,95,781 were Form 6 applications seeking inclusion in the electoral rolls, while 8,37,514 were Form 8 applications. Form 8 is used for requests including shifting of residence, correction of entries in the electoral roll, replacement of an Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC), and updating a voter's status as a person with disability (PwD). Separately, 7,05,062 elec-

tors have submitted their enumeration forms, of which around 9,000 were yet to be verified by BLOs, according to the CEO's office.

Officials said electors whose enumeration forms have not been signed and submitted to BLOs will not be included in the electoral rolls. This includes those marked as absent or untraceable and those who have permanently shifted. Electors categorised as dead or duplicate will be removed from the rolls as part of the revision.

Those listed under the 'no mapping' category, including electors unable to provide their previous SIR details, will be issued notices at a later stage. They will be asked to submit the documents specified in the enumeration form to establish their eligibility.

Under the revised SIR schedule, electors have time until August 17 to verify the list of voters categorised under ASDDO, which has been uploaded on the Election Commission's website. The list has also been shared with recognised political parties and Booth Level Agents.

Taekwondo Tournament: Chitradurga Wins Overall Championship, Tumakuru Finishes Second

Bengaluru : Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts emerged as the first and second overall winners respectively at the three-day 41st State-Level Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Taekwondo Championships, along with the 10th Cadet Kyorugi, 14th Poomsae, 3rd Para Taekwondo and 4th Expo Taekwondo competitions organised by the Karnataka State Taekwondo Association in Chitradurga.

More than 450 athletes from 14 districts participated in the tournament.

The event was conducted under the leadership of Karnataka State Taekwondo Association President J. Thirumal, along with Chitradurga Taekwondo Association coaches and the organisers of the state-level tournament.



ment, M. Sunitha Praveen Kumar and M. Anitha Manthesh.

In the Sub-Junior Girls category, Tumakuru district secured first place, while Chitradurga finished second. In the Sub-Junior Boys category, Bengaluru bagged the first position and Tumakuru secured the second position.

In the Cadet Boys category, Bengaluru emerged first and Tumakuru finished second. In the Cadet Girls category, Chitradurga secured first place, followed by Bengaluru in second place. In the Junior Boys category, Chitradurga emerged victorious, while Bengaluru secured the second position.

Dr. Chinnappa Y. Chikkahagade congratulates the new Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University Prof. C. Shivaraj



Anekal: A delegation led by Dr. Chinnappa Y. Chikkahagade, a recipient of the National Youth Award of the Government of India and the State President of the Karnataka Jai Bhim Janajagruti Vedike, met and congratulated the new Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University Prof. C. Shivaraj.

During this visit, which took place at the Jnanabharathi campus of

Bangalore University, various problems faced by the government degree colleges under the jurisdiction of the university were discussed. The delegation brought to the attention of the Vice Chancellor many issues including lack of basic facilities in the colleges, vacant posts of lecturers, lack of necessary educational facilities for students, and delay in the publication of examination results. Speaking on the

occasion, Dr. Chinnappa Y. Chikkahagade said that students studying in government colleges in various parts of the state are facing many problems and requested the university administration to pay special attention to their early resolution.

Accepting the request, Vice Chancellors Prof. C. Shivaraj said that several administrative and academic reform measures have been taken in the university in the last one month after assuming office. He said that suggestions and requests from students, teachers and various organizations are being taken seriously and a comprehensive report on the problems of government colleges will be obtained and a thorough review will be conducted.

Kuvempu theme park inaugurated in HBR Layout

Bengaluru : Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George and Bengaluru Urban Development Minister C.B. Krishna Byre Gowda on Today inaugurated the Kuvempu Theme Park in HBR Layout, developed by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. KPTCL has constructed the theme park in the HBR Layout area of the Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency under its CSR initiative. Speaking after inaugurating the park, Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George, who is also the MLA of the constituency, said, "This theme park is an excellent contribution towards a greener Bengaluru and is a testimony to the government's commitment to building a clean and green Bengaluru."



"KPTCL has constructed this beautiful park on its own property using CSR funds. As a result, a place in HBR Layout that was earlier overgrown with scrub vegetation has now been transformed into an attractive public space. On behalf of the people of the constituency and the citizens of

Bengaluru, I thank former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, current Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and the KPTCL officials and staff who contributed to developing this beautiful park," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Bengaluru Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said,

"Energy Minister K.J. George, who is also the MLA of Sarvagnanagar, is not only successfully managing his department but is also extending significant support towards building a beautiful Bengaluru. KPTCL has opened up its own property for the people of the constituency, and with the corporation's support, a place that was earlier covered with bushes and vegetation has now been transformed into an excellent park."

He added that the park would develop into a community activity centre for everyone, from children to senior citizens. "This space will play an important role in making Bengaluru more beautiful," Krishna Byre Gowda said. After inaugurating the park, both ministers took a tour of the premises and reviewed its various facilities. KPTCL Director (Projects) R.

Jayakumar, senior officials of the corporation and Congress leaders from the Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency were present at the programme.

Special Features of Kuvempu Theme Park

The theme park has transformed an area of 1,500 square metres in HBR Layout into a green zone. The park features a 700-metre walking track, an open-air theatre with seating for 100 people, a drinking water facility, toilets, a flagpole, a gazebo for relaxation, and space for a Nandini milk outlet and a HOPCOMS store. The park also has children's play equipment, open-gym equipment, stone benches for relaxation, special varieties of plants and a well-equipped lighting system. KPTCL has developed the park at an estimated cost of Rs.4.65 crore.

INCLISIRAN FOR CHOLESTEROL: DOCS CALL IT EXPENSIVE, STRESS FOR CHEAPER

Even as India is set to soon launch promising new medicine called the DCGI and US FDA-approved Inclisiran to lower cholesterol and keep it low with just two doses a year, doctors while hailing the advance contend that the drug is expensive and stressed on much cheaper versions available that should be put to better use. Inclisiran is the first and only small interfering RNA (siRNA) therapy to lower low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (also known as bad cholesterol or LDL-C) with two doses a year, after an initial dose and one at three months.

Inclisiran by Swiss multinational pharmaceutical Novartis, expected to be around Rs 1.2 lakhs, has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) under the brand name of Sybrava, following the successful completion of trials. The UK has also approved Inclisiran.

"There is a case for use of these injectables in India if their price comes down. As of right now even the use of appropriate doses of statins is not so common in India. These are cheap medicines which are available in generic form in India and they are still not used so at the moment, one should focus on how to use them better," Dr. Vivek Chaturvedi, Head, Department of Cardiology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad told IANS. "The use of these injectables will only take place for those people in India who find many side effects of statins. The reason being that, for most Indians, cholesterol is controlled using statins which are much cheaper," he said.

Inclisiran is able to reduce the amount of LDL-C in the bloodstream by improving the liver's natural ability to prevent the production of a protein that plays a role in keeping circulating cholesterol levels high. It is a subcutaneous injection with an initial dose, then again at three months, and then every six months. This approach may help those who have trouble sticking to medicines that are self-administered and have greater dosing frequency. "Inclisiran is a new cholesterol lowering drug administered subcutaneously twice yearly. Being both very expensive and a very potent drug its use will initially be restricted to those patients with severely raised blood chole-

sterol levels that don't respond to current orally administered pills," Dr Atul Mathur, Executive Director-Interventional Cardiology & Chief of Cath Lab, Fortis Escorts Hospital, New Delhi told IANS.

"However, the most noteworthy fact is that we are entering an era where we will soon replace daily pills with subcutaneous shots needed once or twice a year. This is how with time we are moving ahead in the management of cardiovascular diseases," he added. Dr. Chaturvedi explained that there are several drugs which are available for effective reduction of cholesterol. "The most studied to-date and the most effective in terms of its response and cause are the statins which are readily available in India. These are the first drugs which should be given to a patient because of their long-standing record and LDL lowering capacity," he said. There are two more oral drugs available in India - one is histamine and a newer one called bempidoic acid which are used along with or sometimes instead of statins when people have statin-associated muscle symptoms. "These medicines, as of right now, are too expensive for the common Indian household. So, their use is reserved at best. Hence, even the drugs that are available like evolocumab, are still not very widely used in India," Dr. Chaturvedi said. According to a study by the Indian Council and Medical Research and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, and published in The Lancet last year, about 213 million people in India - or almost 24 per cent of the population - have dyslipidemia, a disorder marked by abnormal levels of lipids, such as cholesterol, LDL-C, triglycerides, and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), in the blood.

"Lipid lowering therapies are well-established to prevent cardiovascular events in adults with dyslipidemia and multiple risk factors. However, global clinical usage of statins remains suboptimal, with adherence to low rates mainly due to concerns about side effects and misconceptions about benefits," Dr Ashwani Mehta, Senior Cardiologist, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, told IANS. "This new therapy is a very powerful way of reducing cholesterol and thereby taking care with the adherence issues and

Young Explorers in Nature, Coastal Discovery, and Cultural Immersion

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it is easy to get caught up in routines and lose out on spending some quality time with your little ones. One of the most enriching ways to foster a strong parent-child relationship is by embarking on a journey of shared experiences together. With holidays around the corner, it is the perfect opportunity to plan an exciting holiday with your kids. South Africa is one of the popular destinations to explore with your children. The picturesque landscapes, rich cultural tapestry and thrilling adventures of this country are sure to spark the imaginations of young explorers.

This diverse Rainbow Nation is a treasure trove when it comes to exciting wildlife encounters, immersive cultural experiences, and an abundance of kid-friendly attractions that promise both entertainment and education. Moreover, exploring new places, experiencing different cultures, and trying new activities together can be incredibly enriching. Whether it's hiking through scenic trails, tasting local cuisine, or marvelling at historical landmarks, every adventure becomes a shared experience that strengthens your bond. Here are five must-visit destinations that will surely be enchanting and educative for the entire family.

Witness the Majestic African Wildlife at Kruger National Park

Prepare for an unforgettable safari adventure at Kruger National Park, South Africa's premier wildlife sanctuary, where the iconic Big Five - lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos, and buffaloes - roam freely in their natural habitat. The best time to visit is during the dry season (May to September). Listen to the distant roar of lions and the gentle rustle of the grass as you spot herds of elephants and graceful giraffes, creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Explore the Enchanting



Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden

Immerse yourself in a world of botanical splendour at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a celebrated gem among Africa's botanic gardens. Boasting an impressive collection of over 7,000 indigenous plant species, including the iconic silver tree, Kirstenbosch offers a sanctuary for nature enthusiasts of all ages. Explore the themed gardens, such as the Medicinal Plant Garden and the Fragrance Garden, where children can discover the region's diverse biodiversity while delighting in the scents and sights around them. Pro-tip for families: Pack a picnic to enjoy amidst the breathtaking landscapes, surrounded by the sweet fragrance of native blooms. Don't miss the tree-top canopy walkway, offering a bird's-eye view of the lush gardens, and providing a magical experience

for nature lovers of all ages. Say hello to the Adorable Penguins at Boulders Beach

Prepare to be captivated by the charm of Boulders Beach, where a thriving colony of African penguins delights visitors with their playful waddles along the pristine shores. Their distinct braying calls fill the air with a symphony of joy, creating a heartwarming encounter for the whole family. The best time to visit is during the early morning or late afternoon, when the penguins are most active, offering delightful entertainment as they dive into the ocean and frolic on the beach, leaving children mesmerized by their delightful antics.

Take a Thrilling Cable Car Ride Up Table Mountain

Embark on a panoramic journey to the top of Table Mountain, South Africa's iconic landmark, via an exhilarating cable car ride. Before you go, be sure to check the weather

forecast and aim for a clear day to ensure stunning views of Cape Town and the surrounding coastline. Marvel at the rugged cliffs and sprawling cityscape below as the cable car ascends, offering a breathtaking perspective of the natural beauty that surrounds you. Children will relish the excitement of the ride and the panoramic vistas from the mountaintop.

Delve into the Marine Wonders at Two Oceans Aquarium

Immerse yourself in the secrets of the underwater world at Two Oceans Aquarium, where a mesmerising array of marine life from the Indian and Atlantic Oceans awaits. Children will be captivated by the vibrant colours and diverse creatures, from playful penguins and graceful sea turtles to majestic sharks and colourful reef fish. Engage in interactive feeding sessions and educational talks that deepen your understanding of the delicate marine ecosystem. Be sure to plan your visit during the morning to witness the vibrant underwater world at its liveliest.

Take a Walk-Through of History at Inanda Heritage Route

The Inanda Heritage Route will take you on a fascinating journey back in time as it showcases the pivotal role this area played in South Africa's struggle for freedom and equality. Each step is a lesson in history as you get to explore everything from Mahatma Gandhi's Phoenix Settlement to Ohlange Institute, where Nelson Mandela cast his vote in the first democratic elections. Through engaging and interactive experiences, the kids will get a chance to indulge in cultural experiences as they try their hands at traditional Zulu crafts or participate in cultural workshops. This firsthand experience fosters understanding, empathy, and a deep appreciation for the beauty of diversity.

EDITORIAL

How Parliament
House Outgrew its
Imperial Design

The building that came to house Indian democracy was not designed as the centre of a sovereign nation. New Delhi was planned around the Viceroy, the Secretariat and the ceremonial projection of imperial authority. A separate legislative building entered the scheme belatedly, after the Government of India Act, 1919, enlarged the machinery of colonial representation. Even when it opened in 1927, the British avoided calling it parliament. "Council House" better expressed the limits of an institution in which representatives could debate while executive authority remained elsewhere. That reversal gives Sobhana K. Nair's *Housing the Republic* its animating idea. The book follows the Council House as it is occupied, altered and gradually made central to the constitutional life of independent India. Its democratic meaning did not reside in the intentions of its architects. It accumulated through political use. Nair says the book arose from "anticipatory grief" as the old parliament's active life was nearing its end. It is part biography, part institutional history and part farewell. Yet its affection is supported by extensive research, not sentiment alone. Drawing upon official correspondence, parliamentary debates, memoirs, architectural records and her experience as a parliamentary journalist, she reconstructs both the building's public history and its untidy inner life. She is at her best when entering large constitutional questions through small material details. A foul smell in the Rajya Sabha leads into sealed ventilators, forgotten passages and decades of negligent alteration. A telephone-directory entry placing federal court judges under the home department reveals how a new judiciary struggled to establish even the appearance of independence from the executive. Disputes over rooms, libraries, doors and keys become disputes over institutional authority. This movement from the apparently trivial to the constitutional is one of the book's principal pleasures. Nair approaches files with a reporter's eye for vanity, absurdity and unintended consequence. Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker appear not only as architects of empire but as quarrelsome men whose professional resentments affected a public monument. Bureaucratic records rarely remain bureaucratic for long. The richness of this material sometimes makes the narrative discursive. A portrait, personality or administrative disagreement may open into an extended miniature history before Parliament House reappears. But the looseness largely suits a work that presents the building as a life rather than a structure: conceived amid dispute, repeatedly altered, adapted to new occupants and burdened with memories its designers could not have foreseen. The chapters on the making of New Delhi establish the irony at the heart of that life. The legislature was subordinate within a capital organised around executive power. Baker's triangular proposal gave way to a circular building after arguments in which geometry, imperial symbolism and personal rivalry became entangled. Contemporary observers compared the completed structure to a gasometer, a bullring and a mill wheel. Nair does not claim that the circle secretly anticipated democracy. Her point is more persuasive: political history compelled an imperial building to answer purposes for which it had not been designed.

THREE ADVERSARIES BECOME 4:

WHY THE SAUDI-TURKEY-PAK
DEAL IS A HEADACHE FOR INDIA

On July 4, 2025, less than two months after hostilities between India and Pakistan ended following Operation Sindoor, Lieutenant General Rahul R Singh, the Indian Army's Deputy Chief, said India had effectively faced three adversaries on a single border. Pakistan was the active frontline combatant, China shared real-time satellite intelligence, and Turkey, a partner of Islamabad, had been a source of tactical and kamikaze drones that had been used against India. Now, if the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement signed between Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia on August 7 is implemented in letter and spirit, it could theoretically mean that a fourth nation - Saudi Arabia - would be treaty-bound to oppose New Delhi in the event of armed hostilities in the sub-continent. A joint statement issued post the signing of the agreement states that an armed attack against any of the three would be regarded as an attack on all.

Snub To India?

While Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, has described the agreement as being "purely defensive in nature", New Delhi would not be pleased with Saudi Arabia signing on, given the extremely close ties between Delhi and Riyadh. India and Saudi Arabia define their relationship as a strategic partnership anchored by a joint council that steers ties that have grown to include oil, security, investment and culture. Trade stands at \$43 billion, with Saudi Arabia supplying around 14% of India's crude oil.

Saudi Arabia Is A Lifeline For PakistanAt the same time, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have already opera-



tionalised a bilateral security pact that predates the Mecca Joint Defence agreement. Between April and May this year, Pakistan sent roughly 8,000 soldiers and a full squadron (approximately 16 jets) of JF-17 Thunder fighter jets to Saudia Arabia. Some reports also indicate that Islamabad transferred two squadrons of drones and a Chinese-built air defence system as part of the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement that it signed with Saudia Arabia in September 2025. The scale of this deployment was hardly for 'advisory and training purposes', and could be described as a form of military repayment by Islamabad at a time when Saudi Arabia found itself at the receiving end of Iranian drone attacks during the ongoing war between Israel, the United States and Iran. The Pakistan-Saudi Arabia association is not new - Saudi Arabia has been a financial lifeline for

Pakistan for decades and has helped Islamabad deal with balance-of-payments crises. Since 2018, Riyadh has repeatedly extended multi-billion-dollar deposits and deferred oil-payment facilities - including \$6 billion in 2018, \$4.2 billion in 2021, roughly \$8 billion in 2022, and continued deposit rollovers through 2026 - often tied to IMF bailout conditions. Militarily, Saudi Arabia has backed Pakistan against India since 1965 with money and diplomatic support. In 1971, Riyadh condemned India's actions and support continued during the 1999 Kargil conflict, through cash and lobbying. Reports on the direct transfer of Saudi weaponry - including the loan of military aircraft in 1971 - have, however, not been backed with substantial evidence. On the other hand, Pakistani forces have been deeply embedded in Saudi Arabia's military since the 1960s. Cooperation began under

King Faisal and President Ayub Khan, with a formal 1967 agreement with Pakistani pilots reportedly flying Saudi jets against a 1969 Yemeni incursion. Through the 1970s-80s, up to 15,000 Pakistani troops were stationed in the Kingdom at various points, including in border-defence roles. A 1982 Protocol Agreement formalised the framework for these ongoing troop deployments. Separately, during the 1991 Gulf War, about 13,000 Pakistani personnel were deployed to Saudi Arabia. Over the decades, Pakistan has also trained an estimated 8,000-10,000 Saudi military personnel; more recently, Pakistan's former Army Chief, Gen. Raheel Sharif, took command of the Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition in 2017, and joint army, naval and air force exercises have since become a regular fixture.

What Turkey Brings To The

Pact Pakistan's military association with Turkey is more directly linked to arms imports - Islamabad has historically benefited from Turkish platforms, including Bayraktar TB2 drones, MILGEM-class corvettes valued at around \$1.5 billion, and modernisation support for its US-built F-16 fleet. Pakistan acquired four Turkish-designed MILGEM-class corvettes for its Navy among its most technologically advanced surface platforms, with the final vessel, PNS Tariq, delivered in August 2023. Turkey has also been involved in the modernisation of Pakistan's French-designed Agosta 90B-class submarines. Pakistan received its first batch of Bayraktar Akinci high-altitude combat drones in 2023, adding to earlier TB2 acquisitions with the relationship progressing towards local production. Turkey's KAAAN stealth jet made its first flight on February 21, 2024.

Development of prototypes is ongoing, with Turkey expected to begin receiving deliveries of the fighter between 2028-2030. Pakistan is seen to be a strong prospective customer; talks began around 2023, with the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex potentially co-producing rather than just buying the jet. There is, however, no contract that has been signed, with Islamabad believed to be closer to acquiring the Chinese J-35A stealth fighter, a more mature platform. After Pakistan used Turkish drones during the 88-hour war (Operation Sindoor) in May last year, India retaliated by revoking Turkish firm Celebi Aviation's security clearance. E-commerce platforms Ajio and Myntra dropped Turkish brands, and tourism took a big hit, with travel platforms cutting Turkey promotions. Indian arrivals fell up to 38% over the summer season.

India Will Have To Watch Out

With no signs of Islamabad moving away from its policy of state-sponsored terrorism, New Delhi will be looking closely at whether the new Turkey-Saudi Arabia-Pakistan pact ends up becoming a major strategic headache in the event of armed conflict. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's remarks that the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement is similar to NATO's Article 5 collective-defence clause sound ominous for New Delhi. For now though, the agreement appears to primarily be a regional hedge against America's declining role as a net security provider - perhaps a political signal of realignment away from US-centric security guarantees in the Middle East.

Google Is Turning The Internet Into Its Own
Prison, And Nobody Can Do Anything About It

For most of the 21st century, Google played a significant role in web users' lives. Its traditional search engine has served as the engine of the internet. Just before Google went public in 2004, one of its two co-founders, Larry Page, declared in an interview that the company wanted to provide a service by acting as a gateway. "We want to get you out of Google and to the right place as fast as possible," Page said. For years, the company fulfilled that promise. A search on Google would direct you to 10 blue links to various websites, and in the process, the web thrived, traffic reached ever-new heights, and both Google and web publishers made money. Users benefited from being able to search across alternative websites for their queries. But now, with its new AI-based search features, the tech giant has almost stopped sending queries to websites. Google's AI Overviews and AI Mode answer questions without users needing to leave the page to visit other sites. Google's own services, from shopping to YouTube videos, feature prominently at the top of its results. In May, the company changed its search engine for the first time in 25 years, allowing people to add photos and videos to their queries and to assign AI "agents" to run searches for them. This means users will stay much longer on Google. People are spending up to nine minutes more in AI Mode than on traditional Google searches, according to three studies, tallied by The New York Times. One study from Growth Memo, which the paper quoted, found that in about 75% of cases, users never left Google's AI Mode for



the web. This threatens not only the survival of web publishers but also the future of the internet itself. The web, designed for human clicks, is increasingly used by AI agents and bots. Researchers at the internet service provider Cloudflare reported last month that more than 50% of internet traffic is now non-human, with staggering implications for publishers, content owners, and the future of the open web. They also found that between June 2025 and April 2026, human traffic to websites fell by nearly 40%, hurting almost all businesses, from media to retail and IT. Google, with its dominance in search, the Chrome browser, and the world's largest video hosting site, YouTube, virtually controls the web. Globally, Google search has a market share of about 90%; in India, it's 95%.

GOOGLE ZERO

Last month, Steve Hoffman, the CEO of Reddit, one of Google's major search beneficiaries, told CNBC that Google's AI Overviews have created uncertainty over search-driven traffic. The com-

pany's shares fell more than 11% despite reporting better-than-expected profits that day, underscoring concerns about Google's changes. According to the Wall Street Journal, Reddit is considering cutting off the tech giant's access to its content. Roger Lynch, the CEO of Conde Nast, the parent company of Vogue and Vanity Fair, has also reportedly told his staff to start planning for a future in which Google sends them effectively no traffic at all. There are reports of other companies considering similar moves to try to survive. In a report published earlier this year, the Reuters Institute found that traffic to news websites from Google's search engine plunged by a third in 2025. News industry bosses said they expected traffic to fall by a further 43% over the next three years. Over the past 12 months, Google search traffic to publishers fell by an average of 34%. Washington Post, Business Insider, CNN, Reuters, and Time fell by more than 31%, according to search measurement firm Semrush. USA Today, which owns hundreds of titles in the US, lost 18% of traffic. Another search

optimisation firm, Systrix, has reported up to a 30% drop in clicks in Germany. In Britain, Reach, the owner of the Mirror, Express, and dozens of regional titles, also warned of a sharp decline in referrals from Google. Nilay Patel, the editor-in-chief of the US technology website The Verge, has called the trend Google Zero, in which traffic from Google will plummet to zero. The situation is even worse for smaller titles, some of which have lost more than 60% of referrals from Google. Nicolas Bouliane, who owns All About Berlin, said a week ago that his website will not survive into 2027. Earlier this year, he wrote a blog post titled "AI Is Killing All About Berlin". Last month, he told US broadcaster NPR that his traffic was down 75% since AI Overviews were introduced in 2024. Another contributor, Amanda Natividad of SparkToro, complained, "Sixty-eight% of all US Google searches end without a click." There is no recent study of Indian publishers suffering click losses as a result of Google AI Overviews and AI summaries, but they have been voicing concern since last year.

Pakistan Might Just Have Signed Itself
Into A Difficult Trap With Its 'Saudi' Deal

For most of the 21st century, Google played a significant role in web users' lives. Its traditional search engine has served as the engine of the internet. Just before Google went public in 2004, one of its two co-founders, Larry Page, declared in an interview that the company wanted to provide a service by acting as a gateway. "We want to get you out of Google and to the right place as fast as possible," Page said. For years, the company fulfilled that promise. A search on Google would direct you to 10 blue links to various websites, and in the process, the web thrived, traffic reached ever-new heights, and both Google and web publishers made money. Users benefited from being able to search across alternative websites for their queries. But now, with its new AI-based search features, the tech giant has almost stopped sending queries to websites. Google's AI Overviews and AI Mode answer questions without users needing to leave the page to visit other sites. Google's own services, from shopping to YouTube videos, feature prominently at the top of its results. In May, the company changed its search engine for the first time in 25 years, allowing people to add photos and videos to their queries and to assign AI "agents" to run searches for them. This means users will stay much longer on Google. People are spending up to nine minutes more in AI Mode than on traditional Google searches, according to three studies, tallied by The New York Times. One study from Growth Memo, which the paper quoted, found that in about 75% of cases, users never left Google's AI Mode for



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Apple Pay to enter India in October: Everything you need to know

Hyderabad: Apple is preparing to launch its digital payments service, Apple Pay, in India by October, but the platform is unlikely to support Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions at launch. The service will begin by supporting credit cards issued on global networks such as Visa and Mastercard, using the same framework Apple runs in other markets, Business Standard (BS) reported, citing three people aware of the development. Users will be able to add eligible cards to the Apple Wallet app and make contactless payments by tapping their device at point-of-sale terminals using near field communication (NFC). Apple has been readying the launch for the end of September or October, the BS quoted a source as saying. No UPI support at launch Apple Pay is not expected to support UPI-based payments initially. To offer UPI, Apple would need clearance from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)



and would have to partner with a sponsor bank to route such transactions. Consequently, the service's footprint in India is likely to remain limited to NFC-enabled point-of-sale terminals and card-based online payment flows, leaving the country's QR code-driven UPI ecosystem largely unaffected. Apple has been in negotiations with the country's largest credit card issuers for months over how much of each transaction it would retain. The technology company has sought a share of 15-20 basis points (bps) of the interchange fee on each credit card transaction, while

some major issuers have pushed for a lower 10 bps. One basis point equals 0.01 per cent. Interchange is the fee paid by a merchant's bank to the card-issuing bank for processing a card payment, and forms part of the merchant discount rate paid by merchants for accepting digital payments. The fee sought by Apple would not be charged to customers or merchants but would be borne by banks out of their own earnings from card transactions. Credit card usage may rise Payments companies expect the launch to spur credit card transactions in the country.

HYDERABAD'S TRUMP TOWERS IN KOKAPET TO BE VAASTU-COMPLIANT



Hyderabad: The upcoming Trump Towers Hyderabad project will be fully vastu-compliant, said its developers, Ira Realty and Tribeca Developers, on Tuesday, August 11. Designed around Vaastu principles, the new luxury Trump housing in Hyderabad marks the brand's South India debut. The project on Golden Mile Road in Kokapet involves a total of Rs 2,000 crore investment, including land costs. The formal launch is expected to take place in October. "The first project in South India is different because the apartments had to be Vaastu-compliant. It took us about a year to get it right," said Kalpesh Mehta, founder of Tribeca Developers. Tribeca had first brought the US President's Trump brand to India in 2014. Standing 240 metres high, the upcoming project in Hyderabad will be the tallest residential complex in South India, according to Tribeca Developers.

By comparison, the country's tallest Trump tower is a 78-storey building in Mumbai. The Hyderabad project covers 22 lakh square feet and features two 65-storey towers linked by a skybridge. Housing 450 apartments—including 16 penthouses—each residence offers unblocked views. In November 2024, the Trump Organization announced plans to expand further with six new projects across Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Noida, and Pune. This will make India the only country outside the US with such a significant Trump real estate presence. Kalpesh Mehta said the company will invest between Rs 1,700 crore and Rs 1,800 crore in the project, excluding land costs. The land is valued at around Rs 250 crore at current market rates. The developers expect sales realisation of Rs 3,500 crore to Rs 4,200 crore, with apartment prices starting at Rs 5 crore.

DS GROUP'S PULSE CANDY COLLABORATES WITH THE RECENT SPIDER-MAN MOVIE WITH A 360-DEGREE CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

New Delhi, 11 August, 2026: Pulse Candy, one of the popular brands from the Dharampal Satyapal Group (DS Group), a leading FMCG conglomerate and multi-business corporation, has announced a strategic collaboration with the Spider-Man: Brand New Day movie for a 360-degree consumer engagement campaign. Marking a significant milestone in Pulse Candy's brand journey, the association is among the brand's most ambitious entertainment-led collaborations, bringing together limited-edition packaging, high-impact media and consumer participation at a nationwide scale. The campaign combines the excitement of the Spider-Man: Brand New Day movie with Pulse's irresistible flavour, conveying the message, 'Even Spider-Man Cannot Resist Pulse.' The campaign comes alive through a high-impact creative narrative that reimagines Spider-Man's iconic persona and Pulse's irresistible flavour, celebrating the candy's irresistible appeal. The co-branded film depicts the superhero using his signature web to capture Pulse, while innovative outdoor installations extend the storytelling with larger-than-life visuals of Spider-Man reaching across adjoining bill-



boards to grab the candy. Running from the last week of July to August 30 across digital, outdoor, cinema, retail and social media touchpoints, the integrated execution seamlessly blends entertainment with brand storytelling to reinforce that the candy is so compelling even a superhero cannot resist it. At the heart of this nationwide 360-degree initiative are limited-edition co-branded packs, which transform the

product itself into a powerful medium that maximizes visibility and gives consumers a memorable, immersive way to take the collaboration home. Commenting on the collaboration, Arvind Kumar, Senior General Manager, Marketing, Confectionery, DS Group, said: "Pulse Candy has consistently built strong consumer connections by creating experiences that are innovative, culturally rele-

vant and groundbreaking. Spider-Man is one of the world's most iconic entertainment franchises, with exceptional relevance among Gen Z while also enjoying immense cross-generational appeal. This collaboration reflects our continued focus on building Pulse Candy at the intersection of entertainment and popular culture. Through this campaign, we aim to deepen consumer engagement, strengthen brand affinity and create memorable experiences that celebrate the irresistible appeal of Pulse Candy." Speaking about the partnership, Shony Panjikaran, General Manager and Head, Sony Pictures Releasing International, India said, "Spider-Man has remained one of the world's most loved superheroes, captivating audiences across generations with his enduring appeal and inspiring stories. We're delighted to collaborate with Pulse Candy, one of India's most loved confectionery brands, on a campaign that creatively extends the excitement of Spider-Man: Brand New Day beyond the big screen. This collaboration offers fans a fun and engaging way to celebrate the film while creating memorable experiences through innovative consumer engagement."

TELANGANA'S HOMESTAY POLICY TO INVITE FAMILIES INTO TOURISM



Hyderabad: Telangana is preparing to launch a dedicated homestay scheme that will enable homeowners to host tourists in their residences, opening up a new source of income for families through the tourism sector, reports said on Tuesday, August 11. The tourism department is likely to start accepting applications from eligible homeowners for registration and classification of their accommodations as homestays, said the Times of India. The idea is to take tourism beyond major cities and hotels while helping households to become entrepreneurs. According to the report, applications would be disposed of in 30 working days, and the registration would be valid for two years, with the government playing a facilitator. "Tourism has become one of the fastest-growing contributors to employment, entrepreneurship, cultural preservation

and balanced regional development," it quoted an official as saying. Homestays help in expanding a city's accommodation capacity without much expenditure in the form of land requirements or high capital costs, as is the case with commercial projects, they pointed out. What would qualify as homestays? Houses, heritage homes, traditional dwellings, rural and tribal houses, and residential apartments are all eligible properties. Hotels, resorts, lodges, hostels, paying-guest facilities, dormitories and serviced apartments do not qualify as homestays. Registered properties will be classified into three categories by a committee of officials from various departments. The final approval will come from the department. Owners will be given a certificate and listing on Telangana Tourism's promotional platforms. said the report.

AM/NS India Launches Next-Generation Heavy Plate Solutions for Infrastructure and Manufacturing Sectors

Pune, August 11, 2026: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) today announced the launch of STRUCTROMAX and WELDSTAR, two new heavy steel plate brands designed for India's growing infrastructure, manufacturing, construction, energy, transportation and heavy engineering sectors. Developed at AM/NS India's state-of-the-art plate mill facility at Hazira, Gujarat, the new products combine advanced rolling and heat-treatment technologies with precise metallurgical and quality control. STRUCTROMAX is designed using Thermo-Mechanical Controlled Processing (TMCP) to support bridges, high-rise buildings, offshore projects, railways, wind energy, and other heavy-duty sectors. It offers superior weldability, toughness, load-bearing capability, corrosion resistance, and fabrication performance, enabling engineers and project developers to build structures that remain stable under demanding operating or climatic conditions. WELDSTAR is a range of ultra-high-strength steel



plates that allow engineers to optimize weight, increase payload capacity, improve fuel economy, and reduce lifecycle costs without compromising on safety or durability. It is mainly designed for cranes, mining equipment, transport systems, offshore projects and other critical applications to decrease long-term operating costs. Ranjan Dhar, Director and Vice President - Sales & Marketing, AM/NS India said: "India's next phase of infrastructure and manufacturing growth will require steel solutions that deliver

greater strength, reliability and efficiency in increasingly complex projects. STRUCTROMAX and WELDSTAR broaden the advanced heavy plate options available to Indian engineers, fabricators and manufacturers, while strengthening domestic capability for high-value applications." A key focus of AM/NS India's heavy plate portfolio is its commitment to sustainable steelmaking. AM/NS India's Heavy Plate products are Green Steel Certified with a 3-Star Rating under the Ministry of Steel's Green Steel Taxonomy, introduced

in December 2024. The framework classifies steel based on carbon emissions per tonne of finished steel and provides a transparent, standardized, star-rated certification system for evaluating and comparing sustainability performance across steel products. The launch of STRUCTROMAX and WELDSTAR reflects AM/NS India's focus on working closely with customers to develop steel solutions that address evolving application requirements across infrastructure, engineering and manufacturing sectors.

Uber Bike drives into Rajamahendravaram First ride free for new riders for a limited time

Rajamahendravaram, August 11, 2026: Uber, India's leading ride-hailing app, today launched Uber Bike in the city, giving residents an affordable and convenient option for everyday journeys. From getting to work and college to navigating busy markets and connecting with public transport, riders can now book a ride through the Uber app to get around the city on two wheels.



Uber Bike gives Rajamahendravaram residents an affordable new way to get around, while creating flexible earning opportunities for local drivers. To celebrate its arrival in the city, Uber is offering new riders their first Uber Bike ride free for a limited period. At the launch, Shri Adireddy Srinivas, MLA, Rajamahendravaram City Assembly Constituency, Andhra Pradesh, said: "As Rajamahendravaram grows rapidly into an economic and cultural centre, better connectivity will be critical to supporting that growth. Uber Bike gives residents another affordable option for their everyday journeys while opening up livelihood opportunities for local drivers. As more people take to our roads, safety must remain a priority. I appreciate Uber's efforts to promote responsible driving through the distribution of ISI-approved helmets to Uber Bike drivers, putting road safety at the centre of Uber Bike's arrival in the city. Shri Adireddy Srinivas, MLA, Rajamahendravaram City Assembly

Constituency, Andhra Pradesh, said: "As Rajamahendravaram grows rapidly into an economic and cultural centre, better connectivity will be critical to supporting that growth. Uber Bike gives residents another affordable option for their everyday journeys while opening up livelihood opportunities for local drivers. As more people take to our roads, safety must remain a priority. I appreciate Uber's efforts to promote responsible driving through the distribution of ISI-approved helmets to Uber Bike drivers, putting road safety at the centre of Uber Bike's arrival in the city. Shri Adireddy Srinivas, MLA, Rajamahendravaram City Assembly

Rishant Ghosh, Director - Consumer & Growth, Uber India & South Asia, said: "We're excited to bring Uber Bike to Rajamahendravaram, built for the short, everyday trips that keep the city moving. Uber Bike combines affordability with the convenience and safety features people have come to expect from Uber. Just as importantly, the launch creates flexible earning opportunities for local drivers. We look forward to becoming a part of Rajamahendravaram's everyday mobility." Uber Bike combines doorstep pick-up and drop-

off with upfront fares, digital payments and the ability to track every trip through the Uber app. It also provides a convenient option for covering the first or last mile of a journey and complements the city's existing transport choices. Safety remains central to the Uber Bike experience. Every trip is backed by in-app features including Real-Time Driver ID Check, an in-app SOS button, 24x7 Safety Line and Share Trip Status. The distribution of ISI-approved helmets to drivers at the launch reinforces Uber's focus on safer and responsible mobility.

OUSTED SYRIAN DICTATOR BASHAR AL-ASSAD SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA



A Syrian court has sentenced ousted dictator Bashar al-Assad to death in absentia, after convicting him of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's civil war. It is the first conviction against Assad, who fled from Damascus to the Russian capital, Moscow, with his family after his regime was overthrown in December 2024, ending his family's five-decade grip on power. Assad's cousin and the former head of political security in southern Syria's Deraa province, Atef Najib, was also sentenced to death. He appeared wearing a striped prison uniform inside a cage in the courtroom as the judge read out his sentence. Deraa is widely seen as the birthplace of the uprising against Assad's rule. In March 2011, the detention and alleged torture of a group of teenagers accused of writing anti-government graffiti sparked protests in the city, which were met with a violent crackdown by security forces. That response helped ignite nationwide demonstrations

that escalated into civil war in which hundreds of thousands of people were killed. Syria's interim government began trying officials associated with the Assad regime, which ruled the country for more than 50 years, earlier this year. Najib is one of the highest-ranking officials to be put on trial. He was convicted of crimes including murder, "the intentional killing of children under 15" and "torture leading to death". The court also sentenced six former military and security officials in absentia to death, including Bashar al-Assad's younger brother, Maher. He ran the army's elite Fourth Division and also fled to Moscow when the regime fell. The others convicted include former defence minister Fahd al-Frej. Outside the courthouse after the ruling, hundreds of people of all ages gathered holding pictures of their loved ones who were killed by the regime. Crowds were clapping and chanting, while cars drove by excitedly honking their horns. A group of men passed out flags.



At least 132 killed in Colombia's largest earthquake in years

Trump hid in catering truck in secret plane swap over Iran threat, reports say

Donald Trump secretly swapped planes as he left a Nato summit in Turkey last month, as part of an elaborate ruse in response to a possible Iranian threat, US media report. The US president boarded Air Force One in view of television cameras before being transported to a military aircraft with the help of a catering truck, the Washington Post said. Journalists and some White House staff on board did not know he had been smuggled out. Officials told the BBC's US partner CBS News that the US had detected a credible Iranian threat to fire a missile at the plane. The White House has not confirmed the secret switch. Trump had earlier said he was Iran's "number one target" during the sum-



mit in Ankara. The clandestine manoeuvre came a day after the US renewed military strikes on Iran following a breakdown of negotiations between Washington and Tehran to end the war. Trump had arrived in Turkey aboard a newer Boeing 747-8 donated by Qatar, but announced that he would leave on the old Air Force One "for old

time's sake". On 8 July, footage showed him boarding the presidential jet at Ankara airport. But according to the Washington Post, he was then secretly taken to a smaller C-32A military aircraft - a modified Boeing 757 often used by the vice-president - via a catering truck which had been elevated to plane level on the opposite side to where he

had boarded. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth boarded the C-32A separately using external stairs in an effort to make the flight appear normal, according to the newspaper. Journalists and some White House staff boarded Air Force One and were reportedly told to close their window shades. They were unaware the president was no longer on board. A pool producer who was on the plane said one unusual moment on the flight was the request that members of the press keep the shades down. A photographer briefly opened one and was quickly told to close it and that it was a request from the Secret Service, which guards the president.

Luigi Mangione back in court as key questions remain over case ahead of murder trial



Luigi Mangione, the man accused of gunning down UnitedHealthcare chief executive Brian Thompson, is back in court in New York ahead of his murder trial, which begins next month. A judge on Tuesday could hash out more ground rules for the trial and other aspects of the case, which has attracted national attention. It has also created an online frenzy, with both his backers - many of whom see Mangione as a symbol of the backlash against US healthcare costs - and his critics analysing everything from his intentions to his appearance. The case is likely to become an even bigger spectacle when jury selection for the trial begins on 8 September. Mangione, if found guilty, could face decades behind bars. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges, including second-degree murder and weapons-related offences. Much of what is expected at the state trial - the prosecutor's case, Mangione's defence, and obstacles both parties face - were previewed in months of court filings and arguments, but some questions remain unanswered. Will the prosecution win battle over evidence? One of the most crucial elements of the Mangione case was decided earlier this summer, after a multi-day hearing in December where the judge weighed which evidence prosecutors could present during trial. Mangione's team mounted an aggressive

bid to exclude evidence recovered from his Pennsylvania arrest. It alleged that state police improperly seized and searched Mangione's possessions, and did not properly advise him of his constitutional rights before questioning him. The defence succeeded in excluding some items - a gun magazine, cell phone, passport, wallet and computer chip, found in Mangione's backpack. But Judge Gregory Carro allowed at trial a gun and notebook with Mangione's purported writings, viewed as vital to the prosecution. Prosecutors have unveiled surveillance footage showing the moment Thompson was shot from behind by a hooded individual. They also used footage to piece together Mangione's alleged movements after the shooting, and ballistics and fingerprint evidence they claim bolsters their case. What might Mangione's defence look like? As trial approaches, Mangione's team has yet to unveil its full strategy. So far, his lawyers have not offered a robust alternative theory to the one prosecutors have put forth. "We do not have, like in 'The Fugitive', the idea of the one-armed man who's the real killer," said former federal prosecutor Mitchell Epner, referencing a 1993 thriller about a man wrongly convicted of killing his wife. Earlier this summer, Mangione's lawyers proposed, then quickly withdrew, an "extreme emotional disturbance" argument.

Australia PM under fire for remarks on Japanese counterpart's melon gifts

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is under fire for comments he made about two melons gifted to him by his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi, after a former Japanese envoy called it an insult. During an appearance on the Bush Deep podcast, Albanese gestured near his chest while referring to the crown melons, calling them "pretty strange" gifts that "ended up being quite good". That episode, which aired in July, had already landed the PM in hot water because of "inappropriate" comments he made about popstar Kylie Minogue. Opposition leaders are now demanding he apologise to Takaichi, but Albanese's position is that it was the host who made the joke, not him, the BBC understands. While discussing the melons Takaichi's team had presented to Albanese during her visit to Australia in May, the host of Bush Deep, comedian Nikki Osborne, quipped: "She brought two... She just came in looking like Pamela



Anderson." "She brought two, and they are beautiful," Albanese responded. The exchange, which drew relatively little interest when the episode aired, has resurfaced after Tokyo's former ambassador to Canberra Shingo Yamagami labelled Albanese's comments a "sexist joke" and said they "betrayed the close bond" between Japan and Australia. "The last thing [Takaichi] expected was to be so casually mocked by the trusted leader of Japan's special strategic partner," he wrote in an opinion piece published by The Australian

on Monday. Crown melons are the "most prized fruit" in Japan and "treasured as something special", Yamagami added, noting that a single melon costs more than 30,000 yen (\$188). "So, prime minister, please enjoy Japan's sweet and juicy melons without thinking about a woman's anatomy, and instead focus on what our two countries must do together," he said. During his two-year stint in Australia, Yamagami had a notably frosty relationship with some members of Albanese's Labor Party over disagreements regarding

China. An opposition MP asked Albanese on Tuesday if he would apologise for the "foul-mouthed, classless comments about women", to which the prime minister said he "rejected the assertion of the question". He went on: "Australia and Japan have never been closer. My government has taken our special strategic partnership to new heights." Australia's opposition leader Angus Taylor on Monday also criticised the gaffe as "insulting", and demanded that Albanese make a personal apology. Several Labor ministers have jumped to Albanese's defence, saying the former envoy and the media have misinterpreted his comments. Finance Minister Katy Gallagher said the remarks "were not intended to be interpreted the way that our political opponents and some media outlets are reporting". Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek called it "a completely unnecessary interpretation of what the prime minister said".

CANADA FLIGHT CANCELLED AFTER CHILD REFUSES TO WEAR SEAT BELT



The cancellation of a flight in Canada after a child refused to wear a seat belt has reignited a debate about the etiquette and safety procedures relating to children travelling on planes. The Porter Airlines flight, which was preparing to depart from Victoria to Toronto on 6 August had to return to the terminal as a "young child was standing in their seat and would not secure their seat belt", the airline said. The delay meant the flight could not depart before the runway closed after midnight so passengers had to be rebooked on a flight the following day. The incident has split opinion

about how children should be treated in such situations and how airlines should respond. Regarding the child's behaviour, Porter Airlines said "attempts by the accompanying parent and crew to address this were unsuccessful". "The aircraft could not take off in this unsafe condition, so the crew elected to return to the terminal and have the two passengers disembark," it added. Child aviation safety expert Lia Tusso told the BBC the Porter crew were protecting the safety of the passengers on the flight with their decision to stop the flight, as well as the child.



Russia using North Korean missiles to strike Ukraine, Zelensky says

THAILAND SUSPENDS NEW GUN PERMITS AFTER MASS SHOOTING

Thailand's government will immediately stop issuing gun permits after a shooting incident last week in which a 14-year-old killed eight people and himself. Existing gun owners are already banned from carrying their weapons in public. The South East Asian country has one of the highest rates of civilian gun ownership in the region, with around 10.3 million firearms in civilian possession, and high levels of gun crime. In response to the recent shooting, the prime minister has promised to speed up tough new gun control laws with severe penalties. Last Friday, a pupil at Debsirin Nonthaburi School outside Bangkok shot his grandparents using a handgun owned by his grandfather, before opening fire at teachers and students at school, authorities say. Both



grandparents, five staff members at the school and one 12-year-old girl died. Police believe the shooter may have taught himself to use a gun via social media. They say there is evidence that the boy watched violent content online, and that he showed a strong interest in learning how to handle guns. His consumption of this

content as well as anxiety over studies and family issues might have also fuelled his actions, they add. From now on, no new permits to purchase or own guns will be issued and existing permits will not be renewed. Permits to carry guns were suspended in late 2023. Gun owners must keep their weapons at home or

at a shooting range. The government is also considering measures to persuade the owners of an estimated four million unlicensed guns to hand them in. Furthermore, the education minister has proposed screening at the entrance of schools to stop students from bringing in weapons.

IPL Player Abishek Porel Arrested In Rape And Criminal Intimidation Case

Abishek Porel, who plays for Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL), was arrested in connection to a criminal case registered on the complaint of a medical student alleging rape, criminal intimidation, and other serious offences. The Bengal cricketer was arrested by the police from Emami City under the Dum Dum police station, according to Hooghly Rural police SP Kunwar Bhushan Singh. Earlier in June, the victim lodged a police complaint alleging that he engaged in a sexual relationship under the false promise of marriage and subjected her to assault and criminal intimidation. The Calcutta High Court later directed the police to arrest the cricketer in connection to the case. Porel, who has in the past travelled with the India A team to the UK and Australia, denied all allegations in the past. According to the complaint, the woman alleged that she and Porel had been in a relationship for



the past three years and that differences surfaced last year, after which the cricketer allegedly started "distancing" himself from her. She further alleged that Porel had promised to marry her but is now unwilling to do so. "Abishek Porel illegally confined the complainant. He denied her food and deliberately kept her isolated. As a result... the complainant became physically weak and was unable to walk properly. Despite having a flight... she was compelled to seek immediate medical attention due to the injuries sustained," the FIR against Porel read. In her

complaint, the woman alleged that Porel had sexual intercourse with her under the promise of marriage and also accused him of assault and criminal intimidation. "We have received a complaint and started an investigation," a police official told PTI. A left-handed top-order batter, Porel has represented Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League since 2023. He made 108 runs from four innings for Delhi Capitals last season. He made his first-class debut for Bengal in the 2021-22 season and has played 32 first-class and 23 List A matches.

Donald Trump Warns FIFA Over Consequences OF REPLACING GIANNI INFANTINO

=Amid the growing pressure on Gianni Infantino, US President Donald Trump has come out in support of the under-fire FIFA chief, warning that world football's governing body would be making a "terrible mistake" if it decided to remove him from office. Trump's intervention, posted on his Truth Social platform, comes as pressure mounts on Infantino from major regional confederations following a controversial private investment proposal. The endorsement arrives at a delicate moment for Infantino, who faces an unprecedented backlash from football federations all across the globe over his now withdrawn proposal to sell stakes in the FIFA World Cup and Club World Cup. FIFA had publicly announced its proposal to sell shares of the World Cup to investors through a subsidiary com-



pany instantly valued at USD 20 billion. Infantino's plan, first revealed in media leaks and put forth without consulting member associations, was immediately met with heavy backlash from several confederations and higher-ups in the soccer world, all claiming the sport's most prestigious affair

should not be "for sale." Though the proposal is now withdrawn, continental bodies in the sport have rallied against Infantino, seeking his removal as FIFA president. However, Trump feels it would be a big mistake if Infantino is removed from office. In fact, he said the World Cup would never be as profitable as it was

this year under Infantino if the Swiss administrator is forced to leave. In his post on Truth Social, Trump wrote: "FIFA would be making a terrible mistake if, for any reason, they even considered replacing President Gianni Infantino. He is fantastic, having just presided over the most successful World Cup ever presented,

four times. If he is gone, it will never be as successful or profitable again! Thank you for your attention to this matter. President DJT" Trump and Infantino have become close over several years, a relationship that itself invited backlash and controversy all summer long at the 2026 World Cup across North America. Trump's support came just days after he claimed to have no prior knowledge of Infantino's plan to sell World Cup shares. It was a surprise response given not only the pair's closeness, but also that Thrive Eternal, a venture capital firm founded and managed by Joshua Kushner, the brother of Trump's son-in-law, was pegged to "lead the proposed investor group." It was also reported at the time that the Trump administration had been consulted about the project.

Saif Ali Khan's Viral Cricket Video Sparks Buzz, Fans Can't Stop Talking About His Bowling Action

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan was recently video-graphed playing a game of cricket. His bowling action, in particular, went viral. It could not be independently confirmed when and where the video was shot. However, a social media handle claimed that the video was shot on August 10 in London. The popular actor is the son of Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, one of India's legendary cricketers, and Sharmila Tagore, one of the most well-known actors in Indian cinema. On the work front, Saif Ali Khan will next be seen in Haiwaan, directed by Priyadarshan. The film also stars Akshay Kumar in a key role and is the Hindi remake of the Malayalam film Oppam. It is scheduled to release on September 11,



2026. Recently, during a conversation with The Hollywood Reporter India, Saif was asked if he is now prioritising more diverse scripts. Responding to the question, the actor said, "No, I don't know. I think there's a certain luxury, a freedom

that I have right now where I feel I can get into it completely. I have also noticed that the writing is obviously on the wall. People are more excited and interested in seeing something that is passionately made and something different." He went on

to explain why Dhurandhar stood out to him and how it has shifted his perspective on filmmaking. "I see a time before Dhurandhar and a time after. So, it is up to us whether we catch up, wake up, or not. It seems like an obvious idea to make amaz-

ing music rather than creating a new album for each film, and to draw on all kinds of things from around the world, without being too frightened of English as well," he added. Saif also had special praise for the film's music and the way its songs were presented. Sharing what impressed him the most, he said, "I am just talking about the music. It was fantastic, some of the remixes. Instead of hiring a beautiful leading lady to do an 'item' number for you, if you just treat it as a song and have these two girls performing as you would at a wedding, it doesn't jar the eyes at all. Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan was recently videographed playing a game of cricket. His bowling action, in particular, went viral.

Rashid Khand's All-Round Show Earns Afghanistan 2027 ODI World Cup Spot

An all-round effort from star spinner Rashid Khan helped Afghanistan seal an automatic spot in the 2027 ODI Cricket World Cup with a three-wicket win over Ireland in the third ODI at Belfast. With this win on Monday, Afghanistan is 2-0 up in the five-match series. The first match was abandoned without a ball bowled. In the previous ODI World Cup in 2023, Afghanistan were promising, finishing sixth in the points table with four wins and five losses, narrowly short of contention for a semifinal spot. With wins over defending champions England and former champions Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, they still had a tournament to be proud of. Afghanistan won the toss and elected to field first. Half of the Irish side was back in the hut for 89 runs in the 22nd over. Gavin Hoey (36 in 67 balls, with two fours)



and Jai Moondra (31 in 33 balls, with five fours) put up 76-runs for the ninth wicket. Afghanistan skittled out Ireland for 206 runs in 46.3 overs. Allah Ghazanfar (3/29) and Rashid (3/44) were exceptional with the ball for Afghanistan. During the run-chase, openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran (12) put on a 53-run opening stand. Gurbaz kept one end steady, but he was the fifth wicket down for 71 in 77 balls,

with two fours and five sixes at a score of 149. From there, Afghanistan sank to 176/7 in the 36th over and were in a tricky situation. Rashid played a useful knock of 37* in 43 balls, with four boundaries, putting on a 31-run stand with Yamin Ahmadzai (4*) to take Afghanistan to a win in the 45th over with three wickets in hand. Rashid won the 'Player of the Match' award for his match-winning performance.

Sachin, Kohli, Rohit Contacted Retiring Ajinkya Rahane. He Told Them The Same Thing

Ajinkya Rahane ends his cricketing career as one of the stalwarts of the national team, a man whom the team banked upon in red-ball cricket, especially in overseas tours. Rahane's ability to deal with swinging deliveries on pace-friendly pitches gave him a rare skill that not many Indians have mastered. However, as the veteran batter announced his decision to quit all forms of the game, the first call he received was from the great Sachin Tendulkar. Later, messages from the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah also buzzed his phone. Speaking to the Indian Express, Rahane revealed that Tendulkar was the first one to call him, soon after he posted the retirement video on social media. The Master Blaster was quick to point out his disappointment, say-

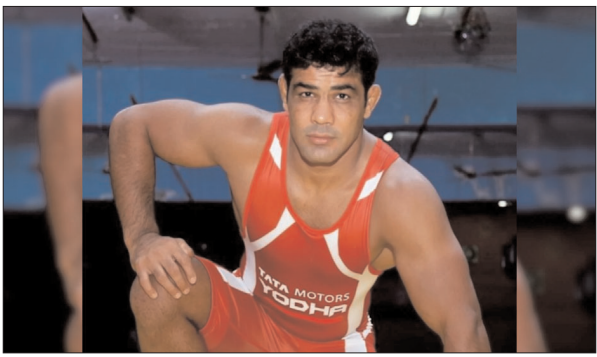


ing he thought Rahane would go on to play more games for India than he eventually did. Irfan Pathan was another former player who called Rahane while current superstars - Kohli, Rohit and Bumrah - sent him text messages. "The first call came from Sachin (Tendulkar) paaji, who said he thought I would play for longer. I told him I didn't want to drag on because I was retiring without any regrets. Irfan Pathan also

called, while Pujara, Virat, Rohit and Bumrah all messaged me. I told everyone the same thing: I was satisfied because I had given everything to the game," Rahane told the paper. Be it on call or via messages, Rahane's response to everyone was the same, that he was at peace with the decision. The 38-year-old admitted that he became quite emotional after recording the retirement video. "After recording the video, I cried a lot.

Wrestler Sushil Kumar, In Jail Since 2021, Denied Bail Over Chhatrasal Stadium Murder Case

The Delhi High Court has refused to grant bail to Olympian Sushil Kumar in the alleged murder case of former junior national wrestling champion Sagar Dhankar. Justice Purushendra Kumar dismissed the celebrated wrestler's bail application on August 6, citing concerns over influencing witnesses raised by the Supreme Court when it cancelled his earlier bail, his conduct prior to arrest, the gravity of the offence and his capacity to influence the ongoing trial's outcome. The judge emphasised that while bail is ordinarily the rule and jail the exception, the offence in the present case was a "premeditated and gruesome assault resulting in death", which is corroborated by recovery of a firearm, video evidence and a large body of material yet to be tested at trial. Seeking relief, the counsel for the accused alleged that the deceased's



father, whose complaint led to the earlier cancellation of bail, has not supported the prosecution's case in the trial. It was therefore contended that the "change in circumstances", along with the fact that Kumar had been in custody for over five years and only formal

and official witnesses were left to be examined, entitled him to regular bail.

Iga Swiatek Dominates Shnaider To Set Up Toronto Semis Date With Svitolina



Former world number one Iga Swiatek cruised into the Toronto Masters semi-finals on Monday to set up a clash with Elina Svitolina who fought back from a set down to reach the last four. Poland's Swiatek, a six-time Grand Slam champion, took just 64 minutes to sweep past Russia's Diana Shnaider 6-2, 6-1. Ukraine's Svitolina, the ninth seed, beat Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova 3-6, 6-0, 6-3. Swiatek reached just her second WTA semi-final this year after Rome and is seeking her first final appearance since winning the Korea Open almost a year ago in Seoul. "From the beginning I went for it. I felt like I could dominate," Swiatek said after dropping just three points on her first serve. "I was quite happy with the way I played. It was a tricky match with the wind. "I thought I needed to adjust to that. I just wanted to be more solid," added the 25-year-old world number eight. Svitolina won eight

consecutive games after losing the first set on the way to dispatching Alexandrova in 93 minutes. Swiatek leads Svitolina 4-3 in their WTA career rivalry, but lost both their meetings this year. "I'm gonna talk with my team to adjust a little bit for Iga's game," said Svitolina. "Of course she's a great champion. She plays really well this tournament. I have to bring my best." Swiatek established a 5-2 lead in the first set when she broke Shnaider a second time, courtesy of the Russian netting a backhand, and served out to take it in 31 minutes. The Pole broke for a 2-1 lead in the second when Shnaider netted. A forehand winner gave Swiatek a 4-1 lead and a third break sealed victory. Svitolina had more of a battle after sending a backhand long on serve to drop an evenly matched first set. It fired up the Ukrainian who reeled off four breaks to blank Alexandrova in the second set and take a 2-0 lead in the third.

LIONEL MESSI TAKES INDEFINITE BREAK FROM FOOTBALL

Argentine icon Lionel Messi has reportedly suspended his football career indefinitely following the death of his father, Jorge Messi. Jorge Messi, 68, died at a clinic in Rosario after a prolonged illness, leaving the Argentine football icon facing a deeply personal loss. His father had played a significant role throughout Messi's career, making his passing a particularly devastating blow for the legendary forward. According to French website Foot Mercato, as per Goal.com, reports in the Argentine press cited that the

eight-time Ballon d'Or winner has stepped away from his professional commitments to be with his loved ones during this difficult period. Messi has not set a date for his return to Inter Miami, underscoring the extent to which football has taken a back seat as he focuses on his family. Jorge Messi was not just Lionel Messi's father but also played an important role in shaping his football career. After Lionel Messi's football career took off, Jorge became his son's agent and strategic adviser after working for years as a supervisor at a steel

factory. Jorge was also closely involved in Lionel's early career at Newell's Old Boys. When Messi was 13, he helped facilitate his move to Spain to join Barcelona's youth academy. The Catalan club also covered the cost of his treatment for a growth hormone deficiency, a condition that affected his physical development. Messi underwent daily injections as part of the treatment, which helped him reach a final height of 1.70 metres. Jorge was married to Celia Cuccitini and had four children: Lionel, Rodrigo, Matias and Maria Sol. The interrup-

tion to Messi's season comes just as he was regaining top physical form. He had recently returned to action with a two-goal performance against Atltico San Luis in the Leagues Cup, but all sporting priorities have now been put on hold. Messi's absence halts what has been an exceptionally productive stint in North American football. Since joining Inter Miami in 2023, he has logged 92 goals in 107 matches across Major League Soccer, Concacaf tournaments, the Leagues Cup, and domestic cup play. Those figures represent an average of 0.86 goals

per match and a strike rate of one goal every 96.2 minutes since his arrival in MLS. On a broader historical level, Messi's total career tally stands at 921 goals, leaving him 79 short of the 1,000-goal milestone. For now, those career statistics remain secondary. Messi remains with his family in Rosario, with his return to Miami and subsequent availability for selection dependent entirely on his personal readiness to resume play.



After Watching ‘Aghadha,’ I Felt Deep Down That It Would Be a Success: Director M.S. Raju

Produced by Kashi Visalakshi Balusu under the banner of Sri Aadivara Productions, with Ajay KR as the presenter, Aghadha is written and directed by M.S. Raju. The film stars Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Shravan Reddy, Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijayakumar, Bhanu Chander, Shiju, Vanitha Vijayakumar, Roshan Basheer, Shreya Rani Reddy, Viva Raghava, Robert Master, Arna Muller, and Kanakamma in key roles. The film is slated for a grand theatrical release on August 14. Ahead of the release, director M.S. Raju interacted with the media on Tuesday and spoke about the film, its making, his experiences, and much more. Here are the highlights:

What does ‘Aghadha’ mean
– As soon as we announced the title

Aghadha, many people searched for its meaning online. Aghadha can be understood as something deep or an abyss—a void. We have never seen God or demons with our own eyes. Aghadha is a story that unfolds around the forces that exist between such realms.

At present, youth and mass audiences are the ones who bring in the initial openings for a film. Later, family audiences come to theatres based on positive word of mouth.

At the pre-release event, Shyam Prasad Reddy said something about me. He said, “The M.S. Raju I know doesn’t make films relying only on horror elements. There are many more layers to his films.” Those words show how well he understands me.

As he said, Aghadha is not merely about horror or frightening elements. It has several different aspects. I have portrayed an evil force that works against God in Aghadha.

Tell us about the research you did for ‘Aghadha’.
– I did extensive research for Aghadha and travelled to many places. But the audience doesn’t need to know all of that. I made the film to entertain everyone rather than turning it into an art film. I combined the reality I observed with my imagination to create a good cinematic experience. During the making of Devi, I faced several financial difficulties. Yet, I felt that some kind of power kept pushing me forward.

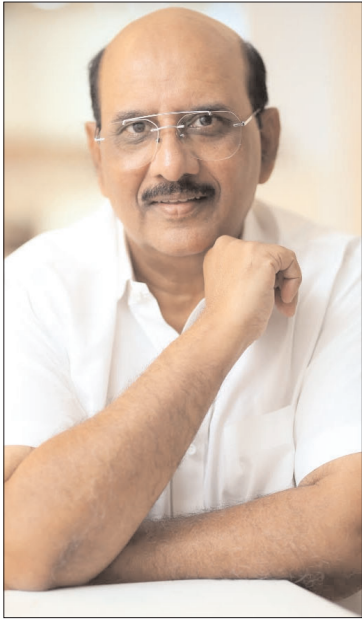
Even during the journey of Aghadha, I felt as though a similar force was guiding me. I wanted to make a film

about an evil force in a way that would appeal to the current generation, and that is how Aghadha came about.

I wanted the film to appeal not just to single-screen audiences but also to multiplex viewers. I have made this film with complete sincerity.

You suddenly stopped producing films. Why
– Aata and Maska were good films, and I achieved commercial success with them. However, many people told me that they did not meet the standards I had set for myself. After that, I also focused on my son’s career. After several years, I made Dirty Hari, which was completely different from my usual taste.

Throughout my journey, I have always chosen to say yes to new stories.



KAVYA THAPAR SHOWS OFF FITTER NEW AVATAR



Kavya Thapar is grabbing attention with her latest set of pictures, and fans can’t help but notice her noticeably slimmer look. The actress appears to have shed a good amount of weight, and her toned frame is clearly visible in the new photos she shared on social media. In the pictures, Kavya looked effortlessly chic in a printed blue maxi dress featuring a cutout waist detail and a flowy silhouette. She rounded off the look with gold bangles and heels, striking playful poses that highlighted her fitter, more confident new avatar.

On the work front, Kavya Thapar, who last appeared in the 2024 film Viswam, hasn’t landed a movie since then.

SHIVATHMIKA CASTS A SPELL WITH SUN-KISSED FRAME



Shivathmika Rajashekar, who impressed audiences last year with her performances in the Tamil films Bomb and Aaromaley, is currently making waves on social media with her latest photoshoot. The actress shared a set of striking new pictures that quickly caught the attention of her fans. In the pictures, Shivathmika is seen posing near a window, dressed in an all-black outfit featuring a sleeveless turtleneck top paired with relaxed sweatpants. Her tousled hair and minimal makeup give her look an effortless, sun-kissed vibe, while the natural lighting adds a warm, cinematic touch to the frame.

While Shivathmika does not have any film releases this year, she has been keeping fans engaged through her frequent style updates and photoshoots on social media.

Legendary Producer Suresh Babu Launches "Pilla Pilla" Song from 'Missing Meghana'



The first single, "Pilla Pilla Pilla," from the upcoming thriller 'Missing Meghana' was officially launched by legendary producer Suresh Babu. The film is being produced by Panchumarthi Naresh Babu under the First Copy Movies and KD & Co banners, and directed by

Vachaspathy. The movie stars Ram Karthik, Ammu Abhirami, Vaidika Senjaliya, Ankith Koyya, Goparaju Ramana, Vempa Kasi, Kaushik, Mahipal, Ruchitha, Nalini, Srinivas, Azeem, Pandu, and others. Earlier, the film’s first-look poster and title were

launched by director V. V. Vinayak. Now, the first lyrical song has been unveiled by Legendary Producer Suresh Babu. The film’s cinematography is handled by Shyam K. Naidu, while R. R. Dhruvan has composed the music. Producer Bekkam Venugopal and the film’s

team attended the launch event. Suresh Babu said: “The first single Pilla Pilla Pilla is very good. I wish the entire team great success and all the best for the movie.”

Director Vachaspathy said: “Suresh Productions is one of the most respected banners in the Indian film industry. We are very happy that Suresh Babu launched our first lyrical song. I thank producer Naresh Babu, co-producer Srinivas Rao, and Bekkam Venugopal for their constant support. Special thanks to music director R. R. Dhruvan for composing wonderful songs and to my favorite singer Javed Ali for singing this beautiful track.”

Producer Panchumarthi Naresh Babu said: “Our movie was launched at Ramanaidu Studios, and now our first single has also been launched by Suresh Babu.

SHAKALAKA SHANKAR LEADS EDGE-OF-THE-SEAT THRILLER MERANGI JUNCTION. TALKIE SHOOTING COMPLETED

Promotional activities for the upcoming investigative thriller Merangi Junction have gained momentum as the makers completed major filming schedules and entered post-production. Presented by Master Divyansh under the Yuvan Touring Talkies banner, the film features Shakalaka Shankar in the lead role alongside Sahithi Dasari, Vineetha Kandala, Sampath, Prabhakar, and Radha Kohinoor. Written and directed by Shiva Ganesh, the project is jointly bankrolled by Ravi Krishna Gollu, Rajesh Gangunayuni, Peddinti Mohana Rao, Chokkapu Ramulamma, and Seera Ganapathi Naidu. The production team completed talkie filming along with two song sequences across a continuous 47-day schedule. With only one song and an action



sequence remaining, the film has officially transitioned into post-production to lock its final cut. Speaking about the narrative, the makers shared that Merangi Junction is rooted in real incidents occurring near the Odisha border in a town named Merangi. Shakalaka Shankar portrays an intense police officer stationed in an

agency area, delivering a grounded performance designed around realistic investigation techniques. The film promises a gripping screenplay packed with unexpected turns from the opening scene to the climax. Music composer Ajay Patnaik has delivered key tracks, including the title song and a melody titled Neela Veni.

“Sardar Sarvai Papanna” Movie Trailer Grandly Launched by Telangana Transport & BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar

Sardar Sarvai Papanna” is an animation movie based on the life story of the historic warrior Sardar Sarvai Papanna, who earned recognition as the “Bahujan Emperor.” The film has been written and directed by producer-director Venkatesh Goud Lingampally and is presented by V.G. Movie Makers. Deepak Nyathi is overseeing the production. The animation movie is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on the 21st of this month through Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud’s RK Films. Today, Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar launched the film’s poster and trailer. Speaking on the occasion, Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said: “Sardar



Sarvai Papanna was a brave warrior who fought for the establishment of Bahujan rule and believed that people should govern themselves. His struggle, during which he conquered several forts and advanced up to the Golconda Fort, continues to inspire the present generation. It is a matter of happiness that Venkatesh Goud

has made a film based on the history of such a great warrior and that Ramakrishna Goud is bringing the film to audiences. It is also commendable that Venkatesh Goud is bringing the history of Sardar Sarvai Papanna in book form. Through such efforts, he is working to pass this history on to future generations.

RAAJU BONAGAANI DIRECTS NEW FILM “AFTER ENGINEERING”



Raasra Entertainment is producing a new film titled “After Engineering,” directed by Raju Bonagaani. The film is being made under the Raasra Entertainment banner, which has previously produced several successful films. The movie introduces a fresh lineup of actors and technicians to the Telugu film industry. Director Raju Bonagaani, who has established a distinct identity in the field of visual effects, is directing the film. With a youthful and entertaining storyline, After Engineering is expected to create a unique impression in the Telugu film industry. The film team believes that After Engineering will be a memorable movie for Telugu audiences, who have always encouraged innovative stories and emotional love stories. The makers have revealed that the songs are currently being recorded and that complete details about the film will be announced soon.

Titled “After Engineering – This Isn’t Just My Story, It’s Our Story,” the film aims to connect strongly with today’s youth.

Nayantara Leaves No Chance To Happening Beauties

Nayanthara is one of the fewest heroines of the present era to stand the test of time and emerge as a lady superstar with her longevity. She scored numerous blockbusters and built a unique image among her contemporaries. While most of the leading South female stars like Samantha, Trisha and Kajal Aggarwal actively promote their films, Nayanthara for unknown reasons distanced herself from promotional events and let her work speak for itself. This decision though received some criticism still suited the phase of her career when she was carrying films on her shoulders as the leading lady.

Surprisingly, she turned up for the promotional event of her upcoming film Toxic, which stars Yash in the lead role, and turned the spotlight. Rather than looking her renewed decision as a break from an old habit, it can be seen as a practical move that reflects how the film industry is changing. Especially, a film like Toxic, which has faced so many challenges from the start because of controversies and other issues, requires strong aggressive promotional campaign not just from Yash but also from the entire cast as well because of the high budget and efforts involved. Moreover, Toxic garnered huge attention because of the ensemble female cast. Along with

Nayanthara, the cast includes Kiara Advani, Rukmini Vasanth, Tara Sutaria and Huma Qureshi. Each actress brings her own popularity and fan base. In such a star studded affair, every public appearance naturally attracts attention to the entire cast instead of just one individual. By joining the promotions, Nayanthara becomes an active part of that collective energy rather than remaining absent from it. Had Nayanthara skipped the event just like she did for many of her previous outings, other happening actresses could have dominated her. This could have further given chance for critics to point out Nayanthara after the film’s release as well.

